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GIBBONS STAMP WEEKLY

A POPULAR WEEKLY STAMP JOURNAL

FOR THE GENERAL COLLECTOR, AND MORE ESPECIALLY FOR BEGINNERS AND YOUNG COLLECTORS

EDITED BY

EDWARD J. NANKIVELL

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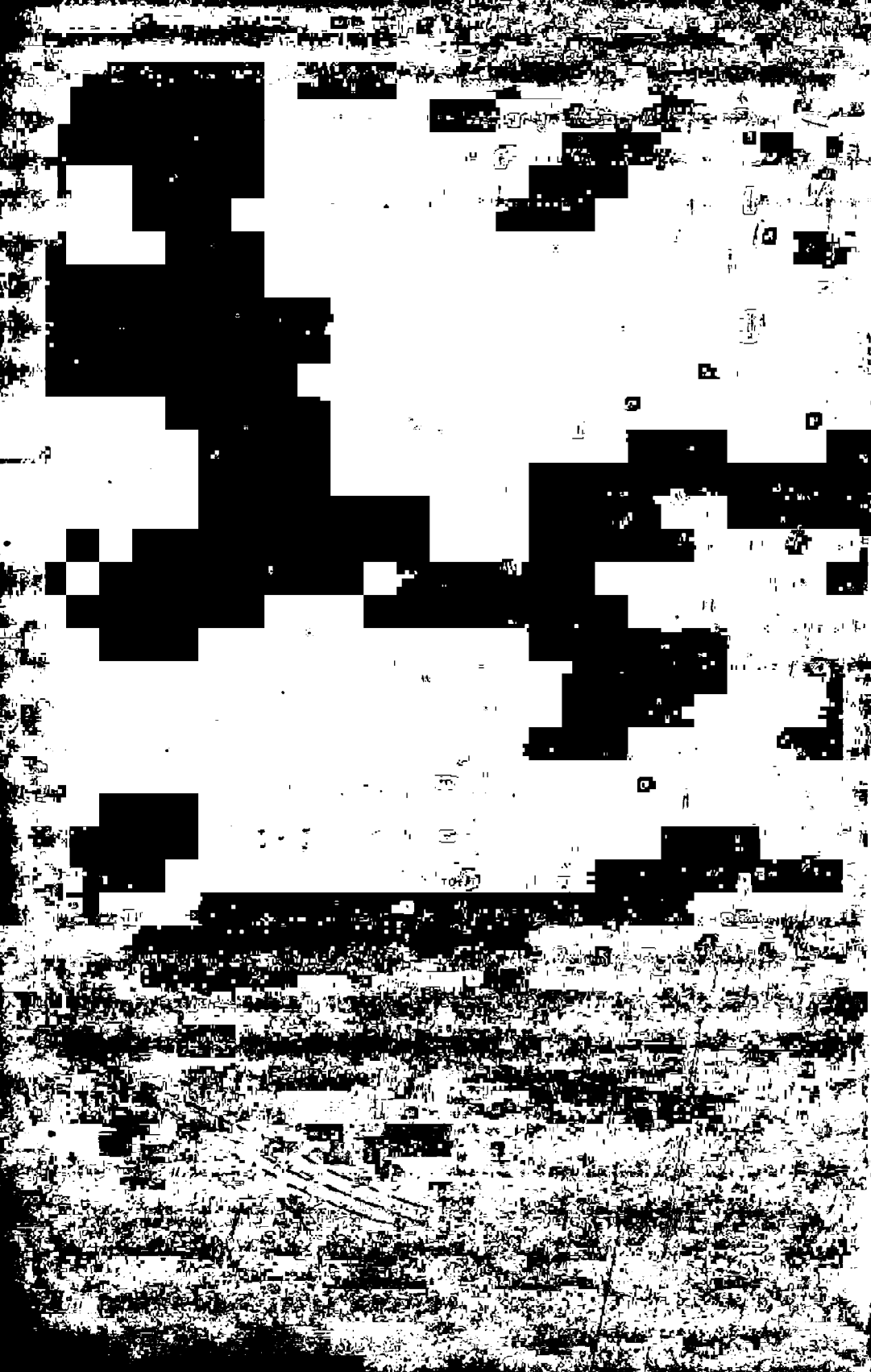
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INTRODUCTORY NOTES

By the Editor.

For many years the young stamp collector has been allowed to grope his way, with little sympathy and less help, through the complexities of stamp collecting. He has had to run where he has not learned to walk. The advanced collector has unwittingly monopolised the pages of our philatelic periodicals, and our best catalogues have been crowded with minor varieties that appal, if they do not repel, the timorous beginner.

In *Gibbons Stamp Weekly* we propose to change all that. We shall cater exclusively for the beginner. We shall endeavour to provide an elementary journal for the beginner of all ages, but more especially for the young stamp collector.

No army can long exist without recruits, and our object is to beat up recruits for the philatelic ranks, and train them in the study and pursuit of a hobby that has few, if any, equals as an intellectual recreation.

It is a mistake to imagine that the specialist has no sympathy with the beginner. Our most eminent specialists have continually deplored the neglect to which the young collector has been subjected. From time to time various schemes have been mooted for his help and his encouragement, but it has been left for *Gibbons Stamp Weekly* to provide the much-needed journal.

We have made arrangements for the writing up of every country, in its alphabetical turn, from the young stamp collector's point of view. In these articles, which will be from the pen of Mr. Gordon Smith, M.A., one of our most experienced philatelists, simplicity of classification and the exclusion of all needless varieties will be the leading feature.

There will be interesting and instructive articles by the best philatelic writers of the day on the choice of albums, how to collect and what to collect, exchange clubs, how to start and how to run them, how to mount stamps, how to measure perforations and detect watermarks, what to avoid in stamps, etc.

Amongst many papers that are in course of preparation we may mention a series entitled "First Steps in Philately," which will deal with all the difficulties that trouble the young stamp collector.

We shall have copious reports of the doings of philatelic societies at home and in the Colonies, and occasionally take our readers into the stamp auction rooms. Correspondents are being appointed in all the leading capitals of the world to send us from week to week chatty and newsy letters concerning stamp collectors and stamp collecting in other countries.

Mr. Cornelius Wrinkle will keep us informed of the "Gossip of the Hour," and a talented artist has been engaged to add the variety and charm of illustrations to our pages.

New issues will be written up to date and promptly and fully illustrated. We shall confine our chronicle to the simple classification of imperforate and perforated and the recognised, well-defined, and simplest distinctions of only necessary watermarks. In this classification we accept the opinion of the majority that the new multiple watermark is one that should be included even by the young collector.

We shall also have frequent prize competitions to stimulate and test the knowledge and puzzle the ingenuity of our readers.

Such, in briefest outline, is the programme of *Gibbons Stamp Weekly*. Brief as it is, we trust it will bring in recruits from all directions for the fascinating hobby which we term "Philately," that it will help and encourage those who have started, and further instruct those who already have well-filled albums.

It is one of the charms of stamp collecting that we are always learning something in its pursuit, some new fact concerning past or present methods of production, the manufacture of paper, the development of processes of engraving, the meaning of endless designs, the currency of nations and its changes, the federation of states, changes of government, the flora and fauna of countries, the stability of some rulers and the changeability of others.

No effort will be lacking on our part in providing a journal that shall make those charms more widely known and appreciated, and that shall strengthen the pleasant ties that bind stamp collectors together all over the world. On their side may we hope that our readers will, one and all, lose no opportunity of recommending *Gibbons Stamp Weekly* to their fellow-collectors, and so ensure its permanent addition to our philatelic literature?

Foreword by Major Evans

THE leading philatelists of the present day are sometimes accused of wilfully making the hobby of stamp collecting as difficult as possible, of discovering or inventing all kinds of minor varieties on purpose to confuse and bewilder the less advanced collectors, and of filling the catalogues with unnecessary details, in order to keep the science of the pursuit in their own hands. This, of course, is entirely untrue, but it is nevertheless a fact that stamp collecting becomes more difficult and stamp catalogues become more bulky year after year. This is due to various causes. First, because every year great numbers of entirely new stamps are issued, which sufficiently lengthen the lists without any assistance from minor varieties. Secondly, because the stamps that continue in use without intentional change are liable to vary to some extent in the different printings that take place as time goes on. And lastly, because stamps are studied more and more closely as stamp collecting progresses, and close study reveals those varieties that so puzzle the beginner.

This must be so, the varieties are there, and if we study our stamps we are bound to find them; and if we do not study our stamps they will surely in time cease to interest us. The question is, and it is a question that is often considered by those who have the best interests of Philately at heart, what can be done to assist the beginner in his early difficulties and lead him on to a fuller knowledge of the subject? To answer this question in a practical way is one of the principal objects of this magazine, and it is an object with which all philatelists will fully sympathise. To provide information in a suitable and attractive form, and to spread that information as widely as possible, is the object that both its Editor and its Publishers have in view, and that object I am sure they are fully capable of carrying out.

One little bit of advice I would venture to offer to the young collector. Do not treat your collecting *too* seriously. It is a fault that young people of the present day are apt to fall into, not only in stamp collecting, but in other hobbies and amusements also. Let your stamp collecting be an amusement, a pastime, not a business. There is no better pastime, in the true sense of the word. I have been at it for some forty-four years, and I know of nothing that makes the time pass more quickly or more pleasantly than stamps. Make a business of it afterwards, if you think fit, but do not start with the idea that it is a money-making hobby, because, if you do, you will probably be disappointed. At the same time, make up your mind to do it well, treat your stamps with care and they will repay you for it, if not in hard cash, at least in pleasure and interest.

Above all, do not imagine that those of us who know more about Philately than you do are at all inclined to despise your collections, or to look down upon your efforts to improve them. Most of us are not too old to remember our own first attempts; none of us are too old to learn on our own account, and we are all of us ready to help others to do likewise.

GOOD WISHES

"*The Monthly Journal*—don't I wish
That, too, a weekly were!"
Stamp Fiends' Raid.

I

Wish half granted! (Half our wishes
Cannot e'en half granted be.)
We who wished the *Monthly* weekly,
Now a welcome *Weekly* see.
(Note.—We hold the Season's license
For the puns that point our song.)
Say! a *Monthly* can't be weakly
When a *Monthly's* "going strong"!

II

None the less, a wish half granted
Were a wish not wished in vain.
Whilst the wishing-cap we're wearing
We would wish to wish again:
Let us wish for our new *Weekly*,
Wishing neither more nor less
Than a life as long as useful,
And a well-deserved success.

III

Let us wish when, at a bookstall,
For a "weekly" we inquire,
That we get the only *Weekly*
That a "Stampist" could desire!
'Mongst a world of worldly "weeklies"
That 'pon which our eyes will fall
Is the *Weekly* of the Stamp World.
(Other worlds don't count at all!)

IV

This, the Season for Good Wishes,
Finds one wishing one and all
What one's self one would be wishing.
(That's an order somewhat tall!)
May the *Weekly's* friends be many,
And its foes (if any) few;
With the blessing of the Old Year
May it flourish in the New!

W. E. IMESON.

PUBLIC SCHOOL COLLECTING

By Rev. T. C. WALTON, M.A.

AM I not right in stating that at least nine out of every ten public-school boys have not only been seized with a desire to collect postage stamps at some time in their school life, but have actually begun to form a collection? I use the word "begun" advisedly, for, of the great number of budding Philatelists, how few there are who persevere with their hobby right through their public-school career, and carry it with them into the strenuous days of manhood! while of those who are engaged on the business of life, and who pursue their hobby with keenness and zest and infinite pleasure in their leisure moments, how many look back on the days of youth, when they first began to collect, and see a yawning gulf between, when interest in "stamps" became a dead, lifeless thing, when the album lay for months neglected on some dusty shelf, or when (horribile dictu!) that first collection passed into other hands and we saw it no more? Of course, the same remarks might be passed on all the numerous hobbies to which boys are especially prone; but I know of no hobby in which the liveliest interest displayed in one year is so often followed by such a dullness, such a deadness, such an apathy in the very next year. The fact is as surprising as it is lamentable. Why is it? Why does interest wax and wane, and, in so many cases, fade away altogether and leave "not a stamp behind"? It is my privilege in this series of papers, first, to find some answers to these questions. And secondly, to suggest ways and means of placing the science of stamp collecting (for is it not a science nowadays as well as a hobby?) on a more permanent footing in the hearts of young collectors.

Believe me, there is no hobby which can afford you greater pleasure than this; but you, for your part, must not import into it ideas which are absolutely opposed to the name of "Hobby." If you, in your youthful zeal, voyage in those strange seas so dear to the stamp enthusiast with the avowed object of making money (to put the matter quite bluntly), you will excuse a like bluntness on my part when I tell you that you will most certainly be woe-

fully mistaken. In such a case, the first, the fundamental theory which must underlie all "hobbies," if they are to be "of joy to us," will be wanting. Once let "gain" be the motive-power which drives you to the stamp album, then you may say farewell to all your hopes of pleasure and profit in the highest sense of the word. Feverish excitement will take the place of healthy, rational modes of increasing your collection. You will become a prey to all kinds of disquieting fancies. You will end by becoming weary and disgusted. Possibly you will join the ranks of those superior beings whose lips curl with scorn whenever the term "stamp collecting" is heard, and who disfigure the columns of halfpenny journalism with remarks on their pet aversion which are as uncalled for as they are uncharitable and absurd.

This, which I may call "Undue Financial Interest," is one cause of the failing of desire. Please do not misunderstand me. I say not a word against that laudable wish on the part of every collector to see his collection growing in value with the years. The experience of that fortunate individual who found a Mauritius "Post Office" 2d., blue, of 1847, in his album, and realised £1,450 on its sale, is one which we would all emulate if we could. I hope, however, to point out in some future article that a collection which is wisely and carefully made is bound to increase in value, and no one who is willing to take advice on the question need despair of realising a fair price for his stamps should hard necessity compel him to part with them.

Causes of Lack of Interest

And this brings me to a second cause which in many cases is the canker at work destroying interest and preventing a whole-hearted pursuit of the hobby. It is the existence of a feeling well expressed by the phrase, "Le jeu ne vaut pas la chandelle." Let me explain by taking a typical case. A friend of yours wants money for some special purpose. He has lost interest in his album. The thought strikes him: "Why not raise the needful by selling the album?" He goes to some small dealer, who looks through the collection, tells him that the stamps are not worth much to him (the dealer), offers some absurdly low price, and by an assumed air of indifference persuades him to sell while an opportunity offers. Later, when your friend has time to think about what he has done and realises how foolish he has been, he lets fall certain remarks which, to say the least, are disparaging to the hobby, and act like the proverbial wet blanket on young collectors. Now, what ought this friend to have done? If he must part with his collection, why did he not send it up to some well-known firm of stamp dealers? They would pay a fair price for the stamps they needed to replenish their stock, and probably give him good advice as to the disposal of the remainder. Or he might have disposed of them by means of some stamp club or exchange in which some reduction on standard catalogue prices very speedily helps a collector to sell the stamps he no longer needs.

There is yet another prime cause which conduces to lack of interest, and which I mention only to condemn in the most emphatic language. It is the existence of approval sheets, issued by unscrupulous persons who do not hesitate to charge exorbitant prices, with a bait of large discount on sales. Here we have a key to the distrust and discredit of the hobby which are current in so many of our public schools. Young and inexperienced collectors are so often swindled in this way that in the case of some schools the hobby is forbidden. Obviously the fault cannot be laid at the door of the hobby. The fault lies in the ignorance which foolishly submits to be imposed upon. And the cure is equally obvious. Let in the light, disseminate knowledge, and the unscrupulous approval sheet must disappear, for there will be no buyers. But what of the dupe? He becomes indifferent, and discards a hobby which, rightly guided and intelligently studied, would have been "a boon and a blessing" to him.

If you have followed me carefully, you will readily agree that all these causes of the lack of interest can be summed up under two headings—

(1) A want of knowledge.

(2) A want of organisation.

It is to meet this want that this magazine owes its origin and these articles their inspiration.

My object is to put every reader of these pages into the way of forming a collection of which he will justly be proud, and of which he need not be ashamed

if he is called upon to exhibit its treasures before the eyes of the most exacting specialist. But first let me ask each one of you whether you, on your part, are willing to pay the price. No! do not be alarmed at the phrase. I do not mean that there will be a large outlay of pocket-money, but there must be a certain amount of self-restraint. The visits to the tuck-shop will not be so numerous. And, to be quite frank, can you honestly show me any great advantage derived from those visits in the past years, except the doubtful one, viz. the gratification of a sweet tooth? When I speak of "paying the price," I have in my mind certain qualities which you must bring to your hobby, and without which no hobby worth the name can be a success.

Qualifications for successful Collecting

Let me enumerate them. They are wisdom of choice, carefulness in dealing with these little adhesive treasures, a desire to learn their history, their manufacture—in short, everything that is known about them. This means trouble, not the dry drudgery which the word so often connotes, but loving care and thoughtfulness for which you will be amply repaid. Believe me, the greater the attention to details, the greater the joy in the end. Besides all this, the advantages you gain by the pursuit of any healthy hobby must react on your whole life. Are you careless, untidy, prone to a sort of disorderliness in your everyday working life? Then take up stamp collecting with a will. I know of no finer antidote for carelessness than that. The device of the celebrated mathematician might well be rewritten and set up over the portals of the Philatelic Temple: "Let none but the careful enter here." You know the old rhyme which begins: "For the loss of a nail the shoe was lost." Care would have nailed that shoe so that it could not have come off. And it is just this carefulness, this attention to details, which is the making or the marring of many a man.

Schoolboy Opportunities

I come now to speak of the opportunities you have of forming a collection. They are unrivalled. Have you ever noticed how many of your school chums receive letters from every quarter of the globe? They have friends living or travelling abroad. One is an officer in the Indian army, another is a consul-general in China, another is on service with the North Pacific Squadron, another is bishop of some Australian diocese. It is my privilege to see a good many albums belonging to public-school boys. One thing has repeatedly struck me as occurring with an almost monotonous regularity. Some one country is always represented by full sets of some particular issue. When the question is asked as to how this issue got into the collector's possession, the answer invariably is, "My father was out there, he sent them"; or, "A friend knew that I was collecting and sent them for my album." What a privilege then is yours! No other schoolboy in the world has so unique an opportunity. Make the most of it while you are at school, for such an opportunity will never occur again. If you have friends abroad, ask them to send you used sets of the stamps issued. If your chums have friends abroad, ask them to write for you. Remember that in most cases it is only a question of asking and having. The public-school boy is very dear to the heart of the Britisher across the sea, and, in the matter of postage stamps, he can be fairly sure of receiving a liberal supply of duplicates in response to his request.

One more thought strikes me. These pages will doubtless be read by public-school girls as well as boys. Therefore let me here state that all my remarks apply equally to young collectors of both sexes.

Now I must make an end for this week. In this article I have tried to remove some prejudices which undoubtedly exist. In future papers it will be my special work to dive into my own experience and fish out all that can help, encourage, and stimulate you in our supreme hobby. That experience has been gained during the past twenty years. It is an experience which began at school and has been continued with ever-growing interest and pleasure right up to the present time. To the despairing, the sceptical, and the would-be collector let me finish with words of encouragement and hope. The odd half-hours I spend over my album are amongst the happiest of my life. I look through it and see before me treasures gathered from all the corners of the earth, and of these the ones I value most are those that came to me in the earliest days of my novitiate.

PORTRAITS ON STAMPS

By BOSWELL JUNIOR

Abyssinia

Menelik II., King of Abyssinia, was born at Choa in 1842. As son of Haeli Melicoph, King of Choa, he bore at first the name of Sahala Mariem. On his father's death in 1856, the Emperor Theodoros shut him up at Gondar, and compelled him to marry his daughter Bafana. Having managed to escape, he returned to Choa, and got himself recognised as king in 1866, under the name of Menelik II. After the death of John II. (who had succeeded Theodoros), who was killed by the Dervishes on March 10th, 1889, he proclaimed himself Emperor of Ethiopia. In the same year he concluded a treaty which placed his kingdom under an Italian protectorate. Disputes concerning the text of the treaty led to hostilities which ended in the complete defeat of the Italians at Adowa in March, 1896, and the freeing of Abyssinia from foreign influence. Menelik II. has done much to promote civilisation amongst his people, and to cultivate friendly relations with foreign powers. He has had no son by his first wife, Bafana, nor by his second wife, Onizero Taitou, whom he married in 1883.



Menelik II.

Argentine Republic

Alvear, Carlos Maria, was born in Buenos about 1785, and died in Montevideo in 1850. He received a military education in Spain, and in 1812 became a member of the Constitutional Assembly of the Palatine States. He joined the party of Posadas; was sent to command the besieging army at Montevideo, which capitulated in June, 1814; was worsted in a struggle with Artigas; and in January, 1815, succeeded Posadas as supreme director, but was soon deposed by a mutiny of the troops. He commanded the Argentine forces against the Brazilians in Uruguay, 1826; and won the indecisive victory of Ituzingo, February 20th, 1827. He was Minister to the United States in 1823. During the dictatorship of Rosas he was banished.



Alvear.

Alvear's portrait appears on the 30 c., orange, of 1873.

Avellaneda, Nicolas, an Argentine statesman, journalist, and author, was born at Tucuman in 1836, died in 1885. After the fall of Rosas in 1852, Avellaneda returned to his country, from which his family had been exiled. He managed the *Nacional* for several years; then he was appointed, in 1861, Professor of Political Economy at Buenos Ayres. A member of the Congress since 1860, he received in 1868 the portfolio of Justice, Religion, and Public Instruction. Under his administration education made considerable progress. He was President of the Republic from 1874 to 1880, and put down the insurrection of Mitre, who had to submit (1875). Avellaneda made an expedition against the Indians (1875). He was replaced by General Roca on October 12th, 1880. His portrait appears on the 10 c., brown, of the 1889-90 series.



Avellaneda.

Balcarce, Juan Ramon, an Argentine general, was born at Buenos Ayres in 1773, and died at Entre Rios about 1833. In 1818, and again in 1820, he was for a short time Governor of Buenos Ayres. In 1824 he was a member of the Constituent Assembly. In 1827 he became Minister of War and Marine, and in December, 1832, he was elected Governor of Buenos Ayres, but in November, 1833, he was driven out by Rosas.



Balcarce.

The portrait of Balcarce appears on the 1 c., violet, of 1873.

STAMPS OF GREAT BRITAIN

By GORDON SMITH, M.A.

IT is a fact within the knowledge of nearly everyone, whether a stamp collector or not, that the postage stamp was invented in England, and first brought into use in this country more than half a century ago. Beyond this, few except stamp collectors know very much, unless it be those who are advanced in years, and whose memory carries them back to their childhood's days when "Queen's heads," as the stamps were then called, were novelties, the 1d. stamp appearing first in black, and afterwards in red-brown and red hues for nearly forty years.

Stamp collecting is generally supposed to have been begun some time in the fifties, when a few other countries besides ourselves had commenced to issue postage stamps, but they were then still few compared with the number that we can now count. In those days it was merely a hobby of childhood, and had not yet grown to be the art which it aspires to be to-day under the title of "Philately." The only stamps collected were off letters, which were to be had for the asking from those who received correspondence from abroad; all that the collector troubled about was that the *picture* should be a different one from those he already possessed. The new boy at school, surrounded by his future playmates, having first of all satisfied their clamouring inquiries on the score of his full Christian and surnames, his father's occupation, and other credentials necessary to admit him on a footing of equality with themselves, was next asked, "Do you collect foreign stamps?" and this being answered in the affirmative, he was forthwith made to haul out his treasures. A "swop" all round then followed, out of which transaction the new boy generally came off the worst. "Foreign" stamps were the chief object; British stamps, if cared for at all, were reckoned quite inferior property.

The "new mania," as stamp collecting was called, was nevertheless thought to be a very good hobby for boys and girls by parents and guardians and other superior persons, because it taught them geography and history and other branches of knowledge which they might perhaps shun when pursued under the guidance of their teachers, but the "grown-ups" never collected stamps themselves, or hardly ever, and even when they did they were so conscious of their own weakness of character in being carried away by such a childish pursuit, that whenever they asked or begged for stamps from their friends in merchants' offices, or who had correspondents abroad, it was generally for "my son" or "my nephew," or some other youthful relation, who I am afraid did not always have an actual existence. But times have changed since that primitive period, and although the young people collect with no less enthusiasm and keenness than they did then, the pursuit is no longer confined to them, and to-day there are perhaps as many if not more collectors to be found in the ranks of those who have arrived at years of discretion, and who are no longer scoffed at by those outside as lacking that quality because they occupy their leisure in gathering together and studying postage stamps.

The spirit of inquiry as well as the faculty of observation which are found to-day in those of all ages, and in both sexes, are as highly developed in the countless thousands of stamp collectors as in any other body of persons engaged in a common occupation. We are all so strenuous to-day, we want to know such a lot of things that we have not time to dig out the knowledge for ourselves, but must have it boiled down and served up in tasty dishes so that we may take it in with as little trouble and exertion to ourselves as possible.

This now brings me to the subject which heads this article, for it has already been exhaustively treated by more than one author, but these books and articles dealing with the subject are hardly accessible to one collector in a hundred, and even when they are, he will find them rather

dry reading, and will probably throw them aside. For the student they are works of the highest excellence, but the collector wants put before him only what is necessary for him to know, and in as simple a form as can be.

Pre-Postage Stamp Days

No description of the adhesive postage stamps of Great Britain, however simple the plan upon which those issues are set out, could be considered complete without some brief account of the circumstances which led up to the issue of the world's first postage stamp.

In the early part of last century, from the year 1805 up to the end of 1839, the lowest charge for the carrying of letters throughout the country was 4d., and that only for any distance from the place where a letter was collected (which were then called "Receiving Houses") to the place where it was delivered up to 15 miles; under 20 miles it was 5d.; and so on increasing until for a distance of under 300 miles it was a shilling, and 1d. for each additional 100 miles.

Besides these there were what we may call Local Posts, the principal of these being the "Twopenny Post," originally for the cities of London and Westminster (afterwards extended to places not more than 12 miles from the General Post Office in the city of London), and throughout the country there were a large number of "Penny Posts" working in large towns and populous districts, of which in 1835 there were over 1,000.

At the end of 1839 all the varying rates of charges for the general post were done away with, and a uniform rate of 4d. took their place. When we compare the value of money to-day with its purchasing power sixty or seventy years ago, the figures give but a poor idea of the costliness of letter-writing in those days.

Agitation for reform had already begun when, in 1836, Sir (then Mr.) Rowland Hill, whose memory will be ever preserved as the father of cheap postage, threw all his zeal and enthusiasm into the crusade against the continuance of the antiquated systems of the Post Office then existing, efforts which were destined to be crowned with a success and with far-reaching consequences of which he could scarcely have ventured to dream. In 1837 he published his pamphlet on *Postal Reform: its Importance and Practicability.* The effect produced on all classes, especially those engaged in commercial callings, was so great that a committee was appointed by the House of Commons, and as a result of their labours an Act of Parliament was passed, establishing a penny postage rate throughout the United Kingdom.

This enormous reduction in the charges hitherto in force for the collecting, carrying, and delivery of letters was not the only reform brought in. In order to secure its full benefits it now became compulsory that all charges should be prepaid. Up to that time prepayment had been optional, and as a matter of practice the payment was usually left to the person to whom the letter was addressed. Habituated as are nearly all of us—except quite old people—to putting a stamp on our letters as a matter of course, and the indignation with which we occasionally, or I should say very rarely, have to greet a postman on our doorstep, who tells us that there is "2d. to pay," we cannot realise the inconvenience and personal annoyance, to say nothing of the hindrance to communicating with our friends and clients, which were involved in the methods then in vogue, and the artifices which were employed to avoid payment. No one was bound to take in a letter addressed to him if he refused to pay for it, but he was allowed to inspect the *outside*, and could then hand it back to the postman if he chose. All sorts of apparently meaningless strokes on the outside would convey the writer's meaning. The address on the letter could be varied in all sorts of ways, such as John Smith, Esq.; J. Smith, Esq.; Mr. J. Smith; Mr. John Smith, etc.; the interpretation of each style being perfectly well known to the artful Mr. Smith.

To be continued.

STAMP COLLECTING AS A PASTIME

By EDWARD J. NANKIVELL

MANY people are at a loss to understand the fascination that surrounds the pursuit of stamp collecting. They are surprised at the clannishness of stamp collectors, and their lifelong devotion to their hobby. They are thunderstruck at the enormous prices paid for rare stamps, and at the fortunes that are spent and made in stamp collecting.

The following chapters will afford a peep behind the scenes, and explain how it is that, after nearly half a century of existence, stamp collecting has never been more popular than it is to-day.

And perchance many a tired worker in search of a hobby may be persuaded that of all the relaxations that are open to him none is more attractive or more satisfying than stamp collecting.

Its literature is more abundant than that devoted to any other hobby. Its votaries are to be found in every city and town of the civilised world. Governments and statesmen recognise, unsolicited, the claims of stamp collecting—the power, the influence, and the wealth that it commands. From a mere schoolboy pastime it has steadily developed into an engrossing hobby for the leisured and the busy of all classes and all ranks of life, from the monarch on his throne to the errand boy in the merchant's office.

In the competition of modern life it is recognised that those who must work must also play. The physician assures us that the man who allows himself no relaxation, no recreation, loses his energy, and ages earlier than the man who judiciously alternates work and play.

As stamp collecting may be indulged in by all ages, and at all seasons, it is becoming more and more the favourite indoor relaxation with brain-workers. It may be taken up or laid down at any time, and at any stage. Its cost may be limited to shillings or pounds, and it may be made a pleasant pursuit or an engrossing study, or it may even be diverted into money-making purposes.

So absorbing is the hobby that in stamp circles there is a saying, "Once a stamp collector, always a stamp collector."

I. As a Pastime

As a nation we have been wedded to our pastimes from the first page of our history to the last chapter thereof. Nor may all the Kiplings nor all the Puritans change this phase of our national character. And 'tis to be hoped that we may ever alternate work and play, from the cradle to the grave, and so conserve through the ages the virility of our race.

Our pastimes and our recreations are the safety-valves of our people. They are the recuperators of our energies, the preservers of our cheerfulness, the antidotes to Pharisaical boredom.

Of all our pastimes there are few that can vie with Stamp Collecting. For nearly half a century it has maintained unbroken its hold as one of the most popular of all forms of relaxation, and its popularity extends to all classes and all countries.

But this very devotion of stamp collectors to their hobby has puzzled and excited the uninitiated. The ordinary individual, especially the man who has no soul for a hobby of any kind, regards it as a passing fancy, a harmless craze, a fashion that must have its day and disappear, sooner or later. But the passing fancy has endured for nearly half a century, the harmless craze still serves its useful purpose, and the fashion has acquired such a permanence as to convince most people that it has come to stay.

Of all pastimes, and of all the forms of recreation, not one can claim more lifelong devotees than this same stamp collecting. And where is another pastime with such international ramifications? In every civilised country, in every city, and in every town of any importance, the wide world over, thoughtful men and women are to be found formed into sociable groups, or societies, quietly and pleasantly enjoying themselves in the harmless and enduring pursuit of stamp collecting.

There must be some reason for this popularity, this devotion of all classes to a pursuit, this unbroken record of progress. It cannot be satisfactorily

accounted for as a passing fancy or fashion. It has too long stood the test of years to be so easily explained away. Fancies and fashions come and go, but stamp collecting flourishes from decade to decade. Princes and peers, merchants and members of Parliament, solicitors and barristers, schoolboys and octogenarians, all follow this postal Pied Piper of Hamelin,

> "Grave old plodders, gay young friskers,
> Fathers, mothers, uncles, cousins,"

all bent upon the pursuit of this pleasure-yielding hobby.

Why is it? Whence comes the fascination?

To the unprejudiced inquirer the reply is simple. To the leisured man it affords a stimulating occupation, with a spice of competition; to the busy professional man it yields the delight of a recreative change; to the studious, an inexhaustible scope for profitable research; to the old, the sociability of a pursuit popular with old and young alike; to the young, a hobby prolific of novelty, and one, moreover, that harmonises with school studies in historical and geographical directions; to the money-maker, an opening for occasional speculation; and to all, a satisfying combination of a safe investment and a pleasure-yielding study.

Old postage stamps—bits of paper, as they are contemptuously called by some people — may have no intrinsic value, but they are, nevertheless, rich in memories of history and of art; they link the past with the present; they mark the march of empires and the federation of states, the rise and fall of dynasties, and the peaceful extension of postal communication between the peoples of the world; and, some day in the distant future, they may celebrate even yet more important victories of peace.

A YOUNG COLLECTORS' EXHIBITION IN LONDON

THE young stamp collector is likely to be very much to the fore this season. In addition to a new weekly paper all to himself, he (and she also, for there are many girls who pride themselves on their stamp albums) is to have an exhibition.

This event is to take place early next month in Exeter Hall, Strand, a few doors from the offices of the publishers of this journal.

The exhibition is to be given under the auspices of the Junior Philatelic Society, an institution which is, we believe, the only established society for young collectors and beginners, and of which particulars are given elsewhere. The whole scheme of the exhibition has been arranged to meet the convenience of the young collector and to instruct and entertain.

The large hall on the ground floor of the great Y.M.C.A. building in the Strand will be set out with tables for display of the stamps, and cosy corners with settees will be designed to make the visitors comfortable. Two days, Friday and Saturday, February 3rd and 4th, have been fixed for the event, so that school, home-lessons, or business will not be in any way interfered with by a visit or two (or even more) to the exhibition.

The hall, as every Londoner knows, is within easy reach of all parts of the Metropolis, and no more convenient spot could have been chosen.

Each day there will be music by an orchestra and a short concert. In the evening there will be a brief fifty-minute lantern lecture by the President, Mr. Fred. J. Melville, the subjects being "Postage Stamps with Stories," illustrated with beautiful slides of rare and curious specimens, and "His Majesty's Mails," in which Mr. Melville describes, with many humorous anecdotes, the work of the Post Office. Free seats for the concerts

and the lectures will be provided in the balcony.

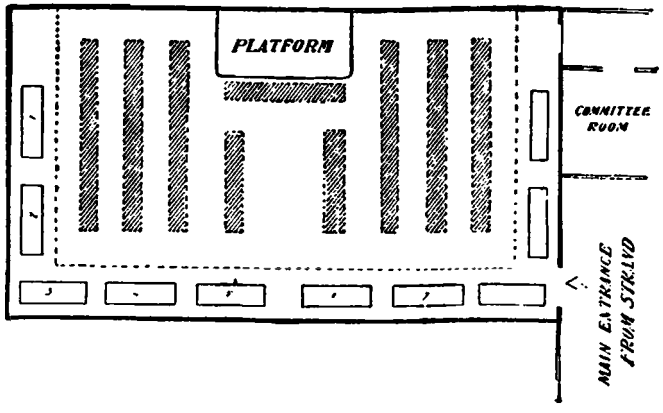
All round the hall will be a pleasant promenade and stamp bazaar, with stalls for the use of the stamp trade. A buffet and a dining-room adjoin the exhibition, and visitors from the country will be advised by the Hon. Secretary as to board and residence, hotel accommodation, etc. A useful selection of philatelic books will be open to visitors for reference. In fact, every convenience for visitors has been carefully planned out.



The admission to the exhibition will be by ticket, which can be obtained FREE from the Hon. Sec., Mr. H. F. Johnson, 11, Trigon Rd., Clapham, who will also be happy to send full programme and other printed matter on receipt of a stamp for reply.

We print here a view of the entrance to Exeter Hall, and also a plan of the exhibition.

PLAN OF EXHIBITION HALL

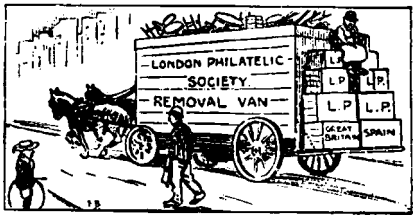


GOSSIP OF THE HOUR

By CORNELIUS WRINKLE

London Philatelic Society's New Home

The Philatelic Society of London has moved to a new home. This time it has settled down in the new thoroughfare known as Southampton Row, in a very



handsome new building erected by the Baptist Society as its headquarters. The room engaged for the Society's meetings is a very fine one, with the advantage of still larger rooms available for special meetings. And it is just possible that one of the great halls in the building may be found to be large enough for holding the proposed International Philatelic Exhibition.

Its Old Homes

In the last twenty-three years the premier society has had only two homes. In 1881 it moved to the Salisbury Hotel, then in 1892 it moved into commodious rooms of its own in Effingham House, Arundel Street, Strand, W.C. Those new rooms were thrown open to members all day in the hope that they would be used as philatelic reading-rooms. But the quasi-club idea did not take on, and has at last been abandoned in favour of a small permanent office and a specially engaged room for the fortnightly meetings.

Proposed International Exhibition in London

A word as to the proposed International Philatelic Exhibition to be held sometime this year. The first public suggestion was made at the London Philatelic Society's recent Annual Dinner, and I imagine the chairman would hardly have mentioned the matter unless he had already sounded the members of the council. Ergo, it may be taken as all but settled that at least an effort will be made to hold another gigantic philatelic exhibition in London at the end of this or the beginning of next year.

Mr. Castle returns to his Old Love

Mr. M. P. Castle is one of our most enthusiastic and shrewdest collectors. He is the author of the saying, "Once a stamp collector always a stamp collector," and no one has been more faithful to the hobby than he, and certainly no one has done more to lift stamp collecting into the regions of a scientific study than he. He is a devoted collector of Sydney views. They have always been his first favourites, and when he sold his magnificent unused collection of Australians, with its grand range of Sydney views, we all wondered what would become of him; but he now



declares that he has returned to his old love, aged though she be. Once more he has got together a splendid lot of Sydney views, those much-prized first issues of New South Wales.

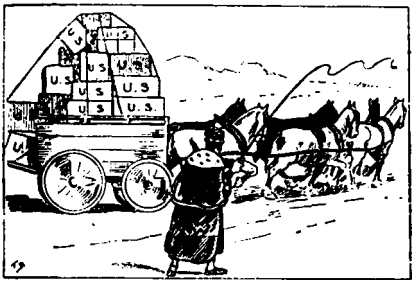
Glass Albums

An ingenious American collector has devised a new method for preserving stamp collections. This new method consists of pieces of glass fastened together with just enough space between to insert a postage stamp. These glass mounts are made in various sizes to accommodate the various shapes and sizes of stamps. As I admit, it is a most ingenious method, but just fancy what it means to mount each stamp in its separate glass mount. The Great Moguls, as Mr. Dorning Beckton dubs the great

specialists, would have to employ large waggons to convey their collections to Philatelic Society meetings on Display nights.

One Country on the Road

Imagine the Earl of Crawford carting his forty volumes of United States stamps



down to the London Philatelic Society, each stamp mounted in its separate glass case, and each sheet, block, and pair similarly encased.

Birmingham Philatelic Society

The Birmingham Philatelic Society seems to be forging ahead. It can now boast of a membership of 320, of a fine philatelic library, and of a rapidly growing permanent postage-stamp collection of its own, already comprising 12,064 specimens. At a recent meeting it voted another £20 for further additions to this collection, and, recognising the value of the property thus being vested in the membership, it has been decided that after October, 1905, new members shall pay an entrance fee of 5s.

Trustees for Society Property

If philatelic societies are going to amass valuable libraries and postage-stamp collections, the question must arise some day of appointing responsible trustees, in whom the property of the society shall be vested, on well-defined conditions, in the event of the life of the society being determined. The premier society can look back on some thirty-five years of strenuous life, but provincial societies have been comparatively short-lived.

Unprofitable Swopping

Here's a good stamp story from the Christmas number of *The Captain*:—

Some boys are a bit sharper than they need be in their own interests. Some boys dearly love a bargain in stamps. It is a failing that runs through all grades of stamp collectors, from the boy to the specialist.



One day a sharp-looking lad entered a stamp dealer's shop in New York, and asked for some United States stamps.

"There you are, my lad," said the dealer, as he placed a book of stamps on the counter in front of him. "Pick what you want." The boy made his selection, paid his money, and left the shop.

In a few minutes he was back.

"See here, Mister, this stamp has got a corner off."

"Has it, my lad?" said the dealer, taking the stamp and examining it, and adding, "Very well, there's the book. Pick another."

The boy selected another and more perfect copy, but when he got outside the door he turned round and, with a broad grin, shouted, "Done ye, Mister. That old torn stamp was out of my collection, and now I've swopped it for a nice clean one."

The stamp dealer, still holding that stamp, looked after the boy with a quiet smile. The stamp was slightly torn at one corner. Nevertheless, it was a very saleable specimen of a great rarity, known as the 15 cents United States of 1869, with inverted centre, and was worth from £15 to £20.

Niue Correspondence

Mr. Castle has been doing some statistical work in the *London Philatelist* in reference to the New Zealand stamps overprinted for use in the island of Niue. On the statement that the total sale of Niue postage stamps during 1902 and 1903 amounted to about £800 face, and taking the small population into account, he arrives at the conclusion that each inhabitant must have written over twelve thousand letters during the past two years.



NEW ISSUES

Cape of Good Hope.—The King's head set of this colony has been completed by the issue of the 2d. value. It is an interesting series, for every value has its own separate design, as will be seen from our illustrations.



















Wmk. Anchor. Perf.

½d., green.
1d., rose.
2d., brown.
2½d., ultramarine.
3d., rose-red.
4d., olive-green.
6d., mauve.
1s., ochre.
5s., orange-brown.

Ceylon.—The 4 c., 6 c., and 12 c. of the King's head type have been issued with the multiple CA watermark.

Wmk. Multiple CA. Perf.

4 cents, orange; value ultramarine.
6 ,, carmine.
12 ,, sage-green; value rosine.

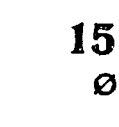
Cyprus.—We have received the 1, 2, and 45 piastres with the new multiple watermark. Up to date the values issued with the new watermark are as follows:—

Wmk. Multiple CA. Perf.

½ piastre, green; name and value in carmine.
30 paras, mauve ,, ,, green.
1 piastre, carmine ,, ,, ultramarine.
2 ,, ultramarine ,, ,, purple.
6 ,, slate ,, ,, green.
9 ,, brown ,, ,, carmine.
18 ,, black ,, ,, brown.
45 ,, purple ,, ,, ultramarine.

Denmark.—For the first time in its history as a stamp-issuing state this country has used a surcharge. The 8 öre has been overprinted in black with the peculiar figure "4" as illustrated, and the 24 öre has been surcharged in black with figures "15" on each side over the figures "24" as illustrated.





4 öre, in black on 8 öre, carmine and slate.
15 ,, ,, 24 ,, brown.

Great Britain.—The halfpenny stamp has made its appearance in the new shade, pale yellow-green. It is quite distinct from the dark blue-green which it supersedes.

Wmk. Crown. Perf.

½d., pale yellow-green.

Hong Kong.—We have received the following values of the King's head type with the multiple watermark, with the design as before.

Wmk. Multiple CA. Perf.

2 c., grey-green.
4 c., purple on red paper.
5 c., grey-green; medallion grey-green.
20 c., chestnut ,, slate.
30 c., black ,, green.
50 c., magenta ,, ,,
$1, lilac and sage-green.
$2, grey-black and scarlet.

Johore.—We have received a new series for this philatelically active state of the Malay Peninsula. The reason for the new series seems to be the presentation of the portrait of the new Sultan. The design is unchanged except for the new head. The quatrefoil watermark is also retained. The 10 c. has the value labels in white, the other cents values are of the 3 cents type illustrated, and the dollar values of the type of the 2 dollars illustrated.







Wmk. Quatrefoil. Perf.

1 c., lilac and green.
2 c. ,, orange.
3 c. ,, bla.. ..
4 c. ,, carmine.
5 c. ,, sage-green.
8 c. ,, blue.
10 c. ,, black.
25 c., lilac and green.
50 c. ,, red.
$1, dull green and mauve.
$2 ,, carmine.
$3 ,, blue.
$4 ,, deep brown.
$5 ,, yellow.

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENCE

Our Parisian Letter

PARIS, *20th November*, 1904.

"GIBBONS STAMP WEEKLY" has done me the honour of appointing me its French correspondent. I hope that my notes will be received favourably by its readers, who may be assured that I shall endeavour to make them as interesting as I can.

The eminent editor of the *Monthly Journal*, Major Edward B. Evans, said lately that stamps issued really for postal service are very different from those created because there are collectors. Our French colonies, or the foreign post offices, are, alas! an evident proof of this.

One knows that the French offices in China are of two kinds: the first, dependent upon the Government of Indo-China, are Canton, Hoi-Hao, Mongtze, Pack-hoï, Tchong-king, and Yunnansen; there are also Amoy, Lang-tcheou, and Kouang-tcheou-houen, which do not possess special stamps. The special stamps for the first six have recently been suppressed and replaced by the stamps of Indo-China, allegorical figure, of the Grasset type, surcharged for their use "CHINE," and with the value in Chinese characters. There are three varieties: the first, with "Chine" under the Chinese characters, was the first printed, which was soon corrected; this will be the rarest. The second and the third have the word "Chine" above the characters; but in the one the letters are thinner, especially the "C" of "Chine," and the surcharge is smaller by ½ mm. These two varieties exist in the sheets, and are to be found *se tenant* as a pair, horizontal or vertical.

The other French post offices—Peking, Tien-tsin, Shanghai, and Tche-foo—are dependent upon the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the Ministry of the Posts at the same time. They employ exclusively stamps like the current French stamps with "Chine" in a label. As the postal franchise enjoyed by right by the French army of occupation was suppressed brusquely last year without warning, the lack of Unpaid Letter stamps compelled the Collectors of Taxes to surcharge the ordinary stamps "A Percevoir." Naturally there flowed in demands for these stamps, and the operation having seemed good to the Collector at Tien-tsin, he kept it up on his own account, and still surcharges stamps as orders come in! Unfortunately this overprinting is done by means of a fine copper stamp, very well engraved and with regular letters; while the first overprints were made by a rubber stamp, and this, as may be understood, did not give the same result.

The Société Française de Timbrologie exposed last June the bogus character of the stamps of Diego-Suarez surcharged in 1894 for Ste. Marie de Madagascar. No one has ever seen these stamps, and no catalogue mentions them. They are "bogus." The surcharge is made up of the ordinary round obliterating stamp "Ste. Marie de Madagascar," from which the central portion containing the date of departure has been removed. Only one dealer sells them. On his own avowal he paid 3s. 4d., their face value, for them, and being a philanthropist he offers them at only £25. The profit is very, very small! He is prosecuting the Société de Timbrologie on account of the article, and he claims only £1,000 damages. The trial began eight days ago, and ought to be before the court on February 17th next. I may be allowed to hope that none of the readers of *Gibbons Stamp Weekly* have paid £25 for these labels.

The Paris market, after having been overwhelmed by forged Colombian stamps, is inundated just now by forged Honduras-Tegucigalpa (Gibbons' Nos. 11 to 30) and by forged Venezuela (Departments of Zulia, Campano, Maturin, Guyana). The Honduras have been pointed out from several quarters, and notably by the London Philatelic Society. The Venezuela are of more recent date. They come from an enormous lot offered at first here by a "Venezuelan gentleman." The stamps were accompanied by the plates which had been used to make them. These forgeries are lithographs. They are not nearly so fine as the originals. The perforation and the shades are different. The Guyana (Gibbons' No. 272) is purple-red instead of being orange-red. The dimensions are also different. This is very evident in the large Guyana (Gibbons' Type 42), which are larger by 2 mm. than the originals. Then the original has in the frame nine flowers from top to bottom, while the forgeries have ten flowers.

The whole lot has been bought by a London firm, and the same Parisian dealers who had refused these, thinking probably that they were the better for having crossed the Straits of Dover, hastened to buy some of them from the English dealer. It is useless to dwell upon their state of mind at present. Their final doubts were dissipated on learning that the "Venezuelan gentleman" was no other than the illustrious D'Oliveira, *alias* Dumonteuil, known locally by his previous exploits.

ALFRED MONTADER.

From Frankfurt-on-Main

FRANKFURT-ON-MAIN, *November*, 1904.

We are preparing at Frankfurt-on-Main to give a warm welcome to *Gibbons Stamp Weekly*, and there will be no lack of interested persons in the old financial metropolis of Germany.

In offering to a Frankfurt lady of distinction the place of honour in my chit-chat, I am fulfilling not only an act of gallantry, which is quite natural, but I am serving, above all, the interests of Philately in general.

The example given by this eminent lady philatelist, Madame Dr. Herxheimer, *née* Livingstone, is so inspiriting that I cannot resist the desire of saying a few words about it. With the energy and the munificence proper to the country which gave her birth (America), Madame Herxheimer has got together in a splendid collection the postal issues, very nearly complete, of all the countries in the world, beginning with the year 1890.

From a statistical point of view the figures obtained are in themselves very well worth recording. Twelve thousand specimens! This figure can be taken as being approximately the number of the different stamps issued during the last fourteen years. For if on the one hand there may be some stamps to be added, on the other hand there would have to be deducted a certain number for pairs, blocks, and full sheets. From a mercantile aspect, these 12,000 pieces represent a sum of about £3,000, that is, an average of 5s. a piece. This is interesting, seeing that the collection is made up exclusively of new stamps, with but very few exceptions. No less than seventeen large volumes are required to accommodate these philatelic treasures, and I must say that I have seen few collections of which the distribution and the arrangement of the stamps have satisfied me so completely from every point of view.

Madame Herxheimer has herself made her collection from the first to the last stamp. The work of classifying and of putting the stamps into the album was entrusted to one of the first philatelists of Germany, Mr. P. Kohl.

Here is a list of the seventeen volumes and of their contents:—

Vols. 1 to 4.	Europe and German Colonies.
,, 5 and 6.	French Colonies.
Vol. 7.	English Colonies in America.
,, 8.	,, ,, Africa.
,, 9.	,, ,, Asia.
,, 10.	,, ,, Australia.
,, 11.	Other countries of Asia, Africa, and Australia.
Vols. 12, 13, 14.	America, North and South.
Vol. 15.	Spanish Colonies.
Vols. 16 and 17.	Portuguese Colonies.

As being particularly remarkable I may mention first the English and French Colonies. These are numerous and choice, and they contain some stamps of very high rank, to which I was, I avow it with all modesty, introduced for the first time in my life.

In the French Colonies one whole page, a page of honour, is occupied by the series of the genuine Madagascar, the good and beautiful Majunga representing alone a little fortune.

The Provisional Zanzibars and others are at their posts (no pun is meant). By way of curiosity, there is a complete set in whole sheets of the surcharges of Guadeloupe, 1903. The German Colonies and German Levant are naturally fully complete, Tsingtau, Futchau, Tien-tsin, etc., being included.

Of the English and American Colonies one can say that they are all simply admirable. Great Britain shows us the extremely rare "Officials," including the Board of Education, Board of Trade, etc., in a condition which compels me to say that they are and will remain "forbidden fruit" to the ordinary mortal.

Of very great interest are the sets of perforations of Austria, for they are so varied and so complicated. Quite a special "well done" for this interesting part of the collection, because it gives it, together with so many other rare varieties, the true philatelic stamp, and helps to win for their intelligent owner, in addition to two gold medals gained by it at Mülhouse in 1903 and at Berlin in 1904, the rare diploma of the veritable collector. Madame Herxheimer has assured me that up to the present no philatelist has made a complete review of her seventeen albums; and I believe her willingly, for the task is gigantic.

A. REINHEIMER.

THE STAMP MARKET

By AN ODD LOT

IT is surprising, out of the hundreds, or I should say thousands of philatelists there are in England, how few have ever been to a stamp auction. Many have never even heard of such sales, and few have any idea of the number of rare stamps which change hands at high prices nearly every night of the week in London.

To realise the importance of stamp collecting from a financial point of view, one must visit the sale rooms, where collectors, dealers, and commission agents are all on the alert, looking for bargains, which, by-the-by, are few and far between, although of course, occasionally, they do crop up.

In spite of the general depression of trade and the scarcity of money, prices have been high at the auctions, and the vendors, on the whole, have had very good reason to be satisfied. Many of the collections sold lately must have shown a fair profit as interest on the original outlay.

At Plumridge's sale, on November 23rd, some of the buyers completely "lost their heads," and bid most recklessly, with the result that prices were ridiculously high, several of the mixed lots being "knocked down" at full catalogue value. At Glendining's sale during the same week stamps were equally dear, and on the following Tuesday prices were very high at Puttick and Simpson's rooms, a *tête-bêche* pair of the 20 c. French 1849-50 selling for three guineas, and many of the other lots fetched considerably over half catalogue.

Judging from auction prices, stamps are evidently booming, and philatelists who buy judiciously need have no fear that they are throwing their money away.

Those who have doubts as to the profits of stamp collecting, should attend one or two of the London auctions and note a few prices for themselves.

Take, for example, Lot 267 in Messrs. Plumridge and Co.'s sale of November 2nd—Northern Nigeria, 1900, mint pair of the 2s. 6d. These were fixed in Gibbons 1903 Catalogue at 3s. 3d. each, but the pair at auction realise 30s., an interest of over 400 per cent. per annum. Surely a profit like this is good enough to satisfy the most avaricious speculator! What gold mine can pay better dividends? or what investment a better interest?

Some readers will argue that the above is an exceptional instance; but the Northern Nigerian stamps are by no means the only ones that have risen, and are still rising, in value.

Apart from being the most interesting and fascinating hobby, stamp collecting can be made a profitable and safe investment by those who like to combine business with pleasure.

The past two seasons have been notable for the extent to which the war issues of South Africa filled page after page in nearly every auction catalogue. But there is a marked falling off already this season in V.R.I. lots.

The changes which are being effected from the old single CA to the new multiple CA in the watermarks of British colonial stamps are likely to lead to considerable scarcity in some values of recently issued stamps, and the awkward part of it is the fact that no collector or dealer can even guess what is likely to be scarce. It is only when a stamp comes with the new watermark that we know that the single CA is obsolete. Then there is a scramble for the obsolete watermark. If there is enough to go round, all is well; but if there is a shortage, up go prices.

The new catalogues will probably tell the tale, and reveal the extent to which the new multiple CA has disturbed prices of recent series of stamps.

What rarities the missionary type-printed stamps of Uganda promise to be! At a recent Ventom, Bull, and Cooper auction an unused copy of the 45 cowries, violet, fetched £10 5s., and at one of Plumridge's sales an unused strip of ten, showing all the values of the 1895 series—5, 10, 15, 20, 25, 30, 40, 50, 60, and 100 cowries—ran up to £39. It is said that these prices are a saddening revelation to one of our leading collectors, who had the offer of numbers of these stamps from a lady collector who wanted to do a little exchanging with him. She priced the best of her type-written Ugandas at 4s. each for exchange purposes.

PHILATELIC SOCIETIES

London Philatelic Society

President: H.R.H. The Prince of Wales.
Hon. Sec.: J. A. Tilleard, 10, Gracechurch Street, E.C.
Meetings: 4, Southampton Row, W. Alternate Fridays at 7.45.
Annual Subscription: Town, £2 2s.; Country, £1 1s.

WE are indebted to Mr. C. J. Phillips for the following report of the Premier Society's Annual Dinner.

The Annual Dinner of the Philatelic Society of London was held at the Imperial Restaurant, Regent Street, W., on Thursday, October 13th. The attendance of members and their friends was considerably larger than last year, and amongst those present were the following: The Right Hon. the Earl of Crawford (in the chair), Messrs. M. P. Castle, Geo. Churcher, C. J. Daun, C. E. MacNaughtan, E. J. Nankivell, C. N. Biggs, W. Pimm, T. Maycock, T. W. Hall, T. Wickham Jones, H. Quare, C. J. Tyas, W. T. Wilson, Frank Wilson, Martell Gray, Sidebotham, A. H. Stamford, Schwabacher, R. Frentzel, F. W. Deane, W. H. Peckitt, J. Frood, H. R. Oldfield, C. J. Phillips, R. Ehrenbach, Captain G. H. Napier, R. Meyer, F. Reichenheim, H. L. Calman, W. D. Beckton, F. W. Fulcher, R. B. Yardley, S. J. Anderson, and many other visitors whose names I could not obtain.

Lord Crawford, in proposing the toast of "His Majesty the King," said that it needed no words from him to propose such a toast to any body of gentlemen meeting together in England. He was very much struck with the words used by Sir William Broadbent on the previous day, who in the course of a speech in French most aptly termed His Majesty the lightning conductor of Europe, this being undoubtedly correct in reference to his ability to draw away danger in reference to European politics.

In proposing the health of "The Queen," his lordship said that as we love His Majesty, so we love and revere the Queen, she being his Consort and better half.

The Chairman, in proposing the toast of "H.R.H. the Prince of Wales, President of the Society, H.R.H. the Princess of Wales, and the other members of the Royal Family," referred to the fact that the Society had the honour of having as its President the gentleman who stood nearest to the throne, and continued: "There have been many Societies that have enjoyed royal protection, but I believe I am right in stating that in no other Society has the Royal President gone to a meeting, taken the chair, and read a paper at a meeting; and this paper was not one that could be put together with a gum-pot and a pair of scissors, but was full of solid information which could not have been obtained by anyone except His Royal Highness. Not only was the paper replete with details of the issues of the present reign, but also with full particulars of the Official stamps, and I say again that by this our Royal President has shown not only that he is a good philatelist, but that he is worthy of being President of our Society. I raise my glass high to the health and prosperity in this world of H.R.H. the Prince of Wales."

During a pleasant interlude of about half an hour Mr. Walter Graham, of Messrs. Maskelyne and Cook's, introduced his very effective living marionettes. "A Chinese Soldier marching out to War," "The Pirate King," "The Lass of Killiecrankie," "Dick Turpin," were much appreciated.

Mr. Fulcher then proposed "The Chairman (the Vice-President of the Society)." He said: "I rise to give you the very jolly good health of our Chairman. I have not had the pleasure of knowing many of our former Chairmen, but they have been many and excellent. We have never had a Chairman like his lordship who now occupies this position, and who is such a zealous and earnest student of Philately that, although he has only been collecting for some five years, there are few his equal in philatelic knowledge and acumen. He has practically founded a new school of Philately amongst us—that based on historical grounds and on the study of proofs and essays as well as the stamps themselves. The study of such collections as his lordship's English or United States must command the respect of any person who examines them, and as long as we have such a Chairman we have no need to fear decay." In conclusion, Mr. Fulcher said he would alter the motto of Lord Crawford's famous old school (Eton) to "Floreat Philatelia," coupled with the name of their Chairman.

The toast was drunk with full musical honours.

Mr. J. Frood then favoured us with some interesting musical sketches, amongst others, "Sinners and Talkers," Caricature of the Mikado, Imitation of a Gramophone, "Dainty Dimples for Dainty Darlings."

Lord Crawford, in responding to the toast of his health, said: "I am always at my worst when talking about myself, and I have been greatly sold this evening, as I thought I had to propose the toast of 'The Society and its Officers,' and I was prepared to give you forty minutes on this subject, but must now hand my notes over to Mr. Castle. Referring to what Mr. Fulcher has said about me, I can only say that it gives me great pleasure to aid the Society at any time. Passing in review the events of the year, I have already referred to the paper contributed by our President, and I next mention the handbook by Dr. Diena on the *Stamps of Sicily*, which can only be compared with his work on *Modena*. I have read it through twice, and dipped into it in parts a third time, and I congratulate him upon his power of bringing his knowledge so clearly before his readers. I consider that by his translation of this work Major Evans has done a marvellous feat—it is really a treasury of transmutation from one gold into a newer gold. A work on the *Stamps of the Philippines* has appeared in the United States. I have not yet reached the Philippines—the only ones I know are 'Philopena,' but these I leave to Mr. Castle, as he knows more about them than I do. Another work, which I only received yesterday, is that on the *College Stamps of Great Britain*, by the Rev. Hayman Cummings. The new French Official Catalogue is remarkably well done. Some sixty gentlemen have collaborated in producing this, and although in a first edition that has been rushed through the press there must be many errors, no doubt they will be corrected in a future edition. I hear that shortly a journal and a catalogue will appear for the rising philatelist—something a shade better than the boy lists—which will give the necessary information without confusing him; and therefore the younger generation is being looked after, which I consider right and proper. As to other works in preparation, I may refer to Part III. of *Africa*. This cannot be rushed; there are not many people able to do this class of work, and those few have only time to make a reference list of the stamps. But there is much more to do than this—such as plating certain stamps and other details, which add so much to the pleasure and the science of Philately. The first of the new works on the Australian Colonies will be somewhat delayed by a great find of early documents recently made by Mr. Basset Hull, which will make it necessary to recast part of the work already done. The handbook on India, by Mr. Hausburg, shortly to be published by the Philatelic Society of India, will be most complete and interesting. The last thing to which I wish to refer is the recent and excellent Exhibition in Berlin. I much regret that I was not able to attend, but the success of that exhibition leads me to think that we ought to have one ourselves: the spread of Philately amply repays the labour involved,

and we must consider whether something cannot be done within the next twelve months or so. I am sure that we should have such a response from the Continent and elsewhere that it would make many of us sit up. In conclusion, I thank you very sincerely for the manner in which you have drunk my health."

Mr. M. P. Castle proposed "The Society and its Officers." He said: "It often happens that when one has a clear sky one is plunged into the middle of trouble. The Chairman in his speech has taken the philatelic bread out of my mouth." (Lord Crawford: "You have my notes!" Laughter.) "I must allude to the death during the past year of Sir Daniel Cooper, the first President of the Society. He and Judge Philbrick were the first to elevate the pursuit into a science. Sir D. Cooper was a very ardent and keen collector, and we must be gratified to know that he attained great honour and great age, and died in the respect of all men. In the post of President we have suffered in no respect, but in the rank and file men drop out, and it is *absolutely necessary* for the younger members to step in and take up the positions formerly occupied by the earlier collectors; and it rests with these to take up and push the Society. It is really difficult to keep the publications going, as the question of illustrations is one of great difficulty. In *Oceania* we sought to include in the plates blocks and strips to *prove* the position of each stamp on a sheet; now we know the types, and we are seeking to use stamps as free from obliteration as possible. When the works on Australia do appear they will satisfy the most captious critic. As long as I live I hope to find the Society prosperous, and with all my heart and soul I wish health and prosperity to the Society and its officers." Mr. Franz Reichenheim, as a member of the Council, responded, and thanked the company for the way in which they had received the toast.

Mr. T. Wickham Jones proposed the last toast, that of "The Visitors," and said, "What's a dinner without visitors? I know many of my friends who don't know anything about stamps think we are cranks; but whether or not, I hope that at all our dinners we shall have many visitors, and in giving this toast I couple with it the name of my lifelong friend, Mr. Henry Tait Moore." Mr. Moore having responded, the proceedings terminated.

Kent and Sussex Philatelic Society

President: Capt. Courthope, J.P.
Secretary: F. Wicks, The Lodge, Tudeley, Tonbridge.
Meetings: Members' Houses. Monthly: afternoons.
Annual Subscription: 5s.

The November meeting was held by kind invitation of the Misses Nix at 33, Ferndale Park, on Wednesday, 9th November, 1904.

Mr. Vernon Roberts presiding over an attendance composed of the following: Misses Nix, Mrs. B. H. Collins, the Rev. Dr. Highwood, Mr. E. J. Nankivell, Mr. C. F. Harriss, Mr. C. H. Scott, and the honorary secretary (Mr. Frederick Wicks).

Six new members were elected, including Mr. C. H. Scott (Hildenborough), Mr. Philip A. Robson, A.R.I.B.A. (East Grinstead), Mr. A. Brownscombe, M.A. (Maidstone), Mr. F. C. Baker (Rolvenden), and Mr. T. Geo. Arnold (Woolwich).

The Rev. Dr. Highwood, D.C.L., read a most interesting paper on British Guiana. Mr. Nankivell proposed and the Secretary seconded a cordial vote of thanks to the Misses Nix, and a similar compliment to the chairman, proposed by Mr. Harriss, and seconded by Miss Nix, brought the meeting to a close.

Junior Philatelic Society

President: Fred J. Melville.
Secretary: H. F. Johnson, 11, Trigon Road, Clapham, S.W.
Meetings: 67, South Lambeth Rd., S.W. Bi-monthly: Saturdays.
Annual Subscription: 1s. 6d.

At a meeting of the Society, held at the Wheatsheaf Institute, 67, South Lambeth Road, on Saturday, November 5th, the following new members were elected: Messrs. W. Batty-Mapplebeck and W. T. Roycroft.

Mr. B. W. H. Poole gave an interesting paper and display on the stamps of Corea. Mr. Heginbottom's fine collection of Barbados was next displayed, and notes on the country and its stamps were read. The meeting concluded with a display of members' albums, and portions of the collections of Messrs. A. H. L. Giles and E. A. Leigh were shown. Votes of thanks were passed to the following gentlemen for their various contributions to the evening's programme: Messrs. B. W. H. Poole, E. Heginbottom, A. H. L. Giles, and E. A. Leigh. Donations to the Exhibition Fund are invited, and will be thankfully acknowledged by the Hon. Sec.

British Guiana Philatelic Society

THE first annual meeting of the Society was held in the Town Hall [Georgetown?] and took the form of a conversazione, at which there was, in addition to members, a number of invited guests.

The Hon. B. Howell Jones exhibited a small but rare collection, Canon Josa his collections of Persian and a few French colonies, Mr. W. A. Abraham displayed stamps of the South African Republics, Mr. L. M. Hill what are known as pigeon-carrier stamps, while Mr. E. A. V. Abraham showed the whole of his valuable collection, and the Museum authorities the collection in their possession. A musical programme was contributed by various ladies and gentlemen, and short addresses, appropriate to the occasion, delivered by the Hon. B. H. Jones and Mr. E. A. V. Abraham.

The report of the Honorary Secretary (Mr. A. D. Ferguson) stated that the progress and success of the Society had been gratifying. Of the origin of the Society it was explained that early in May last year the Hon. B. Howell Jones, Canon Josa, and the Secretary met and discussed the preliminaries connected with the formation of a Stamp Exchange Club on the lines of the Barbados Society. Nine gentlemen expressed their desire to form the Society, viz. the Hon. B. H. Jones, Canon Josa, and Messrs. E. A. V. Abraham, W. A. Abraham, G. Hughes, George Allan, H. von Zeigesar, A. D. Ferguson, and John Williams, who were duly enrolled as members, and on 27th May the Society was incorporated. The first packet was started on 16th June, and with the exception of December, 1903, packets were circulated every month, in some instances being divided into two or three sections. Originally started with the object of being an Exchange Club only, it was afterwards decided to hold monthly meetings, when members would exhibit their collections or novelties, read papers, and generally discuss all matters of philatelic interest. Twelve meetings were held during the period ending 30th June, and there were several exhibitions of collections. One paper was read during the year by Mr. E. A. Abraham, on "Early Days of Stamp Collecting in British Guiana." The paper was very interesting, and regret was expressed that other members had not followed Mr. Abraham's example. The Society has steadily increased in membership until now, when it numbers thirty-one members, which may, for this colony, be considered a large society.

Philatelic Society of Johannesburg

THE above Society held a meeting on Tuesday, September 6th, when there were present thirteen members and five visitors.

On the question of hiring a room for the Society the Chairman proposed that they have a room in the Masonic Temple, which would be very suitable for holding the meetings. The Society would also be able to keep their library there.

Mr. W. E. Fairbridge was elected a member.

The second quarterly auction then took place, Mr. M. P. Vallentine officiating as auctioneer.

A meeting of the above Society was held on Tuesday, October 4th. Mr. M. Neuburger (President) occupied the chair, and there were present twenty-one members and seven visitors. The Chairman referred to the encouraging state of the Society's finances, which amounted to £39 4s. 6d. Mr. A. J. Cohen presented the Society with a copy of a French official catalogue. The exhibition of stamps of the German Empire and States, Zululand, and Swaziland was declared open. Mr. Ansell exhibited some fine sheets of Swazilands, including errors, and Mr. W. P. Cohen some Zululands. Mr. C. R. Schuler gave an excellent display of German Empire, Zululands, and Swazilands, including a pair of twopenny and error without "D." A small auction then took place, which resulted in a small sum being realised on behalf of the Society.

The Collectors' Club, New York

THE 110th meeting of the Board of Governors was held on Monday, September 12th. Present: Messrs. Andreini, Dewing, Rich, Scott, and Perrin. The Treasurer's report, showing a cash balance in bank of $816.66, was read and approved.

The 111th meeting of the Board of Governors was held on Monday, October 10th, when the resignation of Mr. Wm. Herrick, the Club's first President, was accepted with regret.

The 112th meeting was held on October 12th, with Mr. J. W. Scott in the chair. Mr. J. M. Andrieni was unanimously re-elected President, and Mr. P. F. Bruner, Vice-President. Mr. W. W. Dewing was chosen as Treasurer, and Mr. Albert Perrin as Secretary. Various committees were appointed.

At the Annual Meeting of the Club, held on the same day, the reports of the various committees for the past year were read and accepted, and the customary votes of thanks were made. Three new Governors of the Club, Messrs. W. W. Dewing, B. von Hodenburg, and Albert Perrin, were elected.

Sydney Philatelic Club

THE Annual Meeting of the Sydney Philatelic Club was held at Pirie Chambers, Adelaide, on June 29th, Mr. A. F. Basset Hull presiding.

The election of officers for the ensuing year took place as follows: President, Mr. A. F. Bassett Hull; Vice-President, Mr. A. H. Pettifer; Treasurer, Mr. J. J. Witney; Librarian, Mr. C. A. Gilles; Hon. Secretary, Mr. J. H. Smyth; Committee, Messrs. Hambly, Harpur, W. A. Hull, Ridley, Smith, Van Weenen, and Waddington.

The President returned thanks for his re-election, and in his address referred to the satisfactory progress made by the Club during the past year, and hoped that the members would continue their efforts in the cause of philately. The other officers also thanked the members for their confidence.

No nominations having been received for the position of Exchange Superintendent, Mr. F. Hagen was re-elected at a committee meeting held the same evening, he having previously explained that he would only accept same provided no other member was willing to take it.

Philatelic Society of Victoria

THE ordinary General Meeting of the above Society was held on September 8th, at Equitable Buildings, at 8 p.m.

The President, Mr. W. T. Littlewood, occupied the chair, and there were twelve members and the Secretary present.

A recommendation of the Committee to remove the place of meeting to 128, Russell Street was discussed, and it was proposed, seconded, and carried unanimously that the meetings in future be held at that place, so that the official address of the Society is now 128, Russell Street, where members may inspect the library whenever they choose, as the rooms will be open from 10 a.m. until 5.30 p.m., excepting Saturdays, on which day the place will be closed at 12 o'clock.

OUR PHILATELIC DIARY

FOR THE MONTH OF JANUARY, 1905

3. Auction: Plumridge, 64, Chancery Lane, London. 4.45 p.m.
   Leeds Philatelic Society: Display—West Indians, by E. Heginbottom.
4. Auction: Plumridge, 64, Chancery Lane, London. 4.45 p.m.
   Sheffield Philatelic Society: Sale and Exchange.
5. Birmingham Philatelic Society: Lantern Display, Mr. J. A. Margoschis.
   North of England Philatelic Society: General Collection, Dr. Abraham.
   Auction: Ventom, Bull and Cooper, Temple Hotel, Arundel Street, London. 5 p.m.
   Auction: Glendenning, 7, Argyll Street, London. 4.30 p.m.
6. Manchester Philatelic Society: Display—Any one country (limited to twelve stamps by each member).
   Auction: Ventom, Bull and Cooper, Temple Hotel, Arundel Street, London. 5 p.m.
   Auction: Glendenning, 7, Argyll Street, London. 4.30 p.m.
7. Junior Philatelic Society: Displays—Uruguay, Jamaica, Montserrat, and Nevis; also Paper—Cook Islands, by H. F. Johnson.
9. Liverpool Philatelic Society: Paper—1904, W. C. Taylor.
10. Auction: Puttick and Simpson, 47, Leicester Square, London. 4.30 p.m.
    Bradford Philatelic Society: Paper and Display—Seychelles, by A. J. Foulger.
11. International Philatelic Union: Fiscal Display, W. Schwabacher.
    Auction: Puttick and Simpson, 47, Leicester Square, London. 4.30 p.m.
13. London Philatelic Society: Display—India, by L. R. Hausburg.
    Manchester Philatelic Society: Discussion—France, opened by W. Grunewald.
17. Herts Philatelic Society: Display—Sicily, by Wickham Jones.
    Leeds Philatelic Society: Display—Russia and Finland.
18. Enterprise Philatelic Society (London): Paper and Display—Argentine, by A. C. Constantinides.
    Sheffield Philatelic Society: Annual Dinner.
19. Auction: Ventom, Bull and Cooper, Temple Hotel, Arundel Street, London. 5 p.m.
    Auction: Glendenning, 7, Argyll Street, London. 4.30 p.m.
20. Manchester Philatelic Society: Paper—What we see in Stamps, by G. B. Duerst.
    Auction: Ventom, Bull and Cooper, Temple Hotel, Arundel Street, London. 5 p.m.
    Auction: Glendenning, 7, Argyll Street, London. 4.30 p.m.
21. Junior Philatelic Society (London): Fiscal Notes, by W. Schwabacher. Debate—Should fiscally-used high values be included in a Postage Stamp Collection?
23. Liverpool Philatelic Society: Lantern Display of Forgeries.
24. Auction: Puttick and Simpson, 47, Leicester Square, London. 4.30 p.m.
25. Auction: Puttick and Simpson, 47, Leicester Square, London. 4.30 p.m.
27. London Philatelic Society: Display by Mr. Mann.
    Manchester Philatelic Society: Discussion—New Brunswick, opened by J. H. Abbot.
28. Junior Philatelic Society (London): Second visit to the Tapling Collection, British Museum.
31. Auction: Plumridge, 64, Chancery Lane, London. 4.45 p.m.

OUR PRIZE COMPETITIONS

COMPETITION No. 1

Give Six Reasons for Collecting Stamps

THE replies will be tabulated as votes, which will decide the order in which the reasons given shall stand in importance.

A competitor may send in as many sets of answers as he likes, but *each* set *must* be accompanied with a coupon, as below, fastened to the replies.

The competitors will thus be their own judges.

Prizes will be awarded in three classes:—

Class I. No age limit.
,, II. Under 18 years.
,, III. ,, 14 ,,

PRIZES.

CLASS I.

1st. A 1,500 packet of stamps, all different.
2nd. A 1,000 ,, ,, ,,

CLASS II.

1st. A 1,000 packet of stamps, all different.
2nd. Century Album, best edition.

CLASS III.

1st. A 500 packet of stamps, all different.
2nd. A 250 ,, ,, ,,

All entries for competition No. 1 must be received by January 10, 1905, and the result will be announced in the number published at the end of January.

All replies must be addressed to

STANLEY GIBBONS, LTD.,
391, STRAND, LONDON, W.C.,

and envelopes should be marked in left lower corner *G. S. W. No. 1.*

A separate competition for collectors residing out of Europe will be announced in due course.

A FREE GIFT TO OUR READERS TWICE A MONTH

WE have decided—in order to make *Gibbons Stamp Weekly* more widely known—to *give away* to our subscribers twenty-four genuine postage stamps each year, at the rate of two stamps per month. This gratis stamp will sometimes be in the first two numbers in a month, sometimes in the second and fourth number, and sometimes in the last two, so if you wish for these stamps be sure and buy each number. Order them regularly from your nearest stationer or newsagent.

SPECIAL NOTICE

2½d. for 1d.

With next number (No. 2) we shall present an *unused* British Colonial Postage stamp of the actual face value of 2½d., thus giving 2½d. for the One Penny this number costs.

COUPON No. 1. 7 JANUARY, 1905

Name and full address.

(Please write distinctly, and say if *Mrs.*, *Miss*, or *Mr.*)

.....

....

.....

.... *Age*.....

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7 January, 1905.

Gibbons Stamp Weekly

EDITED BY EDWARD J. NANKIVELL

No. 2 | 14 JANUARY, 1905 | Vol. I.

STAMPS OF GREAT BRITAIN

By GORDON SMITH, M.A.

(*Continued from page* 8.)

Abolition of Franking

ANOTHER important reform introduced by the Act of Parliament was the abolition of the privilege of "franking" hitherto enjoyed by the members of both of the Houses of Parliament since the reign of Charles II. Each letter had to bear the name of the post town, the day and date in full, and the address in the handwriting of the member, as well as his signature, which was usually placed in the left lower corner, where there was a vacant space. The letter had to be posted at the place and on the date named, and the member could not frank more than fifteen letters in one day. When these requirements were fulfilled the letter was carried free. But even so, a member's friends (and if he were a member of the House of Commons, his constituents as well) always kept him employed up to the limit of his privilege.

The trial which had been made of the uniform 4d. rate above mentioned at the end of 1839 had proved so far satisfactory that it was decided to introduce the new 1d. rate without further delay, and accordingly the new Act of Parliament was brought into force on the 10th January, 1840.

As soon as the Statute received the royal assent, steps were immediately taken to give practical effect to its requirements. The Treasury issued a notice inviting the public to send in proposals and suggestions, and by the middle of October more than 2,600 suggestions, designs, and sketches had been received. After taking two months to wade through this mass of papers, it was found that none of them fitted the requirements which had been laid down.

Rowland Hill's Proposals

Previous to the invitation which had been issued to the public, Sir Rowland Hill had himself made certain suggestions, and it was now decided by the authorities to inquire whether these could be put into practical shape.

The proposals of Sir Rowland Hill for what we may call, for want of a better term, *Postal Stationery*, took the forms of:—

(1) Stamped covers on half-sheets of paper.
(2) Stamped envelopes.
(3) Adhesive labels.

The two first form a class by themselves. With these I will deal before coming to the third class, which we nowadays call postage stamps.

Postal Stationery in 1839

Before doing so, however, we will briefly consider the forms of stationery which were in use at that time—1839. Envelopes were *never* used for letters as we use them to-day, and the reason for this was that the rates of postage were so framed that no one would incur the extra expense. A "single rate" only applied to *one sheet of paper* under 1 oz. in weight. If the letter consisted of two sheets "double rate" had to be paid, and if three sheets a "treble rate." A letter weighing 1 oz. and over was charged

a fourfold rate, and an additional rate for every ½ oz. over 1 oz. There were, therefore, two reasons why envelopes were not used—increasing the weight and increasing the number of separate pieces of paper. As an example of these charges it is interesting to compare the rate of a 4 oz. letter to Edinburgh (not the most remote place from London), which to-day can be sent for 1d., with the charge which then had to be paid. The single-rate charge for over 300 miles and under 400 was then 1s. 1d., but to Edinburgh there was an extra charge of ½d. because the letter was conveyed by a vehicle which went on more than two wheels! The single rate was, therefore, 1s. 1½d. Now by the above rate a letter just under 4 oz. was charged sixteen times the single rate, so that the cost of postage which is now 1d. was then no less than 18s. !

At this period all letters were written on single sheets of paper folded so as to make four pages; the size of the pages was usually somewhat larger than that which the stationer sells to-day as "letter-paper" in distinction from the smaller size known as "note-paper." The letter was written on the first three pages, the fourth being left for the address and outer parts when folded. The folding was made vertically, that is to say, the sides were folded over to meet down the middle; the paper was then folded again into three horizontally, one end being turned inside the other and fastened with wafers or sealing-wax, the former for choice, as the latter was likely to make the missive over weight. The middle portion of the fourth page now became the front of the letter, on which the address was written. It was this part of the sheet which it was suggested should be stamped; the letter being written on page 3 only, pages 1 and 2 dispensed with, it became a "half-sheet" of paper.

Mulready Envelopes

In the open competition for which the Treasury had invited designs, a drawing was submitted by William Mulready, R.A., to occupy the front of the letter as above described.

It is not my purpose to give at length the history of those interesting pieces of paper (or documents we may almost call them), the "Mulready" "covers" and "envelopes." Suffice it to say here that the design was adapted to both forms, to the "half-sheet" above described and also to envelopes, the design in the latter case being placed diagonally in a diamond-shaped frame, so that a triangle was left on each side of the rectangular picture. When these triangles were folded back, the points came together, where they fastened with wafers, making the completed envelope. Thus the two ideas of "stamped covers" and "stamped envelopes" were both carried out with the same design.

It will be seen that the words "stamped envelopes" bore quite a different meaning from that we now attach to them, for what we now mean is an envelope with an embossed stamp in the upper corner, a combination not then in existence or even contemplated.

In 1840 the envelope as we now know it had only an extremely limited use, probably confined to a few letters delivered by hand, and to cards of invitation and similar purposes. The invention boasts, however, quite a respectable antiquity, and is of French origin. It is mentioned by the celebrated novelist and dramatist Le Sage, and a specimen is known bearing the date 1696. Their general and now universal use dates from the invention of what is known as the "Hill and De La Rue" machine for cutting and folding envelopes, which was patented in 1845, as we may see from the fact that in 1841 about half the missives handled by the Post Office were in envelopes, whereas in 1850 the number had risen to 90 per cent. of the whole.

The "Mulreadys" were issued to the public on the 6th May, 1840, and at once became the butt of everyone, and drew upon themselves the ridicule of every class of the community. Only six days after we find Sir Rowland Hill making the following entry in his diary:—"I fear we shall be obliged to substitute some other stamp for that designed by Mulready, which is abused and ridiculed on all sides. In departing so widely from the established 'lion and unicorn' nonsense I fear that we have run counter to settled opinions and prejudices somewhat hastily. I now think it would have been wiser to have followed established custom in all the details of the measure where practicable."

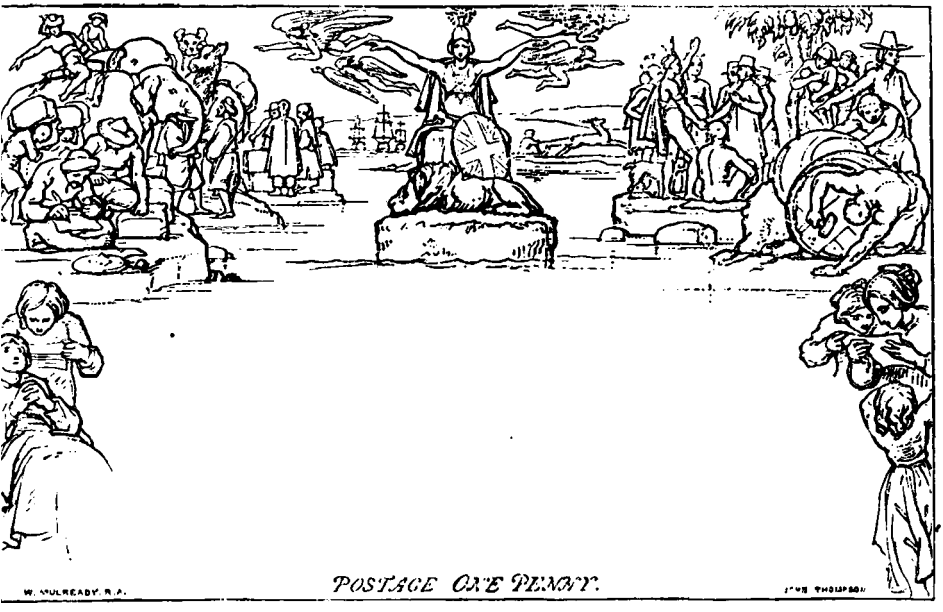
On the appearance of the envelopes with embossed stamps in January, 1841,

heir use was entirely abandoned. The Post Office had had an enormous quantity manufactured, which it was decided should be destroyed, as it was wholly unsaleable. So great was the bulk that special stoves had to be made in order that complete combustion might be effected.

3) Adhesive labels.

The comic tragedy of the brief career of the Mulready covers and envelopes is a curious example of how those who we think are the wisest in such matters may go astray in their estimate of the tastes and requirements of the public. Before their issue the authorities firmly believed that this method of prepaying postage would be preferred to all others, although they foresaw that there would be some instances (owing to the limited size) in which letters and packets could not be compressed within such a small compass. To meet these cases it was proposed to issue "adhesive labels," as they quaintly expressed it. I think if you entered a post office to-day and asked the young lady behind the counter for an "adhesive label" she would be rather taken aback, and you would have to pause for her reply.

At the end of 1839 Sir Rowland Hill wrote to Messrs. Perkins, Bacon, and Petch, who were well-known as high-class engravers and steel-plate printers, to inquire if they were willing and able to undertake the manufacture of these labels. The firm accepted the proposals to print postage stamps, and continued to do so until the end of 1879, when their processes of reproduction were entirely superseded by those now in use, and which will be dealt with in their proper place.



(To be continued.)

PORTRAITS ON STAMPS

By BOSWELL JUNIOR

Argentine Republic (*continued*)

Belgrano, Manuel, an Argentine General,



Belgrano.

born at Buenos Ayres June 3rd, 1770, and died there June 20th, 1820. Joining the movement of independence in 1810, he was sent with a small army to free Paraguay, but was unsuccessful. In 1812 he led an army against Upper Peru (now Bolivia), defeating the Spaniards at Tucuman in 1812 and at Salta in 1813, and advanced to Potosi, but was defeated at Vilcapujio and Ayouma in 1813, and was soon after superseded by San Martin. He was restored to his command in 1815, but illness prevented him from taking part in the subsequent movements.

Belgrano's portrait appears on the 16 c., green, of the 1877-8 series, and again on the 10 c., 12 c., 16 c., 24 c., and 50 c. of 1891.

Celman, Miguel Juarez. When you turn



Celman.

up the biographical dictionaries for particulars of this gentleman under "Celman," you are referred to "Juarez," where he appears as Miguel Juarez Celman, Juarez Celman being presumably a double-barrelled name. And after you have hunted him up under the various initials there is precious little to satisfy one. We learn that he was born at Cordoba on the 29th September, 1844; that he was an Argentine politician of the Liberal party; that he became President on October 12th, 1886, but was forced to resign on August 6th, 1890, by a revolution brought on by the financial panic of that year. And thus endeth the lesson—in English—on Miguel Juarez Celman. His portrait appears on the 3 c., green, of the 1888-90 series, and again on the same value, but in a different design, in the 1889-90 series.

Brown, W. I have hunted high and



W. Brown.

low for the pedigree and biography of this Argentine celebrity with the very English name. I have searched the shelves of the British Museum, and worried the courteous officials of the Reading-room till they have wished Boswell Junior were under the turf with the other great Boswell. But not a line can I find about his alleged existence. In my despair I wrote to my friend W. Brown, the popular stamp dealer of Salisbury, asking him if at any hushed-up period of his career he had guided the destinies of the Argentine Republic. But even this forlorn hope has failed me, for there is no reply to my appeal. Still, W. Brown's portrait appears on the 20 pesos, green, of 1891.

Derqui, Santiago. This Argentine politi-



Derqui.

cian was born at Cordoba about 1810, and died at Corrientes about 1863. He was a leader of the Unitario party, and was banished by Rosas in 1846. After the fall of Rosas he was a member of the Constitutional Congress of the provinces of Santa Fé (1853), and soon after Minister under Urquiza, and succeeded that leader as President of the Argentine Confederation in 1860. The war with Buenos Ayres ended in the defeat of the forces of the Confederation at Pavon on September 17th, 1861, and Derqui fled to Corrientes, where he lived in retirement until his death.

His portrait appears on the 2 c., purple, of 1889-90.

STAMP COLLECTING AS A PASTIME

By EDWARD J. NANKIVELL

II. The Charm of Stamp Collecting

HIS Royal Highness the Prince of Wales, in a letter to a correspondent, referring to stamp collecting, wrote: "It is one of the greatest pleasures of my life"; and the testimony of the Prince of Wales is the testimony of thousands who have taken up this engrossing hobby.

The pursuit of a hobby is very often a question of expense. Many interesting lines of collecting are practically closed to all but the wealthy. But stamp collecting is open to all, for the expenditure may in its case be limited at the will of the collector to shillings or pounds. Indeed, the adaptability of this hobby is one of its chiefest charms. The rich collector may make his choice amongst the most expensive countries, whilst the man of moderate means will wisely confine himself to equally interesting countries whose stamps have not gone beyond the reach of the man who does not wish to make his hobby an expensive one. The schoolboy may get together a very respectable little collection by the judicious expenditure of small savings from his pocket money, and the millionaire will find ample scope for his surplus wealth in the fine range of varieties that gem the issues of many of the oldest stamp-issuing countries, and which only the fortunate few can hope to possess.

In all there are over three hundred countries from which to make a selection. In the early days collectors took all countries, but as country after country followed the lead of England in issuing adhesive stamps for the prepayment of postage, and as series followed series of new designs in each country, the task of covering the whole ground became more and more hopeless, and collector after collector began first to restrict his lines to continents, and then to groups or countries, till now only the wealthy and leisured few attempt to make a collection of the world's postal issues.

This necessary restriction of collecting to groups and individual countries has led to specialism. The specialist concentrates his attention upon the issues of a group or country, and he prosecutes the study of the stamps of his chosen country with all the thoroughness of the modern specialist. He unearths from forgotten State documents and dusty files of official gazettes the official announcements authorising each issue. He inquires into questions surrounding the choice of designs, the why and wherefore of the chosen design, the name of the engraver, the materials and processes used in the production of the plates, the size of the plates, and the varying qualities of the paper and ink used for printing the stamps—in fact, nothing that can complete the history of an issue, from its inception to its use by the public, escapes his attention. He constitutes himself, in truth, the historian of postal issues. The scope for interesting study thus opened up is almost boundless. It includes inquiries into questions of heraldry in designs, of currency in the denominations used, of methods of engraving dies, of the transference of the die to plates, of printing from steel plates and from lithographic stones, of the progress of those arts in various countries, of the manufacture, the variety, and the quality of the paper used—from the excellent handmade papers of early days to the commonest printing papers of the present day—of postal revenues and postal developments, of the crude postal issues of earliest times, and the exquisite machine engraving of many current issues.

He who fails to see any justification for money spent and time given up to the collecting of postage stamps will scarcely deny that these lines of study, which by no means exhaust the list, can scarcely fail to be both fascinating and profitable, even when regarded from a purely educational standpoint. It is true it may be contended that all collectors do not go thus deeply into stamp collecting as a study; nevertheless the tendency sets so strongly in the direction of combining study with the pleasure of collecting, that the man who nowadays neglects to study his stamps is apt to fall markedly behind in the competition that is ever stimulating

the stamp collector to his pleasant and friendly rivalry with his fellows.

Then, again, an ever-increasing supply of new issues from one or other of the many groups of stamp-issuing countries periodically revives the interest of the flagging collector, and binds him afresh to the hobby of his choice. Old, seasoned collectors, whose interest once set never flags from youth to age, relegate new issues to a back seat. They find more than enough to engage their lifelong devotion in the grand old issues of the early settlements. But the collector of modern issues who cannot afford to indulge in the great rarities, finds new issues a source of perpetual enjoyment. They follow one another month after month, and infuse into the collector's life the irresistible charm of novelty, and every now and again an emergency issue comes as a surprise. There is a scramble for possession, and a spice of speculation in the possibility, never absent from a makeshift and emergency issue, that the copies may be scarce, and may some day ripen into rarity.

III. Its Permanence

Ever since the collection of postage stamps was first started it has been sneered at as a passing craze, and it has been going to die a natural death for the past forty years. But it is not dead yet. Indeed, it is very much more alive than it has ever been. Still the sneerers sneer on, and the false prophets continue to prophesy its certain end.

To the unsympathetic, the ignoramus, the lethargic, the brainless, everything that savours of enthusiasm is a craze. The politician who throws himself heart and soul into a political contest is "off his head," is seized with a craze. The philanthropist who builds and endows hospitals and churches is "a crank," following a mere craze. The earnest student of social problems is "off the track," on a craze. The man who seeks relaxation by any change of employment is certain to be classed by some idiot as one who goes off on a craze. You cannot, in fact, step off the beaten track tramped by the common herd without exciting some remark, some sneer, perchance, at your singularity.

The most ignorant are the most positive that stamp collecting is only a passing fancy of which its votaries will tire, sooner or later; and yet for the last forty years, with a brief exception, due to an abnormal depression in trade, it has always been on the increase. Indeed, it has never in all those years been more popular with the cultured classes than it is to-day. The Philatelic Society of London has an unbroken record of regular meetings of its members extending over a quarter of a century. The literature devoted to stamp collecting is more abundant than that of any other hobby. Its votaries are to be found in every city and town of the habitable globe.

"All very fine," say our bogey men, our prophets of impending evil; "but blue china has gone to the wall, autographs are losing caste, old books and first editions are on the downgrade, pipes are relegated to the lumber-room, metallurgical cabinets are coated with dust, and even walking-sticks survive only at Sandringham!" Just so. We are all—Governments, people, and weather—going to the bad as fast as we can go, according to the croakers, the wiseacres, and the self-appointed prophets. Nevertheless, stamp collecting has survived the sneers and the evil prophecies of forty years, and so far as human foresight can penetrate the future, it seems likely to survive for many a generation yet.

And why not? In the busy, contentious bustle of the competition of the day, the brain, strained too often to its utmost tension, demands the relaxation of some absorbing, pleasure-yielding hobby. Those who have tried it attest the fact that few things more completely wean the attention, for the time being, from the vexations and worries of the day than the collection and arrangement of postage stamps. In fact, stamp collecting has an ever-recurring freshness all its own, a scope for research that is never likely to be exhausted, a literature varied and abundant, and a close and interesting relation to the history and progress of nations and peoples that insensibly widens the trend of human sympathies and human knowledge.

(To be continued.)

GOSSIP OF THE HOUR

By CORNELIUS WRINKLE

My Portrait—by request

Since the appearance of No. 1 of *Gibbons Stamp Weekly* I have several times been asked for my portrait, and one young spark has the cheek to suggest that a fellow with such a peculiar name may have an equally peculiar phiz. Well, I did not have much to say in the choice of my name, and as to my phiz, I fear it has many wrinkles. I am conceited enough, however, to challenge comparison with the guy on the cover of No. 1, labelled "Editor."



The coming Exhibition in London

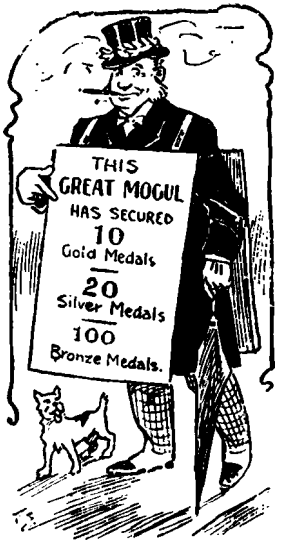
From all I can hear, the idea of having a big International Philatelic Exhibition in London is taking root. Of course the ay or nay rests with the members of the Philatelic Society of London, and it cannot be denied that those who shouldered the drudgery of the arrangement of the last London Exhibition had enough of exhibition work to serve them a lifetime, especially the Hon. Sec., Mr. Tilleard. And the question will be where to find an equally enthusiastic and business-like man for the helm. However, we may expect a decision shortly. Once decided on, the premier society may be relied on to make it a great success.

The Great Moguls

Of course, something will have to be done to secure the co-operation of the Great Moguls, as the great specialists are called. A philatelic exhibition without their exhibits would be shorn of its glory. At the same time they cannot be allowed to sweep the floor of all the medals, as they have been doing for some years. Some folks complain that they don't see what is to prevent their doing so. If they show the best stamps they are entitled to the medals. Hence, none but the Great Moguls are likely to have any inducement to exhibit. Not so, the matter can be easily arranged, and should have been arranged years ago.

A Champion Class for Great Moguls

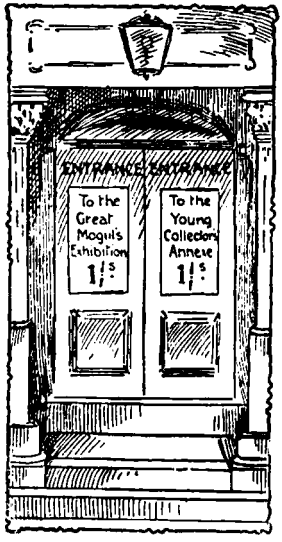
Let the promoters of philatelic exhibitions learn by the management of other great shows. If I show a fine dog and carry off the highest prizes, my dog soon gets transferred to the champion class. In the same way a Great Mogul's exhibit



in a given group, once having won a gold medal at a first-class exhibition, should be restricted henceforth to competing with other gold medallists in that group. This would raise the status of the exhibition and leave room for others to come on, and we should be saved from the monotony of never seeing any collections but Mr. So-and-so's.

Wanted—a Young Collectors' Annexe

I want also to put in a claim for the young collector. The great exhibitions practically ignore him, but I hope the Committee of the coming exhibition will manage to give him a room, even if they have to restrict his exhibits to small groups, or particular countries or issues.



Anyway, the young collector has now a journal of his own, and is therefore not so helpless as he was. We must peg away for his recognition. How the boys would glory in a corner of their own in a great international exhibition, and how they would strain every nerve to carry off the prizes!

Why not a Public Schools Class?

And if we could have a special corner for a Public Schools Class, where we could pit the great schools against each other, I guess it would give an immense impetus to stamp collecting in our public schools. Why, we might get up as much excitement over the business as over the most popular competitions between the great schools. May I commend the idea especially to those who are interested in our public schools, and suggest that they should set to work at once to ascertain how far such a proposal would be supported? I feel sure that if an energetic master of the philatelic persuasion set to work at once, he might be able to get sufficient evidence together to secure a hearing with the Exhibition Committee.

An Impertinent Artist

A few days since I received this impudent sketch with a cool request that I would submit it to the editor. Well, I did submit it to the editor with the suggestion that this important artist should at once get the "sack." But instead of giving the fellow the "sack" straight away, the editor returns the offensive sketch to me, and asks me to chuck it into my pages, just as if my allotted space were to be the dustbin for this sort of thing, instead of the usual sage and matured advice of grey-haired experience.



MISCELLANEOUS

A Pleasant Surprise

Collector (inquiringly).

Dear me, what can the matter be?
What can the patter and chatter and clatter be,
Now going on in the world of Philately,
Going so strong in the air?

Chorus of rival editors.

They've promised to bring us a *weekly* new Gibbons—
They're going to spring on us another new Gibbons—
But they're not going to knock *our* concerns into ribbons,
So we're none of us tearing our hair!

Omnes.

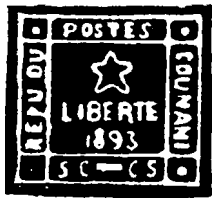
We're all of us in for another new Gibbons—
A whiff every week quite unique of our Gibbons—
And we'll fight for our bright little, light little Gibbons—
The latest new thing in the air!

"*Dâk*," *in* "*The Philatelic Journal of India.*"

Counani Stamps

In the year 1893 *Le Timbre-Poste* published an account of a supposed Republic of this name, situated somewhere between French Guiana and Brazil, consisting, in fact (if indeed it consists at all), of territory the possession of which was disputed by the two countries. The most interesting part of the story was, naturally, a full description of various issues of stamps which were stated to have taken place in 1887 and in 1893. In the former year a hundred copies of the first of the very primitive designs illustrated below were said to have been printed in *black*, on white





paper, and this limited issue supplied the needs of the inhabitants for between five and six years! In 1893 the second design was supposed to have been brought into use, and to have been also printed in *black*, but upon papers of six different colours, for the inhabitants of as many different districts, who perhaps differed in colour as much as the stamps did; but 150 to 200 copies of each were deemed sufficient for their humble wants.

Collectors were somewhat sceptical, probably not without good reason, and nothing more was heard of this enterprising Republic and its interesting stamps until 1900, when a fresh attempt was made to float an issue, in several different values, of the type-set design shown here, which was also supposed to be a product of 1893. This attempt was as unsuccessful as the former, and the Counanian Stamp Department took a rest for another four years. Recently M. Lemaire has received what purport to be official documents (reproduced in *Le Journal des Philatélistes*), according to which Counani proposes to enter the Postal Union on January 1st, 1905, and then, of course, to issue another series of stamps. There seems to be only one difficulty in the way, and that is, that the existence of such a Republic is extremely doubtful. It seems to be quite unknown to geography or to history (other than philatelic); the territory of Brazil joins French Guiana at that spot, and there is no space for any other Republic, there is not even room to put a postage stamp between them, far less a whole issue.—*Monthly Journal.*



Canada Postal Service

On June 30th, 1903, there were 10,150 post offices in the Dominion, and amongst these it is worthy of note that there are some that receive only six mails in twelve months.

The number of letters posted during the year was 235,791,000, this being an increase of over 10 per cent. The surplus in the postal revenue was 395,268 dollars, as compared with a surplus of only 5,109 dollars the previous year, and for several preceding years there had been large deficits.

Cape of Good Hope Postal Service

There are now 1,003 post offices in the Colony, an increase of forty during the year. The surplus in the revenue was £8,845, as compared with over £62,000 in 1902; the postal receipts showed an increase, but the telegraph receipts fell off by over £66,000.

In the district of Gordonia the camel post is used, and the herd consists of a bull and four cows, who are found to be quite suitable. Motor-cars were tried on one route, but were withdrawn in consequence of the difficulty of getting repairs done locally.

No mail was sent during the year to Tristan d'Acunha, the last mail having been sent there in December, 1902. In February, 1903, H.M.S. *Thrush* brought a mail of twenty-seven letters from the island.

The total number of letters posted during the year was 44,086,478.

Malta Postal Service

The surplus in the postal revenue was £7,409, as compared with £3,910 in the previous year. The report states: "Owing to the issue of new postage stamps bearing the King's effigy, the cost of manufacture was £1,093, but there was a large demand for these by collectors, and the sales showed an increase of £3,004 over the previous year. This increase was chiefly in ½d., 1d., 4d., and 1s. stamps, and there was a large falling off in the sale of ½d. stamps."

Natal Postal Service

There are 277 post offices, and last year 27,227,668 postal packets of all kinds were posted. The surplus in the revenue was £70,679.

One incident is worth quoting. In September last an unopened mail bag was found among some papers at Dundee. It had been sent from there in October, 1899, but the train conveying it had been held up by the Boers, who put the bag aside and forgot it. The contents of the bag included forty-seven registered letters, most of which were delivered to their owners.

Philatelic Wall Paper

It is said that the monks at the Hospital of St. Jean de Dieu, at Ghent, have in their leisure moments decorated the walls with gorgeous landscapes, glowing with colour and full of life, formed entirely by means of the postage stamps of all the nations of the world. Palaces, forests, streams, and mountains are represented. The pictures are most artistic, in the style of Chinese landscape gardening, and already between nine and ten millions of stamps have been used.

NEW ISSUES

Ceylon.—The 2 c., 3 c., and 5 c. of the King's Head type have been issued with the multiple CA watermark, making the list to date :—

Wmk. Multiple CA. Perf.

2 cents, orange-brown.
3 ,, green.
4 ,, orange ; value ultramarine.
5 ,, purple.
6 ,, carmine.
12 ,, sage-green ; value rosine.

Denmark.—This country has started a new series with a portrait of King Christian IX. This is the first time that a portrait has formed part of the design on the stamps of Denmark, the centre design hitherto being the national Arms. We have received two values of the new series. They are watermarked with a Crown.



Wmk. Crown. Perf.

10 öre, scarlet. | 20 öre, blue.

East Africa and Uganda.—Several values of the current King's Heads are to hand with the multiple watermark as follows :—

Wmk. Multiple CA. Perf.

½ a., green.
3 a. ,, centre chocolate.
4 a., black ,, grey-green.
5 a., orange-brown, centre grey-black.
8 a., blue, centre grey.

French Guinea.—A series of new and uniform design has been received from this French possession. The figure is evidently intended to represent a native of the country in a very uncomfortable position.



New design. Perf. 13½.

1 c., black on green.
2 c., brown on buff.
4 c., carmine on bluish.
5 c., green on green.
10 c., carmine on buff.
15 c., mauve on flesh.
20 c., brown on green.
25 c., blue on bluish.
30 c., pale brown on cream.
40 c., carmine on yellowish.
50 c., sage-green on greenish.
75 c., dark green on buff.
1 fr., pale green on greenish.
2 fr., carmine on orange.
5 fr., green on green.

Grand Comoro.—According to *Le Postillon*, an attempt was made, some eighteen months ago, to raise funds in this colony, for the purpose of paying the expenses of suppressing a small outbreak at Moheli, and the usual source was to be appealed to for contributions. A handstamp, with the inscription "MOHELI—Juil.—1903," and movable figures to denote the value required, seems to have been ordered from home, but only arrived at the same time as a letter from the Colonial Minister forbidding its use ; and the postal outbreak was as summarily squelched as the other had been. The handstamp, however, was unfortunately mislaid, after a few trials had been made upon borders of sheets, and it has since been found by someone who is making use of it upon stamps—for his own benefit. Readers are warned that no stamps or margins of sheets, with the surcharge mentioned above, were ever put in circulation.—*Monthly Journal.*

Lagos.—The issue of the King's Head series, single CA watermark, was only completed a few months since, yet already we have received several values with the multiple watermark. Up to date the list is as follows :—

King's Heads.	*Multiple CA.*
½d., green.	1s., green and black.
1d., purple on red paper.	2s. 6d., green and carmine.
6d., purple and mauve.	10s., green and brown.

Liberia.—Some provisionals have been issued here for values presumably which have run short. They are made by surcharging current stamps with the required values.

Provisionals.

1 c., in black, on 5 c. on 6 c., green.
2 c., in red, on 30 c., slate-blue.
2 c., in black, on 4 c., green, with "Official," in red, barred out in black.

Malta.—We have received the ½d. and 2½d. of the current King's Head series with the multiple watermark.

Wmk. Multiple CA. Perf.

½d., green.
2½d., blue, centre purple.

Mauritius.—This colony seems to be playing the most extraordinary pranks with the colours of its postage stamps. In 1895 it adopted the current Arms type, and issued the 4 cents in lilac, with value in emerald. In 1900 it changed the colours to purple, with value in carmine. A few months since it was further changed to slate-blue, with value in violet ; and now it comes printed in black, on blue paper, with value in carmine.

Wmk. Single CA. Perf.

4 c., black, on blue paper ; value in carmine.

Persia.—We have received some interesting curiosities, due to accident or design in impressing certain of the surcharges that were inflicted upon the stamps of this country last year. Some of the gorgeous labels of 1894, which were disfigured with Type 41, have a portion of that elaborate overprint upside down, in which position it looks quite as well as if it were the right way up ; the Persian characters below the head are in the normal position in most of the cases ; the 8 chahis has these characters in *black* (instead of *red*) on some of the copies before us ; and in the case of the 4 ch., 16 ch., and 3 krans we have blocks with the surcharge normal on the upper row and inverted on the lower.

4 ch., in *red* and *black*,	on 5 kr. ;	red *surcharge inverted*,		
8 ,, in *green* and *red*,	on 5 ,,	green	,,	,,
8 ,, in ,, *black*,	on 5 ,,			
8 ,, in ,, ,,	on 5 ,,	*both*	,,	,,
16 ,, in *orange* and *green*,	on 5 ,,	orange	,,	,,
3 kr., in *blue* and *lake*,	on 5 ,,	blue	,,	,,
3 t., in *black* ,,	on 5 ,,	black	,,	,,

We have also the 10 krans of the Official series of last year, with the overprint, Type 52, inverted at the bottom of the stamp. This is postmarked, but has the original gum intact.

Official Stamp.

10 kr., rose-red ; *inverted surcharge.*

Monthly Journal.

Reunion.—A new issue is promised for this island, one of the designs of which is to include the Arms of the colony. M. Maury, who is no mean authority upon heraldry, is anxiously looking for this, as he has hitherto vainly endeavoured to discover the Arms of Reunion. We would venture to suggest that they should be blazoned somewhat as follows : "Gulls, a Postage Stamp proper, with surcharge R(ampant) argent."—*Monthly Journal.*

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENCE

Transvaal Notes

NYLSTROOM, *November*, 1904.

To write short chatty notes on philatelic items of general interest, when the nearest collector lives 100 miles away, is not so easy as it looks when published in print, but I will try to keep the readers of *Gibbons Weekly* posted of what I hear goes on in Transvaal.

South Africa depends on the Johannesburg share market; when that booms everything and everybody "booms," and stamps also. As a big boom is expected early next year, I expect stamp dealers will then not complain so much as they do now.

I looked up some Pretoria dealers the other day, and they all agreed that business was dead. Their stocks were small, old Transvaal stamps 1870-78 absolutely absent or represented by a few badly clipped or heavily cancelled specimens, to say nothing of the Mecklenburg "reprints." No wonder advanced collectors and specialists cannot find anything suitable out here to buy.

Swazieland is on the stamp surcharging tack. The Government of the Transvaal has decided to tackle the knotty question of concessions in real earnest, and have now installed a new Government in Swazieland and have issued a notice "that all stamp duties on Deeds, Powers of Attorney, and other documents, and all fees in connection with such documents which require to be stamped under Transvaal Laws, shall be levied by means of Transvaal stamps especially appropriated for Swazieland Revenue purposes."

I do not think that there is any other way of appropriating "Transvaal stamps for Swazieland purposes" than by surcharging. Well, the Transvaal State Printing Works in Pretoria can and do turn out the best work in South Africa, and thus I do not think that the surcharges will have many "Errors."

The above notice is silent about postage stamps, but I do not doubt that these will be surcharged Transvaal stamps. The post and telegraph concession was acquired by the Government of the late South African Republic, and then taken over by the present Government, and I am sure that they will want to keep the postal revenue separate, as we now believe in "red tape" and "statistics."

Speaking of concessions, the late King of Swazieland, Umbandine, was a thirsty soul, and for a case of liquor he would grant a concession. Later on he increased his charges to several cases, and finally to cash payments, which later he converted into liquids—the stronger the better. After concessions for everything valuable—from gold-mines down to roads—had been given, a "keen" man came along, and he got a concession for "everything which has not as yet been concessioned, and for every concession lapsing or becoming forfeited or cancelled."

The result is such a muddle that the present Government has to appoint a special Court to go into all concessions, and to buy up all those which they require to govern the country.

Really a nice state of affairs. I doubt if anybody intentionally could have created a greater muddle than the present state of affairs in Swazieland are in. Let us truly hope that the stamps will be straightforward, as that is practically all which interests us as collectors, and let us not be blessed with a repetition of New Republic Issues.

The Philatelic Society of Pretoria is dormant, which is a great pity. After last year's exhibition, which was well arranged and patronised, and some good stamps shown, the society seems to have gone to rest on its laurels. The best collection Pretoria ever owned was that of Mr. Alberto Philipp, who, I am glad to see, has got a gold medal for it at the last Berlin Exhibition, and, as far as I know it, it was fully worth the honour bestowed upon it by the judges there.

The Philatelic Society of Johannesburg is going ahead. It holds its monthly meetings, and generally an exhibition of some countries afterwards. This is as it ought to be.

There are some nice collections in Johannesburg. I lately saw part of the great Fiscal collection of Mr. Klagsbrun, and I was surprised at its contents. His South Africans were grand and will take a lot to be beaten.

The only stamp shop I saw was Mr. A. Sonn's, Stanley Gibbons' South African Agency. He had a nice stock of South African stamps, and he seemed to be fairly busy. I believe there is a good field for a go-ahead dealer who understands his stamps, as the place is large and there are many collectors who have nothing else than stamps to spend the evenings with.

As the American collector collects only America, and the Australian specialises Australia, so many African collectors out here take up Africa. I must say that when I took up stamps again out here some twenty-five years ago I also specialised Africa. I found it here a most difficult job to get good East and West Coast stamps, and I had to get correspondents in nearly all colonies and states, and I had to pay for a lot of experience. Now East Africans are more plentiful owing to better steamship communication, but the West Africans are still difficult to get. Collectors who exchange and have anything old to offer seem to be very scarce up there, and when one has "struck up" he gets the fever and dies and with him one's exchange sheets.

As a rule, stamp collectors out here have but few good duplicates, and that is a great drawback, because when exchanging one has to give good stamps to get equal value, otherwise one has to go to the dealers, and these have nothing like the stocks held in Europe.

In October Mr. Wyndham, of Cape Town, called on me for a set of British Africa Company stamps of March, 1891, overprinted with large numerals, Gibbons' Catalogue Nos. 14-17. He told me that he had scoured the whole of South Africa, from Cape Town to Buluwayo, for a set, and had not been able to get any. Somebody told him that I might still have a set, and so he came up to me. Luckily I still had a set, and so was able to fulfil his wish, and now his B.S.A. Co. collection is complete, he having secured the errors of the Rebellion stamps of 1896 when last in Buluwayo. Personally I have always found this is a difficult country to complete, the high values being so seldom met with in a really postally used condition. Cleaned fiscals, of course, abound.

He told me that even the large collections held in Buluwayo did not possess the large numeral stamps. Personally I know that they have always been scarce out here. I was lucky at the time in obtaining a couple of pounds' worth, but a repeat order of mine was answered with "Sold out."

Mr. Wyndham showed me a few Orange River Colony V.R.I. errors which he had picked up in Bloemfontein and Johannesburg. He told me that he was nearly complete in all the errors, he having made good use of his opportunities as a war correspondent coming up with Lord Roberts' army to Bloemfontein and being on the spot when the V.R.I. stamps were first issued, and then buying up all he could get and afterwards exchanging duplicates for missing errors.

The Transvaal stamps with multiple CA watermark are appearing but slowly. The 1 p. has been in use for some months. To make sure I went over to the post office and got permission to inspect the stock last received. I found them all on the single CA paper.

I see in home papers that many collectors do not

want to collect this new watermark as a separate issue. Although I believe in letting everybody collect what he pleases, I cannot well see why a collector makes a difference between the C C and C A watermarks on the same stamps and then refuses to make the same distinction between a single and a multiple of C A.

The excuse of having two sets identically the same, except in watermark, is no excuse at all, as the same applies to the CC and CA watermarked older issues of Queen's Heads.

How will the collector get over the difficulty when the larger sized stamps, say Natal 10s. and higher, are issued on multiple C A paper? They are the same, if he strictly adheres to his rule, and still they are not the same stamps. I suppose after the catalogues have settled down, and have catalogued them as separate issues, the collector will growl—he usually does when something new turns up—and collect them as he would any other issue.

I just note from the *Swaziland Times* that the Government has decided to issue Transvaal stamps surcharged "Swaziland," but for some inexplicable reason it is stated that only the penny and sixpenny stamps will be surcharged. As it has been deemed desirable to issue a specially marked stamp, it seems to us much more intelligible to have a series with the distinction marked on them. And so say all of us.

EMIL. TAMSEN.

PHILATELIC SOCIETIES

London Philatelic Society

President: H.R.H. The Prince of Wales.
Hon. Sec.: J. A. Tilleard, 10, Gracechurch Street, E.C.
Meetings: 4, Southampton Row, W. Alternate Fridays at 7.45.
Annual Subscription: Town, £2 2s.: Country, £1 1s.

THE first meeting of the season 1904-5 was held, by the invitation of the Vice-President, at 2, Cavendish Square, on Friday the 14th October, 1904, at 7.45 p.m.

Members present: The Earl of Crawford, E. D. Bacon, L. W. Fulcher, H. G. Palliser, R. Frentzel, C. J. Daun, Rudolph Meyer, Wm. Martello Gray, C. J. Tyas, J. C. Sidebotham, E. Stanley Gibbons, R. B. Yardley, W. T. Wilson, H. Dorning Beckton, Douglas Ellis, C. McNaughtan, Gordon Smith, Robert Ehrenbach, Malcolm S. Cooke, Herbert R. Oldfield, Franz Reichenheim, George F. Napier, T. Wickham Jones, Edw. B. Evans, H. Quare, L. S. Wells, Arthur H. Stamford, T. Maycock, A. W. Maclean, W. Schwabacher, C. Neville Biggs, W. W. Blest, M. P. Castle, Robert Reid, William Pimm, F. Ransom, B. D. Knox, Thos. Wm. Hall.

Visitors: Stanley B. Baxter, M. Raffalovich.

The chair was taken by the Vice-President, and the minutes of the meeting held on the 10th June, 1904, were taken as read. A letter was read from the Rev. H. Williams, announcing the death of Col. W. E. Williams, a member of the Society, and the intimation was received with great regret.

A print check list of the proofs of adhesives and revenue stamps of the United States of America, prepared by Mr. Toppan, was presented by him to the Society, and the same was handed to the Librarian for acknowledgment in the usual way.

A letter was received from Lieut. H. J. Gillespie, resigning his membership of the Society, and the resignation was accepted with regret.

The members then proceeded to the election of the following gentlemen, who, after ballot, were declared duly elected:—

Lieut.-Col. Schofield Patten Peile, C.B., proposed by Lieut.-Col. A. St. Leger Burrowes, seconded by the Hon. Secretary.

Mr. Arthur John Warren, proposed by Mr. Gordon Smith, seconded by the Hon. Secretary.

The Vice-President then gave a short explanation of the method of arrangement of the stamps in his collection of Great Britain, and at his invitation the members proceeded to inspect the collection, which had been specially set out and arranged for such inspection. The display of the stamps was very much appreciated by the members present, and a very sincere vote of thanks was passed to the Vice-President for affording the members an opportunity of inspecting the same. The proceedings then terminated.

Kent and Sussex Philatelic Society

President: Capt. Courthope, J.P.
Secretary: F. Wicks, The Lodge, Tudeley, Tonbridge.
Meetings: Members' Houses. Monthly: afternoons.
Annual Subscription: 5s.

THE December meeting of the Kent and Sussex Philatelic Society was held on Monday, at Dunorlan, Tunbridge Wells, by kind invitation of Mrs. Collins. Mr. Edward J. Nankivell presided, and those present were: Mrs. Collins, the Misses Nix, Mr. and Mrs. Joseph Wheelwright, Mr. Cecil Sharpe, and Mr. Frederick Wicks (Hon. Sec.).

A message of regret at non-attendance was received from the Rev. Dr. Highwood. Miss Crothers, of Highfield, Southborough, was elected a member of the Society.

Mrs. Collins gave a display of her magnificent collection of the postage stamps of Tuscany, which included a fine range of shades of the 1 quatt., 1 soldo, and 2 soldi on crowns paper, with a used copy of the great rarity, the 3 lire, yellow, catalogued at £60 The collection included a very fine lot of pairs and strips on original letters, two of which were addressed to soldiers at Balaclava during the Crimean War. Mrs. Collins spends much of her time at Florence every year, and her fine collection is the result of persistent collecting from reliable sources on the spot.

At the close of the meeting, on the motion of the Chairman, a hearty vote of thanks was accorded to Mrs. Collins for her exceptionally interesting display.

Herts Philatelic Society

President: H. Jennings White.
Secretary: H. A. Slade, Ingleside, St. Albans.
Meetings: Anderton's Hotel, Fleet Street, London. Monthly.
Subscription: 5s.

A GENERAL meeting was held at 2, Cavendish Square, London, W., on Tuesday, October 18th, 1904, at 7 p.m.

Present: Messrs. W. Simpson, L. E. Bradbury, T. H. Harvey, W. Schwabacher, J. C. Sidebotham, R. Frentzel, F. Reichenheim, W. G. Cool, A. G. Wane, K. Wiehen, H. Thompson, E. S. Dudley, W. T. Standen, V. H. Gregory, E. P. Richardson, F. J. Melville, B. W. H. Poole, S. Chapman, J. K. Boddy, B. F. Cooper, E. Bounds, D. Field, W. A. Boyes, F. W. Mellor, D. Thomson, A. Bagshawe, W. A. Bois, L. Magnee, H. L. Hayman, W. V. Morten, J. W. Jones, R. Meyer, Captain G. F. Napier, G. A. Nelson, W. Wernberg, Gordon Smith, the Earl of Crawford, K.T., and H. A. Slade.

Mr. Reichenheim was voted to the chair. The minutes of the meeting held on Tuesday, April 19th, 1904, were read and signed as correct.

The following were duly elected as ordinary members of the Society: Messrs. J. H. Harman, B. Fuglsang, E. Dodds, E. Potton, Dr. T. J. Paton, A. Gleerup, L. Cohen, Lieutenant F. H. Napier, and Captain G. F. Napier.

Donations of forgeries from Messrs. Neck and Gaffe, and from Miss Stewart, were received and acknowledged. Also *The Stamps of the Straits Settlements*, from William Brown, and *The International Directory of Philatelic Literature*, from Victor Marsh, were acknowledged on behalf of the Hon. Librarian.

At the conclusion of formal business the Earl of Crawford favoured the members with a descriptive account of the methods adopted when stamps were ordered, designed, and printed by the governments concerned. He described in detail the colour variations, from the rough draft to the colour proof, and gave valuable information as to the issue of the U.S. reprints and their relative scarcity.

A move was then made to his lordship's library, where the collection of the stamps of the United States was arranged in many volumes for convenient examination. This—replete as it is in every direction—is perhaps the most complete and attractive of all the great specialised collections. Taken in conjunction with its proofs, essays, etc., it gives the entire postal history of the country in its most interesting form, and it is a monument of the care and labour that have been expended in its compilation. Needless to say, the members were highly gratified at the honour paid to the Society, and were deeply sensible of the courtesy that had enabled them to spend such an enjoyable evening.

THE December meeting of this Society was held at the usual meeting-place on Tuesday, 20th December, 1904. Mr. F. Reichenheim occupied the chair, and over thirty members were present, amongst whom were Messrs. T. H. Harvey, L. E. Bradbury, W. G. Cool, W. Schwabacher, W. A. Boyes, J. C. Sidebotham, H. L. Hayman, M. P. Castle, J.P., J. B. Neyroud, A. W. McLean, L. W. Fulcher, A. B. Kay, B. W. H. Poole, F. J. Melville, A. H. Giles, D. Thompson, T. S. Stafford, W. S. Standon, K. Wiehen, F. W. Mellor, W. V. Morten, A. Bagshaw, H. Wills, R. H. Deere, G. F. Napier, J. W. Jones, M. Z. Kuttner, J. K. Boddy, W. Bevis, and H. A. Slade. Two new members were elected—Mrs. H. B. Young, of London, and Mr. T. F. Stafford, of Muswell Hill. Mr. Castle gave the first display of the evening, which had been announced as the "earlier" issue of New Zealand, but when it was known he had brought a second volume of the later issues these were, on the unanimous wish of the company, handed round. Mr. Castle, who was unfortunately suffering from a very severe cold and attended at great personal inconvenience, gave some interesting notes concerning the beautiful first issues, and drew attention to several new and almost unique specimens and varieties that he had secured since he last showed the stamps at the London Philatelic Society. These were naturally much appreciated. Mr. Sidebotham proposed, and Mr. Melville seconded, a hearty vote of thanks to Mr. Castle for his services, and the wish was expressed that he would soon be restored to health (in which all readers of *G. S. W.* will join). Immediately after Mr. H. L. Hayman exhibited his collection of New Zealand, amongst which were many superb specimens, both as regards rareness and condition. A similar vote of thanks was, on the proposition of Mr. Cool, seconded by Mr. Boyes, passed with acclamation. Both exhibitors suitably replied and encouraged the young collector to study the stamps of the Australian Colonies as amongst the most interesting there were. The October and November packets are now in course of circulation, and total over £1,600 in value, with many fine stamps for sale. It is to be hoped this average will be maintained. At the meeting on 17th January, Mr. Wickham Jones will exhibit Sicily.

Several additions have been made recently to the Society's library, which now contains a large number of books. The Earl of Crawford, K.T., has been elected an Honorary Vice-President.

Junior Philatelic Society

President: Fred J. Melville.
Secretary: H. F. Johnson, 11, Trigon Road, Clapham, S.W.
Meetings: 67, South Lambeth Rd., S.W. Bi-monthly: Saturdays.
Annual Subscription: 1s. 6d.

THE arrangements for the Society's Exhibition of English stamps at Exeter Hall are being vigorously pushed forward. The following information will be of interest to intending exhibitors:—

COMPETITIVE SECTION.

Open to Members and Non-Members.

Gold Medal.—It has been decided to present a Gold Medal to the boy or girl (whose age must not exceed 19) who submits to the Committee the best-arranged collection of postage stamps in accordance with the conditions printed below.

Two Silver Medals and a number of other prizes offered by stall-holders will be awarded to the competitors next in order of merit. A full list of medals and prizes is printed below.

There is no charge for entry, and the contest will be open to every boy or girl collector whose age does not exceed 19, whether a member of the Junior Philatelic Society or not.

Albums intended for this contest should be sent to the Hon. Secretaries, H. F. Johnson and P. Clare, 11, Trigon Road, Clapham, on or before Saturday, January 28th. An addressed cover with stamps for return postage and registration must be enclosed for the safe return of the album when examined.

The medals and prizes will be awarded for the collections which display the best skill and knowledge in the arrangement of the stamps. The rarity and value of the stamps, or whether used or unused, or the costliness of album and mountings, will not be taken into consideration. A small collection neatly and carefully arranged may as readily head the list as a big collection of enormous value.

Only boys and girls under 19 will be allowed to compete, and competitors must enclose a letter signed by a parent, or a schoolmaster, clergyman, guardian, or other responsible person, stating that the collection is the entire property of the competitor, and that the competitor's age does not exceed 19 years.

There are no other conditions, and it need not cost you anything to compete, except the small cost of postage. All other costs are being borne by the Exhibition Committee. The successful albums will be displayed in a special case at the Exhibition, where will be made the first announcements of the result of the contest.

The collections may be general or specialised.—They may comprise used stamps only or unused only, or both together. Any postage stamps, postal cards, envelopes or wrappers may be included, but fiscal stamps will not be considered.

The following is the order of the medals and prizes:—

1. The Society's Gold Medal.
2. The Society's Silver Medal.
3. Another Silver Medal.
4. A three-guinea Cistafile, presented by Messrs. Lawn and Barlow.
5. A No. 5 "Standard" Postage Stamp Album (value £2 5s.), presented by Messrs. Whitfield King and Co.
6. A set of six volumes of *The Captain*, presented by Messrs. George Newnes, Limited.
7. Thirty shillings' worth of stamps to be selected from Bright's ABC Catalogue, presented by Messrs. Bright and Son.
8. A "Royal" Stamp Album, with a 1d. and 2d. Mulready, presented by Mr. D. Field.

9. A Packet-Collection of 2,000 varieties, presented by Mr. William Brown.

All communications respecting this contest must be made to the Honorary Secretaries, H. F. Johnson and P. Clare, 11, Trigon Road, Clapham, London, S.W.

Birmingham Philatelic Society

President: W. B. Avery.
Secretary: G. Johnson, B.A., 308, Birchfield Road, Birmingham.

THE Annual General Meeting was held at Birmingham on the 6th October, 1904. The Report and Balance Sheet, showing a balance in hand of £74 8s. 4½d., were passed.

The officers and committee were all re-elected.

Twenty pounds was voted towards the Permanent Collection, which now contains 12,064 varieties. The *Stamp Collector* was adopted as the official journal for the ensuing year.

Votes of thanks were given to the following donors to the Permanent Collection: Dr. R. Lyon (unused triangular Capes, etc.), Messrs. E. U. Eddis, J. N. Marsden, H. F. Lowe, L. Lloyd, A. Spetsiotis, C. F. Tanner, C. McNaughtan, F. C. Krichauff, J. J. Smith, G. E. Petty, while Messrs. C. T. Reed and F. J. Durrant were thanked for donations of catalogues and periodicals, Dr. R. Lyon for Mount Brown's Catalogue, 5th edition, and Messrs. Stanley Gibbons, H. L. Ewen, Alfred Smith and Son, W. Brown, W. Morley, and Th. Lemaire for their periodicals, the Scott Stamp and Coin Co. for their Tentative List of Adhesives and Revenues of the U.S.A.

In view of the great increase in the value of the Society's possessions, amounting to many hundreds of pounds, it was decided that "All persons elected members on and after October 1st, 1905, and all whose membership shall have lapsed and who desire re-election, shall pay an entrance fee of 5s."

The following were unanimously elected members: Messrs. Wilmot Corfield, J. W. Dorman, M.A., J. G. Cuthbertson, B. B. A. Bittencourt, T. A. Cunningham, S. C. Skipton, W. H. Terry, G. E. Anthonisz, P. Guerin, W. T. Taylor, G. Schmidt, B. C. Baylis, Aug. Marbes, T. B. Widdowson.

The membership now stands at 320, an increase of two on last year.

It was decided to send special diplomas to all those members who have contributed £10 in value to the Permanent Collection, as an interesting souvenir of the assistance so generously given to the work of the Society and to Philately in general. They have given of their best, and the Society is extremely grateful to them, and by research is making splendid use of the gifts. The 12,064 (4,478 in the Colonial Album and 7,586 in the Foreign) have been got together in less than three years, and although this rate of progress may not be maintained, the committee are determined to do all they can to this end, having had the experience of the great use it has already been to the members.

Scottish Philatelic Society

President: John Walker.
Secretary: T. A. M'Intyre, 43, Nile Grove, Edinburgh.
Meetings: Edinburgh. Monthly: 8 p.m.
Annual Subscription: Ord. 5s.; Cor. 2s. 6d.

THE work of the session 1903-4 shows an improvement in every direction as compared with previous sessions. Despite several resignations, there has been an increase of 10 per cent. in the membership, and in addition several nominations of new members fall to be dealt with at the October meeting. The meetings have been better attended, and the displays and papers of a high order. The Exchange Branch has shown a good increase, both in the value of the packets circulated and in the sales. The cash deficit from the preceding session has been converted into a balance in hand of £2 3s. 11d.

In working the Exchange Branch every effort is made to secure the prompt return of sheets, with remittances, to contributing members, and the records of the past two sessions show that sheets were returned within from eight to twelve weeks from their receipt. From thirty-two to forty members regularly see the packets.

There is every prospect of a steady expansion of the Society in all directions. The Committee hope to receive the best support of members in their efforts to establish and maintain a Society fully representative of Philately in Scotland.

LEGAL

Buying Stamps at Auction

A very interesting case affecting the sale of foreign stamps and the liability of partners was gone into by his Honour Judge Woodfall in the Westminster County Court on Thursday, December 15th, 1904.

The plaintiffs in the action were Messrs. Plumridge and Co., a firm of stamp dealers carrying on business at 63 and 64, Chancery Lane, and they sued the defendant, trading as F. Moore and Co., to recover the sum of £12 5s. in respect of a quantity of stamps purchased at one of their auction sales.

Mr. Jas. Henry Telfer was called, and said he was a member of the plaintiff firm, and from time to time conducted auction sales of stamps, at which the defendant partner, Mr. F. Moore, was a purchaser, and the goods in question were knocked down to him, but the firm now refused to pay.

The defendant's solicitor said his case was that the partnership was now the subject of proceedings in the Chancery Court, and was in the hands of a receiver. Moreover, he contended that the goods in question were sold to F. Moore personally, and that the defendant was in no way personally liable as a partner, in view of the fact that he had actually instructed the plaintiffs not to sell any more goods to Moore in view of the fact that proceedings were pending for dissolution of partnership.

Counsel for the plaintiffs said he should submit that the stamps were sold not to F. Moore personally, but to F. Moore and Co., and therefore they were entitled to sue the defendant in his capacity of partner.

Defendant's solicitor said his client was unfortunate enough to enter into a partnership with Moore in the hope of doing a successful business, but he found out that he had made a mistake, and consequently he gave the plaintiffs instructions not to supply him with any more goods in the name of the firm.

His Honour said that so far as the case had gone at present, he was not prepared to say that the stamps were not purchased by Moore in his capacity of a partner in the firm of F. Moore and Co.

Defendant's solicitor: If your Honour takes that view of the case, I shall ask you to give me an adjournment, in order that I may call evidence to prove beyond all doubt that my client gave the plaintiffs special instructions not to supply F. Moore with any more goods after a given date.

His Honour: You can have an adjournment if you are prepared to pay the costs of the day.

Defendant's solicitor: Certainly; we will do that, your Honour.

His Honour: Very well. Then the case will be adjourned until January next on payment of the costs of the day.

THE STAMP MARKET

By AN ODD LOT

THE talk of the hour is the sale of the old stock of obsolete stamps by the Government of St. Helena. For a long time these stamps, totalling up to a face value of £8,638 7s. 10d., have been going a-begging for a purchaser. The Crown Agents insisted upon a minimum price of face value. At last, we are told, they defaced the entire lot, and sold them *en bloc* to a London dealer at probably a small fraction of their face value. The defacement consists of a square enclosing four diagonal lines. This defacement is stamped on the centre of each block of four, and may now be had intact with the original gum. But who will buy them? They are neither fish, flesh, nor good red herring. They are neither used nor unused. They are defaced by a cancellation that has been improvised for the purpose, and bears no resemblance to any honest postal cancellation, and the gum is intact. A collector must be very hard up indeed who would disfigure his collection with such rubbish.

Mr. Castle, in referring to the matter in the *London Philatelist*, ventures the opinion that the principal result on the philatelic market will be the enhancement of the value of the existing stocks of St. Helena of the corresponding values to those defaced.

It will be remembered by some of the older collectors that some years ago there was a great dispute about the value of the rare United States local known as the Brattleboro, a certain dealer asserting that he had sold a copy for £250. Other dealers scouted the price as ludicrous. In this connection it will be interesting to note that a copy has been recently sold at auction by Messrs. Puttick and Simpson for £50.

Another notable sale was a Queensland variety known as the 1879–81 2d., blue, no watermark, with burelé band at back, unused, No. 105 in Gibbons current Catalogue, which fetched £33 at Ventom, Bull, and Cooper's auction on the 15th December last. The stamp is not priced unused by Gibbons, but it is priced 30s. used.

The multiple CA is still playing havoc with our calculations. But a very short time since a supply of King's Heads with the single CA watermark was sent out to the colony of Lagos. We have barely received supplies and entered them on our want lists for purchase at our leisure when we are startled with a cry of "Multiples are coming," and before we can fill our blanks the multiples are on us. I had a hunt round for the 10s. value the other day, but could not find one at any price, and I hear that already as much as 50s. has been paid for a copy. Moral: fill up your blanks of single CA while they are to be had at new issue prices.

Another surprise packet for some collectors, especially for those who go in for Indian stamps surcharged for Native States. It will be remembered that just before the issue of the King's Heads the colours of the 3 pies, ½ a., 1 a., 2 a., and 2½ a. Queen's Heads were changed. The publication of the Indian Philatelic Society's recent work on Indian issues tells us that very small numbers of some of these values were overprinted for use in the Native States. For instance, of the 2 a., violet, 1902, Chamba, very few over 2,000 were overprinted. That value is priced 3d. in the current Gibbons. Those who can still secure it at 3d. had better do so without delay. I suspect the pence will be turned into shillings in the next edition of the Catalogue.

OUR PHILATELIC DIARY

JANUARY, 1905

17. Herts Philatelic Society: Display—Sicily, by Wickham Jones.
    Leeds Philatelic Society: Display—Russia and Finland.
18. Enterprise Philatelic Society (London): Paper and Display—Argentine, by A. C. Constantinides.
    Sheffield Philatelic Society: Annual Dinner.
19. Auction: Ventom, Bull, and Cooper, Temple Hotel, Arundel Street, London. 5 p.m.
    Auction: Glendenning, 7, Argyll Street, London. 4.30 p.m.
20. Manchester Philatelic Society: Paper—What we see in Stamps, by G. B. Duerst.
    Auction: Ventom, Bull, and Cooper, Temple Hotel, Arundel Street, London. 5 p.m.
    Auction: Glendenning, 7, Argyll Street, London. 4.30 p.m.
21. Junior Philatelic Society (London): Fiscal Notes, by W. Schwabacher. Debate—Should fiscally-used high values be included in a Postage Stamp Collection?
23. Liverpool Philatelic Society: Lantern Display of Forgeries.
24. Auction: Puttick and Simpson, 47, Leicester Square, London. 4.30 p.m.
25. Auction: Puttick and Simpson, 47, Leicester Square, London. 4.30 p.m.
27. London Philatelic Society: Display by Mr. Mann.
    Manchester Philatelic Society: Discussion—New Brunswick, opened by J. H. Abbot.
28. Junior Philatelic Society (London): Second visit to the Tapling Collection, British Museum.
31. Auction: Plumridge, 64, Chancery Lane, London. 4.45 p.m.

OUR PRIZE COMPETITIONS

COMPETITION No. 1

Give Six Reasons for Collecting Stamps

A VERY large number of entries have been received, and we are busy tabulating them, and hope to announce the result and particulars in Number 4 of *G. S. W.* (January 28).

A new competition will be started in the next number.

NOTICE

MANY clients are sending in orders for two, three, or more following numbers of *G. S. W.* to be sent to them. We therefore give notice that we cannot enter any name for less than 13 numbers (one quarter). Those who want a few numbers only can get them at the nearest bookseller's.

Messrs. W. H. SMITH & SON

Have agreed to keep *G. S. W.* on all their bookstalls throughout Great Britain, and our friends will oblige us very much if they will order at the bookstalls whenever they are travelling.

GRATIS STAMP. No. 1

IN the annexed space our subscribers should find a Cyprus 2½d., lilac-rose, of 1880, unused, and guaranteed genuine.

The entire stock of remainders of these stamps was purchased by our publishers from the authorities in Cyprus in 1882.

Printed by W. BRENDON & SON, Plymouth, for the Proprietors, STANLEY GIBBONS, Ltd., 391, Strand, London, W.C.
14 January, 1905.

Gibbons Stamp Weekly

EDITED BY EDWARD J. NANKIVELL

No. 3 | 21 JANUARY, 1905 | Vol. I.

STAMPS OF GREAT BRITAIN

By GORDON SMITH, M.A.

(*Continued from page 23.*)

HAVING taken this brief review of the history which precedes the issue of postage stamps, we are now in a position to devote our attention to the stamps themselves. The stamps of the United Kingdom are divisible into three classes, according to the different processes employed in their manufacture. They are—

(1) Line-engraved stamps.
(2) Embossed stamps.
(3) Surface-printed stamps.

(1) Line-engraved Stamps

It was seen from the first that in the production of postage stamps the chief object to be held in view to prevent, as far as possible, the making of counterfeits or fraudulent imitations, was that every stamp must be identical in design. The only practical method to obtain this result then known was that employed by Messrs. Perkins Bacon and Co., who were held in high esteem as the manufacturers of bank-notes, and this was effected by means of the discovery, by Mr. Jacob Perkins, of a process whereby steel could be hardened to an exceptional degree and softened again at will.

Wyon's Head of Queen Victoria

The model of the head of Queen Victoria selected for the stamps was that which had been utilised on the obverse of the medal struck by Mr. William Wyon to commemorate the visit of the Queen to the city on Lord Mayor's Day, the 9th November, 1837, and drawn by Mr. Henry Corbould. Mr. Frederick Heath — a very skilful artist — was entrusted with the engraving of the original die. He did not begin to work on a piece of smooth metal, but on a small plate which had already been scored with a fine meshwork produced by lathe process, and commonly known as "engine-turning," familiar to all of us as the decoration on the outside of watches during the greater part of the last century. A space was then cleared, upon which Mr. Frederick Heath began his engraving.

How the Plates were Made

I trust my readers will not think me tedious if I explain as briefly as possible the manner in which the plates were made for the printing of the stamps. The engraver first of all worked on a small piece of steel in a *soft* state, cutting into the metal the lines which were ultimately to appear on the stamp. When his work was finished the steel block was hardened, and upon it was rocked a curved piece of soft steel called a "roller," the shape of which is suggested by those curved wooden rollers, fitted with blotting-paper, now frequently seen on writing-tables. The pressure employed was so great that the soft metal was forced into the depressions of the steel block, with the result that the whole design in *relief* was impressed on the roller. The roller was now, in its turn, hardened and brought to work on the large soft steel plate, under great pressure, as before; the *relief* impression on the roller became transferred as a *depression* on the plate, identical with that of the original engraving. The

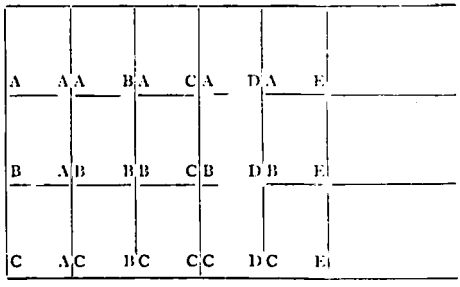
plate was then moved and a second impression made by the side of the first, and so on, until 240 such impressions, arranged in 20 rows of 12 in each row, now covered the plate. The plate, when hardened, was ready for the printer. The process of printing was as follows. The plate was thoroughly inked, that is, every line and valley and depression, however small, was filled up with ink level with the surface of the plate itself. The plate was then carefully wiped, all ink on the original surface being removed. When the sheet of paper (which was moistened for the purpose) was pressed on to the plate it sucked up all the ink left in the crevices, and when taken off the plate became a printed sheet of postage stamps. The sheets were carefully dried so as not to become in the slightest degree smudgy, the gum was applied to the back of the paper, and the sheet was now ready to be cut up for use into single specimens.



Here we have a picture of the 1d. stamp in black, as it was first issued to the public on the 6th May, 1840.

The Entire Sheets

Though few of us have ever seen, or will ever see, an entire sheet of this stamp, it is important to notice what a complete sheet actually looked like. We first notice that there are 240 separate pictures of the head of Queen Victoria, each of which has the word POSTAGE at the top and ONE PENNY at the foot, and that in the little squares at the top corners there are ornaments somewhat like Maltese crosses. In these respects any two stamps are "as like as two peas," only a great deal more so. But we notice in the lower corners of each stamp there are single Roman capital letters, and that no two stamps on the sheet have the same two letters. Beginning at the left top corner, the first stamp has the letters A A, the next A B, the next A C, and so on to A L at the end of the first row. The first stamp in the second row has B A, its next-door neighbour has B B, the next B C, and so on to B L. So the third row begins C A, the fourth D A, and so on *down* the sheet. Thus it is easily seen that the left letter tells us the horizontal row in which the stamp comes, and the right letter the vertical column in which it is placed. The following diagram, representing a part of the top portion of the left side of the sheet, will illustrate this more plainly.



Thus, for example, if we have a stamp with the letters L F, the letter L tells us that it comes from the twelfth row and the letter F that it belongs to the sixth column. The last stamp on the sheet in the right-hand lower corner had the letters T L.

Now you will ask, when did these letters first appear in the process of manufacture? A moment's reflection will make it clear that they could only have been put on the plate *after* the roller had done its work, as each stamp is different in this respect. As a fact, the insertion of the letters was the last work that was done on the plate before it was hardened. The letters were put in, by means of small hard steel punches, by hand. What care, you will say, the skilled workman must have shown not to make a mistake sometimes and put a wrong letter into a square! Well, he did sometimes make a mistake, and stamps are known in which traces of another letter can be seen underneath the proper one; but these are not common, and it is not improbable that in some cases the mistake was so effectually remedied by restoring the level surface of the plate before the proper letter was inserted that no trace was visible in the printed stamp.

The purpose with which these letters were introduced was as an additional safeguard against counterfeiting. For the forger would probably take one or two stamps and multiply them only, and when used on letters the frequent recurrence of stamps bearing the same letters would

arouse suspicion and lead to detection. I shall have occasion to refer to this subject later on.

Marginal Inscriptions

On each side of the whole picture, so to speak, were marginal inscriptions reading inwards, that is, supposing you stood in the middle of the sheet, to whichever side—north, south, east, or west—you turned you would read—

"PRICE 1d. Per Label. 1/- Per Row of 12. £1 ,,-,,- Per Sheet. Place the Labels ABOVE the Addreſs and towards the RIGHT HAND SIDE of the Letter. In Wetting the Back be careful not to remove the Cement."

How quaint this all reads sixty-four years afterwards! "Label" was an official word for stamp (at that time the word "stamp" meant a "Mulready" envelope or wrapper); this has long since gone out of use. Notice also the use of capital letters for the most important words, initial capitals for the next important, and the use of the old-fashioned form of the initial or middle "s," never used now in printing, and only occasionally used in writing by a few who still cling to old forms, in the words "Miſs" or "Meſsrs." But perhaps the oddest word is "cement" for "gum," now strictly confined to materials used for knitting together solid substances, such as masonry or broken china. In each corner of the sheet was the number of the plate.

The Paper Used

Let us now turn to the paper. Each edge of the sheet was rough and jagged, having what is called a "deckle" edge, the distinguishing mark of hand-made paper. Most of my readers, I hope, are familiar with this appearance on *three* sides of a Bank of England note.

If we hold the sheet up to the light and try to look through it we may see a multitude of designs in the paper. These are the watermarks. In each stamp we see a small crown, and outside the stamp a five-lined frame, broken at the top, bottom, and twice on each side with the word POSTAGE in outlined Roman capitals. The watermarked paper was another device to frustrate the forger, for the difficulty of manufacture was considered sufficient to prevent imitation, and has, so far as British postage stamps are concerned, acted as a deterrent.

The Watermark

The watermark is inserted at an early stage in the manufacture of the paper. It is formed by pieces of wire (called "bits") bent into the required form and attached to a wire-gauze frame. When the semi-liquid pulp flows on to this, the thickness of the pulp is naturally less than where there is no raised obstruction, so when the pulp solidifies and becomes actual paper, the substance of the paper is thinner where the watermark has lain; and if held before the light this thinner part is more transparent than the surrounding paper, and the design shows through.

It was originally intended that the stamps should be on sale to the public on the 1st May, 1840, but the authorities apprehending that the quantity in hand would be insufficient to meet the demand on that date, a postponement was made until the 6th.

On the 6th May, or very shortly after that date, the 2d. value was also on sale to the public. It was similar to the 1d. in design, only having the words TWO PENCE in place of ONE PENNY, and was printed in blue. In all other respects it was the same as the 1d.

(To be continued.)

PUBLIC SCHOOL COLLECTING

By Rev. T. C. WALTON, M.A.

(*Continued from page 5.*)

ONLY a few weeks ago I saw the statement made that the number of the world's stamps was about 20,000. If all the many varieties of colour, perforation, and watermark had been taken into account, I believe that the total would work out to at least 40,000. Is there any wonder then that the collector or would-be collector stares aghast at the huge task in front of him? Two questions are constantly in his thoughts and often on his lips. What stamps shall I collect? What sort of album should I buy? Both questions have been put to me scores of times by public-school boys, and I must confess that it has often been a matter of no little difficulty to give the right sort of advice. The answers depend so much on the facilities which a boy possesses of obtaining stamps from one or more countries. In ordinary cases, where "all is fish that comes to the net," and a boy has no special pond which he looks upon as his own preserve, I am inclined to the opinion that his best plan is to begin with a general collection. On the principle of the greatest possible pleasure to the greatest number, the general collector and his friends find the "olla podrida" collection most interesting and enjoyable. It is often said that the days of general collecting are over. Specialism and scientific collecting are the order of the day. Mr. Castle's Sydney Views, Mr. Nankivell's Transvaal collection, to mention only two out of many examples which occur to the writer's mind, these are the ideals of the stamp collector. But it must always be remembered that many of these forms of specialism require large sums of money, and that for this very reason they are quite out of the reach of boy collectors. Besides, the specialist in stamps, as in everything else, must have much knowledge on a great many points, if he means to succeed, and this knowledge the novice does not possess. The knowledge comes with the years, and the desire to specialise follows in its train. This is the ordinary sequence of events, and the young beginner would do well to be content with a general collection for at least two or three years. In cases, however, where a stamp enthusiast has parents or friends in some distant land who can send him stamps of the various issues of that country, then, by all means, I would say, specialise in that country. But, even in such a case, do not despise the general collection. Keep plodding away at both, for, later on, the "all sorts and conditions," provided that they are in good condition, will be of the greatest service in helping you to swell your special collection. The manner and method of this I must reserve for some future article.

Now we come to the question of an album. It is a thorny question for public-school boys. Let us discuss the question from the points of view of a general and a special collection.

General Albums

An album suitable for a collection of the world's stamps may be one of three kinds—

(1) Blank (names of countries at head of each page).
(2) Illustrated and numbered on both sides.
(3) Illustrated catalogue on one side and numbered spaces on the other.

Each of these three kinds may be obtained at all prices from one shilling to five pounds and upwards. As a rule the schoolboy is influenced largely by looks, especially when some fond and indulgent parent has offered to pay for the album he prefers. But it also happens that the said parent has something to say when holidays are over and boxes are packed for the return to school. The album must be left at home. It is too good to take to school. There is a divorce between the collector and his stamps, which separation is often very disastrous to the collection.

All collectors, and boy collectors most of all, want to have their stamps within touching distance. Memories must be refreshed from time to time. The album must be at hand to receive fresh additions and to compare stamps one with another. For this reason, then, I would strongly urge all young schoolboy collectors to begin with an album of convenient size and of moderate cost, and, if possible, a blank album in which stamps may be mounted on one side only. Big, ponder-

ous albums are a nuisance to schoolboys, and, judging by the way they are sometimes left about in classrooms, likewise to schoolmasters. For beginners, especially, blank albums are to be preferred to albums with illustrated catalogues facing stamp spaces, because it is most discouraging to the novice to turn over page after page of such an album and find nothing but blanks. Let me emphasise one other point, viz. the mounting of stamps on one side only. If stamps are mounted on both sides of a page they are apt to catch and tear one another when the album is opened, and there is the further risk of damaging the face of rare stamps by friction between stamps.

In the case of albums where stamps are mounted on both sides of the paper, it is a very good plan to interleave the album with sheets of tissue paper cut to size and fastened in by means of stamp mounts. This plan has the merit of being inexpensive and of preserving good stamps which might otherwise lose some of their value by rubbing.

So much, then, for the general collector. I need scarcely add that if his heart is in his hobby, his first album will by no means be his last. Many will be the mistakes he makes in arranging and mounting his stamps. Like the good soldier, who learns not from his successes but from his defeats, so also will he learn from his mistakes. And that knowledge growing steadily and surely will equip him for the field of specialism, to which we must now revert for a short space.

Albums for Specialising

I have mentioned the case of illustrated albums. No such album, be the illustrations ever so numerous and the space devoted to any particular country ever so generous, can provide spaces for all the varieties of shade and perforation and plates. Therefore, in the case of those who have made up their minds to specialise, I would advise the use of an interchangeable album. These albums will undoubtedly be fully explained in other articles. Let it suffice me to say that in their simplest form they consist of stout leaves faintly ruled on one side of the paper in small squares and contained in a cover. The leaves are threaded on spikes or kept in position by means of a sliding bar. Leaves can be taken out and fresh leaves inserted without disturbing the other pages.

Blots in Collections

It may be of use to those who are just beginning to collect if I note the many blots in albums which have come under my notice.

First there is the higgledy-piggledy collection made by the boy who wants a collection, but takes no pains over it. Stamps of different issues are mixed up and in some cases find a resting-place amongst those of another country.

This can easily be remedied by a little trouble in rearrangement after a careful study of some standard catalogue.

Secondly there is the collection of adhesive stamps, envelope stamps, wrapper stamps, post card stamps, all figuring in the same album. It is well for the beginner to know that stamps from envelopes, wrappers, and post cards have no place in a postage stamp album.

Next there is the album of torn, cut, and badly obliterated stamps. Some boys seem to imagine that a stamp is all right so long as there is about three-quarters of it remaining (the rest being torn off). The same boys generally mount stamps with their faces almost invisible, owing to a generous supply of ink in the cancellation. Now it cannot be too strongly emphasised that stamps which are torn or cut are, in nearly all cases, worthless. Very rare stamps are exceptions, but their worth when cut is small compared with the values of good specimens.

This is a matter on which I feel very strongly. One would think that, in the matter of our present King's Head issue, every stamp collector would take a pride in obtaining a set as lightly cancelled and in as good condition as possible. But take up any schoolboy's album and look at these stamps. They are in many cases almost blacked out. The fault is laid at the doors of the Post Office. Perhaps there is a lot to say for this excuse. Nevertheless it is possible to get splendid sets if one takes the trouble. How is it done? Well, you receive a 6d. stamp used on a parcel. It is badly marked. Keep it and compare it with the next you get. Compare the two and keep the better. Continue the process until you get a set worth looking at. The writer adopted this plan and found it to succeed. So may you.

(To be continued.)

PORTRAITS ON STAMPS

By BOSWELL JUNIOR

Dorrego, Manuel, an Argentine statesman, was born at Buenos Ayres in 1787, and died there on December 13th, 1828. In August, 1827, he was elected Governor of Buenos Ayres. His efforts to establish a confederation of the provinces were at first successful, and the war with Brazil was brought to a close (1828), both countries recognising the independence of Uruguay. The revolt of Lavalle drove Dorrego from Buenos Ayres. He was defeated in an attempt to recover the city, captured, and shot without trial.



Dorrego.

His portrait appears on the 30 c., brown, of the 1888-90 series.

Lopez, Carlos Antonio. Born near Asuncion about 1795; died there on September 19th, 1862. He was President of Paraguay. He was made First Consul on March 12th, 1841, and from that time was practically dictator. Elected President for ten years in 1844, he was re-elected for three years in 1854, and for seven years in 1857, but these elections were merely nominal, since Congress simply obeyed his orders. His arbitrary acts caused constant quarrels with foreign nations, and in 1859 the United States sent a squadron to the Plata to enforce demands against him. In this case he offered to submit the question to arbitration, but subsequently evaded the claim.


Lopez.

Here I must confess that there are several "eminents" of the name of Lopez, and that friend Antonio is a choice of evils. I would not go "nap" on his being the right man to fit the stamp, but he seems to come nearer than any of the others. Perhaps some Argentine collector will settle the question.

His portrait figures on the 2 c., green, of 1877-87, and on the same value, but different design, of the 1888-90 series.

Mitre, Bartolomé, an Argentine general, statesman, and author. Born at Buenos Ayres, June 26th, 1821; died there January, 1894. Having been banished by Rosas, he lived successively in Uruguay, Bolivia, Peru, and Chili, and was a noted journalist in all those countries. He served in the Uruguayan army from 1838 to 1846, and in the Bolivian army in 1847. As colonel of artillery he took part in the overthrow of Rosas in 1852. He opposed Urquiza, led the movement by which Buenos Ayres declared itself independent on September 11th, 1852. He was made Minister of the Interior, and later Minister of War of the Buenos Ayres Government, and in the latter capacity commanded the army which was defeated by Urquiza at Capuda, October 23rd, 1859, the result being the reunion of Buenos Ayres with the Argentine Confederation. Mitre was then elected Governor of Buenos Ayres, May, 1860; and now difficulties having arisen with the federal government, he defeated Urquiza's army at Pavon, September 11th, 1861. Soon after Mitre was made President *ad interim*, and in October, 1862, was elected President of the new Argentine Republic for six years. With his term opened an era of great prosperity. At the end of his term Mitre was made Minister to Brazil. He was a presidential candidate in 1874, and, being defeated, headed an abortive rebellion. In 1891 he was again a candidate, but subsequently withdrew his name. In 1852 General Mitre founded *La Nacion*, which became the most important journal of the Platine region, and remained under his direction until his death. Besides poems, essays, speeches, etc., he published two historical works, the *Historia de Belgrano* and the *Historia de San Martin*.



Mitre.

His portrait appears on the 50 c., orange, of 1889-90.

STAMP COLLECTING AS A PASTIME

By EDWARD J. NANKIVELL

III. Its Permanence—*contd.*

WHAT more do we want of a hobby? We cannot ensure, even for the British Empire, an eternity of durability: nations decay and fashions change. Some day even stamp collecting may be superseded by a more engrossing hobby. The indications, however, are all in favour of its growlng hold upon its universal public. The wealth invested in it is immense, its trading interests are prosperous and international, and no fear of changing fashion disturbs either dealer or collector.

IV. Its Internationality

Wherever you go you find the stamp collector in evidence. The hobby has its devotees in every civilised country. Its hold is, in fact, international. In Dresden there is a society with over two thousand members upon its books; in out-of-the-way countries like Finland there are ardent collectors and flourishing philatelic societies. The Prince of Siam has been an enthusiastic collector for many years, and even in Korea there are followers of the hobby. Australia numbers its collectors by the thousand, and many of its cities have their philatelic societies, all keen searchers for the much-prized rarities of the various States of the Commonwealth. In India, despite the difficulty of preserving stamps from injury by moisture, there are numbers of collectors; one of the best-known rajahs is collecting stamps for a museum, recently founded in his State, and the Parsees are keen dealers. There are collectors throughout South Africa, in Rhodesia, and even in Uganda. Wherever a postage stamp is issued there may be found a collector waiting for a copy for his album. In no part of the world can an issue of stamps be made that is not at once partially bought up for collectors. If any one of the Antarctic expeditions were to reach the goal of its ambition, and were to celebrate the event there and then by an issue of postage stamps, a collector would be certain to be in attendance, and would probably endeavour to buy up the whole issue on the spot. The United States teems with collectors, and they have their philatelic societies in the principal cities and their Annual Congress. From Texas to Niagara, and from New York to San Francisco, the millionaire and the more humble citizen vie with each other in friendly rivalry as stamp collectors.

Many countries are now making an Official Collection, and there is every probability that some day in the near future most Governments will keep a stamp collection of some sort for reference and exhibition. Under the rules of the Postal Union, every State that enters the Union is entitled to receive, for reference purposes, a copy of every stamp issued by each country in the Postal Union. Hence every Government receives valuable contributions, which should be utilised in the formation of a National or Official Collection. And some day stamp collectors will be numerous and influential enough to demand that such contributions shall not be buried in useless and forgotten heaps in official drawers, but shall be systematically arranged for public reference and general study.

Not a few countries are every year rescued from absolute bankruptcy by the generosity with which collectors buy up their postal issues; and many other countries would have to levy a very much heavier burden of taxation from their peoples if stamp collecting were to go out of fashion.

So widespread indeed is our hobby that a well-known collector might travel round the world and rely upon a cordial welcome at the hands of fellow-collectors at every stopping-place en route.

International jealousies are forgotten, and even the barriers of race, and creed, and politics, in the pleasant freemasonry of philatelic friendships.

(To be continued.)

GOSSIP OF THE HOUR

By CORNELIUS WRINKLE

The Exhibition: Ladies' Exhibits

While we are trotting out ideas for worrying the patient committee of the forthcoming International Exhibition, a



friend says to me, "What do you think, Cornelius, of setting apart a room specially for ladies' exhibits?" At first I was inclined to think the suggestion a good one, but then, you see, I have already begun to worry that prospective committee for a special room for young collectors, and if we are to slip the Great Moguls into a pen to themselves, and have a big show of the excluded, and another annexe for ladies, it will need the engagement of some such building as the Coliseum or the Hippodrome.

It is a well-known fact that at the last great stamp exhibition in London more than one much-admired exhibit was acknowledged by the owner to be largely the work of his better half. A well-known member of the London Philatelic Society, a busy medical man, is very enthusiastic in praise of his wife's philatelic knowledge. I have seen many ladies' collections, and one fact to be noted is that they rarely break away from the guidance of the printed album into specialism; they are pillars of support to general collecting, and perhaps for that reason we have not heard so much about our lady collectors as we might otherwise have done.

Ladies as Collectors

It is a well-known fact that ladies are beginning to assert themselves as stamp collectors. There are many fine collections now owned by lady collectors, and those I have met are very keen and very shrewd collectors. Why our societies do not include more lady members has long been a puzzle to me. For some years the Philatelic Society of London had a couple of lady members on its roll, but I believe there are none on the list now. Dear old Mrs. Tebay, who had been a member of the premier society almost from its very foundation, died a year or so ago. More than once the question



has cropped up, informally, of having a ladies' evening, but nothing has come of it so far. It would sadly interfere with the incorrigible smokers of the society. Still, I believe a ladies' evening will have to come some of these fine days. I know several young girls

who are just as keen as their brothers on stamps, and many of them are much more successful in persuading uncles and cousins of the City merchant persuasion to save up foreign stamps for them than the boys, and naturally so, too. If I were a boy and had a sister, I should go shares in a collection with her and depute her to whip up relatives with foreign connections.

London Society Smokers

But talking about the smokers of the London Society, have you ever been to a meeting of the Great Moguls and witnessed the performance? I once belonged to a little coterie which went in largely for colouring meerschaums, but our smoke was a very weak performance by comparison. I have heard that the better halves of some of the members are compelled to hang their philatelic



husbands' outer garments out on the clothes-line for some hours after each meeting, and I know one or two members who are debarred from attending the meetings because they cannot stand the tobacco smoke.

Lady Members

There is one society in whose reports I notice that the attendance of ladies even outnumbers that of the men, and that is the recently formed Kent and Sussex Society. That society holds its meetings in the afternoons, and seems to be fortunate in having some keen lady collectors as members. And why not? There must be a large number of lady collectors. Every London dealer knows of many, especially titled ladies. Indeed, I have often wondered that ladies have not thought of forming a society of their own. And girls are thrown so much in the way of taking the stamp fever from their brothers that the wonder is we do not hear more of girls as stamp collectors. May I throw out the suggestion to our philatelic societies that they should have special evenings for ladies? Very few ladies would care to attend an ordinary meeting and run the risk of being the only lady present, but if a special evening were set apart for ladies, then they could attend with the certainty of meeting other lady collectors.

Society Ladies as Collectors

There are many titled lady collectors, and amongst them more than one duchess. As a rule, I am told, dealers find society ladies very keen and very shrewd. Of course, the popularity, I might say the growing popularity, of the hobby in royal circles gives the cue largely to society collecting. A year or so ago we were promised a *cause célèbre*. During a call a lady was showing another lady her fine album of stamps, which included some very good things. It was said at the time that the lady, having been left alone in the room with the collection, took advantage of the occasion and abstracted some of the best stamps, that the owner almost immediately discovered the theft, and that it was going to end in the courts; but it seems to have been patched up, for it has never come before the public, though the public would dearly have loved to have heard more about the business.

Tonga Islands Stamps

I see it is rumoured that it is the intention of the Imperial Government to annex the Tonga group, and that a couple of warships have already sailed from Sydney for the purpose of hoisting the Union Jack on those islands. Practically speaking, the Tongas are under British protection, and we philatelists place the stamps in our British colonial division. By the Samoan Treaty of November, 1899, Germany renounced all her rights to the islands in our favour, and thus removed the principal obstacle to their ultimate annexation by us. Should the annexation take place, I wonder what will happen to the stamps. Will the current picture series be continued? The case will be on all fours with that of the Cook Islands, where the stamps may be regarded as a more or less temporary issue.

A SERVIAN MYSTERY STAMP

SOME three months ago the Servian authorities issued a series of special stamps to celebrate the coronation of King Peter I. Some folks said they were intended to enable stamp collectors to provide the necessary funds for the



King Alexander.

coronation festivities. Whatever the intention of this benevolent people, the stamps were designed by a Servian named G. Jovanovic, engraved by M. Mouchon, and printed at the French Government factory which prints all the French stamps.

In all there were eight values. The 5, 10, 15, 25, and 50 paras contained on a central disc on an oblong stamp the profiles of King Peter I. and his ancestor Kara George, the founder of the dynasty.

The stamps secured only a passing notice in the philatelic Press, and probably commanded a somewhat disappointing sale.

But it is stated that some few weeks after they had been put into circulation



an alarming discovery was made. It was found that if the stamps were held upside-down the death mask of the murdered King Alexander could be seen, the nostrils of both heads forming the eyes of the murdered monarch, the moustaches forming the eyebrows, and the eye and eyebrow of Kara George forming the nose and mouth. An examination of the design will show how cleverly the third face has been outlined, after the manner of a well-known system of hidden designs familiar as puzzles for children. That this mysterious face has been deliberately introduced cannot be doubted. Such a weird result could not be a mere coincidence. It is stated that the introduction of the mask is due to Queen Natalie, the late King's mother, who is said to have intrigued to get it worked into the design.

As soon as it was discovered, we are told, the Servian Government suddenly called in all that remained unsold, and instructed agents in London, Paris, and Berlin to visit stamp dealers and speculators and buy up as many of the ill-omened postage labels as possible, regardless of cost. These said agents do not yet seem to have reached London, for we have not heard of a single dealer who has been visited by them, and our publishers, it will be noted, are still offering the stamps for sale at the old prices.

The mysterious "fake" has been well advertised, and if it was done to whip up the sale of a series of postage stamps concerning which the authorities may well have been in doubt, then it has probably served its purpose.

The attempt to throw the blame on M. Mouchon, the engraver, will scarcely succeed. M. Mouchon has a reputation to preserve which he certainly would not risk by "faking" a design of such a diabolical character to be printed at the French Government factory. He was not the designer. He simply engraved the design drawn by the Servian artist.

A very large number of the stamps are said to be held by private individuals in Servia, possibly with a guilty knowledge of what would be revealed in the design.

Anyway, it should not be difficult to get at the explanation if the designer can be brought to book, for he must know for what purpose and for whom he so cleverly manipulated his design.

MISCELLANEOUS

Edmund Yates at the Post Office

An amusing story, says Mr. Arthur W. A'Beckett in *London Opinion*, is told of Edmund Yates, who, when writing in the weekly "conducted by Charles Dickens," was head of the department having to do with undelivered letters. He was visited at St. Martin's-le-Grand by a well-known publisher with a grievance; but it existed, and the publisher—who was a good fellow at heart—had a very short temper. The cabby who described Forster as "an arbitrary cove" would no doubt have coupled the short-tempered publisher with Boz's biographer. Yates, after listening for some time to his visitor's complaints, told him politely that as his time from ten a.m. to four p.m. belonged to the State, he would be glad if he would go. It was then twelve (noon). "I won't go!" cried the publisher. "Then stay," said E. Y.; "but do keep quiet." "I won't stay," shouted the irate visitor. "Very well, then you *shall* stay," returned Yates calmly. The publisher's answer to this was to take up his hat and leave the room. In a moment Yates had communicated with a subordinate at the door of the office, requesting him to detain the publisher until further notice. The hard-working "head" then gave up his usual time to his official duties. He thought no more of the publisher until four o'clock, when his attention was directed to him by an inquiry, "What was to be done with the gentleman who had been arrested at twelve o'clock?" The publisher did not bring an action for false imprisonment. It is said that afterwards he described Edmund Yates as "a gentleman of the utmost importance at the G.P.O."—*St. Martin's-le-Grand.*

Universal Penny Postage

Our excellent contemporary, *St. Martin's-le-Grand*, says, "The New Zealand delegates to the Postal Union Congress to be held in 1905 will be instructed to propose the reduction of the letter rate throughout the Union from 2½d. to 1d., and of the postage of printed matter from ½d. for 2 ozs. to ½d. for 4 ozs. A bold attack sometimes achieves an unlooked-for victory, but we doubt whether the most persuasive arguments of the New Zealand delegates to the Congress will induce their colleagues to consent to these proposals."

The "C.E.F." Stamps

We have been able to ascertain the exact number of stamps surcharged "C.E.F." so far sent out to China from the beginning, *i.e.* from July, 1900, till the end of October, 1904. Of course, these figures do not represent the actual number used, and we happen to know that there are considerable stocks in hand of some of the values in China. Possibly we may be enabled to get this supplementary information later on. We know one of our members who can supply it. We have also to learn what proportion of the 1 anna stamp is in the old plum shade and what in the new carmine shade. All bear the head of Queen Victoria. The figures are:—

¼ anna, carmine . . .	331,520
½ anna, green (old shade) . .	420,480
1 anna, plum, carmine . .	251,360
2 annas, blue	39,680
2½ annas, green	27,040
3 annas, orange . . .	22,800
4 annas, grey-green . . .	24,800
8 annas, mauve	19,720
12 annas, purple on red . .	14,666
1 rupee, green and carmine . .	17,640

During the same period 634,880 ½ anna envelopes and 342,288 post cards have been supplied.—*Philatelic Journal of India.*

Canal Zones Withdrawn

Just as we went to press last week we learned from a newspaper despatch that the visit of Secretary Taft to Panama had resulted in negotiations being completed whereby any danger of rupture between the United States and the Isthmian Republic would be happily averted. One of the articles of agreement recalled United States stamps surcharged "Canal Zone," and stipulates that hereafter Panama stamps shall be used in the Canal strip. The stamp market has already reflected the new order of things, and prices have considerably stiffened. Philatelists will be interested in knowing the last day of legal use for the overprinted United States, as well as the intended disposition of the remainders.—*Mekeel's Weekly Stamp News.*

The New Halfpenny Stamp

According to the *London Philatelist*, the new issue of halfpenny stamps in a pale yellow-green shade, recently made by the General Post Office, owes its origin to the fact that the well-known dark green stamp has been confused with the blue 2½d. Mistakes have not only been made by short-sighted or partially colour-blind members of the public, but by experienced post office clerks, who, on occasions, have actually handed 2½d. stamps across the counter when those of a halfpenny value have been asked for.

Cleaned Stamps, etc.

There are dealers both in this country and on the Continent who would not dare personally to sell certain stamps, but cheerfully send them to some auctions to be sold for what they will bring. In this way, if the buyer is, as in many cases happens, not conversant with this class of goods, he puts them into his collection, where they remain until his eyes are opened by some kind friend who knows more about stamps than he does, and who, in pointing out the bogus, sometimes considerably strains, for a time, the good fellowship hitherto subsisting. When this occurs the time for returning the stamps has gone by, and so there are no back reckonings for the seller. On the other hand, if the fakes are detected at the time, the purchase money is returned by the auctioneer before he has paid it over, and the vendor's name is not divulged. We quite believe that the leading auctioneers exercise as much care as they can, but after all they cannot be expected to have sufficient knowledge to detect every fake, and especially is this the case nowadays, when so many stamps are constantly passing through their hands for sale.—*Philatelic Record.*

Mr. Ehrenbach on Medal Hunters

Mr. Ehrenbach, one of our most advanced specialists, has recently been unburdening himself to an interviewer of the *Philatelic Record*, and here is what he says:—

"I have shown at a number of International Exhibitions and others (writes Mr. Ehrenbach), and a fair number of gold and other medals have come my way. As far as my memory carries me, I have, however, never essayed to take more than one gold medal with the same collection. Pot-hunting has never been favoured by me, and never will. I even go so far as to say that the receiving of a gold medal at an International Exhibition should bar from taking a second one at such a show, and I hope it will be possible to find some means to prevent it at the next International Exhibition in London or elsewhere."

NEW ISSUES

Bechuanaland Protectorate.—The current 2½d. stamp of Great Britain has been overprinted with the words "Bechuanaland Protectorate" in small block letters. "Bechuanaland" reads upwards on the left and "Protectorate" downwards on the right.

Current Great Britain overprinted.
2½d., ultramarine.

Crete.—We learn that pending a new issue a provisional 5 lepta has been issued, of which we have received a copy. The 20 lepta, orange, of 1901, has been surcharged with a figure "5" in black over the original value in each lower corner.

Perf.
"5," in black, on 20 lepta, orange.

Gold Coast.—The first King's Head to arrive with the multiple watermark is the 2d.

Wmk. Multiple C A. Perf.
2d., purple; name and value scarlet.

Malta.—Apparently the stamps of this Mediterranean possession are not to be all of the King's Head design, for we have just received the 5d. felucca design of 1899 with the multiple watermark. We have also received the King's Head 1s. value with the multiple watermark.

Wmk. Multiple C A. Perf.
King's Heads.
½d., green.
2½d., blue, centre purple.
1s., violet, centre grey.
Felucca.
5d., vermilion.

Russia.—*War Stamps.*—We are indebted to Mr. Breitfuss, of St. Petersburg, for early copies of a series of war stamps recently issued for the purpose of raising a fund for the benefit of the orphans of Russian soldiers killed during the unfortunate war with Japan.

We have a strong objection to issues that are not strictly speaking stamps needed for postal requirements, but these stamps have not been heralded with the object of collecting money from stamp collectors, but for the purpose of gathering subscriptions from the Russian public, who are charged an extra 3 kop. on each value for the very commendable object of raising a fund for the benefit of the children of those who have given their lives for their country.

There are four values :—

3 kopecs, red, brown and green, for post cards. Design, monument of Admiral Nakhimoff in Sebastopol.

Paul Stephanovitch Nakhimoff, a Russian admiral, was born in the government of Smolensk in 1803, and died in 1855. He fought in the battle of Navarino and took part in the blockade of the Dardanelles. In 1845 he served in the campaign in the Caucasus and was made a rear-admiral. He commanded the Russian fleet which destroyed the Turkish fleet at the battle of Sinope. During the siege of Sebastopol he took part in all the defensive operations and was made a full admiral. He was killed on the 10th July, 1855.





5 kopecs, brown and lemon, for local postage. Design, monument of Minin and Posksarski in Moscow.

7 kopecs, blue and pink, for inland postage. Design, monument of Peter the Great on horseback in St. Petersburg.





10 kopecs, blue and yellow, for foreign letters. Design, the monument of Alexander II. and the Kremlin in Moscow.

Two further values, 15 kopecs and 25 kopecs, are to be issued.

The inscriptions on the stamps are as follows: Top line, between the numerals of value, "Postage Stamp," on the scroll the value, and in the tablet at the foot of each stamp, "For the Orphans of the Soldiers fallen in the War."

War Stamps. Perf.
3 kopecs, red-brown and green.
5 kopecs, brown and lemon.
7 kopecs, blue and pink.
10 kopecs, blue and yellow.

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENCE

Our New South Wales Letter

SYDNEY, *22nd November*, 1904.

This letter may not reach you in time for your first number, but it will not be too late to congratulate you on your enterprise in publishing a weekly philatelic paper. There is nothing, in my opinion, better calculated to maintain interest in any hobby than a well-conducted journal devoted to its cultivation, and the greater the frequency with which it appears, the more does it tend to stimulate devotees and keep them moving along the lines of advancement in their study.

Stamp collecting is well and healthy in New South Wales, thank you! The number of active collectors is quietly but steadily increasing, and no sooner does one drop out of the ranks than another springs up to fill the vacancy, and often brings a fresh recruit with him. It is surprising, too, to find how many who disappear from the active ranks reappear after a while, at first with a faint trace of the old enthusiasm, which gradually develops, either in the old direction or in the narrower but more fascinating path of intense specialism.

Does a collector ever cease to retain some of his original interest in stamps? I think not.

The other day I met a man who in his official capacity handles many millions of his native State's stamps (these, however, have nothing to do with the stamps of the Native States beloved of the genial Major Evans!). This official deplored the latter-day tendency towards production of cheap and commonplace designs. He grew tenderly reminiscent. "Ah, those old steel engravings," he sighed, "the triangular Swan Rivers, and the diamond-shaped Cape of Good Hope!" He meant well, but was certainly rather mixed in his memories.

It is announced that in future the stamps of all the Australian States are to be printed on paper watermarked with an imperial crown over the letter A. Each State is to order its own supply of paper, but as Messrs. De La Rue and Co. manufacture for nearly all the States they will probably make all the new paper. It is sincerely to be hoped that this will have the "multiple" form of watermark, and that there will be no troublesome varieties to deal with. Of course some months must elapse before the present stock of paper is used up and the new design of watermark brought into use, but it is very much to be regretted that any change is contemplated short of the introduction of the uniform Federal series.

The Sydney Philatelic Club have got comfortably settled in their new room. This is the first time the Club has been housed in premises exclusively its own. A "jumble" sale was held to mark the occasion, and the articles contributed to the sale by members realised sufficient to completely furnish the room. The library is a very fine one, and all the principal journals are complete in bound files.

A. F. BASSET HULL.

Our Belgian Letter

The eleventh public sale of postage stamps took place in Brussels on November 14th. These sales, organised two years ago by MM. Armand Dathier and Louis Juliard, have been attended regularly by the faithful public. Among the stamps offered for sale there were the 10 c. and 20 c., Belgian first issue, unused, which fetched 24 and 26 frs. each. One must not take these prices as the values of these stamps, which are not to be found at any dealer's, even at double the price paid by their lucky buyers. Then there were three pretty Oldenburg stamps — the ¼, ⅓, and ½ gr., 1860, which fetched 10, 18, and 15 frs., and the two Mulready envelopes, 1 p. and 2 p., unused, which found a buyer at 10 frs.

On November 27th the Bruges Philatelic Club celebrated the twentieth anniversary of its foundation. At a meeting attended by its members and by delegates from the societies of Brussels, Antwerp, and Ghent, we drank to the prosperity of the prosperous Society and cheered its President, M. Deschryver, who in a striking speech spoke highly of the work carried on in every country by its clubs and stamp journals in making it their task to extend the taste for collecting stamps. He said stamps possess beyond question an historical character, and viewed as a decoration, both from their various methods of being printed and by their shades of colour, they are æsthetic, without taking into account that they represent values which are catalogued and recognised and which are current everywhere just like bank-notes and fiduciary title-deeds.

The forger who sold Belgian stamps of 5 frs., and who for having done so was condemned to three months' imprisonment, has appealed against the verdict and has been acquitted. The Court thought that the price at which he sold his imitations, namely, two or three francs, ought to warn collectors that they are asked to buy forgeries. One result of this trial is that, according to the law of Belgium, it is no longer a crime to forge stamps which are out of circulation. This is deeply to be regretted, and all that one can do is to warn all collectors to distrust more than ever those stamps which are relatively rare and offered at a low price.

A large number of Belgian societies, following herein the example set by the Philatelic Club of Brussels, is organising at their meetings stamp sales, a percentage being levied on the takings. Thanks to the sums thus raised, a tombola, or raffle, is got up among the members at these monthly meetings. It is an excellent innovation, which seems destined to arouse members from their torpidity and to attract them in greater numbers to the meetings.

Philately in Denmark

COPENHAGEN, *10th December*, 1904.

In this country Philately at present is very animated, and the principal cause is the issue of new stamps, and provisionals too, after we have had the same old stamps for many years.

When the postage rates were changed 8 and 24 öre values were no longer needed, and in order not to waste the considerable quantities in stock at the General Post Office, it was resolved to surcharge the 8 öre by 4 and the 24 öre by 15.

The 4 öre stock amounted to 3,000,000, so this stamp never will be rare, but of the 15 öre there were only 300,000, so this one may turn out to be rather good.

It was soon found that the 15 öre sheets presented an error, the eighty-sixth stamp exhibiting below a type different from the other, the number "1" being shorter and the number "5" more compressed than the other figures. It further turned out that this error was not in all the sheets, but according to a statement from the General Post Office it was met with in only 600 sheets, so there arose a wild hunt for this rarity, which no doubt in the course of time will become very expensive.

After these provisionals the first stamp of the new series with the head of King Christian was issued, and by-and-by, when the old stamps are sold off, the new ones will be issued.

This altogether has been waking up Philately in Denmark. New members have been proposed for admission in the clubs, and Philately has consequently many new adherents.

PHILATELIC SOCIETIES

London Philatelic Society

President: H.R.H. The Prince of Wales.
Hon. Sec.: J. A. Tilleard, 10, Gracechurch Street, E.C.
Meetings: 4, Southampton Row, W. Alternate Fridays at 7.45.
Annual Subscription: Town, £2 2s.; Country, £1 1s.

THE second meeting of the season 1904-5 was held at 4, Southampton Row, W.C., on Friday the 28th October, 1904, at 7.45 p.m.

Members present: The Earl of Crawford, M. P. Castle, E. D. Bacon, Robert Ehrenbach, Herbert R. Oldfield, L. W. Fulcher, Rudolph Meyer, Rudolph Frentzel, Franz Reichenheim, Douglas Ellis, A. W. Maclean, A. C. Emerson, T. Maycock, Edward J. Nankivell, Harvey A. T. Clarke, A. J. Warren, J. C. Sidebotham, W. Schwabacher, G. F. Napier, R. B. Yardley, C. McNaughtan, B. D. Knox, C. Neville Biggs, J. A. Tilleard. The chair was taken by the Vice-President, and the minutes of the meeting held on the 14th October, 1904, were read and signed as correct.

A letter was read from Mr. Charles J. Phillips containing a liberal offer of assistance in the event of an International Exhibition being held under the auspices of this Society, and upon the motion of Mr. McNaughtan, seconded by Mr. Castle, the letter was referred to the Council, with instructions to consider the same and to report at a later meeting.

The members then proceeded to the election of the following gentlemen, who after ballot were declared duly elected:—

Mr. Stanley Baxter Baxter, proposed by Mr. T. Wickham Jones, seconded by the Hon. Sec.; Colonel John Bonhote, proposed by Major E. B. Evans, seconded by Mr. Gordon Smith.

His Royal Highness the President of the Society had sent for the inspection of the members three exceptionally fine, unused specimens of the 2d. value of the 1848 issue of Mauritius, "Post Paid," one of such copies being the error "penoe," and this evidence of the continued interest shown by the President in the Society was very highly appreciated by the members present.

Mr. Yardley, on behalf of Mr. Field, presented to the Society two photographs of two complete panes of the Transvaal stamps of the first British occupation, printed on blue paper, respectively surcharged with Roman initial capitals and mixed Roman and italic initial capitals. Mr. Yardley was requested to convey the thanks of the Society to Mr. Field, and to ask Mr. Field to convey the thanks of the Society to the owner for his gift.

The Hon. Vice-President, Mr. M. P. Castle, then read some notes on the "Sydney View" stamps, accompanied by a display of his very fine collection of the three values.

A vote of thanks, expressing the appreciation of the members, was moved by the Earl of Crawford, seconded by Mr. E. D. Bacon, and unanimously carried, and the proceedings then terminated.

THE third meeting of the season 1904-5 was held at 4, Southampton Row, W.C., on Friday the 11th November, 1904, at 7-45 p.m.

Members present: The Earl of Crawford, M. P. Castle, Gordon Smith, R. Ehrenbach, Thos. Wm. Hall, J. Bonhote, George F. Napier, Rudolph Frentzel, Rudolph Meyer, L. W. Fulcher, E. D. Bacon, Franz Reichenheim, W. Schwabacher, W. Dorning Beckton, B. D. Knox.

The chair was taken by the Vice-President, and the minutes of the last meeting were read and signed as correct. In the unavoidable absence of the Hon. Secretary and the Hon. Assistant Secretary, Mr. E. D. Bacon undertook the secretarial duties of the meeting. He announced that the Hon. Secretary had received a copy of the *Postage Stamps of Siam*, by Alexander Holland, which was presented by the Boston Philatelic Society of the United States, and forms one of the fifty *edition de luxe* copies of that work. He also presented, on behalf of the Philatelic Society of India, a copy of *British Indian Adhesive Stamps (Queen's Head) surcharged for Native States*, by C. Stewart-Wilson and R. Gordon Jones. The Hon. Librarian was requested to acknowledge the receipt of the two works, and to convey the thanks of the Society to each of the donors for their gifts.

Mr. M. P. Castle showed used specimens of the One Shilling New Zealand, watermarked "N Z," perforated 12½, 13, printed in a distinct yellow-green shade, and a Western Australia One Shilling of the first issue, rouletted, printed in deep brown; neither of these stamps being previously known in these colours. Mr. R. Ehrenbach then showed a collection of the dangerous forgeries made by Oswald Schroeder, of Leipzig, about twenty years ago, which had been sent to him by Mr. W. Moser for exhibition to members of the Society. Mr. Moser stated that the collection was the property of the Dresden Society, that the President, Dr. Kloss, obtained the forgeries many years ago from Schroeder, and the Society had lent them to him to forward to the members of the London Society for their inspection. Mr. R. Ehrenbach was asked to convey to Mr. Moser, and through that gentleman to the Dresden Society, the Society's appreciation of their courtesy, and to thank them for the loan of the specimens. The collection comprised the following forgeries:—

Antioquia.—First issue. 2½ c., dull blue; 5 c., greyish green; 10 c., lilac-grey; 1 p., carmine-red.

Bolivar.—First issue. 1 p., red.

British Guiana.—First issue. 12 c., black on deep blue.

Buenos Ayres.—First issue. 3 p., dull green; 4 p., carmine-red.

Colombia.—1861 issue: 2½ c., black; 5 c., olive-yellow; 10 c., blue; 20 c., vermilion; 1 p., dull rose. 1862 issue: 10 c., bright blue; 20 c., bright carmine. "Sobre Porte," 1865 issue: 25 c., black on blue; 50 c., black on yellow; 1 p., black on rose.

Cordoba.—5 c., dull blue; 15 c., lilac; 25 c., orange; 50 c., green; 1 p., carmine.

Finland.—First issue. Envelope stamps. 10 k., red; 20 k., black.

France.—Unpaid Letter stamps. 40 c., sky-blue; 60 c., yellow ochre.

Hanover.—1863. 3 pf., green.

Hyderabad.—Official hand-stamp, originally known as Koorshedjah. Black on thin blue wove paper.

Mexico.—Guadalajara locals, 1867 issue: ½ r., black, on white wove paper; 2 r., black, on lilac-rose laid paper; 2 r., black, on green laid paper; 1 p., black, on bright lilac wove paper. 1868 issue: 1 r., black, on green laid paper; 1 r., black, on green wove paper; 2 r., black, on lilac-grey wove paper.

Philippine Islands.—1855 issue. One of the four varieties. 5 c., dull vermilion.

San Domingo.—First issue: ½ r., black, on lilac-rose laid paper. Second issue: ½ r., black, on pale green laid paper.

Saxony.—First issue. 3 pf., vermilion; two different forgeries of this stamp.

Spain.—1851: 2 r., dull red. 1853: 2 r., bright red. Madrid: 3 c., gold.

Tolima.—First issue. 5 c., black, on pale blue laid paper; 10 c., black, on white wove paper.

Wenden.—1863 issue: 2 kop., red and green. 1864 issue: 2 kop., red and green.

Mr. F. Reichenheim read a paper on the "Unpaid Letter Stamps of France," in which he produced a quantity of official information concerning the various

issues, and showed, among other matters of interest, that there are two distinct varieties of type of the first 10 c. typographed stamp. On the motion of Mr. M. P. Castle, seconded by Mr. R. Ehrenbach, a cordial vote of thanks was accorded to Mr. Reichenheim for his valuable paper, and this concluded the business of the meeting.

THE fourth meeting of the season 1904–5 was held at 4, Southampton Row, W.C., on Friday the 25th November, 1904, at 7.45 p.m.

Members present: M. P. Castle, R. B. Yardley, L. W. Fulcher, Rudolph Meyer, Rudolph Frentzel, Henry Hetley, L. S. Wells, A. W. Maclean, F. Ransom, T. Maycock, A. C. Emerson, G. F. Napier, C. Neville Biggs, Thos. Wm. Hall, Robert Ehrenbach, Gordon Smith, A. R. Barrett.

The chair was taken by the Hon. Vice-President, and the minutes of the previous meeting were read and confirmed. In the unavoidable absence of the Hon. Secretary and Hon. Assistant Secretary, the secretarial duties were undertaken by Mr. Gordon Smith.

Mr. R. B. Yardley read a paper on the stamps of Trinidad, and gave a display of the stamps of that colony. Among the more notable stamps in Mr. Yardley's interesting collection were the following: A proof of the mother die for the Britannia design, with the name-label left blank, probably a proof from the original die from which the secondary dies with the name inserted were made for Trinidad, Barbados, and Mauritius; a pair of 4d., grey-lilac, pin-perf. 12½, on the original letter; and the 4d., watermark Crown C C, in the pale lilac shade, unused. On one page were shown specimens of the abnormal combinations of paper and perforation made by Messrs. De La Rue, namely, the 1d. Ceylon, watermarked Crown C C, perf. 11½, 12, a block of four, unused; the 6d. Ceylon, with the same watermark, perf. 13, used; and the Trinidad 1d., no watermark, perf. 12½, unused.

A cordial vote of thanks to Mr. Yardley was proposed by Mr. Gordon Smith and seconded by Mr. Ransom.

Mr. Castle, in speaking to the resolution, suggested that an interesting collection might be made illustrating stamps of the same shades and colours in contemporary use in various colonies, produced by the same manufacturers.

The resolution was carried unanimously.

Mr. Yardley replied, and the proceedings then terminated.

Birmingham Philatelic Society

President: W. B. Avery.
Secretary: G. Johnson, B.A., 308, Birchfield Road, Birmingham.

OCTOBER 18th.—Display, "Great Britain, West Australia, Germany." Mr. W. B. Avery.

Messrs. Oswald Barnes and W. H. Whittingham were elected members. The following were thanked for donations to the collection: Messrs. C. McNaughtan (nice selection of Barbados and South Australia), C. A. Stephenson (30s.); Major G. S. Strode, Lieut.-Col. S. P. Peile, W. F. Wadams, Messrs. F. E. Wilson, and the Stirling Stamp Co. (New Zealand), were thanked for contributions to the library.

Mr. W. B. Avery then gave a display of his superb collection, and by his careful explanation of type and die varieties, especially in the rare issues, made the display not only interesting, but very instructive. A very hearty vote of thanks was given and very suitably responded to.

OCTOBER 27th.—Display, "Australian Colonies." Mr. R. Hollick.

Messrs. A. J. Ecclestone and L. O. Trivett were elected members. Mr. J. W. Donnan and Dr. R. Lyon were thanked for contributions to the collection and library respectively.

Mr. Hollick afterwards displayed his fine collection of the Australian Colonies, with notes on the same, which were heartily appreciated. Mr. T. W. Peck also showed his New Zealand.

South Australian Philatelic Society

THE sixteenth annual meeting of the South Australian Philatelic Society was held at Pirie Chambers, Pirie Street, on Wednesday, November 2nd. Mr. F. C. Krichauff presided over a fair attendance of members. The Treasurer's balance sheet and Exchange Superintendent's report were adopted. The Committee reported: "The balance at the Society's credit is £4 19s. 11d., which the Committee consider satisfactory. During the year Mr. Blockey read the following papers: 'Imperforated of S. A.,' 'Perforated S. A., showing examples of various perforations made by the different machines.' It is hoped that further articles will be contributed by members, so that a paper may be read at each meeting. Mr. Blockey is also drawing up a list of South Australian stamps, which Messrs. Peck and Krichauff and Blockey, the Committee appointed by the Society, are pricing. The pricing is to be considered and adopted at meetings, in instalments, and published in the *Australian Philatelist*. The work so far is only in its infancy, and it is hoped that members will take an active interest in seeing to the pricing of stamps of their own colony. Several changes have taken place in the current issues: new perforations, 1d. and 2d. (perf. 12); new type POSTAGE, 6d., 9d., 1s., and 5s.; varieties in type of all the long stamps, notably the 8d. with the error EIGNT; new post card, 1d., longer inscription. During the year five city books, two country, one Victorian, and one Bathurst exchange books, of the value of £393 4s. 11d., were circulated with good results. The Secretary is making arrangements to bind for the Society's library some of the most important of the literature in hand, which has been accumulating for some years. Your Committee regret having to call attention to the sad loss sustained through the death of your late President, Mr. Shaw, who took an active interest in the work of the Society." The following officers were elected: President, Mr. J. W. Hillman; Vice-President, Dr. F. Lucas Benham; Secretary and Treasurer, Mr. W. L. Peck; Exchange Superintendent, Mr. G. Blockey; Committee, Messrs. F. C. Krichauff and J. H. Welfare.

OUR PHILATELIC DIARY

JANUARY, 1905

21. Junior Philatelic Society (London): Display of Revenues of Great Britain, by Mr. Oswald Marsh. Paper—Cook Islands, by Mr. H. F. Johnson.
23. Liverpool Philatelic Society: Lantern Display of Forgeries.
24. Auction: Puttick and Simpson, 47, Leicester Square, London. 4.30 p.m.
25. Auction: Puttick and Simpson, 47, Leicester Square, London. 4.30 p.m.
27. London Philatelic Society: Display by Mr. Mann. Manchester Philatelic Society: Discussion—New Brunswick, opened by J. H. Abbot.
31. Auction: Plumridge, 64, Chancery Lane, London. 4.45 p.m.

OUR PRIZE COMPETITIONS

COMPETITION No. 2

Best THREE suggestions for a Prize Competition for *G. S. W.*

* * *

THE replies will be tabulated as votes, which will decide the order in which the reasons given shall stand in importance.

A competitor may send in as many sets of answers as he likes, but *each* set *must* be accompanied with a coupon, as below, fastened to the replies.

The competitors will thus be their own judges.

Prizes will be awarded in two classes :—

Class I. No age limit.
,, II. Under 17 years.

PRIZES.

CLASS I.

1st. Packet No. 604, containing a superb lot of Envelopes of Great Britain, including many of the rarer compounds, catalogued about 65/-.

2nd. British Empire Postage Stamp Album.

CLASS II.

1st. Packet No. 689, containing 78 rare varieties of unused Post Cards, catalogued about 30/-.

2nd. British Africa Postage Stamp Album.

All entries for competition No. 2 must be received by February 4, 1905, and the result will be announced in the number published at the end of February.

All replies must be addressed to

STANLEY GIBBONS, LTD.,
391, STRAND, LONDON, W.C.,

and envelopes should be marked in left lower corner *G. S. W. No. 2.*

NOTICE.

MANY clients are sending in orders for two, three, or more following numbers of *G. S. W.* to be sent to them. We therefore give notice that we cannot enter any name for less than 13 numbers (one quarter). Those who want a few numbers only can get them at the nearest bookseller's.

COUPON No. 2. 21 JANUARY, 1905

Name and full address.

(Please write distinctly, and say if *Mrs.*, *Miss*, or *Mr.*)

Age....

Printed by W. BRENDON & SON, Plymouth, for the Proprietors, STANLEY GIBBONS, Ltd., 391, Strand, London, W.C.
21 January, 1905.

Gibbons Stamp Weekly

EDITED BY EDWARD J. NANKIVELL

No. 4 | 28 JANUARY, 1905 | Vol. I.

STAMPS OF GREAT BRITAIN

By GORDON SMITH, M.A.

(*Continued from page 39.*)

WE are now in a position to set out the first issue of stamps in what we may call "catalogue" order.





MAY 6th, 1840.

Watermark a Small Crown. Imperforate.

1d., black.
2d., blue.

By "imperforate" is, of course, meant that the single stamps had to be separated from the sheet by the means of scissors or a knife. There was another method employed at many post offices before the introduction of perforation (a subject which we shall come to shortly). A flat piece of metal having one edge about as sharp as that of a paper-knife was laid on to the sheet along a line between two rows of stamps, and the loose portion was torn off against this edge. Stamps of the next issue are often found showing that they have been separated in this way.

The obliteration or cancelling mark first brought into use for postage stamps was in the design of a Maltese cross, and was made by means of a metal hand-stamp, as we still see to-day used in the post offices. It was at first in *red*, but as it was found that this could be removed from the stamp and the stamp used a second and even a third and fourth time, it was changed to *black*. Stamps cancelled in black have been found on letters dated in the latter part of 1840, although postmasters were not obliged to use this ink until February, 1841.

Collectors would do well to remember that this 2d. stamp is usually referred to as "without white lines," all subsequent 2d. stamps of this design having a white line under POSTAGE and another over TWO PENCE.

Before going on to the next issue it will be as well to mention here the 1d., black, "V.R." With the introduction of stamps their use was made compulsory, and as all letters were then obliged to bear a stamp it was decided to prepare an official stamp for use on letters on official or Government service. The stamp was identical with the 1d., black, for general use in every detail except one, and that was that in place of the Maltese cross ornaments in the upper corners there were the letters V and R (Victoria Regina). The plate was prepared and the stamps were actually printed, but at the last moment they were withheld from use. They thus fall into the class of stamps "prepared for use, but never issued," with which most collectors are familiar. The very close resemblance of these stamps to those actually used has led many persons who know little or nothing about stamps to imagine that they possess a rare prize

when they have only a common stamp. From the earliest days of stamp collectors this label—for we can hardly call it a stamp in the sense in which we use the word to-day—has always been held in very high esteem, and at one time it was very much more difficult to obtain than it has been of more recent years. It may perhaps be asked how it could ever have been obtained at all, but the fact is that at the time it was proposed to introduce it specimens got into the hands of Government officials, and as the stamps never represented a money value to the Government, in time they got into the hands of collectors, who, aware of their rarity, prized them greatly; and as most catalogues up to quite recently have put them in the lists of the stamps of Great Britain, they have continued to hold their place. Those of my readers who do not possess this curiosity—and I should say there is not one in ten thousand who does—need not grieve because they lack it, for they can comfort themselves with the knowledge that, interesting as it is, it is *not a postage stamp.*

The comparative ease with which the red postmark could be cleaned off the 1d., black, by those knowing how to do it very soon caused the authorities to decide to change the colour of the stamp. Accordingly the next stamp we get on our list is:—

FEBRUARY 10th, 1841.

Watermark a Small Crown. Imperforate.

1d., red-brown.

Although the colour was called "red" officially, it scarcely ever comes up to that simple description. It remained in issue for thirteen years, and during that period went through an almost rainbow-like series of variations in shade and colour; red-brown and brown-red covers a good many of them, but it can be said with truth that it is more difficult to find two alike than two that differ. In addition to the varieties of colour, the appearance of the stamps was altered materially by the colour of the paper, which is scarcely ever white all over, but generally ranges from pale shades of blue to quite deep blue or rather *greenish blue.* For many years the cause of this discolouration was disputed, some persons suggesting that it was due to the gum; but it is now generally accepted that it was due to chemical ingredients in the red colour in which the stamps were printed, and that the depth of the "bluing" was due to the greater or less amount of moisture received by the paper when the stamps were printed. It is often found that where the ink was applied most thickly, in the deeper lines of the design, there the paper became the most blue, and it produced a curious effect on the back of the stamp, the *head* appearing through the paper in white and the background in blue, occasionally being most faithfully outlined in almost every detail. These are usually spoken of by collectors as "ivoried heads." I have said that this blue tint in the paper was caused by the ink, and the "ivoried heads" at the back prove this to have been the case. But if other proof were wanting we have it in the fact that at Somerset House, where are kept the final approved sheets from every plate (called the "imprimatur" sheets), these sheets which have never been gummed present the same features. This shows that the gum had nothing to do with it.

In March, 1841, a change was made in the 2d., to which I have already referred, a white line appearing under the word POSTAGE and another over the words TWO PENCE. It has been said that this alteration was made with the purpose of more readily distinguishing it from the 1d., but this seems scarcely sufficient. It is true that many provincial post offices worked after dark by the aid of indifferent lamps or tallow candles, but even by that dim light it would have been rather difficult to confuse the red-brown penny with the blue two pence.



MARCH, 1841.

Watermark a Small Crown. Imperforate.

2d., blue (with white lines).

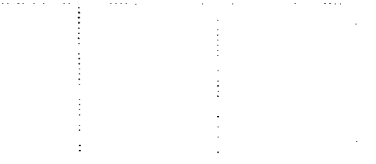
Here we take leave of the imperforate stamps, for, with the exception of the embossed stamps, which did not lend themselves easily to the perforating machines (and only the 6d. embossed

appeared after perforation was adopted), no stamps have been issued in that state in this country except by accident.

The perforation of stamps owes its existence to the invention of Mr. Henry Archer, who approached the Government in 1847 to adopt his machine for this purpose. Lacking mechanical ability himself, he had to call in others to his assistance to put his ideas into working shape, and it was only after nearly seven years of experiments that the machines were so far perfected as to be employed for perforating stamps. One of his earliest efforts produced a line of short cuts, by means of which stamps could be torn apart without much difficulty. This method of separation is called *rouletting*, and although it has never been used by the authorities in England, it has been employed in many of the German States, in Newfoundland, South America, and some other places. Archer was allowed to experiment on sheets of the current 1d., red-brown, many of which must have been used up subsequently for postage, though undoubted specimens to-day are very scarce. The "Archer roulette" is well known to special collectors of the stamps of Great Britain, but most of the specimens which are found from time to time by collectors with rouletted edges are not Archer's rouletting at all. About the time that he was perfecting his invention several of the largest business houses and banks divided their sheets of stamps by rouletting, made by an instrument familiar to many of us in the small boxes of drawing instruments which some of us possessed in boyhood, or if we did not possess, we borrowed. This tool or instrument consists of a brass stem, at the end of which is a small wheel with a sharp edge broken at equal intervals, so that when pressed on a sheet of paper firmly laid, and run along a ruler, it leaves a line of cuts in the paper.

With the mechanical parts of a perforating machine we have nothing to do here except those parts of it which come in contact with the paper. The holes are made by steel punches like thick needles cut off square, with flat, blunt, circular ends, which fall into holes or wells drilled in a steel plate. When the paper is introduced between the sharp edge of the end of the punch and the sharp edge of the hole or well, a circular piece of paper is cut out of the sheet. The well is, of course, only just large enough to receive the punch. These punches are arranged in straight lines, beneath which is a corresponding line of wells. So much power is used that when the punches and the bed-plate (as the steel plate which contains the wells is called) are new, many sheets can be operated upon at one stroke. A single line of punches would cut a single line of perforations. A machine which makes this line is sometimes called a "guillotine" machine, from the similarity of its action to that of the instrument invented and still used in France for the execution of criminals.

The machines used for our postage stamps were, however, not quite so simple as this, for in addition to the long line of perforations, there were shorter lines placed at right angles at equal intervals, the result of one fall of the punches producing a figure as in the following diagram :—



When the top row of the sheet of stamps was put on to the bed-plate and under the punches, one fall of these punches perforated the top and each side of each stamp in the row. The sheet was now pushed forward and the second row treated in the same manner. Thus the bottom of each stamp in the top row and the top of each in the second row, as well as the sides of the stamps in the second row, were perforated. Working down the sheet to the bottom, the last stroke of the punches would perforate the bottom of each stamp in the bottom row as well as the margin of the sheet. This style of perforation is called "comb," as at one stroke a figure is made on the paper resembling a comb with a back and projecting teeth.

From their first introduction down to the present day the machines used on the stamps of Great Britain have been of the character above described, and by examining a sheet of the current ½d. or 1d. stamps the reader will understand more about perforation than from any explanation pages of description could give.

(To be continued.)

PUBLIC SCHOOL COLLECTING

By Rev. T. C. WALTON, M.A.

WE have already considered some of the mistakes which beginners very often make. I come now to the question of ways and means of mounting stamps. There are three methods in general use among schoolboys. They may be labelled as follows:—

(1) The Too-Careful.
(2) The Careless.
(3) The "Via Media."

Let us take these in order.

The Too Careful

When quite young boys begin to collect, they are often advised by zealous parents and friends to paste or gum the whole stamp in the album. This advice is more especially emphasised when the said parent or friend bestows a choice lot of old and valuable specimens on the youthful collector. The reason for the advice is obvious. Public-school boys who have, in a fit of carelessness, left their albums at the mercy of all who pass by, with loose or lightly fastened stamps adorning the pages, know to their cost what has been the result. I sometimes think that stamp albums are to some boys what umbrellas often are to their elders, viz. common property for all who are in need. Now I cannot but risk the charge of inciting you to disobedience in this matter. No stamp collector, with any knowledge of the hobby, would give such advice as this. It is altogether foolish. Do you think for a moment that this your first album is to remain, like the laws of the Medes and Persians, unalterable? If such is your thought, if you intend to add stamp to stamp and fasten them down like wall paper, then you have already stunted your possibilities of growth in the field of stamp collecting to no small extent. In later years, when ideas expand and knowledge has increased, removal of stamps and rearrangements in new and more suitable albums will be found imperative. And then, what of the wall-papered ranks that stare you in the face and defy you to remove them? *Hoc opus, hic labor est.* I speak with feeling as one who has tried and failed. My first album contained several old stamps. So fast were they gummed and so tenaciously did they stick, even after a liberal application of water to the backs, that several left a part of themselves behind, and others developed cracks and tears (pronounced tares) which made most of them useless and of no value. "Quoth the raven, 'Never more.'" Let him that readeth take advice from one who knows. If there is a danger of losing stamps which are insecurely fastened down, take care that, when the album is not in your own hands, it reposes in safety in your locker or play-box, provided the latter has a good lock.

The Careless

How many first schoolboy-albums come under this heading! It is very rarely that I have met with one which could not be thus included. Let the young collector look through his album and he will see what I mean. There is a stamp inclined to the vertical at an angle of 15°. The stamp next to it seems to be trying to make a nodding acquaintance. Two or three on the page are plumb straight, and their very straightness emphasises the irregularity of the rest. But the carelessness does not end there. We see a stamp whose watermark we would examine. We lift from the bottom, and lo! the mount is so fixed that we cannot see the whole of the back. Another has to be taken out of the album and mounted elsewhere. The mount is found to be an improvised piece of stamp paper, and the remnants of several other mounts are found on the back. Many stamps have portions of the original envelope still in evidence. These are examples of the want of method in the careless. Beware, my young friend, lest you fall into such habits. If you do, your collection will never be worth showing to anyone who knows and understands and criticises. If you have already fallen a victim, begin with page 1, go carefully through your stamps, straighten the falling, clean the backs from all foreign material, follow the rule of mounting which I proceed to unfold in the next paragraph.

The "Via Media"

This is the one and only method of mounting stamps. A short strip of thin tough paper covered on one side with the finest gum is used to form what is called a hinge. From one-eighth to one-quarter of an inch of this prepared strip is fastened to the top of the back of a stamp, and the remainder is bent back in a line with the perforations and gummed to the space marked out for the stamp. By this means the whole of the back of a stamp can be seen, and the watermark, in most cases, readily ascertained. This method has the further advantage of allowing a collection to be transferred from one album to another with little or no injury to the stamps. If a blank album is used, a description of the stamp, date, perforation, watermark, can be written on that face of the mount which is not gummed.

Soiled Stamps

The question is often asked, Can the stamps be cleaned? Yes, it is possible to improve the look of a dirty stamp by the judicious application of a little soap and water, but it would be most inadvisable for a beginner to try the process. He will readily understand the reason when I bring to his notice the fact, with which he may already be acquainted, that many stamps are printed in inks that are soluble in water. Almost all the recent issues of Great Britain and her Colonies are examples of these. Other examples are found among the early Russian issues, some Native Indian States, certain recent Belgiums, and all printed in "aniline" colours.

Removal of Stamps from Envelopes

Mention has already been made of the need of removing all extraneous matter from the backs of postage stamps. The simplest way of doing this is to place the stamps face upwards in a very shallow vessel of water. Leave them to soak for a minute or longer. Then peel off the piece of envelope or old mount and place the stamp face downwards on a piece of blotting-paper to dry off. This process is not of universal application. Exceptions must be made in the case of embossed, unused, and those whose colours are liable to run (for examples of the last compare the paragraph on soiled stamps). In these cases the greatest care is required to remove substances foreign to the stamp. Two methods of treatment may yield the required result. The first is to place the stamps on wet blotting-paper until the paper is damped sufficiently for removal. The alternative method is to moisten the portions of paper you wish to remove by means of a wet brush. On no account, however, should you wet or injure the gum of an unused stamp. The presence of the gum is a guarantee that the said stamp has been carefully and tenderly treated. It is also in some cases a witness to the genuineness thereof. The early issues of Portugal had gum of a dark brown colour, while pink gum characterised the early Hanoverian. Now these stamps have, I believe, been extensively forged, and the colour of the gum is one of the tests applied to find out whether a stamp is a forgery or not. And here let me give a word of warning with regard to old letters which may come into the reader's possession. Before taking the stamps off the envelopes it would be wise to show them to some experienced collector. Much information regarding the date of issue may be gleaned from the postmark, and, in rare cases, that same postmark may be the only guarantee that the stamp is not a forgery. Further details are unnecessary at this point. They will be given under the heading of Forgeries.

We have pictured many of the blots that characterise the ordinary run of public-school albums. Let me briefly summarise the important points.

Rules to Remember

(1) Never mount a stamp unless it has a clean back.
(2) Never mount a stamp which is torn, cut, or dirty, unless it happens to be a great rarity.
(3) Never mount envelope, post card, or wrapper stamps in a collection of adhesives.
(4) Never be content with a badly obliterated stamp.
(5) Never cut pairs or strips of good stamps. Mount them *en bloc*.
(6) Never cut the margin of an imperforate or trim the edges of a perforated stamp.
(7) Never remove gum from an unused stamp.
(8) Take care that your stamps run in straight lines, both across and down the page.

Observe these rules, and blots in your album will soon become past history.

Sources of Supply

The burning question for the young collector is always that of supply. He is the "Oliver Twist" of the philatelic world. Fresh supplies merely serve to whet his appetite. He is constantly asking for more. Whence shall come this perennial stream? Were a modern Jupiter to rain stamps instead of gold, would he be satiated? I trow not. What then are the schoolboy's sources? They may be dealt with under three headings:—

(1) Gifts from friends abroad.
(2) The packets and sets of stamp merchants.
(3) Approval sheets.

With regard to our first heading, I have already observed in another place that the public-school boy is a particularly favoured individual. Such a source of supply has often led to the formation of a very good collection. A glimpse at the public-school letter-bag would reveal cords which bind many of the boys to all the corners of the earth. One boy receives what another lacks, and the happy spirit of give and take, which is a leading feature of our public-school life, helps to swell the pages of innumerable albums. But what of the duplicates? The wise collector uses them for purposes of exchange. He "swops" with everybody. The remainders are carefully stored away in the little transparent envelopes for further "swopping" when opportunity offers, or sent up to well-known firms in exchange for stamps which have not yet found their way into the collector's possession. This latter method of disposing of duplicates is becoming more widely known in public schools. Several cases have come under my notice quite recently. Packets of Chinese and Persian were forwarded to a firm of the highest standing, and the boys were well pleased with the stamps sent in exchange. Let me here add a word of warning to those who intend to do likewise. Let the firm be one well known in the philatelic world for its straight dealing. Better, far better, to be content with less in exchange than to be foisted with a worthless lot of forgeries, or stamps unfit to mount in a decent album.

PRIZE COMPETITION No. 1

SIX BEST REASONS FOR COLLECTING STAMPS

PRIZE PAPER BY MR. GEORGE COOPER, LIVERPOOL

I. As a Hobby

EVERYBODY should have a hobby. It is almost as necessary to healthy life as food and drink, for no matter what a person's occupation may be, there should be a relaxation of some kind. If there is not, and the spare time is idled away, the character of the individual suffers. Everybody who has a hobby, no matter what that hobby may be, is always convinced that his hobby is the best; and as a stamp collector I feel sure that I am only giving voice to the opinion of all enthusiastic stamp collectors when I say it is impossible to have a better hobby than ours.

II. Profitable Occupation for Spare Time

When I say profitable occupation I mean profitable in a wide-embracing sense of the word. If a man is devoted to a hobby he must derive pleasure from it or he would soon discard it: therefore if it gives pleasure he profits by it. Apart from the pleasure to be derived from stamp collecting, we must not lose sight of the instruction it affords, and it is therefore a profit mentally. Again, it is a profit in the best-understood sense of the word—"financially," but the true collector does not allow this view of the hobby to intrude, although he naturally gives way to a little extra enthusiasm if he secures a particularly good stamp. Consider these three points and then add to them what is gained by the methodical habits and neatness unconsciously acquired by the pursuit, and you must agree that stamp collecting is decidedly profitable.

III. It Creates a Strong Social Bond between its Followers

There is not another hobby which can claim for itself this clannish feeling, and wherever you go you will always find this kindly feeling existing among collectors. They are ever ready to assist one another, and even with advanced collectors there is invariably a sympathetic interest displayed in the novice, and any information is gladly given.

If an outsider could be present at some of the gatherings of the various philatelic societies, he could not help but notice the good-fellowship which exists amongst stamp collectors, and I am sure no other hobby can claim equal merit in this direction.

IV. It is an Instructive Pastime

Stamp collecting is unquestionably very instructive both as regards history and geography, and it keeps fresh in the collector's mind a lot of school learning which is very speedily forgotten by people who are not thus kept in touch with it. Then again it supplements this information as time goes on and keeps the collector posted right up to date with such knowledge. For instance, how many people (excepting stamp collectors) know anything about Aitutaki or any of the other recent additions to the philatelic world? I must not overlook also the information to be acquired as to the various kinds of paper, printing, etc., which is all very interesting to the true collector.

Stamp collecting imparts a stimulus peculiar to itself and the collector is constantly discovering something fresh.

V. It is an Ideal Hobby

A hobby should be an entire change, and while it should provide perfect relaxation after the day's work, it should at the same time be creative of mental interest, and I think stamp collecting does this to an admirable degree. Philately can lay claim to so many special advantages which can only be appreciated by the philatelist, but let anyone of average intelligence take up the pastime and they will in every case be gradually led to see what scope there is for research which will prove very interesting and instructive to them.

VI. It is a Good Investment

I have left this reason for the last, not because it is least important, but rather because it does not loom prominently with the true collector who "collects for the enjoyment of collecting." Nevertheless we cannot lose sight of the fact that stamp collecting does provide a good investment. Some collectors pin their faith to British Colonials and collect nothing else, while others specialise in various countries—for my own part I am a general collector, and I am not sure but what it affords me more pleasure than specialising. But no matter what the methods may be, a carefully made collection can always be speedily turned into cash if occasion arises. Of course all collectors know that some stamps are really not worth collecting as regards value, although they may be very attractive in design; but whatever is collected should be good copies, that is to say, in the case of an unused stamp it should be in mint condition, or as near it as possible. Used stamps should be *perfect* specimens and lightly postmarked.

In conclusion, I should like to say that I have thought it better to supplement each reason by a few remarks, as at first sight these reasons, if stated by themselves, do not appear at all important and would certainly not prove an incentive to anyone to take up stamp collecting; it is only collecting that will reveal what underlies them. Further, I cannot say that any of them are entitled to occupy first place (unless it be the one I have placed first), as I think they are all connected and form what might be termed a composite reason.

THE SIX REASONS

By E. D. CHANCELLOR
29, Elm Park Gardens, South Kensington

SIX reasons I can quickly give
Why stamp collecting ought to live.
First, interest in the world it quickens,
Then it makes time fly like the dickens;
It teaches tidiness and care
And adds to knowledge everywhere;
When worried by life's daily troubles
It bursts them like so many bubbles;
And lastly, it is harmless: therefore
These reasons six for what I care for.

PORTRAITS ON STAMPS

By BOSWELL JUNIOR

Argentine Republic (*continued*)

TWO kind friends have come forward and supplied the needed biography of William Brown. I give both accounts. The first is from an official at the British Museum, and the other by the late Harold Frederic, who included it in some biographies of stamp portraits that he wrote for *The Million*, now defunct.

Brown, William (1777–1857), admiral in the navy of Buenos Ayres, a native of Ireland, accompanied his family to America in 1786, and, being there left destitute by the death of his father, obtained employment as cabin-boy on board a merchant ship. In 1796 he was pressed into an English man-of-war, and served for several years in the navy. Afterwards, having obtained the command of an English merchant ship, he came, in 1812, to Buenos Ayres, where he settled with his family. In 1814 he accepted a naval command in the service of the republic. He engaged a Spanish flotilla at the mouth of the Uruguay, and he fought another and more decisive action off Montevideo, capturing four of the Spanish vessels and dispersing the rest. He received the title of admiral. Brown lived in retirement at Buenos Ayres till December, 1825, when Brazil declared war against the republic and blockaded the River Plate. In 1845, when the English and French squadrons were directed to intervene and restore peace to the river, their first steps were to take possession of Brown's ships, thus reducing him to compulsory inactivity. He had no further service, but passed the rest of his life on his small estate in the neighbourhood of Buenos Ayres. He died on 3rd May, 1857. A powerful ironclad, named the *Almirante Brown*, still keeps his memory living in the navy of the Argentine Republic.



W. Brown.

The naval traditions of the Argentine all centre about the heroic old figure of Admiral Brown. He was, indeed, both the Drake and the Nelson of maritime warfare in the southern half of the New World. He established a navy for the revolted provinces almost at the outset of the revolution, and his great naval victories over the Spaniards at Martin Garcia and Montevideo were among the chief triumphs of the Freedom war. He had an equally effective part to play in the struggle with Brazil in 1826–8. A noble monument to this fine old sea-dog is reared on the plaza in front of the Capitania in Buenos Ayres, overlooking the whole harbour and roadstead of the Plata estuary.

Admiral Brown, whose portrait is on the costly 20 pesos, green, of 1891, was born in County Mayo, Ireland—another shining example of Celtic fighting fame abroad. He served the country of his adoption for forty years, without ever becoming embroiled in its political quarrels or seeking to turn his deserved popularity to personal account.

STAMP COLLECTING AS A PASTIME

By EDWARD J. NANKIVELL

V. Its Geographical Interest

A FEW years ago many heads of colleges prohibited stamp collecting amongst their boys. They found they were carrying it too far, and were being made the easy prey of a certain class of rapacious dealers. Now the pendulum is swinging in a more rational direction, and many masters themselves having become enthusiastic collectors, judiciously encourage the boys under their care to collect and study stamps as interesting aids to their general studies. They watch over their collecting, and protect them from wasteful buying. In some schools the masters have given or arranged lectures on stamps and stamp collecting, and the boys have voted such entertainments as ranking next to a jolly holiday.

The up-to-date master, who can associate work and play, study and entertainment, is much more likely to register successes than the frigid dominie who will hear of nothing but a rigid attention to the tasks of the day. In the one case the lessons are presented in their most repellent form, in the other they are made part and parcel of each day's pleasant round of interesting study.

The genuine success of the Kindergarten system in captivating the little ones lies in its association of play with work. The same principle holds good even to a much later age. The more pleasant the task can be made, the more ready will be the obedience with which the task will be performed. The openings for the judicious and helpful admixture of study and entertainment are so few, that one wonders that such a helpful form of play as stamp collecting has not become more popular than it has in our colleges.

Take, for example, the study of geography, so important to the boys of a great commercial nation. The boy who collects stamps will readily separate the great colonising powers, and group and locate their separate colonies. How many other boys, even after they have passed through the last stage of their school life, could do this? Little-known countries and states are too often a puzzle to the ordinary schoolboy, which are familiar places to the stamp collecting youth. Ask the ordinary schoolboy in which continents are such places as Angola, Annam, Curaçao, Funchal, Holkar, Ivory Coast, Liberia, Nepaul, Reunion, St. Lucia, San Marino, Sarawak, Seychelles, Sirmoor, Somali Coast, Surinam, Tahiti, Tobago, or Tonga, and how many of all these places, so familiar to the young stamp collector, will he properly place? Not many; and the same question might probably be asked of many an adult with even less satisfaction.

The average series of used stamps are now so cheap that a lad may get together a fairly representative collection for what he ordinarily spends at the tuck shop. Some educationists have advocated the making and exhibiting of school collections of stamps as aids to study. Such collections would certainly be much more profitably studied than most of the maps and diagrams that nowadays cover the walls.

With few exceptions, every stamp has the name of the country, or colony, of its issue on its face; and most colonial stamps bear some family likeness to the stamps of the mother country. Our British colonial stamps are distinguished by their Queen's heads; the stamps of Portugal and its colonies by the portraits of the rulers of Portugal; those of Germany by the German currency; those of France mostly by French heraldic designs; those of Spain by the portraits of the kings and queens of Spain. So that the postage stamp is a key to much definite, valuable, and practical information.

(To be continued.)

GOSSIP OF THE HOUR

By CORNELIUS WRINKLE

The Tapling Collection

The following letter will explain itself. Mr. Wilmot Corfield should carefully preserve this letter. It will be valuable some day as a genuine curiosity.

DEPARTMENT OF PRINTED BOOKS,
BRITISH MUSEUM, LONDON, W.C.,
28th September, 1904.

TO WILMOT CORFIELD, Esq., *Calcutta*.

DEAR SIR,—In answer to the very kind offer of the Philatelic Society of India to present to the British Museum the set of Indian stamps to the end of the reign of Queen Victoria, I wrote to ask you to allow me to delay my answer until the return of the gentleman who arranged the Tapling Collection. I now learn from him that there is no space remaining in the cases which contain the Tapling Collection.

As we have no other space in which it would be possible to exhibit stamps, and as it would be of no use merely to store them without any prospect of exhibiting them, I am afraid that I must reluctantly decline the offer of your Society, at the same time expressing my sincere gratitude for so generous an offer.

I am, yours faithfully, G. K. FORTESCUE.

It is a thousand pities that the collection was ever handed over to red-tape control, but it is difficult to see what else could have been done to make it, as Tapling wished it to be, a national possession.

How to Inspect It

Yet the gain is, despite all red-tape drawbacks, a great one from the collector's point of view, for now any collector may freely inspect its treasures, and the young collector who is resident within reach, or on holiday in the metropolis, should lose no opportunity of visiting it. Walk in and ask any attendant to direct you to the Tapling Stamp Collection. It is quite easy to find, for it is on the ground floor. When you reach the great cabinets in which it is housed, ask an attendant how to pull out the slides; they slip in and out very much like the slide of a camera, sideways. You need not be afraid of pulling them out too far, as there is a stop to prevent that. Every slide is labelled, so that there is no difficulty in finding any country you want.

Its Continuation

It is a thousand pities that it cannot be continued. It should be possible to arrange it somehow. Some day possibly we may be able to get it housed in a room to itself with plenty of scope for adding the modern issues and keeping it up to date. And then what a grand reference collection it would be! Such a consummation is devoutly to be desired in the interests of Philately, and meanwhile it is well worth working for. A few determined, earnest souls can work wonders. No one ever thought that the fortress of red tape at the British Museum would ever be reduced to such a concession as we have already obtained. At one time the collection seemed destined for the same fate as Turner's water-colours.

Let us Peg Away

When the red tapist holds the field the only course to be adopted is to peg away. And that is just what we shall have to do, young and old, till we are allowed to bring our great national stamp collection up to date, and keep it so. The difficulties in the way are not greater than those that have been already surmounted. Look at the weary years and years it has taken to lay the collection open for public inspection. Tapling died in 1891, and for nearly thirteen years his collection has been hidden away from the public for whose benefit it was so generously donated to the custody of the British Museum.

Arrangement of Collections

When red tape does not stand in the way, philatelists can show what can be done in the matter of effective and rapid work. A French collector, the possessor of a fine collection, recently dropped in at a London dealer's, and at sight fell in love with the artistic arrangement of a collection which that dealer had just completed for a customer. He hauled that dealer out into the street, popped him into a hansom, drove to his hotel, rushed him upstairs into his private room, and plumped a ponderous and well-filled album into his arms. "There," said he, "can you rearrange my collection like that, and bring it to me to the train on Monday morning as I leave?" There were just two days and two nights, including Sunday. But the work was done. That dealer worked all day and all night till he had completed the task, but it was a poor, washed-out sort of human that handed over the completed collection at the carriage door of the train a few minutes before starting-time.

NEW ISSUES

Canal Zone.—The United States postal authorities have agreed in future to buy from the Republic of Panama such stamps as it requires for the Canal Zone under United States control, at a reduction of 40 per cent. These stamps of Panama will be overprinted "Canal Zone." Four values have just been received. The 1 and 2 cents. are on the new series of the Republic of Panama, and the 5 and 10 cents. on the surcharged Colombian stamps in use in the republic. The name "Canal Zone" is printed in thin clear type in two lines.

1 centavo, green.
2 centavos, rose.
5 ,, blue.
10 ,, yellow.

Colombia.—*Santander.*—A singular lot of ungummed and unperforated labels has been received from this department of Colombia, all of which we illustrate.












Imperf.

5 centavos, blue.
5 ,, green.
10 ,, vermilion.
20 ,, chocolate.
50 ,, yellow.
1 peso, black.
5 pesos, blue.
10 ,, red.

Cucuta, which is a province of Santander, has also been provided with a similarly singular lot of ungummed and unperforated labels, as illustrated.













Imperf.

1 centavo, black.
2 centavos, green.
5 ,, red.
10 ,, blue.
20 ,, vermilion.
20 ,, brown.
50 ,, lilac.
1 peso, yellow.

Philippines.—According to the *Metropolitan Philatelist*, of New York, stamps of special designs are being prepared for this possession of the United States. Our contemporary says:—

"The Bureau of Insular Affairs of the War Department has received from the Bureau of Engraving and Printing a half-dozen preliminary sketches for the prospective new stamps for the Philippines. I have examined the sketches thus far submitted.

"The denominations are 2, 4, 16, and 26 centavos. The stamps are the same size as the current United States series. The 2 centavo, the lowest value, as suggested last week, depicts General Rizal, a patron saint of the Filipinos. As this denomination will be the one most used, the selection of Rizal is a bit of sentiment. On the sketch submitted, the portrait of Rizal is rather small, due to a heavier border than appears on the United States stamps, and I doubt if this sketch will be accepted on this account. While the sketch looks well and the features come out clear, it is well known that a vast difference exists between the portrait on the sketch and the actual face that appears printed from an engraving on the paper. If the face is engraved in fine lines, it immediately fills up with the cheap ink, and looks like a blur. This objection was raised to the United States 2 cent stamps of the 1902 series, rejected after a year's use, and was the principal reason for its rejection. The fine lines on Washington's face filled up, and the stamp looked blotchy if a little too much ink happened to be used.

"The 4 centavos denomination, corresponding to our 2 cent stamp, bears the face of Washington. It is the same face, almost, as that on our current 2 cent value, although probably a trifle larger. This is the stamp that would be used in sending mail to the United States, and it is, of course, fitting that the design should depict Washington.

"The central design of the 16 centavos stamp is a mountain—in fact, there are two designs for this value, one showing a large volcano and the other a smaller one. The larger one will most likely be adopted.

"The 26 centavos, which will carry a letter, registered, of the weight of one ounce to any other country than the United States, depicts a slim palm in the centre of a border.

"The words 'Philippine Postage' appear on all the stamps, and the value in figures and also in words. There appears to be nothing upon any of the designs indicating that the Philippines are in any way related to the United States. They will be distinctively Philippines in every way.

"There does not appear to be any haste in the matter. The Bureau of Engraving and Printing is now resting on its oars, so to speak. Until the Insular Affairs Bureau passes on the sketches already submitted, nothing further will be done by the Bureau of Engraving and Printing. It is expected that suggestions will be made and alteration required, and probably in some case new sketches called for. When these have been approved the Bureau will go ahead and make sketches of other denominations. It is not expected that any engravings will be made until all the sketches have been completed and approved.

"The Bureau submitted an estimate of the cost of making sketches, engravings, and plates, and of the cost per thousand of the stamps. These figures are not for public use and cannot be obtained. It is understood, however, that the price is quite a little higher than that paid at present for United States stamps. This is due chiefly to the fact that we consume stamps here by the million where the Philippines will use them by the thousand. It is probable the stamps will be printed in sheets of 100, instead of 400 as are United States stamps, although the 2, 4, and 10 centavos may be printed in sheets of 200 stamps.

"The values will be expressed in the native monetary value, to wit: in centavos and pesos, after the manner employed in the issue of the new coins last July. The denominations, expressed in centavos and pesos, will be as follows:—

2 centavos	=	1 cent,	U.S.	
4 ,,	=	2 cents	,,	
6 ,,	=	3 ,,	,,	
8 centavos	=	4 cents,	U.S.	
10 ,,	=	5 ,,	,,	
12 ,,	=	6 ,,	,,	
16 ,,	=	8 ,,	,,	
20 ,,	=	10 ,,	,,	
26 ,,	=	13 ,,	,,	
30 ,,	=	15 ,,	,,	
1 peso	=	50 ,,	,,	
2 pesos	=	$1	,,	
4 ,,	=	$2	,,	
10 ,,	=	$5	,,	



Uruguay.—We have received a 5 milesimos in a new design, as illustrated, the central figure of which is evidently a reproduction of a national statue.

Perf.

5 milesimos, orange.

MISCELLANEOUS

First English Philatelic Periodical

Mr. Thomas William Kitt, in the *Philatelist* of January, 1867, thus told the history of the first English philatelic periodical:—

"Towards the middle of the year 1862, when Philately was becoming very popular, appearances led me to conclude that a periodical entirely devoted to that subject would prove a great boon to collectors, and also a lucrative investment to its proprietors. Accordingly, in the summer of the year named, I inserted an advertisement in the *Boy's Own Magazine*, requesting any gentlemen who were of a similar opinion to join me in the undertaking. This advertisement was productive of innumerable replies, requesting further information, but so many as half a dozen of them spoke favourably of my scheme. In order to 'leave not a stone unturned' for the attainment of the end in view, I had personal interviews with many of the leading English collectors residing in or near London, and in consequence of its being 'Exhibition year,' I was enabled to meet several from the country; but 'public opinion' seemed so much against me that I reluctantly abandoned the enterprise, thinking it folly to undertake what my superiors in the knowledge of Philately thought so unpromising. My voluminous correspondence on the subject and earnest endeavours to bring about the consummation of my wishes were, however, rewarded with success, for Mr. A. Perris, of Liverpool (one of the few gentlemen who thought favourably of my plans), entered warmly into the matter; but from reasons above stated I declined rendering him any pecuniary assistance, although I placed my pen at his service, of which he availed himself. However—*finis coronat opus*—on December 15th, 1862, the harbinger of a new style of literature made its appearance in the shape of the *Monthly Advertiser*, afterwards known as the *Stamp Collector's Review*. This publication, after having proved of great service to philatelists, and as an investment tolerably successful, died out in 1864, the last number having been issued on June 15th of that year. Such is the history of the first philatelic periodical published in England, and of which I must, with pride, claim to be the primary originator."

The Penny Postage

Some thing I want to write upon, to scare away each vapour,
The "Penny Postage" shall I try?—why, yes, I'll write on paper.
Thy great invention, Rowland Hill, each person loudly hails;
The Females all are full of it, and so are all the Mails.
This may be called the "Penny Age," and those who are not mulish
Are daily growing "penny wise," though not, I hope, "pound foolish."
We've penny blacking, penny plays, Penny Mags, for information,
And last, a "Penny Post," which proves we've lots of penetration.
Their lovesick thoughts, by this new act, may Lucy, Jane, or Mary,
Array in Airy Diction from Johnson's Dictionary.
Each maid will for the postman watch, at the keyhole, like a Cat,
And spring towards the door whene'er there comes a great big Rat!
Such lots of paper will be used by every scribbling elf,
That each should be a paper manufacturer himself.
To serve us all with ink enough, they must have different plans—
They must start an Ink Walk just like Milk, and serve it round in cans.
The letters on St. Valentine so vastly will amount,
Postmen must judge them by the lot—they won't have time to count.
They must bring round spades and measures; and to poor lovesick souls
Deliver them by bushels, the same as they do coals.
As Billet Doux will so augment, the mails will be too small;
So omnibuses they must use, or they can't carry all.
And ladies pleasure will evince, instead of any fuss,
To have their lovers' letters all delivered with a Buss.
Mail coachmen are improving much in knowledge of the head,
For like the letters which they take, they're themselves all over Red,
Postmen are "Men of Letters" too—each one's a learned talker—
And 'cause he reads the Dictionary, the people call him "Walker!"
Handwriting now of every sort the connoisseur may meet,
Though a running hand, I think, does most give postmen running feet.
Those who can't write will "make their mark" when they a line are dropping,
And where orthography is Lame, of course it will "Come Hopping."
Invention is progressing so, and soon it will be seen
That conveyance will be done more quick than it has yet e'er been.
A plan's in agitation—as nought can genius fetter—
To let us have the answer back before they get the letter!

The Singer's Pocket Book and Reciter's Album, 1839-40.

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENCE

Our Parisian Letter

PARIS, *26th December*, 1904.

The event of the past month is the theft of stamps belonging to three French Colonies—French Somali Coast, French Congo, and Madagascar. The readers of *Gibbons Stamp Weekly* will estimate the importance of this when they know that the face value of the stamps stolen amounts to £30,000. This is not a small sum. I do not think the like has happened before in England or any other foreign country. Thus France holds herein a record which, it is to be hoped, will not be beaten for a long time. But it is not a record which is very much to be envied. The robbery was not committed last month; but it has been discovered recently. This is the explanation of the affair.

The French Government, instead of doing as England does, prints its own stamps, and for that purpose it has a special printing place in the Boulevard Brune, in Paris. The establishment is important, for not only the French postage stamps, but also the stamps of the Colonies, and of the post offices abroad, and, in fact, the fiscal stamps, are turned out by this printing place, which is managed, watched over, and administered by the State. But, as an exception of recent years, recourse has been had to private industry to make the following series: French Congo, Stanley Gibbons' types 5, 6, 7, 1900-4; French Somali Coast, types 1 to 3, 1902-4; Madagascar, numbers 51 to 65, 1904.

At first the firm of Chassepot, and afterwards the firm of Wittmann, were entrusted with the printing. For this purpose the Ministry of the Colonies caused to be sent to them the necessary watermarked paper. Now, for the essays and for getting quite ready before the final printing off, and also for the defective sheets of the final printing itself, there was delivered to the printer more paper than was needed. However, that is done in all the printing offices of the world, and it is called "la passe," in technical terms, overplus. It will be easily understood that great care would have to be taken in the matter of this "overplus," for to a certain degree a stamp is a small bank-note. It is just all this "overplus" which has been stolen as the result of a lack of watching. It was said that the watching the "overplus" was done by some little children, or even by some blind persons. The Ministry of the Colonies sent seven additional sheets of paper in reams of 500 sheets. Each of these sheets contains four "panes" of 100 stamps in ten rows of ten, or a total of 2,800 stamps per ream. The total printing (mainly Madagascar) was 250 reams. One can suppose, indeed, that it was not stamps of one centime that were made by means of these additional sheets, but stamps of 1, 2, and 5 francs, the high values; so that for the amount of the theft we have, at least, as follows: 2,800 times 250 times 2.50 centimes. Of late weeks there have been offered on the stamp market in the Champs Elysées some of the 5 franc stamps, unused, at tenpence each.

Through a naval officer I have myself sent to General Gallieni, the Governor of Madagascar, an envelope containing stamps to the value of 452 francs, or £18 2s., which were sold at £2 1s., and in the envelope there was a letter *signed by the thief* and offering another lot of 1,200 francs, £48, for £8. Finally, I have addressed to the Chamber of Deputies a petition to notify it of the occurrence. Thirty-four important philatelists signed this petition with me; they were Messieurs Bernichon, Coyette, Corriez, Hetteix, Lemoine, Thumin, Vervelle, Dr. Voisin, etc., with many other members of the Société de Timbrologie. Everybody will agree certainly in acknowledging the harm that can be done to Philately by such thefts, and also to the regular stamp trade. I believe that, thanks to our action, the matter will end by the Ministry of the Colonies taking steps to recover the stamps stolen in this way.

I may add, as a supplement to the foregoing details, that the surcharged provisional stamps are not surcharged in Paris, although the stamps are printed here. Thus the latest French Congo, S. G. Nos. 60 and 61, were surcharged in the Congo; it is the same with the stamps of Indo-Chine surcharged "Hoi-Hao," "Pack-hoï," "Mongtze," "Chine," etc., and with all the other provisionals. It happens frequently that collectors, and even some foreign dealers, ask for these stamps here in quantities, imagining that they can be bought in Paris at almost their face value.

A. MONTADER.

From Frankfurt-on-Main

FRANKFURT-ON-MAIN, *January 7th*, 1905.

There is on foot in France and in Germany a movement which deserves to attract both the attention and the sympathy of the stamp world. In Paris it consists of an effort by a little group of revolters, under the energetic and intelligent leadership of M. A. Montader, my friend and fellow-worker on this paper, in the direction of putting a check to the dishonourable tricks of certain government officials, whose "cheek" is equalled, it would seem, only by their greed. Two millions of Colonial stamps stolen!!!

In Germany it is pointed out to the General Post Office that it should put a stop to the frequent reprintings of stamps of which the original issues happen to be exhausted. It is a question of certain sets of Colonial stamps with surcharges of some values of Heligoland and of some others known by name but which are not yet ripe enough for publication.

The Stamp Club of Frankfurt-on-Main has been the first to take the lead in this matter, and it is supported by some German societies which are of the same way of thinking.

The action in these two cases does honour certainly to the feelings from which they spring, and there is not a single serious philatelist who will not wish them success in the end. But I have infinitely greater faith in the success of that action of which M. Montader has taken the lead in Paris than in the other which is being taken here. In fact, in the case of Paris it is a question of suppressing an abuse of confidence committed by government officials while performing their duties and to the greatest detriment of the public money, while in the end aimed at by the German societies there is neither a misdemeanour to be put down nor even a question of public interest properly so called and capable of raising a question of right.

Meanwhile let us attend to a danger more threatening. It rains down at this moment *têtes-bêches* of French stamps. Distrust them, too-confiding philatelists. These *têtes-bêches* (France, 1849), are obtained no longer as hitherto by putting together more or less skilfully two genuine stamps into the desired positions; they are entirely forged, that is to say, they are printed *ad hoc* (for the very purpose), and the proof that they are well imitated is that experts of authority have been let in by them.

Here is a simple but unfailing way of identifying the forgeries. Compare the wavy lines in the right upper corner of any stamp in the Cérès type of 1849 with those in a doubtful *tête-bêche*. The genuine stamps have three little wavy lines running along and touching the vertical line which frames the die. The forgeries have only two wavy lines, the third line keeping clear of and parallel to the vertical line.

PHILATELIC SOCIETIES

Junior Philatelic Society

President: Fred J. Melville.
Secretary: H. F. Johnson, 11, Trigon Road, Clapham, S.W.
Meetings: 67, South Lambeth Rd., S.W. Bi-monthly: Saturdays.
Annual Subscription: 1s. 6d.

AT the meeting of the Junior Philatelic Society on Saturday, January 7th, Mr. Fred J. Melville in the chair, ten new members were elected, including one life-member. They are as follows: J. T. Herbert Baily, editor of *The Connoisseur* (life member); David Caine, Westminster; G. H. Holland, Brixton; A. Ancott, Brixton; Norman C. Horwood, Melbourne; L. Fisse, Clapham; John C. Craig, Cape Colony; J. F. Sowerby, Regent's Park; T. H. Russell, Brixton; W. B. Evans, Hendon.

Votes of thanks were accorded to the Boston Philatelic Society and the Scott Stamp Company for donations to the library. The new volumes are—*Catalogue of Books on Philately in the Public Library of the City of Boston*; the *Stamps of Siam*, by Alex. Holland; and Scott's *Standard Catalogue for 1905*.

The President read a letter from the Earl of Crawford, who is in Egypt for his health, and consequently will not be present at the opening of the Society's Exhibition. "I hope, however," says his lordship, "that your Exhibition will be a great success, and that the good results in training up the younger collectors in the way they should go may amply repay the labour and sorrow of those who have to organise and carry through the work."

The President announced the following donations to the Exhibition Fund:—

	£	s.	d.
Amount already acknowledged .	11	5	0
J. T. Herbert Baily, Editor of *The Connoisseur* . . .	2	2	0
H. Clark	0	10	0
H. Bean	0	10	0
C. Stuart Dudley . . .	0	5	0
J. F. Sowerby . . .	0	2	6
G. J. Patman . . .	0	2	6
	14	17	0

Further donations are needed to defray the heavy expenses of the event. In view of the illness of Mr. Schwabacher, an alteration of the programme was arranged and announced.

The Society's second visit to the Tapling Collection has been postponed to Saturday, March 25th, as owing to the pressure on the Exhibition Secretaries and other workers the visit on January 28th will be impracticable.

A great surprise was given to the members present on Saturday last, when Mr. H. Lee, one of the Society's younger members, displayed a very fine collection indeed of the stamps of Uruguay. It was well filled in nearly every issue, and for a young specialist in a little-known country it was a most admirable display. A vote of thanks on the motion of Mr. Feeney, and seconded by Mr. Patman, was passed to Mr. Lee.

Mr. Heginbottom's stamps of Jamaica, Montserrat, and Nevis also provided an excellent treat to members present, and a vote of thanks was unanimously accorded to the Society's enthusiastic Rochdale member.

All tickets, circulars, and other printed matter for the Exhibition are now in hand, and can be had from the Hon. Secretary.

Members and others willing to act as stewards at the Exhibition are requested to inform the Hon. Secretary.

Johannesburg Philatelic Society

A MEETING of the above Society was held on Tuesday, 4th October, at the Masonic Temple, Plein Street. Mr. M. Neuburger, President, occupied the chair, and there were present twenty-one members and seven visitors. It was agreed to send a letter of thanks to Mr. R. Weddell, proprietor of the Masonic Hotel, for the room which the Society had made use of for some time. The Chairman stated that a bookcase would be placed in the room in which the meetings were held, and that the albums containing some of the forgeries and reprints might be seen there by the members. As there would be an increased expenditure, he hoped that the members would give as much financial support as the necessities demanded. Mr. M. P. Vallentine volunteered to place the stamps in the albums containing forgeries, reprints, etc. The Chairman announced that the sales from the exchange sheets amounted to more than 25 per cent. of the value of the sheets. He then referred to the encouraging state of the Society's finances, which amounted to £39 4s. 6d. The exhibition of stamps of the German Empire and States, Zululand, and Swaziland was declared open. Mr. Ansell exhibited some fine sheets of Swazilands, including errors, and Mr. W. P. Cohen some Zululands. Mr. C. R. Schuler gave an excellent display of German Empire, Zululands, and Swazilands, including a pair of twopenny and error without "d."

THE Philatelic Society held their usual fortnightly meeting on Tuesday evening at the Masonic Temple, Plein Street, when there were present thirteen members and three visitors.

Mr. Ansell suggested that members of the Society should prepare papers on Philately to be read at the meetings.

Mr. A. J. Cohen then kindly offered to place his collection of books dealing with Philately at the disposal of any such intending members who might wish to take up the subject.

A discussion on the new multiple watermarks, Crown and CA, took place, several members expressing various opinions as to the reason for the same. Mr. E. O. Meyer was of opinion that the multiple watermark was used on account of the same paper being used for the small stamps as well as for the large stamps.

The exhibition of stamps of Great Britain, Levant, Malta, and Gibraltar was then declared open. Mr. J. Henderson gave an excellent display of Great Britain, which included many varieties, also various shades and blocks. The exhibit was undoubtedly very fine and unique. Mr. A. J. Cohen exhibited a nearly complete collection of the Great Britain issues, containing a number of shades and perforations of the different values; also the following varieties: a 2s., brown, fine specimen; 5s., rose, watermarked Anchor; 10s., grey; £5, orange, lightly postmarked; the Queen's and King's Head issues, all unused and mint; also a great variety of the Official stamps, including a 2½d. and 1s., 1885, unused and mint; a block of ½d. and 1d., Inland Revenue stamps, in mint condition; a 40 paras on ½d., red, Constantinople, only in use three days; a certificate of posting, and the 1s. and 2s. 6d. Jubilee stamps, genuine, postally used, and dated 15th July, 1897. His Gibraltar and Cyprus exhibit consisted of a complete issue of these colonies, nearly all unused, and a great number of shades, varieties, watermarks, and errors. Mr. W. P. Cohen also exhibited a fine selection of Great Britain, which included the following: 1d., black, hair lines; 1d., red, Archer roulette; 1d., red, double lettering lower left corner; 2s., salmon, and 4d., blue safety paper; also an almost complete pane of 1d., red, imperf., 1840 issue.

THE STAMP MARKET

By AN ODD LOT

An auctioneer tells me that the season, so far as it has gone, is a shade or two better than last year, but the improvement, such as it is, is manifested more in the more ready sale of medium stuff than in any betterment of prices for rare stamps.

Just so. The general complaint is that there is little money about, and no spirit of enterprise in heavily priced stamps. So it is the day of the stamps that make up the collections of young and general collectors.

The young collector is not much in evidence in our stamp-auction rooms. Probably he is too shy. But I have often thought what nice little bargains in general lots, designated in the catalogues "Remainder of Collection," he could pick up occasionally, if he only had the cheek to attend and wink at the auctioneer just at the right moment.

Now that the authorities that be have intimated that they will have a blind eye for unused Official stamps sold at auction, we may expect to see a good few cropping up during the rest of the season, and it will be interesting to all collectors to note what the rarities fetch.

These stamps can scarcely be considered within the range of the young collector, but he will nevertheless be interested in learning what the Great Moguls are paying, now and again, for some of their favourites.

Here are some prices recently realised for unused:—

	£	s.	d.
I.R. Official, King's Head, 2½d. . .	3	7	6
O.W. Official, Queen's Head, 5d. . .	2	4	0
,, ,, ,, ,, 10d. .	3	15	0
,, ,, King's Head, 1s. . .	1	15	0
Government Parcels, King's Head, 1s. .	2	4	0
Board of Education, Queen's Head, 5d. .	3	7	6
,, ,, ,, ,, 1s. .	6	5	0
,, ,, King's ,, 2½d.	2	2	0
,, ,, ,, ,, 5d. .	4	17	6
Admiralty, King's Head, 2d. . . .	2	1	0

Now is unquestionably the day of opportunity for the buyer. Good stamps are going cheaply at all the auctions, and never before since 1893 have catalogue prices been so low as they are to-day. The prices of European stamps are particularly low, so low that a leading dealer tells me his books have been stripped several times. Prices were put down to stimulate collecting, and it is very evident that the object has been attained.

Europeans have been under a cloud for many a long day, and yet they are full of interest for the young collector, for they are more nearly associated with our own history that any other foreign countries, excepting the United States. They are also cheap as a class. With the exception of the Balkan States, there are few unnecessary issues amongst them.

OUR PHILATELIC DIARY

FEBRUARY, 1905

1. Auction: Plumridge and Co., 64, Chancery Lane, W.C. 4.45 p.m.
   Sheffield Philatelic Society: Discussion—The New Collector and what we can do for him.
2. Birmingham Philatelic Society: Paper—Railway Letter Stamps, by Captain M. W. K. Connolly.
   Auction: Glendenning, 7, Argyll Street, London. 4.30 p.m.
   Auction: Ventom, Bull, and Cooper, Temple Hotel, Arundel Street, London. 5 p.m.
3. Junior Philatelic Society: Exhibition—Stamps of Great Britain, at Exeter Hall, London.
   Auction: Glendenning, 7, Argyll Street, London. 4.30 p.m.
   Auction: Ventom, Bull, and Cooper, Temple Hotel, Arundel Street, London. 5 p.m.
4. Junior Philatelic Society: Exhibition—Stamps of Great Britain, at Exeter Hall, London.
6. Kent and Sussex Philatelic Society: Display by Maj. Evans.
7. Leeds Philatelic Society: Visit of Bradford Philatelic Society: Display—British Colonials, by A. H. Stamford, Bradford.
   Auction: Puttick and Simpson, 47, Leicester Square, London, W.C. 4.30 p.m.
8. International Philatelic Union: Display—European Stamps, by J. C. Sidebotham.
   Auction: Puttick and Simpson, 47, Leicester Square, London, W.C. 4.30 p.m.
10. London Philatelic Society: Display—Queensland, by H. J. Duveen.
14. Bradford Philatelic Society: Display—English Unused, by W. M. Gray.
15. Enterprise Philatelic Society, London: Paper—Gibraltar, by H. W. Westcott; and Display with Notes—West Australia, by E. Heginbottom.
    Sheffield Philatelic Society: General Display by members.
16. Auction: Glendenning, 7, Argyll Street, London. 4.30 p.m.
    Auction: Ventom, Bull, and Cooper, Temple Hotel, Arundel Street, London. 5 p.m.
17. Auction: Glendenning, 7, Argyll Street, London. 4.30 p.m.
    Auction: Ventom, Bull, and Cooper, Temple Hotel, Arundel Street, London. 5. p.m
18. Junior Philatelic Society: Poetry of Stamp Collecting, with some examples, by F. J. Melville; and Paper—Victorian *v.* Edwardian Issues, by E. Heginbottom.
21. Leeds Philatelic Society: Display—Stamps of Brazil, with notes, by E. Egly.
    Auction: Puttick and Simpson, 47, Leicester Square, London. 4.30 p.m.
22. Auction: Puttick and Simpson, 47, Leicester Square, London. 4.30 p.m.
23. Birmingham Philatelic Society: Auction at Acorn Hotel.
28. Auction: Plumridge and Co., 64, Chancery Lane, W.C. 4.45 p.m.

EDITORIAL MEMORANDA

All communications intended for the Editor should be addressed to Mr. Edward J. Nankivell, Carnanton, Camden Park, Tunbridge Wells.

A Philatelic Novel.—A very interesting story, entitled "The Stamp King," will be commenced in the next number of *Gibbons Stamp Weekly*. This sensational story, by two French writers, was printed for publication in book form by our publishers, but the stock perished in the fire at our printers' (Messrs. Brendon and Son, Plymouth). The story will be excellently illustrated by a well-known French artist.

Philatelic Societies.—We wish to make a special feature of the prompt publication of the reports of Philatelic Societies, and trust we may have the kindly co-operation of the honorary secretaries in this matter. Reports should be written on one side of the paper, and despatched to the Editor by the earliest post.

Special Correspondence.—The Editor will be glad to receive interesting letters from philatelic centres not already covered by our arrangements.

OUR PRIZE COMPETITIONS

COMPETITION No. 1.

Give Six Reasons for Collecting Stamps.

RESULTS

1st.	Investment.....	252 votes.
2nd.	Geography	243 „
3rd.	History	206 „
4th.	Hobby.....	195 „
5th.	Sociability	165 „
6th.	Method	83 „

CLASS I. *No age limit.*

First Prize.—Mr. C. T. COLPITTS,
Collingwood House,
Tynemouth, Northumberland.

Second Prize.—Mr. GEORGE JARMAN,
51, Leopold Road,
Liverpool.

CLASS II. *Under 18.*

First Prize.—Mr. E. SMERDON,
Westbourne Cottage, West Street,
Liskeard.

Second Prize.—Mr. W. A. VEITCH,
26, St. Albans Terrace,
Gateshead-on-Tyne.

CLASS III. *Under 14.*

First Prize.—Master W. PERRY,
Birstall Hill,
near Leicester.

Second Prize.—Master R. CHIPPINDALE,
Grassington, 1, Park View,
Harrogate.

NOTES ON COMPETITION No. 1.

This—our first competition—has proved most successful, and many hundreds of answers have been received, a large number coming to hand after the date fixed for closing the competition, January 10th, and these of course had to be disqualified.

Some interesting points are brought out in the replies we have received. The *Lady Collectors* are as reticent as to their age as usual. One lady writes she has *five sons*, all collectors, and fills in her age as "over 18." This we absolutely believe!!

A few competitors were disqualified through omitting coupons, or sending coupon and omitting the reasons.

EXTRA PRIZES.

We have decided to award the following extra prizes:—

Mr. GEORGE COOPER,
67, Eastlake Street, Everton,
Liverpool,

packet of 1,000 different stamps for an excellent essay on the "Six Reasons for Collecting Stamps," well expressed and very neatly written. We give this in full on another page in this number.

Mr. JOHN E. TUCKER,
59, Upper Cheltenham Place, Montpelier,
Bristol,

packet of 1,000 stamps for another good essay.

Mr. E. B. CHANCELLOR,
29, Elm Park Gardens,
South Kensington,

packet of 500 stamps for a neat answer in verse.

Miss V. VEITCH,
21, Alva Street,
Edinburgh,

Improved Album No. 2 and 200 stamps, as this was the *youngest* competitor, age 8.

Mr. RUSSELL SUTHERLAND,
The Manse,
Beith,

The Stamp Collector, because this was the *first entry* to the *first* competition in the *first* number of *Gibbons Stamp Weekly*.

In Class I. nine persons gave six correct answers. Of these Mr. Colpitts had four in correct order, and Mr. Jarman two in correct order.

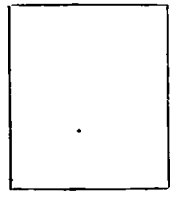
In Class II. thirty-two persons gave six correct answers. Of these Mr. Smerdon had three, and Mr. Veitch had two, in correct order, and three others correct all but one number.

In Class III. there were only four correct answers placed as in list.

THE COMPETITION EDITOR.

GRATIS STAMP. No. 2

IN the annexed space our subscribers should find a Mexico 1 real, red, of the issue of 1863, with head of President Juarez.



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EDITED BY EDWARD J. NANKIVELL

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STAMPS OF GREAT BRITAIN

By GORDON SMITH, M.A.

(*Continued from page* 55.)

Perforation and its Measurement

BEFORE leaving the subject there is one point I should like to make quite clear. In handling the stamps of different countries it is at once seen that the holes of perforation are not equally spaced on all stamps. In some they are close together, while on others they are seen to be much wider apart. This difference is one that collectors have noticed from very early days of collecting, and is so obvious to the eye, that even beginners find very little trouble in applying it to classify their stamps. It was the French collectors, however, who first devised a uniform system of measurement. This was done by counting the number of holes in a fixed length. Naturally it was the French or metric system of linear measurement that was used, a system of measurement that has now been adopted in nearly every civilised country in the world, except those in which the English language is spoken, where inches, feet, yards, etc., still hold their own for common use, although by men of science the metric system is much used in the compilation of facts and statistics of international utility. The length selected by the French collectors was 2 centimetres (a little over three-quarters of an inch). The great majority of stamps have one side of the stamp at least as long as this, so by placing such a side along a scale of centimetres the number of holes in a length of 2 centimetres could be counted. Thus if sixteen holes were counted the stamp was said to have a *gauge* of 16, or to be "perforated 16," or as we now briefly express it, "perf. 16." To save collectors trouble in measuring every stamp along a scale—and in England at least a metric scale is not found so readily as a "two-foot rule"—there have been made what we call "perforation gauges," on which are placed rows of dots or lines answering to each different gauge. The collector moves the edge of a stamp from one line to another until he finds one on which the half-circles of the perforation at the edge exactly fit the dots. He then reads off the number at the end of the line, which gives the gauge of the specimen he is measuring. The perforation gauge is a cheap and indispensable part of the equipment with which every collector should be provided. Very little practice will enable a novice to become quite an adept in its use, and will double the interest and pleasure with which he handles his possessions, and many a time be the means of discovering that joy of the collector's heart, a "rare variety" among a lot of common specimens.

The first perforation applied to the 1d. and 2d. stamps contained sixteen holes in the length of 2 centimetres, or, as we call it, "perf. 16." It was soon found that the holes were too close together, for they left such narrow links of paper between them that the sheets had a tendency to fall to pieces in the handling; that is, the lines of perforation broke away without using any force for that purpose, and consequently the post-office clerks had much difficulty in keeping the

stocks of sheets and parts of sheets in proper order. By spacing the punches of the perforating machine so that there were 14 instead of 16 to the 2 centimetres, this defect was overcome, and "perf. 14" has ever since been the gauge employed.

The Two Dies of 1d.

There were two other changes made in the stamps about the same time (1854–56), one an alteration in the design of the 1d. (and later another in that of the 2d.), and the other a change of watermark. The manufacturers, Messrs. Perkins Bacon and Co., found that the plates from which the 1d. stamps were being printed wore away too soon, and that, considering the hardness of the plates, they ought to have been able to obtain a larger number of impressions from each plate. Accordingly a new die was prepared from the original die, upon which many of the fine lines of the head were deepened, and from this new die or matrix new plates were prepared. It is usual to speak of stamps from the older plates as "Die I.," and of those from the new re-engraving as "Die II." Except to the experienced eye, the difference of the two dies is not very apparent, and in trying to sort used specimens it is frequently impossible to separate them, owing to the postmark obliterating those parts of the design in which the re-engraving was made. I would advise the beginner, therefore, to ignore these distinctions, as they are really only for the advanced collector. The change in the 2d. value consists solely in the thickness of the white lines, which were thinner in the last plate of the series than in those preceding it. Although this alteration is more easily distinguished than in the case of the 1d., nevertheless the beginner need not trouble about it.

The change of watermark is a more important matter, the primitive design of the Small Crown giving place to a larger figure known as "Large Crown." It is generally more clearly visible than the other, and if imperfectly perceived when the stamp is held before the light, the application of water will bring it into view. All line-engraved stamps are very hardy, and will stand treatment which cannot be applied to those of to-day. They can be soaked in water, and boiled if desired, and even brushed with soap and water—if this be done with care—and will, after in the hot bath, "turn up smiling."

I will now give a summary of the different varieties of the stamps we have been considering.

1854–57.

Watermark a Small Crown. Perf. 16.

1d., red-brown (Dies I. and II.).
2d., blue.

As last, but perf. 14.

1d., red-brown (Dies I. and II.).
2d., blue.



Watermark a Large Crown. Perf. 16.

1d., red-brown (Die II.).
2d., blue.

As last, but perf. 14.

1d., red-brown (Die II.).
2d., blue.

In 1857 the discoloured paper disappears, the paper now being white, without any trace of blue; and the *brown* also disappears from the *red-brown*, in which the stamps had hitherto been printed, the colour becoming a rose-red, varying from pale to deep. The machine perforating 16, which had been laid aside for the reasons I have stated, was temporarily brought into use for a short time before it was finally discarded, and so we have:—

1857.

Watermark a Large Crown. Perf. 16.

1d., rose-red.

As last, but perf. 14.

1d., rose-red.



(To be continued.)

PUBLIC SCHOOL COLLECTING

By Rev. T. C. WALTON, M.A.

(*Continued from page 58.*)

Packets and Sets

WE come now to our second heading. The number of packets and sets is legion. The beginner takes up a price list. He hovers from one tempting packet to another. He is perplexed. He cannot make up his mind what to choose. And the difficulty is that no one else can help him until he has decided what he wishes to collect. Let us therefore assume at the outset that the novice intends to begin with a world collection. His best plan is to write for a good packet of 500 varieties. Such a packet can be bought at the price of a few weeks' pocket money, or right away at the beginning of a new term. Another and possibly a better plan is to begin with the stamps of Europe and buy good packets of all the continents, one or more each term according to the amount of your savings from pocket money. Mount these in your blank album with the help of a good catalogue, and leave spaces for all the values of an issue below a certain face value which you do not already possess. Let me take a concrete example by way of illustration. You receive three of the Belgian issue, 1884-91, viz. 10 centimes, rose on bluish; 20 c., olive; and 50 c., deep ochre. Between the 10 centimes and the franc values there are ten stamps inclusive, counting varieties. Mount the values you have in the first, third, and eighth spaces. Then make it your business to fill the blank spaces, for a full set of one issue is much to be preferred to odd stamps of various issues all jumbled together regardless of date. Of course this is a counsel of perfection, but always remember that the higher you aim the sooner will you become an expert collector. The cheapest method of filling such blank spaces is to consult lists of sets. Sometimes a much-sought-for stamp is to be found reposing on an approval sheet, the mention of which brings me to my third source of supply.

Approval Sheets

It behoves one to tread carefully in this matter. It is a generally recognised fact that approval sheets are at the bottom of much of the mistrust and discouragement of public-school collecting which many masters exhibit. The reasons for this distrust are well grounded. They may be summed up in two short sentences: There are unscrupulous and even fraudulent approval sheets. There are careless schoolboys. The fault is on both sides. Let us discuss the question on its merits. The crafty dealer issues sheets of highly priced stamps with a bait of a large discount on sales. The business spirit of the boy is aroused. He realises that for every shilling's worth of stamps he sells from the sheets at their marked value, he receives a large profit for himself. There are boys in every school who would carry this business to excess and set up as a kind of middleman between the dealer and the boy who is too modest to write for sheets on his own behalf. Now those in authority know only too well the evils to which this kind of sharp practice gives rise. They may or may not care a jot about stamps or stamp collecting. They do care about the morale of the boy whose education has been entrusted to them. They know that buying in the cheapest and probably poorest market, and selling in the dearest to the unwary and the trusting, is not conducive to the growth of generous and high-principled instincts. Ergo, the approval sheet, unscrupulous or genuine, is forbidden in the school.

The proverbial carelessness of the average schoolboy has also much to do with this prohibition of approval sheets. How many such sheets are left about on desks, through thoughtlessness, with the result that stamps are lost, and sometimes the whole of the sheets disappear for ever. Stamp collecting in public schools will never be welcomed by the powers that be until these two sores are healed. Boys must show greater care when dealing with another's property. In the best interests of their hobby, they must also accept the advice of those who have been through the mill and absolutely refuse to have anything to do with un-

scrupulous dealers. The headmaster of one of our great public schools had occasion quite recently to emphasise the need of checking this habit of carelessness, especially among boys in preparatory schools. It is a matter which can be easily remedied, but the remedy is entirely in the boys' own hands. While, for the other matter, if all stamp firms would follow the example of the firm which recently adopted the rule of refusing to send approval sheets to schoolboys, unless the request be countersigned by a master or parent, we should hear less of the disadvantages of the approval sheet.

My remarks on the sources of supply have been somewhat in the style of the candid friend. It is well that public-school boys should know that there are abuses of which, up to the present, they have not been fully conscious. Let all who have patiently followed my meanderings make it their resolve that they will never countenance in word or deed anything which is calculated to bring discredit on one of the finest and most instructive of hobbies.

Bogus Stamps

There are in existence perforated bits of illustrated paper which look exactly like stamps, but which were never used as stamps. No stamp collector with any knowledge of his subject could ever be taken in by these bogus stamps. Two examples will suffice. Imagine a stamp in the centre of which is depicted an island with "1895" inscribed on it. Over the island poises an eagle with wings outstretched. In the left-hand corner lurks a scorpion or some other many-legged reptile. The number "5" reposes in the right-hand bottom corner. The whole is drawn on a scroll on a dark background. "Clipperton Island" is printed above, and there the stamp is complete. But what of the facts? The said island forms part of the territory of the United States, and could not therefore have legally issued a postage stamp in 1895. My second example is that of a stamp purporting to be issued by Prince James I. of Trinidad, an island in the South Atlantic. Seven values, from 5 centimes to 5 francs, were printed, but, unfortunately for the enterprising individual who was responsible for them, it was found that this said Trinidad was a rugged rock, without inhabitant. He who runs may read the moral. Never buy a stamp which cannot be found in the pages of an up-to-date catalogue.

A Word on Forgeries

There are such things as forged stamps. There are also faked stamps. Wherein lies the difference? A forgery is the result of a more or less successful attempt to produce a facsimile of a genuine stamp. A faked stamp is a genuine stamp changed by clever manipulation into a rare variety. Both terms are included in schoolboy language by that singularly expressive word, "Fudge." The number of such "Fudges," *i.e.* "Forgeries and Fakes," is legion. In Vol. XIII. of *Gibbons Monthly Journal* you will find detailed accounts of the fudges of no less than twenty-eight countries noted during the years 1902–3. And these were but a few compared with the hosts of fudges which have flooded the philatelic world since the days when stamp-collecting was found to be profitable in the business sense of the word. But I would not for a moment cause alarm to the young collector. Let him not think that he is as a lamb in the midst of wolves. If he did but know it, he is wonderfully safeguarded in more ways than one from the subtle wares of the forger. Stamp journals denounce them. Stamp merchants of good repute would neither buy nor sell them. The eagle eye of the specialist is ever on the watch. He pounces on the suspicious stamp, submits it to all the tests known to him, and rarely, if ever, does a fudge escape detection. Truly, we owe much gratitude to the specialist, who, while taking infinite pains to find out the truth for his own sake, is ever ready to place the knowledge and experience he has gained at our disposal. It was my intention to give some account of the many ways in which stamps have been forged. On second thoughts, however, it seemed to me the better plan to write a plain and straightforward account of the various processes employed in the manufacture of a postage stamp. Equipped with this outline, the reader will then be the better enabled to grasp the point of view of the forger, examples of whose handiwork will be noticed in detail at the end of my description of each process.

(To be continued.)

PORTRAITS ON STAMPS

By BOSWELL JUNIOR

Argentine Republic (*continued*)



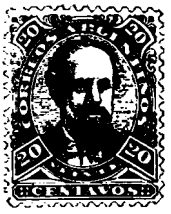
Rivadavia.

Rivadavia, Bernardino, born at Buenos Ayres, 1780, died at Cadiz, Spain, September 2nd, 1845, an Argentine statesman. He was Minister of War, and for a time Minister of State and of the Treasury (1811–12); was Minister of State under Rodriguez; was Governor of Buenos Ayres, 1820–3; and became President of the Argentine Confederation February 18th, 1826, but resigned June 27th, 1827, to prevent a civil war. In all these offices he conferred great benefits on the country by his enlightened and far-seeing measures. As President he initiated the plan by which Uruguay became independent in 1828. In the interims he held important diplomatic positions in Europe. His later years were spent in exile.

Mitre, in his *Historia de San Martin*, says: "Rivadavia stands in America second alone to Washington as the representative statesman of a free people."

But Mr. C. E. Akers, in his recently published *History of South America*, blames him for having failed to grasp the fact that in allowing the important question of Unitarian or Federal Government to drift, and so opening the door for a controversy that subsequently formed the pivot round which a struggle arose and caused a heavy sacrifice of life, and seriously checked the development of the resources of the country for more than half a century.

His portrait was the first to appear on the postage stamps of the Argentine Republic, and it was repeated, again and again, in series after series, including the ½ c., 1 c., 2 c., 3 c., and 5 c. of the current issue, thus attesting his popularity with his countrymen.



Roca.

Roca, Julio A., born at Tucuman, July, 1843, an Argentine general and politician. He was Minister of War under Avellaneda, 1874–80, and in this capacity led, in 1879, a military expedition into Patagonia, which did much to open up that region to settlement. He was twice President of the Republic.

Of him Mr. C. E. Akers says, in his *History of South America*:—

"President Roca was reserved in manner, but a close and shrewd observer of affairs and men. He never forgot services rendered him publicly or privately, and yet he seldom quarrelled with his opponents.

"He had visited the greater portion of Argentina, and been deeply impressed with its enormous undeveloped resources. How to populate those fertile lands was a subject to which he devoted careful consideration, and the foundation of his policy was the expansion of the national wealth. Under Roca national feeling displaced the local bickerings which had been constantly in evidence and retarded progress. Hence from 1881 Argentina entered on a stage of evolution destined to create unity out of the former loosely-jointed confederation of semi-independent states. Roca established a strong central government and a national policy based on the needs of all classes.

"He met the Chilian President in the Straits of Magellan, and did much to smooth over the trouble that had arisen between Chile and Argentina, and he subsequently paid an official visit to Brazil, where he was received with lavish hospitality."

Roca's portrait appears on the 20 centavos, green, of the 1888–90 series.

STAMP COLLECTING AS A PASTIME

By EDWARD J. NANKIVELL

VI. Its Historical Finger Posts

WHEN considered from the historical point of view, postage stamps attain their highest level of educational value. They are finger posts to most of the great events that have made the history of nations during the last fifty years. Here are a few out of many examples.

The introduction of adhesive stamps for the prepayment of postage found France a Republic. A provisional government had just been established on the ruins of the monarchy which had been swept out of existence in the revolution of 1848. As a consequence, the first postage stamp issued by France, on New Year's Day of 1849, bore the head of Ceres, emblematic of Liberty. Three years later Louis Napoleon seized the post of power, and, as President of the Republic, his head figures on a stamp issued in 1851, under the inscription REPUB. FRANC. Two years later the Empire was re-established, and the words REPUB. FRANC. were changed to EMPIRE FRANC. over the same head. In 1863 the customary laurel wreath to indicate the first victories of the reign, won in the war with Austria, was added to the Emperor's head. In 1870 the Franco-German War resulted in the downfall of the monarchy, and the head of Liberty reappears on a series of postage stamps issued in Paris during its investment by the German army. The issue of the stamps of Alsace and Lorraine in 1870 marks the annexation of the conquered territory.

Italy in 1850 was a land of many petty states, each more or less a law unto itself, and each, in the fifties, issuing its own separate series of postage stamps. The stamps of the Pontifical States are made familiar by their typical design of a tiara and keys, and pompous King Bomba ordered the best engraver to be found to immortalise him in a portrait for a series of stamps. The other states had each its own heraldic design till the foundations of the Kingdom of Italy were laid, in 1859-60, by the union of the Lombardo-Venetian States, the Kingdom of the Two Sicilies, the Grand Duchy of Tuscany, the Duchies of Parma and Modena, the Romagna and the Roman (or Pontifical) States with Piedmont. The first issue of stamps of the newly formed kingdom bore a portrait of King Victor Emmanuel II. with profile turned to the right. In 1863, after the Kingdom of Sardinia had been merged in the Kingdom of Italy, a new series was issued for united Italy. The same king's portrait appears, but turned to the left. In 1879 King Humbert succeeded Victor Emmanuel, and his portrait appeared on an issue in the year of his accession. The assassination of King Humbert and the accession of his son as Victor Emmanuel III. are followed by the new portrait of the new king on the current series of the stamps of Italy.

The stamps of Germany tell a somewhat similar story. They mark the stages of gradual absorption into a confederation of states, and the ultimate creation of a German Empire. The postal issues of Baden ceased in 1871, when the Grand Duchy was incorporated in the Empire. Bavaria, though also incorporated, holds out in postal matters, and still issues its separate series. Bergedorf was in 1867 placed under the control of the free city of Hamburg, and thereupon ceased issuing stamps. Bremen, Brunswick, Hamburg, Lubeck, Mecklenburg-Strelitz, Oldenburg, Prussia, Saxony, and Schleswig-Holstein formed the North German Confederation, and closed their postal accounts with collectors in 1868. Hanover became a province of Prussia after the war of 1866, and thereupon ceased its separate issue of postage stamps; and Thurn and Taxis followed suit in 1867. In 1870 the North German Confederation was merged in the German Empire, which issued its first postage stamp with the Imperial eagle in 1872. But the Empire is not yet sufficiently united to place a portrait of the Emperor upon its Imperial postal series.

Indian postage stamps, overprinted with the initials C.E.F., for the China Expeditionary Force, *i.e.* the Indian troops sent to China in 1901 to relieve the besieged Embassies, mark an historical event of no small import.

(To be continued.)

GOSSIP OF THE HOUR

By CORNELIUS WRINKLE

On Exchanging Stamps

Why is it that so little attention is given to exchanging stamps? Comparatively speaking, we hear little of it. In our society meetings we discuss this country and that, this phase and that of collecting, and one method after another of arranging stamps, but the all-important business of exchanging, and so building up our collections, takes quite a back seat; at least, that is my experience. I trust others have been more fortunate. I am aware that there are many excellent Exchange Clubs, but to my mind nothing of that sort can take the place of pleasant personal exchanging, with a chit-chat about the stamps being exchanged.

Society Exchanging

I would have an hour, preliminary to the regular business of the meeting, set apart for exchange purposes. Every member should bring with him a book or two of duplicates. Those duplicates should be priced uniformly by Gibbons Catalogue. Then members would exchange their books of duplicates for inspection. A would say to B, "I can take to the value of 15s. from your book. Can you find that amount in my book that you need?" So the deal would be arranged. And I am certain that this sort of thing, once properly set going, would draw members to the meetings who are not attracted by the "Papers" read.

Personal Exchanging

In the same way, if every collector made it a rule to carry in his pocket at least one small book of duplicates always priced by Gibbons Catalogue, it would soon get to be a regular thing to exchange books for inspection when you met a fellow-collector on friendly terms. "Got a book of duplicates with you?" would get to be a commonplace question. And what a business we should do! What an added zest it would be to the pleasure of collecting!

No Money to Pass

Further, I would like to make it an inviolable etiquette that no money should pass between collectors in connection with these exchangings. Let differences be adjusted with stamps, but never with money. Money transactions between friends introduce an undesirable element. They lead to trading, and trading opens the way to misunderstandings. If a common basis of value be adopted, such as Gibbons Catalogue, balances may be easily adjusted by taking stamps to like value. If your fellow-collector finds more in your duplicate book than you can find in his for your collection, it would be a friendly and courteous act to select from his book stamps to value. You may not need them for your collection, but have, at all events, the full value to put back into your duplicate book.

Let us try the Plan

I have never tried this plan, but I intend to make up a little book of duplicates right away, and if readers of *Gibbons Stamp Weekly* will join in and do the same, we shall be sure to get to work to our mutual advantage. This is a plan for young and old, for every boy and every man. The grown-ups are too fond of fingering the cash, and some boys are a bit too fond of getting the better of the bargain. Now there must be none of this. We must stick to it, and establish an etiquette against the passing of money, and defeat all bargain-driving by scrupulously pricing by Gibbons.

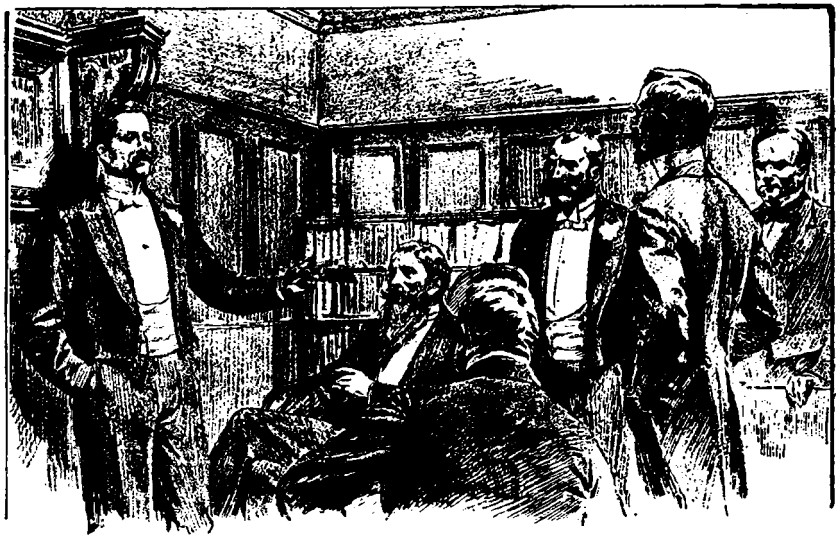
Unused or Used

Of course, you must not expect a collector who collects unused only to accept used stamps in exchange; that would not be fair. It might, perhaps, be an understood rule to exchange unused for unused and used for used when collectors restrict their collecting to those lines. But there are few who can so restrict their collecting. We must take a large proportion of the old issues at least in the used form.

THE STAMP KING

By G. DE BEAUREGARD AND H. DE GORSSE

Translated from the French by EDITH C. PHILLIPS



WILLIAM KENISS LEANT AGAINST THE CHIMNEY-PIECE

CHAPTER I

In which one sees to what lengths the Love of Postage Stamps is carried by true Philatelists

"I TELL you," said William Keniss with decision, "I believe her to be quite capable of doing it."

"It is ridiculous!" said stout Dr. Buxon, emphasising the remark with a shrug of his shoulders.

"Well, well," said little Mrs. Evans-Bradford, "who knows! Nothing is impossible to a true American. Now Miss Betty is one of the real sort, I can answer for it."

"Pooh!" replied Buxon, his fat cheeks quivering. "Such a pretension is much less the act of an amateur in stamps than of a professional."

At these words, spoken with an unpleasant laugh, William Keniss rose.

"Doctor," cried he, "you are not very polite; and you will have plenty of time to make fun of Miss Betty when she is shown to be defeated."

"There, there!" said the doctor, startled by the unexpected outburst. "Be calm. I was only joking. Really, you fire up so suddenly——"

"But," said Mr. Hartlepool, "you might explain to me just what happened. I have heard a rumour with regard to this new feat of Miss Betty Scott, but I come here less often than I could wish, and——"

"Zounds!" said old Pearding. "You don't call yourself a collector? You scarcely deserve the name of an amateur; and besides——"

"It is true! it is true! Mr. Hartlepool is a false brother!" clamoured the assembly, laughing at the protesting gestures made by the unfortunate man.

"But I solemnly declare," cried he as soon as he was able to put in a word, "that I really do collect the finest stamps, and plenty of them."

"To save the little Chinese," said Mrs. Evans-Bradford.

There was a burst of laughter so catching that even the immovable Tilmarnock permitted the shadow of a smile to escape him.

"I wager," hazarded Buxon, "that Mr. Hartlepool does not even know where he is this evening, and that he has only come here by mistake."

"Pardon me, Doctor; on the contrary, I know perfectly that I am at the New York Philatelic Club, that I am a titular member of the same, and have every qualification for being so."

"I doubt if you even know what the qualifications are."

"What a libel! One must, in order to belong to the Club, prove one's self to be at least twenty times a millionaire; I am one thirty-three times over. One must promise never to discuss politics or religion; I have a horror of such controversies. Finally, one must be interested in postage stamps and prove that one possesses a collection; I am interested in them, and I have a collection."

"A fine collection, on my faith," returned the voluminous doctor, who was much given to contradiction. "Scarcely twenty-five thousand stamps——"

"Oh, you expect too much; I have only been collecting for seven years; one must have time. And then, how many of us here have a complete collection? Probably not one."

"Pardon me," observed old Mr. Pearding, "that of Mr. William Keniss is absolutely up to date."

"That is a fact," said the collector simply.

"But with all this," returned Mr. Hartlepool, not without some impatience, "no one has told me the story of Miss Betty Scott."

"A lot more forward you'll be when you do know it," grumbled the malevolent Doctor Buxon.



MISS BETTY SCOTT ENTERED THE ROOM

"Doctor," returned William Keniss sharply, "all which concerns our charming fellow-philatelist interests us, Mr. Hartlepool among the rest, and you must either be much better informed than we, or much less courteous, to speak of her as you do."

"You are not engaged to defend her," objected Buxon, his fat cheeks colouring.

"I am not engaged for that purpose, but I take the engagement upon myself, and I will not permit anyone to speak ill of Miss Betty, especially in her absence. I do no more, in defending her, than all these gentlemen are ready to do. Is it not so, gentlemen?"

William, glancing round the group of auditors, read universal approbation.

"Mr. Keniss is right," declared Mr. Hartlepool; "Miss Betty Scott is a most charming young lady."

"With an exquisite reserve and modesty," said Mrs. Evans-Bradford.

"Of a discretion that her twenty-two years and her orphan state have never given opportunity of question," added Mrs. Tilmarnock.

"And with intrepid courage," supported a certain Mr. Whitby.

"In short, an American," pronounced the Honourable Tilmarnock.

A snorted "Pooh! Pooh!" was Buxon's only reply.

"But for goodness' sake," supplicated Mr. Hartlepool, "tell me the story someone. Do have pity on my ignorance."

"Listen, then," said William Keniss, supporting himself against the chimney-piece.

He was a young man twenty-five years of age, with a slim and elegant figure, attired in the latest fashion, and of a most prepossessing aspect. He was a favourite among his fellow-philatelists for his courtesy and his unfailing good-humour. His immense fortune, amounting to almost forty million dollars, gave him an opportunity of being at the same time a charitable philanthropist, a generous friend, a magnificent host, and a collector of the first rank.

He, like Miss Betty Scott, was an orphan, but, unlike her, he had been devoted from his cradle, as it were, to the study of philately; in fact, his father, Edward Keniss, had carried his mania for stamps to such an extent, and amassed so much money by the sale of rarities, that he was known through all the United States, as his son William is known to-day, as the "Stamp King." The young "King," along with the dollars, had found in the paternal inheritance a unique collection of every genuine stamp legally issued, without one exception. This he felt bound to keep up to date, which was no small matter; but he disdained the inferior class of collections, in which are to be found errors, reversed watermarks, inexact or altered shades, incomplete perforations, and other minor varieties, which have no real interest but are mere matters of detail.

And the stamp mania was carried to such a pitch in his house that John Cockburn, his confidential valet, a somewhat rubicund fellow, but ready and intelligent, set to work to make a collection, a curiosity of its kind, of the forged stamps found sometimes among those received by his master, and which were immediately handed over to him.

William's wealth was legendary, his rectitude unimpeachable, and even those who envied him availed themselves of his knowledge, and asked his opinion before coming to any decision in matters philatelic.

"Six months ago," he began, "at one of our monthly dinners—oh! but I must tell you, dear Mr. Hartlepool, that we meet one day in every month at a fraternal banquet, in order to celebrate our researches and our finds. As you never come you may perhaps be ignorant of this fact."

Everyone began to laugh, Mr. Hartlepool among the first, while he excused himself for his unfortunate and by no means American tendency to unpunctuality.

"Six months ago," continued William Keniss, "Miss Betty Scott solicited the honour of being admitted to the Philatelic Club. The new candidate, you may well believe, was a valuable one—beautiful, charming, honourable. You heard what was just said about her, and added to all that one of the largest fortunes in the States—sixty million dollars, I believe. But unfortunately for her candidature Miss Betty was worse than a novice in philately, so much so that she did not even know that the Cape stamps in 1853 were triangular, and that in 1873 labels were issued in Biscay bearing the portrait of Don Carlos. We caused her to be told as gently as possible that she was lacking in the most important qualification, and risked a rebuff if she persisted in the matter. Do you suppose she gave in? Miss Scott, as you have been told, thinks nothing impossible. Hearing that I possessed a complete collection she declared to me that by the date of the April banquet, 1896, that is to say, to-day, she would have an album like mine, engaging, moreover, to put in all the stamps herself, and not to procure it ready filled."

At this point a superior smile might be seen on the face of many of his auditors. Doctor Buxon shrugged his shoulders imperceptibly, but his arm-chair creaked at the movement of so great a weight.

"Naturally," continued William, "we could do no other than register the engagement, and promise that if she succeeded she should be admitted with acclamation. 'Very well,' were her concluding words, 'you will see me arrive at the April meeting, 1896, at the dinner hour, with my collection complete to remind you of your promise. Moreover, as a reception gift I will present the Club with some fine rooms on Broadway, so that it may have a home of its own instead of remaining here a miserable tenant.' There, my dear sir, that is all the story. You now know as much as we."

"It is very curious," said Mr. Hartlepool. "I only regret that the non-fulfilment of her engagement deprives us of so gracious a member."

"Excuse me," corrected William, "we do not dine till seven o'clock, and it is more than twenty minutes to that hour. So we may still expect Miss Betty, her collection, and—the rooms."

"It is most improbable."

As the chances of her coming diminished with every moment the discussion grew more animated; and William, as president of the Club, was just on the point of ordering the place prepared for her at table to be removed when the young lady herself walked into the room.

Miss Betty Scott was indeed charming. Slightly breathless from running up the stairs, her cheeks flushed with emotion, and her dark blue eyes shining beneath a cloud of fair hair with a splendour caused by the joy of triumph.

"Well? well?" sounded on every side.

"Well, here I am," she replied, while her small red lips, half opened in a smile, showed teeth white as pearls.

"And the collection?" asked Mrs. Tilmarnock.

"It is here. I have brought it complete."

"Complete?"

"Absolutely so."

"Let us see it! Let us see it!"

Miss Betty Scott returned to the door, opened it, and called "Victoria."

A tall, thin, insipid-looking young woman of about thirty entered, whose face, which ought to have been fresh and pleasing, had already begun to fade. This was Victoria, the celebrated Victoria Crockett, who was born in the service of the Scott family and was resolved to die therein, that is, supposing her projects with regard to John Cockburn, the jovial confidential valet of Mr. Keniss——. But to continue. She was encumbered with two huge parcels which she carried with great difficulty, one under each arm; and reaching the middle of the room quite out of breath, she deposited her burdens on a round table and walked out again without a word.

(To be continued.)

MISCELLANEOUS

U.S. "Periodical" Stamps

In 1896 the "periodical" stamp was abolished. This was something affixed to the stubs of receipts for second-class matter, and issued in denominations from one cent to $100. The public never saw it. When the discontinuance of these stamps was ordered, approximately 50,000 complete sets of all denominations were found on hand. This fact was printed in philatelic journals, and many collectors wrote to the Department requesting that a nominal price be placed on sets, the face value of which was about $200, and that they be sold direct to collectors, who it was suggested would willingly pay $5 per set, and probably absorb the entire stock of remainders. Here was a chance to put $250,000 into the treasury, an amount sufficient to pay for the printing bill of all the postage stamps used in the United States for a year, and after considering the subject at some length, the Department gave the order to make the remaining periodical stamps into complete sets and offer them at $5 each.

While it is true that collectors were the instigators of the plan to sell the stamps, the great body of philatelists throughout the world, and more particularly those in Europe, protested against the order in most vehement terms. Uncle Sam was characterised as a speculator, even below the level of Central American countries. Foreign philatelic journals roundly denounced the Post Office Department and, incidentally, American collectors, for permitting such a rank violation of the ethics of the business. But the worst was to come. In making up the sets it was found that the stock of the $5, $10, $20, $50, and $100 stamps was short, and additional supplies of these denominations, called reprints by collectors, were brought out to complete the 50,000 sets. This information fortunately did not reach the philatelists for some time.

Meanwhile orders for sets, accompanied by the cash, poured into the post office. In spite of the outcry against the speculative side of it, collectors here and abroad bought the stamps to complete their holdings, and within a week 30,000 sets had been sold. This large sale, with hints that 50,000 sets would be inadequate to supply the demand, aroused a speculative ambition in collectors, who laid in supplies. A number of Boston, New York, Philadelphia, and Washington men bought them by the hundred sets. One enthusiast in Washington invested $5,000.

About this time the information leaked out that reprints of the higher denominations had been made to complete the 50,000 sets. Then the philatelists felt themselves tricked and began to protest vigorously. The demand for these sets came to a standstill, after 40,000 had been sold. The rest were burned. Since that time the sets in circulation have steadily lost in favour, the price declining until they may be bought now for $2.50, and it is said the Washington investor already alluded to is unloading his holdings at an even lower figure.

The Department unofficially explained its position and protested its innocence. It had been its original purpose to destroy the remainders, as usual, until collectors urged the plan of selling them, and in acquiescing the Department had been moved solely by a desire to please philatelists. In view of its record this explanation was generally accepted, although the speculators who had loaded up with extra sets never wholly forgave the Government.

New York Evening Post.

Postal Union Colours

Green, red, and blue, if pure, are of all colours the most easily distinguished, as they are the characteristics of the three primary retinal colour groups. Hence it is that green, red, and blue were selected by the International Postal Union, as the colours of the most used stamps—5 centimes, 10 centimes, and 25 centimes; or in this country, ½d., 1d., and 2½d. It is, however, one thing to ordain but another to get the ordinance put into force, and our own postal department went sadly astray in selecting a blue containing much green, and a green containing much blue, so that by gaslight the difference in appearance was but slight. Indeed the *Standard* states that experienced post-office clerks have handed 2½d. stamps across the counter when ½d. stamps were asked for. Had our postal department consulted either an unscientific draper's assistant or a scientific expert, this blunder would have been avoided, as the former would at a glance have seen that these colours were not what he would call "night" colours, or colours suitable for artificial light, and the latter would have appealed to his spectroscope. Nature provides us with nearly pure and highly contrasting blues and greens, as, for example, the blue of the harebell and the green of its leaves, but artificial blues and greens are often sadly wanting in definiteness. The new halfpenny stamp just issued is really more yellow than green; still, it has the advantage of being easily distinguishable from the 2½d. stamp by gaslight. The predominance of yellow is very obvious if this stamp and the old halfpenny stamp are photographed side by side on an ordinary plate.—*The Amateur Photographer.*

Great Britain. 1d. Plate 126

In the August issue of our paper we announced the discovery of one of the above by Mr. Harpur, of Wanganui, New Zealand. We have now to chronicle the discovery of another by Mr. W. A. Hull, of this city (Sydney), which has been pronounced by Mr. Basset Hull to be a genuine specimen bearing the above plate number. We have it before us, and have no hesitation in corroborating his testimony. The stamp, although heavily obliterated, is undoubtedly No. 126. This categorically upsets the assertion of those eminent English philatelists who have declared from time to time that stamps bearing plate No. 126 were never issued. It seems astonishing that this fallacy should remain uncontroverted for so many years.

We are curious to hear what our English brethren will say, and it seems remarkable that both of these stamps should be discovered within six months at such a considerable distance from the place of their initiation. Probably there are many more about, but most collectors have no doubt accepted the statement that No. 126 was never issued, and never thought of looking for it.—*Australasian Journal of Philately*, Dec., 1904.

[Note.—Plate No. 126 of the 1d. stamp cannot exist, as the records are quite explicit on this point, and show that the plate itself was never made, as the roller was defective. Vide *Stamps of the British Isles*, by Wright and Creeke.—Ed. *G.S.W.*]

Death of Designer of French Stamps

The French painter, Joseph Blanc, who died a few weeks ago in Paris, designed the present French stamps from 1 to 5 centimes. M. Blanc was born in Paris, and was fifty-eight years of age at his death. His chief work, at which he worked for ten years, are the frescoes in the Pantheon; these frescoes represent the story of the Merovingian ruler Chlodwig, and in one of them, "The Triumph of Chlodwig," M. Blanc used the faces of many contemporaries, such as Gambetta and Clemenceau.—*The Monthly Journal.*

NEW ISSUES

The Editor will be grateful to his readers if they will help him with the earliest possible information concerning new issues. News from the Colonies in particular will be much appreciated. When possible, a specimen should accompany the information, and should be addressed to

EDWARD J. NANKIVELL,
Carnanton, Camden Park,
Tunbridge Wells.

Brazil.—A French illustrated paper announces that a new series of stamps is about to be produced at Rio de Janeiro, in designs which are the result of a prize competition called for by the Brazilian Government more than a year ago. "The prize designs," says the *Monthly Journal*, "are some of the most peculiar we have ever seen; they appear to be well executed, but, for the most part, singularly inappropriate for their purpose. They are stated to be allegorical, and if they ever reach us upon issued stamps, we will do our best to explain what they symbolise. We know Brazil as the place 'where the nuts come from,' but we fancy that the allegories displayed upon the new stamps will prove harder nuts to crack than any that have come from there yet."

French China.—The stamps of Indo-China have been surcharged CHINE in Roman capitals instead of antique capitals, and value overprinted in Chinese below.

Perf.

1 c., black on azure.
2 c., brown on buff.
4 c., purple-brown on grey.
5 c., pale green.
10 c., rose-red. (type).
15 c., brown on azure (1904
20 c., red on green.
25 c., black on rose.
30 c., cinnnamon on drab.
40 c., red on yellow.
50 c., brown on azure.
75 c., brown on orange.
1 fr., olive-green.
5 fr., lilac.

French Guiana.—An interesting series of fresh designs has been issued for this colony, which we illustrate. In all there are fifteen values and three types of design. The lower values, 1 c., 2 c., 4 c., 5 c., 10 c., and 15 c., are of the ant-eater type; the 20 c., 25 c., 30 c., 40 c., 50 c., and 75 c., man washing gold; and the three higher values, 1 fr., 2 fr., and 5 fr., a forest of palm trees.



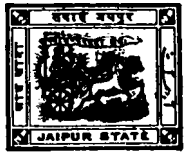


Perf.
Ant-eater.
1 c., black.
2 c., blue.
4 c., brown.
5 c., green.
10 c., red.
15 c., lilac.
Man washing gold.
20 c., brown.
25 c., blue.
30 c., black.
40 c., red.
50 c., lilac.
75 c., green.



Forest of palm trees.
1 franc, carmine.
2 francs, blue.
5 francs, black.

Jaipur.—This Indian State commenced the issue of postage stamps some few months since with very crude samples of local workmanship. These have been quickly followed by a more effective series excellently engraved. We illustrate the design. Will one of our Indian readers supply us with a translation of the native characters in the labels and on the flag? So far there are only three values, ½ a., 1 a., and 2 a.



Perf.
½ anna, ultramarine. | 1 anna, carmine. | 2 annas, dark green.

Labuan.—This North Borneo coal-hole has been fitted out with a flood of fresh surcharges of "4 cents," similar to those of 1899, but the word "cents" in this latest edition is in small letters instead of capitals.

Overprinted in black.

4 cents on 5 cents; Gibbons' No. 66.
4 cents on 6 cents ,, ,, 67.
4 cents on 8 cents ,, ,, 68.
4 cents on 12 cents ,, ,, 70.
4 cents on 18 cents ,, ,, 71.
4 cents on 24 cents ,, ,, 73.

Fresh values of North Borneo overprinted "Labuan."

4 cents on 25 cents, green; Type 17.
4 cents on 50 cents, red ,, 18.
4 cents on 1 dollar, blue ,, 19.

North Borneo.—This State has again become eruptive. This time it is throwing out a flood of various values of the current designs surcharged "4 cents" in two lines, in black. None of the stamps bear the overprint "British Protectorate," it being presumed that that information has been digested by this time. The last infliction of this sort took place in 1899, when various values were surcharged 4 CENTS, the word CENTS being in capitals. This time, by way of variety, the word "cents" is in small letters.

Overprinted in black.

4 cents on 5 cents; Gibbons' No. 95.
4 cents on 6 cents ,, ,, 96.
4 cents on 8 cents ,, ,, 97.
4 cents on 12 cents ,, ,, 98.
4 cents on 18 cents ,, ,, 101.
4 cents on 24 cents ,, ,, 102.
4 cents on 25 cents ,, ,, 47.
4 cents on 50 cents ,, ,, 43.
4 cents on 1 dollar ,, ,, 49.

Russia.—Two new values, 15 kop. and 25 kop., have been received from this troubled country. They are of the current type (Gibbons' Type 5) with thunderbolts.

Perf.

15 kop., red-brown, centre blue.
25 kop., dark green, centre lilac.

Transvaal.—The change from the old single CA watermark to the new multiple CA, though begun several months since, is being effected very slowly. We have only just received the ½d., making three values with the multiple.

Wmk. Multiple CA. Perf.

½d., green, centre black.
1d., carmine, centre black
6d., orange, centre black.

Uruguay.—We have examined part of a sheet of the new 2 c. stamps, and find that there is a curious watermark in the paper, which (although it is only a manufacturer's mark) it may be well to describe, lest questions should be asked about it later. There is a device consisting of a triangle, with sides about 57 mm. long and a base of 77 mm.; inside this and attached to the base is a rectangle 35×18 mm., the whole device being in single lines. Outside the triangle is an inscription in outline capitals: at top CLYDE, at left FIRST, and at right QUALITY. We trust that we shall now have no queries about specimens of these stamps watermarked with lines or large letters.

Our illustrations show the design of the new 1 c. stamp and the overprint that has been applied to it and others, as described last month.

Monthly Journal.





SPECIAL CORRESPONDENCE

Exhibition Medal Hunting

January 12th, 1905.

I WRITE you as editor of Gibbons' new weekly. First of all let me congratulate you on bringing out this paper, coupled with my best wishes that the great expense to which your publishers must be put will warrant the continuation of it.

Further, I do so with the greater pleasure because it is mostly devoted to the interests of our young collectors, a subject-matter of Philately which doubtless you know I have long made a prominent part in my fairly long philatelic career.

I also write to say that, in your second number just received, I have read with great interest what Mr. Cornelius Wrinkle has written with regard to the contemplated International Exhibition for next year as concerning the "Great Moguls," and their REPEATED WINNING of the highest awards at exhibitions. I have, in my recent remarks under this topic, inserted my views in the *Fortnightly*, and which remarks doubtless you have read as coming under the head of "Set Pieces" and "Pot Hunting," etc. Mr. Wrinkle's remarks have my entire approval, and "hit the nail on the head" to the very "T," as it were. In my first actual printed allusions to this question, written in the *Fortnightly* for, I think, October 7th last, I think I showed clearly that at these leading exhibitions the ordinary workaday philatelist is "not in it" at competitive stamp exhibitions under the existing scheme of arrangements; and I am further pleased to see that in a recent journal Mr. Ehrenbach agreed also with my views, and explained that he did not agree with the repeated winning of highest awards for the same collections, and acted accordingly as regards his collections. Where, I ask, can any keen and active competition come in? Mr. Wrinkle, in alluding to "other shows" where competition enters, such as dog shows, only repeats really what I have previously said when I made allusion to the fact that "stamp collections" are not "handicapped." I have written entirely from personal motives on this question, as although I gained several medals at Berlin recently, the object for which I sent portions of my collections there was not to gain medals, but for entirely another reason, namely, to show that a fair collection of *postally used stamps* can be got together, and to try to improve the "*status*" of the *postally used* stamp, and make its treatment more "on a par" with its neighbour the unused or mint stamp, as I consider the two ought not to clash at all, as they do at present, to the detriment of the used stamp. The gaining of a medal was entirely of a secondary importance to me, and had I not gained one, it would not have troubled me a little bit, as my object was gained, inasmuch as I received repeated compliments upon what portions of my collections I sent as regards the "used stamp" point of view.

If you agree, I should much like you to insert these remarks in your next issue, which you could do under Mr. Wrinkle's column.

I consider Mr. Wrinkle's remarks simply SPLENDID. There is surely such a thing as a "surfeit of riches." What is the remedy? Either do as Mr. Wrinkle suggests, or else, what is perhaps better, show these "great plum collections," but mark them "Not for competition."

It is true they get somewhat monotonous, and as before said, really do not cause the interest which owners think, and certainly do not help to increase our ranks, which point is essential for our cause. Owners of these collections should, I venture to say, be less selfish, and not take away a great deal of the interest in exhibitions, which they do at present, because, supposing their collections were absent, I fail to see that the exhibition would prove UTTERLY WASTED on that account. I would, however, not actually say let them be absent, but would decidedly say after gaining a few highest possibles, let them be shown "Dormant," and "Not for competition."

The whole system wants rectifying, and, believe me, "new blood" is required. Let us hope the rising generation of philatelists will tackle this question, and not object to "open out" their ranks.

I could write more, but feel I have taken your valuable time already too much. If you have not read my remarks on this subject in the *Fortnightly*, kindly do so at your leisure; but I am bound to say I feel pretty sure Mr. Wrinkle has *done so*, because he so closely makes the same suggestions I have previously done all along, and I believe I was the first at all to do this in actual publicity, at least I have not before seen articles touching essentially on this matter. Believe me, with apologies, ERNEST HEGINBOTTOM.

Our Portuguese Letter

LISBON, *January 17th*, 1905.

MAY I congratulate *Gibbons Stamp Weekly* on its first number? It is a marvel of cheapness, and is certain to have a very large circulation—though, I am afraid, not in Lisbon. Here, unfortunately, there are very few collectors, in the strict sense of the term; those who collect only for collecting's sake, and not for the amount of profit that may accrue, can almost be counted on the fingers of the two hands.

Up to about ten years ago there was only one dealer, Senhor F. A. Martins, and since he sold his stock to Mr. H. Griebert no one has taken his place, though one or two bid fair to do so in time to come. It is really wonderful how many small dealers there are who go in for selling stamps as an adjunct to their tobacco business. Senhor Martins also sold tobacco, but it was as an adjunct to stamps.

The Lisbon collectors are more and more devoting their attention to the stamps of their own country and the colonies, and more especially in an unused state. Very few good unused stamps of past issues now appear on the market, and when they do, higher prices are asked than those for which they can be purchased from dealers in other countries. However, used stamps of Portugal and her colonies are, with a few exceptions, cheaper in Lisbon than elsewhere.

The chief philatelic event of recent date was the issue of that flood of colonial surcharges, made to supply new values to fit in with the new postal regulations, and to use up old stock. Of some values very few were surcharged, the rarest being Angola, 400 on 20 reis, carmine; Mozambique, 400 on 100 reis (D. Luiz); Timor, 10 avos on 10 reis, green (D. Luiz), and 15 avos on 50 reis, blue (D. Luiz), the two last particularly so. A certain system of surcharging was adopted, those values of which there were fewest in stock being surcharged with the highest values. The above two Timor stamps were, however, exceptions, as they were not surcharged with the highest value. All stamps of which 28,000 (*i.e.* 1,000 sheets) or less existed were, after being surcharged, sent out to the colonies; the others could be obtained from the Lisbon Mint, by anyone applying for them, after going through the requisite formalities. No one should purchase stamps of this issue except from well-known dealers, who would be willing to give a guarantee of their being genuine. Forged surcharges, exceedingly difficult to detect, of the above-named Timor and Mozambique, and very probably of others, have been made, it is strongly suspected, in Oporto. The dates on used copies should be carefully examined, where possible,

as any postmarked with a year anterior to 1902 are certainly forgeries. Some of the forgeries I have seen have had the portion of the postmark showing the year carefully scraped off.

Other stamps collectors should be particularly cautious in taking are the Santo Antonio surcharges of Mozambique and the Company of Mozambique. These it is almost certain are made in Lisbon, and should proof be forthcoming of the origin of any of the above forgeries, there are gentlemen in Portugal who will not spare expense to have the guilty party or parties punished. I only hope that these lines may meet the eyes of these gentlemen.

The last Government in power proposed a new monetary scheme for Portugal, which would have created a new coinage—the *luzo*, equal to 200 reis, and the *centimo*, equal to 2 reis. A change of Government, however, took place before the scheme could become law. It is quite possible that the scheme may again be proposed, in which case we shall have new series for all the colonies, and perhaps another flood of surcharges. Collectors will devoutly wish that such a change may not take place.

On the 1st March next a new tariff for foreign postage will come into force, reverting to the old rate of 50 reis for 15 grammes. It *may* be that the stamps of 65, 115, 130, and 180 reis will thereafter be discontinued.

The 150 reis of the present issue is not at present obtainable in any of the post offices, and as it is a value which is very little used, it seems doubtful whether it will again be issued.

The collection of Portugal and colonies which gained a medal in the recent Berlin Exhibition has been sold piecemeal in a dealer's shop, and many stamps, particularly those perforated 14, have been sold for very good prices.

J. N. MARSDEN.

PHILATELIC SOCIETIES

Kent and Sussex Philatelic Society

President: Edward J. Nankivell.
Secretary: F. Wicks, The Lodge, Tudeley, Tonbridge.
Meetings: Members' Houses. Monthly: afternoons.
Annual Subscription: 5s.

THE first annual general meeting of the Kent and Sussex Philatelic Society was held, by kind invitation of Mr. Edward J. Nankivell, at Carnanton, Camden Park, Tunbridge Wells.

Mr. Nankivell was voted to the chair, and the attendance included: Mrs. B. H. Collins, Miss Nix, Mr. and Mrs. Joseph Wheelwright, Mr. Cecil Sharpe, Dr. W. Allan Harmer, Mr. C. H. Scott, Mr. C. Fordham Harriss, and Mr. Frederick Wicks (hon. secretary).

Messages of regret at non-attendance were received from Captain George L. Courthope, J.P., and Miss Isabel Nix.

Reporting on the year's work the Chairman said the Society's year commenced with the inaugural meeting in June last, and since then they had had many pleasant and successful meetings. The membership numbered thirty-one, composed of twenty-two ordinary members, the President, and eight Vice-Presidents. This was exclusive of the Honorary Vice-Presidents. He considered the number gratifying, and thought it might probably be increased now that the Brighton Philatelic Society had been discontinued. Financially they were sound.

The balance-sheet, read by the Hon. Secretary, showed a balance in favour of the Society of £3 1s. 8d. The receipts had been £7 3s. 10d., made up as follows: Balance from preliminary donations, 13s. 7d.; donations, £1 5s.; subscriptions, £5 5s.; stamps, 3d.; and the expenditure amounted to £4 2s. 2d., of which the items were—Account books, 3s. 2d.; printing and stationery, £3 0s. 7d.; postage, 18s. 5d. The cash in the hands of the Hon. Treasurer (Capt. Courthope) was £2 13s. 1d., and in those of the Hon. Secretary, 8s. 7d.

The accounts were adopted on the motion of the Chairman.

Captain Courthope, the President, wrote that owing to increasing work he was unable to devote much time to the Society, and for that reason he placed his resignation in the hands of the members.

The resignation was regretfully accepted.

Mr. Cecil Sharpe proposed, and Mrs. Collins seconded, the election of Mr. Nankivell as President, and this was unanimously carried.

Mr. Nankivell returned thanks, and proposed that Capt. Courthope's name should be added to the list of Vice-Presidents, who were re-elected on the motion of Mr. C. H. Scott, seconded by Mr. C. F. Harriss, viz.: The Right Hon. the Earl Sondes (Faversham), Mrs. B. H. Collins (Tunbridge Wells), Mr. W. W. Blest (Wateringbury), Mr. M. P. Castle, J.P. (Brighton), Major E. B. Evans, R.A. (Sydenham), the Rev. John Highwood, M.A., D.C.L. (Staplehurst), and Mr. Vernon Roberts (Cowden).

Mr. Sharpe proposed, and Mr. Wicks seconded, the re-election of the Hon. Vice-Presidents as follows: Major A. S. T. Griffith-Boscawen, M.P., J.P. (Speldhurst), Mr. E. Eaton (Ticehurst), Mr. J. Henniker Heaton, M.P. (Canterbury), Mr. A. Paget Hedges (Leigh), the Right Hon. Sir Frederick Milner, Bart., M.P., P.C. (Eridge), and the Rev. C. C. Tancock, D.D. (Tonbridge).

The Committee was elected as follows: Miss A. L. Nix, Miss I. Nix, Mr. C. F. Harriss (Tunbridge Wells), and Mr. C. H. Scott (Hildenborough).

Capt. Courthope was unanimously re-elected Hon. Treasurer, on the motion of Mr. Scott, seconded by Mr. Sharpe, and Mr. Frederick Wicks, of Tonbridge, was re-elected Hon. Secretary, on the proposition of the Chairman.

Mrs. Whitehead, of Rudgwick, near Horsham, and Mr. G. B. Pinyon, of Biddenden, were elected members of the Society.

The Hon. Secretary read a letter from Mr. Fred J. Melville, President of the Junior Philatelic Society (of London), inviting the members of the Kent and Sussex Society to the exhibition of the postage stamps of Great Britain, to be held at the Exeter Hall, Strand, on Friday and Saturday, February 3rd and 4th, and stated that he would be pleased to obtain tickets for any member wishing to attend.

The Chairman read an interesting and instructive paper on the stamps of China. His fine unused collection of Chinese stamps, which he displayed, comprised no less than thirty-two sheets, including eight of the very rare sheets of the first issue.

The cordial thanks of the members were tendered to Mr. Nankivell at the conclusion for the loan of his study for the meeting, and for his excellent paper and display.

Philatelic Society of Victoria

THE ordinary general meeting of the above Society was held on September 8th, at Equitable Buildings, at 8 p.m. The President, Mr. W. T. Littlewood, occupied the chair, and there were twelve members and the Secretary present. The minutes of last meeting were read and confirmed. Mr. Rivington proposed and Mr. Donne seconded Mr. E. Hallenstein as a

member for election at next meeting. The Sterling Stamp Company of Nelson, New Zealand, presented the Society with a few copies of the current number of *The New Zealand Philatelist*, at the same time promising to send further numbers as they appear—gratis, and for which the members present passed a cordial vote of thanks. A recommendation of the Committee to remove the place of meeting to 128, Russell Street, was then discussed, and it was proposed, seconded, and carried unanimously that the meetings in future be held at that place, so that the official address of the Society is now at 128, Russell Street, where members may inspect the library whenever they choose, as the rooms will be open from 10 a.m. until 5.30 p.m., excepting Saturdays, on which day the place will be closed at 12 o'clock. To infuse more interest in the meetings, it was proposed that members bring their collections, for exhibition, and the Secretary will be pleased to hear of any member who is willing to exhibit his or her collection. Mr. Kelson has kindly promised to bring his collection for next meeting. After balloting for positions in exchange book 136 and No. 2 Sydney book, the meeting closed.

W. BRETTSCHNEIDER, *Hon. Sec.*

LEGAL

Selling Stamps at Auction

IN the Westminster County Court on January 16th his Honour Judge Woodfall resumed the hearing of the case of Plumridge and Co. *v.* Howatson, in which the plaintiffs, a firm of stamp auctioneers, carrying on business at 63 and 64, Chancery Lane, sued the defendant, trading as F. Moore and Co., stamp dealers, to recover the sum of £12 5s. in respect of a quantity of stamps purchased at auction.

The case for the defence was that the debt, if it existed at all, was a partnership one, and that as the partnership was dissolved by order of the High Court, plaintiffs' remedy was against the official receiver, who had sufficient funds in hand to pay all existing claims.

Mr. E. F. Lever (barrister), instructed by Mr. Corbett Goulding, solicitor, of 49, Finsbury Pavement, appeared for the plaintiff firm, and Mr. Hooper, solicitor, was for the defence.

Mr. Jas. Henry Telfer was again called, and said he was a partner in the plaintiff firm, and that the goods in question were purchased at one of their auction sales by a man named Moore, who also went under the name of Lowden, and was a partner in the defendant firm. The plaintiff firm, however, always had regarded it as a partnership debt, inasmuch as they would not have given credit to Moore personally.

Mr. Lever submitted that the stamps were sold to F. Moore and Co., and the plaintiffs contended that as it was a partnership debt they had a right to bring their action against Howatson.

The defendant contended that the plaintiff firm had been in the habit of supplying Moore personally with goods, and that this was a transaction quite apart from the partnership.

Mr. Hooper for the defence submitted that inasmuch as an order of the Court had been made directing a dissolution of the partnership, and that sufficient money was in the hands of the receiver to liquidate all the partnership debts, there was no justifiable reason why the plaintiffs should bring their action against this unfortunate defendant, who had been defrauded by his late partner. Since the date of the appointment of the official receiver the High Court had ordered him to pay this identical sum, but he had not done so, and the whole question was really one of costs.

The Judge: Have you the order of the High Court directing the receiver to pay the plaintiffs' claim?

Mr. Hooper: No, sir, I have not it with me in court; but I submit that in any event the plaintiffs cannot sue one partner in a firm for a partnership debt whilst the receiver has in his hands sufficient money to pay all the creditors, and if it were held that they could do so, it would work great hardship on the defendant.

His Honour said the plaintiffs' case was that they dealt with the partnership.

Mr. Hooper called for the plaintiffs' auction-book showing entry of the transaction in question.

Mr. Telfer was again called, and said the book in question would probably show other entries in which goods were sold to Moore on his own credit before the partnership between him and Howatson existed; but in the case of the sale of the goods which were the subject of the present action he would never have dreamed of trusting Moore after what he had heard about him.

His Honour: I don't quite see at present how the plaintiffs can sue one partner for a partnership debt.

Mr. Lever submitted, on behalf of the plaintiffs, that as the partnership was now dissolved, the plaintiffs were entitled to bring their action against the present defendant.

Mr. Thompson was called, and said he was the receiver appointed to act in the dissolution of the partnership of Moore and Howatson. He now knew that Moore and Lowden were one and the same person, but it was only recently that the fact had come to his knowledge. He duly received notice of the plaintiffs' claim, and it was now in the hands of his solicitor. He had in his capacity of receiver collected sufficient money to pay all the partnership debts, but he had put it in the Ocean.

Mr. Lever: You don't mean that you have thrown it in the sea? (Laughter.)

The witness: Oh, no; I mean the Ocean Insurance Company, my guarantors.

Mr. George F. Howatson, the defendant, was then called to give his version of the case, and said he went into partnership with Lowden, who was also known as Moore, in 1903 under the style of Moore and Co., but the partnership only existed for about ten weeks.

Mr. Hooper: You are not on friendly terms with Moore, are you?

The witness: Certainly not. In fact, I ought to have prosecuted him. In continuing his evidence the witness said that before the goods in question were ever sold to Moore he went to the plaintiffs and warned them not to sell him anything to the debit of Moore and Co. At that time Moore had only made two or three purchases on behalf of the firm of Moore and Co.

The Judge: I cannot see why, if the receiver had twenty shillings in the pound in hand, it should not have been paid out to the creditors. The defendant had done nothing wrong, but was clearly the victim of Moore, and it was his misfortune that such was the case; but it was clear in law that he was liable to see that the creditors of the firm were paid what was due to them, and that being so, the plaintiffs were, he thought, within their rights in bringing the action, and must have judgment for the amount claimed, with costs, but in the circumstances he (the Judge) should give a stay of execution pending an application not to be made within forty days.

[N.B.—Messrs. Plumridge and Co. write us protesting against being described in our report of this case, in the issue for 14 January, as "stamp dealers." It was a slip on the part of our reporter, and should have been corrected, for it is well known that our excellent friends have always rigidly restricted their business to the auction branch.—ED. *G.S.W.*]

THE STAMP MARKET

By AN ODD LOT

ONE significant point has been brought out in the recent competition as to the "six best reasons for collecting stamps," and that is the fact that "Investment" heads the list in the voting by a clear majority.

I take this to mean that the pursuit of stamp collecting has become something more than a mere hobby, that it has come to be regarded, even by the young collector who has done the voting, as a popular means for investing money.

And there can be no question as to the underlying truth of the voting. Judicious stamp collecting is a safe investment, and as a safe investment its hold as a hobby is immensely strengthened.

Of course there are some people who groan over the introduction of what they term the commercialising of stamp collecting. From their point of view the commercial spirit is fast dominating the old love of collecting for collecting's sake. But is it so? I doubt it very much.

We talk of catalogue values and of market values, and as they afford the only method that we have of expressing relative rarity, it is inevitable that they should be our standard and that we should rank our stamps accordingly.

Nevertheless, it does not follow that we are all the time amassing stamps for the purpose of totalling up a fine lot at market value. On the contrary, I believe it will generally be found that the collector who prides himself most on the solid market value of his collection is just as keen as to its philatelic value, for after all market value is only a rough-and-ready interchangeable term for philatelic value.

Our auction season, so far, has contained very little to distinguish it as a season from the commonplace. There has been no dispersal of a notable collection, though from a catalogue which has come from the other side of the pond it is evident the auctioneers concerned imagine they have the usual "greatest show on earth," to which the Tapling Collection would play second fiddle. Almost every stamp is a "Jim Dandy" or a "Corker."

Are French Colonials going to have their day? If so, let no country lose hope. Anyway, Stanley Gibbons, Ltd., send me a note that they have made up the following new stock books:—

French Consular Offices . . .	£132
French Colonies to Djibouti . .	300
Djibouti to Guadeloupe . . .	330
Guadeloupe to Martinique . .	265
Martinique to Obock . . .	306
Obock to Senegal . . .	286
Senegal to Tunis . . .	95
Total amount . .	£1,714

EDITORIAL

Editorial Communications

All communications intended for the Editor should be addressed to Edward J. Nankivell, Carnanton, Camden Park, Tunbridge Wells.

"Gibbons Stamp Weekly" a Great Success

Our publishers advertised its appearance in 550 different daily and weekly papers, and the result has been an enormous demand—greatly from collectors not previously known to us.

Messrs. W. H. Smith and Son ordered 1,000 copies of No. 1 for their bookstalls, and these went so well that they took 1,450 of No. 2.

Sir Isaac Pitman and Sons have orders already for 5,500 per number, and we are daily receiving a number of subscriptions.

Philatelic Societies

We wish to make a special feature of the prompt publication of the reports of Philatelic Societies, and trust we may have the kindly co-operation of the honorary secretaries in this matter. Reports should be written on one side of the paper, and despatched to the Editor by the earliest post.

Special Correspondence

The Editor will be glad to receive interesting letters from philatelic centres not already covered by our arrangements. We want chatty and newsy letters on matters of interest to the general collector, and excluding all matter of interest only to the specialist.

Our Miscellaneous Page

We wish to make *Gibbons Stamp Weekly* a storehouse of information, and shall therefore be glad of any cuttings of more or less permanent interest for our "Miscellaneous" page. Source and date of cutting must be given.

Subscriptions

Subscriptions must be sent to the publishers as set out on the front page of cover, or to booksellers or railway bookstalls, but never to the Editor.

OUR PHILATELIC DIARY

FEBRUARY, 1905

4. Junior Philatelic Society: Exhibition—Stamps of Great Britain, at Exeter Hall, London.
6. Kent and Sussex Philatelic Society: Display by Maj. Evans.
7. Leeds Philatelic Society: Visit of Bradford Philatelic Society: Display—British Colonials, by A. H. Stamford, Bradford.
   Auction: Puttick and Simpson, 47, Leicester Square, London, W.C. 4.30 p.m.
8. International Philatelic Union: Display — European Stamps, by J. C. Sidebotham.
   Auction: Puttick and Simpson, 47, Leicester Square, London, W.C. 4.30 p.m.
10. London Philatelic Society: Display—Queensland, by H. J. Duveen.
14. Bradford Philatelic Society: Display—English Unused, by W. M. Gray.
15. Enterprise Philatelic Society, London: Paper—Gibraltar, by H. W. Westcott; and Display with Notes—West Australia, by E. Heginbottom.
15. Sheffield Philatelic Society: General Display by members.
16. Auction: Glendenning, 7, Argyll Street, London. 4.30 p.m.
    Auction: Ventom, Bull, and Cooper, Temple Hotel, Arundel Street, London. 5 p.m.
17. Auction: Glendenning, 7, Argyll Street, London. 4.30 p.m.
    Auction: Ventom, Bull, and Cooper, Temple Hotel, Arundel Street, London. 5. p.m.
18. Junior Philatelic Society: Poetry of Stamp Collecting, with some examples, by F. J. Melville; and Paper—Victorian *v.* Edwardian Issues, by E. Heginbottom.
21. Leeds Philatelic Society: Display—Stamps of Brazil, with notes, by E. Egly.
    Auction: Puttick and Simpson, 47, Leicester Square, London. 4.30 p.m.
22. Auction: Puttick and Simpson, 47, Leicester Square, London. 4.30 p.m.
23. Birmingham Philatelic Society: Auction at Acorn Hotel.
28. Auction: Plumridge and Co., 64, Chancery Lane, W.C. 4.45 p.m.

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4 February, 1905.

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EDITED BY EDWARD J. NANKIVELL

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STAMPS OF GREAT BRITAIN

By GORDON SMITH, M.A.

(*Continued from page* 70.)

Change in Design of the 1d.

WE have now to notice another—and the final—change which was made in the design of the 1d. value. Hitherto only the two lower corners of the frame were occupied with capital letters, the two upper corners having the ornaments as originally engraved. The new frame, however, had letters in all four corners, in block type, or as it is sometimes called, *Egyptian* or *sans-serif*. I cannot do better than quote the official notice to explain the reason of this alteration.

"In order to prevent frauds, which have sometimes been attempted on the Revenue, by the use of postage stamps formed by joining together clean portions cut from the labels, which have previously passed through the post, the letters which now appear at the lower corners of the postage labels will in future be repeated at the upper corners: transposed, however, so as to afford still greater security. . . . At the right and left-hand side of each label the number of the plate from which it is printed will appear in small figures."

This was accompanied with an illustration.

The Penny Plate Numbers

I have already mentioned that the number of the plate appeared at the corner of the margin of the sheet, but we have now for the first time the number appearing on the stamp itself. The "plate" number was engraved on the roller from which the plate was made, so that the figures show in white on the printed stamp. The numbers may generally be read (when not obscured by postmark) with the unaided eye. But a lens of small magnifying power will make them quite clear. The figures are not always very distinct, and sometimes the white dots and dashes of the original engraving make them appear to be different from what they actually are. But doubts on one side of the stamp can nearly always be cleared up by the other side and the correct figures ascertained; for the numbers on each side are the same, and it is *impossible* for them to be otherwise. Occasionally a zealous collector thinks he has discovered a stamp with numbers differing at each side, but these discoveries are mere mares' nests. The numbers range from 71 to 225 except 77, 126, and 128. No. 69 was made, but the plate proving defective, no impressions were taken from it. No. 70 was also defective; a few impressions are said to have been struck off, but it is very doubtful if a single specimen exists. I have *never seen or even heard of one.* No. 77 was badly made, but impressions do exist; I have seen one, but I believe not more than two are known. No specimens are known of Nos. 75 or 128, and plate 126 was never made. I have thought the above remarks necessary, as from time to time collectors fancy they have found one of the missing rarities. Let them set their minds at rest, their chances of finding a needle in the proverbial bundle of hay amount to certainty compared with their prospects of discovering even plate 75.

Of the ordinary plate numbers 225 is the rarest, but it is within the bounds of possibility that any collector may find it; 132 is scarce; some others are not very common; but most of the "old penny reds" are still very plentiful, although

they have been out of use for more than twenty-four years, as might be expected from the fact that the total number printed reached some fourteen thousand millions. As to colour they varied a good deal during their life of nearly sixteen years, but *rose-red* covers most of them.

Although we have taken the 1d. first, the 2d. value altered in the same way came out six years previously, in 1858. The plate numbers ranged from 7 to 15 except Nos. 10 and 11, which were defective. A small change was made in plate 13 and continued in plates 14 and 15, the white lines being thinner. The blue colour did not vary very much, except that later printings were deeper. We get therefore:

1858-64. *Watermark a Large Crown. Perf.* 14. *Letters in the four corners.*

1d., rose-red.
2d., blue.

In 1870 by an Act of Parliament "the Inland Postage on Newspapers, Printed Matter, Patterns and Samples" was reduced, the unit rate commencing with ½d. and rising according to weight in multiples of that amount. This necessitated the creation (as it is called) of new values of stamps for ½d. and 1½d.





The Halfpenny Value

The ½d. was arranged in a sheet of 480, consisting of twenty-four stamps horizontally and twenty vertically. The corner lettering was on the same principle as that employed on the 1d. and 2d., which we have just dealt with, but the extra number in the row used up more letters of the alphabet, the last stamp in the first row being lettered $\frac{A}{X}\frac{X}{A}$ and the last in the bottom row (in the right lower corner) being $\frac{T}{X}\frac{X}{T}$.

A very curious watermark was invented for the paper on which this value was printed, consisting of the double word "half penny" in *script* characters and occupying the space of three stamps. In perforating the stamps the sheet was served to the machine sideways and not upright, as was the case with other values, and the outer edge and its adjacent margin were left unperforated; consequently the outer edge of the sheet either on the left or right-hand side comes without perforation. Collectors will therefore find some of the stamps with A in the left upper corner or with X in the right upper corner presenting this peculiarity. The plate numbers were inserted in the engraving as before on each side of the head, but some of them are by no means so easy to decipher as on the 1d. The plates used were—1, 3 to 6, 8 to 15, 19, and 20. Plates 2, 16, 17, and 18 were only partially made, owing to the roller becoming defective during the process of manufacture, and the roller for plate 7 was defective at the outset, so that the plate was not even begun. Plate 9 is by far the rarest of all, but the collector should be careful to examine any specimen he may wish to place in his collection, to make quite sure that it is not plate 19, which is a "horse of quite another colour."

(To be continued.)

SERIOUS ILLNESS OF MR. GORDON SMITH

IT is with deep regret and much anxiety, as we are going to press, that we hear of the serious illness of our excellent and able contributor, and old friend, Mr. Gordon Smith. For many months he has battled against increasing internal trouble, but he has at last completely broken down. A serious operation has been necessary. The medical advisers hope and think the operation will be successful, and our readers and philatelists everywhere will sincerely join with us in that hope. But at the best we are told that our friend's return to active work will be, under the most favourable circumstances, a matter of from four to six months. Meanwhile, we have sufficient "copy" in advance of his article on the "Stamps of Great Britain" for two or three weeks. After that we must wait patiently for the return of the able pen thus laid aside. We trust we may be permitted in our next number to say that the operation has been successful, and that our friend is going on well.

PUBLIC SCHOOL COLLECTING

By Rev. T. C. WALTON, M.A.

(*Continued from page 72.*)

The Production of Stamps

FIRST consider the essential features of a postage stamp. It must be small in size for the sake of convenience. As a safeguard against forgery it must be difficult to imitate. It must also be capable of reproduction in unlimited numbers at a small cost. Now think of the component parts of a stamp. Primarily they are: design, colour, paper. Obviously there is very little room for the stamp manufacturer to satisfy the requirements we have just noted and, at the same time, to make the forging of facsimiles a matter of impossibility. Later I hope that you will agree with me when I say that, in most cases, not only has the impossible been attempted, but it has also been successfully accomplished. Let me proceed to unfold the fascinating story, and, in case these lines should catch the eye of some captious critic, let me preface my remarks with the statement that the order of events here is one of interest rather than of actual procedure.

Design and Colour

Design and colour come naturally first, as all beginners commence with that which is most conspicuous to the view. Indeed, these were the only marks of difference which the earliest collectors of stamps recognised. Now in the process of manufacturing stamps the first thing to do is to produce a design by engraving or otherwise on steel, copper, wood, or stone. This die has then to be exactly reproduced many times, so that a given number of stamps can be printed off at once from the set of designs so reproduced.

Engraving and Printing

Let us first consider the original plate, or die as it is technically named. Schoolboys are past-masters in the much-to-be-deprecated art of cutting their names or initials on desks. One of two methods is open to them, *i.e.* provided the circumstances warrant a fair chance of immunity from punishment. They either cut the letters in the wood, or cut the wood so as to leave the letters projecting from the cut background. The first is an instance of what is done in engraving in *taille-douce.* The second is an example of what is done in typography. When the original die is an engraving in *taille-douce* on copper or steel or some other metal, the ink lines on the stamp represent the lines cut in the metal. The 1d. and 2d. English from 1840 to 1880 were produced in this manner. If you examine a carefully preserved specimen of the "red penny" under a magnifying glass, you will see that the ink lines stand in ridges on the surface of the paper. When the original die of steel or wood (from which comes our term "woodcuts") is so cut that the design stands out from the background, the ink on the stamp comes from the portion in relief. Newspapers are printed by a process elaborated from this plan. The letters and illustrations are impressed on the paper, so that in cases where the sheet has not been sufficiently rolled out the impress can be clearly seen on the reverse side of the paper. Our current English stamps and almost all the issues of France are examples of this method of typography or surface-printing. Of course, you will not expect me to go into details as to how these original engraved dies are reproduced to the number of times required for the printing of a whole sheet of stamps. It will suffice for our present purpose if I explain that, in the case of the die engraved in *taille-douce*, a soft steel roller is used to receive a number of impressions from it. This steel roller is then hardened and the designs are impressed from it on a soft flat steel plate, which when hardened is ready for the printer to set to work on his sheet of stamps. The reader whose appetite for further information is whetted may refer to page 37 of this magazine, where Mr. Gordon Smith has given fuller details of the process.

In the case of typography, impressions of the original die are taken in plaster of

Paris or in papier-mâché. These impressions when hardened are used as moulds for making casts in metal, which casts are exact reproductions of the original die. These casts are clamped together to the number required for the printing of the sheet of stamps.

For those who belong to the modern side and are therefore more or less versed in the mysteries of electrical science, it may be interesting to know that electricity has become the handmaid of typography. This process is known as electrotyping. A galvanic battery is used to deposit a thin layer of copper on the impressions taken in lead, gutta-percha, etc., from the original die. These copper facsimiles when backed with type-metal are then used for printing. This is, in bare and rough outline, the method employed in the production of the current issues of our own country.

One other method calls for special mention. It is lithography. As the name implies, lithography is a method of printing from a special kind of stone. The design of the stamp is drawn on the stone or on prepared paper with a special ink. Impressions are taken from the stone on transfer paper. These paper impressions are pasted together and the designs on them are transferred to the lithographic stone; which, when the paper has been washed off, reveals a set of designs identical with the original design and is ready for the printer's hand.

It is not easy to distinguish between typographed and lithographed stamps. The lithograph can generally be recognised by a greasy feeling on the surface of the stamp. Examples of this process are the British Guiana issues of 1852, 1853, and 1860-75. These were lithographed by Messrs. Waterlow and Sons. The first issue of India, 1854, were lithographed and printed at Calcutta.

A few lines will suffice for a brief description of the two remaining methods of the production of designs.

Embossing, or stamping in relief, is a kind of exaggerated engraving. Seldom has this method been resorted to, as it entails a great loss of time and consequent increase of expense. The 6d., 10d., and 1s. of the 1847-54 issue of Great Britain are the only examples of such adhesives which our country has produced. Other examples are found in the early issues of Gambia and Heligoland. The practice survives in the embossed stamp envelopes, packets of which may be bought at any post office.

We have left to the last the most uninteresting and most troublesome of all stamps. Troublesome they are to the collector, but simplest of all to the printer. They are the type-set class. The usual stock-in-trade of an ordinary printer is all that is required. A catalogue reference to the 1862 issue of British Guiana, the well-known *Fiji Times* Express, the Uganda issues of 1895-96, is all that the reader needs to see at a glance such stamp productions in their most primitive form.

The reader who has patiently and intelligently followed my description of the manufacture of designs in stamps will now be in a position to appreciate the niceties of the forger's art or artfulness in this respect. Let me lead off with the famous "Laureated" series of New South Wales. When the authorities decided to have an issue of postage stamps, they, through fear of forgeries, were unwilling to reproduce the original die by the only processes (typography and lithography) known to them. These two processes, especially the latter, lay open to the objection that they were not sufficiently intricate to forbid the attempt at reproduction of facsimiles, which are the summit of the forger's ambition. Accordingly, New South Wales adopted the doubtful expedient of multiplying the original die by hand copies, with a result which even the most uninitiated can easily foresee. No eye is so perfect, no hand is so skilled that it can exactly reproduce a copy of even a simple figure. If the reader doubts my word, let him, by way of a task for his next imposition, attempt to copy this article. A scrutiny would, I fear, reveal several mistakes in spelling and words missing. Much more so is it with such a small thing as a postage stamp. The most skilful engraver could hardly dream of producing an exact copy of such a network of lines. And these Sydney engravers were not very highly skilled. Consequently, each design on the engraved plate and, therefore, each stamp printed from that plate, differed in some detail or other from the rest. Of the 1d. value there were five rows of five stamps.

each. The 2d. value was issued in sheets of two rows containing twelve stamps in each row; while the sheet of 3d. stamps contained five rows of five stamps each. Already we have a total of seventy-four stamps, each differing in some small details from the remainder of the same face value.

But the difficulty does not end there. The original plate, through constant use, began to show signs of wear. It had to be retouched, *i.e.* the engraver had to recut some of the lines. In some cases other lines were added to represent clouds, trees, etc. The 1d. plate underwent this retouching process once. The 2d. plate interviewed the engraver no less than five times, owing to hard wear, because the 2d. stamp was the one most in use in the Colony. This gives an additional 145 varieties, and brings up the total to 219. And this takes no account of varieties due to different shades of colour or difference in paper. Is there any wonder, then, that the detection of forgeries of these stamps is exceedingly difficult? Even the postal authorities themselves, with entire sheets of the genuine stamps in front of them, must have found the detection a trial of patience. How much more so for the collector who is fortunate enough to acquire any of the series! Happily, reconstructed sheets are in the hands of merchants and specialists, and their knowledge generously placed at the disposal of others enables a collector to find out whether his specimens are or are not forgeries. Other examples of varieties produced by the use of hand-engraved plates may be found in standard catalogues under Mauritius, Tasmania, and Zurich.

(To be continued.)

STANLEY GIBBONS DEVELOPMENTS

EDITORIAL

OUR readers will learn from our advertisement pages that very important developments are being made in the business of the Proprietors and Publishers of this journal.

In the first place, the well-known business of Messrs. Hamilton-Smith and Co., Stamp Dealers, of 10, Bishopsgate Street Within, E.C., and the auction business of Messrs. Glendining and Co., of 7, Argyll Street, Regent Street, W., have been purchased and amalgamated with a fully paid-up capital of £116,500, divided into £91,500 ordinary shares, and £25,000 debentures, all of which have been taken up privately. The Directors of the new company are Charles J. Phillips, Managing Director; D. W. Glendining, S. E. Gwyer, G. Hamilton-Smith, W. H. Phillips, and Gordon Smith. The business of the new company, under the name of Glendining and Co., Limited, will be continued at their well-known auction galleries at No. 7, Argyll Street, Regent Street, London, W.

The stamp business of Hamilton-Smith and Co. will be removed from 10, Bishopsgate Street Within, E.C., to 97, Gracechurch Street, E.C., where a City branch of Stanley Gibbons, Ltd., will be opened under the management of Mr. G. Hamilton-Smith. Fine premises have been secured on the junction of Leadenhall Street and Gracechurch Street, nearly facing Cornhill, where it is proposed to open this month a large shop and offices for the accommodation of the City business of the firm, and to take advantage of the opportunity of purchasing current used stamps in large numbers. This last consideration is of no small importance, especially in the matter of high values. It is no unusual thing for a City firm to receive a parcel plastered over with £5 stamps, and we know of a magnificent £10 Western Australian fiscal stamp that, with others, franked a large parcel to a City house. It was waylaid on its way to the waste-paper basket by a well-known City collector. In other City offices, especially in banks, the foreign mails are keenly overhauled for high values by the principals. In fact, the City is the happy hunting-ground for high values rarely met with elsewhere. Hence collectors may expect to find some nice things in this way in the new City branch.

New issues, we learn, are to be made a speciality at the new branch, and they are "to be priced on a new and exceptionally favourable basis," the terms of which are to be announced later on.

STAMP COLLECTING AS A PASTIME

By EDWARD J. NANKIVELL

VI. Its Historical Finger Posts (*contd.*)

THE early provisional issues of Crete of 1898 indicate the joint interference of the Great Powers in its affairs, and the later issues, in 1900, bear the portrait of Prince George of Greece as High Commissioner of Crete.

The Confederate locals of America, issued, in 1861–3, by the postmasters of the Southern States when they were cut off by war from the capital and its supplies of postage stamps, and each town was thrown upon its own resources, proclaim the period of the American Civil War.

Collectors are all familiar with the long series of portraits of past Presidents of the United States, from Washington to Garfield.

The stamps of Don Carlos mark the Carlist rising in Spain in 1873.

But amongst the most interesting of all stamps that may be classed as historical finger posts, none equal in present-day interest the stamps of the Transvaal, for they tell of the struggle for supremacy in South Africa. In 1870 the Boers issued their first postage stamp, and a crude piece of workmanship it was, designed and engraved in Germany. Till 1877 they printed their supplies of postage stamps in their own crude way from the same crude plates. Then came the first British Occupation, when the remainders of the stamps of the first South African Republic were overprinted V.R. TRANSVAAL, to indicate British government. Then, in 1878, the stamps of the Republic were replaced by our Queen's Head. In 1881 the country was given back to the Boers, when they in turn overprinted our Queen's Head series in Boer currency, to indicate the restoration of Boer domination. And now, finally, in 1900 we have the second British Occupation, and a second overprinting of South African Republic stamps V.R.I., to signalise once more, and finally, the supremacy of British rule in South Africa. The Mafeking stamps are also interesting souvenirs of a gallant stand in the same historical struggle.

The war which Chili some years ago carried into Bolivia and Peru has been marked in a special manner upon the postage stamps of Chili. As in the case of our own troops in South Africa, so the Chilian troops in Bolivia and Peru were allowed to frank their letters home with the stamps of their own country. So also the Chilians further overprinted the stamps of Peru with the Chilian arms during their occupation of the conquered country in the years 1881–2. Chilian stamps used along the route of the conquering army, and postmarked with the names of the towns occupied, are much sought after by specialists. These postmarks include Arica, Callao, Iquique, Lima, Paita, Pisagua, Pisco, Tacna, Yca, etc.

And so the stamp collector may turn over the pages of his stamp album, and point to stamp after stamp that marks, for him, some development of art, some crisis in a country's progress, some struggle to be free, or some great upheaval amongst rival powers. In fact, every stamp issued by a country is, more or less, a page of its history.

VII. Stamps with a History

There are numbers of stamps that have an interesting history of their own. They mark some official experiment, some curious blunder or accident, some little conceit, some historical event, or some crude and early efforts at stamp production.

What is known as the V.R. Penny black, English stamp, is said to have been designed as an experiment in providing a special stamp for official use, its official character being denoted by the initials V.R. in the upper corners; but the proposal was dropped, and the V.R. Penny black was never issued. For a long time it was treasured up as a rarity by collectors, but now that its real claims to be regarded as an issued stamp have been finally settled, it is no longer included in our stamp catalogues. In the days of its popularity it fetched as much as £14 at auction. It is now relegated to the rank of an interesting souvenir of the experimental stage in the introduction of Penny Postage.

(*To be continued.*)

PORTRAITS ON STAMPS

By BOSWELL JUNIOR

Argentine Republic (*continued*)



Sarmiento.

Sarmiento (Domingo Faustino), President of the Argentine Republic; born at San Juan in 1811; died at Asuncion, Paraguay, in 1888. Sprung from a Spanish family, he entered the seminary of Cordova, was employed in commerce in 1876, enrolled himself in the Unitarian Army of Paz (1829), and fought against Quiroga. After the victory of Rosas and the Federalists he exiled himself to Chili in 1831, returned to Argentine 1836, opened a school at San Juan, returned to Chili in 1840, and established the first Normal School in South America in 1842, and founded, in 1843, *El Progresso*, which was the first newspaper printed at Santiago. In 1852 he allied himself to Urquiza, head of the Army of Liberation. Having been appointed Inspector-General of Schools, he reorganised teaching at Buenos Ayres. Senator in 1860, and Minister of State in 1861, he governed the province of San Juan in 1862; then he became Ambassador to Chili in 1864, and to the United States in 1865. He was elected President of the Republic in place of General Mitre in July, 1868. His rule from 1868 to 1874 was prosperous. He put down rebellions, finished the war of the Triple Alliance against Paraguay in 1870, and devoted himself to extending public instruction, and to creating a national trade. He has left *Civilisation and Barbarism*, translated into French by Giraud, 1853, and a number of school books on political study.

His portrait is on the 6 centavos, red, of 1888-90; and again on the 6 centavos, blue, of 1889-90.


Urquiza.

Urquiza (Don Juste José de), President of the Argentine Confederation, born in Entre-Rios in 1800, and assassinated in his castle of San Jose in 1870. He was the richest landowner in the State, and one of the most moderate leaders of the Federal Party opposed to the preponderance of Buenos Ayres. Governor of Entre-Rios 1842, and tired of the tyranny of Rosas, he took sides with Brazil, delivered Monte Video, which was being besieged by Oribe in 1851, and fought Rosas at Monte Caseros, who exiled himself in 1852. He was elected Provisional Dictator by the Governors of the Provinces; but Buenos Ayres rose and freed itself from his authority. Elected President of the Confederation by the Congress of Santa Fé in 1853, he tried to bring back prosperity, without succeeding, for the maritime duties, which were the principal source of income, belonged to the Independent Government of Buenos Ayres. The two States went to war; Urquiza conquered General Mitre at Cepada on August 22nd, 1859, and yielded the Presidency of the United Confederation to Derqui in 1860. Being appointed General-in-Chief, he was defeated at Pavon on September 17th, 1861, by Mitre, who had revolted, and he became again Governor of Entre-Rios under the Unitarian Republic, presided over by Mitre, 1862, and Sarmiento, 1868. He was assassinated by one of his aides-de-camp, Juan Pablo Lopez, who revolted.

His portrait appears on the ½ centavo, blue, of 1888-90, and on the ½ centavo, ultramarine, of 1889-90.

GOSSIP OF THE HOUR

By CORNELIUS WRINKLE

Clannishness of Stamp Collectors

We stamp collectors are said to be very clannish, and I believe we are. I have known not a few old friendships that had their beginnings in stamp collecting. Indeed, stamp friendships have a durability about them that astonishes some people. It is a common observation that as soon as a couple of strangers discover that they are alike afflicted in the philatelic direction a bond of sympathy is at once established, and a friendship is started that is not unfrequently ripened into durability by mutual tastes and mutual help. But we are a stand-offish sort of people. It takes us a long time to strike up an acquaintance. As a matter of fact, two of the most enthusiastic collectors might travel from one end of the country to the other as sole occupants of a railway compartment and never discover their mutual weakness. But let a stray remark disclose the fact and the state of the weather may take care of itself and the names of the stations pass unnoted. Rarities and varieties, watermarks and perforations, the rise and fall of values, and the growing scarcity of fine unused copies of this and that stamp will shorten the tedium of the longest journey as nothing else in the world can do.

Yet we often remain Strangers

And yet we often remain strangers to the end of the chapter. Those of us who take a prominent part in the more or less public activities of philatelic life do not probably remain long unchallenged, but I have known many cases of persons meeting frequently on other lines and never dreaming of suspecting the presence of the stamp collecting fever. Several remedies have been proposed for this deplorable state of things, for it is not only deplorable, but most annoying that you and I, gentle reader, should travel together, even for a short distance, in grim and indifferent silence when we might have the pleasantest of pleasant chats.

None of the remedies, however, seem to take the general fancy. It has been suggested that we stamp collectors should hang out on our persons some small distinguishing badge.

And what about Badges?

Yes, what about badges? This question is an old one. It has been tabooed without mercy, and I expect readers of *Gibbons Stamp Weekly* will think me an old fool for even suggesting the consideration of such a silly, childish proposal. But wait a bit. Is it such a silly idea after all? It is not suggested that you should put rings in your noses on which to hang the badges, nor that you should have a strip of postage stamps across your coat sleeve. Just a tiny little unpretentious ornament of some agreed pattern on the watch-chain might introduce fellow-collectors to each other, who without this harmless and simple introduction might travel a hundred miles in each other's company in profound ignorance of the pleasant chats they might have had, and the grand time they might have had exchanging duplicates and discussing the thousand and one points of interest that bind us together.

Medal Hunting

I have just been reading Mr. Ernest Heginbottom's letter on this topic in last week's *Gibbons Stamp Weekly*, and I have been much amused. It seems that in the few remarks I made on the matter I was "only repeating what" Mr. Heginbottom had previously said in some other philatelic periodical. As I did not read the "previous" communication, it only affords another proof of the saying that the minds of great men often run in the same groove. And it is comforting to know that in this subconscious state I "hit the nail on the head to the very T," and that "Mr. Wrinkle's remarks are simply splendid." It is a great temptation to play parrot when you can so easily win such unstinted praise. After all, what is it all about? Nothing but a commonplace suggestion, absolutely devoid of all suspicion of novelty, that the Committee of the forthcoming International Philatelic Exhibition should try the common expedient of a champion class for notable medallists.

Down with the Great Moguls

But when Mr. Heginbottom goes on to say that the Great Moguls' exhibits "get somewhat monotonous," "and really do not cause the interest which owners think," we part company. That the finest collections, gemmed with the greatest rarities, can ever become monotonous to the true philatelist is simply too ludicrous to be discussed. Inferentially, if it means anything, it means that an inferior collection would afford more pleasure. Could anything be more truly childish? No sane philatelist wants to exclude the great collections. On the contrary, a great exhibition without them would be robbed of its greatness. It is proposed that the owners of the great collections should show, but label their exhibits "Not for competition." It would be passing kind and philanthropic of them to act upon this advice. But it is much easier to offer advice of the philanthropic character than to act upon it. Why should we expect a collector to go to all the trouble of preparing his matchless ranges of stamps for exhibition for it to be placed on the shelf, and its owner be debarred from all the pleasures and excitements of competition?

We don't want Mediocrities

For heaven's sake, let it be clearly understood that in suggesting a champion class for notable medallists we do not want to open the way to mediocrities. There are lots of slipshod collections about, and some of the owners thereof may be under the impression that by joining in the cry of "Down with the Great Moguls!" they are securing a chance of a medal for themselves. As an old philatelist who has seen much of the great collections, I shall only be repeating what is common knowledge amongst prominent collectors, that even if all the Great Moguls were excluded the competition would still be far above the heads of all mediocre collections. In some of the Continental exhibitions bronze medals have been given more out of kindness of heart than for real merit to not a few collections in appreciation of the trouble of far-away exhibitors. No such chances are likely to fall to the lot of anyone in the keen competition for room that will be likely to perplex the committee of the next great International Stamp Exhibition in London.

Boys' Collections as Exhibits

Indeed I am sure that the higher grades of boys' collections will, if room can be found for them, be a pleasant surprise for the Exhibition Committee and visitors. The coaching that many boys are now getting from careful and experienced collectors will tell its tale, if I am not greatly mistaken, should they get a chance of showing what they can do as competitors in a stamp exhibition. If the Great International will not find room for them, then I should say, "Come along, boys, let's have a Great Exhibition of our own!" As I write the Juniors are on the eve of giving us an eye-opener at Exeter Hall of what they can do even when restricted to one country. I shall have something to say about the Juniors' show next week, for I intend to spend the greater part of the two days at the Exhibition, and hope to meet a great many readers of the *G. S. W.* there. They will, of course, readily recognise me from the lifelike sketch of my phiz which I gave them in No. 2.

U.S.A. beats the Record in New Issues

I must quote the following from the *Metropolitan Philatelist* as an unsolicited confession :—

> "The United States has certainly broken the record in issuing stamps for a colony or foreign possession. The first set was issued on an emergency to show sovereignty, on June 24th; this was followed by a set expected to be permanent on July 17th, but owing to the representations of a neighbouring friendly power the series was changed on December 12th—three complete sets in less than six months, all legitimate and non-speculative. This certainly holds the record, and will make one of the most interesting pages in our album, and for its size will certainly be the most valuable in future years."

Only a few weeks since our friends across the pond were howling piteously at the iniquities of our British Colonies in introducing a new watermark, and now we learn, from their own confession, that they hold the record in the rapid output of new issue varieties. 'Tis sad that such a confession should be wrung from them in the hour of their loud lamentation over the little sins of others.

THE STAMP KING

By G. DE BEAUREGARD AND H. DE GORSSE

Translated from the French by EDITH C. PHILLIPS

CHAPTER I. (*continued*)

In which one sees to what lengths the Love of Postage Stamps is carried by true Philatelists

"THIS," said Betty, pointing to one of the parcels, "is the album. The other contains all the letters, telegrams, and papers of all sorts, which prove that I have made my collection bit by bit, stamp by stamp."

They all gathered round the table, and William Keniss, as president of the Club, solemnly opened the album.

Everything had been done with extreme care. The stamps were all fixed with gummed hinges on little separate pieces of cardboard. Under each Betty had had the patience to write with her own hand the price,



"SHE WAS ENCUMBERED WITH TWO PARCELS"

date of issue, country, and the collector or dealer from whom she had obtained it; and there were thirty-four thousand eight hundred and seventy-four stamps.

On the first page was a piece of old yellow-looking paper, frayed along the edges. It was a specimen of the first post-paid letter issued at the Paris Palais de Justice in 1653. Then came the complete sets of postage stamps, newspaper stamps, fiscals of all countries, all colours, all prices, and all dates. Not one, even of the rarest, was missing. The 1d., orange, Mauritius, 1847, occupied a prominent place, as well as the 81 paras, Moldavia, 1858; the 30 centimes, 1852, Réunion, black on blue; the British Guiana 2 cents, rose, 1850; the 1870 1 rupee, brown-violet, of Afghanistan, and others of which hardly a copy is to be found were represented there by perfect specimens, without spot or tear or blemish of any kind.

"This is very good, very good indeed," murmured William, gently turning over the leaves, while the other spectators, in the effort to see all they could of such marvels, leaned forward, straining their necks, and devoured with their eyes the well-filled pages.

When the young president of the Philatelic Club came to the end of his examination Betty asked if they would like to see the papers of proof contained in the other parcel, but they all declared with one voice that they trusted implicitly in the new philatelist, and that such proof was entirely unnecessary. Perhaps the pangs of hunger were beginning to assert themselves, for the Hon. Tilmarnock on turning round caught sight of the clock, and remarked gravely, as if pronouncing a death sentence, "It is seventeen minutes past eight."

No one could believe the time had passed so quickly, but the really infatuated, while looking at stamps, forget there is anything else to live for.

"I am quite sure," said Betty, laughing, "that you had given up expecting me."

"Permit me," said William, offering her his arm, "to prove to you the contrary."

They headed the small procession and passed into the dining-room, where Betty could see for herself that opposite the president a place of honour was reserved, before which was a superb arrangement of flowers.

"This," said William Keniss, leading her to it, "is where we instal our new recruits of the fair sex, when they do us the honour of dining with us for the first time."

The guests were just about to seat themselves when William demanded to speak one more word, that all might be done in order, and, in his capacity as president, immediately gave himself the required permission.

"Ladies and gentlemen, you will not, I hope, blame me for carrying out our rules to the letter. Miss Betty Scott has not yet the right to appear at this table. I propose to give her that right by voting that, according to our promise, we admit her unanimously as a titular and permanent member of our Club."

The last words were drowned in deafening cheers, and after this enthusiastic investiture they all sat down to dinner.

For a time nothing was heard but a clatter of spoons. Eloquence was drowned in soup, so famished were the unfortunate members. It was only at the third course that their tongues found time to occupy themselves with any other duty besides that of tasting. Then Betty told them how she had been able, in so short a time, to get together a collection such as many other people had found it impossible to make even in long years.

"Listen to this, Hartlepool," said someone, "and profit by it."

She explained how she had written to all the dealers in the world, detailed her proceedings, her journeys here and there, how she had been taken in, and her continued surprises.

"I have given myself no end of trouble," she concluded, "but I do not regret it, since I am here in the midst of you, possessed of a collection in all respects similar to that of our amiable president, that is to say, as fine and as complete as it is possible to be."

Once again the applause broke out, and as the champagne was poured into the sparkling glasses William rose with his in his hand and, silence being restored, said:

"Miss Betty Scott has just given to Americans a great example of resource and energy. She has accomplished that which appeared impossible, and it is a memorable occasion for us sons of the Union to

testify once more the admiration with which such enterprise, devoted to so good a purpose, inspires us."

"Bless me!" muttered Buxon, "will he never finish? I prefer dessert to a homily."

"I beg your pardon, Doctor?" said William, interrupting himself.

"I said—I said—oh, I said that what you said was very well said," faltered the great man.

"Oh, very good. I raise my glass then and cry, 'Hurrah for Miss Betty Scott!'"

There arose a perfect tumult of deafening cheers, some shouting "Hip, hip, hip!" while others cried, "Hurrah!" and others again, "Bravo!" till Betty felt perfectly bewildered.

They had just sat down again, and started gaily on the *bombes glacées*, when a waiter entered and handed William a registered letter.

"Hollo!" said he, examining the address. "This is from Moulineau, the great Paris stamp dealer, with whom I do so much business. This may be some new find. Will you allow me?"

"Certainly, certainly," was murmured on all sides.

He cut the envelope and unfolded a sheet of paper, on which, above the written lines, a stamp was fixed, and having read to the end of the letter cried, "Well, this is extraordinary!"

All eyes were turned on him inquiringly, and the Stamp King, not wishing to further arouse a curiosity already touched to the quick, and being also bound by the rules of the Club to let the other members share in his discoveries, said:

"Listen to this. I repeat it is most extraordinary." And he read aloud: 'Sir,—In accordance with the agreement existing between us, I am bound to procure for you a specimen of every legal issue which comes to my knowledge, where such is possible. I enclose a particularly rare one of a stamp which the Maharajah of Brahmapootra intended to use for the next issue. By a sudden caprice or from some unknown cause this prince has had the block from which they are printed destroyed, keeping absolutely only two specimens—this is an indubitable fact—which had been sent to him as essays.'"

"An essay!" interrupted Dr. Buxon. "What is the good of that? You don't collect essays."

"Let him finish," said the Hon. Tilmarnock coldly.

"'I know you do not include essays in your collection,'" continued William, "'and that you only want stamps which have been in legal use. But though this stamp may be called an essay, it has been used, and lawfully used, for the Maharajah of Brahmapootra himself employed it to cover the postage of a letter to the Viceroy of India. Through this curious whim of his I have been able to get hold of it, but at a tremendous sacrifice. You will understand that this stamp, being probably the only one to be had—as the Maharajah himself has kept the other—is of very great value. It is impossible for me to part with it under a hundred thousand francs, or, if you prefer it, twenty thousand dollars.'"

"I will give fifty thousand," cried Betty.

"Pardon me, Miss Scott," said William, smiling, "but the stamp is not for sale. It belongs to me. Listen to the rest. 'As I have a large deposit to your account, and have your instructions to purchase rarities at any price, I take it for granted you will keep the stamp, and have the honour to remain, yours, etc.'"

Everyone was anxious to see this wonderful stamp, and when its new owner passed it round the table they were enthusiastic in its praise.

It was indeed a most effective work of art; both design and framework were of gold, printed on very fine, closely-grained, white paper. In the border, made of garlands of flowers lightly entwined, were mingled innumerable Hindoo characters of such delicate tracery that it was almost impossible for the eye to distinguish them. In the centre was the Maharajah, seated on his throne with all the insignia of royalty, surrounded by symbolic emblems. The clearness of every detail rendered the stamp a unique work of art, showing at the same time the consummate skill of the engraver.

"It is splendid! splendid!" repeated Mrs. Evans-Bradford, examining it closely, while Mr. Whitby and Mr. Hartlepool corroborated the statement.

"Good!" pronounced the Hon. Tilmarnock. "Very good!"

"Say rather 'Unheard of! fabulous! inimitable!'" cried Mrs. Tilmarnock, overflowing with admiration.

The stamp was now handed to Miss Betty Scott, who examined it closely without a word; and then, passing it to her neighbour, said, "If I understood you aright, there were two of them?"

"Yes, Miss Scott," replied William, "but no doubt the other is destroyed. There are difficulties always in the way of conquest."

Hereupon the company rose and returned to the salon.

"Well, well," said Buxon to Betty, who appeared scarcely to be listening, "here is all your trouble thrown away."

"What do you mean?"

"Why, of course, your collection is no longer complete." And he went off into a laugh as gross as himself, in the consciousness of having made a disagreeable remark.

The others were complimenting William on his unexpected good fortune in annexing so unrivalled a stamp—one, too, which no other collector could ever boast of possessing.

"Who knows!" said Betty, who, coming up quietly, had caught the last words.

"Believe me," said William gallantly, "I am really sorry to possess again an advantage which I should be only too glad to have over any one else; but with regard to you it is quite different."

"One must yield to circumstances," returned Betty evasively; and with these words she retired, though they tried hard to persuade her to remain longer, Buxon not failing to insinuate that she looked furious.

"Not at all," said Mr. Hartlepool. "Just for a stamp that one hasn't got! That would be a fine cause for misery!"

"Ah, you have never loved stamps," said William. "If you had you would go to the end of the world for less than that."

"Perhaps she will go," said the Hon. Tilmarnock as quietly as if he were speaking of an every-day occurrence.

The thought shot like lightning through William's brain—"If she—but no; what folly! And yet, perhaps——"

In vain he tried to join in the conversation. Betty's departure had left him full of anxiety, and unable to conceal it any longer, he walked up and down the room, gradually approaching the door, and then, American though he was, slunk away like an Englishman.

"Wasn't I right?" said Buxon, tenaciously clinging to his first opinion. "Her sudden love of stamps has carried her so far that she has become stamp-mad."

On leaving the salon Betty had found her maid trying hard to keep herself awake, by joining John Cockburn in an interminable game of bezique at one of the tables in the vestibule.

"Two hundred and fifty! You have lost!" cried he, triumphantly throwing down his cards.

Victoria, in a fit of petulance, had just dashed her marker on the floor when she perceived her mistress, and, hastening to settle her comfortably in her carriage, took her seat beside her.

And while the carriage rolled silently and swiftly along on its rubber tyres, drawn by two magnificent horses, Betty remained in deep thought, but Victoria was slumbering comfortably among the cushions.

(To be continued.)

MISCELLANEOUS

Niue, or Savage Island

WE have heard a great deal about Niue and of doubts as to its need of the postage stamps provided for its use by New Zealand. An account of a visit to the island in the February number of the *Wide Wide World* will convince most people that Niue has as much need of postage stamps as a cat has for two tails. The writer tells us that months pass without even the sight of a sail.

"Three hundred miles from anywhere, and thousands of miles from anywhere that counts, lies Savage Island, most solitary of all the coral lands of the South Pacific. It is a big island—nearly forty miles round—and it supports a native population of over four thousand, besides some thirty white traders, missionaries, and government officials. Its shape is that of an enormous table. On every side the grimmest and most forbidding of lofty cliffs fortify its approaches; here and there at intervals of many miles there is a shallow break in the sharp grey walls, where native canoes may be dragged down to the sea, and boats from visiting ships may find a chance of landing their passengers in very calm weather. There is not a ghost of a harbour, and immediately beyond the sharp girdle of encircling coral reef that guards the island like a mediæval *cheval de frise* the sea drops down to black depths in which few captains care to cast an anchor."

The Savage Islander

"THE Savage Islander's manners," continues the author, "are rather brusque, and he gives nothing without obtaining a heavy price for it. He has no chiefs or princes, and does not want any. There is always a head of the State, who enjoys a certain amount of mild dignity, and is often referred to as a king by white visitors. But he is not a king in any sense of the word. The office is not hereditary, the head of the State, or President, as we may fairly call him, being elected by a number of natives who occupy a position similar to that of American senators. Meetings of the island Senate are held at regular intervals; and the President, together with the British Resident Commissioner, takes an important part in the debates. These are very formal affairs. The brown senators, who live, each in his own village, in the utmost simplicity of manners and attire, dress themselves up for the day in full suits of European clothing. They travel into Alofi (the capital) and join the local members on the green before the public hall—generally used as a school-house. President Tongia joins them, the British Resident comes also, and for hour after hour, inside the great cool hall, with its matted floor and many open window embrasures, the talk goes on."

The President of Niue

HERE is the author's account of the President and his self-election: "The President is a tough old man; he has his say on most questions, and it is not good for health or business to oppose him too much, but of royal dignity he has, and asks for, none. There is something quite American in the history of Tongia's elevation some six years ago. He had acted as Vice-President to the late head of the State, and when the latter died he calmly assumed the reins without going through the formality of an election. This was not the usual custom, and some of the senators remonstrated. Tongia told them, however, that he was in the right, and meant to stay on. When the captain of a ship died on a voyage, did not his chief mate take over the command? The cases were exactly parallel, to his mind. This argument pleased the senators, who had most of them been to sea, and Tongia was allowed to retain his seat, the objectors calming themselves with the thought of the President's age, as he was well over eighty at the time. 'He is only the stump of a torch,' they said; 'he will soon burn out.' But the stump is burning yet, and shows no symptoms of extinction. Tongia married a pretty young girl soon after his 'election,' settled down in the Presidential house—a whitewashed cottage with a palm-thatch roof—and seems likely to outlast many of his former opponents."

Savage Island Communications

WE may judge of the need of postage stamps by the author's description of the arrival of a ship: "For several months at a time not even a distant sail will break the monotony of the changeless blue sea. Then some morning a wild yell spreads from cliff to cliff all round the island. The natives gather in crowds at Alofi, and the whole place is in a ferment. A sail! a sail! An island schooner is coming in from Auckland—a cranky little cargo steamer has puffed across from Samoa, three hundred miles away—perhaps even a pleasure yacht from San Francisco has ventured down so far. The natives hasten to oil their hair, dress it with flowers, and put on gaudy clothes; the white traders rush for clean duck suits. Visitors are coming!"

Unused and Used Colonials

"THE numbers of unused copies of the older issues of the British Empire are as rapidly shrinking in quantity as they are rising in value, and it is already practically impossible for anyone who is not blessed with large means to make an unused collection of our most favoured colonial stamps. The next best thing to unused is obviously the finest possible used, and we feel certain that this is a form of collecting that must ultimately appeal to a large class of collectors. The early steel engraved colonial stamps are fortunately of such a full and rich appearance that specimens can occasionally be found on which the postmark is but little seen, and a collection of such specimens—with the all-important proviso that they are well centred—may be difficult of acquisition, but in appearance and value will assuredly repay the collector who gives himself the trouble to collect them."

The London Philatelist.

Only a Seaman

A SAVINGS BANK warrant was returned undelivered the other day, with unmistakable signs, on the address portion, of the efforts that had been made by the Department to effect its delivery. "Not Cæsar," "Try Hannibal"; "Not Jupiter," "Try Mars"; were the sorters' and postmen's notes, showing that the universe, seen and unseen, had apparently been searched in vain. Yet the owner of the warrant was simply an able-bodied seaman attached to the Channel Fleet.—*St. Martin's le Grand.*

In a Country Post Office

MRS. HAYFORK (in a country post office): "Anything for me?"

Rural Postmaster: "I don't see nothin'."

Mrs. Hayfork: "I was expectin' a letter or post card from Aunt Spriggs, tellin' what day she was comin'."

Rural Postmaster (calling to his wife): "Did you see a post card from Mrs. Hayfork's Aunt Sally?"

His Wife: "Yes. She's comin' on Thursday."

Petoskey (Mich.) *Lyre.*

NEW ISSUES

The Editor will be grateful to his readers if they will help him with the earliest possible information concerning new issues. News from the Colonies in particular will be much appreciated. When possible, a specimen should accompany the information, and should be addressed to

EDWARD J. NANKIVELL, Carnanton, Camden Park, Tunbridge Wells.

British Honduras.—The current 2 cents value has been received with the multiple Crown watermark.

Wmk. Multiple C A. Perf.

2 cents, lilac and black on red paper.

Ceylon.—The 15 cents has to be added to the series with the multiple CA watermark.

Wmk. Multiple C A. Perf.

2 cents, orange-brown.
3 ,, green.
4 ,, orange; value ultramarine.
5 ,, purple.
6 ,, carmine.
12 ,, sage-green; value rosine.
15 ,, ultramarine.

Ecuador.—Our publishers have received a letter, of which we give a partial translation below, from Mr. L. Pallares, of Genoa, relating to a provisional issue of stamps, which are said to have been made so long ago as 1895, but which have only recently reached philatelists. Their history, as given in the letter, is as follows:—

"In the course of the Revolution of the liberals in 1895 (June to September), the little town of Guaranda ran short of stamps at the post office, and as it was situated between Guayaquil and Quito and the hostile armies were marching from those places so as to meet at a spot not far from Guaranda, the fiscal stamps in stock at the office were surcharged with the value 5 *centavos*, which is the only one employed upon letters of 15 grammes' weight. Communication being infrequent in those parts, only a few of the surcharged stamps were put in circulation, and these only during the second half of July and the first half of August. All used copies bear the obliterating stamp of Guaranda.

"As there are no stamp collectors in this town (or indeed in most parts of the interior of the country), and as fiscal stamps were commonly employed for franking letters, as well as postage stamps, no one took any notice of these stamps, which were employed for but a short time, in an out-of-the-way place, and during an important revolution. It was only a short time back that a philatelist heard of the matter, and went to the office at Guaranda, where he found a quantity of the stamps in question hidden away among the records. He purchased these, and then set to work to find used copies, of which he found some few in various places, on entire envelopes, on bits of paper, and loose. He has sent me almost all his stock . . . it is not large, not even 100 sets. . . ."

We learn from the Catalogue of Messrs. Yvert and Tellier for 1905, the only work in which we can find these stamps listed, that they are the fiscal stamps dated "1895-1896" (Type F 3 in our publishers' Catalogue), surcharged vertically, "Correos.—5 cents," in heavy type, in two lines, with an ornament at each end of the second line, in *black*.

5 c. on 1 c., blue.
5 c. on 2 c., orange.
5 c. on 4 c., brown.
5 c. on 10 c., slate.
5 c. on 1 s., red.
5 c. on 5 s., mauve.
5 c. on 10 s., green.

We should like to know a little more about these stamps, which are supposed to have been blushing unseen for nine years, before adding them to the long lists of Ecuador provisionals.—*Monthly Journal.*

Grenada.—This West Indian colony has started the multiple CA on its King's Head series; the first value to be received is the 1d.

Wmk. Multiple C A. Perf.

1d., lilac and carmine.

Hong Kong.—Four more of the current King's Head series have been received with the multiple CA watermark, viz. 1 c., 10 c., 12 c., and $10, making the list to date as follows, and leaving the 8 c., $3, and $5 to complete the series:—

Wmk. Multiple C A. Perf.

1 c., lilac and brown.
2 c., grey-green.
4 c., purple on red paper.
5 c., grey-green, medallion grey-green.
10 c., blue, medallion purple, on blue paper.
12 c., marone, medallion green, on yellow paper.
20 c., chestnut ,, slate.
30 c., black ,, green.
50 c., magenta ,, ,,
$1, lilac and sage-green.
$2, grey-black and scarlet.
$10, grey-black and orange, on blue paper.

Jaipur.—Here is Major Evans' description in the *Monthly Journal* of the design and inscriptions of the new issues of this State, which we chronicled last week: "It shows the Chariot of the Sun, drawn by a horse with four legs and seven or eight heads, enclosed in a plain, oblong frame, inscribed JAIPUR STATE in English at foot and in Devanagri at top, with the value in Devanagri at left and in Arabic characters at right, and European figures in the corners."



Lagos.—The 5s. has been received with the new multiple watermark, leaving the 2d., 2½d., and 3d. to complete the King's Head series with the new watermark.

Wmk. Multiple C A. Perf.

½d., green.
1d., purple on red paper.
6d., purple and mauve.
1s., green and black.
2s. 6d., green and carmine.
5s., green and blue.
10s., green and brown.

Servia.—A new series has been issued with the portrait of the reigning sovereign, King Peter I. The design is somewhat similar to that prepared with the portrait of the murdered King Alexander, which was overprinted with the Servian arms before issue. The portrait is printed in black on every value.



Perf.

1 para, black and pale grey.
5 ,, ,, light green.
10 ,, ,, rose-red.
15 ,, ,, magenta.
20 ,, ,, yellow.
25 ,, ,, blue
50 ,, ,, deep brown.
1 dinar ,, buff.
3 ,, ,, blue-green.
5 ,, ,, mauve.

PHILATELIC SOCIETIES

London Philatelic Society

President: H.R.H. The Prince of Wales.
Hon. Sec.: J. A. Tilleard, 10, Gracechurch Street, E.C.
Meetings: 4, Southampton Row, W. Alternate Fridays at 7.45.
Annual Subscription: Town, £2 2s.; Country, £1 1s.

THE fifth meeting of the season 1904-5 was held at 4, Southampton Row, W.C., on Friday the 9th December, 1904, at 7.45 p.m.

Members present: Robert Ehrenbach, Rudolph Frentzel, R. B. Yardley, G. F. Napier, J. A. Tilleard, L. W. Fulcher, Henry Hetley, C. J. Daun, Thos. W. Hall, B. D. Knox, Rudolph Meyer, A. W. Maclean, J. C. Sidebotham, Franz Reichenheim, A. R. Barrett.

In the unavoidable absence of the Vice-President and the Hon. Vice-President, the chair was taken by Mr. Ehrenbach, and the minutes of the last meeting were read and confirmed.

The Hon. Secretary reported the receipt of a letter from W. H. Renwick, announcing his desire to resign his membership, and the resignation was accepted with regret. The Hon. Librarian was requested to acknowledge, with the thanks of the Society, the receipt from Messrs. Bright and Son of the 6th Edition of their *A B C Catalogue*, and from the Editor of a copy of the *Stamp News Annual*, both sent for the Society's Library.

Major William Cross Barratt, proposed by Mr. C. Stewart-Wilson, and seconded by the Hon. Secretary, was duly elected a member of the Society.

Mr. Fulcher then read a paper on the stamps of Bosnia. The history of the various issues was explained, and full descriptions were given of the types and varieties to be found in the stamps, with details of the different printings and the papers and perforations employed, and the paper was illustrated by the collections of the author and Mr. H. R. Oldfield.

On the motion of Mr. Hall, seconded by Mr. Ehrenbach, the cordial thanks of the meeting were voted to Mr. Fulcher for his interesting paper, and to Mr. Oldfield for sending his collection for inspection.

THE sixth meeting of the season 1904-5 was held at 4, Southampton Row, W.C., on Friday the 30th December, 1904, at 7.45 p.m.

Members present: C. Neville Biggs, Henry Hetley, Geo. F. Napier, A. W. Maclean, C. McNaughtan, Franz Reichenheim, Rudolph Frentzel, W. Schwabacher, J. C. Sidebotham, Thos. W. Hall, B. D. Knox, Rudolph Meyer, C. J. Daun, E. A. Elliott, L. W. Fulcher, J. A. Tilleard.

The chair was taken by Mr. C. Neville Biggs, in the absence of the Vice-President, and the minutes of the last meeting were read and confirmed.

The Hon. Sec. presented the Report of the sub-committee appointed to consider the suggestions for the holding of an International Exhibition in 1906, under the auspices of the Society, and it was decided to adjourn the further consideration of the matter to the next meeting.

The principal business of the meeting consisted of a display by Mr. J. C. Sidebotham of portions of his collection. The stamps shown were contained in two volumes, and comprised British Colonial and foreign stamps.

The collection is formed on the older lines, consisting chiefly of single specimens illustrating the issues of the various colonies and countries shown, and it is noticeable for the fine condition in which the stamps are shown, and the evident care bestowed upon their selection.

The proceedings terminated with a hearty vote of thanks to Mr. Sidebotham for the display, on the motion of Mr. MacNaughtan, seconded by Mr. Meyer.

Birmingham Philatelic Society

President: W. B. Avery.
Secretary: G. Johnson, B.A., 308, Birchfield Road, Birmingham.

NOVEMBER 10th.—Paper, "Turkey." Mr. P. T. Deakin.

Messrs. H. Barnwell and J. A. van Rooij were elected members, while Messrs. H. W. Baron, P. T. Deakin, C. L. Larssen, and Mrs. Livingston were thanked for contributions to the collection. Messrs. Wilmot Corfield (the recently published handbook, *British Indian Adhesive Stamps surcharged for Native States*) and C. A. Stephenson were thanked for donations to the Library.

Mr. P. T. Deakin gave his paper on the "Stamps of Turkey," with special reference to varieties of type and postmark. It was a most valuable addition to philatelic research, and has entailed a vast amount of work and artistic skill. The collections of Mr. Hollick and the Society were very useful during the evening for still further reference, and we hope shortly to publish the paper, with illustrations, for the benefit of members.

Bradford Philatelic Society

President: F. Gerhartz.
Secretary: A. J. Foulger, 90, Lister Avenue, Bradford.
Meetings:
Subscription:

MR. A. H. STAMFORD presided over the monthly meeting held on Tuesday, January 10th, in the absence of the President (Mr. F. Gerhartz), who was detained on business on the Continent.

When the formal business was got through, Mr. Foulger, the energetic Secretary, gave his paper on the "Stamps of Seychelles," which he illustrated with his own collection, practically complete and in mint state.

At the close it was decided to have the paper printed and put into book form, as it proved very interesting and the information so complete.

Any young collector desirous of studying an easy and inexpensive country should not fail to write the Secretary for a copy of his paper.

Herts Philatelic Society

President: H. Jennings-White.
Secretary: H. A. Slade, Ingleside, St. Albans.
Meetings: Anderton's Hotel, Fleet Street, London. Monthly.
Subscription: 5s.

THE January meeting of this flourishing Society was held on Tuesday the 17th, when Mr. W. Schwabacher was voted to the chair. The great rush of social engagements at this season of the year caused the absence of more than one regular attendant, but the following twenty-four gentlemen were present: Messrs. R. Frentzel, J. C. Sidebotham, R. Meyer, L. E. Bradbury, F. J. Melville, T. H. Harvey, H. L. Hayman, K. Wichen, L. W. Fulcher, H. Thompson, J. B. Neyroud, F. Wickham Jones, A. B. Kay, D. Thomson, A. Bagshawe, W. V. Morten, S. Chapman, H. Wills, H. Bevis, E. S. Dudley, W. Mair, A. H. L. Giles, C. E. Fagan, and H. A. Slade (Secretary).

Captain Wilfred Despard, R.F.A., Bradford, was elected a life member of the Society, and Messrs. J. J. Coates, of Southwark, H. Bevis, of East Moseley, W. C. Daniels, of Stoke Newington, and J. Wallace, of Finsbury Pavement, as ordinary members. Mr. Hayman and Mr. Brown were accorded hearty votes of thanks for donations to the Forgery Album in Mr.

Cole's charge, as also was Mr. Reichenheim for further donations to the Library.

Business over, Mr. F. J. Melville read a most interesting paper on "The Poetry of Stamp Collecting," with some excellent examples. The paper was full of philatelic interest, and at the close a hearty vote of thanks to the reader was carried with acclamation.

Mr. F. Wickham Jones then gave a display, with notes, of his collection of the stamps of Sicily, and we shall be doing those philatelists, whether of this or any other Society, who have not seen the collection, a good turn when we advise them to take the first opportunity they get of doing so. The stamps were replete with interest, and Mr. Jones dealt most exhaustively, but lucidly, with the varieties of plates, retouched plates, errors, shades, and other delights of the specialising expert. The display was thoroughly enjoyed from first to last.

A cordial vote of thanks was passed on the proposition of Mr. Fulcher, which Mr. R. Meyer seconded, both gentlemen suitably voicing the laudatory thoughts of those present towards the stamps shown. Mr. Jones suitably returned thanks.

The February meeting, on the 21st, is to be devoted to a General Display by the members, from whom the Secretary will doubtless be glad to hear, with offers.

An invitation card to the Junior Philatelic Society's forthcoming Exhibition has been sent to each member of the H. P. S. through the courtesy of Mr. F. J. Melville, one of its members, and President of the former Society. May all success attend the Exhibition.

Scottish Philatelic Society

President: John Walker.
Secretary: T. A. M'Intyre, 43, Nile Grove, Edinburgh.
Meetings: Edinburgh. Monthly: 8 p.m.
Annual Subscription: Ord. 5s.; Cor. 2s. 6d.

THE usual monthly meeting was held on 9th January, 1905, at the residenee of the Vice-President, Mr. Andrew Henderson. Major H. Vowell, Ealing, Messrs. F. Duiven, Utrecht, and W. Robinson, Sedbergh, were unanimously elected members. The October Exchange Packet returned from circulation on 4th January. Sales, £17 17s. 10d. net. Sheets with remittances were returned to members the same day. The January packet was despatched on 3rd January with twenty-eight sheets, value £125 11s. 9d. net. The work of the Exchange Branch shows a marked increase in every direction over any previous session.

The official stamps of Great Britain proved a popular subject for discussion, and a record attendance of members thoroughly appreciated the displays. Collections were shown by Messrs. Henderson, Kerr, Brookes, and W. B. Walker. Mr. Henderson had most of the rarities and a fine display in a handsome specially bound volume, including the high values I.R. Official (Queen), O.W. (with the 10d.), and all surcharges on King's Head issue. Mr. Kerr showed a large collection of all varieties, with pairs and blocks, including the Board of Education rarities. Mr. W. B. Walker had some interesting O.W. on entire originals. Mr. Brookes showed some unusual large blocks of various values of *used* I.R. Officials with *control letters*, and a collection of "Official Paid" cancellations.

There are vacancies for additional members, and prospectuses will be sent free on application.

Junior Philatelic Society

President: Fred J. Melville.
Secretary: H. F. Johnson, 11, Trigon Road, Clapham, S.W.
Meetings: 67, South Lambeth Rd., S.W. Bi-monthly: Saturdays.
Annual Subscription: 1s. 6d.

AN ordinary meeting of the Junior Philatelic Society was held in the hall of the Wheatsheaf Institute, 67, South Lambeth Road, S.W., on Saturday, January 21st, 1905, Mr. Fred J. Melville in the chair. Again a large number of new members were elected, including one life member. The names of the new members are: Percy C. Bishop, editor of *The Stamp Collector's Fortnightly* (life member); F. Barton, Clapham; W. Barton, Clapham; C. J. Boger, Ravenscourt Park; C. M. Tomkinson, Kidderminster; L. Quinton, East Finchley; H. T. Hill, Walsall; Charles H. Greenwood, Huddersfield; W. N. Simarpi, Brixton; E. H. Colcott, Paddington; A. Charles Burrows, Quorn; Miss Ethel Salkeld, Shortlands.

The President made several announcements about the progress of the work of the Exhibition and Publication Committee.

The following donations to the fund for defraying the heavy expenses of the Exhibition were announced:—

	£	s.	d.
Amount already acknowledged	14	17	0
W. H. Peckitt	3	3	0
Edwin Healey and Co.	1	1	0
Captain K. Dingwall	1	1	0
Anon.	1	0	0
J. K. Boddy	0	5	0
R. S. Farden	0	5	0
Mrs. C. Wildash	0	5	0
Rudolph Frentzel	0	5	0
Act. Sub.-Lieut. H. B. Price	0	2	6
E. Parry	0	2	6
D. S. Darkin	0	2	6
W. N. Simarpi	0	1	6
W. Mead	0	1	0
	£22	12	0

Mr. Melville then read to the members a short poem from Mr. W. E. Imeson, and the meeting accorded a hearty vote of thanks to Mr. Imeson.

It was announced that a special meeting of the Exhibition Committee would be held on Wednesday, February 1st, and that the committee would be empowered to accept applications for membership from any who desired to join before the Exhibition.

Mr. H. F. Johnson, after the somewhat lengthy list of announcements had been got through, gave a display, with introductory paper, of the stamps of the Cook Islands. A vote of thanks to Mr. Johnson, on the motion of Mr. W. C. B. Melville, seconded by Mr. G. H. Holland, was unanimously passed.

THE STAMP MARKET

By AN ODD LOT

I NOTE that Part I. of the new Gibbons Catalogue will not be out for some weeks yet, and I am wondering what it has in store for us in the matter of prices. It is no secret that many stamps have become very scarce, and I am told that some dealers have been replenishing their stock at full catalogue prices.

Yet I doubt if we shall find many sensational advances in price. The time is not ripe for anything like a boom in prices, despite scarcity. Of course those stamps upon which there has been a run will have to be put up, such as Lagos, King's Heads, single C A, and Northern Nigeria, Queen's Heads.

The extent to which Gibbons rules prices is demonstrated every now and again in the auction sales. For instance, Zululand 5s., carmine, when the news came of its scarcity, was run up to all sorts of prices. Gibbons eventually priced it at 60s. unused and 70s. used. One party followed up all copies at the auction sales, and seemed to be determined to corner all available copies, and he frequently paid full catalogue. But the stamp is now settling down to the usual auction proportion of Gibbons Catalogue for scarce stamps, about £2 2s.

I see the Rev. G. E. Raynor is selling the unused Great Britain portion of his collection at Puttick and Simpson's on March 21st. Mr. Raynor is an enthusiastic collector of Australians, and no mean authority thereon.

In the same month Messrs. Ventom, Bull, and Cooper will sell another Tamsen accumulation, embracing Transvaals, a superb lot of all issues, including rarities, Orange River Colony, and Pietersburg nearly complete in mint sheets. Mr. Tamsen is one of the most energetic and omnivorous collectors I have ever known. His collections have been simply vast accumulations, enough to vex the soul of Mr. Oldfield, our advocate of Limited Specialism, beyond earthly relief!

Pietersburg nearly complete in mint sheets. Ah! Humph! What will they fetch, I wonder? Not much, I guess, for they have not taken the fancy of many collectors.

EDITORIAL

Editorial Communications

All communications intended for the Editor should be addressed to Edward J. Nankivell, Carnanton, Camden Park, Tunbridge Wells.

Philatelic Societies

We wish to make a special feature of the prompt publication of the reports of Philatelic Societies, and trust we may have the kindly co-operation of the honorary secretaries in this matter. Reports should be written on one side of the paper, and despatched to the Editor by the earliest post.

Special Correspondence

The Editor will be glad to receive interesting letters from philatelic centres not already covered by our arrangements. We want chatty and newsy letters on matters of interest to the general collector, and excluding all matter of interest only to the specialist.

Our Miscellaneous Page

We wish to make *Gibbons Stamp Weekly* a storehouse of information, and shall therefore be glad of any cuttings of more or less permanent interest for our "Miscellaneous" page. Source and date of cutting must be given.

Subscriptions

Subscriptions must be sent to the publishers as set out on the front page of cover, or to booksellers or railway bookstalls, but never to the Editor.

OUR PHILATELIC DIARY

FEBRUARY, 1905

14. Bradford Philatelic Society: Display—English Unused, by W. M. Gray.

15. Enterprise Philatelic Society, London: Paper—Gibraltar, by H. W. Westcott; and Display with Notes—West Australia, by E. Heginbottom.

Sheffield Philatelic Society: General Display by members.

16. Auction: Glendining, 7, Argyll Street, London. 4.30 p.m.

Auction: Ventom. Bull, and Cooper, Temple Hotel, Arundel Street, London. 5 p.m.

17. Auction: Glendining, 7, Argyll Street, London. 4.30 p.m.

Auction: Ventom, Bull, and Cooper, Temple Hotel, Arundel Street, London. 5 p.m.

18. Junior Philatelic Society: Poetry of Stamp Collecting, with some examples, by F. J. Melville; and Paper—Victorian *v.* Edwardian Issues, by E. Heginbottom.

21. Leeds Philatelic Society: Display—Stamps of Brazil, with notes, by E. Egly.

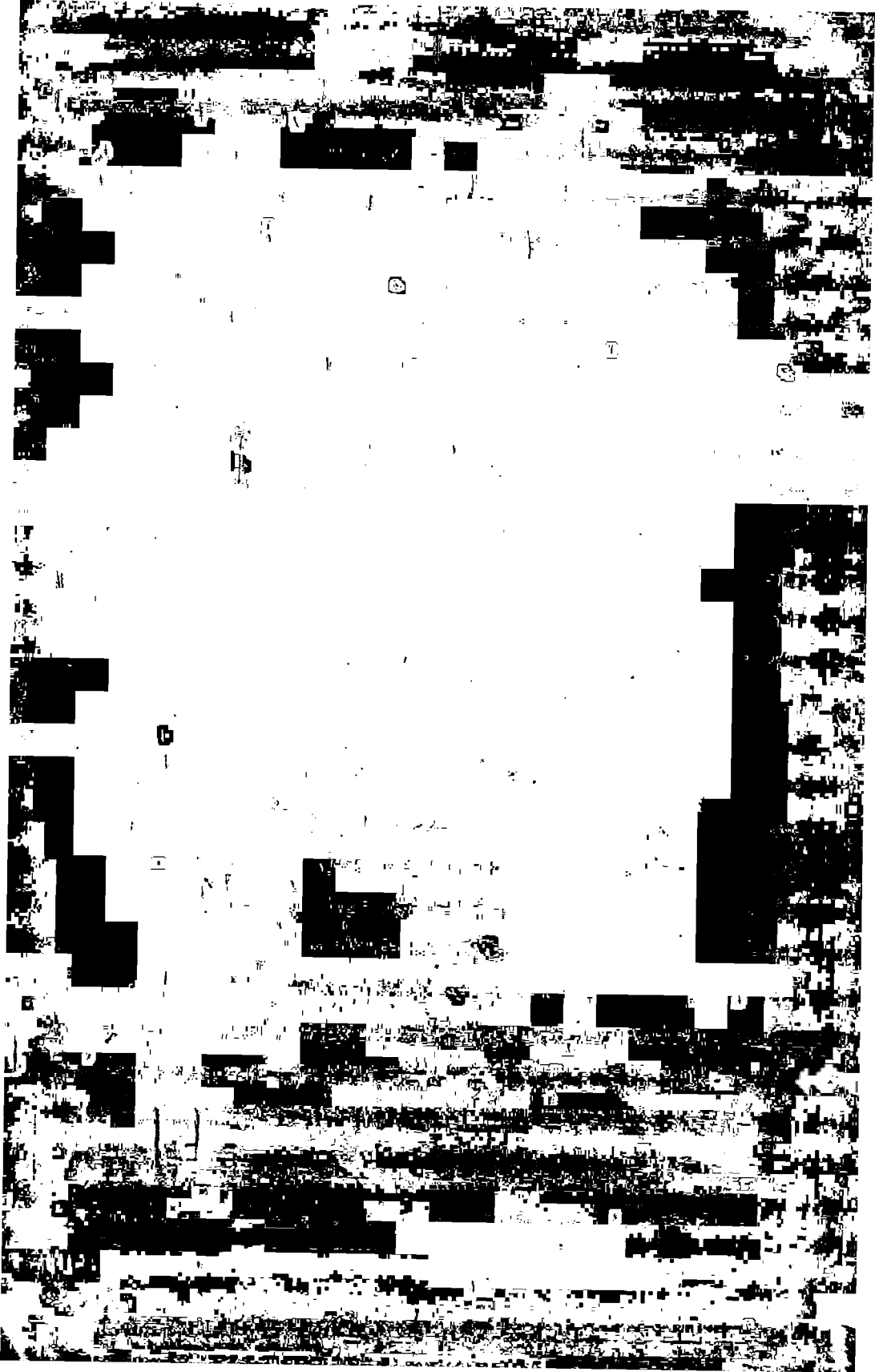
Auction: Puttick and Simpson, 47, Leicester Square, London. 4.30 p.m.

22. Auction: Puttick and Simpson, 47, Leicester Square, London. 4.30 p.m.

23. Birmingham Philatelic Society: Auction at Acorn Hotel.

28. Auction: Plumridge and Co., 64, Chancery Lane, W.C. 4.45 p.m.

Printed by W. BRENDON & SON, Ltd., Plymouth, for the Proprietors, STANLEY GIBBONS, Ltd., 391, Strand, London, W.C.
11 February, 1905.



the Tuscan Lodge, No. 14, on March 25, 1879, and after serving the various offices, including that of W.M. in 1889, acted as Secretary of the Lodge, which office he held until his death. He was also P.M. of the West Kent Volunteer Lodge, No. 2041, and of the Argonaut's Lodge, No. 2243. He served the office of Grand Steward in 1888, and in 1897 he was appointed Grand Sword-Bearer of England.

In Arch Masonry he was a member of several Chapters, of which he occupied the Chair and obtained Grand Rank both in the Grand Chapter and the Provincial Grand Chapter of Surrey. He also took keen interest in several other Degrees connected with Masonry, and was recently admitted to the high honour of the Thirty-first Degree.

He was a generous supporter of the three Charitable Institutions, and in the ranks of London Masons no more popular member could be met with than our late friend.

Mr. Gordon Smith was keen on volunteering, and was himself a volunteer of more than twenty-five years' standing, holding the rank of Major in the Queen's Own Battalion of West Kent Volunteers.

Mr. Gordon Smith's philatelic career commenced about 1870, when he formed a small collection; but it was not until about 1886 that he really started collecting in earnest, and he then got together a collection of unused British stamps. In 1890 he commenced specialising South Australia, and ultimately wrote a handbook on that country in conjunction with his friend Lieut. F. H. Napier. At different periods since then he specialised in the British Telegraph stamps, in Luxemburg, in certain issues of Portugal and Colonies, etc. etc.

Mr. Gordon Smith was always an earnest student and writer on philatelic subjects, and contributed many articles and papers to the stamp journals.

In 1893 he joined the firm of Stanley Gibbons, Limited, and was appointed a Director in 1898. During the years in which he was associated with me I learned to appreciate his brilliant qualities, his capacity for work, and his care and accuracy in every branch of work that he undertook. In losing Gordon Smith I lose not only a co-worker, but a loyal and true friend, whose place it will be impossible to fill.

Mr. Smith joined the Philatelic Society in 1892, and was elected a member of the Council in 1897. He served on almost all the committees, and was invaluable to the Society, on the Publishing and Expert Committees in particular. He took an active part in the London Philatelic Exhibition of 1897, and was presented with a gold watch and chain as some little recognition of the work he had done for Philately. He was married only two years ago, and our sympathy must go out to the widow, whose loss it is impossible to fully appreciate.

It is with an aching heart that I indite these few lines in memory of my friend. It is only those who have been closely associated with him who can have learned his true worth. To-day there are hundreds in various walks of life who are mourning the loss of a dear friend.

The funeral took place at Golder's Green Crematorium on Wednesday last at one o'clock.

Amongst those who attended were Major E. B. Evans, Messrs. C. J. Phillips, G. Hamilton-Smith, S. E. Gwyer, W. P. Barnsdall, T. F. Fullard, W. H. Hiscox, all colleagues of his in the firm of Stanley Gibbons, Limited; the following representatives of the Philatelic Society: Messrs. C. N. Biggs, E. D. Bacon, T. Maycock, E. J. Nankivell, R. Ehrenbach, R. B. Yardley; and amongst other friends, Messrs. Ridsdale, W. H. Peckitt, J. W. Jones, E. St. Clair, representing the Grand Lodge of England; Col. Hewitt and Mr. Frigont, of his Volunteer Regiment; G. P. Parker, W. J. Dyer, and H. R. Sadler, of the Tuscan Lodge; C. Von Buch, A. E. Young, and W. J. Fisher, representing other Masonic bodies.

A large number of beautiful wreaths were laid on the coffin.

The photograph which I present with this number was taken in 1901, and was considered a very good one of our friend.

CHARLES J. PHILLIPS.

STAMPS OF GREAT BRITAIN

By the late GORDON SMITH, M.A.

(*Continued from page* 86.)



The Three-halfpenny Value

THE 1½d. stamps which were issued at the same time as the ½d. have been termed a "scissors and paste" variety of the 1d., only the shield-shaped band which contains the inscription distinguishing it in design from that value, and in every other respect—watermark, perforation, arrangement on the sheet—it is the same. There were only two plates, namely, 1 and 3 (No. 2 being defective); the latter has the figure "3" in the margin as in the 1d., but nearer the foot of the stamp, and plate 1 has no number in the margin at all. The change in the postal rate effected in 1870 was proposed in 1860, but was not then carried out. The project was, however, so far advanced that the 1½d. stamps had been prepared for use, but when the Bill in Parliament failed to pass, the stamps were put aside and the bulk of them destroyed in 1867. A few, however, came into the hands of collectors and are still to be obtained. They are easily distinguishable from those of plate 1 actually issued by the colour, which has been called "lilac-rose," but is really rather like what I am sure my younger readers know very well — strawberry cream.

My readers will remember that in discussing the insertion of the letters in the corners of the 1d. and 2d. value we noticed that occasionally mistakes had been made in putting the letters into their proper places, but that these had been more or less effectually effaced before the plate was put to press. The first plate of the 1½d., however, contained one of these errors lettered $\frac{O\ P}{P\ C}$ instead of $\frac{C\ P}{P\ C}$, which escaped detection, although the plates are subjected to the scrutiny of many persons before they are finally accepted. It follows, of course, that the error is found on the unissued "lilac-rose" stamp as well as on the rose-red which was issued.

1ST OCTOBER, 1870.

Watermark "half penny" along 3 stamps. Perf. 14.

½d., rose, rose-red.

Watermark a Large Crown. Perf. 14.

1½d., rose-red.

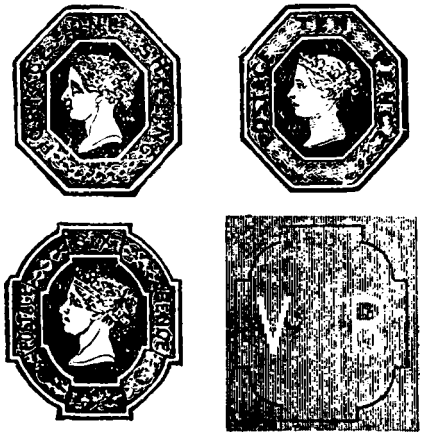
We now take leave of the stamps printed from line-engraved plates, the use of which extended over nearly forty years, being superseded in 1880 by those printed typographically, or as we usually say, surface-printed. For simplicity of design and beauty of workmanship they have certainly never been equalled, and although we may regret that our stamps to-day do not represent the highest production from an artistic point of view, the practical reasons for their disappearance, whether we look at the question from the side of the authorities who supplied them or that of the individuals who use them, are so overwhelming that it is unlikely we shall ever return to adhesives produced from engraved plates.

(2) The Embossed Stamps

Within a few years of the first issue of postage stamps the public had become so accustomed to the prepayment of postage that the wish was evinced to be able to prepay also letters for the colonies and foreign countries—for the 1d. and 2d. values were restricted in their use to letters delivered within the United Kingdom.

The single rate to many of the most important places outside the British Isles was 1s., and this was the first value prepared. The stamps were manufactured at Somerset House by the Inland Revenue authorities. The die was executed at the Royal Mint, the head of the Queen being

taken from the same City medal which had served as the model for the 1d. The die resembled those employed for making coins, being much deeper cut than that required for plate-printing. The method of printing was to ink the uncut surface of the die, which descended on to the paper, beneath which was a counterpart in soft metal of the die into which the die itself loosely fitted, so that when the two were brought together with the paper between, the uncoloured parts appeared in relief, and the flat parts in colour. For over one hundred years revenue or duty stamps had been produced in the same way, so that the authorities were well supplied with presses and other appliances. The process of printing was very slow, as each stamp had to be made singly, the sheet of paper having to be moved under the die.



The 10d. value followed a year after the 1s., and for both these the paper used was "Dickinson" paper, similar to that which had been employed for the Mulready covers and envelopes, but the silk threads were arranged so that each stamp should have a thread across it vertically.

The 6d. value was not required until six years after the 10d. was called for, and was printed on a special paper watermarked "V R" in block capitals.

All these values were imperforate. Two dies were employed for the 1s. and four for the 10d. (but only one for the 6d.). The dies are numbered and the figures are to be found at the foot of the bust, together with the letters "W W", the initials of the engraver, Mr. William Wyon. They are very difficult to decipher, and in certainly more than half the stamps one examines it is impossible to make them out at all. The paper being moved by hand, the stamps were very irregularly spaced on the sheet, and it is not at all uncommon to find parts of adjacent specimens overlapping each other. The only peculiarity of the gum is found on certain tints of the 6d., on which it has a greenish hue. The sheets of paper were always gummed before putting to press; the colour of the paper on the gummed and on the ungummed sides was so much alike that it was found that the stamps occasionally came out printed on the gummed side, and to enable the workmen to distinguish between them the gum was intentionally made a greenish tint.

It should be noticed that the 10d., which had fallen out of use, was temporarily reissued in 1867 (before the surface-printed stamp of that value was issued), a change in some of the foreign rates creating a new demand.

1847-54. *"Dickinson" paper. Imperf.*

1s., green.
10d., brown.

Watermark "V R". Imperf.

6d., violet.

(To be continued.)

PUBLIC SCHOOL COLLECTING

By Rev. T. C. WALTON, M.A.

(*Continued from page* 89.)

LITHOGRAPHY, because of its simplicity and cheapness, is a method of producing facsimiles often resorted to by the forgers of old stamps. Many such forgeries of the 1862 issue of British Guiana exist.

The most troublesome of forgeries, however, are those of stamps set up from printer's type. Of the stamps on coloured paper of Nowanuggur more than 400 varieties are known, and skilful forgeries of these defy detection. This knowledge is, however, of importance, for the collector who knows naturally fights shy of Nowanuggur stamps, and consequently the forger finds no market for his wares.

Reprints and forgeries of the embossed stamps of Heligoland are to be found everywhere. The reprints were made by a German dealer, and are of no value. If any reader of these pages has any of these stamps and is in doubt as to their genuineness, the best advice I can give is that he should send them to an expert for examination.

Official Reprints

This seems to be a suitable juncture for a word on reprints. Reprints are not forgeries, but they may lead to forgeries. Just as facsimiles or imitations, sold as such, may, unless the fact is plainly intimated on the stamps, become forgeries in the hands of persons of doubtful morals. Reprints are, generally speaking, official reproductions made from the die or plate of an obsolete stamp. Collectors are in need of specimens. Other Governments also send requests for examples of various issues to add to their national collection of stamps. Reprints of the obsolete Cape of Good Hope stamps of 1861 were made for this reason. The said Government, to oblige and frequently with an eye to financial benefit, proceeds to print off a fresh supply of stamps from the original plate. An interesting example of a reprint is that made in 1864, when the English 1d., red (Plate No. 66), was printed in black for certain members of the Royal Family. Of course, I need scarcely tell the reader that this reprint is not a postage stamp at all, for the die, having been retouched in 1855, could not give the same result as the original die. Besides, the stamps were printed on paper watermarked with the Large Crown then in use, whereas the original 1d., black, was printed on paper watermarked with a Small Crown.

Sometimes reprints are marked "Reprint" or "Specimen," as in the case of the South Australian reprints made in 1884 of all the principal varieties issued from 1855 to 1882. These were also safeguarded by being printed on paper with the watermark Crown and S A, whereas many of the original issues were on paper watermarked with a Star or V over a Crown. When such reprints are definitely and distinctly labelled as such, all is well from a collector's point of view. Unfortunately there are many instances where no such distinctive mark was added. These can, however, be mostly distinguished by the colours being brighter and fresher than those of the original stamps, by the greater clearness of impression, and by the use of a different paper. The following are some examples of reprints which have no distinctive label. All the early issues of Austria were reprinted in 1865, 1871, 1885. They are distinguished from the original issues by the use of a whiter and smoother paper and by the brighter colouring. Both originals and reprints were typographed. Forgeries, roughly lithographed, are known, and some of the reprints are found with forged postmarks. The early issues of Baden, Prussia, Wurtemberg, and the United States of America have also been reprinted.

The first issue of Natal has often been reprinted, and early reprints cannot be certainly distinguished from originals. For this reason the leading stamp firms do not sell unused stamps of this issue.

Reprints of all four values of the first issues of India, 1854-55, have been made on paper without watermark, and with or without the word "Specimen" on the back. The original stamps were printed on paper watermarked with the Arms of India in the sheet.

A very ingenious example of reprints is to be seen in the case of Japanese stamps. All the issues from 1871, with the exception of the current issue, have been reprinted, and two minute Japanese characters signifying "facsimile" figure in various positions and in varying degrees of prominence on the reprint. Further, the facsimiles of the 1871 and 1872 issues are often found with heavy Japanese cancellations over these two characters to give the impression that these stamps have been postally used. Some months ago I saw several approval sheets of early Japanese marked at ridiculously low prices. They purported to be the stock of a generous (?) Japanese stamp merchant. On some of the stamps the two distinguishing marks of the reprint could be plainly seen. I concluded that the sheets were altogether a fraud.

The foregoing issues of reprints have all had a more or less official sanction. The idea of gain certainly was the underlying motive in many cases; but that such reprints could be turned into forgeries was probably a matter which had never entered the heads of the postal authorities who were responsible for their issue.

Fraudulent Reprints

We have already made mention of the stamps of Heligoland. Plates of many of these stamps, as also dies of Bergedorf and plates of the early Italian stamps, have fallen into private hands with results which the reader can readily imagine without any assistance from me. Fortunately the dies and plates used are guarded with the greatest possible care, and in many cases destroyed when the introduction of a new design is *un fait accompli.*

I have written at length on the subject of reprints because it is a matter of which the average schoolboy knows little. Possibly this article may have unsettled his faith in the genuineness of many of his stamps. Let me at once proceed to restore his equilibrium by stating that all the leading dealers have determinedly set their faces against reprints. "No Reprints Sold" is writ large on their advertisements. All stamps bought from them are guaranteed genuine in every respect. The beginner may therefore take heart again and go on his way rejoicing. "Reprints" need have no terrors for him on that score.

Fakes

The distinction between a fake and a forgery has already been noticed. I proceed to give some examples of ingenious fakes. Can anything be more amusing than the following? In 1866 the Roumanian issue of stamps depicted Prince Charles' head without a beard. Later, the said Prince took it into his head that a beard would more befit his august rank. Accordingly, in the ordinary and somewhat tedious course of nature, he grew a beard. Of course, a new issue of stamps became necessary. In 1872 Prince Charles appeared on Roumanian stamps clothed in a beard. Now the 50 bani, blue and red, of this bearded issue of 1872 became a scarce and much-sought-after variety; whereas the 50 bani, blue and red, of the earlier issue (printed in 1869) was easily and cheaply accessible. What could be more simple than to "fake" a beard on the beardless issue, and so change a fairly common variety into one which, in a used condition, is worth about sixteen times as much? Such is one instance of the faker's *modus operandi.* Would it were the only one! Unfortunately his ingenuity may control a very wide field.

(To be continued.)

STAMP COLLECTING AS A PASTIME

By EDWARD J. NANKIVELL

(*Continued from page* 90.)

VII. **Stamps with a History** (*continued*)

OF curious blunders, the Cape of Good Hope errors of colours are amongst the most notable. In 1861 the 1d. and 4d. triangular stamps, then current, were suddenly exhausted, and before a stock could be obtained from the printers in England, a temporary supply had to be provided locally. This was done by engraving imitations of the originals. Stereos were then taken, and made up into plates for printing. By an oversight a stereo of the penny value was dropped into the fourpenny plate and a fourpenny into the penny plate. Consequently, each sheet printed in the required red ink from the penny plate yielded a fourpenny wrongly printed in red instead of blue, its proper colour; and every sheet of the fourpenny likewise yielded a penny stamp printed in blue instead of red. These errors are highly prized by collectors, and are now extremely scarce, even poor specimens fetching from £50 to £60. At the time, copies were sold by dealers for a few shillings each. Similar errors are known in the stamps of other countries.

Now and again the sheets of a particular value have, by some extraordinary oversight, been printed and issued in the wrong colour. In 1869 copies of the 1s. of Western Australia were printed in bistre instead of in green, and a few years later the twopence was discovered in lilac instead of yellow. In 1863 a supply of shilling stamps was sent out to Barbados printed in blue instead of black; but this latter error was, according to Messrs. Hardy and Bacon, so promptly discovered, that it is doubtful if any of the wrong colour were issued for postal use. In 1896 the fastidiously careful firm of De La Rue and Co. printed off and despatched to Tobago a supply of 6,000 one shilling stamps in the colour of the sixpenny, *i.e.* in orange-brown instead of olive-yellow. Several are said to have been issued to the public before the error had been noticed. Indeed, the firm at home is credited with having first discovered the mistake, and is said to have telegraphed to the colony in time to prevent their issue in any quantity.

Another and much more common error in the early days of stamp production was the careless placing of one stamp on a plate upside down. Stamps so placed are termed *tête-bêche*. They have to be collected in pairs to show the error. The early stamps of France furnish many examples of this class of error. They are also to be found on the 6d. and 1s. values of the first design of the stamps of the Transvaal, on the early issues of Roumania, on some of the stamps of the Colombian Republic, and other countries.

Stamps requiring two separate printings —*i.e.* stamps printed in two colours— have given rise to many curious errors in printing. A sheet passed through the press upside down after one colour has been printed results in one portion of the design being inverted. In the 1869 issue of the stamps of the United States no less than three of the values had the central portions of their designs printed upside down. The 4d., blue, of the first issue of Western Australia is known with the Swan on its head. Even the recently issued Pan-American stamps, printed in the most watchful manner by the United States official Bureau of Engraving and Printing, are known with the central portions of the design inverted, and these errors, despite the most searching examination to which each sheet is several times subjected, escaped detection, and were sold to the public. When, however, it is remembered that stamps are now printed by the million, it will be wondered that so few mistakes escape into the hands of collectors.

(*To be continued.*)

JUNIOR PHILATELIC EXHIBITION



THE Junior Philatelic Society of London had a field-day at Exeter Hall on Friday and Saturday (Feb. 3rd and 4th). They had, with an industry and enthusiasm that commanded success, organised a Junior Exhibition of the Stamps of Great Britain. The exhibition was held at Exeter Hall. A nice representative collection of English issues was neatly arranged in glass cases, conveniently set up on stands, and around these visitors thronged in crowds throughout both days. No sooner were the doors opened than the place was filled; and when Major Evans ascended the platform to open the exhibition he had a large and appreciative audience.

Mr. Fred J. Melville, as President of the Junior Philatelic Society, introduced Major Evans, and thanked him for his kindness in coming to open their exhibition.

Major Evans said :—



Ladies and Gentlemen,—Before I proceed to the business of the day, I should like to say a few words in explanation of my presence here in a position which I am sure would be much better filled by someone else. Not many days ago I received a very kind and complimentary letter from Mr. F. J. Melville, the able President of the Junior Philatelic Society, inviting me to open this exhibition. Now had he but sent that letter by post, as a postage stamp collector should do, I might have had time to find a fitting excuse for declining his invitation; but, instead of that, he sent it by hand, and instructed his messenger to wait for an answer, with the result that, having no time to compose an excuse, I was obliged to accept the honour offered me. I really have no business here at all; I cannot claim to be a junior philatelist in any sense of the term. My stamp collecting commenced between forty and fifty years ago. I have been collecting stamps ever since, and I hope I may continue to do so for the rest of my life, for I know of no more interesting and absorbing occupation; it is a true pastime, for nothing makes the time pass more quickly and more pleasantly.

But although I am no longer a junior philatelist, I hope that I am able to appreciate the difficulties of those who are commencing the study of stamps. There were difficulties in my younger days, but they were different from those that trouble the beginner now. We were in want of accessories of all kinds—albums, catalogues, philatelic literature, etc.—and we certainly never dreamed of exhibitions of stamps, to show us what to do and how to do it. One of our difficulties was to find enough stamps to collect; the principal difficulty now is to decide in what directions to limit one's collection so as to bring it within reasonable bounds. In spite, however, of the difficulty—I might say the impossibility—at the present day of making a complete collection of the stamps of the whole world, I would strongly recommend all collectors to commence by collecting the stamps of all countries; and that partly because a general collection is far more interesting to others than a strictly limited one, but principally because I think that a collector should strive to gain a general knowledge of stamps before attempting to specialise.

But fully as I sympathise with the difficulties of those who are beginning to collect stamps, I have a far deeper sympathy for those unfortunate persons who have not yet begun, and perhaps do not even contemplate beginning. We stamp collectors divide the human race into two great classes, those who collect stamps and those who do not; which is the worthier class of the two I need not say. We admit that there are other divisions—political, geographical, national, etc.—but with these we are not so much concerned. We know that there are various countries in the world, few know it better; indeed, we are apt to believe that they are permitted to exist principally for the purpose of issuing the stamps that we collect; some of them are so good as to issue stamps solely with that object, but we have no greater regard for those countries on that account. We have our own opinions upon the subject of various countries, and we express them in our own way. For instance, if we say Japan is a better country than Russia, we do not thereby express an opinion as to the ultimate result of the present war between those two countries; what we mean is that we consider that the stamps of Japan form a more interesting subject for study than those of Russia.



OUR REPORTER

But, as I have already stated, we practically recognise only the two great classes, philatelists and non-philatelists; and whilst congratulating those who are members of the first class, I would take this opportunity of expressing my commiseration for those who belong to the second. I sincerely trust that

some of those misguided people are present here to-day, and after studying the interesting exhibition which has been arranged for their instruction, and listening to the valuable lectures which Mr. Melville is going to give them this evening and to-morrow evening, I hope that large numbers of them will be converted from the error of their ways, and will become the enthusiastic philatelists that they ought to be.

I will now, ladies and gentlemen, detain you no longer. I feel that the hearty thanks of all stamp collectors are due to Mr. Melville and the members of the Junior Philatelic Society who have arranged this exhibition, which I now have great pleasure in formally declaring open.

Dealers' stalls were ranged around the hall, and seemed to be doing a brisk business. There were albums of all sorts and sizes, and packets and sets galore, and selections to tempt the most economical of juniors into spending his last halfpenny.

An orchestra enlivened the proceedings from time to time, and Mr. Melville gave an amusing and instructive lecture each evening.

In the Competitive Section the awards were made as follows.

The Exhibition Committee decided to allow competitors in this section to choose their own prizes in their order of merit. The medallists were invited to select theirs first. The figure preceding the name is the order of merit, the figures following the name denote competitor's age.



AN ODD VARIETY

Gold Medal.

1. L. W. Crouch, Aylesbury (under 19).

Silver Medal.

2. T. Finch, Exeter (11½).
3. Geraldine Guinness, Bow (16).

Prizes.

4. Claire Bonham Carter, London, S.W. (14).
5. P. Wigmore, London, N.W. (10).
6. P. A. Jones, Brixton (18).
7. L. Quinton, Finchley (under 19).
8. J. K. Ruddock, Glasgow (16½).
9. F. Hughes, West Hampstead (17).
10. R. Spencer, Newmarket (17).
11. J. A. Husselbee, Rotherham (17).

The prizes included albums, stamp catalogues, a set of *Captain* volumes, and a copy of *The Adhesive Stamps of Great Britain*, by Wright and Creeke.

In the matter of attendance there were juniors of all ages, and ladies and gentlemen of all grades, and many prominent members of the celebrated Philatelic Society of London. In fact, the whole business, in living interest and enthusiasm, resembled a crowded country fair. Sometimes there was scarcely room to move about.

NEW ISSUES

The Editor will be grateful to his readers if they will help him with the earliest possible information concerning new issues. News from the Colonies in particular will be much appreciated. When possible, a specimen should accompany the information, and should be addressed to

EDWARD J. NANKIVELL, Carnanton, Camden Park, Tunbridge Wells.

Philippines.—On page 63 we quoted an announcement from the *Metropolitan Philatelist* of New York as to a proposed new issue for this U.S. possession. We now quote the following further particulars from a later number of the same journal:—

"The sketches for several of the new Philippine stamps have been approved, subject to minor changes, and the artists at the Bureau will at once proceed to get out the perfected design. There may be some changes yet in the design of the 2 centavo stamp bearing the portrait of Rizal. It is possible the Bureau of Insular Affairs may decide upon a larger photo for the stamp, the present one being rather small.

"It is said that Rizal is the national idol of the Filipinos. While Governor of the Philippines, Secretary Taft had an opportunity to become acquainted with Rizal, and to learn of his exploits. He found that wherever he went he found the picture of Rizal in the home. Secretary Taft heard so much about the man and his deeds and virtues that he came to have a great personal regard for him, and it was at the suggestion of Mr. Taft that the portrait of Rizal will adorn the stamp which is most used in the Philippines.

"It would appear that Rizal's career justifies the honours that will be paid him on the first postal issue for the islands. Rizal was a writer, and attracted a good deal of attention by his book, *Noli Me Tangere*, which was a fierce attack upon the Spanish Government, and particularly on the friars. Rizal took an important part in the demonstrations against the Government, and for this offence was banished to the southern part of the island of Mindanao. Here he remained many years; but at the time the Cubans were giving the Spanish a good deal of trouble Rizal managed to get away, and sailed for the West Indies to act as surgeon. He only got as far as Barcelona, Spain, being there arrested and returned to Manilla, charged with stirring up strife and war. They gave him a brief trial, and sentenced him to be shot in the public park. It appears that Rizal had become infatuated with a beautiful Englishwoman, who reciprocated his affection, and she stood by him to the last, and married him the day before his execution. That night in his cell Rizal requested permission to leave a statement, and paper and pen were furnished him. His statement was a poem, breathing love and patriotism, and to this day that poem is held sacred by all Filipinos. The next day Rizal was shot, in the presence of an immense number of people. Shortly afterward the poem was published and created a tremendous sensation, and is considered the finest thing ever written by the Filipinos. Rizal was only 37 years old at the time of his execution, which occurred in 1897.

"The placing of Rizal's picture on the stamp that will circulate generally throughout the islands is expected to produce a most favourable impression upon the natives, and to indicate to them that the United States Government desires to do all that it can to further a state of good will."

St. Helena.—In August last we reported the fact that the Crown Agents for the Colonies were making what was supposed to be a final effort to get rid of the remaining stock of certain stamps of this Colony, which were stated to be obsolete, but which might perfectly well have been used up, as we then suggested. A printed handbill was issued, giving a list of the stamps offered, with the numbers of each kind, and at the end of it was the following paragraph:—

"Offers, which must not be less than face value, must be sent in not later than the 31st December, 1904, after which date all the stamps which may remain unsold will be destroyed."

It was not very probable that any large proportion of the stamps in question (more than £8,600 worth) would be sold at face value, but it was a satisfaction to be assured that there was to be no selling off at waste-paper prices, and that the final remainders were to be put out of harm's way. We were greatly surprised therefore to learn, just too late for notice last month, that, in spite of the undertaking quoted above, and before even the term allowed for offers had expired, an unknown quantity of these stamps were obliterated and sold in bulk to a well-known firm of London dealers.

We have nothing whatever to say against the firm in question, or indeed against the stamps, so long as their nature and position are fully recognised by all who handle them. They are genuine remainders, and they have been cancelled in such a way that no one need mistake them for *used* specimens. We have no special prejudice against cancelled remainders; our objection in this case is to the fact of there being any remainders at all, as the stamps should have been used up before issuing others. But what we have a right to complain of is that there has been a distinct breach of faith on the part of the Crown Agents or of those who instructed them in this matter. The stamps were offered for sale at face value, with an unqualified guarantee that all not disposed of in that way would be destroyed; this agreement has been entirely disregarded, to the great discredit of those responsible. It will be impossible in the future for stamp dealers to do any business with the Crown Agents, if undertakings given by the latter are to be set aside in this way. The Colony of St. Helena, which has been guilty of a good deal of unnecessary stamp-issuing and selling-off of stocks, is degraded to the level of Labuan and North Borneo, and the Crown Agents must feel but little satisfaction in regard to this very curious affair.

The stamps originally advertised for sale were the 2½d., 3d., 4d., 6d., 1s., and 5s. of the old original type, and the 1½d., 2d., 2½d., 5d., and 10d. of Type 8 in the Catalogue, all (except the 5s.) presumably watermarked Crown and CA. Of these we have seen all of the old type except the 5s., together with the 2d., 2½d., and 10d. of Type 8, cancelled with a diamond-shaped design, consisting of four diagonal bars in a single-line frame, with sides measuring about 16 mm., struck in *violet* ink. It is, fortunately, as we stated above, not in the least like any postmark known to have been used in the Colony, the nearest we can find being a mark of somewhat similar shape, formed of seven much thicker bars, and without a frame. Thus treated the stamps can do but little harm; the objection to them is that they have no right to be in existence.—*Monthly Journal.*

MISCELLANEOUS

The Stamps of Wuhu

A LETTER from Lieut.-Commander Wm. C. Eaton, U.S.N., graphically describes the inception of this post, and we cannot refrain from making a quotation. Mr. Eaton visited Wuhu in June, 1894, on the U.S.S. *Monocacy*. He says:—

"I had the pleasure of meeting the gentleman as he called to pay his respects to my fellow-officers and, incidentally, to announce the formation of the office. I was at once interested, and our conversation resulted in showing a remarkable, if not amusing, example of the perversion of ideas by the thirst for gain. Almost his first question, after asking the addresses of United States dealers, was 'What can I charge for my stamp in New York—a gold dollar per set?' (about twice the face, as the Mexican dollar is worth about 50 cents).

"When I had recovered the breath taken away by this remarkable specimen of ingenuousness, I told him that it was difficult to see just how, as Postmaster, he could ask more than face value. 'But,' he said, 'there will be no harm, will there, if I reserve a portion of each of my issues for a future rise?' Suppressing a smile, I endeavoured to give the gentleman some idea of the proprieties of the postal business, and on finding from his answers to my questions that the post office was entirely a thing of his own, that all the revenues went into his own pocket, and that the people of Wuhu had nothing whatever to do with it, except that he had obtained their signatures to a paper requesting that their mail be sent in his care, I told him that I feared that his project would not be a success, and that a stamp to be legitimate should be issued by the governing authorities of the place. Upon this the gentleman suddenly departed. An hour afterward I was amused to hear of a call for a meeting of the citizens of Wuhu to 'appoint a Postmaster.' From all accounts this meeting was a most amusing as well as exciting one, leading even to the unparliamentary act by the self-appointed Postmaster of shaking his fist at said citizens, and declaring that he did not want their endorsement and did not propose to 'let them in' to the matter at all, also refusing to give any guarantee, on being questioned, that the office would be maintained for any length of time. However, in justice it should be said that the meeting finally did vote to 'endorse' him, though just what such an endorsement amounts to it is difficult to determine; it would seem in a measure to make them responsible for the Postmaster, while he is under no sort of responsibility to them."—*American Journal of Philately.*

Unused v. Used

THE numbers of unused copies of the older issues of the British Empire are as rapidly shrinking in quantity as they are rising in value, and it is already practically impossible for anyone who is not blessed with large means to make an unused collection of our most favoured Colonial stamps. The next best thing to unused is obviously the finest possible used, and we feel certain that this is a form of collecting that must ultimately appeal to a large class of collectors. The early steel-engraved Colonial stamps are fortunately of such a full and rich appearance, that specimens can occasionally be found on which the postmark is but little seen, and a collection of such specimens—with the all-important proviso that they are well centred—may be difficult of acquisition, but in appearance and value will assuredly repay the collector who gives himself the trouble to collect them.—MR. M. P. CASTLE in *The London Philatelist.*

Postal Peculiarities

AT Madeley, in Salop, there are two blocks of houses, named respectively "Elm Grove" and "Coppice Farm Cottages," only two hundred yards apart. Should you wish to send a letter from the former to the latter, it makes the following peregrination: by postman from letter-box to post office, one mile; mail-cart from Madeley to Wellington, seven miles; rail from Wellington to Stafford, twenty-one miles; rail from Stafford to Shifnal, eighteen miles; cycle postman, Shifnal to Kemberton Turn, two miles and a half; foot postman, Kemberton Turn to Coppice Farm, half a mile; grand total, fifty miles.

Mails from St. Kilda

THE island of St. Kilda, situated fifty miles north-west of the Hebrides, has no regular communication with the mainland from September till June, but its inhabitants, anxious to send a message to their friends on the mainland, occasionally resort to a very novel plan of doing so. A toy-boat, called the St. Kilda Mail, is shaped from a block of wood, and into a hollow made in the centre of it letters are placed, duly sealed in a watertight tin; the enclosure is then boarded by a piece of wood, on which is crudely written the words, "Please open." The St. Kilda mailboat is then tied to a skin buoy and set adrift with the first favourable gale from the north-west. One of these toy-boats was picked up on the west coast of Lewis last week, and letters dated St. Kilda, January 8th, were received here on the 13th inst. The tiny craft only took two days to travel the sixty miles of ocean which divided the sender from the finder. The inhabitants are reported to be all well and busy at the spinning and weaving of the famous St. Kilda tweed, to which industry they devote the nine months of isolation from the rest of the world. Stormy winds and raging billows buffet the Gibraltar of the West.—*The Globe.*

New South Wales O.S. Stamps Destroyed

NEW SOUTH WALES Official stamps became obsolete on 31st December, 1894. In August, 1895, sets of 32 varieties of O.S. stamps, together with some envelopes and post cards, were placed on sale at the head office, Sydney, at £2 per set. These sets contained, with very few exceptions, all the varieties which had been in use since 1880, and included several with red surcharge. Some of the earlier stamps, and many of the surcharges, were reprinted to make up these sets. The obliteration, consisting of the letters N.S.W. in three concentric circles, was lightly applied to the centre of a block of four stamps.

About the same period the stock of unused Officials remaining over was also placed on sale at the G.P.O., Sydney, at face value, on the understanding that they were not to be available for postal purposes. Reprints were not sold unused. All were withdrawn from sale a few months later, and those not sold were subsequently destroyed.—*Australian Journal of Philately.*

THE STAMP KING

By G. DE BEAUREGARD AND H. DE GORSSE

Translated from the French by EDITH C. PHILLIPS

CHAPTER I. (*continued*)

In which one sees to what lengths the Love of Postage Stamps is carried by true Philatelists

SUDDENLY the girl seized her maid's arm.

"Why," she said, "you are actually asleep!"

"Oh, what is it? what is it?" cried poor Victoria, waking with a start.

"It is, my good girl, that we have just now many more important things to do than to sleep."

"Miss Betty, you have no pity. It's past midnight, and I'm not used to being up so late. It is unreasonable to go home in the middle of the night——"

"I return home when I please," said Betty in a dry tone which was not usual with her, for she looked upon her good Victoria, who had been with her in her babyhood, more as a companion, or even as a friend and confidante, than as a maid.

Victoria, who was now wide awake, seeing that Miss Betty was gravely preoccupied, began to excuse herself for speaking so freely, although her thirty years spent entirely in the service of the Scott family, and her long devotion to her young mistress, gave her some right to advise, or, if need be, to remonstrate.

Full of confusion she met Betty's outburst with a murmured, "Forgive me, Miss Betty, if I meddle with what is no concern of mine, but I am so greatly attached to you that I cannot help feeling a little vexed when I think of the feverish life you lead since you took up this insane craze."

"All right, Victoria, all right," said Betty, smiling. "There's no need to apologise"; and she relapsed into silence.

As the carriage passed out of Stuyvesant Square into Fourth Avenue, where Betty lived, she asked quietly, as if to efface her hasty words:

"Victoria, what day is it to-day?"

"You are joking, Miss Betty; you know quite well it is Friday, the seventeenth of April, 1896."

"Are you certain?" and Betty murmured to herself, "What an eternity! To have to wait until to-morrow!" But after a few moments' deep thought she cried joyfully, "But it is to-day; it is not yesterday!"

Victoria, who had recovered her good humour, burst out laughing.

"Really, Miss Betty," she said, "you are as good as M. de la Palice."

"You are making fun of me," returned Betty, pinching her ear. "And after all you are the more simple of the two, for it is past midnight, and Friday gave place to Saturday a good half-hour ago."

"Why, so it did, so it did," repeated Victoria, amazed that so simple an explanation had not occurred to her.

"But then—perhaps—however, we shall see," concluded Betty enigmatically.

At this moment the carriage passed through the heavy folding gates and stopped opposite the great glass door of the vestibule. The footman opened the door and the two women alighted.

"Pancrace," said Betty to the coachman, "do not take the horses out, but turn the carriage round and be ready to start off again unless I countermand the order."

"Really this is too much," grumbled the coachman, half asleep and tired out.

"Heavens!" thought Victoria. "What crotchet has she got in her head now?"

The porter and footman, also compelled to remain at their posts, were no better pleased; and as Betty disappeared up the massive staircase they vented their anger on their mistress.

Everywhere—on the landings and in the ante-rooms—the electric light threw a profusion of bluish rays, which were reflected by huge mirrors on the polished marbles. The gilt frames, silk drapery of windows and doors, and precious tapestries shone out in a thousand sparkling lights, while massive arrangements of rare plants in every spare corner threw great trembling shadows on the walls.

Betty ran hastily about giving orders, telling one to be ready to attend her at any moment, another not to put out the lights, and a third to light them in the linen room, everyone wondering what was going to happen, beginning with Victoria, who breathlessly followed her mistress into her room.

It was furnished in a pleasantly severe style. A few rare ornaments of great price in bronze, terra-cotta, and porcelain were arranged on what-nots and tables, but there were none of those useless nothings—those insignificant trifles which generally fill up the rooms of young girls. A large writing-table covered with books and papers occupied one panel of the room between two windows overlooking the avenue. You might have thought yourself in the room of a young student still absorbed in his work if a few little details, only visible to a keen observer, had not spoken of a woman's presence—a faded flower in a vase or a piece of ribbon left by accident on the table.

The electric lights were arranged in the form of a bunch of tulips, which threw over all a flood of variegated rays. On the onyx chimney-piece, ornamented with chased bronze, a bright copper urn, simmering over a lamp for the evening tea, gave out little clouds of steam accompanied by a pleasant monotonous singing.

"Do you wish me to help you to undress?" asked Victoria, a little more hopefully.

"Give me the steamer time-table," was the only response.

Victoria's heart fell as she searched among a heap of pamphlets on the large table, hardly knowing what she was looking for, until Betty, quite out of patience, went and found it herself, and began turning over the leaves with the utmost coolness. The poor maid watched her with growing uneasiness, fearing some new development of the craze; in fact, during the six months that had passed since Betty resolved to gain admission to the Philatelic Club by making a collection as good as that of William Keniss, Victoria had assisted in the most extraordinary and unequalled scene imaginable.

In order to give her whole attention to philately, and to arrive at the longed-for result in the shortest possible time, Betty had at once abandoned all her ordinary occupations and cut herself off from communication with her nearest friends. Forsaking all the usual occupations and pleasures of a young lady—dances, fashions, and what not—she had but one end in view, to succeed in her enterprise; the more so as everyone else believed it to be impossible. To this end she had shrunk from nothing. The most tiring proceedings, the most intricate researches, nothing

appalled her; not even the innumerable letters it was necessary to write to distant correspondents for the stamps she needed, and which, as soon as received, she hastened to fix in place on the pages which were to form the collection.

And at last, after all the trouble, she had tasted the sweets of victory. The collection had been recognised as complete and well arranged. The young philatelist had been received with an enthusiastic ovation, and Victoria herself, having had the honour of placing the precious portfolio on the Club table, had had her share in the triumph to which, it cannot be denied, she had given valuable assistance. Now at last she had begun to hope she might be allowed to rest. This was the thought in her mind when Betty, suddenly closing the time-table, said:

"What time is it?"

"Two o'clock, Miss Betty."

"Good! then we have two hours left; time for a cup of tea."

With a trembling hand the maid turned the tap of the urn, filled a cup of fine Dresden china, and handed it to her mistress.

"Take care," said Betty, "or you will spill it all. Are you cold that you tremble like that?"

"No, Miss Betty, I am not cold."

"What is it then? Are you in pain?"

"No, Miss Betty. But if you no longer need the carriage——"

"Well?"

"Well, then, I can tell Pancrace and the others to go to bed."

"Then you may as well confess you are sleepy," concluded Betty, smiling.

"It's so late——"

It was evident Betty had something to say, but though she was, after all, mistress, and could do as she liked, it was no less evident that she hesitated before revealing to Victoria what was in her mind. The poor girl seemed so tired and sleepy that the young American, usually so prompt in action, was filled with scruples. Moreover, Victoria was wont to give her advice and she to listen to it, seeing it was always dictated by the tenderest affection and absolutely disinterested.

However, it must be done, so with a slight blush Betty put down her cup, rose, and in a voice which she tried hard to make firm and peremptory, said:

"We start for France in two hours."

If a thunderbolt had fallen in the middle of the room Victoria could not have been more astounded.

"Start for France in two hours!" she cried. It was so unlooked-for, so impossible, that for some moments she could not believe she had heard aright. "For France! In two hours!" she repeated. "Are you really serious?"

"As serious as it is possible to be," returned the inflexible Miss Betty. "We go by the *Touraine*, which weighs anchor at six o'clock this morning; so you see we haven't a minute to lose, not one minute. So be quick and get your luggage packed; unless, indeed, you prefer to go just as you are. You look very nice so, but it will hardly be comfortable day and night during the week's crossing."

Miss Betty's speech was so much to the point that Victoria saw this was not one of her caprices which a few sensible words spoken at the right moment might have power to dispose of. She began to perceive that her mistress was so determined upon this unforeseen departure that nothing, absolutely nothing, could be done to make her change her mind. So she only said:

"Very well, miss, I will go and get everything ready."

However, as she was going out of the room she hesitated.

"May I at least be allowed to know the reason of this hasty departure, Miss Betty?"

"It is a very simple matter," replied the girl. "Mr' William Keniss has just received from Paris a stamp of which only two specimens exist, the one which he now possesses and the one of which we are going in search."

"So," cried the maid, with a toss of the head meant to show that she thought Miss Betty quite mad this time, "so it is for a *stamp* that we are starting on this senseless journey!"

"Yes, my good Victoria, it is for a stamp."

"Do you even know where it is, Miss Betty?"

"No; all I know about it is that the first one was supplied to William Keniss by a great Paris dealer, M. Moulineau. He therefore ought to know where the second one is, and consequently it is quite natural I should go and ask him. That is why we are setting out for France before undertaking perhaps longer and more perilous journeys."

On hearing Betty speak thus of possible journeys in countries even more remote than France, Victoria, in spite of the blow she had before received, which ought to have prepared her for anything, found it necessary to become faint and fall all her length on the floor. She was, in fact, one of the most phlegmatic women in the States, and her young mistress, especially since she had taken up this stamp craze, inspired her by her adventurous nature with veritable terror. Every morning on rising she asked herself anxiously what new folly it was possible for Miss Betty to commit, so that little by little she had grown into the habit of not being astonished at anything. But this was really beyond anticipation.

"Do I really understand, Miss Betty," she began once more when she had recovered a little, "that you would run after this stamp if it wasn't in Paris—or even in France?"

"Perfectly. I am determined to get it no matter where I go in search of it. You understand, no matter where. But why all these questions? Do you hesitate to go with me?"

"Oh, Miss Betty!" was Victoria's quick reply, "you know quite well that wherever you go, I go."

"Yes, I do know, and thank you for it. You are a good, kind girl and I am nothing but a fool. But what would you have? I cannot remake myself."

At this moment the clock struck one shrill little warning note.

"Half-past three!" cried Betty. "We have only an hour and a half left."

Immediately bells were rung, doors began to slam, and the servants running up received orders to pack the luggage with the least possible delay. And soon there might be seen up and down the stairs, in vestibules, corridors, and bedrooms, a crowd of infatuated domestics rushing to and fro, carrying hastily-made parcels, elbowing and hustling each other, and using all manner of invectives.

"I warn you," said Betty to Victoria, "if you are not ready I shall start without you."

"Don't be afraid, Miss Betty; I shan't be long."

Victoria, panting and half choked with emotion and surprise, hastened up to her room, and began to stuff into a portmanteau whatever clothes came first to hand.

Soap, shoes, linen, brushes, were piled together in bewildering confusion. She crammed, crushed, stuffed in everything. In another moment, had it not been for its size, the wardrobe itself would have disappeared in the depths of the bag, so distracted was she by the suddenness of this great event, and so anxious lest she should not have finished in time.

In fact, Victoria was in a hurry, in a greater hurry even than her mistress, who really wanted to go. And she was flurried, for a sudden thought had just occurred to her, the thought of her friend, John Cockburn, the valet of William Keniss, and this thought had immediately plunged her into the very depths of despair.

(To be continued.)

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENCE

Our Indian Letter

CALCUTTA, *16th January*, 1905.

WITH characteristic foresight the promoters of *G. S. W.* have arranged with philatelists far distant from "the Orchestral Strand" to write from time to time on matters of interest to collectors, and being among those so honoured I can best show my appreciation of the invitation extended to me by sending in a few lines from the city naturally regarded as the head centre of Indian Philately, as of much else that is also Indian.

To start with, however, I feel sure I am only voicing the general opinion of Indian collectors when I offer Messrs. Stanley Gibbons our hearty congratulations on the appearance of their new journal. We have seen "No. 1," and thoroughly approve of it. It is a business-like and attractive addition to our weekly dâk deliveries, and cannot but prove of downright good service to our pursuit.

Philatelic affairs in this country are carried on under conditions somewhat out of the ordinary. The Philatelic Society of India (now eight years of age) includes the best known and most capable Indian philatelists within its ranks, but distances are so enormous, and professional and commercial claims so imperative, that our meetings when they do take place are but poorly attended, though as a body of associated philatelists we are perhaps, in point of numbers, achievements, and enthusiasm, able to compare favourably with the other large societies of the English-speaking peoples.

Our annual meeting takes place this month. There will be changes in our officers, as an epidemic of home-going has set in, and quite a number are booked for the old country within the next few weeks. Our President-Editor, Mr. Stewart-Wilson, leaves early in March. Our Treasurer, Sir David Masson, who was recently in Calcutta, tells me he also contemplates the voyage. Our only local Vice-President, Mr. Larmour, is about to exchange the charm of the Bengal Council Chamber for the ease of a deck-chair, and our Secretary will only just miss seeing April's Fiscal Exhibition in Exeter Hall by a few days. There will be good men left, however, and Messrs. Selfe, Wetherell, Crofton, and others will manage to "keep the flag flying."

During the year we have published two new handbooks, on both of which we congratulate ourselves. *The Surcharged Stamps of the Indian Native States* and *The Adhesive Fiscal and Telegraph Stamps of British India* are each of them works of a high order. Our most important work, by Messrs. Hausburg and Stewart-Wilson, on *The Adhesive Postal and Telegraph Issues of British India* is still to come, however, and is, I believe, ready to go to press. It will be the most elaborate and comprehensive work on the subject yet attempted. During the year, too, the nucleus of a public collection of Indian issues has been arranged with the help of the Society, and it is hoped that in time the collection may be completed and placed on permanent exhibition. The noble Victoria Memorial Hall is rising on the Maidân, thanks to the tireless energy of Lord Curzon and a generous contribution of some fifty lakhs from the Indian people, and it may be that later on the finest collection of Indian stamps in the world will find a resting-place there beside the sculpture, paintings, medals, and other historical mementoes of the past.

Of *possible* coming changes in Indian issues we may look forward to those caused by the alteration in the watermark, the abolition of a separate receipt stamp, and the amalgamation of the Postal and Telegraph Departments. As regards the first nothing is known, but there is no apparent reason why change should not be made in the Indian as in the stamps of other dependencies. The issue of a combined stamp for postal and receipt purposes as in England is only a matter of time, the agitation for its introduction being continued. The amalgamation of the Postal and Telegraph Departments is being talked about, and the creation of a new Department of Commerce with a minister of its own last month may hasten it on. It will, if effected, bring about the disappearance of separate telegraph stamps. Our new fiscal adhesives are mostly disappointing; the handsome foreign bills and special adhesives of Victorian days are giving way to Edwardian mediocrities lacking distinction. The surcharges on the "Service" stamps and those of Chamba, Gwalior, Jhind, Nabha, and Patiala *may* cease to be type-set, as it is said a means of obtaining greater uniformity by the use of brass designs is under consideration. Now that embossed stamps cut from envelopes are authorised for use in England, a demand for a similar concession here has arisen, though not for the first time.

The only new Indian issue I have to report is a local one for the State of Jaipur. The State has possessed a Post Office Department for some years, but until last August it was satisfied with a system of postmarks to indicate prepayment (or otherwise) and registration. Its population is over 5½ millions, that of its chief city 160,000, and its area 15,579 square miles. Its first three issues (lithographed), ½ (blue), 1 (vermilion), and 2 as. (green), are already familiar to English collectors. The new issue before me is a ½ anna, blue, perf. 11½. It is engraved, and makes an attractive stamp which will be popular with collectors. Probably it has already reached London, so I need not further describe it, except to say it represents a divinity of a sort being drawn in an ekka cart. The driver has no legs, and the horse has several heads, or else several horses have only four legs. It is hard to say which, but the divinity, who looks amused, is evidently mentally working out the problem. Why Jaipur should suddenly break out into stamps is not known. Mysore does without them, and is a far larger State.

As the young collector is bound to develop a craving for a mild sort of specialism sooner or later, he might do far worse than yield to it in the direction of the study and collection of the imperial issues of India, and the same stamps surcharged for the six Convention States—the Straits Settlements, Zanzibar, British East Africa, British Somaliland, etc. He could do this without discarding his general collection. Most are readily procurable, and few with normal surcharges are among the almost unobtainables. He could thus enjoy the pleasures dear to the specialist, in connection with a class of stamps confined as regards numbers within reasonable limits, at a reasonable cost.

WILMOT CORFIELD.

THE STAMP MARKET

By AN ODD LOT

I HAVE tumbled on a slice of good luck for my corner of the *Weekly*. I am promised the very exceptional privilege of advanced sheets of Gibbons' new Catalogue for 1905. So we shall have some interesting peeps into its pages, from week to week, as it is being got ready for the press. It is not expected to be ready for sale till March, I understand, and the death of poor Gordon Smith must terribly handicap its early production.

I may say, by way of introduction, that the new Gibbons will be a great improvement on all past editions. The illustrations throughout are all full size, *i.e.* the exact size of the stamp in every case, and are therefore much clearer. Another improvement rendered necessary by the larger blocks is an enlargement of the page. The pages of the new Catalogue will be about an inch longer and broader. This will obviate the very cramped appearance of some of the pages of our familiar Gibbons.

Of course every collector and dealer will be dying to know what they may expect in the way of alterations in prices, and that is just what I am going to extract from these advanced sheets.

I have already ventured to express an opinion that there will be no great boom in prices yet. The time is not ripe for a great recovery from the terrible years from which stamps as well as Consols have suffered. But, of course, there will be many changes, and before I can speak, except from conjecture, I will hazard a guess that the new Catalogue will have fewer reductions and more rises in prices. Some reductions there are bound to be, if only as rectifications, or as the result of unexpected supplies. But I shall be much surprised if we do not find many good stamps raised even considerably in price, for it is no secret that not a few are not to be had even by dealers at full catalogue, and in this direction the auctions have been casting their shadows before.

Another marked feature that cannot fail to influence prices is the fact that every year fine unused mint copies of old issues are getting scarcer and scarcer.

GREAT BRITAIN.—The first sheet of thirty-two pages lies before me, the last page of which just completes the issues of Great Britain. As this is a journal for young collectors, I will not discuss the great rarities, but turn my attention to later issues which are more within our reach. But I may note in passing that there are fewer blanks in the pricing of many of the rarities than in the last edition.

Taking the 1880 series, a nice little set of five low values of new designs, I append a table showing the fluctuations since 1896.

1880	1896	1897	1899	1900	1902	1903	1904	1905
½d., pale green	.o 3	.o 3	.o 3	.o 4	.o 6	.o 6	.o 6	.o 6
1d., Venetian red	.o 3	o 3	.o 3	.o 3	.o 4	.o 4	.o 4	.o 3
1½d. ,,	.o 9	.o 9	.1 o	.1 o	.2 6	.3 6	.3 6	.3 o
2d., rose	.1 o	.3 o	.3 o	.3 o	.3 o	.3 o	.3 o	.3 o
5d., deep indigo	.3 6	.5 o	.6 o	.6 o	.7 6	.7 6	.7 6	.7 6

It will be noted that there has been very little fluctuation. The 1d. is reduced from 4d. in the last Catalogue to 3d., and the 1½d. from 3s. 6d. to 3s., but this stamp has shown such a steady and consistent rise that the set back can only be temporary. The 2d. seems to stick at 3s., as it has done since 1897.

A much more fluctuating lot is the comparatively short-lived stamps known as the Unified Series of 1884, inscribed POSTAGE & REVENUE. It was an unfortunate series. The public did not take kindly to stamps that were not boldly differentiated by colour, and the mixture of shapes, some oblong and some rectangular, met with much disapproval. They were printed in delicately fugitive colours, the low values in lilac and the higher values in dull, pale green. It is no easy matter to-day to make up a complete set of well-centred mint copies, for the simple reason that their delicate colours show up the slightest finger-mark. Here are the prices since 1896:—

1884	1896	1897	1899	1900	1902	1903	1904	1905
½d., slate blue	.o 3	.o 3	.. o 3	.o 3	.o 4	.. o 6	.. o 6	.. o 4
1½d., lilac	.....o 9	.2 6	.. 3 o	.2 o	.2 6	.. 2 6	.. 2 6	.. 2 o
2d. ,,	.....1 6	.3 o	.. 3 6	.3 6	.3 6	.. 5 o	.. 7 6	.. 6 o
2½d. ,,	.....o 6	.o 6	.. 1 o	.1 o	.1 6	.. 2 o	.. 2 o	.. 1 6
3d. ,,	.....o 6	.o 6	.. 1 6	.2 o	.3 o	.. 4 o	.. 4 o	.. 5 o
4d., dull green	..2 o	.5 o	.. 4 6	.4 6	.5 o	.. o 6	.. 8 6	..10 o
5d. ,,	..2 o	.2 6	.. 3 6	.2 6	.2 6	.. 2 6	. 2 6	.. 2 6
6d. ,,	..1 6	.1 6	.. 2 o	.2 o	.2 6	.. 2 6	.. 2 6	.. 2 6
9d. ,,	..3 6	.6 6	.. 6 6	.5 6	.5 6	.. 6 6	..10 o	..15 o
1s. ,,	..3 6	.7 6	..10 o	.8 6	.8 6	..10 o	..12 o	..15 o

The new Gibbons has been busy on this series, for out of all ten values only the 5d. and 6d. escape alteration. The 1½d., 2d., 2½d., have all been reduced, but the 3d. has been raised from 4s. to 5s., the 4d. from 8s. 6d. to 10s., the 9d. from 10s. to 15s., and the 1s. from 12s. to 15s. All four stamps show a fairly steady rise; the 3d. has never had a set back from 1896, when it commenced at 6d. Stamps that rise so steadily through a trying series of years are the Consols of the stamp market.

Every boy, of course, will want to know how it fares with the Jubilee series in the new Catalogue. He wants to know if they have been put up in price now they are obsolete. But he must have a little more patience yet. They are too recently obsolete to command a rise. There is the consolation for him that there is only one drop. The 4½d. has been set back from 1s. to 8d. It will be remembered that the 4½d. was on sale for a long time after notice had been given that it was to be discontinued. On the strength of this notice a lot of foolish people bought up big lots as a speculation. Since then they have been unloading, and dealers have been flooded with offers of large accumulations; one speculator is said to have considered himself fortunate in getting back what he paid for £12 worth at face value. Of course dealers were not blind to what was going on, and they took good care not to be caught napping with a shortage which should place them at the mercy of mere speculators, and they accordingly provided themselves with such stock as they required. Personally I think the 10d. is going to be the best stamp of the lot of the lower values, whilst the £1 is leaping into the ranks of the rarities.

1887 Jubilee Issue	1902	1903	1504	1505
½d., vermilion	o 1 ..	o 1 ..	o 1 ..	o 1
1½d., purple and green	o 2 ..	o 3 ..	o 3 ..	o 3
2d., green and vermilion	o 3 ..	o 4 ..	o 4 ..	o 4
2½d., purple on blue	o 3 ..	o 5 ..	o 5 ..	o 5
3d. ,, yellow	o 4 ..	o 6 ..	o 6 ..	o 6
3d. ,, orange	— ..	— ..	— ..	60 o
4d., green and brown	o 5 ..	o 7 ..	o 8 ..	o 8
4½d. ,, scarlet	o 8 ..	1 o ..	1 o ..	o 8
5d., lilac and ultramarine	o 6 ..	o 8 ..	o 9 ..	o 9
6d., purple on rose-red	o 7 ..	o 9 ..	o 9 ..	o 9
9d. ,, and blue	o 10 ..	1 2 ..	1 3 ..	1 3
10d. ,, ,, scarlet	o 11 ..	1 3 ..	1 6 ..	1 6
1s., green	2 o ..	2 6 ..	2 6 ..	2 6
£1 ,,	20 3 ..	25 o ..	30 o ..	40 o

ANSWERS TO CORRESPONDENTS

TO MANY.—We really cannot help it. Our publishers printed, as they imagined, considerably more than enough to meet all demands for our early numbers, but we regret to say that many will have to remain disappointed, for every number, even last week's, has gone rapidly out of print. Despite extra numbers printed, last week's issue was all snapped up on the day of publication. We are doing our best to provide for all imaginable requirements, and we can only recommend our friends to send in their orders promptly and early to their newsagents. As we are getting practically no returns of unsold copies, the only chance of securing back numbers will be to pick them up at a premium as opportunity offers.

Then, again, some of our friends complain that their copies were robbed of the stamps given away with certain numbers. When sent out by our publishers every copy is intact. Readers should see that the stamp is included when they buy their copies. It is a simple thing to open the copy and examine the page where the stamp is always placed. If there is a space provided for a stamp, and that space is blank, the number should be handed back. Newsagents will do well to examine their copies and see that they are intact when sent out.

A. B. (Manchester).—Our publishers say it is impossible to make a movable leaf album to sell at 5*s.* or 6*s.* The fittings are too expensive.

FULL GUM.—You can easily remove the stamps given away with some numbers of *Gibbons Stamp Weekly* by wetting the paper at the back. When properly soaked the stamp may be lifted without damaging the original gum.

Surely you are mistaken in saying that selections of stamps are sent you by any up-to-date dealer stuck down with the original gum instead of with a hinge.

F. K. B. (Dunmow).—Your stamps have been returned. The stamps without gum are so issued. Indian stamps surcharged POSTAL SERVICE simply serve for matters of departmental accounts, and have nothing to do with the public. They are not postage stamps for public use. The English official stamps which should have franked your friend's official packets were evidently pocketed by an official who put on ordinary stamps instead. When "officials" were in use all official correspondence was supposed to be franked by the surcharged stamps for the purposes of departmental accounts, but the clerks frequently stuck to the surcharged stamps and franked the correspondence with ordinary postage stamps.

C. M. M. (Cressington Park).—You can easily interleave your Strand Album by using a thin linen paper sold by the typewriting companies, and cutting it to size. We have frequently interleaved our Imperial Albums in this way. Gum about ⅛ of an inch of the edge of the leaf, and press it back as far as possible between the leaves of your album, and close the album till it dries.

EDITORIAL

Editorial Communications

All communications intended for the Editor should be addressed to Edward J. Nankivell, Carnanton, Camden Park, Tunbridge Wells.

Philatelic Societies

We wish to make a special feature of the prompt publication of the reports of Philatelic Societies, and trust we may have the kindly co-operation of the honorary secretaries in this matter. Reports should be written on one side of the paper, and despatched to the Editor by the earliest post.

Special Correspondence

The Editor will be glad to receive interesting letters from philatelic centres not already covered by our arrangements. We want chatty and newsy letters on matters of interest to the general collector, and excluding all matter of interest only to the specialist.

Our Miscellaneous Page

We wish to make *Gibbons Stamp Weekly* a storehouse of information, and shall therefore be glad of any cuttings of more or less permanent interest for our "Miscellaneous" page. Source and date of cutting must be given.

Subscriptions

Subscriptions must be sent to the publishers as set out on the front page of cover, or to booksellers or railway bookstalls, but never to the Editor.

OUR PHILATELIC DIARY

FEBRUARY, 1905

18. Junior Philatelic Society: Poetry of Stamp Collecting, with some examples, by F. J. Melville; and Paper—Victorian *v.* Edwardian Issues, by E. Heginbottom.

21. Leeds Philatelic Society: Display—Stamps of Brazil, with notes, by E. Egly.
Auction: Puttick and Simpson, 47, Leicester Square, London. 4.30 p.m.

22. Auction: Puttick and Simpson, 47, Leicester Square, London. 4.30 p.m.

23. Birmingham Philatelic Society: Auction at Acorn Hotel.

28. Auction: Plumridge and Co., 64, Chancery Lane, W.C. 4.45 p.m.

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STAMPS OF GREAT BRITAIN

By the late GORDON SMITH, M.A.

(*Continued from page* 104.)

(3) **Surface-printed Stamps**

IN 1855 the single rate of postage to France was reduced from 10d. to 4d., and it therefore became necessary to create a stamp of this value. This was all the more requisite from the fact that the 1d. and 2d. stamps were only available for internal use. At that time the firm of Messrs. Thomas De La Rue and Co. were supplying adhesive stamps to the Inland Revenue Department for use on foreign bills and for other revenue purposes, produced by surface-printing, and the results being so satisfactory, the firm was entrusted with the production of the new 4d. stamps. The process of manufacture is so different from that of the line-engraved stamps that we shall do well to examine it briefly. The original design is engraved on metal as before, but with this difference, that whereas in the former process the lines forming the design were *cut into* the block, in this the design is left in relief, the block being cut away, so that the engraved portion is represented in the printed stamp by the uncoloured parts of the paper, only the portions in relief receiving the ink. From this original block separate moulds are taken (usually in soft metal). These moulds are then arranged and fastened together in the form of a plate, from which a stereo or electro cast is made, forming the working plate from which the stamps are printed. The printing is performed in the same way as in an ordinary printing-press, the ink, which is in an almost solid state, being attached to a long metal bar forming an appliance like a very long rolling-pin, which being rolled on the plate deposits a coating of ink on the raised surface. In the cases where corner letters and plate-numbers appear on the stamps, holes are cut through the die and the letters and numerals like ordinary printer's type inserted into the vacant spaces, in the first-formed plate of casts, becoming *uncoloured* on the printed stamps. Later, when the letters were coloured, they were inserted in the working plate.

For convenience of arrangement in dealing with the different stamps made by surface-printing, I shall follow the usual method of dividing them into the following groups :—

(a) Series without letters, 1855-7.

(b) Series with small letters, 1862.

(c) Series with large uncoloured letters, 1865-73.

(d) The high values of 1867-82.

(e) Series with large coloured letters, 1873-80.

(f) The set of 1880.

(g) The 1d. of 1881.

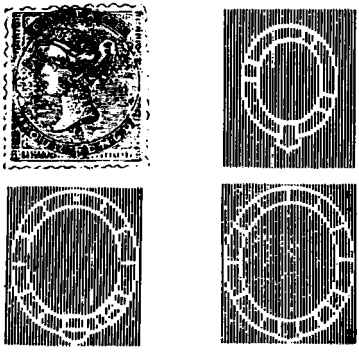
(h) The high values of 1883-8.

(i) The set of 1883-4.

(j) The Jubilee issue, and other subsequent stamps of Queen Victoria, 1887-1901.

(k) Stamps of King Edward, 1902-4.

(a) Series Without Letters, 1855-7



The 4d. as at first issued was on "safety" paper, always more or less blued, much stouter than that afterwards used, and with a smooth surface. It was called safety paper because certain chemical ingredients were mixed with the paper to make it impossible to remove pen-marks and other cancellations from the stamps—which could only be done by using other chemicals—without destroying the printing. The surface was so smooth and hard that the carmine ink in which the 4d. was printed could not become properly absorbed by the paper, and on many of the stamps the ink is found to flake or peel off like paint on woodwork which has been exposed to considerable heat. The first watermark used was the "Small Garter" illustrated above, but it was soon changed to "Medium Garter." While the latter watermark was in use, the safety paper was discontinued and a thin white paper brought into use; and lastly the watermark was again changed to the "Large Garter." The last two watermarks are very similar and nearly the same size, although the "Large Garter" is slightly larger in external measurement; but the easiest way to distinguish them is by the breadth of the band, which is much wider in the "Medium" than in the "Large."

(To be continued.)

IN MEMORIAM
GORDON SMITH, M.A.

By W. E. IMESON

I

DID he, whose kindly heart is stilled, but see
These lines—the motive he had scarce reproved
Of one that deemed his epitaph might be
Writ in the language of the Thing he loved.

II

The Gauge by which Time measures life's short span,
A scale unread remains—the hour and place
Of Death's swift blow's unknown: Fate screens from man
Where next, in Life's Book, falls the vacant space.

III

Too soon, alas! O Time, hath come the call
Of the grim, stern Collector of thy dues,
Whose hand, ere reaped the harvest, oft doth fall—
Breaking the Type that Time alone renews.

IV

His World was ours—a world of many camps,
His the reveille true that oft was heard,
Whose pen hath rendered, in the World of Stamps,
The name of Gordon Smith a household word.

PUBLIC SCHOOL COLLECTING

By Rev. T. C. WALTON, M.A.

(*Continued from page* 106.)

Faked "Unused"

TAKE the case of unused stamps. The reader well knows that many stamps are much rarer used than unused. The reason is that issues are sometimes changed after a very short interval of time. Large quantities of unused have been bought by stamp dealers, and their stocks are sufficient to supply the needs of those collectors who make "stamps in mint condition" the object of their search. But the used stamps of such short-lived issues become comparatively rare, and their price at once goes up. The faker, however, is most obliging. He promptly supplies examples of used specimens, and reaps a fine harvest until his fakes are disclosed for what they are. Needless to add, a hand-stamp for forging postmarks is his *vade mecum*.

Faked Fiscals

In some countries, notably our own, the same stamp does duty for postal and fiscal use. The English law requires that a 1d. stamp shall be affixed to all receipts for sums of £2 and upwards. For some years the practice of having an entirely different stamp for fiscal purposes was adopted. Witness the large rectangular stamps of 1881, and later the smaller ones of 1867 and 1871, resembling in size and colour the 1d., lilac, stamp which did postage duty for some twenty years. These "fiscals" or "revenue" stamps were authorised for postal use, and thus became postage stamps. Finally they were withdrawn from circulation, and the issues for postal purposes from ½d. to 2s. 6d., which down to the year 1880 were merely inscribed with the word POSTAGE, were afterwards issued with the words POSTAGE AND REVENUE printed on them. And such they still remain. Now stamps which have been used for revenue purposes are of no interest to the stamp collector. If, however, the said fiscals have been through the post and thus raised to the dignity of a postage stamp, the collector looks on them with different eyes. The hall-mark of the Post Office has transformed a stamp of no worth in its normal state into a variety of postage stamp of no mean order. He seeks it, and lo! in some cases he finds the faker's handiwork. A fiscal with the penmarks removed, a forged postmark, and there you have an apparently genuine used postage stamp. Can you wonder, then, that stamps issued for "postal and revenue" purposes are printed in soluble inks which run on the application of water, and consequently act as a safeguard against the cleaning processes in vogue with the faker?

Surcharges

A surcharged stamp is one which has a mark or inscription added to it in order to change its face value. This surcharged value is generally lower than the face value for obvious reasons. There are, however, examples of the value surcharged being higher than the face value. Such are the 5d., St. Vincent, of 1892, surcharged on the 4d., violet-brown, of 1886, and the 2½d. surcharge of 1883 on the 1d., carmine. This surcharged 2½d. was again overprinted with 1d., in black, in 1885, either because the supply of the original penny fell short, or because surcharging was found to be a useful means of adding to the public treasury. This system of surcharging became notorious in some of our colonies. Ceylon was one of the chief offenders in this respect. Between the years 1885 and 1892 this colony issued no fewer than eighty-two varieties of surcharged values, as against an ordinary issue of eight (inclusive of shades), and no less than thirty-four of these surcharged values saw the light in 1885.

In 1893 the actual revenue of British Honduras exceeded the estimated revenue by over 50,000 dollars, and this increase was, we are told, largely due to the sale of surcharged stamps to collectors. This trade in surcharged stamps became an intolerable nuisance. It promised to be continued *ad nauseam*. Therefore the matter was brought before the Home Government, and steps were taken to prevent its continuance. On August 18th, 1893, Lord Ripon, the Colonial Secretary,

sent a circular letter to the colonies calling attention to the practice of surcharging. It was forcibly pointed out that such a method of stamp production ought not to be necessary. Its continuance was forbidden, except in cases where a value had genuinely run out of stock before a fresh supply could be obtained from the home printers. If such shortage could not have been foreseen, the postal officials, whose business it was to look after "supply and demand," were to be held "Not guilty." This letter stopped the surcharges of Ceylon and other colonies. In 1895 a society for the suppression of speculative stamps was founded. It is known as "the four S's." Its business was to find out what issues of stamps were made mainly for the purpose of increasing the revenue of a country. Such cases were to be laid before our own and foreign governments, and also noticed in the philatelic Press, with a view to obtaining an official condemnation of the issues in question, and also with the object of warning stamp collectors of their real nature. A similar society has, I believe, done good work in the United States of America.

Such extensive systems of surcharges may now, we trust, be regarded with small concern in the case of future issues of stamps. The scorn of philatelists and the consequent ignoring of speculative surcharged stamps will act as a sprag on the wheel of any such mechanical attempts to impose on the great stamp-collecting world.

"Faked Surcharges"

It is unfortunate that the legion of old surcharged stamps is with us, for in their train there is ever present the knowledge of the unlimited possibilities of the faker's craft. The most notorious examples of his unscrupulous work are seen in the case of surcharged stamps. It is so easy to take an unsurcharged stamp and add the magic numbers or letters or both, and convert a common issue into a rarity. In 1902 a considerable number of stamps with such forged surcharges were found to be on sale in Boston, U.S.A. Thanks to the energetic action of the Philatelic Society in that city, the nature of these surcharges was promptly made public, and the firm which sold them in the belief that the stamps were genuinely "surcharged" promptly refunded the money paid for them. No legal action was taken against the faker who had supplied the aforesaid company. He promised that never again would he mishandle such stamps, and disappeared to the Western States, possibly to practise his art in the only honourable way open to such a proceeding, viz. the surcharging of cattle for purposes, not of fraud, but of identification. A list of the surcharges perpetrated by this enterprising faker may possibly be of interest to the reader. It was published in the *Weekly Philatelic Era*, and reprinted on page 153 of volume xiii., *Gibbons Monthly Journal*.

"British East Africa, 1895, ½, 1, 2½, 3 annas, 1 rupee. British Bechuanaland and Protectorate, 1888, 1s., 2s., 2s. 6d., 5s., 10s. Gold Coast, 1889, 1d. on 6d., orange. Grenada, Unpaid Letter stamps, 2d. on 6d., lilac. Hawaii, 1893, 12 c., red-lilac, black surcharge. India, Official stamps, 1866, wmked., 1 anna, brown. Niger Coast Protectorate, 1894, ½ on 2½d., blue. Orange River Colony, 1900, surcharged V.R.I., 6d., carmine."

A glance at the catalogue will show the reader how much the philatelic value of these stamps was increased by the addition of a simple overprint to the genuine unsurcharged stamps in the faker's possession.

A Word on Provisionals

Provisionals are stamps put temporarily into circulation pending the arrival of a fresh supply of the ordinary stamp, or a new stamp of the face value required. They may or may not be surcharged. The 3d. and 6d. English of January, 1883, were both lilac in colour. In order, I believe, to identify them at sight, the 3d. was surcharged 3d. in carmine, and likewise the 6d. stamp with a 6d. carmine surcharge. These are examples of surcharged stamps which were not provisionals. Examples of provisionals which were not surcharged are seen in the cases where half-stamps were used instead of a whole stamp of half the face value of the divided stamp. Two penny stamps, or a twopenny stamp and the half of a penny stamp, were used in this way for a 2½d. stamp in many of our colonies.

(To be continued.)

STAMP COLLECTING AS A PASTIME

By EDWARD J. NANKIVELL

(*Continued from page* 107.)

VII. Stamps with a History (*continued*)

AS a bit of conceit, the issue of what is known as the Connell stamp is probably unequalled. In loyal Canada, in 1860, Mr. Charles Connell was Postmaster-General of the little colony of New Brunswick, which in those days had its own government and its own separate issue of stamps. A change of currency from "pence" to "cents" necessitated new postage stamps. It was decided to give the new issue as much variety as possible by having a separate design for each stamp. Two of the series presented the crowned portrait of the Queen, and one that of the Prince of Wales as a lad in Scotch dress. Connell, apparently ambitious to figure in the royal gallery, gave instructions to the engravers to place his own portrait upon the 5 cents stamp. His instructions were carried out, and in due time a supply of the 5 cents bearing his portrait was delivered. But before many were issued the news spread like wildfire that Connell had outraged the issue by placing his own portrait upon one of the stamps. Political opponents are said to have taken up the hue and cry. The matter was immediately brought before the higher authorities, and the unfortunate stamp was promptly suppressed. Half a million had been printed off and delivered for sale, but very few seem to have escaped the outcry that was raised against them, and to-day copies are extremely scarce. Poor Connell took the matter very much to heart, threw up his appointment, and forthwith retired into private life. But the portrait of the bluff mechanic type of countenance will be handed down from generation to generation in stamp catalogues and costly stamp collections long after the authorities that suppressed him are forgotten.

Some folks question the appearance of the Baden-Powell portrait upon the Mafeking stamps as a similar bit of conceit; but whatever may be said in criticism of Baden-Powell's stamp, most people will be inclined to accept it as a pleasant souvenir of an historic siege and a determined and gallant stand against great odds.

But of all the portraits that have appeared upon postal issues, none probably occasioned so much trouble and fuss as that of the notorious King Bomba of Sicily. The most eminent engraver of his day—Aloisio—was commissioned to prepare an exact likeness of His Sacred Majesty. After much ministerial tribulation the portrait was approved and engraved, and to this day it is regarded as a superb piece of work. A special cancelling stamp had to be designed and put into use which defaced only the border of the stamp and left the sacred portrait untouched. During the preliminaries necessary to the production of the sacred effigy the fate of ministers and officials hung in the balance. One official was actually marked for degradation for having submitted a disfigurement which turned out to be a carelessly printed, or rough, proof impression.

Numerous stamps have been designed, especially of late years, to represent some historical event in connection with the country of issue. The United States, in 1869, in the confined space of an unusually small stamp, endeavoured to represent the landing of Columbus, and in another stamp the Declaration of Independence. In a much more recent series, stamps of an exceptionally large size were adopted to give scope for a Columbus celebration set of historical paintings, including Columbus soliciting aid of Isabella, Columbus welcomed at Barcelona, Columbus restored to favour, Columbus presenting natives, Columbus announcing his discovery, the recall of Columbus, Isabella pledging her jewels, Columbus

in chains, and Columbus describing his third voyage. Greece has given us a set of stamps illustrating the Olympian Games. But collectors look with considerable suspicion upon stamps of this showy class, for too many of them have been produced with the sole object of making a profit out of their sale to collectors, and not to meet any postal requirement.

Crude productions of peculiar interest belong more to the earlier stages of the introduction of postage stamps. Local attempts at engraving in some of our own early colonial settlements were of the crudest possible description, and yet they are, because of their very crudeness, far more interesting than the finished product supplied by firms at home, for the local effort truly represented the country of its issue in the art of stamp production. The amusingly crude attempts which the engravers of Victoria have made from time to time, during the last fifty years, to give us a passable portrait of Her late Majesty Queen Victoria, have no equal for variety. The stamps of the first South African Republic, made in Germany, are very appropriate in their roughness of design and execution. For oddity of appearance the palm must be awarded to those of Asiatic origin, such, for instance, as the stamps of Afghanistan, of Kashmir, and most of the local productions of the Native States of India, marking as they do their own independent attempts to work up to European methods of intercommunication.

VIII. Great Rarities

Of the many stamps that are set apart, for one cause or another, from the ordinary run, as having a history of their own, those that by the common consent of collector and dealer are ranked as great rarities are the most fruitful source of astonishment to the non-collector. They are the gems of the most costly collections, the possession of the few, and the envy of the multitude. In a round dozen that will fetch over £100 apiece there are not more than one or two that can lay any claim to be considered works of art; indeed, they are mostly distinguished by their surpassing ugliness. Nevertheless, they are the gems that give tone and rank to the finest collections. Some of them are even priceless.

To the average man it is astonishing that anyone in his senses can be so foolish as to give £1,000 for an ugly little picture that has merely done duty as a postage stamp. He contends there can be no intrinsic value in such scraps of paper, and that settles the matter, in his opinion. But is it not so with precious stones and pearls? They are of value merely because they are the fashion. There is no intrinsic value in them. If they were not fashionable they would be of little or no value. Long-standing fashion, and fashion alone, has given them their value. So it is with stamps; fashion has given them their value, and every decade of continued popularity adds to that value as it has added to the value of precious stones and pearls. There is no sign that precious stones are likely to become worthless by the withdrawal of popular favour. Fashion changes from one stone to another without affecting the popularity of precious stones in general. So it is with stamps. Fashions change from one line of collecting to another without in the slightest degree affecting the stability or popularity of collecting as a whole. Precious stones and pearls minister to the pride of the individual, and stamps to his pleasure; and each has its own strong and unshakable hold upon the devotees of fashion and pleasure. There is a fluctuating market in the case of each of these favourites, but I venture to think that there is, and has been for the past forty years, a steadier rise in the value of stamps than in the value of precious stones.

(To be continued.)

GOSSIP OF THE HOUR

By CORNELIUS WRINKLE

On Exchanging

My recent notes have brought me quite a bundle of letters on the topics on which I touched. One correspondent, who evidently takes my absolute ignorance of Exchange Clubs to be colossal, assures me that it would be impossible to carry out my idea of eliminating cash transactions from Exchange Clubs. I have never said anything to the contrary that I am aware of. If my friend will read my notes again, he will find that in his haste he has gone off on a side track. My reference was solely to *personal* exchanging. Others, who have read aright agree with me that there is far too much cash and too little Philately in many of these personal exchangings.

What "A Collector since 1872" says

A well-known philatelist, who signs himself "A Collector since 1872," writes :—

"I should like to thank Cornelius Wrinkle for his suggestion concerning private exchange which appears in your issue of February 4th. At many philatelic meetings the item 'Private Sale and Exchange' appears regularly on the agenda, but actual experience proves that it is chiefly sale. Many dealers come provided with nice little selections, and transact in one evening enough business to pay their annual subscription several times over, but the opportunity for exchange seems missed by the generality of the members. If I may quote my own experience, it will show that in a modified form I have adopted C.W.'s suggestion. Finding that I had many more duplicates than I required for club sheets, I formed the idea of putting them into quarto exercise books with cloth covers, carefully arranging each country and issue of stamps together and in proper order, numbering and pricing by Gibbons' Catalogue. These books I circulate privately among other collectors for exchange only, and in this way have cleared a large number of duplicates and filled many vacancies in my album. The system of careful and accurate description has, I trust, also been of benefit to less experienced collectors. I should, however, like to point out that the system of exchange only does not seem to work well in a club. I only know of one in which cash settlements are barred, and this has proved a failure."

The Question of Badges

What I ventured to say about the clannishness of collectors and the question of badges has evidently opened up points of interest that my readers do not wish to see dropped. One collector writes to me from Leeds as follows :—

"It was with great interest that I read Mr. Wrinkle's remarks on 'The Clannishness of Stamp Collectors,' as the same thoughts have occurred to me. I have made two or three fast friendships by asking the question, 'Are you interested in stamps?' but I have never been so interrogated.

"As to badges, I heartily agree with our excellent friend. Who would object to wearing such a badge (neatly executed in silver) as the 'Star' of India, the 'Castle' of Spain, or the 'Posthorn' of Norway? The great National Post Card Society of France, styled the 'A.P.N.,' has a badge not nearly as neat or effective as any of the afore-mentioned would be. Freemasons do not object to wear a badge: why should philatelists?

"The sooner such a state of things is brought about the better, and I should be glad to know if there is any movement on foot, at the same time offering my assistance, should it be of any use."

A Badge Competition

Another correspondent suggests that we should have a competition on the subject, and offer "a prize for the best-drawn suggestion for a neat little badge which could be worn by philatelists either on the watch-chain, or cap, or lappel of the coat." Our Competition Editor will kindly make a note of this. The badge might take any of many forms. The scope for a design is almost boundless. For instance, the badge might be made to indicate not only that the wearer is a collector, but also his line of collecting. The man who stops at 1890 might have a miniature of a stamp with the figures "1890" boldly across the centre; the new issue collector a King Edward VII. miniature; the collector of Transvaals a replica of the "owl eagle" with "V.R." above and "Transvaal" below; the collector of "U.S." a facsimile of the 10 cents of 1869, with "U.S." on the shield instead of the figures; and so on *ad infinitum*. Why, we make the fortune of an ingenious philatelic jeweller.

Classifying Collectors

Yet another friend wants to classify collectors according to their philatelic possessions, after the style of the shorthand tyros who are graded by the number of words per minute they can write. He suggests the establishment of a philatelic association, the members of which would be classified roughly into—

(*a*) Collectors of 2,500 or less standing.
(*b*) ,, 5,000 ,, ,,
(*c*) ,, 10,000 ,, ,,
(*d*) ,, 100,000 and over ,,
(*e*) Specialists in various countries.

These classes to pay a graduated annual subscription of, say, 2s. 6d., 5s., 7s. 6d., 10s., and one guinea for classes *a*, *b*, *c*, *d*, and *e* respectively. Each member to fully satisfy the association before election by sufficient and responsible references of his financial standing. Such an association, my friend suggests, could issue a badge and bring the various classes into communication with each other for exchange purposes, etc. I apprehend what my correspondent wants is a responsible association which will do for the general collector and the young collector what the Birmingham Society, with its five exchange sections, does for the advanced collector.

Mr. Castle's Classification

Many years ago Mr. Castle attempted a somewhat similar classification of the members of the Philatelic Society of London, and he got together and published in the *London Philatelist* a most interesting analysis of information concerning our philatelic possessions and our peculiarities.

That table will always remain a philatelic curiosity. In those days we could boast of only one member who placed so high a value as £10,000 on his collection. To-day that would be an ordinary figure for a Great Mogul. In those days general collecting was the rule and specialising the exception. To-day even the general collector gets bitten by specialism.

Wanted: A National Society

BUT I apprehend that what our classifying friend wants is a National Philatelic Society that shall mother all grades of collectors, from the schoolboy to the specialist. Something, in fact, to concentrate and look after the interests of stamp collectors as the Cyclists' Touring Club concentrates and looks after the interests of devotees of the wheel. And some day we may attain to something of that sort, but at present the tendency is to regard stamp collecting as a pastime for the quiet of undisturbed hours of leisure. To bustle to the extent of forming collectors up into a feverishly active National Society has always been regarded as altogether out of character with the hobby. It has more than once been suggested that the London Philatelic Society, as the premier society, should take the lead and gather the various country societies under its wings. That I am convinced it will never do—in our day or generation. And, after all, I am old-fashioned enough myself to prefer the fireside, a few friends, and a quiet homely chat over our collections, to all the hurly-burly of more or less public meetings, exhibitions, and displays. I doubt if there is any society that yields so much real philatelic pleasure and profit as a small coterie of friends with stamp evenings free from all the formality of chairman, minutes, and "cordial votes of thanks."

Medal Hunting and Exhibitions

MR. HEGINBOTTOM sends me a long letter of comments on my notes in his letter published on page 81. His letter is too long to quote, but the pith of it is summed up in his contention that the Great Moguls must be got out of the road, or into a pen to themselves, that there may be more room for the ordinary collector. He would divide collectors into three divisions:—

Class I.	A 1, or "Great Moguls."
Class II.	Intermediate A 1, A 2.
Class III.	A 2, or Rough.

He explains that his Class II. comes between the Great Moguls and the "Rough" collections. He writes:—

"Now this division takes in by far the greater proportion of the collections in the world—that is, of course, collections of any really philatelic value, showing philatelic knowledge in arrangement and various other points. This division can of course be subdivided into many divisions, starting from those dealing with philatelic possessions which may be very fine, but cannot be expected to even 'approach' the property of the 'G.M.', and ending with those which are 'nice' and considered above the best of the 'Rough' division three. It is this 'Intermediate' class who require encouraging better. Taking a unit of say 100% as my table, I would place the proportion of the three divisions as follows.

"Division 1. The 'G.M.' collections, under 1% most decidedly.

"Division 2. The Intermediate, say a range of 5% to 10%, considering the range of degrees in this class.

"Division 3. The remaining 89%.

"Of the latter, it must be remembered, some will *probably enter* the *Intermediate division*, but can never *hope to enter the sacred portals of the 'G. M.' division*. All the more does it make the *Intermediate division* a very important one, because I hold it is this division which is and will eventually prove the rock upon which Philately will continue to prosper, in conjunction, of course, with the 'G. M.' one.

"Of course, not *one* in every hundred collectors is a 'G. M.', nor can hope to be one: I simply take this unit for sake of convenience.

"This division 'Intermediate,' therefore, coming under your word 'Mediocrity,' which in other words is 'Moderate,' should be more encouraged than it is or has been, for although they can but be 'moderate' when compared with the 'G. M.' division, yet all the same they represent among their members a large body of hard-working philatelists who help no little to make our 'science' instructive and interesting, not only to their own class, but also to the large 'Rough' class."

The Most we can Expect

I SYMPATHISE with our friend, but the difficulty in the way is one of space. My experience of exhibitions is that the Great Mogul and his near relatives will always monopolise all available space in every really great exhibition. Class III. can never hope for even a corner. Even if we move the Great Moguls into a pen by themselves, I fear only a small proportion of Class II. will find an opening. The number of high-grade collections is much greater than most collectors imagine. All we can expect is that the Great Mogul, having won his medal, shall be pitted only in future against other medallists, so as to leave room for a fairer, keener, and possibly more interesting competition amongst his former competitors.

Don't Buy Rubbish

AN Irish collector wants me to warn young collectors against buying such rubbish as North Borneo and Labuan. But I doubt if much more can be done in this direction than is done already in every self-respecting philatelic periodical. The very young collector generally takes a violent fancy for the showy picture stamps of these countries and similar rubbish, such as the Central American Republics turn out to catch his halfpence, and it is not till he meets some genuine collector, and gets some guidance, that he ceases to waste his pocket-money on worthless rubbish. A dealer in a provincial town, noted for its schools, tells me that the rubbish sells like hot cakes to the boys. The difficulty is to know how to protect boys from wasting their money on stamps that cannot fail to be productive of great disappointment and discouragement.

NEW ISSUES

The Editor will be grateful to his readers if they will help him with the earliest possible information concerning new issues. News from the Colonies in particular will be much appreciated. When possible, a specimen should accompany the information, and should be addressed to

EDWARD J. NANKIVELL, Carnanton, Camden Park, Tunbridge Wells.

Bosnia.—*Ewen's Weekly Stamp News* chronicles the addition of a new value to the current set in a 45 heller.

Perf.

45 heller, bluish grey, value in black.

Canal Zone.—The little Republic of Panama kicked up a row when it found that the United States had issued a special set of postage stamps for the workers in the strip of territory recently purchased. Panama is one of those Central American Republics which gather revenue from gullible stamp collectors by manufacturing stamps for sale to them, and naturally when its great neighbour purchased a strip of its territory for the building of a canal, Panama looked forward to a considerable augmentation of its postal revenue. Uncle Sam, on the other hand, expected to treat his purchase as his own in every way, but he raised quite a storm of protests when he sent out a set of the low values of U.S. stamps overprinted "Canal Zone." And this storm in a teacup has been settled by Uncle Sam agreeing to purchase Panama stamps for overprinting instead of using his own. Hence we have received a set of Panama stamps overprinted "Canal Zone." The 1 c. and 2 c. of the Panama issue as an independent Republic, and the 5 c., 10 c., and 50 c. Colombia stamps overprinted "Panama," have all been used for the "Canal Zone." The 50 cents. has been further surcharged "8 cts." Whilst we are on the subject, and as we have not yet listed any of the stamps, we may as well give the complete series up to date.

1904.

Stamps of Panama handstamped "Canal Zone" in one line, in bluish ink.

Perf.

2 c., carmine.
5 c., blue.
10 c., orange.

Current stamps of the United States overprinted "Canal Zone—Panama" in two lines, vertically, in black.

Perf.

1 cent, green.
2 cents, carmine.
5 ,, blue.
8 ,, grey-violet.
10 ,, brown.

1905.

Stamps of Panama overprinted "Canal—Zone" in two lines, in black.

Perf.

1 c., green, on Panama.
2 c., rose, on Panama.
5 c., blue, on Colombia, sur. Panama.
8 c. on 50 c., brown, on Colombia, sur. Panama.
10 c., orange, on Colombia, sur. Panama.

Gibraltar.—The 2s. value has been received with the multiple watermark. The Gibraltar ½d. stamp was the pioneer of the new multiple watermark, but so far we have had no other change till the issue of this 2s. value.

Wmk. Mul'iple CA. Perf.

½d., green.
2s., green and blue.

Hong Kong.—We seem to have come a cropper over the recent issues of this colony. On the strength of other journals we chronicled on p. 97 the addition of the 1 c., 10 c., 12 c. and $10 to the multiple watermark series. Mr. Ewen now informs us that these values have not yet been printed, that he chronicled them in error in his *Weekly Stamp News*, and that his error has gone the rounds. So it seems. We must cancel our chronicle of those stamps for the present.

India.—Our excellent Calcutta correspondent, Mr. Wilmot Corfield, informs us that a new Indian provisional is about to appear in the shape of the current half anna surcharged "¼" as in 1898. This, he explains, is to meet a falling off in the supply of pice stamps (grey).

Kishengarh.—This Native State of northern India is following in the wake of Jaipur in the matter of its postal issues. It has abandoned its own crude efforts at stamp production in favour of a series evidently of London manufacture. We have received from our publishers a series of five values of the design illustrated, presumably the portrait of the reigning Maharaja.



No wmk. Perf.

¼ anna, carmine.
½ ,, red-brown.
1 ,, blue.
2 annas, orange.
4 ,, sepia.

Natal.—The stamps of the current series are being slowly changed to the multiple CA watermark; so far three values have appeared.

Wmk. Multiple CA. Perf.

½d., green.
1d., carmine.
2s. 6d., lilac and black.

Russian Levant.—Two high values have been provided for the use of Russian officers in the Levant by surcharging the current 3 r. 50 k. "35—Piastres" and the 7 r. "70—Piastres." The surcharge is in red, in two lines, in tall block letters.

Surcharged on Russian stamps.

35 piastres on 3 r. 50 k., black and grey.
70 ,, ,, 7 r., black and orange-yellow.

Senegal.—Two of the current values, 50 c. and 1 f., have been surcharged "10" with a thick bar across the original values, presumably to make up for a shortage of 10 centimes stamps.

Perf.

"10" on 50 c., carmine and blue on rose.
"10" on 1 fr., olive-green on toned.

Tasmania.—We have received a curiosity from this colony in the shape of a 1½d. stamp provided by surcharging the current 5d. with a heavy figure "1" and a small fraction with a heavy "d."

Wmk. TAS. Perf.

"1½d." on 5d., blue and brown.

MISCELLANEOUS

The Founder of Perkins Bacon and Co.

THE *Daily Telegraph* has recently given its readers the history of the well-known firm of Perkins Bacon and Co., the engravers and printers of our first English postage stamps. We must find room this week for a few interesting extracts:—

"Jacob Perkins, of Boston, U.S.A., came over to London in 1819 to compete for the bank-note contract of the Bank of England. He did not get it, but he founded a firm which has been famous in Fleet Street for eighty-five years. Now Fleet Street will know it no more, for the housebreaker is hard at work on the premises owing to the necessity of widening the thoroughfare. They are worth a lingering glance even in their dismantled condition, for here were printed the first English penny postage stamps, and out of these portals have issued bank-notes, cheques, bonds, and paper securities in general for untold millions. In the quietude of the old back building—erected after the Fire of London, and forming part of what was once the old Hanging Sword Inn—genius has worked unceasingly to baffle the forger. In the name-plate on the street front there have been few changes in the long course of years. 'Perkins, Fairman, and Heath' was the style and title in 1819. Since 1852 it has been 'Perkins Bacon and Co.' The daughter of the original Mr. Perkins married Mr. Joshua Bacon, and their son was christened Perkins Bacon. The managing director, Mr. J. D. Heath, is the grandson of Mr. Serjeant Heath, one of the original partners."

The First British Postage Stamps

"The story of the first British postage stamps constitutes a notable chapter in Fleet Street history. It was in 1840 that the Post Office invited the then firm of Perkins, Bacon, and Petch to furnish designs for adhesive stamps in connection with Rowland Hill's new postal regulations. The first penny stamps were issued to the public on May 6th of that year. They were dependent on that artistic method of line engraving which for forty years distinguished these productions. They were printed in black ink, and they were not perforated. This method of easy separation was invented some years later, but, like most other happy ideas, it was temporarily shelved, and did not become a reality until the year 1854."

Cost of Manufacture

"It is interesting to note the terms of the contract under which Messrs. Perkins Bacon and Co. undertook the delivery, in the year 1840, of stamps which were printed, gummed, and ready for use. Sevenpence halfpenny per 1,000 and the paper supplied by the Government—that was the basis of the business. Afterwards the price was reduced to 6½d., then to 6d. and to 5d., and finally, in 1856, to 4½d. per 1,000. This last-mentioned figure stood till the contract expired in 1880."

A Scare about the Gum

"After a time there arose a great scare about the character of the material employed in making postage stamps adhesive. Charles Dickens, in 1852, gave the secret away in the pages of *Household Words*. This publication declared that the dreadful ingredients of this diabolical manufacture were no longer a mystery, since it was comprised in two words—'potato starch.' But, whatever might be said in defamation of this particular article, the complaint of the public was that, whether poisonous or harmless, the stamps would not adhere. Various experiments seem to have been made, and finally the use of gum arabic settled the difficulty. All this while the producers were relying on engraved steel plates, and it is worth recording that to-day they have in their possession one of these plates which, after printing over a million sheets of stamps, would be as capable as ever of doing its work."

A Change to Cheap and Nasty

"In the year 1880 Fleet Street ceased to produce the nation's postage stamps. The Government apparently wanted to economise in this direction, and so it asked for tenders for an article which relied, not upon line engraving, but upon what is commonly known as surface-printing or typography. It is not necessary to say more upon this point than that those who compare the modern penny postage stamp with its predecessor, or with the line engraved postage stamps of the United States, will have no difficulty in deciding which is the more artistic."

The Old Firm Still in the Running

"But if Messrs. Perkins Bacon and Co. were no longer responsible for the British stamp, they found in foreign countries a consolation for their loss. To-day they regularly supply postage stamps to a great many foreign Governments. Among some of their prettiest productions are those designed for the Republic of Liberia and for certain of the Native Indian States. They have also furnished an issue for the British South Africa Company."

The Best Portrait of King Edward VII.

"In this connection it is worth recalling an incident which is of itself a remarkable tribute to the excellence of steel engraving. When the Prince of Wales was in Canada he met the Postmaster-General of the Dominion, and His Royal Highness suggested that the head of the Sovereign could perhaps be more fittingly reproduced on Canadian postage stamps than was then the case. In the result the then Fleet Street firm was approached, and evolved the royal head which is to-day to be seen on Dominion stamps. What it did was to make the die and send it over to Canada, for the reason that the Canadian contractors had the sole right of actually printing the stamps. It is suggested that the background, as it now appears, is not quite perfect. Be that as it may, Canada comes level with her neighbour, the United States, in giving the preference to line engraved stamps. What is true of postage stamps applies equally to receipt and other stamps, and, indeed, to trade labels, in regard to which it is found that there is nothing to touch steel engraving."

Boom in St. Lucia

PHILATELISTS have proved a boon to the Post Office Department in St. Lucia. It appears from a colonial report for the year 1903-4, which has just been issued, that the inhabitants of St. Lucia have been economising in their correspondence expenses, as there was a falling off of nearly 13,600 in the number of letters and post cards sent last year, as compared with the preceding twelve months. Despite this contraction, however, the revenue of the Post Office was £6,750, or more than double the receipts for the corresponding period. The explanation for this apparent anomaly is that in 1903-4 about £3,490 was received from sales of stamps to collectors. The actual revenue derived from letters and post cards was only a little over £3,000, so that over 51 per cent. of the receipts for 1903-4 was contributed by philatelists.—*Financial Times.*

THE STAMP KING

By G. DE BEAUREGARD AND H. DE GORSSE

Translated from the French by EDITH C. PHILLIPS



"AND IS IT INDEED TO MISS BETTY SCOTT THAT I HAVE THE HONOUR OF SPEAKING?"

CHAPTER II

How Miss Betty always went Straight to the Point

JOHN COCKBURN and Victoria Crockett had become acquainted nearly two years ago, at a house where both Betty Scott and William Keniss were visiting. They had talked together, been mutually pleased, and finally decided to unite their destinies. Now if it had depended on Victoria alone the marriage would long ago have been celebrated, but John, who appreciated the charms of liberty at their full value, was less anxious to change his state. But then, he had not been able to save a penny, while Victoria, with prudent foresight, had amassed a pretty little fortune. On the other hand, Victoria was thirty and John only twenty-three, and the idea of having a wife older than himself, who would probably rule the roost, had made him hesitate all this time.

"It's all very well," Victoria had decided—for she was as stubborn as most Americans, and had, besides, a horror of becoming an old maid; "John may hold back as long as he likes, but I shall get my own way in time. What is it the French say? 'What a woman wishes a man does.'"

So she had not let a day pass without going to see her friend John, in the hope of persuading him to make up his mind at last. And now she was heart-broken at having to go so far away from him, and for so long a time; especially when he was just on the eve of solemnly fixing the date of their marriage.

Despairingly she descended the stairs to Betty's room, carrying with difficulty the portmanteaus into which she had crushed her belongings.

On the staircase she encountered the butler.

"Where are you going?" he asked.

"To Paris."

"Impossible!"

"True, all the same. Let me pass, please."

While the news of this unexpected departure was being passed from mouth to mouth, Victoria entered Miss Betty's room.

"Ah, there you are!" said she. "Just in time. Come and fasten my dressing-case."

As she buckled the straps Victoria was helplessly wondering how she could possibly leave New York without first letting John Cockburn know, without reminding him of his promise, which the stupid fellow was sure to forget as soon as she was out of his sight, out of his thoughts, perhaps, in Europe. She could not leave him like this, without seeing him again, without at least one hand-shake. What would the poor man think when the whole day, the next day, other days passed without his receiving his daily visit? It was certainly necessary at any price to have one last interview; but at that hour in the morning what was the use of thinking of it? Besides, she had not time to run to Mr. William Keniss's—all the way to Hudson Street, more than two miles. Oh, the misery of it!

"Now, my good Victoria," said Betty, "you had better go yourself and find a carriage to take the luggage to the station. We will go in our own. Be sure and bring a good horse who will be able to follow us closely. Five o'clock! Only an hour, so go at once."

A sudden inspiration surged through Victoria's brain. Why should she not make use of the carriage

she was sent to fetch to go at full speed to Hudson Street to see John? Yes, why not? Could she not explain her prolonged absence to Miss Betty by pleading the difficulty of finding a cab at so late, or rather, at so early an hour? But if they missed the steamer through her fault! The thought made her tremble.

However, she had not reached the street door before the time was reckoned up and her resolution taken. Twelve minutes to go; twelve minutes to return;* ten minutes to get the door opened, see John, and jump back into the carriage; total, including one minute to find the carriage, thirty-five minutes; leaving twenty-five minutes to gain the quay and get on board.

"It will be enough," said Victoria, astonished at her own assurance, and she walked unhesitatingly out of the house. A carriage was passing at that very moment, and she hailed the driver—a stout man with a nose almost as red as his lamps.

"Driver," said she, "five dollars if you will take me to Hudson Street and back in half an hour."

"Hudson Street? Half an hour? What number?"

"Number three."

"Number three? All right."

Victoria threw herself into the carriage, and the driver gave the horse one vigorous lash of the whip, at which he first dashed forward and then backed with all his might, to show that the treatment was not at all to his taste. But a few more lashes soon disposed of his feeble resistance, and the good beast, becoming suddenly brisk, threw up his head, neighed, and then started like an arrow on his giddy course, striking out sparks with his hoofs right and left.

It was a mad rush through streets and avenues. The passengers on foot, luckily rare at this hour, had scarcely time to get out of the way of the vehicle, but jumped on to the pavement with cries of alarm.

Thanks to the rapidity of their pace, Victoria arrived at her destination in less than eleven minutes. She ran swiftly up the staircase which led to the apartments of Mr. William Keniss, and rang the bell. John opened the door.

"Victoria!" cried he. "What has happened? What are you doing here at this time of night?"

"I have come to tell you," said Victoria breathlessly, "that Miss Betty and I are starting for Paris this morning."

"For Paris!"

"Yes, for Paris. It seems Miss Betty is going in search of a stamp which your master possesses and which she hasn't got yet."

"A stamp? Do you know which?"

"Oh, they are all the same to me! Only, you see, I couldn't go without wishing you good-bye. That is what I came for. Now I must fly, for I haven't a second to spare. The *Touraine*, the steamer we are going by, weighs anchor in half an hour."

"In half an hour!"

"Promise you will not forget me, John."

"I promise."

"And that you will marry me when I come back."

"I promise that too."

"Then good-bye, John, and may we meet again soon."

"Very soon, Victoria."

The maid ran down again, gave the man the five dollars she had promised, beseeching him to say nothing to her mistress of this escapade, and to drive back at once to Stuyvesant Square; then she got into the carriage again, and they set off at the same break-neck speed as before.

Miss Betty had had her trunk brought down by the servants, and was waiting at the door with feverish impatience for Victoria and her carriage.

"At last!" she cried. "I thought you were never coming."

* The New York cabs are evidently faster than those of London if they go two miles in twelve minutes!

In a few seconds the trunk was hoisted up and the two equipages were on their way.

It was a good distance from Stuyvesant Square to the port, but the horses were fresh enough to do it in the half-hour that remained. The driver with the luggage, who was leading, thought, indeed, that he had time to spare, so slackened pace a little, with the result that they only arrived at the quay just three minutes before the steamer left. The adventurous young American, after liberally paying the driver and handing over the luggage to two porters who were waiting about, ran with Victoria to the gangway, which they had scarcely crossed when the captain ordered all but the passengers on shore. The boat was ready to start, and the anchor weighed just as the surrounding clocks struck six.

While these last incidents were taking place an event of great importance was also happening at William Keniss's. After Victoria's visit John had reflected deeply on the news he had just heard, of Miss Scott's sudden departure in search of a stamp, and had then resolved, in spite of the early hour, to wake his master, knowing he would be forgiven, as the news would interest him in no small degree. As he entered the room William Keniss opened one eye and began to storm at him for disturbing his sleep, but when the honest fellow began his story he immediately opened the other eye.

"Do you mean to say, John, that Miss Betty is starting for France this morning in search of a stamp which I possess and she doesn't?"

"Yes, sir."

"Then it must be that Brahmapootra stamp that I got yesterday."

"No doubt, sir."

William Keniss sat up in bed.

"She shall not have it!" he cried. "Either I will persuade her not to go, by pointing out the perils of such an undertaking on the part of a young lady, or, if that is unavailing, I will go too. My collection is the only complete one in the world, and I do not intend that there shall be another." And leaping out of bed he cried, "My clothes, John—trousers, waistcoat, coat. We will be off at once."

As soon as John, nonplussed at the thought that he was going to meet his dear Victoria once more on the bridge of the *Touraine*, had handed his master's clothes with a very bad grace, the latter said:

"Now get your hat and come."

"But our luggage?" cried the valet.

"Never mind that. We can buy all we need in Paris." And descending to the street they both jumped into a carriage.

Unfortunately, though, William Keniss had not taken the precaution of examining the horse, which had arrived at the very last stage of attenuation. In spite of the blows lavished upon him by the driver, bribed by the promise of an extra fare, he could do no more than trot at a hopelessly slow pace, so that when William Keniss and John arrived at the quay it was already too late. The *Touraine* had left the stage and was steaming away towards the ocean, while Miss Betty's carriage was slowly returning to the town. But what was passing on board the vessel?

At first in the uproar of departure no one noticed that the population thereof had just been augmented by two new arrivals; and Miss Betty and Victoria, entrenched behind their luggage, observed a modest silence, for fear they might be told that all the berths were full and that there was yet time to land them again.

The two great screws cut through the waves of the Hudson, leaving in the wake of the steamer a double train of boiling foam. The water opened to make way for the slender bows, rolling off on either side in great waves, which finally broke against the river banks. In the misty morning atmosphere the siren uttered its occasional wild bellow, warning bells sounded, and the voice of the captain was heard from

the bridge shouting brief and contradictory orders to the engineer below; for they were still in the narrow channel, and it was no easy matter to steer this colossal structure—one hundred and sixty metres long by twenty wide—more gigantic than the great nave of Notre Dame.

The monster moved forward with great precaution as if scenting out the way, now darting forward with great turns of the screws, now hesitating, stopping almost, only to start again with a fresh impetus. You could feel that the pressure was at its height as the engines threw out, as from huge lungs, panting jets of vapour, which rose above like two enormous plumes of black smoke issuing from the red funnels. The sides of the vessel shot forth columns of water from the pumps, and the morning as it brightened gave to the movements of the colossus a strange character of life and grandeur.

The *Touraine* now bore forward at full speed in the widening estuary. The houses of New York had disappeared, then those of the suburbs, and finally the river banks themselves were lost in the misty distance. It was a lovely morning as the pale golden sun rose out of the pink mist just over the point of Long Island, which could be dimly seen in the distance.

"And now," said Miss Betty to Victoria, when the vessel was so far on her way, "there is no longer any danger that they will send us back, so we may as well see after a cabin."

"Oh my! Oh my! What a folly this is!" said the maid, overcome by the freshness of the morning air and far from resigned to her fate.

"It will be all right," said Betty encouragingly. "Don't be miserable, but go and find me the steward." But at this moment the steward appeared on his tour of inspection. Just before he reached the two women he was joined by a stylishly dressed gentleman, apparently English, with red hair and a light flowing moustache. He was evidently a person of importance, for the steward saluted him deferentially. The gentleman, conscious of his own dignity, returned the salute with a nod without deigning to remove his gloved hands from the pockets of his travelling-coat.

"Steward," said he, "can you tell me if the young lady standing near us is Miss Scott?"

The steward after glancing at her returned, "Well, sir, it is all the more difficult for me to tell you, as I do not know who Miss Scott is."

"What, you have never heard of Miss Scott, the beautiful New York millionaire, with a fortune of three hundred million francs—sixty million dollars—twelve million pounds sterling! Why, every steamer brings over princes, dukes, counts, come expressly from Europe to solicit her hand. It is only fair to add that they return also by every steamer, disdainfully refused by the intractable young lady."

"I perceive, sir," said the steward, "that you know her well."

"Only as all New York knows her—by reputation, and a little by sight, since I am not at all sure that it is she."

Victoria had by this time come forward.

"Sir," said she to the steward, "my mistress wishes to speak to you."

"Certainly. Excuse me, sir."

"But if that really is Miss Scott," said the gentleman, detaining him a moment, "you will have the kindness to present me to her?"

"Willingly, sir."

The steward approached Miss Betty, thinking the while that even on board she would not escape suitors in quest of a large fortune.

"My companion and I arrived only at the last moment," said she, "and have not booked our passage, but we should like one of the best cabins."

"But, madam, there is not one left!"

"Not even one on the lower deck?"

"No, madam, not one."

"How annoying," cried the disappointed Miss Betty. "I will pay anything necessary. Find me one at any price."

"Alas! madam, I cannot turn anyone out of a cabin booked beforehand. The *Touraine*, you know, on account of its luxury and comfort, is the most in request of all our boats, especially by first-class passengers."

"Whatever shall we do, then?"

"The simplest plan, indeed the only one, is to share one of the second-class cabins with two others. There is room for four, and it is absolutely the only place I have left for you."

Betty's face lengthened considerably, for the idea of being relegated to the second class and having to share a cabin was very distasteful. But at this moment the gentleman, who had drawn near enough to hear the conversation, saw his opportunity and spoke.

"Will you do me the favour of presenting me?" said he, lifting his cap.

"Sir Oscar Tilbury," said the steward to Miss Betty.

"And is it indeed to Miss Betty Scott that I have the honour of speaking?"

"Yes," said the girl, surprised at the unexpected intervention.

Satisfied on this most important point, Sir Oscar continued, with a more profound bow than before: "I must ask you to forgive me, Miss Scott, not for having listened to, but for having overheard, your unsuccessful request. As I saw I might be of use to you I took the liberty of speaking."

"But what can you do——?"

"I can take a place in a second-class cabin instead of you and ask you to accept mine, which is on the promenade deck, and one of the best on the boat."

For a moment Miss Betty's eyes shone with pleasure, but only for a moment.

"I cannot cause you so much inconvenience," she said.

"Not the least inconvenience in the world, Miss Scott," returned Sir Oscar Tilbury. "I merely require a cabin to sleep in at night; the rest of the time I wander about, smoke, or play." In short, the gallant Englishman pleaded his cause so well, mingling respectful reserve with so much kind insistence in his offer, that a quarter of an hour afterwards Miss Betty and Victoria took possession of the superb cabin, while Sir Oscar had his luggage removed to the second class. But it was arranged that the latter, having paid for a luxurious place, should naturally retain the permanent use of the saloons and of the first-class dining-table. He even, by the help of a judicious tip, arranged that his seat at table should be next to that of Miss Betty.

(To be continued)

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENCE

Our Brussels Letter

BRUSSELS, *6th February*, 1905.

THE new postage stamps of Belgium will appear early next April. The stamp-printing office is now about to print the four following values: 10, 20, 25, and 35 centimes. The three values of 50 c., 1 fr., and 2 fr., will appear later. The stamps bear the portrait of King Léopold II. in profile, looking towards the left, in a circle. Above, and in a tablet, are the words "Belgique – Belgie," and below is the value simply in figures. The circle in the 10 c. is surrounded by a garland of ivy, and in the 20 c. by one of oak leaves. The type of the 25 c. differs slightly; instead of a circle, the King's profile is in a frame of the same kind as those in the stamps of Roumania, 1893. The colours are the same as those of the present stamps. Constantin Meunier's engraving is a perfect likeness. It represents the King's bust with his fine white beard cut square. The stamp being of quiet design has a beautiful effect. In short, this time Belgium will possess stamps which, were it not for the horrible tag, "ne pas livrer le Dimanche," would be able to rival those of other countries.

The printing is done in the following way:—The die is engraved on a sheet of bronze; this is a new process. This die is used for reproducing a series of other dies in lead; these latter are arranged to form one quarter of a sheet, that is, 50 stamps. An impression is then taken off by means of a plastic body, and this impression is then blackleaded and placed in a galvanoplastic bath so as to cover it with copper; thus, a sheet of 300 stamps is obtained, which is fixed into the printing-press and printed off. The stamps of 50 c., 1 fr., and 2 fr. will perhaps be printed from copper plates. This process is much more costly, and for that reason the postal authorities have not used it for the ordinary values. The type of the 1 c., 2 c., and 5 c. remains the same.

The stir caused in the stamp world by the sensational statement made by the *Daily Chronicle* has not subsided. Although the truth of the information spread about by the English newspaper, and reproduced by the philatelic Press of all countries, has been contested, the Servian stamps continue to be sold at a price which is ridiculously exaggerated. Collectors, in spite of the formal declaration of the engraver, remain convinced that the artist wished to reproduce the deathlike features of the late King Alexander, and they are giving for these stamps twenty times more than they are worth. We will not discuss this infatuation; we just note it, and remark that at least there is a really strange combination of lines in the engraving of the two heads.

A new philatelic society was founded at Louvain on Saturday, February 4th. If, as the council of the "Federation of Belgian Philatelists" hopes will be the case, the new society decides to enter the Federation, then the latter will consist of six large clubs, comprising nearly 300 members.

The fine collection of the late M. Mortelmans, of Antwerp, and treasurer of the Federation of Belgian Philatelists, will be sold shortly.

Our Letter from Turkey

CONSTANTINOPLE, *28th January*, 1905.

IN being so kind as to ask me to keep the readers of *G.S.W.* in touch with the stamp movement in Turkey, Messrs. Stanley Gibbons, Ltd., have astonished me somewhat, for, seeing the little interest taken as a rule by the English stamp world in the stamps of Turkey, I never thought that regular news from Turkey could be of interest to the English public. But it seems that such is not the case, and that I was in the wrong; that English stamp collectors are not interested in the stamps of Turkey because they do not know them sufficiently. Thus, I shall esteem myself very fortunate if, from such an eminent pulpit as *G.S.W.*, I may be able to reinstate the poor Turkish stamps, which nobody has ever defended. Frankly speaking, if one will only take the trouble, one can find, by reason of the shortcomings in the means of printing and engraving in Turkey, some very interesting things in these stamps, and also the wherewithal for filling whole albums with the rarities that one finds.

I will try, then, to interest those who will do me the honour to read my remarks, and will keep them up to date with all the new issues, and discoveries of new rarities in the old issues, with important sales of collections, etc.; in a word, with everything concerning Philately in Turkey.

Firstly, I ought to mention the appearance of two high values in the stamps of the offices of Russian Levant. They are the 35 piastres and the 70 piastres on 3½ roubles and 7 roubles of Russia. These stamps appeared five days ago, and report says that they will be in use only a very short time. This would not surprise me at all. For what needs have these two high values been created? Are they not meant rather for sale to collectors than for the real requirements of the Russian postal service, which is called upon rarely in our city to frank letters to the value of 70 piastres—that is, about fourteen shillings in English money?

As to the stamps of Turkey, one knows that there were two kinds, one for use at home and the other for use abroad. Now, as the stamps for inland use were exhausted last month, and as the new set, which is to appear on March 15th, is in the press, it was decided not to reprint the stamps of the old type, but to use those for the service at home and abroad without distinction, for all letters leaving either for the Turkish provinces or for abroad. The new stamps, which will be the same for inland and foreign postage, ought to appear most certainly on March 15th, 1905. In addition to the values known already, there will be the new values of 2½, 7½, and 10 p.

A. YAREMDJI.

PHILATELIC SOCIETIES

Herts Philatelic Society

President: H. Jennings-White.
Secretary: H. A. Slade, Ingleside, St. Albans.
Meetings: Third Tuesday, Anderton's Hotel, E.C.
Subscription: 5s.

THE February meeting will take the form of a General Display by all the members, who are requested to bring or send twenty-five of their most interesting stamps, mounted with full description to facilitate their being handed round. Interest is desired to be confined exclusively to rarity.

Distance can be no excuse for not participating in this meeting, as, even if personal attendance is not possible, every member can send *some* stamps to the Secretary for the inspection of his fellow-members. Will all oblige?

The Society is in a most flowing condition. The membership and the average of attendance are constantly on the up-grade, and no society can point to better displays. For the H.P.S. has had the best there are, thanks to the courtesy of the "big guns" of the philatelic world. And the promises for the future can be numbered by the score.

Kent and Sussex Philatelic Society

President: Edward J. Nankivell.
Secretary: F. Wicks, The Lodge, Tudeley, Tonbridge.
Meetings: Members' Houses. Monthly: afternoons.
Annual Subscription: 5s.

AT the invitation of Mrs. Collins, the February meeting of the Kent and Sussex Philatelic Society was held at Dunorlan on Monday, February 6th, 1905, when there were present Mr. Edward J. Nankivell (the President), in the chair, Mrs. Collins, the Misses Nix, Major E. B. Evans, Mr. and Mrs. Wheelwright, Mr. Cecil Sharpe, Mr. J. A. Nix, Mr. C. H. Scott, Mr. H. L. Foster, and Mr. F. Wicks (Hon. Sec.). Letters from Major A. G. Boscawen, M.P., and Mr. A. P. Hedges, accepting Honorary Vice-Presidencies to which they had been re-elected, were received. A letter was also received from Captain G. L. Courthope, J.P., signifying his acceptance of a Vice-Presidency, and his willingness to continue in the office of Hon. Treasurer. Major Evans, one of the Vice-Presidents, displayed his splendid collection of the stamps of the Confederate States, which comprised a large number of complete sheets, and of stamps on original covers. The meeting concluded with thanks to Mrs. Collins for her kind invitation and to Major Evans for his display. The next meeting was fixed for Monday, March 6th, to take place, on the invitation of Mr. and Mrs. Wheelwright, at 7, Nevvill Park.

Sheffield Philatelic Society.

President: J. S. Bartlett.
Secretary: W. G. Laycock.

A MEETING of the members of this Society was held on Wednesday, 1st February, in their rooms at the King's Head Hotel, the Vice-President (Mr. E. D. Drury) being in the chair. After the general business had been dealt with, a very interesting discussion followed, the subject being "The New Collector, and what can be done for him." It was generally agreed that it was best for the grown-up collector to join a society, where he had not only access to all the standard works of reference on stamps, but was also able to obtain the advice of older and more advanced collectors. As to the young collector, it was suggested that a junior society might be formed, and that occasional lectures by leading philatelists for the special benefit of youths would tend to make the hobby better understood and appreciated.

ANSWERS TO CORRESPONDENTS

H. G. (Kingston).—The difference between the old CA (single CA as it is now called) and the new multiple CA watermarks is that the single CA is made to fall one in the centre of each stamp, whereas in the multiple CA the watermark is repeated so closely that portions of at least three or four watermarks fall on each stamp,





as shown in our illustrations. The reason given for the change is that it "enables the same paper to be used for stamps of all sizes, and to ensure that no stamp should be issued without a watermark," and of course it facilitates the more rapid production of the stamps, as it does away with the necessity of careful centring.

W. G. H. (Belvedere).—Watermarks are sometimes most troublesome to find. In a used copy you can wet the stamp and the watermark will generally show up clearly. But as no one would think of putting an unused copy into water, you must try it in other ways. Some watermarks may be seen by holding the stamp up to the light and looking through it. If you cannot find it in that way place it on the sleeve of your coat, on black material, and turn the stamp about till you catch some portion of the watermark; then you will gradually be able to outline the whole. So-called official imitations of Japanese stamps have printed on them in tiny Japanese characters the word "Reprint," and they are no better at the best. As a very large proportion of used Japanese stamps sold to Europeans visiting that country are forgeries, you should be careful to buy only of leading dealers who may be relied upon to sell only the genuine article.

H. B. F. (Broadstairs).—You will see that the coupons are now printed on the advertisement pages. In this matter we are more generous than most periodicals, for the object of printing the coupon amongst the matter is to sell two copies, one for cutting up for coupon purposes, and the other to be kept intact for reading and binding. See? But *Gibbons Stamp Weekly* is going at such a pace that we can afford to dispense with this stimulant.

C. H. G. F. (Dulwich).—The Servian stamps with the portrait of King Alexander blotted out with an overprint of the arms of Servia are by no means scarce, nor are they likely to be rare. They are priced unused in Gibbons Catalogue as follows:—

1903. Head overprinted with arms.

1 para,	lilac-brown,	arms in blue	.	—
5 paras,	pale green	,, ,,	.	0 2
10 ,,	rose	,, black	.	0 3
15 ,,	drab	,, ,,	.	0 4
20 ,,	orange	,, ,,	.	0 4
25 ,,	blue	,, ,,	.	0 5
50 ,,	grey	,, red	.	0 9
1 din.,	blue-green	,, black	.	—

Several of the values are known with the overprint omitted. Those will no doubt be scarce, as none of the issue were intentionally placed on sale without first blotting out the murdered King's portrait.

EDITORIAL

Editorial Communications

All communications intended for the Editor should be addressed to Edward J. Nankivell, Carnanton, Camden Park, Tunbridge Wells.

Philatelic Societies

We wish to make a special feature of the prompt publication of the reports of Philatelic Societies, and trust we may have the kindly co-operation of the honorary secretaries in this matter. Reports should be written on one side of the paper, and despatched to the Editor by the earliest post.

Special Correspondence

The Editor will be glad to receive interesting letters from philatelic centres not already covered by our arrangements. We want chatty and newsy letters on matters of interest to the general collector, and excluding all matter of interest only to the specialist.

Our Miscellaneous Page

We wish to make *Gibbons Stamp Weekly* a storehouse of information, and shall therefore be glad of any cuttings of more or less permanent interest for our "Miscellaneous" page. Source and date of cutting must be given.

Subscriptions

Subscriptions must be sent to the publishers as set out on the front page of cover, or to booksellers or railway bookstalls, but never to the Editor.

OUR PHILATELIC DIARY

MARCH, 1905

1. Sheffield Philatelic Society: R. Snaith, Paper—Varieties of Paper, Watermark, etc.
2. North of England Philatelic Society, Newcastle-on-Tyne: T. D. Hume—West Indies, South Australians, and Capes.
   Auction: Glendining, 7, Argyll Street, London. 4.30 p.m.
   Auction: Ventom, Bull, and Cooper, Loudoun Hotel, Surrey Street, Strand, London, W.C. 5 p.m.
3. Auction: Glendining, 7, Argyll Street, London. 4.30 p.m.
   Auction: Ventom, Bull, and Cooper, Loudoun Hotel, Surrey Street, Strand, London, W.C. 5 p.m.
   Manchester Philatelic Society: F. J. Beazley, Display—Gambia, with notes.
7. Auction: Puttick and Simpson, 47, Leicester Square, London. 4.30 p.m.
   Leeds Philatelic Society: Display—Holland and Colonies.
8. Auction: Puttick and Simpson, 47, Leicester Square, London. 4.30 p.m.
   International Philatelic Union, London: Captain Napier, Display—Australian Stamps.
10. Manchester Philatelic Society: Discussion—Seychelles, opened by R. F. Martin.
    Philatelic Society of London: L. L. R. Hausburg, Display—Western Australia.
14. Auction: Plumridge and Co., 64, Chancery Lane, W.C. 4.45 p.m.
15. Enterprise Philatelic Society, London: Ten Minutes' Papers, any subject. F. W. Lake, Display—Cape of Good Hope.
15. Sheffield Philatelic Society: E. Heginbottom, Display—Jamaica, Tobago, and Trinidad.
    Auction: Plumridge, 64, Chancery Lane, London. 4.45 p.m.
16. Auction: Glendining, 7, Argyll Street, London. 4.30 p.m.
    Auction: Ventom, Bull, and Cooper, Loudoun Hotel, Surrey Street, Strand, London. 5 p.m.
17. Manchester Philatelic Society: J. H. Abbott, Paper—British Bechuanaland.
    Auction: Glendining, 7, Argyll Street, London. 4.30 p.m.
    Auction: Ventom, Bull, and Cooper, Loudoun Hotel, Surrey Street, Strand, London. 5 p.m.
18. Leeds Philatelic Society: C. L. Pickard, Display—British Official Stamps, with notes.
    Herts Philatelic Society, London: T. W. Hall, Display—Uruguay Early Issues, with notes.
    Auction: Puttick and Simpson, 47, Leicester Square, London. 4.30 p.m.
19. Auction: Puttick and Simpson, 47, Leicester Square, London. 4.30 p.m.
24. Manchester Philatelic Society: Discussion—Denmark, opened by J. H. Stagg.
    Philatelic Society of London: B. D. Knox—Notes on the Stamps of Malta.
28. Auction: Plumridge, 64, Chancery Lane, London. 4.45 p.m.
29. Auction: Plumridge, 64, Chancery Lane, London. 4.45 p.m.
30. Auction: Glendining, 7, Argyll Street, London. 4.30 p.m.
31. Auction: Glendining, 7, Argyll Street, London. 4.30 p.m.
    Manchester Philatelic Society: J. C. North, Display—Malta, with notes.

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25 February, 1905.

Gibbons Stamp Weekly

EDITED BY EDWARD J. NANKIVELL

No. 9 | 4 MARCH, 1905 | Vol. I.

STAMPS OF GREAT BRITAIN

By the late GORDON SMITH, M.A.

(*Continued from page* 118.)

(a) Series Without Letters, 1855–7 (*continued*)

WITH the "make-up" of the plates the collector need not trouble himself. At first there were 240 stamps on the sheet, arranged in the same way as in the 1d., but later these were broken up into groups or "panes" as they are called, each consisting of 60 stamps in 10 horizontal rows of 6 in a row, with margins between the panes on the sheet. This arrangement into panes was adopted for the other values with which we have to deal, and remains in force to some extent with the current values. It will be readily seen on a moment's reflection that this breaking of the continuity of the horizontal rows made the perforating machines as used for the 1d. and 2d. stamps unsuitable, and consequently differently spaced perforating machines had to be employed. These, instead of perforating the outer edges of the stamps at the sides of the panes, only perforated a single line down the middle of the plain unprinted interval between the panes, and thus it comes about that so many used stamps are found with a margin of paper outside the stamp on the right or left side before the perforation is reached. These margins do not occur at the top or bottom of stamps, because the margin between panes arranged vertically was the same height as the stamps themselves, and was perforated in the ordinary course.

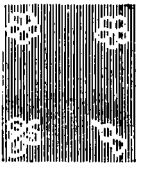
This rearrangement of the stamps was made in order that the sheets could be divided up into panes, it being easier to keep accounts and check the counting of the stamps in this form.

In the 6d., 9d., and 1s. values the panes were smaller, consisting of only 20 stamps in each pane, arranged in 5 horizontal rows of 4 in a row. Stamps with margins are, as might be expected, commoner in these values than in the 4d. The entire sheets held 240 stamps, so that there were 12 panes on each sheet.

The collector will now understand how it is that when he is trying to secure a "well-centred" specimen he has to encounter such a large proportion of lop-sided copies.







The two other stamps in this group were the 6d. and 1s. A new watermark was introduced for the paper on which they were printed, which we call "Emblems" watermark. It consists of four distinct pieces, which were intended to come at the four corners of each im-

pression; but owing to the paper not having been quite accurately adjusted when it came on the plate, or, as we say, in "register," we not unfrequently find a stamp which has lost some portion of its own watermark, and has got a portion of that which should have appeared in its neighbour. The two upper portions consist of roses to represent England, the lower right corner a thistle for Scotland, and the lower left corner a shamrock, the emblem of Ireland. The stamps of this group are as follows:—

1855-57.

Bluish safety paper.
Watermark Small Garter. *Perf.* 14.
4d., carmine.

Bluish safety paper.
Watermark Medium Garter. *Perf* 14.
4d., carmine.

White paper.
Watermark Medium Garter. *Perf.* 14.
4d., carmine.

White paper.
Watermark Large Garter. *Perf.* 14.
4d., carmine.

White paper.
Watermark "Emblems." *Perf.* 14.
6d., lilac.
1s., green.

(b) Series with Small Uncoloured Letters



In the designs of the different values of this series letters were introduced in each corner of the stamp, as had already been done in the case of the 1d. and 2d. They are in a small Roman type, and are the common characteristic of each value of the set. Although these were only in issue for three years, they present certain interesting points which we cannot overlook.

In the plate of the 3d. as at first prepared there was a fine network pattern covering the ground of the outer parts of the design, but before printing for issue was commenced this was removed, as it was considered that the appearance of the stamp too closely resembled that of the 4d. of the preceding set, being printed in the same colour. Specimens from the unaltered plate are occasionally met with having the word SPECIMEN overprinted in black. These were made for distribution among postmasters, as samples, on the circulars which were always sent out whenever a new design was contemplated. A second plate of the 3d. was also made in all respects like the 3d. as issued, except that there was a small white dot on each side in the angle between the leaf-like ornaments at the side of the curved frame and the inner line of the frame surrounding the head. An extremely small number of these was printed.

Second plates of the 4d., 6d., and 9d. were also made, and in all these there are small white lines across the outer angles of the compartments containing the check letters. In the 4d. value specimens from both plates are about equally common. In the 6d. those with "hair lines"—as these lines across the corners are called—are scarcer than those from the earlier plate, but in the 9d. they are very rare indeed. The 4d. has in addition another small difference, in the earlier plate the Roman figure "I," and in the later the figures "II" being inserted in the frame at the foot of the stamp on each side and close alongside the lettered compartments.

(To be continued.)

PUBLIC SCHOOL COLLECTING

By Rev. T. C. WALTON, M.A.

(*Continued from page* 120.)

Varieties in Design

WE have already considered one example of varieties due to a slight change in the design in the "Laureated" series of New South Wales. The variations in that series of stamps were due, as the reader will doubtless remember, to the engraving of all the designs on the original plates by hand instead of by machinery, which latter method, had it been available, would have ensured facsimiles of the first engraved design. This is an example of the innate inaccuracy in man, whereby his hand cannot make a true and perfect copy of that which his eye perceives. Carelessness, however, has sometimes been responsible for a variation from a well-recognised type. An instance of this may be seen in the 2d., blue, Post Paid, Mauritius of 1848, where the word PENCE figures as PENOE. Other varieties have been actually designed by postal authorities. The waggon on the Transvaal stamps appeared with shafts in the 1894 series. The shafts disappeared and a pole took their place in 1895. Obviously the shafts were superfluous, and gave an incorrect idea of a waggon on "trek." Other examples are seen in the two and three-masted ships of the 1882 issues of British Guiana. The first issue of the English 1d., lilac, in July, 1881, had fourteen dots in each corner. In the December of the same year sixteen dots appeared, and permanently replaced the fourteen dots of the earlier issue. Numerous varieties are caused by surcharged values being printed twice on the same stamp, or by an inversion of the surcharge. Thick stops and thin stops, thick letters and thin letters, no stops, square stops, wide spaces and narrow spaces between, all these are exampled in the surcharge V.R.I., the letters on the stamps formerly in use in the Orange Free State.

Secret Marks on Stamps

I once asked a bank manager how he could be sure that a bank-note was genuine. He told me that there were two chief indications. One was in the feel of the paper, the other consisted in certain secret marks. Similarly in postage stamps, there are many which bear secret marks, and these marks are invaluable in some cases for the detection of forgeries. Hamburg seems to have adopted a system of placing minute dots on various parts of the design. It may be of interest to the reader to add, by way of parenthesis, that genuine unused Hamburgs have been found cancelled with a forged postmark. This postmark can be detected by the presence of two stars on the inside of the circle, which stars are absent in the genuine postmark. The secret marks on the stamps of Bremen consisted in slight alterations in the designs on the sheets. These alterations differ from those of the "Laureated" New South Wales in that they were designedly made for the purpose of distinguishing the genuine from the forged. There are three types of the 3 grote and two types of the 5 grote in each of the three issues of 1855-60, 1861-3, 1866.

The secret marks on our English stamps are perhaps the most interesting to the public school collector. The 3d., rose, of 1862, Plate III., had a secret marking which consisted of a small white dot before and after the word POSTAGE, *i.e.* in the corners of the circular block of colour on which the word POSTAGE is printed. Only some 1,200 of these were issued. Therefore this stamp is a great rarity. The 4d., red, of 1862, Plate IV., has hair lines drawn diagonally across the outer corners, where the small white letters are. Plate III. of this 4d., red, shows a small Roman I just inside the rectangular block of colour at the base of the design. Plate IV. has the Roman II at each end of this rectangular base, as well as the hair lines across the corners already mentioned. Other examples of hair lines may be found in the 6d., Plate IV., of the 1862 series, and the 9d., Plate III.

Colouring of Designs

In No. 2 of the *Stamp Weekly*, an account was given of the philatelic wall-paper at the Hospital of St. Jean de Dieu, at Ghent. Palaces, forests, streams, and

mountains are depicted, and the gorgeously coloured landscapes are formed entirely by means of the world's postage stamps. This gives one an idea of the possibilities of the innumerable shades of colour which adorn the stamps of the world, but these very shades are a source of no little trouble to the stamp collector. Without attempting to enter upon a scientific explanation of the causes of this infinitude of varieties, let me give the briefest of all possible descriptions. The reader who would like to have further information is referred to a useful booklet on colours which serves the double purpose of a dictionary and an illustrated guide to colour-land. It is written by Mr. B. W. Warhurst and published by Messrs. Stanley Gibbons. Boys of an artistic turn of mind have cause to remember their first box of colours. What joy there was in mixing the colours, blue with yellow, red with blue, black with white! How many were the colours we could produce by the judicious mixing of the few tubes or cakes of colour contained in our paint box! We knew nothing of Fick's assumptions or Maxwell's theories about primary colours. But now the question assumes a sterner aspect. We want to be able to determine with some degree of accuracy the exact colour of certain stamps in our album. We turn up a colour dictionary, and lo! an array of some hundreds of colour names confronts us. Indeed, a standard colour chart, published in the United States of America some twenty years ago, illustrates no fewer than 568 varieties. Scarlet is a bright red and vermilion is the brightest red. Carmine is the brightest full-hued red between scarlet and crimson. Lake is the deepest red. Crimson has a deeper, duller tone than carmine. Thus we might quote shade after shade, but, without the help of a series of standard colour charts, we should be very apt to go wrong if we were asked to say, at sight, whether a certain stamp was scarlet or carmine in colour. Unfortunately, there seems to be no royal road through the mysterious colour world. The foundation is undoubtedly laid by a careful study of the principal colours in the prismatic spectrum which is the laboratory reproduction of that world-old phenomenon, "the rainbow." These colours are: red, orange, yellow, green, blue, and violet. These, merging into one another, combine to make the colour impression of "white light." And from these come the many hues and tones which are so perplexing. A clear understanding of these principal colour groups, together with a careful study of the colour diagrams in Mr. Warhurst's book, will be found of the greatest service to the reader who seeks to determine the colour name to be assigned to any particular stamp.

The Tintometer

There are several scientific instruments for finding out the precise shades of small objects like postage stamps. A short description of one of these may prove of interest. A brewer, Mr. Lovibond by name, designed the tintometer some ten years ago for the purpose of testing the colour of fluids. This instrument consists of two tubes arranged side by side after the manner of field-glasses. The object to be examined is placed at the end of one of the tubes and coloured glasses of known tints are placed at the end of the other tube, until the colours seen down the two tubes exactly match each other. These tinted glasses are graduated so that the shades which go to make the colouring of the design of a stamp can be exactly known.

Difficulty of Distinguishing Colours

Apart from colour-blindness, to which many people are more or less prone, there are many curious results arising from the seeing of different colours in turn. This happens in the case of what are called contrasted colours. Suppose that you look at a sheet of red stamps and then turn to a set of green, the latter will appear bluish green in colour. Many other changes of effect due to contrasted colours might be given, but one example is sufficient to warn the beginner that a colour is not always what it seems. If he wishes to get a fairly approximate idea of the colours of certain stamps, it is a good plan to rest the eye after each inspection of a stamp by looking at a pale green, grey, or even black paper or object. By so doing the eyes lose their retaining sense of the colour last looked at, and are thus better able to come to a more certain conclusion.

(To be continued.)

STAMP COLLECTING AS A PASTIME

By EDWARD J. NANKIVELL

(*Continued from page* 122.)

VIII. Great Rarities (*continued*)

British Guiana, 1856, 1 c.—In 1856 this colony was awaiting a supply of stamps from England, and pending its arrival two provisional stamps were issued, a 1 c. and a 4 c. These were set up from type in the office of the *Official Gazette*. A small illustration of a ship, used for heading the shipping advertisements in the daily papers, was utilised for the central portion of the design. Of the 1 c. value only one specimen is known to-day, and that is in the collection of M. Philipp la Renotière (Herr von Ferrary). Doubts have been expressed as to the genuineness of the copy, but Mr. Bacon, who has had an opportunity of inspecting it, says: "After a most careful inspection I have no hesitation whatever in pronouncing it a thoroughly genuine one cent specimen. The copy is a poor one, dark magenta in colour, and somewhat rubbed. It is initialled 'E.D.W.', and dated April 1st, the year not being distinct enough to be read."



This stamp may safely be placed at the head of great rarities. Of its value it is impossible to form any opinion. If a dealer had the disposal of the copy in question, he would probably want between £1,000 and £2,000 for it, with a decided preference for the larger sum.

Mauritius, "Post Office," 1d. and 2d.—The best known, the most quoted, and probably the most popular of all the great rarities is the "Post Office" Mauritius, so called because the words "Post Office" were inscribed on one side of the stamp instead of the words "Post Paid." There were two values, 1d. and 2d. They were designed and engraved by a local watchmaker, and were printed from single dies, and issued in 1847. The tedious process of printing numbers of stamps from single dies was soon abandoned, and only 500 copies of each value were struck. Of those 1,000 stamps only twenty-two copies are known to exist to-day. There are in the hands of leading collectors two copies of the 1d. unused, and three copies of the 2d. unused, twelve copies of the 1d. used, and five copies of the 2d. used. These rarities were only in use for a few days, and were mostly used in sending out invitations to a ball at Government House.



The value, according to condition, is from £800 upwards for each value, but unused they are of course worth a great deal more.

Hawaii, 1851, 2 cents, blue.—Like so many rare stamps, this first issue of Hawaii was designed and set up from type in a printer's office. About twelve copies are known to exist. The stamp was in use but a very short time, as the Post Office of Honolulu was burnt down, and the stock of stamps of this first issue was completely destroyed.



This 2 cents stamp is worth about £750.

British Guiana, 1850, 2 cents.—This is popularly known as the 2 cents circular Guiana, because of its shape. A notice in the local *Official Gazette*, dated February, 1851, announced that "by order of His Excellency the Governor, and upon the request of several of the merchants of Georgetown, it is proposed to establish a delivery of letters twice each



day through the principal streets of this city." Certain gentlemen were named as having consented to receive letters for delivery at their respective stores, and it was further announced that "each letter must bear a stamp, for which 2 c. will be charged, or it will not be delivered, and when called for will be subject to the usual postage of 8 c." A supply of the required 2 c. stamps was provided by a locally type-set design enclosed in a ring.

It is said that this delivery of letters was discontinued soon after it was started, hence rarity of the stamp.

Only eleven copies of this quaint postage stamp are known, and its market value is probably somewhere about £600.

Moldavia, 1858, 81 paras.—This rare stamp formed one of a set of four of the first postage stamps issued in Roumania. The



values were 27 paras for single letters travelling, and not carried more than about seventy miles, 54 paras for double that distance, 81 paras for heavier letters, and 108 paras for registered letters, all within the limits of Moldavia. The 81 paras is the rarest of the series, as will be seen from the following inventory taken in February, 1859, of the then unsold stock:—

27 paras,	printed	6,000,	sold	3,675.
54 ,,	,,	10,000	,,	4,756.
81 ,,	,,	2,000	,,	693.
108 ,,	,,	6,000	,,	2,568.

All these stamps were printed by hand on coloured paper in sheets of thirty-two impressions in four rows of eight stamps. An unused copy of the 81 paras has fetched as much as £350.

(To be continued.)

O PENNY RED!

By W. E. IMESON

I

O PENNY RED! Could you but give
A penny for my thought,
You'd learn that I was thinking why
So many "Reds" I bought.
Could I sell for a penny ("brown")
Each "Red" that I've to spare,
This Penny "bloater" would become
A bloated millionaire!

II

They told me, when I bought them up,
The "Reds" were bound to rise;
They've risen—in my lumber-room,
As if they'd reach the skies.
The "rise" they've taken out of me
Is not the sort I meant:
I took them up—was taken in,
My cash in vain was spent.

III

Each room within my little house
Stamp-sacks monopolise;
To sleep the children my poor wife
Fresh schemes needs e'er devise.
Our villa's walls are bulging, too,
(Last night a portion went!)
And, as the floors are sinking fast,
Our landlord's raised—the rent!

IV

The dealers will not look at them
(Lest I've "looked thro'" them first),
The dustmen won't remove them, tho'
I pander to their thirst.
No other place will take them in,
No warehouse can I hire,
I can't insure them—so I can't
"Arrange to have a fire"!

V

Faith! talk about white elephants!
What of plate-numbers red?
To pick them out my youngsters tried,
Some are now blind—some dead.
I've tried the auctions, but—no go!
'Tis hard when hard one strives:
I've even "salted" sample-bags
With doubtful "Two-two-fives."

VI

I've thought it out, and now I think
But one thing's left to do:
I'll go myself, and I'll become
"Bill Bailey" number two.
"Won't you come home?" they'll sing in vain,
I *won't*—until I'm dead,
Then I won't care a—penny, for
I shan't meet Penny Red.

PORTRAITS ON STAMPS

By MARK W. HALL

Argentine Republic (*continued*)



Moreno.

Moreno (Mariano, 1779-1811), was born at Buenos Ayres in 1779. He was Premier and Minister of War of the Patriot Government, was a young lawyer, a most eloquent speaker, and of impetuous nature, his chief characteristic being a profound hatred of the corrupt Spanish *régime*, which he was largely instrumental in bringing to an end. He rightly believed the Press to be the most powerful agent for wiping out its evils, and began by founding a newspaper with the following motto: "Happy times when man can think freely and express what he thinks." He also founded a Public Library, reorganised the schools, and was the first to propose the making of a port at Ensenada, an enterprise that is now completed at La Plata, after an enormous outlay of money by the Government of Buenos Ayres province. Unfortunately for his country, Moreno did not remain long in power, owing to political differences with his colleagues. He resigned in December, 1810, and left early in 1811 for England, as Minister Plenipotentiary, to secure Great Britain's recognition of the new order of things. He never reached the Old World, but died at sea on the 4th of March, 1811. Mr. C. E. Akers, in his *History of South America*, writes: "Such men as Pueyredon, Rivadavia, and Moreno were statesmen capable of directing the destinies of a nation far more advanced in civilisation than the La Plata provinces, but they did not estimate accurately the character of their own countrymen when it expanded after the abrupt cessation of despotic rule."

His portrait appears on the 4 c., brown, of 1867-76, 4 c., grey, 1888, and 40 c., olive, of 1889-91.



San Martin.

San Martin (1778-1850). A celebrated Spanish-American General in the War of Independence; was born at Yapeyú, on the Uruguay river, February 25th, 1778. In his eighth or ninth year he accompanied his own family to Spain for his education, and being intended for the military profession was admitted into the college of nobles at Madrid. He served in Spain against the French (1793-1811), attaining the rank of Lieutenant-Colonel. He resigned in the latter year, and early in 1812 went to Buenos Ayres, where he joined the patriots. In 1813 he received command of the army operating in Upper Peru or Bolivia. Heretofore the patriots had endeavoured to strike the central Spanish power in Peru, by way of Chuquisaca and Lake Titicaca. San Martin resolved to open a new line of operations through Chili, and in this he was efficiently supported by the supreme director Pueyredon. An army of invasion was organised and drilled at Mendoza, and on January 17th, 1817, San Martin, with 4,000 men, began his celebrated march over the Andes by the Uspallata Pass (12,300 feet high), and after gaining a brilliant victory at Chacabuco on 12th February, was pressed by the people of Chili to take the supreme command, and gained a still more brilliant victory at Maypú, 5th April, 1818. After organising the government of Chili, he sailed with the squadron under Lord Cochrane for Peru, 21st August, 1820, and capturing Lima, drove the Spaniards from the coast and assumed the title of "Protector" of Peru in 1821, but resigned it a year afterwards, and, sailing secretly for Europe, spent the remainder of his life in absolute seclusion near Paris. He died at Boulogne, 17th August, 1850. A statue was erected to his memory in Buenos Ayres.

His portrait appears on the 24 c., blue, of 1867-76, and 15 c., yellow, 1888.

NEW ISSUES

The Editor will be grateful to his readers if they will help him with the earliest possible information concerning new issues. News from the Colonies in particular will be much appreciated. When possible, a specimen should accompany the information, and should be addressed to

EDWARD J. NANKIVELL, Carnanton, Camden Park, Tunbridge Wells.

Prices of New Issues.—A reader suggests that we should add the prices at which the new issues chronicled may be bought. The idea seems to be a practical and useful one, and we will see what we can do in the matter. Those prices will have to be affixed by our publishers, and as they make it a rule to price nothing which they are not ready to supply, it will be understood that when the news of a new issue is chronicled from an advance copy, as sometimes happens, prices will have to await the receipt of a supply; but in many, if not most, cases we hope it will be possible to affix the prices at which the stamps may be obtained from Stanley Gibbons, Ltd., and so add to the value and usefulness of our chronicle of New Issues.

Austria.—As we have not yet chronicled any of the changes in the current set we append a full list to date. The general design of the previous series is retained, but the corners containing the numerals of value are altered. In this new series on values 1 h. to 6 h. the figures are in the colours of the stamps on a white ground; on the 10 h. to 30 h. the figures are in black on a plain white ground; on the 35 h. to 72 h., in white on ground of the same colour as the stamps. The peculiar bars of shiny varnish show diagonally across the stamps as before.

Perf.

	s.	d.		s.	d.
1 heller, mauve	0	1	25 heller, ultramarine	0	4
2 ,, black	0	1	30 ,, mauve	0	5
3 ,, pale brown	0	1	35 ,, bright green	0	6
5 ,, deep green	0	1	40 ,, purple	0	7
6 ,, orange	0	1	50 ,, pale blue	0	8
10 ,, rose	0	2	60 ,, yellow-brown	0	9
20 ,, brown	0	3	72 ,, carmine	0	10

Barbados.—*Ewen's Weekly Stamp News* says the 1d. value has appeared with the multiple watermark.

Wmk. Multiple C A. Perf.

½d., dull green.

Denmark. — The *Monthly Circular* chronicles another value of the King's Head series, the 5 öre.



Wmk. Crown. Perf.

5 öre, green.
10 ,, scarlet.
20 ,, blue.

East Africa and Uganda.—We have received the 2 anna with the multiple watermark, making six values issued with the new watermark.

Wmk. Multiple C A. Perf.

	s.	d.
½ a., green	0	1
2 a., mauve, centre purple	0	3
3 a., green, centre chocolate	0	8
5 a., orange-brown, centre grey-black		
8 a., blue, centre grey	1	0

French Guinea.—One more French colony has just been provided with an issue of special design. This design, a native lady in evening dress balancing a water-bottle in her right hand, is common to all issues.

Now that so much more attention is being paid to French colonial issues, consequent on the passing of the surcharging epidemic, the stamps of this little colony may well attract the young collector, for its postal issues are simple, free from all surcharges, and cheap. It may, therefore, be interesting if we make our list complete by adding those of the only other issue.



1892. *Perf.* *Unused.*

	s.	d.
1 c., black on azure	0	1
2 c., brown on buff	0	1
4 c., purple-brown on grey	0	1
5 c., green on pale green	0	1
10 c., black on lilac	0	2
15 c., blue	0	3
20 c., red on green	0	3
25 c., black on rose	0	4
30 c., cinnamon on drab	0	5
40 c., red on yellow	0	6
50 c., carmine on rose	0	8
75 c., brown on orange	1	0
1 fr., olive-green on toned	1	3

1900. *Same type. Colours changed.*

10 c., rose-red	0	2
15 c., grey	0	3
25 c., blue	0	4
50 c., brown on azure	0	8



1905. *New design. Perf.*

5 c., blue	0	1
10 c., pale brown	0	2
15 c., green	0	3
30 c., rose	0	5
50 c., black	0	8
60 c., orange	0	10
1 fr., mauve	1	3

St. Lucia.—We have received the 2½d., King's Head, with the multiple watermark.

Wmk. Multiple C A. Perf.

	s.	d.
½d., purple and green		—
1d., ,, carmine	0	2
2½d., ,, ultramarine	0	4

St. Vincent.—We have received the 1d. and 1s. values of the current King's Head series with the multiple watermark.

Wmk. Multiple C A. Perf.

1d., purple, name and value in carmine . 0 2
1s., green ,, ,, ,, . 1 4

MISCELLANEOUS

A One Penny Red Variety

On page 25 of the *History of the Adhesive Stamps of the British Isles*, we read concerning the *Red Penny* impf. of 1841: "On plate 77, the first stamp in the second row, which should be lettered 'B.A.', bore the first letter only, the second letter-block being a blank. The error was discovered and corrected about nine months after registration, and the plate was then re-registered as 77B. . . . Copies of this incomplete stamp presumably exist, but we have never seen or heard of one."

Here we have an error of equal interest to, and of far greater value than, the well-known error of the 1½d. rose-red of 1860, lettered "O.P." "P.C.", or the 2½d. lilac-rose of 1875, lettered "L.H." "F.L.", merely waiting to be discovered; and other instances might be cited of rarities which still lie undiscovered —perhaps undreamt of—among the millions of penny reds which can still be bought at a few pence per thousand by anyone who cares to take the trouble to look them through.—H. S. HODSON in *Ewen's Weekly Stamp News*.

The Variety Discovered

By a curious coincidence, this very variety was discovered in time to be shown at the Junior Philatelic Society's Exhibition last week. The specimen was on a small piece of original, lettered B in the left corner and with blank space at the right-hand side. The fortunate owner should get £50 for the specimen, in our opinion. It is probable that few specimens would be printed before the omission was noticed. The plate was first registered on 19.4.47, and as soon as the mistake was noted, it was taken from press and the missing letter A inserted. It was then re-registered along with the next batch of plates on 12.1.48. Only 82,400 sheets were printed altogether, a slightly smaller number than that taken from plate 132 of the four-letter series; probably few of them showed the error.—*Ewen's Weekly Stamp News*.

Penrhyn Island

PENRHYN is an island that is famous all over the South Sea world, and not unknown even in Europe. Its pearl-shell and pearls, its strange, wild, semi-amphibious natives, and its melancholy leper station, make it a marked spot upon the Pacific map; and a certain rather fictitious value attaching to its stamps has made the name of the island familiar to all stamp collectors at home. The general impression conveyed to the voyager from kinder and fairer islands is that Penrhyn is a place "at the back of God Speed," a lonely, sultry, windy, eerie spot, desolate and remote beyond description. It is an atoll island, consisting merely of a strip of land some couple of hundred yards in width, enclosing a splendid lagoon nine miles long.—Miss GRIMSHAW in the *Daily Graphic*.

The Inhabitants

The old warlike, quarrelsome character of the islanders—no doubt originally due to scarcity of food—still lurks concealed under an outward show of civility. Penrhyn was the only island I have visited where I did not care to walk alone in the bush without my little American revolver. The four or five white traders all keep firearms ready to hand in their stores. There has been no actual trouble of recent years but there are narrow escapes from a free fight every now and then, and every man must hold himself ready for emergencies. It is only seven years since there was such an outbreak of hostilities in Penrhyn that a man-of-war had to be sent up to protect the traders. —Miss GRIMSHAW in the *Daily Graphic*.

Boom in St. Lucia—Explanation

LAST week we quoted a paragraph from the *Financial Times* concerning a so-called boom in the sales of St. Lucia stamps to collectors. Here is an explanation from *Ewen's Weekly Stamp News*:—

"One might imagine from this that stamp collectors had been jumping over one another to buy St. Lucia postage stamps, but we believe the true facts to be the following. In *E.W.S.N.*, No. 221, we wrote as follows:—'With reference to the note in *E.W.S.N.*, No. 191, to the effect that the 10/- stamps were then obsolete, we are informed by a correspondent that only one printing of this stamp was ever made, and consisted of 10,800 stamps sent out to the colony in 1891. On 11.3.03, 6,326 of these stamps were still in stock, so that the total number issued in the twelve years must have been 4,474 or less. Our correspondent, who is in a position to know, states that only some 400 of these were issued to collectors or for postage on letters, the remainder being affixed to mortgage deeds and "land-cancelled."'

"We have been told that a gentleman, well known in St. Lucia, has purchased this entire remaining stock of 10/- stamps, paying full face value of some £3,000 for them. This, if true, is the explanation of the increased revenue of £3,490 during the financial year of 1903-4. The small balance is, doubtless, chiefly accounted for by the sales of the King's Head 2½d., 3d., and 1/- stamps issued during this period. With 6,000 copies of a 10/- stamp hanging over it, the market is not likely to show much eagerness in purchasing at the premium demanded, and the consequence is the stamps are being used up on mortgage deeds, for which purpose the supply, judging by past demand, will last for another eighteen years."

The Penny Postage—1840

WEDNESDAY was an important era in the history of the English postage system, being the first day on which letter stamps came into operation, and being, in fact, the first day of the complete carrying into effect of Mr. Rowland Hill's plan, for the adoption of which we are indebted to the liberal policy of the Government. The year 1635 commenced the regular posts between London and most parts of England, and in 1644 the revenue resulting therefrom was £5,000 a year, while it is now upwards of two millions annually.

The mail was first conveyed by stage coaches in August, 1785.

It is to be hoped that this new mode of travelling *post* may be satisfactory to all parties, and not unsatisfactory to the Chancellor of the Exchequer.—*An Old Cutting, date about 1840.*

London Post Office in 1840

THE alteration in the General and Twopenny Post Offices will take place this week. At present the ordinary business of each day is, in the inland office alone, 35,000 letters received and 40,000 letters sent; annually 23,475,000, exclusive of the number in the Foreign Office Department and Ship Letter Office, and altogether independent of the twopenny post.

The number of newspapers daily varies from 30,000 to 70,000 (on Saturday 40,000 and on Monday 50,000).

The revenue derived from charges for early delivery in London is £4,000, and the sum obtained by a charge of *one penny* [italics] on each letter given to the postmen who go round with bells is £3,000 a year.

The revenue in London is about £6,000 a week, above £300,000 a year.

The franks amount in a morning to 4,000 or 5,000 or more.—*An Old Cutting, date about 1840.*

GOSSIP OF THE HOUR

By CORNELIUS WRINKLE

A Stamps Exchange MS. Gazette

I HAVE seen a great deal of MS. magazines for other hobbies. They are very popular in shorthand circles where they are known as "Evercirculators." I am indebted to Mr. T. B. Widdowson for the following item of information concerning a new departure in the Stamps Exchange Society, of which he is the Secretary. I may add, to save inquiries being sent me, that Mr. Widdowson's address is 22, Lincoln Street, Leicester:—

"This society (which was founded in '85) has recently started on somewhat different lines to that followed by the majority of exchange clubs, it being quite clear that 'bargains' and 'swop' is not the highest ideal of a philatelist, so, commencing with the winter session, a manuscript magazine, called the *Stamps Exchange Gazette*, has been started to encourage friendly criticism and discussion, queries and replies—in fact, all subjects philatelic are welcomed, but no lengthy articles are allowed. The number of members in the two branches of the society is upwards of 200, and it is hoped that the attempt to thus cater for something more than mere £ *s. d.* will receive the hearty support of its members."

Why not Stamp Evercirculators?

It strikes me that if stamp collectors understood the method of conducting the MS. magazines that are so popular in shorthand circles, there would be dozens of similar messengers in circulation amongst the devotees of our hobby. Let me explain the *modus operandi*. One person undertakes the work of conductor. He gets a few members together, prepares a pair of covers, inside of which he pastes a postal list of the members, with their addresses. He writes a contribution, inserts it in the covers, and forwards it to No. 1 on the postal list. No. 1 reads what the conductor has written, inserts a contribution of his own and adds some comments or criticisms, and posts the lot to No. 2, who does the same and despatches the parcel to No. 3, and so it goes the round of all the members, and in time comes back to the conductor full of interesting matter. The conductor removes his old contribution, inserts a fresh article, and adds his comments on the contents of the Evercirculator, and starts it on another tour of the members; and so it continues, each member removing his old contribution and putting in a fresh one. The membership should not be too large—just enough, in fact, to allow, say, three days for each to keep it for reading, etc., and so make the circuit of the members regularly once a month. Leather covers for these MS. magazines are sold by the trade publishers of *G.S.W.*, Sir Isaac Pitman and Sons, at 1s. 6d. each, and paper to fit at 1s. 6d. per five quires, samples of which may be had for 1d.

A Big Fish on the Hook

SOME time ago a certain stamp dealer's establishment was greatly excited over a big fish on the hook. It was no less than a member of a well-known American millionaire family, who called and commenced to talk business on millionaire lines. He wondered whether it would be possible to work up a stamp collection that should knock spots out of the great Ferrary Collection in Paris. Anyway, he was inclined to have a shot at it, and was willing to make a start with a £50,000 order.

There was such a tremor of excitement in that establishment as was never known before. It was fairly well accustomed to deal in four figures, but five as a mere first instalment of an order was a record-breaker of the right tune.

Intricate calculations were worked out as to the probable numbers in existence of this stamp and that, and the probable prices of this rarity and that. The capacities of albums were tested by the page, by the vol., and by the score.

But, alas and alack! it all ended in the sale of an album or two and—smoke!

From Stamps to Motors

Then that genius went off on motors. He raised the hopes of the proprietor of a small motor establishment to the seventh heaven of expectation in much the same way. He had out one make of motor after another on trial trips. He was whisked over the roads of the home counties in all directions, down to the south coast and over the northern heights of the metropolis.

But again, alas and alack! nothing came of it all but a week's delightful daily tours through the most delightful scenery of the home counties, and all—free gratis and for nothing!

Afterwards it turned out that although it was quite true that he was a member of the celebrated American millionaire family, he belonged to a branch which had but a very limited acquaintance with the dollars.

A Difference of Methods

WHEN the youngsters were hatching their Junior Philatelic Exhibition they were cackling all the time, day and night. As a consequence there were very few people who had not heard of the coming Exhibition.

Now the oldsters are sitting on a similar idea, but they are as silent over the business as a meeting of Quakers. If they hatch anything we shall have to find it out for ourselves. There is not a cackle amongst the whole lot of them. It would be *infra dig.*, don't you know, to let everybody or anybody know that they had got an idea, let alone the fact that they are trying to hatch it.

The Exhibition—Where?

To my mind that will be *the* question. I was one of those who tramped London for a suitable place for the last great Exhibition, and I know something of the difficulties. The great Art Galleries are the most likely places, possibly the only suitable places in London. But what of the Crystal Palace? We found, when the proposal was before us on the occasion of the last Exhibition, that efficient protection and probable high rates of insurance were the difficulties in the way of entertaining the idea of holding the Exhibition at the Palace. Major Evans, who knows all about the so-called difficulties, still believes in the Crystal Palace as the ideal place. So do I. For popularising stamp collecting the Crystal Palace would be an ideal place. The attendance would probably be ten times greater than in any other possible place in the metropolis. The Palace authorities would no doubt be only too pleased to meet all requirements as to efficient protection of the property from the rays of the sun and from theft. And what a grand time we would have there! I fancy the dealers would vote solid for the Palace.

THE STAMP KING

By G. DE BEAUREGARD AND H. DE GORSSE

Translated from the French by EDITH C. PHILLIPS

CHAPTER II (*continued*)

How Miss Betty always went Straight to the Point

DURING all this first day, which was very fine and calm, neither Betty nor Victoria appeared on deck, for they were in great need of rest after their sleepless night and the fatigue of their hasty departure. In the evening, however, having recovered a little, they dressed, and Miss Betty went into the great saloon, while Victoria, not daring to assume the rank of lady-companion, remained in the cabin, where her meals were to be served in order to save her the annoyance of dining with the servants.

As the young lady entered, Sir Oscar, in evening dress, with a flower in his button-hole and his ruddy locks freshly curled, quitted the group to whom he was holding forth and went to meet her.

"I need not ask, Miss Scott," said he earnestly, "how you are since this morning, for the beautiful colour in your cheeks tells me you are in a perfect state of health."

Miss Betty thanked him with a smile, while he continued even more amiably—

"Will you permit me to escort you round the saloon?"



SIR OSCAR OFFERED HER HIS ARM

The girl accepted, and Sir Oscar presented to her a number of people whose acquaintance he had already made on board; then, as the dinner bell had just sounded, he offered his arm and led her into the dining-room.

The meal was a merry one. The accomplished Englishman met every wish of his graceful neighbour and paid her every possible compliment, but always with perfect deference and that entire absence of affectation which is only seen in the acts and words of the most accomplished men of the world.

Betty, though perfectly reserved, was enough of a woman and an American not to be offended by this assiduous flattery. So she conversed with Sir Oscar without restraint, even telling him she was going to Paris, though without confessing the real object of her journey. And Sir Oscar, charmed and enraptured, spoke of France and the delightful times he had had there, charming all who heard him, and finding opportunity to reply to each with equally good grace.

When they rose from dinner it became evident that the vessel had no longer the same stability as before. Now and then the floor seemed to slide away from under them, and a few of the more convivial spirits could hardly keep on their feet, which caused the rest of the company great amusement. The chart, which indicated their course, showed they had now arrived off Nova Scotia, from which one of the passengers concluded they had begun to feel the full swell of the open sea.

Betty Scott promenaded the deck, still on the arm of Sir Oscar Tilbury. The night was dark and the *Touraine* pitched more and more each moment. Now the bows rose in the air as if making a straight course for the stars and then sank softly as though into the midst of a heap of down; all of which was not without its effect on the digestion of the greater number of the passengers. Many of the ladies retired in a very unhappy condition. A few men disappeared in their turn, to the amusement of those who had not begun to suffer, and particularly of Miss Betty. Sir Oscar's spirits sank considerably as the sea rose. His words became fewer, his anecdotes shorter, and Betty, in passing under one of the electric lights which lighted the deck, observed that his face was livid, his features drawn, and his appearance by no means valorous; so not to annoy him by remarking on these symptoms she pleaded her own fatigue, and returning to her cabin set him free.

It was high time, for the unhappy Sir Oscar had barely time to take refuge in his to avoid being seen, by the few passengers still left on deck, in the most miserable condition it is possible to imagine for such an elegant and fastidious gentleman. And so, with its pleasures and its miseries, the night passed and the second day broke.

CHAPTER III

Showing how very Slowly a Fast Steamer can go

A BITTER wind was blowing from the N.N.W., fine rain began to fall, and to the surprise of the passengers the boat remained immovable for two hours. But no one volunteered any information on the subject, and the cause of the stoppage could only be conjectured. At length, when supposition had spent itself and the passengers were giving free vent to their impatience, the captain himself assembled them all in the saloon, and said very coolly—

"Ladies and gentlemen, there is no cause for alarm. A connecting-rod having got out of gear, the engines were stopped somewhat too abruptly; this strained one of the piston-rods, which we have, consequently, to repair. As bad luck would have it, the other engine, which caused the accident, is similarly damaged. We have all the necessary tools for making it right, but you must give us time. Twenty hours will, in my opinion, be sufficient to complete the job, and you will, I am sure, excuse this delay, which, under the circumstances, is quite unavoidable; and I can assure you that, beyond this little inconvenience, you have nothing to fear."

With these words he slipped out of the saloon and went to overlook the work, leaving his hearers dumbfounded.

But there was not much leisure for criticism, for the boat grew more unsteady than ever, alternately rolling and pitching, this time with a motion which became more violent every minute.

Soon it was scarcely possible to keep one's seat, and Miss Betty thought she would like to see what the weather looked like outside. Clinging tightly to the mahogany rail to avoid being thrown against the partition, she reached the deck and hung on to the side.

The sky was black as ink, the darkness impenetrable. The wind, risen to a tempest, whistled through the stays, sweeping everything before it. The ocean, lashed into enormous billows, black, deep, and unfathomable, overwhelmed everything within its reach. Wave after wave dashed against the vessel and fell heavily on the deck with a thunderous roar. The noise was deafening, but Betty, struck with the fearful grandeur of the scene, scarcely felt the water streaming from her soaked garments or the wind raging around her.

She soon discovered, however, that it would be impossible for her to move, or to relax for a moment her convulsive grip. Moreover, the fury of the elements was increasing, and breathless and exhausted she felt the time would soon come when, loosing her hold, she would be swept overboard.

Now the boat, heeling to larboard, offered one flank to the raging cyclone; now she plunged still farther on the other side, between walls of water, only to rebound again with furious somersaults.

"What are you doing here?" shouted a formidable voice in Betty's ear, and without giving her time to reply a strong arm snatched her from her perilous point of observation and launched her at the risk of her life down the stairs of the saloon, the door of which was immediately locked behind her.

It was just in time, for a huge wave caught up the enormous boat as if it had been a feather, and let it drop into the immense hollow beyond. The bridge and decks were drenched. The water even dashed into the funnels and fell like a waterspout into the furnaces. The captain, lashed to the bridge, tried in vain to pierce the thick darkness, while the boat drifted without the help either of engines or rudder, for the latter had been broken by the tempest. The whistle of the sirens could alone be heard above the tumult.



SHE CLUNG TIGHTLY TO THE RAIL

In the saloons the greatest confusion reigned. The passengers, most of whom were sick and frightened, were thrown from side to side, knocking against each other in a way that would have been laughable had it not been so disastrous. Fearful crashes were heard in every direction; everything movable was thrown on to the floor, where it was caught in the roll of the vessel and tossed this way and that. Haggard mothers hugged their children, whose cries of terror added to the general misery. The men, pale and helpless, could do nothing to help. Ever the same terrible shocks, ever the same sickening fear that the steamer was about to capsize.

At intervals one of the officers would enter, keeping his feet with difficulty, and try to reassure them all.

"It is only a squall," he would say, "and will soon be over. There's nothing to be afraid of." But they could scarcely hear, and still less could they believe him.

In fact, the whole crew—the more worthy of admiration since they themselves had the more cause for fear, knowing the gravity of the situation—seemed to be everywhere, caring for one, encouraging another, exerting themselves to comfort everyone, while at the same time working their hardest at the disabled vessel. The peril was certainly great, for in such a storm the broken machinery could not be repaired, and the impossibility of steering left the *Touraine* at the mercy of the waves. All bearings were lost, and the storm carried them whither it would, and this lasted for ninety-four hours.

At the end of that time, when it was clear from the more moderate movements of the vessel that the tempest was drawing to a close, courage and energy revived. The wind fell, and though the swell continued for another day things were no longer hopeless, and the ordinary routine was resumed. It was known that the captain had shown great foresight and intrepidity, and everyone was aware that during the difficult crisis he had many times risked his life. So when he appeared at the first regular meal which

followed the long interruption of four days, he was loudly cheered, and Sir Oscar Tilbury, in a lengthy speech, thanked him in the name of all the passengers, and presented him with a bouquet made of the camellias which he had kept so carefully for his own button-hole.

It was a delightful meal. Sir Oscar put so much fervour into his speech that at a pathetic gesture his scarf-pin was loosened and fell into the plate of Miss Betty, who sat beside him. She took it up, and wiped away the sauce from the malachite and gold serpent of which it was composed; then, after examining it, returned it with a smile to its owner, saying, "What a beautiful trinket!"

"A thousand thanks, Miss Scott," returned Sir Oscar; "that stupid pin is always falling out, and I shall certainly lose it some day"; saying which he replaced it in his necktie.

(To be continued.)

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENCE

Our Italian Letter

ROME, *February 10th*, 1905.

EVERY self-respecting correspondent feels the need of beginning his work by congratulating the editor and publishers of *Gibbons Stamp Weekly*. But I think I can do without that, for I have already sent in my good wishes, together with my subscription, as the best and the most practical way of encouraging publications. (Applause from Mr. Phillips.)

The land "where the orange-tree flourishes" is certainly not very favourable to an intense cultivation of the plant with its many branches, and with its flowers of every shade, called Philately. Putting aside metaphor, I must avow that collectors are by no means numerous here, and, one can add, that there are no great collections of stamps in Italy, for the best that we had have been sold abroad. The collecting of Italian stamps, and of those of the old States—which certainly form one of the most interesting groups—has naturally several devotees among us here. About fifteen collections of importance could be pointed out. But, here in Italy, scientific specialisation, which has such splendid experts in England, is not reached. On the other hand, we have some collectors who collect stamps on original letters, the example being set about twenty years ago by a collector whom I knew. In my opinion, this way of collecting, although it is often blamed for taking up a great deal too much space, is one of the most interesting, and seems to me destined to spread itself more in the future. Often we owe to stamps on the original letters a knowledge of several facts, and sometimes it has been due to stamps preserved on letters that a good chronological arrangement has been possible in the case of the different varieties.

Promised New Italian Stamps

I am applied to frequently by letter for information about the issue of the projected stamps which were notified some months ago, not only in the philatelic Press, but also in the Press at large. It will be remembered that it was a question of making something very striking. After the stamps of the "flowery style," which were reproached justly with having ornamentations of too heavy a kind, it was a question of symbolical designs—that is, a set to produce a sensation among the public, as it was said. There was an idea of reproducing on these stamps the development of means of communication.

The Designs

The set was to begin with a waterfall, the generator of motive power, and to end with wireless telegraphy. This would recall somewhat the ballet "Excelsior" of Manzotti. The artist Paolo Michetti, one of the leading Italian artists, was charged with preparing the designs, and people even went so far as to claim that his inspirer and adviser was his friend Gabriele D'Annunzio, the poet and novelist. A pretty ideal; poetry and painting helping each other to create beautiful types of stamps. I have seen some photographs of the original designs, and it is easy to recognise in them the hand of a very great artist. Among other things I admired a portrait of King Victor Emmanuel III., standing out against a sky in which are fluttering some swallows, those faithful messengers. One sees that the artist had studied at first hand the portrait of the young and clever King, of whom he had in fact executed, by his orders, a large portrait in oils. But one can understand easily that when such subjects are reduced to the small size of a postage stamp, the effect is no longer absolutely the same, especially if the stamps are made by surface-printing.

Stumbling Blocks and Difficulties

Then, changes are introduced, touches up are given, and fresh studies are made. And while all this is going on, "dum Romae consulitur, politics, voila notre misère," as De Musset said, brings a fresh Minister to the head of the Department of Posts and Telegraphs, and then it is often a case of beginning all over again. There was some idea of bringing out the new set on the occasion of reducing the inland postage of letters. This has been promised a long time. But here also politics had to be reckoned with. It is well known that the rate of postage in Italy was 15 centesimi, about 1½d., in 1863 and 1864, and that since January 1st, 1865, or for forty years, it has been 20 cent. This "provisional measure," as it was called in the Law of November 24th, 1864, was to have been revoked; but the authorities could not agree as to whether the reduction should be to 10 or to 15 cent. In any case, a reduction was to be made, for among the proposals to be discussed at the Congress of the Universal Postal Union, which was to meet in Rome on April 21st, 1904, there was one to reduce to 20 centimes the postage of letters intended for the different countries forming the Union; thus, if this proposal had been adopted, Italy would have found itself with the same postal rates for inland as for foreign letters going to the countries of the U.P.U. As it was, the Congress was postponed for a year by wish of the King of Italy. For some reasons unknown, the Congress has just been postponed again, and the date of its meeting has still to be fixed.

Still Undecided

It is believed that the discussion in the Chamber of Deputies with regard to the project for reforming the inland postal rates will take place soon, and although we have not a Henniker Heaton, a reduction will be passed without doubt. Then it will probably be a question of the stamps. I shall not fail to inform the numerous readers of this paper in time.

EMILIO DIENA.

PHILATELIC SOCIETIES

Junior Philatelic Society

President: Fred J. Melville.
Secretary: H. F. Johnson, 11, Trigon Road, Clapham, S.W.
Meetings: 67, South Lambeth Rd., S.W. Bi-monthly: Saturdays.
Annual Subscription: 1s. 6d.

THE first meeting, after the recent Exhibition, of the Junior Philatelic Society was one of remarkable enthusiasm. Before the doors were opened shortly before seven a small group of expectant visitors and new members had assembled outside, and a few minutes after seven it was evident that there would be a "full house." The hall will hold about eighty people, bu · n this evening an extra room adjoining the hall had to be thrown open to accommodate those who could not find even standing room inside. The business of the meeting was commenced about eight. After passing the minutes, the meeting proceeded to the election of 106 new members, including one life member. They are as follows:—

G. B. Brown, Lee (life member); E. G. Warne, Southwark; G. Rock-Widlake, Lewisham; E. Copper, Portland Place; H. Weber Brown, E.C.; H. F. Young, Bow; L. G. Richards, Lowestoft; A. H. Harris, Buckhurst Hill; A. C. Hallen, jun., W.C.; Mrs. F. Newbery, Oundle; W. Murray, Wimbledon; Hans Tachumi, W.C.; Frank Grundy, N.W.; Miss Adams, S.E.; L. Savournin, E.C.; Ernest A. Rowe, Gunnersbury; E. Ricketts, Stamford Hill; Miss Emily A. Boden, Clitheroe; G. R. Jones, Portmadoc; F. G. W. Lester, Clapham; F. A. Eeles, Penarth; Arthur M. Kennett, Brixton; F. W. Stickland, E.C.; Alick C. Nurzey, Streatham; Robert Archibald, West Norwood; T. Duncan, Barnet; J. Mosey, Abbotts Langley; F. C. Hurley, Barnet; Philip B. Clarke, Gravesend; W. J. Blyth, E.C.; G. R. Manley, West Hampstead; G. A. Bowditch, Upper Holloway; S. J. Fenton, Wimbledon; J. A. Higham, Clapham; F. Seward, Stroud Green; F. Butler, South Lambeth; E. J. de Salis, Chatham; Mrs. N. Alford, S.W.; Miss Loeta Alford, S.W.; J. A. Silverlock, Harringay; C. Symes, Hornsey; Miss Winifred Leeson, Islington; B. Reed, Wandsworth; P. H. Bate, Clapham; Chas. H. Mannooch, N.W.; Philip P. Brown, Stamford Hill; W. B. Evans, Hampstead; Mrs. Edith Field, West Hampstead; R. A. Klein, E.C.; Alfred J. Saunders, Rotherhithe; S. Harris, S.W.; H. W. Westcott, Ilford; F. E. Horton, Buntingford; T. Franklin, W.C.; I. N. Spare, Kennington; J. Adrian Steele, Brondesbury; B. Hopkin Morris, Chiswick; Mrs. Thatcher, West Drayton; A. E. Harrison, Notting Hill; A. R. Chidgey, Wanstead; F. G. Stokes, Brixton; George Dessin, Highbury; E. A. Cook, South Lambeth; A. E. D. Hemmel, Langport; T. C. Cartwright, Canonbury; C. Freeman, Chiswick; A. J. Sefi, N.W.; P. A. Jones, Brixton; Hilton A. Fulcher, West Hampstead; C. H. Diver, Muswell Hill; A. L. Lloyd, South Lambeth; A. J. Palethorpe, Bingham; F. Wendt, Streatham; W. R. Hughes, West Hampstead; D. Pringle, Highbury; T. F. Prime, Norwood; F. Green, Dalston; D. C. Weston, Willesden Green; W. Pope, Hampton Wick; H. H. Mellon, Bromley; E. J. Homewood, Penge; Miss Augusta Cassels, Kensington; James Stevens, Mortlake; Reggie Wigmore, N.W.; H. W. Hensman, W.C.; R. Spenser, Newmarket; Fred A. Meggy, Romford; A. E. Beach, Chelsea; W. B. Spratt, Chelsea; E. H. Smith, East Dulwich; Sydney H. Nye, Camberwell; W. Trollope, East Ham; W. Turnstall, W.C.; A. V. Edwards, Brondesbury; C. V. O'Neil, North Finchley; A. Selinger, Finsbury Park; A. E. Bayliss, High Holborn; W. H. Morris, S.E.; Douglas J. Benger, Ealing; E. A. Dothie, Ilford; W. Oakley, Tottenham; L. H. Sangner, W.C.; E. J. Shorman, Herne Hill; P. Beaumont, S.W.; D. B. Smith, Lewisham; E. M. Gilbert-Longe, Chiswick.

Owing to the large number to be got through, the Exhibition votes of thanks were accorded in batches by acclamation. Everyone who assisted in the work of the Exhibition was thanked by the President, who also intimated that a roughly calculated balance-sheet showed that the receipts of the Exhibition totalled to £87 11s. 6d., and the liabilities £86 15s. 11d., leaving a small balance of 15s. 7d. on the right side. This is without counting the profits on the sale of the Society's books or the subscriptions from new members. The following donations to the Exhibition expenses were acknowledged:—

	£	s.	d.
Amount already acknowledged	22	12	0
Stanley Gibbons, Limited	5	0	0
Lieut.-Col. S. J. Wynne	0	5	0
Harold J. White	1	1	0
Mrs. Need	0	1	0
T. C. Cartwright	0	2	6
H. H. Cousins	0	1	0
Burton Cooper	0	2	6
E. J. Homewood	0	1	0
E. A. Leigh	0	1	0
H. L. H.	0	5	0
H. L'Estrange Ewen	5	0	0
F. A. Eeles	0	2	6
C. W. Simmonds	0	5	0
G. W. Thomson	0	10	0
Baron Anthony de Worms	1	1	0
P. L. Pemberton and Co.	2	2	0
Rudolph Frentzel (2nd donation)	0	5	0
C. J. Daun	0	10	6
Mrs. Turner	0	2	6
Mr. Prestige	0	5	0
J. A. G. Lowe	0	2	6
R. Wigmore	0	5	0
A. J. Sefi	0	1	6
"White Heather"	0	5	0
P. A. Jones	0	2	0
S. J. Brown	0	2	0
Whitfield King and Co.	3	3	0
H. Ross Shiells	0	10	6
Bright and Son	3	3	0
Anon.	0	10	0
Anon.	0	5	0
Wm. Brown	0	5	0
Mrs. Ragg (2nd donation)	0	2	6
Mrs. D. Field	1	1	0
H. F. Young	0	2	6
Hans Tachumi	0	5	0
R. Halliday (2nd donation)	0	10	6
Mrs. Bonham Carter	0	3	6
W. Morley	0	5	0
Mrs. Cassels	0	1	0
	£51	1	0

Mr. Bertram Poole, Vice-President of the Society, proposed, and Mr. A. H. L. Giles, R.N., seconded, a very cordial vote of thanks to Mr. Fred J. Melville for his conduct of the Exhibition. The enthusiasm of the very crowded meeting was evinced by loud applause all through the reports on the work done, and the Exhibition and Publication Committee was asked to continue its excellent work in various directions, so that a good deal more will be heard of it.

Two resolutions on the subjects of stamps in cigarette packets and the sending of approval sheets to boys at school were unanimously passed.

Mr. Melville then read a light and amusing paper on "The Poetry of Stamp Collecting," and caused roars of merriment by numerous sallies of humour, particularly when he promised the meeting he would give them no poems of his own, for which his hearers might be devoutly thankful. Mr. Giles then displayed some large portions of his collection. The sheets of each country's stamps were fastened together and handed round in countries. A vote of thanks was passed to Mr. Giles for his excellent display. A paper on "Victorian *versus* Edwardian Issues," written by Mr. E. Heginbottom and read by Mr. R. Halliday, was well received.

The Secretary acknowledged gifts of forgeries for the forgery collection by Mr. H. L. Hayman, and a complete set of the *Standard Catalogue* presented to the Society's library by Messrs. Whitfield King and Co.

The visit to the Tapling Collection is now arranged for April 8th at 2 p.m., but visitors who cannot arrive so early as 2 may join the party any time up till 4 o'clock in the King's Library at the British Museum.

THE STAMP MARKET

By AN ODD LOT

I HAVE just received a second thirty-two pages of advance sheets of Gibbons' new Catalogue. They carry the story of prices up to the Mafekings.

This week I shall have to confine myself to a brief dip into those interesting pages, as I must find room for the latest event in the Stamp Market—to wit, the sale of the Castle Collection of Australians.

Antigua

In this colony there are very few changes, but what there are all tell in the upward direction. The 1d. of 1873, perf. 12½, has been raised from 15s. to 17s. 6d., but not another change of any sort, up or down.

Bahamas

Here again there are very few changes, and these mostly in the 1861 issue. Of that issue, in the rough perf. 14 to 16, the 1d., used, has been raised from 12s. to 15s., and the 6d., used, from 25s. to 30s. The 1d., brown-lake, used, of that issue, perf. 13, has been raised from 17s. 6d. to 20s. In the 1863 series the 1d., brown-lake, unused, has been raised from 12s. 6d. to 15s., and used from 7s. 6d. to 10s.; the 1d., carmine-lake, unused, from 10s. to 12s., and used from 5s. to 7s. 6d. In the 1884–96 series the 5s., unused and used, is raised from 8s. 6d. to 10s. Other changes are small, but are all upwards.

Bangkok

Here again there are very few changes. The 4 c., rose, of 1868–82, unused, left unpriced in 1904, is now priced 20s., and the same value in the CA series, left unpriced in 1904, is now priced, unused, 35s., and used, 35s.

Next week I shall go more fully into the more interesting countries that follow these.

Sale of Mr. Castle's Australians

Messrs. Stanley Gibbons, Ltd., have just bought Mr. Castle's second collection of Australians. It will be remembered that the same firm bought his grand collection of unused Australians about twelve years ago for £10,000, then the highest price paid for a collection. The price paid for this second collection, mostly made up of used copies, was £5,750.

Of this second collection Mr. Phillips writes as follows in the *Monthly Journal*:—

"It is about twelve years since Mr. Castle sold us his first Australian collection for the sum of £10,000 nett. He then devoted his attention for some years to collecting European stamps, and when he disposed of these, in 1898, he again returned to his old love and has been an assiduous collector of Australians for the past six years.

"Mr. Castle, in making his second Australian collection, very soon realised that it was impossible to get together a really complete collection of unused Australians, and he decided to devote his attention to *immaculate used* specimens, having the centre of the stamp as free from postmark as possible, all imperforate stamps with good margins, and all perforated ones well centred.

"With these objects in view, Mr. Castle has practically ransacked every stock in Europe, and has bought largely from Australia and elsewhere.

"Mr. Castle has bought several fine Australian collections, and in these he has acquired a fairly good lot of rarities in *unused* stamps, although the bulk of the collection consists of superb used specimens.

"The collection is in twenty-one of our well-known Oriel Albums, and is now being priced and will be ready for inspection about the end of March.

"So far as I am aware, this is the most important and valuable collection purchased out and out by any dealer since we bought the 'Ehrenbach' collection of German stamps for £6,000, and the sale in America of the 'Thorne' collection, for some £9,000, about 1898.

"Very few *great* collections have been purchased by the trade for some years now, the most important being 'The Doria' general collection, costing under £2,000, and the 'Kintore' collection, which, however, was partly bought, partly sold on commission, and partly by auction, so it does not come in this category."

In all, the collection contains no less than 366 Sydney Views, 25 unused and 341 used, and the finest known used copy of the 4d., blue, error "surcharge omitted," of South Australia. This stamp Mr. Phillips regards as one of the rarest stamps in the world, as only six copies are known to exist, two unused and four used.

Lagos Single CA

The excitement in the rise in price of the King's Heads single CA series of Lagos does not seem to abate. The 5s., which was current last month, has been run up to 25s. and over. The 10s. has gone on from 50s. to 65s. and 85s., and according to one dealer as much as £5 to £6 is being talked of as a price which will have to be paid for a mint copy in the near future. Of all the obsolete CA's, these Lagos take the lead in price. I am wondering what the new Gibbons will have to say about this series.

ANSWERS TO CORRESPONDENTS

E. G. B. (Warrington).—Your letter is so delightfully interesting that we must squeeze it in somehow. You write: "I am a regular subscriber to *Gibbons Stamp Weekly*, and must confess that the general effect of the paper, both from a philatelic and literary point of view, reaches, with one exception, a very high tone. You guarantee to give gratis, twice a month, a *stamp*. As a philatelist of some eight or ten years' standing, I have always understood a stamp to be officially issued by a Government to be used to defray postage on a letter or package. It represents a certain sum of money paid by a purchaser. Now, if that stamp is purchased from the Government concerned at less than face value, it at once ceases to be a stamp and becomes a label. Why the publishers of your paper should give away to *young* collectors such rubbish and call them stamps I cannot say. It is discouraging, not encouraging, the true spirit of Philately. It is giving our friends who are indifferent to the hobby a chance of ridiculing it. Rather give away a common, but genuine, postage stamp, than a seemingly uncommon remainder which neither you nor anyone else can say

were sold to defray postage. If your publishers paid face value for these stamps, I will rest satisfied. If they have, let them assure their readers of this fact. I am only a young collector, but have fortunately enough philatelic instinct in my nature to never give, sell, or exchange remainders with my fellow collectors. All those among my acquaintances who are philatelists, are very much annoyed at finding such practically valueless pieces of paper given away as stamps by a firm of such high standing. It makes little difference to me personally whether you change them or not, but I appeal to you on behalf of those younger and consequently less experienced collectors, for whom your paper has been expressly published, who may, if taught to collect such stamps when young, never outgrow the habit."

The stamps here referred to are, of course, the Cyprus 2½d., of which an unused copy was given away with No. 2 of this journal, greatly to the delight of our readers. Why, one of the members of the Council of the Philatelic Society of London even wrote to complain that his copy had been creased in passing through the post. Now, as you are evidently an enthusiastic collector, we will endeavour to put you right, and show the ludicrous position you have taken up. Our publishers, in common with other dealers, for years bought those stamps when current at face. When the special design for Cyprus arrived, the overprinted stock was put aside and would probably have been destroyed. But it was rescued by purchase by our publishers. As a result, two of the first issue of Cyprus, instead of being rare and high priced, are after all these years still obtainable at a little over face. It is possible that there may still be in our publishers' stock, mixed with the remainders, many copies for which they paid face when they were current. It may be that even the copy you received was one of the first supplies. You say you never give, sell, or exchange a remainder. If you can tell a remainder from the ordinary stock, you can do more than any other philatelist can do on this sublunary sphere. The remainders of a stock are, of course, made up of stamps of that stock remaining unsold. If they differ in any way, obviously they cannot be remainders. Suppose part of a sheet was sold to the public for use and used, and the next day the other half of the sheet was sold as a remainder to our publishers as a remainder, according to your most peculiar, not to say delightfully funny idea, the half-sheet sold as a remainder would be mere labels, with the saving clause, unless our publishers paid face value for them.

As a matter of fact, there can be no philatelic difference between an ordinary stamp and a remainder copy. The only effect of the sale of remainders is to lower the saleable value, as distinct from the philatelic value. The true philatelist does not care a button whether his copy is from a remainder lot or from the first sheets sold to the public, provided it is of the same printing. If you can, from your exceptional knowledge, distinguish originals from remainders, which no other philatelist can do, the pages of *Gibbons Stamp Weekly* are open to you for the better instruction and protection of the innocent.

A. G. D. (Croydon). — The Australians perforated "O. S." are stamps set up for departmental use by government servants. The perforated letters are on a par with the stamps of a commercial firm perforated with the initials of that firm to prevent their being stolen by their employees. Very few philatelists collect them. Even as departmentals they are of doubtful value. Personally, we should not touch them.

H. A. W. (Southampton).—Very many thanks for your kind letter, and the cuttings, which you will recognise in this number.

J. C. (Perth).—Yes, it is now permissible to make use of the unused stamps of envelopes, post cards, wrappers, etc., by gumming them on ordinary envelopes, but this change in regulations certainly does not entitle them to rank amongst philatelists as "adhesives," to be included in adhesive collections.

OUR PHILATELIC DIARY

MARCH, 1905

6. Kent and Sussex Philatelic Society: At 7, Nevill Park, Tunbridge Wells, 3 p.m. Paper and Display.
7. Auction: Puttick and Simpson, 47, Leicester Square, London. 4.30 p.m.
   Leeds Philatelic Society: Display—Holland and Colonies.
8. Auction: Puttick and Simpson, 47, Leicester Square, London. 4.30 p.m.
   International Philatelic Union, London: Captain Napier, Display—Australian Stamps.
9. Auction: Glendining, 7, Argyll Street, London. 4.30 p.m.
10. Manchester Philatelic Society: Discussion—Seychelles, opened by R. F. Martin.
    Philatelic Society of London: L. L. R. Hausburg, Display—Western Australia.
    Auction: Glendining, 7, Argyll Street, London. 4.30 p.m.
13. Auction: Hadlow, Covent Garden Hotel, Southampton Street, W.C. 5 p.m.
14. Auction: Plumridge and Co., 64, Chancery Lane, W.C. 4.45 p.m.
15. Enterprise Philatelic Society, London: Ten Minutes' Papers, any subject. F. W. Lake, Display—Cape of Good Hope.
    Sheffield Philatelic Society: E. Heginbottom, Display—Jamaica, Tobago, and Trinidad.
    Auction: Plumridge, 64, Chancery Lane, London. 4.45 p.m.
16. Auction: Ventom, Bull, and Cooper, Loudoun Hotel, Surrey Street, Strand, London 5 p.m.
17. Manchester Philatelic Society: J. H. Abbott, Paper—British Bechuanaland.
    Auction: Ventom, Bull, and Cooper, Loudoun Hotel, Surrey Street, Strand, London. 5 p.m.
18. Leeds Philatelic Society: C. L. Pickard, Display—British Official Stamps, with notes.
    Herts Philatelic Society, London: T. W. Hall, Display—Uruguay Early Issues, with notes.
    Auction: Puttick and Simpson, 47, Leicester Square, London. 4.30 p.m.
19. Auction: Puttick and Simpson, 47, Leicester Square, London. 4.30 p.m.
23. Auction: Glendining, 7, Argyll Street, London. 4.30 p.m.
24. Manchester Philatelic Society: Discussion — Denmark, opened by J. H. Stagg.
    Philatelic Society of London: B. D. Knox—Notes on the Stamps of Malta.
    Auction: Glendining, 7, Argyll Street, London. 4 30 p.m.
27. Auction: Hadlow, Covent Garden Hotel, Southampton Street, W.C. 5 p.m.
28. Auction: Plumridge, 64, Chancery Lane, London. 4.45 p.m.
29. Auction: Plumridge, 64, Chancery Lane, London. 4.45 p.m.
31. Manchester Philatelic Society: J. C. North, Display—Malta, with notes.

Editorial Address—EDWARD J. NANKIVELL, Carnanton, Camden Park, Tunbridge Wells.

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4 March, 1905.

Gibbons Stamp Weekly

EDITED BY EDWARD J. NANKIVELL

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STAMPS OF GREAT BRITAIN

By the late GORDON SMITH, M.A.

(*Continued from page* 134.)

(b) Series with Small Uncoloured Letters (*cont.*)

THE 1s. differs from the other values in having the figures "1" at each side of the head, which was meant to be the number of the plate, although as a fact the plate was really No. 2, and was so numbered in the margin. A second plate was prepared for this value, and the mistake in the numbering of the plate on the stamps was carried on, for the stamps had the figures "2" at each side, although the plate was No. 3. This plate "2" had also "hair lines" across the corners, but the stamps printed from it were never issued.

With regard to these extremely rare varieties of certain plates, it would be as well that the collector should fully understand how they occur. It was the custom whenever a new plate of a stamp was registered, that is to say entered in the records which were kept at Somerset House, to print *six* sheets from the plate, one of which was preserved in the archives, while the other five were put into stock; that is to say, they were put amongst the stock always kept on hand to supply the requisitions of postmasters. Now as we have seen there were 240 stamps on a sheet, it follows that the number of stamps from a new plate which thus found their way into public use was only 1,200. It has not unfrequently happened that a plate which has been thus registered, and from which these few sheets have been taken, has never afterwards been put to press in the ordinary way for supplying the public, and so these particular varieties have become extreme rarities. In later issues I shall have occasion to refer to this class again, so that when stamps are mentioned as from "registration" sheets only, the reader will know what is meant.

I have called attention to the varieties of the different values in this issue because no account of these stamps would be complete without reference to them. At the same time it must be remembered that these minute variations were made entirely for official purposes, and that for all practical purposes they do not present any differences. The collector can afford to ignore them, even if he be not as ignorant of their existence as undoubtedly the public were who used them.

There is a very small variety of the 1s. which may sometimes be found. It is in the stamp lettered K D in the lower corners, and consists of a white circle round the letter K. It arose from the fact that the "plug" with this letter did not quite fit the hole, but stood up a little, and consequently the circular edge of the piece of metal on which the letter was mounted formed an irregularity which is reproduced in the printed stamp. It is rather scarce, for it is only one stamp in 240.

As to the watermark, the 4d. was continued on the Large Garter paper and the other values on the Emblems paper.

1862. *Watermark "Emblems," the 4d. watermark Large Garter. Perf.* 14.

3d., carmine.	9d., bistre.
4d., red.	1s., green.
6d., lilac.	

(c) Series with Large Uncoloured Letters.















In this group the small corner letters have been replaced by larger letters without serifs, but white or uncoloured as before. In each value the plate number appears twice in the design, once on each side of the head. In other respects the values that are repeated are very similar in general design to their predecessors. Two new values were introduced while this set was in use, the 10d. and 2s., and the watermark also underwent a change from "Emblems" to a Rose with stem and two leaves, usually called "Spray of Rose," or simply "Spray." As we have already noticed, a watermark distributed in the four corners of the stamp was liable to have some of its parts displaced in the process of printing; so a watermark occupying the centre of the field—like the two sizes of the Crown watermark — was deemed more suitable. Sentimentally, perhaps, the former watermark, combining the national emblems of the three kingdoms, might have had something to recommend it, but I have not heard that when the change was made there was any outcry from "Bonnie Scotland" or the "Emerald Isle" when their floral symbols were suppressed, leaving only that of the "predominant partner." The 4d. remained on the Large Garter as before.

It is in this series that we find one of the very few forgeries of British stamps made to defraud the Revenue which appear to have been engineered with success. As many of my readers know, the Post Office stores up for some years old telegrams with the stamps still attached to them. From time to time there is a clearance of the older bundles, which are handed over to a contractor for destruction. It seems that a few years ago, when employed in destroying old bundles of telegrams of 1872, some of the men seeing stamps on the old forms, and no doubt thinking they could make a little money out of them, managed to extract quite a considerable quantity on bits of the old forms. They consisted mainly of 1s. stamps, that rate then being the lowest for inland telegrams. Naturally these stamps found their way into the hands of stamp dealers, but they were not long in discovering that they had been taken in, for the bulk of the 1s. stamps proved to be forgeries. The telegrams had all been despatched from a post office in the heart of the city of London, where at times the telegraphic work is very heavy, and in the hurry of business the clerks would have no time to notice the stamps on the forms handed in. It is very doubtful that they would have noticed them at all, even had there been leisure to do so, as these forgeries are really a very fair imitation of the genuine (though the Post Office might have had different views as to their fairness). The colour is very good; they are not watermarked, it is true, but no one would think of that when the stamps were stuck down on the telegram forms; the corner letters are very various, so no suspicion would arise on that score, and more than that, the people who most of all might have been expected to know—the dealers themselves—were deceived. The stamps are lithographed, giving them a very flat appearance, with a smooth and greasy surface; and when you look into them closely you can see that the design is wanting in clearness, and that the right angles of the corner compartments, instead of being sharply defined, are rounded off as if the ink had been quite liquid. To what extent the Post Office had been defrauded it is impossible to say, as the stamps saved were but a mere sample of those used at that period which were destroyed. As soon as the Revenue authorities were informed of the discovery, steps were taken to find out the culprits, but the hunt was almost hopeless after more than twenty years had gone by, so the quest had to be abandoned.

(To be continued.)

PUBLIC SCHOOL COLLECTING

By Rev. T. C. WALTON, M.A.

(*Continued from page* 136.)

Complementary Colours

A COMPLEMENT, as our venerable Euclid used to teach us, is that which goes to fill up what is lacking, and make a complete whole. Complementary colours are such that, when mixed together, they produce white. They possess this very important property, viz. they do not modify each other by contiguity. Nowadays, when stamps are so often brought out in two colours, it is well to know which colours are complementary and which are not. The following is a list taken from Mr. Warhurst's *Colour Dictionary:* Red and green-blue; orange and greenish blue; orange-yellow and turquoise; yellow and blue; greenish yellow and violet-blue; green-yellow and violet; yellowish green and mauve; green and purple; emerald-green and reddish purple. These pairs of colours do not change to other shades when placed together; contact only serves to throw them up in greater distinctness.

Change of Colours

Exposure to the air, obliterating inks, and rain are frequent causes of colour changes in stamps. Sunlight is, above all, a prominent factor in many cases where the original colour has entirely faded, or become so changed that the stamp appears in a shade entirely different from the original colour. The writer once thought that he saw a new and hitherto unknown stamp on an approval sheet in a shop window. Of course he bought it, and, much to his sorrow, found out when it was too late that the stamp was quite a common and well-known specimen, whose colour had undergone the sun bath without the usual reduction in the case of shop-soiled or sun-soiled goods.

A few months ago, everyone was talking about the change of colour in the current halfpenny stamp. Many wondered why the green of the 1902 issue gave place to the pale yellow-green of November, 1904. The reason is not far to seek. Gaslight affects some colours very much. The earlier green halfpenny appeared to be of a blue colour when looked at by gaslight. Consequently it was often mistaken for the 2½d., ultramarine. Both the public and the officials were often deceived by the resemblance, though there is no record as to which of the twain lost the most. If the old halfpenny and the new are compared by gaslight, the reader will see at once that there can be no mistake about the colour of the present issue. If necessity does compel one to examine a stamp by artificial light, especially gaslight, it is a good plan to place the stamp in such a position that the light does not fall directly on it at right angles. Let the light be reflected from a blue card or paper on to the stamp. The effect of the gaslight in causing an apparent change of colour will, by this means, be reduced to a minimum.

Résumé of Previous Articles

The reader will doubtless remember my promise, made in an early number of this magazine, to describe some of the processes employed in the manufacture of a postage stamp. We have dipped into the mysteries of engraving and printing. We have traced, with no gentle hand, the subtle arts of the forger. We have travelled just a little way into the shadowy realms of colour land. Much of that which has been written is of interest even to the "dilettante" collector of stamps. Much of that which remains as yet unwritten is concerned with matters which require careful study and all the enthusiasm which bonâ-fide collectors are known to possess. Meanwhile, however, the thoughtful reader may have wondered why these articles have been dignified by the title of "Public School Collecting." References here and there have been made to School Collectors, but it must be confessed that a large proportion of what I have written has included in its scope the great number of beginners of all ages and conditions of life. It behoves me, then, to explain my position and justify my title.

Apology of the Writer

My collecting days began at school some twenty years ago. It was our custom to write for large packets of stamps and approval sheets. We bought all that we

could afford, and mounted or, more often, gummed the stamps in an album with scarce a thought of perforation or watermark, or even date of issue. There they stood in serried rows, a confused array, without any attempt at systematic arrangement. The reader, from the height of his superior knowledge, may smile at our blissful ignorance. Let him, however, remember that in those early days there was no *Gibbons Stamp Weekly* to help us. Even the kindly advice of some experienced philatelist was seldom at our service, for we knew him not. We paid for our experience, and knowledge of our hobby grew very slowly with the years. Is it not, then, in human nature that we should try to guide you into the right paths, and at the same time warn you against the mistakes into which we so frequently fell? Here, therefore, was the inspiring motive of my articles. And this must be my justification for the special reference to public schoolboy collectors. Hereafter my remarks will be more closely connected with the particular needs of boys in public schools, though at the same time I trust that those beginners whose lives are cast in other moulds will find something of interest and instruction in future articles.

A Word of Warning

Before I outline the nature of these future articles, let me once more emphasise the old adage which says, "Precept without Practice is a useless thing." All the knowledge which you may have gained about your hobby is of little avail unless you have also begun to bring it to bear on your methods of collecting. If you really desire to make a good collection, if you set to work in a business-like way to accomplish that much-to-be-desired object, you will often feel the need of the friendly advice and criticism of those who have already travelled some distance in the world of stamps. And the question is: How can you best acquire this necessary guidance? My answer is twofold. The saying goes that "Reading makes the full man, and writing makes the exact man." Just so is it in stamp collecting. Read all that is likely to make your hobby a reality to you. But, at the same time, never allow practical counsels to remain as pictures hung up in the chambers of your brain. Bring them down to the level of your own difficulties, discuss them, practise them; in short, make them live in your hobby.

The other answer is one which, perhaps, has not even suggested itself to many schoolboys, but which is, nevertheless, peculiarly applicable to school life. It is summed up in the word "Club." Where are the Public School Stamp Clubs? Are they distinguished by their absence from the routine of school life? And yet, just consider for a moment what efficiency and knowledge, and interest and advantage, accrue from the mutual help and co-operation of the members of a club who are engaged on a common pursuit. It has been my privilege to found one such school club. Its formation, rules, and methods will form the subject of my next article. My three years' experience has convinced me that school clubs, properly managed, may prove one of the greatest helps, and also one of the greatest attractions to the schoolboy collector. May I ask, then, that all public schoolboys who read these pages should consider how they can thus band themselves together, not only for their own interest and profit, but also that they may be the better enabled to help those who would like to collect stamps, but do not quite know how to begin?

Once your club is formed, I shall be pleased to consider myself as its "Stamp-master" (a term, I believe, new in the history of pedagogy). The Editor has very kindly suggested to me that my series of lessons may be entitled "First Steps in Philately." You therefore may proceed to the formation of your club on the lines I hope to lay down in my next article. Subjects for discussion will not be wanting. As I have already said, we have come to the parting of the ways between the interested reader and the thoroughly practical up-to-date collector. Questions of perforation, watermark, paper, how to collect and what to collect, will all come under review. Types and illustrations will appear at frequent intervals to give the clearest conceptions of the various technical terms employed. All that is essential for a thorough elementary knowledge will find a place in these articles. Such will be the object of the writer. While for the reader, let him bring intelligence and will, the power to assimilate and the will to perform, and the articles will not have been penned in vain.

(To be continued.)

STAMP COLLECTING AS A PASTIME

By EDWARD J. NANKIVELL

(*Continued from page* 138.)

VIII. Great Rarities (*continued*)

United States, Millbury, 1847, 5 c.—In the United States the general adoption of postage stamps was preceded by what may be termed preliminary issues, of a more or less local character, and known as "Postmaster stamps." These "Postmaster stamps" were issued by various country postmasters by way of experiment. The Providence stamp is the commonest example. One of the rarest is the 5 c. stamp, with a portrait of Washington, issued by the postmaster of Millbury, in Massachusetts, in 1847. This stamp is said to be worth about £300. There are others reputed to be equally rare. Among the local stamps issued by various unofficial carriers and express agencies, there are many of which very few copies are known, and as they are practically all held by enthusiastic collectors, and never come into the market, there are no data as to their current value.



Cape of Good Hope, 1861. *Errors of Colour.*—In making up the plate of a provisional issue of triangular stamps, pending the arrival of supplies from England, a stereo of the 1d. got inserted by mistake in the 4d. plate, and a 4d. in the 1d. plate. Consequently each sheet of the 1d. contained a 4d. printed in red, the colour of the 1d., instead of blue. And the sheets of the 4d., in like manner, each contained a 1d. which, when the 4d. was printed in its proper colour of blue, was also printed in blue instead of red, the proper colour. These errors are very scarce, especially in an unused condition. The 1d., blue, is the rarer of the two, and is worth about £70 used; it is not known unused.



Tuscany, 1860, 3 lire.—In the early days of stamp production high values, such as we are now accustomed to get from most countries, were very rarely issued. For nearly thirty years Great Britain was content with a shilling stamp as its highest value. In 1860 the Provisional Government of Tuscany issued a stamp of 3 lire, for which there seems to have been very little use. It represented but two shillings and sixpence of English money, but it is nevertheless one of the great rarities to-day, especially in an unused condition. Used copies are worth about £65, and unused about £120.



Transvaal, 1878. *Error* "Transvral."—This error occurred once in each sheet of eighty of the 1d., red on blue, of the first British Occupation. It was evidently discovered before a second lot was required, as it does not recur in the next printing of 1d., red on orange. It is a very rare stamp. Used it is worth about £50, but unused it is one of the great rarities, and has changed hands at about £150.



Ceylon, 1859, 4d. and 8d., imperforate.—Several of the first issues of this colony, designed and engraved by Messrs. Perkins Bacon and Co., and issued in 1857-9, are esteemed as great rarities in an imperforate and unused condition. The 4d., 8d., 9d., 1s., and 2s. are the rarest. The 4d., so long ago as 1894, fetched £130 at auction. These stamps are amongst the few great rarities that may be entitled to rank as works of art, and every year they are more sought after and more difficult to get in fine condition.



IX. The Romance of Stamp Collecting

The story of the development of stamp collecting, and of the trade that has sprung up with it, is full of romance.

Our publishers' business, with its world-wide ramifications, was begun by young Gibbons putting a few sheets of stamps in his father's shop window. The father was a chemist, and it was intended that the lad should follow in his father's footsteps; but the stamps elbowed the drugs aside, and eventually yielded a fortune which enabled this pioneer of the stamp trade to retire and indulge his globe-trotting propensities to the full. He sold his business for £25,000, and, still in the prime of life, retired to a snug little villa on the banks of the Thames. The business was converted into a Limited Liability Company, and the Managing Director may be said to be a product of the original business, for it was a present of a guinea packet of Stanley Gibbons's stamps that first whetted his appetite for stamp collecting, and eventually for stamp dealing. Mr. Gibbons had for a great many years conducted his business from his private house. The new broom changed all that, and opened out in fine premises in the Strand, W.C., where the Company now occupy the whole of one house and the greater part of the adjoining premises. In every room busy hands are at work all the day long endeavouring to keep pace with a world-wide business.

And now, looking back on the humdrum days of the beginnings of the stamp trade, what opportunities do they not seem to have missed! Could they but have foreseen the present-day developments, a few unconsidered trifles, valued at a few pence in those days, put away in a bottom drawer, would to-day net a fortune. Young Gibbons, amongst his early purchases, bought from a couple of sailors at Plymouth for £5 a sackful of triangular Cape of Good Hope stamps, a large proportion being the rare so-called Woodblocks, with many of the Errors described in the list of great rarities in another chapter. Those Errors he disposed of at 2s. 6d. each. They are now worth from £60 to £75 each. And the ordinary Woodblocks, which were so plentifully represented in that sackful, are now catalogued at from 50s. to £9 apiece. Strange as it may seem, those were the common stamps of those days, and they are the rarities of to-day.

A well-known collection, full of rare stamps of the value of from £5 to £50, has been largely formed by the fortunate possessor out of stamps for which he paid 2s. per dozen a little over twenty years ago.

A leading collector once conceived the idea of scouring the little-visited country towns of Spain for rare old Spanish stamps, and a most successful hunt he made of it. He secured most valuable and unsuspected hauls of unused and used blocks and pairs of rare Portuguese; but before returning home he decided to treat himself to a trip to Morocco, and during that ill-fated extension of his tour he lost nearly the whole of his patient garnerings of rare Spanish stamps, for during an inland trip some very unphilatelic Bedouins swooped down on his escort in the desert and carried off the whole of his baggage. He, being some distance ahead of his escort, escaped, and brought home only a few samples of the grand things he had found and lost.

In all forms of collecting the hunt for bargains adds zest to the game, and probably more so in stamps than in any other hobby, not even excepting old china; and, as in other lines of collecting, the bargain hunter must be equipped with the expert knowledge of the specialist if he would sweep into his net at bargain prices the unsuspected gems to be found now and again in the philatelic mart. Many a keen stamp collector turns his years of wide experience to good account as a bargain hunter, and at least one innocent amateur is credited with netting a revenue which would make many a flourishing merchant green with envy.

Many a match has probably been due to stamp collecting. Not long ago we were told of a young lady who wrote to an official in a distant colony for a few of the current stamps issued from his office. The stamps were forwarded and a correspondence ensued. There was eventually an exchange of photographs, and finally the official applied for leave, returned home, and married his stamp collecting correspondent.

Truly the scope of the stamp collector for pleasure, for profit, and for romance is as wide as the most imaginative could desire.

(To be continued.)

PORTRAITS ON STAMPS

By MARK W. HALL

Austria



Francis Joseph I.

Francis Joseph I., Emperor of Austria, King of Hungary and Bohemia, the eldest son of the Archduke Francis Charles Joseph and grandson of Francis I., was born August 18th, 1830. His mother was a daughter of the King of Bavaria. His uncle Ferdinand abdicated December 2nd, 1848, in favour of Francis Joseph. An insurrection in Hungary was suppressed soon after his accession by the aid of Russian arms. The Emperor then devoted his attention to centralising the imperial power, and in 1853 endeavoured, but in vain, to induce the Emperor Nicholas to give up his designs on Turkey. By the war with France in 1859 he lost Lombardy and other Italian possessions, and Venice was afterwards added to the Kingdom of Italy. Since the war with Prussia, in 1866, when the Austrians in a few weeks suffered terrible defeats, the Emperor, influenced by the advice of Count Beust, at one time his principal Minister, has inaugurated a more liberal policy and many important reforms.

The portrait of the Emperor Francis Joseph is the only one which appears on the stamps of Austria.

Belgium



Leopold I.

Leopold I., King of Belgium, Duke of Saxony, and Prince of Saxe-Coburg-Gotha, was born 16th December, 1790. At the age of 15 he was well acquainted with the classical and the principal modern languages, and had studied the sciences and public law. The marriage of his sister with the Grand Duke Constantine induced him to enter the service of Russia, which he was, however, obliged to leave in 1810 to attend to the affairs of Saxe-Coburg, after which he travelled till 1813. He then re-entered the Russian Army, and served with much distinction in the campaigns which terminated by the entry of the allies into Paris and the final overthrow of Napoleon. In 1830 he was offered the crown of Greece. Having refused this offer, he was soon afterwards requested to accept that of Belgium, which he did on the 12th July, 1830. He died after a wise, liberal, and popular reign on 10th December, 1865, and was succeeded by his son Leopold II.

The portrait of Leopold I. appears on all the stamps of Belgium up to 1866.



Leopold Louis Philip Maria Victor II.

Leopold Louis Philip Maria Victor II. was born 9th April, 1835. In the speech he made to both Chambers of the Legislature on the day of his inauguration, 17th December, 1866, he said: "I shall religiously follow the example and precepts of my father; I will be a Belgian from my heart and soul. I love those great institutions which guarantee order and liberty, and which are the most solid bases of the throne." The respect and admiration which the King has always evinced for parliamentary liberty have nobly redeemed these words. In October, 1866, he and his subjects gained great popularity among Englishmen by the magnificent manner in which they received and entertained a large body of English volunteers who had gone over to celebrate the anniversary of Belgian national independence. Before the accession to the throne King Leopold II. travelled through Egypt, Lower Nubia, and Sinai, and is the only reigning sovereign who has ever visited India and China. In 1866 he was created a Knight of the Garter. In November, 1869, the King visited London, was entertained by the late Queen, and by the Corporation of London.

The portrait of Leopold II. appears on all stamps of Belgium from 1870.

NEW ISSUES

The Editor will be grateful to his readers if they will help him with the earliest possible information concerning new issues. News from the Colonies in particular will be much appreciated. When possible, a specimen should accompany the information, and should be addressed to

EDWARD J. NANKIVELL, Carnanton, Camden Park, Tunbridge Wells.

Crete.—We have received a very finely engraved new series for this country, and we quote the following particulars from the *Daily Graphic*:—

"The Cretan Government have lately decided to issue an entirely new set of postage stamps, and they will shortly be put into circulation. It is a remarkably handsome series, each stamp bearing a separate design illustrating some scene from Cretan history, mythology, or tradition; in one case the portrait of the High Commissioner, Prince George of Greece, is reproduced. The designs are taken from the ancient Cretan coinage, and the Postmaster-General, realising that they will have a vastly wider circulation in their new form, has been thoughtful enough to reproduce them on a special card, with explanatory notes under each picture. One of these cards has been forwarded to the *Daily Graphic* and is now reproduced.



"The first stamp shows Europa seated on the bull, Jupiter, who had assumed that shape in order to carry her off. It was Europa who, according to Homer, became the mother of Minos, one of Crete's most famous kings and law-givers, the ruins of whose palace at Chossos—excavated by Mr. John Evans—are shown in the second stamp. The third design shows Diana, Goddess of the Chase, discharging her bow between a couple of lions—taken from a seal found among the ruins at Chossos, which was a seat of learning and art before Greece. The fourth stamp, as already stated, bears a portrait of Prince George of Greece. The fifth shows Britomartis—Jupiter's daughter and favourite companion of Diana—seated in an old oak. The next is a view of the historical monastery of Arcadion at the foot of Mount Ida—sacred in classical antiquity as the birthplace of Jupiter. The seventh shows Jupiter being suckled by a bitch. The eighth, a Triton brandishing his trident; and the last reproduces the head of Ariadne from one of the coins of Chossos."

The stamps are evidently the work of Messrs. Bradbury, Wilkinson, and Co., London, who have for some time designed and engraved the Cretan postage stamps.

No wmk. Perf.

2 lepta, violet.
5 ,, green.
10 ,, carmine-red.
20 ,, greenish blue.
25 ,, bright ultramarine.
50 ,, chestnut.
1 drachmē, rose-pink, centre brown.
3 drachmai, orange, centre black.
5 ,, olive, centre black.

St. Vincent.—We have received the 1d. and 1s. values of the current King's Head series with the multiple watermark.

Wmk. Multiple C A. Perf. s. d.

1d., purple, name and value in carmine 0 2
1s., green 1 4

Tasmania.—By a slip a wrong illustration of the surcharge of 1½d. on 5d., chronicled on p. 125, got into a portion of our issue of last week. We now give the intended illustration of the surcharge.



s. d.

1½d., in black, on 5d., blue and brown 0 3

MISCELLANEOUS

China: 1897 Issues. Numbers Printed

THE *Illustriertes Briefmarken Journal* gives some interesting information concerning the numbers printed of the postal issues of China in 1897. This information is given us from official sources.

First come the Provisional issues surcharged on previous issues.

1897. *Provisionals.*

Value.	Issued.	Destroyed.	Used.
½ c. . .	440,728 ...	136,680 ...	304,048
1 c. . .	625,734 ...	177,402 ...	448,332
2 c. . .	1,181,700 ...	279,999 ...	901,701
4 c. . .	394,500 ...	157,238 ...	237,262
5 c. . .	378,415 ...	163,833 ...	214,582
8 c. . .	196,848 ..	125,828 ...	71,020
10 c. . .	205,739 ...	64,431 ...	141,308
30 c. . .	50,366 ...	24,040 ...	26,326
$1 . .	20,485 ...	13,236 ...	7,249
$5 . .	4,485 ...	?	

In the same year, it will be remembered, a new series of new designs was designed, engraved, and printed for China in Japan, and issued in October. For some reason, which has not yet been explained, these Japanese productions had a very short life, a new series of similar designs being ordered from Messrs. Waterlow. The first of the Waterlow set was chronicled in March. The few months that intervened between the Japanese and Waterlow series would not be sufficient to use up the Japanese prints, but our contemporary does not say anything as to numbers destroyed.



1897. *Japanese Prints.* *Numbers issued.*

Value.	No. Issued.	Catalogued at. s. d.	s. d.
½ c. . .	481,200 ...	0 1	
1 c. . .	433,200 ...	0 1 ...	0 1
2 c. . .	1,248,000 ...	0 1 ...	0 1
4 c. . .	912,000 ...	0 4 ...	0 1
5 c. . .	360,000 ...	0 5 ...	0 3
10 c. . .	360,000 ...	0 6 ...	0 2
20 c. . .	168,000 ...	1 0 ...	0 9
30 c. . .	168,000 ...	2 0 ...	1 6
50 c. . .	360,000 ...	3 0 ...	3 0
$1 . .	51,600 ...	7 6 ...	7 6
$2 . .	12,930 ...	20 0 ...	20 0
$5 . .	7,200 ...	50 0	

The Multiple C A Watermark

THE new De la Rue watermark, which some people insist upon calling "the new multiple watermark," may be a great convenience to the printers, but it is an unmitigated nuisance to collectors. One dreads to think what other changes are in store for us after the dissolution.

"When the watermark Crown, with the letters C C,
Was changed to one lettered C A,
We hoped to the last that our troubles had past,
And the latter was coming to stay.
But, alas! and alack! as somebody says,
Things are ordered by other decrees,
So they altered to Crowns with multiple A's,
And, of course, with the multiple C's.
Such things if they do (as they do in this case)
When the Unionist Governments please,
When the others get in you will certainly win
If you bet that they change to C B's."

E. W. W. in the *Philatelic Journal of India.*

Stamps in Cigarette Packets

A NOVEL and interesting competition has been devised by Messrs. Carreras and Marcianus, Limited, proprietors of the new "Black Cat" Virginia cigarettes.

Every threepenny packet of ten cigarettes contains a coupon, with a British, foreign, or colonial stamp attached, entitling the holder to participate in a stamp-collecting competition, in which prizes of £100, £50, and £25, twenty of £5, and fifty of £1, are offered.

The stamps are to be affixed in a "Black Cat" stamp album, which can be obtained in exchange for 500 coupons or purchased for *2s. 6d.*—*Daily Express.*

Chargeable Letters: 1839-1840

ONE return shows the number of chargeable letters passing the General Post in London since the first reduction was made, and those for the corresponding period of 1839.

The result stands thus:—

1839.		1840.	
5th Jan. .	1,500,916	4th Jan. .	2,102,281
2nd Feb. .	1,543,375	1st Feb. .	3,004,266
2nd Mar. .	1,557,880	29th Feb. .	3,338,074
30th Mar. .	1,604,356	28th Mar. .	3,372,687
27th April .	1,656,316	25th April .	3,404,900
25th May .	1,619,766	23rd May .	3,461,270
22nd June .	1,649,020	20th June .	3,665,193

—An Old Cutting, date about 1840.

THE STAMP KING

By G. DE BEAUREGARD AND H. DE GORSSE

Translated from the French by EDITH C. PHILLIPS



THE CAPTAIN APPLIED THE MATCH AND A REPORT SOUNDED

CHAPTER III (*continued*)

Showing how very slowly a Fast Steamer can go

THE remembrance of the dangers they had encountered together and the fears they had undergone had established a kind of intimacy among the passengers. There seemed to be none but old friends on board the *Touraine*. Miss Betty received her full share of attention, especially as in consequence of her fall down the stairs, when the sailor had hurried her from the deck—more anxious about saving her life than the manner of doing it—she had gone about with a painful lump on her forehead, which for two days needed the application of a bandage.

Sir Oscar, whose spirits had revived with the calm, surrounded his pleasant companion with more little cares and attentions than ever.

As for Victoria, who had not moved from the cabin during all this terrible time, she remained greatly depressed, but when Betty told Sir Oscar of her misery he exclaimed—

"Why, Miss Scott, how can you leave the excellent creature in such a condition? Permit me to fetch her to take a cup of coffee with us."

And without waiting for a reply he ran to the cabin, and only returned a good minute after Victoria herself had entered the saloon. She was much flattered by the attention he had paid her, and seated herself with great dignity in the midst of the chattering company.

"Do you know where we are?" asked the captain, going from group to group.

"No," was the universal reply. "Where are we?"

"In sight of the Azores!"

A general exclamation of surprise followed the announcement.

"Yes, indeed," repeated the captain, "in sight of the Azores; and if the storm had lasted three hours longer we should have stood a good chance of being wrecked on one of them."

After a shiver of fear for what might have been, the passengers rushed on deck, whence they could clearly see the islands in the distance.

The sea was calm, the air serene and very warm, for a breeze from the south had sprung up, before which the *Touraine*, whose repairs were not yet completed, drifted towards the north, while the islands, which had appeared but for an instant, were soon lost on the horizon.

Far from feeling any uneasiness at hearing the hammers striking on the steel rods, and seeing the workmen suspended above the water repairing the rudder, the passengers found these things, which were out of the ordinary course, quite a delightful change.

In comparison with what was past their safety now seemed absolute, especially as the help of three passing steamers had been refused. So they hardly ceased expatiating on the soundness of the *Touraine*, the "good *Touraine*," as they called her, patting her sides, coated with salt, as if to thank her for behaving so well.

The openings through which the engines could be seen, and the quarter-deck, from which a view of the rudder could be obtained, had now become the chief objects for a promenade. All were interested in the progress of the repairs, which had taken so much longer than was anticipated; they danced, they listened to the monologues in which Sir Oscar excelled. . . .

But one very curious thing had happened. About a score of people, the last-named gentleman among others, had lost their watches during the storm. The Englishman was loud in his lamentations at not being able to recover his, adding in explanation that it had been given him by Prince Albert as a reward for a successful diplomatic mission.

Everyone condoled with him on the incomprehensible loss, and he was still more looked up to for the important position he had held and for the prince's favour.

Moreover, Sir Oscar, except when the wind blew, showed a delightful amiability and cordial simplicity to which everyone rendered homage, and was, besides, such an agreeable talker that they all liked to be in his company.

It became known that, with a curious leaning towards intimacy, he loved small gatherings in which the conversation was restricted to two or three, so he was often invited to take a cup of tea in the various cabins—occasions which seemed to afford him great pleasure, and on which he always showed to the best advantage.

One morning, six days after their departure from New York, the captain announced that the rudder and engines would both be finished by mid-day.

"For my part," cried Sir Oscar, "I shall be quite sorry to end this stirring yet delightful voyage! But what must Lady Tilbury, who is waiting for me at Havre, be thinking?"

Each one was asking himself this question as he thought of a relation, friend, or acquaintance waiting for him over there, uneasy at the unheard of delay of the steamer, which was accustomed to making the voyage in exactly seven days.

"They will never imagine," said Sir Oscar gaily, "that we take our ills so patiently."

"Thanks in great measure to you," observed Miss Betty.

"You are the most indulgent of Americans as well as the most beautiful," returned Sir Oscar. They all applauded the sentiment, and were convinced that the noble Englishman had some nephew or cousin to marry, since the allusion he had just made to a Lady Tilbury, whose existence no one had suspected, showed that he himself was out of the running.

Towards ten o'clock the air suddenly began to grow cold.

"Hollo!" said someone. "Is the storm going to begin again?"

"No fear," said another; "one doesn't have a fine scene like that twice running. Besides, there's very little wind, and it doesn't seem inclined to change."

But they noticed that the captain on the bridge kept his glass constantly turned towards the north. He gave orders at frequent intervals, and at last with an air of impatience went down to the engine-room to inquire if the work was finished. Being told it would occupy three good hours yet, he raged against the slowness of the workmen, and threatened to have the lazy fellows put in irons if it was not all finished by twelve o'clock precisely.

Then he quickly mounted the bridge again without replying to the questions put to him on his way, and began searching the horizon once more, always in a northerly direction.

"What is the matter with the captain?" inquired one of the passengers. "He seems very uneasy."

"Has he lost the north, that he searches for it so earnestly?" was Sir Oscar Tilbury's playful insinuation.

Those who had glasses went and fetched them, and there was soon a long row of observers scanning the horizon to discover the object of interest.

The rest chatted and walked about at their ease, enjoying the calm and the unparalleled stillness of the atmosphere.

"Do you see away there that white point glittering?" inquired one of those with the glasses.

"Yes," said his neighbour. "Whatever can it be?"

In a few minutes the point grew, and became visible to the naked eye. It quickly enlarged in every direction, showing that it was approaching them with tremendous rapidity.

"An iceberg!" cried a passenger in accents of the liveliest terror.

"An iceberg?" said another calmly. "I shouldn't be sorry to see that nearer. I believe we are going to pass quite close to it."

"We are lost!" said the first speaker. "Look what an enormous mass is bearing down upon us. It is more than a mile in width. I have often seen these fields of ice, detached from the polar seas, which the currents bring into our latitudes. Nothing can resist them, and if we cannot manage to get out of the way——"

The prophet of evil had no time to finish his explanation, for the captain, in a voice of thunder, ordered the boats to be manned, the buoys and lifebelts to be distributed, and preparation made for any contingency.

The effect was overwhelming. Men and women rushed pell-mell upon the lifebelts, which some of the sailors were distributing, while others were uncovering the boats, executing the captain's orders with marvellous rapidity.

The most touching scenes were witnessed; members of the same family clung closely to each other, that they might die together; others, taking refuge in their cabins, shut their eyes, in order not to see death approaching. Betty begged Victoria to forgive her for having dragged her into this fatal adventure. As for Sir Oscar Tilbury, he was—no one knew where—occupied in putting his private papers in order.

The cold became more intense. The iceberg, which drew nearer every moment, had assumed fantastic proportions, and its shadow covered the sea for a great distance; it looked like a white island, studded with diamonds, bristling with sharp mountain peaks, and hollowed into great cavities, the ruggedness of which reflected the sun's rays blindingly. Now the gigantic field of ice was within two miles, its outline still growing more formidable and menacing. But, alas! like a paralytic, whose powerless members are incapable of flight, the *Touraine* resignedly offered her flank to the enemy.

The iceberg was not more than a mile away.

All the passengers were now kneeling, and tremblingly received the benediction of a priest and of a clergyman, who passed from one scattered group to another, giving absolution and heavenly consolation. There were no longer any cries heard. A stupefied silence had settled upon all, as with startled eyes fixed on the great white monster, drawing ever nearer, they realised that but a few moments could pass before the tranquil waves closed over their heads.

But one last and almost ludicrous resource remained for the captain. With extraordinary coolness he had the little brass cannon in the bows loaded, and himself directed it against the iceberg; he applied the match and a report sounded, of which the ice wall, now close at hand, sent back disdainfully the useless and pitiable echo.

It was over!

"*De Profundis*," began the priest, extending his hands over the prostrate crowd. A horrible sound,

prolonged and sonorous as the discharge of a hundred pieces of artillery, was heard. There was a sensation as of the boat being pulverised and swallowed up in the depths of the ocean; then more fearful shocks and more still, seemingly without end.

"Saved!" cried the captain from the stern, where he was standing. And at the word of hope heads were raised again.

They were indeed saved!

The immense field of ice, worn away, thawed, streaked with fissures and crevices by the warmth of the temperate latitudes, was broken by the concussion into thousands of small pieces, with which the *Touraine* was soon surrounded, remaining unmoved in the midst of their powerless clashing.

While this was still going on the captain was informed that steam was up, the engines put to rights, and the rudder repaired. He immediately gave the steersman the route, and seizing the lever which transmitted his orders electrically to the engineers, turned it on the brass dial till it rested on the words "Full speed."

Then the hissing steam took up its work once more, the screws set their great fins in motion, and the boat, urged forward, arrayed itself afresh in its double train of foam.

Another ovation had to be given to the captain, who had a second time saved so many precious lives. Sir Oscar had no more camellias, but as the sea was quite calm his loquacity was ready, and he improvised a new harangue, as full and convincing as the first, than which it had no less success.

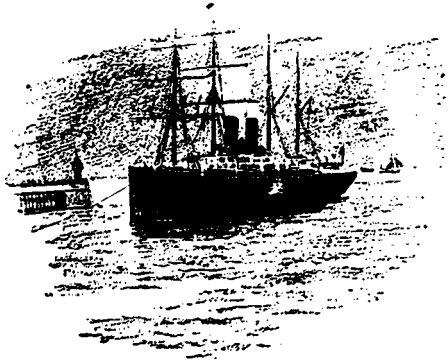
At length, after so many vicissitudes, they arrived off Havre at nine o'clock in the morning, exactly fifteen days and three hours after leaving New York. Those on land had heard of the arrival of the *Touraine* from the semaphores at Ouessant and Barfleur, in sight of which they had passed, so the jetties were black with a swarming crowd of people who, after their long period of anxiety, watched the superb steamer approach in all her tranquil majesty.

When she was in the channel interminable and frantic shouts arose, which were answered by the joyful cries of the passengers, enchanted at being in shelter at last from billows and icebergs.

Then each rushed for his smaller baggage and prepared to land.

"I must find Sir Oscar and thank him for all his care of me," said Betty to Victoria.

But it was impossible in the midst of the general rush to get near him.



ARRIVAL AT HAVRE

"Never mind," said Betty resignedly, "I can thank him in Paris, since he has promised to come and see me there."

And she and Victoria, their bags in their hands, joined the file who were crossing the movable bridge and disembarked; but as she stepped on the quay, catching sight of one of the lookers-on who had come to watch the arrival of the boat, Betty fell back into the arms of Victoria—which were full enough already—and a cry escaped her lips—a cry of but two words, but expressing more profound stupefaction than any longer phrase—"William Keniss!"

GOSSIP OF THE HOUR

By CORNELIUS WRINKLE

The Great Moguls Champion Class

WHAT a commotion I have raised, to be sure, over a simple suggestion that the Great Moguls should in future be pitted against each other. I am beginning



to think there must be a deal more in the suggestion than I imagined, for ever since, one after another, heads have popped up from the other side of the hedge claiming to have said that very same thing before. First it was Mr. Heginbottom, now it is Mr. Beckton in the *Philatelic Record*, and I understand my old friend Mr. Oldfield is also a claimant.

What does it all mean, this haste to father a simple suggestion of a harmless sort of body like myself? There must be more in it than meets the eye. If the idea has been kicking about in this way for so long, why has it not fruited? Chap at my elbow says, "Don't you know, Wrinkle, that one speaker after another may give expression to the same thoughts and only send the audiences to sleep, whereas another fellow may, with the same ideas, electrify his audience, and get them all on their hind legs, waving their handkerchiefs and cheering like one o'clock?" Ah! Humph! Is that so?

The Champion Class—a Certainty

However, I don't know that it matters a button who trotted out the suggestion in the hazy past, so long as it be acted upon at last. And since so much fuss has been made over the business, not only approving of the idea of a champion class, but even squabbling over the very parentage of the idea, it seems to me to have taken its place as one of those things that are no longer

open to question. So, putting these and a few other straws together, I am prepared, though I am not a betting man, to lay heavy odds that the champion class may be put down as a dead certainty.

Great Moguls still in the Running

But those who think that a champion class will entirely dispose of the Great Moguls and their long pockets as competitors must not count their chicks too rashly. The Great Mogul will still be in evidence, and deservedly so. Only the country which has won a gold medal for him can possibly be barred. His other philatelic possessions will be his reserve force to be drawn upon under the new conditions. And I am very much inclined to think that he will still knock spots out of all competitors in other groups and countries.

Gold Medal Collection: Re-exhibit

BUT what is to become of a gold medal collection that changes hands? Is the new owner to be debarred,



except as a champion, from entering it for competition? Such is the question I have heard raised. Of course he will be debarred. It is the collection and not the owner that is exhibited, and it is therefore the collection, not the owner, that is transferred to the champion class. I have nothing to say against an exhibition of owners. It might be interesting.

The Question of Badges

WE are getting on in the question of badges for stamp collectors. Another correspondent writes me as follows:—

"I would suggest that the simpler and smaller the proposed badge the better; say the size of a threepenny piece. On the one side should be the word 'Stamps,' right across, in white enamelled letters, and on the other side should be engraved the year of the wearer's starting as a stamp collector; nothing more. Such badges might be made in gold, silver, and bronze, with an eye for attaching it to the watch-chain."

I am inclined to think that this is the most workable idea for a general badge that I have yet received, and I am very much inclined to start worrying Stanley Gibbons, Ltd., to make a trial of the suggestion. The cost would be a mere trifle. I should say the bronze could be made to sell at *3d.* or *4d.*, the silver at 1*s.*, and the gold at 4*s.* or 5*s.* Suppose, by way of a test of the idea, all readers of *G.S.W.* who would like to see the idea started, drop a post card to Stanley Gibbons, Ltd., saying so. If, as I imagine will be the case, the publishers get pelted with post cards, I shall take a brief holiday in parts unknown till they recover from their surprise.

The Junior adopts a Badge

I AM told the Junior Philatelic Society has a badge in hand for its members, which it hopes will please even the most fastidious. This Junior badge is to be lent to members, like the badge of the Institute of Journalists, and must be returned when a member resigns, or at the direction of the committee. It is hoped to get the cost down to *2d.* or *3d.* for white metal, but millionaire members are to be treated to silver and gold according to their millions—query, stamps or dollars?

The Juniors move to Exeter Hall

THE Junior Philatelic Society, as the result of holding their recent Exhibition in Exeter Hall, have become enamoured of that good place and have engaged a very comfortable parlour therein, with seating capacity for 120, for their regular meetings. Such a central place of meeting should be a great draw for the Juniors all over the metropolis, for it is central and well known to—every sinner.

A Philatelic Box and Cox arrangement

WHAT is the meaning of this latest move of the Herts Philatelic Society? I hear that it is shifting its meeting-place from Anderton's Hotel, Fleet Street, E.C., to 4, Southampton Row, W., next season.

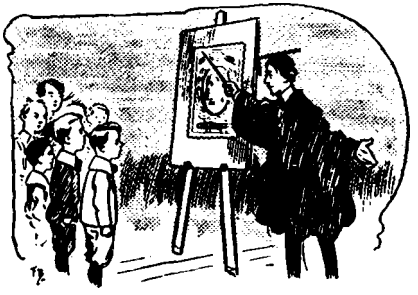
This announcement seems simple enough on the face of it till it is explained that 4, Southampton Row, W., is also the new home of the London Philatelic Society.

I am afraid we are getting a bit mixed up in the Society line. The Herts dearly love to get one of the Great Moguls of the premier society to fill one evening with a display of his treasures, and of late members of the Herts have taken to instructing the premiers.

Now we must have the International Philatelic Union moved from Essex Street, W.C., into 4, Southampton Row, and then we shall have a grand old philatelic Box and Cox arrangement.

Classes in Philately

EH! What's this? Let me put on my specs, and make sure that I read aright. Yes! there is no mistake about it. Mr. F. J. Melville tells me that he is seriously considering the idea of starting a class of



beginners in stamp collecting in London. And why not? Better late than never. Next come the exams. Wanted, at once, an exam. paper.

From a Weekly to a Fortnightly

I SEE by a copy of the *Metropolitan Philatelist* just received that that New York journal, which for the last seven years has been run as a weekly, is to be changed to a fortnightly. "Many reasons," say the publishers, "have combined to make this last move desirable." But none of the many reasons is set forth, except the expression of the belief that "a fortnightly issue is sufficiently frequent to supply all the current news." The United States has made many experiments in philatelic journalism. There have been many weeklies, and even one daily. There are still, I believe, three weeklies.

PHILATELIC SOCIETIES

Enterprise Philatelic Society

Secretary: A. C. Constantinides, Woodview, Archway Road, Highgate, London, N.
Meetings: Monthly, Devonshire House Hotel, Bishopsgate Street, London, E.C.

THE twenty-first ordinary monthly meeting took place at the Devonshire House Hotel, Bishopsgate Street, E.C., on Wednesday, 15th February, 1905.

Present: Messrs. E. A. Klaber, Henry Wills, A. H. Harris, E. W. Butcher, G. H. Simons, H. J. Bignold, H. W. Westcott, H. P. Harper, G. H. Ordish, A. C. Constantinides, and a visitor. For some unaccountable reason the attendance was unusually small. In the absence of the President (through illness), the chair was taken by Mr. E. A. Klaber (the Vice-President), at 6.30 p.m.

The Secretary reported the election of one new member since the last meeting, viz. Mr. Thos. Chitty, Sydenham.

Business having been disposed of, members settled down to enjoy a remarkably fine evening's entertainment provided by Mr. H. W. Westcott: "Gibraltar" (paper and display), a most interesting and well-illustrated discourse, giving evidence of careful study and embracing a mass of most useful information, much of which was entirely new to those present.

Mr. E. Heginbottom: "Western Australia" (display and notes). This was part of Mr. Heginbottom's notable collection, and was very fine indeed, and well worthy of the praise bestowed upon it by all present. Finally the meeting dispersed at 9.20 p.m., a most hearty vote of thanks having previously been accorded to Messrs. Heginbottom and Westcott.

The February packet of the Exchange Section was delayed for two or three days, owing to the transference of the secretaryship occupying a great deal of time. It was, however, despatched on the 8th February, carrying a nice selection on sixty-two sheets, mostly colonials, priced very moderately. November packet has returned, and all accounts will have been dealt with by the time this report appears. Sales were good, 20 per cent. of the total value of the packet having been purchased.

Herts Philatelic Society

President: H. F. Jennings-White.
Secretary: H. A. Slade, Ingleside, St. Albans.
Meetings: Third Tuesday, Anderton's Hotel, E.C.
Subscription: 5s.

THE February meeting was held on the twenty-first at the usual meeting-place, and it can be confidently asserted that the "General Display" was but the forerunner for several others in seasons to come. Mr. Thomas H. Harvey occupied the chair, and others present were: Messrs. L. E. Bradbury, W. G. Cool, R. Frentzel, J. Simpson, B. W. H. Poole, F. J. Melville, L. W. Fulcher, C. J. Daun, D. Field, H. L. Hayman, J. B. Neyroud, Walter Mair, A. H. L. Giles, A. Bagshawe, Carl Wiehen, H. Wills, W. T. Standen, Deere, Weinberg, and H. A. Slade (Secretary). Before the general business was commenced, a heartfelt vote of condolence was unanimously passed to Mrs. Gordon Smith at the deeply lamented death of Mr. Gordon Smith, who was one of the Society's earliest Vice-Presidents, and from whom it received a never-failing support. The Secretary was instructed to convey the Society's condolence and sympathy to Mrs. Gordon Smith, and the vote was entered on the minutes.

It was decided that the meetings for next season should, if possible, be held at 4, Southampton Row, and the arrangements necessary can be considered as practically concluded.

A general exchange amongst the members will be held after each meeting and display, but until the latter is concluded no exchange or sale is to be effected.

The main business of the evening was the general display by all the members, and an excellent one it was.

PRINCIPAL EXHIBITS.

T. H. Harvey. A fine lot of Africans; 2½d. I.R. Official (King's); high-priced British East Africa.

W. A. Boyes. A very fine selection of the provisional issues of the O.R.C. (early issues).

Karl Wiehen. 1856 Victorian, strip of 3d., 1s., green; *tete-bêche* French Republic issue.

B. W. H. Poole. 3 on 16 c. Seychelles, double surch.; Siamese, unchronicled varieties; Haiti, pair imperf. vert.

C. Daun. St. Vincent, 6d., yellow-green, coarse-cut perf., mint; Barbados, ½d. on 4d.; Bermuda, 1d. on 1s., green, inverted surch.; St. Vincent, 1s., pair imperf. vert.; Nevis, 1s., yellow-green, unused, and also on laid paper, used; St. Christopher, 1d. on ½d., inverted surch., and also with double surch.; 1d. on 6d., inverted surch.; 1d. on 2½, with large surch. inverted, and also with small surch. inverted; Tobago, ½d. on 6d., bistre, surch. double and inverted, ½d. on 2½d., blue, double surch.; Turks Islands, 1s., prune, mint, 2½d. on 1d., 2½d. on 6d., 2½d. on 1s., prune, 4d. on 6d., and 4d. on 1s. in differing type.

J. B. Neyroud. Strip of 1d., black (showing hair lines), Great Britain, 2d., blue, on originals, and also reconstructed sheets of both showing all varieties of postmark.

A. H. L. Giles. 5s., Great Britain, I.R. Official; 3d., Canada, on wove paper; 4d., blue, Cape woodblock; 2s. (Queen's), Transvaal; 2s., Ceylon; New York P.O. stamp; early Mauritius, and 1858 Buenos Ayres on original.

A. G. Wane. An excellent show of Persia, first issue.

R. Frentzel. English and Colonials, used, showing varieties of postmark.

H. C. Hayman. Liberia printed on both sides; French Colonies showing double surcharges, and a 4d., Tasmania, fitted with "original" gum and a repaired centre (an excellent example of how stamps are "faked-made in France"); 10c., Gibraltar, with value omitted; 1887 English issue, imperf.; ½ Queensland with the ½d. on one side absent.

W. V. Morten. National Telephone Co.'s issue.

W. Mair. 2½d. on 1s., Transvaal, with varieties of surcharge; Geneva, 10 rappen, showing the various types; a Sicily forgery that had passed the post.

W. G. Cool. English used at Malta on originals, showing all varieties of postmark from 1858 to 1871.

— Annandale. £1, green, Great Britain, used, and early Canadians.

E. Webster. Colour proofs of English.

J. H. Tite. 1d., red, Great Britain, error of plate number 173.

E. Davidson. Cuban provisionals.

Mrs. Raahange. Madagascar Consular stamps.

Miss G. Willans, of Hove, Mrs. B. Raahange, of Hull, and Mr. P. Wilmot Wilkinson, of Farringdon Street, E.C., have been elected members.

On 21st March, Mr. T. W. Hall shows his early Uruguay. If these match his other "South Americans," they are a sight for the gods.

Philatelic Society of India

President : C. Stewart-Wilson.
Secretary : C. S. F. Crofton.
Meetings : Calcutta.

THE annual general meeting of the Society was held at Mr. Larmour's residence, Calcutta, on Friday the 27th January, 1905, at 6 p.m. Mr. C. Stewart-Wilson presided, and there was a fairly good attendance of Calcutta members.

The provisional accounts for the year 1904 disclosed a satisfactory financial position, and the Hon. Treasurer was instructed to publish them in the *Journal* in due course. The rules were amended so as to provide for the admission of "life" members.

Since the last meeting the second edition (revised) of the Society's handbook on the surcharged stamps of Chamba, Faridkote, Gwalior, Jhind, Nabha, and Patiala, by Messrs. C. Stewart-Wilson and B. Gordon Jones, has been published and has met with a favourable reception, and the nucleus of a public collection of Indian stamps has been formed, the arrangements for continuing which were entrusted to Mr. Corfield. An advance copy of the Society's new handbook on the Fiscal and Telegraph issues of British India, by Messrs. C. S. F. Crofton, I.C.S., and W. Corfield, was laid on the table. The work is very fully illustrated, and is the first of its kind to deal with the non-postal emissions of India. It covers all the ground from 1860 to the end of 1904, and deals with the following classes of stamps of both this and the last reign: Receipts, Foreign Bills, Customs, Share-transfers, Special Adhesives (including Hundis and Advocate, Attorney, and Vakil issues), Petitions, High Court, Small Cause Court, Calcutta Small Cause Court, Court Fees, Notarial, Forests, Postal Notes, Postal Service, and Telegraphs. Full reference lists are appended. The Secretary was instructed to submit copies to London in time for the forthcoming exhibition of the Fiscal Philatelic Society in Exeter Hall. It was reported that the Society's handbook on the Postal and Telegraph issues of British India, by Messrs. L. L. R. Hausburg and C. Stewart-Wilson, is making good progress. It will be the most complete work on the subject yet attempted, and will be sumptuously illustrated and produced. Its appearance cannot, however, be looked for this year, as the detail work necessitated by its compilation is very considerable. Mr. B. Gordon Jones was elected an honorary member of the Society, and arrangements made to assist the Irish National Collection in Dublin with stamps still required for the completion of its Indian section. Mr. Hoffmann exhibited some choice collections of Ceylon, Cape of Good Hope, and other issues, and the hope was expressed that a display of stamps by Indian collectors might be arranged for during the coming visit of H.R.H. the Prince of Wales. The following honorary officers were appointed for 1905-1906:—President: Mr. C. Stewart-Wilson, I.C.S. Vice-Presidents: The Right Hon. the Earl of Crawford, K.T., Mr. W. Dorning Beckton, Mr. Wilmot Corfield, the Hon. Mr. C. F. Larmour, and the Hon. Sir David Masson, C.I.E. Secretary and Treasurer: Mr. C. S. F. Crofton, I.C.S. Librarian: Mr. Th. Hoffmann. Editor the *Philatelic Journal of India*: Mr. E. W. Wetherell. Council: The above (*ex-officio*) and Major W. Barratt, D.S.O., I.S.C., Mr. J. A. E. Burrup, Mr. J. T. Chamberlain, I.C.S., Lieut.-Colonel G. F. A. Harris, I.M.S., Lieut.-Colonel C. P. Lukis, I.M.S., and Lieutenant A. E. Stewart.

THE STAMP MARKET

By AN ODD LOT

A Gibbons Shop in the City of London

As a City Branch, Messrs. Stanley Gibbons, Ltd., have opened a fine shop at No. 97, Gracechurch Street, almost facing Cornhill and two doors from Leadenhall Street. The lease of these new premises is for twenty-one years, and the rent is £750 per annum.

At this branch they have practically three large windows, and have been able to make a splendid display of stamps, albums, etc.

The new premises comprise a fine shop, which has been handsomely fitted up by Messrs. Fred. Sage and Co., Ltd.—a private room for the manager, and a very large and light basement, in which they have had constructed a large fireproof strong-room twenty-two feet long, and fitted with sixteen steel lockers and three safes.

This shop was opened on February 21st last, and a good stock of stamps, etc., is already on sale, and other books are being prepared as quickly as possible.

The City Branch is under the management of Mr. C. Hamilton-Smith, who is prepared to purchase at liberal prices from any clients in the City who have for sale old collections, really fine specialised collections, single rarities, and especially current used stamps in bulk, for which Gibbons can pay higher prices than those hitherto obtainable in the City.

Gibbons Rule in Pricing Stamps

Messrs. Stanley Gibbons, Ltd., in the *Monthly Journal*, thus explain their plan of pricing their stock of stamps for sale and cataloguing purposes:—

"Our boast is that *every price in our Catalogue is based on stamps in stock at the time of going to press.*

"To do this we put on a staff of highly competent philatelists, and rearrange the stock-book of every country before we fix a new price for the ensuing year.

"Before we cancel an old stock-book we go carefully through it and note stamps that sell freely, or those that do not seem to go at all. If, for a couple of years, we find that a certain stamp has not sold, we know the price is too high and we reduce it, and the following year reduce it again if necessary.

"On the other hand, we constantly find that we have exhausted our stock of some stamps, and we then try —both direct and through various agents—to fill up our *lacunæ*; often we find it necessary to pay full up to our former selling price, and have to raise the price at which we sell such stamps.

"In our business it is necessary to keep up a large turnover, and to do that it is essential to try to quote prices at which stamps will sell freely, and that is the goal we aim at.

"Last year we found that our stocks of European stamps were 'hanging fire,' and that we made but few sales on a stock of over £20,000. That was too much capital to keep idle; we largely reduced our prices, and the result has exceeded our anticipations. We have had *grand* sales for European stamps during the past twelve months, and much of our stock is cleared out, and we have placed some very important buying orders on the Continent. In the last two months we have bought over £1,100 of French Colonial stamps, and have just placed orders for nearly £300 of the older German States."

ANSWERS TO CORRESPONDENTS

C. W. H. (Exeter).—Complaints about stamps given away, their condition, etc., must be addressed to the publishers. The Editor has nothing to do with anything outside of the actual contents of the journal. Stamp sales we have no present intention of including. *G.S.W.* is for the *young* collector, and the Auctions scarcely seem to us to need more than such notice as they will get in the "Stamp Market" page.

F. J. D. (Holywood).—The amalgamation negotiations have so engrossed our publishers' attention during the past few weeks that the gratis stamp was quite overlooked. The omission will be made good.

F. T. (Bury).—A printed album will not suit your purpose if you are going to start with 1889. Why not start with King Edward VII. stamps, and get our publishers' "King's Own Album," 7*s.* 6*d.*, 100 pages, size 7½ × 9½? Or, take one or two countries only? It is much better to concentrate time and money on one or two chosen countries, and do them well, than to have a ragged collection of odds and ends of a lot of countries.

K. H. B. (Cheshire).—Many thanks for your interest in *G.S.W.* and your very kind endeavours to make the journal widely known. If every reader would as actively push the circulation, we should go ahead in grand style. We value the recommendation by our readers above all other methods of increasing the circulation of *G.S.W.*

K. E. P. (Hastings).—Sardinia, Type 4, 5 c., green, perf. 12½, is a bogus perf.

V. P. (Luton).—No. The Cyprus 2½d., given away with No. 2 of *G.S.W.*, is not now available for postage, for the currency has been changed from pence to piastres.

J. G. B. (Manchester).—You ask how you are to distinguish the Colonial from the London print of the stamps of New Zealand, but you do not say whether you mean in the case of the first issue of 1855 or of the current type. If you mean the 1855 issue, the 1d. London print is a dull carmine and the Colonial print a red. The 2d., specialists now agree, can only be determined by dated postmark cancellations. The separation of London and Colonial prints of the current type, known as the Waterlow picture series, is a much more easy matter. The first supply was printed by Waterlow on unwatermarked paper, and perf. 12 to 14. The Colonial printing that followed, also on unwatermarked paper, was perf. 11. Some of the low values now current are perf. 14, but those are distinguished from the London prints by being watermarked.

We hope the badge question will result in the production of an acceptable device being put on the market.

C. F. H. (Buxton).—Young collectors are advised not to waste their money on North Borneo or Labuan modern issues, because it is generally recognised that they are mostly made for sale to collectors rather than to meet actual postal requirements. They cannot be described as "worthless," because they can be used for the prepayment of postage; but from an exclusively philatelic point of view they are regarded as the worst rubbish in the stamp market.

B. A. M. (Wellingborough).—The idea of using stamp mounts for advertising purposes is a very old one. Several firms have tried, but collectors resent being forced to stick advertisements into their books; they naturally prefer clean mounts, and many use the mount for noting the price paid for the stamp and when it was bought and of whom.

M. A. C. (Burnley).—It is no use sending a collection to a dealer and asking him to make an offer for it. Dealers now decline to make offers for collections, because they found their offers were used to extract higher offers from rival dealers. Hence, if you send your collection to a dealer, you must fix your lowest price; or you can send it to our publishers to sell by auction for you. As dealers can buy the common kinds of stamps at low prices per 1,000, it is no use asking them to buy them in a collection. Yes, we have since learned that most dealers do lightly affix common unused stamps to approval sheets by the gum, as it would not pay to hinge them. The sticking down is, however, so lightly done by good firms that the gum is scarcely injured.

OUR PHILATELIC DIARY

MARCH, 1905

13. Auction: Hadlow, Covent Garden Hotel, Southampton Street, W.C. 5 p.m.
14. Auction: Plumridge and Co., 64, Chancery Lane, W.C. 4.45 p.m.
15. Enterprise Philatelic Society, London: Ten Minutes' Papers, any subject. F. W. Lake, Display—Cape of Good Hope.
    Sheffield Philatelic Society: E. Heginbottom, Display—Jamaica, Tobago, and Trinidad.
    Auction: Plumridge, 64, Chancery Lane, London. 4.45 p.m.
16. Auction: Ventom, Bull, and Cooper, Loudoun Hotel, Surrey Street, Strand, London. 5 p.m.
17. Manchester Philatelic Society: J. H. Abbott, Paper—British Bechuanaland.
    Auction: Ventom, Bull, and Cooper, Loudoun Hotel, Surrey Street, Strand, London. 5 p.m.
18. Leeds Philatelic Society: C. L. Pickard, Display—British Official Stamps, with notes.
    Herts Philatelic Society, London: T. W. Hall, Display—Uruguay Early Issues, with notes.
    Auction: Puttick and Simpson, 47, Leicester Square, London. 4.30 p.m.
19. Auction: Puttick and Simpson, 47, Leicester Square, London. 4.30 p.m.
23. Auction: Glendining, 7, Argyll Street, London. 4.30 p.m.
24. Manchester Philatelic Society: Discussion—Denmark, opened by J. H. Stagg.
    Philatelic Society of London: B. D. Knox—Notes on the Stamps of Malta.
    Auction: Glendining, 7, Argyll Street, London. 4.30 p.m.
27. Auction: Hadlow, Covent Garden Hotel, Southampton Street, W.C. 5 p.m.
28. Auction: Plumridge, 64, Chancery Lane, London. 4.45 p.m.
29. Auction: Plumridge, 64, Chancery Lane, London. 4.45 p.m.
31. Manchester Philatelic Society: J. C. North, Display—Malta, with notes.

Editorial Address—EDWARD J. NANKIVELL, Carnanton, Camden Park, Tunbridge Wells.

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11 March, 1905.

Gibbons Stamp Weekly

EDITED BY EDWARD J. NANKIVELL

No. 11 | 18 MARCH, 1905 | Vol. I.

STAMPS OF GREAT BRITAIN

By the late GORDON SMITH, M.A.

With Continuation by EDWARD J. NANKIVELL

(*Continued from page* 150.)

(c) Series with Large Uncoloured Letters (*cont.*)

DEALING with the varieties in this group which the collector should notice, we have first the change in the watermark, which affects the 3d., 6d., 9d., and 1s., these values coming on both. In design there is a small variety of the 6d. As at first issued the value was printed SIX-PENCE, but later the hyphen was omitted, and it reads SIX PENCE. The insertion of the hyphen was incorrect, for it is not used on the coin; it is only when speaking of the coin itself as *one* piece that we write "six-pence," but as a rule nowadays the hyphen is dropped, to make *one* word instead of *two* words.

In 1872 a new design and a new colour were adopted for the 6d., and in this the little circles with the plate numbers are placed just over the lower corner letters. The colour varied from a deep to a pale chestnut-brown, and was finally a grey-black. For those who collect colour variations, the former 6d. and the 2s., blue, as well as the later 6d., show a considerable range.

There are a few rarities in this group similar to those we had in the previous set; they are the 9d., plate 5, with watermark Emblems; the 10d., plate 2, and the 2s., plate 3, both watermark Spray, all of which only existed in the "registration" sheets; and also the 10d. with watermark Emblems. This appears to have been a genuine error due to inadvertence, one or at most a very few sheets of the older Emblems paper having been mixed with the Spray paper. I believe that there are two specimens known of this stamp, so that to leave a space for it in one's album is practically superfluous.

The summary of this group is as follows:—

1865-69.

Large uncoloured letter in each corner.

Perf. 14.

(i) *Watermark Large Garter.*

4d., vermilion.

(ii) *Watermark Emblems.*

3d., rose.
6d., lilac.
9d., straw.
1s., green.

(iii) *Watermark Spray.*

3d., rose.
6d., lilac (SIX-PENCE).
6d., violet (SIX PENCE).
9d., straw.
10d., red-brown.
1s., green.
2s., blue.
2s., brown.

1872-73.

New design. Watermark Spray.

Perf. 14.

6d., chestnut-brown.
6d., grey-black.

[NOTE.—The late Mr. Gordon Smith had carried his excellent and lucid account of the earlier issues of the stamps of Great Britain up to this point when his sudden death deprived us of his invaluable help. We now propose to continue and complete his work, as best we may, up to the last of the Victorian issues. Then we have the

gracious permission of H.R.H. the Prince of Wales to complete our history of the "Stamps of Great Britain" with a reprint of the authoritative paper which he read before the Philatelic Society of London in the early part of last year, and which was published in the March, 1904, number of the *London Philatelist*.—ED. *G. S. W.*]

(d) The High Values of 1867-82

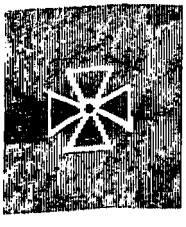
What may be termed the pioneers of a larger size for high-value postage stamps was introduced in 1867-82. There were in all four values, namely, 5s., 10s., £1, and £5. The 5s., 10s., and £1 were of the same size and shape, known as large rectangular. The £5 was a large oblong. In all the diademed head of Queen Victoria was repeated, all were provided with uncoloured *sans-serif* letters in all four corners, and the 5s., 10s., and £1 had their plate numbers on small, solid, coloured discs at the base of the designs. At the top was the word POSTAGE and at the foot the words of value. The 5s., 10s., and £1 were first issued with a watermark termed a Maltese Cross. Subsequently the watermark was changed to an Anchor.













The 5s. was issued on the 1st July, 1867; the 10s. and £1 on the 26th September, 1878; and the £5 on the 21st March, 1882. The change of watermark from Maltese Cross to Anchor took place in 1882. As the £5 was not issued until 1882, it was not included in the Maltese Cross paper. The perforation of the Maltese Cross series was 15, and of the Anchor series 14.

The 5s., 10s., and £1 were printed in sheets of eighty stamps arranged in four panes of twenty stamps each in four horizontal rows of five each, making a Post Office sheet of £5 in the case of the 5s., £10 in the case of the 10s., and £20 for the £1. The £5 was issued in sheets of fifty-six stamps arranged in two vertical panes of twenty-eight stamps in seven horizontal rows of four. A sheet of the £5 stamps therefore represented a face value of £280.

The 5s. was printed in rose, the 10s. in a peculiar grey-green, the £1 in what is termed a brown-lilac, and the £5 in orange.

These stamps are now of the greatest rarity unused, especially those watermarked with an Anchor. They are stamps which the young collector must look for at the great exhibitions, but scarcely ever hope to see unused in a collection. Even used copies, except of the 5s., fetch long prices in an acceptable condition. The terrible bootjack cancellation of our English stamps is a matter of continual regret to the young collector.

The summary of the group is as follows:

1867-82. *Uncoloured letters in corners. Watermark Maltese Cross. Perf.* 15.

5s., rose.
10s., grey-green.
£1, brown-lilac.

Watermark Anchor. Perf. 14.

5s., rose.
10s., grey-green.
£1, brown-lilac.
£5, orange.

(To be continued.)

PUBLIC SCHOOL COLLECTING

By Rev. T. C. WALTON, M.A.

(*Continued from page* 152.)

School Clubs

AT the outset, let it be clearly understood that my remarks on the subject of school clubs are mainly written with a view to encouraging the formation of clubs in those public schools which are for residence as well as instruction. Boys in such schools have special facilities for meeting one another out of school hours which are not usually accorded to boys who only attend school during the hours allotted to teaching or to outdoor games. It would, however, be quite within the region of possibility for day boys to form stamp clubs. Some slight modifications of the rules regarding finance and management might be necessary; but, given a number of day-boy collectors, keen on stamps and desiring to excel in their hobby, I am sure that the question of "ways and means" would not be found a very serious obstacle to the forming of a club.

Raison d'être

Boy life in a public school may be looked upon as a club life of the highest and noblest type. That, I believe, is the reason why it is held up as a model of what school life ought to be. From that it derives its great prestige as one of the most potent factors in the education of Englishmen. That is why the English public school is both the envy and the ideal of all nations.

Think of the matter from this point of view. There are what I may call the intellectual clubs. These consist of the various combinations into classes and forms for the purposes of instruction. They are compulsory. There are the clubs which are devoted to the encouragement of outdoor games and athletic exercises. These also are compulsory for all who are able to share in them. Then there are also the voluntary clubs, which combine instruction with social intercourse and amusement. The debating society, the photographic club, the natural history club, and the chess club are of the number of these. But the stamp club is not. And yet the reasons for the existence of such a club are, in all probability, far weightier than those which brought the other clubs into being. What is the latent force at work which carries on these clubs with renewed life and vigour from year to year? Is it not the force of emulation—the contest of wits—the spur which comparison gives? And this is the tonic of which the average philatelist stands in greatest need. It is as necessary to him as to any other hobby-rider. Yea, I would go further and say that it is more necessary. There is a saying, often quoted, "Once a collector, always a collector." Why is it that the saying runs counter to the experience of many schoolboys? Is it not because, for the want of the help which a club could give, they are often compelled "to paddle their own canoes"? The first enthusiasm wears off. There is no institution in the school to fan the dying embers into a flame. The collector either becomes one who "ploughs his lonely furrow," with little or no progress except that of mere accumulation; or, as is more often the case, he ceases to be an active collector and becomes one of the good old "has beens," which is but one step removed from the "never was's." And why is this? It is for the want of the friendly help and advice of fellow-collectors which would have been at his service had there been a stamp club in the school. The beginner wants advice, encouragement, and help. The average collector needs a wider horizon, increased knowledge, the latest ideas in the theory and practice of stamp collecting. Even the specialist, that *rara avis* among schoolboys, finds much to help and stimulate and encourage in the club meetings. And in addition to this mutual help which a stamp club gives, think of a few of the material advantages to be gained by thus co-operating in a common hobby. Books of reference, standard catalogues, and periodicals, which would in the total represent a considerable outlay on the part of an individual, are easily bought out of the small subscriptions of the large number of members of a club. For this advantage alone it would be worth while to form a club. But there are many other advan-

tages. There is the weekly or fortnightly meeting for the reading of papers. Albums can be brought to the room set apart at certain hours for the use of the club. Stamps can be mounted, duplicates exchanged, and approval sheets discussed. There are always degrees of knowledge. Each brings something fresh to the study of the hobby, and the old saying that "Unity is strength" is found as truly applicable to Philately as to any other of the manifold interests of man.

Objections to Stamp Clubs

The natural objection which may occur to the minds of many is that "Schoolboys have too many clubs already." True, they have clubs, and to spare, for the bright and sunny days. But what of the dark, cheerless days of rain and snow, when public-school boys have hours of idleness, and the class-room, the reading-room, or the common room are the only places of refuge? What of the winter evenings when "Prep." is over and the time hangs heavily until the chapel bell rings? Surely here is just where a stamp club is wanted. Boys cannot be always reading. Nor can they be always swinging "clubs" or circling the "rings." They want a means of pursuing their hobbies when stress of weather and the darkness of the season prevent outdoor games. If then stamp collecting is, as I firmly believe it is, dear to the heart of by far the great majority of public-school boys, the sooner stamp clubs are formed in our public schools, the less will be the time spent in loafing about class-rooms, and the benefit thus accruing to the school will far outweigh the trouble and expense involved. The matter of expense is another possible objection. With this we will deal under our next heading.

(To be continued.)

OWED TO COLUMBUS!

By W. E. IMESON

I

WHY didst thou find the New World, Chris'?
The Old World fain would ask thee;
For such a "find" philatelists
Might well, Chris', take to task thee!
In thy name States "commemorate,"
The same old tune they strum us—
(Your name's an awful name to rhyme)
"O Christopher Colum'us!"

II

They fain would keep thy mem'ry green
With "gumpaps" green or blue, sir,
Weird labels, for collectors made,
Of every size and hue, sir.
Lest we forget thy precious name
They choice "mementos" find us,
Thy patron saint—St. Seebeck's gay
"Remainders" e'er remind us.

III

We deemed that thy much-travelled bones
In Lisbon safe were resting,
But, lo! thy dust's locality
'Twould seem needs reattesting.
How many "sets" of bones, say Chris'!
Did you possess?—pray tell us!
Is San Domingo's genuine—
Or just some other "feller's"?

IV

We make no bones about the biz,
Or raise a point we might, Chris';
Most States have, in their Cabinets,
A skeleton (that's right, Chris'!).
We do not wish to "raise a ghost,"
But really, sir, we're "off it,"
When from thy bones a score of States
Would seek to raise a profit!

STAMP COLLECTING AS A PASTIME

By EDWARD J. NANKIVELL

(*Continued from page* 154.)

X. Philatelic Societies and their Work

MOST of the great cities of Europe, the British Colonies, and the United States have their Philatelic Societies. They are associations of stamp collectors for the study of postage stamps, their history, engraving, and printing; the detection and prevention of forgeries and frauds; the preparation and publication of papers and works bearing upon postal issues; the display and exhibition of stamps, and the exchange of duplicates.

The premier society is the Philatelic Society of London, which was founded so long ago as 1869, and has as its acting President H.R.H. the Prince of Wales. For over thirty years, without a break, this Society has held regular meetings during the winter months. Its membership comprises most of the leading collectors in Great Britain and her Colonies and many of the best-known foreign collectors. On the membership roll are three princes, several earls, baronets, judges, barristers, medical men, officers in the Army and Navy, and many well-known merchants. This Society has published costly works on the stamps of Great Britain, of the Australian Colonies, of the British Colonies of North America, of the West Indies, of India and Ceylon, and of Africa. It publishes an excellently-got-up monthly journal of its own, which now claims shelf-room in the philatelic library for thirteen stately annual volumes. It has held two very successful International Philatelic Exhibitions, one opened by the late Duke of Edinburgh and the other by the Prince of Wales, then Duke of York. At its fortnightly meetings, papers are read and discussed on various matters relating to the hobby. Other meetings are held for the friendly exchange of duplicates.

In the provinces the principal societies are those of Manchester and Birmingham. The Birmingham Society possesses a collection of its own, which it keeps up to date, as a work of reference for its members. Several of the societies hold periodical exhibitions, in which members compete for medals, and in many other ways they lay themselves out to encourage and promote the collection of postage stamps as a popular pastime.

The names of the various societies and the addresses of the secretaries are published at the commencement of each winter season in Stanley Gibbons *Monthly Journal*.

Apart from their pleasant sociability, these societies are of immense help to the collector, especially to the beginner. At each meeting papers are read and discussed, in which the most experienced collectors retail, for the benefit of the less experienced, the result of their latest researches, and eminent specialists display their splendid and carefully arranged collections for the inspection, edification, and enjoyment of their fellow-members. This continual meeting and comparing of notes, this concentration of study upon the issues of a particular country, gradually ripens even the veriest tyro into an advanced and experienced collector.

Under such conditions difficulties are cleared up, and the way made plain for wise and safe collecting. In too many lines of collecting the specialist carefully guards his knowledge for his own ultimate personal profit. The philatelist, on the other hand, is more frequently than not generously and candidly helpful to his less advanced fellow-collector, especially if he happens to be a fellow-member of the same philatelic society.

XI. The Literature of Stamps

Few hobbies, if any, can boast of such a varied and extensive literature as stamp collecting. Expensive works have been published on the postal issues of most countries. They have been published in English, French, German, Italian, Spanish, Dutch, Danish, and Swedish. Those published in English alone would make a library of some hundreds of volumes.

From its foundation, in 1869, the Philatelic Society of London has set itself the task of studying and writing up the postal history of Great Britain and her Colonies. Towards the accomplishment of this great task, it has already presented its members with splendid monographs on the Australian Colonies, the Colonies of North America, of the West Indies, of India and Ceylon, two volumes on the British Colonies of Africa, a separate monograph on Tasmania, and last, and most ambitious of all, a massive and comprehensive history of the postal issues of Great Britain. All these works are expensively illustrated with a profusion of full-page plates and other illustrations, and they represent years of patient toil, far-reaching investigation, and untiring research. The *History of the Adhesive Postage Stamps of Europe* has been written in two volumes by Mr. W. A. S. Westoby, and the same author, in collaboration with Judge Philbrick, some twenty years ago published a work on *The Postal and Telegraph Stamps of Great Britain*. Messrs. W. J. Hardy and E. D. Bacon, in a work entitled *The Stamp Collector*, have sketched the general history of postage stamps.

Other works too numerous to mention here have been written from time to time for the edification of the stamp collector, and the list is continually being increased by the addition of even more important works.

One of the most interesting and comprehensive series of philatelic works, still in course of publication, was commenced by Messrs. Stanley Gibbons, Ltd., in 1893, in the form of philatelic handbooks. These handbooks are written by leading philatelic authorities. Each important country, *i.e.* important from the stamp collector's point of view, has a separate volume devoted to it, and into each handy volume is condensed as much as may be necessary to guide the advanced collector in specialising the postal issues of the country which he favours. There have already been published: *Portuguese India*, by Mr. Gilbert Harrison and Lieut. F. H. Napier, R.N.; *South Australia*, by Lieut. F. H. Napier and Mr. Gordon Smith; *St. Vincent*, by Lieut. F. H. Napier and Mr. E. D. Bacon; *Shanghai*, by Mr. W. B. Thornhill; *Barbados*, by Mr. E. D. Bacon and Lieut. F. H. Napier; *Reprints and their Characteristics*, by Mr. E. D. Bacon; and *Grenada*, by Mr. E. D. Bacon and Lieut. F. H. Napier.

For the instruction of the beginner, Major Evans, R.A., has compiled an excellent glossary of philatelic terms, under the title of *Stamps and Stamp Collecting*; and there is, further, *A Colour Dictionary*, by Mr. B. W. Warhurst, designed to simplify the recognition and determination of the colours and shades of stamps—a by no means unimportant matter when the value of a stamp depends upon its shade.

But the most popular of all the philatelic publications are, of course, the monthly periodicals. The first stamp journal is said to have been *The Monthly Intelligence*, published at Manchester in 1862. It had but a short life of ten numbers out of the twelve required to complete Vol. I. But other journals followed in rapid succession, with more or less success, from year to year, till in 1893 a list of the various ventures in this line totalled up to nearly a couple of hundred. *The Stamp Collector's Magazine*, started in 1863, may be said to survive in Alfred Smith and Son's *Monthly Circular; The Philatelic Record*, established in 1879, is now in its twenty-fourth yearly volume; Gibbons *Monthly Journal* is in its twelfth yearly volume; and *The London Philatelist* is in its eleventh yearly volume; and all may be said to be going strong. How many ordinary periodicals can boast of equally robust lives? And yet some people are still to be found who speak in all seriousness of stamp collecting as only a passing craze.

(To be continued.)

PORTRAITS ON STAMPS

By MARK W. HALL

Bolivia



Bolivar y Ponte.

Bolivar y Ponte, Simon, the Liberator of South America. Born at Caracas in July, 1783; inherited a large estate from his father; received a thorough education at Madrid, and returned to South America in 1809. Two years later he joined the insurgents in their efforts to free the country from Spanish rule. After serving as a colonel under Miranda, he obtained the command of an army in 1813, defeated the Royalists, and declared himself Dictator. He was driven out of Venezuela in 1814 and escaped to Jamaica, but returned in 1816, assembled another army, and gained a victory over Morillo, the Spanish leader, in February, 1817. He afterwards resigned his title as Dictator for that of President, and in 1819 gained a decisive victory over the Royalists at Bojaca, defeated them in other engagements, and liberated New Granada. In December of the same year that country and Venezuela were united to form the republic of Colombia, of which Bolivar was chosen the first President. He won another decisive victory over the Spaniards at Carobobo in June, 1821, and the next year drove them out of Peru, of which country, in 1823, he was appointed Dictator. The war was closed by the important victory gained over the Royalists at Ayacucho in December, 1824, and Bolivar resigned the office of Dictator of Peru immediately after. In 1825 Upper Peru was formed into the State of Bolivia, of which he was chosen perpetual Protector. A rebellion against his authority was raised by Paez, but it was suppressed in 1826. During that year Bolivar was declared perpetual President of Peru. Died at San Pedro in December, 1830.

His portrait appears on the 1 boliviano, Prussian blue, of 1897.



Linares.

Linares, José Maria, Bolivian statesman. Born in Potosi, 10th July, 1810. He studied in La Paz, was graduated as doctor in jurisprudence in 1835, and in early life began to take part in politics, being called to several important public places, including membership in the commission to form a code of laws for Bolivia. At the downfall of the administration of General Santa Cruz he was called by General Velasco to take charge of the portfolio of the interior in 1839, and afterwards was sent as minister to Spain, where he negotiated the treaty for the recognition of the independence of Bolivia. In 1848, as President of the Senate, he was called during the absence of Velasco to take charge provisionally of the Executive, and he was soon the acknowledged leader of the "Rejenerador" party. He was several times presented as a candidate for the Presidency, and finally, in 1857, was elected by a large majority. His administration was one of the most energetic and honest that the country had seen. He introduced many reforms, and vigorously attacked the abuses that had crept into the public administration; but of course he made his enemies, and in 1861 he was overthrown by a revolution that was favoured by his own Cabinet, and banished to Chili, where he died at Valparaiso in 1861.

His portrait appears on the 2 centavos, red, of 1897.

NEW ISSUES

The Editor will be grateful to his readers if they will help him with the earliest possible information concerning new issues. News from the Colonies in particular will be much appreciated. When possible, a specimen should accompany the information, and should be addressed to

EDWARD J. NANKIVELL, Carnanton, Camden Park, Tunbridge Wells.

Ceylon.—The 25 c. and 1 r. 50 c. values have to be added to the multiple CA series, making the list to date as follows:—

Wmk. Multiple CA. Perf.

2 cents, orange-brown.
3 ,, green.
4 ,, orange; value carmine.
5 ,, purple.
6 ,, carmine.
12 ,, sage-green; value rosine.
15 ,, ultramarine.
25 ,, light brown.
1 r. 50 c., grey.

Cyprus.—The 4 piastres has been received with the multiple CA watermark. This leaves only the 12 piastres to be issued to complete the King's Head series on multiple paper.



Wmk. Multiple CA. Perf.

½ piastre, green; name and value in carmine.
30 paras, mauve ,, ,, green.
1 piastre, carmine ,, ,, ultramarine.
2 piastres, ultramarine ,, ,, marone.
4 ,, sage-green ,, ,, mauve.
6 ,, slate ,, ,, green.
9 ,, brown ,, ,, carmine.
18 ,, black ,, ,, brown.
45 ,, purple ,, ,, ultramarine.

Gibraltar.—The 2d. stamp has been received with the new watermark, multiple CA, and we are reminded by a reader that in our last chronicle, on p. 125, we omitted the 1d. The multiple issues now stand as follows:—

Wmk. Multiple CA. Perf.

	s.	d.
½d., green	0	1
1d., purple on red paper	0	2
2d., green and carmine	0	3
2s., green and blue	2	8

India.—The January number of the *Philatelic Journal of India* says: "One hundred thousand sheets, or 24,000,000 stamps, of the King's Head ½ anna, of India, are now about to be surcharged for use as 3 pies stamps. The demand for this value is increasing enormously, and this step has become urgently necessary, in spite of the fact that a fresh supply of the permanent issue has been telegraphed for. The surcharge will probably be a big '½' as before, and the number issued will be so large that there will be no fear of a 'corner.'"

Lagos.—The *Monthly Journal* has received the 2d. value on multiple CA paper.

Wmk. Multiple CA. Perf.

½d., green.
1d., purple on red paper.
2d. ,, and blue.
6d. ,, ,, mauve.
1s., green and black.
2s. 6d., green and carmine.
5s., green and blue.
10s. ,, brown.

New Zealand.—We have received the 5d. of the Waterlow series printed in a pale shade of sepia instead of the usual red-brown. This new colour looks very much like a local printing in the scarce sepia of the London prints of the same stamp. Whether this is a freak like the London sepia or a permanent change we cannot say.



Wmk. NZ and Star. Perf.

5d., sepia.

Philippines.—The *Metropolitan Philatelist* says: "The engravers of the Bureau of Engraving and Printing are at work on the designs for the denominations of the Philippine stamps thus far approved. On account of the great rush of orders for bank bills, however, the work on the stamps will proceed very slowly; in fact, the engravers will work upon the designs only at such times as they can conveniently without prejudice to the more important work of the Bureau.

"It is stated at the Bureau that no stamps have been overprinted for the Philippines for several months. It is quite probable, however, that other supplies of the surcharged variety will necessarily be sent, as many months must elapse before the new designs are ready for use."

St. Lucia.—*Even's Weekly* reports the 3d., 6d., and 5s. on multiple CA paper.



Multiple CA. Perf.

½d., purple and green.
1d. ,, carmine.
2½d. ,, ,,
3d. ,, yellow.
6d., lilac and violet.
1s., green and black.
5s., ,, carmine.

MISCELLANEOUS

The Little Stamp Collector

THREE months ago, he did not know
His lessons in Geography;
Though he could spell, and read quite well,
And cipher too, he could not tell
The least thing in Topography.

But what a change! How passing strange!
This stamp collecting passion
Has roused his zeal, for woe or weal,
And lists of names he now can reel,
All in amazing fashion.

I hear him speak of Mozambique,
Heligoland, Bavaria,
Cashmere, Japan, Thibet, Soudan,
Sumatra, Spain, Waldeck, Kokan,
Ceylon, Siam, Bulgaria,

Schleswig-Holstein (Oh, boy of mine,
Genius without a teacher!),
Wales, Panama, Scinde, Bolivar,
Jellalabad and Kandahar,
Cabul, Deccan, Helvetia.

And now he longs for more Hong Kongs,
A Fiji, a Mauritius,
Greece, Borneo, Fernando Po,
And where he'll stop no one can know,
He's grown so avaricious.

The Leisure Hour, 1891.

Brazil: Changes in Current Design

WHEN the 100 and 200 reis of the current design were issued, in 1894, they were printed in two colours, the head (and the value for the 200 r.) in *black*, and the rest of the design in colour. This second portion of the design was common to all the values, and it included a fine inner line, surrounding the central oval space, and incurved at the bottom over the disc containing the numerals. The head was on a background of horizontal lines, with no frame line, and was intended to fit inside the coloured line mentioned above, but as a rule the two parts were not exactly in register. When it was decided to issue these stamps in one colour only, they appear to have been printed at first from the old plates, so that we have again the inner oval line, and the head with its background more or less out of place, but all in one colour for each value. Very shortly afterwards fresh plates were made, with the two parts of the design fitted together; in the case of the 100 r. the inner oval line was removed (except the incurved portion, which formed part of the circle below), and the head was left upon a ground of lines, cut rather shorter than before, without any frame of colour, and showing a comparatively wide space of white at each side. In the case of the 200 r. the inner frame line was left, and the portion to be inserted in the centre was considerably reduced both in height and width, so as to leave a white oval frame line inside the coloured line; the neck of the bust is very distinctly shortened, and there are only ten lines of shading above the head, instead of eleven; there are conspicuous breaks in the coloured line, at upper left and at top. This type is found both with narrow and with the wide spacing noted last month.

More recently another plate of the 200 r. has been made, in which the central part fills the inner oval, leaving no white space inside the coloured line; the neck is restored to its original length, but there are still only ten lines of shading above the head. This new plate seems to have been prepared with extra care; clear impressions show all the minor details of the design, the little circles ornamenting the numerals, white vertical lines crossing the coloured lines in the lower spandrels, etc. But these perfections will doubtless disappear as time goes on, and it may then only be possible to distinguish copies of the third variety from well-registered impressions of the first, by the fact that the first are always close together on the sheet, while the third are always spaced.

The Monthly Journal.

The Dagger on Alwar Stamps

THE curious dagger, known as a *katar*, which is so prominent on the stamps of Alwar, owes its presence there to the following legend connected with the reigning family of that State. Mairaj, the father of Naru, who founded the Narukha clan who rule Alwar, was once at war with Kalodar Jhala of Jhalrapatan. After much fighting, an interview was arranged between the two monarchs. When they were squatting on the ground facing one another, four of Jhala's men pinioned Mairaj's arms behind him with intent to murder him. Mad at the treachery, but unable to use his hands, Mairaj gripped Jhala's *katar* with his toes, pulled it out of his waist-band and ended the traitor's career by stabbing him in the stomach. The legend is quite likely true, as the Indian has marvellously prehensile toes, and the broad handle grip of the *katar* would lend itself to use of this kind. Anyhow, that is why we find the *katar* on the stamps of Alwar.



Philatelic Journal of India.

Penny Postage in France

AT yesterday's sitting of the Budget Committee, an important decision was taken reducing from three to two sous the postage on inland letters. M. Rouvier, in spite of his opposition to the measure a few weeks ago, has promised to take up this important reform himself immediately after the vote of the estimates. If this measure becomes law it will be partially due to the vigorous campaign in favour of the reform promoted by the *Matin*. This journal recently organised a petition to the Chamber of Deputies, and for several days the President of the Chamber was bombarded with post cards, which finally numbered more than 150,000. Every country in Europe, except Russia, Italy, Greece, and Turkey, has penny postage. It seems likely that before the end of the year France will join the majority and reap the corresponding benefits.—Paris Correspondent of *The Times*.

New Crown Colonies

THE following announcement was issued from the Foreign Office on the 1st March, 1905:—

"Candidates for employment in the British Protectorates of East Africa, Uganda, and Somaliland are requested to address their applications to the Secretary of State for the Colonies, who will assume the control of those Protectorates on April 1."

The area thus relinquished by the Foreign Office in favour of the Colonial Office is a large one, as will be seen by the following table:—

	Square miles.
East Africa Protectorate . .	200,000
Uganda	86,000
Somaliland	60,000
Total .	346,000

The population of these territories aggregates nearly ten millions.

GOSSIP OF THE HOUR

By CORNELIUS WRINKLE

Badges: More Suggestions

HERE is a letter I have received from Mr. H. A. Bowman, of Leeds, a member of the International Philatelic Union:—

"I have noticed with interest the 'Question of Badges' in your valuable weekly, and I feel sure that, given the opportunity, the majority of earnest philatelists would welcome some emblem to distinguish them as such. Many good suggestions might easily be obtained if it were put to the test.

"A tie-pin, in fact, would be a prominent indicator. Why not take a facsimile of the watermark Crown CA? There are many likely to suit. The Star which was used so much in our Colonies when stamps were first issued there, and add, if the wearer is a member of any Philatelic Society, the initial of the same. These could be made neatly by any jeweller, and would be a very profitable thing, I should imagine."

"A Solitary Hampstead Collector" writes:—

"A great deal has been said and written lately with the object of encouraging the young collector and of bringing up recruits to Philately, and such means as your magazine, exhibitions, etc., are no doubt more or less effective, but I consider by far the most promising results could be obtained by *making collectors known to each other*. To this end I have noted two very good suggestions in your interesting pages, which I trust will not be allowed to drop. Readers will know at once what I refer to when I mention 'BADGES' and 'EVERCIRCULATORS.' Now, dear sir, if you and the stamp dealers are really and seriously endeavouring to increase the number of collectors, and thereby your customers, do not rest contented with having made the above suggestions. Adopt them forthwith. By which I mean, produce a neat and suitable badge which could be at once recognisable, say a small rectangle with Crown CC, to be worn on the watch-chain. Produce it for sale at cost, if necessary. I'll warrant it will sell quick enough if it is well pushed."

Philatelic Evercirculators

MY solitary friend of the Hampstead persuasion further writes:—

"As for the Evercirculators, thrash out the *modus operandi* for forming them, such as how to get members and how to select them.

"I am sure you must be aware of the immensely increased interest and enthusiasm aroused by collectors meeting others, whether in Philatelic Societies, Exchange Clubs, or elsewhere. But probably the united membership of those thus fortunate in having been drawn together in a common interest is not one-tenth of the total number of earnest collectors. Take myself, for instance. I have been a collector for over twenty years, and have lived all the time in Hampstead, and yet do not possess a single friend similarly interested. There are probably hundreds of collectors, but I have never known them as such. No, I and my hobby are quite alone simply for want of means whereby I could get to know other collectors. How am I to form an Evercirculator? or to join one? Do you recommend me to advertise? This has many objections. If a badge were generally worn I should by this time have made many friendships in my district, for although of a rather reserved disposition, the knowledge that this or that stranger I met daily in the train was a fellow-collector would loosen my tongue quick and pretty lively. I should therefore have now been in a position to form such an Evercirculator."

How to start an Evercirculator

YES, if you don't know any collectors personally you are bound to advertise for members. But if you get to know one other collector you can between you get to know others, and so start your Evercirculator. My solitary friend at Hampstead should join one of the Philatelic Societies; the Herts would be glad to welcome him. As a stamp collector it is not well to live a solitary life, not even away up in 'Appy 'Ampstead.

Wanted, Auction Cataloguers

I HAVE received the following announcement: "Stamp Auctioneers want a thoroughly capable man to undertake the arranging and cataloguing of their stamp sales. Apply, Glendining and Co., 7, Argyll Street, London, W." I should like that job very much if I might be allowed to annex by way of perquisite say half a dozen stamps from each sale. I think I could undertake the work free gratis then. However, I mention the matter as there may be some young collector friend of mine amongst my readers who may feel inclined to go in for the opening. A good all-round knowledge of stamps is of course indispensable.

On Cataloguing for Auctioneers

A CATALOGUER for stamp auctions has a very responsible post, for he may make or mar the sale of a rare stamp by his knowledge, or his lack of knowledge, or his carelessness. It has often been a source of wonder to me that our London catalogues are so well done as they are, for it is no small matter to arrange and lot up stamps of all the countries of the world. Of course the bulk come already arranged in their albums, but thousands of loose stamps pass through the hands of each of the leading firms every season, and it would be a wonderful thing if now and again a rare variety did not get overlooked and tumbled unnoticed into a mixed lot. Then is the day of rejoicing for the bargain hunter.

I remember one day I found in an auction a very rare variety listed as a normal stamp. I am only an ordinary sinner, so I kept mum about that discovery, and instructed a friendly dealer to bid for me, so as not to create suspicion. I told him to go to £12 for it, but added that I expected it would not fetch more than £5. But it started at £10 and ran in no time to over £30. Others had spotted that nice little bargain.

Going Nap on Panama

SOME months ago, when the new watermark, multiple CA, was introduced, the *American Journal of Philately* howled most piteously over the number of varieties it would add to the already overburdened British Colonies.

And now, forsooth, by way of a soporific, that *A. J. P.* has gone nap on Panama.

Panama is a Central American Republic that has undertaken to knock spots out of every other country on this earth in the variety line, and the *A. J. P.* has fallen head over heels in love with this variety mongering State. It started listing up its varieties in November of last year, and it is still on the job. It has so far devoted no less than forty-six pages to the enumeration of Panama varieties, and they are still "to be continued."

After this collectors of the multiple CAs will devoutly confess that it is better to

". . . bear those ills we have
Than fly to others that we know not of."

THE STAMP KING

By G. DE BEAUREGARD AND H. DE GORSSE

Translated from the French by EDITH C. PHILLIPS



"HOW CAME YOU HERE?" REPEATED THE YOUNG LADY

CHAPTER IV

Wherein William explains how being late caused him to arrive the earlier

THE incomprehensible and unprecedented delay of the *Touraine* had made a great stir all over the world, and given rise to a thousand suppositions, each more pessimistic than the last, up to the very moment when the steamer was signalled at Ouessant.

At first a collision was spoken of; then the idea grew that she had struck upon a rock, and that passengers and cargo were lost in the mysterious depths of the ocean; later (and, as we know, this is what very nearly happened), that she had met with one of those gigantic icebergs which, at the approach of spring, detach themselves from the great polar beds and descend towards the south with an awful speed which nothing can resist.

So it is needless to say with what joy the crowd had hurried towards the jetty and landing-stage, to greet the *Touraine* with frantic cheers, as soon as it was noised abroad that the boat was in sight, and only awaiting high tide to enter the dock.

The curious spectators were massed on the jetty; the relations and friends of the passengers on the landing-place. Of these latter particularly there was a very large gathering.

Scarcely did a passenger set foot on shore before he was surrounded by a group of people, who pressed round him, embraced him, and with all sorts of incoherent and foolish exclamations testified their delight at seeing once more the beloved one whom they had feared was lost to them for ever.

But Miss Betty never expected anyone to meet her, so it took her some time to recover from the stupefaction into which she was thrown on beholding William Keniss. Victoria was no less surprised than her mistress, and remained rooted to the spot staring at John, hardly able to believe it could really be he.

"You here!" cried Betty to William at last, the first moment of stupor over.

"Does it seem so very marvellous?" said he.

"Well," she said, "one hardly expects the instant one lands in France to meet a person whom one supposed to be still in America. How can it have happened?"

"Can you not guess?"

The girl reflected for a few moments.

"I am so astonished," she began again. "I have hardly realised yet that the *Touraine*, being eight days late, must have been passed on the way by the next steamer that left New York. The captain told us we should find the *Gascogne* at Havre, though we ought to have arrived long before her. No doubt you came by that?"

"No, Miss Scott! No. I didn't come by the *Gascogne*."

"Anyhow," said the girl, laughing, "you didn't swim all the way from America?"

"Out of the question."

"Then—— I fail to comprehend."

William laughed at her expression of comic ignorance.

John affected an air of importance with Victoria, who was no less surprised and much more delighted at meeting her old friend again.

It was arranged they should breakfast at the Hotel Frascati while waiting the departure of the Paris ex-

press; and while Victoria remained with John to look after her mistress's luggage, William and Betty walked towards the hotel where the Stamp King had been staying since his arrival at Havre.

The girl demanded to be immediately enlightened on the subject of her companion's voyage, but he begged she would recount her adventures first, which she did with the best grace, without forgetting any of the terrors she had gone through, and at the end expressing once more her regret that the bustle of leaving the boat had given her no chance of seeing the gallant Sir Oscar again, to thank him for all his kind attentions.

It was a beautiful sunny morning in May, and the air was charged with a thousand scents of spring. Miss Betty had turned her veil up on to her hat, and for the first time perhaps, for he had no such clear impression of it before, William perceived how very pretty she was, with her clear blue eyes, in which a little part of the heavens seemed to lurk, and her hair so light and fine that the straying locks on her forehead and neck waved in the slight caressing breeze.

"I have been the one to talk ever since we met," she said.

"You do not expect me to complain of that?"

"I have given you my history. Now it is your turn."

"Oh, I cannot conceal from you, Miss Betty, that my journey was much less interesting than the one you have just told me about. The boat I came by had no adventures. We didn't meet with any icebergs——"

"Never mind. Tell me about your crossing all the same."

"Willingly. It will not take me long."

And still walking by her side William Keniss, not without appearing a little embarrassed now and again, spoke as follows:—

"On the night of the 27th of April, when I left the Philatelic Club, where we had passed such a charming evening, in the course of which you had been nominated a member of our Society, I returned home, and there I learnt that it was absolutely necessary that I should set out for Paris immediately, being called by important business——"

"Business?"

"Business, which the least delay might compromise. In a few minutes I was dressed—for I had gone to bed—had jumped, accompanied by John, into the first carriage that passed, and was on the quay. Unfortunately I only arrived in time to witness the departure of the *Touraine*, by which I had hoped to sail, and to see her being slowly swallowed up in the morning mist. I was, as you may imagine, intensely annoyed, and I was just going back to Hudson Street when by an unexpected chance I learnt from a sailor at the port that the *Campania* would weigh anchor three hours later for Liverpool.

"In spite of its being out of my way to come through England I found that I should save time, as the next direct liner, which was, I believe, the *Gascogne*, would not leave for Havre for another week. So I resolved to come by the *Campania*, and having booked my cabin and John's I patiently awaited her departure in a bar close by.

"There I was, then, on board the *Campania*. But after the exciting account you have given me of your passage I need not bother you with mine, in which there was not one notable incident. We only had, like you, a very violent tempest——"

"The same one, of course."

"And, like you on the *Touraine*, we on the *Campania* also believed that our last hour had come; but you see it hadn't. We even arrived at Liverpool very little behind time.

"What is there more to tell you? From Liverpool the train took me to London in a few hours, and after spending an evening there, and a night—to—to rest——"

"To rest?"

"The next day I came by another train to Dover, whence I crossed straight to Calais by one of the steamers of the South Eastern Railway. Everything up to this time had passed satisfactorily."

"And now, I suppose, I am going to hear something terrible."

"Nay, though it was terrible for me at the time; for I was no sooner in the express on my way to Paris than I read in the *Temps* an article on the delay of the *Touraine*. You can judge of my uneasiness, knowing you were on board——"

"Stop!" cried Miss Betty, distrustful in a moment. "How could you know that?"

"From your coachman; yes, your coachman whom I met at the landing-stage," replied William with embarrassment, "he was returning from taking you to the *Touraine*."

"I am charmed," returned Betty, rendered sceptical by his evident confusion, "that this providential meeting should have made you conversant with my acts and doings. Well, you had just learned that the *Touraine* had not arrived in France. After that?"

"No other considerations could be taken into account from that moment. Knowing you to be in danger it was impossible to give any attention to the business which had called me to Europe, so instead of continuing my journey to Paris I resolved to go immediately to Havre, to be on the spot to hear the very first tidings."

"Really, how very good of you!"

"You see it is the very fact of my having left New York after you that caused you to find me here when you landed just now. I awaited your arrival hour after hour for three days with the greatest anxiety."

"Thank you!" said Betty, offering him her hand; "thank you very much for your kind interest."

"Oh, don't thank me!" said he. "It is perfectly natural that I should take an interest in you."

The conversation had hardly reached this point when William and Betty arrived at Frascati's. The clock struck eleven as they entered the hotel vestibule. John and Victoria had arrived several minutes before. Seated on a terrace overlooking the sea they were carrying on an animated conversation, and to judge by the irritated face of the one and the discomfited air of the other, one would have said their marriage, from which, as we know, John hung back a little, was under discussion. But it was not that at all. Not that Victoria had lost sight of that matter, but that at the present moment she had other fish—or, rather, *an* other fish—to fry, and that fish was the unlucky John.

"Yes," cried she, "I will never forgive you for having been and told your master we were going to Paris, the very morning I came to let you know of Miss Betty's sudden determination——"

"But, Victoria——"

"There's no but about it! Miss Betty will be furious with me when she knows it's my fault that Mr. Keniss is in France to try and prevent her getting that stamp she wants so badly."

"Will she really?"

"Will she? Of course she will! Furious, I tell you, furious! And not without reason. Oh, won't I hold my tongue another time!"

"At any rate it wasn't I who made you speak."

"That's the finishing touch! You'll see, Master John, if I won't——"

And Victoria, in spite of her habitually phlegmatic disposition, was about to hurl some terrible menace at John, when the voices of William and Betty were heard as they entered the hotel.

The latter asked the manager for a room, and begged her companion to excuse her for a few minutes while she went to arrange her toilet.

"I will wait for you in the restaurant," he replied, "and make the best use of the time by arranging the menu for our breakfast."

(To be continued.)

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENCE

Our Victorian Letter

MELBOURNE, *25th January*, 1905.

IN making my bow to the readers of *Gibbons Stamp Weekly*, I must ask their indulgence if my letters do not appear regularly. There is so little happening in Philately in the Antipodes, that my letters must necessarily be spasmodic.

A Lucky Find of Australians

I had the pleasure, a few days ago, of looking through a "find" of early Australian stamps that have lain forgotten in an old iron box since about the year 1857, one of those good old-fashioned boxes, bound round with thick, heavy iron bands, such as our forefathers used to bring with them from the old country when they first landed per sailing ship in the Colonies in the early fifties. The lot of stamps comprised mostly Sydney Views and Laureated New South Wales, and a quantity of early issues of Australia. Of Sydney Views there were over 200 copies, including two unused copies of the 2d. value, one with vertical lines and the other the first plate of the horizontal lines; some very fine pairs of 1d. Views, Plate II., including pairs showing no clouds, hill unshaded, and no trees on hill; and a lovely single copy of the 2d. value with the word "Crevit" omitted. Strange to say, there was only one copy of the 3d. View in the lot, and that was damaged. Victoria was represented with thirteen copies of the 2d., first issue, with fine background and fine border, early prints of the 1d. and 3d. half-length, and 2d., engraved Queen on Throne. Most of the Laureated New South Wales were 1d. and 2d. values, and three very fine copies of the 6d. value. The 1d. values were a very fine lot, mostly in pairs, and showing variety of colour. The lot of stamps had lain forgotten for many years, and it was only when the subject of old stamps was mentioned that the box was looked up and the stamps handed over to the present owner. Some people are lucky.

A Stamp Auction in Melbourne

An auction sale of stamps was held in Melbourne a few weeks back. The stamps offered were mostly early issues of Great Britain and the Australian Colonies, anything very scarce, such as a "Post Office" Mauritius, being conspicuous by its absence. Very few of the lots were sold, there being a rather poor attendance of buyers. The only special lots I noticed were a block of twelve unused 1d., Small Crown, Great Britain, perf. 16, which realised £2 the block, and two copies of the first issue of the half-length series of Victoria on original cover, dated January 10th, 1850, the two stamps being the 1d., orange-vermilion, without frame, and the 3d. without frame and the band across orb not projecting; both were fine early impressions, lightly postmarked. This lot was passed in at £3, as it did not reach the reserve price that was put upon it.

A Good Story

A good story is told of a leading Australian collector, who in appearance somewhat resembles a country clergyman. As he was walking down the street a few weeks ago he was accosted by a man, who asked him for his address. "What do you want my address for?" the collector inquired. "Well, it is this way," said the man, pointing to a youth and a girl who were a few feet away. "This young couple wish to get married, and are looking for a clergyman, and as I saw you, I thought I would ask you if you would perform the ceremony."

The Tasmanian Provisional

A new issue has appeared in Tasmania, namely, the 5d. stamp, Queen's Head type, has been surcharged "1½d.", in black. It is difficult to understand the necessity of issuing a 1½d. stamp in Tasmania, especially as the "Little Island" has done without one for so many years. Why also the haste, that recourse has to be made to surcharging? Perhaps it is because the bookkeeping period has only a few months to run, when the Federal set will be issued, and there is no time to engrave a fresh stamp.

All Chewed up by an Imp

A well-known military gentleman, Major X——, who is an enthusiastic stamp collector, had a bit of hard luck a few weeks back. He was very friendly with an old lady whose husband (recently deceased) was a very old Colonist, having landed in Sydney in the year 1847, and the Major constantly inquired, every time he visited the house, for old stamps, knowing there must be a lot on her late husband's old correspondence. The old lady was always promising to look them up for him, but could not find time to do so; each time he called she regretted she had not done so owing to some cause or another. But on calling one day the Major got quite a shock, for when he inquired again if she had looked up the stamps, she replied, Yes, she had, and had found quite a lot of them for him—quite a number with little round pictures with figures and houses on them, and others with the Queen's Head. (This made the Major's heart beat rapidly.) And she had carefully placed them in a vase on the mantelpiece for him, until he should next call. But, unfortunately, her little boy Percy had found the stamps during her absence from home one morning, and had put them in his mouth and chewed them all up. Imagine the Major's rage as, purple in the face at the thought of his much-prized "Sydney Views" and other early issues chewed up to a pulp in Percy's mouth, he exclaimed, "I wish to goodness that they had choked Percy!"

CHARLES B. DONNE.

PHILATELIC SOCIETIES

Junior Philatelic Society

President: Fred J. Melville.
Secretary: H. F. Johnson, 11, Trigon Road, Clapham, S.W.
Meetings: Exeter Hall, Strand, W.C.
Annual Subscription: 1s. 6d.

THE bi-monthly meetings of the Junior Philatelic Society will henceforward be held in Exeter Hall, Strand. The meetings begin informally at seven and the business is taken at eight. The programme for the present session is as follows:—

Mar. 18 — 7.0 to 11.45—Sixth Annual Conversazione and Dance, Brixton Hall, S.W. (Tickets to be procured from the Hon. Secretary.)

April 1 — 7.0—Sale and Exchange; Display of Rarities.
8.0—Paper and Display, "Siam," by B. W. H. Poole.
8.30—Display: British Colonies. Part VI. Tobago, Trinidad, and Turks Islands.
9.0—Paper, "Picturesque Postage Stamps," by E. A. Smart.

,, 8 — 2.0 to 4.0—Visit to the Tapling Collection at the British Museum. Members meet any time between 2.0 and 4.0 in the King's Library, British Museum.

,, 15 — 7.0—Display of Rarities.
7.30—Auction Sale of Postage Stamps.
8.15—Display: Later Issues of Mexico, Rudolf Frentzel.
9.0—Paper, "How does Philately constitute a Science?" by William G. Inkpin.

May 6 — 7.0—Sale and Exchange; Display of Rarities.
8.0—Display: British Colonies. Part VII. Virgin Islands, Leewards, British Honduras, and Falkland Islands.
8.45—Paper, "Stamps Worth Looking For," by A. R. McCallum.
9.15—Paper and Display, "Cyprus," by R. W. Halliday.

,, 20 — 7.30—Annual General Meeting.

THE Junior Philatelic Society, which was obliged to seek a larger hall on account of the very heavy increase in its membership, found a very comfortable and well-lighted hall at Exeter Hall. Even with the increased accommodation, every available seat and standing space was occupied on Saturday night, March 4th, when the President, Mr. Fred J. Melville, called the meeting to order. Sale and exchange had been going on briskly from 7 to 8, and a small display of gems was on view during that time. These included Ceylon, 9d., imperf., 1857, unused; Natal, 1857, 9d., blue; a 1d. Cape woodblock, unused; and an unused Sydney View. The display of a small selection of rarities previous to the ordinary meeting is to be a permanent feature of these gatherings. At the next meeting rare errors and curiosities will be shown.

Shortly after eight o'clock, Mr. Johnson read the minutes, and the meeting then proceeded to the election of thirty-one new members, including four life members. The names of the new members are: Capt. K. Dingwall, E. Heginbottom, B.A., S. Bridge, and W. E. Lincoln (life members); W. Schwabacher, W.; D. Ellis, Hitchin; L. W. Crouch, Aylesbury; W. and Louis Infeld, Highbury; H. Ross Shiells, E.C.; G. W. Thomson, Clapham; Gustav Zimmer, Clapham; Richard Grace, jun., North Finchley; Miss G. M. Nicholson, Richmond; J. F. Higham, Clapham; A. Bannister, Brixton; J. Bewick Thomson, W.; the Rev. Hayman Cummings, Oxford; S. R. Turner, New Cross; G. Stromgoist, Slough; Lieut.-Col. S. J. Wynne, Isleworth; Rudolf Hasler, W.; D. C. Brown, East Dulwich; E. Gibson, Wandsworth; A. E. Farmer, Northampton; A. H. Clark, Walthamstow; Ede Wilton, Kilburn; E. W. Hope, Camberwell; H. Thomson, N.W.; C. R. Harrison, W.C.; H. J. Hedges, North Kensington.

The President announced that the Society had started a permanent collection, for which donations would be invited. Donations to this collection were acknowledged from Mr. G. W. Lawn, Mr. C. Nissen (English), and Mr. D. Pringle (1,000 varieties). Members with duplicates to spare should send same to the Curator, Mr. R. Halliday, Kent Villa, Diamond Road, Slough, Bucks.

It was also announced that arrangements had been made for the members to spend a whole afternoon and evening together on Saturday, April 8th, when from 2 to 4 they visit the Tapling Collection at the British Museum, then proceed to Exeter Hall for tea, and conclude with a visit to the Fiscal Exhibition in Exeter Hall at 6 o'clock.

Mr. Ernest Heginbottom's beautiful collections of the stamps of St. Vincent and Turks Islands were then shown, and were received with admiration. The President then introduced Mr. Schwabacher, who gave an elaborate display of fiscal stamps, which was an interesting variation from the customary studies of postal issues. A very cordial vote of thanks was extended to Mr. Schwabacher and also to Mr. Heginbottom.

The next meeting will be held in Exeter Hall on Saturday, April 1st. Tea will be served in the parlour from 6 to 7. Sale and exchange, together with a display of rare errors, 7 to 8. Business: election of new members, 8. Paper and display of Siam, 8.10. Display: Tobago and Trinidad, 8.40. Paper, "Picturesque Postage Stamps," 9.0.

Sheffield Philatelic Society

President: J. E. Bartlett.
Secretary: W. G. Laycock.

A MEETING of the Sheffield Philatelic Society was held on Wednesday evening, 15th February, 1905, at the King's Head Hotel. The President (Mr. J. E. Bartlett) was in the chair. A letter was read from the Private Secretary of the Prince of Wales, acknowledging receipt of the "menu card" which had been forwarded to him. This menu card was specially designed for the dinner recently held by the members, and was intended as a philatelic illustration of the extent of His Majesty's dominions. In the centre of the front page was an English stamp, and artistically grouped round it were stamps issued by British colonies in Europe, Asia, Africa, Australia, America, and West Indies.

The evening was devoted to an exhibition of the stamps of Africa. Mr. R. Sneath showed a splendid collection of Orange River Colony and the Transvaal, including many very rare varieties. Mr. J. E. Bartlett was strong in British East Africa and British South Africa, showing of the latter country complete sets up to £10. Mr. J. H. Chapman's principal exhibits were Cape of Good Hope, Gambia, Gold Coast, Sierra Leone, etc.

West of Scotland Philatelic Society

Secretary: Dr. Marcus Calder, 351, Bath Street, Glasgow.

A MEETING of Glasgow philatelists was held on 2nd March, 1905, in the Religious Institution Rooms, the business being the formation of a Philatelic Society for the West of Scotland. Dr. Rees Price, who occupied the chair, addressed the meeting, and explained that a want had been felt of such a society in Glasgow, and he hoped that advantage of it would be taken by philatelists in general for the furtherance of their knowledge and research. After some discussion the Society was inaugurated, office-bearers were duly appointed, and it was arranged to hold meetings at as early a date as possible to further the interests of stamp collectors in Glasgow and the West of Scotland, to encourage exhibition and the giving of lectures, and other methods of assisting amateur collectors. Various matters pertaining to the business of such associations were discussed, and Dr. Marcus Calder, 351, Bath Street, Glasgow, was elected Honorary Secretary.

THE STAMP MARKET

By AN ODD LOT

The Stamps of Great Britain at Auction.

THOSE of our readers who have followed the excellent series of articles contributed to *Gibbons Stamp Weekly* by the late Mr. Gordon Smith will be interested in noting how the stamps of which they have been reading fare at auction. I therefore append a few prices from a fine lot sold by Glendining and Co. on the 23rd February, 1905:—

		£	s.	d.
1847-54.	6d., lilac, fine unused copy	2	12	0
1855-57.	4d., carmine, wmk. Medium Garter, mint pair	16	15	0
	4d., carmine, on thick paper, wmk. Large Garter, mint	1	1	0
	6d., lilac, pair, mint	1	2	0
	1s., pale green, very fine unused copy	0	17	0
	1s., deep green, unused and very fine	1	5	0
1854-57.	2d., blue, perf. 16, wmk. Small Crown, mint	0	14	0
	2d., blue, perf. 16, wmk. Large Crown, plate 6, unused	1	0	0
	2d., blue, wmk. Large Crown, perf. 14, unused and very fine	0	10	0
1858.	1d., red-brown, wmk. Large Crown, imperf., rare	2	10	0
1858-79.	1d., rose, plate 121, on chemically blued paper, imperf., mint, rare	2	17	6
	2d., blue, mint pair, plate 13, imperf., on chemically blued paper	2	10	0
1867.	5s., pale rose, fine unused copy with gum	1	1	0
	5s., deep rose, brilliant mint copy	2	12	0
1874.	5s., pale rose, very fine unused copy	1	0	0
	3d., green, plate 8, mint imperf. pair, scarce	2	15	0
	8d., red-brown, mint pair	6	15	0
	2½d., lilac-rose, plate 3, wmk. Orbs, mint	1	15	0
	2s., blue, fine unused copy	1	17	0
1862.	9d., straw, hair lines, fair	4	4	0
Admiralty Officials.	½d., green, and 1d., scarlet, eighteen of each, all mint		—	
O.W. Officials.	Queen's Head issue. 5d., purple and ultramarine, mint	2	10	0
O.W. Officials.	Queen's Head issue. 10d., purple and scarlet, mint	4	15	0

The New Gibbons

IN this year's Catalogue there has been very little rewriting of lists as in former years, but there are a few changes to note as foreshadowed in the preface, which lies before me.

Early Transvaals have received special attention, and following on the researches of Mr. Yardley, the publishers hope, will be found in this new Catalogue finally and completely listed. Ah!

Uganda has been rewritten on the lines of the articles published by Mr. C. J. Phillips in the *Monthly Journal*.

The stamps of Scinde, really the first postage stamps used in India, have now been placed in their proper place in front of the Indian general issues.

The stamps of India overprinted for use in the Native States, such as Chamba, etc., have been rearranged according to the excellent handbook published by the Philatelic Society of India.

Owing to the largely increased cost of these Catalogues, it has been necessary to raise the price of each part to 2s. 6d., or 2s. 9d. post free.

Cautious Advance in Prices

Turning once more to a comparison of prices, we are struck, as we go on, with the almost steady but cautious rise to be noted. There are remarkably few changes compared with previous years, but they are, with here and there an exception, in the upward direction. Sensational rises are few and far between, and big drops are even fewer still.

Barbados

The changes in this colony are scarcely worth chronicling. An odd 6d. or 1s. is added now and again, and little more. The 4d., grey, 1882, unused, has been dropped from 20s. to 15s., and the 5s. of 1886 from 20s. to 17s. 6d. unused, and used from 25s. to 20s. The 2s. 6d., blue-black and orange, of the 1892-99 series, which after a short life was superseded by a change of colour to violet and green, has been raised from 4s. to 5s. unused.

Bechuanaland

Here again there is very little to say about changes. The ½d., vermilion, 1888, of the Protectorate, with "Protectorate" twice, has been dropped, unused, from £6, which was a plunging price, to the more rational figure of 60s.

ANSWERS TO CORRESPONDENTS

H. N. W. (Fulham, S.W.).—You must read your *G.S.W.* more carefully. The Ceylon 15 c., multiple CA, was chronicled by us in No. 6 (11th February, 1905), on page 97.

Junius (Glasgow).—The overprints "S. O." and "S. D." on Hong Kong stamps have no postal signification. They are probably the initials of the mercantile firms using the stamps.

L. B. (Brighton).—The 4d., blue, Cape of Good Hope, triangular, is catalogued at 1s. 9d., and is fairly common despite the fact that it was issued so long ago as 1855-8.

F. H. L. (Bowes Park).—The Trinidads overprinted "Fee" are fiscals. A genuine Hamburg with a forged postmark is a sort of mongrel that would be very unsatisfactory in a collection. It certainly is not entitled to rank as "absolutely straight." I think I would rather have its room than its company, though if it were a rare stamp one might be tempted to keep it till a better came along.

W. H. W. (Wishaw).—Very many thanks for sending us the cuttings announcing the formation of a Philatelic Society for the West of Scotland. Yours is the only intimation we have had of the formation of the Society. We wish it every success. There should be ample scope for such a Society in the second city of the Empire and its surroundings.

E. B. P. (Hereford) sends us the following reply to Mr. Imeson's verses, "O Penny Red!" in No. 9 (page 138):—

"There is a Barefoot Mission,
In London's mighty town,
Where they will take your 'Penny Reds,'
And turn them to a 'brown.'

"If your dustman won't remove them,
Then send to Fetter Lane;
And there, at number forty-six,
They'll relieve you of the same.

"And with the 'browns' they will procure
Good boots and shoes for infant poor."

EDITORIAL

Editorial Communications

All communications intended for the Editor should be addressed to Edward J. Nankivell, Carnanton, Camden Park, Tunbridge Wells.

Philatelic Societies

We wish to make a special feature of the prompt publication of the reports of Philatelic Societies, and trust we may have the kindly co-operation of the honorary secretaries in this matter. Reports should be written on one side of the paper, and despatched to the Editor by the earliest post.

Special Correspondence

The Editor will be glad to receive interesting letters from philatelic centres not already covered by our arrangements. We want chatty and newsy letters on matters of interest to the general collector, and excluding all matter of interest only to the specialist.

Our Miscellaneous Page

We wish to make *Gibbons Stamp Weekly* a storehouse of information, and shall therefore be glad of any cuttings of more or less permanent interest for our "Miscellaneous" page. Source and date of cutting must be given.

Subscriptions

Subscriptions must be sent to the publishers as set out on the front page of cover, or to booksellers or railway bookstalls, but never to the Editor.

OUR PHILATELIC DIARY

MARCH, 1905

18. Leeds Philatelic Society: C. L. Pickard, Display—British Official Stamps, with notes.
    Junior Philatelic Society: Sixth Annual Conversazione and Dance, Brixton Hall, 7.0 to 11.45.
    Herts Philatelic Society, London: T. W. Hall, Display—Uruguay Early Issues, with notes.
21. Auction: Puttick and Simpson, 47, Leicester Square, London. 4.30 p.m.
22. Auction: Puttick and Simpson, 47, Leicester Square, London. 4.30 p.m.
23. Auction: Glendining, 7, Argyll Street, London. 4.30 p.m.
24. Manchester Philatelic Society: Discussion—Denmark, opened by J. H. Stagg.
    Philatelic Society of London: B. D. Knox—Notes on the Stamps of Malta.
    Auction: Glendining, 7, Argyll Street, London. 4.30 p.m.
27. Auction: Hadlow, Covent Garden Hotel, Southampton Street, W.C. 5 p.m.
28. Auction: Plumridge, 64, Chancery Lane, London. 4.45 p.m.
29. Auction: Plumridge, 64, Chancery Lane, London. 4.45 p.m.
31. Manchester Philatelic Society: J. C. North, Display—Malta, with notes.

Printed by W. Brendon & Son, Ltd., Plymouth, for the Proprietors, Stanley Gibbons, Ltd., 391, Strand, London, W.C.
18 March, 1905.

Gibbons Stamp Weekly

EDITED BY EDWARD J. NANKIVELL

No. 12 | 25 MARCH, 1905 | Vol. I.

STAMPS OF GREAT BRITAIN

By EDWARD J. NANKIVELL

(*Continued from page* 166.)

(e) Series with Large Coloured Letters, 1873-80

WE now come to what is known as the large coloured-letters series, *i.e.* with the general designs unchanged, but with a modification of the corner letters. In the previous issue the letters were in white on solid discs of colour. In this modification the solid discs have been cleared away, leaving white corner squares, and in these squares the corner letters stand out boldly in coloured letters. The little discs containing the plate numbers have been similarly treated, the figures appearing in colour on white discs, instead of in white on discs of solid colour.

This series comprises six values, which are broken up in the Catalogue under the various watermarks, but it will be clearer if we take them here in their order of value, and summarise the series in catalogue form later on. The six values were 2½d., 3d., 4d., 6d., 8d., and 1s.

2½d. This value was introduced to meet the requirements of the International Postal Union, which had agreed to a reduced foreign rate, between all countries in the Postal Union, to 2½d. It was first issued in July, 1875, and the colour was a delicate lilac-rose on paper at first watermarked Anchor and subsequently changed to Orb. In February, 1880, the colour was changed to blue, on paper watermarked with an Orb, changed in 1881 to the Imperial Crown watermark. A curious error occurs in the corner letters of this value, namely, L H—F L instead of L H—H L. This error is very scarce.

3d. This value was continued in its pale rose colour until 1881, when it was printed in lilac. It was printed at first on paper watermarked Spray (July, 1873), which, in January, 1881, was changed to watermark Imperial Crown. The stamp printed in lilac was overprinted "3d." to distinguish it from the 6d., also printed in lilac.

4d. The fourpence underwent no less than three changes in colour and two in watermarks during the period 1873-80. It came into this series first in March, 1876, printed in vermilion, as in the previous series, and watermarked Large Garter. In February, 1877, the colour was changed to sage-green watermarked as before. In July, 1880, the colour was again changed, this time to grey-brown; still watermarked Large Garter. In January, 1881, it was printed in the grey-brown colour on paper watermarked Imperial Crown.

6d. The sixpence, in addition to the alteration in the corner letters and the plate-number discs, had its design further modified by the removal of the plate-number discs to the two side angles of the hexagonal frame. The stamp was subjected to three changes of colour. In 1873 it was printed in a pale chestnut; in April, 1874, it was changed to grey, both watermarked Spray; and in January, 1883, it

was changed to lilac, watermarked Imperial Crown, and overprinted "6d.," to more clearly distinguish its value from the 3d., printed about the same time in the same colour.

8d. This new value was introduced to prepay the then rate to Australia. It had a comparatively short life, *i.e.* from September, 1876, till 1880, when it was withdrawn, there being no further call for it, as the rate of postage had been changed. It was printed in orange on paper watermarked Large Garter.

1s. The one shilling was issued in September, 1873, printed in green on paper watermarked Spray. The colour was changed in October, 1880, to orange-brown on the same paper. In 1881 the watermark was changed to Imperial Crown.

The whole group is an exceedingly interesting one because of its many changes of colour and of watermark, and because there are included in it the only surcharges ever used on an ordinary English postage stamp. For those who are sufficiently advanced to collect plate numbers this series alone will require a great deal of patient hunting and a liberal outlay of money. The values showing the relative scarcity of the plate numbers will be found in the *Stanley Gibbons Catalogue*, Part I.





3d

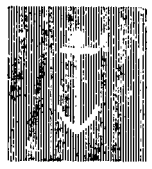
6d



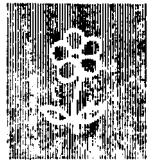














The summary of the group is as follows. The Catalogue prices have been added as an indication of relative scarcity of the various stamps.

1873-80.

Large coloured letter in each corner. Perf. 14.

Watermark Anchor.

	Unused. s.	d.	Used. s.	d.
2½d., lilac-rose . . .	10	6	0	8

Watermark Orb.

2½d., lilac-rose . . .	5	0	0	1
2½d., blue . . .	5	0	0	2

Watermark Spray.

3d., rose . . .	6	0	0	4
6d., pale chestnut . .	—		—	
6d., grey . . .	6	0	0	3
1s., green . . .	10	0	1	0
1s., orange-brown . .	30	0	12	6

Watermark Large Garter.

4d., vermilion . . .	25	0	5	0
4d., sage-green . .	12	6	2	6
4d., grey-brown . .	25	0	12	6
8d., orange . . .	15	0	3	6

Watermark Imperial Crown.

2½d., blue . . .	3	0	0	1
3d., rose . . .	5	0	2	6
"3d." in carmine on 3d., lilac	3	6	1	6
4d., grey-brown . .	5	0	0	8
6d., grey . . .	5	0	1	6
"6d." in carmine on 6d., lilac	5	0	1	3
1s., orange-brown . .	7	6	2	0

(*To be continued.*)

PUBLIC SCHOOL COLLECTING

By Rev. T. C. WALTON, M.A.

(*Continued from page* 168.)

School Clubs (*continued*)

Finance

THE first and obvious question which, I can well imagine, comes at once to the collector's mind is the question of £ s. d. "What will it cost me?" Let me answer from my own experience. We formed a school stamp club three years ago with a membership of about thirty-five. There was no entrance fee. We spent no money on cards of membership and printed rules and other printing accessories so dear, and, in some cases, so necessary to the existence of other kinds of clubs. We determined to run our club on as economical a basis as possible, in order that no one might say that the subscription prevented him from joining. The charge was fixed at 6d. per year. The money was paid in advance. We were thus able to buy all the catalogues we needed. Other books of reference, such as a Colour Dictionary, a Glossary of Philatelic Terms, were procured. A periodical was taken in monthly for the use of members. And, what is well worth recording in these days of scarcity of the needful, we always had money in hand which was spent at the end of the year on some useful addition to our stock of literature.

Management

The question of management is an all-important one. The success or failure of a stamp club depends largely on the zeal, the wisdom, and the tact of those who are chosen to preside over its destinies. There must be perfect order at the meetings of members, a continuity of plan, a progressive course of study in things philatelic. To secure these is the first and chief work of a committee. How, then, shall the officers be chosen so that the desired end may be achieved? It is a *sine quâ non* that the presiding officer should be an enthusiastic stamp collector. If possible he should also be a permanent member of the school, *i.e.* one of the staff. Here, then, is the obvious duty of all boys who are desirous of forming a school club. Let them seek out a master who takes an active interest in stamp collecting. There are many such masters in our public schools. There is also in evidence a feeling, which seldom is expressed in words, that stamp collecting is a sop to the weakness of human nature. Therefore public-school masters are not in the habit of parading their hobby before their colleagues or their pupils. Possibly, however, when they see how keenly desirous of help you are, they will be persuaded to come out of their shells and do what they can to help you. Once a master's ear is gained, the rest is an easy matter. In cases where a master cannot be prevailed upon to act as chairman of committee, the next best step is to enlist the sympathies of a member of the sixth form. A meeting of all boys interested in stamp collecting may now be called. I say "interested" advisedly, for there are many boys who have not begun to collect stamps, but would very much like to make a beginning. The chairman of this meeting proceeds to give a short account of the benefits accruing from a stamp club, and invites those present to propose the names of three or four to act with himself on a small committee. The committee must be few in number. It must also be composed, as far as possible, of senior boys. One acts as treasurer and another as secretary, or the two offices may be combined in one. The committee having been elected by popular vote, names of members may be taken, and the club has begun its existence. If the members are not likely to total more than twenty in number, I would suggest that the yearly subscription should be fixed at 1s. A membership of forty and more would justify a 6d. subscription, but that is a matter for the committee to decide.

Work of the Committee

The main duties of the committee may be briefly summed up under the following headings:—

I. To consult about the ordering of catalogues and magazines.

II. To act as overseers during the hours set apart for meetings, and see that order is preserved.

III. To answer the questions of beginners, and help them in every possible way.

IV. To keep an eye on the interests of club members generally, especially in the matter of unscrupulous approval sheets.

V. To hold themselves responsible for the reading of occasional papers.

Modus Operandi

The working of the club will be governed by two main ideas. Members must have opportunities for consulting catalogues, mounting and exchanging stamps, and discussing with one another the thousand and one questions that arise. For this purpose the club-room acts as a rendezvous. It must be open at stated hours, viz. between "Prep." and Chapel, on Saturday evenings, and at any other hour when boys have a free time.

The other main idea, without which a club cannot hope to achieve success, is based on the regular meetings, held weekly or fortnightly, at which papers are read and discussed. This, I believe, is a most essential part of a club's existence. Without it, members are apt to get slack, lose interest, and silently withdraw from the club. Papers and debates are splendid tonics for encouraging, refreshing, and endowing with new life and vigour the will-o'-the-wisp enthusiasm of many a schoolboy collector. And more especially is this the case when the papers or debates are read or carried on by the boys. Nothing appeals with greater conviction to a boy than the example of some fellow schoolboy standing up before the rest and reading out of his own book of experience some lessons he has learnt, or displaying some flowers he has gathered in the philatelic field. Let not the reader think that the task is beyond his powers. Of books of reference there are many. Even the pages of this magazine would supply the topics for any number of papers. All that is required is a little toil, a little time, and far less of shyness. Once you break the ice, you wonder why it seemed so hard to enter the lists of those who occasionally raise their voices "to be heard of all." Here it may be useful if I add a short list of subjects taken at random from the minute-book of the public school club in which I am interested: "History of Stamp Collecting," "The Stamps of Seychelles," "Stamp Collecting: its Value as a Hobby," "The Stamps of British East Africa," "Characteristics of a good Album." These are five of the many papers read, and three of them were suggested, written, and read by boys.

Literature, etc.

One of the great advantages of having a club is that the subscriptions cover the cost of catalogues and magazines, and also help to form quite a useful little library of books connected with stamp collecting. A list of those works which have been found very helpful is appended: *Stamps and Stamp Collecting*, by Major E. B. Evans; *Postage Stamps and their Collection*, by Oliver Firth; *The Stamp Collector*, by Hardy and Bacon; *A Colour Dictionary*, by B. W. Warhurst; *Adhesive Postage Stamps of Europe*, by W. A. S. Westoby.

This list is not meant in any way to be taken as authoritative. It is merely a suggested list of books, of which a beginner may be glad to know. *Stamp Collecting as a Pastime*, by E. J. Nankivell, is a useful book to settle the cynic and cheer the beginner.

Of catalogues, Gibbons' and Bright's are the only ones known to the writer.

Competitions

At the end of a term it is a good thing to hold an occasional competition in mounting or arranging stamps. The details of the competition might be announced at mid-term, and a small prize of a set of stamps awarded to the winner.

A Public School Exchange

The members of a club soon find that they want a wider field for the "swopping" of their duplicates. Accordingly exchange clubs are formed. The usual plan is for members to send sheets of their stamps, priced by some standard catalogue, to the secretary of the exchange club. The secretary then forwards the packet of stamps to the member whose name appears first on the list for the month. The first place on the list is taken by each of the members in turn. The packet may usually be kept one or two days, and then sent on by registered post to the next member. There are other rules to regu-

late the entering of stamps taken in spaces provided for that purpose and the balancing of accounts. Such an exchange already exists for the benefit of public schools. At present it embraces two schools and certain honorary members. The secretary would be glad to hear of school clubs which desire to join the "Public Schools" Exchange. A copy of rules and further information will be forwarded on application to Mrs. Rowsell, 11, Alexandra Road, Bedford.

Approval Sheets

Among the duties of the committee I have mentioned the need of keeping an eye on unscrupulous approval sheets. Of late several examples of trashy approvals have been brought to my notice by members of the school committee. Unscrupulous dealers lure on the unsuspecting schoolboy by tempting advertisements, and then send shoddy specimens of stamps on "approval" at exorbitant prices, with the bait of a 50 per cent. discount. One such sheet lies before me as I write. It hails from a dealer in Highgate, who seems to keep two classes of sheets. On the one a discount of 50 per cent. is allowed. The others are marked at lowest net cash prices. The sheet before me belongs to the former class. Its value is reckoned at some 15s. The stamps would be dear at 5s. Why is it that these smooth-spoken pseudo-dealers are allowed to gull the innocent, and, what is a worse thing, introduce their sharp business (?) practices into school-life? It argues no good to the morale of the school.

The system of indiscriminate approval sheets, sent and received without hindrance or even control, is wrong. Personally, I should welcome a rule which barred all approval sheets that allowed more than 10 per cent. discount. All schoolboy attempts at hawking approval sheets for the sake of gain ought to be rigorously put down. And a stamp club can do much in this direction. It can form a healthy opinion on the subject of the market values of stamps. A list of reliable firms can be drawn up, from whom approval sheets may be procured. It can, in extreme cases, expel a member who wilfully persists in imposing on the credulity of beginners by means of these swindling traps. If a stamp club were formed for no other purpose than the protection of its members from such systematised frauds, it would not have existed in vain.

(*Concluded.*)

DISCOVERING WATERMARKS

By GEORGE JARMAN

THE faintest watermark can easily and accurately be detected by employing the following method, *i.e.* by using the stamp as a negative and printing from it a photograph. All that need be bought is some sensitive printing paper commonly called P.O.P. Now get a piece of clean glass: also another piece of glass, or cardboard, or wood. Lay the stamp to be photographed face up in the centre of the clear glass and then cover this with the sensitive paper, sensitive side downwards. Now lay on the other piece of glass or cardboard, and clamp all together with snap pins, or carefully place the whole between a pair of cycle-clips; these will hold firmly. Expose to the sunlight direct, with the back of stamp to the sun. Continue this until the watermark shows on the paper—this can be easily told by carefully lifting the cardboard and sensitive paper together just a little. Be careful not to move position of stamp. After printing is done, the print must be fixed, or the light would have a bad effect on it. The better plan is to buy P.O.P. that only requires washing in cold water to fix it. The placing of stamp with back to sun will, of course, reverse the watermark on the print; but it has the advantage of not exposing the colour of stamp to the sunlight. More than one stamp should not be photographed at a time, owing to differences in thickness of paper on which stamps are engraved or printed.

STAMP COLLECTING AS A PASTIME

By EDWARD J. NANKIVELL

(*Continued from page* 170.)

XI. The Literature of Stamps (*continued*)

PROPERLY speaking, tradesmen's catalogues can scarcely be regarded as literature, and yet it would be very remiss on my part to close this chapter without a reference to the excellent catalogues with which stamp collectors are provided.

What other hobby can boast of such comprehensive and detailed catalogues, giving the actual selling price of almost every item, and regularly revised and brought up to date from year to year? Messrs. Stanley Gibbons' Priced Catalogue is comprised in two volumes: Part I., The British Empire, 290 pages; Part II., Foreign Countries, 530 pages; in all, 820 closely printed double-column pages of small type, with thousands of illustrations. This excellent catalogue is at once guide, philosopher, and friend to the stamp collector. Some people irreverently style it "the Philatelist's Bible." It does not profess to be anything more or less than a mere catalogue of goods for sale, but it is an open secret that it represents the combined work and the combined knowledge of the best philatelists of the day, and that neither trouble nor expense is spared to include within its pages everything that a collector needs to know to enable him to gather his treasures together and to arrange them in the best possible and most authoritative order.

Much the same story might be told of the literature of stamp collecting in other countries. In the United States, in France, and in Germany there are numbers of robust periodicals, some stretching back into the early days, and there are scores of volumes of philatelic lore, many of which find a well-deserved place on the shelves of English collectors.

As an indication of the value attached to philatelic literature, I may mention the fact that an English collector recently paid over £2,000 for a by no means complete collection of works relating to stamp collecting.

XII. Stamps as Works of Art

Some artists scout the idea of attempting anything that may be considered a work of art in the ridiculously limited space of a postage stamp. The restriction of a postage stamp when viewed alongside a canvas measuring several yards in length and height is probably hopeless enough. Nevertheless, many a stamp collector who is not devoid of art can find stamps which seem to him to be entitled to rank high even in the art world. In beauty of design, in the exquisite workmanship of the best modern steel engraving, aided by the most delicate machinery, and in unequalled printing, there are many gems within the very limited space of a postage stamp that excite and deserve, and not unfrequently win, the admiration of the most exacting critics. There are scores of little medallions, mostly on the postage stamps of foreign States, that surely would pass muster with an impartial judge of art. They are not the rarities of the stamp album. Some are even regarded as weeds in the philatelic garden. They are too often made to serve the revenue-producing necessities of the issuing State, and for that reason probably, more than for any other, they are made as attractive as modern art applied to stamp production can make them.

(*To be continued.*)

PORTRAITS ON STAMPS

By MARK W. HALL

Argentine Republic (*continued*)

La Madrid, Gregorio Araes de, Argentine soldier. Born in Tucuman in 1796. When he was twelve years old he entered the Argentine army, and on 24th October, 1813, became a lieutenant of the dragoons. On 28th November, 1815, as a major he did good service in the battle of Sipe-Sipe, and in 1816–17 he took part in numerous battles in the Alto-Peru campaign. During the civil war of 1820–1 he fought against the Federals, in 1822 was promoted to general, and on 25th November, 1825, took possession of the government of Tucuman. On 27th October, 1826, in command of the forces of the provinces of Tucuman and Catamarca, he fought a battle against the Federal Governor of La Rioja, and when the victory was almost won by his troops he was wounded and left on the field for dead. On 5th December of the same year he again took possession of the government of Tucuman, and continued to fight against the Federals. In June, 1830, he was appointed Governor of the provinces of La Rioja and San Juan, and in 1831 he obtained the same place in the province of Cordova. On 4th November, 1831, he was defeated by General Quiroga in the battle of Ciudadela. On 7th April, 1840, La Madrid headed a revolution in Tucuman, called the "Coalición del Norte," against the government of Rosas, but met with many reverses during that year. On 5th September, 1841, he was appointed Governor of the province of Mendoza, and on 24th September he was defeated by the Federal general Pacheco, in the battle of Rodéodel Medio, near Mendoza, and took refuge in Chili. Two years afterwards he returned to the Argentine Republic, took part in the campaign against Rosas, and later was senator in several legislatures. La Madrid was a poet of some merit, and his troops often sang his verses as they were going into battle. He died at Buenos Ayres 15th October, 1870.



La Madrid.

His portrait appears on the 5 pesos of the 1891 series, one of three long rectangular, high values.

Paz, José Maria, Argentine general. Born in Cordova de Tucuman, 9th September, 1789. He studied philosophy and theology in the university of his native city, and was about to be graduated in law when the revolution against the Spanish dominion began in Buenos Ayres, 25th May, 1810. With the majority of his fellow-students he enlisted in the Independent army, and took part in the campaign of Upper Peru in 1813–15. In 1829 he dispersed at Salta Generals Tucuman and Cordova, losing his right arm. In 1840 he was expelled by the Dictator Rosas, and took refuge in Montevideo, where in 1843, during the siege by Oribe's forces, he was appointed Commander-in-Chief of the besieged city, and showed great military talent in the defence. In June, 1844, he was called to take the command of the army that had risen in the province of Corrientes against Rosas, who sent General Urquiza against the revolutionists. They were finally routed at Vences in 1845, and Paz emigrated to Chili. After the fall of Rosas he returned, and was elected Governor of Cordova; but after the election of Urquiza to the presidency, Paz retired to Buenos Ayres, where he was called by the government of Dr. Ulsina to the portfolio of war, but he died in poverty on 22nd October, 1859.



Paz.

His portrait appears on ¼ centavo, green, 1889–91.

NEW ISSUES

The Editor will be grateful to his readers if they will help him with the earliest possible information concerning new issues. News from the Colonies in particular will be much appreciated. When possible, a specimen should accompany the information, and should be addressed to

EDWARD J. NANKIVELL, Carnanton, Camden Park, Tunbridge Wells.

British Guiana.—The multiple CAs are now being received from this colony. We have already received the 1 c., 2 c., and 12 c., and others will no doubt follow in rapid succession as the single CA values are exhausted.



Wmk. Multiple CA. Perf.
1 c., grey-green.
2 c., purple and black on red paper.
12 c. ,, violet.

India.—We are indebted to Mr. Wilmot Corfield for an early copy of the new ¼ anna provisional on ½ anna King's Head.

Wmk. Star. Perf.
"¼" on ½ anna, green.

Kishengarh.—Some rupee values have to be added to the series of new design chronicled by us on p. 125.



No Wmk. Perf.
¼ anna, carmine.
½ ,, red-brown.
1 ,, blue.
2 annas, orange.
4 ,, sepia.
1 rupee, dark olive-green.
2 rupees, greenish yellow.
5 ,, deep purple-brown.

Malta.—The stamps of this little possession are getting to be a bit of a puzzle. In the King's Head series, single CA, we have had the ½d., 1d., 2d., 2½d., 3d., 4d., and 1s. Of the King's Heads, multiple wmk., we have had the ½d., 2½d., and 1s. Then, instead of continuing the King's Heads, we get the boat designs for the 4½d. and 5d. with the multiple wmk. The 5d., it is true, was not included in the King's Head series, but the 4½d. was, and the 4½d. which we have just received, of the boat design, is a puzzling reversion to the old design. At present the list stands thus:—

Wmk. Multple CA. Perf. 14. King's Head.



½d., green.
2d., grey and violet.
2½d., blue; centre purple.
1s., violet; centre grey.

Feluccas.





4½d., brown.
5d., vermilion.

Morocco Agencies.—We have received the 10 centimos, King's Head, with the multiple watermark.

Wmk. Multiple CA. Perf.
10 centimos, purple on red paper.

Southern Nigeria.—*Ewen's Weekly* reports the arrival of the 6d. on multiple CA paper, and the *Philatelic Record* chronicles the £1 on the same paper.



Wmk. Multiple CA. Perf.
2d., orange-brown and black.
6d., grey-black and mauve.
1s., black and green.
£1, violet ,,

MISCELLANEOUS

Russia: Current Watermark

IN October, 1903, we described the watermark in the sheets of the current Russian stamps, stating that, in addition to the laid lines and the rows of wavy lines, there were large letters in Russian script type occurring two or three times in each sheet. A correspondent in Russia has now very kindly given us an explanation of these letters, which are the initials of the title of the Government printing office: "E" for *Expedition*=Office; "D" for *Dlya*=For; "Z" for *Zagotovlenye*=Preparing; "G" for *Gosudarstvennoye*=Imperial; "B" for *Bumagi*=Papers.

These letters can be easily identified by comparison with the Russian alphabet given in *Stamps and Stamp Collecting*, but it should be remembered that they generally appear reversed when we look at the back of a sheet.—*The Monthly Journal.*

The Servian Death-mask Stamps

IT appears from *Le Coll. de T.-P.* that the "death-mask" story, which we quoted last month, has been taken quite seriously in Paris, where M. Mouchon (the engraver of the stamps) has risen from a bed of sickness to assure the Servian Minister that he never perpetrated the crime with which he was charged, and that he had no communication with the ex-Queen Natalie on the subject. He appeals to his grey hairs and his sixty-two years of honour and honesty in a manner that might almost lead one to suppose that the insult and an attack of influenza ("une grippe infectieuse") had turned his brain. M. Maury is, naturally, convinced that the hand of perfidious Albion is in it. We gather that he does not suppose that British gold corrupted M. Mouchon, whom he believes to be incorruptible in such a matter (and in this we fully agree with him); but he believes the whole story to be a concoction of the English engravers, jealous of any work going to their French rivals! When M. Maury writes like this, we feel almost unkind enough to remind him of a charming little dinner, followed by patriotic toasts, and, later, by his appointment as sole agent for the sale of the stamps of—was it Ethiopia?—*The Monthly Journal.*

Thrashing a Postmaster

A GOOD story comes to us from Kashmir, and, we are sorry to say, a true one. One day no letters were distributed at Srinnugger, and anxious inquirers at the post office could obtain no information or redress. At length an official circular came round to all the residents, stating that as an English officer had severely thrashed the postmaster that morning, this functionary was disabled by his wounds from discharging his duties, and no letters would be issued until his recovery.—*Calcutta Englishman*, 1872.

Postal Profits

THE *Bureau International des Postes* publishes some interesting statistics referring to the profit made by the postal systems of various countries. Great Britain heads the list with the biggest profit, for the receipts exceed the expenses by £4,220,000. Then the unexpected happens, for Russia takes second place with an excess of returns amounting to £2,860,000. France is third, with £2,640,000, and Germany is fourth with £2,500,000. The revenue of the post office of the United States is £23,240,000, but the expenses amount to no less than £25,760,000; thus there is a loss of £2,520,000. Spain's profit is £600,000, that of Hungary is £560,000, of Belgium £510,000, of the Netherlands £200,000, and that of Switzerland £140,000.

The Monthly Journal.

Postal Service by Dog Sleighs

THE people living at Nikolaieffsk, the capital of Primorsk, or Littoral Province, in the far east of Asia, and extending from Northern Corea to the Arctic Ocean, are at the mercy of the climatic conditions with regard to postal affairs: thus, after waiting for three months, they were able to send off their first winter's post, which reached Harbin on January 9th. The mails weighed just under four tons, and they were carried on twenty-three sledges drawn by three hundred dogs.—*The Monthly Journal.*

Curious Addresses

MESSRS. MacArthur, MacVicar, and MacCorquodale, stationers in Liverpool many years ago, duly replied to a letter addressed to MacAdder, MacViper, and MacCrocodile.

The following was received by a relative of a correspondent:—

"Dear, honest Postman, be so kind
To take this to a friend of mine;
She is a Fox, Lucy's her name,
In Swallow Street you'll find the same;
She is a cruel little toad,
And lives not far from Oxford Road."

An Old Cutting.

Facsimiles at a Tenth of Catalogue

IT is hardly necessary to warn members of the Philatelic Society of India against the wily advertiser of superb specimens of first-class imitations at a mere fraction of catalogue prices. This gentleman's charity covereth a multitude of sins, for he is willing to sacrifice his wares and give the poor collector the same chance as his richer *confrère*. He keeps out of danger at present by calling his beautiful specimens "facsimiles."

Those I send on approbation
Are the gems of every nation,
And my price is "tenth of Gibbons," nothing more.

I have 'em made to order
At my châlet near the border,
And I thus avoid the minions of the law.

And I keep a grand selection
Which quite defies detection
(I supply the first Mauritius by the score),

In blocks and sheets and dozens,
To your sisters, aunts, and cousins,
And I only ask for half a louis d'or.

I call my stock gilt-edged,
And I cater for unfledged
And callow youths who know not, I deplore,

That my impudence stupendous
Makes my profit so tremendous
That I always spare a penny for the poor.

Philatelic Journal of India.

GOSSIP OF THE HOUR

By CORNELIUS WRINKLE

Be Patient and Watchful

THE young collector shakes his head and gets very disheartened when he looks over a great collection. He says it is hopeless to attempt anything like that, and straightway he goes into philatelic mourning. Great collections, it is true, frequently contain matchless ranges of blocks and sheets of rarities. But, after all, these are only showy repetitions. The completeness of the collection may be as unquestionable in single specimens. Let the wealthy go in for what may be termed decorative additions. The real goal of a complete collection can be reached, in most cases, with single specimens. And the young collector who reads and studies philatelic literature and then closely studies his stamps will find that even a very limited purse will go a long way towards building up a fine collection.

The Reward of Patience

IN stamp collecting there is nothing like patience. Indeed I should feel inclined to back it against many long purses. The possessor of a long purse is too apt to trust to others to obtain for him those rare varieties that require patient research. The young collector, who has not a long purse to fall back on, does his research for himself, and not unfrequently comes off best. For instance, I have for some months been studying a particular country in which there are two varieties rarely met with. I have hunted high and low for them, have asked dealer after dealer for them in vain, but this last week I got a lovely copy of one of those two rarities. And where do you think I found it? Why, in a Stanley Gibbons stock book, a book arranged by a specialist and priced, you bet, with the view of gathering in all possible dollars. It was occupying a modest place in a modest row of the normal issue, and it was priced 3*d.*! when it might have been £3. Never despair of getting the stamp you want. When you least expect it you may come across it. That is my experience.

Where to look for Rarities

WHILST you are inexperienced, and do not feel quite equal to spotting forgeries, make it a rigid rule to buy no stamps except from firms who have a reputation to lose. Such firms cannot afford to sell forgeries. But when you have studied the stamps of a country thoroughly, and can intuitively spot a forgery, then you may hunt for what you want in tuck-shops and alleys. But the best bargains are always to be had where you least expect to find them—in the finest stock books of the great firms. When I get one of those books sent me the first thing I do is to look through the normal stamps for such varieties as I require, and every now and again I find the scarce variety I want at the satisfactory price of the normal stamp. And so may you, if you will only be patient and watchful. The man who hurries in stamp collecting is sure to pay through the nose for what he gets. With youth on your side you can afford to bide your time and take your chance.

Sore Temptations

RARE stamps are a sore temptation to the earnest collector. A fine copy of a rarity you want, that has never come your way before even at a long figure, is a sore temptation. I should not like to confess even to you in this friendly page of ours how often I have been downright hard up as the result of giving way to those sore temptations. And what is very galling, I have more than once found that if I had only been a little more patient I might have got all I wanted for shillings instead of pounds. I once had a lovely *tête-bêche* variety offered me, in a country I specialised, for £20. But on that occasion I resisted the temptation, and returned the stamps. A week after I secured an even finer block of the same variety for £3.

Mr. A. H. Wilson

ANOTHER old friend of mine has been over in his old haunts in the great village. Many years ago, when I first ventured into the philatelic ranks, Mr. A. H. Wilson was running a quietly fine business in rare stamps from his private residence in one of our London suburbs, and he was also publishing the *Philatelic Record*. He had started with that cleverest of all philatelic geniuses, E. L. Pemberton, and for many years after his partner's death Mr. Wilson continued the business in philatelic rarities, till one fine morning it occurred to him that he had dollars enough for his needs. Thereupon he sold his stamp business to Theodor Buhl and Co., and retired to a wild and lonely spot on the Emerald Isle, where, being a devout follower of Izaak Walton, he plies the rod from year's end to year's end. He can fish for eight days right away without a bite, and then pack up his traps with a smiling countenance. I couldn't. Could you?

Jeremiah in Kangarooland

MY friend the editor of the *Australian Philatelist* is getting down in the dumps. He has been ruminating a bit too severely of late, and, sad to say, he has arrived at the conclusion that the number of bona-fide stamp collectors has not increased during the last ten or fifteen years. In the great Australian continent it may be so: I cannot say; but so far as we are concerned down at this end of the globe, the statement is amusingly wide of the mark. The cause of this lack of increase in the so-called bona-fide class is, it seems, an epidemic of collector-dealerism. And the remedy? Ah! It is to be a drastic one! The bona-fides are to be gathered into a society in which they shall swear by all that's holy that they will never part with a stamp except by way of exchange.

If we could only get a society for the seclusion of philatelic Jeremiahs, this fair world of ours would be rendered all the brighter. I could, right away, nominate several as in-patients. These dear old croakers, who go about shedding crocodile tears over matters philatelic, give one the blues. Our friend assures us that "the average Australian is a better whisky-drinker than the average Englishman." Perhaps it is the whisky that accounts for the scarcity of bona-fides in my friend's world.

More U. S. A. Commemoratives to Come!

THE Great Commemorating Republic is said to be contemplating the issue of another series of Show Advertising Labels. According to the *Metropolitan Philatelist*, New York is to have its "World's Fair," and "it is understood that the promoters will ask for all the trimmings and accessories that go with a first-class, well-regulated World's Fair, such as a series of commemorative postage stamps." And this so-called philatelic journal's correspondent adds, "Well, here's to the New York World's Fair, and may there be a series of stamps to commemorate the event."

At this pace our U.S.A. list will soon be as full of rubbish as that of even North Borneo. And the pity of it, that its grand range of series after series, without philatelic stain, should be dragged down into the gutters of contemptible speculation!

THE STAMP KING

By G. DE BEAUREGARD AND H. DE GORSSE

Translated from the French by EDITH C. PHILLIPS

CHAPTER IV (*continued*)

Wherein William explains how being late caused him to arrive the earlier

"WOULD you also be good enough," said Betty, seeing a telephone in one corner of the hall, "to telephone to Paris for me, to the Hotel Bristol, and ask them to reserve a good room, for I quite forgot to telegraph just now?"

"Don't trouble yourself about anything," replied William, "I will see to it."

Betty went up to her room, and William profited by her absence to telephone to the Hotel Bristol, then to settle his own account at Frascati's, including the charge for the telephone and the breakfast he was about to have with his young friend, and for the room she was now occupying. Then he entered the restaurant and waited for her.

Miss Betty returned in a few minutes, and the two sat down to table. They talked of one thing and another till suddenly the girl, looking full into the face of her companion, said—

"My good friend, I am going to be very impertinent, but I want to know this instant what the business was that brought you to Paris."

William hesitated a moment, utterly taken aback by the unexpected question, but, reflecting that he would have to confess sooner or later, he returned—

"Well, when I saw, the last time we were together in New York, the mood in which you left the Philatelic Club I was very uneasy. After I returned home I could not shake off the presentiment that had taken hold of me, and after a good deal of reflection I concluded you meant to start for Paris."

"Indeed!"

"I immediately resolved to do the same myself; and after consulting the time-tables, seeing the day breaking, I rushed down to the landing-stage without luggage or any kind of preparation, just as I was. Unfortunately it was a long way from Hudson Street, where I live, and I only arrived in time to see the departure of the *Touraine*."

"But what did you want with me to make you in such a hurry?"

"I wished to dissuade you from undertaking a journey which seemed to me as unreasonable as it was useless."

"And why so, if you please?"

"Because this stamp, in pursuit of which you are running——"

"How do you know I am?"

William smiled as he returned—

"I know too well your tenacity, as well as your natural desire to conquer, to have any doubt about your object. You wish to find the second and, as I believed, undiscoverable specimen of the Maharajah's stamp. But since I was not able to prevent your departure, I shall at least try to render your search of no avail by finding and taking possession of the stamp myself, that my collection may never be equalled by any other."

"Well, really," said Betty, with a shade of annoyance, "that is more frank than kind."

"Pray do not condemn me so quickly. It is the philatelist who has just spoken. But in addition to the philatelist there is the true man and friend, who will follow you anywhere to protect you, to keep far from you all the annoyances and difficulties of what will, no doubt, be a long journey; to be, in short, always at your service, save in that one respect."

"A duel then?"

"A duel, as you say, Miss Scott; but a courteous duel in which nothing shall be done by the one to hurt the other, and in which your adversary's one effort shall be to keep danger far from you."

Miss Betty could not do otherwise than accept the explanation, and smiling as she extended her little hand to William, she said—

"My dear Mr. Keniss, I am as much flattered at having you for an adversary as I am fortunate in having you for a companion. I hope I shall not prove myself unworthy of such a rival."

Then, breakfast being finished, they went down to the station, after William had excused himself eloquently for defraying all the expenses by representing to Betty that, as he was the first to land in France, he had the right to receive her on her arrival and do the honours.

He even arranged for a private compartment for her from Havre to Paris, and managed, as we shall see presently, that she should never once open her purse before arriving at the Hotel Bristol.

* * * * *

But now we must go back a little.

William Keniss, in giving an account of his journey, had omitted only one episode, but that one as full of importance as it was of interest.

The omission, moreover, had not been altogether involuntary, for as there was nothing to prevent him slurring over a circumstance which he preferred to keep to himself, the Stamp King had resolved to take this course; and the reason for his silence will be evident when we state that he had been on the track of the famous stamp.

This is what had happened.

On landing at Liverpool he and John had immediately taken the express for London, on their way to Dover, Calais, and Paris.

Anxious to learn the news, of which he had been deprived for a week, William bought the latest edition of the *Times*, the great English daily paper, supposed to be the most serious and best-informed of all in the United Kingdom. He read on, absorbed, never once looking at the country through which the train ran at full speed. Paying no heed to the route he did not so much as glance at Crewe, Stafford, Lichfield, Rugby, and only raised his head when the train thundered into the station at Northampton. By this time he thought he had perused the whole paper. But who can flatter himself with this idea when he has the *Times* in his hands?

As there remained a good hour and a half before arriving in London, William returned to his paper, and his eye was caught by an article he had missed before, headed "An Odyssey." Captivated by the mysterious title he settled himself comfortably and began reading again.

"Our readers have been kept informed of the troubles which have disintegrated the State of Brahmapootra, one of the few Indian territories still independent, and situated in the Himalayas. The *dénouement* of this tragedy still remains to be told. The Maharajah Badunabad——"

William felt his heart leap with emotion. What was this? A tragedy which concerned the Maharajah

of Brahmapootra! The probable possessor of the second specimen of the gilt stamp. We can imagine with what avidity he continued reading.

"The Maharajah Badunabad," continued the article, "to whom the Viceroy had given a suite of bedroom furniture in pitch-pine, to make him favourable to the English, and cause him to sign a commercial treaty, ruinous to Brahmapootra, having had the imprudence to exhibit this present to one of his nephews, the latter resolved to become the possessor of it. Whence arose conspiracy, riot, rebellion, civil war, fomented by the young prince, to whom the very natural idea had occurred that he might as well take possession of the throne as well as the pitch-pine furniture.

"The Maharajah was compelled to fortify himself in his capital, Son-Po. But his subjects, weary of his



WILLIAM BOUGHT THE "TIMES"

abominable despotism, his exactions, and cruelties, thought a change of dynasty could hardly be for the worse, and delivered Son-Po to the usurper. So, while the latter made a triumphal entry into the city, Badunabad was obliged to flee, with his Vizier, Satrakas, and his Grand Talapoin, Trogustul. He profited by the occasion to take away with him the public treasure, consisting of precious stones and silver coins, worth, perhaps, as much as fifteen millions of gold mohurs, loaded on three elephants.

"The usurper would have been only too glad to let him go to get rid of him, but he had no intention of giving up the rupees. A troop of horsemen was sent on the track of the fugitives, who, when they saw they would otherwise be taken, abandoned the elephants and their precious burden.

"The Vizier and the Grand Talapoin, having now a great desire to remain in favour with the new ruler, offered to deliver up Badunabad, hoping to gain credit by their treason. But hearing their reward would be hanging, they speedily decamped, and from that moment showed unswerving fidelity to their original master. The three, arriving on English territory, hastened to implore the protection of British laws, which was given them in larger measure than they wished, for they were immediately embarked for England with a promise of an enormous pension. They protested, but the Government of her gracious Majesty, always anxious to maintain order in the world, insisted no less on making sure of them.

"The Maharajah and his two companions have just arrived in London, and are settled in a sumptuous mansion, furnished by Goole, Truxham, and Co., Limited (who had received telegraphic orders to this effect), in perfect taste and with oriental magnificence. The importance of this event will be patent to all. In fact, a detachment of British troops has already taken Son-Po by assault, in order to repress the disturbance and protect those of our countrymen who are established there."

William could not conceal his joy on reading this news.

"So," said he, "another territory pilfered for the Queen. I ought to be able to profit by this——"

At this moment they arrived at Euston.

"We go straight to Charing Cross, I suppose, sir?" said John.

"No, indeed," said William. "I must see Badunabad first."

John shrugged his shoulders at the outlandish name.

"Of course," said William, laughing, "you haven't read the *Times*. Know then that the Maharajah of Brahmapootra, Badunabad himself, is in London, with his Vizier and his Grand Talapoin."

"Oh, the deuce!" ejaculated John, taken aback by the enumeration of all these titles.

"Don't you understand now?" said William. "The second copy of my stamp is perhaps in London. In any case I shall get all the information possible concerning it, since I am within reach of him who issued it."

The young American hailed a cab and, accompanied by his faithful valet, drove at such a pace to Goole, Truxham, and Co., Limited, in Cheapside, that they hardly had time to notice on the way the trees of Russell Square or the old houses in Holborn. Less than half an hour after leaving the station they reached Cheapside, and the reeking horse stopped short before an immense edifice, the windows of whose four stories shone like one enormous mirror in the rays of the setting sun.

A doorkeeper in white gloves and gold lacings came forward immediately.

"The offices are still open?" asked William anxiously.

"Yes, sir. Which department do you wish?"

William Keniss did not reply for a moment, being occupied in contemplating the dazzling face of the establishment, on which blazed, in letters two yards high, the names, "Goole" and "Truxham," and in smaller characters the many specialities of the house.

In this way one learnt, without even going inside, that they undertook pretty well anything: the buying and selling of estates, money lending and investing, furnishing novelties from Paris, libraries, furniture, carriages, linen, eatables, complete banquets, clothes, and every imaginable thing, whether necessaries, comforts, or luxuries. They supplied servants, horses, rooms, clerks, and secretaries, theatre and railway tickets; and organised trips and entertainments. In case of need they would have arranged marriages and procured friends.

"I wish to learn where the Maharajah of Brahmapootra is staying," said William at length.

"First floor, door No. 34."

John remained in the cab while William passed through a vestibule amidst a buzz of customers and employés, and mounted a staircase carpeted in red and lighted with huge electric globes. Each department had its own special place and was numbered, so that it could easily be found; and William soon arrived at No. 34.

"I am told," said he, "that I can learn here the address of the Maharajah of Brahmapootra."

"You are a creditor, sir, I suppose?" said the clerk.

"A creditor!" said William in astonishment. "Certainly not."

"Oh, all right, then."

And the clerk, without one unnecessary word, wrote a few lines on a card, which he gave to his client, who read, "H. E. Badunabad, Maharajah of Brahmapootra, Himalaya Villa, Park Lane, corner of Green Street."

William, having learnt all he needed, descended the

stairs, saying to himself, "What in the world made him ask me if I was a creditor?" Then, delighted at having attained his object so easily, he returned to the cab, which resumed its way, a little less rapidly than at first though, on account of the crowded state of the streets, which gives travellers a good opportunity for studying the various objects of interest which they pass.

These were, first, St. Paul's, the cathedral of London; then Ludgate Hill, the railway bridge, the two obelisks in Ludgate Circus, Fleet Street, with its numberless offices and its busy crowds. They also saw the Temple, and noticed on their right as they gained the Strand the Law Courts, with their battlements and Gothic turrets; St. Clement's and St. Mary's, two churches encamped in the middle of the street like two great kiosks; the Gaiety, the Lyceum, the Vaudeville, Charing Cross Station, grand and monumental, with its curious campanile in the entrance court.

"This is where we start from for France—if we do start," said William to John.

The cab next crossed Trafalgar Square, passing by the great column on which is perched Admiral Nelson, the conqueror of the French fleet, who died in the very moment of victory. Leaving on their right the statue of George III. they drove along Pall Mall, the street of Clubs, and up Waterloo Place, at the bottom of which is the Duke of York on another column.

At length, after passing the trees of the Green Park in Piccadilly, the fashionable street of London, they turned to the right into Park Lane, and stopped before the dwelling of the Indian prince.

(To be continued.)

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENCE

News from Mysore

BANGALORE, *4th February*, 1905.

Stamp Collecting in India: White Ants

STAMP collecting in India is a very different thing from the same hobby at home. Here we have all sorts of disadvantages which are unknown in England: for instance, white ants may eat your collection; they think nothing of devouring a tennis racquet, a pair of brown boots, and a book or two in the course of forty-eight hours. A friend of mine once thought of chaining one up in his bedroom as a sort of watch dog. My friend is not quite truthful at times, and his excuse for not keeping that particular white ant was that it had eaten the chain. The white ant isn't really an ant at all, and it isn't white, but that is a mere detail, and the original name has stuck to it. It is the most destructive creature imaginable, and all stamps have to be carefully put away in a metal box, otherwise they are not safe. One frequently finds Indian stamps with small holes, particularly round the edge. These holes are caused by white ants, and if the stamps were valuable great loss would be the result.

Moisture: Another Enemy

Another disadvantage out here is the damp. During the monsoons, which bring—or ought to bring—the rain twice a year (they often fail, and then there is a famine), the amount of moisture in the air is very great, and stamps with gum adhere tightly to a page and frequently become stained or mildewed. To guard against damp we use air-tight metal boxes, but it is sometimes advisable not to look at one's stamps at all if the monsoon season is a very wet one.

No Stamp Dealers in India

Another and a very great drawback is that there are practically no dealers. You cannot wander into a shop and buy a shilling packet, or look through some approval sheets, as you can in England, and there are none of those nice little stationers' shops where sheets of stamps appear in the window.

Most Europeans in India Collect Stamps

On the other hand, we have certain advantages, for some of the Native Indian stamps, and those of Siam, the Straits Settlements, Hong Kong, and Ceylon, are much more common in India than they are at home; and another advantage is that the majority of Europeans collect stamps, and it is not an unusual thing to travel in a railway carriage and find your fellow passengers are just as keen as yourself. I have had many a long stamp chat with other passengers during the tedious thirty-six hours' journey, through the heat of the Deccan, from Bombay to Bangalore; but if one commenced to talk "stamps" to the first man in a railway carriage at home he would think you were mad.

Indians are not British Colonials

It is a curious thing that so many collectors and even writers, who really ought to know better, will insist upon calling Indian stamps "British Colonials." India is very far indeed from being a colony; it is, in fact, one of the largest empires in the world, and is an integral part of the British Empire, but is no relation to a colony. What term should therefore be used for Indian stamps, since "Colonials" is utterly wrong? The best way out of the difficulty is to drop the word "Colonials" entirely, and use—for all stamps issued by any unit of the British Empire—the expression "Empire stamps," or "Empires," or "British Empires" (but please do not abbreviate into "Brempires"). This term would conveniently cover Protectorates and Native States, Dominions, Commonwealths and Crown Colonies, and States like Sarawak, which are protected by a defensive alliance, and which will be equally applicable in the future to the Federal States of South Africa, of Australia, of the West Indies, and of the Malay Peninsula, as it is at the present time for Seychelles and Natal.

To give an instance of my meaning, one frequently meets a collector who says, "I take only Colonials," yet nine-tenths of such people will show you page after page of Indian stamps, and will become very "fractious" indeed if told that they are not Colonials.

Another remarkable fact in connection with Indian stamps is that they are beloved by the schoolboy, and by the specialist, but are unpopular among ordinary collectors.

Indian Native States Stamps

The reason is fairly clear, however. In the first place, the issues of some of the Native States are among the most extraordinarily hideous productions in the world, and everybody knows there is a particular charm about certain things if they are only ugly *enough*; hence a dozen or so specimens from Datia, Dhar, Kishengarh, Bundi, etc., figure in every beginner's collection. As he gets older and more experienced he finds that many of these apparently rare stamps are either extremely common or vary so enormously that it is useless to go on with them: this condition lasts until experience has taught him that these stamps are vastly interesting and are, with of course a few exceptions (there are black sheep in every fold), a very respectable lot.

The younger collector knows very little about the Native Indian stamps as a rule, and if he be the fortunate possessor of a catalogue he gets so alarmed at the pages devoted to them that he decides to leave "smudges" alone. ("Smudge" is a thorough school-boy expression and most appropriate for some of these hand-stamped monstrosities.) But I should like to point out to all who are interested in Indian stamps that a very nice and extremely interesting collection may be obtained without any great outlay of pounds, shillings, and pence, by following a plan which I have often suggested to young collectors.

How to Collect Them

In the first place, it is not necessary to collect all the *types* of each stamp; unfortunately the majority of Native Indian stamps were printed from plates made up of a number of distinct dies fitted together, and in this case every stamp on the sheet is different and many of them will contain errors. Again, there have been many printings from some of the plates, and these differ in shade, paper, etc. Only the specialist need trouble about them. It is quite sufficient for the beginner to obtain one specimen of each design and value, and he may comfortably ignore all varieties of type, condition of plate, shade, paper, gum, watermark, errors, etc.

Let us take one or two examples. (1) Cochin: nineteen stamps are listed, but the beginner may be quite content with seven, the catalogue value of which is one shilling and five pence. Chakari has seven distinctly *different* stamps which should quite satisfy the younger collectors, in place of the twenty-one listed varieties. Faridkot (native prints) has three in place of eight. Soruth has six instead of twenty-nine.

We may still further reduce the number necessary for a representative collection by taking only one value in those cases where there are several values of the same design. It is therefore quite easy to obtain a type collection of the majority of the "smudges" for a very small outlay, and if these be mounted in one small book, with carefully written-up notes as to the date of issue, number of *varieties* of each design, the locality of the State, the name of the ruler, and other items, a very instructive little lot may be formed, and one which cannot fail to interest even a non collector.

Indian Stamps Overprinted for Native States

The stamps of British India, overprinted with the name of a State such as Chamba, Nabha, Gwalior, etc., are of the greatest interest, but there are a great number of varieties in consequence of the irregularities of the overprint. Here, again, the beginner would be very foolish to pay a high price for a particular stamp because there happened to be a small "A" instead of a large one, when he could get the large "A" variety for one penny. It is only the advanced collector who need worry about varieties of lettering; the more youthful collector may be quite content if he can show the normal stamp of each kind. I hope in a future letter to be able to draw up a list of just those Indian stamps with an overprint which should figure in a beginner's collection.

E. W. WETHERELL.

Our Portuguese Letter

LISBON, *3rd March*, 1905.

Withdrawal of Unnecessary Values

IN my last letter, published in No. 5 of *Gibbons Stamp Weekly*, I stated as probable that the stamps of 65, 115, 130, and 180 reis would be withdrawn. Since then the *Diario do Gouverno* (31st Jan., 1905) has published a decree that, on the 1st March, not only the above values, but also those of 15 and 80 reis, would be no longer sold; those, however, in the hands of the public would be available until the 31st March. The decree applies also to the stamps of the same values of Funchal, Angra, Horta, and Pont Delgada.

We may therefore consider that the values of 15, 65, 80, 115, 130, and 180 reis for Portugal, Madeira, and the Azores are now obsolete.

Issue of Booklets

On the 3rd February the *Diario do Gouverno* published a further decree, authorising the issue of booklets of stamps of the values of 5, 25, and 50 reis, twenty-four stamps of each value to each booklet, the booklets to be issued on the 1st April in Portugal, Funchal, Angra, Horta, and Ponta Delgada, and to cost, besides the value of the stamps, an extra 5 reis.

Reduction of Postal Rates

In July next the postage rates of the Colonies to foreign countries of the Postal Union are to be reduced, and it is probable we shall then have a similar withdrawal of certain values from the Colonial sets.

I believe it is intended at some future time, not very remote, to revert to the old nomenclature, in which case Funchal will disappear, and the three island districts of Angra, Horta, and Ponta Delgada be merged in the old name "Açores." This is certainly a step in the right direction, and it is to be hoped that the idea will be carried still further with some of the Colonies.

Printers' Waste with Abnormal Varieties Stolen and Sold

It has been recently discovered that some of the 1902 Colonial surcharges, with double, inverted, etc., surcharges, have been surreptitiously obtained from the Mint. These abnormal varieties had been put on one side as printers' waste, but an employee, who had access to them, had exchanged them for normal stamps, and so issued them in Lisbon, with other stamps, for a consideration. The authorities are, and always have been, exceedingly careful to prevent such varieties getting into the hands of collectors, and the result of the above irregularities is that redoubled vigilance will be exercised to avoid a recurrence of such a thing. It speaks well for the Lisbon collectors and dealers that they have done and are doing everything possible to collect all such stamps and return them to the Mint. As the stamps had been sold at high prices, the return of the stamps means a great loss to those who held them. The list of these abnormal varieties is, however, small, and the quantities that got out inconsiderable. Of course it is quite possible that some errors may have gone out to the Colonies really accidentally, but it is very improbable, as nowadays every postal official is on the look-out for such things, and they would have been heard of before now.

Genuinely issued Varieties

The *only* errors that can at present be looked upon as genuinely issued are as follows:—

Portuguese India. 2 reis on 4 reis (D. Luiz), perf. 12½, inverted surcharge; 2½ tangas on 4 tangas (D. Luiz), perf. 13½, double surcharge; 3 reis on 4½ reis (D. Carlos), perf. 12½, inverted surcharge.
Timor. 5 avos on 5 reis (D. Carlos), perf. 11½, inverted surcharge.

No others should be accepted without inquiries. I should say in this connection that all the Portuguese present issue stamps which have been discovered without value, with misplaced, etc., value, are perfectly genuine and were really issued—with the exception of the 500 reis. Exposure to strong sunlight will bleach out the carmine figures of value of this stamp.

The present issues of Portugal and Colonies unused should appreciate in value, as the value of the pound sterling has gradually diminished from over eight milreis to less than five. The present value of the milreis is 4s. 1d.

J. N. MARSDEN.

THE STAMP MARKET

By AN ODD LOT

British Bechuanaland

RESUMING our notes on the advance sheets of the new Gibbons Catalogue for 1905, it may be interesting to set out the slow but steady rise in the early issue :—

	1896	1897	1899	1900	1902	1903	1904	1905
Wmk. CC	*s. d.*	*s. d.*	*s. d.*	*s. d.*	*s. d.*	*s. d.*	*s. d.*	*s. d.*
4d., blue .	1 6	2 0	2 0	2 0	2 0	4 0	5 0	5 0
Wmk. CA								
½d., black .	0 6	1 0	1 0	1 0	2 0	2 6	2 6	2 6
3d., claret .	1 0	1 3	1 3	1 3	1 3	1 3	2 0	2 0
Wmk. Anchor								
½d., black .	0 4	0 6	0 6	0 6	0 6	0 8	1 0	1 0
1d., carmine.	1 0	1 6	1 9	1 9	1 9	2 0	2 6	4 0
2d., ochre .	0 8	1 0	1 6	1 6	1 6	2 6	4 0	2 6
6d., violet .	2 0	3 6	5 0	5 0	5 0	5 0	8 6	10 0
1s., green .	2 6	6 6	12 6	—	30 0	30 0	35 0	35 0

British Central Africa

THIS colony did not start well from a philatelic point of view. There were not a few rumours about as to the manipulation of some of its higher values, which lowered the stamps very much for some years in the eyes of collectors. But there may be said to be an awakening interest in its issues of late. There are a few changes to note in the new Gibbons. The provisional 3s. on 4s. of 1892-3 has been advanced from 40s., unused and used, to 60s., and the companion provisional issue of 4s. on 5s., unused, has been moved on from 7s. 6d. to 10s. The 3s., yellow, used, of the 1895 series has been raised from 2s. 6d. to 5s., and the 5s., used, of the same series from 15s. to 20s. In the 1896 and 1897 series there is a pretty general rise all round, the most notable being the following :—

1836	1904 *Unused*	1904 *Used*	1905 *Unused*	1905 *Used*
	s. d.	*s. d.*	*s. d.*	*s. d.*
2d., green . .	1 6	1 6	2 6	2 6
4d., orange-brown .	4 0	3 0	5 0	5 0
1s., rose . .	10 0	7 6	12 6	5 0
2s. 6d., black and lilac .	12 6	12 6	15 0	15 0
3s., black and yellow .	10 0	4 0	15 0	5 0
5s., black and olive .	30 0	25 0	40 0	30 0
1897				
1s., lilac . .	1 6	1 6	2 6	3 0
2s. 6d., ultramarine .	3 6	3 6	6 0	5 0
3s., sea-green . .	20 0	20 0	40 0	25 0
4s., carmine . .	5 6	5 6	8 0	8 0
10s., olive-green .	12 6	7 6	25 0	12 6
£1, lilac . .	25 0	12 6	40 0	15 0

British East Africa

IN this colony the interest in prices centres largely in the two first issues under the Imperial Administration, both made in the year 1895. What is known as the handstamped series of July, 1895, has not had much chance of showing any rise in prices, for it was started "tall" when first included in the Catalogue. Still, it may be noted that the "tall" prices have been fairly well maintained. Here are the figures from 1897 for unused :—

Value	No. printed	1897 *s. d.*	1899 *s. d.*	1900 *s. d.*	1902 *s. d.*	1903 *s. d.*	1904 *s. d.*	1905 *s. d.*
½ a. .	4,980	—	30 0	20 0	20 0	15 0	15 0	10 0
1 a. .	1,040	—	80 0	80 0	80 0	80 0	—	65 0
2 a. .	180?	—	60 0	60 0	60 0	60 0	60 0	60 0
2½ a. .	4,020	—	45 0	30 0	30 0	30 0	30 0	30 0
3 a. .	2,230	6 0	7 6	7 6	7 6	7 6	10 0	10 0
4 a. .	3,240	5 0	4 6	4 0	5 0	5 0	7 6	7 6
4½ a. .	3,780	50 0	45 0	40 0	40 0	40 0	40 0	40 0
5 a. .	780	—	90 0	120 0	120 0	100 0	90 0	90 0
7½ a. .	1,140	25 0	25 0	20 0	25 0	25 0	25 0	25 0
8 a. .	1,900	8 0	16 0	15 0	15 0	15 0	15 0	15 0
1 r. .	2,349	10 0	10 0	10 0	12 6	12 6	12 6	12 6
2 r. .	520	50 0	80 0	100 0	100 0	—	£5	£5
3 r. .	719	35 0	30 0	30 0	30 0	30 0	50 0	50 0
4 r. .	868	40 0	35 0	27 6	27 6	27 6	35 0	35 0
5 r. .	568	90 0	90 0	90 0	90 0	—	£5	£5

The series of November, 1895, overprinted on Indian stamps, not having been started at panic prices, has had more room to grow, as will be seen from the following table of prices for unused :—

	No. printed	1897 *s. d.*	1899 *s. d.*	1900 *s. d.*	1902 *s. d.*	1903 *s. d.*	1904 *s. d.*	1905 *s. d.*
½ a., green . .	11,040	0 8	0 6	0 6	0 6	0 6	0 6	1 0
1 a., plum . .	11,280	0 9	0 8	1 8	1 0	1 0	1 0	1 6
1½ a., sepia. .	12,200	1 3	0 9	0 9	1 0	1 6	1 6	2 0
2 a., ultramarine	9,200	1 6	0 9	0 9	1 0	1 0	1 0	1 6
2½ a., green .	13,200	1 9	1 0	1 0	1 6	2 0	2 6	2 6
3 a., dull orange .	2,560	2 6	5 0	4 0	4 0	4 0	4 0	5 0
4 a., olive-green .	3,400	2 0	1 9	1 9	1 9	3 6	2 0	6 0
6 a., bistre . .	1,960	3 0	2 0	1 6	2 0	4 0	4 0	4 0
8 a., mauve. .	1,960	3 6	4 6	5 0	7 6	7 6	7 6	7 6
12 a., brown on red	1,000	4 0	4 6	2 6	2 6	7 6	7 6	7 6
1 r., slate . .	2,000	12 6	10 0	10 0	15 0	12 6	15 0	20 0
1 r., carmine and green . .	1,000	6 6	10 0	4 0	6 0	10 0	10 0	10 0
2 r., yellow-brown and carmine .	392	8 6	15 0	17 6	20 0	30 0	30 0	30 0
3 r., green and brown . .	392	12 0	17 6	22 6	25 0	35 0	35 0	35 0
5 r., violet and ultramarine .	392	20 0	25 0	25 0	30 0	40 0	40 0	40 0

For such small printings as those of the high values, the Catalogue prices seem to be exceptionally reasonable.

Virgin Islands Remainders

THE following official announcement has been sent around for publication :—

The Crown Agents for the Colonies have been requested by the Government of the Leeward Islands to dispose of the undermentioned Virgin Islands postage stamps, which comprise the whole stock remaining in the hands of the Government, and of which no further supplies will be printed, the plates from which they were produced having been destroyed. The issue is that of 1889, and was printed on paper watermarked Crown and CA.

The stamps are in sheets of sixty stamps, and are of the following descriptions and quantities :—

Duty.	Number of Stamps.	Colour.
½d. . .	114,840 . .	light green.
1d. . .	47,940 . .	red.
2½d. . .	53,760 . .	blue.
4d. . .	1,620 . .	brown.
6d. . .	19,080 . .	purple.
7d. . .	24,720 . .	dark green.
1s. . .	18,120 . .	yellow.
5s. . .	1,500 . .	grey.

Specimens of the stamps can be seen at the Crown Agents' Office between the hours of 10 and 4, and 10 and 1 on Saturdays.

No offers for less than £50 worth of stamps will be considered.

Tenderers must take all responsibility in connection with the description and condition of the stamps sold.

Offers, which must not be less than face value, must be sent in addressed as below not later than the 30th June, 1905, on which date all offers received will be considered.

Office of the Crown Agents for the Colonies,

Whitehall Gardens, London, S.W.

March, 1905.

These remainders are all of the 1899 series, now superseded by the King's Heads.

ANSWERS TO CORRESPONDENTS

C. T. Mc. (Glasgow).—You ask a curious question. You note that this journal does not take advertisements from other firms, and has, therefore, no revenue from that source, and, as you say, the return from sales, even on a large circulation, is not worth counting in the cost of running such a journal, and you are right in surmising that the cost is many bawbees, and, as a canny, cautious Scot, you are naturally curious to know where the publishers, Stanley Gibbons, Ltd., come in. They are not, as you bluntly put it, philanthropists. We will be frank with you. The cost is heavy—running at present at the rate of £1,500 a year. Well, Stanley Gibbons, Ltd., are sanguine enough to believe that such a journal as this, provided by them almost regardless of cost, will be such a help to collectors, and yield such genuine satisfaction, that it cannot fail to generate a friendly, appreciative, and responsive return in the shape of business orders. They say, We have the finest stock in the world; we take a pride in giving the greatest satisfaction to our customers, no matter whether their order be for the commonest stamps or for the greatest rarities, and we want to get into touch with the great body of general collectors, and more especially with the young collector. We are going to convince them that they can go nowhere else and be served so well. The young collector is no fool. If we provide him with a useful, instructive, and entertaining weekly stamp journal, and he can get what stamps he needs as cheaply from the publishers as elsewhere, he is going to give the preference to his favourite journal. And it is the business resulting from these mutual and friendly interests that our publishers rely on to justify their very heavy outlay in publishing a *Gibbons Stamp Weekly*. Of course it is an experiment, but we believe it is an experiment that can scarcely fail to stimulate a loyal response from its readers. Anyway, the Editor is prepared to back the *Weekly* and its readers for a long and successful career with a stately row of half-yearly volumes.

H. G. (York).—The two firms you inquire about are thoroughly trustworthy, and will no doubt serve you well. *But what is the matter with our publishers, Stanley Gibbons, Ltd., 391, Strand, London, that they cannot supply all your stamp needs?* Surely as a reader of *Gibbons Stamp Weekly* you are going to back the firm that provides you with your favourite weekly. I certainly should not buy any stamps with the name of the firm stamped on them. Of course it is a guarantee, but it is nevertheless a disfigurement. You can please yourself whether you place the "cancelled" Mauritius in your collection. It does not rank with one not overprinted, which would cost very much more, but the childish drivel that is written against such stamps is surprising. Some of the finest and costliest collections in the world include such stamps. An auction catalogue lies before us now of the sale of two superb collections which contain several such stamps listed as "officially cancelled." When you can afford the stamp uncancelled, of course you remove the "cancelled" copy. Most mounts are now made of good peelable quality. Stanley Gibbons' No. 4 is the one we prefer. Wet about a sixteenth of an inch of the edge and affix it to the left-hand side of the stamp, fold it over so that it will just escape showing under the perforation, then wet about a sixteenth of an inch of the other end and affix it to your album. Your stamp will then be hinged to fall the same way as the leaves of your album, and be much less liable to be caught by the closing pages than if hinged at the top. Why stamps are ever hinged at the top the Lord only knows.

B. D. (Boitsfort).—When you know a little more about stamp collecting you will learn that remainders overprinted "Cancelled" are to be found in some of the finest collections. They are, of course, turned out directly an uncancelled copy is secured. For instance, the Mauritius 1s. on 5s., violet, of 1877 is catalogued at 50s. unused and 45s. used, and is difficult to get, but the young collector can get a copy of this rarity officially "cancelled" for 1s. 6d.

R. S. (Northampton).—Yes, different watermarks mark separate issues, and are collected. As to varieties of perforation, you can please yourself. The young collector will do well not to trouble about them at the start. No, post cards and envelope stamps are not nowadays included in a collection of postage stamps. They are, of course, postage stamps, but they are now generally excluded in favour of a limitation to *adhesive* postage stamps. As a young collector you had better take stamps as they come, giving the preference, when you can, to unused, and always replacing used copies by unused when convenient. The album should be kept in a dry place and as free from dust as possible.

C. St. G. W. (Weybridge).—Thank you for the copy of the provisional ¼ anna Indian. We received one also from Mr. Corfield.

E. A. S. F. (Essex).—The tiny Japanese characters, signifying Government reprint or facsimile, are variously placed on the stamps.

C. F. H. (Buxton).—The holes punched out of Spanish stamps indicate that they were used for telegraphic purposes.

OUR PHILATELIC DIARY

MARCH, 1905

27. Auction: Hadlow, Covent Garden Hotel, Southampton Street, W.C. 5 p.m.
28. Auction: Plumridge, 64, Chancery Lane, London. 4.45 p.m.
29. Auction: Plumridge, 64, Chancery Lane, London. 4.45 p.m.
31. Manchester Philatelic Society: J. C. North, Display—Malta, with notes.

Editorial Address—EDWARD J. NANKIVELL, Carnanton, Camden Park, Tunbridge Wells.

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25 March, 1905.

Gibbons Stamp Weekly

EDITED BY EDWARD J. NANKIVELL

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FIRST STEPS IN PHILATELY

By Rev. T. C. WALTON, M.A.

Introductory Remarks

THE title of this series needs no explanation. The articles are addressed to the beginners or the would-be beginners in stamp collecting. Beginners are of two kinds. In Philately, as in any other hobby or business or work in life, there are those who begin well and advance steadily, ever increasing in knowledge with the years, ever thankful that their hobby has given them so many hours full of interest and unalloyed happiness. There are also those who catch the infection and live at high pressure for a few weeks until the fever has somewhat abated. There is the desire to amass treasures and to rival the collections of others without the willingness to undergo a course in "first principles." The patient and systematic study of all things connected with stamps and their collecting is avoided as something alien to the spirit of a hobby. And the usual result is that of the house built on the sand. The "underneath" is wanting. What we see is all that there is to see. The whole edifice topples at the first shock. But just as jerry-built houses partake of the nature of the phœnix and rise again from the ruins of their former state, so is it with the "intermittent" beginner. He sees a collection that rekindles his enthusiasm, and off he gallops once more on the old hobby-horse until desire again fails and neglect takes its place. Now I would not lay myself open to the charge of rashly laying the whole blame of this at the beginner's door. Honestly, I do not think that this fickleness was altogether his own fault. Few, if any, catered for his wants. Magazines there were in profusion, but their readers were the advanced collectors, and the specialists and their columns had few references or articles which could be of any possible service to the young recruit. He wanted guidance, encouragement, advice. He got "the cold shoulder." Now "the old order changeth." It has become a self-evident fact that the great science of Philately cannot hope to continue its present rate of development unless beginners are recruited and taught carefully and on scientific lines.

A Beginner's Difficulties

The *bonâ-fide* beginner, whether he be old or young, rich or poor, desires to know all that is worth knowing about stamps, their history and their collection. It is an unknown world to him. He knows not which way to go. There are many false guides who would persuade him that if only he would place his purse at their disposal, they would quickly lead him to the "Elysian Fields." There are those who would make him believe that their only object in life is to make him presents of stamps out of sheer good nature. Then, again, there are so many roads to traverse, so many countries to visit. And some are well worth the journey, but others are best seen from afar. And the faces of these countries are so often changing. New designs appear frequently, and each new face means

a further study of that country. The beginner may also have bought a standard catalogue of all the stamps of these countries, and have experienced something of that sinking feeling which most beginners have when they turn over the pages of their "Gibbons" for the first time. What a new world is opened out by that catalogue! There are so many things to learn, so many terms which convey to him in his initial stage about as little knowledge as a page of Syriac characters would convey. What do they all mean? Perfs., wmks., surcharges, dies, blued papers, errors, and a thousand others. How they puzzle us at first! And when one thinks of the yearly increasing number of stamps, one begins to realise that stamp collecting is becoming more and more complicated with the years. Mons. Arthur Maury's lists of new issues of postal and telegraphic stamps give a total of 4,459 as the number added to the world's list in the five years ending December 31st, 1904. The number may well startle even the well-seasoned collector; but what are the feelings engendered in the young beginner's mind? The task upon which he has entered seems well-nigh hopeless. He would give it up. But no, there is the better part. There is the possibility of picking another's brains and benefiting by his experience. The writer gladly recognises how much he owes to the kindly sympathy, help, and advice of collectors more advanced than himself. Now he sits in his study chair and conjures up just such a course of lessons as would have been of the utmost service to him in those early days. Unfortunately the lessons were learnt after the mistakes were made. Vain and useless regrets will never bring back the lost opportunities. Increased knowledge only serves to guard against a repetition of blunders. With the beginner, however, it need not be so. If he is willing to be guided into right paths, if he is humble-minded enough to take warnings against the pitfalls into which those more experienced than himself have so frequently fallen, if he will patiently study the best and most recent methods of collecting—then it would require no great measure of inspiration to prophesy for his hobby a long, happy, and successful life.

After all, a hobby is very much what we make it. If we bestow much labour and care and thought upon it we reap a manifold increase in pleasure and profit. But "Progress" must be the watchword. This magazine was expressly published for those who, having already joined or having a wish to join the philatelic ranks, look for real help and advice in the early steps.

Scope of Articles

This series is the outcome of this intention. The writer will aim at making the articles as practical as possible. Questions which the beginner is asking every day will be dealt with: What stamps shall I collect? Shall I collect used or unused or both? What limits can I place to my collection? How can I best choose a country or group of countries? How can I tell the difference between various issues, and locate stamps the appearance of which affords no help in the naming of the countries to which they belong? In what order should stamps be arranged? What is the best method of arrangement? How can I detect watermarks? Why should I measure perforations? What stamps ought I to seek, and what to avoid, and why? With these and kindred questions "First Steps" will deal. It is hoped that the articles will prove very helpful to beginners. They will most certainly achieve their purpose if they serve to lift the curtain which is drawn across the philatelic stage, and remove the doubts and fears which beset beginners of all ages. With these introductory remarks let us approach nearer to our subject. A brief summary of the history of the early appearances of the world's postage stamps may prove interesting.

Historical Retrospect

Everyone knows that the distinction of having been the first to introduce an adhesive stamp for the prepayment of postage belongs to Great Britain. The date was the year 1840, but its first decade of existence caused little stir in the postal centres of Europe. True, the use of a stamp must have been widely discussed abroad; but discussion proved a very slow means of bringing about a general introduction of postage stamps. The list of pioneer stamp countries during this first decade is as surprisingly small as it

is unexpected in its order. A Sydney stamped envelope of 1838 paved the way for the introduction of the English 1d., black. The United States followed in 1841 with a private venture. Then came Zurich, Brazil, and Geneva in 1848. Basle and Finland joined the ranks of stamp-collecting countries in 1845. Trinidad with the Lady McLeod local stamp, Thurn and Taxis, and Mauritius came into line in 1847; while France, Hanover, Belgium, and Bavaria in 1849 bring up the total number of countries using adhesive stamps or stamped envelopes to seventeen, if we include the stamped envelopes of Brunswick and Russia issued in 1844 and 1845 respectively. Contrast this slow growth with the rapidity of increase during the years 1850-60. During that second decade some seventy countries introduced the system of thus prepaying postage by means of adhesive stamps. All European States had become stamp producers and users, except Greece, Turkey, Servia, Mecklenburg-Strelitz, Montenegro, San Marino, and Monaco. Since 1860 the list has grown from some eighty-seven countries, most of which had only a single issue to date, to about 500 stamp-producing districts, many of which have issued series after series in such quick succession that the task of collecting the postage stamps of the world has well-nigh become a practical impossibility.

(To be continued.)

O PENNY RED!

The Second Spasm[1] *by* W. E. IMESON

I

I'M told that "Penny Reds" can be
Put to a noble use,[2]
Since learning which I hold them far
Too dear for cheap abuse.
Who would have thought that "Reds"
could help
A free-boot charity?
I'm sure no "barefaced swindle" can
The Barefoot Mission be.

II

I love barefooted urchins (tho'
There's one that give me shocks;
I *won't* find *him* in boots, altho'
I'd like to give him "socks!").
The woes of shoeless poverty
To ease we all would strive.
('Tis time those "Reds," too, got the
sack—
They fill just twenty-five!)

III

I'd like to dodge my "lot," as some
Would like to dodge their duns,
And where it goes boots little—if
It but "boots" little ones.
I'd like indeed, as many would,
With philatelic doles
To help to shoe barefooted waifs,
Poor waifs that have no soles.

IV

Think me not callous—many true
Words spoken are in jest;
If used stamps in this way be used—
Then used stamps are the best.
So, with your hoards of idle stamps
You'll all know what to do:
Don't let them eat their "heads" off—like
"Bill Bailey number two!"

V

Unlike those "Reds," I'm "cornered" now,
I must own up, forsooth:
Then let me state the bare fact—that's,
Of course, the naked truth.
Those "Penny Reds" are not my own
(Else I'd at once disgorge);
I merely aired the grievance of
A friend, whose front name's George.

VI

I'll speak to George: "How proud, old
man,
You'll feel when out you meet
The well-shod mites that represent
Your philatelic feat!"
In all my verses (as a rule)
Truth gets the greater share;
But, straight! those "Reds" are *not*
mine—tho',
If mine, I'd freely spare!

[1] For First Spasm, see p. 138.

[2] See Answers to Correspondents, p. 180.

STAMP COLLECTING AS A PASTIME

By EDWARD J. NANKIVELL

(*Continued from page* 186.)

XII. Stamps as Works of Art (*continued*)

GREAT commercial countries, producing their postage stamps by hundreds of millions, are as contemptuous in their consideration of the art possibilities of a postage stamp as the cynical artist whose days and years are devoted to the disfigurement of wall space. This country has no cause to be proud of the designs or the printing of its postage stamps. The chief consideration seems to be a low contract price for the production of recognisable labels for the indication of the prepayment of postage. That is the commercial view. And yet there are some foolish people who believe that an artist who could design an effective and acceptable postage stamp for the British Empire would add materially to his own fame and to the art standard of the Empire itself.

Brother Jonathan across the sea is not unmindful of art in the production of his postage stamps, despite his commercial inclinations and training. From the first he has put his patriotism into his postage stamps. The portraits of the Presidents, from George Washington to Lincoln, and from Lincoln to McKinley, who have ruled, wisely and well, the destinies of the great Republic, Jonathan engraves in his best style, in his own official engraving establishment, and proudly places upon his postage stamps for the admiration of all good citizens and the edification and envy of the effete old countries beyond the seas.

We, with our richer memories and our stately galleries of great men who have ruled or governed or fought through the centuries, must be content with an Empire postage stamp that is little better, from an art point of view, than an ordinary beer label, and we must be content to be told that it is the penalty of success, of the dire necessity of long numbers, and of a needy Treasury that sorely hungers for still greater profits from the Post Office

Meanwhile, small struggling States revel in beautiful stamps. The latest trend is in the direction of miniature portraiture. The Argentine Republic and Bolivia have in recent years issued some very fine examples in this direction. A very useful innovation is the addition of the name under the portrait. In this way thousands have been familiarised with the names and faces of men who before were almost unknown beyond their own country. Historic features, such as those of Columbus and Pizarro, have occasionally been added to the growingly interesting gallery of stamp portraits.

The recently issued New Zealand picture series, illustrating most effectively some of the choicest bits of colonial scenery, and some of the rarest birds of the colony, engraved by Messrs. Waterlow and Sons, afforded an interesting and successful experiment in an art direction. As a result it is said that a strong demand has been generated in other colonies for similarly beautiful and localised designs in preference to the stereotyped mediocrity supplied by the ordinary label process.

XIII. Stamp Collecting as an Investment

When a stamp collector is charged with being extravagant, with spending money lavishly and foolishly on a mere hobby, he may very justifiably reply that even his most extravagant spending may be regarded as an investment.

The ordinary investor in, say, industrial securities is fairly content if he can, with a little risk, secure a steady six or seven per cent. If he launches out into more speculative shares, yielding higher rates of interest, he must be content to face a much greater risk of the capital invested. Now, the severest test of an investment is the yield of interest over a series of years covering periods of depression as well as periods of prosperity. The stamp collector who has used ordinary discretion in his purchases may confidently submit his investment to this test.

(*To be continued.*)

PORTRAITS ON STAMPS

By MARK W. HALL

Argentine Republic (*continued*)

Saavedra, Cornelio, Argentine soldier. Born in Potosi, Bolivia, in 1760. In 1767 his family removed to Buenos Ayres, where he obtained his education. He filled different posts under the Spanish Government, and on 6th September, 1806, was appointed chief of a battalion. When Montevideo was taken by the English troops, 2nd February, 1807, Liniers marched with a division of 2,500 volunteers to protect the city, and Saavedra took part in the expedition at the head of 600 patricians. On 5th July, 1807, he took an active part in the conquest of the latter city at the head of his battalion. On 25th May, 1810, after the revolution, he was appointed president of the governing junta. Against the advice of Mariano Moreno, he admitted the deputies of the interior provinces into the junta in December, 1810, and by this and other measures caused discontent. When the patriotic army, under Belgrano, was defeated, 20th June, 1811, at Huaqui, Saavedra left for Upper Peru to take command of the army. On 23rd September the revolution that overthrew the junta took place, and Saavedra was ordered to deliver the forces under his command to General Pueyrredon. In 1814 he was accused of being the leader of the mutiny of April, 1811, took refuge in Chili, and was excluded from the amnesty that was granted afterwards. When Belcarce passed to the army of San Martin, 1817, Saavedra was appointed his successor as chief of staff, which place he occupied till 1818. He served in the Argentine army till 1821, when he retired with his family to a country seat, and died in Buenos Ayres in 1829.



Saavedra.

His portrait appears on the 90 centavos, blue, 1867–76.

Bolivia (*continued*)

Frias, Tomás, Bolivian statesman. Born in Potosi, 14th January, 1805. He began in early life to take an active part in politics, assisting in 1828, after the overthrow of Sucre's government by Gamarra, to re-establish constitutional authority. In 1832 he was appointed by General Santa Cruz secretary of legation in Paris, and was afterwards several times deputy to congress, and secretary of state under the administrations of Velasco in 1840, José Ballivian in 1841–6, and Linares in 1858–60. In 1861 he was sent as minister plenipotentiary to Chili, and in 1871 was again called to be secretary of state by General Morales, who afterwards appointed him president of the council of state. He temporarily assumed the executive power when Morales was assassinated on 25th November, 1872, and when Adolfo Ballivian was elected constitutional president Frias delivered the executive power to him in May, 1873, and was by him appointed vice-president. When Ballivian, towards the end of the year, was prevented by sickness from attending to his official duties, Frias assumed the presidency, and on the death of the former, 14th February, 1874, occupied the executive chair for the remainder of his term. His administration was one of the most progressive that Bolivia ever had. In February, 1879, he was appointed minister to France, and as such signed a treaty of friendship and commerce between Spain and his country. On his return he retired to private life. He died in La Paz, 15th August, 1884.



Frias.

His portrait appears on the 1 centavo, yellow-green, 1897.

TÊTE-BÊCHE—ON A STRING

By DÂK

IT was just when the War blundered out at the Cape
That I joined the concern of Tape, Ticker, and Tape;
I'd the shiniest hat with the brim all a-curl,
And just a suspicion of scorn for a girl.

We met at my aunt's, where she'd happened to call,
And I said "How-d'ye-doo-o?" in my easiest drawl.
She *smiled*—and *at once* I was hers to command
Without a suspicion of making a stand.

She'd the daintiest head with the daintiest poise,
And dimples that danced as delicious decoys;
Her laugh was a wonder, with gold in each note,
And she'd just a suspicion of lace at the throat.

Her gloves and her shoes were as neat as could be,
And her silk-circled wrists quite refreshing to see;
She'd a veil that fell taut from a bright picture-hat,
And just a suspicion of scent and all that.

Well, I talked to the lady and happened to say
I was keen upon stamps in an amateur way;
She exclaimed, "Let me see them, *do, please*, Mr. Jones!"
With the sweetest suspicion of zest in her tones.

"I dream about *stamps*, though I've only a few,
And of course my display will seem nothing to you;
And there's so much to learn, I don't know that I ought—
I've a sort of suspicion I want to be taught."

So I showed her my stamps, and I showed my hand too,
When she glittered with glee o'er my best "Sydney View,"
Saying, "Do, please, accept it; it's really quite good!"
Though I'd not a suspicion, of course, that she would.

But she did—and then kissed it with maidenly grace,
And glanced up her thanks from a down-tilted face,
As she slipped the stamp into the belt at her waist,
And I'd just a suspicion that kiss was misplaced.

Well, that was the start, though the end isn't yet,
For her teeth are still pearls, and her locks are still jet.
When we met and I "parted" I learned to be schooled
To the gentle suspicion, "It's nice to be fooled."

Her album waxed bulky as my album waned,
For we knew how to fill in the time when it rained;
And my aunt used to smile from her knitting anon
Without a suspicion of all that was on.

It happened the year that Victoria died
That she flashed down an aisle as a bride at my side;
As an "unsevered pair" we have journeyed since then
Without a suspicion of cloud in our ken.

It happened last week, though, I thought I'd go back
To the pleasure-decked charm of Philately's track;
I looked for our albums, and—(here a bad word)—
Though I'd not a suspicion of what had occurred.

She mused. "Stamps? Oh, it's stamps I suppose you must mean"
(With a far-away look and a gesture serene).
"Why, I've threaded them on to a string for Tom's sake,
And he hugs the suspicion they must be a snake.

"The dear little fellow, he screams with delight
When it wriggles about in his bath-tub at night;
He tickles his toes with the slimy affair,
With the leastest suspicion of fear in his air."

I observed, "Oh, indeed!" And the dear little chap
Crowed "Vevvy *big* snake!" from his fair mother's lap:
But as I had really small cause to rejoice,
There was just a suspicion of doubt in my voice.

Then she pouted and, tossing her picturesque head,
Said, "I'm going to collect picture postcards instead.
I think picture postcards are nicer by far"—
And I'd quite a suspicion I'd met with a jar.

Then they skipped round the room in an improvised waltz,
And I pardoned the snake on the spot for his faults;
For I couldn't be harsh with my darling for long,
Though I've still a suspicion my darling was wrong.

NEW ISSUES

The Editor will be grateful to his readers if they will help him with the earliest possible information concerning new issues. News from the Colonies in particular will be much appreciated. When possible, a specimen should accompany the information, and should be addressed to

EDWARD J. NANKIVELL, Carnanton, Camden Park, Tunbridge Wells.

Abyssinia.—Two sets of stamps have been received with new varieties of overprints: one of them has the Amharic characters shown in Type 4 in the Catalogue, but of larger size and more irregular shape (colours not stated); the other is surcharged with ordinary numerals covering the characters denoting the values.

The *Monthly Circular* states that the surcharge on these provisionals represents a change to decimal currency.

Provisionals.

"05", in *blue*, on ½ g., green.
"10" ,, ,, ½ g., rose.
"20", in *black*, on 1 g., blue.
"40", in *blue*, on 2 g., brown.
"80", in *black*, on 4 g., claret.
"1·60" ,, ,, 8 g., lilac.
"3·20" ,, ,, 16 g., black.

Denmark.—On pages 30 and 140 we chronicled the first of a new series for this country with a portrait of King Christian IX., and we received copies of the 10 öre and 20 öre. The 5 öre we quoted from the *Monthly Circular.*

Ewen's Weekly now states that the 5 öre has not been issued, and that the 10 öre and 20 öre have been withdrawn. No explanation is forthcoming for the withdrawal.

If this news is correct, there will be a run on the two values issued, and readers of *G.S.W.* will do well to secure any copies they require while they are to be had at new issue prices.

India.—*Provisional.*—The *Philatelic Journal of India* publishes the following circular, issued by the Director-General of the Post Office of India, concerning the new provisional ¼ anna stamps chronicled by us last week (p. 188):—

"In consequence of the abnormal sales of ¼ anna postage stamps which have lately taken place the stocks of the stamp in the three central depôts at Calcutta, Bombay, and Madras are nearly exhausted, and as fresh supplies are not expected from England till April next it has been decided, as a temporary measure, to have a quantity of ½ anna postage stamps surcharged with the lower value, in order to meet the continuing heavy demand for ¼ anna stamps. As in 1898, when this denomination of postage stamp was originally introduced, the surcharge will consist of a large, bold fraction, as shown on the margin, printed in black on each surcharged stamp.

"These surcharged stamps will be issued in the usual way from treasuries in compliance with the requisitions of postmasters and other stamp vendors for ¼ anna postage stamps, and when used by the public in payment of postage, etc., they should, of course, be recognised to the extent of the surcharged value."

Jaipur.—Mr. R. Camberlain, India, writes to us as follows:—

"I can give you some assistance with regard to the inscriptions on the Jaipur stamps for *G.S.W.* The inscriptions at the side show the value in words in Urdu and Nagri character respectively. The inscription at the top in Nagri is SAWAI JAIPU'R. *Sawai* literally means, 'besides,' or 'except.' In revenue matters 'Sawai' (usually 'Siwai' in Hindi) 'income' means the miscellaneous income of a village as opposed to the revenue from land. No doubt it has a similar meaning here, and refers to postal revenue as subsidiary to the main revenue from land. This is only a surmise on my part. The inscription on the flag is 'Yăto dharmm stăto jai,' and the literal translation is, 'If (religion or charity), then (means or victory).'

"This is probably the State motto, with a play on the word 'Jai-pur.'

"Its probable meaning may roughly be translated, 'Who gives, gets,' implying that charity means no loss. *Dharm* also means 'religion,' and *jai*.' victory,' and it is possible the motto might mean, 'God giveth the victory'; but I think the first interpretation is more probably correct."

Panama.—The *American Journal of Philately* says: "We understand that, as the Post Office department of Panama was placed upon a gold basis on December 12th, 1904, some of the values of the new series were placed in use upon that day. They are of a design similar to the old series issued while the Republic was a State of Colombia. As yet we have seen none of them without the Canal Zone surcharge."

Perforated.

1 c., green.
2 c., rose.
5 c., blue.
10 c., yellow.

Sierra Leone.—The *Monthly Circular* says the ½d. value has appeared on the multiple CA paper. This is the first stamp on the new paper from this colony.

King's Head.
Wmk. Multiple C A. Perf.

½d., purple and green.

MISCELLANEOUS

The State of Sirmoor

THE State of Sirmoor is situated in the lower "Simla Hills," between the Umballa and Simla districts. Its area is about 1,108 square miles, and its population about 135,000. . . . The late Rajah reorganised the administration on the lines of the departments of the Indian Government, and the whole machinery is kept in perfect working order by his son, the present Rajah. The Sirmoor Sappers, consisting of two companies, are considered to be amongst the smartest units of the Imperial Service Troops; they are commanded by the Rajah's brother, Sirdar Bir Bikram Singh, C.I.E., who occupies the rank of Major of Royal Engineers in the British Army.—*Philatelic Journal of India.*

The Stamps of Sirmoor

THE State has long been considered the model one, as regards administration, amongst the many Native States of the Punjab. Its philatelic history has, upon the whole, been satisfactory. It is true there was a good-natured reproducing of the earliest issue and of the chocolate 3 pies of the second issue. Stamps of four denominations over the value of 2 annas, which were hardly required, were added to the list somewhat late in the day, though these were not surcharged as Service stamps; and, worst of all, there is the unexplained simultaneous issue of two separate sets of stamps, known respectively as the "Rajah's Head" and the "Elephant" issues. But . . . there was a well-organised postal system within the State from the first, with post offices at Nahan (the capital), Majra, Naina, Pachhad, Paonta, Rainka, Rajgarh, Shalai, and Sangra; and we have proof that these offices were necessary in the fact that all, or nearly all, have been continued since the State Post Offices have been included in the administration of the Imperial Postal Department.—*Philatelic Journal of India.*

A Philatelic Dream

TO get down to dreamland. The writer was eating his frugal meal in a well-known down-town restaurant, and as usual was reading his evening paper. At the next table were seated two metropolitan dealers, John N. Luff and E. B. Power, who were trying to sample all the eatable and potable items on the menu. The dreamer's attention was finally attracted to a startling discovery by a well-known scientist, which was given in detail in the paper. A new microbe had been found! This perhaps was nothing wonderful, but its only habitat was the back of a certain postage stamp —the 5 p., brown, imperforate, Ceylon. The dreamer certainly thought the information startling, and leaning across to the occupants of the left-hand table, exclaimed, "Johnny, what do you think of this?" and proceeded to read the item. Mr. Luff simply raised his head and said, "Nothing new. Look in the catalogue." Strange to say, the restaurant tables appeared to be furnished with the stamp collector's requisite, the 1905 edition. The dreamer picked up the book, opened it at page 149, and in the first column under the head of Ceylon, read:

"6 A 1 5 p., orange-brown, $17.50, $3.50.
a 5 p., orange-brown, with life."

But the variety was not priced!!

Metropolitan Philatelist (New York).

The Question of Minor Varieties

THE question of minor varieties is also a difficult one, but it might be settled by ignoring all those that did not make a regular and more or less lengthy appearance. For instance, the varieties of the 2½ on 4d., brown, Jamaica PENNY, etc., are legitimate, appearing on the same stamps in the sheets, and not being due to dust on the plate or defective printing, as in many cases of broken letters in our own "Officials." Double and inverted surcharges are all right, but I am not well disposed towards inverted watermarks, for it is probable that all wmkd. stamps with any length of life may be found in this state. With regard to the still more minor varieties, such as coloured postmarks, bisected stamps, misplaced surcharges, these are certainly not admissible to a medium special collection, but one or two examples might be shown on a "freak" page just to show that such things exist.

W. Buckland Edwards, B.Sc.

Jamaica—Shades

THE first thing noticed is the large number of shades of nearly all stamps which have had any life at all worth speaking of, and the growing tendency to catalogue these different shades (*vide* Spanish Colonials). It follows that one may pick up at ordinary rates a shade worth several times the price—and who shall say that this is not, after all, the chief joy of stamp collecting? Next, one soon finds that the difficulty of getting the stamps is by no means commensurate with the catalogue value, for instance, the 3d., green, and 4d., orange, Jamaica, Pine wmk., are both catalogued at 3s. 6d., yet the latter is fully three times more difficult to find in good condition. The 6d., lilac, and 1s., brown, are both 2s., yet I come across twice as many of the 1s. as I do of the 6d., I mean of course in fine condition, for there are plenty of cut, soiled, faded, and off-centre stamps about. This leads one to adjust the values differently, and we can pick up those we consider underpriced when we come across them; not to mention the fact that we know more about the actual value of the stamps than the compilers of the catalogue—a source of pleasure in itself!

Remainders

THERE is no occasion to discuss the position of *remainders* as compared with *originals*, because they are one and the same thing; if they were not originals they could not be remainders. Part of the same stock, part of the same sheet perhaps, of a certain stamp is sold to the public while that stamp is in circulation; those specimens are *originals;* the other part remains at the post office, the stamp becomes obsolete, the stock is eventually sold to collectors or dealers; those specimens are *remainders.* But what possible difference can there be between them? The fact that in certain instances large stocks of obsolete stamps have come upon the market, and have, for a time, upset prices, has nothing whatever to do with the case. We may say that it would have been better if those stamps had been all used up, but circumstances may have prevented that being done. It might have been better, in some cases, if the stocks had been destroyed, but as a matter of fact that did not take place. Such stamps are originals in every sense of the term. Every unused original copy of an obsolete stamp is a "remainder," and so, for the matter of that, are the used ones.—MAJOR EVANS in the *Monthly Journal.*

Mafeking Stamps for the best Essay

MAFEKING stamps, forming a complete set, and valued at between £20 and £30, are offered by the Victoria League for the best essay on "How the Union Jack came to be the National Flag," to be written by boys preparing for public schools or the Navy.—*Daily Mail.*

GOSSIP OF THE HOUR

By CORNELIUS WRINKLE

The Earl of Crawford Enters for the Ocean Yacht Race

THE Earl of Crawford has entered his yacht, the *Valhalla*, for the ocean yacht race, and his fellow-philatelists will wish him a long lead. I take the following picture and particulars of the *Valhalla* from the *Yachtsman*.



"The *Valhalla* is a yacht of 1,490 tons, Thames measurement, and is the first British yacht to enter for the event.

"The *Valhalla* under canvas might appear another link with the past, but she is not. The *Valhalla* was built in 1892 for Mr. (now Major) Laycock, and in design and detail she was intended to be a replica of the old privateer. She is square-rigged and fitted with studding-sails and tops of old pattern. With a navy crew totalling one hundred, her past owner arranged and kept the *Valhalla* in all respects like the old vessels she was modelled after. On a displacement of about 1,500 tons she could make eleven knots, and her triple-expansion engines give an indicated horse-power of 915.

"As might be expected with such a sail plan, the *Valhalla* was at her best off the wind, and on other points the large propeller was generally set. Now, however, the ship is considerably altered, although her present owner, the Earl of Crawford, still keeps her somewhat as she originally appeared.

"The *Valhalla* was built by Ramage and Ferguson from designs by Mr. W. C. Storey. She is 239.6 feet between perpendiculars, 37.2 feet beam, and 20.7 feet deep. She has two decks, five bulkheads, and is lighted by electricity."

The Great Exhibition—What's up?

WE all badly want to know what is doing in the matter of the proposed Great International Philatelic Exhibition. There is said to have been a committee appointed by the Philatelic Society of London, and I have heard a rumour that they have had a meeting at the offices of Stanley Gibbons, Ltd., in the Strand; but no report of the meetings of the Philatelic Society of London has appeared since January last, so we are all in the dark as to what is going on—if anything. I think they had better get a member of the Junior Philatelic Society to do some cackling for them. The success of any great exhibition, especially any attempt in the international direction, must depend largely upon an energetic beating of the public drum months beforehand. It is so easy nowadays to keep the interest of the public going by judicious little paragraphs. If they would only make me their confidant, we should get on swimmingly, but I am afraid to venture near that committee-room for fear of accidents.



The Badges again

YES, the question of badges seems to be taking hold of our young collectors, and I do not despair of seeing some of the dear old philatelic fossils, who seem to belong to the Stone Age, also duly decorated in time. A Great Mogul in full war paint wearing all his medals and one of our badges would be an object of real admiration. Let us settle on something nice that all can wear, will not be too showy or ostentatious, and the badge question will settle itself. I am having a few designs sketched by our special artist, and this, with a very neat sketch I have received from Mr. Widdowson, I hope to reproduce for your criticism and approval next week.

J. N. Luff joins the British Brigade

I AM glad to see that my old friend John N. Luff has joined the British Brigade—otherwise the Stanley Gibbons American branch. He is well known wherever the philatelic lingo is spoken as one of the ablest philatelists of the day, and more particularly as the author of one of the finest additions to our philatelic bookshelves in the shape of a most exhaustive *History of the Stamps of the United States*. I note that he is to pay a two months' visit to this country during May and June next in order that he may be duly Anglicised. Here's to John N. Luff! The shadow that he casts is not a great one, but may it never grow less.



Red-lilac!

THE editor whispers to me, with a twinkle of the eye, that "red-lilac" and "reddish lilac" bulk largely in our new Gibbons, as of yore. I wonder if this misnomer will ever die a natural death, or if it will live for ever, enshrined exclusively in the pages of our Gibbons. I am prepared to lay heavy odds that when the managing director of Stanley Gibbons, Ltd., reaches the fourscore years and ten to which an honest and hard-working stamp dealer is entitled, and lies serenely in his little coffin, he will turn a beautiful reddish lilac. Anyone take me on?

A Philatelic Evercirculator

MR. E. S. DAVIDSON, 32, Lyncroft Gardens, West Hampstead, N.W., asks me to announce that he is desirous of starting a Philatelic Evercirculator in Hampstead, and will be glad to hear from any earnest collectors who would care to join. This Evercirculator idea is a good one for mutual help amongst collectors. With an energetic, well-informed, and enthusiastic collector as conductor, it should be a boon and a pleasure to its members. The postal list should not be too large, for the Evercirculator should visit each member not less often than once a month, and with the greatest possible regularity.

THE STAMP KING

By G. DE BEAUREGARD AND H. DE GORSSE

Translated from the French by EDITH C. PHILLIPS



THREE TALL FELLOWS WERE PLAYING AN ABSORBING GAME

CHAPTER V

Showing how, if money does not make happiness, the want of it often causes misery

IT was a kind of palace, with a little flower garden in front and a magnificent porch. The double row of windows looked out on Hyde Park, and on the roof, which was surrounded by a balustrade, statues, placed at intervals, showed in elegant and graceful silhouettes.

"Come with me," said William, and followed by John he arrived at the main entrance and the porter's room. And here their astonishment began.

Through the glass partition they saw the interior of the room, where three tall fellows with blonde moustaches and distinctly English features, dressed in Hindoo garments and wearing silk turbans, were seated round a table playing an absorbing game with dirty cards. They were smoking enormous pipes, and were surrounded with bottles of ale and pewter pots, which they filled and emptied by turn with great gusto.

"These Hindoos are pretty well acclimatised already," said William. "They certainly belong to Badunabad's household." And he tapped on the pane.

"Come in," cried one of the players, without even turning his head.

"Does the Maharajah live here?" asked William, entering.

"Yes, but not for long."

At this retort, given in English with a thoroughly British accent, the three Hindoos burst out laughing, which completed the discomfiture of the visitor. However, he continued—

"Can I have a moment's interview with him?"

"If it's to demand money, certainly not," returned the individual who had already spoken.

"It is rather to offer him some," said William.

"Is it possible? In that case you arrive in the nick of time."

The behaviour of these three men seemed more and more strange to the young American, but he reflected that Indian ways might differ from ours, and that liberty in the Himalayas must be much greater than one generally imagined.

"Now, what do you want with the old chap?" said the first player, throwing down his cards after emptying a pint pot. "You can tell me, for I am the Lord Chamberlain of the palace."

At these words the hilarity of the three companions knew no bounds. They roared with laughter and shouted so loud that William was stupefied, and forced to wait till they were pleased to explain themselves more clearly than by these obscure and unseemly remarks.

"I," said another, "am the Commander of the Guard."

"And I," added the third, "am the Treasurer, which is indeed a sinecure!"

And they laughed louder than ever, leaving William in doubt as to whether they were mocking at him or at the master of the house.

"After all——" he began.

"I perceive, sir," interrupted the Lord Chamberlain of the palace, taking off his turban to wipe his eyes, which the excess of his merriment had filled with tears, "that you are not acquainted with the etiquette and the orders of his Highness——"

Interrupting himself with another laugh, he regained his composure and continued—

"Listen. The Maharajah fled in the first place with

the cash, but they recovered that, and he arrived on English territory without a farthing. The Government had promised him a superb pension, and on the strength of that promise he telegraphed to Goole, Truxham, and Co. to furnish this house for him in the style he was accustomed to, and to provide him with a sufficient following. We, whom you see here, are employed by the agency——"

"Indeed!" cried William. "Then you did not come to Europe with the prince?"

"Oh, dear, no! I am a Cockney of the Cockneys, born in Whitechapel; the Commander of the Guard, who is here before you, is a Birmingham man, and the Treasurer, also present, is a native of Ramsgate."

The three false Hindoos laughed again, and William, had his thoughts not been occupied with another matter, could hardly have resisted following their example. However, thinking it as well to learn all he could, he asked—

"But how about the costume?"

"Oh, they've dressed us up in this trumpery to remind our patron of his native land," said the Treasurer.

"His Highness," said William, with the utmost gravity, "brought some high functionaries over with him, if I am to believe the account in the newspapers."

"Oh, yes, you do well to mention them," chuckled the Commander of the Guard. "A sort of Vizier, who was, it seems, his minister over there, and his Grand Talapoin. Do you happen to know what a Talapoin is? It's a priest of Buddha. He was a very important personage in the kingdom of Brahmapootra."

"But from the accounts of travellers, as also from the situation and the very name of this kingdom, I understood they worshipped Brahma," said William.

"Yes, but Badunabad became a Buddhist to ingratiate himself with the Chinese, because he hoped for their support against the English. You see how much good it did him!"

"Well grounded convictions, certainly," said William, smiling.

"Wait till I tell you the rest," continued the Lord Chamberlain of the palace. "By the time their lordships arrived in London the house was ready, all the sham Hindoos at their posts, and they had nothing to do but to instal themselves here. Only—no pension. The Government, who no longer feared them, began to reflect. Bills arrived; we other dignitaries demanded our wages, but there's not a penny to be had. And with all that, a heap of salaams to make whenever one approaches them. The old fool of a Maharajah even threatened to have us impaled, if you'll believe me, because we refused to throw ourselves on our faces on the ground in his presence. We've had the greatest difficulty in convincing him that the Thames isn't the Brahmapootra. And they quarrel the whole time, he and his two rascals; each blames the other for their misfortunes, and they almost come to blows!"

As if in support of the declaration, a sound of hasty footsteps and overturned furniture was heard overhead.

"Do you hear them?" said the Treasurer. "They are discussing the affairs of the State."

This time even John joined in the burst of laughter, but William, who could not forget his object, soon returned to it.

"In any case," he said, "I wish to speak to the Maharajah. Can you manage it for me?"

"Oh, oh!" returned the Lord Chamberlain. "His Highness cannot be approached in this fashion. You must make formal request for an audience, which I will submit to the Vizier; he will submit it to the Grand Talapoin, and the Grand Talapoin to the Maharajah, and if you are not a creditor, perhaps in six weeks' time——"

"Come, come," said William good-humouredly; "thanks to your good offices, I am sure in six minutes ——" And he slipped a sovereign into the hand of each of the dignitaries. The effect was instantaneous. While the Treasurer thanked him effusively the Lord Chamberlain rushed to the speaking-tube which communicated with the apartments above.

"Noble and powerful lord," shouted he, "there is someone here who solicits the inestimable honour of being admitted into the dazzling presence of his most magnanimous and most illustrious Highness."

Then, while his audience bit their lips to keep in their laughter, he put his ear to the tube and awaited the response.

"The Vizier," said he, "wishes to know if you are not an American."

"Why, yes," said William, still more astonished.

"Yes, noble and powerful lord," cried the Lord Chamberlain of the palace into the tube, "he who humbly solicits this favour is an American."

After listening again he added, addressing William, who had not yet recovered from the perspicacity of the invisible dignitary—

"The Vizier wishes still further to know if you are come in pursuit of an object of value."

"Yes, indeed."

The response to this came at once, and was to the effect that the visitor, or visitors, were to be immediately shown upstairs.

The Commander of the Guard, who was charged with the introduction of strangers, preceded William and John up the grand staircase, embellished with rich oriental colouring, which led to the first floor.

"They mean to try and palm some old rubbish on to you," he said as they went up. "Ever since they came here they've done nothing but look up second-hand dealers to sell the jewels they brought with them, and even their clothes. They've had nothing but their finery to bring them in any money. They have even tried to dispose of the furniture and tapestries, but we have an eye on them, and if we can't defend the entrance we can the exit. The agency has lost enough already."

William, who imagined that his guide said this with a purpose, and that he perhaps suspected him of wishing to take away some of the furniture, answered nothing, but continued on his way. When they reached the first landing, bordered with chased bronze balusters and with hundreds of rare plants arranged like a tapestry of foliage, the Commander of the Guard leaned over the staircase and called out to his companions below—

"Hi, there! don't meddle with my cards. I had a quint major!"

Then, turning to William again, he said, "I forgot to ask your name, and it's difficult to announce you without it."

"William Keniss, of New York."

"Very good."

On each side of the great door which led to the state rooms was a Scotchman, disguised in Brahmapootra garments, lounging on a stool and yawning enough to dislocate his jaws. One of the two, on seeing the new arrivals, rose, opened a folding door, and fell sleepily on his seat again.

"These are no better paid than we are, you see," said the Commander of the Guard. "All the same," added he, "if you want to make a good bargain play some pretty tricks when you see the good man. Salaam humbly; go down on your knees if you've a mind to, and give him plenty of titles. You'll get your trinket much cheaper."

(To be continued.)

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENCE

Notes from New York

NEW YORK, *10th March*, 1905.

THE "Big Chief" has said, "Write us for the *Weekly* something light, gossipy, and amusing." Hence, being desperately afraid of said B.C., I take pen and paper and wonder what I am to say. It is evident that *he* has not been reading my writings for the last dozen years or so, or he would know that my style is not at all flippant. I don't deny that I know a lot of funny tales, but they are not philatelic, and if I were to write them out I am afraid the editor would not print them. Besides, those jokes are mostly second-hand—I deny that any of them, even the least tiny one, is second-rate—and I suppose only original matter will be accepted for the *Weekly*. Did you ever encounter one of my original jokes? There are two or three of them floating around somewhere, bits of airy persiflage that come down on one like the fall of a brick house. They are about as trifling and graceful as an elephant doing a skirt dance. By these strawberry marks ye shall know them.

Speaking of strawberries, they are in market now. For the price of a "fillet head" Mauritius you may buy two or three of them, if you don't insist on having large ones. If you eat them you will probably feel several shades bluer than the stamp. "Why not eat the stamp in the first place?" Now, look here, you chaps, this isn't an argument—it is a joke!

Our Auction Season

This is the height of our auction season. We are having from one to three sales per week, and at most of them the prices are above the average, which is a very good sign. While we all like an occasional bargain, we also like to see prices maintaining a fairly high level. A widespread desire to buy stamps at good figures is encouraging to both collectors and dealers as guaranteeing the security of their investments. In a recent sale the £5 British Bechuanaland brought $58, and the £5 Zululand $61. In another sale a used block of four Great Britain, 1870, 1 penny, black, brought $12, which seems a stiff figure for a common stamp. Can it be that collectors are at last waking up to the relative value of blocks as compared to single specimens? If they only knew it, there are stamps of which they can more readily obtain four hundred single copies than four joined in a block.

Speaking of blocks, there was recently offered in this city a block of twelve New York Carrier stamps, 3 cents, black on blue glazed paper (No. 4 in the Catalogue). This stamp is not at all scarce, and Carriers have been out of fashion with collectors for some years. The block was unused, but badly creased; in fact, there were only two perfect stamps in it. Its merit consisted in being a block. It was offered to a number of the local dealers, but was rejected, until at last one of them took it at $40. He has recently sold it to another dealer at $225, and we may reasonably assume that the latter expects to obtain an advance on that price.

Gold Coast 20s., Green and Red

A night or two ago, the Gold Coast 20s., green and red, sold at auction for $56. The identical copy was bought from Stanley Gibbons, Inc., a year ago for $45. Not a bad rate of interest.

Lagos, Single CA

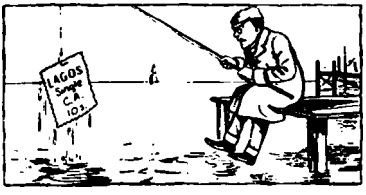
There is more or less speculative buying of Lagos stamps, especially the King's Head issue with single Crown and CA watermark. Many collectors failed to secure the higher values of the series as they came out, and they are now seeking them with a worried air and a pocketful of money. Just at present the New York dealers are pretty well sold out of these stamps, but some of us have expectations of help from across the "wetness." In an auction this week the 10s., green and brown, Queen's Head, and the 10s., King's Head, sold together for $15.50 [and a bargain at that.—ED. *G.S.W.*].

A Find of U.S. 1857 60

Philatelists are always interested when something in the stamp line turns up in an unexpected quarter. There is always a glamour about a "find," like the romance that hangs around buried treasure. We have lately had something of this nature in this city. An old employee of the Post Office died intestate, and his effects were taken in charge by the Public Administrator. Among them was found an envelope containing a quantity of unused stamps of the 1857-60 issue of the United States. There were all values from one to ninety cents, in quantities ranging from about one to three hundred of each. Most of the one cent stamps were of Type I. The five cents were, unfortunately, all of Types II. and III., and did not include any of the scarce brick-red and brown stamps of Type I. The face value of this lot of stamps was considerable, and the desire of the Administrator was, naturally, to turn them into money. He took them to the Post Office, but was met with the disappointing information that not only did the Post Office Department not redeem stamps, but that this particular issue had been demonetised in 1861, at the breaking out of the Civil War, and the stamps were not even available for postage. Then he turned to the stamp dealers for help, and they, with their usual generosity, gave it. He sold the lot for something like $400, more than the value of all the rest of the man's estate, and the purchaser is now wearing "the smile that won't come off."

As Good Fish still in the Sea

I have frequently heard the older dealers speak of the time when this 1857-60 series was a drug on the market at 75 cents per set. This sort of statement is usually followed by an expression, on the part of some collector, of regret for the good old days when Philately and high finance were not so intimately related. Well, never mind: there are still fish in the



sea, and lots of just as good bargains to-day—if you can only pick them out. Don't ask me what they are. If I only knew, I would be only too happy to tell you—of course, after a reasonable interval devoted to the protection of my own interests.

Wait Till the Clouds Roll By

The New York representative of Stanley Gibbons was looking over the stamps of a forthcoming auction, and noticed a Sydney View which was not correctly described. Said he, "Look here, Pop, this is not Plate I.; it has clouds." At once came the genial

reply: "Oh! has it? Well, wait a while; maybe they'll blow away, and then it'll be all right."

United States Stamps—Increasing Interest

There is a notable increase of interest in United States stamps. For several years they have been out of fashion, while collectors have been devoting their attention to British Colonials, new issues, and various other things. But every dog has his day, and we may yet live to see Seebecks popular. [Eh! What?—ED. *G.S.W.*] Just now the signs of the times point to United States stamps as the coming fad. Collectors are asking for them, dealers are trying to replenish their stocks, and the wise ones are quietly filling spaces as rapidly as possible. We note advertisements offering to buy fine U.S. stamps, and in one of our journals there recently appeared an offer to buy anything in good condition of the issues from 1847 to 1888.

When the boom does come people are going to be surprised to find how really scarce many U.S. stamps are, that some of them are high-grade rarities, and that it is difficult (almost impossible in some instances) to obtain well-centred specimens. The man who accepts nothing short of perfection will have his work cut out for him, and plenty of it, when he starts to collect the stamps of this country. JOHN N. LUFF.

PHILATELIC SOCIETIES

Kent and Sussex Philatelic Society

President: Edward J. Nankivell.
Secretary: F. Wicks, The Lodge, Tudeley, Tonbridge.
Meetings: Members' Houses. Monthly: afternoons.
Annual Subscription: 5s.

THE March meeting of the Kent and Sussex Philatelic Society was held at 7, Nevill Park, on Monday, the 6th March, at the invitation of Mr. and Mrs. Joseph Wheelwright. Mr. Edward J. Nankivell, the President, presided over an attendance composed as follows: Mr. and Mrs. Wheelwright, Mrs. B. H. Collins, Miss Nix, and Mr. Frederick Wicks (Hon. Sec.). Messages of regret at non-attendance were received from Miss Isabel Nix and Miss Crothers. A paper on the stamps of New Zealand of the Waterlow designs was read by the President, who also displayed his fine unused collection of that series. The paper proved very interesting and instructive, and the display was much admired, containing as it did a fine range of shades and of all values. The next meeting was fixed for Monday, April 3rd, to be held, by invitation of the Misses Nix, at 33, Ferndale Park, Tunbridge Wells, at 3.30 p.m. A vote of thanks was accorded Mr. and Mrs. Wheelwright for so kindly placing a room at the disposal of the members for the meeting that afternoon.

Enterprise Philatelic Society

Secretary: A. C. Constantinides, Woodview, Archway Road, Highgate, London, N.
Meetings: Monthly, Devonshire House Hotel, Bishopsgate Street, London, E.C.

THE twenty-second monthly meeting took place at the Devonshire House Hotel, Bishopsgate Street, London, E.C., on Wednesday, March 15th.

Present: Messrs. F. W. Lake (the President), A. H. Harris, W. B. Edwards, B.SC., H. J. Bignold, H. W. Westcott, D. C. Tewson, P. Farnan, G. H. Simons, W. H. Eastwood, G. H. Ordish, E. W. Butcher, and A. C. Constantinides.

The President declared the meeting open at 6.30 p.m., when the minutes of the previous meeting were read and confirmed.

The Hon. Secretary then announced the resignation of Mr. C. Stanhope-Smelt, of Bedford, and the election of the following new members: Dr. W. J. C. Coulthard, Cumberland; Mr. W. H. Eastwood, Crouch End; and Mr. Percy Farnan, Stoke Newington; the membership roll of the Society showing a total of sixty-two names. As the number of members at the commencement of season 1904–5 was only thirty-nine, the Committee are endeavouring to double this at as early a date as possible, and it is their hope that all members will bring the Society to the notice of their philatelic friends with this end in view.

Members are requested to note that all matters connected with the Library should now be addressed to Mr. A. H. Harris, The Library, Buckhurst Hill, Essex, who is Librarian in place of Mr. H. P. Harper (resigned). A proposition was put to the meeting that an "offers sheet" should be included in the monthly packet, viz. a sheet bearing some of the scarcer stamps, mounted by the Secretary, but unpriced, for which offers would be solicited during the round of the packet. Mr. Ordish moved an amendment that, owing to there being many objections to this proceeding, the scheme be dropped; but this motion, not meeting with general approval, was withdrawn, and eventually the matter was referred back to Committee for future consideration. The first portion of the evening's programme was a series of short papers contributed by Mr. W. B. Edwards, B.SC., "Stamp Markets"; Mr. H. W. Westcott, "The Arrangement of the Postal List"; Mr. A. H. Harris, "A Novice in a Post Office." These were very ably rendered by the authors, the somewhat unusual nature of the papers holding the close attention of all present.

Following these Mr. Lake gave a display of the stamps of Cape of Good Hope, and showed a very fine lot of triangulars, for which the meeting evinced much appreciation.

At the close of the meeting a vote of thanks was tendered to those gentlemen who had so competently provided the entertainment, and members dispersed shortly after nine o'clock.

Scottish Philatelic Society

President: John Walker.
Secretary: Robert Kerr.
Meetings: Edinburgh. Monthly: 8 p.m.
Annual Subscription: Ord. 5s.; Cor. 2s. 6d.

THE usual monthly meeting was held at the residence of the Secretary on Monday, 13th March, with an excellent attendance of members. Messrs. F. Chalmers and John P. Mackenzie, of Edinburgh, were unanimously elected members.

Owing to his impending removal to Newcastle-on-Tyne, the resignation of the Secretary was intimated at the February meeting. A special resolution was embodied in the minutes expressing the gratitude of the Society to Mr. McIntyre for his successful efforts in attracting new members and in securing for the Society a place amongst the Philatelic Societies of the Kingdom. Mr. Robert Kerr was appointed Honorary Secretary and Treasurer to succeed Mr. McIntyre.

The Exchange Branch Report showed that the

December packet returned from circulation on 8th March, with sales £17 4s. 6d. net. The sheets with remittances were despatched to owners on the following day. The March packet was despatched on 1st March with thirty-six sheets, value £197 15s. 6½d. net.

A suggestion that a scheme for a Junior Section should be arranged was well received, and the question is to be considered and further discussed at ensuing meetings.

Mr. McIntyre read a paper entitled "The Fundamentals of Philately," which was favourably received and gave rise to an interesting and animated discussion.

Mr. John Humphries displayed a portion of his collection of Colonials mounted on a No. 1 "Cistafile," and gave a full description of the advantage of the system. Mr. McIntyre also showed some Colonials similarly mounted. As the system was a novel one for most of the members, great interest was evinced. Amongst Mr. Humphries' stamps was a superb collection of Newfoundland, including most of the rarities.

There are vacancies for new members. Those elected after 31st March pay a half-year's subscription until the close of the year on 30th September.

Johannesburg Philatelic Society

A MEETING was held on Tuesday, February 7th, at the Masonic Temple, Plein Street. Mr. M. Neuberger occupied the chair, and there were present ten members and one visitor. The Chairman referred to the encouraging state of the Society's finances, which amounted to £38 9s. 3d. Mr. Ansell presented a large variety of stamps for the Society's collection, also two forgeries of Transvaal from Mr. S. Mottram, for which a vote of thanks to the donors was passed unanimously. The exhibition of blocks, strips, and pairs of Africa was then declared open. Mr. Neuberger exhibited a very fine selection of nearly all the issues of Transvaal and Orange River Colony, which included a block of six 1s., green, Transvaal, Queen's Head, in mint condition; ½d. on 1s., green, *tête-bêche;* block of £5, V.R.I., large dot; block of 1s., brown, V.R.I., O.R.C., with figure omitted; also 1s., orange, V.R.I., and a sheet of 2½d., blue, with antique "2"; blocks of New Republic; also various sheets of Africans with various errors. Mr. Vallentine exhibited a block of sixteen V.R.I. 1d., O.R.C., with surcharge omitted on two stamps. Mr. W. P. Cohen also exhibited a very fine selection of various blocks, strips, and pairs.

ANSWERS TO CORRESPONDENTS

The Rev. B. (Canada).—*Officially "Cancelled" Mauritius.* A Canadian clergyman writes to us as follows:—

"In Issue No. 7 there was enclosed as a gratis stamp the one I now enclose back to you. It was somewhat like a blow on the face to receive it, as I have been keen to impress my young stamp collectors with the need of repudiating 'torn' stamps, the excellent articles in your *Weekly* by Mr. Walton bearing all my teaching out. I have also always held up the Gibbons firm as the ideal to the lads I have started in our hobby; and now I have had to own up that even 'Gibbons' condescends to pass around stamps that should be consigned to the fire. I cannot believe that such stamps are sent out on the plea that 'anything will go with a boy.' I feel that in the immense number handled in the gratis lot some careless member of your staff has attached the enclosed, but I think it only right by you to inform you. Personally I would rather have no gratis stamps sent if they are not to be perfect. A used stamp would please boys quite as well as a new, as a rule. In my school your numbers as they come are eagerly read, the articles on 'Portraits on Stamps' being specially liked, and I wish your paper a long career. Trusting that you will not take my comments on the enclosed amiss."

We are assured by our publishers that they use every possible human precaution to ensure the use of undamaged stamps as gratis copies for our readers. But it can well be understood that in a weekly circulation of 8,000 it is next to impossible to guarantee every stamp. They have first to be affixed by our printers, who exercise great care; then the journal has to go through the trade, or the post. The only alternative that we can suggest to absolutely ensure the delivery of satisfactory presentation copies, and so relieve the poor, brow-beaten editor, is that the managing director should personally deliver the copies. To arrange this by motor trips, we fear we should have to restrict the circulation to what are termed the home counties, and that would deprive our Canadian friend of both the *Weekly* and his presentation copy; or, what would perhaps be the most effective, we might discontinue the gratis stamps altogether.

Philatelist (Colwyn Bay).—You are entirely mistaken as to the character of the "cancelled" Mauritius. See preceding answers to other correspondents. It cannot be classed with the "abominable Labuans cancelled to order," for the Mauritius is what it pretends to be, a Government remainder, but the Labuans are unquestionable rubbish, for they pretend to be what they are not—postally used stamps. If we had our choice we should, of course, prefer the uncancelled copy, catalogued at 9d., to the "cancelled" copy, catalogued at 1d. We go even further, for we should prefer a "Post Office" Mauritius, and suggested it, but our publishers assured us that their stock of this rarity would not go round.

L. W. C. (Aylesbury).—We purpose writing up every country of the world in its alphabetical order, and cannot, therefore, accept your offer of articles on the stamps of the United States. Yes, the stamps of the United States do open up a grand field for the specialist, but we cannot quite agree with you as to their being so easily understood by the beginner. However, we have nothing to do with specialism, in any form, in this journal. Our exclusive object is to simplify collecting for the general collector, and more especially for the young collector.

H. G. R. (Camberwell).—Provisional stamps are those provided by overprinting or surcharging other stamps. For instance, a country runs short of halfpenny stamps, and to supply the demand until a further supply can be had from the printers, some other stamp, of which there is an ample supply, is surcharged "Halfpenny" and does duty as a provisional halfpenny stamp.

W. S. (Belfast).—We have referred your question to our correspondent at Constantinople.

EDITORIAL

Editorial Communications

All communications intended for the Editor should be addressed to Edward J. Nankivell, Carnanton, Camden Park, Tunbridge Wells.

Philatelic Societies

We wish to make a special feature of the prompt publication of the reports of Philatelic Societies, and trust we may have the kindly co-operation of the honorary secretaries in this matter. Reports should be written on one side of the paper, and despatched to the Editor by the earliest post.

Special Correspondence

The Editor will be glad to receive interesting letters from philatelic centres not already covered by our arrangements. We want chatty and newsy letters on matters of interest to the general collector, and excluding all matter of interest only to the specialist.

Our Miscellaneous Page

We wish to make *Gibbons Stamp Weekly* a storehouse of information, and shall therefore be glad of any cuttings of more or less permanent interest for our "Miscellaneous" page. Source and date of cutting must be given.

Subscriptions

Subscriptions must be sent to the publishers as set out on the front page of cover, or to booksellers or railway bookstalls, but never to the Editor.

OUR PHILATELIC DIARY

APRIL, 1905

1. Junior Philatelic Society: Sale and Exchange; Display of Rarities. 7 p.m.
   Paper and Display—Siam, by B. W. H. Poole. 8 p.m.
   Display—British Colonies. Part VI. Tobago, Trinidad, and Turks Islands. 8.30 p m.
   Paper—Picturesque Postage Stamps, by E. A. Smart. 9 p.m.
4. Auction: Puttick and Simpson, 47, Leicester Square, London. 4.30 p.m.
   Leeds Philatelic Society: Paper by Fred A. Padgett on Some Remarkable Forgeries, at Leeds Institute. 7.30 p.m.
5. Auction: Puttick and Simpson, 47, Leicester Square, London. 4.30 p.m.
6. Auction: Glendining, 7, Argyll Street, London. 4.30 p.m.
   North of England Philatelic Society: Members' exchange night, at Y.M.C.A., Newcastle-on-Tyne. 7.30 p.m.
   Kent and Sussex Philatelic Society: Paper and Display, at 33, Ferndale, Tunbridge Wells. 3 p.m.
7. Auction: Glendining, 7, Argyll Street, London. 4.30 p.m.
   Auction: Hadlow, Covent Garden Hotel, London. 5 p.m.
   Philatelic Society of London: Display of Zanzibar, by F. W. Hall, at 4, Southampton Row, London. 7.45 p.m.
   Manchester Philatelic Society: Discussion — Bulgaria, opened by Mr. G. L. Campbell, jun., at Grand Hotel. 7 p.m.
   Exhibition of Fiscal and Telegraph Stamps, at Exeter Hall, London. 3.30 p.m. to 9.30 p.m.
8. Exhibition of Fiscal and Telegraph Stamps, at Exeter Hall, London. 11 a.m. to 9.30 p.m.
   Junior Philatelic Society: Visit to the Tapling Collection at the British Museum. Members meet any time between 2 and 4 in the King's Library, British Museum. 2 to 4 p.m.
10. Auction: Hadlow, Covent Garden Hotel, London. 5 p.m.
11. Bradford Philatelic Society: General Display, by members. 7.30 p.m.
    Auction: Plumridge, 64, Chancery Lane, London. 4.45 p.m.
12. International Philatelic Union: Display of Bosnia, by L. W. Fulcher, at Essex Hall, Essex Street, London. 8 p.m.
    Auction: Plumridge, 64, Chancery Lane, London. 4.45 p.m.
13. Auction: Ventom, Bull, and Cooper, Loudoun Hotel, Surrey Street, Strand, London. 5 p.m.
14. Auction: Ventom, Bull, and Cooper, Loudoun Hotel, Surrey Street, Strand, London. 5 p.m.
    Manchester Philatelic Society: Paper on Italy, by W. D. Beckton, at Grand Hotel. 7 p.m.
    Birmingham Philatelic Society: Display of Great Britain, by W. Pimm.
15. Junior Philatelic Society: Display of Rarities. 7 p.m. Auction Sale of Postage Stamps. 7.30 p.m. Display—Later Issues of Mexico, Rudolf Frentzel. 8.15 p.m. Paper—How does Philately Constitute a Science?, by William G. Inkpin. 9 p.m.
18. Auction: Puttick and Simpson, 47, Leicester Square. London. 4.30 p.m.
    Leeds Philatelic Society: Display of Victorian Stamps, with notes, by E. Heginbottom, B.A., at Leeds Institute. 7.30 p.m.
    Herts Philatelic Society: Display, with notes—Bahamas, by Robert Ehrenbach, at 4, Southampton Row, London.
19. Auction: Puttick and Simpson, 47, Leicester Square, London. 4.30 p.m.
    Enterprise Philatelic Society, London: Paper and Display—Fiscal Philately: the Reasons for its Growing Popularity, W. Schwabacher. 6.15 p.m. Display, with notes—South Australia, E. Heginbottom, B.A. 8. p.m.
20. Auction: Glendining, 7, Argyll Street, London. 4.30 p.m.
21. Auction: Glendining, 7, Argyll Street, London. 4.30 p.m.
27. Auction: Ventom, Bull, and Cooper, Loudoun Hotel, Surrey Street, Strand, London. 5 p.m.
28. Auction: Ventom, Bull, and Cooper, Loudoun Hotel, Surrey Street, Strand, London. 5 p.m.
    Philatelic Society of London: Paper by R. Ehrenbach, at 4, Southampton Row, London. 7.45 p.m.

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1 April, 1905.

Gibbons Stamp Weekly

EDITED BY EDWARD J. NANKIVELL

No. 14 | 8 APRIL, 1905 | Vol. I.

STAMPS OF GREAT BRITAIN

By EDWARD J. NANKIVELL

(*Continued from page* 182.)

The Set of 1880

THIS set was made up of five low values, ½d., 1d., 1½d., 2d., and 5d., all of which, with the exception of the ½d. stamp, were superseded by new designs in 1884. The corner check-letters, so marked a feature in all previous designs, are conspicuous by their absence from all values in this series, except the 1d., on which stamp they are retained. Plate numbers also find no place in the set. In the matter of engraving there is a distinct falling off; in fact, the whole series presents the rough-and-ready appearance associated with cheap work. All values were watermarked with the Imperial Crown.

½d. This new design supersedes the old line-engraved small ½d. stamp of Messrs. Perkins Bacon and Co., issued in 1870. It was issued in October, 1880, in sheets of 240 stamps in two panes of 120 (each in ten rows of twelve), one above the other.

1d. This poverty-stricken design was issued on the 1st January, 1880, and had deservedly but a short life of eighteen months. It superseded the old 1d. red of the line-engraved series, which had been in use for over forty years. The sheets were of the same size and arrangement as the ½d.

1½d. This stamp superseded the line-engraved stamp of similar value which was issued in 1870. The sheet was of the same size and arrangement as the two preceding values.

2d. This stamp, issued in November, 1880, also took the place of the old line-engraved stamp—2d., blue—of Perkins Bacon and Co., issued in 1870. The sheet was made up as in the previous values.

5d. This new value, issued in March, 1881, was called for to provide a stamp for the double Postal Union rate. Its colour was peculiar, being an almost black violet-blue. Its colour has been variously named. In some catalogues it figures as dark violet, in others as slate-blue, blue-black, and deep indigo. Catalogues anxious to establish a claim to originality give their own colour-names to this value.











The 1d. of 1881

The nondescript design of the previous series for the 1d. value was superseded in July, 1881, by an entirely new design which was the pioneer of what is termed the Unified Series, that is, stamps inscribed POSTAGE AND REVENUE, and so made available for both postal and fiscal purposes. The colour was changed from the old red to a lilac, called purple by the printers. The ink now introduced by Messrs. De La Rue, the engravers and printers, was claimed to be a double protection, *i.e.* against the cleaning of the postal cancellation and also against the cleaning of the pen cancellation of fiscal use. A critic finds fault with the inscription of this stamp. He says it should read POSTAGE OR REVENUE, because the selfsame stamp cannot be used for both purposes. But the designers and engravers of our poverty-stricken postage stamps are impervious to suggestions of this sort.

The first supply of this new 1d. stamp was engraved with fourteen dots or pearls in each corner. Then the stamp was re-engraved more carefully, and is distinguished by sixteen dots or pearls in each corner. Copies of the fourteen-dot variety are now getting somewhat scarce.



Fourteen dots.



Sixteen dots.

The summary of this group is as follows :—

1880-81.
New Designs.
Perf 14.
Watermark Imperial Crown.
½d., green.
1d., Venetian red.
1½d. ,, ,,
2d., rose.
5d., deep indigo.

1881.
New Design.
Watermark Imperial Crown.
Perf 14.
Fourteen dots in each corner.
1d., purple.
Sixteen dots in each corner.
1d., purple.

The High Values of 1883-88

The high values of this series are marked by the introduction of a new value, 2s. 6d., and the modification of the designs of the other values. The corner check-letters are retained throughout, but there are no plate numbers.

2s. 6d. This new value alone of these high values is inscribed POSTAGE AND REVENUE. The value is placed prominently in the centre of the frame on each side.

5s. The design is similar to the 5s. of 1872-73, the value being repeated in figures on discs at the sides, and the value at the bottom of the design is wholly in words.

10s. For this value the design of the £1 of 1872-73 has been used, with the value repeated in figures in tablets at the sides.

£1. This is a new design, following in its oblong shape that of the £5 of 1872-73. The first supply was watermarked with three Imperial Crowns, which was subsequently changed to three Orbs.









Summary of the series :—

1883–84.

Coloured letters in corners.

Watermark Anchor.

Perf. 14.

2s. 6d., lilac.
5s., rose.
10s., ultramarine.

Watermark three Imperial Crowns.

£1, brown-purple.

Watermark three Orbs.

£1, brown-lilac.

THE RUSSIAN WAR STAMPS

By DÂK

LEAVE the Eagle Flag a-flying just awhile, and shrieve the dying—
Drub the drum and bid the fifes their tidings call—
From the shattered bastions' massing they are passing, passing, passing
To the glory that awaits beyond the wall.
Famine-faint and fever-haunted, grim and gaunt, but heart undaunted,
They are marching, marching, marching out elate;
For the wan worn warriors brighten and the war-scarred faces lighten
To the cheers for gallant Stoessel in his passage through the gate.

There's a shuttered palace groaning, there are wind-swept streets a-moaning
(God! the girls and little children that are there!);
For the maxims are a-calling—ah! they're falling, falling, falling
To the rush of steel-shod squadrons in the square!
"Little Father!" they are crying, "Little Father, we are dying!
We are dying for the land we love and thee!"
But the silence is unbroken and the word remains unspoken
From the shuttered palace sobbing for the peoples still unfree.

I hate to preach and pester—I who pose a motleyed jester—
But a jester has his message clear and shrill.
There is sorrow, sorrow, sorrow all to-day and each to-morrow
Which all of us can lessen if we will.
Let the Czar of every Russia ne'er attempt again to crush a
Right upheaval of his people straight and true,
And may the Russian nations never cease their protestations
While regardful of their monarch and their monarch's point of view.

And may you and I, my readers, constitute ourselves the pleaders
For the labels that a stricken folk have planned—
Little shuttles trailing glory as they flash the sacred story
Of the LOVE that speaks no language and that knows no creed or land.

FIRST STEPS IN PHILATELY

By Rev. T. C. WALTON, M.A.

(*Continued from page* 199.)

5. Early Collectors

THINK what splendid opportunities the collector in the early sixties had! He could acquire specimens of every issue then in existence. In fact, a boy at Tonbridge School in 1860 is credited with a collection of from 300 to 400 different postage stamps out of a possible total of about 500 varieties, if we may accept a statement said to have been made by Sir Rowland Hill.

6. Probable Date of the Rise of Stamp Collecting

The precise date at which the first collection of postage stamps was formed is unknown. Some years ago the *Philatelic Record* published a series of articles from the pen of Mr. P. J. Anderson which give valuable data for the fixing of an approximate date (excuse the atrocious pun) of the birth of stamp collecting. In 1842 Punch, whose watchful eye lets nothing come or go without the joking welcome or the comic epitaph, drew the attention of his readers to a new industry which had sprung up among English ladies. "They betray more anxiety to treasure up the Queen's Heads than Harry the Eighth did to get rid of them." So runs the quaint reference of England's premier "comic" to this mania for papering the walls of rooms with the British penny red or black. The obvious inference which one might fairly draw from such a reference is that stamp collecting, as distinct from this royal form of decoration, did not exist in the year 1842. Tradition tells the story of a Belgian schoolmaster who endeavoured to interest his pupils in geography by inducing them to adorn their atlases with the stamps of the countries therein represented. This was in the early fifties. But the first really authentic dates at which we have any traces of *bonâ-fide* collectors are the years 1853, 1854. A writer in the *Stamp Collecter's Magazine* of 1863 relates how in one or other of the years 1853, 1854, he was asked by two collectors to look through his old letters for foreign stamps. Like most good things, however, the hobby was slow in taking root. In the year 1860 the question was asked in *Notes and Queries* whether a stamp dealer or a stamp catalogue existed. There was no answer given, for dealers and catalogues were unknown in England at that time. The *Stamp Collector's Guide* of 1862 vouches for the fact that two or three years before, "Collectors were to be numbered by units," whereas in the interval they had sprung up by hundreds. Many names, well known to-day, were then for the first time in the list of philatelic recruits. Of the number, mention may be made of Judge Philbrick, Dr. Legrand, Mr. M. P. Castle, of Sydney Views fame, Mr. W. A. S. Westoby, Mons. A. Maury, and Major E. B. Evans, the Editor of our elder brother, the *Monthly Journal*. In May, 1862, Mr. Mount Brown published a catalogue of some 1,200 varieties. The September of this year witnessed the arrival of the *Monthly Intelligencer*, the first English journal devoted to Philately. The longest lived and possibly the most interesting of these early journals was the *Stamp Collector's Magazine*. It first saw the light in 1863, and flourished until the year 1874. Published monthly at 4d., a price commented on by one writer as "only a penny dearer than *Punch*," it presented a postage stamp with each number. The present catalogue price of the stamps thus given away in volume x. (1872) is 9s. 6d. I mention this to show the regular subscriber to the *Weekly* that even "gift" stamps have a habit of increasing in value. Further, let the reader deal kindly with the early volumes of *Gibbons Weekly*, for the first numbers of stamp magazines very often become valuable. The writer has just had the offer of volume i. of the *Stamp Collector's Magazine* at the price of 25s. Volume vii. is valued at 20s., and these volumes were originally sold at 4s. a volume, unbound.

In the early sixties apologies for the stamp-collecting hobby began to make their appearance. Generally speaking, collectors were tolerated. Their hobby was regarded as harmless by the many. A few looked upon it as a foolish waste of time. Some of its devotees met to-

gether in Birchin Lane and set up an open-air stamp exchange. Letter-carriers began to take an interest in the foreign mail, and in many cases removed the postage stamps before delivering the letters. So prevalent was this species of pilfering that the Post Office had to take stringent measures to put a stop to the practice. Dealers began to spring up, and packets of stamps found their way to and fro across the Channel. This custom of sending large numbers of postage stamps to different centres was viewed with much suspicion by several foreign countries, insomuch that the Spanish Government ordered that all such packets should be confiscated. In 1866 the *London Directory* set its seal to stamp dealing by recognising it as a trade, and enrolling stamp merchants among the business men of London.

The years between 1867 and 1877 seem to have been years of stagnation in things philatelic. Interest declined, collecting became dormant, and the two leading English philatelic journals disappeared from the world of magazines. The causes of this decline and decay appear to be many. As a rule the *fons et origo* of the collector's enthusiasm was the desire to accumulate for accumulation's sake. There does not appear to have been much in the way of a scientific study of the practical details connected with the hobby. Embossed adhesive stamps were in many cases cut round to suit spaces in the albums. Imperforate stamps were often cut to the edge of the design. Perforations were the study of the few, and watermarks, colour, and texture of paper were for the most part ignored. A select few there were who stuck to their hobby, and viewed it as a science as well as an amusement. The rest in their ignorance voted stamp collecting an overrated and expensive hobby. They fell away, and it seemed that stamp collecting would soon be dethroned from its proud position as a king among hobbies. The year 1877 appears to have been the turning-point. The ebb ceased, and a steady and ever-increasing flow took place in the numbers of adherents to the scientific methods of collection. Phi.atelic societies began to spring up in all the great cities. The London Society had already been in existence some seven years, and it is probable that to this Society belongs the honour of keeping alight and fanning the dying embers of Philately into such a steady flame that all the wet blankets of Christendom will never be able to quench it. The works published by this Society are monuments of painstaking industry, and contain all that can be said about the stamps with which they deal.

7. Exhibitions

The influence of exhibitions cannot be overestimated. Of this the late Exhibition of British Stamps held under the auspices of the Junior Philatelic Society affords a valuable object-lesson. Exeter Hall was inundated with visitors, and a total not far short of five figures was reached in the two days during which the Exhibition was open. The sequel is instructive. At the first meeting of the Junior Philatelic after the Exhibition the Society's rooms were found to be too small to accommodate the unusual attendance, while, as a direct result of the two days' show, no less than 106 new members had been enrolled. The Chairman of the Society, Mr. F. J. Melville, has informed me that 181 new members have been added so far this season, and that a determined effort is being made to score another "century" before the present season is over.

8. Concluding Remarks

Our brief sketch of the history of collecting is finished. An account of the contents of some of the world's greatest collections will be written up in other pages. It behoves those of us who are beginners to remember that already our hobby has a history. It is a history of ups and downs, but there are many indications which justify one in concluding that stamp collecting has entered upon a most flourishing period of its existence. It is an undoubted fact that never before has our hobby taken so firm a hold on the affections of the young. It is equally true that the future of stamp collecting rests with the beginners of to-day. If they will only patiently study the science of collecting and begin on right lines, there need be no vain regrets. Theirs will be the joy of possession. Let every beginner, then, make it his aim to strive to add something to the world's store of philatelic knowledge, and thus carry on the work of those who, in former days, endured hardship and braved ridicule for the sake of their cherished hobby.

(To be continued.)

STAMP COLLECTING AS A PASTIME

By EDWARD J. NANKIVELL

(*Continued from page* 200.)

XIII. Stamp Collecting as an Investment—*cont.*

SOME years ago, when I was writing in defence of stamp collecting as an investment, I received a very indignant letter from a collector who had made a large collection, complaining that he had then recently endeavoured to sell, but could get only a very small percentage of his outlay back, and that the very firms from whom he had bought most of his stamps scouted the idea of paying him anything like what they had cost him. He therefore ridiculed the idea that stamp collecting could be regarded as a safe investment, as in his case it had been a delusion and a snare. He was quite right, and it is still possible to make big collections—of, say, five thousand, ten thousand, and even larger—of stamps that are never likely to appreciate, and it is possible to buy those stamps at such a price that any attempt to realise even a small percentage of the original outlay must result in a woeful eye-opener.

Let me explain. In the stamp business, as in all other branches of commerce, there are wholesale and retail dealers. The wholesaler buys by the thousand stamps that are printed by the million. I refer, of course, to used stamps. In some cases the price paid per thousand is only a few pence for large quantities that run into millions. The wholesaler sells to the retail dealer at a small advance per thousand. Those stamps the ordinary dealer makes up into packets at a further profit, but still at a comparatively low price. Good copies he picks out for sale in sets and separately. Those have to be catalogued. Therefore, the catalogue price of common stamps bought and sold by the million eventually comes before the general collector at "one penny each," and the man who makes a collection of common stamps of the "one penny each" class can scarcely be expected to realise a fortune out of his stamp collecting. When he offers his gatherings of years to the self-same dealer, and asks, say, only the half of what he paid, he is astounded when the dealer has the audacity to tell him frankly, "I can buy most of those stamps at a few shillings per thousand, and you want an average of a halfpenny each for them!" "But," retorts the collector, "I paid you one penny each for them years ago, and now you won't give me half that amount. A pretty thing investing money in stamps!" The reply of the dealer will be, "My dear fellow, you have put your money into the wrong stamps. I bought, and can still buy, those stamps wholesale at a few shillings per thousand, some of them at a few pence per thousand; but I have to pay clerks for handling them and sorting them out, other assistants for cataloguing them, and the printers for printing the catalogue, so that in the end I cannot afford to sell them *separately* for less than about one penny each, but if you want a few thousand of any value I can sell them to you at a price enormously below what you ask for your collection." The collector's eyes are opened.

It is impossible to get away from the necessity of regarding stamps as an investment. Even the schoolboy cannot afford to put his shilling into stamps unless he can be fairly assured that he may get his money back at critical periods, which will crop up even in school life. Indeed, it may be said that there are few, if any, stamp collectors nowadays who do not put more money into stamps than they could afford to do if there were not some element of investment in view. In some instances large fortunes are actually invested in stamps, and I was only recently told of a collector who had taken his money out of a very profitable business and put it into stamps, and had netted very much larger profits than he ever realised in his regular business. But to do that sort of thing requires a profound knowledge of stamps and a ready command of a very large banking account.

(*To be continued.*)

PORTRAITS ON STAMPS

By MARK W. HALL

Argentine Republic (*continued*)


Posadas.

Posadas, Gervasia Antonio, Argentine statesman. Born in Buenos Ayres, 19th June, 1757. He studied law, and for several years was employed in the Spanish administration, but when independence was proclaimed 25th May, 1810, he took part in the patriotic movement. Soon he became chief of the Centralisation party in opposition to the Federals, and abolished the executive junta. He was appointed supreme director of the Argentine Republic, January 20th, 1814. He created the provinces Entrerios, Salta, and Tucuman. His conservative ideas caused him to send a secret mission to Europe, for the purpose of obtaining a protectorate or a monarch from England or some other European nation, as he did not think his country ripe for a republic. His intentions became known, and there were several insurrections. Posadas, not feeling himself strong enough to resist, resigned 9th January, 1815, and died in Buenos Ayres, 2nd July, 1832.

His portrait appears on the 60 centavos, black, 1867–76, and the 60 centavos, black, 1889–91.

Bolivia (*continued*)


Sucre.

Sucre, Antonio José de, South American soldier. Born in Cumana, Venezuela, 3rd February, 1793. He studied mathematics at Caracas, was graduated at the college of military engineers in 1810, and in May of that year was sent to Barcelona as Post-Commander. In March, 1814, he joined Bolivar, who appointed him lieutenant-colonel of the Army of the Orient. He defeated the Spaniards at Yaguchi on August 19th, 1821, but was routed on 12th September by Guachi. In July, 1824, Sucre and Bolivar marched across the Andes to attack the army of Canterac, and defeated him at Junin on 6th August. After many more battles with the Spaniards he retired to private life, but was sent as deputy for Guayaquil to the Colombian Congress at Bogota, 20th January, 1830, which elected him president. He was returning home when he was shot from ambush in the mountains of Berruescos. He died near Pasto, Colombia, 4th June, 1830, and his remains were transported by his family to the church of San Francisco in Quito, where they still rest, although the Government of Bolivia, in 1845, asked permission to transport them to their country.

His portrait appears on the 50 centavos, orange, 1897–98, and on all the stamps of the 1900 issue.

NEW ISSUES

The Editor will be grateful to his readers if they will help him with the earliest possible information concerning new issues. News from the Colonies in particular will be much appreciated. When possible, a specimen should accompany the information, and should be addressed to

EDWARD J. NANKIVELL, Carnanton, Camden Park, Tunbridge Wells.

Barbados.—Messrs. Whitfield King and Co. report several further values of the current series with the multiple watermark, making the list, up to date, as follows:—



Wmk. Multiple C A. Perf.
½d., grey and carmine.
½d., dull green.
1d., rose.
2½d., ultramarine.
6d., mauve and carmine.
8d., orange and ultramarine.
2s. 6d., blue-black and orange.

Cuba.—The "Optimist," a Washington correspondent, writes:—

"I learn from a highly reliable source that the Republic of Cuba may soon blossom out with an entirely new series of stamps. On excellent authority I can say that the Bureau of Engraving and Printing has printed the last lot of stamps for the Cuban Government. In future the Cuban stamps will be printed by the American Bank Note Company of New York. It appears that the question of a new series of distinctive designs is under consideration, but has not as yet been fully determined. It had been supposed that a new series would be necessary; at least that new plates to be owned by the Cuban Government would be required; but I am given to understand that it is possible, if not probable, that an arrangement may be made whereby the United States will surrender the plates for manufacturing Cuban stamps to the Cuban Government, but this matter has not been fully decided."

Philippine Islands.—We again quote from the "Optimist":—

"There is some doubt yet as to the designs that will finally be accepted for the Philippine stamps. That the 2 centavos, or lowest-value stamp, will bear the portrait of the Filipino patriot, Rizal, is a settled fact; in fact, this is the only denomination upon which any work has been done by the engravers. As to the 4 centavo denomination there is still a question. At the outset it was proposed to have a separate design for each stamp, and half a dozen sketches were made. Then, on account of criticisms and lack of time to go into the matter in great detail, it was practically decided by the Bureau of Insular Affairs to issue the series with but two designs: that of Rizal on the 2 centavos; all the balance of the series to be similar, except for the value, and to represent the coat-of-arms of the Filipinos. Then there was a disposition to modify this programme by placing the portrait of George Washington on the 4 centavo denominations, the stamp that will do postal duty between the Philippines and the United States. This sketch was among the half-dozen made at the beginning. Just now this question is undecided. In case Washington is placed on the 4 centavo stamp, all the balance of the stamps will bear simply the coat-of-arms, and it may be determined to make the 4 centavo of this type. The colours of the higher denominations have not been decided on. The 2 centavo must be green, the 4 red, and the 10 blue."

Rio de Oro.—The *Madrid Philatelico* announces that this African colony of Spain has been provided with a series of stamps of the type of Fernando Poo, inscribed "Colonia de Rio de Oro." So little is known of this Spanish possession that its name even is not to be found in the ordinary encyclopædia or gazetteer. It is a strip of territory on the north-west coast of Africa, adjoining the southern boundary of Morocco, and is flanked on the interior by the great desert of Sahara. The province is known as Rio de Oro, and the chief town also as Rio de Oro. In some maps it appears as a sort of No Man's Land, without a solitary name upon its coast-line or its interior. The Canary Islands lie almost due west off the northern boundary of Rio de Oro.

Perf.
1 centimo, green.
2 centimos, rose.
3 ,, bronze-green.
4 ,, dark yellow.
5 ,, vermilion.
10 ,, dark brown.
15 ,, brown-red.
25 ,, blue.
50 ,, dark green.
75 ,, lilac.
1 peseta, red-brown.
2 pesetas, yellow.
3 ,, lilac.
4 ,, greenish blue.
5 ,, pale blue.
10 ,, red.

Spanish Guinea.—A new series of the design of 1903, but dated 1905, has, according to *Ewen's Weekly*, quoting *El Madrid Philatelico*, been issued. The full list is given as follows:—

Perf.
1 centimo, black.
2 centimos, green.
3 ,, carmine.
4 ,, bronze-green.
5 ,, dark yellow.
10 ,, red.
15 ,, dark brown.
25 ,, brown-red.
50 ,, blue.
75 ,, yellow.
1 peseta, carmine.
2 pesetas, violet.
3 ,, greenish blue.
4 ,, dark green.
5 ,, vermilion.
10 ,, blue.

MISCELLANEOUS

Penny Postage to Australia

THE Postmaster-General announces that arrangements have been made for the reduction of the letter postage to Australia to 1d. per half-ounce. The change will take effect from April 1st, and, from the same date, the postage on letters from Australia to the United Kingdom will be reduced to 2d. per half-ounce.

The Times, 27th March, 1905.

What "The Times" says

WE heartily congratulate Lord Stanley and the Post Office on the establishment of penny postage to Australia. Not less must we congratulate the Commonwealth Government on the concession which makes this arrangement possible. They have not themselves established the penny rate, but they have lowered the charge on letters to the United Kingdom from 2½d. to 2d. the half-ounce—the same rate as that already in existence for letters circulating inland throughout the Commonwealth. The result is a most salutary step towards the tightening up of communication throughout the Empire. Penny postage is in itself a mere material convenience; indeed, it would not be very easy to differentiate it from those "squalid bonds" on which the leader of the Opposition has poured the vials of his scorn, particularly as this new arrangement takes an essentially preferential shape. But it is not a link which anyone with the least knowledge of human nature will disparage. It is just one of those prosaic measures which lay the foundation of a much loftier structure of common sentiment and intimacy. That it will enormously promote the exchange of letters between these islands and Australia cannot be doubted. That such an increase of communication will make for the solidarity of the Empire is not demonstrable by statistics, but it is a proposition which we are justified in calling morally certain. Measures of this kind are, in fact, among the most elementary duties of Imperial statesmen. Circumstances may put practical difficulties in the way, and make it impossible to realise them as soon as we should like to see them realised, but they remain matters of true Imperial urgency. We are fond of saying that science has abolished those obstacles which vast intervening spaces of sea oppose to Imperial unity, and that for practical purposes we are more truly one than those great territorial empires, enclosed in a ring fence, which rose and fell in antiquity. The conception is a true one, and will remain true so long as we preserve our maritime power; but our recognition of it implies a corresponding duty to make the most of such advantages. Penny postage to Australia removes one more of the hindrances which have handicapped the unifying work of steam communication. In fact, it removes almost the very last, for we think we are correct in saying that Bechuanaland and Rhodesia are now the only places in the Empire to which you cannot send a letter for a penny.

It is not to official circles only that the credit for this new departure is due. A large debt of public gratitude is owed to Mr. Henniker Heaton, who, as everyone knows, has pressed unweariedly and unceasingly for all manner of postal reforms, and not least for penny postage with Australia. About two years ago there was published in our columns a very interesting correspondence on the subject between Mr. Henniker Heaton and Mr. Austen Chamberlain, who was then Postmaster-General. Mr. Austen Chamberlain was not himself in a position to introduce this reform. But his careful investigation of the question and thoroughly sympathetic attitude no doubt paved the way to a conclusion, and we may feel pretty certain that his presence as Chancellor of the Exchequer now has made matters very much smoother for Lord Stanley. The Treasury could so easily have put a spoke in the wheel on the ground, whether far-fetched or not, of national economy, in accordance with traditional practice. Mr. Austen Chamberlain, however, shares his father's enlightened enthusiasm for the consolidation of the Empire; and while he has satisfied himself, of course, that from the Exchequer point of view the scheme is thoroughly sound, his patriotic instincts will have enabled him to brush aside any obstacles that might have been raised by hesitating officialdom. The practical difficulty which met him while he was at the Post Office was that a penny rate from this country to Australia without any reciprocal concession there would almost certainly have meant, in his own words to Mr. Henniker Heaton, fining a number of persons in this country the sum of 3d. on each letter received from Australia insufficiently stamped. The Australian who received a penny letter from Great Britain would imagine, unless he were a specially well-informed person, that he need only pay a penny for his reply. The tax for this would fall on the unlucky recipient in England, and investigation showed that the tax might really have been heavy. One of the 1903 mails from Australia was specially examined for the purpose. Out of 2,275 post cards included no fewer than 739 were stamped with a penny instead of 1½d. Had insufficiently stamped letters necessitated a similar surcharge, a vastly greater number of complaints would probably have reached the Post Office than go there even at present; and not without some reason, for, as Mr. Austen Chamberlain remarked, the amount which these fines produce is trilling, and out of all proportion to the irritation they cause. As, however, the surcharge is imposed by the Commonwealth Government as a matter of obligation, the British Postmaster-General cannot avoid collecting it.

The reason why there is ever so much less chance of insufficiently paid Australian letters, and consequently of surcharges, under the new arrangement is because the home rate is now made the same as the inland rate for the Commonwealth. The would-be correspondent in Melbourne will now use exactly the same stamp when he is posting to a relative in London as he would if he were posting to Sydney or Adelaide. It is true that the penny rate is not, even now, unknown in Australia. It exists in all considerable cities and towns of the Commonwealth. But, except in Victoria, it exists for nothing more than letters transmitted within a town, so that the twopenny rate still remains universal for letters addressed outside the circle of your neighbours. It will be a great boon to Australians when the Commonwealth Government finds itself able to make the penny rate universal. So far as the bigger States are concerned the immediate fiscal loss could, we imagine, be faced with ease. The change would, in any case, probably be very much less expensive than State officials anticipate, and the advantage in linking up the diverse and thinly-peopled regions of the Commonwealth would of course be great. But, though the Australian Government do not yet see their way to this, it is a great thing that they should have made possible the freer Imperial communication now begun. It is another solid step towards unifying the Empire, the value of which it would be hard to overestimate.

The Times, 27th March, 1905.

THE STAMP KING

By G. DE BEAUREGARD AND H. DE GORSSE

Translated from the French by EDITH C. PHILLIPS



WILLIAM CONTENTED HIMSELF WITH A LOW BOW

CHAPTER V (*continued*)

Showing how, if money does not make happiness, the want of it often causes misery

THEY had arrived at the door of the room called the Throne Room, where the Prince received. The Commander of the Guard opened it, and with a deep reverence called out—

"The very humble and very suppliant servant of his most colossal Highness, Mr. William Keniss of New York."

This accomplished, and William, followed by John, having entered the room, he shut the door and ran to his interrupted piquet.

The spectacle of which the young American was now a witness was not of a nature to diminish his astonishment. The Throne Room, lighted by three windows looking on Hyde Park, was plunged in the early shadows of the closing day. But everything could still be clearly seen on account of its western aspect. Opposite the windows a large arm-chair was established under a canopy of crimson brocade, the floor being covered with a very fine Persian carpet. On the walls were trophies of arms and tapestries, embroidered in gold, which gave to the apartment an air of incomparable magnificence. From the platform on which the throne was placed rose two candelabra, delicately sculptured, filled with candles, and covered with lustres of great price.

But what William noticed first was the group of the three exiles.

Badunabad was seated in the arm-chair, which served for a throne, having on his right Trogustul, the Grand Talapoin, and on his left Satrakas, the Grand Vizier. The latter were standing. All three strove to maintain the most majestic and imposing demeanour. Not only had they, in the fullest sense of the term, what is generally known as a most venerable appearance, with all the attributes thereof—beards white and long, aquiline noses, profound looks, and royal physiognomies—but they were robed in splendid costumes, laced, embroidered, ornamented, with yataghans in their silk sashes, and turbans fringed with precious stones, the materials for which seemed to require the whole of Golconda.

William took a few steps, hesitating as to the correct thing to do, but reflecting that it was not necessary for a free citizen of America to hide his forehead in the dust, which was certainly sufficiently abundant on the carpet, he advanced and contented himself with a low bow, immediately imitated by John, who kept respectfully in the background.

"Are you the American?" inquired Badunabad in a grave voice.

"Yes, highest and most extraordinary lord," replied the young man, wishing at least to be polite.

"You see, miserable man!" groaned the dethroned sovereign, turning towards the Grand Talapoin.

"I beg that you will not insult me," returned the latter with some sharpness.

"Ah!" said Badunabad, raising his arms in a gesture both noble and desolate. "To hear one's self thus spoken to by a subject! Oh, my tortures! Oh, my pillories! Where are you?"

"Not here, happily!" murmured Trogustul. Then he added in a very low tone—

"Do have a little more dignity. You will cover us with ridicule."

The Maharajah gnawed his moustache and presently asked William—

"Have you the time to wait a minute or two?"

"As long as ever it pleases your incalculable Highness."

A silence followed which William, out of deference, dare not break. Suddenly Trogustul became lividly pale; he was evidently feeling very ill, and took a few steps towards a door at the further end of the room. The Maharajah rose precipitately and seized him by his tunic, but the stuff remained in his hand and the Grand Talapoin ran out of the room, closely followed by Badunabad.

William was not a little surprised to see that their backs were only covered with a thick shirt, and that their rich accoutrements consisted of a front part only, ingeniously fastened behind by strings, like a sort of breastplate.

Through the door of the adjoining room, which was left open, came sounds of a violent altercation, in which the voice of the Maharajah predominated.

"Oh, you cheat! You thief! You swindler! Be quick, or I'll strangle you!"

Satrakas had remained in his place, mute and impassive, and William, more and more bewildered, felt he must risk a question.

"Will you tell me, noble Vizier, what your magnanimous lord means by all this abuse?"

The Vizier hesitated a moment, and then suddenly making up his mind poured out his troubles.

"Oh, sir," cried he, seizing William's hand, "save us! We are in a horrible situation. No money, deep in debt, harassed with creditors. We have sold nearly everything. The backs of our robes even have had to go, and we have only kept the fronts that we may still appear with a little decency. To think that I should be reduced to making such an avowal!" And the poor man's voice trembled and tears rose in his eyes.

"All these jewels that you see," he continued, "are made of glass. The real stones have been sold. You see to what straits we are brought, through our fidelity to our guilty lord! It has deprived us of everything. We are dying of hunger in this palace! Our people refuse to serve us, and heap scorn upon us, so that Trogustul and I are illtreated both by our master and our servants."

"I sympathise most heartily with you," said William compassionately.

"One superb diamond remained to the Maharajah," continued Satrakas, "and he selfishly kept it back for his own personal needs. That is the one you have come for——"

"I?" interrupted William. "But I didn't come for a diamond."

"What! You are not the American whom the jeweller in Regent Street promised to send?"

"No, indeed."

"But, then, what do you want with us?"

A sudden idea struck William.

"It doesn't matter," said he. "I will buy the diamond all the same."

"Do you really mean that?"

"I swear it. And I will pay ready money."

"Then we must wait a little while."

"Why?"

"Because—this morning—weary of the egotism of our dear lord, Trogustul and I plotted to become the owners of it to improve our condition a little—and we succeeded. Trogustul was fortunate enough to seize it, and swallowed it straight away."

In spite of a strong desire to laugh William contained himself and listened for the end of this confidence.

"Unhappily the Maharajah had seen him. He immediately sent for a strong emetic and forced him to swallow it, threatening he would have him arrested as a thief. Oh, it was a terrible scene!"

In the next room the invectives continued, and the summons to make haste which Badunabad lavished on the unfortunate Trogustul. The narrative of the Vizier explained the sudden illness and unexpected flight of Trogustul, as well as the behaviour of Badunabad, which William had at first attributed to anger at the former's breach of etiquette.

John was so strongly tempted to laugh that he had to hide his face behind his master, who himself found it somewhat difficult to avoid smiling. Suddenly a triumphant exclamation was heard.

"Ah!" cried Badunabad. "Here it is! I have it! You see, thief that you are, that stolen things do you no good."

The moment after the Maharajah briskly entered the Throne Room, holding between his thumb and finger a beautiful diamond of the finest water, and of unparalleled shape, whose facets glowed in the fading light. William took up the stone gingerly, saw that it was a very valuable one, and said to the Maharajah—

"Most illustrious sir, what do you require in exchange for this jewel?"

"Whatever it is worth," replied the prince, who had quite regained his serenity.

"Will you accept twenty thousand pounds sterling?"

The roundness of the sum seemed to make a profound impression on the fallen monarch. Twenty thousand pounds! Thirteen thousand five hundred gold mohurs! A small sum truly compared with his former treasures, but attaining fabulous proportions in the present state of affairs.

"I accept," he said, with cold majesty.

"In that case I will conclude the bargain with your most magnanimous Highness. On one condition, however——"

"Ah! What is it?"

"That you will permit me also to buy a certain postage stamp, of which, I understand, one copy only remains in the hands of your Highness," and trembling with emotion he awaited the response of the potentate. There were so many chances that the stamp had been destroyed, mislaid, stolen, or left in San-Po when the capital was deserted so precipitately.

The Maharajah caressed his long beard thoughtfully.

"And how much would you give for this stamp?" he said at last.

"Whatever your Highness deigned to ask."

"It is of very great value, then?"

"To me, yes."

"Would you give as much as five thousand pounds for it?"

"Instantly."

At these words the Maharajah flung himself upon the Grand Vizier with cuffs and blows, crying, "Traitor, miserable creature, thief! Well might you give me such advice!"

"I will have you arrested for assaulting me!" cried the unfortunate man, sinking under the blows.

(To be continued.)

GOSSIP OF THE HOUR

By CORNELIUS WRINKLE

London Exhibition, 1906. News at Last!

CORN in Egypt! Here's news at last! Hidden away in the centre of a sack of "Notes and News" in the March number of the *Philatelic Record!* I must quote it in full, for I have good reasons for believing it to be as good as official :—

"The Executive Committee of the London Exhibition for 1906 have been busily engaged during the past few weeks. The finding of a suitable place for the Exhibition has been more difficult than very many would imagine. The fact that it is to be held between Epsom and Ascot, the height of the London Season, has materially increased the difficulties on this head, as none of the Picture Galleries are to be let during that time. We understand that, after visiting all the likely places in London, and the choice is exceedingly limited, the Committee have decided upon the Royal Horticultural Hall, in Westminster. The building is perhaps open to the objection of being a little out of the beaten track, but seven minutes in a hansom, for the sum of one shilling, puts you down at the door, and when you get there you are compensated by finding an ideal hall, and one capable of holding some 800 frames and 100 show-cases, all of which will, it is anticipated, be required. The building is a new one, and consequently everything upon the place is clean and fresh.

"The Hon. Secretary, Mr. Oldfield, is expected back from a short sea trip, taken for the benefit of his health, very shortly, when the prospectus will be finally settled. It is expected to contain a Championship Class for the gold medallists of London, 1897, and Manchester, 1899, who will (so far as the country which has already secured this particular award is concerned) be debarred from competing in the open class.

"It is quite possible a departure will be made in the grouping of the countries for competition from that of previous exhibitions, but we shall be able to say more about this next month."

The Exhibition Hall

ROYAL HORTICULTURAL HALL, Westminster. Ah! Rather out of the beaten track. Yes. It seems to me to be rather an experiment, and probably not a happy one from the point of view of popularising the hobby. It will not be much of an advertisement from that point of view. The enthusiastic stamp collector would find it all right, even if it were held in the purlieus of Houndsditch; but the great public that we want to impress won't go far off the beaten track to hunt it up, and that is just where any out-of-the-way place comes to be a handicap. Note the immense success of the junior show held right in the best part of the beaten track. Ah, well, we shall see. Let us hope for the best results. I should have voted for the Crystal Palace.

Shilling Fares—Any Distance

THE announcement that a shilling cab fare will take you there and put you down at the door, I take to be an intimation that our go-ahead Committee have made an arrangement with the cabbies of London for an "any-distance shilling fare." Smart idea! On the lines of the Tube twopenny fares. Excellent arrangement. I hope I shall not get into trouble with my cabby when I offer him a bob from the heights of 'Appy 'Amstead.

The Great Moguls Champion Class

HIP, hip, hooray! Got them shunted off our pastures at last. Hungry fellows! They have been gobbling up all the medals for too long. Now there's to be a close time for Great Moguls. They are to fight it out amongst themselves, and I guess that Championship Class will be a sight worth seeing if the Great Moguls really come out strong, as I expect they will. But my sincerest sympathies will go with the judges in their task. This decision alone will do much to enlarge the scope of the Exhibition and ensure the success of the show.

But where are our Boys?

WE must wait for that prospectus before we know the fate of our boys. Meanwhile I hope they have not been forgotten. With so much show space as this great hall will give them, surely the Exhibition Committee will find a corner for a Young Collectors' Competition. I am sure plenty of prizes would be forthcoming for such a competition, and that it would be immensely popular amongst our young collectors goes without saying.

The Badges Question

HERE are a few designs for criticism and approval. So far as I can gather, the wishes of most collectors lie in the direction of a badge that shall be recognisable amongst stamp collectors, but which shall be Greek to the curious non-collector. With that view I entirely agree. Therefore the earlier idea of having a badge labelled "Stamps" goes by the board in favour of a suggestion from several correspondents that use should be made of the CC and CA watermarks, the CC being worn to indicate a preference for the Old Issues and CA the collection of New Issues.







Consequently I have got the artist to make me a sketch of CC and CA badges, and I add a third sketch sent me by Mr. Widdowson. Personally I prefer the simple CC and CA badges. I have not suggested anything for the other side. That can be left blank and engraved at the will of the wearer with the year of starting collecting, or society membership, etc. I hope shortly to be able to announce that I have persuaded Messrs. Stanley Gibbons, Ltd., to take up the manufacture and sale of these badges. Failing them, I do not intend to let the matter drop.

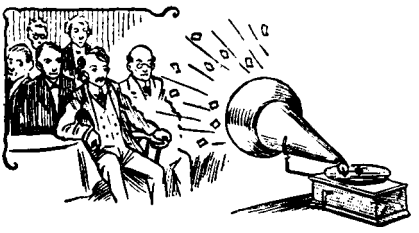
2½d. and 5d. Stamps

IT strikes me that 2½d. and 5d. stamps will, some of these fine days, be more or less obsolete values. One more nail in their coffin is driven with the adoption of penny postage from Great Britain to Australia. Of all our colonies the only ones that now hold us to the 2½d. rate of postage are Bechuanaland and Rhodesia. Some day, let us hope, the Postal Union will agree to a reduction all round from a 2½d. to a 1d. rate for all countries in the Union. In not a few cases the 5d. value has run scarce in our colonies and is being dropped out of more than one current series.

Why not Gramophone it?

I NOTE that a few good souls of collectors, taking pity on less favoured brethren of the stamp world, are sending their collections around on show. A very praiseworthy and self-sacrificing move—one that I am bound to confess I could not face, for I should dread to open my treasures on their return home. But there is one drawback to this business of itinerant philatelic displays—the owner does not accompany the collection, and it therefore lacks his explanations and comments.

Now I want to suggest to those generous collectors that they should confide their much-needed explanations and comments to the gramophone, and send a record with the collection. The society exhibiting the collection to its members could then borrow a gramophone, fit on the desired record, and turn on the voice of the absent owner for the edification and delight of those present.



SPECIAL CORRESPONDENCE

Philately in Finland

HELSINGFORS, *March 9th*, 1905.

PHILATELY has become really a "world power"; its influence is to be seen everywhere. In the most distant towns of the world its followers meet, and the crowds that honour its might increase yearly.

Even in our remote corner, the faithful in the cause of Philately are beginning to meet together. It must be confessed, truly, that in this respect Finland is very much behind the Scandinavian countries. Thus, for example, we have here only one Philatelic Society, the "Helsingfors Frimärksamlare-Forening," which, although it is twelve years of age, has only about sixty members. However, of late the number of members seems to be growing at a more satisfactory rate. The meetings, which are held twice a month, are well attended. The Society has not yet indeed funds large enough to permit it to publish its own organ, but it is trying by other means to arouse interest on the part of collectors, and to convince them of the advantages following membership.

Catalogue of Finland Stamps

Thus, last year the Society published a new edition of the Special Catalogue of the Stamps of Finland, and it will produce soon a special album for the said stamps. The new Special Catalogue of 1904 was well received by the critics. The prices of unused stamps are also now quoted. The catalogue can be had from Herr Dr. Ekman, Boulevardsgatan 40, Helsingfors, at the price of one shilling in stamps.

With regard to the prices of Finnish stamps, a considerable rise is to be observed here in the case of the stamps of the issues of 1866-67. The used stamps of those issues are sought here on all sides, and good, perfect (that is, well-perforated) copies are hard to find.

High Values of 1883—Catalogue Prices

There has been a great fall in the prices of the high values, 5 marks and 10 marks, of the issue of 1883, unused, in the great catalogues issued recently. This does not seem to me to be in keeping with the scarcity of these very rare stamps, although the fall in prices may be explained in the following way. Local collectors are not especially interested, with few exceptions, in unused stamps, and even unused Finland are therefore sought for but very little here. Thus it happened that when the local postal authorities sold at auction two years ago their last remainders of the older unused stamps, the local collectors hesitated to make offers for the stamps, so that the whole remainder (there were only about 260 pieces of each kind of the 5 mk. and 10 mk.) passed into the hands of a German dealer, who is trying to sell them now, even at a small profit, and so the prices are falling. But I would advise everybody who does not possess these stamps unused to buy them now, for they are really very rare. The whole issue of the 5 marks amounted to 10,000 pieces, and that of the 10 marks to only 7,500 pieces. The greater part of these stamps has been used, and at most 25 % remain unused. If only the Finnish collectors wake up and begin to collect unused stamps, then the prices of unused early Finnish stamps will rise rapidly. Some of these stamps are even now no longer to be had in Finland. Even the postal authorities in Finland have been so little foreseeing in this respect, that they caused all their remainders of the issues of 1856 to 1875 to be burned. When the authorities arranged a permanent exhibition later, they had to exhibit reprints instead of stamps, for they possessed no originals belonging to the earliest issues.

Reprints for a Grand Duke

When a Russian Grand Duke, who was a keen collector of stamps, asked the postal authorities in Helsingfors in 1893 for some of the earlier stamps for his collection, the authorities had to have reprints made, for they did not wish to have to refuse the request. One thousand pieces of every stamp of 1856-60, 1866-67 issues, as also of the 8 penni and 32 penni of 1875, and 500 pieces of every one of the 10 penni, 20 penni, and 25 penni of the issue of 1875, were ordered. But, as has now been proved, these reprints were not made from the old clichés, but by lithography, and thus they are really not reprints, but copies in lithography, which are easily distinguished from the originals.

The Finland *tête-bêche* stamps have been greatly discussed here as well as in Germany of late. But this letter is already much too long [Not at all.—ED. *G.S.W.*], and I must leave this question until next time, and I hope I shall see my young readers again soon.

M. v. H.

News from Mysore

BANGALORE, *9th March*, 1905.

Indian Stamps Overprinted for Native States

IN my last effusion I had a word to say on the subject of Indian stamps overprinted for use in the States of Faridkot, Nabha, Gwalior, Chamba, Patiala, and Jhind, and with Mr. Editor's permission I propose to give,

this week, a few hints to beginners on the subject of these stamps.

When they first appeared I remember a well-known dealer, who had a few on sale, stigmatising them as "some more of those Indian locals"; but these stamps are very, very far from being locals in any sense, as they have franking power throughout British India, and that little country is a very fair-sized continent with an odd three hundred million or so of inhabitants. So you see the term "local" was never more thoroughly misapplied.

Hints for Beginners

If you happen to have a standard catalogue you will feel appalled at the amount of space allotted to the issues of these six States, and the subject has recently been treated to a large monograph; but the thousand and one varieties which appear therein are not for you or for me, but only for the millionaire who, having tired of building a city or two and owning a dozen railways, is seeking for a means of disposing of his surplus income. There are, however, some quite expensive and rare stamps among the number of those which all should endeavour to obtain, but their number is small, and the majority are of fairly common occurrence.

Faridkot and Chamba

The subject is far too long for one week's letter, so I propose to do a little talkee-talkee, as my old Chinese servant used to say, on the easiest of all these States—Faridkot and Chamba. There are only two kinds of surcharge for these States, the first being the name and the second bearing the additional overprint "Service" for use on official correspondence.

If you happen to own a dozen or so of these stamps, you will probably find that there is some difference in the lettering of the overprint and in the shade of the stamps, and you will naturally wish to know whether these variations are important. They are of great importance to the specialist, but, with few exceptions, they are quite unimportant to the average collector.

The most common variation occurs in the case of the letter "A," which often appears to be smaller than the other letters. In some cases this is caused by the insertion of an "A" belonging to what printers call a different fount of type, but it is caused also in some cases by insufficient inking of the letter, or by the letter having been broken.

The result is that varieties are met with which read CHAMBA, CHAMBA, and STATE.

These only occur as varieties on the sheet, and are not different stamps in the sense that they are the result of a separate surcharge. If, of course, the whole of the stamps had a small "A" in "State" in one printing and a large "A" in another printing, the differences would be such that they must be collected and considered as different by even the youngest collector.

I would therefore advise you to take no notice whatever of these small A's at present, or of any other "dotty" letter.

Now as to the Shades

All the common stamps such as the ½, 1, 2, 3, and 4 anna stamps exist in several distinct shades. Why? Because they were made at long intervals, and during the time that elapsed between the printing of the required supplies for these States a fresh supply of British Indian stamps had been received at Calcutta from Messrs. De La Rue, the printers, and fresh supplies are seldom exactly the same in shade as their predecessors, and the longer a stamp is in use the greater the number of shades there are likely to be. All the Indian low-value stamps have been supplied on so many occasions that there are very numerous shades of each, and some of these variations received the overprint for Chamba and Faridkot, consequently you will find a considerable range of shade. Then comes the question—Are these of interest? and the reply is as before—Yes, to the specialist; but if the beginner tries to obtain all the known shades of these stamps he will have no time for the rest of his collection. So let these shade varieties go, unless they are really distinct colours; for instance, the ½ anna was originally dark green and was altered to pea-green, and this marks a point in the philatelic history of the State. And therefore these two are totally different stamps, as different as if one had been printed in yellow and the other in blue.

The 8 Anna Stamp

The difference in the colour of the 8 anna stamp is not so important, but it is very well marked, and I certainly think it would be right to keep one specimen in the old dull shade and one in the bright aniline mauve shade. You may well ask, Why should the difference in the green stamps be so important and in the case of the mauve stamps less so? The reason is that the change of colour of the ½ anna stamp was made by a Government order, and the stamps are therefore *purposely* different, whereas in the case of the 8 anna value the difference was not called for, and was merely the result of the printers' using a different kind of ink.

The Necessary Stamps

Having shown that defective lettering is in most cases of little importance, except to specialists, and that mere shades, although most interesting, are not of primary importance, I will draw up the list of the necessary stamps for a collector, and it will be found to be very much simpler than the catalogue version. I will not include the King's Head series, as they are not yet complete.

CHAMBA.

Stamps of British India overprinted CHAMBA STATE.

1886–95.

½ anna, green.
1 ,, plum.
1½ annas, sepia.
2 ,, blue.
2½ ,, yellow-green.
3 ,, orange.
4 ,, olive-green.
6 ,, bistre.
8 ,, dull mauve.
8 ,, aniline mauve.
12 ,, purple on red.
1 rupee, grey.
1 ,, carmine and green.
2 rupees, yellow-brown and carmine.
3 ,, green and brown.
5 ,, violet and ultramarine.

1900–1902.

3 pies, carmine.
1 anna, carmine.
2 annas, violet.

With an additional surcharge of "Service."
All the above up to and inclusive of the one rupee value.

Errors of Primary Importance

The only errors of primary importance consist of the entire series up to one rupee with the name spelt "Chmaba" instead of "Chamba" for both the ordinary stamps and the Service set. All the other variations are due to errors of spacing of the letters, inverted "V" for "A," or "A's" from wrong fount, all of which may be neglected by all except advanced specialists.

In the case of Faridkot all the above exist, with the exception of the 2, 3, and 5 rupee values. There are, as before, plenty of varieties due to broken and improperly inked letters and small "A's"; but there is only one major error, the 6 annas Service stamp with the word spelt "Servic," and as only eight exist, it becomes an unattainable.

E. WHETHERILL.

THE STAMP MARKET

By AN ODD LOT

British Somaliland

IN the new Gibbons this country does not follow its change of name from British Somaliland to Somaliland, but is retained under its first name. The first issue shows signs of scarcity, as the following table will indicate. The prices are for unused. Used are not priced:—

	1904	1905
	s. d.	*s. d.*
½ a., pale green	0 2	0 2
1 a., carmine	0 2	0 4
2 a., violet	0 3	0 5
2½ a., blue	0 4	0 6
3 a., brown-orange	0 5	0 8
4 a., slate-green	0 6	1 0
6 a., pale brown	0 8	1 6
8 a., dull mauve	0 11	2 0
12 a., brown on red	1 4	3 0
1 r., carmine and green	1 9	4 0
2 r., brown and carmine	3 6	7 0
3 r., green and brown	5 3	10 6
5 r., violet and ultramarine	8 9	16 0

The variety of the second "1" omitted in the overprint BRITISH is chronicled, but not priced, as existing on the ½ a., 1 a., 2 a., and 3 a.; but the similar and equally pronounced variety of the "1" omitted in the overprint SOMALILAND is not listed. This must be an oversight, as I have several fine specimens. Both varieties are likely to be a good investment.

British South Africa

THIS country has long since established its right to the specialist's attention, and is also an attractive country for the young collector, who may wisely ignore the high values that wind up two or three of its fine series of stamps.

The supply of the first issues still seems to be sufficient to meet the demand, and as a consequence there is no notable advance, except in the case of the 3s. of 1891–4, which is advanced from 7s. 6d. to 10s.; but its companion stamp, 4s., of the same series, has been dropped from 10s. to 8s. An old error, ascribing the engraving and printing of the large Arms series of 1896–7 to Waterlow, is repeated. It should be credited to Perkins Bacon and Co. The re-engraving of the design for the 1897 series was done by Waterlow. The prices of these series call for no comment, nor is there any change to note in the provisionals of 1896, except in the case of the 3d. Cape, overprinted BRITISH SOUTH AFRICA, which has been raised from 6s. to 10s. Collectors have always found this value very scarce, but the catalogues have been slow to recognise the fact.

Canada

THESE old standards are quiet and show little change. In the 1868 series the Gibbons favourite shade—15 c., bright red-lilac—has been raised from 5s. to 10s. In those interesting shade-yielding 8 cents of 1893–7 the purple-black has been advanced from 2s. 6d. to 4s., and is hard to find well centred even at the advance. In the Jubilee series the 50 c. is advanced from 3s. 6d. to 4s. 6d., and the $1 from 7s. 6d. to 8s. 6d. The two varieties of the "2 cents" surcharge inverted, unused, have been raised from 50s. to 60s. This stamp was started at 40s. in the 1902 Catalogue, and seems to be steadily rising in value.

Cape of Good Hope

THE grand old triangulars seem to have received considerable attention. The 1d. and 4d. of 1853, on blued paper, are priced 60s. each. They were left unpriced last year, and in the previous Catalogue the 1d. was priced 70s. In the De La Rue triangulars of 1863–4 the 1d., brown-red, unused, has been raised from 17s. 6d. to 30s. The 4d., slate-blue, unused, from 25s. to 40s.; the 6d., unused, from 35s. to 40s.; and the 1s., emerald, unused, from 80s. to 100s. In the 1871–7 series, without outer line, the 4d., deep blue, has been dropped from 20s. to 15s.

Cayman Islands

EVIDENTLY something is exciting the market in Cayman Islands, for a most unprecedented rise has to be recorded in what I take to be the current series. The 6d. has been raised from 8d. to 1s. 6d., and the 1s. from 1s. 4d. to 2s. 6d.

Ceylons

A FEW rises are to be noted in the 1872–80 series. 8 c., yellow, unused, from 2s. to 3s.; 16 c., unused, from 12s. 6d. to 15s.; 32 c., slate, unused, from 30s. to 35s.; 48 c., unused, from 18s. to 20s.; 64 c., unused, from 35s. to 40s., and used from 12s. 6d. to 15s.; and the 96 c., unused, from 17s. 6d. to 20s., and used from 3s. to 5s.

In the 1883–4 series the 2 c., pale brown, has been doubled in price, from 2s. 6d. to 5s.

The surcharged 1 r. 50 c., 1899, unused, has advanced from 3s. 6d. to 5s., and the companion value, 2 r. 25 c., unused, from 7s. 6d. to 10s. The regular stamps of those values included in the following series have also gone up, the 1 r. 50 c., unused, from 2s. 9d. to 6s., and the 2 r. 50 c. from 4s. to 7s. 6d.

Cook Islands

THESE have undergone very little change. The 10d. of the first issue has gone up from 6s. to 7s. 6d. The ONE HALF PENNY on 1d., blue, provisional of 1899, remains at 4s., but the 1d., brown, Crown overprint, has been advanced from 10s. to 15s.

Cyprus

THE gamble in Cyprus King's Heads, single CA, has resulted in the settlement of values as follows for unused:—

	s. d.
½ pias, green and carmine	0 3
30 paras, mauve and green	0 2
1 pias, carmine and ultramarine	0 4
2 ,, blue and marone	0 6
4 ,, sage-green and marone	0 8
6 ,, sepia and green	2 6
9 ,, brown and carmine	12 6
12 ,, red-brown and black	2 6
18 ,, black and brown	12 6
45 ,, brown and ultramarine	15 0

East Africa and Uganda

THE scarce King's Head single CA values, 2 a., 3 a., 5 a., and 8 a., are all left unpriced, so that speculators may burn their fingers with these till the next Gibbons settles their fate.

Gambia

THE old issues remain unchanged, but the remainders of 1886–7, the last of the beautiful medallion issues, are apparently being absorbed, with the result that some of the values show a rise. The 3d., grey, unused, has been raised from 1s. to 2s., and the 1s., deep violet, unused, from 5s. to 10s., but the 6d., bronze-green, has been dropped from 5s. to 4s. Slight increases have also been made in nearly all the values of the surface-printed Queen's Head series of 1898, of which copies are by no means plentiful.

Gibraltar

THE stamps of this country have for many years been an uncertain quantity in the matter of catalogue values.

It is a straightforward little country, with many interesting series and one or two rarities of the Great Mogul class, yet it does not seem to be much in active demand.

Here are the prices of the first issue of 1886. It will be remembered that prices were dropped considerably last year.

	1896	1897	1899	1900	1902	1903	1904	1905
	s. d.	*s. d.*	*s. d.*	*s. d.*	*s. d.*	*s. d.*	*s. d.*	*s. d.*
½d.	0 4	0 6	0 6	0 6	0 5	0 4	0 4	0 4
1d.	0 6	0 8	0 8	0 8	1 3	1 3	1 3	1 3
2d.	5 0	8 6	8 6	12 6	16 0	16 0	12 6	12 6
2½d.	2 0	7 6	7 6	7 6	10 0	12 6	10 0	10 0
4d.	8 0	12 6	12 0	15 0	20 0	20 0	15 0	15 0
6d.	15 0	20 0	20 0	25 0	25 0	30 0	24 0	24 0
1s.	45 0	70 0	75 0	75 0	75 0	70 0	55 0	55 0

The prices of the 1886 series have maintained a better level, but still show considerable fluctuation.

	1896	1897	1899	1900	1902	1903	1904	1905
	s. d.	*s. d.*	*s. d.*	*s. d.*	*s. d.*	*s. d.*	*s. d.*	*s. d.*
½d. .	—	0 5	0 3	0 3	0 3	0 2	0 1	0 1
1d. .	0 6	0 6	0 4	0 4	0 4	0 3	0 3	0 3
2d. .	1 6	2 0	2 0	1 6	1 6	2 0	2 0	2 0
2½d. .	1 6	1 6	0 9	0 6	0 6	0 5	0 5	0 6
4d. .	6 0	6 0	6 0	5 0	5 0	5 0	17 6	17 6
6d. .	7 6	10 6	10 6	8 6	15 0	25 0	25 0	25 0
1s. .	12 6	30 0	30 0	40 0	35 0	30 0	30 0	30 0

Much the same may be said of the surcharged set changing the currency from pence to the Spanish centimos.

	1896	1897	1899	1900	1902	1903	1904	1905
	s. d.	*s. d.*	*s. d.*	*s. d.*	*s. d.*	*s. d.*	*s. d.*	*s. d.*
5 c. on ½d.	1 0	0 9	0 9	0 9	1 6	2 0	2 0	2 0
10 c. on 1d.	1 0	0 9	0 9	0 6	0 6	0 4	0 4	0 4
25 c. on 2d.	1 9	2 0	1 0	1 6	1 6	2 0	3 6	3 6
25 c. on 2½d.	1 0	1 3	1 3	1 3	1 0	0 9	0 8	0 8
40 c. on 4d.	3 6	4 0	3 6	3 6	2 6	2 0	1 9	1 9
50 c. on 6d.	4 0	4 6	4 0	4 0	3 0	2 6	2 0	2 0
75 c. on 1s.	6 0	6 0	5 0	4 6	3 6	3 0	3 0	3 0

And the ups and downs continue into the 1889 centimos series, as follows:—

	1896	1897	1899	1900	1902	1903	1904	1905
	s. d.	*s. d.*	*s. d.*	*s. d.*	*s. d.*	*s. d.*	*s. d.*	*s. d.*
5 c. .	0 1	0 1	0 1	0 1	0 1	0 1	0 1	0 1
10 c. .	0 2	0 2	0 2	0 2	0 2	0 2	0 2	0 2
25 c. .	0 4	0 4	0 6	0 6	0 4	0 4	0 4	0 4
40 c. .	0 8	0 8	0 8	0 8	0 9	1 6	0 6	0 8
50 c. .	0 9	0 9	0 9	0 9	1 0	2 0	0 9	1 0
75 c. .	1 0	5 0	4 0	6 0	—	5 0	5 0	5 0
1 p. .	1 6	10 0	6 0	7 6	—	10 0	10 0	10 0
5 p. .	6 6	10 0	8 0	6 6	7 6	6 0	6 0	10 0

Bicoloured:—	1897	1899	1900	1902	1903	1904	1905
20 c., olive-green & brown	0 4	0 4	0 4	0 3	0 3	0 3	0 4
1 p., bistre & ultramarine	1 6	1 6	1 6	1 3	1 3	1 0	1 6
2 p., black and carmine .	2 3	2 3	3 0	2 0	2 0	2 0	3 0

ANSWERS TO CORRESPONDENTS

Mr. V. Hill (49, Archway Road, London, N.) writes to inform us that he is a stamp dealer of Highgate, but that he does not send *any* approval sheets nor allow *any* discount. He cannot, therefore, be mistaken for the parties referred to under the heading of "Approval Sheets" in *G.S.W.*, p. 185.

Reader of "G.S.W."—Unless your margins have the marginal control numbers the margins can scarcely be worth keeping on for singles.

D. B. (Great Yarmouth).—Gibraltar and Cyprus have, or rather are issuing, two sets of King's Heads; *i.e.* those watermarked single CA are being superseded by the same designs watermarked multiple CA.

C. C. (Bolton).—I have posted to a friend particulars of the journals you want to dispose of. If you don't hear from him your best plan will be to offer them through the *Exchange and Mart*.

OUR PHILATELIC DIARY

APRIL, 1905

8. Exhibition of Fiscal and Telegraph Stamps, at Exeter Hall, London. 11 a.m. to 9.30 p.m.
   Junior Philatelic Society: Visit to the Tapling Collection at the British Museum. Members meet any time between 2 and 4 in the King's Library, British Museum. 2 to 4 p.m.
10. Auction: Hadlow, Covent Garden Hotel, London. 5 p.m.
11. Bradford Philatelic Society: General Display, by members. 7.30 p.m.
    Auction: Plumridge, 64, Chancery Lane, London. 4.45 p.m
12. International Philatelic Union: Display of Bosnia, by L. W. Fulcher, at Essex Hall, Essex Street, London. 8 p.m.
    Auction: Plumridge, 64, Chancery Lane, London. 4.45 p.m.
13. Auction: Ventom, Bull, and Cooper, Loudoun Hotel, Surrey Street, Strand, London. 5 p.m.
14. Auction: Ventom, Bull, and Cooper, Loudoun Hotel, Surrey Street, Strand, London. 5 p.m.
    Manchester Philatelic Society: Paper on Italy, by W. D. Beckton, at Grand Hotel. 7 p.m.
    Birmingham Philatelic Society: Display of Great Britain, by W. Pimm.
15. Junior Philatelic Society: Display of Rarities. 7 p.m. Auction Sale of Postage Stamps. 7.30 p.m. Display—Later Issues of Mexico, Rudolf Frentzel. 8.15 p.m. Paper—How does Philately Constitute a Science?, by William G. Inkpin. 9 p.m.
18. Auction: Puttick and Simpson, 47, Leicester Square, London. 4.30 p.m.
    Leeds Philatelic Society: Display of Victorian Stamps, with notes, by E. Heginbottom, B.A., at Leeds Institute. 7.30 p.m.
    Herts Philatelic Society: Display, with notes—Bahamas, by Robert Ehrenbach, at Anderton's Hotel, E.C. 7 p.m.
19. Auction: Puttick and Simpson, 47, Leicester Square, London. 4.30 p.m.
    Enterprise Philatelic Society, London: Paper and Display—Fiscal Philately: the Reasons for its Growing Popularity, W. Schwabacher. 6.15 p.m. Display, with notes—South Australia, E. Heginbottom, B.A. 8. p.m.
20. Auction: Glendining, 7, Argyll Street, London. 4.30 p.m.
21. Auction: Glendining, 7, Argyll Street, London. 4.30 p.m.
27. Auction: Ventom, Bull, and Cooper, Loudoun Hotel, Surrey Street, Strand, London. 5 p.m.
28. Auction: Ventom, Bull, and Cooper, Loudoun Hotel, Surrey Street, Strand, London. 5 p.m.
    Philatelic Society of London: Paper by R. Ehrenbach, at 4, Southampton Row, London. 7.45 p.m.

Editorial Address—EDWARD J. NANKIVELL, Carnanton, Camden Park, Tunbridge Wells.

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8 April, 1905.

Gibbons Stamp Weekly

EDITED BY EDWARD J. NANKIVELL

No. 15 | 15 APRIL, 1905 | Vol. I.

STAMPS OF GREAT BRITAIN

By EDWARD J. NANKIVELL

(*Continued from page 215.*)

The Set of 1883-4

AS we have already seen, the 1s. stamp, inscribed POSTAGE AND REVENUE, issued in 1881, was the pioneer of what is termed the Unified Series, *i.e.* a series of stamps inscribed POSTAGE AND REVENUE, and so made available for postal or fiscal purposes. The set of 1883-4 completed the issue of the needed values thus inscribed.

The adoption of the idea of unified stamps led at first to considerable confusion and not a little irregularity. By the Customs and Inland Revenue Act, 1881, it was provided "that on and after June 1st, 1881, postage duties might be paid by the use of 1d. adhesive stamps not appropriated by any word or words on the face of them to postage duty or to any particular description of instrument." Postage stamps were also allowed to be used for fiscal purposes. The result of this free-and-easy, use-what-you-like ordinance was that everything in the shape of a 1d. adhesive stamp was rattled through the post, and before long postally used fiscals of all sorts and sizes and conditions bulked largely in the stamp collections of the day. The intention probably was to make the similar-sized current Inland Revenue receipt stamp available for postage, but the peculiar wording of the Act undoubtedly opened the door to the use of any and every kind of adhesive 1d. stamp. However, in the catalogues these curios are relegated to a separate page under the heading of Postal Fiscals, and I do not propose to recommend their collection to the young collector, despite the fact that for some days the Post Office sold only the 1d. Inland Revenue stamps for postal use till the 1d. stamp of 1881 was issued on June 28th of that year.

The Unified Series was "unified" in more ways than one. It was unified in its fusion of postal and fiscal purposes, and it was unified in colour; but to make up for this unification the stamps were issued in mixed sizes, some oblong and some rectangular. The designs were severely plain and ugly. The 1½d., 2d., 2½d., and 3d. were all printed in purple, and the remaining values of the series, viz. 4d., 5d., 6d., 9d., and 1s., in a sickly dull green. What with the confusion of similar colours and the marked ugliness of design, it is no small matter for wonder that the life of the series lasted from April, 1884, till January, 1887, when a merciful Providence revealed to the authorities the excuse for a more acceptable series to commemorate the Jubilee of Her Majesty Queen Victoria.

The series was watermarked throughout with the Imperial Crown.

The General Post Office announcement of the series was dated 18th March, 1884, and informed the public that, "on and after 1st April, a new series of stamps available for postal, telegraph, and, up to the value of 2s. 6d., for revenue purposes, will be issued." And accordingly, on the very appropriately selected 1st April, 1884, all but the 9d. value were put on sale. The 9d. value, required for the parcel

post, was really the first of the series, for it was issued on the 1st August, 1883.

One characteristic of the series is the expression of the value in figures and words on each stamp. In the 1½d. and 5d. the figures are on tablets at the foot of the designs, and in all the other values on tablets on each side. Check corner-letters were reintroduced.

From the first the stamps received anything but a pleasant welcome. The public grumbled at the mixture of sizes and the confusion of values in the same colours, and the Post Office officials grumbled because the difficulties of sorting were enormously increased, and the confusion of values in the same colours led to endless mistakes. Before long the authorities were convinced that they had made a most hopeless jumble of the issue, and they set to work to remedy the mistake that had been made, and to stop the outcry of general complaint. And the approaching Jubilee afforded a God-send of an excuse for an entirely new issue.

Of the designs in detail little need be said.

1½d. and 5d. These values were of the same design—a pointed shield with portrait of Queen Victoria in the centre, and the words POSTAGE AND REVENUE, with value in words, in an enclosing band. Tablet with figures of value at the foot.

2d. and 6d. Design, head within a square. Inscription, POSTAGE & REVENUE in a straight label at the top, and the words of value in a straight label at the bottom of the stamps. Figures of value in labels on each side.

2½d. and 9d. Head within a circle. Inscription, POSTAGE & REVENUE, and words of value in a band encircling the head. Figures of value in labels on each side.

3d. and 1s. Head within a hexagon. Inscription, POSTAGE & REVENUE in upper, and words of value in lower portion of band. Figures of value in side labels.

4d. This design is similar to that of the 1d. of 1881. Head within an upright oval. Inscription, POSTAGE & REVENUE in upper, and value in words in lower portion of the band encircling the head. Tablets of figures of value at the sides.

½d. The ½d. of the previous series was changed from green to slate-blue, and being issued on the 1st April, 1884, is also included in this series.



















The summary of this group is as follows:—

1884.
New Designs.
Perf. 14.
Watermark Imperial Crown.

½d., slate-blue.
1½d., purple.
2d. ,,
2½d. ,,
3d. ,,
4d., dull green..
5d. ,,
6d. ,,
9d. ,,
1s. ,,

(To be continued.

FIRST STEPS IN PHILATELY

By Rev. T. C. WALTON, M.A.

(*Continued from page* 217.)

9. Practical Questions

THE first ideas of a beginner on the subject of stamp collecting are generally of the crudest. In many cases he buttonholes all his near friends and relatives, and confides to them the fact that he has actually become a stamp collector, and asks them to let him have any foreign stamps that may come into their possession. He also writes to those friends of his who are likely to receive letters from abroad, and asks them to keep the stamps for him. Now, far be it from me to find fault with such a mode of procedure. By all means ask your friends to help you. Many a good stamp has been picked up in this way. And your friends, if they are friends in deed as well as in name, will be glad to do what they can to swell your collection. But let the young beginner take a warning. The asking of friends is only one means of forming a collection. Very often it proves a very insignificant means, for, in many cases, that which has cost nothing is worth nothing. What the beginner must always remember is that most current used stamps are of small value. They are bought not by the dozen or the hundred, but by the pound weight. A ten-pound parcel can be had for 15s. The enormous number of stamps in such a parcel can be left to the reader's imagination. Good parcels will contain from 200 to 250 varieties. What chance is there of any such stamps becoming rare?

It may happen, however, that a beginner is blessed with a large circle of friends living at the remote corners of the earth. But they will not be likely to send many good stamps, unless, out of the goodness of their hearts, they send unused sets of current issues. In such cases the expense is only transferred to another. The collection of stamps has cost the collector, or the collector's friend, a certain amount of money, and that is the point to which I am coming in my argument. Every hobby to be worth anything must cost something. There must be the expenditure of time, energy, and that which is a form of energy, viz. money. Stamp collecting is no exception to the rule. If your hobby is to prove to be all that is claimed for it, "a boon and a blessing," you must be prepared to spend on it time, brains, and money.

10. What shall I Collect?

In a previous article I suggested that possibly the happiest form of collecting was that in which "all is fish that comes to the net." Fortunately, the average beginner's tendency usually leans towards a general collection. If, however, any beginner has developed the "old head on young shoulders," and has made up his mind to stick to some special country and ignore the rest, for the sake of his future interest and pleasure let me once more urge on him the advice of *Punch* to those about to marry—"Don't." Specialism requires more of knowledge, more of patience, and, in most cases, more of money than the beginner possesses. Besides, the routine work which must be gone through in the formation of a general collection is invaluable as the basis on which a special collection may afterwards be built. The day will come when the beginner must emerge from the chrysalis stage, and become an independent worker in the philatelic field. But the process need be no hurried one. In fact, I am inclined to the belief that the best way of becoming a specialist is to form the nucleus of a special collection side by side with a general collection. Let me explain in detail. Most general collectors have some favourite country. In many cases the country happens to be one the stamps of which the collector has some special facilities for procuring. Let him keep his general collection moving, and at the same time throw the greater part of his weight into the scale of the country in question. Each year the special collection will receive additions, and should the time come when, owing to the cost thereof, additions are few and far between, the collector has at hand his general album to keep his interest alive and his appetite keen for further supplies.

11. Suggested Groups of Countries

The beginner with no special advantages may be glad of a few suggestions

in this respect. The introduction of the multiple watermark has given an additional attraction and value to the single-watermarked series of King's Heads. Many of them are certain to greatly increase in price, and they form a charming collection, either used or unused, or both.

Again, take the Companies engaged in exploiting various districts in Africa. They are the British Central African, the British East African, and the British South African Companies. Many of the stamps of the British Central African which are not yet ten years old have increased enormously in price, *e.g.* the 1d., black, of 1895, catalogued at 3s. The stamps of the British South African Company have several much-sought-after varieties, notably the provisionals used at Bulawayo and the surcharged series of 1891.

Another possible group is the Mediterranean group. It consists of Cyprus, Gibraltar, and Malta. A complete collection of these stamps, with the possible exception of the Cyprus plate numbers, ought to be well within the reach of most collectors. There would be a fair outlay, not too large a demand on one's spare time, and a collection well worth the forming at the end of it.

A country to which I am especially devoted is the Niger Coast Protectorate. This, with the later divisions into Northern and Southern Nigeria, would form a delightful collection. True, it would be very small, but prices are already running high. The collection might take some considerable time to complete, but there is little doubt that such a collection will become very valuable in a few years' time. Besides, from an artistic point of view, the stamps are a triumph in the art of portrait engraving.

My thoughts have been running mainly on imperial lines, but there are other countries and groups of countries in which one might specialise with interest and profit. Norway, Sweden, and Denmark form a natural group which would prove very inexpensive, and at the same time give a plentiful supply of stamps. Such a collection arranged in the decorative fashion (of which more will be said anon) would be very effective, especially if the collector went in for unused as well as used.

Egypt and the Sudan would form another inexpensive and pleasing collection. The Arabic characters on the first issue of 1897 are an object lesson in the art of distinguishing varieties (cf. Booklet on Sudan by the Editor). Those who have an eye for the picturesque in nature could find no fault with the "Pyramid and Sphinx" and the "Camel" series.

Lastly, possible centres of disturbance are well worth the attention of the collector, *e.g.* Turkey, Servia, Bulgaria, China, and, of course, Corea.

Here then are some suggestions for the perplexed collector. If none of them are quite to his tastes, let him take a standard catalogue and go through the various countries and, from the prices of the stamps therein described, settle how far his supply of spare cash is likely to meet the demands which the stamps of any chosen country may make on his purchasing powers. Such a deliberate survey will clarify the beginner's wits. If he be, as many of us are, a collector of moderate means, he will steer clear of any desire to form a complete collection of the stamps of New South Wales or South Australia. Such ambitious projects he may safely leave to the "Great Moguls," who alone have the means of satisfying their taste for rarities.

12. Used or Unused

The question as to the advisability of collecting "unused" has often been discussed. In the majority of cases by far the cheaper is the "used" collection. It is natural that "unused" obsolete stamps should rise in value with the years. Omitting the question of "remainders," unused stamps represent a capital amounting at least to the face value of the stamps. Merchants cannot buy them for less than their face value. They naturally expect a certain percentage of interest on the capital involved. Consequently the prices of "unused" stamps steadily rise. One has also to consider the fact that merchants cannot afford to sink more than a certain amount of capital on any one issue. Therefore the "unused" stamp in this case may very probably become much rarer than the used. I have long come to the conclusion that the collection of "unused" is the one most likely to yield a satisfactory return if one were compelled to realise. That day, however, is, I trust, very far removed in my case.

(To be continued.)

STAMP COLLECTING AS A PASTIME

By EDWARD J. NANKIVELL

(*Continued from page* 218.)

XIII. **Stamp Collecting as an Investment**—*cont.*

GENERALLY speaking, the best countries from an investment point of view are British Colonials, especially those of the small colonies that have small populations, and therefore very small printings of stamps. Obviously, countries that put stamps into circulation by the million can never be a very good investment, so far as their common values are concerned. Those who buy with a keen eye on the investment purpose, always buy unused copies of uncommon values. Unused are not likely to depreciate, and they may appreciate.

In fact, it may be safely said that, all round, the thing to do in stamps is to buy *unused* for investment. When stamps are printed by the million, *used* supplies will be available for no one knows how long; but in the case of unused, when a new issue is made, the obsolete stamp is on the road to an advance in value. It is true dealers stock large quantities of all stamps, but there are so many countries to be stocked now that no dealer can afford to hoard unused to any great extent, and even if he did, the dead capital would be an item which would compel him to advance the price of unused to protect himself from loss. Let us say a stamp becomes obsolete this year, and a dealer buys £100 worth. It would be a moderate estimate to place the earning power of stamps at 10 per cent. In seven years that £100 hoard would, reckoning compound interest, represent £200, or double face. Of course, no dealer would hoard up £100 worth of a common stamp, but from the day that it becomes obsolete it must be hoarded up by someone, and interest must be accruing on the investment which will have to be added to the value of the stamp, unless someone is to stand the loss. It will, therefore, be obvious that unused stamps must appreciate while used may remain stationary, for the simple reason that the limit of supply has been reached in one case but not in the other.

Taking almost haphazard a few stamps, most of which have been within the reach of all collectors during the last fifteen years, the following table will give some idea of the appreciation in prices which has been steadily going on in good stamps:—

	1875	1880	1886	1890	1893	1897	1905
	s. d.	*s. d.*	*s. d.*	*s. d.*	*s. d.*	*s. d.*	*s. d.*
Bremen, 1867, 5 sgr., green, *unused*	1 0	1 6	2 6	4 0	5 0	25 0	17 6
Bechuanaland, 1886, 1s., *used*	—	—	—	2 6	2 6	6 6	35 0
— 1888–9, 4d., *unused*	—	—	—	1 0	2 0	2 0	3 0
Cape of Good Hope, 1d., Δ *unused*	0 4	0 6	1 6	2 0	4 0	8 0	15 0
— 1d., Δ Woodblock, *used*	2 6	3 6	15 0	25 0	45 0	90 0	110 0
Cyprus, 1880, 1s., *unused*	—	—	2 6	10 0	15 0	40 0	60 0
Danish West Indies, 1872, 4 c., blue, *unused*	0 6	0 6	1 6	3 6	5 0	17 6	20 0
— 1873, 14 c., *unused*	1 0	1 0	2 6	3 6	5 6	24 0	35 0
Egypt, 1866, 5 piastres *unused*	2 0	2 0	5 0	8 6	16 0	22 6	30 0
— — 10 piastres	2 6	1 6	6 0	12 0	20 0	26 0	30 0
Gambia, 4d., imperf., *unused*	0 8	0 8	2 6	5 0	6 0	20 0	32 0
Hayti, 1881, 20 c., *unused*	—	—	2 0	2 0	2 6	7 6	16 0
Hungary, 1871, 3 k., litho, *used*	0 2	0 2	1 6	3 6	6 6	30 0	40 0
Newfoundland, 1866, 5 c., brown, *used*	1 0	2 6	3 6	7 6	12 6	28 0	25 0
New South Wales, 1d. Sydney Views, *used*	2 6	4 0	17 6	30 0	35 0	40 0	40 0
Orange River Colony, 1877, 4 on 6d., *unused*	—	1 0	1 0	3 0	3 0	5 0	40 0
Transvaal, 1878–9, 4d. *unused*	—	0 8	1 0	1 0	0 9	1 6	12 6
— — 1s. *unused*	—	1 9	2 0	2 0	4 6	15 0	40 0
Trinidad, 1896, 10s.	—	—	—	—	—	14 0	65 0
Turks Islands, 1867, 1s., blue, *unused*	—	1 9	2 6	3 0	5 0	20 0	30 0
Zululand, 1888, 9d.	—	—	—	1 6	1 6	12 0	15 0

Here are present values of a few other stamps which have rapidly risen from prices a trifle over face:—

	1903–4	1905
	s. d.	*s. d.*
Cyprus, 1904, K., single CA, 12 p.	1 6	12 6
,, ,, ,, ,, 18 p.	3 0	12 6
,, ,, ,, ,, 45 p.	7 6	15 0
Northern Nigeria, Q., 6d.	0 9	6 0
,, ,, ,, 1s.	1 4	10 0
,, ,, ,, 2s. 6d.	3 3	25 0
,, ,, ,, 10s.	12 6	50 0
Lagos, K., single CA, set	25 0	160 0
Southern Nigeria, Q., 6d.	0 8	2 6
,, ,, ,, 1s.	1 4	4 0
,, ,, ,, 2s. 6d.	3 3	7 6
,, ,, ,, 5s.	6 6	15 0
,, ,, ,, 10s.	12 6	30 0

(*To be continued.*)

A PENNY ALL THE WAY!

By W. E. IMESON

(*Spoken.*) Some time ago an officious somebody—with nobody's authority—assured me that a penny letter-rate to Australia would (unlike his smile) "not come off." It is now, however, *un fait accompli*, so one feels justified in striking the lyre. Let us, therefore, with one voice sing:—

I

'TIS time once more to "jubilate,"
For they've reduced the postal rate
To far Australia—up till late
We'd two-and-half to pay.
All faces now are wreathed in smiles,
From Sydney to the British Isles,
'Tis now, tho' many thousand miles,
A penny all the way.

II

Some penny luxuries, I hear,
The working man will reckon dear:
A screw of shag, a "half" of beer,
The sons of toil now say,
"Ain't worth not 'arf a bloomin' 'brown'
W'en—to a pal in Melbourne town
A letter goes (Bill, knock me down!)
A penny all the way!"

III

The City "toff" says, "If I could
Make half my pennies (bet I would!)
Go half as far, by Jove I should
A 'square meal' get each day!
The Tupp'nny Tube I ride in state,
But—'pon my soul I'd emigrate
If I could go at letter-rate—
A penny all the way!"

IV

A stamp—a tiny effigy
Of His Most Gracious Majesty—
Can, so to speak, now span the sea;
Old Neptune's had his day!
That "patch of red" may Neptune rue,
It puts to shame his patch of blue:
The mermaids ask, "Nep', is it true—
A penny all the way?"

V

Now, I've an aunt in Adelaide,
A wealthy (tho' a close) old maid;
She'll want more letters, I'm afraid,
Since I'll have less to pay.
So, *twice* a year to "Dear Aunt Loo"
I'll have to write—my plea won't do
That "every letter costs me two-
Pence halfpenny all the way!"

VI

Then, happy thought!—the fool I'd play,
And make "poor" Aunt the piper pay,
(The rate reduced, remember, pray,
Came in on All Fools' Day!).
An unstamped letter Aunt I sent,
And then an unstamped post card went—
To say that I'd a letter sent
For "nixes" all the way!

VII

The "new chum," whose best girl lives here,
Must pay twopence to write "My dear——"
But there—'tis not my place, that's clear,
To tell what lovers say.
Whilst he twopence gets landed for,
His "home" girl (not the girl next door!)
Can send "a million kisses" for
A penny all the way!

VIII

Then here's to Heaton, "our" M.P.,
And—tho' no son of Eton he—
Let *floreat Heatona* be
The nation's cry to-day!
A cheaper rate one can't conceive,
Tho' Henniker has, I believe,
Still got this trump-card up his sleeve—
A halfpenny all the way!

NEW ISSUES

The Editor will be grateful to his readers if they will help him with the earliest possible information concerning new issues. News from the Colonies in particular will be much appreciated. When possible, a specimen should accompany the information, and should be addressed to

EDWARD J. NANKIVELL, Carnanton, Camden Park, Tunbridge Wells.

French Colonies.—*Tunis.*—We quote the following from the *Manchester Guardian*:—

"The new Tunisian postage stamps represent various epochs in the history of Tunis. The Punic period is represented by an antique relic and some works of sculpture, the Roman period by the great aqueducts at Carthage, Arab dominion by the Kairouan Mosque, and French administration by a plough driven by a Tunisian and Frenchman. The fifth stamp will show a mounted postman carrying news from Europe to the remotest villages, here typified by the mountain hamlet of Beni Barka."

Spanish Colonies.—On p. 220 we gave particulars of some new series for the Spanish Colonies. We now copy from the *Monthly Journal* the full series. The type we understand to be that of the 1902-3 series, which we illustrate.



Elobey, Annobon, and Corisco.

1 c., rose.
2 c., deep violet.
3 c., black.
4 c., red.
5 c., dark green.
10 c., blue-green.
15 c., violet.
25 c., carmine.
50 c., orange.
75 c., blue.
1 p., brick-red.
2 p., dark brown.
3 p., vermilion.
4 p., dark bistre.
5 p., bronze-green.
10 p., carmine.

Fernando Poo.

1 c., deep violet.
2 c., black.
3 c., vermilion.
4 c., dark green.
5 c., blue-green.
10 c., violet.
15 c., carmine.
25 c., orange.
50 c., green.
75 c., brick-red.
1 p., dark bistre.
2 p., rose.
3 p., dark brown.
4 p., bronze-green.
5 p., carmine.
10 p., deep blue.

Rio de Oro.

1 c., green.
2 c., carmine.
3 c., bronze-green.
4 c., dark bistre.
5 c., vermilion.
10 c., dark brown.
15 c., brick-red.
25 c., blue.
50 c., dark green.
75 c., violet.
1 p., red-brown.
2 p., orange.
3 p., lilac.
4 p., blue-green.
5 p., light blue.
10 p., red.

Spanish Guinea.

1 c., black.
2 c., green.
3 c., carmine.
4 c., bronze-green.
5 c., dark bistre.
10 c., red.
15 c., dark brown.
25 c., deep red.
50 c., blue.
75 c., orange.
1 p., carmine.
2 p., violet.
3 p., blue-green.
4 p., dark green.
5 p., vermilion.
10 p., blue.

Uruguay.—This country has for some years been supplied with a rich variety of designs beautifully engraved on steel and printed by Messrs. Waterlow, but it is now manufacturing its own stamps, which are photographic transfers to stone and lithographic prints of the Waterlow designs of recent issues. The result is not pleasing.







Perf.

10 c., dull violet; *copy of* Type 79.
20 c., pale dull blue; *copy of* Type 40.
25 c., stone-brown; *copy of* Type 41.

MISCELLANEOUS

Remainders and Remainders

In our last number we had occasion to make some remarks upon the *status* of remainders generally; we now wish to say a few words on the subject of certain remainders in particular. Circumstances must from time to time arise, under which the existence of remainders is inevitable. A change in the currency of a country, or the amalgamation of one country or colony with another, will render necessary the withdrawal from circulation of an entire issue of stamps, which cease altogether to be available for postage after a certain date, and may therefore safely be disposed of at less than their facial value. Changes of colour may sometimes make it advisable to withdraw from sale the stocks of certain stamps; for instance, when a Halfpenny stamp is issued in *green*, to comply with the recommendations of the Postal Union, if there happens to be a stamp of similar design and colour, but of different value, in circulation, it may be well to call in the supplies of that stamp, so as to avoid confusion with the new Halfpenny stamps. As prominent illustrations, we may mention the change of currency in Mauritius, from pounds, shillings, and pence, to rupees and cents, which put out of circulation all the stamps prior to the issue of January, 1878; and the entry of Nova Scotia into the Dominion of Canada, in 1867, which rendered obsolete all the postage stamps of the former colony. The result of each of these events was the existence of a very considerable stock of remainders, which, in one case, were "cancelled," and came upon the market not long after the stamps had become obsolete, whilst in the other case they remained on hand long enough to become entirely forgotten, and created quite a sensation when they were at last unearthed.

Less inevitable Remainders

Remainders of a less inevitable nature are brought into existence by the adoption of a system of periodical changes; as in Spain in the earlier days, to take an instance in which Philately had no part, and in the countries which availed themselves of the services of the Hamilton Bank Note Co., per Mr. Seebeck, where the annual changes were entirely due to the fact that stamps have a market value for other than postal purposes. In the case of Spain, there was, of course, no intention whatever of creating remainders; the stamps were changed every year, principally on account of fears of forgery, which fears were not altogether without foundation; the gathering in, at the end of each year, of the unused stamps in the hands both of vendors and of the general public, was a useful check upon the quantity of stamps in circulation, whilst any forgeries of the stamps of the past year at once became useless. On the other hand, remainders were the sole object of the "Seebeck" system; the less the stamps were used the smaller was the cost to the enterprising person who supplied them, and the greater the probable demand for the remainders, for no one in his senses paid face value for these stamps, except for postal purposes.

Seebecks

Still, the "Seebeck" issues were honest and open; the system was a thoroughly objectionable one, in principle, but in practice it probably did little real harm, because everyone knew all about it—purists only took obliterated copies of the stamps, ultra-purists insisted on having them on the original envelopes, and both classes were doubtless supplied at proportionate prices; the general collector was glad to get sets of nicely got-up stamps very cheap, and the philatelist, as a rule, ignored them altogether. Far more objectionable, because more insidious, are the cases which have arisen of late, we greatly regret to state, n some of the British colonies. Absolutely unnecessary issues of stamps have been made, producing the absurdity of having two or more distinct sets of postage stamps in circulation at the same time and place; and, as if this were not discreditable enough, whole sets of stamps that were perfectly fit for use have been withdrawn from circulation, for no other purpose than to create remainders for sale in bulk to dealers.

St. Helena Remainders

St. Helena is an old offender; for years past stocks of the fine old stamps printed from the plate produced by Messrs. Perkins Bacon and Co. have been from time to time offered for sale in London, instead of being put to their proper and only legitimate use in the colony. In 1896–97 they were supplemented by a fresh issue of Queen's Head stamps, of which we gather at least one value was in no way required; there have been two issues since of stamps with the King's Head, and last year, as has already been noted, there was a great sale of remainders, for the withdrawal of which there was no apparent excuse.

Leeward Islands Remainders

So long ago as 1890, a general series of stamps was issued for the Leeward Islands, superseding amongst others the separate issue for the Virgin Islands. In 1899, however, a special series was again introduced, for the special purpose of raising money from collectors; the Leeward Islands stamps continued and still continue in circulation throughout the group; the Virgin Islands stamps are entirely superfluous, and, although they are available for postage, and therefore cannot be excluded from the catalogues, they are in reality a fraud upon collectors. The issue of last year, with the King's Head, is, if possible, still more superfluous and discreditable; there was no reason for changing the design of the previous issue, except perhaps the fact that it had grown stale and sales had fallen off, but in common decency the stock printed might have been used up, or at least destroyed. Instead of that, another sale of remainders is advertised, as mentioned in another part of this number—remainders of stamps which should never have existed, which are absolutely unnecessary for any business purpose, we might say for any honest purpose. Their issue was a disgrace, and their withdrawal is a worse one.

The Remedy

Will collectors never combine to relieve themselves from impositions of this kind? They have it in their own hands: the sole object of these issues is to draw money out of collectors' pockets; if collectors cease to respond, these issues will cease to be made.

MAJOR EVANS in the *Monthly Journal.*

Preparatory School Prizes

SOME of *G.S.W.* readers may like to have a try for the set of Mafeking stamps offered in the following announcement:—

"Sir,—My committee are offering a prize of a complete set of Mafeking stamps, which has been given to them, valued at between £20 and £30, for the best essay on 'How the Union Jack came to be the National Flag.'

"The essays are to be written by boys who are preparing for public schools or the navy.

"All particulars as to time of sending essays (which are limited to 2,000 words) can be got on application to the

"SECRETARY EDUCATION COMMITTEE,
"Victoria League,
"Dacre House, Victoria Street,
"London."

GOSSIP OF THE HOUR

By CORNELIUS WRINKLE

What about Bermudas?

I WONDER what Bermuda has in store for us. The colony has not issued a single King's Head stamp up to date. Instead of following the lead of King's Heads, it sent us a view of its celebrated floating dock as a design for its ½d., 1d., and 3d. stamps, and there it stopped. The 2d., 2½d., 4d., 6d., and 1s. of Queen's Heads are presumably still current. Are we to have King's Heads mixed up with the dock design, or will the other values come out in the dock design? Bermuda is an interesting little colony from a philatelic point of view. Its range of issues is small, and there are no appalling rarities.

Exchange Societies and Clubs

A CANADIAN reader writes to me concerning my recent comments on the need of genuine exchange arrangements, and from what he writes it seems the dealing element has just as strong a hold in some directions in Canada as here at home. But I don't think I will be drawn into enlarging on this theme any further at present. What I started with had reference solely to meetings of Society members, and not to Exchange Clubs. If I were to open out on Exchange Clubs I might get a hornets' nest about my ears. It's a delicate subject, this question of the management of Exchange Clubs. I have been already appealed to for a good round exposure of certain things, but being a man of peace I put off the evil day, in the hope that some matters to which my attention has been called may turn out all right in the end.

The Premier Society in its New Home

JUDGING by the declining attendance, the new home of the Philatelic Society of London does not seem to be popular with the members. Here is the recorded attendance at the last four meetings:—

13th January, 1905.	18	members	present.
27th ,, ,,	12	,,	,,
10th February ,,	10	,,	,,
24th ,, ,,	6	,,	,,

Personally, I was afraid a small attendance would result from the removal from the purlieus of Stamp Dealers' Avenue, otherwise known as the Strand, W.C. There has grown up a curious attraction for stamp collectors in the Strand. There you have dealers to left of you, dealers to right of you, and dealers in front of you; and on the meeting evenings of the Society we killed two birds with one shot. We ambled along the Strand, dropping in for a stamp here, and a chat there, and then back to the meeting. Now all that is changed. Until the new through thoroughfare is opened to Southampton Row, the new meeting-place will remain an awkward part to reach from the Strand.

Junior Sections for Old Societies

THE question is coming to the front whether it would not be wise to open out the old Societies for the reception of juniors in a Junior Section. It has been proposed more than once in the Philatelic Society of London, but has never got so far as a formal resolution. I am heart and soul for Junior Sections. Who more competent to guide the beginner, and take the best of philatelic care of him, than the old-established philatelic society of experienced collectors? The difficulties in the way have been to decide how far the junior could be taken into the partnership, and on what terms; how far, in fact, the privileges of membership could be extended to him.

Why not try the Experiment?

I see no reason why the experiment should not be tried on some well-thought-out plan. No one would suggest that the Junior should be admitted to full membership. He would have to be corralled into a well-defined Junior Section. But I see no difficulty in that. Let his subscription be one well within the means of the average junior, say, 2s. 6d., or, at most, 5s. Let his subscription carry with it the right to attend certain meetings, and cater for him in the way of lectures, especially lantern lectures, that will help him over all kinds of philatelic difficulties, and educate him for the full enjoyment of the delightful hobby to which he has taken a fancy.

Probable Results

The results would probably astonish some of the dear old fossils, and wreathe their wrinkled faces with the smiles of a new-born pleasure. This education of the junior would give them a new zest in their hobby. I remember in the old days when Macmillan and Co. started their splendid Primers, when Huxley and Roscoe, Freeman and Green, Hooker and Lockyer, were invited to come down from the clouds and write for the juniors in their subjects. Most people shook their heads over the experiment, but it has turned out a grand success. So also, I firmly believe, would the experiment of Junior Sections, with periodical lectures by the great specialists of Philately, turn out to be a grand success. At all events, I commend it to their thoughtful attention.

The Junior Evening Lecturers

There are several great specialists in the premier Society who, I believe, would make delightful junior evening lecturers. The most enjoyable of all, the extempore lecturer, might not be very common, but even a lecture read from notes, drawing upon the rich stores of the specialist, could not fail to delight the junior, and I fancy those evenings would be as enjoyable to the old members as to the young. On those evenings there would be no need to restrict the attendance to those of the male persuasion. We might recognise the fact that juniors, if not seniors, are both male and female, and they might be allowed to bring their friends.

And the Boys!

What junior would not be proud of his membership of the great premier Society? How he would look forward to those evenings provided for his edification and enjoyment! How he would glory in making the acquaintance of the great names in Philately, the popular possessors of philatelic wealth! Give him the chance and see what treasure he will set by it, see how it will deepen his interest in the hobby, and strengthen the ties that bind him to Philately. So also in the provinces. The great provincial Societies should each have its Junior Section for the promotion and encouragement of stamp collecting, and for training and guiding the beginner over the pitfalls that make sad wreck of so many promising recruits.

More Exhibitions Wanted

Then, again, there should be more Exhibitions to arouse and stimulate an interest in the members of our philatelic societies, and especially for the education of the beginner. Note what the societies of other hobbies do. Take a leaf out of the programme of the National Rose Society. They hold two exhibitions yearly, and they offer their members a substantial *quid pro quo* for their subscriptions in the shape of excellent publications.

THE STAMP KING

By G. DE BEAUREGARD AND H. DE GORSSE

Translated from the French by EDITH C. PHILLIPS

CHAPTER V (*continued*)

Showing how, if money does not make happiness, the want of it often causes misery

THE scene was a most painful one, and William dared not interfere, but at this critical moment Trogustul, looking weak and pale, entered the room and flung himself upon his master with savage fury. Badunabad, having now two adversaries to deal with, became more gracious and forgiving, and the commotion ended, but not before the sumptuous breastplates had become singularly disordered.

"Would you believe," said the Maharajah to William, "that that miserable Satrakas advised me to sell the stamp for a poor five hundred pounds to a certain Moulineau in Paris, who had learned, I cannot say how, that it was in my possession?"

"Then it is not yours now?" said William in a faltering voice.

"Alas, no!"

"And Moulineau has it?"

"Exactly."

"Very well. Then I'm off."

And suiting the action to the word, without even troubling to take leave, he turned on his heels and hurried towards the door. But the three Asiatics with one accord rushed after him, shouting in distracted voices—

"Hollo! ho! The diamond! He is running away with the diamond!"

William, who had already reached the ante-chamber, burst into a laugh as he heard their loud ejaculations.

"By jingo!" cried he, retracing his steps. "It is actually a fact that I was making off with their diamond!"

But the incident had made a stir in the house. The attendants, roused from their torpor, came in. The dignitaries below, not knowing what to make of the commotion, dropped their cards and mounted the grand staircase four steps at a time, and the whole household was soon assembled in the Throne Room.

"What's the matter?" said one.

"For goodness' sake make a little less noise," grumbled another. "One can't even sleep in peace."

"Don't trouble yourselves," said William. "I only forgot to pay for——"

"It's nothing, it's nothing——" interrupted Badunabad brusquely; and stooping to the ear of the young man he whispered in a tone of anguish—

"In the name of Buddha, do not let them know I am selling you a diamond! Those fellows are all capable of setting my creditors at me, or of plundering me themselves without ceremony."

Filled with pity for the evident anxiety of the potentate, William reassured the domestics and the dignitaries, who returned, the former to their nap and the latter to their piquet.

"Pardon my thoughtless stupidity," he said. "I will prove my good faith by immediately giving you a cheque for the amount in question."

The sad faces of Trogustul and Satrakas contrasted lamentably with the expression of triumph which illuminated that of the Maharajah. William noticed it, and remembering the Vizier's complaint he continued—

"Or rather, I am going to write three cheques of equal value, one for each of you, representing the third of the sum total, that is, six thousand six hundred and sixty-seven pounds."

"What is that for?" asked Badunabad uneasily.

"Highest, greatest, and most profound Sir," answered William, "it seems to me that you ought to share your last resources in brotherly fashion, and mutually help each other——"

"What is that to you?" cried Badunabad. "The diamond belongs to me—to me alone——"

"Your pardon, most mighty potentate. Your two companions having shared your exile it is only fair——"

"That is my business," protested the Maharajah.

"Very good," said William quietly, "then I will call your servants back."

"No, no, for pity's sake! Anything rather than that," implored Badunabad.

So the young American drew three cheques on Baring's bank and handed them to the three exiles, who were not slow to take possession of them, Trogustul and Satrakas with so resolute an air that Badunabad bowed to circumstances and said no more. He then took leave of the three noble lords, and driving to the nearest post office sent off the following telegram to M. Moulineau:—

"Hear you have second copy Brahmapootra stamp. Keep it; am coming and will buy it.—Keniss."

Then, still accompanied by John, he drove on to Charing Cross Station.

"May my message arrive in time," said he to himself as the train started for Dover.

Arrived at Calais he took his seat in the Paris express, after providing himself, according to his custom, with several papers; for although it was after midnight he had no inclination for sleep, and settled himself to read.

"I wonder," said he, opening the *Temps*, "if in this continental brother of the *Times* I am going to make some further discovery?"

And indeed as he read the first line he turned pale. His eye had fallen on the following despatch at the head of a column:—

"HAVRE, *April 30th*, 1896.

"There is still no news of the *Touraine*. As she was due to arrive here last Saturday, the twenty-fifth of April, and as so long a delay has never before occurred, a great deal of uneasiness is manifested. The officials of the company to whom she belongs are full of confidence, trusting in the powers of this splendid steamer, and are doing their best to reassure all who are interested in her fate."

He had not the courage to read another word, but sought vainly to think of something that could explain the strange delay. The idea of Betty in danger kept rising before him with agonising distinctness. He was astonished at himself for taking so much interest in one who was merely a fellow-philatelist, and even, when one came to think of it, a rival. Nevertheless, by the time they reached Amiens his resolution was taken.

"Get out," was all he said to John, "and take our things."

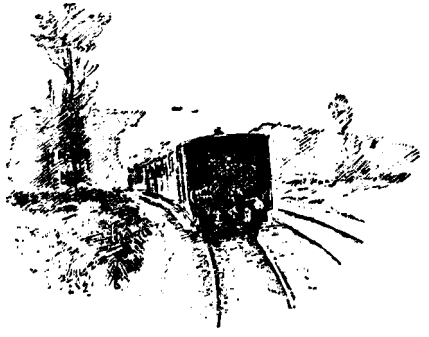
"What?" said the valet in astonishment. "Then we are not going to Paris?"

"Later on. Just now we are going to Havre."

"To Havre!"

When once he understood the reason John began to lament, though in his heart of hearts he would not

have been deeply grieved had a good storm driven the too devoted Victoria back to New York. But it was not a bad heart after all, and, when he thought that the poor girl might really be in peril, he too began to tremble and to hope that after all it only meant a few days' delay. So without hesitation, in order to be at the fountain-head of news, and to be the first to receive the travellers—if it were God's will they should arrive after all—William Keniss and John pursued their way by Rouen to Havre, where, later on, William gave to Betty, as we have already heard, a sufficiently incomplete account of his interesting journey.



CHAPTER VI

How Miss Betty discovers that a courteous man is not always an honourable one

ON arriving at Saint-Lazare William told John to find Miss Betty's luggage and to have his taken to the Terminus Hotel, where he was going to stay. Then, turning to his travelling companion, he said—

"Now I am ready to see you to the Hotel Bristol."

"No, no!" she returned eagerly. "I cannot trespass on your kindness any longer. You have brought me safely to Paris; I can manage now very well."

"Then you wish to deprive me of a great pleasure?"

"Oh, I wouldn't do that for the world! Come with me if you like, but in any case we shall have to part in a few minutes."

Escorted by John and Victoria, who carried the smaller packages, the two young people had followed the stream of travellers, and now found themselves in the inner covered court, which led by a large gateway to the Rue d'Amsterdam. They took their places in the omnibus, leaving John alone at the station to execute his master's orders. But as the conveyance started along the Rue d'Amsterdam, on its way to the Place Vendôme by the Rue du Havre, Rue Auber, and Rue de la Paix, he heard his too faithful fiancée call out through the half-open door—

"And, above all, don't forget what you promised me in the train."

"Oh, all right," said John, "that's understood."

It will easily be seen that this referred to the wedding, by which Miss Betty's maid wished to terminate her engagement, which she began to find a hopelessly long one. It was the one thought that occupied the mind of this excellent young woman, and from Havre to Paris she had employed the time by driving poor John into the tightest possible corner, till he had solemnly promised to profit by their stay in Paris to settle, with a nice little ceremony, an affair which had already been hanging about so long.

So John was left standing, surrounded by travellers and luggage, in deep perplexity, feeling he could not much longer put off a duty which he was in honour bound to fulfil. The omnibus, meantime, had arrived at the Place Vendôme and the Hotel Bristol.

"Well, Miss Betty," said William Keniss, "we have arrived. It only remains for me to thank you for being kind enough to accept me as an escort from Havre."

"It is for me to thank you. You have been the most pleasant and agreeable of travelling companions."

"Why, you are already forgetting Sir Oscar Tilbury, who moreover did not come to France on purpose to oppose you."

"That is true. I forgot we were rivals, and that we had a duel to fight."

"Then *au revoir*, Miss Betty, and success to you, since hostilities have now commenced."

"*Au revoir*, Mr. Keniss."

William kissed her hand respectfully to show that, though a rival, he had an unchangeable regard for her, and she disappeared in the vestibule of the Hotel Bristol, accompanied by M. Pavilly, the manager, stiff and grave as usual in his black coat.

M. Pavilly was a man of exaggerated solemnity and correctness, strongly built, as all employed in a hotel should be, and celebrated not only for the luxury and good taste of his rooms, but still more for the delicate and refined science of his cuisine. He accompanied Miss Betty up the staircase which led to the apartments on the first floor, for which William had telephoned from Havre.

"I hope Miss Scott will be comfortable here," said he, opening the door of the ante-chamber. "These are the rooms we give to the Prince of Wales when he does us the honour of staying here. A fortnight ago they were occupied by the King of the Belgians. All the windows look out on the Place Vendôme, and you can see along the Rue de la Paix as far as the Place de l'Opéra. Perhaps Miss Scott would like to see for herself." And he drew back one of the blue velvet curtains which draped the windows.

"Yes," she said, "the view is indeed superb. I shall do very well here, very well indeed."

"Does Miss Scott wish for anything?"

"Nothing just now, thank you."

The manager withdrew, and Betty went to the window.

"Look!" said she to Victoria, who had followed her. "See how beautiful it is."

It was six o'clock in the evening, one of the liveliest, most curious, and most interesting hours in which to study this marvellous and unrivalled city of Paris. People engaged in trade or commerce are still at their work, and the street belongs almost exclusively to the world of fashion and the idlers. Betty went into ecstasies over the panorama which unrolled itself in the Place Vendôme, in the midst of which stood up proudly in the evening light the statue which Napoleon the First had had cast out of the cannons taken from the enemy.

The greater number of the equipages came from the Rue de Castiglione and the Faubourg Saint-Honoré, where are two or three of the most celebrated confectioners in the capital. Coupés and landaus had only to traverse the Place Vendôme in order to arrive at the Rue de la Paix, all the houses of which from the bottom to the top are inhabited by the most celebrated artistes of Parisian fashion—tailors, milliners, shirt-makers, linen-drapers, dressmakers, not to mention famous hairdressers, where ladies are obliged to enter their names weeks and months in advance in order to obtain an unhappy quarter of an hour of waving and curling. Under these circumstances it is easy to imagine the number of carriages which were stationed by each pavement all along the Rue de la Paix.

(To be continued.)

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENCE

Notes from New York

NEW YORK.

The Collectors' Club

THE Collectors' Club moved into its new quarters this week. The Club was nearly nine years in its old location, and we hope it will remain several times as long in the new one. When the Club was first started, in 1896, it was a "howling success" in both a figurative and a literal sense. We then had with us a number of members who were there for the fun of it, and who devoted much of their time to the amusement features of the Club. There was no fault to be found with their merriment, for it was good-natured and harmless. But in the course of time the Club ceased to be a novelty, some of the lively members dropped out, and things quieted down. Then more serious matters came to the front, and the Club did a great deal to encourage Philately. Many successful exhibitions and competitions have been held under its auspices, and it has assumed the leading position in philatelic affairs in this country. It is considered an honour to be included in its membership, just as it is to be a member of the Philatelic Society, London. A very considerable number of its members are non-residents of New York City, and quite a few do not even live in the United States.

Its New Quarters

While the new quarters of the Club are not as extensive as the old ones, they are an improvement in several ways. Though situated only a few doors from Broadway and near to several other principal thoroughfares, the new site is in a quiet street. Fourth Avenue, where the Club had its other house, was a busy thoroughfare, through which street cars and other noisy vehicles were rushing at all hours of the day and night. This often caused much annoyance, especially in warm weather when the windows were open. There is less room in the new house, but, at the same time, ample for the needs of the Club, since we have found that bedrooms and sundry other rooms were not required and added needlessly to our expenses. The new rooms have been handsomely fitted up and decorated, and the Club's fine libraries of philatelic and numismatic books are displayed to advantage. The walls are adorned with over a hundred pictures and frames containing things of interest to collectors of stamps, book-plates, coins, and curios. Much credit is due to the Committee in charge of the removal and the preparation of the new quarters, especially to the Chairman, Mr. J. S. Rich, who attended personally to nearly all of the work.

No Formal Opening

There was no formal opening of the new rooms, but there was a large gathering of the members on the evening of the 22nd to attend an auction sale, and the rooms were much praised by the members and strangers who were present. We expect the appreciation to grow with better acquaintance. Ample opportunity will be afforded in the near future for collectors to become familiar with the new rooms, for auction sales are coming thick and fast, and all are held in the assembly rooms of the Club.

U.S. Stamps at Auction

The last auction again called attention to the increasing popularity of United States stamps. Some of the prices were extremely good, but most of the stamps in that section of the sale were in very fine condition. The imperforate variety of the 90 cents of 1857–60 was purchased by Stanley Gibbons, Inc., for a customer for $266.10 (catalogue price, $300.10). The 5 cents of 1851–6 brought $41.50 (catalogue price, $50), and the Navy Department 2 cents, green, error of colour, brought $51 (catalogue price, $50). This last stamp was in absolutely perfect condition, and was well worth the high figure realised. Many other United States stamps brought an unusually large percentage of catalogue prices for an auction sale.

Straws show which way the wind blows, and it is growing steadily more evident that our collectors are at last awakening to the merits and growing scarcity of the stamps of their native country.

A Stanley Gibbons Auction

Stanley Gibbons, Inc., are to hold an auction sale in about a month, which will include many fine copies of stamps issued in the last few years, and we expect some "eye-openers" in the way of prices for some of these stamps. Collectors are just finding out that a lot of these recent issues are lacking in their collections, and cannot be supplied by most of the dealers. This remark applies especially to King's Head stamps with the single Crown and CA watermark, but "there are others."

Changes in Corean Stamps

War is evidently bringing many changes in Corea, among them one in postage stamps. My friends W. J. Gardner, of San Francisco, and C. A. Howes, of Boston, have recently called my attention to changes in the Corean postal issues. As their letters reached me almost at the same date, Corea would appear to be equally near to both the American cities, and the two gentlemen to be equally close observers of philatelic details.

New Printings of the 1900–1 Issue

The thing to which they call my attention is a new printing of certain values of the issue of 1900–1. This new printing is distinguished by being on very thin, semi-transparent paper, perforated 12½ (the previous issue of this series was perforated 10 and 11½), and in paler colours than heretofore. So far only two values have been noted: the 50 cheun, which is printed in light olive-green and very pale pink instead of olive-green and pink, and the 2 woon, which is printed in light violet and light green instead of purple and yellow-green. Both stamps were found in recent importations from Corea, and in the case of the 50 cheun it is stated that an order which included it was filled with the exception of that denomination, which was reported to be out of stock at the moment and was forwarded in a subsequent mail.

The Falcon Type Abandoned

It is evident that, temporarily at least, the stamps of the Falcon type, which were printed in Paris, have been abandoned. Possibly the war shut off communication with Europe, but it is more probable that Japanese influences interfered and brought about a return to the native printing. In 1900–1 this was done at the mint at Seoul, and, no doubt, the Japanese preferred to have the manufacture of the Corean postage stamps carried on where they could superintend it themselves. Time and labour are of small value in Corea, otherwise the return to the smaller-sized stamps might be a welcome relief to the overworked tongues which have been licking the Falcon stamps. A course in using those overgrown labels should be a liberal education for a bill-poster.

An Old-time Dealer and his Street Stand

Spring has come according to the calendar, though evidences of its advent are lacking. While walking along the street the other day and grumbling about the raw east wind, I was reminded of the skit on the poet's line, "What is so rare as a day in June?" To which someone replied: "A day in March, for then it's not only rare, but raw." During this little walk I came across a chilled vendor of odds and ends who had on his stand a board to which a few coins and

medals were fastened by means of tacks. This reminded me of one of the traditions of the stamp trade in New York, to the effect that one of the old-time dealers in stamps started in business with a street stand alongside one of the parks and displayed his stock on a board with a tack carefully driven through each stamp. There could not have been many condition cranks in the ranks of stamp collectors in his day.

"Limping Billy's" Stamp

This dealer afterwards reached the dignity of a small shop, which was located very near to our general post office. Local stamps were popular with collectors at that time, and, being enterprising, he issued one of his own. The principal feature of the design was a man trundling a wheelbarrow full of letters. It should be specified that this dealer was lame, and was familiarly known as "Limping Billy." One of his rivals seized the opportunity to perpetrate a little joke. He had a very similar stamp made, but the man with the wheelbarrow was being urged on by his Satanic Majesty, and the stamp bore a new inscription, "Three limps to the Post Office." It served its purpose by raising a laugh, and is occasionally seen in old collections.

JOHN N. LUFF.

Our Brussels Letter

24th March, 1905.

Our New Postage Stamps

THE new postage stamps of Belgium, which ought to appear during May so as to coincide with the opening of the Exhibition at Liége, will not be put on sale before the early part of July next. The notice, "Ne pas livrer le Dimanche," which is on the lower part of the Belgian stamps, did not look very nice on the first sheets already printed off. The authorities wished to remedy this drawback, but an unfortunate stroke of the file broke some of the letters, and naturally a fresh plate has had to be engraved. Hence the delay.

Sale of the late M. Mortelmans' Collection

The catalogue for the sale of the stamps belonging to the collection of the late M. Mortelmans, Treasurer of the Federation of Belgian Philatelists, is being drawn up. Among the rarities which will have to come under the hammer, mention is made especially of a magnificent copy of the Official £1, Great Britain, violet-brown, 1885, "I.R. Official," used; of a 10s., 1878, Maltese Cross, and of the £1, 1882, watermark Anchor, both unused. Doubtless these three stamps will fetch a pretty good price, and will be the subject of much competition. There will also be sold soon, at an auction arranged by MM. Dethier and Juliard, of Brussels, the 5 pence and the 1 shilling, Great Britain, "Board of Education," used.

Federation of Belgian Philatelists: Annual Meeting

The fourteenth annual meeting of the Federation of Belgian Philatelists will take place at Liége next June. The societies of Brussels, Antwerp, Ghent, Bruges, Ostend, Louvain, and Liége will meet. It is said that the Committee intends to invite the presidents and secretaries of the chief philatelic clubs of the neighbouring countries, with a view to founding an international federation. As is usual, the meeting will be followed by a banquet, and when that is finished, there will be a tombola, which, to judge from the prizes that have arrived up to date, will surpass in importance all its predecessors.

Canal Zone Stamps

The announcement of the suppression of the American stamps surcharged "Canal Zone Panama" has resulted in raising tenfold the price of the stamps here. The first three values of 1, 2, and 5 cents, which used to be sold at 7½d. the set, are offered now at 4s. 6d. the set. Collectors are asking, Is this rise justified? Evidently it is, if the stamps are no longer in circulation. But the moral to be drawn from these fluctuations is that it is better to get the new issues so soon as they come out.

Varieties in Current Belgian Stamps

The announcement of the approaching issue of Belgian stamps is making collectors lose no time in getting hold of the errors which are to be found in the present stamps. There are not very many errors. Properly speaking, they do not represent "errors"; they are rather varieties due to certain defects in the printing. Here are the chief of them:—

1. The 10 c., rouge; the strip at bottom has the Flemish inscription, NIET BESTELLEN OP ZONDAS, instead of ZONDAG.

2. In the 5 c., green, POSTERYEN is met with as POSTERFJEN.

3. In the 25 c., blue, the value in the upper left corner has a "5" which is left open at bottom, that is, the end of the figure is not curled up.

4. The 10 c., brown. The tail of the letter "Q" is found in the centre of the letter instead of at the bottom.

A stamp which is also worth looking for is the 50 centimes, *black*, instead of *grey*. Only a few sheets of the black were issued, and it is destined to become a real rarity. In my next letter I will speak of the other varieties that are met with in former issues.

AUG. VAN DE KERCKHOVE.

PHILATELIC SOCIETIES

London Philatelic Society

President: H.R.H. The Prince of Wales.
Hon. Sec.: J. A. Tilleard, 10, Gracechurch Street, E.C.
Meetings: 4, Southampton Row, W. Alternate Fridays at 7.45.
Annual Subscription: Town, £2 2s.; Country, £1 1s.

THE seventh meeting of the season 1904–5 was held at 4, Southampton Row, W.C., on Friday the 13th January, 1905, at 7.45 p.m.

Members present: M. P. Castle, Gordon Smith, Franz Reichenheim, Robert Ehrenbach, L. W. Fulcher, J. C. Sidebotham, W. Schwabacher, A. W. Maclean, T. Maycock, C. J. Daun, R. B. Yardley, Thos. W. Hall, J. H. Abbott, Malcolm S. Cooke, C. Neville Biggs, W. Dorning Beckton, B. D. Knox, and J. A. Tilleard. Visitors: J. R. Laing and A. A. Bartlett.

Mr. M. P. Castle, as Hon. Vice-President, having taken the chair, the minutes of the last meeting were read and confirmed.

A letter from the Hon. Secretary of the Junior Philatelic Society was read, and it was unanimously agreed to comply with his request for the loan of the Society's frames for use at the forthcoming Exhibition of the Junior Society in February next.

The report of the sub-committee on the proposal to hold an International Exhibition in London in 1906 was further considered, and, after some discussion, it was resolved, on the motion of the Hon. Secretary, seconded by the Hon. Treasurer, that the report be received and adopted, and that the members to be nominated by the Society to serve on the working committee for the Exhibition consist of Messrs. M. P. Castle, R. Ehrenbach, L. W. Fulcher, and F. Reichen-

heim, in addition to Mr. H. R. Oldfield as Hon. Secretary, and Mr. L. L. R. Hausburg as Hon. Assistant Secretary of the committee.

The special business arranged for the meeting was a Display of the Stamps of India by Mr. L. L. R. Hausburg. In his absence Mr. Gordon Smith kindly undertook the duty of showing the stamps. The greatest interest was shown by members present in the really magnificent display which was given.

The collection, which is practically complete, commences with a fine series of all the interesting essays for the early stamps; and the issued stamps, in their numerous shades and varieties, are represented by both used and unused specimens, the latter in "mint" condition, and including in many instances entire sheets or panes.

Amongst the greatest rarities are the first 4 annas stamp with "inverted" frame; an unused pair of the same stamp in the medium setting; an entire sheet of the first setting of the same stamp (the only sheet known to exist in any collection); and the 4 annas "Service Stamp," overprinted on the bill stamp of that value, with "inverted" overprint.

In referring to the early issues, Mr. Gordon Smith informed the meeting of Mr. Hausburg's interesting interview with General Sir H. Thuillier, who superintended the printing and issue of the first stamps of India, and is now resident in England.

On the conclusion of the display, the Hon. Secretary proposed, and Mr. Abbott seconded, a resolution expressing the very cordial thanks of the meeting to Mr. Hausburg for sending his collection for inspection, and to Mr. Gordon Smith for kindly undertaking to show the stamps. This was put to the meeting and was carried unanimously.

THE eighth meeting of the season 1904-5 was held at 4, Southampton Row, W.C., on Friday the 27th January, 1905, at 7.45 p.m.

Members present: Robert Ehrenbach, H. R. Oldfield, R. Meyer, R. Frentzel, A. W. Maclean, T. Maycock, T. W. Hall, W. T. Wilson, M. S. Cooke, C. Neville Biggs, A. R. Barrett, and B. D. Knox. Visitor: C. J. Phillips.

The chair was taken by Mr. Ehrenbach in the absence of the Vice-President and the Hon. Vice-President, and the minutes of the meeting held on the 13th January, 1905, were read and confirmed.

The members then proceeded to the election of Mr. James Robert Laing, proposed by Mr. Malcolm S. Cooke, and seconded by Mr. C. Neville Biggs, who after ballot was declared duly elected a member of the Society.

In the unavoidable absence of Mr. W. W. Mann, the stamps comprised in his magnificent collection of New Zealand were brought to the meeting and shown by Mr. C. J. Phillips.

At the conclusion of the inspection a vote of thanks to Mr. Mann for the loan of his collection, and to Mr. Phillips for bringing the same to the meeting, was proposed by Mr. Biggs, seconded by Mr. Meyer, and carried unanimously, and after Mr. Phillips had responded the proceedings terminated.

Herts Philatelic Society

President: H. Jennings White.
Secretary: H. A. Slade, "Ingleside," St. Albans.
Meeting: Anderton's Hotel. Third Tuesday.

THE March meeting was held on Tuesday, 21st, at Anderton's Hotel, Fleet Street. Mr. W. G. Cool occupied the chair, and other members present were Messrs. T. H. Harvey, R. Frentzel, J. C. Sidebotham, L. E. Bradbury, T. W. Hall, W. Schwabacher, S. Chapman, D. Thomson, R. B. Yardley, L. W. Fulcher, J. B. Neyroud, K. Wiehen, A. H. L. Giles, B. W. H. Poole, F. J. Melville, W. A. Boyes, W. T. Standen, H. L. Hayman, M. Weinberg, A. Bagshawe, R. H. A. Deere, and H. A. Slade (Secretary). There was also a visitor present. Mr. F. J. Pullar, of Bridge of Allan, N.B., was elected a member.

There was no other business of public interest. The meeting proceeded with the inspection of Mr. T. W. Hall's marvellous display of his early Uruguay stamps. Commencing with many pages of the "Diligencia" issue of 1856, all practically mint copies, Mr. Hall led the way to the "Monte Video" issues of 1857 to 1860, which were followed by a complete show of the 1864 issues and almost every conceivable variety of the subsequent surcharge, chief of which were the surcharges on wrong values. Next in order were the stamps of 1866-72, all perfect copies, even when used. There were also shown some fine used on entires of all the issues. Whole panes of 1866 stamps were shown, and the "white bend to 5," "no lines beneath horse," and other varieties could be easily distinguished. At this point the usual hour for the termination of "displays" arrived, and Mr. Hall announced that he stopped here as a suitable period A display of all the issues, he had calculated, would occupy until 11.30 p.m., and, amidst laughter, he suggested this would be too much for the members. During the passing round of the stamps some excellent "Notes" were read by Mr. Hall. Mr. Sidebotham proposed a hearty vote of thanks to Mr. Hall, and commented on the wonderfully neat and artistic way in which the stamps were mounted and the full description written on each page, which so greatly added to the interest and enjoyment. This was seconded by Mr. A. H. L. Giles, who stated that he had been to Monte Video himself and seen several collections there, but nothing that could touch Mr. Hall's. The vote was carried with acclamation. Mr. Hall, after answering several questions concerning the stamps that were asked by members, thanked the meeting for their vote, and said that if at any time he was asked he should be only too pleased to give a display of the later issues, and added that he considered this collection the most complete he had of all the South American Republics. From the manner in which this offer was received it is probable that Mr. Hall will hear from the Secretary in due course. For thoroughness the collection was voted one of the best the Society has been privileged to see.

On April 18th Mr. Robert Ehrenbach will give a display with notes of Bahamas issues, and on May 9th the annual dinner will be held. The risk of damage to stamps being too great, there will be no display this year at the dinner.

Philatelic Society of South Australia

REPORT presented at the sixteenth annual meeting, held at Pirie Chambers, Pirie Street, Adelaide, on Wednesday the 2nd of November, 1904.

Your Committee, in submitting their annual report for the year 1903-4, have to congratulate you on the continued progress of the Society. During the year three new members were elected. The number on the roll at present is thirty-five, being an increase of three members on the previous year. Nine ordinary meetings and one committee meeting were held, with an average attendance of ten members.

The balance at the Society's credit is £4 19s. 11d., which your Committee consider satisfactory.

During the year Mr. Blockey read the following papers: (1) "Imperforate S.A."; (2) "Perforate S.A.", showing examples of various perforations made by the different machines. It is hoped that further articles will be contributed by members, so that a paper may be read at each meeting. Mr. Blockey is also drawing up a list of S.A. stamps, which Messrs. Peck and Krichauff, the committee appointed by the Society, are pricing. This pricing is to be considered and adopted at meetings in instalments and published in *The Australian Philatelist*. The work so far is only in its infancy, and it is hoped that members will take an

active interest in seeing to the pricing of stamps of their own colony.

Several changes have taken place in the current issues:—

(1) New perforations—1d. and 2d., perf. 12.
(2) New type, POSTAGE—6d., 9d., 1s., and 5s.
(3) Varieties in type of all the long stamps, notably the 8d. with the error EIGNT.
(4) New post card, 1d. Longer inscription.

The Secretary is making arrangements to bind, for the Society's library, some of the most important of the literature in hand, which has been accumulating for some years.

Your Committee regret having to call attention to the sad loss sustained through the death of your late President, Mr. Shaw, who took an active interest in the work of the Society.

In conclusion, your Committee trust that increased interest will be shown in the study of Philately during the coming year.

For and on behalf of the Committee,

J. W. HILLMAN, *Vice-President.*
W. L. PECK, *Hon. Secretary.*

Kent and Sussex Philatelic Society

President: Edward J. Nankivell.
Secretary: F. Wicks, The Lodge, Tudeley, Tonbridge.
Meetings: Members' Houses. Monthly: afternoons.
Annual Subscription: 5s.

THE Kent and Sussex Philatelic Society held its April meeting at 33, Ferndale Park, Tunbridge Wells, on Monday, 3rd April, 1905, the President, Mr. Edward J. Nankivell, presiding over the following attendance: The Misses Nix (at whose kind invitation the meeting was held there), Mr. and Mrs. Joseph Wheelwright, Mr. C. H. Scott, and Mr. F. Wicks (Hon. Sec.). The President displayed a magnificent collection of the stamps of Bermuda, borrowed for the occasion from Messrs. Stanley Gibbons, Ltd., and contributed interesting remarks thereon. The Misses Nix also displayed their collection, and a very enjoyable meeting terminated with votes of thanks.

THE STAMP MARKET

By AN ODD LOT

Gold Coast

THERE are few changes to be noticed in this colony in resuming our notes on the prices of the new Gibbons Catalogue for 1905, now in the hands of our readers. The provisional 1d. on 6d. of 1889, unused, has been raised from 25s. to 30s. The 20s., green and red, of 1891–4 has been left unpriced, but the 5s. and 10s. of 1898–1900 left unpriced have now been priced, the 5s. at 15s. for unused and 3s. 6d. for used, and the 10s. at 25s. unused and 5s. used. The variety of the provisional 1d. on 6d. of 1901, "One" omitted, has been priced 50s. unused.

Hong Kong

IN the first issue, 1862, the 8 c., unused, has been raised from 15s. to 20s., the 2 c., unused, of 1863–71 from 2s. 6d. to 4s., the 96 c., grey, unused, of the same series from 16s. to 18s. Of the King's Heads, single CA, the $1 has been raised from 2s. 6d. to 4s., and the $2 from 5s. to 7s.

India

CHANGES are noticeable here. The stamps of Scinde District Post are now placed as the first issue. Then follow the early issues, now grouped under the heading of "General Issues, under the Honourable East India Company," which might, with advantage, have been condensed to "East India Company." Then "Under the Crown" from 1860; and lastly we have the issues commencing 1882, after Queen Victoria was persuaded to assume the title of Empress, placed under the heading of "Empire of India." The compilers seem to have been a bit nervous over this grouping, for they are all in different type, "Under the Crown" being in very small type, as though they were not quite sure of the historic date when the East India Company yielded up its enfeebled functions of government. In the next Gibbons I hope to see all these groupings set out in the same uniform black-faced type.

Philatelically, India is now the land of shades; the early issues in particular are divided up into shades innumerable. I do not intend to bewilder the readers of *G.S.W.* with the prices of these, but I may note, in passing, a marked advance in the 2 annas, orange, of 1865, which has been raised from 5s. to 15s. In the 1882–8 series the 4 a. 6 p., unused, is advanced from 2s. 6d. to 4s., and the 1 r. from 3s. 6d. to 5s. In the large high values of the Queen's Heads of 1895 the 2 r., unused, has been advanced from 3s. 3d. to 4s.; the 3 r. from 5s. to 6s., and the 5 r. from 8s. 3d. to 10s.

Passing over the native issues of India, as being too hard a nut for me to crack, I come to

Jamaica

IT is always interesting to note how it fares with first issues that are of sufficiently recent date to be only just getting scarce. The first issue of Jamaica is one of these. The old Pineapple series is decidedly getting scarce, and slowly recovering from the West Indian slump of 1899. Here is the range of prices for unused from 1897, when they were on the crest of the boom:—

	1897	1899	1900	1902	1903	1904	1905
	s. d.	*s. d.*	*s. d.*	*s. d.*	*s. d.*	*s. d.*	*s. d.*
1d. .	2 0	1 6	1 6	1 6	1 6	2 6	2 6
2d. .	15 0	12 6	12 6	15 0	12 6	16 0	16 0
3d. .	12 6	12 0	10 0	10 0	8 0	10 0	12 0
4d. .	12 6	12 6	12 6	12 6	12 6	12 6	12 6
6d. .	30 0	30 0	25 0	30 0	30 0	35 0	30 0
1s. .	50 0	20 0	20 0	15 0	12 0	12 0	12 0

As will be gathered from these prices, in the parlance of the Stock Exchange, business is still quiet in Jamaicas. Nevertheless, it is a nice little country, and one that is certain to have its day later on. If you don't think so don't buy Jamaicas.

Lagos

AH! Here we are in the region of high prices for high values and rare watermarks. Lagos is a favourite of mine. It comprises a straightforward range of seven distinct issues of one uniform design—even in the change to the King's Head the main design is still retained—and there is only one provisional, ½d. on 4d. in 1893, which costs only 3s. In the early issues there is no change to note except a drop in the price of the 2s. 6d. of 1884–6 from 105s. to 100s. In the 1887–94 series an addition has been made of a recent discovery of the 6d. with value in carmine instead of mauve, but it is left unpriced, and also for the anxious ones the scarce single CA King's Heads of 1904 are all left unpriced but the 5s., which is generously priced at 10s., at which figure all available copies will soon be snapped up. Meanwhile, this scarce series with a face value of 19s. 10½d. is being sold at £8 per set.

ANSWERS TO CORRESPONDENTS

A Gibbonsite (London).—1. Yes, the Jubilee series of Great Britain should be collected, for they do not partake of speculative commemorative stamps. 2. You can collect post cards and wrappers if you like, but they are now discarded by the average collector, as they are too bulky for the ordinary album, and there is more than enough to occupy the stamp collector in ordinary adhesive postage stamps. 3. I cannot say what is the value of the Tapling Collection. There is so much that is unique in it that it is impossible to appraise it, but some of the best judges say it must be over £100,000. 4. The overprint "G" on Cape of Good Hope stamps indicates stamps provided for use in Griqualand.

A. B. K. (London).—We did not intend in any way to cast any reflection on the collection of fiscals. The reply would probably have escaped criticism if we had said that "fiscals are of no interest to the *postage* stamp collector." Many thanks for your kind information that the Hong Kong stamps overprinted "S.O." and "S.D." are fiscals, the "S.O." signifying "Stamp Office," and the "S.D." "Stamp Duty," instead of being the initials of firms as surmised by us; that Stanley Gibbons lists them as "Fiscals used for postage"; and that they are more often found postally than fiscally used.

M. D. (Durham).—We do not know that any value attaches to reprints of Samoan stamps.

M. J. (Blantyre).—In your case I do not think I should keep the stamps you mention on entires. Rare stamps are frequently kept on entires by specialists, but for the purposes of the ordinary collector entires are more of a bother than an ornament. Yes, you should collect both single and multiple CAs. Some of the single CAs are already getting very scarce, and as you began before the multiple came in, no doubt you took care to complete as many with the single CA as possible.

H. G. (Accrington).—We sympathise with your criticism that the title "Stamps of Great Bri ain" is not as comprehensive as it should be. On the other hand, "Stamps of the British Islands" would be open to the objection of being too comprehensive, for many of our island colonies would inferentially be included in that term.

E. B. P. (Hereford).—It is hardly safe to provoke Mr. Imeson, but you shall have one more shot at him with the lines you now send. The large stop after the "I." of "V.R.I." in the Transvaals is a well-known variety. It is next to the last stamp on the sheet, in the last row. It is not catalogued, being thought too insignificant, nor is the dropped "I" of "V.R.I." in the same series catalogued.

I fear, dear Mr. Imeson,
That our Editor we'll bore
With all our rhymes on
Penny reds. Yours truly,
Ellinor.
The gist of a woman's letter
Is always at the end.
How very pleased the lads would be
With the "socks" that you would send.
By George! the knouting
Would warm their little soles;
And we should then no longer see
Toes protruding through great holes.
O penny reds! how very few
Can know the good that you might do.

E. B. P.

W. D. H. (Wimbledon).—Your inclusion or exclusion of South Americans must depend on your individual preferences. If you wish to exclude all that are not promising as investments you will exclude them, but they are full of philatelic interest, and no collector should allow himself to be too hide-bound by investment considerations. I should say a fiscal dealer would be the most likely to buy fiscally cancelled stamps. You might try Mr. William Morley, 15, Brownhill Gardens, Catford, S.E. It is not usual to include fiscally cancelled stamps in a collection of postage stamps, but many collectors who cannot afford the high values of some countries in any other form take fiscally cancelled copies.

A Young Collector.—The overprint "O.U.S." means Oxford Union Society. If you are only collecting in a small general way, make your choice between unused and used, with a preference for unused, always remembering that a lightly cancelled and perfect used copy is better than a soiled unused copy lacking gum. When the used copy is worth more than the unused it is hard to discard the used. In such a case you might hinge the used copy under the unused copy. Many collectors do this. If neatly done the under stamp will not show, but it is there for inspection by turning over the top unused stamp.

T. P. (Andnam).—It is expected that when the Commonwealth Series is issued it will be a series common to all, but nothing has yet been decided. The stamps of the colonies, if printed in London, are generally ordered through the Agents-General by the colonial authorities.

OUR PHILATELIC DIARY

APRIL, 1905

15. Junior Philatelic Society: Display of Rarities. 7 p.m. Auction Sale of Postage Stamps. 7.30 p.m. Display—Later Issues of Mexico, Rudolf Frentzel 8.15 p.m. Paper—How does Philately Constitute a Science?, by William G. Inkpin. 9 p.m.

18. Auction: Puttick and Simpson, 47, Leicester Square, London. 4.30 p.m.
Leeds Philatelic Society: Display of Victorian Stamps, with notes, by E. Heginbottom, B.A., at Leeds Institute. 7.30 p.m.
Herts Philatelic Society: Display, with notes—Bahamas, by Robert Ehrenbach, at Anderton's Hotel, E.C. 7 p.m.

19. Auction: Puttick and Simpson, 47, Leicester Square, London. 4.30 p.m.
Enterprise Philatelic Society, London: Paper and Display—Fiscal Philately: the Reasons for its Growing Popularity, W. Schwabacher. 6.15 p.m. Display, with notes—South Australia, E. Heginbottom, B.A. 8. p.m.

20. Auction: Glendining, 7, Argyll Street, London. 4.30 p.m.

21. Auction: Glendining, 7, Argyll Street, London. 4.30 p.m.

27. Auction: Ventom, Bull, and Cooper, Loudoun Hotel, Surrey Street, Strand, London. 5 p.m.

28. Auction: Ventom, Bull, and Cooper, Loudoun Hotel, Surrey Street, Strand, London. 5 p.m.
Philatelic Society of London: Paper by R. Ehrenbach, at 4, Southampton Row, London. 7.45 p.m.

Editorial Address—EDWARD J. NANKIVELL, Carnanton, Camden Park, Tunbridge Wells.

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15 April, 1905.

Gibbons Stamp Weekly

EDITED BY EDWARD J. NANKIVELL

No. 16 | 22 APRIL, 1905 | Vol. I.

STAMPS OF GREAT BRITAIN

By EDWARD J. NANKIVELL

(*Continued from page* 230.)

(j) The Jubilee Issue, and other subsequent stamps of Queen Victoria, 1887-1901

THE public and official condemnation of what we philatelists call the 1884 issue eventually led to the appointment of a Special Committee. Up to this time the Stamp Department at Somerset House decided all matters as to the supply of postage stamps to the Post Office, but the 1884 issue raised such an outcry from Post Office officials that they were at last given a voice in the matter, and accordingly two officers of the Post Office were appointed members of the Committee. This Committee went into the whole question of the designing and engraving and printing of postage stamps. It visited stamp-printing establishments at Paris, Malines, Berlin, and Vienna, and investigated the methods of manufacture of the stamps of France, Belgium, Germany, and Austria, all of which use the cheap surface-printing process by which our English stamps are produced.

A great deal of useful information was collected, after which the Committee set to work to get satisfactory designs for an entirely new series. It was decided to print some of the stamps in two colours, and this decision was carried out in the case of the 1½d., 2d., 4d., 4½d., 5d., 9d., and 10d. The stamps in most use, *i.e.* ½d., 1d., 2½d., 3d., 6d., and 1s., were printed in one colour, as before. But the 2½d., 3d., and 6d. were printed on coloured papers. This trial of coloured papers led the way to the subsequent use of coloured papers for most of our Colonial stamps. In fact, coloured papers are becoming very common in our Colonial issues. Whether their use will be of long duration is open to question. For one matter, the watermark is scarcely visible on the coloured papers, and such protection from forgery as the watermark may afford is practically nullified. It may be noted here that in the King's Head series which followed, only the 3d. stamp is printed on coloured paper.

Another new departure affected the engraving of the design, and here I may quote the late Mr. Westoby. He writes, in his *Adhesive Postage Stamps of Europe:* "The great fault with all the stamps that had previously been manufactured by Messrs. De La Rue and Co. was that the profile of the face was dependent on the lines of the shading, as in the present (1898) stamp of one penny. The consequence was that the head was not salient, being in a bastard kind of anaglyptic engraving, and the lines of shading in the profile were all but mixed up with those of the background. In the new stamps the head is either on a solid background or is defined by an outline on an uncoloured one; this latter, it is said, gave great trouble to the engraver, as it was necessary that in the die the outline should be as sharp as a knife—the very thing, however, to prevent forgery, for which purpose it is important that a stamp should not be capable of imitation by every petty engraver. It will be seen that all the heads on the

solid ground are also alike *inter se*, but differ from those on the uncoloured ground, though they are, it may be supposed, as nearly alike as the engraver could make them."

The dwarfed or miniature portraits of Her Majesty Queen Victoria were also a new departure in size. Up to this time the head had, since the issue of the first adhesive stamp in 1840, formed the chief portion of the design. With the issue of this Jubilee series the head has been reduced in size to give scope to the development of a surrounding design. This miniature head is not regarded as an improvement, and there are signs of its abandonment. Many of our Colonies have adopted designs with a larger head, and one or two have discarded small heads for bolder portraits.

The check-letters in the angles were once more discussed, and finally abandoned.

The 1d. stamp was continued unaltered, and therefore is not included in what is termed the Jubilee series. The ½d. stamp was changed in colour from slate-blue to vermilion, but the design was not interfered with.

We philatelists also group into this series of 1877 the 4½d. stamp issued in September, 1892, to cover the 2-lb. rate of the parcel post, and the 10d. value issued in February, 1890.

As to the 4½d., it may be as well here to explain that this value was subsequently withdrawn and discontinued when the parcel post 2-lb. rate was reduced to 4d.

So many collectors now collect the letters of the alphabet printed on the margin paper of the ½d. and 1d. stamps, that it may be well to explain that those letters were started with the 1d. in 1884, and with the ½d. in 1887. They are used to facilitate the keeping of accounts. The letter is a key to the set of plates then being used, and is changed when fresh plates are needed.

This Jubilee series is throughout inscribed "Postage and Revenue."

In 1900 the ½d. stamp was changed in colour from vermilion to blue-green, and the 1s. from green to green and scarlet.

Despite the wonderful manner in which De La Rue and Co. manage to preserve the level of colour from year to year in most of their printings, there are shades to be found in this series by those who are given to that phase of stamp collecting. In the 3d., indeed, there is something more than a variety of shade. The ordinary 3d. was turned out on paper of a lemon-yellow, but by some mistake some were printed on paper of a distinct orange colour. This variety is very scarce, both unused and used.

The £1 value included in the series is our old friend of 1884 changed in colour from brown-lilac to green. It was added in January, 1891.



All are watermarked with the large Imperial Crown and perforated 14.

The whole series, excepting the few values mentioned as subsequent additions, was issued on the 1st of January, 1877, and formed what may be termed the earliest official recognition of the year 1877 as the Jubilee year of the splendid reign of Her Most Gracious Majesty Queen Victoria.

The summary of this group is as follows :—

1877.

Jubilee Issue. New Designs.

Perf. 14.

Watermark Imperial Crown.

½d., vermilion.
1½d., purple and green.
2d., green and vermilion.
2½d., purple on blue paper.
3d. ,, yellow.
3d. ,, orange.
4d., green and brown.
4½d. ,, scarlet (Sep. 1892).
5d., lilac and ultramarine.
6d., purple on red paper.
9d. ,, and blue.
10d. ,, ,, scarlet (Feb. 1890).
1s., green.
£1, dark green.

1900.

Same Types and Watermark.

Colours Changed.

½d., blue-green
1s., green and scarlet.

(*To be continued.*)

FIRST STEPS IN PHILATELY

By Rev. T. C. WALTON, M.A.

(*Continued from page* 232.)

13. Designs of Stamps

HOW can I tell the difference between the various issues of any one country? How can I locate stamps the appearance of which affords me no clue to the naming of the countries to which they belong? These two questions are constantly on the beginner's lips. It therefore behoves me to give as complete an answer as I can. Undoubtedly the best way of distinguishing issues and identifying obscure stamps is to use a standard catalogue. At first the average beginner has a little difficulty in finding his way, but, after a lesson or two in the art of catalogue searching, he will find a *Gibbons* (especially the 1905 edition) brimful of instruction and interest and profit to himself. To be able to find his way about *Gibbons* is of far more importance to the collector than the knowledge of the "ins and outs" of a *Bradshaw* is to the traveller. The one may miss his train, but he can go on by the next. The other may lose heavily through not having found out from his catalogue what is the market value of the stamp he wishes to buy or of which he wishes to dispose.

Many beginners content themselves with an album which gives the names of countries and illustrations of their stamps along the headline of each page. They sort their stamps, using these illustrations as a guide; and, having made many more or less shrewd guesses at the names of some which had no illustrations, mount accordingly. The attempt at self-help is praiseworthy. The result is often unsatisfactory. Sometimes the word "ludicrous" is the only fit appellation to the comical combinations arrived at. From the point of view of order of issues, the albums which give illustrations all over the surface to be covered with stamps are useful. Unfortunately, their usefulness in this respect is more than counterbalanced by their many drawbacks. If, then, the beginner wishes to follow a counsel of perfection, by all means get Gibbons' two volumes and spend a few half-hours on them. The time will not be wasted. The knowledge gained will be of great importance afterwards. Like a certain article of domestic use, once used they are always used. Now let me give you one or two object-lessons and show you what can be learnt from a catalogue with reference to the determining of countries

to which stamps belong. Two things enter largely into this question of distinction.

(1) The design or picture.
(2) The inscription.

If the inscription gives the name of the country in Roman characters, the stamp is at once known for what it is. Often, however, the name of the country is not given. In such cases we must distinguish by means of the design. Stamps are generally rectangular in form. They are found in square, round, or oval shapes. Six and eight-sided figures are also in evidence, *e.g.* the 4 annas, red and blue, of India; or the English embossed stamps of 1847-54.

The first thing which catches the eye when one looks at a stamp is the central portion. It contains one or other of the following:—

(*a*) Figure or bust of reigning monarch, illustrious personage, or an allegorical picture.
(*b*) Coat of arms or emblems.
(*c*) A value in large figures.
(*d*) The inscription.

(To be continued.)

STAMP COLLECTING AS A PASTIME

By EDWARD J. NANKIVELL

(Continued from page 233.)

XIII. Stamp Collecting as an Investment—*cont.*

OF foolish investors there will always be a generous supply, who will ever be ready to offer themselves as evidence of the worthlessness of any and every form of investment, forgetful of the fact that the shoe is more often on the other foot. In stamps, as in every other class of investment, the foolish may buy what is worthless instead of what is valuable. There are stamps specially manufactured and issued to catch such flats, and they are easily hooked by the thousand every year, despite the continual warnings of experienced collectors.

But if we turn to the result of experienced collecting we find abundant evidence of the fact that the stamp collector may enjoy his stamps and, when the force of circumstances compels him to abandon them, he may retire without regret for having put so much money into a mere hobby.

Mr. W. Hughes Hughes, B.L., started his collection in 1859, and kept a strict account of all his expenditure on his hobby, and in 1896 he sold to our publishers for close on £3,000 what had cost him only £69.

In 1870 a stamp dealer in London, as a novelty and an advertisement, papered his shop windows, walls, and ceiling with unused Ionian Islands stamps, which were then a drug in the market. The same stamps would now readily sell at 10s. per set of three; in other words, the materials of that wall-paper would now be worth at least £5,000.

The late Mr. Pauwels, of Torquay, made a collection which cost him £360 up to 1871, when it was put on one side and left untouched until 1898. It was then purchased by our publishers for the sum of £4,000, and yielded them a very fair return on their investment.

In the International Philatelic Exhibition, held in the Galleries of the Royal Institute of Painters in Water Colours, in Piccadilly, London, in 1897, one collector marked over each stamp of his exhibit the price which he had paid for it and the market price of the day. The collection had been got together during the previous fifteen years, and had cost its owner £25 2s., while by the then latest catalogue value it totalled up to £368 1s. 3d.

Shrewd business men are those who frequently invest large sums in stamps. The amounts spent annually by some wealthy collectors range from £1,000

to £10,000. One well-known Parisian collector, whose life has been largely devoted to his philatelic treasures, and who employs two secretaries to look after his collection, has, it is estimated, spent at least £200,000 on his stamps since 1870.

If investment were the Alpha and Omega of stamp collecting, every collector of standing would bemoan lost opportunities. Many a great rarity of to-day could have been had for a few shillings a few years ago. The Cape errors were sold by Stanley Gibbons at 2s. 6d. each. The "Transvral" error was sold by the same generous firm at 4s., and others in similar proportion in the day of opportunity.

To-day it is the fashion to look back with regret on those lost opportunities, and to nurse the belief that such opportunities are never likely to return. But experience shows that in every decade of stamp collecting the common stamp of to-day may be the rarity of to-morrow. In many a series of stamps some one of the lot from some cause or another gets scarce, and the price appreciates from year to year till the original price paid for the stamp in pence is represented by pounds.

XIV. What to Collect and How to Collect

The questions, "What to collect?" and "How to collect?" are much more easily asked than answered. Each individual will differ in taste, in inclination, in method, in time at his disposal, and last, but not least, in the depth of his pocket. The most that can be done is to outline a general plan, founded upon general experience.

Collectors are divided into two classes —the general collector and the specialist. The general collector takes everything that comes in his way, and knows no limitations, no exclusions of this country or that. The specialist, on the other hand, confines his attention to the stamps of one or more particular groups or divisions, or even to one particular country.

The most experienced collectors, whether general or specialist, almost invariably advise the beginner to start as a general collector. As a beginner he will have no experience to guide him in the choice of a particular group or division; and until he has travelled over the ground as a general collector it will be difficult for him to make a choice which he may not have cause to regret. As a general collector he will gather together a general knowledge of stamps in all their peculiar varieties, which can scarcely fail to be immensely useful to him even should he subsequently drift into specialism. Indeed, it is an accepted truism that the man who starts as a general collector invariably makes the best specialist in the end.

Starting, then, as a general collector, the beginner purchases an album—for choice say the "Imperial," published by Stanley Gibbons, Ltd., which on one page has a printed and illustrated list of the stamps of a country, and on the opposite page ruled and numbered spaces for every stamp mentioned in the printed list. A catalogue, setting forth the prices at which stamps may be purchased, should also be obtained.

One of the very first questions to be settled at the start will be the choice that must be made between the collection of used and of unused. The general collector who wishes to collect economically should certainly start with what is cheapest; and as the common stamps are cheapest in the used condition, used should be selected. When a collector can afford to spend his money liberally, the best and safest, and cheapest in the long run, will be stamps unused and in the pink of condition. Such stamps generally turn out to be a safe and not unfrequently a splendid investment.

The beginner will find that he can fill up a large proportion of the spaces in his album with comparatively common stamps, and these are much more economically purchased in the form of cheap packets. The blanks that remain will then represent stamps worth searching for separately, and buying singly as good opportunities occur. Many may be obtained in exchanging duplicates with other collectors.

(To be continued.)

PHILATELIC STUDIES

By the late GORDON SMITH, M.A.

FOR some time past—one might almost say for some years past—there has been forming an opinion, now settled into a conviction, that the only method for the intelligent collector to adopt is to limit the field of his searches and his study within comparatively narrow limits. From the incipient collector to the mature philatelist there must always be numberless grades, but for each and for all there are interest and amusement, starting from a casual acquaintance with a few stamps up to the minute observation and discriminating experience of the advanced philatelist.

Owing to the very wide field over which the collector may roam in search of "pastures new," it follows that when he has "pegged out" a claim to his attention, he frequently finds himself working alone and out of touch and sympathy with those who but a short time previously were engaged simultaneously in a kindred, if not in a common, pursuit.

It is to be regretted for many reasons that this state of affairs should exist, but in a measure it is inevitable, for as each one works along in his own groove he becomes more and more isolated from those working in other grooves, and that bond of union which in former days cemented the friendships of the pioneer philatelists is to-day becoming much loosened.

Apathy in Philatelic Societies

It is to this cause, if not entirely, at least mainly, is due the apathy which seems to characterise the meetings of leading philatelic societies, and it is the wish of all who have the best interests of the pursuit at heart to do something to revive that community of purpose which was the foundation of success in times gone by.

It is with some temerity that one would venture to lay down any rules for limiting the predilections and inclinations of collectors, but it is conceived that the formation of groups or small circles, consisting of as few as even three or four collectors united in a common object, would not only bring satisfaction to the individuals, but contribute to the general welfare.

Friendly Emulation Desirable

As to individual success, it is only necessary to point out that a friendly emulation among individuals working for the attainment of common ends is a much greater spur to enthusiasm than that felt by the solitary plodder who is playing against "bogey," to take a metaphor from golf. And as the commercial side of the question cannot be entirely eliminated, it is only necessary to state that where several are all "on to one country" (to use a colloquialism) they will find the value of their respective "holdings" considerably enhanced by united action.

As to the general good, it cannot be denied that where more than one are engaged in a particular branch, much more of value and general interest must accrue than where the solitary worker is alone employed. From an examination of those works on stamps of a critical and historical nature which have been compiled by the best observers, it will be found that those which have been written by two authors in collaboration are as a general rule more trustworthy, and even if not exhaustive, lay down a more solid foundation for future study, than those which have emanated from single hands.

That this should be so is almost self-evident. More facts come to the knowledge of two persons than are brought to the attention of one, data are more carefully sifted, arguments and reasons are more carefully criticised, and conclusions more soundly formed than can possibly be effected by one individual.

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Much has been said and written on the status of Philately when considered in its relation to other studies. While on the one hand it can never rank with the advanced arts and sciences, nevertheless, like many other branches of collecting, it holds a distinct and by no means despised position in all civilised communities. It has shown itself to be an intelligent occupation and recreation for intelligent men and women; and the development of the pursuit, either from a literary, historical, or critical point of view, will always tend to raise it in estimation even amongst those who do not engage in it.

A TERRIBLE EXPERIENCE

By E. W. WETHERELL

It was a dream—one of those horrible nightmares one gets after a bad attack of malaria—and in this dream I saw all sorts of philatelic monstrosities; the jargon of the auctioneer and the expressions of the catalogues were jumbled together in hopeless confusion. I saw:—

I

THAT someone discovered a "three-corner" Cape
With "multiple Crown and CA,"
And Maltas "on green" "rouletted between,"
And "wall-paper" "coming to stay."

II

And another who found a marvellous "pair"
Of a "*tête-bêche*" one penny (in black),
And a "centre reversed" of the "current" rupee
With a "triple surcharge" on the "back."

III

And some Egypts on "laid," and a British "unpaid"
In the "postaly uniony" green.
And a seven cent Greece "inverted" "on piece"
(Which nobody ever has seen).

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But the worst I've reserved to the last, you will see,
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MISCELLANEOUS

The Servian Death-mask Stamps

THE following is the reply of M. Mouchon, the engraver of the so-called Death-mask stamps of Servia, to the silly suggestion that he must have been a party to the manipulation of the design :—

"Monsieur le Ministre,—Your Excellency ought to know of the reports circulating in the Press with regard to the commemorative stamps of the kingdom of Servia, the Queen Nathalie and I being represented as having acted in concert for the purpose of producing a sad face upon those stamps.

"I have never been in relations either direct or indirect with Her Majesty. I know her only by the name that she has won for herself in literature, and by the triple misfortune which has wounded her heart as queen, wife, and mother. Nothing justifies me in refusing to her the deep respect that everybody owes to her, or in believing her to be capable of the deed with which she is reproached.

"My beard is white, and I have seen sixty-two years of honour and uprightness; nobody among those who know me would like to think that I was capable of such baseness.

"What would be thought of a man who would take the money, the honour, and the congratulations of a Government of which he had made fun so impudently?

"I am sure that such a suspicion has never crossed your mind, and I should have gone to your office this morning to assure you of my loyalty, did not an infectious influenza, which has held me for several days between life and death, keep me closely to my room for three weeks past.

"I think that a man who would act thus would not be worthy of the great honour which the Servian Government has just paid me in conferring upon me the insignia of a Commander of Sava, and that I should not be worthy of wearing the Cross of Honour any longer on my breast.

"Therefore, Monsieur le Ministre, I beg Your Excellency to open an inquiry as to my honorability before sending me the insignia in question.

"I have the honour, etc.,

"MOUCHON."

Surprise Fortunes in Stamps

"THE reason why stamp collecting has such a fascination for the genuine collector," said a well-known stamp dealer to Mr. Answers, "is because he knows that at any moment he may tumble quite unexpectedly into a fortune.

"Instances? Why, yes; heaps of them! There was a man called Hook, for example, in '97. He was travelling in Baltimore, and, happening to pass an auction-room, stepped in and bought for a trifle several huge boxes of old papers and documents on the chance that there might be some rare stamps among them. There were. There were several $100 revenue stamps of America for 1868; they were worth £60 apiece. Altogether Hook cleared between £5,000 and £6,000 by his chance speculation.

"I know another funny case in which a young man, who knew absolutely nothing about the value of stamps, found a cigar-box containing twenty-two old stamps in a lumber-room of his house. He took them to a dealer and offered to sell them. The dealer just glanced inside, and saw that they were of the very rarest order, and, prompted by cupidity, offered the young man only a sovereign for the lot. For some reason the latter hesitated, whereupon the dealer, afraid of losing such a chance, promptly added, 'A sovereign each, I mean.' 'Why,' said the young man in amazement, 'if they're worth as much as that, they're probably worth more. I think I'll inquire a bit before selling them.' He did, and got £50 apiece for them!"—*Answers.*

Printings of Dominican Stamps

WE are able this week to furnish some interesting figures relative to the quantities printed of the current issue. Only one supply has been obtained from the printers.

Quantities of Dominican Stamps.

	No. of Stamps.	Face Value. £	s.
½d. Arms . .	84,000	175	0
1d. ,, . .	240,180	1,000	15
2d. ,, . .	16,320	136	0
2½d. ,, . .	30,720	320	0
3d. ,, . .	12,360	154	10
6d. ,, . .	15,120	378	0
1s. ,, . .	6,300	315	0
2s. ,, . .	6,360	636	0
2s. 6d. Arms .	6,300	787	10
5s. King . .	2,520	630	0
	420,180	£4,532	15

Except in the case of the 3d. value, which is nearly exhausted, the remaining stock on hand is not expected to be exhausted before 1906.

A fresh supply of the 3d. value has been ordered from England, and it will be interesting to see whether it is still on the old Crown CC paper.

Ewen's Weekly Stamp News.

Wanted: A Fine English Stamp

AN English Postmaster-General would, the *County Gentleman* thinks, earn the gratitude of plenty of people who are proud to think that England was the first country to print a really fine stamp, if he would somehow get us provided with a stamp which did not look cheap and nasty. Why not go back to the splendid old dark reds and dark blues and dark violets and dark greens which distinguished the stamps of the sixties? As to loss, how is it that the people of the United States stand the expense of printing what are at present the best stamps in the world? [Unfortunately there is all the difference in the world. Uncle Sam runs his post office at a loss; we run ours for all the profit we can get out of it.—ED. *G.S.W.*]

A Glasgow Yarn

HERE is a nice little story which was told to an audience recently by a Glasgow dignitary of the Episcopal Church. In England the Bishop's residence is called "The Palace," as most people are aware. A letter recently addressed to "The Bishop, Palace, Glasgow," from an English town was returned by the Post Office officials bearing the superscription—"Neither at The Palace nor The Empire, Glasgow."

St. Martin's-le-Grand.

A Boy Stamp-mad

HE is seen in preparations
Occupied with perforations;
Out of school he's in a corner
"Swapping" duplicates with friends;
And his pocket money never
Goes to anything whatever
But to stamps. I won't endeavour
To say how much he spends!

When a rarity he's sighted,
He's elated and excited,
And could not be more delighted
If he'd found a ten-pound note;
He will jaw for hours on "fudges,"
And in spite of sundry nudges
He continues it, nor budges
Till you catch him by the throat.

The Captain.

GOSSIP OF THE HOUR

By CORNELIUS WRINKLE

Collectors: Three Sorts and Conditions

JUST listen to this from the *Book Monthly*, quoted from a catalogue:—"Of book collectors there are three classes. The first is composed of those who collect books because of their rarity or costliness. The second class of book collectors consists of those persons who make a business of collecting, and who buy for the rise, and speculate in books as they would in shares. The third class are they who buy books interesting as literature, or beautiful as regards typography or illustration. Such a collector was the late Lord Derby, who, renowned for the sturdiest common sense, bought only the best editions, whether the first or the fiftieth, and left behind him one of the most magnificent libraries in the country, a permanent and dignified adjunct of the family seat at Knowsley."

The Same in Stamp Collecting

AND so it is in stamp collecting. Some brainless folks now and then amuse themselves by poking fun at us as a class. They show up our little foibles, our fondness for buying and selling, otherwise speculating, on the quiet; and jeer at our tendency to develop into condition cranks, our inane worship of what is rare regardless of its ugliness, and so on. But it will be seen from my quotation from the *Book Monthly* that we poor erring stamp collectors are after all only tarred with the same brush as other collectors.

The Speculator

THE speculator we also have with us, and the much anathematised collector-dealer. In fact, it is only in stamps that the collector professes to be a being raised above all sordid desires. The book lover examines every bookstall and shop for bargains, and more often than not he has a white choker; and if he finds a good thing he pays down his coppers and passes on to the establishment of the expert to sell it for as many shillings, or possibly pounds, and he thinks well of the whole transaction. Now and then that transaction blossoms out into a congratulatory news paragraph that Mr. So-and-so rescued a fine copy of *The Timber Teapot* from an obscure bookshop for a few pence, and sold it for ten guineas to Messrs. Blank and Blank. But if the poor stamp collector indulges in this sort of thing he is dubbed a collector-dealer, and is asked when he is going to open a shop. Ah, well, I don't mind confessing to a soft place for bargains and an utter indifference to the comments of the jealous when I scent a bargain that may help to square my stamp accounts for domestic inspection.

Mr. H. R. Oldfield Home Again

THE genial Hon. Secretary of the forthcoming International Stamp Exhibition is back from his trip to the Canaries, and I am delighted to say that he is looking A1, and quite fit to boom the great show of which we are beginning to have considerable hopes. Now that he is back we are promised an early sight of the programme. It is my intention to write and ask him what his committee proposes to do for us boys of the *Weekly*. We must have some share in that show, or we shall be driven to borrowing an adjacent room and running a rival affair.

The Multiple Watermark

WHATEVER should we have done for novelties to keep the New Issuites alive during the last few months if there had been no change from single CA to multiple CA? For new issues there would have been almost a close time after the King's heads had been all but completed. And now we are getting even to the end of probable multiples. For my part, though I am an old stager with old issues, I cannot help feeling the influence of the excitement that an interesting new issue begets in the philatelic breast. Some dear souls have cut themselves adrift from the sinfulness of new issues. They look down with disdain from their own little heaven upon us below. All the same they are welcome to their limited joys whilst we gay sinners of the lower world shout and pass round our philatelic chicks.

Change of American Watermark

IT will be remembered that there was an amusing outcry against the multiple change of watermark on the part of some of our American friends. Now they are promised a change of their own. The new Cuban stamps, it is said, are not to be on paper watermarked as hitherto "U.S.—C." We shall now see if our friends across the pond take kindly to a little change of their own, or whether they will lift up their gentle voices against it.

Those South Australian Plasters

I WONDER how long the patient population of the colony of South Australia will continue to manufacture the extra amount of saliva required to enable them to make use of the long plasters that now do duty as postage stamps amongst them. Those stamps may be regarded as the outcome of peculiarly constructed official minds, and a Christian resignation on the part of the victims.

But Wait for Zanzibars

IF you want something to console you for the fact that, from the lack of time or money, you cannot afford to specialise, wait till you see what the specialists can do with Zanzibars. I have had an evening at it. Jerusalem! There would be an end to specialising amongst sane collectors if the choice lay between Zanzibars, with their little z's up and their little z's down, and their peculiar r's, etc., etc., and simple elementary collecting of the type we commend to our beginners.

The Sane Specialist

BUT it must not be thought that the ordinary sane specialist goes off his head over every broken letter. Not he. He leans far more to Mr. Oldfield's limited specialism, and I am inclined to think it only needs a few strong public displays of specialised Zanzibars, such as I have recently seen, to bring about a strong reaction in the direction of simplifying specialism and narrowing the gulf that now divides specialism from ordinary collecting.

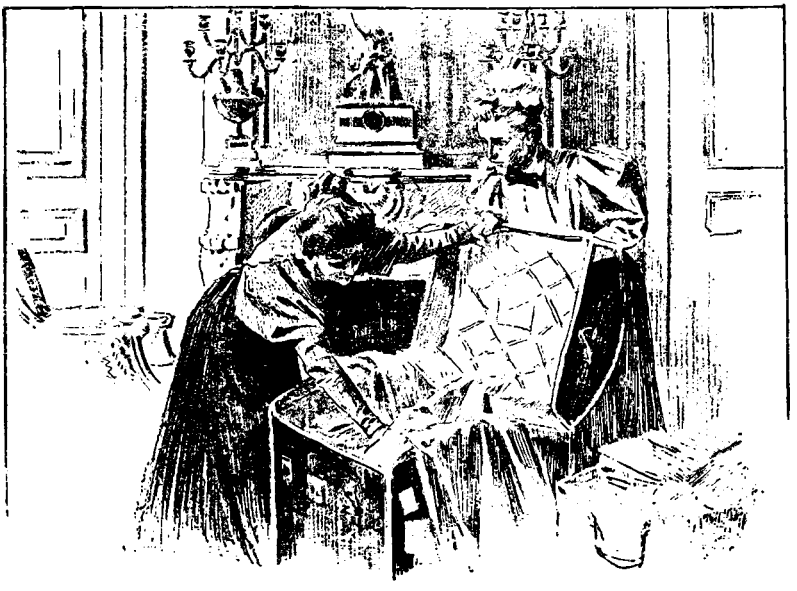
Our Philatelic Badges

I HOPE to have something further to say next week on this badges question. I have received many letters on the subject. By the way, any communications addressed to me, care of Stanley Gibbons, Ltd., 391, Strand, W.C., or care of the Editor, will be forwarded to me. I note that most of my correspondents favour a design on both sides, as they say the pendant may sometimes hang on one side and sometimes on the other. We might have the CC design one side and the CA the other.

THE STAMP KING

By G. DE BEAUREGARD AND H. DE GORSSE

Translated from the French by EDITH C. PHILLIPS



SHE SEARCHED THE TRUNK TO THE REMOTEST CORNER

CHAPTER VI (*continued*)

How Miss Betty discovers that a courteous man is not always an honourable one

AS Miss Betty and Victoria watched the scene, so new to them, night came slowly on. Little by little the shadows descended on the Place Vendôme, badly lighted by blinking gas-burners placed at long distances apart. But moving lights ran continually from end to end. They were the lamps of the many carriages which came and went, in two regular streams, on either side of the sombre and majestic column. Farther off, in the Rue de la Paix, lights approached each other, became confused, and blended together. Then they gradually parted again, seen less clearly now on account of the brilliant illumination which radiated from the shop windows to the middle of the street, forming a luminous vista, a fairy road to the Place de l'Opéra.

"No wonder they call Paris the capital of the world!" said Victoria.

"And you have seen nothing of it yet."

"But I hope to see a good deal more."

"We should have to stay some days for that."

"Why, surely we are going to stay a long time in Paris?" cried Victoria, horrified at the thought of a further move immediately after their long voyage.

"Well, yes—perhaps."

"Perhaps?"

"I shall not know until I have seen M. Moulineau to-morrow, and heard from him where the second copy of the Brahmapootra stamp is, for it was to find that I came to France, you know."

"Oh, yes, that is true; and a wretched stamp it is, for it has already nearly drowned us, and now it may——"

"It may cause us to start off again to-morrow. In any case, don't let the future trouble you."

Victoria did not trouble about it exactly, but she thought, with a certain amount of apprehension, that if her mistress were going on again so soon it would put an end for the present, and no doubt for a long time, to the prospect of her marriage.

The voice of Betty, who was examining the rooms, and who had passed into the next one, roused her from her matrimonial reflections.

"Come and look here," cried the girl. "This is very nice and comfortable. You can sleep here and I will have the other room."

The suite was composed of two bedrooms and the sitting-room into which they had been shown by M. Pavilly. The windows of all three looked out on the Place Vendôme, and each had a door opening into the ante-room, so that they could be entered, if need be, from the outside without passing through the sitting-room. Miss Betty pointed out this advantageous arrangement to Victoria.

"And now," said she, "while I dress will you go down to the office and get me some sheets of paper?"

"You have letters to write?"

"No; only a few telegrams, to let my lawyer and my friends in New York know about our journey. We left America so hastily that I had no time to tell anyone."

"The fact of the matter is they'll be very much worried about you, Miss Betty."

"Well, I can't help it. I quite meant to telegraph

on arriving at Havre. Even if that miserable *Touraine* had not been so late they would have been a week without news. So don't let us lose any more time."

Victoria disappeared, and soon returned with a blotting-case. Betty established herself at a table and began to scrawl. In a few minutes she stopped and handed seven or eight sheets of paper to Victoria, saying—

"Here, take these to the telegraph office."

"As I gave you all my own money to take care of, Miss Betty, I shall have to ask you for some to send the telegrams."

Betty put her hand into the little satchel hanging from her waist and uttered an exclamation of dismay.

"Oh, this is really too bad!" And, as she feverishly searched in every corner, she became deadly pale.

"Stolen—to the very last penny!" she cried. "Ten thousand dollars in notes all gone!"

"What? Stolen!" exclaimed Victoria, stunned at the news.

But Betty, losing no time, hurried to a trunk to look for her passport and some banker's drafts, payable to bearer, which she had thrown hastily in at the moment of her abrupt departure. Vainly she searched to the remotest corner. Nothing there! not even a sign of a paper.

"This is too much!" she cried, tapping on the floor irritably with her little patent-leather shoe.

"But who could possibly——" began Victoria.

"Oh, how do I know!" And she once more turned over all her linen, and even scrutinised the lining of the trunk, without any further result.

Then a cry of pain escaped her. In her haste she had pricked her finger till the blood came.

"What do you want to put needles among my handkerchiefs for?" she asked.

"But I haven't, miss," said Victoria.

"Then what is it?"

Wishing to discover the cause of the prick she searched again and found a scarf-pin, formed of a golden serpent twining round a slip of malachite.

"Why, that is Sir Oscar's pin, I am certain," she cried. "I remember it perfectly. It was always falling out of his tie, and I told him several times that he would lose it. But however does it come to be in this trunk?"

"Its owner must have let it fall in."

"But Sir Oscar never came into my cabin!"

"And yet it seems to me—— Yes —one day——"

"Stop! stop!" thought Betty suddenly. "Could he possibly be the thief? But no, of course not; he is too well educated, too nice! But, after all, there have been pickpockets as nice and as well educated. Of course there have; one hears of such and they may be seen any day. There are even swindlers who play the part of perfect gentlemen on purpose to mix with people and plunder them. Yes, the more I think of it the more suspicious Sir Oscar's behaviour during the voyage appears. What an idiot I have been to let myself be deceived by the gallant manners of that indefatigable cavalier! For it certainly must have been he—it can have been no one else—who has robbed me! He alone was sufficiently intimate with me during all that long time on the *Touraine*."

A number of minute facts were recalled, one by one, by Miss Betty as she thus communed with herself: the time Sir Oscar loved to spend in other people's cabins, his fondness for the passengers who were supposed to be rich, the disappearance of watches during the tempest. And each of these little facts, in some new point, by some fresh detail, strengthened the suspicion in her mind, until it finally became transformed into an absolute certainty.

"Do you know who the thief is?" she said then to Victoria.

"No, miss. If I only *did* know——!"

"Well, it is Sir Oscar Tilbury himself. The clever rogue, in rummaging my trunk, dropped this pin, which, unfortunately for him, was always unsafe."

The honest girl could not suppress a start at such an unexpected revelation.

"Ah!" she exclaimed. "Then that explains why Sir Oscar made off at full speed when we arrived at Havre, without waiting to say good-bye to anyone."

"You saw him go?"

"With my own eyes! And he looked as if he wanted to lose himself among the crowd as quickly as possible. A very eel."

"Then there is no longer any room for doubt."

"I can hardly believe it! Such a very superior man, and so genteel!"

"This proves, my dear Victoria, that a courteous man is not always an honest one."

Miss Scott understood it all now. Sir Oscar was one of those cosmopolitan knaves who "do" the first-class trains and the large steamers.

"And to think that that wretched pickpocket promised to call and see me here!" she cried. "I would not advise him to come near me again, indeed I would not!"



In short, the young American had been robbed—hopelessly robbed, but as lamenting the fact would not put a penny in her pocket she set to work at once to find a way out of the difficulty. For a moment she thought of going to the correspondent of her banker in New York, but she soon reflected that he would not be likely to advance the smallest sum to a person who was unable to establish her identity. To borrow at the hotel was no less difficult; such a proceeding on the part of a young lady who had just engaged the most sumptuous rooms would cause her to be taken for a simple adventuress.

"Wait a minute," she said to Victoria. And, taking a sudden resolution, she drew from her ears two superb diamonds, and, holding them closely in her hand, went out into the Place Vendôme.

(To be continued.)

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENCE

Our Calcutta Letter

CALCUTTA, *23rd March*, 1905.

"Postage and Revenue" Stamps for India

A MUCH-NEEDED and long-desired convenience is about to be effected for the benefit of the Indian public in the unification of postage and receipt stamps. A recent notification in the *Gazette* is the first official intimation that the Government has this end in view, as it renders illegal the pen-marking of postage stamps affixed to a letter or other postal matter prior to posting. The new regulation will be enforced from the 1st April next.

Anticipated Openings for Dishonesty

From the first use of postage stamps in India pen-marking has been permitted, and the coming withdrawal of the privilege may, it is feared by many, prove an opportunity for dishonesty of the meanest kind. With all their good qualities (and they have many), our "menial staff," as the grandiloquent baboo likes to call them, have some unpleasing little ways of their own, and of these their practice of *petty* peculation is hard to eradicate. We leave our houses unbarred, our gardens unprotected, our offices uncared for, save by an odd native or two, whom, did we meet them without their badge or customary head-gear, we might not recognise. Ourselves and house, garden, and office are as safe as could be desired, when under similar circumstances in England wholesale robbery might result; but to leave by chance a few pice on a table, cheroots on a desk, or pencils, notepaper, and other things of the kind lying about, is to run the risk of loss. Your syce will steal half your horse's food and ruin the most valuable animal unless carefully watched, and this for the most paltry gain, but jewellery or other valuables will not tempt him. Your bearer may be trusted to guard all your belongings of every description faithfully and well as regards most things, except soda-water bottles, which always go; and bearer, syce, durwan, peon, ayah, and all the rest of the crowd fail where *stamps* are concerned, and hence the general apprehension that we are on the eve of accepting a boon which may not prove an unmixed blessing.

The Official Notification

The notification states that postage on a postal article shall not be deemed to be prepaid by means of a proper stamp if the stamp has been obliterated, defaced, torn, cut, or otherwise rendered imperfect; or has any word, letter, figure, or design printed or impressed upon it otherwise than by the authority of Government before posting; but it goes on to provide that the perforation of postage stamps with initials traced in minute holes will be permissible.

I have been thinking out how all this will affect philatelic catalogues, and conclude that we may expect some important additions before long to the Indian section of *S.G.* Part I.

Three New Indian Stamps Expected

It will be remembered that when a similar reform was first made in England, the fact was overlooked that the convenience would be robbed of much of its value to the public unless the halfpenny as well as the penny postage stamp were legalised for receipt purposes. The oversight was, if I remember rightly, the cause of much misunderstanding and annoyance, and special legislation was necessary after a lapse of some years before the full legal powers of our little half-penny friend were officially declared. In India we have a pice (or farthing stamp) which is three pies or a quarter of an anna, so that if the worry and outcry that arose in England are to be avoided here, *three* new Indian stamps at the very least are to be expected.

Needless Official Authorisation

In England, it will also be remembered, the needless step was taken of authorising for postal use quite a number of fiscal stamps, just as very recently an equally needless permission was given for the resurrection of a fearsome array of cut post cards, cut wrappers, etc., dating from mid-Victorian days, even previously, for current postal duty. As regards these latter one can only feel that, while no exception need be taken to the use of such stamps as adhesives as a class, had the Government extended the privilege granted in respect of non-adhesives bearing the King's Head only, it is certain that its action would have been more widely appreciated.

No Revivification of Philatelic Corpses

In India our Government, as regards the change about to be made, will probably manage to refrain from the revivification of philatelic corpses. No Indian postage or receipt stamp has ever been declared obsolete, and thus put out of action, but if the home precedent under similar circumstances to those now arising is to be followed, by which receipt stamps lagging superfluous on the stage of their existence are by the stroke of the pen of some highly placed official in Simla or Calcutta to spring to light armed with the power to render postal service, the following adornments of our future Indian catalogues may "occur."

Spare us this Infliction

Receipt Stamps (Queen's Head).

1860. 1 a., lilac; perf. 15 × 15½ (*varieties* imperf., blued paper).
1861. Provisional ½ a., lilac; perf. 15 × 15½, yellow-green surcharge (*variety* blued paper).
1861. Provisional ½ a., lilac; perf. 15 × 15½, blue-green surcharge (*variety* blued paper).
1861. ½ a., lilac; perf. 15 × 15½ (*variety* blued paper).
1869. 1 a. ,, ,, ,, ,,
1883. 1 a. ,, perf. 14 (*variety* blued paper).
1886. 1 a., lilac ,, second watermark (*variety* blued paper).

Receipt Stamp (Emperor's Head).

1903. 1 a., lilac.

Provisional stamps bearing a surcharge indicating that they are for both postage and receipt purposes.

1902. ¼ a. postage stamp, grey (later shade).
½ a. ,, pea-green.
1 a. ,, carmine.
1903. 1 a. receipt stamp, lilac.

Permanent stamps of a new design indicating as part of the design that they are for both purposes.

1905(?). ¼ a., ½ a., 1 a.

Public Postal Demands

In the meanwhile, a public demand is arising for the discontinuance of separate Indian telegraph stamps. From a philatelic point of view this would be deplorable, as it would involve the addition of not a few high values to the unified series of issues for postage, receipt, and telegraph purposes—though, as the general convenience would be met, the change will come in time.

There is also an agitation for the authorisation in India, too, of impressions of stamps cut from envelopes, post cards, etc., for use as adhesives, the wisdom of which is not very obvious, but should it prove successful India may be relied upon to start the reform at the Edwardian issues only. If the example already set by England is to prove universally contagious, and non-adhesives, by a snip or two of the

scissors and a dab or two of stickphast, are to be changed to adhesives, the united wisdom of the countries forming the Postal Union might do worse than decree that all stamps of the same denomination issued by a country should be of identical design, whether perf., imperf., or on post card, wrapper, or envelope.

A 10 Anna Stamp for India.

I will conclude by repeating a rumour which has reached me from a reliable source to the effect that India is to have a 10 anna postage stamp, and that the high-value Victorian remainders are to be converted for the purpose by means of a surcharge. I mention this for what it is worth, as I cannot vouch for its truth; but it was told me in good faith, and may, I think, be accepted (though with every reserve) as a not unlikely contingency of the near future.

WILMOT CORFIELD.

Hong Kong "S.O." and "S.D."

BROOKLYN, N.Y., *March 30th*, 1905.

IN your answer to correspondents in Vol. I., No. 11, of the *Weekly*, you say the letters "S.O." and "S.D." on Hong Kong stamps are "probably the initials of the mercantile firms using the stamps."

I confess I am considerably surprised at this statement from so learned an authority as Stanley Gibbons, or the Editor of the *Weekly*, and beg permission to set your readers right.

I happened to be in Hong Kong shortly after the stamps were put in use, and learned that this surcharge was an official one of the Treasury Department. The first surcharge, "S. O.," stood for "Stamp Office," but as this was considered erroneous it was shortly changed to "S. D." The "S. D." stood either for "Stamp Department" or "Stamp Duty"; after this length of time I am not quite certain which, but my recollection is that it was "Stamp Department"—*i.e.* in lieu of "Stamp Office." This surcharge made the stamps fiscal as well as postal.

On learning of their existence I went personally to the Treasury, where I purchased the few remaining, only eight or ten of them being left, which I used upon letters, and it was at the Treasury that I gained the information given above.

On inquiry at the Post Office as to whether fiscals could still be used as postage, I was told that they could not be so accepted with the exception of these S. O.'s and S. D.'s. I was told that this surcharge, though making them available for fiscal use, did not affect their postal character, and they are, therefore, in the same class as other British Colonial "Postage and Revenue" issues, and should be catalogued among the postal issues.

I have several on original covers which I myself used. These were not cancelled by favour of any postal clerk, but were regularly dropped in the ordinary letter-box, and delivered in the usual way.

An Interesting Variety

A very interesting variety of these stamps exists. Among the eight or ten I purchased at the Treasury were two 2 c. on which a vertical bar had been printed over the left curve of the "O," thus transforming it into a "D" in accordance with the correct surcharge. Of these I know of only two copies used postally, the one in my own collection and the other in the collection of Mr. Luff, of philatelic fame, both on original covers.

Trusting that the above will cause recognition of these stamps in the class where they belong, *i.e.* of British Colonial "Postage and Revenue" stamps, I remain,

Yours very cordially,

W. C. EATON,
Commander, U.S. Navy

PHILATELIC SOCIETIES

London Philatelic Society

President: H.R.H. The Prince of Wales.
Hon. Sec.: J. A. Tilleard, 10, Gracechurch Street, E.C.
Meetings: 4, Southampton Row, W. Alternate Fridays at 7.45.
Annual Subscription: Town, £2 2s.; Country, £1 1s.

THE ninth meeting of the season 1904-5 was held at 4, Southampton Row, W.C., on Friday the 10th February, 1905, at 7.45 p.m.

Members present: E. D. Bacon, R. Ehrenbach, C. Neville Biggs, C. J. Daun, L. E. Bradbury, A. W. Maclean, C. McNaughtan, J. A. Tilleard, T. Maycock, and B. D. Knox.

In the absence of the Vice-President, the chair was taken by Mr. E. D. Bacon. The minutes of the last meeting having been read and confirmed, the Hon. Secretary read a letter from Mr. T. Martin Wears, resigning his membership, which was directed to be accepted with regret.

Mr. Bacon reported to the meeting the sad news of the death of Mr. Gordon Smith.

After making a short reference to the career of the late member and the services rendered by him to Philately, and particularly to the Society, and expressing in fitting terms the deep feelings of affection and esteem in which he was held by all his associates, Mr. Bacon moved the following resolution:—

"That the members of the Philatelic Society, London, in general meeting assembled, have heard with profound regret of the death of their esteemed and honoured fellow-member, Mr. Gordon Smith. They desire to record their deep sense of the great loss sustained by the Society and the philatelic world, and to express their heart-felt sympathy with Mrs. Gordon Smith in her bereavement."

This was seconded by the Hon. Secretary, and, after a few sympathetic words by Mr. Biggs in support, was put to the meeting and carried unanimously.

Mr. Ehrenbach then gave a display of the stamps of Uganda, kindly lent for the occasion by Mr. C. J. Phillips. The specialised collection shown, which is probably the only one in existence in which the whole of the issues and varieties are completely represented, was inspected with much interest by the members present, and, on the motion of Mr. Bacon, seconded by Mr. Daun, the cordial thanks of the meeting were voted to Mr. Phillips for lending the collection, and to Mr. Ehrenbach for his service in showing the stamps.

THE tenth meeting of the Society for the season 1904-5 was held at 4, Southampton Row. W.C., on Friday the 24th February, 1905, at 7.45 p.m.

The meeting was attended by Messrs. E. D. Bacon, T. W. Hall, T. Maycock, R. Ehrenbach, C. Neville Biggs, and J. A. Tilleard, but no business was taken, it being decided to adjourn the reading by Mr. Hall of his paper on Tolima to the next meeting.

Junior Philatelic Society

President: Fred J. Melville.
Secretary: H. F. Johnson, 11, Trigon Road, Clapham, S.W.
Meetings: Exeter Hall, Strand, W.C.
Annual Subscription: 1s. 6d.

THE usual bi-monthly meeting of this Society was held at the Society's new meeting-place, Exeter Hall, Strand, on Saturday, April 1st.

There were about 140 members and visitors present.

From 7 to 8 the hall presented the appearance of a stamp bourse, a very large amount of exchanging taking place among members and friends.

A small selection of rare errors and curiosities was on view, including another copy of the 1d., red, 1847, plate 77, lettered "B" only, which has been discovered since the Society's recent exhibition; two copies of the 1d., lilac (Queen), and one 1s., green and red (King), with surcharge "Govt. Parcels" inverted; and a fine used copy of the 1d., rose-red, 1857, imperf.

The President called the meeting to order at 8 o'clock, and announced that over twenty dealers had promised to give discount to members of the Society, and also that special facilities for the insurance of members' collections had been arranged for. It was also announced that a complete set of lantern slides of the stamps of Great Britain had been prepared, and the Committee were willing to lend these to any literary, scientific, or philatelic society at a nominal charge of 5s. the set of about sixty slides. The Society's badge is in the course of manufacture and it had been hoped that they would have been ready for distribution at the meeting. By the time these lines appear in print they will be ready, and the Secretary will forward one to any member on receipt of 3d. The badge can also be supplied in silver or gold to order.

The Secretary acknowledged the receipt of a donation of one guinea towards the Exhibition Fund from the Manchester Philatelic Society, accompanied by the following letter:—

"Dear Sir,—I am instructed to forward to you cheque value one guinea as a donation from this Society towards the funds of your recent Exhibition.

"We have watched for some time with great interest the good work which your Society has been doing amongst young philatelists, and hope that you will accept this small contribution as a slight mark of our appreciation.

"Yours faithfully,

"G. FRED. H. GIBSON."

A vote of thanks was accorded by acclamation to the Manchester Philatelic Society for their kind letter.

Donations to the Permanent Collection were acknowledged from Mr. G. A. Foster and Mr. H. Clark, and to the Forgery Collection from Miss A. Cassells and Mr. Basil Reed.

It was announced that an auction sale of members' duplicates would take place at 7 o'clock sharp at the next meeting of the Society on April 15th. Lots to be included must be sent to the Secretary not later than Wednesday, April 12th.

Another large number of applications for membership came up next. They numbered seventy-four in all and included five life members. The names of the new members are as follows:—M. H. Horsley, J.P., West Hartlepool; W. Jaggard, Liverpool; O. K. Trenchman, West Hartlepool; Lieut.-Col. Adamson, Ireland; the Rev. F. A. Minty, M.A., Ashbourne (life members); J. W. Chapman, Sheffield; L. Magnee, Highbury; the Rev. E. F. M. Vokes, Ryde; L. G. Browne, London; J. W. Heath, A. E. Heath, Salop; C. T. Gwynne, Malvern; G. C. Storry, Hull; C. W. Perryman, Farnborough; S. F. Bickers, Cork; G. Dietrich, Liverpool; W. T. Wilson, Birmingham; C. J. Preater, Bath; A. J. Murnaghan, Liverpool; W. C. Taylor, Liverpool; G. E. Sayce, Widnes; W. S. Webb, Halesworth; J. G. Cuthbertson, Liverpool; V. P. Kitchen, Watford; H. Wade, Leeds; Miss F. E. Smith, Bedford; J. B. Vickerman, Huddersfield; W. Brown, Salisbury; Horace Heywood, Manchester; L. W. Taylor, Rochdale; C. F. Lepard, Stratford; A. P. Phillips, Hornsey; R. van Lessen, Clapton; S. Chapman, London; Mrs. Hitchings, Plymouth; J. Winch, Colchester; Thomas Underwood, London; C. S. Warbrick, Clapham; F. W. Abbott, Balham; R. Hollick, Birmingham; T. G. Parrott, Aylesbury. F. W. Richter, Clapton; F. R. Smith, Wimbledon; W. Josling, London; Miss L. M. Chatfield, London; A. F. Knowles, Hampstead; Mrs. Scott, Egham; J. A. Husselbee, Rotherham; J. B. Neyroud, London; C. D. Botwright, Bungay; C. W. L. Wright, Bromley; J. E. Leech, London; B. Samson, Birmingham; F. W. Carling, Hackney; E. C. T. Finch, Exeter; C. H. Coote, Manchester; Arthur Jones, Manchester; J. S. Gee, Manchester; R. B. Martin, Stockport; A. F. Cobb, Brighton; H. L. Martyn, Thornton Heath; A. W. Brown, Warrington; H. B. Green, Hounslow; C. Whitfield King, C. Whitfield King, jun., Ipswich; J. Alford, London; A. R. Rendle, Fulham; W. H. Eastwood, Crouch End; M. Blake, London; J. T. Skinner, London; A. C. Mullen, Kilburn; Miss Phyllis Stromgoist, Slough; A. Voye, Croydon; T. G. Arnold, Woolwich.

A very fine display of the stamps of Siam, accompanied by a lucid explanation of the numerous varieties, was given by Mr. B. W. H. Poole, Vice-President of the Society. On the motion of Mr. Melville, seconded by Mr. Feeney, a hearty vote of thanks was accorded to Mr. Poole for his superb display.

Mr. E. A. Smart next displayed some interesting "Picturesque Postage Stamps," with some jocular and amusing notes, for which Mr. Fisse proposed a vote of thanks which was passed with enthusiasm.

A pleasant little interlude followed Mr. Smart's display, for that gentleman in an elegant and highly complimentary speech announced that the members of the Society had decided to recognise the labours of the President, Mr. F. J. Melville, and the Secretary, Mr. H. F. Johnson, in connection with the recent Exhibition at Exeter Hall by a handsome presentation to each. He thereupon handed Mr. Melville a handsome nest containing silver cigar and cigarette cases and matchbox. To Mr. Johnson he handed a very fine case of pipes. Both of these gentlemen were taken by surprise, and Mr. Melville, who spoke with deep feeling and emotion, thanked the members for their handsome gift, and Mr. Johnson also replied to the kind remarks by Mr. Smart.

Mr. Heginbottom's collections of Trinidad, Tobago, St. Lucia, and St. Christopher were next displayed. They included fine used copies of all varieties and were much admired. In proposing a vote of thanks to Mr. Heginbottom, Mr. Melville drew attention to the fact that twenty-nine of the new members proposed at this meeting were introduced by Mr. Heginbottom, who had worked hard in the interests of the Society. The vote was seconded by Mr. R. Halliday and carried by acclamation.

The next meeting of the Society will be held on April 15th. The programme is as follows:—

7.0 Auction Sale.
8.20 Display: Later Issues of Mexico, by Rudolf Frentzel.
9.0 Paper: "How does Philately constitute a Science?" by W. G. Inkpin.

Public School Stamp Exchange Club

THE first three packets of this Club have been returned. They contained:—

		Sales.
Feb., 10 sheets .	£8 17 4 net	£2 6 3½
March, 12 sheets	20 17 1½ ,,	1 17 7
April, 16 sheets .	31 16 5½ ,,	19 5½

The next packet will start in May. The Secretary thanks those who have supported her, and hopes for better results from school clubs and hon. members next term. Rules supplied by Secretary, Mrs. Rowsell, 11, Alexandra Road, Bedford.

THE STAMP MARKET

By AN ODD LOT

The New "Gibbons"

I THINK most collectors will agree with me that the new *Gibbons* is a splendid improvement upon all former editions. Its clear, sharp, full-size illustrations, its excellently arranged lists, its superior paper, its beautiful printing, all make it a pleasure to the stamp collector who consults it. We may well be proud of a hobby that can boast of such a price list of our treasures.

Cyprus

I HAD been working from the advanced sheets when I set out the prices of Cyprus, and had not seen the revised prices which were subsequently issued with the bound volume, so that I have now to hark back a little. I append the old prices and the revised.

		s. d.	Revised. s. d.
½	pias., green and carmine	0 3	
30	paras, mauve and green	0 2	
1	pias., carmine and ultramarine	0 4	
2	,, blue and marone	0 6	
4	,, sage-green and marone	0 8	1 0
6	,, sepia and green	2 6	4 0
9	,, brown and carmine	12 6	20 0
12	,, red-brown and black	2 6	
18	,, black and brown	12 6	16 0
45	,, brown and ultramarine	15 0	20 0

Natal

IN the 1874–8 CC series the 3d., ultramarine, which has been a somewhat scarce stamp for some years, and which was raised in the last Catalogue from 5s. to 6s., has now been further advanced to 10s. The 4d., brown, perf. 12½, unused, remains unpriced, and used is continued at 10s.

In the 1882–5 CA series the 3d., ultramarine, like its companion of the CC set, has been raised in price from 7s. 6d. to 10s.

The provisional 2½d. on 4d. of 1891, error TWOPENGE, unpriced in the last Catalogue, is now priced 30s.; and the error HALFPENN, unpriced in the last Catalogue, is now priced 120s. The double surcharge of the same provisional is priced 150s.

New Zealand

IN the Waterlow prints of the current picture series the 5d., sepia, which is a distinct colour from the ordinary 5d., chocolate-brown, of the same series, is an improving stamp. In the new Catalogue, unused, it is raised from 12s. to 15s.

The 4d. of 1902, perf. 11, a scarce stamp, has been raised in price, unused, from 2s. to 4s.

Newfoundland

THE general issues of this colony, with their richly varied issues and colours, have been improved in price. Many of the stamps have had a rise for the first time for several years. Here are the prices of the rouletted series of 1876-9 from 1896 to 1905:—

	1896 s. d.	1897 s. d.	1899 s. d.	1900 s. d.	1902 s. d.	1903 s. d.	1904 s. d.	1905 s. d.
1 c.	6 0	7 6	6 6	7 6	7 6	7 6	7 6	10 0
2 c.	3 0	3 0	2 6	3 0	3 0	3 0	3 0	4 0
3 c.	7 6	7 6	6 0	7 6	12 0	12 0	10 0	10 0
5 c.	5 0	5 0	5 0	5 0	7 6	7 6	6 0	7 6

In the 1880 series the 3 cents, sky-blue, has been a steadily improving stamp from 1896. It started at 8d. in 1896, and has gone on without a single set-back, and is raised from 3s. to 5s. in the new Catalogue. Its companion, the 5 c., sky-blue, has been raised from 1s. to 3s. 6d.

The 3 cents, deep blue, of 1890–7, perf. 12, has gone up from 2s. 6d. to 10s.

Type III. of the provisional 1 c. on 3 c. of 1897, unused, has been dropped from 75s. to 60s.

Niger Coast

THE Oil Rivers issue of 1892, 1s., unused, has been advanced from 7s. 6d. to 12s., but used it has been dropped from 10s. to 7s. 6d.

The first issue of the Niger Coast Protectorate shows many changes in both unused and used, as will be seen from the following table:—

	1904		1905.	
	Unused. s. d.	*Used.* s. d.	*Unused.* s. d.	*Used.* s. d.
½d., vermilion	1 6	1 6	2 0	2 0
1d., dull blue	1 6	1 6	2 0	2 0
1d., bright blue	0 9	1 0	1 6	1 6
2d., green	15 0	12 0	7 6	8 6
2½d., carmine-lake	1 6	2 0	1 6	2 0
5d., lilac	2 6	6 0	7 6	7 6
1s., black	12 0	7 6	7 6	7 6

Northern Nigeria

THE higher values of the scarce Queen's Head series left unpriced in the last Catalogue have now been priced, the 6d. at 2s. 6d., 1s. at 10s., 2s. 6d. at 25s., and the 10s. at 50s. These prices cannot be considered high, for the 10s. has fetched £3 and over at several auctions.

ANSWERS TO CORRESPONDENTS

No. 2 "Gibbons Stamp Weekly."—We have made special inquiries at our publishers', and find that No. 2 *G. S. W.* is hopelessly out of print, and that no returns of unsold copies have come in from newsagents to help late customers. Of some of the other numbers which have also run out of print they have had a few returns, and we understand that they (Sir Isaac Pitman and Sons, 1, Amen Corner, London, E.C.) can supply a few copies of all numbers except No. 2. Early application must be made direct to Sir Isaac Pitman and Sons, or through a newsagent, who should be asked to read this intimation.

Now as to No. 2. What can we do to help the sorrowing? There must be hundreds of our readers out of those who bought the 5,000 sold of that number who do not intend to bind their numbers into volumes, and we would suggest that those who do not intend to bind their *G. S. W.* should sell their copies of No. 2 to those who are anxious to complete their sets for binding. We cannot spare any time for correspondence on this subject—indeed it is not editorial business at all—but we want to help those who send us such heart-rending appeals for copies. What we suggest is this. Let those who have copies of No. 2, and are willing to sell them, send us their names and addresses, with the price they will sell at. We hear that copies have been selling at from 6d. to 2s. 6d. We will publish this list, and those who want No. 2 can communicate direct with the persons offering copies for sale. No offers of any number but No. 2 will be included in our list.

"Cancelled" Remainders.—After the presentation to the readers of *G. S. W.* of remainder copies of a Mauritius stamp overprinted "Cancelled" we got many righteous protests against the iniquity of pretending that such stamps were entitled to be classed as remainders. Some, especially one lady to whom we replied, as "B. D., Boitsford," could scarcely restrain their indignation within the bounds of common courtesy and politeness. It was rather a poser when we informed them that "cancelled" remainders were to be found in some of the finest collections. We are now enabled to give the prices paid at a public auction sale for some of this "atrocious stuff." The following stamps were sold by Messrs. Puttick and Simpson at their auction rooms on March 21st and 22nd, 1905:—

Officially "Cancelled."	£	s.	d.
Ceylon, 1855–9. 10d., vermilion .	0	12	0
,, ,, 2s., blue . .	0	14	0
Newfoundland, 1860. 4d., orange .	2	6	0
,, ,, 1s. ,, .	8	10	0
South Australia, 1855. 1s., violet .	4	10	0

Just fancy paying £8 10s. for such a fraud as an officially "cancelled" remainder!

C. C. (Southampton).—*Duty plate* and *Key plate.* These terms, as applied to the printing of our current English bicoloured series, refer to the two plates required for the double process of printing the stamps in two colours. The plate used for printing the part on which is the value is known as the "duty plate," and that plate which prints the other portion is termed the "key plate."

M. A. C. (Burnley).—"Well centred" means that the stamp has even margins all round between the perforation and the design. The watermark CC stands for Crown Colonies, and CA for Crown Agents. Crown Colonies are those governed from home. Crown Agents are agents of self-governing Colonies. Hence the distinction, but a general watermark of CA is now displacing the old CC. There has been no return from CA to CC that we know of. Of recent years the CC watermark has been confined to high-value stamps in large size, and even these are now being printed on CA (multiple) paper.

D. M. S. (Camberwell).—The old envelope stamp surrounded with the name of the firm using the envelope is of no special value. Many firms in the old days had their names engraved around the envelope stamp.

C. W. (Rochdale).—See preceding announcement about back numbers, and look out for list. When you want back numbers of *G. S. W.* you must pitch into the publishers. The editor has nothing to do with the sales.

J. A. (Woodstock, Cape Colony).—At present little notice is taken of the variation in the placing of the word "Penny" under the word "Halve" in the Orange Free State stamps. It varies a great deal all over the sheet.

L. B. T. (Hastings).—No special value attaches to the Servian death-mask stamps. They are common and plentiful, and it is strongly suspected that the death-mask business was only a dodge for working off a profitable number of this special issue.

Tyro (Hyde).—There is no catalogue value for proofs. They are curios of which the buyer and seller must settle the price for themselves. Some are scarce, some are fairly plentiful, but unless you are specialising in a country you should not trouble about proofs.

W. H. G. (Chislehurst).—It is not the 2½d. with the letters FL in the corners, but with LH—FL instead of LH—HL, that are rare.

N. McG. (Dunkeld).—You will find the history of the Mulready envelopes in No. 2 *G. S. W.*, p. 22.

OUR PHILATELIC DIARY

APRIL, 1905

27. Auction: Ventom, Bull, and Cooper, Loudoun Hotel, Surrey Street, Strand, London. 5 p.m.
28. Auction: Ventom, Bull, and Cooper, Loudoun Hotel, Surrey Street, Strand, London. 5 p.m.
Philatelic Society of London: Paper by R. Ehrenbach, at 4, Southampton Row, London. 7.45 p.m.

Editorial Address—EDWARD J. NANKIVELL, Carnanton, Camden Park, Tunbridge Wells.

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22 April, 1905.

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No. 17 | 29 APRIL, 1905 | Vol. I.

STAMPS OF GREAT BRITAIN

NOTES ON THE POSTAL ISSUES OF THE UNITED KINGDOM DURING THE PRESENT REIGN

A PAPER READ AT A MEETING OF THE PHILATELIC SOCIETY, LONDON HELD ON THE 4TH MARCH, 1904

By the President, H.R.H. THE PRINCE OF WALES, K.G., Etc.

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(*Continued from page 247.*)

THE whole of the contemplated changes in the postal issues of the Mother Country, consequent on the accession to the throne of King Edward VII., having been completed, the present would seem to be a convenient time to put together what is known of the history of the stamps issued by the home authorities during the present reign.

As usual, the press was well in advance of the times, and as early as the month of February, 1901, there were many rumours and surmises as to the "inevitable change." At the same time, that the authorities were not slow in dealing with the subject is evident from a reply to questions asked in the House of Commons by Mr. Henniker Heaton on the 11th March. The Secretary to the Treasury then stated that the necessary steps were being taken for the issue of new postage stamps, but it was not expected that they would be ready for some months to come. The nature of the other questions asked may be gathered from the replies, in which it was stated that, except in the case of the ½d., 1d., and 1s. stamps, all adhesives then in use bore figures clearly indicating their value, and that the same plan would probably be continued; that the three stamps named were of so distinctive a character that it was not thought necessary to show their value in figures as well as words; that it was considered undesirable that the new designs of the proposed stamps should be submitted to the public before adoption; and that there was no sufficient reason for altering the colour of the 1d. stamp from mauve to red.

From the last answer it would appear that the obligations of this country to the Postal Union had been overlooked. The colour of the ½d. stamp had already been changed to green, in conformity with the arrangements come to at the Berne Convention; and the alteration in the 1d. stamp, although not definitely decided upon, had already been so far considered, that in 1900 an essay had been prepared, in which the stamp was printed in its ordinary colour, but upon red paper.

The first public sign of impending changes was a notice in the *London Gazette* for the 19th April, 1901, by which, for the first time in the postal history of the country, certain stamps were demonetised. It was intended to leave available only the dies of current stamps; viz. the 1d. of December, 1881; the 5s., 10s., and £1 of April, 1884; the £5 of March, 1882; the 10d. of 1890; and the other

values comprised in the "Jubilee" issue of 1887. It was no doubt by an oversight that the dies of the 8d. and 2s. values were omitted, so that these stamps still remain available for postage, although philatelists would probably hesitate to pass through the post their unused copies of the brown 2s. !

Meanwhile the authorities had been busily occupied with the question of the new stamps. The Government contractors prepared and submitted four designs for the 1d. stamp, with three-quarter face and quarter-face portraits of the King looking to right, and the same with the portraits reversed; and in addition two designs for a set of the "unified" stamps, from ½d. to 1s., with similar portraits looking to right. The portraits were taken from photographs purchased by the contractors, and the heads were drawn upon a lithographic stone, and the necessary essays printed by lithography.

In Messrs. De La Rue and Co.'s designs no change was contemplated in the frames of the stamps, and the essays submitted consist, in each case, of the current stamps with the lithographed portrait of the King substituted for that of the late Queen.

Specimens of all of these essays (none of which were approved) will be found with the stamps shown in illustration of these notes, and whatever our views may be as to the current issue, I think all will agree that the adoption of the contractors' designs would not have been an improvement.

On the 24th May an answer to a further question in the House of Commons gave the public some insight into what was being done. The Secretary to the Treasury was asked whether the designs for the new postage stamps had been entrusted to an Austrian sculptor, and if so, whether this was due to the fact that there was no British artist competent for the work. Mr. Austen Chamberlain replied that it was the case that the portrait of His Majesty the King, which had been used in the preparation of the designs to appear on the new postage stamps, was by a foreign artist, there being in existence an excellent profile portrait only executed last year by an Austrian sculptor, resident in London, but that it was not to be inferred that no British artist was considered competent for the work.

On the 7th June a further question was asked, inquiring whether the advice of the President of the Royal Academy or other distinguished artist had been taken in regard to the designs for the new stamps. In reply it was stated that the officer responsible for the new stamps was the Postmaster-General, who consulted the views of the King as to the portrait to be used; that His Majesty chose one executed in the previous year by a gentleman long resident in London, whose work enjoyed a high reputation in this country; and that as the portrait was considered to be specially well adapted for the purpose, it had not appeared necessary to invite designs from other artists, or to seek further advice.

The artist to whom reference is made is Herr Emil Füchs, who, for the purposes of the new stamps, prepared an original drawing, for which the King was pleased to grant a sitting.

By the courtesy of the Board of Inland Revenue I am able to produce the original sketch for inspection by members attending this meeting.

It was determined to adopt a new design for the frame of the ½d., 1d., 2½d., and 6d. stamps, and, in the case of the bicoloured series, to utilise the dies and plates of the Queen Victoria stamps for the second colours, so that new dies would only be required for the parts printed in the same colours as that of the portrait. The design for the new frame and border was prepared by Messrs. De La Rue and Co., under Herr Füchs' instructions, from a sketch furnished by him.

From the original sketch a photograph was taken. The design for the border was also photographed, and the two prints so obtained were placed together, and a fresh photographic impression taken of the whole. This was submitted to the King, and was approved by His Majesty, the original, with the written approval, being now in my collection, and shown amongst the stamps exhibited this evening.

Temporary copper plates were then engraved to indicate the effect that would be obtained. From these plates proofs were taken for approval, and amongst the stamps shown to-night will be found three of the proofs referred to. In the first the centre has been filled in with a photograph of the head, which will show

more clearly the portrait as prepared by the artist. In the other proofs the head is engraved, and although in this operation some of the delicacy of the original work has been lost, the general effect has been retained, and the portrait is satisfactory and pleasing. The third proof only differs from the second in the posing of the head, and is the one approved by Herr Füchs on behalf of the King, subject to a slight reduction in the width of the wreath, a suggestion made, I believe, by the Queen.

The preparation of the dies was then proceeded with, and proofs are shown from the preliminary head dies in the sizes requisite for the various adhesive stamps. In the engraving of the dies the character and expression of the portrait has undergone considerable change, and the result is by no means so satisfactory, in general effect, as in the case of the temporary plates. The new working dies for the several values were then put in hand, and I am able to show proofs from all the dies so prepared.

The first stamp to be completed was the ½d., which was registered at Somerset House on the 26th September, 1901, the date of registration of the 1d. being the 16th of the following month. For the last-named value it was necessary to consider the question of colour, and essays were accordingly prepared, consisting of impressions in mauve on white paper, two shades of mauve on red paper, and seven distinct tints of pink, lake, or red, on white paper, from which the choice was made.

Of these essays I am able to show all except the one actually chosen, but the copies of the issued stamps, which are on the same page with the essays, were taken from the first deliveries at Somerset House, and form therefore a correct standard of the colour adopted.

It was at first in contemplation to issue some of the new stamps on the King's birthday, the 9th November, 1901, but it was found impracticable to have the supplies ready in time, and the first issue was accordingly postponed to the commencement of the new year.

The 2½d. and 6d. values were both registered on the 3rd December, 1901. The sheet of the first-named, registered at this date, is in mauve upon blue paper, and a few thousand sheets were printed in this colour, and were delivered at Somerset House. These, however, were never issued, as it was decided to adopt a blue stamp upon white paper. Nine essays were accordingly prepared in varying shades of blue, and the stamp, in the chosen colour, was re-registered on the 17th December.

All being now in readiness for the issue of the four first values, a Notice was published by the General Post Office on the 17th December, announcing that on and after the ensuing 1st January the four new stamps would be on sale at the various post offices in the United Kingdom, and that new stamps of other denominations, also bearing the King's portrait, would be issued afterwards.

In the Post Office Circular of the same date postmasters were informed that during the last three or four days of the month the controllers of stamps in London, Edinburgh, and Dublin would be in a position to supply the new ½d., 1d., 2½d., and 6d. stamps. They were directed to apply in the usual manner, but upon separate requisition forms, headed "New Stamps," for a stock not exceeding a fortnight's supply, but that no stamp of the new issue might be sold before the 1st January, and counter clerks were urged to endeavour to get rid of their old stock by selling it to purchasers who did not specially ask for the new stamps. Attention was also called to the necessity for avoiding mistakes, in consequence of the colour of the new 6d. stamp being similar to that of the then current 1d. stamp.

The public notice referred to was distributed, with the circular, for exhibition in all post offices, and both the circular and the notice contained a list of all the adhesive stamps bearing the portrait of the late Queen, which (with the stamps embossed or printed on envelopes, wrappers, post cards, and letter cards) would be still available. The notice concludes, "No other stamps are valid in payment of postage"; but, as we have seen, this is not accurate, as the 8d. and 2s. values had not been demonetised by the order of the Commissioners of Inland Revenue issued in April, 1901.

(To be continued.)

FIRST STEPS IN PHILATELY

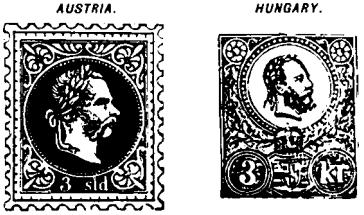
By Rev. T. C. WALTON, M.A.

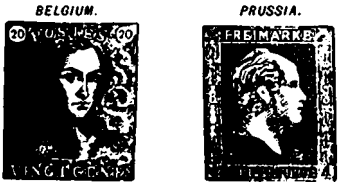
(*Continued from page 248.*)

14. Stamps without a Name

A FIGURE or bust of reigning monarch or illustrious personage, or an allegorical picture, gives us the best means of distinguishing a stamp at first sight. All stamps, as we have already remarked, do not have the name of the country to which they belong. No English postage stamps have been so designated. Our colonies, however, have the name either in the frame or as a headline over the central portion of the design.

A few illustrations of the stamps which do not have the name of the country to which they belong may be of service.





The above are examples of stamps which preserve the picture of the ruling prince. In some cases "pretenders" have issued postage stamps bearing their effigies, as, for example, the Carlist stamps of Spain or the Maximilian series of Mexico. Members of the Royal Family other than the King or Queen are found depicted on the stamps of some countries. The princes and princesses of the kingdom of Hawaii (Sandwich Islands) are of this number. The Newfoundland series of 1897–1901 printed by the American Bank Note Company, New York, is known to all. It is on stamps of the United States of America that we find the portraits of Washington, Franklin, Jefferson, Lincoln, and other chief citizens, Presidents of the Republic. Other examples are seen in the issues of the Argentine Republic, Hayti, Honduras, Costa Rica, Guatemala, Venezuela, Sarawak, Mexico.

A source of much trouble to the beginner are those stamps on which the word "Correos" appears.

"Correos" is the Spanish equivalent for "Post Office." The Portuguese form of the word is "Correio," or "Correios."

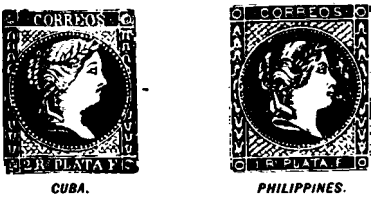
The first business of the beginner in dealing with a stamp on which the word "Correos" occurs is to make certain that the name of the country is absent.

The following illustrations will help to distinguish between some of the stamps. In other cases the reader is referred to the Catalogue or to Major Evans' *Glossary*.

(1) With the word "*real*" and Arms in the centre of the stamp. CORREOS appears on the first issues of the Dominican Republic.



(2) CORREOS with Rs PLATA F. appears on Cuban and Philippine Islands stamps.



These must be distinguished from Spanish stamps of similar design on

which the words CUARTOS, REALES, are printed.



SPAIN.

(3) CORREOS with value and date appears on the "1864" issue of Spain, while different stamps of the same series did duty for Spain and Cuba in 1866. Only one value of these latter was common to both countries, but the stamps differed in that the Cuban 20 centimos was green and imperf., while the Spanish 20 centimos was lilac and perf.

(To be continued.)

STAMP COLLECTING AS A PASTIME

By EDWARD J. NANKIVELL

(Continued from page 249.)

XIV. What to Collect and how to Collect—*cont.*

AFTER some experience as a general collector, preferences will gradually materialise, and the utter hopelessness of making a thorough collection of the postal issues of the world will be apparent. At this stage the collector generally sells the bulk of his collection, reserving only a few countries to be followed up in future on specialist lines. The remedy and the change are drastic, and, like most drastic remedies, are much too sweeping. Wiser and keener philatelists nowadays retain their general collections, so far as they have gone with them, and upon their basis give play to their specialist inclinations. That is to say, they single out a country, and work at that exclusively on specialist lines; and when they tire of that country, or exhaust it so far as their means allow, they have in their general collection the nucleus of another country with which to build up another specialist collection. On this plan a collector can always be working in sympathy and on the lines of the fashionable country of the day. He can take up and open out whatever country happens to be the vogue. In this way a neglected country every now and again comes to the front, and the nucleus of that country which may be found in the general collection may suddenly acquire an interest and a value never dreamt of. A recent case in point is that of the Orange Free State. Its stamps went a-begging for purchasers. Then trouble, and unrest, and war brought them into notice, and now the almost worthless have become valuable, and the pence have run into shillings, and the shillings into pounds.

For many persons, however, limitations and exclusions are necessary from the start. In their case a choice must be made, and the safest choice will be that of the British Colonies, or, if a still more restricted line must be drawn, one of the Continental groups of Colonies. A glance at a priced catalogue will be the best guide for selection. If it must be an economical selection, the catalogue will speak for itself. There is abundant choice in every direction. There are colonies with few and simple and inexpensive issues, and there are others that require ample means and patient research. But the cheapest countries, from an expenditure point of view, are foreign countries — such as Sweden, Norway, Denmark, German Empire, Italy, Chili, China, and so on.

XV. Great Collections

Great collections of postage stamps, like great collections of pictures, in these days acquire an international rank and reputation. The great stamp collections of to-day are in a few hands, and have been built up by lavish wealth and lavish industry. Wealth alone will not suffice to gather together a really great philatelic collection. There must be patient research, and there can be no research apart

from that full knowledge which comes only to the industrious and painstaking philatelist. The gem that is wanted to complete the finest page in the rich man's collection has not unfrequently to be personally sought for in the by-ways, the alleys, and lanes of stamp collecting; and despite the keenest search of the wealthy, it sometimes, after all, falls by grim mischance into the laboriously gathered collection of the man of very limited means.

The Prince of Wales is known to be an enthusiastic and keen stamp collector. He is the acting President of the Philatelic Society of London. During his recent tour round the world he displayed his great interest in the postal issues of the colonies which he visited, and brought home much valuable philatelic information and a number of proofs of sheets of old colonial stamps which will help to clear up many doubtful points. H.R.H. collects only the stamps of Great Britain and her colonies, and he possesses many specimens that are absolutely unique.

The collection which was made by the late Mr. T. K. Tapling, M.P., is now in the keeping of the British Museum, having been bequeathed to the nation by its possessor, who was one of the most cultured and shrewdest collectors of his day. His collection was his life-work—from boyhood till his early death in 1891. It was largely made up of the amalgamation of great collections. In his day Tapling had the first pick in every direction, and, as a result, his collection is to-day one of the grandest and richest and most scientific general collections extant. Great rarities may be said to be conspicuous by their prominence and by their matchless condition.

(*To be continued.*)

COLOURS IN PHILATELY

By the late GORDON SMITH, M.A.

THERE is perhaps no greater difficulty encountered by the authors of philatelic literature in writing descriptions of stamps and postal matter than that of correctly and intelligibly describing colours. Design, watermark, perforation, all these may be accurately described by means of measurement, and the minutest differences of the cleverest imitations distinguished from their genuine prototypes by the simple use of known standards of length. No such unerring standard has been, or in fact can be, applied to the countless gradations of colours.

In the first place, while it is true that the normal optical focus of every individual is almost as variable a quantity as the facial appearance, it is also, we believe, scientifically correct to say that the effect of the same coloured object presents to the colour sense of different individuals as many different sensations and impressions. This quality, however, is no insuperable bar to the *naming* of colours, as each person will associate a certain name with a certain impression felt only by himself and impossible to compare with that of his neighbour. The real difficulty is the converse of this, not to name a colour, but to recognise or rather identify a colour by its name.

Now let us see where we are when we put this in practice. We will not quote particular examples, the reader will have no trouble in doing that for himself. Let us take the standard catalogues of the day, and we shall find examples with the greatest ease where the colour of the *same* stamp is described as lilac, purple, mauve, grey, slate, etc., or, again, as red, lake, red-brown, brown-red, and so on. It is not exaggeration to say that in the multitude of catalogues there is chaos so far as colour is concerned. Even the works which have been published by the Philatelic Society, and which for general accuracy and scientific method rank among the classic authorities of Philately, are scarcely less open to criticism than the most hurriedly prepared catalogue.

Hitherto all attempts to grapple with the great colour question have been baffled and brought to nought. Elaborate colour charts, with carefully prepared

gradations of tint and shade, were excellent standards of reference on the day they were prepared; but what is a colour chart made a few years ago like to-day?

In the early volumes of the *Philatelic Record* will be found colour samples. Open the books now and look at the colours, and see the changes that light, moisture, and the atmosphere will produce in a *closed* book in a few years, and the metamorphosis the originals have undergone.

STAMP DREAMS

GUARANTEED GENUINE

By W. E. IMESON

I

I'VE dreamed some funny dreams—my word!
Tho' folks I'm ne'er deceiving,
The dreams that sometimes I relate
I find few folks believing.
They say, whene'er I've told my dreams,
(Which shows how strange they deemed them)
That I've not dreamed those dreams at all,
Or dreamed I dreamt I dreamed them!

II

I dreamed (dear reader, patience have—
Of that you'll need no light share!)—
I dreamed indeed a dreadful dream,
A philatelic nightmare.
My "Penny Reds" (it's their *last* "turn"!)
Were soldiers most rampageous,
Ten million "Redcoats" stormed my bed,
Their language was outrageous!

III

I can't repeat their swears (altho'
"Redcoats," you know, don't stint them),
Cornelius Wrinkle thought them "great,"
But Nankivell won't print them.
They swore they'd all desert, and I
A stroke of good luck deemed it;
The real "nightmare" was when I woke—
To find I'd only dreamed it!

IV

The fact I'm telling now sounds like
A dream the most auspicious:
Last night I found an *unused block*
Of ten P.O. Mauritius!
I flung my cash about—the while
I wondered much—like water,
Then, in the morning, wondered how
I'd pay my rent next quarter.

V

I found (this time it is a fact!)
A watermark not listed,
A *half* Crown on a Penny Black!
With benzine I persisted
In testing it—for such rare "finds"
Find one in more than toffy,
The benzine smelt too fragrant, tho',
It was—the morning coffee!

VI

Inspecting Tapling's wondrous show,
The "slides" out I kept tugging,
One slid right out, and there stood I
A "frame" of rare "gems" hugging.
"I'll take it home—well, take my word,
If this don't take the biscuit!"
The "Juniors'" President said, "Take
My word—now don't you risk it!"

VII

And then a suave official said
(Stamps make of all men brothers!):
"Don't mind him, sir, you help yourself,
But—leave some for the others!
Quite welcome, no—we give away,
For stamps must not be sold here!"
And then a woman's voice chimed in:
"Your breakfast's getting cold, dear!"

VIII

I found the verses that I wrote
Were reckoned no mere stripling's,
My style was Swinburne's, at his best,
My fees exceeded Kipling's.
One hundred guineas this short "pome"
Brought me, and I was beaming,
And then—well, then my doctor said
That I must give up—dreaming!

NEW ISSUES

The Editor will be grateful to his readers if they will help him with the earliest possible information concerning new issues. News from the Colonies in particular will be much appreciated. When possible, a specimen should accompany the information, and should be addressed to

EDWARD J. NANKIVELL, Carnanton, Camden Park, Tunbridge Wells.

Bosnia.—*Ewen's Weekly Stamp News* says that a new issue is expected here, and that the designs will be pictorial.

Falkland Islands.—We have received the 2d., 6d., and 1s. King's Heads, multiple watermark. It will be remembered that there are no King's Heads of this colony with the single CA watermark. The King's Heads were started on multiple watermark paper. The list now stands as follows:—



Wmk. Multiple CA. Perf.

½d., yellow-green.
1d., vermilion.
2d., mauve.
2½d., ultramarine.
6d., yellow.
1s., grey-brown.
3s., dull green.

Hong Kong.—We have now received the 10 cents with the multiple watermark. It is in the same colours as the single CA which it supersedes, *i.e.* blue, with purple head, on blue paper. It is, however, printed in a much deeper blue, and therefore does not look so sickly and washed out as the single CA. The list of multiples now stands as follows, confining our record this time to the actual multiples in our own collection.



1904-5.

Wmk. Multiple CA. Perf.

2 cents, green.
4 ,, purple on red paper.
5 ,, orange; centre green.
10 ,, blue; centre purple; on blue paper.
20 ,, chestnut; centre grey-black.
30 ,, black; centre green.
50 ,, magenta ,,
1 dollar, sage-green; centre mauve.
2 dollars, vermilion; centre grey-black.

Malta.—In our anxiety to straighten out the King's Head issues of this philatelically interesting little colony in the No. 12 *G.S.W.*, p. 188, we seem to have got them into a bit of a tangle, so we may as well make another start. Here, then, is a full and complete list since the introduction of the King's Heads.

King's Head.



1902-3.

Wmk. Crown CA. Perf.

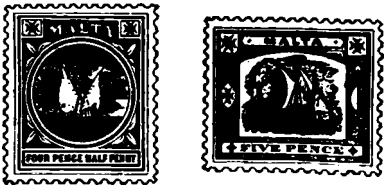
½d., green.
1d., black and carmine.
2d., mauve and green.
2½d., marone and ultramarine.
3d., grey and mauve.
4d., black and brown.
1s., grey and violet.

1904-5.

Wmk. Multiple CA. Perf.

½d., green.
2d., grey and violet.
2½d., blue; centre purple.
1s., violet; centre grey.

Feluccas.



1905.

Wmk. Multiple CA. Perf.

4½d., brown.
5d., vermilion.

Southern Nigeria.—We have received the ½d. and 2½d. values on multiple watermark paper. These make five values on the multiple paper.



Wmk. Multiple CA. Perf. 14.

½d., green.
2d., orange and brown; centre grey-black.
2½d., blue; centre black.
6d., mauve; centre grey-black.
1s., black; centre green.
£1, violet ,,

MISCELLANEOUS

Old Postage Rates

PENNY postage to Australia has within the last two days become an accomplished fact, and we are reminded by it of two things—the persevering and successful efforts of Mr. Henniker Heaton, and the great strides made in postal matters since George the Fourth was King. In 1830, the year that monarch died, just seventy-five years ago, the postage on a letter to America and the West Indies was 2s. 2d.; to Gibraltar, strangely enough, 8d. more, or 2s. 10d.; while to Malta and other important Mediterranean islands it was 3s. 2d. It even cost 1s. 2d. to send a letter to a friend in France. Mails to America only went out once a month, while they did not go to Australia at all. The world must have seemed much bigger in point of time and space then than it does now, for the mail coach from the "Swan with Two Necks," Lad-lane, took some twenty hours to get to Liverpool, and the vehicle starting from the "Bull and Mouth," in Bull and Mouth Street, over nineteen hours to reach Leeds.—*Lloyd's Weekly.*

Printings of Swiss Stamps

MR. A. BERDOZ sends us an interesting extract from No. 12 of the *Feuille Officielle Fédérale Suisse* of March 15th, 1905, from which we gather the following particulars:—

Swiss Stamps printed in 1903-4.

	1903	1904
2 c. . .	44,000,000	43,000,000
3 c. . .	800,000	400,000
5 c. . .	112,000,000	121,900,000
10 c. . .	74,000,000	82,900,000
12 c. . .	3,400,000	3,600,000
15 c. . .	5,800,000	6,000,000
20 c. . .	5,200,000	6,800,000
25 c. . .	25,200,000	28,200,000
30 c. . .	3,400,000	4,600,000
40 c. . .	5,800,000	6,200,000
50 c. . .	3,400,000	4,400,000
1 f. . .	2,800,000	3,200,000
3 f. . .	600,000	200,000
	286,400,000	311,400,000

In 1884 the number of 5 c. stamps printed was only 28,200,000, and in 1894 43,000,000, or little over a third of the present quantity. Of the various postage dues, a total of 2,600,000 was printed during 1904.

Ewen's Weekly Stamp News.

A Kangaroo Postman

IN the back blocks of Australia new arrivals are considered the legitimate butts of every joke that can be played upon them.

Recently, writes a Sydney correspondent, a coach-driver, backed up by his passengers, induced a young man newly arrived from England to believe that kangaroos were now used in that district as letter-carriers. "They meet the coach," he said, "and I give them their masters' letters, which they put in their pouches and carry home."

The "new chum" was incredulous, but just then a great kangaroo hopped on to the roadway right in front of them, and stood for a moment looking at the advancing coach. "Nothing for you to-day," shouted the driver, and the animal, turning, disappeared in the shrub from which it had come.

The young Englishman is full of wonder at the strides made in so young a nation as Australia.

St. Martin's-le-Grand.

Before the Days of Perforation

BEFORE the days of perforation, and when penny postage labels were of a bright brick-dust red, the "adhesive matter" was starch made from potatoes. It was laid pretty thickly, not merely on the stamps themselves, but on the enclosing margin. In those days, single stamps, or strips as required, had to be cut off the sheet with scissors, and you might hear a facetious "window-man" say to a fair purchaser, "Shall I trim 'em for you, miss, or would you like 'em with the fat on?"—that is the margin.

St. Martin's-le-Grand.

U.S. Gum

FOR gumming the backs of postage stamps female labour is employed at the United States Bureau of Engraving and Printing. The United States Government expends nearly £10 a day for the gum, which is prepared in 100-gallon kettles in the basement of the building. In order to meet the varying climatic conditions of the different seasons of the year, the character of the sticky substance is changed four times each twelve months, the hardest gum being used in summer and the softest in winter. The sheets of newly-printed stamps—400 stamps in each—are given a coating of gum by passing under a roller, from which oozes just the right proportion of mucilage, and then they are carried by means of an endless chain through a wooden tunnel fifty feet long, from which they emerge perfectly dry.

Glasgow Weekly Mail.

Removing Stamps from Letters in Transit

THE Postmaster-General of the United States has issued the following order:—

Numerous complaints of the removal of stamps from letters while in the United States mails having recently been received from the postal authorities of foreign governments, the attention of postmasters and all other employees of the postal service is called to section 3,922 of the Revised Statutes, which reads as follows:

Any person employed in any branch of the postal service, who shall wilfully and unlawfully remove from any mail matter any postage stamp affixed thereto in payment of the postage, shall be punishable by a fine of not more than one hundred dollars, or by imprisonment for not more than six months.

It is expected that all postmasters will recognise the importance of protecting the mails from such depredations, and they are hereby instructed to report promptly to the Chief Post Office Inspector every case of violation of the foregoing statute that comes under their observation.

The Henry Clotz Collection

THE Henry Clotz collection, which will be sold end of April, is a peculiar one in that it consists solely of stamps issued from 1890 to 1900, ten fruitful years which have been exploited to the fullest extent. The principal dealers in the world had orders to secure every stamp as issued, and they succeeded nine times out of ten. Price was no object, only two things were considered—completeness and condition. The results being an almost perfect collection of the indicated decade.—*Metropolitan Philatelist*, U.S.

GOSSIP OF THE HOUR

By CORNELIUS WRINKLE

Our Badges: the Design

I HAVE been thinking since I had those illustrations done as suggestions for the proposed badges that I had really got a most acceptable design, and that by my further proposal to have on one side the CC design and on the other the CA, we had arrived at a settlement and might seriously discuss their manufacture with our publishers. But right on top of this feeling of self-congratulation comes a cold douche which I give *in extenso.*





A Cold Douche

DEAR MR. WRINKLE,—Since reading your gossip week by week in *Gibbons Stamp Weekly* I feel as if I am writing to an old friend.

I have been a keen and constant reader of the *Weekly* since I had a copy of No. 1 sent to me, and just lately when I bought my *Weekly* the first thing I have done is to turn to your weekly gossip to see how the question of badges is getting on.

I think the badge question is a fine idea, and would greatly help collectors in distinguishing each other, and thus be the means of exchanging their duplicates and perhaps obtaining stamps that they have long wanted; but at the same time, if we are going to have a badge, I think we ought to have something worthy of our hobby and a credit to the promoters of the idea, and I must say when I opened my *Weekly* this week I was disappointed with the ugly little specimens of badges on view. I think a representation of the middle of one of our English stamps would be far more pretty. It could be made as a scarf-pin or watch-chain pendant. Take for instance the 1½d., 2d., or 5d. stamps: there you have the Crown, a watermark emblem, and the Head of our King, which appears on the postage stamps, and the CC or CA or anything else that was wanted could easily be engraved on; and what could look prettier or more appropriate? besides which the badge would be easily recognised by stamp collectors and at the same time appear only as an ordinary charm to the non-collector. Hoping you will be able to give us a better badge than the specimens shown,

I remain,
Your deeply interested reader,
P. J. BROADRIBB.

I still Vote for our CC and CA

Despite this severe criticism I still vote for our CC and CA designs, and for these reasons: They are truly and exclusively philatelic, and they will be Greek to the non-philatelist—two great points in their favour; and they are simple and yet capable of being worked up into very pretty designs, and they will be easily recognisable. Whereas the designs suggested by our friendly critic might mean anything and be taken as an ordinary bit of jewellery. It must be remembered that the illustrations are only rough suggestions, which would, of course, be immensely improved by the professional medallist to whom the work of completing and perfecting the design would have to be entrusted. As to size, I suggested a threepenny piece as an unobtrusive size, but if the size of the sixpence is preferred it can be adopted. A threepenny-piece size would perhaps be rather small.

Another New Zealand Stamp Journal

I HAVE received No. 1 of another stamp monthly for New Zealand. It is named *The Stamp Collector's Monthly Advertiser* and makes a very fair start. Its front-page title is a neat bit of work, and its contents are well put together and well displayed. As I have a soft side for New Zealand stamps, I hope the new paper will keep us well informed as to the why and wherefore of all changes sent us from its part of the world. It might begin by telling the reason for the change recently chronicled in the printing of the 5d. from red-brown to sepia.

Collecting for Profit

OUR new friend from New Zealand has in an editorial touched on the question of collecting for profit, but it has not, like some other journals I have read of late, flooded the floor with crocodile tears over the sad and sordid degradation of the whole boiling of latter-day stamp collectors. The drivel that has been written on this question is truly lamentable. But I am glad to see that our new friend has courage enough to recognise the obvious fact that it is possible to prize a stamp for its rarity and for its monetary value at the same time. The great number of philatelists who hold on to their treasures from decade to decade, when they could any day realise handsomely on them, is the answer to the poor dear Jeremiahs.

Those Panamas

ON p. 174 I commented on the amazing list of Panama varieties which was being piled up in the pages of the *American Journal of Philately.* The list has been completed—for the time being—in the February number. Here is the completed record of pages devoted to this rubbish :—

A. J. P.,	Nov.,	1904,	10 pages.
,,	Dec.,	,,	20 ,,
,,	Jan.,	1905,	16 ,,
,,	Feb.,	,,	28 ,,
			—
		Grand total,	74 pages

All but the first ten pages are devoted to Panama Republic issues, commencing with November, 1903. Multiples, New Zealands, and all but Zanzibars take a back seat after this display.

THE STAMP KING

By G. DE BEAUREGARD AND H. DE GORSSE

Translated from the French by EDITH C. PHILLIPS

CHAPTER VI (*continued*)

How Miss Betty discovers that a courteous man is not always an honourable one

NIGHT had fallen; carriages passed to and fro, and the brilliantly-lighted shop windows in the Rue de la Paix attracted her from afar. Betty gained this street, and perceiving the ostentatious display of the great jeweller, Courtalain, she entered without hesitation, and being accosted with that pompous obsequiousness of which "select" shopmen alone possess the secret, she said, blushing a little—

"Here are two diamonds that I wish to sell."

When they saw she had merely come to sell and not to buy the men drew back in affected disdain. However, one of them decided to look at the stones, and could not repress a movement of admiration at sight of the brilliants which the young American put into his hand. They were, in fact, two single diamonds of unusual size and brilliancy. Miss Betty had bought them the year before from one of the largest jewellers in New York, who, after coming into possession of the one, had had to wait several years before he could find a fellow to it. M. Courtalain himself was called, and, fixing his glasses on his nose, he studied Betty attentively from head to foot before he even looked at what she was offering.

"In the first place, who are you?"

"Miss Betty Scott, of New York," she answered almost timidly, for she was not in the habit of asking for money. Gathering courage, however, and annoyed at his impertinent air and evident suspicion, she continued somewhat drily—

"I only part with these jewels because I am the victim of a robbery, and find myself absolutely without any money. Kindly answer me one way or the other, and, if you wish to take them, tell me what you will give."

M. Courtalain studied the diamonds closely for some time, and Betty occupied herself in examining the many trinkets before her—bracelets, necklets, brooches, rings, blazing in the varied colours of amethyst, topaz, beryl, turquoise, and opal, arranged on the velvet counter like the flowers of a dream. At length M. Courtalain looked up and said, with his inquisitorial air—

"Twenty thousand."

"Twenty thousand francs!" cried Betty. "Why, I gave sixty thousand for them."

"That is your business, mademoiselle. I cannot give a halfpenny more."

But Miss Betty was very loth to part with her earrings at so absurdly low a price.

"Just see how lovely they are!" she insisted.

"Pretty fair, pretty fair," returned M. Courtalain with a preoccupied air. "Unfortunately business is bad and——" He finished the sentence by handing the diamonds back to Miss Betty as if he had given up all idea of them since she was not satisfied with his price. But she reflected that after all twenty thousand francs was better than nothing, so closed with the offer.

M. Courtalain's face brightened and he became exaggeratedly polite

"And to what address shall I send the money?" he asked.

"Why, sir, I will take it with me."

"Ah, no; I am not permitted to give it to you here."

He explained that, on account of frequent thefts, the law obliged him to pay at the residence of the former owner; it was necessary to take every precaution; in fact, he said as much as he could to make Betty feel thoroughly uncomfortable, until, in order to escape, she said she would be at home at the Hotel Bristol between two and three o'clock on the following afternoon. Once outside she drew a long breath. She would very much have liked her money at once, but the certainty of having it soon gave her a feeling of calm and security. So she returned tranquilly to the hotel, where an extraordinary and very unlooked-for surprise awaited her.

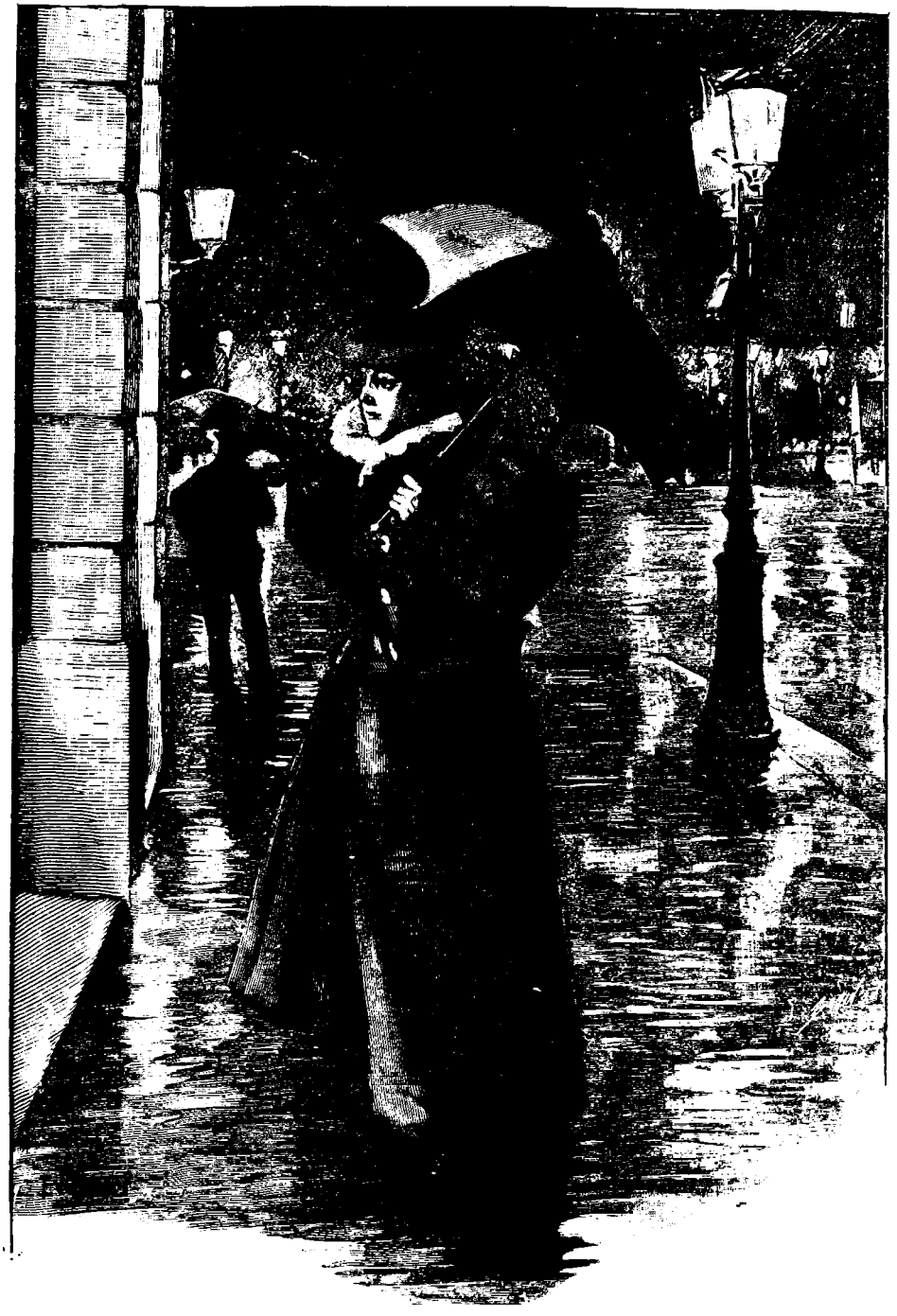
M. Pavilly, who had learned that our travellers had just arrived by the *Touraine*, was so proud of having in his house two of the passengers of the boat whose adventures were still the news of the day, that he had the restaurant, where Miss Betty was to dine, ornamented with plants of every kind and many-coloured Venetian lamps. The room thus presented a fairy-like aspect, with its varied foliage and illuminations. In one corner a little platform had been erected, on which a dozen performers in sky-blue breeches and red jackets struck up a lively tune as she entered the room, and followed it with the best pieces in their répertoire. Miss Betty, arriving in Paris for the first time, would have liked to believe that such luxuries were usual in the large hotels, but she was speedily undeceived and taught that this little fête was specially organised in her honour, for the moment she entered ladies and gentlemen rose with one accord, at a sign from M. Pavilly, and greeted her with a round of applause, which continued until, blushing and deeply moved, she took her seat at one of the tables.

"If only all these people knew," thought she, "that Miss Scott, the little New York millionaire, had not a dollar in her pocket!" And at heart she was very much annoyed to find herself the object of all this curiosity. So she finished her dinner as quickly as she could, and, after thanking the company for their kind ovation and asking M. Pavilly to bestow some of his best champagne on the performers, she hastened back to her rooms, unable, however, to escape a final and still louder burst of applause. Then she went to bed. And the fatigue of the journey, joined to the many emotions of the day, soon hushed her into the profoundest slumber.

CHAPTER VII

In which William, having taken the strings in his hand, continues to pull them

VERY early the next morning Betty awoke, and, as soon as she was dressed, started off to see M. Moulineau. The streets, brightened by the sunshine, already presented an animated appearance. It was the hour when the young workwomen come in from the populous suburbs to their shops and workrooms. On the pavement were busy streams of people coming and going. A few, as they passed, exchanged a hasty greeting, as if they were in the habit of meeting at the same point in their journey every day. Miss Betty had only to go across the Place Vendôme to reach the Rue de la Paix. At almost every step she stopped to admire the shop windows, obtaining an idea of all the treasures hidden within, and a cursory view of the latest Paris fashions, so celebrated all over the world.



BETTY PERCEIVED THE OSTENTATIOUS DISPLAY OF THE JEWELLER

She longed to go in and buy everything she saw, but recollecting that she had no money continued on her way regretfully till she came to the next window, when the same thing was repeated.

"That will do for later on," she thought, and, remembering that she was in a great hurry, she tore herself away and hastened on for a few seconds. But soon she lingered again, unconsciously, so great is the fascination of those wonderful windows of the French capital to provincials and foreigners who come to Paris for the first time. In this way Miss Betty wasted half an hour before she arrived at the Place de l'Opéra, and, as she gained it, William Keniss also arrived from another direction.

The evening before the young philatelist had sent his faithful John to inquire at what hour M. Moulineau would be visible the following morning, and had learnt that, although the establishment opened at eight o'clock, M. Moulineau himself did not arrive before nine. So William, waking early, found himself on the Boulevard at eight o'clock, and whiled away the time till he could present himself at M. Moulineau's by visiting a tailor, a shirt-maker, and a boot shop in the neighbourhood to supply his wardrobe, as he had left New York without any luggage whatever. Then he turned towards the Boulevard Montmartre. Thus it happened that he reached the Place de l'Opéra at the same time as Miss Betty.

The latter had paused at the corner of the Boulevard des Capucines to admire a display of photographs, when William caught sight of her. She was so absorbed that, though he was only a few feet away from her, she never saw him. "By Jove!" thought he, "my rival has lost no time, and I have almost let myself be distanced by her. I must make haste!"

Turning, he crossed the street without being seen, and hastened along on the opposite side till he gained the Boulevard des Italiens and then the Boulevard Montmartre, which he followed till he arrived at No. 6, the address of M. Moulineau.

This house was established in Paris by M. Alfred Moulineau in 1860, and, thanks to his unceasing efforts, it soon became the most celebrated and best-known stamp business in the world. M. Moulineau was, in fact, a man of remarkable intelligence, and you could see at a glance that he was still endowed with tremendous activity, though now sixty-five years of age. His years, moreover, seemed to weigh but lightly upon him, and he carried himself as gallantly as possible, in spite of his small stature. When his height was taken at the age of twenty-one he measured scarcely five feet three, and, unhappily for him, he had grown no taller since that time. But this could only be noticed when he was standing up, for his body, being very long, gave him, when seated, a much more imposing appearance, which consoled the excellent M. Moulineau not a little.

But if he felt a grudge against providence for not allowing him a few inches more, he was proportionately grateful for the remarkable face with which he had been endowed. He possessed, in fact, a very fine head; not exactly an extraordinary one, but such that, with his beard combed fan-shape on either side of his chin, its owner thought it good enough to be printed on stamps of various colours and freely distributed.

"And who can say," he would often repeat jokingly, "that I have not the air of a President of the Republic or of an Emperor!" And, if you wished to please him, you would reply—

"I believe you, M. Moulineau, and it is not only on your stamps that you have the air of a President or an Emperor, but in reality." Upon which the good man would draw himself up to his full height and appear, indeed, just a little taller.

But however this may be, we must repeat that M. Moulineau was a man of superior intelligence and activity. His intelligence might be read in his eye, which was always on the alert. His activity was shown in the singular vivacity which would scarcely permit him a moment's repose. In fact, at whatever time you surprised him he would be found busily at work, occupied with a dozen things at once without in the least confusing them. On this particular morning M. Moulineau had just entered his study when one of his clerks handed him William's card.

"Mr. William Keniss!" cried the great stamp dealer. "Show him in; show him in immediately."

As William entered he rose from the desk at which he was seated and, with a beaming face, went to meet him.

"I have great pleasure in greeting our best customer," said he. "I am happy that your presence in Paris should have procured me the honour of this visit. Will you be good enough to take a seat?"

William sat down in the arm-chair which M. Moulineau pointed out as he took his own seat again.

"Monsieur," began the young American, "I will at once give you in detail the reason of my visit, for which my telegram from London will have prepared you. You sent me, some time ago, a very fine copy of a stamp——"

"The Brahmapootra one?"

"The very same."

"Was I wrong? Do you not like it?" asked the stamp dealer anxiously, for William's somewhat solemn entrance had caused him a little uneasiness.

"On the contrary, you did quite right. But did you not tell me there were two copies of this stamp?"

"Yes, indeed, and you may believe me it is a fact."

"I have had that confirmed in London a few days ago, by the Maharajah of Brahmapootra himself."

"What!" cried M. Moulineau in a wounded tone, "you have thought it necessary to go and confirm the truth of my assertion. Oh! Mr. Keniss, such a lack of confidence grieves me deeply, deeply."

"Be comforted," said William, laughing. "I have not doubted your good faith for a single instant. The proof of which is, that I only went to see the Maharajah to ask him if he would be good enough to let me have the second stamp of which you had told me."

"Ah, yes. I guessed something of that from your telegram."

"To find this stamp I had no intention of applying in the first place to the Maharajah, of whose address I was ignorant, but to you, my dear M. Moulineau, who had yourself told me that the Maharajah had kept it. It was consequently just and natural that I should charge you with the purchase of it. Only it happened that, in passing through London, I discovered by chance that the Maharajah had just arrived there, upon which I hastened to him at once—only to learn that he had sold to you a few days before the stamp I want, and which I have come to ask you for."

"It is——"

"Yes, yes, I know. It is the last that can be put on the market, and it is impossible for you to let me have it at the price of the other. But when I tell you I will pay double, treble—anything you ask!"

"I understand very well, but——"

"There is no but! Surely you understand me? Either one is a philatelist or one is not; and you know what a passionately devoted one I am! So since there is a stamp in the world of which there are only two copies, you know I must have them! You hear? I must! So tell me your price at once."

"My price!" cried M. Moulineau, glad to be able to get in a word. "I only wish I could fix it, but——"

"But?"

"But unfortunately I cannot."

"What!"

"The stamp was sold and sent off an hour before your telegram reached me."

"Sold!" cried William. "And to whom?"

"To a philatelist of recent date; Prince Albrandi, of Naples."

(To be continued.)

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENCE

Our Scotch Letter

EDINBURGH, *1st April*, 1905.

Philatelic Societies in Scotland

UNTIL recently the only Philatelic Society in Scotland doing more than Exchange Club work was the Scottish Philatelic, but within the last two or three months additional Societies have been formed in Aberdeen and Glasgow. So far as the parent Society is concerned, the needs of young collectors have hitherto not been catered for, and it is probably indirectly due to *Gibbons Stamp Weekly* that a movement is on foot to organise a Junior Section, where the beginners will be assisted, advised, and encouraged by more experienced collectors.

A Junior's Appeal

The following letter, which I recently received as Secretary of the Scottish Philatelic Society, is worth reproducing :—

"I write concerning the Scottish Philatelic Society, the syllabus of which you sent me. You will think it rather a farce that I am writing to you, as I am only fourteen years old (seven years old philatelically, however). It was not so much for the exchange packets as for the interesting papers which I see are given. I think it a pity that Junior Philately should be discouraged in Scotland, while in England junior philatelists have a magazine, special Society, and even exhibitions. Do you not think that I could become a member before the fixed time? If not, I am fully prepared to patiently wait the four remaining years until I am old enough to join."

The magazine alluded to is *Gibbons Stamp Weekly*, in which the writer of the letter first heard of the Scottish Society. With juniors of this kind there is great hope for the future of our hobby. The immediate outcome of this letter is the movement to form a Junior Section. I think all Senior Societies should recognise the need for *organised* efforts for the juniors, and this view is shared by the advanced collectors I have been able to consult in Edinburgh.

Fine Collections in Scotland

There are a number of very fine collections in Scotland, not well known—in fact, scarcely known at all outside of their owners' particular social circles. They are mostly on *general* lines, and any specialising seems to be of a limited kind. The recently instituted auction sales in Glasgow seem to have given a good stimulus to collecting in that city, and a well-organised Society there should rapidly come to the front. In fact, on the whole, I look forward to a notable development in the next few years.

Proposed Philatelic Exhibition in Edinburgh

Mention has been made already of a Philatelic Exhibition in Edinburgh, and it is likely that an effort will be made to have a good display at the International Exhibition proposed to be held in Edinburgh in 1907.

An auction sale (of 581 lots!) was held in Smith's Rooms, Edinburgh, on 25th March. The prices realised were very moderate and lower than usual. A collection of 2,030 varieties fetched 38s. only, and a packet of 1,000 varieties 5s. 6d. The younger collectors should find good value for their money in such lots.

A Dealer's Shop to be Opened in Edinburgh

I understand it is likely a shop will be opened in Edinburgh shortly, devoted exclusively to stamps and philatelic accessories. At present one finds books of stamps on view at one or two booksellers' only. In fact, I believe there is no "stamp" shop in Scotland at the present moment. Nothing is more likely to stimulate collecting than an attractive window display, and the experiment deserves to succeed and will merit the best support. T. A. MCINTYRE.

Our Calcutta Letter

S.S. "Persia," 5th April, 1905, off Aden.

I HAVE taken the following information from a newspaper report of a meeting of the Legislative Council held in Calcutta on the 29th March (Lord Curzon presiding), thinking it may be of interest to your readers, as it is an official foreshadowing of changes which will affect Indian Philately.

The Hon. Mr. Hewett stated that the prohibition against the use of stamps of embossed envelopes for (*sic*) (? or) newspaper wrappers or post cards in payment of postage has been removed. The concession, however, does not extend to stamps cut from registration envelopes. The ½ a. and 1 a. (nothing being said of the ¼ a.), postage stamps are to be recommended to the Secretary of State for use on all documents chargeable with an anna stamp under the Stamp Act. WILMOT CORFIELD.

PHILATELIC SOCIETIES

International Philatelic Union.

President : Judge Philbrick.
Secretary : T. H. Hinton, 26, Cromford Road, East Putney, S.W.
Meetings : Essex Hall, Essex Street, Strand, W.C. Monthly.

THE usual monthly meeting of this Society took place at Essex Hall, Essex Street, Strand, on Wednesday evening, April 12th, when there were present: Mr. H. R. Oldfield, President (in the chair), Messrs. W. Schwabacher, L. W. Fulcher, W. Schwarte, A. B. Kay, W. S. King, Philip P. Brown, P. L. Pemberton, S. C. Sidebotham, F. F. Lamb, and the Hon. Secretary. Mr. Fulcher read an interesting paper, accompanied by a display of his specialised collection of the stamps of Bosnia, which was supplemented by the President's collection of the unused stamps of this country. In proposing a hearty vote of thanks to Mr. Fulcher, which was carried unanimously, the President remarked that the stamps of this country, on which Mr. Fulcher had read such an able and interesting paper, would well repay still further study and research. The annual general meeting and election of officers and committee, on May 10th, will terminate the present season. At this meeting the President will give a display and paper on Picture Stamps, and as important business will be brought forward, it is hoped that all who can possibly do so will attend. Particulars of membership on application to the Hon. Secretary, T. H. Hinton, 26, Cromford Road, East Putney, S.W.

Scottish Philatelic Society

President: John Walker.
Secretary: R. W. Findlater, 30, Buckingham Terrace, Edinburgh.
Meetings: Edinburgh. Monthly: 8 p.m.
Annual Subscription: Ord. 5s.; Cor. 2s. 6d.

THE usual monthly meeting of this society took place at the residence of the President, Mr. John Walker, on Monday, 10th April, 1905, with a record attendance of members.

Messrs. R. Jameson Torrie, J. Mullo Weir, Alan T. Cathcart, Alex. Millar, and R. W. Findlater were unanimously elected ordinary members. A letter from Mr. Kerr was read intimating his regret at being unable to accept office as Secretary and Treasurer owing to his increased business duties.

The Secretary reported that the January exchange packet returned from circulation on 4th April, sales £22 17s. 4d. net, and that all sheets with remittances were despatched to owners within two days. The February and March packets were in circulation with good sales to date. The April packet was not sent off at the usual date, owing to the impending change of Secretary. It was ready for despatch, and would be forwarded immediately after the April meeting of the Society

On the nomination of the President, seconded by the Vice-President, Mr. R. W. Findlater, 30, Buckingham Terrace, Edinburgh, was unanimously elected Hon. Secretary and Treasurer to succeed Mr. McIntyre. Mr. Findlater expressed his willingness to accept office.

The President announced that it was his pleasant duty to present to Mr. McIntyre, on his retiral from the office of Secretary and Treasurer, several volumes of philatelic literature, including Creeke's *British Isles*, etc. These had been subscribed for by the members, who desired to give Mr. McIntyre some tangible token of their appreciation of the work he had done for the Society.

In a few well-chosen remarks the President wished him every success in his new sphere of work, both philatelically and in business. Mr. McIntyre responded, cordially thanking the members for their delightful gift. He alluded to the thorough and loyal support he had received from all the members, particularly the Executive, during his three and a half years of office. He had been anxious to make the Scottish Society more truly representative of Scottish Philately, and the fact that his efforts had met with the appreciation of the members was a sufficient reward. He was delighted to have so handsome a memento to remind him of his secretarial days.

A discussion took place as to the need for making the Library more useful. It was agreed to remit the question to Messrs. John Walker, John Humphries, and R. W. Findlater, with power to expend a sum not exceeding £3 in purchasing new volumes. The feeling of the meeting was that a catalogue of the Library should be printed for circulation amongst the members. A very pleasant social gathering followed the business meeting. A portion of the President's large collection was on view.

R. W. FINDLATER,
Hon. Secretary.

30, BUCKINGHAM TERRACE,
EDINBURGH.

THE STAMP MARKET

By AN ODD LOT

St. Helena

PASSING over the specialists' countries of Orange River Colony, Queensland, and the early issues of St. Helena, I come to the later issues of the latter colony, and note a decided advance in the 1884–95 series, unused, starting with 2d. value, as follows:—

	1904 s.	1904 d.	1905 s.	1905 d.
2d., yellow . .	0	3	0	6
2½d., ultramarine .	0	4	0	6
3d., mauve . .	0	6	1	0
4d., sepia . .	0	6	1	0
6d., grey . .	0	8	1	6
1s., yellow-green .	2	0	3	0

In the last Queen's Head issue of 1896–7, the 5d. has been raised from 7d. to 1s., and the 10d. from 1s. 1d. to 2s.

St. Vincent

As was expected, the Queen's Heads of 1899 show a general advance. Here are the prices for unused:—

	1904 s.	1904 d.	1905 s.	1905 d.
½d., lilac and green . .	0	1	0	1
1d. ,, carmine . .	0	2	0	4
2½d. ,, blue . .	0	5	0	6
3d. ,, olive . .	0	6	1	0
4d. ,, orange . .	0	8	1	0
5d. ,, black . .	0	9	1	3
6d. ,, deep brown .	1	0	1	6
1s., green and carmine .	1	9	3	0
5s. ,, blue . .	10	0	12	6

The King's Heads single CA series is still current, with the exception of the 1d. and 1s., which have been issued on multiple paper.

Sarawak

THE long rectangular first stamp with portrait of the old Rajah, Sir James Brooke, after remaining at a low price for many years, has been put up from 2s. to 4s. 6d. The lilac and green series of 1888–92, which was announced by a contemporary to have been advanced to three times face, has been practically left undisturbed, for the only price that has been altered in unused is the 3 cents, which has been raised from 2d. to 3d. In the provisionals of 1889–91, the "One Cent" on 3 c., Type 6, has been dropped from 10s. to 7s. 6d. All four values of 1897–8, unused, have been advanced as follows:—

	1904 s.	1904 d.	1905 s.	1905 d.
16 cents, green and orange .	0	8	1	0
32 ,, ,, black .	1	3	2	6
50 ,, green . . .	2	6	3	0
$1, green and black . .	5	0	6	0

The 2 c., green, of 1901, printed in error on paper watermarked with a quatrefoil instead of on unwatermarked paper, is left unpriced, and is getting decidedly scarce.

Seychelles

THIS country has of late received considerable attention from the specialist. Consequently there has been a little movement in prices, but the changes are not great. The 96 c. of the first issue, 1890, has been dropped from 17s. 6d. to 14s. In the provisionals of 1893, the 90 c. on 96 c. has been put up from 10s. to 12s. 6d. The higher values of 1897–1900, commencing

with the 36 c., have, unused, undergone considerable change, as follows:—

	1904		1905	
	s.	d.	s.	d.
36 cents, brown and carmine .	10	0	7	6
75 ,, yellow and violet .	2	6	5	0
1 r., mauve and deep red .	4	6	6	0
1 r. 50 c., grey and carmine .	3	6	6	6
2 r. 25 c., lilac and green .	5	0	10	0

In the provisionals of 1891, the 3 c. on 16 c. has been dropped from 2s. to 1s. Of the 1902 provisionals, the 2 c. on 4 c. has been raised from 1s. 6d. to 2s., and the 45 c. on 2 r. 25 c. from 1s. 6d. to 8s.

ANSWERS TO CORRESPONDENTS

W. Y. H. (Manor Park).—Certainly buy unused in preference to used if you can afford them. Unused are much more likely to rise in value than used, and they are in the issued condition of the stamp.

H. F. W. (Barnsley).—Unused stamps are cancelled to order by certain countries for sale to stamp flats; *i.e.* the unused stamps are cancelled with an obliterating stamp, by the sheet, for certain dealers for sale to softy little boys who mistake them for genuinely used stamps.

F. J. D. (Holywood).—Your Austrian with figures in uncoloured corners is one of the current series. It has been issued since the last Catalogue.

A. A. (Tottenham).—The multiple CA watermark was illustrated and described in No. 8 *G.S.W.*, p. 131. Stamps cancelled to order can generally be distinguished by the fact that the gum on the stamp is undisturbed as in an unused stamp.

O. G. (Dover).—Torn stamps are not worth buying at any price; they disfigure a page of respectable copies. The stamps of France will be written up later on—in fact, all countries in their alphabetical order.

F. T. H. (Clifton).—British Guiana Legal and Court Receipt stamps are fiscals, and should not be included in a collection of postage stamps. The one cent on 1 dollar British Guiana is worth only a few pence.

G. F. P. (Wallingford).—No special value is attached to inverted watermarks. They are common in a great number of stamps.

C. C. (Bolton).—There are a few dealers in philatelic literature to whom you might offer your volumes of the *Stamp News* and *Monthly Journal*. Try R. H. Appleby, 3, Co-operative Terrace, Sunderland; or send them to Glendining and Co., Stamp Auctioneers, 7, Argyll Street, London.

OUR PHILATELIC DIARY

MAY, 1905

2. Leeds Philatelic Society: Annual Meeting.
3. Sheffield Philatelic Society: Display: J. F. Peace, Austria, with explanatory notes.
4. North of England Philatelic Society, Newcastle: General Display, by members.
   Auction: Glendining, 7, Argyll Street, London. 4.30 p.m.
5. Auction: Glendining, 7, Argyll Street, London. 4.30 p.m.
6. Junior Philatelic Society: Sale and Exchange; Display of Rarities. 7 p.m. Display—British Colonies. Part VII. Virgin Islands, Leewards, British Honduras, and Falkland Islands. 8p.m. Paper—Stamps Worth Looking For, by A. R. Mc Callum. 8.45 p.m. Paper and Display—Cyprus, by R. W. Halliday. 9.15 p.m.
8. Auction: Hadlow, Covent Garden Hotel, London. 5 p.m.
9. Herts Philatelic Society: Annual Dinner.
   Bradford Philatelic Society: Annual Meeting.
   Auction: Puttick and Simpson, 47, Leicester Square, London. 4.30 p.m.
10. International Philatelic Union: Annual General Meeting, Essex Hall, Essex Street, London, W.C. 8 p.m.
    Auction: Puttick and Simpson, 47, Leicester Square, London. 4.30 p.m.
11. Auction: Ventom, Bull, and Cooper, Loudoun Hotel, Surrey Street, Strand, London. 5 p.m.
12. Philatelic Society of London: E. D. Bacon, Paper on the Stamps of the Pacific Steam Navigation Company, 4, Southampton Row, London, W.C. 7.45 p.m.
12. Auction: Ventom, Bull, and Cooper, Loudoun Hotel, Surrey Street, Strand, London. 5 p.m.
16. Auction: Plumridge, 64, Chancery Lane, London. 4.45 p.m.
    Herts Philatelic Society: Annual Meeting, Anderton's Hotel, Fleet Street, London, E.C.
17. Enterprise Philatelic Society, London: General Sale and Exchange. Annual General Meeting.
    Sheffield Philatelic Society: Sale and Exchange of Stamps.
    Auction: Plumridge, 64, Chancery Lane, London. 4.45 p.m.
18. Auction: Glendining, 7, Argyll Street, London. 4.30 p.m.
19. Auction: Glendining, 7, Argyll Street, London. 4.30 p.m.
22. Auction: Hadlow, Covent Garden Hotel, London. 5 p.m.
23. Auction: Puttick and Simpson, 47, Leicester Square, London. 4.30 p.m.
24. Auction: Puttick and Simpson, 47, Leicester Square, London. 4.30 p.m.
25. Auction: Ventom, Bull, and Cooper, Loudoun Hotel, Surrey Street, Strand, London. 5 p.m.
26. Auction: Ventom, Bull, and Cooper, Loudoun Hotel, Surrey Street, Strand, London. 5 p.m.
    Philatelic Society of London: Annual General Meeting, 4, Southampton Row, London, W.C. 7.45 p.m.
30. Auction: Plumridge, 64, Chancery Lane, London. 4.45 p.m.
31. Auction: Plumridge, 64, Chancery Lane, London. 4.45 p.m.

Editorial Address—EDWARD J. NANKIVELL, Carnanton, Camden Park, Tunbridge Wells.

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EDITED BY EDWARD J. NANKIVELL

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STAMPS OF GREAT BRITAIN

NOTES ON THE POSTAL ISSUES OF THE UNITED KINGDOM DURING THE PRESENT REIGN

A PAPER READ AT A MEETING OF THE PHILATELIC SOCIETY, LONDON HELD ON THE 4TH MARCH, 1904

By the President, H.R.H. THE PRINCE OF WALES, K.G., Etc.

Reprinted from the *London Philatelist* by the special and gracious permission of His Royal Highness

(*Continued from page 263.*)

THE remaining values of the new series appeared from time to time during 1902, the last of the general issue of adhesive postage stamps to be prepared being the 10d., registered on the 28th June and issued on the 3rd July, 1902. The stock of this value was delivered before the stamp had been registered, as also was the case with the 5d., while the 4d. had actually been in use for a few days before it was registered at Somerset House.

In the case of the four highest values, the stamps were prepared and delivered some months before their issue, which was no doubt delayed, pending the exhaustion of the stock of the old stamps of the same denominations. Thus the 2s. 6d., registered 27th December, 1901; the 5s., registered 13th February, 1902; and the 10s., registered on the 25th of the same month (all of which were delivered shortly after the dates of registration), were not issued until the 5th April, 1902; while the issue of the £1, registered and delivered on the 5th March, 1902, was deferred until the 16th June.

There does not appear to be anything special to record in regard to the issued stamps, beyond the fact that it was apparently found that the new working die for the 10d. stamp would not fit the old second-colour plate, so that a new second-colour die had to be prepared.

Before leaving the general issue, attention may be called to the fact that it was originally intended to include all the values in use at the commencement of the reign, except the 4½d., which was no longer required. A die was accordingly prepared early in 1902 for the £5 stamp, but before any progress was made in the preparation of a printing plate it was decided by the Post Office to discontinue the use of this value. A proof from this die will be found amongst the stamps shown.

In October, 1902, at the request of the King, who, it was understood, was of opinion at the time that the designs of the Transvaal stamps were to be preferred to that of the ½d., 1d., 2½d., and 6d. stamps of this country, an essay was prepared, with a view to a change in these values. A small, temporary engraved plate was made and employed, in conjunction with the head die of the Transvaal stamp, and from this impres-

sions were printed in various colours, the 1d. duty alone being used to save time. The idea of change was afterwards abandoned or postponed, chiefly, it is understood, on the score of expense. The stamps shown include proofs, in black, from the plate referred to, and also the various essays of colour.

The special issue for use in British post offices in the Levant has been continued with the new series, by overprinting the 2½d., 5d., 10d., and 2s. 6d. values with the respective Turkish values of 40 and 80 paras, and 4 and 12 piastres. The last of these was not received from the printers until the 29th August, 1903.

The present reign has seen some extension of the employment of "Official" stamps by various departments of State, the additions being in issues for the "Admiralty," the "Board of Education," and the "Royal Household." The number of values used varies considerably in the different departments, and in the case of the "Royal Household" is confined to the ½d. and 1d. alone.

In some instances the departments had need of a supply of values which had not, at the time, been issued in the new designs, and it was consequently necessary to use stamps bearing the portrait of the late Queen.

In this way the 6d. (Queen's Head) was overprinted ARMY OFFICIAL in November, 1901; the 5d. and 1s., BOARD OF EDUCATION, February, 1902; the 6d. and 1s., I.R. OFFICIAL, in June and November, 1901; and the ½d. (green), 5d., and 10d., O.W. OFFICIAL, in November, 1901, and April and May, 1902, respectively, and these must, of course, be included in the issues of the present reign.

In some cases the number of Queen Victoria stamps so employed was very small. Of the 1s. I.R. OFFICIAL only 2,400 were ordered, and of the 10d. O.W. OFFICIAL only 800 were printed. In the overprinting of the 5d. and 1s. stamps for the Board of Education, owing to a misunderstanding as to the quantity ordered, 60,000 at 5d. and 30,000 at 1s. were prepared and supplied to the department, but of these 55,200 at 5d. and 28,000 at 1s. were returned for destruction, leaving for use 4,800 of the former, and 2,000 of the latter, these being the numbers actually required. It will be seen from these details, which are taken from the latest official information, that the figures given in the Supplement to *British Isles* will require a slight alteration.

Some friendly critic will perhaps ask why no mention has been made of two other Queen's Head stamps, viz. the ½d. (green) overprinted I.R. OFFICIAL, and the 1s. (bicolour) GOVT. PARCELS. It has been conjectured in the Supplement to *British Isles* that these stamps were only issued in April, 1901, because their appearance had not been noticed at an earlier date. The overprinting warrant for the ½d. Inland Revenue is dated the 16th June, 1900, and the stamps were delivered on the 17th July. The requisition for the stamps would only be made because the stock required replenishing, and it is very unlikely that a supply would have been asked for nine months before it was actually required, especially in the case of a value so largely employed. No account is kept of the actual date when the new stamps were first used, but the authorities have no doubt that it would be very shortly after they were supplied, and it would seem safer to fix the date of issue of Official stamps as on or about the date when they are delivered to the departments.

The same remarks apply to the 1s. GOVT. PARCELS, which was prepared in pursuance of an overprinting warrant dated 13th October, 1900, the stamps being delivered on the 14th November, and taken into stock immediately afterwards.

Amongst the King's Head stamps overprinted I.R. OFFICIAL, and listed in one of the latest catalogues, the 6d. is included; but, as a matter of fact, up to the present time this value has not been so overt printed. The catalogue in question is dated 1904, and the stamp may have been included in anticipation of what might happen during this year, but the correction now made may save trouble to collectors, who naturally try to obtain copies of stamps which are chronicled as having been issued.

A note in the *London Philatelist* for February states that the 2½d. value of this series is supposed to have been issued in May, 1903, but I have a copy with dated postmark of April, 1902.

The first plate used for the ADMIRALTY OFFICIAL overprint became defective, and it was consequently necessary to make a

second plate, which differs somewhat from the first in the type employed. The new plate has been used for the six values employed in the department, the ½d. rate being first delivered in May, and the remainder in September, 1903.

The only addition during the present reign to the Army Telegraph stamps, as provided by the home authorities, is the ½d., green (Queen's Head), first supplied in August, 1901. None of the current issues have been overprinted ARMY TELEGRAPHS, as these stamps have now been abolished.

The whole of the adhesive stamps have now been dealt with, and there remain for consideration only the stamps embossed or printed on envelopes, wrappers, post cards, letter cards, and telegraph forms. For these, new dies were of course necessary, and pending their preparation, the change of colour of the ½d. stamps on envelopes, cards, and wrappers, so as to conform to the change previously made in the adhesive stamps of the same value, was gradually effected. Proofs of the various new dies and copies of everything supplied by the Post Office are included in the collection shown, but, beyond appending a list of the several varieties obtainable, it does not appear necessary to make any special comment upon them.

It may, however, be mentioned that the 3d. wrapper chronicled in an American philatelic journal is not known to the authorities, although it is possible that paper of a similar material to that of newspaper wrappers may have been embossed to order in the ordinary way with a 3d. stamp. The use of the 2½d. envelopes, sizes "L" and "M," has been discontinued. It was found that there was insufficient demand for these during the last reign, and they will not be issued with the King's portrait. It is true that in the *Postal Guide* these envelopes are still in the list of stationery on sale at the post offices, and collectors have therefore assumed that they would be impressed with the new dies. An inquiry at any post office will, however, show that the above information is correct, and that the two envelopes in question can only be supplied with the Queen's Head stamps, these being still on sale until the stock is exhausted.*

The collection put together for inspection this evening is designed to illustrate the history of the stamps under consideration. It is therefore not encumbered with blocks or shades of the issued stamps. All that is shown of these is one pair of each, taken from the first sheets delivered at Somerset House, and intended to serve as standards of the original colours, with which comparison may be made in the acquisition of variations of tint and shade in subsequent printings.

In the appended lists no description of the stamps is attempted, but particulars are given of the dates of the registration, first deliveries, and issue of the adhesives for public use. In the case of the Official stamps, the dates of first delivery and approximate dates of issue are given, with the addition of some further details as to the overprinting warrants for and the numbers printed of some of the Queen's Head stamps, issued pending the preparation of the new designs.

The particulars of the post cards, newspaper wrappers, and embossed envelopes and dies, comprise the dates of registration and first deliveries, with some information of the number of dies in use.

* Since the above was written these envelopes have been called in.

(To be continued.)

FIRST STEPS IN PHILATELY

By Rev. T. C. WALTON, M.A.

(*Continued from page 265.*)

Stamps without a Name

IN addition to the stamps of our own country, the only examples that occur to me of Colonial stamps without a name which depict the figure of our late beloved Queen Victoria are the 2d. issues of 1852 and 1854 of Victoria. The present catalogue prices, used, vary from 2s. to 6s., according to the colour. The following illustration will easily enable the beginner to identify the series.

VICTORIA.



It is a matter for regret that many foreign countries have issued stamps without names. We have already noted several of these. It may be of service if I attempt to complete the list of these under the various headings noted on page 248.

First we come to the 1894 issue of Abyssinia. The values from ¼ to 2 guerche bear the bust of King Menelik II., as in the subjoined illustration.

ABYSSINIA.



Next in alphabetical order comes Austria. A change in the currency in 1858 caused a corresponding change to be made in the postage stamps. The former design, which consisted of the Arms of Austria on a shield (and of which we will speak later), was discarded for a design showing the embossed head of the Emperor Francis Joseph to the left on a solid ground of colour, within a rectangular frame, differing in each value. Examples of these are seen in the following :—

AUSTRIA.



A series which may puzzle the novice is the 1865 issue of Belgium. The design consists of the profile of King Leopold I. The framework and the ornamental filling-in differ in the various values. The two annexed illustrations will be sufficient to identify the series.

BELGIUM.



The 1900 series of the German Empire is known to all. The pfennig values have the bust of Germania to the left. REICHSPOST, which signifies "Imperial Post," is inscribed in the space below the central figure.

GERMANY.



In 1815 William Frederick, Prince of Orange, assumed the title of "King of

the Netherlands." The kingdom included Holland, Belgium, and the Grand Duchy of Luxemburg. Belgium revolted, and became a separate kingdom. The Grand Duchy passed to a prince of another reigning house, and the kingdom of the Netherlands dwindled to Holland and her Colonies. The title remained unchanged, and the stamps continue to be inscribed NEDERLAND.

The first issue of postage stamps in 1852 depicted the head of King William III. to the right. Along the top was POST ZEGEL, which means "Post Stamp," and the bottom angles contained the value.

HOLLAND.





(To be continued.)

THE HANDSOMEST AND THE UGLIEST STAMPS OF THE BRITISH EMPIRE

By E. W. WETHERELL

WE stamp collectors gradually lose to some extent the artistic taste, although we may gain knowledge from our albums in a thousand and one other ways. We get what may be called a false infatuation. For instance, what collector worthy of the name does not prefer a Registration stamp of Victoria or New South Wales (which are extremely ugly from an artistic point of view) to the beautiful engravings of North Borneo? Yet "Registered" Victorians are, like Katisha in the *Mikado*, an acquired taste, and in time we come to see beauty where beauty is not (which, by-the-by, accounts for some people getting married).

I think the majority of collectors would give the palm for artistic merit to the half-crown stamp of the Falkland Islands, and if they will utilise a page of their blank albums to mount thereon this gem of stamps, and beside it place the 2 anna stamp of Kishengarh (1899), they will see "where East meets West" of Kipling, the "Dan to Beersheba" of the Jews of old, and the "Beauty and the Beast" of fairyland.

If the page should look too thin, they might add that other beauty, the 5s. of St. Vincent, and the Kishengarh gentleman might be paired off with the ½d. Queensland, so that he shouldn't feel "lonesomelike."

Now, Mr. Editor, it isn't quite Christmas-time (98° in my tent), but here is a suggestion for a prize competition. "Name the twelve most beautiful stamps and the twelve most hideous nightmares of the British Empire." Mark the answers on the totalisative system, and give the pair (Falkland and Kishengarh) as the prize. And perhaps your publishers would like to present me with a few hundred pairs (I am not of a grasping nature, and would accept two hundred, and if the Kishengarhs ran out I would take Falklands instead to oblige) as a merely nominal remuneration for this splendid idea.

P.S.—This was written while a dragon-fly sought oblivion from earthly sorrows in the lamp, a centipede strode over my foot, and a speckled cockroach, of a chatty disposition, tried to scrape acquaintance. Such are the joys of camp life in the Tropics.

STAMP COLLECTING AS A PASTIME

By EDWARD J. NANKIVELL

(*Continued from page 266.*)

XV. Great Collections—*continued*

BUT the greatest collection of all is that of M. Philipp la Renotiérè, of Paris, known to most collectors as Herr von Ferrary. In the course of the last thirty years he has purchased many well-known old collections, amongst which may be mentioned that of Judge Philbrick for £7,000, Sir Daniel Cooper's for £3,000, W. B. Thornhill's Australians, etc. M. la Renotiérè has been a large buyer in the leading capitals of Europe for a great many years. His expenditure with our own publishers is said to average from £3,000 to £4,000 a year. He employs two secretaries who are paid large salaries, one to look after the postage stamps and the other the post cards, envelopes, and wrappers.

Mr. F. Breitfuss, of St. Petersburg, who has been collecting since 1860, is credited with the third finest collection in the world. He is an omnivorous, but scientific general collector.

Mr. H. J. Duveen, the well-known art connoisseur of London and New York, although he did not take to stamp collecting till 1892, has already got together the finest collection, outside the British Museum, in this country. It is celebrated not only for the beauty of its specimens, but also for its completeness, neatness, and scientific arrangement. The value of the collection is probably close on £80,000. It is enclosed in seventy handsome Oriel albums.

Mr. W. B. Avery, head of the well-known firm of scale-makers of Birmingham, has one of the finest general collections. It is justly celebrated for the large number of great rarities that it contains, amongst which are the two rare "Post Office" Mauritius in superb unused condition. The collection cannot be worth at present far short of £50,000.

Mr. M. P. Castle, the Vice-President of the Philatelic Society of London, who succeeded the late Mr. Tapling in office, is one of the keenest of keen collectors. His general collection became so large that he parted with it in 1877, and then specialised in Australians. This latter collection he sold, in 1894, to our publishers for £10,000, at that time the largest sum ever paid for a single collection. He subsequently made a grand specialised collection of Europeans. This, arranged in sixty-seven volumes, he sold, in 1900, for nearly £30,000, and he has now returned to his love for Australians.

The Earl of Crawford and Balcarres is a collector of only recent date, but he has already formed a really magnificent collection based on broad historical lines. He confines himself mostly to the stamps of the British Empire, the United States, and the Italian States. His lordship is a member of the Council of the Philatelic Society of London, and, when in England, a regular attendant at its meetings.

The Earl of Kintore is also the possessor of a very fine collection of English Colonials, etc.; among his greater rarities being the "Post Office" Mauritius, the complete set of Hawaiian Islands (first issue), the 2 cents, rose, British Guiana, and many other gems. He also is a member of the London Philatelic Society.

In France the place of honour, after M. la Renotiérè, is deservedly taken by M. Paul Mirabaud, the well-known banker of Paris, whose magnificent collection of Switzerland was shown in the last Paris Exhibition. It forms, however, only a small portion of his fine collection.

In Italy probably the most famous collection is that of Prince Doria Pamphilj, which is exceptionally rich in the interesting issues of the Italian States.

In the United States of America there are many notable collections, several of them being worth from £30,000 to £50,000, amongst which may be mentioned the Crockers', of San Francisco, Mr. F. W. Ayer's, of Bangor, Maine, and Mr. Paul's, of Philadelphia.

In Germany the greatest collection is doubtless that of Mr. Martin Schrœder, the well-known merchant of Leipzig.

(*Concluded.*)

PORTRAITS ON STAMPS

By MARK W. HALL

Bolivia (*continued*)

Ballivian, José, a Bolivian soldier and statesman, was born at La Paz in 1804 and died at Rio de Janeiro in 1852. In 1841 he led the army which defended Bolivia against the invasion of Gamarra, gaining the battle of Yngavi, in which Gamarra was killed. Soon after he was elected President of Bolivia, holding the office until the end of 1847, when he was deposed by the revolutionist Belzu, and exiled.



Ballivian, José.

His portrait appears on the 20 c. of 1897 and on the 1 c. of 1901.

Campero, Narciso. Born at Tojo in 1815. He was a soldier and a statesman. In 1872 he was Minister of War for a short time. When the war with Chili broke out in 1879 he raised an army in Southern Bolivia, but was unable to reach Tarapaca before the Chilians conquered that province of Peru. After the fall of Daza he was elected President of Bolivia (April 9th, 1880) and took command of the allied Bolivian and Peruvian armies at Tacna, Peru, and was defeated at the battle of Tacna (1880). His term ended August, 1884. He introduced the Law of Constitution of October 28th, 1880, under which Bolivia is now administered. By its provisions the executive power is vested in a President, elected for a term of four years by direct popular vote, and not eligible for re-election when that term expires, with the legislative authority in the hands of a Congress of two Chambers—the Senate and a Chamber of Deputies.



Campero, Narciso.

General Campero's portrait appears on the 5 c. of 1901-3.

Camacho, Colonel. The biographers have little to say about Camacho, but we learn from Mr. C. Akers' *History of South America* that he had charge of the Bolivian forces under General Campero in the war with Chili. In the battle of Tacna he commanded the left wing of the allied forces, and for a time beat back the Chilian attack, but was eventually routed by the superior artillery of his foes. The action was stubbornly contested on both sides, the casualties amounting to one quarter of the combatants in an action of only four hours' duration.



Camacho, Colonel.

His portrait appears on the 2 c. of 1901-3.

Monteagudo, Bernardo, South American statesman, born in Tucuman in 1778. He studied in the University of Cordoba, and, after being graduated as Doctor in Law, at Chuquisaca, Peru, where he was admitted to the Bar in 1808. He was one of the principal promoters of the first declaration of independence in South America, 25th May, 1809, and was arrested by Spanish authorities and sent to Buenos Ayres. There he published the *Martir ó Libre*, a newspaper, and prepared the way for the revolution of May, 1810. In 1811 he was one of the editors of the *Gaceta* and of *El Independiente* and *El Grito del Sur*, and he was one of the principal instigators of the movement that overthrew the governing junta of Buenos Ayres in 1812. In 1813 he was a member of the constituent assembly, where he recommended many useful reforms. From 1815 till 1817 he travelled in Europe, but in the latter year he accompanied San Martin as secretary in the campaign of Chili. He introduced many improvements, and inspired the decree of 10th January, which established the Sociedad Patriótica de Lima. He was assassinated in one of the principal streets of Lima in 1825 by a negro.



Monteagudo, Bernardo.

His portrait appears on the 10 c., violet, 1897-8.

NEW ISSUES

The Editor will be grateful to his readers if they will help him with the earliest possible information concerning new issues. News from the Colonies in particular will be much appreciated. When possible, a specimen should accompany the information, and should be addressed to

EDWARD J. NANKIVELL, Carnanton, Camden Park, Tunbridge Wells.

Ceylon.—The 2 r. 25 c. has to be added to the multiple C A series, which now stands as follows:—

Wmk. multiple CA. Perf.

2 c., orange-brown.
3 c., green.
4 c., orange; value carmine.
5 c., purple.
6 c., carmine.
12 c., sage-green; value rosine.
15 c., ultramarine.
25 c., light brown.
1 r. 50 c., grey.
2 r. 25 c., brown and green.

Philippines.—According to the *Metropolitan Philatelist*, U.S., "no agreement between the officials of the Bureau of Engraving and Printing and the Insular Department of the War Department has yet been reached regarding the new design for the 4 centavo value of the new Philippine series of stamps. The Bureau is still awaiting the decision of the Insular Bureau."

Siam.—We are indebted to a reader for the following cuttings from the *Bangkok Times*. The first cutting is dated 28th February, 1905. The second is, we presume, of a subsequent date.

"Neither 1 att nor 2 att stamps were to be had at Post Office No. 2 in Bangkok to-day. A few 1 att stamps were obtained by sending to the head office in the city, but practically the stock of both is finished, and we are unable to learn that there is any immediate prospect of a new supply arriving. And this in the reformed Postal Service! We said on a previous occasion that the Post Office has no friends, and in fact its friends seem to be as much to seek among the members of the Government as in the general community. The principle adopted in last year's reforms was to give the department the power to do the postal and telegraphic business of the country, and place on it at the same time the responsibility for the work being properly done. The results were excellent, we believe, so far as the principle was carried. But in the matter of stamps, curiously enough, the Post Office does not have the power, and therefore presumably will not accept responsibility. So far as we understand the position, it is the Treasury which orders new stamps from Europe; it is the Treasury which undertakes their safe-keeping and distribution. Anyhow, we trust that this time somebody will be found to be responsible for a state of things that is far from creditable to the country. Presumably stamps will have to be surcharged again—at one time Siam is said to have had about twenty-five different surcharges—but the sooner this anomaly is reformed the better."

"We understand the new supply of postage stamps has been shipped and should be in Bangkok by the end of the month. For present needs other stamps have been surcharged 1 and 2 atts. It is to be hoped, however, that the present experience will check the tendency of other departments to do the work of the Post and Telegraph Department."

Turks and Caicos Islands.—The first stamp of this colony to make its appearance on the multiple paper is the 1d. value just to hand.



Wmk. Multiple C A. Perf. 14.

1d., carmine.

Victoria.—The colour of the current 2d. has been changed from mauve to a rich deep violet. We are indebted to Mr. F. H. Laycock for a copy. The 2d. value has for some years given more colour-changes than any other stamp of the colony, probably due to the fact that, being the inland postal rate, it calls for more frequent printings. The colour is also a very difficult one to manipulate in the endeavour to preserve a level of colour-consistency over several printings.



Colour changed.

Wmk. V and Crown. Perf.

2d., deep violet.

MISCELLANEOUS

Heligoland Reprints

FOR many years collectors have felt safe in buying unused Heligoland stamps of 10, 20, 25, 50 pfennig, and 1 and 5 marks from any source, good or bad, in the assurance that these values exist only as originals. This, unfortunately, is no longer the case, for the Imperial Printing Office at Berlin has been using the plates in its possession for reprinting. Not, of course, that there is anything necessarily wrong in making a reimpression, if it is hedged round with proper restrictions; but here there seems to have been no precaution taken against the improper circulation of the reprints, which have been sold right and left, to the detriment of philatelists and the grave discredit of the German authorities. Mr. Fraenkel tells me that they were at first offered as unknown original varieties at enormous prices.

The discovery is due to a well-known German collector, Mr. Adolf Rosenberg, who communicated the information to the Frankfurt Society, and to whom the following particulars are due. In an article by him, published in the *Deutsche Briefmarken-Zeitung* (vol. xvi. p. 113), will be found a full description of these reprints, together with photographic illustrations of sheets of the 5+1 mark and 20 pfennig stamps.

The sheets are of the following sizes:—

5, 10, 25, 50 pf.	.	Sheets of 50 each.
20 pf.	.	Sheet of 40, in 4 strips of 10.
1 and 5 marks	.	Printed together in a complete sheet of 5 rows of 10 stamps. The left half is made up of 25 5 mark stamps, and the right half of 25 1 mark.

Part of the inscription REICHSDRUCKEREI in blue appears on the margin of each sheet, and Mr. Rosenberg informs me that this appears only in the 10 and 20 pf. originals, and never in the case of originals of 5, 25, 50 pf., and 1 and 5 marks.

The paper and gum of the reprints are quite white, whereas in the originals the paper varies from grey-white in the "pfennig" values to yellowish grey in the 5 marks. A similar difference of tint is apparent in the gum.

In England the originals are described as perf. $13\frac{1}{2} \times 14\frac{1}{2}$. Mr. Rosenberg, following the German catalogues, gives it as 14. Both are approximate gauges only, but whatever we call the perforation of the originals, the reprints differ, and according to Mr. Rosenberg are perf. $13\frac{1}{2}$ all round.

The 10 pf. is most like the first printing of the originals, but the shades differ distinctly.





The 20 pf. has the red differing from all original printings. It is a decided carmine, most resembling the tint of the third printing, but still quite different.

The colours of the 25 and 50 pf. are incorrectly imitated. The green of the originals is dull, that of the reprints brighter and somewhat paler.

The 1 mark is most like the third printing of the originals, but the green is paler than in any original edition.





The 5 marks is pale brick-red, dull green, and brownish yellow in the originals. The reprints are bright red, pale green, and straw.

I am sorry to say that this official manipulation does not begin and end with the Heligoland plates. There is grave reason to believe that reprints of German Empire stamps and adhesives have been made and circulated lately in the same underhanded way, and I also hear rumours of scarce German Levant P.O. and Marschall Island surcharges having been reprinted.

B. T. K. SMITH, in the *Monthly Circular.*

The Risks of Collecting

THERE are, frequently, complaints about letters being taken from letter boxes in the morning, and lately complaints have been specially numerous.

The police accordingly kept a special look-out for the possible offenders. About seven o'clock the other morning two officers observed a lad walking along George Street examining two envelopes, and on searching him they discovered in his possession a large number of envelopes and wrappers addressed to local firms, also the counterfoil of a cheque-book. They therefore thought they were justified in taking him to the Central Police Office, where he was locked up. The lad is deaf and dumb, and a man was got who is accustomed to speak to the dumb, but the boy does not understand the ordinary mode of conversing by signs. This caused some delay. In the meantime, the officers were sent to the addresses on the envelopes, when it was found that these had not been stolen. The letters had been opened in the ordinary course of business, and thrown out with the waste-paper, and the lad had picked them up with the view of collecting the stamps upon them. Immediately this was discovered he was liberated, which was about noon. The boy left the office, but it so happened that the prison van was standing at the entrance of the courtyard, completely blocking it up. The lad seems to have been confused, and walked into it and sat down. As the prisoners are checked at the bar and not at the door of the van, the extra prisoner was not noticed until the van reached Barlinnie, when the officer in charge found he had a prisoner for whom there was no warrant. The lad being unable to speak, the officer was only able to get an explanation after going to an adjoining telephone and communicating with the Central. Immediately thereafter the lad was liberated, and a van leaving Barlinnie at the time, he jumped on to the back and travelled as far as suited him and went home.—*Glasgow Evening Times.*

GOSSIP OF THE HOUR

By CORNELIUS WRINKLE

Our Philatelic Badges

WELL, I have had a chat with the Managing Director of Stanley Gibbons, Ltd., and I have got him to promise to put the matter of designs and badges into the most competent hands. I may go so far as to say that he had read all about the badges, and thinks the idea not at all a bad one, and believes that the young collectors will take to it; in fact, he has been bombarded (at my suggestion, you know) with post cards approving of the proposed badges. It will take a little time to prepare and approve designs and engrave the dies, but no time will now be lost in getting the badges and putting them on sale.

The Design

I have had only two letters objecting to the designs suggested. One of these I have already published; the other is from Mr. Widdowson, with a very natural preference for his own design. However, the question of design may now be left to the competent professional medallist who will be entrusted with the work. No design will please everyone. That goes without saying. But I will undertake that what is produced will serve the purpose for the present, and at least pave the way for the general use of some little ornament that may lead to many a friendly and unexpected introduction between fellow-collectors.

The Present Opportunity

There has never before been such an opportunity as is now afforded by the success of *Gibbons Stamp Weekly*, with its splendid circulation, of reaching so many collectors. The pendant will be given a good send off, and I believe that before our *G. S. W.* reaches the end of its second volume the practice of wearing the philatelic pendant will be general. I am sanguine enough to hope that even the Great Moguls will hang out our secret sign. For them, of course, it must be manufactured in purest gold. Personally, I should like to have had the pendants made only in simple bronze.

The Genesis of Speculation in Stamps

THE Jeremiahs who water this planet with their crocodile tears over the degeneration of stamp collectors in the matter of speculation will be amused to learn that I have been able to trace the genesis of speculation in postage stamps. I found it in an old philatelic magazine away back in the eighties, in a little philatelic venture called *The Philatelic Gazette*. Here it is: "Apropos of the introduction of the penny post, a story is told by a commercial traveller, who was at that time doing business in the Channel Islands. An English shilling bought thirteen Jersey pennies in exchange, so when the penny stamps came into the island they were sold for a Jersey penny. Thirteen were sold for an English shilling, and our friend was not long in finding this out. So he bought up all the stock of stamps—some four hundred pounds' worth—and resold them when he crossed the water, realising about eight per cent. on his bargain. Other commercials followed suit, and the officials at the General Post Office were astonished at the number of stamps required for insignificant little Jersey. Settling day came, and with it the explanation. The enterprise was speedily stopped."

Indian Stamps Overprinted "C. E. F."

IT may not be generally known that it was to checkmate the heathen Chinee, and protect the Indian Post Office from a similar little speculation, that the Indian stamps supplied for the use of our troops in the Pekin Legation troubles were overprinted with the initials "C. E. F.", *i.e.* China Expeditionary Force. If they had not been so overprinted the cute heathen Chinee would have started a roaring trade in the profit to be made on the margin of exchange values between China and India.

This "C. E. F." series, by the way, is a very interesting one from the historical point of view. It marks the date of the Boxer outbreak of 1900, with its murderous attack on the foreign Legations, and the entry into Pekin of a relieving force of European troops. As in the final settlement with China every single foreign power was granted the right of maintaining a permanent Legation guard, these "C. E. F." stamps may be accepted as the first issue of a permanent series of stamps.

So far they are free from varieties, for the specialist has not as yet found a single genuine variety. At present the series consists solely of Queen's Heads. Later on these will, of course, be superseded by King's Heads.

Our Ugly Penny Stamp

TURNING once more to the early eighties (1881), I find this amusing item: "Whatever our leanings as politicians may be, as philatelists we may safely comfort ourselves with the reflection that under no possible change of Government are we likely to get uglier stamps than the current one penny, and it is just barely possible that Lord John Manners' successor may have some feeling for art even as applied to so humble a vehicle for its exposition as a postage label." They little dreamt, in those days, of what could be done with a German portrait of the King, made in England.

Single C A Colonials

QUITE a little speculation is going on in single C A's, but in all probability there will be a good deal of the usual burning of fingers. The single C A's which will pay for buying up are not those which can be had in large numbers, but those which have been unexpectedly exhausted, as in the case of Lagos. So I trust my readers will be careful. The safest course is for the collector to see that all his C A series are complete, so far as he can afford to complete them, and then, when a rise comes, he will find that he has his share in it; but if he speculates, and buys up more than he needs for his collection, the probability is that he will find he has put his money on the wrong horse, as they say in sporting circles.

From a sordid, money-making point of view, straightforward collecting pays best in the long run. Select good countries and stick to them, and don't dabble with stamps you do not fully understand. The strong probability is that lots of the single C A's that are being bought to-day for a rise will last for many a long year. Fill up first those countries that, by reason of their limited populations, have no call for large supplies. These include most of our protectorates and many of our smaller colonies.

Fresh Single C A Supplies

There is, even for the most knowing speculator, not a little risk in this single C A gamble, for there is nothing to prevent any colony ordering and receiving and putting on sale a further supply of stamps on single C A paper to meet the demands with which many of the colonial postal authorities must be pestered by speculators. Our speculating friends have had one or two delightful doses, and, for my part, I am delighted when I hear that the dabbling, non-collecting outsider gets landed with a heavy loss. I have seen a few long faces pulled in my time over such disappointments, and I hope to see many more over this single C A business.

THE STAMP KING

By G. DE BEAUREGARD AND H. DE GORSSE

Translated from the French by EDITH C. PHILLIPS



"TOO LATE!" SAID THE DEALER

CHAPTER VII (*continued*)

In which William, having taken the strings in hand, continues to pull them

M. MOULINEAU then opened a drawer in his desk.

"All I can do for you, therefore, is to give you a few of these little photographs which I had taken, that I might add the Brahmapootra stamp to my catalogue."

William took them, and saw that they were veritable works of art.

"If only I could have foreseen this," he said, with evident annoyance, "I should have sent to you at once asking you to keep me the second copy. However, it is too late, so we will say no more about it. Would you mind telling me, though, the price you asked for it?".

"A hundred and fifty thousand francs."

The young man nodded and was silent for a few moments, apparently in deep reflection. Evidently he sought some means of counteracting this unexpected blow of fortune. The matter seemed rather hopeless at that moment, for Miss Betty as well as for himself.

"You will promise me one thing?" he said to M. Moulineau.

"I ask for nothing better, if it be possible. To what does it refer?"

"Give me your word of honour that you will tell no one—you quite understand—no one, that the second copy of the Brahmapootra stamp is in the possession of Prince Albrandi, at Naples."

"If that is all," said the merchant, "I can easily satisfy you. I promise, on my word of honour, that no one, absolutely no one, shall learn it from me. And now may I ask your reason for making me take such a solemn oath?"

"For the very simple reason that I count on persuading the Prince to sell me his copy, and that I have a rival, a member, like myself, of the New York Philatelic Club, who has come to France for the same purpose, and is herself prepared to buy it at any price. This rival will, no doubt, come to you this very day for news of it."

"And you wish me not to put her on the scent?"

"Certainly. Have I not your word for it?"

"Sleep in peace, dear Mr. Keniss. When the lady appears I will be most circumspect. And pray allow me to wish you good luck."

William took up his hat and prepared to depart, but M. Moulineau stopped him.

"I hope you are not going, my dear sir," said he, "without inspecting my house. You must see, if you have not already seen, what a great stamp business is like, in Paris at least; for, of course, in New York you, the Stamp King, have seen enough of them."

"I should like it of all things," said William.

"Then follow me."

CHAPTER VIII

In which William Keniss, Stamp King though he is, passes from one surprise to another

M. MOULINEAU opened one of the doors of his study and led William into the adjoining apartment. On the walls, covered with rich tapestries, were hung, as ornaments, dishes, plates, panels, pictures, composed of innumerable and many-coloured bits of stamps, arranged in patterns with infinite care. There were also, here and there, special frames, fastened with tiny padlocks, in which were exhibited under glass some of the rarest and most curious of stamps. A few of these specimens were still on the original envelopes, yellowed by age.

Large tables were arranged before the windows, at each of which a young girl was seated in conference with a customer, dotting down in a note-book the prices of the stamps which he picked out, one by one, from the pages of a large album. And what a strange collection of collectors it was!—young nobles, old maniacs, and business men. And all were absorbed in the fastidious work in which they were engaged, and in amazement at the philatelic marvels unfolded before their eyes.



ALL WERE ABSORBED

"When our customers send in an order," said M. Moulineau, "we do not take the stamps from these albums," indicating the ones whose leaves were being slowly turned by the various individuals, "but from what we call our 'small' and our 'large reserve' stock."

So saying he led William into a second room of sterner appearance. It was surrounded by huge safes, the doors of some of which stood ajar.

"This is our chief stock," said M. Moulineau. "Here we keep all the stamps which we possess in any quantity. The rarer ones, of which we have but one, two, or three copies, are in a special safe in my study. But all the others are here, arranged in order in little linen envelopes, each containing two or three hundred stamps all alike. This is our 'small reserve.'"

"What a number of these drawers you must need!" said William.

"Not as many, perhaps, as you would think, for there are some countries whose stamps are not numerous, and take up but one or two drawers, but that is only a minor detail. I must tell you, though, that I was obliged to have a hundred of these sets of drawers made, which are all in this room and the following one. They are mounted on castors, as you see, so that at night they can be easily pushed back into their respective safes, for no insurance company can be found to insure us against the risks of fire."

"I cannot help admiring the order and skill which have organised all this," said William. "But, even so, I cannot imagine how, considering the immense number of stamps that exist, you know where to find the particular ones your customers want. I know my father had a number of little ways of doing things of this sort, but I never understood them in the least."

"Oh, it is very simple. You know how we manage, as we have had dealings together for so long. All the stamps which I think worthy of being catalogued—and in this work, which has taken me long and patient years, I have not troubled much about little absurd details of paper, watermarks, shades, and I don't know what besides—all the stamps, then, that I think worth cataloguing are numbered in order in the catalogue. So when anyone sends me an order he gives this number instead of a minute description of the stamp, which would, no doubt, cause constant mistakes."

(To be continued.)

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENCE

Notes from New York

NEW YORK, *April 14th*, 1905.

Gibbons Catalogue. Part I.

ABOUT the most interesting thing that has occurred in the past fortnight has been the arrival of Part I. of the new Gibbons Catalogue. General comment on it is favourable. It seems to be agreed that the increase in size is an improvement; it is not so much as to make the book unhandy, while it allows the use of full-sized cuts, which is a satisfaction to many collectors who like to see the actual shapes and dimensions of the stamps reproduced. It certainly makes comparison easier. There are other features of the new Catalogue which are very well liked; for instance, the illustrating and describing, in the introductory pages, of the various Star, Crown CC, and Crown CA watermarks. Many collectors will be glad to find the distinguishing points of these watermarks described. Heretofore we have frequently had to turn over the pages to make certain just which watermark was being referred to; now, once the numbers ascribed to them are fixed in one's mind, all such uncertainty will be done away with.

The Scinde Stamps

Placing the Scinde stamps at the head of the stamps of India seems to me quite the proper thing. They occupy much the same position as the postmasters' stamps do in the United States, and, being the first stamps used in the country, it seems only right that they should stand first of all. The illustrations of the "fan" ornaments on the various plates of the 2d. Sydney Views are also a useful addition to the Catalogue.

Transvaals

Transvaal has been improved by rewriting, especially the printings of the stamps of the First Republic by Borrius and the Stamp Commission. Even now it cannot be called an easy country, but everything that is done to clear up the difficult early issues is a help. Of course, only the specialist can collect the Transvaal stamps thoroughly, but even those who have only a few copies like to know just what they have.

Single CA Stamps in demand

Just at present New York buyers appear to be more interested in stamps with the single Crown and CA watermark than in anything else. A general impression prevails that these stamps will be good property, that all of them are likely to advance in value in the future, and that some of them may be expected to touch surprising figures. In order that no possible chance for profit shall escape, collectors are buying the whole line. As a result, some things are already scarce, and have reached very respectable prices. The stamps most in demand are Cyprus 9, 18, and 45 piastres, and Lagos 10 shillings. A consignment of Cyprus stamps recently received by Stanley Gibbons, Inc., was sold out in a few days. The Lagos 10 shillings cannot be supplied by any dealer in New York at this writing. We are somewhat surprised to find the Northern Nigeria 10 shillings, Queen's Head, priced at only 50s. in the new Catalogue. It sells readily for 70s. to 75s. at auction here. We think there must be a mistake somewhere.

Gibbons Stamp Weekly: Back Numbers

Collectors have been delighted to learn that some copies of early numbers of the *Weekly* (excepting No. 2) have turned up and can be supplied at our New York Office. The great success of the *Weekly* has created a demand for it among collectors, and there have been many anxious inquiries from those who wished to complete their files. A few of them can now be made happy, but only a few.

Shades of Current Stamps

Collectors of shades can get a lot of satisfaction out of the current series of United States stamps. At least ten good shades of the 1 cent may be had, ranging from pale yellow-green to dark blue-green. The 4 and 10 cents are about as prolific, and all the series will reward attention. Some of these shades may prove to be scarce. One stamp, the 10 cents Special Delivery, printed in pale ultramarine, is already in demand and is held at $5 per copy. This is the only stamp of the series which is bringing more than a nominal price to-day, but we cannot say when something else will be found wanting in collections and the price set jumping. This is a good time for collectors to fill up their shades of this issue.

Don't Speculate

I am not advising collectors to speculate or to attempt to accumulate numbers of anything. I have no sympathy with speculation, and, in my experience, efforts to corner the stamp market have usually turned out badly. I can recall a number of disastrous attempts at that sort of thing, and the greatest failures were with United States stamps. Many people lost small sums by investing in our Columbian issue, and several lost heavily. One man invested $250,000 in the issue. His holdings were afterwards sacrificed at twenty to forty per cent. discount. Even to-day small lots of these stamps cannot be placed except at less than face value. Twelve years' interest at five per cent. would mean sixty per cent. loss, without compounding it. Money invested in a set of stamps of each British Colony which was current in 1893, and those issued since that date, would have earned a good interest. Moral: Don't try to corner anything; don't speculate. Buy something you can use in your collection and you have a good chance to average up well.

Precancelled U.S. Stamps

Every once in a while we read in the daily press that postage stamps are not to be used in the future because someone has invented a machine that is to automatically mark letters as being prepaid, or something of that kind. I believe some such machines are in use in various parts of the world, but only to a very limited extent. For a number of years our Post Office Department has permitted stamps to be cancelled in sheets and then used to frank circulars, etc., which were mailed in large quantities. These precancelled stamps were only used in certain cities and under certain restrictions. Now we have gone a step further and permitted the use of envelopes and wrappers bearing certain inscriptions. I have seen them with—

"Third-class matter.
2 c.
Paid in money.
Permit No. 3."

And—

"Fourth-class matter.
1 c.
Paid in money.
Permit No. 3."

The former of these imprints was in a single-lined frame and both were press-printed, not hand-stamped. I am not aware what are the conditions under which such covers are allowed to be used. It is evident that, should they be very generally employed, a large saving would result for the Post Office and a very great decrease in the use of stamps of low denominations.

JOHN N. LUFF.

PHILATELIC SOCIETIES

Junior Philatelic Society

President: Fred J. Melville.
Secretary: H. F. Johnson, 11, Trigon Road, Clapham, S.W.
Meetings: Exeter Hall, Strand, W.C.
Annual Subscription: 1s. 6d.

THE Junior Philatelic Society met in Exeter Hall, on Saturday, April 15th, 130 members and visitors being present. The business was preceded by an auction sale of members' duplicates, which was highly successful, Mr. W. A. Bois manipulating the hammer.

At 8.15 the President called the meeting to order. The following thirty-three new members were elected:—C. Stewart-Wilson, Lahore (life member); G. T. Turner, New Cross; F. G. Biggs, Charing Cross; G. W. Smith, Brighton; Chas. Mackenzie, Londonderry; F. W. Brooks, Anerley; Miss A. Green, E.C.; H. W. Harrison, N.W.; H. A. L. Hughes, Fulham; J. Miller, Islington; W. N. Morley, Catford; A. M. South, Shepherd's Bush; J. C. Sidebotham, W.C.; D. Thomson, Stoke Newington; J. Wilson, W.C.; H. E. Russell, East Greenwich; Cedric Percy, Clapham; W. V. Coventry, Bromley; Chas. Smith, N.W.; J. G. Hamling, Barnstaple; Ralph Earwaker, W. Kensington; H. D. Preston, Ilford; Ernest Gower, Willesden Green; A. W. Bates, Orpington; H. T. Fleuss, Brixton; H. H. Harland, Streatham; T. S. Gilbert, Brixton; Sydney R. Bishop, Streatham; W. W. Hughes, Bala; P. L. Pemberton, High Holborn; L. C. James, W.; L. Underwood, W.; J. F. Burton Cooper, Brixton.

In the unavoidable absence of Mr. Rudolf Frentzel, Mr. Daniel Thomson showed the meeting the fine collection of the stamps of the later issues of Mexico, for which Mr. Frentzel is famous. These were very highly appreciated, and Mr. Halliday proposed, Mr. C. J. Patman seconded, a hearty vote of thanks to both Mr. Frentzel and Mr. Thomson for their entertainment.

Mr. W. G. Inkpin then read a short and interesting paper on "How does Philately constitute a Science?" and held the close attention of his hearers, who accorded him a hearty vote of thanks, on the motion of Mr. H. F. Johnson, seconded by Mr. T. C. Cartwright.

The thanks of the meeting were expressed to Mr. Walter Morley and Messrs. Whitfield King and Co., for donations of books to the Society's library, and to Miss Augusta Cassels and Mr. G. R. Manley, for gifts to the Society's permanent collection of stamps.

The vote of the meeting was next taken as to whether the unfinished auction should now be recommenced or not, and was unanimously in favour of so doing. Mr. E. M. Gilbert-Lodge officiated. A vote of thanks was accorded to both Mr. Bois and Mr. Gilbert-Lodge for the successful conduct of the sale.

The Committee invite suggestions and offers of items for next season's programme. The Society's collection of lantern slides of the stamps of Great Britain was lent to the Glasgow Philatelic Society for their first ordinary meeting. The badges are nearly ready for distribution to members, and the Secretary will accept orders for same in white metal at the rate of 3d. each.

A Beginners' Exchange Section has been decided upon by the Committee, who hope to enable young collectors to exchange with other young collectors on systematic lines. This section will be confined to members not exceeding eighteen years of age. No money will be allowed to pass, the packet being for exchange only. Members wishing to know fuller particulars should write the Secretary, enclosing a stamped addressed envelope.

The Secretary acknowledges the receipt of an unsigned application form with postal order for 1s. 6d. (postmarked St. Albans) and will be glad if the sender will forward his address.

Herts Philatelic Society

President: H. F. Jennings-White.
Secretary: H. A. Slade, Ingleside, St. Albans.
Meetings: Third Tuesday, Anderton's Hotel, E.C.
Subscription: 5s.

THE April meeting of the above Society was held at Anderton's Hotel on the 18th, at 7 p.m. Beyond the election of Lieut.-Col. J. G. Adamson, J.P., D.C., of Glenfarne, R.S.O., co. Leitrim, and R. Nandi, Esq., LL.D., of Valetta, Malta, as ordinary members, there was no business of public interest. At 7.15 Mr. R. Ehrenbach—whom the Society was anxiously waiting to welcome—was to have given a display, with notes, of Bahamas stamps, but he was unavoidably absent on the Continent, and with his characteristic kindness Mr. R. B. Yardley gave a display, with notes, of his collection of the stamps of the Transvaal (First Republic, 1869–77). These stamps are equalled for general interest by those of few stamp-issuing countries.

Mr. J. C. Sidebotham occupied the chair, and the following twenty gentlemen were also present: Messrs. R. Frentzel, T. H. Harvey, W. Schwabacher, L. E. Bradbury, W. G. Cool, W. A. Boyes, W. T. Standon, K. Wiehen, A. H. Giles, A. W. McLean, F. J. Melville, D. Thomson, J. B. Neyroud, H. L. Hayman, A. Bagshawe, W. Morten, E. Bounds, J. Chapman, H. Wills, and H. A. Slade (Secretary). The display evoked the very greatest interest, and the superb state of absolutely every copy shown, whether "mint," unused, or used, was universally commented upon. The stamps consisted solely of the 1869–77 issues, which were divided into several groups. The stamps printed in Germany by Herr Otto came first and, in due course, stamps printed in the Transvaal on paper sent out ready gummed from Germany.

The "Borrius" issue followed, as also the Pietermaritzburg printings of Messrs. Davis and Son. The last to be seen were those issued under the Stamp Commission of Pretoria. Viljoen's amateur attempts at printing and gumming created a great deal of interest.

The interest in the collection was greatly enhanced by several forgeries and fakes and photographs of pairs of the earlier stamps in the collections of Mr. Nankivell and others. Several of Herr Otto's "afterthoughts," or stamps printed from dies he subsequently made for his own use, were also shown. Mr. Hayman proposed, and Mr. Harvey seconded, a hearty vote of thanks to Mr. Yardley for his interesting and scientific display, and also for his kindness in stepping into the breach at a moment's notice. The vote was carried with acclamation, and Mr. Yardley suitably responded.

During the evening Mr. F. J. Melville presented a copy of his catalogue of the Tapling Collection to the Society. The book is full of most useful information and some striking photographs.

The annual dinner will be held at the Café Monico on the 9th May, and the general meeting is fixed for May 16th.

The Society continues to flourish, and over thirty new members have been recently enrolled. The monthly attendances show a big advance this season, the average being nearly, if not quite, thirty each evening.

THE STAMP MARKET

By AN ODD LOT

Sierra Leone

CONTINUING my scamper through our new Gibbons, I now come to Sierra Leone. Sierra Leone is a nice little country for the specialist who does not want to waste his money riotously on a conflicting array of varieties, and the young collector may regard its later series as being all fairly within reach. Used copies, unfortunately, are not plentiful enough to rank it amongst the cheap colonies.

As there are few colonials in which values have jumped up and down to a greater extent, I will give the range of prices in detail for the leading series. Commencing with the stamps of 1872-3, Crown CC, perf. 12½, it will be noted that for the last four Catalogues, *i.e.* 1902-3-4-5, prices have been unchanged with the exception of a drop in 1903 of sixpence in the 1d.; but what is more notable is the fact that four of the seven stamps have topped the booming prices of 1897-9, and that the 2d. and 3d. bear out the belief that good stamps are a safe investment.

	1896	1897	1899	1900	1902	1903	1904	1905
	s. d.	*s. d.*	*s. d.*	*s. d.*	*s. d.*	*s. d.*	*s. d.*	*s. d.*
1d., rose-red	4 0	5 0	4 0	4 0	4 0	3 6	3 6	3 6
2d., mauve	12 6	22 6	20 0	25 0	40 0	40 0	40 0	40 0
3d., yellow	—	60 0	60 0	—	—	80 0	80 0	80 0
3d., buff	5 0	8 6	6 0	6 6	12 6	12 6	12 6	12 6
4d., blue	20 0	15 0	12 6	12 6	16 0	12 6	12 6	12 6
1s., green	20 0	30 0	22 6	22 6	30 0	30 0	35 0	35 0

The 1876-7 series also shows little change for the last three years. The usual comparison with the high prices of 1897-9 is all in favour of the series, for in every case but that of the ½d. and 4d. the prices show a substantial rise all round. The 4d., which is the rarity of the series, has been up and down a great deal. Its best price was 60s. in 1897. It now stands at 30s., with a downward tendency. Old collectors may congratulate themselves on the contrast here presented between even the booming year of 1896 and 1905. The series in 1896 would have cost £1 15s., to-day it catalogues up to £3 16s.

	1896	1897	1899	1900	1902	1903	1904	1905
	s. d.	*s. d.*	*s. d.*	*s. d.*	*s. d.*	*s. d.*	*s. d.*	*s. d.*
½d., brown	0 6	1 0	1 9	1 9	2 0	1 6	1 6	1 6
1d., rose	0 4	4 6	4 0	3 0	3 6	3 6	7 6	7 6
1½d., lilac	1 0	1 3	1 9	1 0	2 6	3 0	3 0	3 0
2d., mauve	1 6	3 0	5 0	10 0	12 6	10 0	10 0	10 0
3d., buff	1 6	2 0	2 6	2 0	2 6	2 6	2 6	2 6
4d., blue	25 0	60 0	40 0	40 0	50 0	35 0	30 0	30 0
6d., bright violet	3 0	4 0	4 0	3 6	5 0	6 0	—	15 0
1s., green	3 0	6 6	5 6	4 6	5 0	5 0	6 6	6 6

The 1884-95 series is a bit of a disappointment. Three values are lower than they were in 1897. In the new Gibbons the 4d. has been dropped from 1s. 6d. to 1s., and the 6d., brown-purple, from 7s. 6d. to 4s.

	1896	1897	1899	1900	1902	1903	1904	1905
	s. d.	*s. d.*	*s. d.*	*s. d.*	*s. d.*	*s. d.*	*s. d.*	*s. d.*
½d., dull green	0 1	0 1	0 2	0 2	0 2	0 2	0 3	0 2
1d., carmine	0 2	0 4	0 6	0 4	0 4	0 4	0 5	0 5
1½d., lilac	—	0 4	0 6	0 5	0 5	0 6	1 0	0 6
2d., grey	0 4	2 6	3 0	1 6	1 0	1 0	1 0	1 0
2½d., ultramarine	—	1 6	1 3	1 0	0 9	1 0	1 0	1 0
3d., yellow	—	1 6	1 0	1 0	0 9	0 9	0 9	0 9
4d., brown	0 6	1 0	1 3	1 3	1 0	1 3	1 6	1 0
6d., brown-purple	—	2 0	2 6	3 0	5 0	6 0	7 6	4 0
6d., brown-lake	—	0 9	2 0	1 6	1 3	1 6	2 0	2 0
1s., red-brown	1 9	3 0	3 0	2 6	4 6	4 0	6 0	6 0

In the provisionals of 1894 the inverted "Halfpenny" on 1½d., lilac, has been dropped again in price. It started in 1900 at 40s., in 1902 it was dropped to 35s., in 1903 to 20s., and now it stands at 12s. 6d. Evidently some speculator who has been holding them for a rise has been unloading. A pair in my collection bought some seven years ago cost me 10s.

The 1896-7 bicoloured series shows a steady improvement, with an indication that the 5s. will be a good stamp and the £1 a rarity some of these days.

	1897	1899	1900	1902	1903	1904	1905
	s. d.	*s. d.*	*s. d.*	*s. d.*	*s. d.*	*s. d.*	*s. d.*
½d., lilac and green	—	0 1	0 1	0 1	0 1	0 1	0 1
1d. ,, carmine	0 2	0 2	0 2	0 2	0 2	0 2	0 2
1½d. ,, black	—	0 3	0 3	0 3	0 3	0 3	0 3
2d. ,, orange	0 4	0 3	0 3	0 3	0 3	0 4	0 4
2½d. ,, ultramarine	0 4	0 4	0 4	0 4	0 4	0 5	0 5
3d. ,, slate	0 5	0 5	0 5	0 5	0 5	0 6	0 6
4d. ,, carmine	—	0 6	0 6	0 6	0 6	0 8	0 8
5d. ,, black	—	0 7	0 7	0 7	0 7	0 9	1 0
6d., lilac	—	0 8	0 8	0 8	0 8	0 10	1 3
1s., green and black	1 6	1 4	1 3	1 4	1 4	1 9	1 9
2s. ,, ultramarine	3 0	2 8	2 6	2 6	2 8	3 3	3 3
5s. ,, carmine	7 0	6 6	6 3	6 6	6 6	—	12 6
£1, lilac on red	25 0	25 0	24 0	25 0	25 0	—	50 0

ANSWERS TO CORRESPONDENTS

Offers of "G. S. W.", No. 2.—In response to our suggestion, the following offer copies of *Gibbons Stamp Weekly*, No. 2, for sale to those readers requiring that number to complete their sets. The copies offered must be complete, with gratis stamp, and unsoiled. This will prevent misunderstandings. Readers will kindly communicate direct with these advertisers, as we cannot undertake any correspondence on the matter. Offers must state if copy is complete and give price. No notice will be taken of any other offers:—

B. Cooper, Porchester Lodge, Dean Park, Bournemouth. Three copies at 9d. each.

F. G. S. Port, 29, Russell Road, Peckham, London. 2s. 6d.

J. H. Parry, St. Augustine's College, Canterbury. Two or three copies at 1s. 6d. each.

Phil. P. Jackson, 79, Hampton Road, Ilford. 2s. 6d.

B. A. Meadows, 21, North Street, Wellingborough. 1s. 6d.

R. R. Foxlee, Ranmore, Weybridge, Surrey. 2s. 3d.

Fred. Lambert, 24, Barnard Road, off Paley Road, Bradford, Yorks. 1s.

George O. Williams, Westholme, Clarkehouse Road, Sheffield. 2s.

E. A. O. Perkin, Endgate, Tiverton, Devon. 2s.

Miss C. Reed, 61, High Street, Redcar. 1s. 6d.

P. Mercer, 3, Montpelier, Edinburgh. 2s. 6d.

F. C. Stone, 2, Mariners' Place, Roseville Street, Dartmouth. 2s. 6d.

H. B. H. (Marple).—Your English 1d. blacks are all right, but poor copies. Good copies are worth about 6d. each.

B. J. (Mentone, France).—The ½ anna, red, India, is catalogued at £10; but there are proofs on watermarked paper. The genuine stamp has nine and a half arches down the side; the proofs have only eight arches.

W. W. G. (Kimbolton College).—The Post Office Jubilee envelope and card of 1890 is worth about 1s., but there is practically no demand for it.

S. A. M. (Southport).—Thanks for your cutting about the Tunis stamps. We have since heard that the issue is not likely to be ready for another year. The date on the U.S. Commemorative Advertisement Labels of the St. Louis show marks the year of the purchase of the territory indicated by the shading.

W. D. H. (Wimbledon).—Cowan paper, used in printing some of the New Zealand stamps in 1902, is described in the Catalogue as "a thin, hard paper," but this must be read as contrasting with the Waterlow paper, which is a decidedly thick paper. If you are a beginner, you had better not bother about these distinctions of paper. We have specialised in these New Zealands, and find the papers at times very difficult to distinguish, even with an abundance of sheets and blocks. Beginners pay no attention to plate numbers, but those who specialise make a variety of every plate number. No, it is not usual to include both used and unused in an ordinary collection. Used are generally taken for the sake of economy in collecting; those who can afford it give the preference to unused. The great specialists, when making a special study of a country, generally collect both unused and used. Unused are most highly valued, because they show the stamp in its original issue condition, termed, for expressive brevity sake, "mint." Used copies are useful as affording clues to the year of issue of certain shades and varieties, etc. Dated copies of early issues, for instance, are highly prized.

Mrs. S. C. (Brighton).—The English ½d. stamp has never been printed in blue. The so-called blue is a well-known changeling, which can be produced at any time by soaking the green stamp in water and drying it in the sun. The New South Wales 1d. and 2d. belong to what is termed the Centennial Series of 1888-97.

W. H. W. (Wishaw).—Many thanks for cutting, which you will see we have used.

F. G. S. P. (Peckham).—Yes, the date of 1877 for the Jubilee series of Great Britain was a slip for 1897. This, with one or two other slips, will be corrected at the end of the series of articles on Great Britain.

H. G. (Accrington).—The initials "B.R." under the bust of the King on the English penny envelope stamp which you send are a private mark of the engravers and printers, Messrs. De La Rue, and stand for "Bunhill Row." Messrs. De La Rue have two printing establishments. The envelopes printed at the Bunhill Row works bear the initials "B.R.", and are thus distinguished from work done at their other establishment, which bears no initials.

S. B. (Clapham).—Yes, the latest edition of Gibbons Imperial Album, Vol. I., includes all stamps issued during Queen Victoria's reign, *i.e.* all British and Colonial stamps. You will find full particulars of the three vols. of the Imperial Album in the advertisement pages of *G. S. W.*, No. 13.

J. D. (Cork).—English stamps used by the Field Force in South Africa may be regarded as interesting souvenirs, but no philatelic status has been accorded them.

H. V. R. (St. Lucia).—Your St. Vincents are fiscal stamps. An unused stamp without gum is worth considerably less than one with full gum, except of course in those cases in which the stamps were issued without gum.

P. M. (Edinburgh).—In the eyes of a specialist a strip of Great Britain 2d., blue (Gibbons' No. 14), would be of more value than six single copies. The actual value would depend upon condition, *i.e.* cancellation, margins, etc. If in very fine condition, the strip might be worth as much as double the single stamps.

F. H. L. (Northampton).—The copy you kindly send of the 2d. current Victoria is certainly a very much deeper shade than those hitherto received; in fact it is a change from mauve to rich deep violet, a much richer colour. The 2d. value has frequently been productive of marked contrasts of shade. In the 2d. of 1881, for instance, you get brown, chocolate-brown, and mauve; in 1885, pale mauve, purple, and violet.

OUR PHILATELIC DIARY

MAY, 1905

6. Junior Philatelic Society: Sale and Exchange; Display of Rarities. 7 p.m. Display—British Colonies. Part VII. Virgin Islands, Leewards, British Honduras, and Falkland Islands. 8 p.m. Paper—Stamps Worth Looking For, by A. R. Mc Callum. 8.45 p m. Paper and Display—Cyprus, by R. W. Halliday. 9.15 p.m.
8. Auction: Hadlow, Covent Garden Hotel, London. 5 p.m.
9. Herts Philatelic Society: Annual Dinner.
   Bradford Philatelic Society: Annual Meeting.
   Auction: Puttick and Simpson, 47, Leicester Square, London. 4.30 p.m.
10. International Philatelic Union: Annual General Meeting, Essex Hall, Essex Street, London, W.C. 8 p.m.
    Auction: Puttick and Simpson, 47, Leicester Square, London. 4.30 p.m.
11. Auction: Ventom, Bull, and Cooper, Loudoun Hotel, Surrey Street, Strand, London. 5 p.m.
12. Philatelic Society of London: E. D. Bacon, Paper on the Stamps of the Pacific Steam Navigation Company, 4, Southampton Row, London, W.C. 7.45 p m.
    Auction: Ventom, Bull, and Cooper, Loudoun Hotel, Surrey Street, Strand, London. 5 p.m.
15. Auction: Plumridge, 64, Chancery Lane, London. 4.45 p.m.
16. Herts Philatelic Society: Annual Meeting, Anderton's Hotel, Fleet Street, London, E.C.
17. Enterprise Philatelic Society, London: General Sale and Exchange. Annual General Meeting.
    Sheffield Philatelic Society: Sale and Exchange of Stamps.
    Auction: Plumridge, 64, Chancery Lane, London. 4.45 p.m.
18. Auction: Glendining, 7, Argyll Street, London. 4.30 p.m.
19. Auction: Glendining, 7, Argyll Street, London. 4.30 p.m.
22. Auction: Hadlow, Covent Garden Hotel, London. 5 p.m.
23. Auction: Puttick and Simpson, 47, Leicester Square, London. 4.30 p.m.
24. Auction: Puttick and Simpson, 47, Leicester Square, London. 4.30 p.m.
25. Auction: Ventom, Bull, and Cooper, Loudoun Hotel, Surrey Street, Strand, London. 5 p.m.
26. Auction: Ventom, Bull, and Cooper, Loudoun Hotel, Surrey Street, Strand, London. 5 p.m.
    Philatelic Society of London: Annual General Meeting, 4, Southampton Row, London, W.C. 7.45 p.m.
30. Auction: Plumridge, 64, Chancery Lane, London. 4.45 p.m.
31. Auction: Plumridge, 64, Chancery Lane, London. 4.45 p.m.

Editorial Address—EDWARD J. NANKIVELL, Carnanton, Camden Park, Tunbridge Wells.

Printed by W. BRENDON & SON, Ltd., Plymouth, for the Proprietors, STANLEY GIBBONS, Ltd., 391, Strand, London, W.C.
6 May, 1905.

Gibbons Stamp Weekly

EDITED BY EDWARD J. NANKIVELL

No. 19 | 13 MAY, 1905 | Vol. I.

STAMPS OF GREAT BRITAIN

NOTES ON THE POSTAL ISSUES OF THE UNITED KINGDOM DURING THE PRESENT REIGN

A PAPER READ AT A MEETING OF THE PHILATELIC SOCIETY, LONDON HELD ON THE 4TH MARCH, 1904

By the President, H.R.H. THE PRINCE OF WALES, K.G., Etc.

Reprinted from the *London Philatelist* by the special and gracious permission of His Royal Highness

(*Continued from page 279.*)

IT will be noticed that the ordinary 1d adhesive stamp was registered for the second time in September, 1903. The reason for this was that it is proposed to issue small books, containing twenty-four stamps of this value, to be sold at the price of 2s. ½d. Each book contains four pages of six stamps, in two horizontal rows of three stamps, the pages being interleaved with waxed paper. The second registration was owing to a new plate having been made, this being necessary because the stamps have to be printed in a special manner for making up into books. The sheets are printed in four panes of sixty stamps, disposed in six columns of ten stamps. As a margin is required for binding, each alternate series of three columns on the plate has the stamps reversed, so that the books may all open the same way. Thus the watermark on each stamp in these columns is reversed, and an examination of the two panes in my collection will show that before separation from the third stamp the fourth stamp in each row is a *tête-bêche* variety. The sheets have a narrow margin on the right and left sides, the space running down the centre between the panes being double the width of the outside margins, to allow for the binding and stitching of the books.*

It should be mentioned that size "C" of the 1d. envelopes included in the list is no longer in use. It has been withdrawn by the General Post Office, the last supplies being issued in January, 1903.

I do not of course claim for these notes the importance of a philatelic paper, but as all the information and dates given may be relied upon as authentic, I hope that they may be of use in saving a future historian of the stamps of this country a not inconsiderable amount of research and

* Mr. H. F. Bartlett, the Controller of Stamps, has, since the above was written, kindly supplied the following interesting description of the mode of binding the books: "Four sheets of 240 stamps, interleaved with waxed paper, are placed between two sheets of the red cardboard which forms the cover of the books, the sheets of cardboard having previously been printed and arranged to suit the direction of the stamps. The whole thickness of cardboard, stamps, waxed paper, etc., is then wire-stitched lengthwise in two operations, each of which makes a line of stitching down the middle of the sheet of stamps, and down one side, so that there are four rows of stitching—two down the middle, and one on each side. When this has been done, the substance is cut across the narrow way of the sheet into ten 'traverses,' each containing four books of stamps = forty books of stamps, which are then cut up into single books. It will be observed that as the wire-stitching must be in every case on the left of the stamps, so that the books will always open one way, it was necessary to print so that the King's Head is reversed, as shown in the sheet, and, consequently, the watermark is also reversed."

trouble in connection with the first issues of the present reign.

In conclusion, I would observe that our Honorary Secretary has made frequent appeals to the younger members to assist in the work of the Society by reading papers on matters of interest arising out of their studies. If the result of this endeavour of a "prentice hand" should be to encourage others of the younger members of the Society to contribute to the business of the meetings of the next season, no one will be better pleased than your President.

King Edward VII. Adhesive Postage Stamps.

1. GENERAL ISSUE.

Values.	Date of Registration.	Date of First Delivery.	Date of Issue.
½d.	26 Sept. 1901.	11 Nov. 1901.	1 Jan. 1902.
1d.	14 Oct. 1901.	28 Nov. 1901.	
1d.*	18 Sept. 1903 (for books)	.	Not yet issued.
1½d.	1 Feb. 1902.	17 Feb. 1902.	21 Mar. 1902.
2d.	15 Mar. 1902.	15 Mar. 1902.	25 Mar. 1902.
2½d.†	3 Dec. 1901.	. . .	Not issued.
2½d.‡	17 Dec. 1901.	20 Dec. 1901.	1 Jan. 1902.
3d.	1 Feb. 1902.	17 Feb. 1902.	20 Mar. 1902.
4d.	29 Mar. 1902.	26 Mar. 1902.	27 Mar. 1902.
5d.	3 May, 1902.	1 May, 1902.	14 May, 1902.
6d.	3 Dec. 1901.	12 Dec. 1901.	1 Jan. 1902.
9d.	5 Apr. 1902.	7 Apr. 1902.	7 Apr. 1902.
10d.	28 June, 1902.	24 June, 1902.	3 July, 1902.
1s.	25 Feb. 1902.	1 Mar. 1902.	24 Mar. 1902.
2s. 6d.	27 Dec. 1901.	13 Jan. 1902.	5 Apr. 1902.
5s.	13 Feb. 1902.	25 Feb. 1902.	
10s.	25 Feb. 1902.	5 Mar. 1902.	
£1	3 Mar. 1902.	5 Mar. 1902.	16 July, 1902.

* Re-registered.
† Mauve on blue.
‡ Blue on white.

2. SPECIAL ISSUE FOR USE IN BRITISH POST OFFICES IN THE LEVANT.

Values.	Date of First Delivery.
40 paras on 2½d. . . .	6 Feb. 1902.
80 ,, 5d. . . .	5 June 1902.
4 piastres on 10d. . .	6 Sept. 1902.
12 ,, 2s. 6d. . .	29 Aug. 1903.

3. OFFICIAL STAMPS.

A. QUEEN VICTORIA STAMPS.

Description and Value.	Date of First Delivery and Approximate Date of Issue.
Army Official.	
6d. (overprinting warrant 4 Oct. 1901)	7 Nov. 1901.
Board of Education.	
5d. . . . . Of these 60,000 were printed, but only 4,800 used.	19 Feb. 1902.
1s. . . . . Of these 30,000 were printed, but only 2,000 used.	19 Feb. 1902.

Description and Value.	Date of First Delivery and Approximate Date of Issue.
Inland Revenue.	
6d. (warrant 5 June, 1901) . .	14 June, 1901.
1s. (warrant 18 Oct. 1901) . . Of these 2,400 only were ordered and printed.	5 Nov. 1901.
Office of Works.	
½d. (green) (warrant 23 Oct. 1901) . Of these 6,000 only were ordered and printed.	5 Nov. 1901.
5d. . . . . Of these the number ordered and printed was 12,000.	29 Apr. 1902.
10d. . . . . Of these the total quantity overprinted was 800 stamps.	28 May, 1902.

B. KING EDWARD VII. STAMPS.

Admiralty (First type).	
½d., 1d., 2d., 2½d., 3d.	12 Mar. 1903.
(Second type).	
½d.	May, 1903.
Remaining values as above	Sept. 1903.
Army Official.	
½d., 1d.	11 Feb. 1902.
6d.	23 Aug. 1902.
Board of Education.	
½d., 1d., 2½d.	19 Feb. 1902.
5d.	6 Feb. 1904.
1s.	23 Dec. 1902.
Government Parcels.	
1d.	30 Oct. 1902.
2d.	29 Apr. 1902.
6d.	19 Feb. 1902.
9d.	28 Aug. 1902.
1s.	17 Dec. 1902.
Inland Revenue.	
½d., 1d.	4 Feb. 1902.
2½d.	19 Feb. 1902.
1s., 5s., 10s., £1	29 Apr. 1902.
Office of Works.	
½d., 1d.	11 Feb. 1902.
2d., 2½d.	29 Apr. 1902.
10d.	28 May, 1903.
Royal Household.	
½d.	29 Apr. 1902.
1d.	11 Feb. 1902.

The following lists of post cards, letter cards, newspaper wrappers, and envelopes are confined to the new dies bearing the King's Head, the only other issues during the reign being the ½d. of the Queen's

Head dies on envelopes, post cards, and wrappers, altered to green, and the change of position of the stamp on registered envelopes :—

Post Cards.

1. GENERAL ISSUE.

Value.	Date of Registration.	Date of Delivery.
½d. (stout), single	20 Nov. 1901.	2 Dec. 1901.
,, ,, reply	6 Dec. 1901.	21 Dec. 1901.
,, (thin), single	6 Dec. 1901.	9 Dec. 1901.
,, ,, reply	15 Jan. 1902.	16 Jan. 1902.
1d., foreign, single	23 Dec. 1901.	2 Jan. 1902.
,, ,, reply	3 Mar. 1902.	5 Mar. 1902.

2. SPECIAL ISSUE FOR PATENT OFFICE.

½d. (stout), "patents" post card with 7½d. embossed. Patents stamp for specification.	22 Jan. 1903.

3. OFFICIAL ISSUE.

½d. (stout), overprinted ADMIRALTY OFFICIAL	12 Mar. 1903.

Letter Cards.

1d.	14 Dec. 1901. 21 Dec. 1901.
,, re-registered on alteration in mode of perforation	9 July, 1903.

Newspaper Wrappers.

½d.	20 Nov. 1901. 3 Dec. 1901.
1d.	22 Jan. 1901. 25 Jan. 1902.

Stamped Envelopes (embossed).

1. GENERAL ISSUE.

Description and Value.	Date of First Registration of Die.	Date of Delivery.
½d., Size N (Commercial), 5⅛ × 3½ inches	23 Nov. 1901.	20 Dec. 1901.
,, ,, O (Foolscap), 8¼ × 3¾ inches	(Die No. 3.)	15 Feb. 1902.
1d. ,, A, 4¾ × 3½ inches		31 Dec. 1901.
,, ,, C, 5½ × 3 inches		
(Not issued since January, 1903.)	23 Nov. 1901.	
,, (Commercial), 5⅛ × 3½ inches	(Die No. 5.)	8 Jan. 1902.
,, Size O (Foolscap), 8¼ × 3¾ inches		
3d., Registration, Size F, 5½ × 3½ inches		23 Jan. 1902.
,, ,, ,, G, 6 × 3¾ ,,		
,, ,, ,, H, 8 × 5 ,,	13 Jan. 1902.	20 Jan. 1902.
,, ,, ,, H^2, 9 × 4 ,,		30 Jan. 1902.
,, ,, ,, K, 11½ × 6 ,,		31 Jan. 1902.

These are all that have been on sale at the post offices, but the following further dies for embossing envelopes are employed on demand, the stamps being embossed to order in the colours shown below, the ½d. and 1d. above-mentioned being green and crimson respectively :—

Values.	Date of First Registration of Die.
1½d. (yellow)	8 Apr. 1902 (Die No. 15).
2d. (mauve)	27 Nov. 1902.
2½d. (pale blue)	21 Dec. 1901 (Die No. 9).
3d. (red-brown)	4 Nov. 1902.
4d. (vermilion)	4 Dec. 1902.
6d. (violet)	21 Dec. 1901 (Die No. 10).
10d.* (brown)	2 Feb. 1903.
1s. (bright yellow-green)	26 Jan. 1903.

* This value is not now embossed for envelopes, being reserved for telegraph forms.

N.B.—Since the first registrations further die numbers have been registered from time to time as required for use. Up to the present time the numbers registered for the ½d. and 1d. run from 1 to 66; for the 1½d., dies 1 to 3; the 2½d., 1 to 5; and the 6d., 1 to 12.

2. OFFICIAL ISSUE.

	Date of First Delivery.
3d., registration envelope, Size H^2, overprinted ADMIRALTY OFFICIAL.	3 Mar. 1903.

Telegraph Stamps and Stamped Telegraph Forms.

1. QUEEN VICTORIA ADHESIVE.

½d. (green), overprinted ARMY TELEGRAPHS (warrant dated 9 Augt. 1901)	28 Augt. 1901.

N.B.—Army telegraph stamps are now abolished.

2. EMBOSSED STAMPS OF KING EDWARD VII.

Form A^1 (for inland post office telegrams) with embossed 6d. stamp (as used for envelopes)	21 Mar. 1902.
Ditto, perforated, ditto	28 Feb. 1902.
Form $A^S_M I$ (perforated), for foreign and colonial telegrams, with embossed 10d. stamp	19 May, 1903.
Form A^{1S}_B (for inland telegrams forwarded from Stock Exchange offices only) with embossed 6d. stamp	25 Feb. 1902.
Ditto, ditto, perforated, ditto	26 Feb. 1902.

February, 1904.

(Concluded.)

FIRST STEPS IN PHILATELY

By Rev. T. C. WALTON, M.A.

(*Continued from page* 281.)

Stamps without a Name (*continued*)

NAPLES and Sicily, now part of the kingdom of Italy, were once a separate province known as "The Two Sicilies." Each, however, had its own constitution and each issued its own series of postage stamps. The currency for Naples and Sicily, until their absorption into the kingdom of Piedmont in 1861, was the ducat. The ducat was divided into 300 tornese or 100 grana. Its value was about 3s. 4d. in English money. Prior to the year 1861 the "Naples" issues had heraldic figures for the central design and NAPOLETANA appears in the framework. In the case of the issue of Sicily in 1859, the head of King Ferdinand occupies the central portion and SICILIA is part of the inscription. These issues can, therefore, be easily identified. The 1859 issue of Sicily was superseded in 1861 by the issue for the Neapolitan provinces. This series bears no distinguishing name. The accompanying illustration is an example. The central design is the embossed head of Victor Emmanuel II. The inscription FRANCO POSTE BOLLO in the three sides of the rectangle means, "Free Post Stamp."

NEAPOLITAN PROVINCES.



Victor Emmanuel II.

The series above illustrated bears a very close resemblance to the stamps formerly used in the kingdom of Sardinia or Piedmont, which, with other states annexed by conquest or voluntarily, afterwards formed the kingdom of Italy. The difference between the series mainly lies in the currency. The "lira" of Sardinia was equivalent to 10d. in English money and, like "franc," was divided into 100 parts called "centesimi." The QUARANTA in the base of the illustration is the Italian for forty.

SARDINIA.



Victor Emmanuel II.

The first issue of Montenegro can scarcely be said to come under the heading of "stamps without a name." The inscription, however, is so obscure that beginners will find some difficulty at first in placing the series. The stamps show the head of Prince Nicholas between two branches of laurel. The inscription is in Russo-Sclavonic characters, and reads POST-STAMP TSR. GORE. "Tsernagora," of which "Tsr. Gore" is an abbreviation, is the native name of Montenegro. At the base of the design is the value NOVTCH with a numeral. The currency is the "florin," divided into 100 "novtch."

MONTENEGRO.



Head of Prince Nicholas.

Another series about which the beginner may experience a little difficulty is the first issue of Siam. The stamps

SIAM.



depict the bust of the King Chulalongkorn I., enclosed in a frame which differs

in form according to the value. An Oriental inscription and geometrical tracing complete the design.

The last example of "stamps without a name," which comes under our first heading, is the Switzerland issue of 1900, to commemorate the 25th year of the Universal Postal Union. A female figure, emblematic of Helvetia, holds aloft a standard on which is inscribed, JUBILE DE L'UNION POSTALE UNIVERSELLE. The federal cross, the hall-mark on all the prepaid issues of Switzerland, is seen hanging from the pole. A section of the globe occupies the background.

SWITZERLAND.



(*b*) We come now to consider those stamps without a name which have for the design of the central portion a coat-of-arms, heraldic figures, or views. The stamps of the 1894 issue of Abyssinia, which have face values varying from 4 to 16 guerche, have, for this central design, a lion carrying a flag.

ABYSSINIA.



Afghanistan, in all the issues from 1870 to 1878, has a leopard's head as the central design, surrounded by an inscription in Oriental characters. One example will serve as a means of identification.

AFGHANISTAN.



(To be continued.)

INTERNATIONAL PHILATELIC EXHIBITION, 1906

MEETING OF EXHIBITION COMMITTEE

IT has been decided to hold an International Philatelic Exhibition in London in 1906 under the auspices of the Philatelic Society, London, and a Working Committee has been appointed, consisting of the following:—Four members of the Philatelic Society of London (Messrs. Castle, Ehrenbach, Fulcher, and Reichenheim), in addition to Messrs. Oldfield and Hausburg, who will act as Hon. Secretary and Hon. Assistant Secretary of the committee; two members representing the provincial philatelic societies, viz. Messrs. Dorning Beckton and Slade; four of the London stamp dealers, Messrs. Oliver, Peckitt, Phillips, and Hamilton-Smith.

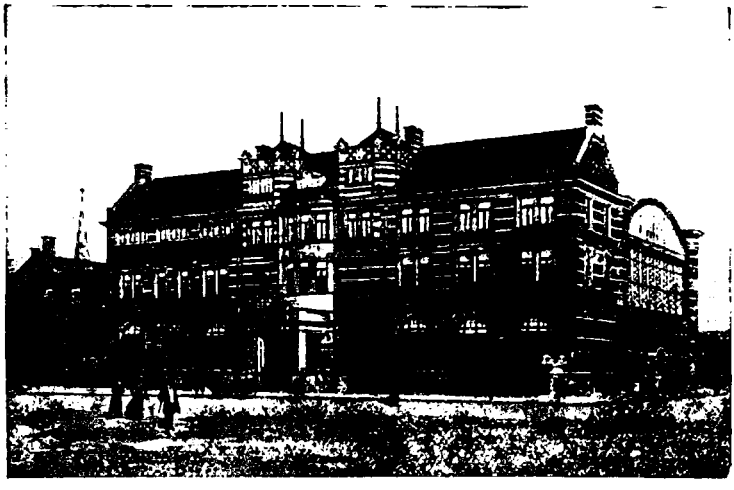
The Working Committee have engaged the Royal Horticultural Society's Hall, Vincent Square, Westminster, for the Exhibition, which will be held towards the end of May or the beginning of June, and the arrangements for the programme are in process of consideration.

In the course of the next few weeks invitations will be issued to the various philatelic societies and to prominent philatelists with the view to the formation of a thoroughly representative General Committee.

THE SITE OF THE PHILATELIC EXHIBITION OF 1906

By OUR SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

AS the Hall which the Exhibition Committee have selected for the proposed great International Philatelic Exhibition to be held in London next year has only been open for the past ten months, and is consequently not so well known at present to the public as are others which have been built longer, we have compiled the following particulars relative to it, from which our readers will gather that in site, situation, area, and fittings our new *locale* leaves nothing to be desired, and by June, 1906, it will probably be as well known to stamp collectors all over the world as are now the older Halls of London.



THE ROYAL HORTICULTURAL HALL, VINCENT SQUARE, WESTMINSTER, S.W
A NOBLE FAÇADE.

It has already been used and engaged for several large Vocal and Instrumental Concerts; Cookery, Dog, Potato, and other shows; Displays of Physical Culture; Temperance and Religious Meetings; Receptions, and other similar functions of a social character.

On their removal from South Kensington, in 1887, the Royal Horticultural Society had great difficulty in finding a suitable place for their fortnightly shows, and they selected the Drill Hall of the London Scottish Volunteers, until the time should come when they might be able to build themselves a new Hall for the purpose. His Majesty the King (then Prince of Wales) as long ago as 1890 addressed to the Fellows these words: "I sincerely hope that your labours to obtain a Hall may be successful, for I feel sure that it would be of the greatest use and advantage," and when in the fulness of time the building was completed, in memory of the Society's centenary, His Majesty was graciously pleased himself to declare it open in July last, on which occasion he was accompanied by Her Majesty the Queen and H.R.H. the Princess Victoria.

Its Central Situation

Overlooking the green sward and leafy trees of Vincent Square, the Royal Horticultural Hall, with its façade of red brick and white stone, presents a noble appearance.

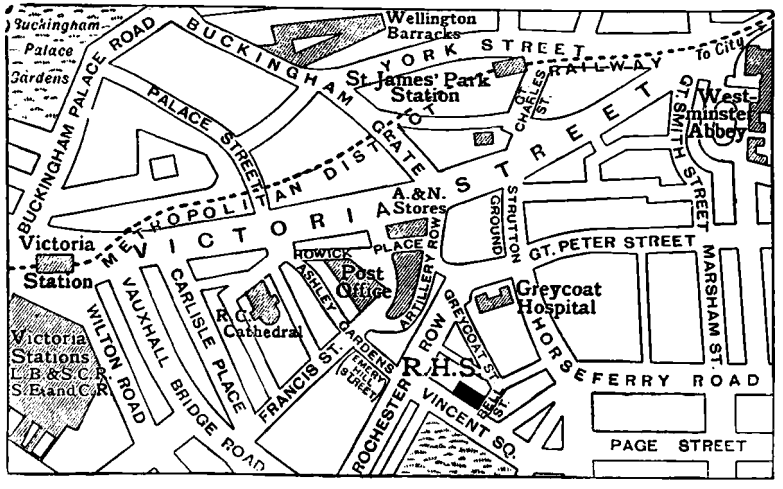
Seven minutes' walk to the west are the Victoria Stations, and about equal distance eastward stands Westminster Abbey, whilst to the north is Victoria Street, along which run omnibuses to and from all parts of the metropolis.

Its Accommodation

The site occupied is some 18,000 square feet, of which the Hall and its two annexes cover 13,000 feet. The remainder of the space is devoted to forecourts, numerous exits, and to a handsome porch and entrance hall, which is to be seen in the centre of the elevation shown opposite. The walls being fitted with picture rods wraps, should it be decided to hold any receptions or soirèe during the Exhibition.

It is hardly necessary to add that the building is fully equipped with fire protection appliances and is of fire-proof construction throughout. For especially valuable exhibits safes can, if necessary, be placed in the crypt beneath the Hall.

The decoration throughout has been conceived in a fine but reticent vein. The floors are of polished pine, except in the entrance halls, where they are of mosaic. The balustrading and dado and other panelling are of solid oak, and the walls of the Hall are of plaster designed in the form of panels between fluted pilasters;



POSITION OF THE ROYAL HORTICULTURAL HALL.

all round, and there being no ill-lighted corners, every inch of room is available for the purposes of the exhibition. Above the three exits to Bell Street a music gallery has been built, and the glass in the face of the wall over it acts as a sounding board for the musicians beneath.

Communicating with the Hall by a special staircase is the First Floor, which consists of a perfectly fitted Lecture Room and three fine Committee Rooms, which latter will be available for stamp auctions, refreshments, or other purposes, as our Philatelic Exhibition Committee may decide.

In the basement are separate Cloak Rooms for ladies and gentlemen, with accommodation for upwards of a thousand and the walls of the First Floor are painted a subdued tint of green.

Its Splendid Ventilation: Cool in Summer

The Hall, being fifty-four feet high to the ridge, is always airy, and the summer ventilation is provided for by forcing fresh air through cold water into the Hall at four different points, each some twelve feet from the ground; the exhausted air is carried away by another electric fan in the roof, and another cross-current of air can be created by opening the side-lights in the lantern. Water is already laid on to the top of the roof, which can be run down if the glass gets hot. By these and other means, too numerous to mention here, it is possible to control and keep down the temperature in even the hottest

days of summer just as easily as in winter it can be raised by the complete system of steam pipes fitted throughout the building, which latter extend even over the girders carrying the roof, and thus by warming the glass render the occurrence of cold down-draughts—so objectionable in several other large, light, and lofty buildings—a thing of the past in the Hall in question.

A Palace of Light

It would not be saying too much to state that the light both by day and by night are also equal to the warming and ventilating arrangements, and the result is to secure perfect daylight by day, and its equivalent at night, for the due inspection of the objects for the exhibition of which the Hall was primarily erected, and for the due illumination of our own philatelic show of 1906. As will be seen from our illustration, the Hall itself is covered by a curved roof of glass resting on steel girders with a lanten of glass along almost the whole length. The upper part of the east wall is also of glass, and the annexes are lighted both from the Hall and by two large round-headed windows in each. The white stone colour of the walls also adds to the light effect, and our care by day will therefore be not how we may admit more light, but how much of the available light shall be permitted to enter. This, however, is already arranged for. The surface of the glass can be clouded, or the parts where the sun shines most can be covered with canvas. By night the Hall is lighted with twenty arc lamps; wall lights and cables are laid for additional table lights where required. Thus the International Philatelic Exhibition of 1906 will be seen to every advantage in what is universally admitted to be the lightest and finest Hall in London.



THE INTERIOR OF THE HALL

NEW ISSUES

The Editor will be grateful to his readers if they will help him with the earliest possible information concerning new issues. News from the Colonies in particular will be much appreciated. When possible, a specimen should accompany the information, and should be addressed to

EDWARD J. NANKIVELL, Carnanton, Camden Park, Tunbridge Wells.

British Guiana.—We have received the 24 cents and 60 cents on multiple paper to add to the values chronicled by us on p. 188.



Wmk. Multiple C A. Perf.

1 c., grey-green.
2 c., purple and black on red paper.
12 c., ,, violet.
24 c. ,, green.
60 c., green and carmine.

Cayman Islands.—Four of the five values of the King's Head issue of these little West Indian islands have appeared on the multiple paper.



Wmk. Multiple C A. Perf.

½d., green.
2½d., carmine.
6d., brown.
1s., orange.

Cyprus.—The 12 piastres has been received on the multiple paper.



Wmk. Multiple C A. Perf.

½ piastre, green ; name of value in carmine.
30 paras, mauve ,, ,, green.
1 piastre, carmine ,, ,, ultramarine.
2 piastres, ultramarine ,, marone.
4 ,, sage-green ,, mauve.
6 ,, slate ,, ,, green.
9 ,, brown ,, ,, carmine.
12 ,, red-brown ,, black.
18 ,, black ,, ,, brown.
45 ,, purple ,, ,, ultramarine.

Servia.—A 30 para stamp has been added to the series with portrait of King Peter chronicled by us on p. 97.



Perf.

1 para, pale grey ; centre black.
5 ,, light green.
10 ,, rose-red.
15 ,, magenta.
20 ,, yellow.
25 ,, blue.
30 ,, dark green.
50 ,, deep brown.
1 dinar, buff.
3 ,, blue-green.
5 ,, mauve.

Southern Nigeria.—The 5s. value has been received on the multiple paper. To complete the series there now remain the 1d., 4d., 2s. 6d., and 10s.



Wmk. Multiple C A. Perf.

½d., green.
2d., orange-brown ; centre grey-black.
2½d., blue ; centre black.
6d., mauve ; centre grey-black.
1s., black ; centre green.
5s., yellow ; centre grey-black.
£1, violet ; centre green.

Turks and Caicos Islands.—The ½d. value has to be added to the 1d. chronicled last week on multiple paper.



Wmk. Multiple C A. Perf.

½d., green.
1d., carmine.

GOSSIP OF THE HOUR

By CORNELIUS WRINKLE

Small Countries for Small Collectors

YOUNG collectors should always be on the watch for promising new countries. They crop up now and again, and frequently turn up trumps as an investment. If you start with the first issue you come in on what the miner calls "bed rock" terms, *i.e.* you start at new issue rates, which are only a fraction above face value. Then, as issue succeeds issue, you realise in time that the first issue of your chosen new country is getting scarce, and that you are a lucky chap to have had the foresight to start with that first issue.

There have been many chances during the last few years. Just ten years ago the first stamps of the Imperial Administration of British East Africa were issued. Now, I have a strong faith in British issues, consequently this new country came within my ken, and, of course, I secured my set right away, as I always do in the case of provisional issues, for you never know where you may be landed with provisionals—they are here to-day and may be gone to-morrow. My set of the hand-stamped provisionals of July, 1895, including the 2½ on 4½ a., cost me £2 14s. They now catalogue up to £33 15s.

In the same way I secured the set on Indian stamps at new issue rates. So that my policy of looking sharply after promising new countries pays both from a philatelic and an investment point of view. And it is this same policy that I recommend to all young collectors. Only the few can afford to go back to the first issue of the grand old countries over which the Great Moguls lick their philatelic lips. You and I must be content with first issues of later birth.

It is nice to have a country complete from the first issue. Ergo, start when you can with a first issue of a new country.

British East Africa has now gone beyond the reach of the general collector who did not start in 1895. But there are plenty of other countries that have started since. British Somaliland made its first issue in 1903, and already there are no less than four distinct issues, and a fifth, multiple CA, in sight.

In a year or so we shall have a grand starting-point for the young collector when we get the new stamps for the Commonwealth of Australia. Meanwhile, I propose now and again to draw attention to nice manageable little countries that come within the range of the most modest pockets of my friends.

Cayman Islands

ONE of the most modest of these manageable little countries is Cayman Islands. It started with ½d. and 1d. stamps in 1900, Queen's Heads, then in 1901-2 it sent out five values of King's Heads, single CA, and now I hear the King's heads are out on the multiple paper. Here, then, is a nice little country, started in 1900 with three issues, and all to be had for a few pence. Here is the complete list, with Gibbons latest prices :—

Queen's Heads.



Wmk. Crown CA. *Perf.*	unused. s.	d.
½d., green	0	2
1d., carmine	0	3

King's Heads.



Wmk. Crown CA (single). *Perf.*	unused. s.	d.
½d., green	0	1
1d., carmine	0	2
2½d., ultramarine	0	4
6d., brown	1	6
1s., orange	2	6

1905.

Wmk. Multiple CA. Perf.

½d., green.
2½d., ultramarine.
6d., brown.
1s., orange.

As you will see, the prices for the single CA King's Heads have already been raised considerably above new issue rates, but they are still within reach.

The Badge Question

I AM holding the production of the badges in hand till I feel quite certain that the CC and CA designs cannot be bettered as a start. The Managing Director of Stanley Gibbons, Ltd., very kindly said at our last interview, "When you have quite decided on your design let me have it, and the matter shall be put into competent hands right away." Now I am simply waiting for the suggestion of a better design. Meanwhile, here is a letter which I have just received :—

"Dear Mr. Wrinkle,—I have read with much interest your suggestions *re* the adoption of a badge whereby philatelists could recognise one another. The idea is excellent, but I cannot say your suggested design (Crown CC and CA) is a happy one, not being comprehensive enough; to me it only suggests 'Colonials.'

"We want something symbolical of stamp collecting generally, and of a design that would be universally acceptable.

"So far as I know, we have nothing suggestive of philately or stamp collecting that would be suitable for a design for a medallion. I would therefore suggest, as the next best thing, the adoption of the head of Hermes the Messenger (who may be said to symbolise most things connected with postage stamps) as a design for the obverse side of a medallion; the reverse side could be manufactured blank, and on which one could have engraved their club's name, or anything suggestive of their speciality.

"I would refer you to S. G.'s catalogue, 1904, part ii. p. 213, for specimen of design. The foregoing suggestions, if carried out, would result in a medallion of handsome design, symbolical and capable of general adoption by philatelists the world over.

"Yours truly, O. F."

I am afraid our friend's suggestion will not do, for it is not sufficiently local in its application. It runs the risk of falling into the category of being taken to be an ordinary ornament. As our friend observes,

we have nothing that is suggestive of philately or stamp collecting, so we must create something, and the C C and C A watermarks are the most suggestive ideas yet brought forward.

Of course the badges will be made as pendants for the watch chain, scarf pins, brooches for ladies, etc., as required.

A Junior Society for Sheffield

MR. HERBERT COLE, Torwood, Endcliffe, Grove Avenue, Sheffield, writes to me as follows :—

"We expect, before the end of this month (April) to have launched a Philatelic Society in connection with the Y.M.C.A. of this city, to be known as The Sheffield Y.M.C.A. Philatelic Society. Members must be members of the Y.M.C.A., and we hope to meet in the Association's building, in Fargate, once a fortnight, during the months of October to end of May, inclusive. At the time of writing we have only ten names, and we are by no means a wealthy body, but I think we shall all be enthusiastic stamp collectors. The Gen. Sec. of our Y.M.C.A. (Mr. J. Palmer Howard) heartily approves of the scheme, and will do all in his power for our comfort and convenience. We have also the hearty sympathy and promised help of the Hon. Exchange Sec. of the Sheffield Philatelic Society (Mr. R. Sneath), who mentioned our intention to the Sheffield Society at one of their meetings held last month, and he has told me since that it was very favourably received by all who were present, and he went on to say that he thought we should receive help from other members of the Society as well as himself. We earnestly hope, and venture to think, that our Y.M.C.A. Philatelic Society will grow, both in popularity and proficiency. . . ."

Philatelic Millionaires

MR. CASTLE, in the *London Philatelist*, says he has received the following list "of philatelic lions—some of them millionaires"—who have been sunning themselves recently at Monte Carlo :—"Messrs. W. B. Avery, J. D. Rockefeller, Alberto Philip, Baron de Rothschild, C. J. Phillips, Pierrepont Morgan, W. H. Peckitt, C. H. Smith Ryland, P. Mirabaud, Mr. P. Castle, Dr. Stanley Taylor, Vanderbilt, etc."

Mr. Castle doubts that these gentlemen are all philatelists or even if they be millionaires. Any way, they are what may be termed a mixed packet of used varieties.

MISCELLANEOUS

Inverted Surcharges

THE inverted surcharge is a luxury in the majority of cases, and an unmitigated nuisance in all. It is quite clear that it could never have been necessary, and still more clear that there was often more "intention" than "accident" in the production of these pests.

The total number is, however, very small, and, unless I have left out several, does not exceed 214.

Of these, over half hail from the Dark Continent (a "penny a liner's" method of saying "come from Africa"). The Transvaal has been a thorn in our side in many ways, and philatelically it is no exception. No less than thirty-three varieties of inverted surcharges belong to this colony, almost one-sixth of all errors of this class on the stamps of the Empire. Griqualand, Orange River Colony, Mauritius, and Swazieland are also great offenders with 21, 15, 10, and 9 respectively.

Asia is responsible for less than half the African output, 51 instead of 113. America has but 25, Australia 21 (18 of which are South Australian officials), and well-behaved Europe has three only (all Cyprians).

E. W. WETHERELL, in the *Philatelic Journal of India*.

Sweden's Postal Jubilee

THE fiftieth anniversary of the first issue of Swedish postage stamps will be celebrated this year. Mr. L. Harald Kjellstedt furnishes *Mekeel's Weekly Stamp News* with the following translation of a circular letter sent out to the members of the Swedish Philatelic Society.

"The Royal Postal Department has given its permission to the Philatelic Society of Sweden to purchase 200 sets, at face value, of the Government reprints of 1885 of the postage stamps of the values 3, 4, 6, 8, and 24 skilling banco, in order that these sets may be used for the decorative illustrating of 200 copies of a jubilee publication which will be issued by the Society on the 1st of July of this year. This publication will be issued on account of the fiftieth anniversary of the introduction of postage stamps in Sweden, and the Directors of the Society herewith announce that the above-mentioned publication will be sold at a price of 35 kronor to members residing in Sweden, as far as the very limited edition will permit.

"The publication, which will be in the form of a finely illustrated book in magnificent binding, will have its postal contents edited by an official of the Postal Department, and the philatelic by a member of the Society, all under the supervision of a committee appointed by the Society. As the 1885 reprints of the skilling banco issue, which Senf justly lists as 'very rare,' have a considerably higher selling value than 35 kronor per set, and as the book even without the five stamps will prove a postal-philatelic work of importance, it has been found necessary to make the subscription dependent on the following conditions in order to obtain a just distribution :—

"1. Only *one* copy of the book can be signed for by each subscriber.

"2. Each order must be accompanied by payment in advance of 35 kronor.

"3. Subscriptions should be sent by return mail to the Philatelic Society of Sweden, Stockholm.

"4. As the edition is so small in comparison with the large membership of the Society, the Society reserves the right to decide how a reduction of the subscription list should be made, giving due consideration to the time subscriptions were mailed from different localities and their distances from Stockholm.

"5. Members whose subscriptions cannot be filled will have their money returned immediately.

"The profit which remains after all the expenses for the publication have been paid will, according to agreement with the Royal Postal Department, be donated to the funds for the support of widows and children of persons who have been employed in the Postal Service, and which funds are under the administration of the Royal Postal Department."

Liner Carries One Letter.

A CURIOUS result of the recent dislocation of the mail service between Australia and the United Kingdom is shown in the fact that the mail taken to Adelaide by the *Orontes* on March 8 consisted of only one letter. That was registered.—*Daily Express*.

THE STAMP KING

By G. DE BEAUREGARD AND H. DE GORSSE

Translated from the French by EDITH C. PHILLIPS

CHAPTER VIII (*continued*)

In which William Keniss, Stamp King though he is, passes from one surprise to another

THE two men then ascended a little winding staircase in the shop and reached the next floor. The first room they entered was, like the one below, surrounded by immense safes. M. Moulineau opened one of them, and William saw, carefully arranged on shelves, a number of envelopes, much larger than those of the "small reserve," and labelled with the number of stamps within. They each contained several thousand all alike, and bulged more or less according to the number they enclosed. These were the envelopes of the "greater reserve."

"And it is on these we draw," M. Moulineau observed, "when those you saw below are exhausted." And as William expressed his astonishment at the colossal quantity of stamps, he continued: "Wait awhile; wait awhile; you have scarcely seen anything yet."

And, in fact, a very extraordinary scene awaited our visitor in the next room, where twenty or thirty women were seated at a large table, extending the whole length of the wall. Each had an enormous bag at her feet, out of which she took handfuls of stamps, which she sorted and arranged on the table into numbers of tiny, many-coloured heaps.

"But how in the world do you obtain all these?" cried William, stupefied at the sight.

"From our correspondents in different countries," returned M. Moulineau. "They not only send us new issues as soon as they appear, but sacks like you see here, full of all the stamps in use which they are able to procure. Naturally, when they are not rare stamps, for instance, the ordinary European issues, we only buy them by weight at varying prices, but generally very low ones. Even then we receive a great many more than we want. In France, Italy, Spain there is not a single convent or religious community which does not collect stamps in thousands to sell to dealers. As soon as they arrive they are sorted, as you see, by my employés, and sometimes among the number they discover one interesting one which pays for the lot, otherwise almost useless

"And the other stamps, the commonest ones? Surely you don't keep them all in your reserve?"

"Oh, no, that would not be possible. We sell them again by weight, in the same way as we bought them, to people who use them to make ornaments—plaques, and such-like. If you wish to buy any we have a certain amount here, you see—fifty millions, at least." And M. Moulineau opened the door of a large closet, the floor of which was covered, to a height of two yards and more, with millions and millions of stamps.

In one corner was a large shovel and an imposing



M. MOULINEAU OPENED ONE OF THEM

pair of scales, used for piling them up and weighing them.

"I never saw anything like it!" said William in the utmost amazement. "The New York dealers have nothing of this sort."

M. Moulineau smiled. "You see now," he said, "what a large stamp business is in Paris. And, believe



SACKS FULL OF STAMPS

me, it is no sinecure to manage it. I have to be always on the alert; not a moment's repose, not a moment's hesitation. Not a day passes now without a new issue in some country more or less unknown and far away. And if they go on in this way much longer only the philatelists who are millionaires like you will be able to afford the luxury of collecting stamps. As for the others, the smaller ones, they will certainly have to give up this instructive and delightful pastime because of the impossibility there will soon be of collecting even the common ones, which become, alas! more numerous every day. But I don't know why I should speak of this state of things; you know all about it as well as I do."

While talking the two men had returned to the sorting-room.

"Look!" said M. Moulineau, snatching up some of the stamps from the table and waxing warmer every moment. "Look at these Commemorative stamps that Portugal issued last year, to glorify the seventh centenary of St. Anthony of Padua. They are all surcharged, too, for the Azores. On some of them you can admire the portrait of the saint—it seems to be very like him. Others represent some of his principal miracles—his preaching to the fishes, his ascension; the most amusing thing being that, on their backs, under the gum, they have printed a prayer to St. Bonadventure. The Portuguese Government have even issued a whole series of stamps which they had previously had blessed! These, naturally, were sold at double their value!"

"And yet it is difficult for philatelists to recognise them."

"Then this year we have had: in Italy, the cards commemorative of the entry of the Piedmontese troops into Rome; in Peru and Ecuador, stamps destined to cause the memory of intestine strife to live in the hearts of the people; in the Transvaal stamps commemorative of what——? Of the establishment in the State of a ha.fpenny post!"

"Ah! These commemorative stamps will become a little too numerous before long," said William.

"We shall be invaded, inundated, submerged by them! Australia was the first to open fire; then it was England's turn, in 1887, to celebrate the fiftieth year of Queen Victoria's reign; then the United States launched the Christopher Columbus stamps, in honour of the four hundredth anniversary of the discovery of America. Afterwards, ah! afterwards things have gone on at a fine rate, as you know. We have had the stamps with which the little Republic of San Marino celebrated the foundation of its national palace; those with which Portugal celebrated the five hundredth anniversary of Don Henry, the navigator; Bulgaria, the baptism of Prince Boris; and finally the Exhibition stamps of Antwerp, Brussels, Venice," etc., etc.

"There certainly are some countries which abuse their privileges."

"Some countries! Why, those that yield themselves to this shameful speculation are innumerable: the Argentine Republic, Colombia, Honduras, Nicaragua, Peru, the Belgian Congo State, the Spanish West Indies, the Philippines! I should never come to the end were I to mention them all. If they would even be content with issuing ordinary postage stamps! But no, they must have Unpaid Letter stamps, Official stamps, Telegraph stamps!"

"It is hard indeed to say where they will end."

"We cannot say. There are some governments which sell, without any shame, whole issues to certain not over-particular dealers. Witness the greater number of the Egyptian stamps sold to one of my fellow-dealers this last winter. But a reaction against such abuses cannot long be delayed."

"Obviously."

"I hear, too, that in order to defend themselves collectors have just formed a society in London, called the 'Society for the Suppression of Speculative Stamps,' designated by the four letters, 'S.S.S.S.'"

"It is quite true."

"They say, too, that the Philatelic Congress at Mannheim recently protested in strong language against such jobbing."

"That is equally true. . . . And do you hope it will bring about any good result?"

"How can I tell? I do not know in the least. The only certain thing is that neither Society nor Congress has power to impose its will on States which, having come to the end of their resources, can replenish their funds with a new issue, or, which is more economical, content themselves with putting some inartistic surcharge on their current issues. Oh, those surcharges! They ought to be despised, scorned by every collector! They are of no interest whatever! If I made a collection on my own account I would give them no more place than I would give the German, Russian, or Chinese locals, which have never been in legal use at all, and are but the parasites of philately."

As the dealer pronounced this fulminating diatribe one of his clerks came in and handed him a visiting-card.

"It is a lady," said M. Moulineau to his visitor, "who wishes to speak to me at once. Shall we go into my study?"

"With pleasure," returned William with a quiet smile, for he felt convinced that the lady was no other than his young friend, which was, indeed, a fact. The girl was waiting in M. Moulineau's room when he entered, accompanied by William. She could not repress a slight gesture of disappointment at seeing her rival first in the field. But she recovered herself and greeted him with a smile.

"You here, Mr. Keniss?"

"Yes, Miss Betty, and very glad to have the pleasure of introducing you to M. Moulineau, for you are not yet acquainted, I believe, with the celebrated M. Moulineau?"

"I have not that honour," said the girl, bowing, while the stamp dealer also made a profound inclination.

"Miss Betty Scott, of New York," continued

William, "is a great philatelist. She has been collecting for six months at the most, and yet during that time she has formed a collection almost equal to mine."

M. Moulineau thought he could not have heard aright, and opened his eyes to their fullest extent.

that she might understand his visit had been both interesting and profitable—

"I have been here for half an hour, Miss Scott, and have had a chat—a long chat—with M. Moulineau. Have I not, M. Moulineau?"

"Yes, yes, Mr. Keniss, yes, certainly."



HE HANDED THE PHOTOGRAPHS TO THE YOUNG LADY

"A collection almost equal to yours, did you say?"

"Yes, very nearly equal."

M. Moulineau, stupefied, muttered to himself, "In six months! Most extraordinary!" while William turned to Betty and said, laying stress on his words

Betty bit her lips in increasing mortification.

"Yes," she said, "you are before me this time."

"And, believe me, I am already cursing my lucky star. But I will not keep you longer"; and he saluted respectfully and retired.

(To be continued.)

PHILATELIC SOCIETIES

Enterprise Philatelic Society

Secretary: A. C. Constantinides, Woodview, Archway Road, Highgate, London, N.

Meetings: Monthly, Devonshire House Hotel, Bishopsgate Street, London, E.C.

THE twenty-third ordinary monthly meeting took place at the Devonshire House Hotel, Bishopsgate Street, E.C., on Wednesday, April 19th.

Present: Messrs. E. A. Klaber, E. W. Butcher, G. H. Ordish, P. Farnan, W. B. Edwards, B.Sc., D. C. Tewson, G. H. Simons, A. H. Harris, H. W. Westcott, W. H. Eastwood, H. Wills, A. C. Constantinides, and five visitors.

Mr. Klaber (Vice-President) occupied the chair at 6.30 p.m., when the minutes of the previous meeting were read and confirmed.

The name of Mr. Paul E. Lehmann, of New York City, was added to the membership roll.

The resignation of Mr. Harper from the office of Librarian rendered vacant one seat on the Committee which had been held by virtue of office, but Mr. Harper was unanimously elected to retain the duties of a Committeeman.

The following votes of thanks were passed by the meeting:—To sundry members for donations to the Library; to the Fiscal Philatelic Society for several copies of the official catalogue of their recent Exhibition for distribution amongst the "Enterprise" members, and to Mr. Edwards and the Rev. O. W. Clarke for donations to the Forgery Collection.

The first part of the programme was provided by Mr. W. Schwabacher, who had kindly promised to dilate upon the joys appertaining to the collecting of Fiscals. This gentleman gave an extempore discourse, and illustrated his remarks by a marvellous array of the Fiscal stamps of Mexico. Sheet after sheet of the handsome stamps were passed round, and elicited the undisguised admiration of all present. Mr. Schwabacher's humorous remarks raised many a

hearty laugh during the course of the evening, and he well deserved the vote of thanks which was accorded him at the conclusion of his entertainment. A future display of another country's Fiscal emissions was promised in response to the earnest solicitations of many members.

A very fine collection of South Australians, the property of Mr. E. Heginbottom, B.A., was then passed round for inspection, while the notes relating to same were taken in hand by the Secretary. All joined in voting thanks to Mr. Heginbottom for the loan of this collection, which was very complete and showed a great range of shades and the complicated perforations of this Colony.

The next meeting, on May 17th, will be the Fourth Annual General Meeting, and members are requested to make a special note of this fact and to turn up in strong force, for there is plenty to be done with regard to the election of officers for season 1905-6 and the general business of the Society. Many new schemes are now being developed, and, with the co-operation of all the members, the committee will make every endeavour to keep the Society on its present sound footing.

Ballarat Philatelic Society

President: Mr. Holtham.
Secretary: R. D. Breen.
Meetings: Free Library, Ballarat East.

THE first annual meeting of the Ballarat Philatelic Society was held in the Free Library, Ballarat East, in January, 1905.

After the usual routine business was transacted, Mr. Charles Vining was admitted a member.

A resolution was carried enabling honorary members to be elected in recognition of services rendered to the Society. Mr. Renard, B.A., was the first to achieve the distinguishing notice.

The annual balance sheet showed the purchase of stamps from dealers to be £364 13s. 6d. Its adoption was unanimously carried on the motion of Mr. Mathers.

The warmest thanks of the members were voted to the Hon. Secretary and to the retiring Auditor.

The election of officers resulted as follows: Vice-President Holtham to be President, Mr. Mathers Vice-President, Mr. Breen re-elected Hon. Treasurer, Secretary, and Exchange Superintendent, Mr. Newbury, Auditor.

THE STAMP MARKET

By AN ODD LOT

South Australia

A GRAND country choked with perforation weeds. How fares it in the new Gibbons? Don't expect me to wade through the labyrinthian mazes of compound perfs. and roulettes in the early issues. Happily we in the *G.S.W.* give a wide berth to such philatelic worries.

In the 1893 series, perf. 15, prices have chopped about a great deal. First one value was the favourite, then another, and we do not seem to be sure yet which is going to come out top. Here are the prices of unused since 1896:—

	1896	1897	1899	1900	1902	1903	1904	1905
	s. d.	*s. d.*	*s. d.*	*s. d.*	*s. d.*	*s. d.*	*s. d.*	*s. d.*
½d., yellow-brown	0 2	0 2	0 2	0 4	0 4	0 4	0 4	0 4
1d., green .	0 2	0 6	1 6	1 0	1 0	1 0	1 0	1 0
2d., orange .	0 4	0 6	2 0	2 0	2 0	2 0	2 0	2 6
2½d. on 4d., green	5 0	1 9	1 0	1 0	1 3	1 0	0 9	0 9
2½d., blue-lilac .	0 4	0 9	2 6	2 0	3 6	3 6	3 6	3 6
4d., lilac . .	0 9	—	12 6	12 6	10 0	8 0	7 6	7 6
5d., violet . .	0 9	1 6	—	4 0	6 0	5 0	5 0	5 0
6d., blue . .	1 0	2 6	6 0	12 6	20 0	20 0	20 0	15 0

1902, S A wide. It will be remembered that when the 9d., 1s., and 2s. came out with the S A wide watermark in 1902, they were a bit of a surprise. The knowing ones treated them as an exceptional issue and prophesied well of them. The new Gibbons bears out their forecast, for the prices of those three stamps are still trending upwards. Here are the figures from the start:—

	1903	1904	1905
	s. d.	*s. d.*	*s. d.*
9d., lilac-rose . .	—	5 0	5 0
1s., brown . .	1. 4	3 0	5 0
2s., carmine . .	2 8	8 6	10 0

Of the long-legged series of 1902 it is too early to speak, but I note that the £1, blue, perf. 11½, is left unpriced, and I am told it is very scarce and likely to turn out a good stamp, but the hopeful who have secured copies must not forget that £1 stamps are limited to much fewer buyers than the 1d.

Southern Nigeria

I HAVE always been sweet on Southern Nigeria, and whilst the speculators have been going for Northern Nigeria I have stuck to my colours. They are a far more interesting issue, for they break away from the stereotyped design into a neat and particular design of their own. They have not in the new Gibbons risen to the prices of Northerns, but they are looking up, as the following table of unused Queen's Heads of 1901 will show:—

	1904	1950
	s. d.	*s. d.*
½d., green and black . .	0 1	0 2
1d., carmine ,, . .	0 2	0 3
2d., red-brown ,, . .	0 4	0 6
4d., sage-green ,, . .	0 8	1 6
6d., purple ,, . .	1 6	2 6
1s., black and green . .	4 0	4 0
2s. 6d., brown and black . .	5 0	7 6
5s., yellow ,, . .	10 0	15 0
10s., purple on yellow and black	20 0	30 0

Straits Settlements

THERE has been an upward movement in some of the early unsurcharged issues, notably in the 1868 C C series. The 6 c., dull lilac, has gone up from 4s. to 7s. 6d.; the 12 c., ultramarine, from 2s. 6d. to 4s.; the 24 c., green, from 5s. to 8s. 6d.; and the 96 c. from 17s. 6d. to 20s.

In the 1883 C A series the 2 c., brown, has been jumped from 10s. to 20s.; but the 4 c., rose, has been dropped from 20s. to 15s.; and the 8 c., orange, from 6s. to 5s.

In the 1883-91 series most of the stamps have slightly improved in price, except the 24 c., yellow-green, which has been dropped from 7s. 6d. to 5s.

The Queen's Heads of 1892-9 have been slightly advanced all round; the 12 c., claret, being doubled, from 1s. to 2s.

The Native States are one too many for me, with their terrible type varieties.

Sudan

THIS pet country of ye Editor of *G.S.W.* lies low at the old prices, and the varieties which he has tabulated with so much care are ignored. Their day may come. Meanwhile, the new Gibbons lists a new inverted. For a long time the 1 mil, brown, has been the only value with inverted overprint; now the 5 mils has been added, and the price is fixed at 25s.

ANSWERS TO CORRESPONDENTS

"G. S. W." Bound Volumes.—*Gibbons Stamp Weekly* will be bound up in half-yearly volumes; consequently the present volume will be completed with the issue for Saturday, 24th June, 1905.

Our publishers have already ordered the covers for binding the volume, but do not propose to make binding covers for general sale, as they imagine there will not be sufficient sale to warrant the expense, as readers will probably prefer to have their volumes bound in their own way. If readers wish to have publishers' covers they had better write Messrs. Stanley Gibbons, Ltd., and say so.

Only a few bound volumes can be placed on sale, as our publishers have, in our opinion, too modestly estimated the number that is likely to be required. Therefore, copies should be ordered without delay.

Offers of "G. S. W.", No. 2.—In response to our suggestion, the following offer copies of *Gibbons Stamp Weekly*, No. 2, for sale to those readers requiring that number to complete their sets. The copies offered must be complete, with gratis stamp, and unsoiled. This will prevent misunderstandings. Readers will kindly communicate directly with these advertisers, as we cannot undertake any correspondence on the matter. Offers must state if copy is complete and give price. No notice will be taken of any other offers:—

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D. B. Jones, 4, Bures House, Offord Road, Barnsbury, London, N., 2s. 6d.

Miss M. Short, Kilrush, Arnison Road, East Molesey, 2s.

S. A. M. (Southport).—The initials "T.F." on the stamps of the Orange Free State indicate that the stamps are overprinted for use as Telegraph Stamps. They are of no philatelic value.

C. A. E. (Croydon).—Thanks for Southern Nigeria. You will note that we have rectified the matter in the present number. The ½d. was ignored last year.

G. R. D. (Bournemouth).—We have not before heard of the New Zealand 1d. Universal Postage, *imperf.* Do not send it. Your description is sufficient. But these stamps are so badly perforated that an imperf. to be beyond suspicion should be in a pair.

EDITORIAL

Editorial Communications

All communications intended for the Editor should be addressed to Edward J. Nankivell, Carnanton, Camden Park, Tunbridge Wells.

Philatelic Societies

We wish to make a special feature of the prompt publication of the reports of Philatelic Societies, and trust we may have the kindly co-operation of the honorary secretaries in this matter. Reports should be written on one side of the paper, and despatched to the Editor by the earliest post.

Special Correspondence

The Editor will be glad to receive interesting letters from philatelic centres not already covered by our arrangements. We want chatty and newsy letters on matters of interest to the general collector, and excluding all matter of interest only to the specialist.

Our Miscellaneous Page

We wish to make *Gibbons Stamp Weekly* a storehouse of information, and shall therefore be glad of any cuttings of more or less permanent interest for our "Miscellaneous" page. Source and date of cutting must be given.

Subscriptions

Subscriptions must be sent to the publishers as set out on the front page of cover, or to booksellers or railway bookstalls, but never to the Editor.

OUR PHILATELIC DIARY

MAY, 1905

16. Auction: Plumridge, 64, Chancery Lane, London. 4.45 p.m.
    Herts Philatelic Society: Annual Meeting, Anderton's Hotel, Fleet Street, London, E.C.
17. Enterprise Philatelic Society, London: General Sale and Exchange Annual General Meeting.
    Sheffield Philatelic Society: Sale and Exchange of Stamps.
    Auction: Plumridge, 64, Chancery Lane, London. 4.45 p.m.
18. Auction: Glendining, 7, Argyll Street, London. 4.30 p.m.
19. Auction: Glendining, 7, Argyll Street, London. 4.30 p.m.
22. Auction: Hadlow, Covent Garden Hotel, London. 5 p.m.
23. Auction: Puttick and Simpson, 47, Leicester Square, London. 4.30 p.m.
24. Auction: Puttick and Simpson, 47, Leicester Square, London. 4.30 p.m.
25. Auction: Ventom, Bull, and Cooper, Loudoun Hotel, Surrey Street, Strand, London. 5 p.m.
26. Auction: Ventom, Bull, and Cooper, Loudoun Hotel, Surrey Street, Strand, London. 5 p.m.
    Philatelic Society of London: Annual General Meeting, 4, Southampton Row, London, W.C. 7.45 p.m.
30. Auction: Plumridge, 64, Chancery Lane, London. 4.45 p.m.
31. Auction: Plumridge, 64, Chancery Lane, London. 4.45 p.m.

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13 May, 1905.

Gibbons Stamp Weekly

EDITED BY EDWARD J. NANKIVELL

No. 20 | 20 MAY, 1905 | VOL. I.

THE COUNTRIES OF THE WORLD

By EDWARD J. NANKIVELL

Introductory

HAVING disposed of the stamps of Great Britain, we are now free to make a start with our programme of writing up the countries of the world in their alphabetical order. It is a common saying that the stamps of the world are now beyond the grasp of most men, if not of all. The list of stamp-issuing states of all sorts and sizes must now be close on 400. The simplest form of catalogue, with a rigid exclusion of specialist varieties, totals up the separate stamps issued to 19,242. Of these 5,916 are apportioned to the British Empire and 13,326 to the rest of the world. The yearly output runs into about 1,000 new stamps. Hence it is obvious that few, if any, collectors can pretend to cover the whole philatelic field.

Our purpose in writing up the countries of the world will be to enable our readers to make their own comparisons and their own final choice. A wise Providence ordains that, in philatelic as well as in other matters, there should be a wide diversity of likes and dislikes. Some will like one country or group, and some another, and in the end every country secures its devotees.

Our Programme

Our chief endeavour will be to so simplify the issues of every country that few countries may be voted too difficult for the young collector. Some of the old countries will require a somewhat drastic pruning to bring them within the reach of the average collector, but the pruning must be done.

From the first our list will be rigidly restricted to postage stamps sold for public use. Unpaids, Officials, Registereds, Special Delivery, Express Delivery, and other postal fripperies will be lopped off. Some day, in our opinion, they will have to be relegated to a separate catalogue, as postcards and envelopes have been.

A contemporary which has been using the pruning knife has reduced the known varieties of the world to 8,500. This is getting the number down to manageable proportions, and almost revives the hope that general collecting may, on such lines, become more general.

Anything that can be done to counteract the disintegrating influence of specialism and encourage any tendency to general collecting will be something gained in the most desirable of all philatelic directions. We cannot expect to revive general collecting and place it on its old footing, but there is little doubt that by simplifying the complexities of the modern catalogue, and reducing every list to its smallest proportions, it will be possible to do much to pave the way for a wider grasp of general collecting, especially amongst young collectors.

The Choice of a Country

Experienced collectors are frequently appealed to for advice as to the best countries to collect. Some want a country that is likely to prove a good investment, others an inexpensive country, others a simple country free from specialist varieties, and others a good philatelic country, meaning a country worth studying from a philatelic point of view. But after all the best choice must be that which is made by the collector himself after he has acquired some knowledge of countries as a general collector. And we trust our simple histories of the countries of the world will do much to help the collector in selecting a country or group that will chime in with his individual tastes. It is not a bad plan to select a representative country from each continent, and be it remembered that some of the most interesting countries from a philatelic point of view are far from being the most promising as an investment. Nevertheless, the collector who would get the greatest enjoyment out of the hobby should not allow even the necessity of considering the investment phase to debar him from taking up at least one such country. It is a great mistake to suppose that the great collectors are always guided in their choice of countries by money-making considerations. Many an unpopular country is specialised by eminent collectors who are supposed to be mere money-grabbers. The collection that bulks up largely in monetary value monopolises the public attention, whereas the unpopular, but richly philatelic, country finds its public only amongst enthusiastic collectors. The general collector who collects for the pleasure to be got out of amassing and possessing a fine collection is overshadowed by the Great Mogul who sells, or exhibits, stamps weighed in the scales of pounds, shillings, and pence.

Prices of Stamps

We propose to affix Gibbons Catalogue quotations to the stamps of each country. These quotations will serve a double purpose. They will afford a clue to relative rarity, and they will be a guide to our readers as to the cost of collecting the various countries. They will also answer the question, "Is it an expensive country?" in the most practical manner, and they will assist our readers in the exchange of duplicates with fellow-collectors. But when buying young collectors should always consult a set list, as many stamps can be bought much more cheaply in sets than singly.

Maps

An excellent map will be given with each country. These maps are being prepared for us by Messrs. John Bartholomew and Co., of Edinburgh, the eminent map engravers, and cannot fail to prove interesting from an educational standpoint.

Alphabetical Order

The countries will be taken in strictly alphabetical order, regardless of catalogue groupings into countries and their colonies. We shall thus avoid the monotony of harping too much on one string. Few readers will mind swallowing an Indian Native State or two when they are sandwiched between some popular favourites. Even French Colonies may be accepted with good grace when they appear in mixed company, whereas if we were to dole out to our readers a weekly dose of French Colonials for six months right away the *G. S. W.* might be voted a bore instead of the welcome and pleasant visitor that we hope to make it.

The Start—Abyssinia

The first item of this programme will be found in our next number, and will deal with the stamps of Abyssinia, which merit much more attention than they generally receive. Despite all that can be said against them, they are full of interest, and are by no means so common as one would suppose such recent issues should be.

(To be continued.)

FIRST STEPS IN PHILATELY

By Rev. T. C. WALTON, M.A.

(*Continued from page 297.*)

Stamps without a Name (*continued*)

THE first issue of Austria, in 1850, presents the Arms of Austria on a shield surmounted by an Imperial crown with KKPOST STEMPEL, *i.e.* "Imperial and royal post stamp," at the top and the value in "kreuzer" or "centes" at the base. The "kreuzer" values were for use in Austria, while the "centes" values were for the Austrian States in Italy.

AUSTRIA.



AUSTRIAN ITALY.



In the year 1863, a new design of Austrian stamps appeared with the Arms of Austria embossed on a coloured ground. A similar series, with the values expressed in soldi instead of kreuzers, were issued for use in the Italian State of Venetia and the Consular offices in the Levant.

N.B.—One soldo = one kreuzer. 60 kreuzers = 1 Austrian florin = 2s.

AUSTRIA.



AUSTRIAN ITALY.



Under the terms of the Berlin Treaty, in 1878, Bosnia and Herzegovina came under the rule of Austria. A series of stamps was accordingly issued in 1879. These stamps bear the Arms on the breast of a crowned double eagle. The value in kreuzers appears in the upper corners.

BOSNIA AND HERZEGOVINA.



Belgium issued a series of stamps in 1866 with a lion rampant in an oval surmounted by the Imperial Crown on a background slightly differing in detail according to the face value.

BELGIUM.



The Bulgarian first issue of 1879 is responsible for yet another crowned lion rampant as the central design. In this series, however, there is an inscription in white Sclavonic characters. The upper part of the inscription means "Bulgarian Post." The lower part gives the value in words. The lion of Bulgaria appears again in the issue of 1889. The difference in design may be noted in the two illustrations below.

BULGARIA.



1879.



1889.

A series in commemoration of the baptism of Prince Boris into the Orthodox Church was issued in 1896. The Arms of Bulgaria appear on a mantle surmounted by a crown. The date 2 FEBRUARY, 1896, is inscribed on the semicircular tablet over the central design. The face value is expressed in "stotinki" instead of "centimes" used in the 1879 series.

The 1901 issue of Bulgaria, on sale in the Bulgarian Post Office for two days only, and commemorating the twenty-fifth anniversary of the delivery of Bulgaria from Turkish rule, is interesting. The cannon of the central design has long been relegated to the limbo of ornamental parks or museums of antiquities.

BULGARIA.



1896.



1901.

One more commemorative series of Bulgaria deserves mention. It is the series of 1902, celebrating the twenty-fifth anniversary of the defence of the Shipka Pass by the Bulgarian Volunteers against the army of Suleiman Pasha, in the Russo-Turkish War of 1877. This and other stamps of Bulgaria which we have described do not strictly belong to the category of "stamps without a name," for they have inscriptions in Bulgarian characters which enable those who can read the language to identify them. Inasmuch, however, as the language is an unknown quantity to most beginners, I have ventured to include these issues under the title of nameless stamps.

BULGARIA.



1902.

Eastern Roumelia was constituted a province by the terms of the Treaty of Berlin. The Sultan of Turkey nominated the governor. A certain amount of self-government was granted, but the issues of postage stamps were under the control of the Turkish Government, subject to a clause which provided for a special series of stamps for the province. Until this series was issued, Turkish stamps, surcharged so as to show their source, were introduced. These stamps, overprinted in blue with R.O. (the abbreviation for Roumelie Orientale), were issued about 1880 or early in 1881.

The special series for Eastern Roumelia, issued early in 1881, differed little from the current Turkish stamps. A curved tablet was introduced below the crescent and inscribed EASTERN ROUMELIA, in Greek. The same inscription in French, Turkish, and Bulgarian filled in three of the sides of the rectangle. These issues are here described, so that the beginner may be able to distinguish them from the Turkish stamps.

EASTERN ROUMELIA.





In 1885 a revolution broke out with the object of uniting with Bulgaria. The revolution attained its object and Eastern Roumelia became incorporated with Bulgaria under the name of Southern Bulgaria. The current issue of stamps was hand-stamped in black or blue with the lion of Bulgaria rampant. This surcharge occurs both with and without a frame. In the framed surcharge an inscription above and below the "lion" signified "Southern Bulgaria."

SOUTH BULGARIA.





When Crete was evacuated by the Turks in 1898, a joint administration was formed by Great Britain, France, Italy, and Russia. The Russian sphere of administration issued three series of postage stamps. The central design of the first was the double-headed Russian eagle, while the head of a fish-spear occupied the central portion of the other two series.

CRETE (RUSSIAN ZONE).





(To be continued.)

PORTRAITS ON STAMPS

By MARK W. HALL

Bolivia (*continued*)

Murillo-Toro, Manuel. Colombian statesman, born in Chaparral, Tolima, in 1815. He was graduated in law at the University of Bogota, and began early to enter politics. His articles in the daily press attracted attention by their energetic opposition to the Conservative Government of Dr. Marquez in 1837–40.



Murillo-Toro, Manuel.

After the revolution of the latter year he became editor of the *Gaceta Mercantil de Santa Marta*, which exercised a great influence, and prepared for the triumph of the Liberal party in the elections of 1849. He was elected to the Chamber of Representatives, and soon attained a reputation for eloquence, when he was called by General Lopez to his Cabinet as Secretary of State and afterward of the Treasury. In 1852 he was an unsuccessful candidate for the Vice-Presidency of the Republic; but when the Liberal party lost power he returned to journalism, and, except during the short time that he occupied the State Executive of Santander, he sustained an energetic opposition to the Conservative Government. He was again a candidate for the Chief Executive, and, aided by part of the Conservative party, was elected President for the term of 1872–4. Murillo was again elected Senator in 1878, and occupied his seat in the next session of Congress; but illness prevented him from attending in 1880, and he died in the same year.

His portrait appears on 5 c., green, 1897–8.

Santa Cruz, Andres. Bolivian soldier, born in La Paz in 1792. He entered the Spanish military service, and obtained the rank of lieutenant-colonel, but after the defeat of General O'Reilly at Pasco, 6th December, 1820, he went over to the patriots with part of his command. Towards the end of 1821 he was sent by General San Martin to aid General Sucre in Ecuador, and took part in the victorious battle of Pichincha, 25th May, 1822, for which he was promoted brigadier. After Sucre's resignation of the executive of Bolivia, Santa Cruz was elected President 31st December, 1828, and became Dictator. During his administrations he accomplished many reforms and enlarged the army. He now tried to realise his cherished idea of a Peru-Bolivian confederation. He called together a congress in 1836 and accepted the title of Protector of the Confederation, dividing Peru into two parts under independent governments. The preponderant influence of the Confederation alarmed the Republic of Chili, which declared war on Santa Cruz. The first Chilian expedition was unlucky, and was saved only by the treaty of peace of Paucarpata, 17th November, 1837; but the second was more successful, and Santa Cruz, deserted by part of his army, was totally defeated at Yungay, 20th January, 1839. The Confederation was dissolved, and Santa Cruz took refuge in Guayaquil, but was taken prisoner and banished to Chili. In 1848 he was sent as minister from Peru to France, where he died in 1865.



Santa Cruz, Andres.

His portrait appears on 20 centavos, lilac, 1902.

NEW ISSUES

The Editor will be grateful to his readers if they will help him with the earliest possible information concerning new issues. News from the Colonies in particular will be much appreciated. When possible, a specimen should accompany the information, and should be addressed to

EDWARD J. NANKIVELL, Carmanton, Camden Park, Tunbridge Wells.

Belgium.—We have received and now illustrate three of the long-talked-of new series with up-to-date portrait of King Leopold. This new series is to commemorate the seventy-fifth anniversary of the Independence of Belgium. It is stated that though competition was not invited, many foreign artists sent in designs for the new stamps. The portrait is pronounced to be a good one, but the less said about the surrounding designs the better.



New Portrait of King Leopold.
Perf.
20 c., olive-green.
25 c., blue.
35 c., brown-lilac.

Gambia.—According to the *Madrid Filatelico*, quoted in *Ewen's Weekly Stamp News*, specimens of the many odd values, which were some months since said to be in preparation for this colony, have been seen. It would be interesting to learn what special need this little colony can possibly have for stamps that few of our most populous colonies include in their lists. The full list of these oddities is as follows:—



Wmk. Multiple C A. Perf.
5d., grey and black.
7½d., green and carmine.
10d., olive-brown and carmine.

Wmk. Single C A. Perf.
1s. 6d., green and carmine on yellow.
2s. 6d., violet and marone on yellow.
3s., carmine and green on yellow.

Spain.—*The Centenary of Don Quixote.*—To celebrate the three-hundredth anniversary of the publication of *Don Quixote*, the immortal work of Cervantes, the Spanish authorities have seen fit to issue a series of ten stamps, which will remain in circulation from May 1st to May 15th, according to a Royal Decree, which was published in the *Gaceta de Madrid* on 6th April, 1905. These stamps have been engraved by Don Bartolomé Maura in the National Coin and Stamp Factory. They are printed in various colours on white paper with control numbers in blue on the back, and are perforated 14. They will be on sale in the Madrid post offices. The designs are excellent, but the execution is very poor; seeing the general interest that cannot fail to be aroused by the issue, it is a great pity that the stamps were not produced more in the manner of the very beautiful set which Crete has issued lately, for the Cretan stamps are really little works of art.

The 5 c., green, depicts the first setting out of Don Quixote; the 10 c., scarlet, shows the windmill and Don Quixote tilting at it; the 15 c., violet, shows the hero on his knees before the village maidens mounted on asses; the 25 c., blue, will win fame as being probably the record of the funniest scene that has appeared so far on a stamp, for it represents Sancho being tossed in the blanket; in the 30 c., turquoise-green, the Knight is receiving his armour, and in the 40 c., rose, he is charging a flock of sheep with his lance; the 50 c., blue, shows the Knight riding the hobby-horse, and on the 1 peseta, red, he is having his adventure with the lions; on the 4 pesetas, violet, the Knight is riding in the long waggon drawn by oxen; and in the 10 pesetas, orange, we are privileged to witness the meeting between the Knight and the Enchanted Lady. *Don Quixote* has been translated into Latin and into probably every living printed language. Cervantes died on April 23rd, 1616, eleven years after the publication of the first part of his great work.



First setting out of Don Quixote.



Tilting at the Windmill.



Before the Village Maidens.



Sancho tossed in a Blanket.



Knighting Don Quixote.



Charging the Sheep.



El Clavileno.



Adventure with the Lions.



Don Quixote riding in a Waggon.



The Enchanted Lady.

Control numbers on back. Perf.

5 c., green ; first setting out of Don Quixote.
10 c., scarlet ; tilting at the windmill.
15 c., violet ; before the village maidens.
25 c., blue ; Sancho tossed in a blanket.
30 c., turquoise-green ; knighting Don Quixote.
40 c., rose ; charging the sheep.
50 c., blue ; El Clavileno.
1 p., red ; adventure with the lions
4 p., violet ; Don Quixote riding in a waggon.
10 p., orange ; the Enchanted Lady.

GOSSIP OF THE HOUR

By CORNELIUS WRINKLE

The Badge Question: Design

MR. W. H. CLARKE, a collector of twenty-five years' standing, writes me a long and interesting letter from Liverpool, for which I regret I cannot find room. The burden of his complaint is that the CC and CA are not at all suitable, that they are open to the risk of letting foreigners know that the wearer may be an Englishman, and may, therefore, give offence. This remnant of a rag-tail idea, that an Englishman should act as a sort of gutter snipe, doing everything to shamefacedly disguise his nationality, evokes no sympathy from me. Besides, there is no exclusiveness in stamp collecting. Our foreign brothers are just as enthusiastic as we are over CC's and CA's. Offer them a few bargains, by way of test, if you are at all sceptical.

Mr. Clarke's Suggestion

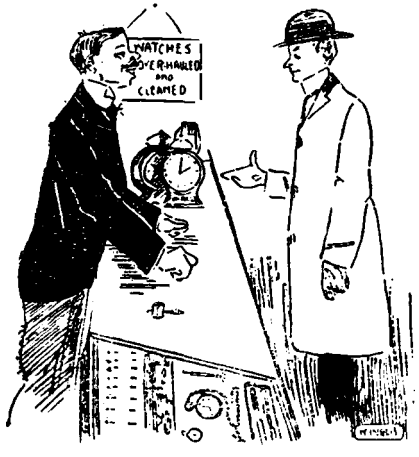
Mr. Clarke suggests a badge with the initials I.C.U.R.A.C., and then the word "Collector." Collector! of what? Turn the medal, and on the back is the explanation, "Philatelia," with joined hands.

No, my friend, that won't do. CC's, CA's, and "out-of-date patriotic pictures" that won't sell, and to which you object, are about as much related as heaven and the other place. Besides, we won't have any tarnishing of our world-wide, friendship-yielding hobby with loathsome party politics.

CC's and CA's will never get out of date whilst they ear-mark the gems of philately.

With an Eye to Business

A WICKED and humorous reader of mine sends me the following sketch:—



1st Stamp Collector: "What do you think of Cornelius Wrinkle's idea of having badges?"

2nd Stamp Collector (a jeweller): "Oh! it's all right for our trade, you know. Everybody who has not got a watch and chain will have to get one, to hang the pendant on."

Belgium's New Stamps

I HAVE just seen three of the new Belgian stamps with new portrait of King Leopold. The portrait is certainly more up to date; in fact, it is easily recognisable by anyone who has seen the original. I have had that pleasure, if it may be deemed a pleasure to look upon such a character. I was sunning myself before breakfast on the promenade at Ostend when a scowling-anarchist-tramp-like sort of fellow stopped me and pointing up at Leopold's seaside villa above us asked, "Le Roi Leopold?" I looked up and immediately recognised the King and nodded, "Oui!" The King was limping round his villa on the terrace, evidently doing a constitutional. We stood and watched him, I with my philatelic interest, my anarchist friend with, I fear, somewhat mixed feelings, for after a short pause he walked on with a snarl.

Philatelic Games: Singles and Multiples

I DON'T know of any philatelic games, but here is one you can try which will be likely to yield no end of amusement. Take a lot of Colonial stamps, De la Rue prints on *red-coloured* papers, with single CA and multiple CA watermarks, well mixed. Shuffle and deal to, say, four, five, or six players. The player who separates and sorts his single and multiple watermarks first to be the winner. No swearing allowed. To prevent bloodshed it will be necessary to previously identify the singles and multiples, and place some secret mark (known only to the owner) on each stamp.

No Fresh Single CA's possible

FOLLOWING up my note on page 286 on the possibility of speculators in single CA watermarks being faced with fresh supplies, I learn on excellent and reliable authority that fresh supplies of single CA's are simply out of the range of possibility without incurring special and great expense, for my informant assures me that the dandy roll for making the single CA watermark paper has been destroyed, being no longer required. So that's an end of single CA paper.

Proposed New Tunis Stamps

I SEE a paragraph is going the round of the philatelic press announcing that a new series of postage stamps has been prepared for Tunis. It is stated that the designs are being prepared by a well-known Parisian painter, and that they will illustrate various epochs in the history of Tunis. Stamp collectors who have thus been worked up to the tip-toe of expectation will have to possess their souls in patience, for if I am, as I believe, correctly informed, the new stamps will certainly not be issued this year, and possibly may not see the light for even a twelvemonth.

A Philatelic Mare's Nest in Australia

THEY seem to have got a good old philatelic mare's nest out in Australia. They have discovered what cannot possibly exist, *i.e.* stamps printed from a plate that was never made, namely, our English penny red with the plate number 126. Since the first discovery, a few months since, they have been turning up quite plentifully, it seems. Here's an Auckland, New Zealand, correspondent of a contemporary who says he has "seen Mr. Harper's copy and it is O.K.", and he has seen two others in an Auckland collection. It will be remembered that it has also turned up in Sydney. Before long it may be expected to be more or less common to every Australian collection. I wonder who is at the bottom of this little game.

MISCELLANEOUS

The Commonwealth Issue

ON the 1st inst. (March, 1905) the Australian States entered on the last of the five years "Book-keeping Period." There are rumours in the air that the book-keeping period may be extended and that a Commonwealth issue of stamps may be postponed indefinitely. A couple of months back several members of the Sydney Philatelic Club were appointed as a deputation to wait on the P.M.G. and endeavour to get some definite information from that gentleman as to what steps were being taken to provide a series of stamps worthy of this country. Up to the present, however, the P.M.G. (who expressed his willingness to hear what the Deputation had to say when he visited Sydney), has evaded the members of the Sydney P.C. The mail muddle, which has not yet been settled, probably blocks the way, but all philatelists in Australia should busy themselves in an endeavour to bring matters to a head. That Australia should have a suitable series of stamps right away, book-keeping period or no, must be conceded, and it is a continued disgrace to allow matters to go on as they have been during the past four years.—*Australian Journal of Philately*, March, 1905.

The Real Market Value of a Stamp

ATTEMPTS have been made from time to time to settle this very knotty subject, and it has been argued from various standpoints, viz. the basis of auction prices, dealers' catalogues, competition, scarcity, and the law of supply and demand. We are afraid, however, that no satisfactory solution of the difficulty will ever be arrived at. Auction prices vary, dealers' catalogues vary, competition varies, scarcity varies, supply and demand varies, "condition" varies, and circumstances vary. In fact there is such a multitude of "variations" to be considered in the effort to fix a real market value that the thing is well-nigh impossible.

We have the courage to assert that auction prices are very little guide. The circumstances surrounding an auction sale must be taken into consideration. It must be remembered that usually the majority of bidders who attend the London sales are dealers who are either buying on commission for collectors, or with a view to a profit on a resale in the ordinary way of business. Is it fair to argue that, because a stamp fetched a certain sum in a London sale-room, a collector should only pay the same money to a dealer in Australia? The dealer might say, If you want to buy the stamp at such a price go to the auction-room and buy it. Again, a collector might say he would be safe in paying, say, 25 per cent. over auction prices. Even then he might be away from the real market value, for the simple reason that two somewhat similar stamps when placed side by side may differ as much as chalk and cheese. We have known two exactly similar articles fetch at auction, on different occasions, prices which varied 50 per cent., and in some cases when several articles of the same kind have been put up at the same sale, they fetched *various* prices owing to bidders dropping out. This may apply to stamps as well as other commodities. The law of average won't meet the case, and a "standard" cannot be maintained. One dealer may be in the happy position of having "a good connection," *i.e.* collectors who have the means to pay a good price for stamps they require. Another dealer may value his stamps at lower prices and be satisfied with a smaller profit, have fewer expenses, or he may have secured a supply of stock on more advantageous terms. One dealer may sell a stamp at 10s., and have more profit off it than he who sells a similar stamp at 20s. One man may offer his stamps (and have plenty of them to sell too) at 10s., and doesn't find buyers, whereas another may not be able to get sufficient to supply the demands of his customers at 15s. each. Which is the real market value? . . .

Competition, circumstances, and condition all combine to prevent the fixing of a real market value, and it is a hopeless task to try and arrive at a solution of the difficulty. Collectors and dealers must therefore use their own judgment and discretion in buying and selling.—*Australian Journal of Philately*, March, 1905.

Last Year's New Issues

WE are glad to note from M. Maury's useful summary of the new issues for 1904 that their volume has considerably decreased. Last year 766 new stamps were issued, as against 1,183 for 1903 and 1,017 for 1902. This is a substantial reduction, and one that we hope may be continued and accentuated; but even this number is formidable when we remember that all minor varieties and entires are excluded from M. Maury's calculation. Of the 766 new stamps for 1904, only 47 were Europeans, and once more we call the attention of all thoughtful philatelists to the marked contrast as regards European new issues with other parts of the world. It may be truthfully said that Europe is the one portion of the globe (with a few trifling exceptions) that issues its stamps wholly and solely in accordance with public requirements. The day will therefore assuredly come—when many other countries' issues have been long dead and buried under countless latter-day rubbish—that Europeans will re-assert their claims on the collector of the future as the most pure and honest stamps in the world.

MR. M. P. CASTLE, in the *London Philatelist*.

Counani Stamps

ON page 29 we quoted some remarks from the *Monthly Journal* of a sceptical nature concerning the so-called Counani stamps, and we now quote what may be termed the final chapter from the April, 1905, number of the same journal. Major Evans writes:—

"We have recently had an opportunity of conversing with a gentleman who has spent a considerable portion of his life in Brazil, and is now at home for a few months after an unbroken sojourn of six years in that country. The firm to which he belongs does business both at Pará and at Manaos, and as the latter place is on the north side of the river Amazon and actually within the territory claimed by the Republic of Counani, we thought he might know something about that State. In answer to our inquiries, he told us that he thought he had seen the name Counani mentioned in the newspapers, and on our showing him what claimed to be an 'Official Map of the Free State of Counani,' indicating the whole of the northern bank of the Amazon, up to and considerably beyond Manaos, as included in that Republic, he assured us that nothing of the kind was the case. He was able to tell us, from his own personal knowledge, that all the towns on the northern bank of the Amazon (as well as on the southern) are Brazilian and, naturally, Brazilian stamps are used there. The territory between the Amazon and British, Dutch, and French Guiana, is very thinly populated—in fact, there are hardly any settlements except along the numerous rivers, most of which are tributaries of the Amazon. Our informant had been up some of these rivers in the course of business, and was able to say that the places upon them were undoubtedly Brazilian; in fact, we gather that all the parts of this territory that are settled and occupied at all are in Brazilian hands."

THE STAMP KING

By G. DE BEAUREGARD AND H. DE GORSSE

Translated from the French by EDITH C. PHILLIPS



SHE SAW AN ANNOUNCEMENT

CHAPTER VIII (*continued*)

In which William Keniss, Stamp King though he is, passes from one surprise to another

BETTY, left alone with the stamp dealer, explained the object of her visit.

"Sir," she began, "I do not know if the gentleman who has just left us has told you of the philatelic duel in which we are engaged. A little time ago you sold Mr. Keniss a stamp from the Maharajah of Brahmapootra?"

"Quite true, Miss Scott," returned M. Moulineau, convinced now that this was his customer's rival.

"Of this stamp, you say, there exist but two copies?"

"The one belonging to Mr. Keniss—and another ——"

"Can you possibly get the other one for me? I have come to you on purpose to ask this of you."

M. Moulineau felt so embarrassed that he hardly knew how to reply.

"Do you know, Miss Scott," he said at last, "that is exactly what Mr. William Keniss came to ask me to do? I can only answer you as I have just answered him."

"Well, tell me quickly."

"Some days ago I sold the second copy to one of my best customers."

"Sold it! To whom?"

"Forgive me if I do not tell you that, Miss Scott. I have given my word of honour not to divulge to anyone the name of the new owner of the Brahmapootra stamp. You see how impossible it is for me to break this engagement."

But Miss Betty could not bear to be beaten.

"You have given your word of honour," she said. "Would it be indiscreet if I asked you to whom?"

The dealer reflected again. He was evidently fighting against himself, and considering whether he ought to answer the question so adroitly put.

"Yes, Miss Scott, it would, I fear, be indiscreet," he said at length.

"Then there is no more to be said," returned the girl. And she rose to take her leave of M. Moulineau, feeling very cross, for she had no doubt it was William who had extracted the promise from him.

"If only I could be of service to you in some way in this matter," began M. Moulineau, who was a most obliging man, and deeply grieved at not being able to satisfy the curiosity of the charming philatelist.

"I do not at all see how," returned Betty.

"I do! I do!" cried M. Moulineau, struck with a brilliant idea. "Have you a *fac-simile* of the stamp you are seeking?"

"No."

"Then permit me to offer you some." And, opening the drawer of his writing-table, he took out five or six little photographs of the Brahmapootra stamp, like those he had already given William Keniss, and handed them to Betty. This did not commit him to much, and gave him an opportunity of being kind at a very small cost.

"Moreover," he continued, "here is the last number of the little journal I publish every month—*L'Echo de la Philatélie*. You will find in it a very minute description of the stamp which interests you, with circumstantial details as to its colour, paper, etc."

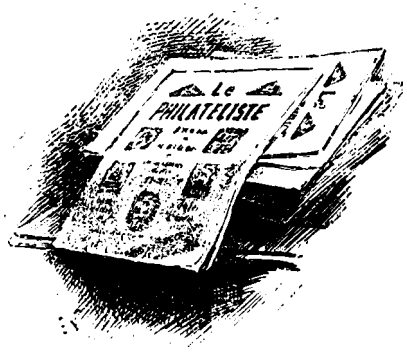
"Thank you," said Betty, taking the photographs and the journal. "Your little present may some day be more useful to me than you think."

And the infatuated philatelist left M. Moulineau,



SHE ACQUAINTED M. PICQUOISEAU WITH HER OBJECT

assuring him of her gratitude for the way in which he had received her, but a little discomforted as she thought how much better it might have been for her had she risen an hour earlier, or loitered less at the shop windows. And in deep meditation she once more gained the Boulevards.



CHAPTER IX

In which Miss Betty determines to use strong measures

IT can be easily imagined that Miss Betty's reflections were not happy ones. She wandered on at random, seeking for some means to ward off the blows of fate, which seemed obstinately to fight against her. Vexation with William for having got the start of her, and especially at feeling herself the victim of his foresight, absorbed her completely.

"What can I do? What can I do?" she kept saying to herself.

Passing through a by-street she happened to see in gold letters the announcement—"Picquoiseau, Intelligence Agency." It gave her an idea.

"I'll do it," she said, after a moment's hesitation. "I will have William Keniss shadowed, so that, if he goes after his stamp, I shall hear of it, and perhaps, with the help of a little audacity, get the better of him." And she entered the house containing the offices of the intelligence agency.

A staircase mounted, a ring of the bell, one minute's waiting in the ante-room, and she was ushered into a room, elegantly though plainly furnished, one wall of which was occupied by rows of little green boxes all numbered. This was the private office of M. Prosper Picquoiseau.

The chief rose as she entered, and Miss Betty beheld, behind a table piled up with numerous and important papers—intended, perhaps, to throw dust in the eyes of clients—a tall man, thin and spare, with a head angular and flattened as that of a bird of prey, and whose twinkling eyes never looked one straight in the face.

"What an ugly man!" thought the girl.

"Madame," said M. Picquoiseau, "will you have the kindness to take a seat, and tell me the purpose which has brought you hither?"

The young American, seated opposite M. Picquoiseau, soon made him acquainted with her object.

"I want a gentleman followed, and I want to know, day by day, hour by hour, what he does and where he goes."

"Nothing is easier," returned the chief. "You have only to give us the address and description of the gentleman, madam, and every morning and every evening, or several times a day if you wish it, and at whatever hours you please, you shall receive notes, relating all the goings and comings of the person in question. For all lesser details you can make what arrangements you like with one of the detectives whom I will place at your service. Will you kindly give me your name and address, and the name and address of the gentleman to be shadowed?"

At this Betty hesitated. She felt, all at once, that it was not a nice thing she was doing. But it was too late now to draw back, so she gave the chief the information he asked for.

"I should like three reports a day," she added—"one in the morning, one during the day, and one in the evening."

"At eight o'clock, twelve, and nine?"

"Yes, that will do." And Miss Betty rose to leave. M. Picquoiseau, who had also risen, detained her with a gesture.

"I beg your pardon for mentioning such a subject," said he, "but it is customary, in confiding a matter of this sort to a detective agency, to pay a certain deposit at the office. I shall be obliged if you will kindly conform to this little formality before you go."

"Oh—certainly—sir——" returned Betty, blushing to a deep crimson.

M. Picquoiseau was already pointing out the way to the office when Betty, summoning up all her courage, said bravely—

"I have not the money with me at this moment, but if you will send someone to me this afternoon I will hand him the amount. Please tell me how much it will be."

"In your case, madam, only five hundred francs."

"Very well. I will send the five hundred francs by your messenger."

"At what time should you wish him to come?"

"At half-past three. Mr. Keniss will be with me at that time, and your detective, if it be the one who is to shadow him, can see for himself what he is like, and follow him at once."

"Very good, madam; that is settled then?"

It was nearly twelve o'clock when, the matter being thus arranged, Miss Betty left M. Picquoiseau's room, and she immediately resumed her way to the Place Vendôme, delighted with herself as she thought how her little plot would hinder Mr. Keniss from profiting by the advantage he had gained. But though it was now high time for her to return to the hotel, the luncheon hour being near, Miss Scott stopped once more at the post and telegraph office in the Rue Choiseul, which had been just pointed out to her by a sergent de ville. There she inquired the cost of a telegram within the city, and, finding she could send by pneumatic post for fifteen or thirty centimes, according as she chose an open or a closed card, she despatched the following, after a careful examination of her pocket had brought to light a few pence, which the gallant Tilbury had disdained:—

"MR. WILLIAM KENISS,
"HOTEL TERMINUS,
"RUE ST. LAZARE.

"DEAR MR. KENISS,—Will you be kind enough to come and see me this afternoon between three and four o'clock? I absolutely must speak to you.

"With kind regards,
"BETTY SCOTT."

After which she hastened to the Hotel Bristol.

(To be continued.)

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENCE

News from Mysore

MALUR, 15*th April*, 1905.

IN my last letter I gave a list of such stamps of Nabha, Chamba, and Faridkot as should appear in all collections. I intended to tackle Gwalior this week, but must postpone that subject, since I am far removed from a centre of civilisation and my notes, lists, etc., are many miles away; consequently I must fall back on current subjects for this letter.

"The Heathen Chinee is Peculiar"

I am told that the Zanzibar forgeries are still being offered in large quantities in Bombay. All the errors, p, q, d, etc., which ever existed (and many which never did) can be obtained there at a much lower price than is asked for the genuine ones in the Strand, and the dabblers in the gentle art of faking do a big business. Rumour has it that one of the forgers is a Chinaman, whose innocent and honest looks stand him in good stead.

A dealer once lived in the slums of Bombay,
'Tis a terrible tale that I tell O!
His name was Ah Sin (or it ought to have been),
And his colour a parchmenty yellow.

He purchased a lot (and paid "*cash*" on the spot)
Of the Indian six pies and one anna;
Which he frequently sold, after "faking," I'm told,
In a really remarkable manner.

He inserted a "Zan," that unscrupulous man,
And followed it up with "Zibar,"
With an error or two, such as "*p*" or a "*q*,"
And a preference showed for "Zidar."

And he handed 'em round as he sat on the ground
(Or the upper verandah of Táta's),*
With a look of despair on his pigtailly hair
And a face like an innocent martyr's.

The 6 anna 8 pies Stamp

This stamp has risen in the new catalogue from 12s. 6d. to 15s. unused, and from 3s. 6d. to 5s. used. This is one of the *rarities* of Indian stamps—its price does not point to its being so, but the experience of collectors out here bears out the fact, and the concensus of opinion among Indian collectors is that for years this stamp has been greatly undervalued. Poor copies are fairly plentiful, but really fine used ones, and mint unused (particularly in pairs) are well worth having. Out of thirty-four specimens which came to me in a large lot of Indian stamps which I received eight or ten years ago, only one was a really fine stamp. The person who used it had not employed marine glue to help out the gum which the stamp was born with, and he hadn't stamped his name and half a dozen other things in violet ink over the face, and he hadn't placed noughts and crosses on it, and the postal people (in their surprise) had thought that there was something funny and only applied a very light neat postmark in place of a boot-heel, and, moreover, the stamp had not become mildewed in the course of years, and hadn't had any pieces chewed out of it. I consider this particular specimen to be worth fully 10s.

Pen-Marking Forbidden

Until April of this year the public in India has been allowed to pen-mark stamps before use, to prevent the *peons*† who take letters to post from stealing the stamps. A combined postage and receipt stamp is under consideration, and to pave the way for its introduction we have been prohibited from pen-marking any stamp intended to prepay postage. In future no stamp with the head of either Queen Victoria—the Empress, or King Edward—the Emperor, may have any mark across it.

The men who compile all the laws of the land,
The legal advisers of Ind,
Have "put down their *foot*" with a very "firm *hand*"
Lest you penmark the *Kaiser-i-Hind*.

E. W. WETHERELL.

P.S.

The Servian Death-mask Stamps

A most terrible lot of nonsense has been written about the likeness of poor murdered Alexander, which some people think they can see "worked into the design" of the Peter issue. This is quite wrong, no such thing really exists, BUT in the case of the new issue a truly remarkable fact is brought out—

If you turn the stamp up sideways
And stare at it an hour
Through a double-barrelled eye-glass
Of considerable power,
And always use *majenta* light,
And stand upon your head,
You'll find the tint of Peter's hair's
Indubitably *red*.

* The new hotel in Bombay. † Messengers.

Our Transvaal Letter

7*th April*, 1905.

THE latest out here are stamp scandals. Both Natal and Transvaal have had them, and it may be interesting to hear something about them.

Some months ago a lot of high values, 1s. to £1, used Natal stamps appeared on the market at very cheap prices. I thought the Natal Government had sold some thousand sets of stamps defaced with date stamps at a nominal price. Later on I heard that the stamps bore telegraphic cancellations, and still later that the stamps had been stolen when the telegram forms to which the stamps are attached were burnt.

The matter is still being investigated by the authorities, and will no doubt end in some guilty officials being discharged and proper care taken to prevent a repetition of the offence.

It is to be regretted that the several postal authorities the world over do not take the stamps off the telegraph forms after these have been checked and then sell them by auction to the highest bidder. This would bring in a good revenue, which could be used for post officials' pensions or as bonuses to their salaries.

In the pre-war days the Postmaster-General of the South African Republic allowed his officials to take off the stamps from the parcel post dockets after these had been checked and to divide the proceeds amongst them; it is due to this practice there are such a lot of high-value stamps of the 1885 issue in dealers' hands. There have also been some leakages of the telegraph stamps in the Transvaal in olden days, but only in isolated instances. During the late war it has often occurred that officials took all stamps off telegrams and cablegrams just before the British troops occupied the place, and this is the cause of the £5 stamps of 1885 being in such quantities on the market as to command only 10s. each retail, an utterly absurd cheap price for such a rare, really postally used stamp. I would advise collectors to buy this stamp as long as it can be obtained at this cheap price.

The other stamp scandal occurred some months ago in Pretoria. A notice appeared in the daily papers signed by the Distributor of Stamps, in which the public which had unused stamps of the 1896 type in

hand was asked to communicate with him *re* their obtaining them.

This notice was a surprise, and nobody could understand the reason of it till afterwards the truth leaked out. A quantity of South African Republic stamps of 1896 type and some of same type, but surcharged with V.R.I., in hands of the Distributor of Stamps, was ordered to be destroyed, and two young officials were instructed to burn the lot.

Instead of doing their duty they had pity on the nice stamps, and they annexed a quantity, especially of the 2s. 6d. value, of which the stock was largest, and these stamps they sold in Pretoria and Johannesburg with very plausible stories, which the buyers fully believed.

This matter came to the ears of the authorities. They investigated, found the guilty parties, and sent them out of the country.

Those people who could prove that they had honestly bought the stamps were allowed to retain them, and that ended the matter.

Some time ago an official not connected with the Postal Department offered me some complete sets King's Heads—½d. to £5—nicely obliterated, but all with the same date and full original gum at the back. I pointed this out to the party and asked where he got them from, and was told that the Postmaster-General had had a quantity of full sets obliterated and had given them free gratis and for nothing to officials and his friends, very few of whom were collectors. I must say a used £1 stamp is a curiosity out here, and a used £5 stamp is hardly ever seen by the public. They are no doubt used for foreign correspondence, and are then saved, but the bulk go on telegrams and cablegrams, and are therefore lost to collectors.

Times are still very bad out here, and consequently there is very little doing in stamps and nothing remarkable to report.

E. TAMSEN.

PHILATELIC SOCIETIES

The Annual Dinner of the Herts Philatelic Society

NOTES BY CHAS. J. PHILLIPS

THE seventh annual dinner took place at the Café Monico, on Tuesday, May 9th last.

The beautiful Parisian Room was comfortably filled by what was—I am informed—a record attendance.

The dinner was excellent and the service superb—this being due to the personal supervision of the new manager of the Monico—Mr. Wolff, to whom every credit is due.

Amongst those present I noticed the following:—Mr. H. R. Oldfield (in the chair), Messrs. Robert Reid, F. Reichenheim, J. K. Boddy, H. L. Hayman, W. Appleton, W. V. Morton, J. W. Jones, F. Melville, H. Thompson, A. Bagshawe, C. J. Phillips, F. J. Melville, J. C. Sidebotham, J. B. Neyroud, E. S. Davidson, F. J. Nicholl, W. A. Boyes, Edwin Borondy, T. H. Harvey, R. Meyer, R. Frentzel, A. H. L. Giles, C. D. Lord, W. G. Cool, T. F. Stafford, L. Bradbury, F. H. Napier, B. W. A. Poole, W. H. Mair, M. Weinberg, W. Schwabacher, H. Wills, M. Simons, E. H. Dowsett, etc., etc.

After the usual loyal toasts, proposed in his usual able manner by the Chairman—who referred to the fact that H.R.H. the Prince of Wales had honoured Philately in many ways, and that they might look for further favours from him in the near future in connection with the forthcoming exhibition—Mr. Bernard Bouquet gave an excellent song, entitled "Mr. Morris Mosenstein—the Outside Stock-broker."

The Chairman, in proposing the next toast, "The Herts Philatelic Society," quoted the ancient adage that "one cannot make bricks without straw," and went on to say that in coming from the City in the silent tube he had tried to find some words of wit and wisdom to use on this occasion, but he had expected to receive help from the Hon. Secretary in the way of a sheaf of notes such as he had had on other occasions, but he got nothing, and supposed the Hon. Secretary wished to keep these for his own use.

Mr. Oldfield then went on to say that he was able to congratulate the Society on the fact that Mr. Slade had been asked to serve on the Working Committee of the Philatelic Exhibition, and that this would rebound to the credit of their Society. He would also mention, without giving away secrets, the arrangements already made in connection with the Exhibition included a special class for those who had gained gold medals at Exhibitions in London or Manchester, then a liberal group of general classes, and special groups for junior collectors under sixteen and between sixteen and twenty-one years old. By the new arrangement and grouping he thought that those who had studied so-called unpopular countries would have occasion to congratulate themselves.

Miss Winifred Jones (no relation to the *only* Jones) then favoured with an excellent violin solo, entitled "Saltarella."

The next toast, that of "The Officers of the Herts Philatelic Society," was proposed by Mr. W. V. Morton, who deplored the absence of their President, Mr. H. J. White, who they all regretted was not present. He then referred to the loss they had sustained by the death of Mr. Gordon Smith, who was always so willing to help and was so kind and considerate in every way. He then referred to the Committee, who met often and worked hard in the best interests of the Society, and he especially mentioned the Hon. Secretary, Mr. H. A. Slade, and said he did not know what they would do without him—all that he does for us is much appreciated, and he is beloved and appreciated by all the members; he also mentioned that the excellent dinner had been ordered and arranged by Mr. H. L. Hayman, who had taken much trouble and many lunches as samples at the Monico (at his own expense), and hoped that on other occasions it would be left in his hands again.

Mr. J. K. Boddy then gave a capital and very humorous recitation, entitled "How I came to do it I don't know."

Mr. H. A. Slade, responding to the last toast, said that any labour he had expended on the Society had always been a labour of love—it had started from small beginnings and had made great progress, and he hoped it would attain greater success in the future; during the past year their membership had increased by thirty, and now they had a roll call of 176.

Mr. Slade then mentioned that in October next their meetings would be held at No. 4, Southampton Row, London, in the same room as was occupied by the London Philatelic Society—who met on a Friday, while their meetings were held on Tuesdays—which was described by Mr. E. J. Nankivell as a sort of "Box and Cox" arrangement.

Mr. W. A. Boyes, replying as the Hon. Auditor, said his duty chiefly consisted of visiting their Secretary at St. Albans, eating his cherries, talking to his wife and several charming sisters-in-law. He went on to say that the finances of the Society were in good order and that they had a balance of nearly £30 in hand.

Mr. T. H. Harvey then gave a capital song, entitled "Three for Jack."

The next toast was that of "The Visitors," proposed by Mr. F. J. Melville, who said that Roger de Coverley had stated "that speeches were better when the belly was full," but to-night they were asked to cut their speeches as short as possible to allow of the entertainments being got through. He divided the visitors into two classes, those who were philatelists and those who did not know the pleasures of stamp collecting.

In the course of a very humorous speech Mr. Melville stated that the fortunes of war in South Africa were, he believed, divided between army contractors and philatelists. Some stamps had so increased in size that nowadays we stuck the letter to the stamp, not the stamp to the letter. Amongst collectors he had heard of lately was a lady who wrote to him "that she did not collect *physically* (*sic*) used stamps."

Mr. Melville then drew attention to a weekly paper recently issued for young collectors, and said he had received a few testimonials as to the usefulness of that publication, from which he culled the following:—

TH*M*S B**CH*M, of St. Helens, Lancs.

"Nothing has moved me more than the philatelic poetry in *G. S. W.*, unless it be my pills."

L*RD CR*WF*RD.

"This is one of the best Phillips the stamp trade could have had."

MISS M*R** C*R*LL*.

"There's nothing like it in fiction (except my own *Thelma*). When reading your new serial, *The Stamp King*, my breath actually came in short pants."

She goes on to add, "It is conclusive proof that Mr. Bacon did not write Shakespeare."

MR. H. R. OLDF**LD.

"Before reading *G. S. W.* I was *bent* on stamp collecting, now I am *broke* over it."

MR. H. A. SL*D*.

"It has touched all our Herts."

M*J*R EV*NS.

"Since *G. S. W.* appeared, my philatelic enthusiasm has increased beyond bounds. I have pawned my clothes to buy stamps, and am now content to live in my Native State."

Mr. Bernard Bouquet then gave a capital song, entitled "A Quaint Old Bird," and as an encore favoured us with "A Rooster Sat on a Barnyard Fence."

Mr. J. Radcliffe Cousins, replying to the last toast, stated that he thought they were made more welcome as they did not arrive in "short pants" or a "native state." He thought that on such an occasion as the annual dinner it would be of interest to the visitors to see some of the fine collections of the members. Although not much of a collector himself, he had been puzzling to find out what single CA meant, and he thought as it was applied to the British Colonies it must mean "Confederation Assured," and multiple CA must forecast a great production in increasing the population of our Colonies. In conclusion, he thanked the members of the Society for the welcome given to the visitors.

Miss W. Jones then gave two excellent violin solos, rendered with great delicacy and feeling; these were entitled "Romance" and "Graceful Dance."

Mr. J. C. Sidebotham then proposed the toast of "The Chairman," and said that all would receive that toast with pleasure. Mr. Oldfield had kept them all in order, and they were all rejoiced to see that he was once again well enough to preside over them. He was always welcome at all societies, not only their own, but at the L.P.S. or the I.P.U., and was always willing to give us ideas and to help the specialist or the junior collector.

Mr. Oldfield briefly replied, and in conclusion Mr. J. K. Boddy favoured us with that well-known recitation entitled "A Stroller's Story."

The party broke up at 11.15 after a most enjoyable evening.

London Philatelic Society

President: H.R.H. The Prince of Wales.
Hon. Sec.: J. A. Tilleard, 10, Gracechurch Street, E.C.
Meetings: 4, Southampton Row, W. Alternate Fridays at 7.45.
Annual Subscription: Town, £2 2s.; Country, £1 1s.

THE eleventh meeting of the season 1904–5 was held at 4, Southampton Row, W.C., on Friday the 10th March, 1905, at 7.45 p.m.

Members present: E. D. Bacon, Thomas William Hall, C. J. Daun, L. W. Fulcher, C. Neville Biggs, Robert Ehrenbach, J. A. Tilleard, F. Ransom, and B. D. Knox.

In the absence of the Vice-President and Honorary Vice-President, the chair was taken by Mr. E. D. Bacon, and the minutes of the meeting held on the 14th February were read and confirmed.

Mr. T. W. Hall then read a paper on the 1886–7 issues of the stamps of Tolima, containing a considerable amount of novel and interesting information and giving full description of the types and varieties to be found, with explanations as to the doubtful character of some of the abnormal varieties referred to in the catalogues. The paper was illustrated by Mr. Hall's fine collection of the stamps under consideration, and also by the collection of Dr. Michelsen, kindly lent to Mr. Hall for the occasion.

On the motion of the Chairman, seconded by Mr. C. N. Biggs, a hearty vote of thanks was accorded to Mr. Hall for his paper and display, and to Dr. Michelsen for kindly sending his stamps for inspection.

The display of Mr. L. L. R. Hausburg's magnificent collection of the stamps of Western Australia was, in the absence of this gentleman, undertaken by Mr. E. D. Bacon. The collection, which is practically complete, containing nearly all the great varieties, including the 4d. with inverted swan, was examined with great interest by the members present, and on the motion of Mr. Hall, seconded by Mr. Fulcher, the cordial thanks of the meeting were voted to Mr. Hausburg and Mr. Bacon for their services in connection with the display.

The Montreal Philatelic Association

President: O. W. Barwick.
Secretary: O. L. Baillargeon, Banque d'Hochelaga, Montreal.
Meetings: 3, Beaver Hall Square, Montreal.

THE twelfth annual meeting of this association took place on the 8th of March, 1905, at the new club rooms, No. 3, Beaver Hall Square, at which there was a large attendance of members.

Since moving to these new quarters, the association has increased its membership considerably and is making great progress in increasing the interest in philately among collectors of Montreal and vicinity.

The election of officers for the coming year resulted as follows, viz.:—President, O. W. Barwick; Vice-president, Geo. Van Gilder; Hon. Secretary and Treasurer, O. L. Baillargeon; Exchange Superintendent, F. B. Archer; Auctioneer, E. W. Stanton; Librarian, W. McKee; Committee, Chris. H. Goulden, J. H. S. Parks, S. H. Martel, G. E. Bodgees.

At the meeting of the 15th March, 1905, the association inaugurated a series of debates, the first of which was "Which is Preferable to Collect, Used or Unused Stamps?"

The "used" were defended by Mr. V. Lamont, of London, England, and the debate of the "unused" was in the hands of Mr. Chris. H. Goulden. After a lengthy discussion, at which good points were brought out on both sides, the vote resulted in favour of the unused by a good majority.

At the meeting held on the 22nd of March, 1905, a very interesting debate took place, the matter of discussion being, "The Collecting of Postage Stamps *v.* Fiscal Stamps."

Mr. V. Lamont defending the fiscals, brought out very strong arguments in their favour, and was only defeated by a very small majority. Mr. S. H. Martel, junior, defended the postage.

Sydney Philatelic Club

President: A. F. Basset Hull.
Secretary: J. H. Smyth, 88, King Street, Sydney.
Meetings: 88, King Street, Sydney.

THE usual monthly meeting was held at the Club Room, 88, King Street, Sydney, on Wednesday, 15th March, 1905, at 8 p.m.

There were twelve members present, and Mr. Peck, Hon. Secretary of the Philatelic Society of South Australia. The President was in the chair.

Several matters of detail were dealt with, and it was decided that a printed list of members should be prepared for circulation amongst the members only. The Secretary intimated that arrangements had been made for the Club to remain as monthly tenants of the room at present occupied by the members.

It was resolved that Mr. L. L. R. Hausburg be entertained to a harbour picnic by the members of the Club, provided that gentleman could spare time to accept the invitation. A sub-committee, consisting of the President, Hon. Secretary, and Messrs. Hagen and Smith, were appointed to make arrangements.

It was further resolved that a special meeting of the Club be held to welcome Mr. Hausburg on a date to be named to suit that gentleman's convenience, and of which members will receive due notice.

The President welcomed Mr. Peck on behalf of the members, and that gentleman said he was very pleased to be in Sydney once more.

The business of the evening was a paper on "Minor Varieties of Australian Stamps," by Mr. W. A. Hull. Mr. Basset Hull apologised for his brother's absence, and read a humorous paper on the subject, prepared by Mr. W. A. Hull, which elicited the hearty laughter of the members.

EDITORIAL NOTES

The Countries of the World.—In this number of *Gibbons Stamp Weekly* we make a start with what we may term a philatelic history of all the stamp-issuing Countries of the World. The stamps of Great Britain having been disposed of, we are now at liberty to turn to other countries. These we propose to take in strictly alphabetical order, regardless of all catalogue groupings of mother countries and colonies.

Each country will be written up in the simplest possible manner for the young collector, and Gibbons Catalogue prices will be appended as a guide to the relative rarity of the various stamps included in our lists.

Each country will be illustrated by an excellent map supplied by the eminent map publishers, Messrs. John Bartholomew and Co., of Edinburgh and London.

"G. S. W." Bound Volumes.—*Gibbons Stamp Weekly* will be bound up in half-yearly volumes; consequently the present volume will be completed with the issue for Saturday, 24th June, 1905.

Our publishers have already ordered the covers for binding the volume, but do not propose to make binding covers for general sale, as they imagine there will not be sufficient sale to warrant the expense, as readers will probably prefer to have their volumes bound in their own way. If readers wish to have publishers' covers they had better write Messrs. Stanley Gibbons, Ltd., and say so.

Only a few bound volumes can be placed on sale, as our publishers have, in our opinion, too modestly estimated the number that is likely to be required. Therefore, copies should be ordered without delay.

Editorial Communications.—All communications intended for the Editor should be addressed to Edward J. Nankivell, Carnanton, Camden Park, Tunbridge Wells.

Philatelic Societies.—We wish to make a special feature of the prompt publication of the reports of Philatelic Societies, and trust we may have the kindly co-operation of the honorary secretaries in this matter. Reports should be written on one side of the paper, and despatched to the Editor by the earliest post.

Special Correspondence.—The Editor will be glad to receive interesting letters from philatelic centres not already covered by our arrangements. We want chatty and newsy letters on matters of interest to the general collector, and excluding all matter of interest only to the specialist.

Our Miscellaneous Page.—We wish to make *Gibbons Stamp Weekly* a storehouse of information, and shall therefore be glad of any cuttings of more or less permanent interest for our "Miscellaneous" page. Source and date of cutting must be given.

Subscriptions.—Subscriptions must be sent to the publishers as set out on the front page of cover, or to booksellers or railway bookstalls, but never to the Editor.

OUR PHILATELIC DIARY

MAY, 1905

22. Auction: Hadlow, Covent Garden Hotel, London. 5 p.m.
23. Auction: Puttick and Simpson, 47, Leicester Square, London. 4.30 p.m.
24. Auction: Puttick and Simpson, 47, Leicester Square, London. 4.30 p.m.
25. Auction: Ventom, Bull, and Cooper, Loudoun Hotel, Surrey Street, Strand, London. 5 p.m.
26. Auction: Ventom, Bull, and Cooper, Loudoun Hotel, Surrey Street, Strand, London. 5 p.m.
    Philatelic Society of London: Annual General Meeting, 4, Southampton Row, London, W.C. 7.45 p.m.
30. Auction: Plumridge, 64, Chancery Lane, London. 4.45 p.m.
31. Auction: Plumridge, 64, Chancery Lane, London. 4.45 p.m.

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20 May, 1905.

Gibbons Stamp Weekly

EDITED BY EDWARD J. NANKIVELL

No. 21 | 27 MAY, 1905 | VOL. I.

FIRST STEPS IN PHILATELY

By Rev. T. C. WALTON, M.A.

(*Continued from page 312.*)

Stamps without a Name (*b. continued*)

SINCE 1851 the currency in Denmark has been changed no less than three times. "Rigsbank skillings," abbreviated to "R. B. S.," occurs in the first issue. Without going into unnecessary details, it will suffice to add that one "R. B. S." was equivalent to about three-eighths of a penny in English money. The 4 R.B.S. of the issue of 1851 has, for its central design, a crown with sword and sceptre crossed underneath. KONGELIGT on the left means "Royal," and FRIMÆRKE on the right means "Free stamp." Post-horns occupy the squares in the four corners.

A new design, issued in 1864, shows the crown in an upright oval band. KGL. POST. FRM., which is the abbreviation of "Kongeligt Post Frimærke," is inscribed in the upper part of the band. The value appeared below in skillings. One skilling was equivalent to a farthing in English money.

DENMARK.



1851.



1864-8.

The first of the illustrations given above must not be confused with a stamp of similar design issued in 1855 for use in the Danish West Indies. The reader's attention is drawn to the different currency which figures at the base of the stamp.

DANISH WEST INDIES.



A remarkable stamp was issued in 1857 by the Duchy of Brunswick. From the illustration given below it will be seen that the stamp was capable of being divided into four, each of which divisions represented three pfennige. In each division a ducal coronet is placed above the value, which is expressed "¼ Gute gr.," *i.e.* "¼ gutegroschen." One gutegroschen was equivalent to about 1½d. in our currency.

BRUNSWICK.



The Duchies of Schleswig and Holstein were restored to Denmark in 1814. The people were "Germans" at heart, and insurrections against Danish rule were constantly breaking out. In the course

of one of these insurrections, which began in 1848, the rebels formed a Provisional Government and issued a series of two postage stamps, which, however, were very shortlived, as the Duchies were again brought under Denmark's rule in 1851.

The design of this series consists of a central upright oval in which are the arms embossed in white. A double-headed eagle surrounds the oval, and the letters S.H. are seen in the upper corners.

SCHLESWIG-HOLSTEIN.



The 1889 issue of the German Empire is well known to all. In the 10, 20, 25, 50 pfennig values, the Imperial arms are seen in the centre, while REICHSPOST appears above and the numeral of value underneath.

GERMAN EMPIRE.



1889.

We cannot conclude our survey of German States without reference to the Arms Series of Wurtemberg, issued in 1856. A lion and a stag support the arms of Wurtemberg. The motto FURCHTLOS UND TREUE, which means "Fearless and True," is inscribed on the scroll beneath.

Modena now forms part of the Kingdom of Italy. The State was an ancient Duchy. For more than five hundred years it was governed by the House of Este. Its first issue of stamps was due to an agreement entered into by the Lombardo-Venetian States on the one hand and the Duchies of Modena and Parma on the other. The series saw the light in 1852. The design consists of the arms of the House of Este, an eagle with outstretched wings surmounted by a coronet. In the top of the rectangular frame enclosing the stamp was POSTE ESTENSI ("Post of the House of Este"). The value was printed in the base of the design. The currency was in "lire" and "centesimi." 100 centesimi = 1 lira = 1 franc. In 1859 the subjects of the reigning Duke of Este rebelled against him and he fled. The National Assembly declared for union with the kingdom of Sardinia. Until this union was *un fait accompli*, the Provisional Government carried on the affairs of the country. The postal service was provided for, partly by the use of Sardinian stamps, partly by the issue of a new series. The design of this series shows the Arms of Sardinia in the centre on a shield. The perpendicular lines on the shield are used in heraldry to denote a red colour, and have the name of "gules." The shield is surrounded by the collar of the Annunziata, and a crown tops the whole. In the rectangular frame is printed FRANCO BOLLO at the top and PROVINCIE MODONESI at the sides. "Modonesi" is a misprint for "Modenesi."

WURTEMBERG.



1856.

MODENA.



1852.



1859 (Provisional Government).

(To be continued.)

A VERY HANDSOME PRESENT.

Packet No. 69, 2,000 varieties. A grand packet, every stamp being different and genuine, and thus forming a choice collection in itself. £3, post-free and registered.

USED OR UNUSED

By W. E. IMESON

FROM time immemorial—that is, from the time that postage stamps came into use, or, to be still more precise, from the time that Philately was "invented"—a momentous question has perturbed the minds of collectors. Used or unused?—that is the question : whether it is better to stick to the thing with gum or to accept the article that has been disfigured by obliteration's tender touch. I have heard the opinion expressed that a cancellation "rather improves than otherwise the appearance of a stamp." Never having met with a cancellation that could be described as an "improver," I am a firm believer in the "otherwise" theory. Is a stamp portrait rendered truer to life by the "touching-up" of a date-stamp? Is a miniature landscape effect heightened by the addition of an inky horizon? Or are the arms of any nation improved by the bar sinister of an obliteration? This big question of used or unused has been the cause of much bickering—nay, if records had only been kept, possibly even of much bloodshed amongst the otherwise peace-loving devotees of the present-day world's most delightful hobby.

Those in favour of the used may be said to rely upon well (or badly) used arguments in support of their hopeless case. Possibly, for feeling still runs high upon the subject, the well-meant use of the definition "hopeless" may leave me, figuratively speaking, with several fights on my hands. In that case I wash my hands entirely of the whole question, and will be content to "sit upon the fence" and watch the conflict of opinions from afar. Life is too short and reputation too precious to risk losing either the one or the other at the hands of infuriated and, maybe, sledge-hammer controversialists. One question, however, I would venture (from the safe elevation of the fence) to ask, and that is, Do we collect stamps or postmarks? If postmarks, then let us go for postmarks for all they are worth—no inconsiderable sum in many cases. If, however, we call ourselves stamp collectors, let us go for stamps in their "unimproved" and best possible condition. Let our rule be—unused (other points being equal) for preference, used as a substitute or makeshift. Call me not, reader, a "condition crank," else I may be tempted to give "back answers." It is not, I submit, advisable to draw a hard-and-fast line between used and unused stamps, for the specimen that has passed through the post may be little the worse for its experience and, in addition to being lightly cancelled, may be well centred and evenly perforated. Such a stamp is surely preferable to an unused, full gum specimen that may be "off centre" and badly perforated into the bargain.

One must never approach Philately in a dogmatic spirit—which is worthy only of a worse cause. Yet even the few opinions I have so humbly expressed may bring down upon me the charge of being one of those that rush in where angels fear to tread—which I neither do and neither am. If occasionally led away in the heat of argument, I can honestly say that I am tolerance itself towards those that endorse, without question or quibble, my own pet theories and views. This is as it should be, for it is this spirit of pitying indulgence toward sthose who may differ from us that makes Philately what it is.

The question of used or unused is one which, like rates and taxes, has to be settled, no matter how we may try to shirk or evade it. One time-honoured "argument" in favour of the used is that a postage stamp cannot be said to have fulfilled the purpose for which it was issued until it has passed through the post. Now, I do not wish to be profane or flippant—but, in the name of the prophet—figs! (Had I written "dates" postmark collectors might have taken umbrage.) Take the numismatist. (A voice: "What has he to do with the question?") I repeat, take the numismatist! What would be said of the coin collector who rejected, as unfit for his collection, a sovereign fresh from the mint on the grounds that it, the mint "quid," had not fulfilled the purpose for which it was issued—that is, say, that its purchasing

powers had not been called into play? I should like, as I think we all would, to see the collector of coins who insisted upon first passing through his bank or settling the butcher's bill with a brand-new sovereign which, eventually, he intended to place in his collection.

But to return to stamps. Many postage stamps nowadays are postmarked to order: can such stamps be said to have fulfilled the purpose for which they were originally issued? They certainly have fulfilled the purpose for which, presumably, they were not issued, viz. for sale to collectors. Some Governments issue stamps primarily for collectors, and some of these stamps pass, by accident, through the post. Such used stamps, having fulfilled the purpose for which they, apparently, were not issued, may reasonably be collected as "errors."

The postmark is rarely a thing of beauty, but mostly a disfigurement for ever. Yet there are certain stamps that are too interesting in themselves to be rejected by a collector—yea, even if they be heavily cancelled. For instance, if, say, a "Post Office" Mauritius in that condition came along, would one be justified in placing it with one's unused specimens of that famous issue? I myself would certainly do so, and here's the advantage of not drawing a hard-and-fast line.

Still, as a general rule (although philatelists, as a rule, don't give much away) I would say, give me the unused! In short, I go bald-headed for the unused, though I defy anyone (other than a "fake" detector) to discover the tiniest bare patch upon my devoted cranium. I think that the majority have it, and I think that I think with the majority. There will always be some people that always think differently from others, but, take it from me, the others are always right. Towards those that differ from me I bear no grudge. Conscious that their difference of opinion is but the outcome of bigotry or ignorance (or both), my feeling, if any, is one of pity—tempered with contempt.

I have, in my time, heard the enthusiastic but misguided champions of the "used" called some hard though well-deserved names, such as "Ink specialist," "Smudge preserver," "Blot bargainer," "Date dealer," and so forth. In addition to such harmless nicknames I have myself invented—and fully protected—the following: [We also are unwilling to draw a hard-and-fast line, but we must draw the line somewhere—and this is just the place.—EDITOR *G. S. W.*]

EVENINGS WITH DICK. I.

By S. D. WILSON

DICK—I do not give his surname, as he is a large man who objects to publicity—Dick is an old and great friend of mine. He collects, and has for many years collected, stamps. On this point we were, up to some six months ago, at variance; now he is good enough to designate me "My young philatelist," in which somewhat terrifying appellation I am beginning to take a pride.

I remember the night well on which I first promised to become a stamp collector. As it was neither raining the conventional cats and dogs, nor, to be later-fashioned, snowing ink, the opportunity of looking Dick up was too good to be missed, and "looked up" Dick accordingly was.

Dick and I had become fast friends during our first term at Harrow, had afterwards shared the same room, and, later, the same find. Finding, I may mention, is feeding in your own rooms, a distinction awarded to house-monitors. We started in the same form and house, though not the same room. During a heated discussion over our now friend and erstwhile enemy, Horace, I found occasion to assault Dick with his stamp album. During a very respectable turn-up, and subsequently, the following chain of events was forged: the stamp album was covered with ink, and not a little torn; I got a black eye and Dick a raw shin; both of us were whopped by the head of our landing for making a row, and abandoned Horace as an unprofitable undertaking; next waged a successful campaign with some friendly foes in the

next study, and escaped to the boot-hole, whence we heard them pay the penalty of "making a row"; were both ploughed in our Horace the next morning, and wrote it out together in the evening; and, finally, formed a friendship which has lasted some dozen years, and landed me, as I have said before, in Dick's digs some six months ago.

Dick, attired in a sufficiently disreputable blazer—why disreputability in a blazer should necessarily ensure comfort I have never been able to ascertain—was, as he usually is in the evening, poring over his beloved stamp collection. Even Euripides, Saturday-night exercises, a passion for ragging, and later, the responsibility of maintaining the rules of law and order, had never been able to keep Dick from his stamps at school; they had claimed him as their own, do what we would to try to dissuade him; and naturally, when by himself in town, he came to spend more and more of his time on what he was pleased to call Philately. Moreover, more money in the pocket means more stamps in the book, and Dick was doing very well in his uncle's firm.

I made myself at home without invitation; in fact, with the exception of a sufficiently hearty "Hullo! old button, hope you're fit," Dick took not the slightest notice of my, to me, important self.

"What's the line now?" I asked.

Dick takes different and separate countries as "a line"; he calls it "specialising."

"No," said Dick, "I sold that collection a month ago; made money out of it too. It's Australians now."

"Why?"

"Oh, they're interesting, and I know something about them. Saley used to specialise in them and says they should be worth cultivating."

Saley, I may mention, was the head of our house for two years; he was an intensely respectable youth and wore glasses; moreover, he had red hair, bit his nails, and snored abominably, and both had and has one of the finest stamp collections in the world.

"Why," I remarked to nothing in particular, "Why anybody ever collects stamps beats me."

"Your brains were never your strong point," Dick conceded kindly. "You were, if I remember right, often beaten. Sometimes by Horace——"

"Et tu, Brute," I answered, with some satisfaction.

"Sometimes by Hall and Knight——"

"You used to get me to fake your answers, though?" That was true; Dick was ever a poor mathematician.

"Sometimes by the head of the landing," pursued Dick imperturbably.

"Et tu, Brute," I again.

"Sometimes by the head master."

I had no answer. Dick was always absurdly lucky.

"And always," continued Dick inexorably, "by geography outside England, and generally in it."

I was gravelled. Geography never was, and never will be, an intimate of mine.

I remember at school being asked such ridiculous questions as: "Where are, and to whom belong, the following:—Holkar, Nepaul, San Marino, Angola, Sarawak, Tonga, Funchal, Reunion, Surinam, Tahiti, Sirmoor?" and others equally preposterous and jaw-breaking. I did not believe that there were such places, and was not sure of it till quite lately. But Dick? Bless you, the man never missed one, to the astonishment and disgust of the whole form and the delight of our worthy master. Dick used to say that it was quite easy—a remark usually followed by a lump of coal—because such and such were colonies or dependants of this nation and others of that, and therefore that they must be—Heaven knows where. I could never remember any of them. But to him it really was all plain sailing; he collected stamps and had issues from all of them, and taking up his hobby seriously, which is of course the only way to make a hobby interesting—mine was clay pipes once, but for various reasons it has been discontinued—he had traced the young shoots carefully back to the parent stem, and could tell you many interesting and weird stories, which were as interesting as a book, with the additional merit of being true. It was this same knowledge of colonies and countries which first inculcated in Dick a love of history, and especially foreign history; and through his history—he won many prizes and a scholarship—he got permission to go to Cambridge; and there—— But if I

were to put down Dick's record on paper there are many that would know him, and that I do not wish, as Dick is a sensitive mortal and would be annoyed, which might be unfortunate for me.

Dick always beat me in form by from one to three places: his geography and history, especially in exams., just go his nose in front. "That's stamps," he would say, "just stamps. You collect, Ugly, and we'll come out bracketed top," which was somewhat of an exaggeration, as I cannot remember Dick ever having filled that conspicuous position.

I believe Dick puts down his position as —— and —— at Cambridge to stamps, somehow.

I must apologise for this digression. On this night I was first put in the way of becoming a stamp collector, and, or, for the two are subtly different, a philatelist.

It came about this way. Dick had a good many stamps, mostly quite valueless, that were no good to him. He has been keen on my collecting, and on that evening proposed to give them to me to make a start with. As usual, I laughed at his proposal, and ragged him about his silly little bits of coloured paper with dirty marks on them, until I got him really angry. Finally, he proposed to move the table and roll me about the floor a little; and I invited him to try. Now, although Dick is one of the finest men I have ever seen, while I am certainly nothing of the kind, I had been many times to see the Japs and their wonderful Ju-Jitsu, in which I was, and am, a firm believer. Moreover, knowing a fellow who has learnt for some time, I had picked up some elements of the game. So I said to Dick, "Bar fighting, if you can make me shout 'Enough,' I collect your silly stamps."

"No roteing?" said Dick, "and you'll have a solid try for six months?"

I promised, and we started.

Now I was rather chuckling at the idea of beating Dick, which I had never managed to do at anything, bar chess; for I expected him to come straight for me as hard as he could, and then I should beat him; for that is the principle of Ju-Jitsu. But not a bit. No sooner did I get hold of him than I found he knew ten times as much about it as myself, and after being ruled out three times in two minutes I gave it up.

Well, I had to stick to my promise, but I didn't fancy the job at all. Besides, I was annoyed at being caught in my own trap. I asked Dick how he happened to know Ju-Jitsu. When he told me, I felt an increased respect for stamps.

"Didn't you know I was learning?" said Dick. "Oh, rather, I've been at it for three months; I'm having a five guineas touch. You see, it doesn't really cost me anything, because I made that, and as much again, nearly, last year, out of stamps."

I flatly declined to believe it, but Dick showed me that it was so; being a connoisseur, and having a good inside knowledge of buying and selling, he actually makes money every year, though, of course, the amount varies, out of his hobby.

Fortified by this knowledge, and something to keep out the cold, I soon made tracks for home, to sort out the stamps that were to form the nucleus of a colossal fortune, and to find out whether, by searching all my pockets, I could scrape together sufficient money to buy a stamp album from Dick's particular dealers and friends, Stanley Gibbons.

(To be continued.)

BRITISH AFRICA POSTAGE STAMP ALBUM.

Owing to the fact that the war in South Africa has caused great attention to be drawn to the stamps of the British Possessions on that continent, and to the enormous increase in the number of collectors that has ensued from the issue of the War Provisionals in Mafeking, Bloemfontein, Pretoria, etc., we think this a good time at which to place before the public a new and very complete Album, designed for the British Possessions, etc., on the African Continent. The Album is designed upon the well-known plan of the Imperial Albums—the stamps in numbered spaces of the correct sizes on the right-hand page, and the description, full particulars, and illustrations on the opposite page. In order to make this a *permanent* Album we have provided from one to four blank pages *after each country*, thus making the Album available for the issues of many years to come. 220 pages. Size, 8¾ × 11½ inches. Post-free in Great Britain, 10s. 7d.

A SPRING POEM

By W. E. IMESON (*and others*)

I

ONE evening my "stamp-den" invaded two "stamp-men"
(Who Bedlam had robbed of its dues!);
They slipped in so slily, did wily Will Wylie,
And Captain Paul Jones of "The Blues."
Each posed as a "po-it"—the weather, I know it,
Must held quite responsible be;
This damp pair suggested (in vain I protested),
That write a Spring "pome" should we three.

II

When one "pote" (frost-bitten), Paul Jones, down had written
"O gentle Spring!"—"What O!" I cried,
Then brandy I doled out—to help keep the cold out,
And asked Jane to get their coats dried.
"*This* Spring," said I meekly, "won't quite suit the "*Weekly*,"
One must bring in stamps—that's the thing!"
"Well,—paraphrase slightly:—'Man's fancy turns lightly
To thoughts philatelic in Spring.'

III

Now, that's an improvement?"—"It's lacking in movement,"
Said Wylie—then added that clown:
"The Spring birds are singing, the Spring lambs are springing,"
And, lamb-like, I wrote the lie down.
Said I, "That's idyllic—tho' not philatelic;
Of stamps in each verse we must sing."
Cried Jones, "Ah! I've got it—and dealers will spot it—
Stamp prices, too, spring in the Spring."

IV

"That's just what they do do—I'm told in Part II., too,
That's coming—there's more 'spring' than 'fall'
In certain directions, my own pet selections."
"I'll wait till it's out!" chuckled Paul.
"Our muses we've blended, and, now the pome's ended,
Which line the best line would you call?"
I answered, right slick out, "If one line I pick out—
The second's the best line of all!"

A FINE BIRTHDAY GIFT.

No. 68, 1,500 varieties. Each specimen is in perfect condition, and the 1,500 different Stamps form a splendid start for anyone. A large number of really rare and valuable stamps are contained in this collection; but it is impossible to enumerate them, as we are constantly adding New Issues and Older Stamps when purchased. Satisfaction is guaranteed. £1 15s., post-free and Registered.

GOSSIP OF THE HOUR

By CORNELIUS WRINKLE

The Exhibition, 1906

THOSE who have read Mr. Oldfield's speech at the Herts Philatelic Society's dinner in last week's *G. S. W.* will have noted that we youngsters have scored again. We have shouldered the Great Moguls into a corner to themselves, and now we are to have a few special classes devoted to those of us who are of tender age.

There are to be classes for junior collectors under sixteen, and for others between sixteen and twenty-one. And I am wondering into which of these classes I may be fortunate enough to squeeze my little show.

We may now assume that the big show which is being organised will be an interesting one all round; that is to say, to the young collector as well as to the specialist.

And I hope room will be found to display the young collectors' exhibits properly, instead of shuffling them all up into one corner in a pile of albums, with a page spread here and there, now and again.

We youngsters and modest general collectors want to have a fair and square look in, or—we'll run that rival show.

A Thing of Beauty

A COLLECTION on general or young collectors' lines may be made a thing of beauty. There is something novel in these days of specialism in the display of all the regular series of a country, unbroken by any confusing specialist varieties. The philatelic history of a country can be followed pretty clearly when the simple issues are displayed neatly in their proper order. But when page after page of all sorts of conflicting varieties breaks the continuity the ordinary collector gets lost.

Specialism for Specialists

I QUESTION very much whether the specialist ever makes himself understood by anyone but a fellow-specialist of the same country. I was at a recent meeting of the premier Society of Specialists when a fellow-specialist was handing round his fine collection and explaining the printing, grouping, etc. I revelled in the display, for it was my pet country, and in my enthusiasm I said to a well-known specialist beside me, "You should go in for this country." He shook his head, looked hopelessly out of it, and said in a despairing kind of way, "It is too difficult."

The Philatelic Babel

Indeed, I am not sure that it is not getting a bit of a farce for a specialist to read a long and detailed paper to a room of specialists of other countries. They cannot possibly follow the reader through all the complexities of specialism, unless they have studied the country. Therefore meetings of specialists of different countries must be more or less a philatelic Babel.

Specialists as Cronies

But, don t mistake me. The specialist has his compensations. Let a few specialist cronies, devoted to the same country, get together. I have seen them. I have formed one of such a party. Heads close together, all scrutinising some recently discovered, and totally unexpected, variety that has been hidden for a generation. The excitement, the discussion, the keen criticism, the masterly grasp of minute detail, the marshalling of pros and cons, the expert insight into methods of engraving and printing and paper-making; they are all present. Such collectors, when they meet together, sweep you into the profoundest depths of specialism, and make you wonder that anyone can have a thought to spare for any other country than theirs.

The Enthusiasm We Want

Theirs is the enthusiasm we want to enable us to thoroughly enjoy our hobby. The secret lies in the community of interests. The lack of enthusiasm that too often characterises the meetings of our philatelic societies is a lack of community of interest. We are too much divided in our likes and in our studies. Something should be done to encourage more general collecting. I see no reason why a collector cannot run a modest general collection as well as a specialist country. Many collectors now do so, and if the plan became more general we should get better attended and much more enjoyable society meetings.

MISCELLANEOUS

New Caledonia's First Stamp, 1860

THE first 10 c. stamp of New Caledonia, the rude design of which is shown in the annexed illustration,



was known to collectors in quite early days; we find it listed in the first edition of Mount Brown's Catalogue, published in 1862. A few years later there was a dispute as to its character, a writer in the *Briefmarken Sammler*, in 1866, denouncing it as an entire fraud, got up, in New Caledonia, at the instigation of an enterprising seafaring gentleman, whose wife had a stamp-shop in Marseilles. This story was, however, found to be a fiction; the genuine nature of the stamp was fully proved, and it was shown to have been used (for the most part) for franking letters between Port-de-France, New Caledonia, and Sydney, New South Wales, where letters for Europe, etc., were further franked, by the French Consul, with stamps of New South Wales.—*The Monthly Journal.*

Philippine "Postage Due" Remainders for Sale

THE following official circular has been sent to stamp dealers:—

BUREAU OF POSTS OF THE
PHILIPPINE ISLANDS

OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR OF POSTS

MANILA, P. I.

March 10, 1905.

SIRS,—The postage-due stamp used by this Administration has been discontinued and will therefore be withdrawn from circulation. We have now on hand the following numbers and denominations:—

Face Value		U.S. Currency
1 cent	221,157	$2,211.57
2 cents	315,005	6,300.10
3 cents	86,523	2,595.69
5 cents	26,965	1,348.25
10 cents	45,603	4,560.30
30 cents	48,322	14,496.60
50 cents	2,182	1,091.00
Total,		$32,603.51

It is my intention to dispose of this entire lot to one person. Therefore, you are requested to submit a bid on the same on or before July 15, 1905.

For your information I will state that the above postage-due stamps are all in first-class order and uncancelled by any mark whatsoever. The preparation and necessary packing for shipment will be made by this office without additional cost to the purchaser. The bids submitted must be for the stamps f.o.b. Manila.

Respectfully,
WM. T. NOLTING,
Acting Director of Posts.

Stamps are Cheap To-day

STAMPS have never been cheaper than they are at the present day. Stamps have sold at lower prices, but that was before there was an established market. We have no hesitation in stating that a wisely selected collection of U.S. and foreign stamps at present quotations is a better investment than real estate, railroad bonds and stocks, diamonds, or any other form of property in which our citizens invest their surplus earnings.—*The Metropolitan Philatelist.*

Mr. J. H. Abbott

THE *Philatelic Journal of Great Britain*, in a biographical note of Mr. J. H. Abbott, Vice-President of the Manchester Philatelic Society, says: "The subject of our sketch has been styled the 'Father of the Manchester School' of philatelists, as he was one of the first big collectors to accumulate large blocks and entire sheets of the stamps of the countries that interested him. This style of collecting has been so largely followed in Manchester that it may fairly be termed a cult. With such material at hand Mr. Abbott has been able to study his favourite countries—Samoa, Egypt, Servia, Hayti, Tonga, Cook Islands, and some others—to such advantage that he probably knows more about them than anybody else.

Though he is a general collector he has always had a liking for unpopular and little understood countries which most big collectors have considered beneath their notice.

Collecting for Investment

To collect for investment pure and simple requires more philatelic knowledge and insight into market values than is at the disposal of most collectors, and while the monetary side cannot nowadays be ignored altogether, it should not be treated as the one essential point of Philately.

The beginner will do well to collect for the pleasurable side alone, and spend no more money on the hobby than he can afford, in the same way that he would on photography or any other pastime.

When he has gained experience he may launch out more boldly, knowing that, apart from the enjoyment he is getting, he is not likely to have a large balance on the wrong side, even if his collection does not prove an actual source of profit.—*The Philatelic Journal of Great Britain.*

Poland's First Stamp

THE first postal issue in Poland was that of a 1½ kopeck envelope which served for the *petite poste* of Warsaw. What this "little post" was I do not know—the expression is that of a correspondent of the *Timbre-Poste* in 1863, when this issue was discovered—but it seems to have been a separate thing from the general post, for we read that these envelopes were issued on January 21st, 1858, the day when the *petite poste* was instituted, and that when its service was superseded, on September 16th, 1861, the use of the envelopes ceased.

They were of small size, measuring only 100×58 mm., and were used for sending visiting cards, being sent unfastened through the post. The stamp was handstruck in red at the right-hand of the envelope, and on the flap, inside, are two signatures together. They are those of two postal clerks who were charged with checking the issue of the envelopes, the stamp and the paper not being considered sufficient guarantees of genuineness.—*The Monthly Circular.*

SPECIAL BARGAINS
FOR *G. S. W.* READERS

WITH this number our Publishers have decided to introduce a new feature, which will no doubt be fully appreciated by our readers.

They propose to set apart this page for the offer of Special Bargains to "G. S. W." readers.

In the course of business there comes frequently the opportunity of buying large parcels of comparatively scarce stamps at bargain rates.

Hitherto such purchases have been added to stock, and have generally resulted in the reduction of the Catalogue quotations.

In future, instead of being added to stock, they will be offered as Special Bargains to our readers.

These special offers will be open for one week only from the date of the number in which they appear. After the expiration of a week the stamps will be supplied at the regular rates only, and, in the majority of cases, the Catalogue prices will be maintained, instead of being reduced, as hitherto, as the result of the purchase of bargain parcels.

Foreign and Colonial readers will be supplied with these bargains if they despatch their orders within one week of receipt of the number containing the offer.

ED. "*G. S. W.*"

OUR FIRST SPECIAL OFFER

is as follows:—

SERVIA

1890

Head of King Alexander I.

King Milan having abdicated in 1889 was succeeded by his son Alexander, and a new series was issued in February, 1890, the design showing the profile of the young king to the left on a lined ground. These stamps were printed at Belgrade, the Servian capital.



		Unused. s.	d.
5 paras,	green	0	1
10 ,,	rose	0	1
15 ,,	mauve	0	2
20 ,,	orange	0	2
25 ,,	blue	0	2
50 ,,	bistre	0	6
1 dinar,	lilac	1	6
Catalogue value, unused		2	8

We will supply you this interesting set in unused mint condition, guaranteed genuine originals, for *Ninepence, post-free.*

If you do not want the full set we will supply you a set of six stamps (without the 1 dinar) for *Sixpence, post-free.*

These stamps being obsolete, the Servian Government has collected together the stocks in the different post offices, and we have purchased a parcel of them containing 124,500, but including only 1,300 of the 1 dinar, and but few more of the 50 paras. We can therefore only distribute 1,300 complete sets amongst our 8,000 readers. *Therefore, first come first served.*

We shall be obliged if our clients who order any stamps from our Special Bargain List will say if they would like a sheet of stamps on approval.

If the applicant is in residence at a school his application for an approval sheet must be countersigned by his house master.

If your name is not on our books a reference is required.

STANLEY GIBBONS, LIMITED,
391, STRAND, LONDON, W.C.

NEW ISSUES

The Editor will be grateful to his readers if they will help him with the earliest possible information concerning new issues. News from the Colonies in particular will be much appreciated. When possible, a specimen should accompany the information, and should be addressed to

EDWARD J. NANKIVELL, Carnanton, Camden Park, Tunbridge Wells.

British Guiana.—We are indebted to Mr. J. De Souza, Secretary of the British Guiana Junior Philatelic Society, for a copy of a 5 cent stamp printed in purple on blue paper, with the words "Postage and Revenue" and the value tablet in blue, and watermarked multiple CA.

The following is the official notice:—

"NEW ISSUE 5 CENTS STAMP.

"POST OFFICE DEPARTMENT,

"GEORGETOWN, *29 April, 1905.*

"On and after Monday, 1st May, a new issue of stamps of the value of Five Cents—printed in Purple on Blue Paper, with Blue overprint—will be on sale by this Department.

"The issue of Five Cents Stamps printed on White paper is also available for use until the supply is exhausted.

"F. W. COLLIER, *Postmaster-General.*"



Wmk. Multiple C A. Perf.

1 c., grey-green.
2 c., purple and black on red paper.
5 c. ,, blue on blue ,,
12 c. ,, violet.
24 c. ,, green.
60 c., green and carmine.

British New Guinea.—*Ewen's Weekly Stamp News* chronicles the addition of a 2s. 6d. stamp to the current set.

Ceylon.—The 75 c., single C A watermark, has made a very belated appearance, copies having only recently come to hand.

Wmk. Single C A. Perf.

75 c., turquoise-blue and orange.

Philippines.—There have been some startling changes for the new series of stamps for the Philippine Islands. Hitherto it has been impossible, at the Bureau of Engraving, where the question was supposed to be under consideration with the Bureau of Insular Affairs of the War Department, to obtain any definite information as to the proposed designs, save that the matter had not been decided. At last accounts the only question in controversy was whether or not the 4 centavo design should bear the bust of Washington or simply be the coat of arms of the Filipinos. The portrait of Rizal had been fixed for the 2 centavo stamp, and it was intimated that above the 4 centavo the stamps would all bear the coat of arms. Now comes the dénouement like a flash out of a clear sky. The coat of arms is to appear only on the four high values, 1, 2, 4, and 10 pesos, and the lower values will bear portraits of American and Filipino statesmen, patriots, and heroes galore.

What has induced all this change can only be conjectured, but it is believed that the dead monotony of the coat of arms on the stamps was not agreeable to the Filipinos, who are great on portraits, and who have a passion for honouring distinguished citizens of their race. The bust of Rizal, the able fighter for Filipino independence, who was executed by the Spaniards, was not enough; they wanted others on the stamps, and while they were getting some more, Uncle Sam stuck on a few distinguished Americans, all of which was entirely satisfactory to the natives.

The designs as finally determined upon are as follows:—

2 centavos, bust of Rizal, the patriot.
4 centavos, bust of President McKinley, who was President when the United States relieved the Filipinos from the bondage of Spain.
6 centavos, bust of Magellan, who discovered the Philippines and after whom was named the famous straits south of South America.
10 centavos, bust of General Lawton, the American officer killed in the Philippines while leading an attack on the Tagalos.
8 centavos, bust of Legaspi, an eminent Filipino who established the first civil government in the archipelago.
12 centavos, bust of Abraham Lincoln.
16 centavos, bust of Admiral Sampson.
20 centavos, bust of George Washington.
27 centavos, bust of Carriedo, the famous Spanish philanthropist who bequeathed large sums of money for the establishment of a water-works system for Manila.
30 centavos, bust of Benjamin Franklin.

1, 2, 4, and 10 pesos are uniform in design, having as the central figure the coat of arms of the Filipinos.

A design for a special delivery stamp is also being prepared. This stamp will be somewhat similar in general outline to our special delivery stamp. A Filipino messenger boy will appear on one end of the stamp and the great mountain, Mayon, will decorate the other end.

The question of colour, beyond the fact that the 2 centavos will be green, the 4 centavos red, and the 10 centavos blue, has not been fully determined yet.

It is now the purpose of the Bureau of Insular Affairs that the stamps shall be prepared and issued at the earliest possible moment. It will, however, require several months to complete the plates and print the stamps, so that not before early Fall can the Filipinos hope to possess their new stamps.

The Metropolitan Philatelist.

Seychelles.—This terrible surcharging colony is at it again. According to a Belgian contemporary, it has issued three more 3 cents provisionals. These new provisionals are on King's Heads, watermarked single CA. We are not informed as to the type of the surcharge.

Provisionals.

On King's Heads, wmk. single C A.

3 cents on 15 c., black and blue.
3 cents on 18 c., black and orange.
3 cents on 45 c., brown and orange.

THE STAMP KING

By G. DE BEAUREGARD AND H. DE GORSSE

Translated from the French by EDITH C. PHILLIPS

CHAPTER IX (*continued*)

In which Miss Betty determines to use strong measures

IN the meantime what had William Keniss been doing? On leaving M. Moulineau he had hailed a fiacre and driven to the Bois for an airing. His rival, Miss Betty, being ignorant of the fate of the Brahmapootra stamp, he hoped to have time to study Paris at his leisure. So he drove this morning towards Longchamps and the Cascade—the most tranquil and delightful drive—admiring the little glimpses of landscape opening up before him as the carriage continued its course along the pretty shaded alleys of the Bois de Boulogne.

But as he was returning towards the city, an idea suddenly occurred to him.

"Suppose, by chance, Prince Albrandi has disposed of his stamp! I never thought of that. It would be useless then for me to go to Naples. I must get to know somehow."

So when they reached the post office in the Rue de Marignan the young philatelist went in and, at the very moment when Betty was addressing her message to him, sent off the following telegram :—

"PRINCE ALBRANDI,
"STRADA NUOVA DI POSILLIPO,
"NAPLES.

"Have you still in your possession the Brahmapootra stamp sold you by M. Moulineau? I should like to know, as I am myself an ardent philatelist. Pray excuse the liberty I take, and allow me to thank you in advance for your kind answer.

"WILLIAM KENISS,
"HOTEL TERMINUS,
"PARIS."

And the Stamp King returned to his hotel, where, during luncheon, he received Miss Betty's pneumatic card.



CHAPTER X

How Miss Betty received three simultaneous visits which she would have preferred to have in succession

BETTY had scarcely left the table before she began to count the minutes, so full of impatience was she. Victoria having asked leave to go and see her friend John, she had given it, on condition that she returned in time to show in the expected visitors. For we must remember that the little American had made three appointments for that afternoon; the first at about half-past two with M. Courtalain's man, who was to bring her the twenty thousand francs for her ear-rings; the second at half-past three with M. Picquoiseau's agent; and the third between three and four with her rival, William Keniss.

"I do hope," she said to herself, "that the three will arrive in the right order, or I shall find myself in a difficulty."

The maid, having promised not to be long away, went out. Just as two o'clock struck William arrived, to Betty's surprise and annoyance, for her maid had not yet returned.

"I am too early," he said, "but I hope you will forgive my eagerness."

"Not a bit too early," returned Miss Scott, devoutly wishing she could send him away. But it could not be done, so she must play her part.

The conversation touched only on quite insignificant matters to begin with. Betty and William both found it an uncomfortable interview. The girl's lips burned with a question she dared not utter, but which he felt, all the same, in every insignificant word. So they both avoided any subject which could lead the talk in the direction of philately. They spoke of everything and of nothing: of what they had read in the morning papers, of how delightful the weather was for May, and of the impressions made upon them by their first walk in Paris, but not one allusion to their respective visits to M. Moulineau that morning.

And all the time Betty was giving signs of the liveliest impatience. "Victoria has not come back," she was thinking. "She will never be here by the time the jeweller sends me my money."

After a few moments' conversation, which was all the more laboured because Betty was trying to invent some excuse for her pressing invitation, one of the hotel servants appeared.

"There is someone in the next room who professes to be expected by you, miss," he said.

"Tell him I am coming," returned Miss Betty. Then to William, "Will you kindly excuse me for a few minutes? I really must see this person."

"Oh, by all means, Miss Scott; I will look over the paper while you are away."

Betty left the room, and William dipped into a soporific leading article, which would soon have sent him to sleep had not scraps of conversation continually reached him through the door of the next room, which the little American had thoughtlessly left ajar. He caught such phrases as these, spoken by one or the other in an earnest tone, and he vainly sought the meaning of them :—

"With regard to the deposit——?"

"Five hundred francs. I have a receipt——"

"Ready to pay—— Wait a few minutes; someone is coming——"

It was, of course, M. Picquoiseau's agent who was carrying on a conversation with Miss Betty.

Then she heard a door in the next room open and shut, so without passing through the sitting-room, where William was waiting, she went to the third room to receive the new-comer. But she did not remain with him more than a few minutes, and, having sent him away, returned to her other visitor.

"What can she be plotting?" wondered William Keniss, astonished at the few words he had overheard and at Betty's journeys to and fro.

But the Stamp King was not to remain long in doubt on the subject, for a young man, after two timid little knocks, opened the door and looked in.

"I beg your pardon for disturbing you," said he. "Could you tell me where I shall find the lady with whom I have just been talking in the next room? I forgot to get her to date the receipt for the twenty thousand francs I brought her from M. Courtalain, the jeweller in the Rue de la Paix, for a pair of ear-rings she sold him this morning."

"You surely don't mean that Miss Betty Scott has sold her diamonds!" cried William.

"Why, yes, I do. It seems she found herself without any money, as it had all been stolen during her voyage from New York to Paris."

"Stolen!" murmured William. "And she did not apply to me!" And, turning to the jeweller, "Be good enough, sir," said he, "to give me back the receipt signed by Miss Betty Scott. Here are twenty thousand francs in return for it."

"What!"

"I shall be much obliged if you will consider the bargain made by the young lady null and void."

"But I do not know whether M. Courtalain will agree."

"He will agree. If he demands any compensation, tell him I will call upon him almost immediately. Meanwhile, it is scarcely necessary to say that I wish you to bring back, as quickly as possible, Miss Betty's ear-rings, which she has sold and I have bought back."

"It shall be done as you say, sir."

Scarcely had the jeweller retired when the door of the next room, where Miss Betty was holding her conference with M. Picquoiseau's man, opened wide, and revealed to William the person whom he had heard talking with the little American. He was a man of about thirty, not over-well dressed, and not of a particularly prepossessing appearance. In crossing the room to go out he looked fixedly at the Stamp King, so much so that the latter could not help saying to himself—

"Who is this fellow who stares at me so? Can it possibly be——? But no, not possibly."

In fact, a vague suspicion had begun to rise in William's mind. He had a feeling as if a snare were being wound around him, and yet no definite idea as to what form it was taking. But a smile from Betty, who re-entered the room after seeing the unknown to the outer door, drove away all apprehension.

"Do forgive me for having left you so long," said the girl. "I had an important little matter of business to settle, but it is finished now. I am entirely at your disposal."

William was debating with himself as to whether he should let her know how he had bought back her ear-rings, the fear of offending her making him hesitate. But, on the other hand, it would not do for her to be unprepared when M. Courtalain sent back her diamonds, so, all things considered, he thought it best to speak.

"Miss Betty," said he, "M. Courtalain's man, who was here just now, forgot to ask you to date the receipt, so he came in here to look for you, and, naturally, found me instead."

"He found you!"

"By a word from him I gathered what had happened——"

"And——?"

"I took the liberty, by returning the price of the ear-rings, to break off a bargain which you must have been sorry to make."

"That is most provoking of you!" cried Miss Betty, whose face, as William spoke, had passed through all the varying shades from most delicate pink to deepest scarlet. "So I have become your debtor in spite of myself?"

"Well, Miss Betty, I suppose I must accept the position of creditor, though it would have given me far greater pleasure had you never again mentioned such an insignificant debt."

"My dear Mr. Keniss, allow me——"

"Yes, of course, I know you could not consent to that. From this date, therefore, the fifth of May, 1896, Miss Betty Scott, of New York, owes Mr. William Keniss, equally of New York, the enormous sum of twenty thousand francs, which she will repay without interest whenever it suits her. Now are you satisfied?"

"You do well to make a joke of it, but I am furiously angry."

"What, angry with me, your friend, because I believed my respectful affection for you gave me the right to help you! Wasn't that our compact?"

"Oh, well, let it be so. I forgive you."

"Ah, now you are charming."

"But all the same, another time, before arranging my affairs, you might at least consult me."

"I promise you I will."

Then, to show him she bore no malice for what had happened, she gave him her hand, which he chivalrously bent and kissed.

"If you should happen, when you go back to the Terminus Hotel, to see Victoria, who has gone to pay her friend John a visit, I should be much obliged if you would kindly tell her I am very much displeased. She promised to be back by two o'clock."

"And it is after three, and I must go. Good-bye, Miss Betty."

"Good-bye—and thank you."

Then William began to think that perhaps she was too timid to make use of him, and instantly he demanded why she had sent for him, and if she would like him to take her out somewhere. She stammered out a vague explanation, and, with signs of embarrassment, begged him to excuse her, urging that, being in France, they must conform somewhat to the custom of the country. So he took leave of her, feeling that her conduct was both strange and mysterious.

(To be continued.)

APPROVAL SHEETS AND COLLECTIONS.

New Sheets of stamps for beginners and medium collectors. We have just been arranging our Approval Sheets of Stamps on an entirely new and much simpler plan than formerly. The Stamps are mounted on Sheets, containing an average of 100 Stamps per Sheet. They are all arranged in the order of our New Catalogue. First, Great Britain and the Colonies, then all Foreign Countries. These Sheets contain about 5,000 different Stamps, and a Sheet of any particular country will be sent on demand. The Sheets arranged to date are over forty in number, and contain all Great Britain and the Colonies, and all Foreign Countries.

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENCE

Notes from New York

NEW YORK, *April 28th*, 1905.

Auctions and Bargain Hunters

THERE seems to be very little of philatelic importance going on in this town just at present. Auctions are occupying the attention of collectors to the exclusion of everything else. They are "new every morning and fresh every evening." Each morning mail brings a new catalogue, and each evening another sale. This week we have five nights in succession, and the next three weeks promise to be nearly as crowded. It looks as if the auction business were being rather overdone. It is doubtful if there are enough collectors with ready money to absorb such a mass of stamps in so short a time and pay good prices for them. Already the bargain hunters are figuring that before the end the majority of buyers will be physically and financially exhausted, and then there will be "snaps" galore.

Anticipated Visit of Earl Crawford

New York collectors are looking forward with much pleasurable anticipation to the coming of the Earl of Crawford. The yacht race across the Atlantic, for the cup offered by the Emperor of Germany, starts on May 16th, which is now only a little over two weeks off. Thus the *Valhalla* may be expected in port any day. She is supposed to be somewhere in the West Indies now. His lordship has kindly offered to bring with him his splendid collection of United States stamps, and we are prepared for a great treat in viewing it. The Governors of the Collectors' Club have appointed a Reception Committee to wait on his lordship and to tender him an entertainment, and also arrange for the display of his collection before the members of the Club.

Reprints of Iceland Stamps

In the time of the late Mr. Hamlet it was a matter of current gossip that there was "something rotten in the state of Denmark." At the present day there seems to be something wrong in one of Denmark's colonies, to wit, Iceland. Something has recently been done in the Post Office Department of that island which is, to say the least of it, unsatisfactory. Stamp collectors were none too well pleased with the long series of stamps surcharged I GILDI, with its varieties of perforation, errors in type-setting, inverted surcharges, etc. And now we learn that reprints have been made. It is said that various countries applied at the headquarters of the Universal Postal Union at Berne for copies of these stamps to place in their albums. When the Postal Administration of Iceland was requested to send a supply to Berne the stamps were obsolete and there were none on hand, or, at least, not a sufficient stock to supply the 760 copies which it is customary to deliver to the Universal Postal Union. So the stamps were reprinted. They are, however, unlike the originals in a number of details. Some of the colours are not quite right. The paper is that which was used for the King's Head issue and is watermarked with a Crown of different shape from that used for the paper of the 1873-1902 issues. The perforation is 12½. In the original series with the I GILDI surcharge the 100 aur ordinary postage and the 16 and 50 aur official stamps are not found with this perforation. So far only a few of the reprints have come on the market, and they are held at high prices.

JOHN N. LUFF.

Our Brussels Letter

BRUSSELS, *May 2nd*, 1905.

Stamp Auction in Brussels

THE thirteenth sale of stamps, held in Brussels in April, showed that the stamp movement is being developed more and more in Belgium. There was a crowd of people, and the stamps fetched very high prices. The Belgian stamps, unused, were bid for particularly, as were those of the English Colonies.

A block of four Belgium, unused, 1 centime, imperforate, 1861, thick paper, fetched 24 francs. The 1s., Queen's Head, "Board of Education," fetched 70 francs, although it was heavily obliterated. The 5 pence, Queen's Head, used, also found a buyer at 15 francs.

These latter stamps are certainly sought after very much, and they would have fetched, beyond a doubt, much higher prices in London; but it is none the less true that the prices realised in Brussels show that the popularity of Philately is becoming more and more pronounced in Belgium. Moreover, according to English statistics published recently, from the point of view of population Belgium has the greatest number of collectors, 27 per 1,000 inhabitants. This is a very flattering record for my fellow-countrymen.

The New Belgian Stamps

The new Belgian stamps of 20, 25, and 35 centimes were put on sale on May 1st in all the post offices in the country. They will be given out only to those persons who apply expressly for them until the old issues are exhausted. However, with a view to getting rid of the latter as quickly as possible, the authorities have taken certain steps with regard to the franking of official correspondence.

The stamp of 10 centimes will appear later, as an accident which happened during the printing off has made it necessary to engrave a fresh plate. As to the three other values, the 50 centimes will see the light at the latest during July, as *G. S. W.* has announced already.

No sooner have they appeared, than the new stamps have caused a lively criticism. Everybody is agreed upon the fineness of the engraving; the likeness to the King is perfect, and the work is worthy of the engraver who has signed it; but the colours made use of are far from being beautiful. The 25 centimes is especially hideous, and we do hope that steps will be taken in all haste to change its shade of "cardboard blue," as it is called here, and to adopt a softer blue and one less "loud."

The type of the 25, in a square with rounded corners, is not so fine as, for that matter, the types of the 20 and of the 30 centimes. These latter represent the King's profile looking to the left in a medallion framed by oak-leaves. One cannot fail to remark the embroidered collar and the height of the epaulette of the uniform.

The colours of the 20 and 25 centimes, olive-green and red-brown, are those of the stamps now in use. The three stamps are supplied with the famous little Sunday tab:—

NIET BESTELLEN OP ZONDAG.
NE PAS LIVRER LE DIMANCHE.

ARGUS.

PHILATELIC SOCIETIES

London Philatelic Society

President: H.R.H. The Prince of Wales.
Hon. Sec.: J. A. Tilleard, 10, Gracechurch Street, E.C.
Meetings: 4, Southampton Row, W. Alternate Fridays at 7.45.
Annual Subscription: Town, £2 2s.; Country, £1 1s.

THE twelfth meeting of the season 1904–5 was held at 4, Southampton Row, W.C., on Friday the 24th March, 1905, at 7.45 p.m.

Members present: E. D. Bacon, H. J. Duveen, Ernest A. Elliott, Douglas Ellis, A. W. Maclean, W. V. Morten, C. J. Daun, T. Maycock, C. McNaughtan, Thos. Wm. Hall, C. Neville Biggs, L. W. Fulcher, A. R. Barrett, J. A. Tilleard, and B. D. Knox. Visitor: J. E. Duveen.

The Vice-President and the Honorary Vice-President being still abroad, the chair was taken by Mr. E. D. Bacon. The minutes of last meeting having been read and confirmed, the Honorary Secretary reported the receipt from the Philatelic Society of India of a copy of the recently published work on *The Adhesive, Fiscal, and Telegraph Stamps of British India*, by Messrs. C. S. F. Crofton and W. Corfield, which was directed to be acknowledged with the thanks of the Society.

The meeting then proceeded to ballot for the following candidates for membership, all of whom were duly elected members of the Society: Mr. A. D. Ferguson, proposed by the Honorary Secretary, and seconded by the Honorary Assistant Secretary; Mr. C. D. Choremi, proposed and seconded by the same members; Mr. Arthur Bagshawe, proposed by Mr. W. V. Morten, and seconded by the Honorary Secretary; Mr. W. Nordheimer, proposed by the Honorary Secretary, and seconded by the Honorary Assistant Secretary.

The principal business of the evening consisted of a display of the Stamps of Queensland, by Mr. H. J. Duveen. The collection is one of the finest known collections of this country. It is practically complete and contains several stamps unknown in other collections. The arrangement and condition of the stamps were much admired, and the collection was inspected with the greatest interest by the members attending the meeting.

On the conclusion of the display, Mr. Hall moved a very hearty vote of thanks to Mr. Duveen, and the motion, which was seconded by Mr. McNaughtan, was carried unanimously.

Junior Philatelic Society

President: Fred J. Melville.
Secretary: H. F. Johnson, 4, Portland Place North, Clapham Road, S.W.
Meetings: Exeter Hall, Strand, W.C.
Annual Subscription: 1s. 6d.

A VERY crowded meeting of the Junior Philatelic Society was held in Exeter Hall, Strand, on Saturday, May 6th, being the 65th anniversary of the introduction of the adhesive postage stamp. Members began to assemble as early as six o'clock, and exchange business was brisk. At eight the meeting was called to order and a flashlight photograph of the well-packed hall was taken. Fifty-six new members were elected, bringing the total membership up to 408, which is the largest membership of any philatelic society in the country.

The names of the new members are: Rev. F. W. S. le Lièvre, Bieldside; J. W. Jones, London; G. Mackey, Birmingham; C. A. Squire Cox, Anerley; J. W. Sprowart, Southport; W. H. Terry, Birkdale; Rev. A. H. Drysdale, D.D., Morpeth; A. E. H. Butler, Clevedon; Isaac Cansino, Manchester; A. J. Foulger, Bradford; A. B. Trousdell, London; J. A. Margoschis, Birmingham; Miss Mary S. Cochrane, Edinburgh; Jno. Leonard, Londonderry; Alfred Cole, South Norwood; Humphrey Bennett, Northampton; G. H. Calff, Seaford; Robert Sneath, Sheffield; A. D. Oubridge, Newcastle-on-Tyne; W. Dorning Beckton, Manchester; Rev. A. W. Whitby, Caheragh; A. C. Emerson, London; B. C. Emerson, London; T. H. M. Savage, Higher Tranmere; Jno. J. Darlow, Winsford; E. J. Rondel, Jersey; C. J. Smith, Kingston; W. K. Skipwith, Leeds; Fred A. Padgett, Leeds; J. H. Thackrah, Leeds; W. G. Findlater, Leeds; J. W. Duffield, Leeds; Rev. C. H. Spurrell, York; C. L. Pickard, Leeds; C. W. Harding, Leeds; Hugh Ware, Croydon; Sydney T. Ellis, West Norwood; P. J. Boorman, Gravesend; G. F. H. Gibson, Manchester; Miss Nora Battye, London; Mrs. R. G. James, Kilkenny; L. J. Worthington, Leek; Miss Helena Barton, Dublin; Miss M. L. Faulkner, Leyton; R. H. Sennett, Clapham; Rev. C. E. T. Whitfield, M.A., London; Frank Phillips, London; Lewis May, Tufnell Park; L. C. Sanderson, Chelsea; John Knight, Balham; J. W. Willgoos, Drayton Park; H. G. Bourne, South Croydon; H. Symes, Hornsey; Oswald Marsh, Norwood; F. R. Surrey, Highbury.

Contributions to the Society's forgery collection were acknowledged from Mr. A. H. L. Giles and Mr. Willgoos.

To celebrate at this meeting the 65th anniversary of the introduction of the postage stamp, a most interesting and instructive lantern lecture was given by the President, Mr. Fred J. Melville, on "The Story of the Adhesive Postage Stamp: its inception and development," which was very greatly appreciated. The slides were chiefly made from fine unused copies of the stamps of Great Britain.

The lecture was partly in the nature of an experiment. The difficulty of explaining fully the displays of stamps, when they are being handed round in the usual way to nearly 200 members present, is obvious. But by means of the lantern the stamp which is being discussed is fully visible on a very enlarged scale to the whole audience at once, and the explanation of minutiæ is thus more easily driven home. The experiment was an entire success, and as a result the lantern will figure largely on next season's programme. An official lanternist is wanted, and it is hoped to be able to elect an expert one at the annual general meeting. Any photographers who can assist in making slides of interesting stamps should communicate with the President, Mr. Fred J. Melville, 30, Acre Lane, Brixton.

The vote of thanks to Mr. Melville was proposed by Mr. Gilbert Lodge, seconded by Mr. T. C. Cartwright, and carried by acclamation.

Mr. R. Halliday then read an excellent little paper on the stamps of Cyprus, giving some notes of great interest and value to collectors. It was accompanied by a display of Mr. E. Heginbottom's splendid collection of that colony's stamps. Mr. Heginbottom also displayed fine shows of Virgin Islands, Leewards, British Honduras, and Falkland Islands, contributing largely to the success of a very full and entertaining programme.

The chairman proposed, and Mr. James Feeney seconded, a vote of thanks to both Mr. Halliday and Mr. Heginbottom.

It was announced that the Society's annual outing will take place on Saturday, June 17th, to Epping Forest, and owing to the very large number who have already signified their intention of joining the party members and friends desirous of being with us on that occasion should inform the Secretary without delay.

Hull and District Philatelic Society.

President : G. E. Pickering.
Hon. Secretary : E. W. Drury, Westholme, Hessle, Hull.
Meetings : Grosvenor Hotel, Hull.

THE ninth annual meeting of this Society was held at its headquarters, Grosvenor Hotel, on the 1st of May, the President, Mr. G. E. Pickering, in the chair.

The Secretary reported that eighteen meetings had been held during the past year, all of which had been well attended. Several good collections had been exhibited during the year, and several new members had joined, more than replacing the losses caused by members leaving the district.

The Exchange Packet had circulated eleven times, and been promptly settled up every month. The sales had rather decreased, owing partly to the members having few duplicates to exchange, and also on account of a very large number of stamps having been exchanged or sold at the meetings.

The Treasurer, Mr. F. W. Jones, rendered his balance sheet, which was audited, and after paying all expenses it showed a satisfactory balance in hand.

The President, Hon. Secretary, and Committee were re-elected, and after a pleasant evening the meeting terminated.

International Philatelic Union

Founded 1881.
President : Mr. H. R. Oldfield.

THE annual general meeting of this Society took place at Essex Hall, Strand, on Wednesday evening, May 10th, when there were present: Mr. H. R. Oldfield (in the chair), Messrs. W. Schwabacher, F. Reichenheim, Dr. E. F. Marx, M.A., W. Schwarte, Miss Cassels, Messrs. P. L. Pemberton, L. W. Fulcher, A. B. Kay, J. C. Sidebotham, F. F. Lamb, P. P. Brown, and the Hon. Sec. The annual report and balance sheet having been read by the Hon. Sec., was received and adopted subject to audit. The Hon. Exchange Supt. and other officers' reports were then read, and the President, Vice-Presidents, officers, and committee were thanked for their services during the past year. The President, Vice-Presidents, and officers having been re-elected, the election of the new committee was then proceeded with, and it was decided to hold their first meeting on Wednesday, June 14th, to make arrangements for next season. The President then read an interesting paper on picture stamps, illustrated by his fine collection, which was much appreciated by all present, and for which a hearty vote of thanks was unanimously accorded. Particulars of membership post-free on application to the Hon. Sec., T. H. Hinton, 26, Cromford Road, East Putney, S.W.

EDITORIAL NOTES

"G. S. W." Bound Volumes.—*Gibbons Stamp Weekly* will be bound up in half-yearly volumes; consequently the present volume will be completed with the issue for Saturday, 24th June, 1905.

Our publishers have already ordered the covers for binding the volume, but do not propose to make binding covers for general sale, as they imagine there will not be sufficient sale to warrant the expense, as readers will probably prefer to have their volumes bound in their own way. If readers wish to have publishers' covers they had better write Messrs. Stanley Gibbons, Ltd., and say so.

Only a few bound volumes can be placed on sale, as our publishers have, in our opinion, too modestly estimated the number that is likely to be required. Therefore, copies should be ordered without delay.

Our Miscellaneous Page.—We wish to make *Gibbons Stamp Weekly* a storehouse of information, and shall therefore be glad of any cuttings of more or less permanent interest for our "Miscellaneous" page. Source and date of cutting must be given.

Editorial Communications.—All communications intended for the Editor should be addressed to Edward J. Nankivell, Carnanton, Camden Park, Tunbridge Wells.

Philatelic Societies.—We wish to make a special feature of the prompt publication of the reports of Philatelic Societies, and trust we may have the kindly co-operation of the honorary secretaries in this matter. Reports should be written on one side of the paper, and despatched to the Editor by the earliest post.

Special Correspondence.—The Editor will be glad to receive interesting letters from philatelic centres not already covered by our arrangements. We want chatty and newsy letters on matters of interest to the general collector, and excluding all matter of interest only to the specialist.

Subscriptions.—Subscriptions must be sent to the publishers as set out on the front page of cover, or to booksellers or railway bookstalls, but never to the Editor.

OUR PHILATELIC DIARY

JUNE, 1905

1 & 2. Auction : Glendining, 7, Argyll Street, London. 4.30 p.m.
5. Auction : Hadlow, Covent Garden Hotel, London. 5 p.m.
6 & 7. Auction : Puttick and Simpson, 47, Leicester Square, London. 4.30 p.m.
15 & 16. Auction : Glendining, 7, Argyll Street, London. 4.30 p.m.
19. Auction : Hadlow, Covent Garden Hotel, London. 5 p.m.
20 & 21. Auction : Plumridge, 64, Chancery Lane, London. 4.45 p.m.
29 & 30. Auction : Glendining, 7, Argyll Street, London. 4.30 p.m.

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27 May, 1905.

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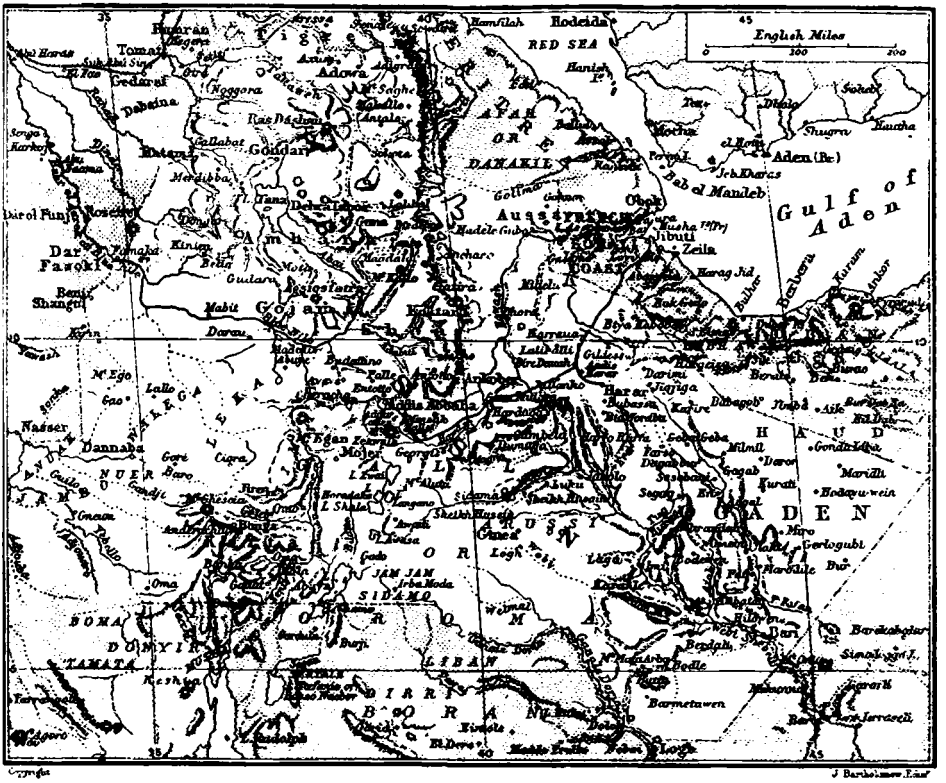
EDITED BY EDWARD J. NANKIVELL

No. 22 | 3 JUNE, 1905 | Vol. I.

THE COUNTRIES OF THE WORLD

By EDWARD J. NANKIVELL

Abyssinia


Rodeida
RED SEA
English Miles
Adowa
Adigrat
Gondar
DANAKIL
Aden (Br.)
Gulf of Aden
Zeila
Harar
Dire Dawa
Jijiga
Diredawa
Dessie
Magdala
Debra Tabor
Lake Tsana
Lake Rudolf
Nasser
Dannaba
Gore
Lake Stefanie
Lake Abaya
Lake Zwai
Lake Margherita
Lake Shalla
Lake Abbe
Lake Gardula
Lake Haik
Lake Tana
Lake Ashangi
Lake Hayk
Lake Tsana
Lake Dembea
Lake Tsana
Lake Tana
Lake Ashangi
Lake Hayk

races surrounding the head waters of the Blue Nile and the Atbara rivers. It is bounded on the west by Nubia and the Sudan, on the north by the Italian possessions of Eritrea and Somaliland, and on the south by British East Africa.

The Emperor Menelik II., who claims descent from Menelik, the son of Solomon, by the Queen of Sheba, reigns over the kingdoms or provinces of Amhara, Tigre, Shoa, Gojam, and Harrar. The capital is Adis Abeba, in the province of Shoa.

The country was invaded in 1867 by a British force sent to punish King Theodore of Amhara. His successor, King John, was killed by the Mahdists in 1869, and then, aided by the Italians, Menelik of Shoa proclaimed himself king of kings. In 1889 the Italians declared a protectorate over the whole of Abyssinia, but in 1896 its army was destroyed by Menelik at Adowa, and the sovereignty of Italy has since been confined to the lowlands of Eritrea.

The population of the country is variously estimated at from three to ten millions. The court or official language is Amharic.

Its Philatelic History

The first postage stamps were issued in 1894. They were printed in Paris, and were received with a great deal of scepticism, but there is no doubt that many were legitimately used to defray postage within the country. Then followed some provisionals, overprinted "Ethiopie," and three sets of further provisionals overprinted in Amharic characters. These provisionals are all attributed to a desire to checkmate the manipulations of certain French dealers, who were said to have got hold of a large number of the first issue to the disadvantage of the issuing country. Whether this story be true or not, it is a fact that the stamp market has for some time been flooded with stamps of the first issue at mysteriously low prices.

And now the currency is being changed to centimes, thus necessitating further provisionals.

The unit of value, up to the change of currency, was the guerche, equal to 25 centimes, or 2½d.

The First Issue

The first postage stamps were designed by the eminent French engraver, M. Mouchon, and were printed at the printing works of the Administration des Postes, Paris. The sheets were made up of six panes, in three horizontal pairs of panes, each pane containing five rows of five stamps, or twenty-five stamps in each pane, making a total of 150 stamps to each sheet.

The four lower values had a portrait of the Emperor Menelik II., and the three high values a heraldic design thus described: "A lion passant regardant, holding with his left fore-paw a cross with a pennon attached, upon which is the motto 'Vicit Leo de Tribu Juda.'"

For some time after the issue was chronicled in the philatelic journals it was asserted that the stamps had their origin and their circulation in Paris. However, it is now beyond dispute that some did eventually reach Abyssinia for legitimate use.

In all there were seven values.



Type 1.



Type 2.

1894. *Types* 1 (½ *to* 2 *g.*) *and* 2 (4 *to* 16 *g.*).

	Perf.	Unused.	Used.
		s. *d.*	*s.* *d.*
½ g., green	. .	0 2	0 3
1 g., red	. .	0 2	0 2
1 g., blue	. .	0 3	0 3
2 g., brown	. .	0 4	0 4
4 g., claret	. .	0 5	0 6
8 g., lilac	. .	0 6	0 8
16 g., black	. .	0 8	0 9

Overprinted "Ethiopie"

In 1901 two sets of provisionals on the original values were issued, one overprinted "Ethiopie" in fancy letters, and the other with the same word in script type. The overprinting was hand-stamped in blue, violet, and black, but I am unable to say whether complete sets of the different colours were done or not.

1901. *All values of the first issue overprinted "Ethiopie" in fancy letters, in violet, in black, and in blue.*

	Perf.	Unused.
		s. *d.*
½ g., green	. .	0 9
½ g., red	. .	1 0
1 g., blue	. .	1 6
2 g., brown	. .	2 0
4 g., claret	. .	2 6
8 g., lilac	. .	3 6
16 g., black	. .	6 0

1901. *"Ethiopie" in script type, in blue-black.*

Perf.

¼ g., green.
½ g., red.
1 g., blue.
2 g., brown.
4 g., claret.
8 g., lilac.
16 g., black.

Provisionals: Overprinted in Amharic

In 1902 all values of the first issue were overprinted in Amharic characters in Type 3, "Bosata" or "Posta," in violet. In Gibbons Catalogue the colour of the overprint is described as blue-black, but violet seems to me nearer the mark.

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Type 3.

1902. *First issue overprinted with Type 3.*

	Perf.	Unused. *s.* *d.*
¼ g., green	. . .	0 9
½ g., red	. . .	0 9
1 g., blue	. . .	1 0
2 g., brown	. . .	1 6
4 g., claret	. . .	2 0
8 g., lilac	. . .	3 0
16 g., black	. . .	5 0

In 1903 the stamps of the first issue were overprinted in violet with Type 4, "Malekathe."

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Type 4.

1903. *First issue overprinted with Type 4.*

	Perf.	Unused. *s.* *d.*
¼ g., green	. . .	0 6
½ g., red	. . .	0 6
1 g., blue	. . .	1 0
2 g., brown	. . .	1 6
4 g., claret	. . .	2 0
8 g., lilac	. . .	2 6
16 g., black	. . .	4 6

In 1904 the stamps of the first issue were again overprinted in blue in Amharic with Type 5. What this latest Amharic overprint means I have not yet heard. Perhaps some Abyssinian reader will enlighten us.

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Type 5.

1904. *First issue overprinted with Type 5.*

	Unused. *s.* *d.*	Used. *s.* *d.*
¼ g., green . . .	0 9	0 9
½ g., red . . .	0 9	0 9
1 g., blue . . .	1 0	1 0
2 g., brown . . .	1 6	1 6
4 g., claret . . .	2 0	2 0
8 g., lilac . . .	2 6	2 6
16 g., black . . .	5 0	—

Change of Currency

This year the currency has been changed for the stamps from the Abyssinian to the French equivalents in centimes, presumably because the letters from Abyssinia pass through the French territory of Djibouti to the outer world, being franked outside the Abyssinian frontier with Djibouti stamps. The overprinting is evidently done with a hand-stamp with the ink that happens to be most convenient—blue, violet, pink, and greyish black.

1905. *Overprinted in French currency.*

	Unused. *s.* *d.*
05 on ¼ g., green . . .	1 0
10 ,, ½ g., red . . .	1 6
20 ,, 1 g., blue . . .	2 6
40 ,, 2 g., brown . . .	2 6
80 ,, 4 g., claret . . .	3 6
1.60 ,, 8 g., lilac . . .	5 0
3.20 ,, 16 g., black . . .	7 6

And lastly we have received the ½ g., red, surcharged "5 c/m" in the right top corner and also in the left lower corner, and divided diagonally for use as 5 c. stamps.

	Unused. *s.* *d.*	Used. *s.* *d.*
5 c. on half of ½ g., red . .	4 0	4 0

(To be continued.)

THE PHILATELIST'S COLLECTING BOOK.

For the coat pocket. With patent fastening to flap. Size, 6½×4¼ inches. Handsomely bound in Art Cloth Each book contains 12 pages, having four strips of linen, ¾-inch wide, arranged horizontally, glued at the bottom edge and with the upper one open, for the safe retention and preservation of recent purchases or duplicates. A large pocket is also provided at the back for Envelopes or Stamps in bulk. In daily use by leading London Collectors. No. 17 post-free, 2s. 7d. No. 18—oblong, 24 pages, 6 strips on each page, interleaved with strong glazed paper to prevent rubbing—post-free, 5s. 4d.; abroad, 5s. 6d.

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FIRST STEPS IN PHILATELY

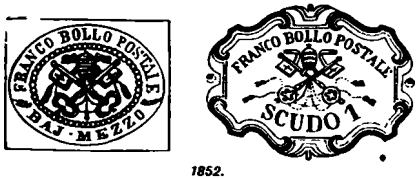
By Rev. T. C. WALTON, M.A.

(*Continued from page* 326.)

Stamps without a Name (*b. continued*)

THE States of Italy which, in former days, recognised the Pope as their over-lord in things temporal as well as spiritual, are known by various names. They are called the States of the Church, the Pontifical or Papal States, and the Roman States. Bit by bit these States were wrested from the Church of Rome. In 1870 the Italian troops entered Rome, and all that was left of the Roman States was merged in the Kingdom of Italy. The first issue of stamps was made in 1852. The design is a striking one. It consists of a papal tiara above two crossed keys, and an inscription above, with the value underneath. This central design, common to all the series, is enclosed in a frame which differs in shape in all the values. The currency was in scudi and bajocchi. One scudo = 100 bajocchi. One bajocchi = ½d. Two illustrations are given below for the purpose of showing the difference in frames. The abbreviated BAJ. stands for "bajocchi." MEZZO is the Italian for "half."

ROMAN STATES.



1852.

In 1868, owing to a change in currency from "scudi" to "lire," a new series was issued. In this series the central design was the same. The only difference was that the values were expressed in "centesimi."

We have described the 1874 issue of Montenegro in a former article. An issue commemorating the two hundredth anniversary of the dynasty of the reigning family appeared in 1896. The issue belonged to the "stamps made for collectors" type. The design, an illustration of which appears below, consisted of a view of Cetinje, the capital. The dates 1696, 1896, appear in the top corners.

MONTENEGRO COMMEMORATION ISSUE.



Inasmuch as heraldic figures occupy no little space in the designs on postage stamps, it may be of interest if I digress from the immediate subject and introduce the "lion" as being the most important of all beasts from a heraldic point of view. The lion assumes a variety of positions on the shield. His normal attitude is "rampant," *i.e.* in an erect position with the left hind-leg on the ground, the head sideways, and the tail curved over the back. He is "passant" when he is represented as walking, three paws resting on the ground and the right fore-paw elevated. He is "passant gardant" when depicted as the last, but with the head looking out of the shield. In the Royal Arms of the United Kingdom, three lions "passant gardant" occupy the first and the fourth quarters of the shield. There has been much controversy as to whether these animals ought not to have been leopards, because it is held to be contrary to the true spirit of heraldry to have more than one lion in a quartering, seeing that lions are animals which brook no rivals. This, however, is outside our subject. Let us turn to the first issue of Persia. Here we have an example of the lion "passant gardant" as

PERSIA.



the central design of the series. The curious marks in the four corners are the numerals of value. The particular illustration given is that of the 8 shahi.

The two-masted paddle steamer which figures as the central design of the provisional issue of Peru in 1857 indicates the origin of the said series. The stamps were the property of the Pacific Steam Navigation Company, and were handed over to the Peruvian Government to be used until such time as a regular issue could be put in circulation. The letters in the four corners are the initials of the company.

PERU.



(To be continued.)

EVENINGS WITH DICK. II.

By S. D. WILSON

SHORTLY after promising Dick to become a stamp collector, I had a piece of good luck. It took the form of a legacy of £10 from an eccentric uncle, "to be used to remedy some appalling ignorance." On consideration, I decided to remedy my appalling ignorance of geography. How? By buying expensive geographical works and maps, which former, at least, I should not understand? No! but by buying stamps under Dick's tuition and the study of their countries.

I have mentioned that Dick started me off with a heterogeneous collection, which he declared were no use to him; yet many of these I found catalogued at 1d. or ½d. each; and, as I was determined to do stamps keenly if at all, I asked Dick for an explanation.

"Oh, that's simple," he told me. "Dealers buy those stamps in thousands for very small sums, and their value is practically nil. But their big expenses, advertisements, clerks, work in sorting and arranging packets, and half a hundred things make it impossible to catalogue them at less. Don't buy used stamps of a big power, that are printed in millions; they can never be rare or valuable. Get hold of unused stamps of a small power. Then if there is a revolution and new stamps are printed, the limited first issue becomes valuable; or the stamps may have some unexpected watermark or surcharge, or—oh, fifty things. Get on with your stuff, you fat-head, and don't worry me. You remind me of cheap fireworks, all noise and nothing to show for it in the end."

It is a great pleasure to talk to Dick.

Well, I was a young collector, and so of course I bought the wrong things. I wanted my album to be a beauty-book, and when I saw beautiful stamps—and some of them are really works of art—cheap, those I bought. New Zealand, with its sceneries and rare birds, Bolivia eleven stars (nine stars are more expensive), Tonga, Newfoundland, which needs a nice discrimination, Sirmoor, the Guatemala parrots, and always, when possible, Labuan. Labuan—which really only surcharges North Borneo issues—Labuan was my favourite: the stags' heads and crocodiles and birds and monkeys, and all the rest of them.

I was getting together quite a respectable crowd by the time of this visit to Dick. Dick was specialising in another and expensive, to me very expensive, set of—never mind what. Their name has been loathsome to me ever since then.

By now I was becoming of the opinion that I knew as much about stamps as anyone breathing; and picking up an extra set of Guatemala in a small shop in the country at about a quarter of their value naturally tended to enhance this rosy view.

That very day, taking a short cut through a sufficiently shady part of town, I came across a set of the identical stamps which Dick was so laboriously endeavouring to complete. They were gummed on a dirty old envelope and marked 5s.; they were worth, I knew, some £25. I walked by the shop, thinking rapidly and cautioning myself. I must not appear too eager; must bargain a little; must

see they were all right, etc., etc. I returned and asked to see the stamps; they appeared quite as they should be.

I said to the man, "I suppose they are all right? Genuine and all that?"

"Well, sir," he said, "it only needs someone who knows something about stamps to see whether they're genuine or not. Even I could see that." He could, the brute.

I bought the stamps and walked out treading on air. I was very pleased with myself, till I had had words with two old gentlemen for running into them gratuitously, upset a perambulator, and nearly been run over by a bus. But that by the way.

With a smile of triumph, I dumped down my precious bargain before Dick, and asked him loftily, "And what price that lot, my friend?" Dick looked at them casually. "Twopence to a friend," he said indifferently.

"What?" I shouted.

"Nothing to anyone else; shams, you idiot," he continued imperturbably. "Exactly what they are, rubbish. Genuine! Anyone who knew anything at all about stamps would know whether they were genuine or not."

"That's exactly what the shopman said," I answered. And then, light breaking in upon me, I am sorry to say that I swore.

Dick went on calmly sorting and cataloguing, I sat and kicked myself for a rabbit; and remembering my satisfaction at getting those worthless bits of paper for sixpence less than the marked price, kicked myself again.

Dick whistled "Bill Bailey" quite contentedly and quite out of tune, occasionally smiling in a superior manner at me. It was obvious that I should have to retaliate somehow, or I should never hear the last of those beastly shams. But how?

Presently it came to me like a flash.

"I got something else pretty useful the other day," said I, as carelessly as I could.

"Another set of shams?" said Dick, with a chuckle.

"No," I replied, "it's a portrait of Washington; authentic too; supposed to be very good of him. I should think it's worth a good deal."

Now Dick buys that sort of thing wherever and whenever he can; they go into what he is pleased to call his "Historical Museum." It, the Museum, is valuable, and becomes more so every year. "All stamps," he tells me.

"Want to sell it?" said Dick, interested immediately.

"Well, I intended to keep. I think it might become worth a lot in time. But it would certainly look well in the museum."

"What do you want for it? No nonsense now."

"Say five pounds."

"Say your grandmother. It's a pig in a poke; I haven't seen it, but I bid five shillings."

"Done," said I, and so he was. I handed him a United States of America stamp, with the head of Washington on it; value, three a penny. He had given it me himself.

Dick stared at the thing, speechless. Yet all I told him was true.

When the American stamps were first put into use, and for some time afterwards, the heads put on the stamps were those of the great men of America. Thus you will find the American heroes, from Washington till quite recent days, perpetuated in their stamps. Washington, Franklin, Jefferson, Jackson, Lincoln, and many others; also the arms, landing and reception of Columbus—these latter from imagination, of course—the pony express, locomotive, mail-steamer, and such important events and inventions. America has certainly produced the most interesting stamps pictorially; with the help of a good catalogue (Stanley Gibbons, by the way, are bringing out a new one that promises to be marvellous), their stamps are of great interest as historical fingerposts even to those who do not collect. This by the way.

Well, I got my five shillings from Dick, and a good laugh at him too; moreover, I got a dressing down with the gloves.

However, both of us had been spoofed, and honours were easy. I expended my hard-won five shillings on Labuan; a foolish thing to do, for reasons which I will explain later.

Why would I not give the name of the stamps that took me in so prettily? Because no boy of ten would have been caught so easily; the trick is too old. But Dick's last remark to me may give you a hint. "You and those shams are very alike, ugly. Three-cornered rubbish."

I thanked him.

(To be continued.)

GOSSIP OF THE HOUR

By CORNELIUS WRINKLE

London International Exhibition, 1906

THE arrangements for the great Exhibition are proceeding apace. The Exhibition Committee have just sent out their invitations to collectors to guarantee the expenses of the show. As in the case of the last great Exhibition, it is not likely that the guarantors will be out of pocket, for in the end the receipts from admissions and the letting of dealers' stalls more than pay the expenses of a successful Exhibition.

The General Committee

A General Committee is to be formed of leading collectors all over the country, and, as a beginning, the President and the Secretary of all the Philatelic Societies are to be placed on this list. The more collectors throughout the country who can be actively and officially connected with the business, the more successful it is likely to be.

Badges. The latest suggestion

A READER suggests that the CA and CC should be placed on a star-shaped pendant. An excellent idea, that I shall act upon. The badge will then represent the watermarks, Star, CC, and CA. It is true that all these are British watermarks, but the combination will serve splendidly in the absence of any more comprehensive idea, which is not forthcoming. I hope soon to be able to give an illustration of the medallist's design.

A Philatelic Locket

Another reader suggests a locket with a glass face, into which the wearer could fit a stamp of his pet country. Not a bad idea, but open to the fatal objection that we must have a badge that will be Greek to all but those who are collectors. It is a curious fact, but those who most strongly object to the CC and CA design have been most hopelessly barren of ideas for anything that could be made to serve the purpose. But let it not be understood that, because I have given so much prominence to objections, very little has been said on the other side. As a matter of fact, there has been quite a chorus of approvals of the CC and CA designs.

The Ocean Race

WE are getting quite excited over the Ocean Yacht Race, for we philatelists feel that we have a special favourite in the Earl of Crawford's *Valhalla*. Just before the start a group of leading collectors met in London and cabled his lordship the best wishes of English collectors. A good stiff gale or two will settle the small craft, and leave the race to the large vessels, of which the *Valhalla* is the largest. She is a philatelic yacht in the best sense of the word, for her owner does most of his philatelic work on board of her when he is cruising in foreign parts, to which our English climate unfortunately banishes him during the winter.

"Multiple CA" or "CA, CA"

SOME journals, and a few collectors, call the new watermark "CA, CA" instead of "multiple CA". I am puzzled to account for the preference, for surely "multiple CA" is much more expressive. "CA, CA" is a simple repetition, whereas the watermark or portions of it appear not twice but as much as four times on a single stamp. It is, therefore, more correctly described as "multiple CA".

Australian Juniors

SOME junior collectors of Sydney, New South Wales, have formed themselves into a Society which they style the "Union Stamp Collecting Club." Judging from a sample of their rules, published by our old friend the *Australian Philatelist*, the said juniors must be a "smart set." Here are the samples :—

Rule 1. Members are not compelled to exchange stamps they wish to keep.
" 2. No swearing or smoking is permitted at the meetings.
" 3. No member may take any other member's stamps.
" 10. The President remains in office till he wishes to resign.
" 28. Members who are caught taking other members' stamps will be put out of the Club.
" 30. If the President tells a member to leave the Club-room he will do so immediately.

NEW ISSUES

The Editor will be grateful to his readers if they will help him with the earliest possible information concerning new issues. News from the Colonies in particular will be much appreciated. When possible, a specimen should accompany the information, and should be addressed to

EDWARD J. NANKIVELL, Carnanton, Camden Park, Tunbridge Wells.

Federated Malay States.—We have received the 8 c., 20 c., and 50 c. on the multiple CA paper. So far the issues stand as follows:—



Wmk. Multiple C A. Perf.

1 c., green and black.
3 c., brown ,,
4 c., carmine ,,
8 c., ultramarine ,,
10 c., claret ,,
20 c., black and mauve.
50 c., orange-brown and black.

German East Africa.—We have received from Messrs. Whitfield King and Co. several values of a new series of the German Colonial Ship design with values expressed in "heller" currency instead of the pfennige.

Perf.

2½ h., light brown.
4 h., green.
7½ h., rose.
15 h., ultramarine.
20 h., black and red on *yellow*.
30 h. ,, carmine.
45 h. ,, mauve.
60 h. ,, carmine on *rose*.

Hong Kong.—The 10 dollars has been received on the multiple CA paper.



Wmk. Multiple C A. Perf.

2 c., green.
4 c., green on red paper.
5 c., orange; centre green.
10 c., blue; centre purple; on blue paper.
20 c., chestnut; centre grey-black.
30 c., black; centre green.
50 c., magenta; centre green.
1 dol., sage-green; centre mauve.
2 dols., vermilion; centre grey-black.
10 dols., brown; centre black; on blue paper.

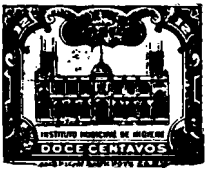
Leeward Islands.—*Ewen's Weekly Stamp News* chronicles the receipt of the 3d. current King's Head stamp on multiple C A paper.



Wmk. Multiple C A. Perf.

3d., purple and black.

Peru.—From this country we have a new 12 centavos stamp of the picture type with a very neat and clear illustration of the Instituto Municipal de Higiene. It is the work of the American Bank Note Co.



Perf.

12 centavos, blue; centre black.

Southern Nigeria.—We have received the 4d. and 2s. 6d. on the multiple CA paper, and several correspondents call our attention to the omission of the 1d. from our last list of multiples. The list is now complete with the one exception of the 10s. value.



Wmk. Multiple C A. Perf.

½d., green and black.
1d., carmine and black.
2d., orange-brown and black.
2½d., ultramarine and black.
4d., olive-green and black.
6d., mauve and black.
1s., black and green.
2s. 6d., brown and black.
5s., yellow and black.
£1, violet and green.

SPECIAL BARGAINS
FOR *G. S. W.* READERS

OUR Publishers propose to set apart this page for the offer of Special Bargains to "G. S. W." readers.

In the course of business there comes frequently the opportunity of buying large parcels of comparatively scarce stamps at bargain rates.

Hitherto such purchases have been added to stock, and have generally resulted in the reduction of the Catalogue quotations.

In future, instead of being added to stock, they will be offered as Special Bargains to our readers.

These special offers will be open for one week only from the date of the number in which they appear. After the expiration of a week the stamps will be supplied at the regular rates only, and, in the majority of cases, the Catalogue prices will be maintained, instead of being reduced, as hitherto, as the result of the purchase of bargain parcels.

Foreign and Colonial readers will be supplied with these bargains if they despatch their orders within one week of receipt of the number containing the offer.

ED. "*G. S. W.*"

OUR SECOND SPECIAL OFFER

is as follows:—

HONG KONG
10 cents on 30 cents, green.

There are three varieties of this stamp:—

First, with value surcharged in small Chinese characters on the left side. This is the commonest, and sells at 1*s.* 3*d.* each.

Second, with value in *large* characters. This is rather rare, and sells at 20*s.* each.

Third, *our Special Bargain*, without any Chinese surcharge at all. This has been a very rare stamp, and we catalogue it at 30*s. each*, or 25*s.* used, but in our Addenda we were able to reduce this to 10*s.* each.



We have just picked up a little parcel of 300 of these stamps, and as long as they last we offer them to readers of *G.S.W.* only at the wonderfully low price of **4s. each post-free.**

We shall be obliged if our clients who order any stamps from our Special Bargain List will say if they would like a sheet of stamps on approval.

If the applicant is in residence at a school his application for an approval sheet must be countersigned by his house master.

If your name is not on our books a reference is requested if you wish to have sheets of stamps on approval.

STANLEY GIBBONS, LIMITED,
391, STRAND, LONDON, W.C.

STAMPS AND STAMP COLLECTING. By Major E. B. EVANS.

The young collector is frequently perplexed by the meaning of the various terms used in stamp collecting, and the fullest explanations of these will be found in this book. 2s. 9d. in Paper Cover, or 4s. 6d. strongly bound in Cloth.

Stanley Gibbons, Ltd., 391, Strand, London, W.C.

THE STAMP KING

By G. DE BEAUREGARD AND H. DE GORSSE

Translated from the French by EDITH C. PHILLIPS

CHAPTER X (*continued*)

How Miss Betty received three simultaneous visits which she would have preferred to have in succession

ON leaving the Hotel Bristol he saw, a few paces off, at the base of the Vendôme Column, three men walking up and down, as if waiting for someone. He recognised one of them for the fellow whom he had seen a few minutes before with Miss Betty, and who had stared at him so rudely. As soon as he appeared this man pointed him out quietly to his two companions, and, by the way in which they also studied him, the American felt certain they were detectives of some sort. And he was by no means pleased to find they were shadowing him. When he stopped at M. Courtalain's to settle about the ear-rings they waited for him on the opposite pavement, and, as soon as ever he had taken a step outside, they followed him again with the same persistence.

"They make such a show of spying upon me," thought William, "that it would almost seem as if they do it purposely. I see what it means. Not only am I shadowed, but I am to know that I am, so as to take away from me all desire for action, for the good reason that if I make the least move Betty will immediately hear of it, and hasten to thwart me and profit by it herself."

But at this moment he arrived at the Terminus Hotel, and lost no time in entering.



SHADOWED BY THREE MEN

CHAPTER XI

Wherein John meditates a terrible vengeance

VICTORIA, having received Betty's permission to go out, hastened to the Terminus Hotel, wasting no time in playing truant in the Paris streets. She had deeply considered the question of her marriage with William's valet since the evening before, and felt that she had things of the highest importance to say to him. John was exerting himself in putting his master's clothes in order when Victoria arrived and breathlessly rang the bell of their rooms. As the authoritative peal echoed through the whole hotel the good fellow started so that he let fall the coat he was brushing. But as soon as he recovered from the shock he hurried to the door, thinking it must be Mr. William Keniss returning unexpectedly.

As he opened the door a still greater shock caused him to fall back two or three steps, and nearly threw him on the floor. Victoria, always in exuberant spirits when she found herself in the presence of the man to whom she had lost her heart, had thrown herself without warning into his arms. And John, being quite unprepared for such an event, could only stare open-mouthed, incapable of manifesting his surprise in any other manner.

"That's a nice way of coming in!" he cried at last, when he could find breath enough.

"Then you didn't expect to see me?" returned Victoria.

"Well, well——"

"Well, what?"

"Well, I didn't expect you—so soon!——"

"Then does my coming displease you, sir?"

"No, no! What ideas you do get into your head, my dear Victoria!"

"Well, you don't look as pleased as you ought to be at my visit."

"What makes you think I am not pleased? I am delighted—enchanted——"

"No one would imagine it."

"I can't fire a salute from a cannon every time I see you. In the first place, for the very good reason that I am not in the habit of carrying such an instrument about with me. But come into this room and tell me what brings you here."

"What brings me! He wants to know what brings me! The ungrateful man! And what do you think would be likely to bring me, Master John, if not the thing in which we are both so deeply interested?"

"Our marriage?"

"Of course."

"Are you afraid, then, that I shall forget it? The thought of it is never out of my mind."

"I don't believe you."

"Must I give you my word of honour?"

"Yes."

"Very well; you have it."

Such were the first greetings exchanged that day between John Cockburn and Victoria Crockett, and, if we might be allowed to draw a conclusion from these few words, we should say that Mr. William Keniss's valet, honest fellow though he was, occasionally gave his word of honour somewhat lightly. We know that John quite intended to marry Victoria, whose nice little dowry was far from distasteful to him, but he was in no great hurry for the nuptial ceremony, holding that there are some things, even some agreeable ones, which may be put off for a time without inconvenience. And marriage, as we have seen, was, in his opinion, one of these things.

Victoria, on the other hand, in spite of her lost youth, loved him with an ardent love, and was so afraid, too, of becoming an old maid that she would have married him straight off had it been possible. So Miss Scott's hurried departure, coming at the very moment when John, tired of resisting her importunities, was on the point of giving in, had hurt her deeply. Her wedding had been indefinitely postponed, perhaps broken off altogether. She had asked herself if it were possible John should forget her entirely, in spite of his many promises. For she

doubted the truth of the old proverb—"Absence makes the heart grow fonder."

So it was in a very unhappy frame of mind that Victoria had crossed from New York to Havre, where, however, one of the greatest joys that had illuminated her existence was awaiting her, for there she met again, in the most unexpected way, him whom she feared she had lost for so long.

"So it is really true there is no change with regard to our marriage?" she began again, while John continued his work, walking backwards and forwards in the room.

"Why, Victoria, what do you want changed?"

"Nothing at all; but I am afraid——"

"Why?"

"Because you men are so changeable."

"Other men may be, but I am not."

"Oh, you are no better than the rest."

"Yes, I suppose I did."

"Doesn't it seem to you the most natural thing in the world? How can we tell when we shall get back to New York?"

"On the other hand, how can we tell how long we shall be in Paris?"

"What do you mean by that?"

"Why, we can't get married in that way, straight off the reel. There are innumerable formalities to be complied with in France as well as in America—more even in France than in America. And for that purpose we must have plenty of time before us. Now it seems to me that this isn't our case, for either you or I may have to leave here at any minute—to-day, to-morrow, the day after to-morrow. How do we know when?"

"All the same——"

"No, Victoria; take my word for it we can't get



JOHN WAS OCCUPIED IN BRUSHING HIS MASTER'S CLOTHES

"Thank you—on my own account first and secondly on theirs."

But Victoria, seeing the conversation was not taking the direction she wished, could not repress a movement of impatience.

"Look here, John," she cried; "this is not the time to be witty. We are talking of serious things."

"I quite agree with you."

"Before we left New York we had settled, you know, to have the banns published."

"Yes, I remember."

"And by this time we should probably have been married."

"Very likely."

"So I've thought of something."

"What is it?"

"As we didn't get married in New York, why shouldn't we in Paris?"

John stopped in his work with such a jump that he nearly knocked his head against the ceiling, while a look of the deepest surprise spread over his face.

"*What* did you say?" he demanded.

"It isn't necessary to repeat it. You heard quite well."

married in Paris. We must wait till we get back to New York; for I promise you the wedding shall take place as soon as ever we return."

"You swear it?"

"Yes, I do."

The future husband and wife being, as we know, devoted to bezique, now settled themselves at a table and began a game. At first chance favoured John, who almost immediately scored a hundred for aces and a two hundred and fifty. Then for a few minutes they played on without being able to declare anything, and the game was becoming monotonous, when Miss Betty's maid threw down a king and queen of trumps, crying—

"Forty for a royal marriage."

John could not resist so good an opportunity for a joke.

"Really, my dear, you can't think of anything but marrying people to-day," he said.

It was not, perhaps, a very witty remark, but Victoria was so delighted at having scored forty that she laughed long and loud.

At this moment a bell rang.

(To be continued.)

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENCE

Our Scotch Letter

EDINBURGH, *May 11th*, 1905.

The Quiet Season

THE quiet season in stamps is always particularly quiet in Scotland. The short spell of fine weather with long daylight attracts most collectors, and their albums and tweezers are stored away from May till October. The habit of closing town houses for two months, sometimes for three, is very general, and only the more ardent souls take their stamps with them to the coast or Highlands.

There are plenty of wet days, however, and he is a wise collector who finds a corner in his portmanteau for something to while away the enforced stay indoors.

On the Hunt

I spent a summer recently in a small Scotch burgh, where a relative—a banker—had a great pile of old correspondence dating back to the days before 1840. I persuaded him to search for stamps for me, and to his surprise and my regret he found all the stamps apart from the penny reds had been removed by some previous searcher. This is typical of the general state of affairs.

There are not many "finds" heard of, although it is impossible to doubt there is plenty yet to be discovered.

I saw a fine batch of triangular Capes on original envelopes unearthed last year in a small village in Aberdeenshire. They were discreetly handled by the canny owner, and he did not let them go at much less than their market value.

A Fortunate Lady Collector

I know of a collection, owned by a lady, with the first issues of Nova Scotia and New Brunswick *complete*, and many of the rarest provisional West Indians, *all cut from letters sent to the owner* and her friends. This happens to be in the small town I have alluded to above, and I seem to see some connection between the blanks in the banker's correspondence and the full albums of this good lady. What would we not all give to have the opportunities of our grandparents!

Stamps Removed from Letters before Delivery

To-day I received a postal packet from Australia (delivered to me *not* in Edinburgh) with the stamps beautifully removed! Whatever can one do under such circumstances? Did the person who took them *steal?* [Most certainly.—ED. *G. S. W.*] And if so, who was the rightful owner of the stamps? The sender, the addressee, or the postal authorities *pro tem.?* [Our correspondent should complain to the postal authorities, who would investigate the matter, for no employee is allowed to tamper with letters in transit.—ED. *G. S. W.*]

Forged British Officials

There are some very nasty forged British Officials going about in this district, and doubtless elsewhere. The best test I have found is that the space between the ends of the letter "C" of OFFICIAL is *longer* in the forged than in the genuine. One 1s., red and green, I. R. Official, Queen's Head, was postmarked with a date a year before the stamp was issued.

I heard also of some R. H. Officials on pieces of originals, with the impression of the type surcharge showing clearly on the back of the piece of envelope. Every effort is made here to extirpate such stuff, and any offender discovered will have a bad time of it.

T. A. MC INTYRE.

Our Constantinople Letter

CONSTANTINOPLE, *May 12th*, 1905.

HAVING returned to our city after an absence of about five weeks, I hasten to resume my correspondence.

Provisional Issue

My readers will have learned, without doubt, that during last January the stamps of 1 piastre on 25 centimes, blue, failed for some days in the French Post Office at Beyrouth, and the 15 centimes, orange, of the same issue had to be surcharged. Some authentic details concerning this provisional issue will, doubtless, be of interest.

There were altogether 1,000 stamps surcharged, which were used from the evening of January 17th to the morning of January 28th, exclusively to frank or to pay the registration fee on letters. Thus not one stamp has been sold unused. All are obliterated. After these stamps were exhausted (they were used under the surveillance of the French Consulate) it was seen that there was an error on one stamp in every square of twenty-five; this stamp bore the word PIASTTE instead of PIASTRE; thus, there were in all forty of these errors.

New Issue for Turkey

The new issue of stamps for Turkey will appear on August 31st next. Hitherto the Turkish post has used the same stamps for inland and foreign postage, no difference being made in the destination of a letter.

The Foreign Post Offices

Every collector knows that there are foreign post offices in Turkey, and I think some details, for example, concerning the various British post offices in Turkey will please my readers.

England has six post offices in Turkey; two are in Constantinople, one of them at Galata, the business centre, and the other at Stamboul on the left bank, one at Smyrna, one at Beyrouth, one at Salonica, and one at Bagdad. All these post offices use at this moment the following stamps surcharged in paras and piastres:—

2½d.,	surcharged	"40 paras."
5d.	,,	80 ,,
10d.	,,	"4 piastres."
2s. 6d.	,,	12 ,,

An envelope for a registered letter surcharged "40 paras," and stamps of ½d. and 1d. without surcharge, and cards of 1d. and of 1d. by 1d. without surcharge.

Anybody can send letters at will by the British post, which, between eight o'clock in the morning and six o'clock in the evening, receives and gives out letters, money orders, parcels, etc. It is the same with the other foreign post offices in Constantinople, and they are four in number—French, German, Austrian, and Russian.

Greece and Egypt also used to have their post offices formerly in Constantinople and at Smyrna, but they have been abolished. As to Italy, it has never had a post office in Constantinople; it has had one only at Tripoli, in Barbary, on the African coast, but it exists no longer. Italy at present has three post offices in Albania, the south-east shore of the Adriatic Sea between Montenegro and Greece, at Durazzo, Janina, and Skodra.

The British Post Offices in Turkey

To return to the British post offices. As I have said above, anybody can post his letters now at these

offices, and it is no longer the case as it was formerly, when the Embassy, the Consulate, and a few English people alone could make use of them. The postal service is carried on by English officials, who sell at first hand English stamps to the public, and give out letters. The letters handed in by the public at these offices are despatched in *through bags* to other post offices in the world, but without being handled by Turkish officials.

Why Foreign Post Offices are Maintained in Turkey

Now my readers will like to know, perhaps, the reason why all these foreign post offices exist in Constantinople. As it would be too long a story to recount the origin of all of the post offices held by the other foreign nations, I will confine myself to speaking of the post office which will interest us to-day, that is, of the English post office. The office was opened here at the time of the Crimean War to deal with the correspondence of the British armies, as the Turkish postal service was then very defective. From 1854 to 1885 it employed only English stamps belonging to the mother-country, without surcharge. It is these stamps which bear as obliteration the letter "C" with some parallel lines, and which one finds sometimes on old letters. Then, in turn were opened new post offices at Stamboul, at Smyrna, Beyrouth, Salonika, and lastly at Bagdad. In 1885 these offices began to make use of English stamps surcharged with the value in Turkish currency, and they continue to do this to this day.

The Turkish Government has protested several times to the foreign Governments with regard to the opening of these post offices upon its territory, as they absorb the greater part of a large revenue, and it has demanded their suppression. But the Powers have turned a deaf ear to this, and these post offices have continued to exist on the plea that the Turkish post offices are so defective.

A. YAREMDJI.

INTERNATIONAL PHILATELIC EXHIBITION, 1906

THE following circulars have been issued by the Exhibition Committee:—

13, WALBROOK, LONDON, E.C.,
May, 1905.

DEAR SIR,—I have the pleasure to inform you that it is intended to hold an International Philatelic Exhibition in London in May or June of the ensuing year.

A provisional Executive Committee has been formed, consisting of four members of the Philatelic Society, two members of provincial societies, and four London dealers, with a Secretary and Assistant Secretary, and arrangements have been made to secure the Hall and Rooms of the Royal Horticultural Society, Vincent Square, Westminster, for the purposes of the Exhibition.

It is now proposed to enlarge and form a General Committee, by the addition of the names of the President and Secretary of each of the principal provincial philatelic societies, and other well-known collectors and dealers, and I have been directed to inquire whether you will be willing to allow your name to be added. Although your co-operation will be most welcome, it is understood that your acceptance of this invitation does not necessarily involve active assistance on your part.

A meeting of the General Committee will be held at an early date for the purpose of discussing the arrangements in detail.

I enclose a card for your reply, which I shall be glad to receive at your early convenience.

H. R. OLDFIELD,
Hon. Sec. Provisional Committee.

13, WALBROOK, LONDON, E.C.,
May, 1905.

DEAR SIR,

LONDON INTERNATIONAL EXHIBITION, 1906.

I believe you are aware that on the occasion of the Exhibition in 1897 a Guarantee Fund was formed toward the expenses, and donations were also invited. You probably saw the published accounts which were subsequently issued, from which it appeared that there had been no necessity to call upon the guarantors, and that payments made by them had been refunded.

The Executive Committee have resolved to appeal for donations towards the expenses of the forthcoming Exhibition, and to open a Guarantee Fund, and I have been directed to inquire whether you are willing to afford financial support to the Committee.

Guarantors will be asked to make an immediate payment of 10 per cent. of the amount of their guarantee, and if called upon to make further payments, not exceeding a further 40 per cent. on or before the 31st March, 1906. No further payment will be asked for until the accounts of the Exhibition have been closed, and the Committee hope that the ultimate result will be as satisfactory as it was in 1897.

I enclose form available either for a donation or a guarantee, and the Committee will much appreciate any help you may be disposed to give.

H. R. OLDFIELD,
Hon. Sec. Exhibition Committee.

LONDON PHILATELIC EXHIBITION.

I enclose the sum of £ : : as a donation towards the expenses of the Exhibition.

I am willing to guarantee the sum of £ : : towards the expenses of the Exhibition, and I accordingly enclose a cheque for £ : : the proportion now payable by me, subject in all respects to the terms of the circular letter of Secretary of the Exhibition Committee.

Signature .....

Address .....

Date .....

To the Exhibition Committee.

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PHILATELIC SOCIETIES

Enterprise Philatelic Society

Secretary: A. C. Constantinides, Woodview, Archway Road, Highgate, London, N.

Meetings: Monthly, Devonshire House Hotel, Bishopsgate Street, London, E.C.

ON May 17th, 1905, the Devonshire House Hotel, Bishopsgate Street, E.C., was the venue of the fourth annual general meeting, a very fair number of the town and home counties members putting in an appearance. Those present were Messrs. Lake, Westcott, Ordish, Butcher, Eastwood, Burton, E. A. Klaber, Farnan, Bignold, G. H. Simons, Tewson, Inkpin, Edwards, Harris, and the Hon. Sec.

The President occupied the chair at 6.30 p.m., when proceedings commenced with the confirmation of the minutes of the previous meeting. The election of two new members was then placed on record, viz. Rev. P. W. Menzies, Barbados, W. I., J. Read Burton, London, E.C.

The Secretary's report upon the past season's work was then submitted and adopted, showing the satisfactory progress in all departments of the Society during the past eight months. Excellent papers and displays have been submitted at the meetings, and every effort will be made by the Committee to maintain the present high standard enjoyed.

In the Exchange section sales on the present season's packets which have returned from circuit show an average of 17 per cent. on the total value.

A statement of accounts was submitted, showing the financial condition of the Society to be wholly satisfactory. There has been a heavy expenditure during the season, but it is estimated that a fairly large surplus will be carried to season 1905-6.

The election of the Executive for the coming season resulted in the following gentlemen being called upon to officiate: President, F. W. Lake, Esq.; Vice-Presidents, E. A. Klaber, Esq., W. Buckland Edwards, Esq., B.Sc.; Hon. Librarian, Mr. A. H. Harris, The Library, Buckhurst Hill, Essex; Hon. Counterfeit Detector, Mr. H. W. Westcott, 11, Dalkeith Road, Ilford, Essex; Hon. Sec. and Treasurer, Mr. A. C. Constantinides, Woodview, Archway Road, Highgate, N.; Committee, Messrs. G. H. Simons, H. P. Harper, H. J. Bignold, and all the office-bearers as enumerated above.

The Devonshire House Hotel will again be the headquarters of the Society.

Herts Philatelic Society

President: F. Reichenheim, Esq.

Secretary: H. A. Slade, Ingleside, St. Albans.

Meetings: Third Tuesday, October to May, at 4, Southampton Buildings.

Subscription: 5s. annually.

THE above Society concluded the 1904-5 session on the 16th May, when the annual meeting was held at Anderton's Hotel. Mr. F. Reichenheim occupied the chair, and other members present were Messrs. L. E. Bradbury, T. H. Harvey, W. G. Cool, W. A. Boyes, H. L. Hayman, J. C. Sidebotham, F. J. Melville, W. V. Morten, W. Schwabacher, A. H. Giles, W. T. Standon, K. Wiehn, T. F. Stafford, E. Bounds, W. Bagshawe, and H. A. Slade (Secretary).

The minutes of the last annual meeting were read and confirmed. Mr. Slade then presented his reports as Treasurer and Secretary. The balance in hand was £41 8s. 3d., being an increase of over £8. Two members died during the year, Mr. Gordon Smith and Mr. L. Marks, to whose widows votes of condolence were passed. Only two resignations had been received during the year. The total membership is now 176. Attention was called to several generous donations to the Library and to the forthcoming change in the place of meeting to 4, Southampton Buildings. A hearty vote of thanks was accorded to Mr. Slade for his services during the year. The rules were then considered and approved. The offices of Hon. President and Hon. Vice-President were abolished, and that of President and Vice-President substituted, it being understood that the holders should be active members of the Society who could attend the meetings. It was also decided to charge an entrance fee of 5s. in future.

On the proposition of Mr. H. L. Hayman it was decided to form a permanent collection belonging to the Society. The idea was taken up with great enthusiasm, and donations were at once received from or promised by Messrs. F. Reichenheim, H. L. Hayman, W. G. Cool, W. Bagshawe, W. A. Boyes, L. E. Bradbury, W. V. Morten, T. H. Harvey, and others. Mr. Hayman, Mr. Reichenheim, and Mr. Slade undertook to make the necessary preliminary inquiries as to albums and the like. The election of officers was then proceeded with. Mr. H. Jennings White resigned the office of President, and Mr. H. R. Oldfield asked to be released from the post of Vice-President, as, owing to the great amount of work now on his shoulders, he felt he could not promise to attend at all next session. Both gentlemen continue members of the Society. Mr. F. Reichenheim was elected President and Mr. H. L. Hayman Vice-President. Both propositions were carried with acclamation, which was renewed on the new officers making their acknowledgments. Messrs. W. B. Avery, M. P. Castle, J.P., Robert Ehrenbach, and H. R. Oldfield were elected Hon. Vice-Presidents. The post of Librarian led to a further resignation through ill-health, that of Mr. Haynes. Mr. J. C. Sidebotham was unanimously elected in his stead. Mr. H. A. Slade was at once re-elected as Hon. Treasurer and Secretary, the Chairman paying him a well-deserved tribute, which the meeting echoed. A ballot was taken on the election of the Committee, and the gentlemen elected were Messrs. W. Bagshawe, W. A. Boyes, L. E. Bradbury, W. G. Cool, T. H. Harvey, F. G. Melville, W. V. Morten, and W. T. Standon. Mr. Bradbury and Mr. Cool have occupied this important position ever since the Society was formed. Mr. G. Gaffe was re-elected one of the Hon. Auditors, but Mr. W. A. Boyes, who has shared the duties for the last six years, was ineligible, owing to his election on the Committee. Mr. A. G. Wane, a past Auditor, was elected to his place. A hearty vote of thanks to the Chairman concluded a meeting at which the greatest interest in the Society's affairs was evinced by the members, a good augury for the future.

British Guiana Junior Philatelic Club

President: M. Khan.

Secretary: J. De Souza.

Meetings: 22, North Street, Georgetown.

A MEETING was held on May 2nd, 1905, at the Club's Room, 22, North Street, Georgetown, when a general election was held. A good many members attended, and M. Khan was elected President, J. De Souza Secretary, in place of Arthur King, and P. Watson Librarian. Arthur King was elected Exchange Superintendent, and J. Blackbourne Auditor. After the election some new members joined, namely, J. Forte, B. Khan, P. Clarke, L. Downes; and the following

were cancelled for non-payment of dues: Lionel Dey, Arthur Dargan, B. McPherson, E. Martin, A. Greaves, A. Rose, L. Melbourne, and P. Wade. The following sent in their resignations: F. Mayers, C. Wade, and W. De Villier. The members of the Club will be glad to exchange some of their duplicates with collectors in any part of the world. The Club has a library, which is opened on Tuesdays and Thursdays every week. The programme for the next month will be as follows:—

June 9th. 7 p.m., Display, with notes on Canada, by P. Watson. Sale and exchange also.
June 16. 7 p.m., Paper, "Philately and Zoology," by J. De Souza. Display, with notes by M. Khan, "Indian Stamps."
June 23rd. 7 p.m., Display, British Guiana stamps, by the members. Paper, "How to Collect," P. Watson.
June 30th. 7 p.m., Sale and exchange among the members.

THE STAMP MARKET

By AN ODD LOT

Australian Stamps as an Investment

I QUOTE the following from the pen of Mr. Charles J. Phillips in the *Monthly Journal*:—

"During the past three years I have bought five *large* collections of Australian stamps; and since I announced that I had bought Mr. Castle's last Australian collection I have bought another lot of the older issues only, amongst them being seventy-four Sydney views, etc., etc., but owing to the great demand for Australians, both here, on the Continent, and in America, I never seem to have a really good set of stock books for three months running. No sooner is one lot of such books priced than they are cleared out. An example of this occurred recently with the Castle Collection. The stamps have been only priced for about two months, and the absolute sales in that short time amount to *considerably over five thousand pounds*.

"To my mind this steady and increasing demand for Australian stamps, together with an almost total cessation of the supplies formerly coming from there, indicates that these stamps have a great future as an *investment*; and when we add to this the fact that the Philatelic Society of London have in hand a superb series of books—one on each State of the Australian Commonwealth—which will tend to still further enhance the demand, we have here factors that go far to prove my contention that as a group Australians will be difficult to beat as a first-rate and sound investment, if properly collected and studied."

A Successful Auction Sale

"THE largest and most successful auction sale of postage stamps of this season has just been held by our auction department, Glendining and Co., Ltd., at their fine auction rooms, No. 7, Argyll Street, Regent Street, London, W.

"The auction lasted for three days, and contained 899 lots, the total amount realised being over £2,000.

"The collection consisted principally of the British Colonials belonging to Mr. A. A. Bartlett, of Prince Edward Island, with some lots from the collection of a well-known London amateur.

"The following were some of the chief lots, with the prices realised:—

		£	s.	d.
	STRAITS SETTLEMENTS.			
	8 cents, in *blue*, on 12 c., purple-brown, and large 8 in red	14	10	0
	EGYPT.			
1866.	5 pias., rose, with overprint of the 10 pias.	8	0	0
	MAURITIUS.			
1891.	2 c. on 4 c., inverted surcharge	6	0	0
	TRANSVAAL.			
1877.	1d., red on blue; error 'Transvral,' imperf. and short, and badly thinned	40	0	0
	BRITISH GUIANA.			
1856.	4 c., black on magenta	16	10	0
	CANADA.			
1851.	6d., on *laid* paper; unused	16	10	0
1852.	10d., blue; fine used block of four	12	0	0
	MEXICO.			
1867.	Guadalajara, ½ real, white, perforated	7	0	0
	NEW BRUNSWICK.			
1851.	3d., red; unused	2	10	0
,,	1s., violet; unused, and part gum	54	0	0
,,	1s. ,, fine used	13	0	0
,,	1s. ,, ,, on letter	13	0	0
,,	5 c., Connell; unused, but not well centred	20	0	0
	NEWFOUNDLAND.			
1857.	4d., scarlet-vermilion; unused, but short margins	28	0	0
,,	6d., scarlet-vermilion; unused, good margin, but colour rather poor	21	0	0
,,	1s., scarlet-vermilion; unused, fine colour, but no margins	31	0	0
,,	4d., orange-vermilion; fine, unused	9	0	0
	NOVA SCOTIA.			
1851.	1d., red-brown; a mint block of five	16	0	0
,,	6d., deep green; pair used on letter	5	15	0
,,	1s., violet; fair, unused copy, no gum	40	0	0
,,	6d. and 1s., used together on letter	10	0	0
,,	Half of a 1s. and half of 3d. used on letter to make up 7½d. rate, fine	38	0	0
	ST. VINCENT.			
	1d. on half of 6d., used pair	10	0	0
	TURKS ISLANDS.			
	2½d. on 1d., mint	7	0	0
	2½d. on 6d., black (Gibbons' 22)	15	10	0

"This sale was exceptionally strong in stamps of British North America, which were in fine condition, and which I considered realised very good prices. There were also a considerable number of Australians, but mostly wretched poor copies, such as will not find a place in the collection of any good amateur, and which consequently went for prices commensurate with their condition."

Catalogue, Part II., 1905-6

I LEARN that Part II. will not be ready before July next. It has taken much longer than anticipated to get together the many thousand stamps necessary in order to make the new full-size illustrations to match Part I.

Although this volume will be much thicker than Part I., it will be sold at the same price, viz. 2s. 6d., post-free 2s. 9d., and prepaid orders can still be booked.

ANSWERS TO CORRESPONDENTS

C. W. P. (Burford).—No value is attached to inverted watermarks. They are plentiful, and are of no philatelic import whatever. I am afraid I cannot help you in the value of your Tasmanian, 1864, 6d., rouletted, for it is a stamp that largely depends on its condition, and as yours is cut at the bottom I fear it would not be worth much.

A Young Collector (Broughty Ferry).—The crease across your Hayti stamp makes it a curiosity, but does not add any philatelic value. Probably it is due to the sheet of paper being creased as it passed through the press.

C. R. M. (Manchester).—Part II. of Gibbons Catalogue will not be ready before July next.

D. H. (Westcliffe).—Yes, Iceland is a very nice little country, and despite the provisionals of 1902, you need not make it an expensive one. Simplified, it would total up, roughly, as follows: 1873, £1 2s.; 1876-1901, £1 1s.; 1898, £1 4s.; 1902, 15s. 8d.; 1904, 4s. 6d. This is for unused. Used stamps are not plentiful of Iceland. Unused are consequently just as cheap as used, and should, therefore, be taken. Omit officials. The collecting of Iceland by no means involves the collecting of Denmark. There are no perplexing varieties if you omit varieties of perforation and surcharge, which should always be done in a simple, inexpensive collection.

R. C. G. (Truro).—The best hinges are those that are termed peelable, *i.e.* hinges made of gum that, whilst it is sufficient to hold the stamp firmly, will peel off without tearing the stamp or even leaving a mark. Most of the best hinges sold now are of the peelable kind. Personally, for size we prefer Gibbons Mount No. 1. The price is 3d. per 100, or 1s. 6d. per 1,000.

EDITORIAL NOTES

"G. S. W." Bound Volumes.—*Gibbons Stamp Weekly* will be bound up in half-yearly volumes; consequently the present volume will be completed with the issue for Saturday, 24th June, 1905.

Our publishers have already ordered the covers for binding the volume, but do not propose to make binding covers for general sale, as they imagine there will not be sufficient sale to warrant the expense, as readers will probably prefer to have their volumes bound in their own way. If readers wish to have publishers' covers they had better write Messrs. Stanley Gibbons, Ltd., and say so.

Only a few bound volumes can be placed on sale, as our publishers have, in our opinion, too modestly estimated the number that is likely to be required. Therefore, copies should be ordered without delay.

Our Miscellaneous Page.—We wish to make *Gibbons Stamp Weekly* a storehouse of information, and shall therefore be glad of any cuttings of more or less permanent interest for our "Miscellaneous" page. Source and date of cutting must be given.

Editorial Communications.—All communications intended for the Editor should be addressed to Edward J. Nankivell, Carnanton, Camden Park, Tunbridge Wells.

Philatelic Societies.—We wish to make a special feature of the prompt publication of the reports of Philatelic Societies, and trust we may have the kindly co-operation of the honorary secretaries in this matter. Reports should be written on one side of the paper, and despatched to the Editor by the earliest post.

Special Correspondence.—The Editor will be glad to receive interesting letters from philatelic centres not already covered by our arrangements. We want chatty and newsy letters on matters of interest to the general collector, and excluding all matter of interest only to the specialist.

Subscriptions.—Subscriptions must be sent to the publishers as set out on the front page of cover, or to booksellers or railway bookstalls, but never to the Editor.

OUR PHILATELIC DIARY

JUNE, 1905

5. Auction: Hadlow, Covent Garden Hotel, London. 5 p.m.
6 & 7. Auction: Puttick and Simpson, 47, Leicester Square, London. 4.30 p.m.
15 & 16. Auction: Glendining, 7, Argyll Street, London. 4.30 p.m.
19. Auction: Hadlow, Covent Garden Hotel, London. 5 p.m.
20 & 21. Auction: Plumridge, 64, Chancery Lane, London. 4.45 p.m.
29 & 30. Auction: Glendining, 7, Argyll Street, London. 4.30 p.m.

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3 June, 1905.

Gibbons Stamp Weekly

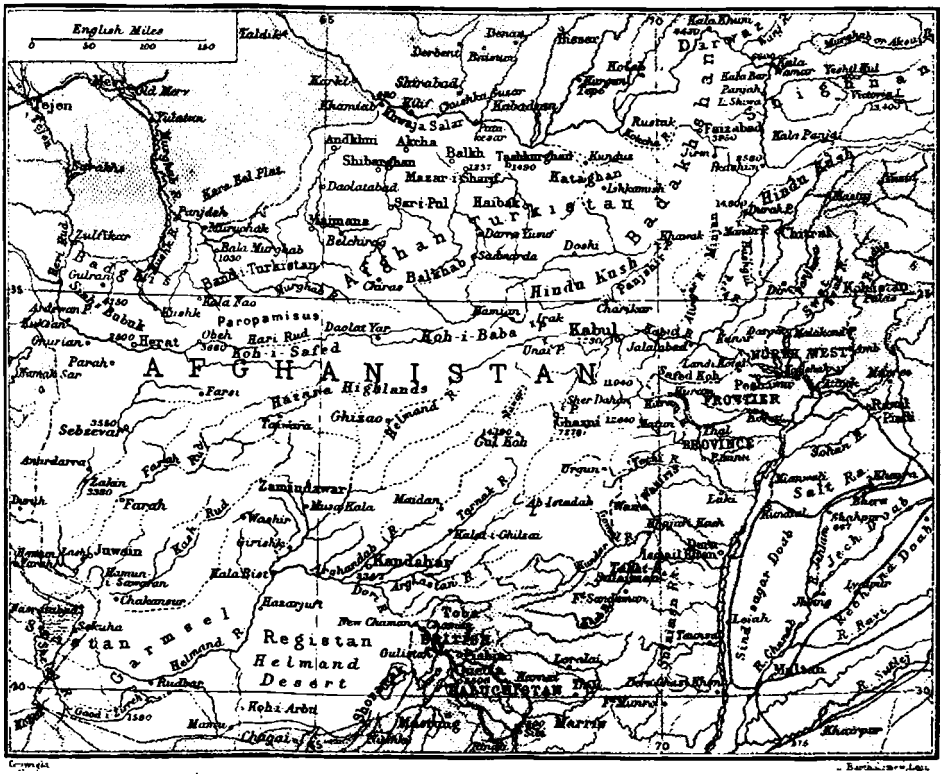
EDITED BY EDWARD J. NANKIVELL

No. 23 | 10 JUNE, 1905 | Vol. I.

THE COUNTRIES OF THE WORLD

By EDWARD J. NANKIVELL

Afghanistan



THE theatre of many an act of British heroism and many a tragedy, a buffer state on our Indian frontier against the bogey of Russian aggression, Afghanistan is a country of peculiar interest to British stamp collectors.

It is bounded on the north by Asiatic Russia, on the east by India and Kafiristan,

on the south by Baluchistan, and on the west by Persia. It extends 400 miles from north to south and 600 miles from east to west.

Its chief divisions are Kabul, Herat, Kandahar, Turkestan, and Badakhshan. It is ruled by the Ameer as an absolute sovereign. He receives a subsidy of 180,000 rupees from the Indian Government and grants of arms to impress him with the fact that Codlin (*i.e.* British Government) is the friend, not Short (*i.e.* Russia).

The chief towns are Kabul, with a population of 140,000; Kandahar, 30,000; Herat, 12,000; and Ghazni, 10,000.

It is regarded as the great highway or gateway to India; and, as a matter of fact, most of the historic invasions of India have been made through its passes, from the days of Darius down to the times of the Great Moguls. Hence our anxiety to secure the friendship of the Ameer as a safeguard against the northern octopus, some of whose many arms are just now being shaved off by the Japs.

Afghanistan became independent of Persia under the Durani dynasty in 1747. Under its ruler Dost Mahomed war broke out with the British in 1838. Our troops captured Kandahar, Ghazni, and Kabul. In 1841 the British Agent was massacred, and the British army was annihilated in 1842 in retreating through the Khyber Pass. General Pollock brought the war to a successful close in 1842.

In 1878 we had further trouble under the Ameer Shere Ali, who had been coquetting with Russia, and our forces captured Jelalabad and Kandahar. Shere Ali fled from Kabul to Turkestan, and Yakub Khan, his eldest son, was made Ameer. In 1879 the Ameer's troops revolted, and massacred the British Resident, Sir Louis Cavagnari, his staff, and his Indian guard.

Once more a punitive force of British troops, this time under General Roberts, entered Afghanistan, and, after much heroism and historic marches, established peace under a new Ameer, Abdul Rahman Khan, who died in 1901, and was succeeded by the present Ameer, Habibulah Khan.

What was known as the Penjdeh incident in 1885, when Russia advanced her outposts and seized Afghan territory, led eventually to the appointment of an Anglo-Russian Commission which settled the Russian boundary in 1886-7.

Its Philatelic History

And now, what shall I say of its postage stamps? Of all the crude and quaint postal issues of the wide world, they are the crudest and the quaintest. But they are free from all taint of the speculator's blight. In the best philatelic sense of the term they are redolent of the country of their origin. They seem to belong to a bygone age. They might easily pass muster as shreds of evidence of a forgotten prepaid messenger system of the reign of Darius. To those who understand them they are intensely interesting—but there's the rub. Few indeed are the philatelists who have even attempted to master the stamps of Afghanistan, and it is with the greatest diffidence that I venture upon the endeavour to simplify them for the general collector.

For a long time, in planning out these articles on the countries of the world, I seriously thought of shirking Afghans and passing them over altogether with the plausible excuse that they are only for the courageous specialist. I have, however, allowed myself to be persuaded to set out the issues as best I can.

The late Mr. T. K. Tapling, M.P., was the first collector to throw any light on the early issues, and he was fortunate in being able to avail himself of the researches and the fine collection made by Captain Weare, a British officer serving in Afghanistan.

The stamps of Afghanistan bear the date of their issue, and, being a Mahomedan country, the date is reckoned from the Hegira, or flight of Mahomet from Mecca to Medina in A.D. 622. Thus the first issue, made in 1870-1, is dated 1288, and so on through all the series.

The values are expressed in shahis, sunars, abasi, and rupees; thus—12 shahis = 6 sunars = 3 abasi = 1 rupee.

Shahi.	Sunar.	Abasi.	½ rupee.	1 rupee.
				

The illustrations above show the characters denoting the values, which in some are inside the inner circle and above or below the Tiger's head, and in others are in the outer circle, below the Tiger's head.

Numerals used for the date.

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	0
١	٢	٣	٤	٥	٦	٧	٨	٩	٠

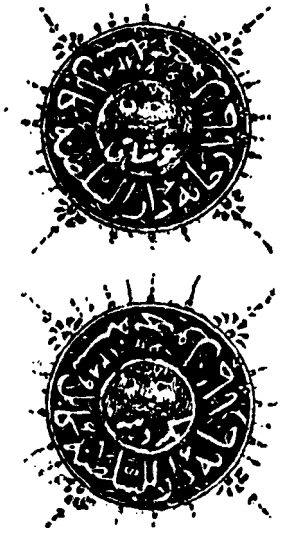
All the stamps of Afghanistan are imperf.

1871. Of this first issue Mr. Tapling tells us that there were four distinct plates, each containing fifteen stamps, all differing from each other in various minute details. The stamps are printed in black on white paper.



Imperf.	Unused.	Used.
	s. *d.*	*s.* *d.*
Shahi, black . .	35 0	15 0
Sunar ,, . .	30 0	15 0
Abasi ,, . .	30 0	18 0

1871–2. This issue consists of two values, 6 shahi and 1 rupee, both printed in purple and dated 1289.



Imperf.	Unused.	Used.
6 shahi, purple . .	£12	£10
1 rupee, purple . .	£14	£10

1872–3. One value only, printed in black and dated 1290.



Imperf.	Unused.	Used.
	s. *d.*	*s.* *d.*
Shahi, black . .	10 0	6 0

1873–4. Four values, of one of which, the shahi, there are printings in black and in purple. Dated 1290–1.

Imperf.	Unused.	Used.
	s. *d.*	*s.* *d.*
Shahi, black .	3 0	2 6
,, purple .	150 0	90 0
Abasi, black .	—	40 0
½ rupee ,, .	35 0	30 0
1 rupee ,, .	35 0	30 0

1874–5. Two values in two sets, one set printed in purple and the other in black. Dated 1292.



Imperf.	Unused.	Used.
	s. *d.*	*s* *d.*
Sunar, purple .	25 0	25 0
Abasi ,, .	50 0	50 0
Sunar, black .	70 0	50 0
Abasi ,, .	£7	

1875–6. Five values in two sets, one in black and one in purple. Dated 1293.



Imperf.	Unused.	Used.
Shahi, black . .	—	£7
Sunar ,, . .	—	£10
Abasi ,, . .	—	£15
½ rupee ,, . .	—	—
1 ,, ,, . .	—	—
Shahi, purple . .	—	£7
Sunar ,, . .	—	£12
Abasi ,, . .	—	—
½ rupee ,, . .	£10	—
1 ,, ,, . .	£12	—

1875-6. Five series of five values, each series in a different colour for use in a different district. Dated 1293.



Imperf.	Unused.	Used.
	s. d.	*s. d.*
Shahi, grey . .	10 0	5 0
Sunar ,, . .	10 0	8 0
Abasi ,, . .	15 0	15 0
½ rupee ,, . .	25 0	25 0
1 rupee ,, . .	25 0	30 0

In grey for Kabul.
In black for Jelalabad and Peshwar.
In green for Kandahar and Herat.
In mauve for Kholoum, Mazar, and Scherif.
In yellow for Lalpoura.

1876-7. Smaller design. Another series of five values, each series in a different colour for a different district. Dated 1294.



Imperf.	Unused.	Used.
	s. d.	*s. d.*
Shahi, grey . .	8 0	5 0
Sunar ,, . .	15 0	10 0
Abasi ,, . .	25 0	25 0
½ rupee ,, . .	40 0	—
1 rupee ,, . .	50 0	40 0

The separate colours for the separate districts as in the last issue.

1878 (April). Another series of five values, each series in a different colour for a different district. Dated 1295.



Imperf.	Unused.	Used.
	s. d.	*s. d.*
Shahi, grey . .	4 0	3 0
Sunar ,, . .	4 0	3 0
Abasi ,, . .	10 0	10 0
½ rupee ,, . .	20 0	16 0
1 rupee ,, . .	20 0	20 0

Separate colours for districts as in two previous issues.

1878 (June). Shahi value only, printed in five separate colours for different districts. Dated 1295.



Imperf.	Unused.	Used.
	s. d.	*s. d.*
Shahi, grey . .	3 0	2 0
Shahi, purple . .	3 6	—
Shahi, green . .	3 0	2 6
Shahi, yellow . .	3 0	2 6
Shahi, black . .	£16	—

1880-90. Three values. Larger design, printed on many varieties of paper and in a great variety of shades. The general collector may well be satisfied with the listing of one series. Dated 1298.



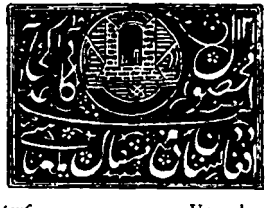
Imperf.	Unused.	Used.
	s. d.	*s. d.*
1 abasi, orange-brown .	3 0	3 0
2 abasi ,, ,, .	8 0	8 0
1 rupee ,, ,, .	12 0	—
1 abasi, rose-carmine .	5 0	4 0
2 abasi ,, ,, .	6 0	6 0
1 rupee ,, ,, .	7 0	—

1892. Shape of stamps changed from the circular to an oblong rectangular. Three values, printed on a very thin paper.



Imperf.	Unused.	Used.
	s. d.	*s. d.*
1 abasi, slate . .	10 0	5 0
2 ,, ,, . .	—	15 0
1 rupee ,, . .	—	20 0

1893-9. Large rectangular design, printed in black on coloured papers, one value only. Dated 1310.



Imperf.	Unused.	Used.
	s. d.	*s. d.*
1 abasi . .	3 6	2 6

1894. Large rectangular design, printed in black on coloured paper. Two values.



Imperf.	Unused.	Used.
	s. d.	*s. d.*
2 abasi, black on green .	—	5 0
1 rupee „ „ .	8 0	8 0

1900-3. One value, printed in black on various coloured papers. Dated 1316.

Imperf.	Unused.	Used.
	s. d.	*s. d.*
2 abasi . . .	10 0	—

It must be admitted that the prices are appalling for a young or even for a general collector; but the general collector may well make a more or less fairly representative selection from the lower-priced kinds.

(To be continued.)

FIRST STEPS IN PHILATELY

By Rev. T. C. WALTON, M.A.

(Continued from page 345.)

Stamps without a Name *(continued)*

FROM 1858 to 1863 Peru issued several series, the central designs of which consisted of the Arms of Peru on a shield surrounded by a circle. One illustration of each of the 1858 and the 1862-3 issues will be sufficient to identify all the series.

PERU.



1858.



1862-3.

The foregoing must be distinguished from the stamps of Arequipa, an important town in the extreme south of Peru. The central design of the 1883 issue was the same. The framework was different, and the currency was in "centavos" instead of the "dinero" and "peseta" of the early Peruvian issues.

AREQUIPA.



We come back to the Old World and think of the Portuguese colonies in Africa. Vasco Da Gama was the greatest of Portuguese sailors. With four vessels, manned by 160 men, he sailed from Lisbon on the 8th July, 1497. It took him four months to reach St. Helena Bay. He rounded the Cape of Good Hope and reached India on the 20th May, 1498. In the September of 1499 he arrived home,

PORTUGUESE COLONIES (AFRICA).





and was created a noble for his wonderful achievements. Three years later Da Gama again set sail for India, founded the Portuguese colonies of Mozambique and Sofala, conquered Calicut in India, and returned with much booty. He lived in retirement until 1524, when he was again summoned to the scene of his former triumphs. He succeeded in firmly re-establishing the hitherto waning power of Portugal in India. Death overtook him at Cochin in the year following. His

body was brought back to Portugal and buried with great pomp. His achievement is a landmark in the history of modern civilisation. Portugal has paid her debt of gratitude to his memory by issuing a commemorative series of stamps in 1898. We give illustrations of two of the series, the first of which depicts Da Gama's fleet in full sail, while the second pictures the arrival of the fleet with the guardian angel of the colony in the foreground.

In the category of rare stamps the early issues of Moldavia hold a prominent place. Those who know anything of the history of Eastern Europe will remember that the provinces of Moldavia and Wallachia, known as the Danubian Principalities, were united under the name of Roumania in 1861. About four years previous to this union an attempt was made to provide a stamp for the prepayment of postage. The design consisted of a bull's head, with a five-pointed star between the horns, which constituted the Arms of Moldavia. Around the Arms, and enclosed in a circle, was the inscription PORTO SCRISOREI, in Sclavonic characters, meaning "Letter Postage Stamp." The stamps were struck with different coloured inks on paper varying in colour, according to the values. A later issue in 1858 kept the same central design. The Sclavonic inscription gave place to an inscription in Roman capitals—PORTO GAZETEI or PORTO SCRISOREI. Another ray was added to the star in the earlier issue, and the frame was changed from a circle to a rectangular shape with rounded ends. The value in paras appeared above and below the Arms.

MOLDAVIA.





In 1861 the union of Moldavia and Wallachia, under the name of Roumania, was recognised by the Great Powers and Turkey. Accordingly, a series of postage stamps for the united principalities was issued in 1862. The design consisted of the Arms of Wallachia on the left half, an eagle displayed with a crown above it, and on the right, the bull's head and star of Moldavia. Underneath the Arms was a posthorn. FRANCO SCRISOREI ("Free Letter") and the value surround the Arms. The whole is enclosed in a rectangular frame with the corners cut off.

ROUMANIA.



1862.

(To be continued.)

THE IMPROVED POSTAGE STAMP ALBUM, No. 0.

One Hundred and Tenth Thousand. The best and largest Shilling Album ever published. 176 large pages. Spaces for 4,700 Stamps. 48 extra pages added in this Edition without extra charge. This Album is now selling at the rate of over 1,000 copies a month. The demand for this Album has simply been phenomenal, and it gives universal satisfaction—not a single complaint has been received. The last Edition had nearly 20 extra pages added, and now another 48 pages have been added, and all the Geographical and Historical Notes brought up fully to date. All the newest stamp-issuing countries, such as Bussahir, Canton, Cayman Isles, Hoi-hao, Dahomey, etc. etc., have been added. At the top of each page there is the name of the country, and a mass of valuable information, including date when Stamps were issued, population, area, reigning sovereign, capital, etc. Spaces of proper sizes are provided for all Stamps, and the book is bound in a superior manner in art cloth. The Album contains a pocket to hold duplicate Stamps, and fifty Stamps will be presented gratis with each Album. There is also an illustrated Frontispiece of the Rarest Stamps, with prices attached that we pay for each. Price, bound in handsome art cloth, post-free, 1s. 3d. E. S. says: "I asked a friend where the best place was to buy a Stamp Album cheap. He referred me to you, saying that he had bought one and sold it next day for 1s. 6d., after keeping the stamps." A. A. writes: "I received your Stamp Album on Thursday, and I wonder how you can sell it so cheap; for as soon as a friend saw it he offered me 2s. for it. Please send me another."

Stanley Gibbons, Ltd., 391, Strand, London, W.C.

GOSSIP OF THE HOUR

By CORNELIUS WRINKLE

An Ocean Yacht Race

IT is a matter of regret to us stamp collectors that our philatelic yacht has been beaten in the ocean yacht race. The *Valhalla* was not favoured by the sort of weather that would have enabled her to show her heels to all her competitors. However, better luck next time.



Anyway, she has brought back our leading philatelist, and we may now expect the Earl of Crawford to take a strong interest in the preparations for the great International Philatelic Exhibition to be held in London next year. He it was who galvanised into life the half-expressed wish for another great stamp exhibition.

"St. Gibbons" Indeed!

A WICKED correspondent writes to me: "We all knew that the great firm were going strong, but that the Father of Philately had been canonised is new indeed!"

I confess I was a bit puzzled till I caught a paragraph attached to this note, from a foreign philatelic journal, with the actual "St. Gibbons" underlined in red ink.

And when I turn to those two handsome miniatures on the cover of *G. S. W.* I exclaim, in the language of Sam Weller, "And a werry pretty saint too!"

More Box and Cox Arrangements

Box and Cox arrangements seem to be the order of the day in philatelic circles. The Herts Philatelic Society is going to take turn and turn about in the use of the London Philatelic Society's rooms at 4, Southampton Row, next season, as already announced, and the *West End Philatelist* and the *Philatelic Journal of Great Britain* are now edited by the same writer. In the neighbourhood of Bond Street he puts on his *West End* coat; then he changes his togs, tubes it down to Holborn, shakes hands with Mr. Dry, the genial partner in Pemberton and Co., and writes about the altogether imaginary difficulty our chief has in filling sixteen pages of *G. S. W.* If he only knew how blessed stingy the said editor of the said *G. S. W.* is to yours truly on the score of space, that Box and Cox man would not talk about want of matter. But then our boss hasn't got two separate pots to fill.

Mr. Castle and his Collections

SOME little commotion has been excited on the other side of the herring-pond over Mr. Castle's sale of his latest collection of Australians. One would almost imagine that Mr. Castle had committed some crime in selling his collection. He is denounced as a dealer, etc. The greatest outcry comes from a certain dealer. Humph! If there were no law of libel, Great Scott! what a frisky letter I could make of this little epistle. But, turning to the question of the sale of collections by eminent collectors, I see no earthly reason why they should not sell their collections. It is a recognised law in other forms of collecting that some collectors are impelled by the love of possession, others only by the love of the hunt. These latter, when the hunt is ended by the acquisition of all that is to be had, sell out forthwith, and start another hunt. And why the dickens should they not do so? Are collectors to collect to please the oddities of other worlds, or to please themselves?

The Badges: Hurry Up!

SOME of you chaps are a bit impatient. Here's one youngster, of the ripe age of thirteen summers, who tells me that if I don't hurry up with those badges he'll make one for himself. But my young friend must possess his soul in patience for a little while.

Meanwhile, American readers assure me that our badge will sell like hot cakes in the great Republic, that an American likes to bedeck his coat with many badges indicating the manifold and active sympathies that throb beneath.

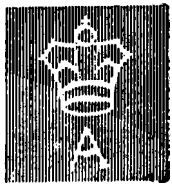
Entre nous, I am going to propose to the Exhibition Committee that only wearers of our badge shall be admitted to the big show next year.

NEW ISSUES

The Editor will be grateful to his readers if they will help him with the earliest possible information concerning new issues. News from the Colonies in particular will be much appreciated. When possible, a specimen should accompany the information, and should be addressed to

EDWARD J. NANKIVELL, Carnanton, Camden Park, Tunbridge Wells.

Australian Commonwealth.—The editor of the *Monthly Journal* has been shown an entire sheet of the watermarked paper which, he understands, is to be used for the future stamps of the Commonwealth. It consists of two full sheets of 240, each composed of four panes of 60 (10 rows of 6). The watermark is a Crown over the letter A, as in the illustration, and there is a separate watermark for each stamp; the



marginal inscriptions are COMMONWEALTH OF AUSTRLAIA (*sic*) along the left margin of the lower half and the right of the upper half of each sheet of 240, and POSTAGE along the left margin of the upper half and the right of the lower half. Across the centre, COMMONWEALTH OF AUSTRALIA, with the last word correctly spelt; and in the centre at top, bottom, and sides there is watermarked a cross.

Bolivia.—The *Monthly Journal* says the 10 c. of the issue of 1901, originally listed in that year, and again reported in 1903, has, it believes, only recently come into use.



The *M. J.* has seen a copy at last. We reproduce the illustration.

Colombia.—We have some news almost too good to be true concerning the multitudinous separate issues of the various departments and provinces of the Republic of Colombia. Messrs. Whitfield King and Co. write to us as follows:—

"We have just received some news from Colombia which you and all other good philatelists will be delighted to hear. It is that the Colombian Government has suppressed all the separate issues of stamps for the different departments and provinces, and hereafter only one series of stamps will be in use through the entire Republic; these, moreover, are sold on a gold basis, the same as the United States. Let us hope there will be no new stamps issued in Colombia for many years to come."

To this hope we fervently say "Amen!"

Paraguay.—The *Monthly Journal* gives an illustration of the design of the 10 c. stamp of the Provisional Government, chronicled in December, and says:—

"According to the *I. B. J.* this was not the only issue made by the Revolutionary party. Some stamps are said to have been looted from the post office of Villa del Pilar, towards the end of last year, by a body of insurgents, who must surely have had a philatelist amongst them, for the stock was immediately overprinted, in *black*, with the inscription '*Gobierno—provisorio—Agô*, 1904,' in three lines of script type. The stamps thus treated are stated to have been the



10 c., 20 c., 30 c., and 60 c., of Type 35 of 1903, with date at foot, and the 1 c., 2 c., and 5 c., of Type 36, with date at top."

St. Kitts and Nevis.—The 2½d. on multiple CA paper has been received by Messrs. Whitfield King and Co.



Wmk. Multiple C A. Perf.
2½d., grey-black and ultramarine.

St. Vincent.—Messrs. Whitfield King and Co. have received the ½d. on multiple CA paper.



Wmk. Multiple C A. Perf.
½d., purple and green.
1d., purple and carmine.
1s., green and carmine.

Seychelles.—Messrs. Whitfield King and Co. write to us as follows: "We find that in the current issue of *Gibbons Stamp Weekly* you have chronicled three surcharged stamps for Seychelles (p. 335), but we feel confident this is quite a mistake, as we are kept unusually well posted up in any changes in the stamps of this colony; and as we have not heard of any such issue, we really think somebody has been blundering, and has chronicled the three exactly similar surcharges which were issued in 1903."

We have traced the matter to its source, and find the list we chronicled on page 335 was started by the *Timbrophile Belge*.

We shall be very pleased to learn that our friends are correct in their surmise that the chronicle of further surcharges is incorrect, for we do not want to add unnecessarily to the long list of surcharges received from Seychelles.

SPECIAL BARGAINS
FOR *G. S. W.* READERS

OUR Publishers propose to set apart this page for the offer of Special Bargains to "G. S. W." readers.

In the course of business there comes frequently the opportunity of buying large parcels of comparatively scarce stamps at bargain rates.

Hitherto such purchases have been added to stock, and have generally resulted in the reduction of the Catalogue quotations.

In future, instead of being added to stock, they will be offered as Special Bargains to our readers.

These special offers will be open for one week only from the date of the number in which they appear. After the expiration of a week the stamps will be supplied at the regular rates only, and, in the majority of cases, the Catalogue prices will be maintained, instead of being reduced, as hitherto, as the result of the purchase of bargain parcels.

Foreign and Colonial readers will be supplied with these bargains if they despatch their orders within one week of receipt of the number containing the offer.

ED. "*G. S. W.*"

OUR THIRD SPECIAL OFFER

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1893. 1d. stamp of Great Britain (1887 issue), type No. 1, first overprinted for the Oil Rivers as No. 2 below, and then surcharged diagonally in red as No. 3,

½d. on half of 1d.

The catalogue price of this stamp is 15*s.* unused, or 20*s.* used, and it is a scarce variety, missing in most collections.

We offer this stamp, *used* or *unused*, to readers of *G. S. W.* only, at **10s. each**, post-free. Unsevered pairs at £1 each.

We shall be obliged if our clients who order any stamps from our Special Bargain List will say if they would like a sheet of stamps on approval.

If the applicant is in residence at a school his application for an approval sheet must be countersigned by his house master.

If your name is not on our books a reference is requested if you wish to have sheets of stamps on approval.

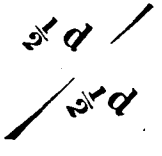
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THE STAMP KING

By G. DE BEAUREGARD AND H. DE GORSSE

Translated from the French by EDITH C. PHILLIPS

CHAPTER XI (*continued*)

Wherein John meditates a terrible vengeance

"THAT must be the master!" cried John, running to open the door, while Victoria covered the table with a newspaper to hide the cards. But she took care first to glance at her opponent's, which were turned face downwards, not with any intention of cheating, but because she had so much curiosity in her composition that she was incapable of resisting it, especially when playing bezique.

"False alarm!" said John, reappearing.

"What was it, then?"

"A little telegraph boy, who brought this for Mr. Keniss."

"Then let us go on."

"By all means."

The game began again in earnest. Victoria regained the ground she had lost by scoring the five hundred, then sixty for queens. As for John, he sacrificed several marriages, one after the other, for the sake of getting forty for knaves, which was not exactly brilliant play.

A terrible and excited strife continued from that moment between the two players. John held in his hand a magnificent two hundred and fifty, but to score them he must take a trick, and Victoria put forth all her efforts to prevent this, and succeeded, by dint of throwing away, one after another, all her trumps. One consolation only remained for the unhappy John, the last trick, for which he was able to take ten, a very small compensation for the loss of two hundred and fifty.

"To think I should hold that sequence in my hand and not be able to score it!" he cried.

The two then counted up their respective tens and aces. Each of these counting ten, John was able to mark a hundred and ten, and Victoria fifty.

"Now how many have you?" she demanded.

"Seven hundred and seventy. And you?"

"Nine hundred and eighty."

"Then you have won!"

"I'll give you your revenge."

"All right."

And they were just about to begin a second game when they once more heard the bell.

"This time it must be the master," said John.

Victoria hastened to dispose of the cards in one of the table drawers while John went to the door. It really was Mr. Keniss who entered.

"You will get into trouble, my good Victoria," said he. "I have just come from the Hotel Bristol, where I left Miss Scott very much annoyed at your long absence."

Seeing by a glance at the clock that it was nearly four, Victoria uttered a cry and disappeared, without staying for any adieus. John, who had followed her flight with a look of indulgent compassion, returned to his master, to whom he gave the recently-arrived telegram. William hastily opened the blue paper, and his eyes shone as he read—

"WILLIAM KENISS,
"TERMINUS HOTEL,
"PARIS.

"Have still Brahmapootra stamp in album. Greeting. PRINCE ALBRANDI."

"Ha! ha!" thought he. "Now I can stay in Paris as long as I please, to spite those two bloodhounds who are following me." And turning to his valet he said, "I have some news for you, John."

"Might I ask, sir, if it has anything to do with our journey, and with the stamp we are in pursuit of?"

"Yes, my friend, it has." And the good news having put the Stamp King in the humour for confidences, he recounted the whole of his day's adventures to John, from his visit to M. Moulineau to his recent call on Betty. Then he told of the strange way in which he had been followed, which was a great shock to the susceptible fellow.

"That is too bad," he said, "and I never could have believed Miss Scott capable of such behaviour! We are neither thieves nor assassins."

"So it seems to me. But if that is what hurts and offends you, my dear John, I can reassure you. It is not only assassins and thieves who are shadowed. Sometimes, for different motives, people have the highest and most important personages followed; political men, for instance, especially members of the Opposition, whose intrigues the Government may have cause to dread. So you see we are, perhaps, in excellent company."

"Oh, in that case it is different. But all the same, I shouldn't have thought it of Miss Scott. I did expect better things of her."

"What would you have?" said William philosophically. "One must defend one's self the best way one can. Every stratagem is admissible in war, even spies. So don't be more royal than the King, and, since I treat the matter as a comedy, don't you think it a tragedy. Moreover, we have nothing to fear, for we shall get the better of our spies."

But this did not prevent John letting various sinister designs pass through his mind. He wondered if he could provoke the rascals to single combat, or harass them to such an extent that they would be disgusted with their calling from that time forward. William Keniss began to suspect these Machiavellian meditations, and set himself to calm them.

"Here is something that may interest you, you



A SPY

collector of forgeries and reprints," he said, presenting him with one of the photographs of the Brahmapootra stamp which M. Moulineau had given him that morning.

"It is a very fine copy," said John, examining it with the air of a connoisseur. "I see M. Moulineau is going to make a good thing out of these imitations from customers who cannot get the originals."

"You forget, my lad, that M. Moulineau is a very honest dealer."

"Oh, I have a very limited confidence in dealers myself. When I used to make a proper collection I discovered in New York an old broker, from whom I thought I got splendid bargains. Not a week passed without his selling me, on the pretext that it was a special opportunity, some very rare stamp for a few cents. So I made up a magnificent album, which made my friends ready to burst with envy. One day, being short of money, I determined to sell my collection, so I went and found another dealer, before whom I displayed it triumphantly. He carelessly turned over the pages and then, in the most natural tone in the world, said, 'But, my friend, these are all forgeries.' You can imagine what an idiot I felt, sir. At first I nearly fainted; then gathering my wits together, I went off to the broker who had deceived me so infamously, and, I can tell you, the old Jew heard of it that day; I called him a liar and a cheat, and threatened to bring an action against him and have him arrested! The scoundrel never for an instant lost his calmness and serenity, and what do you think he replied, sir? But you would never guess."

"Tell me, then."

"He said he had never told me there was one original among all those he had sold me, and I was a fool to think there was!——"

"So I suppose from that time you began to collect forgeries?" interrupted William.

"Yes, sir, and I have found means to get something out of them, for several times over they've sold me real stamps under the impression they were forgeries."

Mr. Keniss laughed heartily at this frank avowal.

"Be off," he said. "You are making me forget with your chatter that I have several letters to write. I do not need you just now, so you can go out if you like."

John did not wait to be told twice, and, putting away the photograph of the Brahmapootra stamp in his pocket-book, he started for a stroll through the streets. On the way he reflected deeply. He had no doubt that he would be followed as well as his master, and he—who was so touchy in the matter of his liberty that he was continually putting off the day of his marriage, though desiring it in his heart—chafed against the idea of having his footsteps dogged by some scoundrel of a spy, and his least movement reported to Miss Betty Scott.

As he strolled along the narrow pavement of the Rue de Provence his eye lighted by chance upon a little white placard fixed to a door, and bearing these words, drawn by hand:—

"SKILFUL ENGRAVER, *working at home, wishes for work. Apply within.*"

Mechanically he stopped, remained a few seconds plunged in thought; then, crying "I have it! What a good idea!" he disappeared up the dark passage.

CHAPTER XII

Showing how lost time is sometimes merely time gained

THE engraver, M. Auguste Crabifosse, a very clever workman, formerly employed in the workshops of the Bank of France, occupied a very small and modest apartment on the fifth floor. He welcomed very courteously the client who had fallen from the skies—up ninety-six stairs—and showed him into the room where he was accustomed to work. The dimensions of this room were restricted, but it was very clean, and, above all, very light, for part of the roof was of glass. The middle of the room was occupied by an immense work-table, on which were piled all manner of instruments—chisels, gravers, files, and hammers, planks of wood, ingots of lead, slabs of steel and of copper, and finally, a number of little basins of different sizes, filled to the brim with liquids of varying shades.

"I just caught sight of your writing, sir," said John, "as I was passing along the street. You are out of work just at this moment?"

"I was, two or three days ago," returned the engraver, "but that announcement has already brought me several important orders."

"Pressing ones?"

"As a general rule, sir, orders always are pressing."

"I meant by that, would it be possible for you to undertake, at the same time, a small piece of work which is wanted in a great hurry?"

"Certainly, it is always possible to arrange that. But still it is necessary——"

"That the work should be well paid for, to make up for the overtime you must put in to get this fresh order finished without interfering with the others! Well, M. Crabifosse, there will be no difficulty about that. I am prepared to pay whatever you think right."

"It is easy to see, sir, that you are quite accustomed to business arrangements."

"Oh, no; I am simply an American, and, as you know, all Americans are sharp. See, this is what I want done."

And John took from his pocket the photograph of the Brahmapootra stamp given him by Mr. Keniss, and explained to the engraver that he wished for an exact copy from which a stamp might be printed in gold, on a particular paper, with a special perforation; in fact, such an exact copy that it might be taken for the original. The idea of the astute, cunning fellow was a very simple one—merely to obtain a forgery which might be mistaken for the original stamp, to let it fall into Miss Betty's hands by some means or other, and so persuade her to return triumphantly to America, while Mr. Keniss could at his ease proceed with the purchase of the real one.

This was not, perhaps, a very refined or delicate calculation. "But it's not necessary to be too particular with a lady who can set spies on us," thought John.

(To be continued.)

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Stanley Gibbons, Ltd., 391, Strand, London, W.C.

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENCE

Notes from New York

NEW YORK, *May 12th*, 1905.

Visit of the Earl of Crawford

QUITE the most interesting event which has recently occurred in our little corner of the philatelic world has been the visit of the Earl of Crawford. At the April meeting of the Governors of the Collectors' Club a Reception Committee was appointed to wait on his lordship, and he was also elected an honorary member of the Club. This is the first time this distinction has been conferred during the nine years that the Club has been in existence. Soon after the arrival of the *Valhalla* in port the Reception Committee called on Lord Crawford and extended a welcome on behalf of the philatelists of New York city. The Committee also arranged for the display before the members of the Club and their guests of his lordship's incomparable collection of United States stamps, which he had kindly brought with him for our edification. It was the desire of the Club to entertain Lord Crawford at a dinner, which was to have been an affair of more than ordinary pretensions, but owing to his lordship's poor health he was compelled to decline our hospitality, and we had reluctantly to forego our good intentions.

Display of his Lordship's Collection of U.S.

On the evening of the 10th the great collection was shown at the rooms of the Collectors' Club, and aroused, as was justly its due, the greatest admiration. We had never before seen a collection arranged on such lines, and I feel quite positive that its duplicate does not exist elsewhere in the world. The pages bear evidence of the exhaustive study which has been devoted to the subject by the owner of the collection. Added to this are great taste in arrangement, elaborate pains in describing the various essays, proofs, and stamps, and in making clear their most minute differences, their history, manufacture, and every detail which could be of interest to anyone viewing the collection. It certainly was a revelation to many of us who thought we knew what constituted a stamp collection.

Its Arrangement

Taking the various issues in chronological order, each stamp was treated in turn. Frequently we were shown the first pencil sketch of the design, then engraver's proofs of various stages of the work, the finished die (perhaps printed in various colours and on different papers), proofs from the completed plate (these also of many colours, papers, and varieties), and then the finished stamps, unused, used, etc. etc. After all this came reprints and similar posthumous impressions. There were also many pages of essays, the larger part of which had failed of acceptance as stamp designs. This is one of the interesting features of the collection, as it contains many curious devices intended to prevent the cleaning or counterfeiting of stamps, and many extraordinary and frequently very ugly designs. On the other hand, some of the essays were of great delicacy and beauty. The collection contains such curious things as sheets of plain paper with impressions from the grille roller, trial impressions of devices similar to the adopted grille, chemical papers, double papers, die-cut stamps, and cancellation devices which destroyed the stamps by cutting machines, acids, and even explosives. One interesting thing was piled upon another until it became almost bewildering, and the array of rarities and "mint" copies was something to arouse the envy of any collector. At various times I spent fully ten hours on board the *Valhalla* looking over the collection, and I saw less than half of it. I am sorry for the man who tried to absorb all of it in one evening. He must have acquired philatelic indigestion.

Some Wretchedly Arranged Collections

But, after all, one of the best things about the collection was the very evident fact that it was arranged by the owner and not by someone paid to do the work. Don't misunderstand me. I don't pretend to despise the mounting of stamps by others than their owners. Often that is of great benefit to the collection. I know some collections that are so wretchedly thrown together that I wish fervently they might pass into the hands of someone who has even the rudiments of taste and the most elementary ideas of arrangement. One of the largest collections in this country, and one that contains many rare stamps and a vast amount of splendid material, is most inadequately arranged, so that its merits are to a large extent lost. I was recently much pleased to find that a small part of it had been remounted, and thus improved fully one hundred per cent. I hope the owner will have the wisdom to eventually have it all rearranged.

Individuality of Personal Arrangement

At the same time, if the owner of a collection has the leisure and the taste to himself put it in order, he can do the work as no one else can. He will manage to bring into prominence his choicest specimens and pet varieties, and to lend to the arrangement a touch of his own individuality which can only come from personal interest in the stamps.

I would rather have the stamps of one country arranged in an intelligent and intelligible way than to have those of half the world pitchforked into albums as I have sometimes seen them.

Individuality of Lord Crawford's Arrangement

I have never seen a collection which displayed more of individuality than Lord Crawford's. It is so full of historical data and descriptive notes of every kind that a person who knew absolutely nothing of Philately could go through the volumes with understanding and appreciation of the subject.

We have certainly had a great treat in viewing Lord Crawford's collection, and we owe him a hearty vote of thanks for so kindly showing us his treasures.

JOHN N. LUFF.

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OUR COMPETITIONS

THE following are a few selections from the many excellent papers received in response to our Prize Competition No. 3, for "the most amusing or most interesting Anecdote connected with Postage Stamps, or the best 'Limerick' or Nonsense Verse referring to Postage Stamps."

Class I. Europe.

By Mr. JOHN CLEMENTS, winner of the First Prize.

Away in my diggings at Dalston,
I read of your offer (a nice one),
So send you some shots
For one of the lots.
Yours truly, John Clements, of Dalston.

Long ago, an old fogey at Kew
Had some stamps that were rare, not a few,
But the silly old muff
Thought the perfs. rather rough,
So he trimmed them all off down at Kew.

A philatelist living at Filey
Thought "North Nigers" were priced much too highly:
He would wait till they fell,
It would do just as well.
He's still waiting, much older, at Filey.

By Mr. G. D. MATTHEWS, winner of the Third Prize.

The stamps of an African state
Had a cart with a pole until late;
But Tomm-E R I-ved,
And the stamps that survived
Have the head of a king, up to date.

Class I. Out of Europe

By Mr. W. S. ANDREWS, winner of the First Prize.

On the western coast of Afric,
In the country known as Lagos
(Land of high-priced CA Queen's Heads,
Stamps the poor man cannot hope for),
Issued they a set of King's Heads
Reaching e'en to 5 and 10's,
Values daily much required
By the dusky Ethiopian.
Of the much demanded high val.,
Seven Hundred duly reached them
On the paper, long respected,
Known as Crown and CA Single.

Why is it, that, two months later,
Number Two supply was sent out,
On the new "C A C" paper
(Symbols causing dissertation
As to what their meaning just is,
In the columns of the "M. J.",
Under caption, "Ceylon issues")?
Who secured the seven hundred,
That they disappeared instanter?
Were they bought up by the black man
For his specialised collection?
Is it rational to think so?

Who then has the seven hundred?
Not the mighty C. J. Phillips,
Greatest of the London Stamp men;
He got left on Lagos 10's.
So did his most favoured clients;
Even the Debenture holders
Of the gentle H L. Ewen,
Who get all the good things going,
They were not in this transaction.

What, then, of the poor outsider,
With his little Ten and Tenpence,
Waiting for his N. I. service,
Service long delayed in coming?
Forced is he to go to auctions,
Where the price is promptly run up,
Run up by S. Gibbons' Agent,
Run up unto Fifty Shillings.
Pity then the poor collector
With the yawning blank in Lagos,
In the pages of his King's Heads.

By E. W. WETHERELL, winner of the Second Prize.

AN ADVENTURE IN CRETE

(To be taken *cum grano salis*)

SOME little time ago the Cretan Government announced that a new set of stamps would shortly appear. Proof sets, with descriptions of the subjects depicted, were sent out as a sort of preliminary advertisement. But by some terrible oversight the authorities forgot the Golden Fleece in their series of illustrations. I went straight off to the island to get this omission set right, and I interviewed the Cretan Poet Laureate, who obliged me with the following:—

"We all forgot the Golden Fleece,
So used instead Prince George of Greece,
With bits of Chossos (Minos-cursed),
And Jove with an unholy thirst;
While Artemis, without her cloak,
Appears (like Charley) on an oak.

"A Triton brandishing a trident,
Europa on a bullock strident,
Diana with the Lions beside her,
Arcadiori 'neath the heights of Ida;
And Jove (who bagged old Saturn's sceptre)
Is shown upon the '20 lepta.'"

I had it printed and circulated, and it is rumoured that, in consequence of my energetic action, a 100 drachmai stamp is to be issued, with the Golden Fleece as the central design. This stamp will obviously be used to prepay postage to ad*jasont* countries.

Being in the island, I called at the establishment of Stanliori Gibbonides, a firm of some note in those parts, and showed them some specimens of stamps which I had recently obtained from one of the cities of the lost Atlantis (hundreds of thousands of years old). The managing director, who "answers to the curious name" of Phillipopolos, actually scoffed at my unique specimens, and advised me to take them over to Pecketides (a neighbour also interested in stamps). I had had enough of chaff for one day, but in the evening I was persuaded to go to a meeting of the C.P.S. A lot of Sydney Views and comparatively modern stamps of that kind were on view. (I say "comparative" with regard to my Atlantians.) Then came my turn, and I trotted out my mint block of four of the Pterodactyl design, and described how I had found them in a prehistoric strong-box. Would you believe it, one of the members, whose name sounded something like Worherstiates, and who appeared to know something about colours, actually asked me whether the box was *pink*, and another member, called Wrinklion, asked if there were any specimens with "*wide roulette*"; they have funny ways of expressing themselves, those Cretans.

The following morning I called again on Gibbonides, being of a forgiving nature, and asked to see the manager. An assistant called up the telephone, "A gentleman wants to see you, sir. He is going to write a handbook on Atlantians." The answer came back, "Tell the Baron* that our firm is not interested in reprints." This was too much for me, and that very day I shook the dust of Crete from my shoes for evermore.

* Munchausen?

PHILATELIC SOCIETIES

The Junior Philatelic Society

President: Fred J. Melville.
Secretary: H. F. Johnson, 4, Portland Place North, Clapham Road, S.W.
Meetings: Exeter Hall, Strand, W.C.
Annual Subscription: 1s. 6d.

THE sixth annual general meeting of the Junior Philatelic Society was held at Exeter Hall, Strand, on Saturday, May 20th, at 8 p.m. The President, Mr. F. J. Melville, was in the chair, and there were 120 members present.

Preceding the ordinary business, at 6.45 a very successful auction was conducted by Mr. E. M. Gilbert-Lodge, F.A.I. A large number of lots had been received from members of the Society, which were rapidly knocked down by the auctioneer to those present. These auctions held by the Society have become increasingly popular, and offer good opportunities for the young collector to secure additions to his collection.

At the close of the sale a hearty vote of thanks was accorded to Mr. Gilbert-Lodge for his good services as auctioneer.

Following the auction the ordinary business was commenced with the election of the following new members:—

Mrs. H. Clark, Worthing; J. G. Marsh, East Dulwich; H. P. Eastwood, Crouch End; G. Webber, Plymouth; J. F. Jemmett, Feltham; S. Heywood, Bury; W. A. Boyes, Barnet.

The President acknowledged gifts to the library from Mr. H. Clark and Mr. A. J. Foulger; to the permanent collection from Messrs. H. Clark and P. A. D. Harrisson; and to the forgery collection from Messrs. J. K. Boddy, F. D. Smith, R. Archibald, and E. A. Beaumont.

The Chairman next called upon the Treasurer for his financial statement, and reports of the General Fund and the recent Exhibition were presented. The report of the General Fund, with estimated liabilities to end of season, showed a balance in hand of £10.

The Exhibition report is appended hereto:—

RECEIPTS.	£	s.	d.
To amount received by donations	53	3	7
,, Amount received from "S.C.F." Fund	6	9	6
,, Rents received from stalls	27	6	0
,, Sale of 516 catalogues at 1d. each	2	3	0
,, Insurance paid by various exhibitors	0	12	0
	88	14	1

EXPENDITURE.	£	s.	d.
By printing	23	12	10
,, Hire of Exeter Hall	12	12	0
,, Insurance	2	8	0
,, Services of band and hire of piano	6	10	6
,, 1,000 catalogues	2	1	8
,, Badges, medals, blocks, etc.	12	4	0
,, Postage, carriage, and stationery	10	16	6
,, Cartage, assistance, etc.	14	8	8
,, Sundries	3	19	5
	88	13	7
,, Balance to General Fund	0	0	6
	88	14	1

The Committee's report was next received and showed satisfactory progress, as the following extracts will show:—"The new members elected this season number 333. Fifteen ordinary meetings have been held, the average attendance being 66. Twenty-three committee meetings were held, with an average attendance of six. Seventeen displays of stamps have been given and thirteen papers read, three debates, three lantern lectures, two auctions, a conversazione and dance, a record visit to the Tapling Collection at the British Museum, and a highly successful exhibition of the postage stamps of Great Britain. All the gatherings of the Society during the past season have been attended with perfect success. The Exhibition and Publication Committee has carried through the President's scheme with marked success, and is in a large measure responsible for the rapid progress made in the past season. The average attendance at the meetings since the Exhibition has been 125. With its first publication, *The Postage Stamps of Great Britain*, the Society has gained credit for a useful and well-received handbook. The new scheme by which members receive discounts on philatelic purchases has already met with satisfactory results.

"The proposed Beginners' Exchange is assured of a careful trial under the supervision of Mr. W. Darwen, one of our Vice-Presidents."

The next report received was that of the Exchange Superintendent, and showed that the Exchange Branch had been progressing steadily, but with the reorganisation of the management which the Committee would recommend it was hoped that this branch would attain even a greater efficiency.

Reports of the Permanent Collection and of the Library were next given, each of which showed very satisfactory progress.

The next business was the election of officers for the next season, and the following is a list of those elected:—

President: Fred J. Melville.

Vice-Presidents: W. Darwen, B. W. H. Poole.

Committee: J. Feeney, C. J. Patman, P. Clare, W. A. Bois, H. Lee, E. A. Smart, C. B. Purdom, R. Shepherd.

Hon. Counterfeit Detector: Chas. Nissen, 77, 78, High Holborn, W.C.

Hon. Secretary and Treasurer: H. F. Johnson, 4, Portland Place North, Clapham Road, S.W.

Hon. Assistant Secretaries: W. G. Inkpin, Arthur Selinger.

Hon. Supt. of Beginners' Exchange: W. Darwen, 31, Bickenhall Mansions, Gloucester Road, W.

Exchange Branch Sub-Committee: W. A. Bois, H. Lee, E. A. Smart, R. Shepherd, H. F. Johnson, and J. Feeney (Exchange Superintendent), 28, Hemberton Road, Clapham, S.W.

Library Sub-Committee: H. Lee, E. A. Leigh, and E. A. Smart (Hon. Librarian), 96, St. Mary's Road, Peckham, S.E.

Publication Sub-Committee: R. Halliday, C. B. Purdom, R. Shepherd, E. A. Smart, W. G. Inkpin, P. Clare, H. F. Johnson (Hon. Secretary).

Expert and Forgery Sub-Committee: C. Nissen, J. W. Jones, B. W. H. Poole, R. S. Farden, C. J. Patman, and H. Lee, 3, Arbuthnot Road, New Cross, S.E. (Hon. Secretary and Keeper of the Society's Forgery Collection).

Curator of Permanent Collection: R. Halliday, Kent Villa, Diamond Road, Slough, Bucks.

Hon. Auctioneer: E. M. Gilbert-Lodge, F.A.I.

Hon. Auditors: R. Halliday, R. Shepherd.

Members are particularly requested to communicate direct with the various secretaries of the sub-committees named above when requiring information on the sections of the Society's work which have been delegated to such sub-committees.

After the election of officers the rules were carefully considered, and a few alterations were made.

The day of meeting was discussed, and it was resolved to keep to Saturday evenings during the coming season.

The auction was again resumed at 9.30, and proceeded till after ten o'clock, a large number of lots being again knocked down.

THE STAMP MARKET

By AN ODD LOT

RESUMING my comparison of prices between the 1904 and 1905 Catalogues, I can pass rapidly over the few remaining countries, most of which are of more interest to the specialist than to the ordinary collector.

Swazieland

THIS little country the Boers arranged to annex, and as one of the indications of that intention there remain to us to-day the Transvaal stamps of the 1885 issue overprinted "Swazieland". ½d., 1d., 2d., 6d., 1s., 2s. 6d., 5s., and 10s. values were overprinted, and for years they have been stationary in price; but in the new Catalogue there is a decided rise in several cases. The 1d., unused, has been raised from 6d. to 2s. 6d., and the 1s., unused, from 1s. 9d. to 2s. 6d., and used from 2s. 6d. to 4s. 6d. With surcharge inverted the 1d., unused, has gone up from 25s. to 40s., and the 1s. from 25s. to 30s.

Tasmania

IN this colony the prices have been advanced pretty generally. In the no wmk. series of 1856–7 the 1d., used, has been raised from 60s. to 70s., and the 2d. from 55s. to 60s. In the 1857–70 double-lined numeral watermark series the 1d., brown-red, used, has been dropped from 8s. 6d. to 6s.; but the 2d., sage-green, used, has been advanced from 6s. to 10s., and the 2d., yellow-green, used, from 5s. to 10s. In the 1878, London prints, the 8d., which has been looked upon as a somewhat promising stamp, after standing at 2s., unused, and 3s., used, for some years, has been dropped to 1s. and 1s. 9d. Amongst the many recent varieties none show any signs of scarcity.

Transvaal

LEAVING the early issues to the learned specialist, it is interesting to note the changes that have taken place in the well-known series known as shafts and poles. It was thought at one time that the stamps with wagon with shafts instead of the correct pole would run scarce, and for the shilling value great things were prophesied, but the speculators have been disappointed. They started selling it at from £2 to £3 before it got into the Catalogue. For some years it remained unpriced in the Catalogue, but all the time the price was dropping, and when at last, in 1899, it was accorded a price it was the modest one of 10s. From that it crept up to 15s., and now it is down to 12s. 6d., whilst its companion with the pole, which is left unpriced, is just as good, if not better, unused. The promising rarity of the series is the 5s.

In the King's Head series the obsolete 1s., olive-green, and 2s., brown, have been advanced, the 1s. to to 2s. 6d., unused, and 1s. 6d., used, and the 2s. to 5s., unused, and 4s. 6d., used.

Trinidad

IN the recent issues of this colony there have been some slight ups and downs, and one or two substantial changes. In the last Queen's Head series the 1s., unused, has been advanced from 4s. 6d. in 1903 to 6s. in 1904, and to 7s. 6d. in 1905. The 5s. of 1894 has been raised from 10s. to 12s. 6d. The scarce 5d. of the 1896 series remains at 4s. 6d.

Uganda

THE early issues of this African Protectorate are now recognised rarities, so much so that the typewritten series range from 25s. to many pounds, and the type-set series of 1896 are following suit in the rarity direction. Here is the range of prices of the first type-set series of November, 1896, unused:—

	1899	1900	1903	1904	1905
	s. d.	s. d.	s. d.	s. d.	s. d.
1 anna .	0 6	2 6	3 6	3 6	3 0
2 annas .	0 9	2 6	3 6	3 6	3 0
3 annas .	1 0	3 6	4 0	4 0	3 6
4 annas .	1 3	5 0	4 0	4 0	5 0
8 annas .	2 6	—	10 0	10 0	10 0
1 rupee .	5 0	—	30 0	30 0	30 0
5 rupees .	25 0	—	50 0	—	75 0

Victoria

IN recent Victorians the 5s., carmine and blue, without POSTAGE, of February, 1901, series, which for the last two Catalogues has stood at 30s., has been dropped to 24s.

Western Australia

THE 2s., red on yellow paper, of the current series, perf. 11, left unpriced in 1904, has been priced at 7s. 6d. The 1d. and 2d. of the same perf. are left unpriced. The ultimate values of these perfs. are somewhat problematical.

Zululand

THE 1s. of the first issue has been dropped from 17s. 6d., unused, and 15s., used, to 12s. 6d. for both unused and used. The 5s., carmine—the sport of the auction room—is kept at its old figure of 75s., unused and used.

THE KING'S OWN POSTAGE STAMP ALBUM.

This Album has been specially designed for those collectors who either commence a collection with the Postage Stamps of King Edward VII., or who collect these stamps as a supplement to a General Collection. The King's Own Album contains 100 pages of heavy white plate paper outlined with a neat border of neutral grey, with quadrillé background inside the grey border, and name space at the top of each page. Exact size of leaves from the outer edge, 7½×9½; available for mounting stamps, 6½×8¼. The title-page is printed in the Royal Colours, with the King's Cypher Monogram and Crown. Strongly bound in cloth, bevelled boards, with the Official Cypher Monogram and Crown in gold on cover. Post-free, 8s.; abroad, 8s. 9d.

Stanley Gibbons, Ltd., 391, Strand, London, W.C.

ANSWERS TO CORRESPONDENTS

E. B. P. (Hereford).—I am afraid you will have to keep your 2½d., violet, Transvaals for a while to get anything like a satisfactory price for them. The supply in the market at present is ample. Yes, you might put your high value B.S.A.'s in your collection, despite their fiscal cancellations. Many collectors do so with such stamps just to have specimens for reference.

M. A. C. (Burnley).—The Indian is a fiscal; the Norwegian is a local. The "P O" watermark on your New South Wales is only the marginal watermark on the stamp instead of in its proper place on the marginal paper. You can easily clean off a pencil mark on the back with indiarubber, but don't rub too hard or you may rub off the gum.

E. M. (Epsom).—You might send your stamps to Messrs. Stanley Gibbons, Ltd. If they are valuable, they can pass them on to their auction branch for you.

W. H. W. (Wisbaw).—We are very obliged to you for cuttings, some of which you will note we have used.

Oliver Green (Dover).—When your friends tell you that buying stamps is not the right way to collect, tell them that you never buy what you can beg, and ask them for contributions of stamps you need. Naturally, a stamp soiled back or front is not of so much value as one unsoiled, but the soiling of the back is not so serious as the front. The Indian stamps which have the inscription "East India" mean that they belong to the period before Queen Victoria assumed the title of Empress of India, after which "East India" was dropped in favour of the simple inscription "India." But they are all Indian stamps and should be placed under India.

S. R. C. (Acton).—All sorts of stamps escape detection and pass through the post. Your English King's Head that has passed through the American post is merely a curiosity, nothing more. It has no philatelic value.

E. W. (Yarm, R.S.O.).—You had better apply to the Secretary of the Barefoot Mission for the information you require. We have no idea what they do with the stamps.

EDITORIAL NOTES

"G. S. W." Bound Volumes.—*Gibbons Stamp Weekly* will be bound up in half-yearly volumes; consequently the present volume will be completed with the issue for Saturday, 24th June, 1905.

Our publishers have already ordered the covers for binding the volume, but do not propose to make binding covers for general sale, as they imagine there will not be sufficient sale to warrant the expense, as readers will probably prefer to have their volumes bound in their own way. If readers wish to have publishers' covers they had better write Messrs. Stanley Gibbons, Ltd., and say so.

Only a few bound volumes can be placed on sale, as our publishers have, in our opinion, too modestly estimated the number that is likely to be required. Therefore, copies should be ordered without delay.

Our Miscellaneous Page.—We wish to make *Gibbons Stamp Weekly* a storehouse of information, and shall therefore be glad of any cuttings of more or less permanent interest for our "Miscellaneous" page. Source and date of cutting must be given.

Editorial Communications.—All communications intended for the Editor should be addressed to Edward J. Nankivell, Carnanton, Camden Park, Tunbridge Wells.

Philatelic Societies.—We wish to make a special feature of the prompt publication of the reports of Philatelic Societies, and trust we may have the kindly co-operation of the honorary secretaries in this matter. Reports should be written on one side of the paper, and despatched to the Editor by the earliest post.

Special Correspondence.—The Editor will be glad to receive interesting letters from philatelic centres not already covered by our arrangements. We want chatty and newsy letters on matters of interest to the general collector, and excluding all matter of interest only to the specialist.

Subscriptions.—Subscriptions must be sent to the publishers as set out on the front page of cover, or to booksellers or railway bookstalls, but never to the Editor.

OUR PHILATELIC DIARY

JUNE, 1905

15 & 16. Auction: Glendining, 7, Argyll Street, London. 4.30 p.m.
19. Auction: Hadlow, Covent Garden Hotel, London. 5 p.m.
20 & 21. Auction: Plumridge, 64, Chancery Lane, London. 4.45 p.m.
29 & 30. Auction: Glendining, 7, Argyll Street, London. 4.30 p.m.

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10 June, 1905.

Gibbons Stamp Weekly

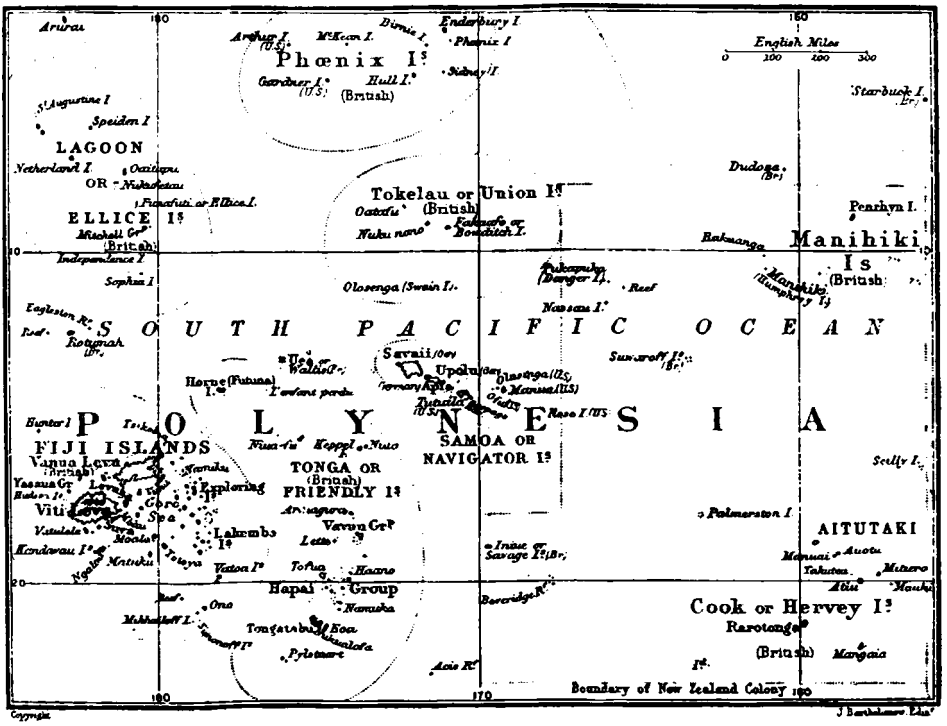
EDITED BY EDWARD J. NANKIVELL

No. 24 | 17 JUNE, 1905 | VOL. I.

THE COUNTRIES OF THE WORLD

By EDWARD J. NANKIVELL

Aitutaki



AITUTAKI is one of the Cook Islands group in the Pacific. The group is also known as the Hervey Archipelago. A British Protectorate was declared over it by Captain Bourke, of H.M.S. *Hyacinth*, in 1888. From 1892 the Protectorate was under the special care of a British Resident, who was paid by the New Zealand Government. In 1900 the islands were formally annexed by New Zealand.

Aitutaki is about 200 miles from Rarotonga, the chief island of the group. It

has an area of seven square miles and a population of about 1,200, only ten of whom were said to be Europeans when the first postage stamps were issued in 1903.

The New Zealand *Graphic*, in 1903, in an account of a visit of New Zealand legislators, thus describes the island :—

"Aitutaki differs from any of the other islands we have visited, in having the reef much further from the shore, the width of the lagoon varying from three to four or five miles.

"The island is not large, and has no high peaks, although the land is more elevated than Mauke.

"Aitutaki may be considered the Democratic Republic of the Pacific—a curious exception to the kings and minutely graded aristocracy of most of the surrounding islands. Many years ago they abolished all forms of aristocratic rule, and are rather proud of telling visitors that they are all equal; in fact, they appear to have carried their democracy to such an extreme that they had no executive at all, the missionary probably acting for them to some extent before the advent of New Zealand's representative.

"The native custom in connection with the land has also been harmonious with the democratic principles, each family having its own land, and a fresh apportionment being made whenever a marriage takes place, both bride and bridegroom's father contributing a portion, according to their several stations.

"The Aitutakians are great sailors, many of them going long voyages in the old whaling days in American and British ships."

Its Philatelic History

Why Aitutaki was singled out and its ten Europeans provided with a special issue of postage stamps is one of those things that, as Dundreary would put it, "no fellah can understand."

However, as the stamps were duly issued, I must pass them in review in my philatelic scamper through the countries of the world.

Being under the government of New Zealand, the necessary, or unnecessary, postage stamps have been provided by overprinting the current stamps of New Zealand, on the top with the word AITUTAKI, and below with the value in the native language.

AITUTAKI. Ava Pene. Tai Pene.

Rua Pene Ma Te Ava. Toru Pene.

Ono Pene. Tai Tiringi.

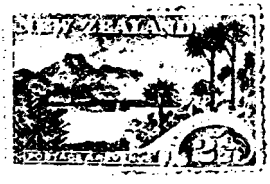
The Aitutaki post office was to have been opened on the 1st of June, 1903, but the stamps did not reach the island until the 29th of the month. Consequently, much suspicion of postal speculation was generated by the fact that the stamps were sold at the Auckland post office in the early part of June, long before they were placed on sale in the island itself.

As a set-off to the suspicious circumstances that surrounded the birth of the first issue, it must be noted that there has been up to this date only the one series

The overprinting of the stamps was done in two colours on the ½d. and 2½d.,













and the 1d., 3d., 6d., and 1s. in blue. The stamps used for overprinting were the current New Zealand Waterlow series, watermarked with single-lined N Z and Star, six values in all. In each case the overprinted value was a repetition in the native language of the value of the stamp overprinted.

1903. *Current New Zealand stamps overprinted. Wmk. Single-lined N Z and Star. Perf.*

"Ave Pene," in carmine, on ½d., green.
"Tai Pene," in blue, on 1d., carmine.
"Rua Pene Ma Te Ava," in carmine, on 2½d., blue.
"Toru Pene," in blue, on 3d., yellow-brown.
"Ono Pene," in blue, on 6d., rose-red.
"Tai Tiringi," in blue, on 1s., vermilion.

(To be continued.)

FIRST STEPS IN PHILATELY

By Rev. T. C. WALTON, M.A.

(Continued from page 362.)

Stamps without a Name *(continued)*

ALL the issues of Russia, from the first issue of 1858 down to the last in 1902, come under the heading of "Stamps without a Name." The stamps are popular with beginners, and a page of them is certainly a very attractive feature in an album. There is, however, a great sameness in design. The Russian Arms, a double-headed eagle surmounted by a crown, form the central design of all the issues. The inscription, "Postage Mark," also appears throughout, either in an oval band surrounding the Arms or, as in the case of the 1884 issue, in the sides of the rectangle enclosing the central design.

In the lower part of the first issue of 1858 were inscribed in Russian the words, "10 Kop. for one lot." A lot is equivalent to about half an ounce. 100 kopecs make a rouble, which is about 3s. 2d. in English money.

The design of the issue now in use is too well known to need illustration. The following examples of the 1858 and 1884 issues will easily enable a beginner to identify all the other issues.

RUSSIA.



1858.



1884.

Forty-two years ago the Russian Navigation Company was supplied by the Government with a large square stamp to prepay postage between Odessa and various Russian and Turkish ports on the Black Sea and the Mediterranean. The stamp was in use for only a few months, and is consequently rare. Its design consisted of the Arms of Russia enclosed within a circle fringed with an ornamented array of curves. Outside this was a band of solid colour, on which was inscribed in Russian, "Despatch under crossed band to the East, 6 kop. per lot."

RUSSIAN LEVANT.



1863.

This short-lived issue was followed in 1865 by two stamps, much smaller in size. Instructions were given to the lithographer that the stamps were to bear some resemblance to the Government issue. The reader may judge for himself as to how far he succeeded in carrying out these orders. The design consisted of the Russian Arms and a steamship. There was no inscription of value. The 2 kopecs had the Arms under the ship, while for the 20 kopecs the positions were reversed. Five Russian letters, the initials of the Russian for "Russian Navigation and Trade Company" are

inscribed either at the top for the smaller value, or dispersed over the stamp in the case of the 20 kopecs.

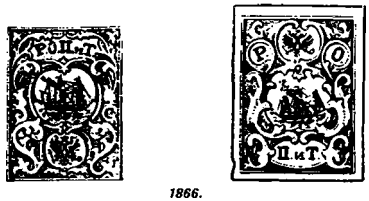
RUSSIAN LEVANT.



1865.

These stamps gave great dissatisfaction. New designs were accordingly made in 1866. As they were merely an elaboration of the designs illustrated above, we need not comment further on them.

RUSSIAN LEVANT.



1866.

Liberia is the land of "freed" African slaves. It owes its origin to the American Colonising Society, which in 1821 bought land on the Pepper Coast (Guinea) of West Africa, and settled a small body of freed slaves. It became a republic in 1847. Its constitution is modelled on that of the United States. The capital is Monrovia, so called after President Monro. The early issues of Liberian stamps are much sought after. For twenty years a design emblematic of "Liberty" was used. The stamps differed in colour according to the value. In 1881 a new design of the "Views" order appeared and did duty for a few months. Both are illustrated below. The former, issued between 1860 and 1867, is rare. The latter is easily obtained for a few pence.

LIBERIA.



1860.



1881.

The so-called "Kingdom of Poland" was united to Russia in 1815. It had a separate government until 1864, when a revolt against Russia broke out. The insurrection was stamped out, and Russia took away the last visible remnant of independence. Three years previous to this rising, a stamp of the face value of ten kopecks was issued in Poland. The reader must be careful to distinguish it from the 1858 issue of Russia, which it very much resembles. The colours and inscriptions differ. The designs are the same. The Russian stamp of 1858 had "Postage Mark", in Russian, in the band round the Arms. The Poland stamp had the value and weight, "10 kop. for one lot", in Russian in this band. The same inscription in Polish figured underneath the oval.

POLAND.



1860.

Finland also forms part of the Russian Empire. It preserved a restricted form of self-government to a much later period than Poland. Indeed, it was not until 1890 that the postal departments of Russia and Finland were united and Russian stamps were ordered to be used in place of the Finnish issues. These Russian stamps for use in Finland were earmarked with a dot within a circle.

The first issue of adhesive postage stamps in Finland was made in 1856. The design consisted of the Arms of Finland, a lion "rampant" on a shield, surmounted by a crown. An inscription of value in Finnish and Russian, enclosed within an oval, completed the design.

In 1860 this design was improved upon

FINLAND.



1856.



1860.

by making the oval upright and enclosing it within a rectangular frame.

In the year 1866, the currency in Finland was changed from kopecks and roubles to marks and penni. One hundred penni were equal to a mark, which was worth about 10d. in English money. A new issue of stamps appeared with the new currency values in Finnish at the top and the Russian at the base. Otherwise the design was very similar to that of the 1860 series illustrated above.

The decree of the Russian Government in 1890 has already been mentioned. Illustrations of these ear-marked Russian stamps are given below. In the 1, 2, 3, and 7 kopecks, the dot within a circle appears on both sides of the oval band. In the 4, 10, 20, and 50 kopecks and one rouble, the marks are in the corners. In the 14 and 35 kopecks the marks appear on each side of the crown.

FINLAND.



In 1899 Finland was incorporated with Russia; all these ear-marked issues were withdrawn, and Russian stamps without any distinguishing marks were introduced. The only difference made in the issue of 1901 was that the value was printed in Finnish as well as Russian.

Servia is a country of many rebellions. For centuries it was part of the Turkish Empire. Its inhabitants are for the most part Christians of the Greek Church. The recurrence of insurrections against Mohammedan rule, and especially the rule or misrule for which Turkey is notorious, need surprise no one. The Russo-Turkish war of 1877 gave Servia another opportunity of freeing herself from the grip of Turkey. The Berlin Treaty of 1878 recognised Servia's independence.

The first issue of Servian stamps appeared in 1866. Michael Obrenovic III. was the reigning prince. The design of the one and two para had the Arms of Servia on a mantle surmounted by a coronet. A circle surrounded the Arms, and a rectangle enclosed the whole. Above the circle was the inscription K.C. POCHTA, which stands for "Royal Servia Post." Below the circle was the value in "para." 100 para = 1 dinar = 1 franc.

SERVIA.



1866.

The city of Madrid was granted the privilege of having a special issue of stamps for use within the city in 1853. The Arms of Madrid on an oval shield, surmounted by a crown and surrounded by a laurel wreath, formed the central design. CORREO INTERIOR was inscribed along the upper part of the stamp, and FRANCO with the value appeared in the base. At this time the currency was in reales and cuartos. One real = 8½ cuartos, and a cuarto was worth a little more than an English farthing.

MADRID.



A further series appeared in 1854. The designs present a splendid example of the use of heraldic devices. The Arms of Castile and Leon are seen quartered on a shield. In the centre appear the Arms of Bourbon on what is technically known as a "shield of pretence." The collar of the Order of the Golden Fleece surrounds the shield and a crown appears above. We give two illustrations showing the slight differences in ornamentation between the 4 cuartos and the 1 real.

MADRID.





(To be continued.)

HOW TO CONVERT

By W. E. IMESON

BROADLY speaking, mankind may be divided into two classes, viz. those that collect stamps and those that—in *Punch's* much-quoted advice to those about to contract life-long alliances—don't.

The reasons for collecting stamps and the advantages of so doing are so numerous, and have been so frequently and fully stated by others, that it would be presumptuous to venture to go over such well-trodden ground. Therefore I will avoid that beaten track. As regards the reason (one can hardly imagine there being more than one) for people not collecting—well, we can only define it, in the words of the immortal Dundreary, as "one of those things that no fellah can understand"—even the non-collectors themselves can't.

Catch 'em Young

A non-collector, if caught young, can, as a rule, be easily broken in and trained. If he *can't*—then it is a sure sign of vice. For that reason, if I had a son (an awful responsibility that has not fallen to my lot) and that son did not take kindly to stamps, I could not, being a born philatelist, take kindly to that son. He would, as soon as his years permitted of it, either have to take up Philately or take up his quarters elsewhere. A lad that would not brighten his home with stamps would not be allowed to darken my doors. If one of my flesh and blood refused to wet a stamp-hinge I would feel strongly tempted to lick my own!

It may be urged that a lad should be led and not driven to Philately. Very good, but what can be said for a lad that requires leading (apart from guiding) into such a delightful path? Of course, certain wiseacres who lack enthusiasm will drag in the old proverb about leading a horse to the stream and not being able to make him drink. That's mere proverb-twisting. Just as if we wished any boy to drink! Why, Philately has been the means of saving boys, old and young, from the national vice. (N.B. Is it not remarkable that the drink question has a bearing upon almost every mortal subject?) But to such an antiquated "argument" as that contained in the proverb, the retort is obvious: Horses are not boys—though, sometimes, boys are mules. Leading a lad is, of course, out of the question—unless he happens to be going that way.

One may, in the making of a philatelist, have to be cruel to be kind. An intelligent youngster will recognise, though he may detest, what is for his good. All that is required is firmness tempered with corporal punishment. I know an irate, though (to my philatelic mind) not misguided parent who, failing to induce his son, by gentle means, to handle the stamp-tweezers, threatened him with the fire-tongs. Result—a convert to our cult (the irony of the situation will perhaps appeal to most readers).

That Piece of Youthful Philosophy

This lad—he was really a youth, having seen some eighteen "summers" (according to the calendar)—showed his keen appreciation of the situation by remarking, "He must needs go that the—dad drives!" Now that piece of youthful philosophy drew me towards the youth, for it showed that he had a respect for—almost amounting to fear of—parental control. He had also, had he but known it, much to thank me for; for was it not I that had induced his father to adopt a firm method of treatment? "If the lad," said I, "doesn't inherit your love of stamps, failing persuasion, thrash it into him—he'll like it (stamp collecting) in time!" And so he did.

Of course I did not advocate such treatment in the presence of the unwilling disciple himself (a strapping, athletic youngster, standing about five feet eight inches high)—for I did not wish to make him, the "strapper," look small.

Well, to cut the story of a long lad short, the interesting, if not interested, youth became in time a stamp accumulator. I hesitate to say stamp collector, and dare not say philatelist, but anyhow, he got together, under his parent's super-

vision (and mine), a really formidable collection. He was a big-hearted lad, but his heart—even if in the right place—was not in his album. It was "me" that treated him to an "Imperial," expressing a wish at the time that the shy recipient would learn to think, live, and act "imperially."

"And now," suggests the reader, "the boy, or man, no doubt possesses 'one of the finest collections in the country'?" (What a lot of them there are, to be sure!) Well, that's just it—he doesn't! Dad's duplicates and my "Imperial" are in the hands of the stranger. "Algy"—one might have known that a young man with a name like that could never become a serious collector—Algy, upon quitting the parental roof, threw off the mask and hoisted the sign of the Philistine.

He told me one day in strict confidence (of course I reported it to his "guv'nor") that he was about to "turn the tables upon the old man"! To be strictly correct, there was only one table concerned, but it was quite sufficient to give the "old man" a "turn." Algy ruthlessly "swapped" his fine stamp collection for a mere piece of furniture decorated with "pockets" and a green cloth.

GOSSIP OF THE HOUR

By CORNELIUS WRINKLE

Australian Possibilities

I HAVE been shown a full sheet of the new watermarked paper prepared for the new stamps of the Australian Commonwealth described by Major Evans in the *Monthly Journal*, and I reckon that the betting may be pretty even as to the reality of the danger which the gallant Major hints at, of the paper being used for the separate States before the inauguration of the Commonwealth series.

The watermark of Crown over A is a clear indication that it is only intended for the Commonwealth stamps, but who will lay odds that it is not, on some excuse or another, allowed to pass into use before its time? And if it should, won't there be a grand scramble for copies!

Take my tip, dear friends, and keep your weather eyes open for everything fresh from the Australian philatelic goldfields.

Mr. Hausburg in Australia

I SEE they have been giving Mr. Hausburg a good old time in Australia. Well, he deserves it, for he is working hard and industriously at the London Philatelic Society's great work on the Australian Colonies. Mr. Basset Hull is writing up the history to be found in the official archives, but the real philatelic part, that needs a great collection for its finishing touches, will owe a very great deal to Mr. Hausburg. The *Australian Philatelist* says he has opened the eyes of many Australian collectors in the knowledge he has displayed on all matters pertaining to both Australian and New Zealand stamps.

That Plate No. 126

THE so-called Plate No. 126 of the old penny red of Great Britain which has been discovered in Australia has been forwarded to London for examination, in order that the question of its identity may be cleared up. According to the authorities no such stamp can exist, for the plate was never made. But, sad to say, our Australian friends have been turning up copies all the same. They are not satisfied with one copy. And Mr. Basset Hull, who evidently believes in the stamp, says if it is proved to be Plate 126, it will not be the first time that the postal authorities have been shown to be too cocksure in their statements. Well, we shall see.

The Juniors Going Strong

THE membership of the Junior Philatelic Society is mounting up in fine style; it now totals up to 400. But, I say, what is a junior? I recently saw a photograph of a meeting of the Juniors, and I recognised a good many rather antique specimens; and further, I note that numbers of well-known philatelists are being enrolled—old philatelic salts. Is it not a bit of a mistake for the Juniors to get mixed up in this fashion?

NEW ISSUES

The Editor will be grateful to his readers if they will help him with the earliest possible information concerning new issues. News from the Colonies in particular will be much appreciated. When possible, a specimen should accompany the information, and should be addressed to

EDWARD J. NANKIVELL, Carnanton, Camden Park, Tunbridge Wells.

Barbados.—On page 220 we chronicled several values of the current type on the multiple CA paper. There is a slight correction. The colours of the 2s. 6d. should be violet and green, not blue-black and orange. It will be remembered that the colours of this stamp, which in the issues 1892-9, and the large Jubilee series of 1897, were blue-black and orange, were changed in 1903 to violet and green, and those colours are retained in the now current multiple series.



Wmk. Multiple CA. Perf.

½d., grey and carmine.
½d., dull green.
2½d., ultramarine.
6d., mauve and carmine.
8d.. orange and ultramarine.
2s. 6d., violet and green.

Macedonia.—The *Monthly Journal* says:—

"*Le J. des Ph.* tells us of the existence of a series of stamps which appear to be on a par with those of 'Cuba Libre,' which one used to hear of in the days before the war between Spain and the United States. The design is said to show *A Female Figure in chains, holding up her arms towards the Sky, in which appears the Star of Liberty.* The object is similar to that of the Cuban stamps, principally to collect more or less voluntary contributions from the people of Macedonia, and doubtless also from the pockets of philatelists elsewhere, whose scruples are to be overcome by the statement that a special post office has been opened somewhere for the sale of the labels in question."

Malta.—The 1d. value has been received with the multiple watermark.



Wmk. Multiple CA. Perf.

½d., green.
1d., carmine and grey.
2d., grey and violet.
2½d., blue and purple.
1s., violet and grey.

Philippine Islands.—The *Metropolitan Philatelist* says:—

"It has been decided to adopt a new system in connection with the issue of the new series of stamps for the Philippines. The dies and plates will be made here in Washington, but the stamps will not be printed here. The plates will be shipped to Manila and there printed. There are several reasons for this plan. First, the great length of time required to order supplies and receive them renders it necessary to keep a great supply on hand or run the risk of running short on some denominations. With the plates on the island stamps can be printed at any time. Then oftentimes the gum sticks so that when the stamps arrive in Manila they are in the form of a brick of paper, and the sheets cannot be separated. Then again, inasmuch as these are to be a distinctly Philippine series, the Filipinos will probably feel better to know that they are printing their own stamps. There are likely, however, to be some startling shades in the common varieties unless great care is exercised in the mixing of the ink; and where so few, relatively, are to be printed, it is not likely that the care will be taken that obtains in the Bureau at Washington.

"Good progress is being made on the dies for the new Philippine stamps. At present the engravers are working on the 2, 4, and 10 centavos, and the 8 centavos will follow, and then the higher values. It is understood to be the purpose of the Insular Bureau of the War Department to get out the plates for the 2, 4, and 10 centavos and ship them to Manila and start the work of printing, so that the stamps may be furnished at as early a date as possible. Probably the lower values will be issued some time in July."

Portuguese Colonies.—We quote the following from *Ewen's Weekly Stamp News*:—

"Mr. C. George writes to *Der Philatelist* (5.05/140) to the effect that a number of new surcharged stamps are to be issued. A decree dated March 20th, 1905, authorises the use of a lot of old stock for this purpose. The following may be expected:—

Angola (190, 235 K 296).
50 reis on 65 reis, blue.

Cabo Verde (179, 235 I 295).
50 reis on 65 reis, blue.

Congo (179 D 296).
50 reis on 65 reis, blue.

Guiné (190, 235 H 296).
50 reis on 65 reis, blue.

India (214, 235 K 296).
2 tangas on 2½ tangas, blue.

Inhambane (182 C 296).
50 reis on 65 reis, blue.

Lourenço Marques (190 E 296).
50 reis on 65 reis, blue.

Macau (220, 235 H 296).
10 avos on 12 avos, red-lilac.

Moçambique (190, 235 F 296).
50 reis on 65 reis, blue.

S. Thomé e Principe (184, 235 H 296).
50 reis on 65 reis, blue.

Timor (190, 235 E 296).
10 avos on 12 avos, blue.

Zambezia (190 D 296).
50 reis on 65 reis, blue.

FANCY DRESS

WITH APOLOGIES TO THE PRODUCERS OF "THE ORCHID" AT THE GAIETY THEATRE

By DÂK

SPAIN has issued Cervantes Commemoration stamps depicting incidents in the career of Don Quixote.

ENGLAND: Fancy *me* with a fancy set—
But not just yet—

CHORUS: Not just yet.

ENGLAND: I'd re-illumine a household pet
From the page of a popular story;—
What's the matter with Dan Defoe?
I don't know—

CHORUS: We don't know.

ENGLAND: So limelight, please, for our R. Crusoe,
Aglow with Philately's glory!
Only fancy, fancy me,
Booming robust old Robinson C.!
Wouldn't he just be all the rage
Neatly perf'd to a regular gauge?

ENGLAND: Or I might show you a sprightly dame,
Known to fame—

CHORUS: Known to fame.

ENGLAND: I can't at the moment recall her name,
But she pranced with a white horse under;
She'd have rings on her fingers too—
Bells at shoe—

CHORUS: Bells at shoe—

ENGLAND: And I'd catalogue her (by De La Rue)
As Philately's latest wonder.
Only fancy, don't mistake,
Wouldn't she take the Banbury cake?
And wouldn't it just be nice to see
Her steed nicknamed "the original G"?

FRANCE: I've a wonderful writing star—
Great Dumas!

CHORUS: Grand Dumas!

FRANCE: I've an idea he outshines by far
The rest of romantic writers.
How collectors would all shell out—
There's no doubt!

CHORUS: Not a doubt!

FRANCE: For a "rainbow" set that was all about
His rollicking, roystering fighters.
Only think how the world would stare
At a nice little lot from *Les Mousquetaires*—
Oh, wouldn't they knock our friend Don Q.
In the pictured page of S. G., Part II.?
Only fancy that wonderful leap
To the bleak, black depths from the chateau'd steep,
And think of the splash in the rushing dark
As suggestive at least of a watermark.

GERMANY: There's a work that I fancy well,—
Shall I tell?

CHORUS: Please, do tell!

GERMANY: It's all of us held 'neath a lasting spell,
And is known as the Strewelpeter.
I'd have stamps to depict its verse—
I might do worse!

CHORUS: You might do worse!

GERMANY: 'Twould help to replenish the national purse
And render success completer!
Only fancy, when I get
My "Great Agrippa" or "Greenman" set,
And think of the grist that will come to my mill
From the sale of (inverted) "Fidgety Phil."

PERSIA: I'm for a lot in a different line—
Roses and wine!

CHORUS: Bright sunshine!

PERSIA: A loaf and a jug and a "THOU" divine
And everything Omar Kyammy.
It would be certain to come to stay,
Quite *au fait!*

CHORUS: Quite "O.K."!

PERSIA: As something serene in a lotus-like way,
Gentle and jolly and jammy.
Only fancy, fancy me,
Loving and laughing under a tree—
Lolling at ease through a golden noon,
Heedless that all will be ended soon.

U.S.A.: I'd have stamps in a novel dress,
Yus, I guess—

CHORUS: Yus, we guess—

U.S.A.: Para'd and puffed in the daily Press,
With big brass bands to foller;
Say, theer, stranger, what d'yer think
Of Rip Van Wink

CHORUS: (Ah, Rip Van Wink!)

U.S.A.: As a strikin' assortment in aniline ink
Asnore in his Sleepy Holler?
Fancy me wheer the Katskills loom,
*Mani*pulatin' a Winkle boom
In Philately's name with a capital P—
You bet I'd embody *le dernier cri.*

ALL: Oh, fancy us on the Spaniard's tack!
With stack and pack,
Pack and stack.
Of our own Don Q.'s to get each our whack,
For the golden flow a-racing!
But don't suppose we mean what we say.
Ah, no, nay!
Of course not, nay!
We're not such fools, in a general way,
As to go such a wild-goose chasing.

THE BEST STAMP HINGES.

We have just prepared a new stamp hinge, of convenient size, put up in *air-tight tin boxes*, each containing 1,000 hinges of good tough paper, doubly gummed, and thus easily peelable. Post-free, 7d. per box.

Stanley Gibbons, Ltd., 391, Strand, London, W.C.

MISCELLANEOUS

More about Counani

FOLLOWING up our references to the mysterious Republic of Counani on pages 29 and 317, we now quote the following telegrams :—

MADRID, *Saturday, 13th May*, 1905.—At the request of the Brazilian Minister in Madrid, who had had a conference on the subject with Señor Villa Urutia, Minister for Foreign Affairs, the Brazilian Vice-Consul, accompanied by a police commissioner and several officers, yesterday arrested an ex-King-at-Arms on the Royal Palace, Señor Sarrion de Herrera, on a charge of conspiring against the Government of Brazil. As the result of a search which was made at the residence of Señor Sarrion, a number of documents were found containing the commission of several officers, who were to form an army intended for the State of Counani, an independent Republic of South America. A financial committee, with headquarters in London, has, it appears, long been working for the independence of the territory of Counani, which lies between the northern frontier of Brazil and French Guiana, and was formerly the subject of diplomatic contentions between Rio de Janeiro and Paris. The committee in question, which is supposed to have in view the gold mines of Counani, has, it appears, from the papers, been organising an insurrection in that country in order to get possession of them, and to this end has recruited numbers of men in Great Britain, France, and Spain, who have been enlisted as colonists, but were really entitled when the time came to be transformed into soldiers.

4,000 Recruits in Great Britain

The detailed and voluminous documents seized at the residence of Señor Sarrion de Herrera show that the organisation was proceeding on a vast scale. From these documents it appears that nearly 4,000 men had already been recruited in Great Britain, 4,000 in France, and the same number in Spain. The last contingent was to be commanded by numerous Spanish officers of various grades, senior and subaltern, mostly attached to the reserve, although some are serving with the active army. The officers, however, were not all taken from the Spanish Army, as the documents show that a revolutionary Spanish captain, named Casero, who once brought about a rising at Badajoz, holds the rank of Colonel in the Fifth Division of the future Army of Counani. It is stated that this veteran was already in receipt of pay, received through an English banking house, which had charge of the funds for the movement. In his secret papers Señor Sarrion de Herrera styles himself Minister Plenipotentiary in Spain of the State of Counani. The Brazilian Government got wind of the affair, and perceiving that it might not be confined to Counani, but might spread to Brazil, communicated with its Minister in Madrid, who in turn informed the Spanish Government of what was going on. The Spanish authorities acted at once, with the result that Señor Sarrion was arrested early this morning. Several vehicles had to be requisitioned to remove the documents seized at his residence.

The Brazilian Minister, in an interview to-day, confirmed the news of the discovery of the plot, which he described as being directed against Brazil.—*Reuter.*

Señor Herrera's Defence

MADRID, *Sunday, 14th May*, 1905.—Señor Sarrion de Herrera, in the course of his interrogation by the Examining Magistrate on the subject of the alleged plot against Brazil, declared that the territory of Counani had been recognised as an independent State since 1872. He added that for the last two years he had been residing in Madrid in the capacity of Minister of the State of Counani to Spain, Morocco, and the Holy See. Señor Herrera maintained that the recruiting of men in Great Britain, France, and Spain was perfectly legal, and he declared that the revolutionary Colonel Casero had recently paid a visit to London in order to arrive at an understanding with the General Committee of the Free State of Counani, and to purchase war stores. Señor Herrera denied the existence of a plot against Brazil, the diplomatic relations between which and Counani were most cordial.—*Reuter.*

Our Efficient Post Office

AN envelope containing a business letter was recently sent from Hong Kong to London for the famous juggler Ching Ling Foo. The address was, however, printed in Chinese, and to ninety-nine Europeans in a hundred the hieroglyphics would appear hopelessly undecipherable. Somebody, however, has a knowledge of the Celestial language at the G.P.O., for without any delay in transit the letter duly reached its destination. This was the Empire Theatre, where Ching Ling Foo was performing a month ago. Just now the juggler is in the south of Spain, and the letter will be sent on to him carefully redirected, but not in Chinese, for fear the Spanish postal officials do not possess the polyglot powers of St. Martin's-le-Grand.

The Busy Postman of 1839

IN that interesting old magazine, *The Mirror*, there appears under date of 16th February, 1839, the following curious advertisement extracted from a contemporary issue of the *Pottery Gazette* :—

"James Scott, whitesmith, gardener, fishmonger, schoolmaster and watchman; teeth drawn occasionally; shoemaker, chapel clerk, crier of the town, running footman, groom and organ-blower, keeper of the town hall, letter carrier, brewer, winder of the clock, toller of the 8 o'clock bell, waiter and bill-poster, firebucket maker to the Protector Fire Office, street springer, assistant to a Staffordshire potter, firelighter to the dancing-master, sheriff's officer's deputy, ringer of the market bell, toll-taker to the bailiff of the hundred and keeper and deliverer of the fair standings, returns his most grateful acknowledgments to the inhabitants of Stoke and its vicinity for the many favours already received, and begs to assure them that it shall be his constant study to merit their patronage."
—C. STUART DUDLEY.

THE IMPERIAL ALBUM.

Tenth Edition. Size of pages, 8¼ × 11½ inches. The present edition is arranged in *three* volumes. Two causes have acted to bring about this result. First, the ever-increasing number of new issues, for which accommodation must be provided; and secondly, the demand by collectors that space shall be found for varieties of perforation and shade, errors, etc., to conform as closely as possible to the lists given in the Publishers' Catalogue. Vol. I. The Stamps of the British Empire; post-free, 10s. 9d. Vol. II. The Stamps of Europe, and the Colonies and Possessions of European States; post-free, 12s. 9d. Vol. III. Foreign Countries, except Europe and Possessions; post-free, 10s. 9d.

Stanley Gibbons, Ltd., 391, Strand, London, W.C.

THE STAMP KING

By G. DE BEAUREGARD AND H. DE GORSSE

Translated from the French by EDITH C. PHILLIPS



JOHN EXPLAINS TO THE ENGRAVER WHAT HE REQUIRES

CHAPTER XII (*continued*)

Showing how lost time is sometimes merely time gained

AT first M. Crabifosse, with a great show of dignity, flatly refused to assist in the forgery, and John had to relate in detail the whole matter, promising that he would take but one impression, and that in the presence of the engraver, and protesting that it was a joke rather than a deceit, before the scrupulous workman would consent to execute the order. But at length, becoming interested in the enterprise, he no longer disdained to give John the benefit of his skill, and even wanted to give him a few hints on the art of engraving, and on the way in which stamps, real stamps, are made in the magnificent buildings in the Boulevard Brune, in Paris, where the State works, as everyone knows, are situated.

John cared little enough about it all, but thought it might be as well to seem to take the liveliest interest.

"I am going to make you a chemical engraving on zinc," said M. Crabifosse, "as that will be quite the best thing for the purpose."

"Are there then several sorts of engraving?" asked the artful fellow.

"I should think so, indeed," said M. Crabifosse. "First of all there is chemical engraving on zinc, as I just said, and wood engraving. These are generally used for illustrating books, for which purpose not a very great number of copies are required. But that would not do for stamps, you see, since we want millions and millions of impressions of those."

"Then an engraving on wood is not reproduced by a galvanoplastic method," insinuated John timidly, though glad to be able to put in a word to show he had some knowledge of the science.

"Yes, in almost identically the same way. But the type would deteriorate if too great a number of prints were taken from it. So it is often necessary for the engraver to use a harder metal, steel being generally employed on account of its cheapness. Types made in steel can stand enormous pressure without wearing at all, and they can be reproduced in as many blocks of steel or any other metal as are wanted. This is how it is done.

"When the steel block comes from the hand of the engraver it is, relatively speaking, soft, since it has had to be shaped with the hammer and cut by the graver and file. It then has to undergo the process of *tempering*, which is done by bringing it to a great heat and then plunging it into a bath of cold water, which cools it suddenly. By this means the steel becomes hard and elastic; it is *tempered*. The block of steel has now become what is termed a die or mould, and here the work of the engraver ends. The die or mould—call it what you will—is engraved in relief like ordinary type, which also consists of so many little dies.

"It remains now, when a large number of impressions are needed, to reproduce the original die. This is done by impressing it, by machinery, on another block of untempered steel, on which a similar impression is formed. Then this second steel block is tempered, and now forms what is called a matrix, from which as many other dies as are required can be taken in relief, either in copper or soft steel, which must afterwards be tempered. These are now identical with the original die, but, instead of steel, these latter dies are often made of gutta-percha, as, for instance, those from which the French stamps are struck. And now I will tell you how this is done," continued M. Crabifosse, encouraged by the number of nods and other signs of approbation with which John received the information.

"The original design is given to the engraver in a drawing, about eight times the size that the stamp is to be. He engraves it on wood, or in *taille-douce*, three or four times the right size. Then a proof of

this engraving is photographed to reduce it to its proper dimensions, and from this the first steel block is made, as I told you. In this block the space for the figures indicating the value of the stamp is left empty. From it fifteen blocks are made in lead, on which are inscribed the fifteen values existing in the French postage stamps, namely 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 10, 15, 20, 25, 30, 40, 50, 75 centimes, 1 and 5 francs. These fifteen fresh blocks constitute the original dies, and are carefully preserved; a number of gutta-percha blocks are made from them, and are grouped together in formes of three hundred for each sheet.

"Now this sheet, on which the three hundred stamps are printed, is of special paper, and probably tinted before receiving the impression, in order, by using a special ink on a special shade of paper, to make washing or forging almost an impossibility.

"Finally, when the impressions have been taken by means of special printing presses, the stamps are perforated by a row of pins arranged in a straight line, which pins, being fixed in a frame, go through the paper all at once, and with marvellous precision, into a number of holes arranged in a plate under the sheet. After the first line of holes has been pierced in the paper, forming the first row of perforations, the sheet advances automatically the width of a stamp, when the pins, descending again, pierce the second line, and so on. Then they are gummed and dried and are ready for use," concluded M. Crabifosse, almost out of breath.

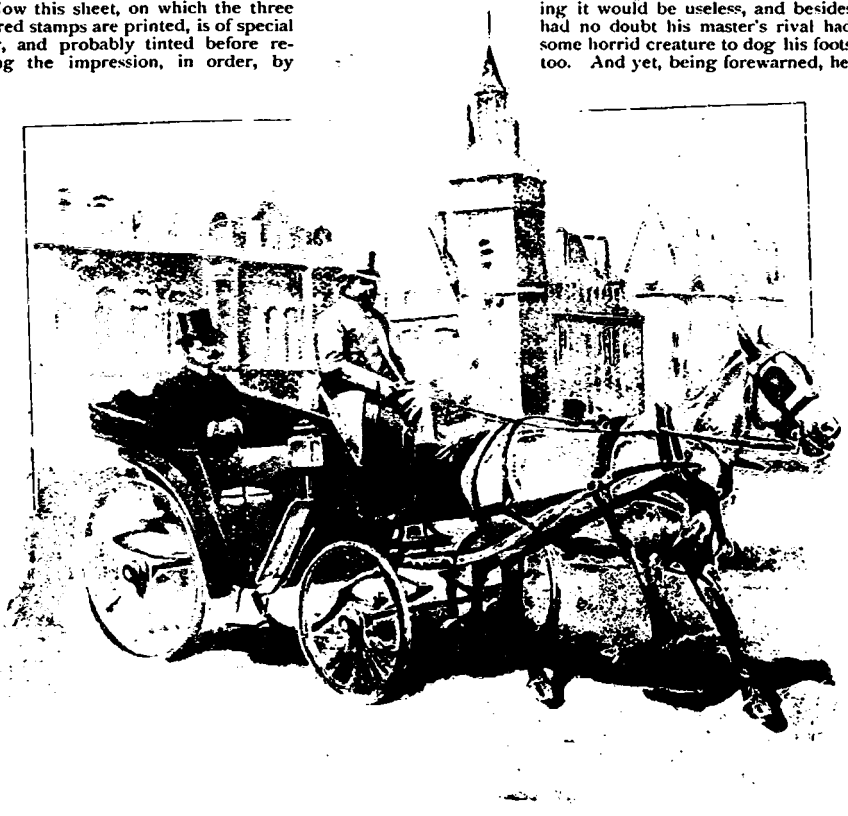
"It is indeed most curious and interesting," declared John, who, to tell the truth, had not been particularly well amused, "and I am not sorry to have got an idea how it is all done. But I'm rather in a hurry, so I shall be glad if you will tell me the time necessary for your work and the price you will charge for it."

After a moment's reflection M. Crabifosse said it would only cost a hundred and fifty francs, and that eight days would be sufficient to complete it.

"All right," said John, as he took his departure. "Be as quick as you can, but make a good job of it."

After this the days seemed to pass both slowly and wearily to William Keniss as well as to John. John would not go near M. Crabifosse, thinking it would be useless, and besides, he had no doubt his master's rival had set some horrid creature to dog his footsteps too. And yet, being forewarned, he was on the look-out continually when walking in the street, glancing to right, to left, before and behind him for the lurking shadows, and never able to discover any. But still he acted with great care and circumspection, for he saw how imprudent he would be did he not guard the secret of his business with the engraver in the Rue de Provence. So he thought it best to wait for the appointed day before going in search of his stamp, and he sent M. Crabifosse a letter to this effect, for fear he should wonder at his absence.

Nothing very interesting occurred to break the monotony of these few days. William, however little he allowed it to appear, felt a grudge against the girl who had acted in such a manner towards him; so, in spite of his longing to see her again—a feeling which he did not try to account for, drawing him instinctively towards her—he had the courage to show his displeasure by abstaining from a single visit to the Hotel



HE EXPLORED ALL THE WONDERS OF PARIS

Bristol. He feared, too, that in a moment of weakness he might let out the secret he was so anxious to keep.

Miss Betty took little notice of a treatment which she felt she had well deserved, and assured herself that, had she been in his place, she would have done something much worse. Happily for her, she was not one to whom solitude was a burden, even in a foreign land. The little American took advantage of this philatelic calm to extend her walks into the remotest nooks and corners of Paris. She was particularly attracted by the great national museums, and spent whole afternoons in the Louvre, the Luxembourg, and at Cluny, lost in admiration of the number of masterpieces, both ancient and modern, that she found there.

The Stamp King, who also knew nothing of Paris or its wonders, spent his time too in exploring them. But, as this sort of thing seemed likely to go on indefinitely, and as, knowing nothing of John's projects, he had not his reasons for patience, he began to look around for some possible end to the ridiculous situation. First he thought of sending his valet to Prince Albrandi, but a moment's reflection convinced him that this would not do, and that his only chance of success was to go himself.

(To be continued.)



CORRESPONDENCE

Unused *v.* Used Stamps

Mr. Heginbottom's Protest

I SEE in my *G.S.W.* an article on the old, old vexed question of "Unused *v.* Used" (page 327), and although I think this subject-matter of discussion has been pretty thoroughly discussed in the philatelic Press, I feel bound to reply to this article, because, like so many past ones on this topic, it lays special stress on the favour of collecting unused only.

All the more do I feel bound to reply, because, curiously enough, it happens that quite recently in correspondence with a personal friend of mine (an enlightened collector, and one well known and highly esteemed in philatelic circles), he makes to me the somewhat startling remark that I am unable to join the front ranks of Philately because I only collect postally used stamps. He writes me as follows: "What a pity you have such a strong view on unused! "But for this you might be joining hands with the "front rank to-day; as it is, your method of collection "will always bar you doing so." Now, in reply to this, permit me to say that, in the first place, I have not the slightest wish to join the front ranks of Philately, or become a Great Mogul; and, in the second place, if, in order to attain to this great honour (?), I shall have to collect unused stamps, not only in single specimens but in blocks, pairs, sheets, etc., then all the more do I repeat that it is my last wish to even endeavour to join the leading ranks. I fully admit that unused in some cases help Philately on more than used do, thus in cases of whole sheets of stamps in mint state, showing various types, etc. But the crux of my contention is that both classes are essential to true Philately. I fully admit unused, but I also admit that without used the former do not represent it, and it is this fact which many supporters of unused only don't admit.

Now it follows from my admission that both classes should be collected in order to form a complete philatelic collection of stamps, but here comes in the difficulty, namely, it would require a "Crœsus" to possess both unused as well as used stamps in their collections to approach anything like completeness; and in fact many earlier Colonials are unobtainable in mint state, even when one is willing to pay the money for them; and inasmuch as it is contended, I think, that a more complete collection of many countries can be made with used stamps than unused, does it not follow that to a collector of used only it is somewhat unfair to state that even if he happens to possess a complete or almost complete collection of stamps of a country, *ergo* he is for all that not able to enter into Philately's front ranks?

Mind you, I write entirely from non-personal

views. As before said, it matters not to me one iota whether I am considered a front-ranker or not. This is quite immaterial to me, as I know what I possess, and the difficulty I have and am experiencing in securing certain stamps postally used.

I write in support of the class to which I belong, namely, those collecting only postally used stamps.

This question of itself is bound to bring in the mixing up of unused and used at exhibitions.

Mr. E. W. Wetherell, in a past number of the *P.J. of India*, writes thus: "Prizes at exhibitions are "almost always given for collections rich in unused. "There should be two classes with prizes in each, and "both prizes should not be given for unused only. "The unused man claims that his collection represents "the stamps as issued. Yes, so it does, but the used "man shows his stamps as issued. He can show his "'ship letter' stamps, his trial oblits, his numbers "1 to 12 Maltese Cross oblits on the 1d. and 2d. of "Great Britain, his Irish and Scotch oblits, his early "Australians used in other States of the Common-"wealth, and his French and German stamps with "Colonial postmarks; further, his Alsace (war stamps), "with different towns, his Cubans used in Porto Rico "and the Philippines, his Pacific Steam Navigation "Company used for Peru, his Chilians used in "Iquique, his bisected stamps on originals, his Indians "used in Zanzibar, without surcharge, and forming "really the first provisionals issue of that State, his "Indian telegraphs used in Colombo—in fact, nine-"tenths of the interesting facts of Philately to which "the unused man is an outsider. I am not condemn-"ing unused stamps, but merely trying to prove that "there should be different classes, and these should "be kept apart as totally distinct stamps. The poor "unfortunate who collects used stamps is at present "far in the background, but let such collectors unite "and form a strong body, and as they must be in the "great majority they will come to the fore, and col-"lectors of used stamps will not always take a back "seat at exhibitions."

With Mr. Wetherell's views I heartily agree. I consider unused and used as different as chalk from cheese: one has done duty, the other not; and whilst not wishing for one moment to run down unused, on the other hand I strongly object to seeing used run down by their opponents. At least act fairly to both sides, and give the used portion the deference due to it.

Even no less an authority than the late Mr. Westoby wrote favouring used, for he says, "it is more useful in study."

There is ample room for both sections. Unused give us particulars as regards design and original gum, etc., a whole sheet gives us other details of types, etc.; but, on the other hand, the used give us details when first put into circulation, etc. Therefore surely the two classes help each other, and if used are not Philately without unused, then unused are not without used either; and since, as before said, it is almost impossible to have both approaching to completeness, surely the "halves," as it were, are true Philately, that is, either unused by itself, but surely also used by itself.

It is therefore not fair to say unused only possess any *locus standi* in our philatelic hobby. Whilst admitting unused look neat and clean, may I ask if we collect stamps simply for pleasure of gazing at nice clean copies? Are not stamps labels or tickets marked with a value to represent payment of a tax or rate imposed by, or to be paid to, a Government for services rendered?

Postage is virtually a tax, because the Government will not permit letters to be conveyed except through its own department (with a big "D"), for which conveyance a fixed charge is made, to be defrayed by means of stamps; so that until that service has been rendered, the stamp, as such, has not done its duty.

Finally, in allusion to the article in your issue just received, I see the used stamp is considered along with postmark collections. Only to a certain extent do I admit this fact. True, a used stamp must be obliterated or postmarked, but I don't consider myself a postmark collector, because the latter is one who collects postmarks entirely, apart from the question whether they be impressed upon the stamps themselves or not; whereas, as regards postally used stamps, the obliteration should, of course, be upon the stamp itself. Hence the difference between the two. I consider the article certainly amusing when it alludes to our "hopeless" case, etc., etc. If we collectors of used stamps cannot prove our case, surely the unused cannot prove theirs either for that matter. Therefore if neither of us can prove our cases, both are in the same "box," as it were.

I notice one thing, namely, that whilst we collectors of used are never so bitter against our unused brethren, and whilst we admit their good points *re* Philately, I am sorry to say they scarcely ever admit our good points, but do all they can to run our theories down, and because they have the wealth and so-called Great Moguls at their back; this is to my mind quite insufficient to cause this unfair action on their part. Apologising for troubling you, believe me,

Faithfully yours,

ERNEST HEGINBOTTOM, B.A

Open Letter to Mr. Imeson

WHILST one may respect you and enjoy to the full your quaint rhymes, one may certainly take exception to your article "Used or Unused," in which you seem to have called to your aid a little sophistry in support of what is your own inclination—the collecting of unused. Your remarks regarding the numismatist are hardly convincing. Is it not a poor comparison between the coin collector and the stamp collector? A coin is in circulation for some years, and does not bear after use any obliteration, whilst a stamp, once having fulfilled the purpose for which it was issued, cannot be used again. You then talk about the stamps which are postmarked to order. Are they any more to be boycotted than the unused postal emissions of such enterprising countries as Salvador and Nicaragua, which countries make repeated changes in their postage stamps, and sell the remainders to dealers? Would you prefer a set of 1861-2 Newfoundland used or unused? And what would you have to say about the 1899 issue of Persia, I wonder, which can be bought retail at under face, unused?

Why not collect used and unused both? Unless one specialises, "all is fish that comes to the net." But surely there is such a fund of intellectual pleasure to be gotten out of the pursuit of stamp collecting, without diving into the vexed question of unused and used, about which there will always be such wide and varied opinion.

As you are content to "sit on the fence," we beginners can dare to pelt you on your pedestal with our just indignation. Imagine us young 'uns collecting only unused! We should lunch each day on milk and a bun, and have to neglect our best girls.

Pah! Mr. Imeson, though we should not like to lose you from our *Weekly*, and though many of us are still running in the groove of inexperience, we are going to make you behave yourself. Even you, a seasoned philatelic veteran! How dare you try to make us dissatisfied with our growing collections of used! Fie, for shame!

C. RAYMOND MEGSON.

STANLEY GIBBONS PRICED CATALOGUE OF THE POSTAGE STAMPS OF THE WORLD.

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Stanley Gibbons, Ltd., 391, Strand, London, W.C.

THE STAMP MARKET

By AN ODD LOT

Gibbons Catalogue, Part II.

PART II. of Gibbons Catalogue, *i.e.* the Foreign Section, I am informed will not be ready till July at the earliest.

Meanwhile, as in the case of Part I., I am to be favoured with advanced proofs as they are passed for the press, and I have just received the first thirty-two pages, on which I have a few words to say in this number.

It would not be wise on my part to jump to conclusions on these few pages as to the general result of the completed work, but so far as they go, I may say they indicate a cautious but steady all-round rise of prices, with comparatively few reductions, and I should not be surprised if this early impression were borne out to the end.

It must not be forgotten that foreign stamps have for some years been under a cloud, and, in the opinion of many collectors, undeservedly so.

Europeans, more particularly, have suffered much in the matter of popularity, and last year prices were cut down with an unsparing hand. The consequence, I am told, was that in quite a number of countries a brisk sale sprang up, and not a few sorts were practically cleared of surplus stock that had been more or less dead stock for years. Hence, it is more than likely that the new Catalogue will show on most pages small advances in even fairly common stamps.

Some countries that have fouled their own nests with multitudinous issues made for sale to collectors are not likely to appreciate in value. They are wisely neglected by sane collectors. They have lost caste in the philatelic market, and though their gaudy rubbish may obtain for a time a ready sale amongst novices in stamp collecting, they are steadily qualifying for the philatelic refuse heap.

As knowledge spreads amongst our young collectors by means of *Gibbons Stamp Weekly* they will learn to distinguish between the good countries, whose stamps are a sound investment, and bankrupt countries, whose stamps are a snare and a delusion to the beginner.

In all the countries of the world there are few cleaner than those of Europe. For the advanced collector they have the charm of old issues stretching away back into the earliest days of postal issues, with numberless and genuine varieties. For the young collector they present the opportunity of series after series of used stamps priced at pence, to be had lightly cancelled for the trouble of patient searching. For instance, take the case of Austria. Nice copies of several values of its first issue of 1850 may still be had at 1d. each.

Argentine

THERE are many changes, but no sensational jumps up or down. The changes are almost entirely in the upward direction, but are represented by pence more often than by shillings.

The first issue of three values, which in their unused state have been represented by pence for many years, have at last reached a full-blown shilling: the 5 c. has been raised from 4d. to 6d., the 10 c. from 6d. to 8d., and the 15 c. from 6d. to 1s. The stamps of this issue, as everyone knows, are worth a great deal more used than unused, but the prices of the unused undergo no change in the new Gibbons. Some few years ago they stood at double their present quotations, and good copies should be well worth buying.

The 5 c. of 1861 has been advanced from 9d., unused, and 6s., used, to 1s. 3d. and 7s. 6d.

In the 1864 issue the 5 c., unused, has been dropped from 5s. to 4s., but the 15 c., unused, has been raised from 8s. 6d. to 10s.

In the 1873 series the 4 c., sepia, has gone up from 3d., unused, and 1d., used, to 6d. and 3d., but the 90 c., unused, of the same set has been dropped from 7s. 6d. to 6s.

The 1877 provisionals have all undergone some change. Here are the prices for 1904 and 1905:—

	1904		1905	
	s. d.	*s. d.*	*s. d.*	*s. d.*
1 c. on 5 c.	2 6	2 6	2 0	2 6
2 c. on 5 c.	12 6	12 6	15 0	12 6
8 c. on 10 c.	5 0	3 0	4 0	3 0

The high values of 1891 are also trending upwards:—

	1904		1905	
	s. d.	*s. d.*	*s. d.*	*s. d.*
1 peso	10 0	2 6	12 6	3 6
5 pesos	40 0	12 6	50 0	15 0
20 pesos	£5	50 0	£5	50 0

And the same may be said of the high values of 1892:—

	1904		1905	
	s. d.	*s. d.*	*s. d.*	*s. d.*
1 peso	25 0	1 6	30 0	1 6
5 pesos	20 0	1 6	25 0	2 0

Austria.

IN the thick-paper variety of the first issue of 1850 specialists will note a big drop in the 1 kr., orange, unused, from 75s. to 40s., but the 3 kr., unused, of the same series has gone up from 7s. 6d. to 10s.

In unused in the 1861 issue the 5 kr. has gone up from 2s. 6d. to 3s. 6d., the 10 kr. from 6s. to 10s., and the 15 kr. from 6s. to 10s.

The interesting issue of 1867, with its many well-defined shades, has undergone many changes:—

	1904		1905	
	s. d.	*s. d.*	*s. d.*	*s. d.*
2 kr., yellow	0 2	0 1	0 3	0 1
2 kr., orange-yellow	0 2	0 1	0 4	0 1
3 kr., green	0 3	0 1	0 3	0 1
3 kr., deep green	0 3	0 1	0 6	0 1
5 kr., rose	1 0	0 4	2 0	0 1
10 kr., blue	0 6	0 1	2 0	0 1
10 kr., deep blue	0 6	0 1	0 6	0 1
15 kr., deep brown	12 6	0 2	5 0	0 1
15 kr., bistre	1 9	0 2	4 0	0 2
15 kr., deep bistre	2 6	0 2	1 6	0 2
15 kr., bistre-brown	5 0	0 1	4 0	0 2
25 kr., purple	6 0	0 8	6 0	0 6
25 kr., deep lilac	3 6	0 4	1 3	0 6
25 kr., grey-lilac	3 6	0 1	1 3	0 1
50 kr., pink-brown	7 6	3 0	7 6	3 0
50 kr., brown	5 0	2 0	4 0	1 0

Hungary

A FEW advances have been made in the lithographed series of the first issue. The 2 kr., orange, unused, has gone up from 7s. 6d. to 10s., the 2 kr., pale green, from 40s. to 45s., and the 25 kr., so-called "red-lilac," otherwise mauve, from 35s. to 40s.

In the engraved series of 1871 the 10 kr., blue, unused, has been raised from 2s. 6d. to 4s.

EDITORIAL NOTES

"G. S. W." Bound Volumes.—*Gibbons Stamp Weekly* will be bound up in half-yearly volumes; consequently the present volume will be completed with the issue for Saturday, 24th June, 1905.

Our publishers have already ordered the covers for binding the volume, but do not propose to make binding covers for general sale, as they imagine there will not be sufficient sale to warrant the expense, as readers will probably prefer to have their volumes bound in their own way. If readers wish to have publishers' covers they had better write Messrs. Stanley Gibbons, Ltd., and say so.

Only a few bound volumes can be placed on sale, as our publishers have, in our opinion, too modestly estimated the number that is likely to be required. Therefore, copies should be ordered without delay.

Our Miscellaneous Page.—We wish to make *Gibbons Stamp Weekly* a storehouse of information, and shall therefore be glad of any cuttings of more or less permanent interest for our "Miscellaneous" page. Source and date of cutting must be given.

Editorial Communications.—All communications intended for the Editor should be addressed to Edward J. Nankivell, Carnanton, Camden Park, Tunbridge Wells.

Philatelic Societies.—We wish to make a special feature of the prompt publication of the reports of Philatelic Societies, and trust we may have the kindly co-operation of the honorary secretaries in this matter. Reports should be written on one side of the paper, and despatched to the Editor by the earliest post.

Special Correspondence.—The Editor will be glad to receive interesting letters from philatelic centres not already covered by our arrangements. We want chatty and newsy letters on matters of interest to the general collector, and excluding all matter of interest only to the specialist.

Subscriptions.—Subscriptions must be sent to the publishers as set out on the front page of cover, or to booksellers or railway bookstalls, but never to the Editor.

OUR PHILATELIC DIARY

JUNE, 1905

19. Auction: Hadlow, Covent Garden Hotel, London. 5 p.m.
20 & 21. Auction: Plumridge, 64, Chancery Lane, London. 4.45 p.m.
29 & 30. Auction: Glendining, 7, Argyll Street, London. 4.30 p.m.

BRITISH AFRICA POSTAGE STAMP ALBUM.

Owing to the fact that the war in South Africa has caused great attention to be drawn to the stamps of the British Possessions on that continent, and to the enormous increase in the number of collectors that has ensued from the issue of the War Provisionals in Mafeking, Bloemfontein, Pretoria, etc., we think this a good time at which to place before the public a new and very complete Album, designed for the British Possessions, etc., on the African Continent. The Album is designed upon the well-known plan of the Imperial Albums—the stamps in numbered spaces of the correct sizes on the right-hand page, and the description, full particulars, and illustrations on the opposite page. In order to make this a *permanent* Album we have provided from one to four blank pages *after each country*, thus making the Album available for the issues of many years to come. 220 pages. Size, 8¾ × 11½ inches. Post-free in Great Britain, 10s. 7d.

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17 June, 1905.

Gibbons Stamp Weekly

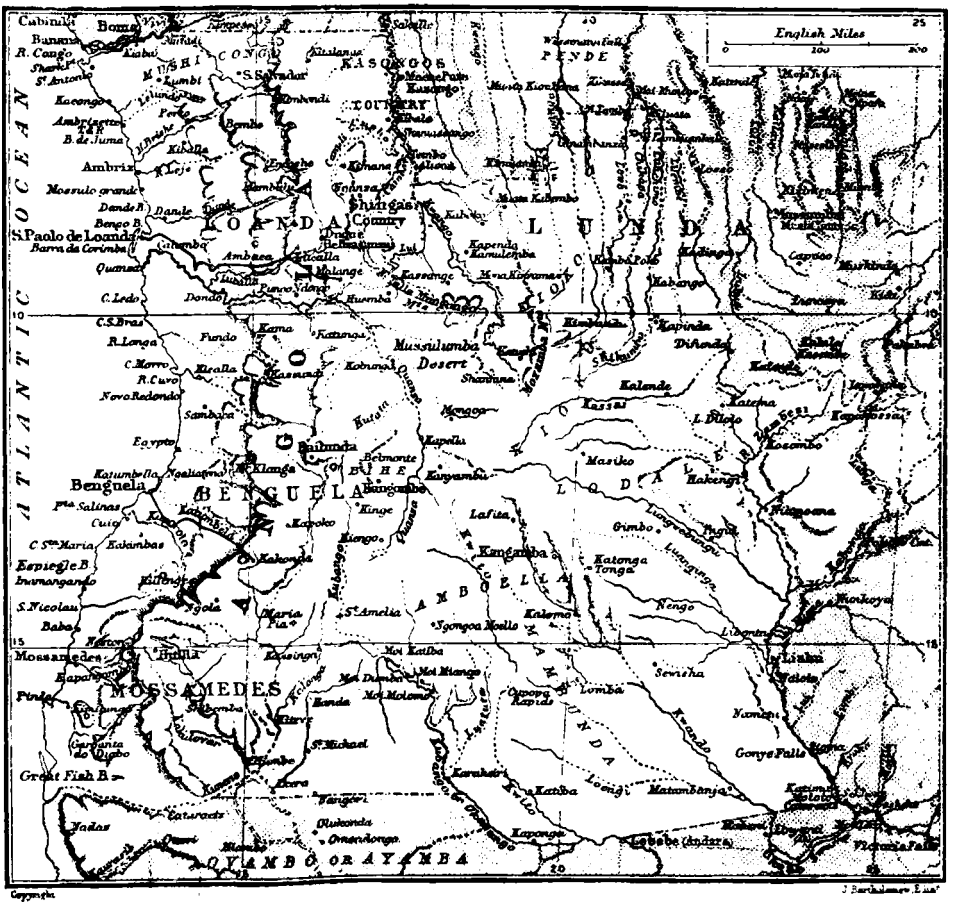
EDITED BY EDWARD J. NANKIVELL

No. 25 | 24 JUNE, 1905 | Vol. I.

THE COUNTRIES OF THE WORLD

By EDWARD J. NANKIVELL

Angola


ATLANTIC OCEAN
ANGOLA
BENGUELA
MOSSAMEDES
LUNDA
LOANDA
BIHE
LOBALE
LUIANA
CASSANGE
QUIMBUNDO
QUIBALA
QUIYAMBO
ORAYAMBA
English Miles
Boma
Banana
R. Congo
Cabinda
S. Paulo de Loanda
Benguela
Mossamedes
Great Fish B.
Bembe
Ambriz
Dondo
Pungo Andongo
Massanato
Mussulumba Desert
Kasongo
Kimbundo
Kapinda
Kalonde
Kassai
Kamgamba
Lafita
Katonga
Tonga
Gimbo
Nengo
Mokoya
Lisbon
Victoria Falls
Gonye Falls
Nambi
Semitha
Lomba
Matombanja
Loengi
Kasandi
Kambolo
Kattiba
Mai Katiba
Mai Mango
Mai Dumbo
Mai Molemba
Mai Kalemba
Mai Kalunga
Mai Kalonga
Mai Kalonga
Mai Kalon

from the Congo to the river Cunene. On the north it is fringed by the French Congo and the Congo Free State, and the Free State is also its boundary on the east. On the south it is bounded by German South-West Africa, and on the south-east by British Central Africa.

Its area is about 490,000 square miles, and the population is variously estimated at from two to five millions of natives, and about 12,000 to 15,000 whites.

The colony is governed by a Governor-General resident at Loanda. It is under the same laws as Portugal. It sends two deputies to the Portuguese Parliament, the colonies being treated as an integral part of the mother-country. The natives have the same legal standing, and the same right to vote, as the whites.

The capital is Sao Paulo de Loanda, usually called Loanda. Other towns of importance are Cobinda, in the Congo district, Ambriz, Benguela, and Mossamedes, all on the coast.

Angola was discovered by the Portuguese explorers in the fifteenth century; Dias sailed along the whole coast in 1486, and by the beginning of the sixteenth century the Portuguese had established important settlements along the coast.

Its Philatelic History

Attempts at a postal service are said to have been made as early as 1849, but it was not till 1871 that the first postage stamp was issued. It inaugurated a regular postal organisation in response to a petition from the traders of the colony, who were dissatisfied with the more or less unsatisfactory methods for the distribution of letters that preceded the first issue of postage stamps.

The first stamp was one of similar design to that prepared and issued for St. Thomas and Prince Islands a couple of years previously. It bore the Royal Crown in the centre, the name of the colony at the top, and the value at the foot. In 1880–5 the type was retained, but the colours were changed. In 1887 the design was changed to one having a profile of Dom Luis, then King of Portugal, embossed on white ground. In 1893 the portrait of Dom Luis gave place to one of Dom Carlos, who had succeeded his father in 1889. Another change of design, but retaining the same portrait, took place in 1898, and this last is still current.

1870–1. Eight values, of Crown design, engraved and printed at Lisbon, and sent to Loanda, where they are said to have arrived about the end of 1870. Perforated.



1870–1

Crown Design.

Perf.	Unused. s.	d.	Used. s.	d.
5 reis, black	0	8	—	
10 ,, orange	2	6	2	6
20 ,, bistre	1	0	—	
25 ,, red	2	0	—	
40 ,, blue	7	6	7	6
50 ,, green	3	6	2	0
100 ,, lilac	2	0	1	6
200 ,, orange-vermilion	0	6	2	6
300 ,, brown	2	0	2	0

1880–5. Same design, but the colours of several of the values were changed. Perforated.

1880–5.

Colours changed.

Perf.	Unused. s.	d.	Used. s.	d.
10 reis, green	0	4	0	9
20 ,, rosine	0	2	0	9
25 ,, violet	0	3	0	6
40 ,, yellow	0	6	0	2
50 ,, blue	0	6	0	6

1886. Nine values. Portrait of Dom Luis, the reigning King of Portugal, and a further change of colours. Perforated.



1886.

Portrait of Dom Luis.

Perf.	Unused. s.	d.	Used. s.	d.
5 reis, black	0	2	0	2
10 ,, green	0	2	—	
20 ,, rosine	1	6	—	
25 ,, mauve	0	4	0	2
40 ,, chocolate	1	0	—	
50 ,, blue	0	9	0	1
100 ,, brown	1	6	0	9
200 ,, lilac	2	6	2	6
300 ,, orange	3	6	3	6

1893-4. Thirteen values. Portrait of Dom Carlos, the present King of Portugal, for all values except the 2½ reis. For the 2½ reis, which was added for newspaper postage, a stamp of special design was provided, having the name of the colony in bold letters across the stamp diagonally, from the lower left corner to the right-hand top corner. Perforated.





1893-4. *Portrait of Dom Carlos.*

Perf.	Unused. s. d.	Used. s. d.
2½ reis, brown	0 1	—
5 ,, yellow	0 1	0 3
10 ,, mauve	0 2	0 2
15 ,, chocolate	—	—
20 ,, lavender	0 3	0 2
25 ,, green	0 4	0 2
50 ,, blue	0 6	0 5
75 ,, carmine	0 8	—
80 ,, violet	0 9	0 9
100 ,, blue on blue	0 10	1 0
150 ,, brown on buff	1 6	—
200 ,, mauve on flesh	1 9	—
300 ,, blue on rose	2 6	—

1894. The supply of 25 reis having evidently run short, a provisional was made by surcharging a number of the newspaper stamps of 2½ reis, in blue, with a postmark-like circular device, with the words CORREIOS DE ANGOLA and the new value, 25 REIS.



1894. Provisional.

Perf.	Unused. s. d.	Used. s. d.
25 reis on 2½ reis, brown	—	25 0

1898. Portrait of Dom Carlos, design changed and elaborated. A series of fifteen values, many changed in colour. The name and value printed separately in black, on the 500 reis in red. Perforated.



1898.

Portrait of Dom Carlos. New design and changes of colour.

Perf.	Unused. s. d.	Used. s. d.
2½ reis, grey	0 1	0 1
5 ,, orange-red	0 1	0 1
10 ,, green	0 1	0 2
15 ,, chocolate	0 2	0 2
20 ,, purple	0 2	0 1
25 ,, blue-green	0 3	0 1
50 ,, blue	0 5	0 1
75 ,, rose	0 7	0 7
80 ,, violet	0 8	—
100 ,, blue on blue	0 10	0 2
150 ,, brown on buff	1 3	—
200 ,, mauve on flesh	1 8	0 9
300 ,, blue on rose	2 6	1 0
500 ,, black on azure	—	—
700 ,, lilac on yellow	—	—

1902-3. Provisionals. Various surcharges on obsolete stamps to provide four new values of 65 reis, 115 reis, 130 reis, and 400 reis.

1902-3. Provisionals.

Perf.

65 reis on	40 reis,	chocolate,	of 1886.
65 ,,	300 ,,	orange	,,
65 ,,	10 ,,	mauve,	of 1894.
65 ,,	20 ,,	lavender	,,
65 ,,	25 ,,	green	,,
115 ,,	10 ,,	,,	of 1886.
115 ,,	200 ,,	lilac	,,
115 ,,	80 ,,	green,	of 1894.
115 ,,	100 ,,	brown on buff,	of 1894.
115 ,,	150 ,,	carmine on rose	,,
130 ,,	50 ,,	blue,	of 1886.
130 ,,	100 ,,	brown	,,
130 ,,	15 ,,	,,	1894.
130 ,,	75 ,,	carmine	,,
130 ,,	300 ,,	buff	,,
400 ,,	5 ,,	black,	of 1886.
400 ,,	20 ,,	carmine	,,
400 ,,	25 ,,	violet	,,
400 ,,	40 ,,	chocolate	,,
400 ,,	2½ ,,	brown,	of 1893.
400 ,,	50 ,,	blue,	of 1894.
400 ,,	200 ,,	blue on blue,	of 1894.

1903. Same type as the 1898 series. Eight values—the 15 reis, 25 reis, 50 reis, and 75 reis changed in colour, and four new values, 65 reis, 115 reis, 130 reis, and 400 reis.

1903. *Same design as* 1898.

Perf.

	Unused. s. d.	Used. s. d.
15 reis, green		
25 ,, carmine		
50 ,, brown		
65 ,, blue		
75 ,, mauve		
115 ,, salmon on rose		
130 ,, bistre on carmine		
400 ,, blue ,,		

(To be continued.)

MY EXPERIENCE AS A COLLECTOR

By JOHN CLEMENTS

IT may be of some interest to the readers of the *Stamp Weekly* to peruse an account of the experience of a quite ordinary stamp collector from boyhood to (well, it is best to be open and confess) middle age. Unlike many of my readers, I had not the advantage of a public or boarding-school education, but attended an elementary school in London, which, although it has done good work for several generations, will hardly pass the severe tests of the London County Council. Here the scope for stamp collecting was very limited, but in the upper class and among the members of the choir of the parish church were one or two boys who collected in a somewhat dilatory fashion. An occasional deal was made in exchanging, and sometimes, funds permitting, visits were paid to tuck-shops and old curiosity establishments (charming mixture!), in each of which stamps, like poor little timid strangers, were exposed for sale. Thus by a gradual process my collection amounted to a hundred or two, when there appeared on the scene a boy for whom I soon entertained an unbounded affection. We soon began to be very chummy, and his home and my own were interchangeable places. Sometimes, of course, we vowed eternal friendship, and sometimes we were at daggers drawn. It was probably after one of these "lovers' quarrels" that I offered at his shrine my first collection of stamps. He accepted the peace-offering, and—little wretch!—proceeded in the course of a few days to exchange my collection, which had cost me much labour, and (for me) much money too, for a paltry toy—a bat or ball, with the added bribe of, perchance, a bag of brandy balls or acid drops. Thus disappeared my first collection.

Then I was bitten with the "coin fever," and, together with another companion, searched London over—the City, Islington, Westminster, etc. etc., returning home with various battered and green bronze medals, which were declared to be "dangerous rubbish." It was in one of my visits in search of this vile metal that I was tempted to return to my first love—stamps; and since that day I have been a keen and interested collector.

My whole-hearted return to my "first love" was in this wise. I had left school and entered the office of a City publisher in the region of St. Paul's Cathedral. Here among the correspondence an occasional foreign letter appeared, and I, having access to these, placed the stamps aside until I had obtained quite a nice number, among them an unused 1s. embossed English, some Gambia embossed C C, some unused South Australia, and a lovely ½d. olive-yellow Gold Coast C A, with a red postmark, etc. Thus my thirst for more was encouraged, and upon receiving the gift of 2s. 6d. for extra service performed, I spent the whole sum in one gigantic plunge, and became the proud possessor of a packet containing 100 stamps. Think of that! A hundred at one swoop! Then (no wonder stamp dealers flourish!) I bought an album, and afterwards was continually spending on small packets any pence I could scrape together. And in those days they *were* packets—one nice stamp outside, and—well, it is best not to name the contents, their memory is altogether too painful; they are mostly resting quietly in the region of limbo.

I will not weary my readers with all my experiences, only to say that, like other geese, I was often "had." I have to-day visions of a heap of stamps with a sprinkling of decent issues on the top and a heap of rubbish underneath, which I purchased for (for me) a large price of a dealer who shall be nameless; also of a pretty lot of stamps mounted in a circle on a nice card, really good stamps, for which I paid 10s. (ten shillings!!!). Alas! when I placed the stamps in a bowl of water and eagerly watched them as they floated to the surface, I discovered they were ALL cornered and torn—very much so! The gentleman(?) who had mounted them had carefully and cleverly, by a series of lappings and overlappings, neatly hidden all defects.

But against these losses I can place

many gains, and these soon required a new album in which to be shown to advantage. I thus approached the stage of my collecting which I call "the German picture gallery, supplying useful information, stage," in which I obtained for a reasonable sum an album containing the name of the King, of his principal city, the number of inhabitants, etc., together with quite a grand display of specimens of stamps like the views of the "Lord Mayor's Show," highly coloured in best German style. Let me not laugh inordinately at this old album. I obtained from it much pleasure, and turned its leaves over frequently until they became quite discoloured, and I had to fix on another album, namely, the "Imperial," for the permanent home for my stamps.

To-day my collection numbers between six and seven thousand, nearly one-half being stamps of the British Empire, many of them (though *I* say it who didn't ought) quite nice stuff, and these have been gathered from different sources at a really small expense.

You see, it is in this way. Not having overmuch money to spare for hobbies, I had to scheme and plan how I could justly manage from time to time to add to my store. I concluded that some luxuries would have to go, and go they did, among others riding. I lived within walking distance of the City, and I reckoned that if by an exercise of my will and legs I walked instead of rode, I could save quite a nice sum each year. This I did, and quite religiously! have added that sum to other moneys, and as a result I possess to-day a collection which is quite a valuable asset. I mention the money value, and often the increasing value of a collection, but I by no means place this first. It is quite true that were I quite hard up and absolutely in want of ready money, I could "raise the wind" by disposing of my album. (Perish the thought!) Still, I think it is unwise to make too much of the money aspect of collecting.

To lads and young people the collecting of stamps gives an enlarged horizon. They cannot handle the stamps of foreign countries without in some measure being interested in these countries; and as they read books and papers, they naturally take a keener interest in the affairs of those places made familiar to them by the stamps they hold.

Nor is this all. As life proceeds we cannot help finding that in the keen competition of business and profession alike, much is taken daily out of us, and at least sometimes we return home jaded and worn out. It is just then that a hobby steps in and helps to re-create us, and I readily bear witness to the fact that whatever of trouble and money my collection has cost me, I have been amply repaid in the pleasure and rest I have obtained in my evenings at home with my albums.

In my case my example has been followed by my children, who all collect. Sometimes in a winter's evening, when they are too boisterous, I have but to say, "Boys and girls, I have some more stamps for you!" and heigh, presto! quietness reigns, and we are soon busy over our albums. The last addition to my little lot has been *the £5 worth which I was fortunate enough* to secure in the late competition. This enabled me to add some really good King's Head singles to my collection, and I readily tender to the publishers my thanks for the prompt and kindly way in which they met my demands on that occasion.

To conclude, let me say:—

1. Collect anything you can. No one can say what country will be popular in a few years' time. When older, and you have more cash to spare, you may be led to specialise in one direction or another. DON'T heed those who say (quite inconsistently, though), "You should avoid perforations and watermarks." Much of the pleasure, certainly much of *the profit* of collecting, would pass away if this advice were followed.

2. Buy always of respectable dealers. The stamps hawked about in shoals, heavily postmarked and damaged, are worthless and disfigure a collection. Better a small collection of good specimens than any number of bad ones.

3. Worry your uncle who is "in business in the City," your aunt "who has gone abroad," your schoolfellow "who is spending his vacation on the Continent," to send you stamps. Remember, although you may be voted a bore, the possibility is they will send you some, and your persistence may cause them to take an interest in stamp collecting themselves, and thus you will gain recruits to the number of those who find in Philately a hobby which, while it hurts none, certainly does good to many.

GOSSIP OF THE HOUR

By CORNELIUS WRINKLE

A Surprise in Multiples

WE did not expect to get any Queen's Heads on the multiple CA paper, but it seems that we are to have a surprise in that way from Jamaica in the shape of the still current 3d. Queen's Head.



This selfsame 3d. was first issued away back in 1863, and so far as the design is concerned has remained in use ever since. The only changes which it has undergone are those of watermark, for even in colour, except as to shades, it remains unchanged.

In 1863 it was watermarked with the Pineapple, the watermark of the first issue of the colony. Then in the 1871-2 series the watermark was changed to Crown CC, and in 1886 to Crown CA.

The Badges again

HERE is an interesting contribution to the badges question by Miss Amy L. Swift, a well-known philatelic writer of the United States.

But I cannot forbear the comment that Miss Swift's kind of criticism might be used against any and every possible suggestion. The difficulty is the absence of any general design that shall be international without being in any sense national. Possibly in the absence of any workable suggestion we British collectors may adopt the latest idea of a Star and CC for our own wear.

Don't you think, O Sire Wrinkle (or wouldn't you if you gave the matter solemn consideration?), that your own very apparent preference for the Crown CC or CA watermark as a badge design is rather blinding you to the objections and good suggestions offered by those who are unfortunate enough to see differently? Really, it looks a little that way. A philatelic badge, to be of actual value, should be something that can be universally adopted; so it seems a bit unreasonable to expect that the whole stamp world will wear the watermark of one country, or group of countries under one ruler, as an international philatelic emblem. Now does it not, friend, please?

Here in America that badge would have very little force. We are amateur-photography mad here, and would certainly be apt to consider it the badge of the clan, meaning Camera Club, Camera Cranks, Camera Association, Camera Amateurs, or something similar. There are numerous such clubs scattered thickly all over the States from Atlantic to Pacific, and as amateur photography has invaded most civilised countries with about equal ardour, making more converts, in proportion to the population, than stamps have done, I think the opportunity for misunderstanding those mystic initials makes a serious objection to their use. Even the Crown would not always save the day, especially as there is at least one Crown Camera Club (or Association, I forget which), the members whereof are bound to use Crown plates.

Speaking from the feminine side of human nature, a side which you, O Sire Wrinkle, may be pardoned for not comprehending, allow me to state another objection. We women folks will not wear freely anything which is so glaringly a *badge* as the Crown CC would be. Give us something which can be recognised *as* a badge by the initiated only, being to the rest of the world merely a pretty ornament, and we will buy and wear it, but we will not wear ordinarily anything apt to excite curious comment and needing explanations. Many a gentleman feels the same way, and probably the main reason why all earlier attempts to popularise a stamp badge have failed is due to this feeling. We will tolerate almost everything at convention gatherings, etc., but for common everyday wear the thing to succeed must be unobtrusive, and alike suitable for Europe, Asia, Africa, Australia, North America, South America, all the islands pertaining thereto, and all the languages spoken thereupon.

A small globe set in a frame after the style of those seen in schools might be selected, the globe to be engraved with all the continents, and as much more as there was room for, and so placed that any country preferred might be turned outward; material to be of gold, silver, or enamel (set in a gold or silver frame), with the engraving in a contrasting colour. The lack of any local design, watermark, or so on, would make it suitable for service in all countries, as would also the lack of inscriptions which, if otherwise satisfactory, would make one language more prominent than others, although if inscriptions were desired they would be placed upon the frame, and varied to suit the wearer, it being understood always that the real *emblem*, the international emblem, was the globe. You may object that this design savours of the school and school teaching, but as we are always talking about how Philately educates its adherents, that should hardly count against its other good points.

I am no artist, so am unable to submit a sketch of my idea, but those who know about the making of such things tell me the plan is feasible, and that a very pretty piece of jewellery could be thus produced. If, Sire Wrinkle, you think otherwise, please don't be scornful, and remember we of foreign birth need badges too, even if we do not admire the Camera Club initials as devoutly as you Britons.

Cordially yours for an international emblem worthy of the name,

(Miss) AMY L. SWIFT.

WHITMAN, MASS., U.S.A.,
May 29, 1905.

SPECIAL BARGAINS
FOR *G. S. W.* READERS

OUR Publishers propose to set apart this page for the offer of Special Bargains to "G. S. W." readers.

In the course of business there comes frequently the opportunity of buying large parcels of comparatively scarce stamps at bargain rates.

Hitherto such purchases have been added to stock, and have generally resulted in the reduction of the Catalogue quotations.

In future, instead of being added to stock, they will be offered as Special Bargains to our readers.

These special offers will be open for one week only from the date of the number in which they appear. After the expiration of a week the stamps will be supplied at the regular rates only, and, in the majority of cases, the Catalogue prices will be maintained, instead of being reduced, as hitherto, as the result of the purchase of bargain parcels.

Foreign and Colonial readers will be supplied with these bargains if they despatch their orders within one week of receipt of the number containing the offer.

ED. "*G. S. W.*"

OUR FOURTH SPECIAL OFFER

is as follows:—

GERMAN EMPIRE

Official Stamps for the Kingdom of Prussia



1903. OBSOLETE

2 (pf.),		grey.
3	,,	brown.
5	,,	green.
10	,,	carmine.
20	,,	ultramarine.
25	,,	black and orange on yellow.
40	,,	,, carmine.
50	,,	,, lilac and buff.

Set of eight, unused and with full gum.

Price 1s. per set, post-free.

NOTE.—In 1903 the postal authorities of the Kingdom of Prussia issued the above set of stamps to frank official correspondence, in order that the amount of postage of various departments might be calculated.

These stamps were not allowed to be sold in an unused condition during the year in which they were available, but they are now obsolete, and the Prussian Government have sold the remainder, of which we have secured a portion, which we offer to readers of *G. S. W.* at the above very low price.

STANLEY GIBBONS, LIMITED,
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BRITISH AFRICA POSTAGE STAMP ALBUM.

Owing to the fact that the war in South Africa has caused great attention to be drawn to the stamps of the British Possessions on that continent, and to the enormous increase in the number of collectors that has ensued from the issue of the War Provisionals in Mafeking, Bloemfontein, Pretoria, etc., we think this a good time at which to place before the public a new and very complete Album, designed for the British Possessions, etc., on the African Continent. The Album is designed upon the well-known plan of the Imperial Albums—the stamps in numbered spaces of the correct sizes on the right-hand page, and the description, full particulars, and illustrations on the opposite page. In order to make this a *permanent* Album we have provided from one to four blank pages *after each country*, thus making the Album available for the issues of many years to come. 220 pages. Size, 8¾ × 11½ inches. Post-free in Great Britain, 10s. 7d.

Stanley Gibbons, Ltd., 391, Strand, London, W.C.

MISCELLANEOUS

Collecting "On Service Stamps"

MY friend, Jones, told me the tale, and it is a true one. Jones' estate was on the boundary of two provinces, let us say U. and S. One day Jones (whose estate was in S. Province) received a letter from the G.A., U. Province, asking him to send in his quarterly returns for nineteen quarters. He replied, "Why?" Back came the answer, "Because you must, under the Ordinance." He replied, "What Ordinance?" Answer: "Ordinance No. 11 of 65." Reply: "No, surely not." Answer enclosing copy of some folios of the Ordinance with a request that they be read and returns forwarded *statim*. Reply: "Mr. Jones regretted that, after a perusal, he failed to see," etc. The next letter read that Mr. Jones was the polite for a blockhead, and enclosed more folios with particular parts underlined in red ink.

Upon more regrets being expressed, always on post cards, Mr. Jones was threatened with legal proceedings, and he then asked the Government Agent to choose a tennis-day, so that a half-day of business could be combined with the balance of pleasure. And here the fun nearly ended. Alas! the D.M.O. was instructed to prosecute, and he had to inform the Government Agent that Mr. Jones was not in his province. The matter would have then closed, except that Jones, hearing of the dilemma, wrote, still on a post card, asking when the case would be fixed, as he didn't wish to miss it. The affair closed with the two following missives:—

Government Agent to Jones: "Case is off, and I fail to understand why you have carried on this senseless correspondence when a reply to the effect that your quarterly returns were regularly sent to S. Province would have ended the matter eight months ago."

Answer: "Sir, in reply to your letter No. B.F. 64,031, I have the honour to explain that my reason for continuing the correspondence is summed up in the fact that my sister collects 'On Service Stamps.' Your fat packages delighted her."—*Daily Paper.*

Postage Stamp as Advertisement

THE Post Office authorities have thought fit to put a check upon the advertising originality of Mr. Hudson, a Southport stationer, who has erected at a prominent corner a signboard which is an enlarged facsimile of a post card, drawing attention to the address of his shop. Mr. Hudson received a communication from the Postmaster-General ordering the removal of the sign or the obliteration of the King's head, pointing out that under Section VII. of the Post Office Protection Act the reproduction of a postage stamp for advertising purposes is contrary to law.—*Daily Mail.*

Insult on a Stamp

FULL of indignation, a pedlar appeared before the Bangor Bench recently with a complaint that he had received through the post a parcel with stamps endorsed "You are a hass." "As the sentence was written on stamps which contained a picture of the King of England," he said, "I want to know whether the 'you' referred to me or the King." (Laughter.) He suggested that the insult was perpetrated while the parcel was in transit. The Bench advised him to interview the local postmaster.—*Daily Mail.*

The Cheapest Post Office in the World

A CORRESPONDENT, H. H., sends us extracts from the report of the Hon. Noel Trotter, the Postmaster-General at Singapore, to show that the Straits Settlements has the cheapest Post Office in the world:—"Post cards available in the colony and to the Federated Malay States are sold at one-fifth of a penny each, the letter rate of postage throughout the same area is slightly over a halfpenny; the postage on letters to any place (with very few exceptions) in the British Empire is four-fifths of a penny per ½ oz.; up to 2 oz. of printed matter can be sent to any part of the civilised world for one-fifth of a penny, and 10 oz. for a penny, which is absolutely the cheapest international postage I have ever heard of. Thus a letter and a newspaper can be mailed hence to almost any part of the Empire at a total cost of a penny. Our registration fee of one penny is without parallel for cheapness; most other countries charge 2d. or 2½d.; we carry and register up to $20 a parcel up to 11 lb. in weight to any part of the colony or the Federated Malay States for 13d., and convey parcels to the same limit of weight to the United Kingdom for 2s. 4d. each, the charge from there being 3s.; and we carry Chinese coolies' letters in clubbed packets to China at the rate of a little over two a penny. . . . It will be seen from an accompanying return that during the year under review 10,990,465 articles were received and despatched, as compared with 8,068,788 articles in 1899, the increase being about 36 per cent."—*The Times.*

He Got his Stamps

A GENTLEMAN went to a post office in a certain town and called for 100 penny stamps, tendering in payment 100 pennies.

"Those are not legal tender in any such amounts," growled the clerk. "I refuse to accept them."

"You do, eh?" answered the gentleman. "Well, then, give me one stamp," at the same time pushing forward a penny.

The stamp was forthcoming.

"Now give me a stamp."

He got it.

"Another stamp. Now another."

"Look here," said the clerk, "how many stamps do you want? You are keeping people waiting."

"Oh! I always keep within the law," responded the gentleman. "Another stamp, please. Pennies are not legal tender in large amounts. Another stamp."

And he purchased stamps, one at a time, till he got his hundred. But the clerk was cured. Pennies are legal tender at his counter now in cart-loads.

Smith's Weekly.

German Girls' Dot

A POSTAGE stamp in value about 2½d. is pasted each week in a little blank book which every servant-girl in Germany possesses. The stamp is the donation of her mistress, enforced by law. Should the girl get ill, the stamps are redeemed by the Government, or she may keep them until she is old, when the Government pays their face value.—*Manchester Evening News.*

Scraps

FOR some time camels have been used in the Gordonia district of Cape Colony for the conveyance of mails, and the experiment has proved so successful that the postal authorities at Cape Town propose its extension. At present five of these beasts of burden are employed in traversing that difficult stretch of country.

A SPALDING lady, Miss Tenney, of Hall Place, has recently received the leaf of a tree from a friend in New Zealand. It travelled as a post card, with a message on the back, and reached Spalding in good condition, thus bearing excellent testimony to the care of the postal authorities.

A FIFE postmaster has had the pleasure of safely delivering the smallest letter which he has ever heard of. It consisted merely of a penny postage stamp with the address written on the gummed side.

THE STAMP KING

By G. DE BEAUREGARD AND H. DE GORSSE

Translated from the French by EDITH C. PHILLIPS

CHAPTER XII (*continued*)

Showing how lost time is sometimes merely time gained

THEN, still in very bad humour, he tried little experiments. He observed that the Terminus Hotel had several exits—one leading into the Rue St. Lazare, another into the station, and a third into the Salle des Pas-Perdus. There were, then, three ways by which he might escape, and, with a little caution, rid himself of the exasperating watchfulness of his two spies. He tried these doors, one after the other; but from whichever one he issued, there, within a few steps, were M. Picquoiseau's two agents. They were not always the same ones, for extra men had been appointed to watch the three exits, but they were all very much alike, having a sort of family resemblance.

The unfortunate man took this good-humouredly at first, thinking he might be able to dispose of his "followers" on the way. With this idea he visited all the churches, museums, and large shops which he knew had several exits, and might have been seen at any of these places dodging in and out, doubling and turning in the hope of baffling his indomitable persecutors.

This lasted for two days and was just so much loss of time, and then William began to be really angry, for which he had, perhaps, some excuse. It cost him a great effort on several occasions to restrain himself from rushing upon the spies and giving them a good thrashing with his cane. Only what good would it have done? A crowd would have formed, and he would have had to appear before some police commissioner and give an explanation. When it came to that no doubt M. Picquoiseau's agents would find some difficulty in their turn in explaining why they were shadowing him with such indelicate persistence, but in all probability they would simply deny the fact altogether, in which case it would be William Keniss who would be convicted of unjustifiable assault. So to act in that way would be simple madness.

Then William considered whether it would be possible to buy off the spies, who, two by two, formed such an admirable escort. Such men could not possibly possess very strict consciences, and would certainly not refuse to be bought if the price were only high enough. But there was one grave danger in the way, even supposing the transaction were not seen by the director of the agency to which the six individuals belonged, and this was the fact that the director might have set a spy upon his spies, who would inform him of their treason, when the six faithless agents would be immediately replaced by six fresh ones, whom he would have to "buy" like the first. At this little game he risked losing not only money but time, which might be better employed.

Then, in exasperation, the idea of a disguise occurred to him. John was sent in search of a hairdresser in the neighbourhood, who was a specialist in this line, and who dressed him up in a wig and a grey beard, which, in conjunction with a pair of blue spectacles to hide the brightness of his eyes, and a long overcoat, for which he sent to a tailor in the Quartier Latin, and which completely covered his own elegant outfit, gave him the appearance of a venerable old savant or professor. Thus made up William Keniss thought himself unrecognisable, and was fully persuaded that he could pass without any suspicion under the eyes of the two wretches who were waiting for him at the door. But the poor fellow knew little of the men with whom he had to deal, nor of how they were trained to detect any possible deceit or fraud.

Scarcely had he taken a step outside before he discovered that the two spies, without a moment's hesitation, but with a little smile that was not habitual to them, were again on his track. So, to avoid looking more of a fool than he could help, the unhappy William hailed a fiacre and, followed at a little distance by another, drove for an hour through the streets of Paris before daring to return to his hotel. The next day and the day after, first in light whiskers and then in dark ones, the young American renewed the experiment. But each time, in spite of all his efforts and a carefully-thought-out costume, the detectives kept on the scent and stuck to him like leeches.

William Keniss was at last convinced that one of M. Picquoiseau's agents must have procured a situation in the Terminus Hotel, where he could keep a special watch on the corridor in which his rooms were, and give the others precise information of all his



THE DISGUISES

movements; for, however cleverly he might be disguised, he had only to turn his head as soon as he got into the street to perceive the two bloodhounds on his track. Then it occurred to the unhappy William, somewhat late in the day, that Miss Betty was being kept informed of all his acts and doings, and that she could not therefore be ignorant of the equally idiotic and futile efforts he was making to escape. We can indeed imagine Miss Betty's amusement when she received her three daily reports and read how her rival had appeared, now as a Russian prince, then as a private coachman, and later as an old Jew broker. The thought of it plunged William into the utmost confusion, and he determined to let events follow their natural course without committing himself to any fresh eccentricities.

But his anger was growing day by day, and would doubtless have exploded in some way before long, when the 12th of May, 1896, the date fixed by M. Crabifosse, and waited for impatiently by John, at length arrived.



"PERFECT!" EXCLAIMED JOHN

CHAPTER XIII

In which John and his stamp are both taken in the very act of flight

HAVING obtained permission to go out, John immediately repaired to the Rue de Provence, after carefully providing himself with five hundred francs, which constituted nearly all his worldly fortune. It was all ready, and M. Crabifosse was occupied in polishing the block of steel, on the other side of which was engraved in many fine lines the copy of the Brahmapootra stamp.

"You see I have kept my word," said the engraver. "Now you have only to see it printed; but I cannot undertake to do that myself, not having sufficient choice of paper, ink, and a hundred other little details. We will go to M. Babuchon, the art printer, of 44, Rue de la Chaussée-d'Antin. I have sent to tell him what we want done and your instructions with regard to the gold tint, paper, perforation, gum, etc."

M. Babuchon was no less punctual than M. Crabifosse, for he was at work composing a special gold ink, of a soft yellow with a slightly grey tint, a sort of beautiful shot colour, which is called grey-gold, and obtained by a mixture of fine gold and iron. On a table close by were arranged twenty little squares of soft bluish white paper, thick and yet flexible. They were perforated exactly according to the outline in the photograph of the original stamp.

The block brought by M. Crabifosse was coated with the precious ink, and with the help of a small press a first impression was taken on one of the little squares of paper.

"Why, it is perfectly superb!" cried John, when the wet proof, laid carefully on a piece of glass, was handed to him for inspection.

"You are satisfied then, sir?" asked M. Crabifosse and M. Babuchon at the same moment.

"I should think so, indeed!"

Several more proofs were then printed, so that he might choose the most perfect, and, as one of them was decidedly finer and clearer than the rest, M. Babuchon carefully dried it and then brushed over the other side with pure gum.

"I am sorry to be so slow," he said when he had quite finished, "but we have, unfortunately, no machinery here for drying the gum as they have in the Boulevard Brune. It is very remarkable. Have you ever seen it, sir?"

"No," said John, his first experience leading him to take an interest in the matter in spite of himself.

"It is simple and ingenious," continued M. Babuchon. "The freshly-gummed sheets of stamps are placed on felt bands—with the gum upwards of course. These bands, moving over wheels, carry the sheets for more than two hundred yards under a number of little windmills, which turn very fast and keep the air in motion over the damp sheets, so causing rapid evaporation. In this way they are completely dried in less than half an hour, instead of the two days it would otherwise take."

"Not a bad idea," said John sententiously.

Then, while M. Babuchon held the chosen proof near a little gas stove to dry it as quickly as possible, John burnt all the others, one by one, in the flame; after which, with a hammer which was lying close at hand, he so defaced the block as to make it quite unrecognisable.

"There, M. Crabifosse," said he, "that is proof for you that one copy of this stamp is all I want, and that I am not going to issue a series of forgeries."

"I am very much obliged to you," returned the engraver, feeling a little ashamed of his earlier scruples.

"Here you are, sir," said M. Babuchon, proudly handing John the square of paper, gilt, gummed, glazed, and dried.

John took it hastily and with joy indescribable.

"Are you satisfied with it?" asked M. Crabifosse again.

"I should be very hard to please if I were not," he replied. "Nobody could possibly believe the stamp was a forgery. I have had the original one, belonging to my master, Mr. William Keniss, in my hands and examined it closely, and I assure you I don't see one bit of difference between them. It is the same perforation, the same kind of paper, the same shade of gold, not to speak of the design, which is marvellously exact."

To admire it still more, John held the stamp in the hollow of his hand, without noticing that the window near which they were standing was open and forming a decided draught between that and a second open window. There was a very high wind that day, and from time to time great gusts blew into the room, one of which suddenly caught up the little piece of paper and whirled it into space, while John stupidly watched it mounting up, up, almost to the roofs of the houses. Then, more slowly, it began to descend, turning over and over till it reached the ground on the other side of the street close to a lamp-post.

"I can see it! I can see it!" cried John, who had been staring with open eyes and mouth and trembling body at the peregrinations of his stamp. And, hustling past M. Crabifosse and the printer, he rushed downstairs at the risk of breaking his neck. Now he was in the street. With a last bound he was close to the stamp and stooped to seize it. But at that very moment came a fresh gust of wind, caught up the stamp—which just grazed John's nose, as if to defy the poor fellow—and started it again on its zigzag course through the air, looking like a capricious and fantastic golden butterfly rambling adventurously about in the rays of the sun.

John, as we can easily imagine, set off in pursuit of it. With hair flowing in the wind and disordered array he rushed like a hurricane through the streets, first on one pavement and then on the other, overturning everything that came in his way. Here a stout lady, whom, with a shove of his elbow, he sent rolling into the middle of the road; further on an old gentleman, whom he tripped up and left lying full length on the wood pavement; then it was a dog, whose tail he crushed. In this way the stamp and John traversed the Rue de la Chaussée-d'Antin, the Rue Jubert, the Rue de la Victoire, and the Rue Caumartin, and emerged, the one aerially and the other terrestrially, on the Boulevard Hausmann, opposite Printemps. A dozen times during their course John just missed the stamp as it touched the ground, but each time, by an exasperating fatality, he was a second too late, and only succeeded in seizing a few specks of dust and in seeing the tormenting piece of paper reascending towards the sky.

(To be continued.)

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENCE

Notes from Mysore

BANGALORE, *May 15th*, 1905.

The Village Post Office

THE village post office in Southern India is fearfully and wonderfully made (generally *fearfully*); it is usually a mud hut, in the most squalid, over-populated, and plague-infected portion of a ditto-ditto village. In most cases it consists of two rooms; one is used as an office, and the other as the home of the postmaster and his family (which usually varies between eight and twelve). The building is a glorified mud hut, and the glorification part consists of the signboard, which states that the building is the post office; but as the inscription is in Tamil or Canarese, one has to take the statement on trust. The postmaster is usually a mild Hindu, who fattens on five rupees a month. His stock of stamps consists of a dozen or so of the values of 3 pies, ½, 1, and 2 annas, a packet of envelopes, and a dozen packets of post cards. He is provided with a cash-box, which sometimes contains as much as a rupee.

Registration

The operation of registering a letter in one of these offices is a curious experience. In the first place it causes great excitement, since it is as rare as an earthquake. The mild Hindu takes the letter, turns it over a few times, and then looks at you with suspicion, as though you had murdered a baby and were sending away the proofs of your guilt. Then he calls out for a chair and the registration book, and for ten solid minutes he fills in things in various languages, spends another five minutes in changing the date-plug of the postmark, and then takes the money, and invariably finds he hasn't change; so you wait while his friends collect the amount in the village, and if you are born under a lucky star, you may get into the "open" again in the course of an hour.

Testimonials

I had an amusing experience with one of these men a few days ago. I called at the post office and couldn't find anybody there, but after waiting for some time, an urchin clothed in a cummerbund and a smile informed me that the postmaster was preparing for my visit. The preparation consisted in shaving his head and putting on his "best bib and tucker," neither of which operations may be hurried with impunity, since you may cut the former and tear the latter. At last he appeared, sold me my eight annas' worth of stamps, and begged that I would give him a testimonial to the effect that he had "given me complete satisfaction in the execution of his duties." I asked to see his other "*chits*,"* and one of them was to the following effect: "X. Y. is, I believe, one of the quickest postmasters in India *when he chooses*; I have known him for ten years, and during that time he has *not chosen*."

Shades

Several of the home journals have recently noted shades in the case of the 2 and 8 annas stamps with the King's Head, but so far I have seen no mention of the extremely well-marked shades of the 2½ annas. The early printings were in a very similar shade to that employed for the same value of the Queen's Head series—a pale, washy, and uneven smudgy colour. The next shade was richer and more evenly applied, and the current shade is a fine rich blue, perfectly clear, and producing an effect quite different from that of the first printing, which is unpleasing. The 3 pies, grey, is the only other sinner in the way of shades—three quite distinct ones may be found. All the high values are quite constant at present.

Rumours

The air of India is filled with rumours—all from more or less reliable sources. We are told that the remainders of the 2, 3, and 5 rupee stamps with the Queen's Head are to be recalled and surcharged 10 annas; but as there do not appear to be many remainders (the stamps are sold out in many of the large offices), we will hope it is only a rumour. The unissued stamps will be with us shortly if accounts are true, and then there *may* be a deluge of fiscal postals; so look out for unused ½ and 1 anna Indian receipt stamps of all kinds!

A Rarity

Here is a simple little calculation. In 1904 several provisional telegraph stamps appeared; they could not be purchased *entire* at any post office, and the remainders were recalled and burnt; one or two copies may have leaked out. At any rate we may, for the sake

* Testimonials.

of argument, rank the 1 anna as an unattainable, ten times as rare as a P.O. Mauritius, and therefore obviously worth £10,000. Now one stamp in the sheet of eighty had the figure "1" missing; this is eighty times as rare as the others, hence it *must* be worth £80,000. And yet such is the generosity of some people that I firmly believe this stamp is obtainable for half-price, and that a remittance for £40,000 will secure a specimen; at any rate I should be quite pleased to sacrifice my own copy at this "exceptionally low figure."

(N.B.—This is not an advertisement.)

E. W. WETHERELL.

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B. B. (Luton).—Thanks for specimen of the Central South African Railway stamps, but as *G.S.W.* is for beginners and young collectors, we do not include railway stamps in our programme. These C.S.A.R. have been duly noted in the *Monthly Journal*.

Aysgarth School.—Your letter is without signature. You can provide any extra space you need in your Century Album by neatly gumming in thin sheets of paper. Excellent paper just the size—quarto—may be had at any typewriting depôt. Select a good-quality thin paper. We use such leaves for the Imperial Album, and they make very little difference to the bulk. Yes, the Gibbons mounts are peelable. Some watermarks are very difficult to find. Try stamps on sleeve of a black coat, and look at the stamp from every point of view, upside down, etc.; some watermarks reveal themselves best when the stamp is held up to a lamp held the other side. The Don Quixote stamps were only in issue for a few days.

A. S. W. (Worcester).—The 3d. three-cornered St. John's, Newfoundland, is catalogued at 12s. 6d. unused, and 20s. used.

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EDITED BY
EDWARD J. NANKIVELL.



7 January, 1905.



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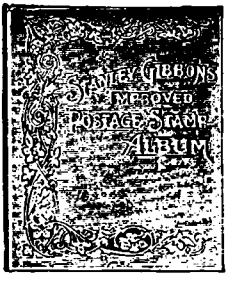
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"J. P.," WEST NORWOOD.

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"E. A. T.," GAMPOLE, CEYLON.

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1904. *King's Head. Multiple wmk.*

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5 c., orange and green	0	2
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$1, lilac and sage-green	2	8
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8 c., purple	0	6
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SOMALILAND PROTECTORATE.

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2½ a., ultramarine	0	4
3 a., green and violet	0	5
4 a., black and green	0	6
6 a., lilac ,, ,,	0	8
8 a., blue and grey-black	1	0
12 a., orange ,, ,,	1	4

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PUBLISHERS' INTRODUCTION

WE have for some years been desirous of publishing a journal devoted to the requirements of the rising philatelist, but it is only now that we have been able to find the time to thoroughly work out all the numerous details which are necessitated in issuing a **Weekly Paper.**

Gibbons Stamp Weekly is produced in order to help and encourage those who are either now forming a collection or who are about to start the most fascinating and fashionable hobby of **Stamp Collecting.**

We are happy to say that we have secured the services, as Editor, of

MR. E. J. NANKIVELL,

Fellow of the Institute of Journalists, formerly City Editor of the *Pall Mall Gazette*, author of *Stamp Collecting as a Pastime*, and well known to most of us as a prolific writer on stamp matters.

The aim of *Gibbons Stamp Weekly* will be to help young collectors by publishing series of articles on all matters that may be of use to them.

Articles will in due course appear on such subjects as :—

How to choose a Stamp Album, with descriptions of the leading kinds.

On buying Packets and Sets.

On Exchange Clubs: how to Start and how to Conduct them, with a Model Set of Rules.

How to Mount Stamps.

On Measuring Perforations, and how to detect Watermarks.

On what to avoid in Stamps.

Advice as to what Stamps to Purchase, so as to have a good, sound Investment.

On Historical Facts of the past Sixty-five Years that may be learnt from our Stamps.

On the Geographical Interest of Stamp Collecting.

Humorous Incidents connected with Stamps.

Stamps as Works of Art.

How to Collect, and what to Collect.

Etc., etc., etc.

A correspondence column will be opened, and we shall endeavour to reply fully to all questions sent to us.

Twice a month we propose to **give away** to every subscriber to *Gibbons Stamp Weekly* a genuine postage stamp.

The first stamp will be a boomer,

2½d. for 1d.,

for we intend to present to every subscriber from No. 2 an *unused* British Colonial Stamp of the face value of 2½*d.*

Don't forget to order No. 2 from your local bookseller at once. Only a certain number will be issued, and there will not be any reissue.

Another feature that we intend to take up is a series of Stamp Competitions—about one a month.

A very valuable lot of large packets and sets of stamps, albums, etc., will be given as prizes in these competitions.

An important feature in the Weekly will be a series of papers, edited by

MR. GORDON SMITH, M.A.,

on the stamps of each country in the world, treated from a new and simple point of view.

A word of advice.—Take care of your copies of *Gibbons Stamp Weekly*—the early numbers of a new stamp publication generally command a good price in a short time. For instance, the first twelve numbers of the *Monthly Journal*, which cost *2d.* each, are now worth 15*s.* to 20*s.* a set.

In conclusion, we may say that we are distributing 50,000 copies of No. 1 of *Gibbons Stamp Weekly*, and if this number comes to anyone who is not interested in stamp collecting, we ask that it may not be destroyed, but handed to any friend who may be a stamp collector or likely to become one.

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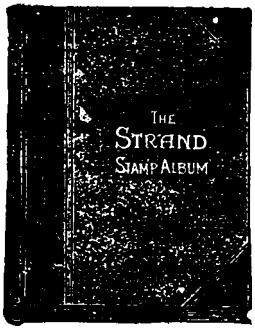
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C. C.	Cayman Isles, Ceylon, Cook Islands, Cyprus, Dominica, Falkland Isles, Fiji, Gambia, Gibraltar, etc.	2	1	0	1	13	6
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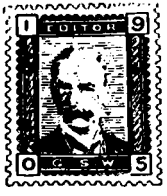
Vol. I. No. 2. One Penny.

Gibbons Stamp Weekly

EDITED BY
EDWARD J. NANKIVELL.



14 January, 1905.



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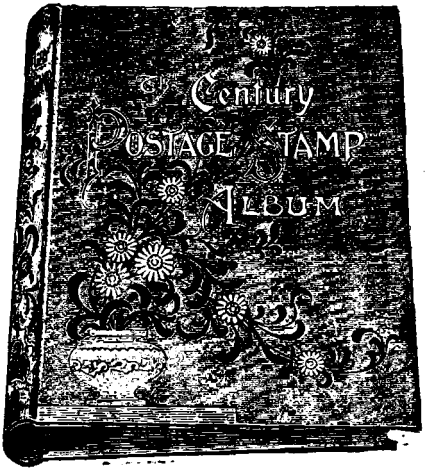
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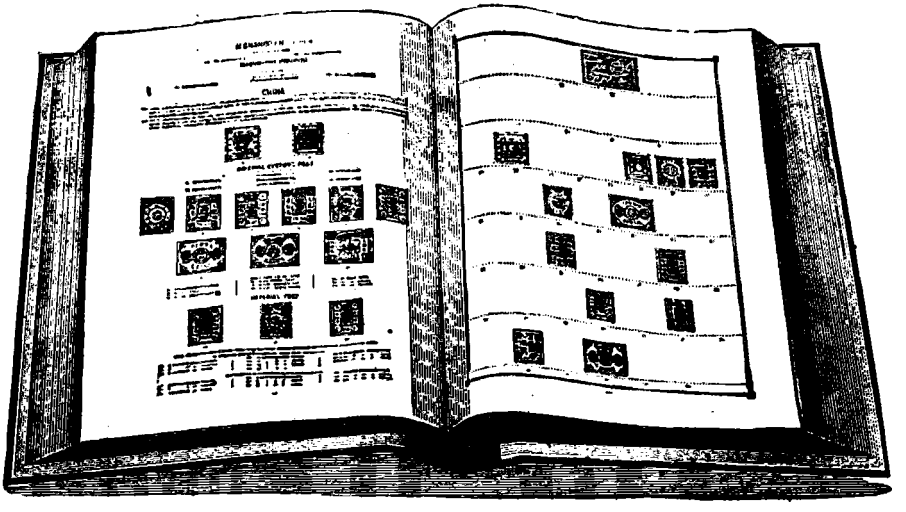
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Space has been provided for some 18,000 Stamps, and provision made for new issues by the insertion of numerous blank pages.

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Among the chief alterations made in this the second edition of the Album may be noted the arrangement of the countries, which now follow in the same order as in the two parts of the current Catalogue—British Empire first, and Foreign Countries last.

In the previous edition, numbers were placed beneath the line to mark the vertical line of each Stamp, corresponding to the numbers in the detailed description on the left-hand page. This method was found to have many objections in practice, and the new system now adopted, whereby compartments for every Stamp are marked off by dots placed above the dotted lines, will, we believe, be much preferred and prove more convenient. In many countries, owing to the varying heights of the Stamps, it is impracticable—with the limited space at disposal—to place them in the order in which they are set forth on the opposite page, but by taking a little trouble in finding the place, the collector should have no difficulty in properly placing his Stamps.

Throughout the Album additional rows have been provided, as well as a large number of blank pages, for new issues. As it is impossible to forecast where new issues are most likely to appear, these extra pages should be sufficient for the collector's wants for a long time ahead. There are over 15,500 marked-off places for Stamps, besides space to accommodate several hundreds in addition.

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2½d., ultramarine	0	4

CHAMBA.

1903-4. *King's Head.*

3 pies, grey	0	1
½ a., green	0	1
1 a., carmine	0	2

1903-4. *Service. King's Head.*

½ a., green	0	1
1 a., carmine	0	2
2 a., violet	0	4

CUCUTA.

1904. *New types. Various designs.*

1 c., black	0	1
2 c., green	0	2

DENMARK.

1904. *Head of King Christian.*

20 öre, ultramarine	0	4

LIBERIA.

1904. *Provisionals.*

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Two cents on 4½ c. Official, black and green	0	4
2 c. on 30 c., blue	1	0

1904. *Official Provisionals. Surcharged "O.S."*

One cent on 5 c. on 6 c, green, "Official"	0	4
2 c. on 30 c., blue	1	6

MALTA.

1904. *King's Head. Multiple wmk.*

½d., green	0	1
2½d., marone and ultramarine	0	4
1s., grey and violet	1	4

MAURITIUS.

1904. *Arms type.*

4 c., grey and carmine on blue	0	1

1904. *Inland Express Delivery.*

15 c., red and green	0	4

PATIALA.

1904. *Head of King.*

	s.	d.
3 pies, grey	0	1
½ a., green	0	1
1 a., carmine	0	2
2 a., purple	0	3

SANTANDER.

1904. *Various new designs.*

5 c., deep green	0	1
10 c., lake	0	1
20 c., purple	0	1
50 c., yellow	0	2
1 peso, black	0	4

SERVIA.

1904. *King Peter Coronation stamps.*

5 p., green	0	1
10 p., carmine	0	2
15 p., lilac	0	3
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48†	Do. 1903, 2, 5, 10, 50 c., and 1 peso; F. Madrid, J. M. del Castillo, M. Anguiano, and P. G. Ribon	5	0	8
49‡	**COSTA RICA.** 1883-87, portraits of General Fernandez and President P. Soto	4	0	4
50†	Do. 1889, 1, 2, 5, 10, 20, 50 c., and 1 peso; President P. Soto	7	0	9
51‡	Do. 1889-1901, Presidents Soto, B. Carrillo, and J. Mora	6	0	6
52†	Do. 1881-1901, J. M. Cañas, J. Volio, and Juan Mora	6	1	0
53†	Do. Officials, 1889, 1, 2, 5, 10, 20, and 50 c.	6	0	6
54†	**COOK ISLANDS.** 1d., 1d., 1½d., 2½d., and 5d.; Queen Makea Ariki	5	2	3
55*	**ICELAND.** 1902, 3, 4, 5, 6, 10, and 20 aur; King Christian IX.	6	0	9
56†	Do. do. Service, 3, 4, 5, and 10 aur	4	0	5
57†	**DOMINICAN REPUBLIC.** 1902, 1, 2, 5, and 10 c.; Sanchez and Duarte	4	1	3
58†	**ECUADOR.** 1892, 1, 2, 5, 10, 20, 50 c., 1 and 5 sucres; President Juan Flores	8	1	6
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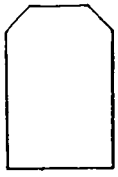
We annex a list of our newest sheets, and add to it the value of the sheet at marked prices, and also the net price we are prepared to take if the sheet is kept as a whole—as these sheets, being such good value, are often bought as presents.

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B.	Austrian Italy, Hungary, and Bosnia	0 19 1	0 15 0
C.	Belgium, Congo, and Bolivia	0 19 11	0 15 6
D.	Bolivia, Brazil, and Bulgaria	1 11 3	1 5 0
E.	Bulgaria, Eastern Roumelia, Chili, and China	1 0 9	0 16 6
F.	Colombia, Antioquia, Bolivar, Panama, and Santander	0 16 4	0 13 0
G.	Tolima, Corea, Costa Rica, Crete, Denmark, Danish West Indies, and Iceland	1 11 1	1 5 0
H.	Iceland, Dominican Republic, and Ecuador	1 3 2	0 18 0
I.	Egypt and France	1 6 1	1 1 0
J.	Indo-China, Canton, Hoi-Hao, Alexandria, Port Said, French Levant, etc.	1 10 7	1 4 0
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L.	French Soudan, Grand Comore, Guadeloupe, Ivory Coast, Madagascar, Martinique, Obock, Nossi-Bé	1 3 2	0 18 0
M.	Réunion, Ste. Marie de Madagascar, St. Pierre and Miquelon, Senegal, Tunis, Baden, Bavaria, Brunswick, and Hamburg	1 0 10	0 16 6
N.	Oldenburg, Thurn and Taxis, Wurtemberg, North German Confederation, and Germany	1 13 1	1 6 6
O.	Germany, German Colonies, and Greece	1 0 7	0 16 6
P.	Greece, Guatemala, Hawaiian Islands	0 19 6	0 15 0

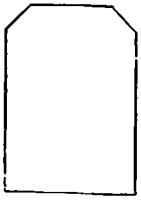
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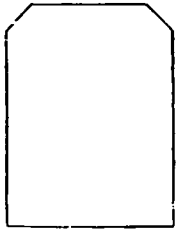
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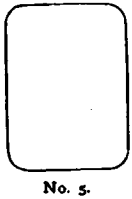
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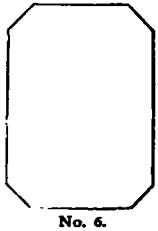
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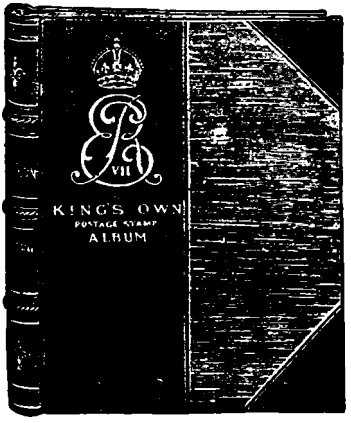
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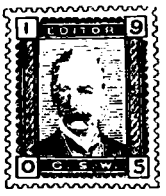
One Penny.

Gibbons Stamp Weekly

EDITED BY

EDWARD J. NANKIVELL.





21 January, 1905.

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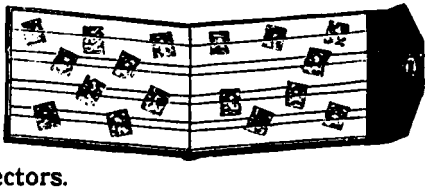
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4 h. ,, ,, ,, . . ,,	0	1
5 h. ,, ,, ,, . . ,,	0	1
6 h. ,, ,, ,, . . ,,	0	2
7 h. ,, ,, ,, . . ,,	0	2
8 h. ,, ,, ,, . . ,,	0	2
10 h. ,, ,, ,, . . ,,	0	2
15 h. ,, ,, ,, . . ,,	0	3
20 h. ,, ,, ,, . . ,,	0	4
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25 c., blue	0	4
30 c., brown	0	5
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83*	Do. do., 2½, 10, and 25 c.	3	0	9
84†	Do. Girl Queen, 10, 12½, 12½, 15, and 25 c.	5	2	0
85†	**DUTCH INDIES.** King William III., 1, 2, 2½, and 5 c.	4	1	9
86*	Do. 10, 12½, 15, 20, 25, 30, and 50 c.	7	1	9
87†	Do. Girl Queen, 10, 12½, 15, 20, 25, and 30 c.	6	3	0
88*	Do. do., 10, 15, 20, 25, 30, and 50 c.	6	0	6
89†	Do. Queen crowned, 10, 12½, 15, 20, 25, and 50 c.	6	3	0
90†	**SURINAM.** King William III , 1, 2, 2½, 3, 10, 12½, 15, 20, 25, and 30 c.	10	5	0
91*	Do. do., 2, 2½, 5, 12½, and 25 c.	5	1	3
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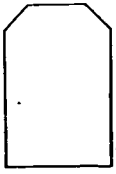
We annex a list of our newest sheets, and add to it the value of the sheet at marked prices, and also the net price we are prepared to take if the sheet is kept as a whole—as these sheets, being such good value, are often bought as presents.

Name of Sheet.	CONTAINS STAMPS OF	Value. £ s. d.	Net Price if Whole Sheet is Bought. £ s. d.
Q.	Hayti and Holland	1 5 6	1 0 0
R.	Curaçao, Dutch Indies, Surinam, and Honduras	1 7 8	1 2 0
S.	Honduras, Roman States, San Marino, and Italy	0 18 6	0 14 6
T.	Italy, Eritrea, and Japan	0 14 4	0 11 0
U.	Japan and Liberia	1 8 11	1 3 0
V.	Luxemburg and Mexico	1 8 2	1 2 6
W.	Mexico, Montenegro, and Nicaragua	0 17 5	0 14 0
X.	Nicaragua (II.)	0 17 4	0 14 0
Y.	,, (III.) and Paraguay	0 17 9	0 14 0
Z.	Paraguay, Persia, and Peru	1 0 11	0 16 6
N.N.	Peru, Portugal, Angola	0 19 10	0 16 0
O O.	Azores, Cape Verd, Guinea, Horta, Lourenzo Marques, Macau	1 6 2	1 1 0
P.P.	Madeira, Mozambique, Nyassa, Ponta Delgada, Port Congo	1 13 0	1 6 6
Q.Q.	Port. India, St. Thomas and Prince, Timor, Zambezia, and Roumania	1 4 8	1 0 0
R.R.	Roumania, Russia, Salvador	1 0 5	0 16 6
S.S.	Salvador (II.)	0 16 5	0 13 0
T.T.	,, (III.)	0 19 0	0 15 0
U.U.	,, (IV.) Samoa and Servia	1 0 4	0 16 6
V.V.	Shanghai, Spain, Siam	1 2 2	0 17 6
W.W.	Spain and Cuba	1 1 11	0 17 6
X.X.	Cuba, Fernando Poo, Philippine Islands	1 13 9	1 7 0
Y.Y.	Philippine Islands, Porto Rico	1 9 11	1 4 0
Z.Z.	Porto Rico and Norway	0 15 11	0 13 0
A.A.A.	Sweden, Switzerland, and Turkey	0 13 1	0 10 6
B.B.B.	United States of America, etc.	1 2 10	0 18 0
C.C.C.	Uruguay and Venezuela	1 1 9	0 17 0

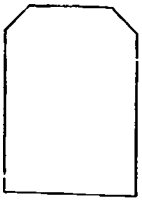
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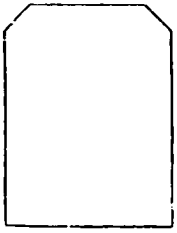
ACTUAL SIZE AND SHAPE.



No. 1.



No. 2.



No. 3.

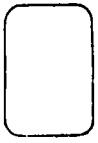
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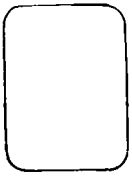
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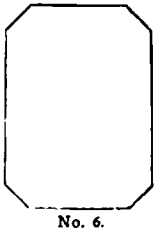
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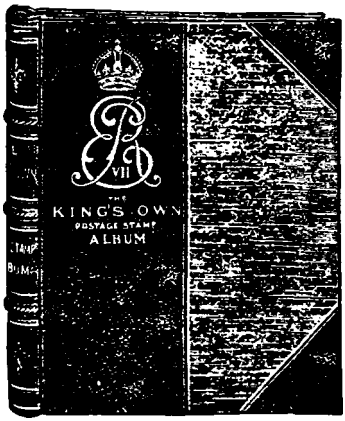
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Vol. I. No. 4.

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Gibbons Stamp Weekly

EDITED BY

EDWARD J. NANKIVELL.





28 January, 1905.

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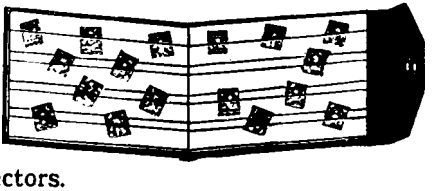
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1900. *Type* 3. *Perf.* 12½.

	s.	d.
5 kronen, slate-green . . *used*	5	0

CHINA.

1904. *Postage Due. New type.*

½ c., indigo	0	1
1 c. ,,	0	1
2 c. ,,	0	1
4 c. ,,	0	2
5 c. ,,	0	2
10 c. ,,	0	4
20 c. ,,	0	8
30 c. ,,	1	0

FRENCH CHINA.

1904. *Stamps of Indo-China surcharged* "CHINE" *in Roman instead of Antique capitals, and value in Chinese below.*

1 c., black on azure	0	1
2 c., brown on buff	0	1
4 c., purple-brown on grey	0	2
5 c., pale green	0	2
10 c., rose-red	0	3
15 c., brown on azure (1904 type)	0	4
20 c., red on green	0	5
25 c., black on rose	0	7
30 c., cinnamon on drab	0	8
40 c., red on yellow	1	0
50 c., brown on azure	1	0
75 c., brown on orange	1	4
1 fr., olive-green	2	6
5 fr., lilac	10	0

1904. *The same, but with Chinese overprint* above *the name.*

15 c., brown on azure	0	8

GWALIOR.

1903. *Service stamp. Head of Queen.*

2 a., violet	2	6

HOLKAR.

1904. *Type* 5 *surcharged* "SERVICE."

1 a., green . . *used*	0	3

JAIPUR.

1904. *Type* 1.

½ a., light blue *used*	0	4
½ a., ultramarine	0	2
½ a. ,, *used*	0	2
1 a., vermilion	0	3
2 a., light green	0	5

1904. *New type.*

	s.	d.
½ a., blue	0	2
1 a., carmine	0	3
2 a., green	0	5

LABUAN.

1904. *Various stamps of* 1895-97 *overprinted* "4 *cents.*"

4 c. on 5 c., 6 c., 8 c., 12 c., 18 c., 24 c., 25 c., 50 c., and $1; set of nine	2	6

NORTH BORNEO.

1904. *Various stamps of* 1894-97 *overprinted* "4 *cents.*"

4 c. on 5 c., 6 c., 8 c., 12 c., 18 c., 24 c., 25 c., 50 c.; set of eight	2	6
4 c. on $1, red	3	0

SERVIA.

1905. *Unpaid. Perf.* 11½. *Change of colour.*

20 p., deep brown	0	4

TRANSVAAL.

1904. *King's Head. Multiple wmk.*

½d., green and black	0	1

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Set No.			No. of stamps.	s.	d.
69†	**HAYTI.**	1887, 1, 2, 3, 5, and 2 on 3 c.; President Salomon	5 ...	2	0
70*	Do.	1887. do. Used	3 ...	0	6
71†	Do.	1898, 1, 2, 3, 5, and 7 c.; President Simon Law	5 ...	0	8
72*	Do.	do. Used	5 ...	0	6
73†	Do.	1904, Jubilee, 2, 5, 7, 10, and 20 c.; Toussaint L'Ouverture, J. J. Dessalines, etc.	5 ..	1	3
74†	Do.	1904, as last, without surcharge	5 ...	1	3
75*	Do.	1904-5, 1, 2, 5, 10 c.; Gen. Nord Alexis	4 ...	0	6
76*	**HOLLAND.**	1852-64, King William III., including rare 15 c., orange, perf.	5 ...	1	6
77*	Do.	1867-88, various issues. do.	12 ...	1	6
78†	Do.	1891-97, 3, 5, 7½, 10, and 12½ c.; Queen Wilhelmina as girl	5 ...	1	6
79*	Do.	do., fine used set, including two 1 guldens	13 ...	1	6
80†	Do.	1890-1901, 3, 5, 7½, 10, 12½, 15, 20, and 22½ c.; Queen Wilhelmina crowned	8 ...	2	3
81*	Do.	do. do., including 50 c. and 1 gulden	11 ...	1	0
82†	**CURACAO.**	King William III., 2½, 5, 10, 12½, and 30 c.	5 ...	3	0
83*	Do.	do., 2½, 10, and 25 c.	3 ...	0	9
84†	Do.	Girl Queen, 10, 12½, 12½, 15, and 25 c.	5 ...	2	0
85†	**DUTCH INDIES.**	King William III., 1, 2, 2½, and 5 c.	4 ...	1	9
86*	Do.	10, 12½, 15, 20, 25, 30, and 50 c.	7 ...	1	9
87†	Do.	Girl Queen, 10, 12½, 15, 20, 25, and 30 c.	6 ...	3	0
88*	Do.	do., 10, 15, 20, 25, 30, and 50 c.	6 ...	0	6
89†	Do.	Queen crowned, 10, 12½, 15, 20, 25, and 50 c.	6 ...	3	0
90†	**SURINAM.**	King William III., 1, 2, 2½, 3, 10, 12½, 15, 20, 25, and 30 c.	10 ...	5	0
91*	Do.	do., 2, 2½, 5, 12½, and 25 c.	5 ...	1	3
92†	Do.	Girl Queen, 10, 12½, 15, 20, 25, and 30 c.	6 ...	2	6
93†	Do.	1898, Provisional, 10 cents	4 ...	1	9

(To be continued.)

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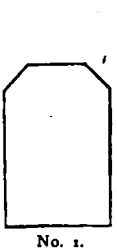
We annex a list of our newest sheets, and add to it the value of the sheet at marked prices, and also the net price we are prepared to take if the sheet is kept as a whole—as these sheets, being such good value, are often bought as presents.

Name of Sheet.	Contains Stamps of	Value. £ s. d.	Net Price if Whole Sheet is Bought. £ s. d.
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R.	Curaçao, Dutch Indies, Surinam, and Honduras	1 7 8	1 2 0
S.	Honduras, Roman States, San Marino, and Italy	0 18 6	0 14 6
T.	Italy, Eritrea, and Japan	0 14 4	0 11 0
U.	Japan and Liberia	1 8 11	1 3 0
V.	Luxemburg and Mexico	1 8 2	1 2 6
W.	Mexico, Montenegro, and Nicaragua	0 17 5	0 14 0
X.	Nicaragua (II.)	0 17 4	0 14 0
Y.	,, (III.) and Paraguay	0 17 9	0 14 0
Z.	Paraguay, Persia, and Peru	1 0 11	0 16 6
N.N.	Peru, Portugal, Angola	0 19 10	0 16 0
O.O.	Azores, Cape Verd, Guinea, Horta, Lourenzo Marques, Macau	1 6 2	1 1 0
P.P.	Madeira, Mozambique, Nyassa, Ponta Delgada, Port Congo	1 13 0	1 6 6
Q.Q.	Port. India, St. Thomas and Prince, Timor, Zambezia, and Roumania	1 4 8	1 0 0
R.R.	Roumania, Russia, Salvador	1 0 5	0 16 6
S.S.	Salvador (II.)	0 16 5	0 13 0
T.T.	,, (III.)	0 19 0	0 15 0
U.U.	,, (IV.) Samoa and Servia	1 0 4	0 16 6
V.V.	Shanghai, Spain, Siam	1 2 2	0 17 6
W.W.	Spain and Cuba	1 1 11	0 17 6
X.X.	Cuba, Fernando Poo, Philippine Islands	1 13 9	1 7 0
Y.Y.	Philippine Islands, Porto Rico	1 9 11	1 4 0
Z.Z.	Porto Rico and Norway	0 15 11	0 13 0
A.A.A.	Sweden, Switzerland, and Turkey	0 13 1	0 10 6
B.B.B.	United States of America, etc.	1 2 10	0 18 0
C.C.C.	Uruguay and Venezuela	1 1 9	0 17 0

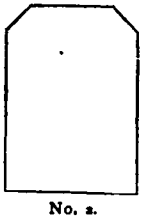
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PREPARED STAMP MOUNTS.

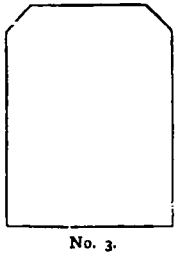
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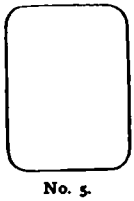
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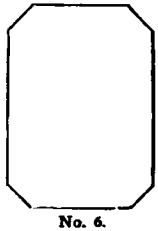
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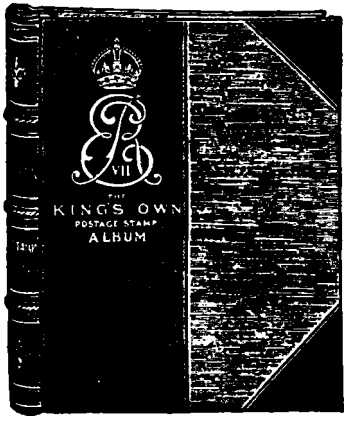
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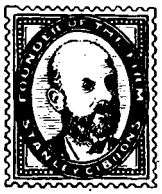
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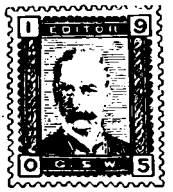
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Gibbons Stamp Weekly

EDITED BY

EDWARD J. NANKIVELL.





4 February, 1905.

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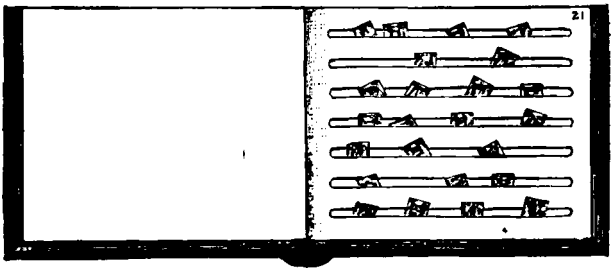
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1905. *New value.*

	s.	d.
45 h., grey-blue and black	0	8

COLOMBIA.

1903-4. *Type* 87.

5 c., bistre	1	0

1903-4. *Type* 84. *Coloured laid paper. Imperf.*

10 c., blue on salmon	0	1
10 c. ,, lilac	0	1
10 c. ,, rose	0	1

1904. *Gold currency. Types* 94, *etc. Imperf.*

		s.	d.			
½ c., light brown	*unused*	0	6	*used*	0	6
1 c., green	,,	0	6	,,	0	2
2 c., blue	,,	0	6	,,	0	6
5 c., rose	,,	0	8	,,	0	6
5 c. ,, (surchgd. A.R.)	,,	—		,,	5	0
10 c., mauve	,,	—		,,	0	9
5 c., blue, A.R.	,,	0	8	,,	—	

1904. *The same. Perf.*

½ c., brown *used*	2	0
1 c., green ,,	2	0
2 c., blue ,,	2	0

FRENCH GUIANA.

1905. *New Pictorial Designs.*

1 c., black	0	1
2 c., blue	0	1
4 c., purple-brown	0	1
5 c., green	0	1
10 c., carmine	0	2
15 c., purple	0	3
20 c., purple-brown	0	3
25 c., blue	0	4
30 c., black	0	5
40 c., carmine	0	6
50 c., purple	0	8
75 c., green	1	0
1 fr., carmine	1	3
2 fr., blue	2	3
5 fr., black	5	3

HONDURAS.

1898. *Type* 19. *Laid paper.*

1 c., brown (No. 112) *used*	0	6
2 c., rose (No. 112*a*) ,,	5	0
5 c., pale blue (No. 113) ,,	0	6
6 c., dull lilac (No. 114) ,,	1	0
10 c., deep blue (No. 115) ,,	1	3

JHIND.

1903. *Service. Queen's Head.*

½ a., pea-green	1	0

LAGOS.

1904. *King's Head. Multiple wmk.*

1d., purple and black on red	0	2

PANAMA CANAL ZONE.

1904. *United States stamps surcharged. These stamps having been withdrawn from issue, our prices are now as below.*

	s.	d.
1 c., deep green	0	3
2 c., carmine	0	5
5 c., blue	1	0
8 c., purple	1	6
10 c., brown	2	0

SENEGAL.

1903. *Provisionals.*

10 c. on 50 c., carmine	0	9
10 c. on 1 fr., olive-green	0	9
5 c. on 40 c., 10 c. on 50 c., 10 c. on 75 c., and 10 c. on 1 fr. Set of four	3	6

SERVIA.

1905. *Head of King Peter.*

1 p., black and grey-lilac	0	1
5 p. ,, green	0	1
10 p. ,, carmine	0	2
15 p. ,, lilac	0	3
20 p. ,, yellow	0	4
25 p. ,, ultramarine	0	5
50 p. ,, brown	0	9
1 dinar ,, ochre	1	3
3 ,, ,, emerald	3	9
5 ,, ,, violet	6	3

STRAITS SETTLEMENTS.

1904. *King's Head. Multiple wmk.*

1 c., green.	0	1

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* *signifies used*, † *unused*, ‡ *mixed, both used and unused.*

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BIOGRAPHICAL SETS.

Set No.		No. of stamps.	s.	d.
94†	**HONDURAS.** 1878, 1 and 2 c., and ½, 1, 2, and 4 reales and 1 peso; portrait of General Morazan	7	1	9
95†	Do. 1891, 1 c. to 1 peso; portrait of General Bogran	11	1	6
96†	Do. do., large stamps in two colours. do.	3	1	6
97†	Do. 1893, 1 c. to 1 peso; General Cabanus	11	1	6
98†	Do. 1896, 1, 2, 5, 10, 20, and 30 c.; President Arias	6	1	6
99‡	Do. 1903, 1, 2, 5, 6, 10, and 20 c.; General Santos Guardiola	6	0	9
100†	Do. Officials, 1891, 1 c. to 1 peso; General Bogran	11	1	6
101†	**SARDINIA.** 1855, 5, 10, 20, 40, and 80 c.; King Victor Emmanuel II.	5	0	4
102†	**SICILY.** 1859, ½, 1, 2, 5, 10, 20, and 50 gr.; King Ferdinand	7	27	6
103†	**ITALY.** 1862, 15, 15, 20, and 80 c.; King Victor Emmanuel II.	4	0	6
104*	Do. 1863, 5, 10, 15, 20, 30, 40, 60 c., and 2 lire. do.	8	1	0
105*	Do. 1865, including Provisionals. do.	13	0	9
106*	Do. 1893–1901; portraits of King Humbert	7	0	5
107†	**ITALIAN PORTS IN ALBANIA, CRETE, AND TRIPOLI.** King Humbert	6	1	6
108†	**ERITREA.** 1893, 10, 20, 25, 40, 45, and 60 c.; King Victor Emmanuel II.	6	2	6
109†	Do. 1895, 10, 20, and 25 c. do.	3	0	8
110†	Do. 1903, 10, 20, 25, 40, 45, and 50 c.; King Humbert	6	2	0
111†	**JAPAN.** 1896, 2 and 5 sen.; Prince Arizngawa, and 2 and 5 sen.; Prince Kitasirakawa	4	0	10
112†	**LIBERIA.** 1903, 10 c., large stamps in two colours; portraits of President	5	2	6
113*	**LUXEMBURG.** 1852, 10 c. and 1 sgr.; Grand Duke William III.	2	2	9
114†	Do. 1891, 10, 12½, 20, 25, 37½, and 50 c.; Grand Duke Adolf	6	3	6
115*	Do. 1891. Do. Used, including 1 fr.	8	1	4
116†	Do. Officials; various portraits of the Grand Duke Adolf	8	1	0
117*	**MEXICO.** 1856-61; portraits of Hidalgo	4	0	9
118†	Do. 1863, 1, 2, and 4 reales and 1 peso; President Juarez	4	0	6

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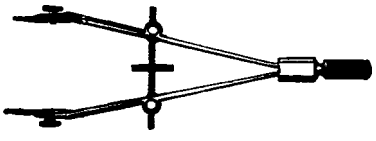
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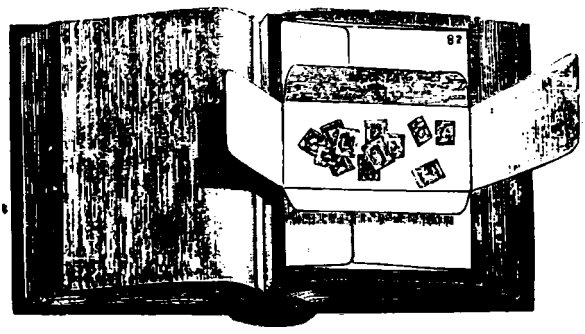
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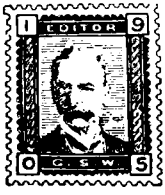
Gibbons Stamp Weekly

EDITED BY

EDWARD J. NANKIVELL.



11 February, 1905.



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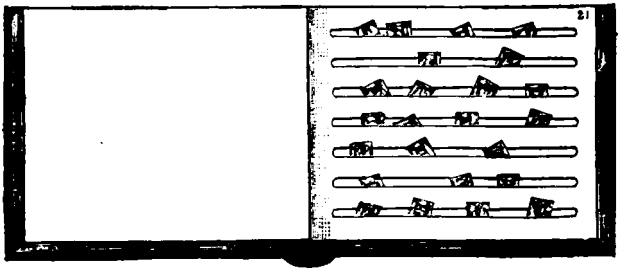
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1904. *Official. King's Head.*

		s.	d.
5 c., lilac	*used*	2	0

HYDERABAD.

1871-1900. *Type* 3.

½ a., scarlet (No. 10) . . .		0	1
1 a., black (No. 15). . . .		0	2
2 a., sage-green (No. 19) . . .		0	4
3 a., ochre-brown (No. 20*a*) . . .		0	5
4 a., olive-green (No 23) . . .		0	6

1902. *Similar type, but larger.*

½ a., blue (No. 28)		0	1
¼ a. ,, ,, . . .	*used*	0	1

KISHENGARH.

1904. *New type. Waterlow print.*

¼ a., carmine		0	1
½ a., chestnut		0	1
1 a., blue		0	2
2 a., orange		0	3

NABHA.

1903. *King's Head.*

3 pies, grey		0	1
½ a., pea-green		0	1
1 a., carmine		0	2
2 a., purple		0	3
3 a., orange-brown		0	5
4 a., olive-green		0	6
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12 a., purple on red		1	4
1 r., green and carmine . . .		2	0

RUSSIA.

1905. *New values.*

15 kop., brown and blue . . .		0	6
25 ,, green and purple . . .		0	10

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1903-4. *Vertically laid paper.*

10 p. on 2 k., green . . .	*used*	0	2
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35 pi. on 3½ r., black and grey .	,,	10	6
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15 p., lilac . .	,,	0	4	,,	0	6
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50 p., brown .	,,	0	10	,,	1	0
1 d., buff . .	,,	1	3	,,	1	3
3 d., green .	,,	3	9	,,	3	9
5 d., violet . .	,,	6	3	,,	6	3

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Is an entirely New and Original Invention for enabling Collectors to Mount Stamps without handling them, and is a *multum in parvo* of Philatelic requisites.

IT consists of a pair of broad-headed flat metal tongs, one of which is fitted with a solid wedge. The object of this is to permit the free end of a mount held by the tongs to be bent over, moistened, applied to the back of the stamp, and pressed down, and the mount can then be released, the stamp lifted, the other end of the mount moistened, and the stamp fastened thereby on the page. In the handle is inserted a glass of high magnifying power. On one side of the middle part is a millimètre scale (divided to half millimètres), and on the other a two-inch scale (divided to sixteenths), both accurately marked off. The stamp can be firmly held along either scale by the tongs. The tongs are made of solid nickel, polished, and fit into a handsome velvet-lined case, the size of which, when closed, is slightly less than 6 inches long, 1¾ inches wide, and only ½ inch thick.

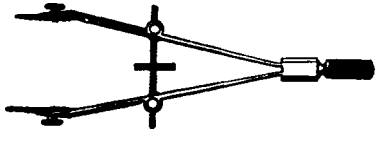
Price, with case complete, 2/6; post-free, 2/7; abroad, 3/9.

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AFTER examining some scores of different sorts, we have been able to get one combining the greatest power with the largest field obtainable for pocket use. These glasses are mounted in handsome vulcanite frames, and are very compact. There are two lenses in each, which may be used singly, or if a very strong power is desired, may be combined.

Price 7/6; post-free, 7/7; abroad, 8/4.

SURCHARGE MEASURER.



THE accompanying illustration will give the best idea of what this is. It consists of a pair of needle-pointed spring compasses, capable, by means of an adjusting screw, of measuring with the greatest accuracy all surcharges up to 40 millimètres in length. In addition to the measure a millimètre gauge is obtained by running the head of the screw along a piece of paper, a series of lines exactly a millimètre apart being thus indented in the paper. For measuring surcharges on such stamps as Natal, Straits Settlements, etc., this will be found invaluable, and also in the detection of forgeries—a forgery or forged surcharge very seldom being *exactly* the same size as the original.

Price 7/6; post-free, 7/7; abroad, 7/11.

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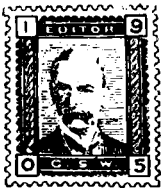
Gibbons Stamp Weekly

EDITED BY

EDWARD J. NANKIVELL.



18 February, 1905.



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LONDON:
STANLEY GIBBONS, LIMITED, 391, STRAND, W.C.
NEW YORK: STANLEY GIBBONS, INCORPORATED, 198, BROADWAY

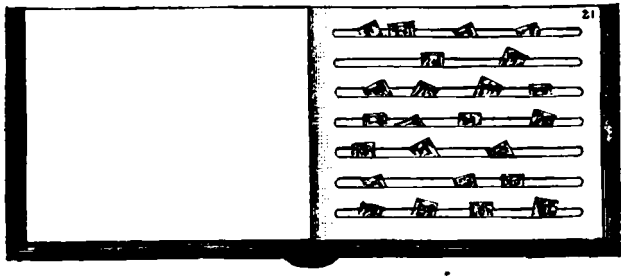
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JUST PUBLISHED.

IN TWO SIZES.

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STANLEY GIBBONS, LIMITED,

In introducing these Books to the notice of the Philatelic public, believe they will be found to be a vast improvement on works of a similar class already published.

The small size is intended for pocket use — being memo. size, with an elastic band.

The larger size (10½ × 8½)—opening oblong shape—contains 60 leaves, each leaf having seven horizontal slits, running almost the entire length of the page. They are arranged for the safe retention of superfluous or duplicate stamps, in either small or large numbers.

Both dealers and collectors will find these Albums pre-eminently adapted for their use; and they contain no printing of any kind—an advantage that will especially commend itself to the trade.

PRICES.

No. 13.—Pocket size, bound in cloth, with elastic band, **1/6**; post-free, **1/7.**

No. 14.—Strongly bound, leather back and corners, well guarded, **12/-**; post-free to Great Britain, **12/7.**

Cheap Sets of Postage Stamps
OF
EDUCATIONAL INTEREST.

THIS series of cheap sets of stamps is designed to make stamp collecting the easy medium for learning about a considerable number of the events of the past fifty years throughout the World.

With this aim in view we are preparing this extensive series of sets, at prices of from 20 to 30 per cent. below usual quotations, and we propose to divide this series into Sets of Stamps bearing on Biography, History, Geography, Natural History, Art, Native Production, etc. etc.

Every stamp we sell is guaranteed absolutely genuine in every respect.

* *signifies used,* † *unused,* ‡ *mixed, both used and unused.*

N.B —In ordering please give the number of the set and the price.

BIOGRAPHICAL SETS.

Set No.			No. of stamps.	*s.*	*d.*
119‡	**MEXICO.**	1868, 6, 12, and 25 c.; Hidalgo	3 ...	0	9
120‡	Do.	1872 do. do. do.	3 ...	0	5
121†	Do.	1874, 4, 5, 10, 25, and 50 c. do.	5 ...	1	0
122*	Do.	do., 5, 10, 25, and 50 c. do.	4 ...	0	8
123†	Do.	1879, 1, 2, 5, 10, 25, 50, 85, and 100 c.; President Juarez	8 ...	5	0
124*	Do.	do. used do.	7 ...	3	0
125†	Do.	1882, 12, 18, and 24 c.; President Juarez	3 ...	0	6
126†	Do.	1884, 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, and 50 c., and 1 and 2 pesos; Hidalgo	9 ...	1	9
127†	Do.	1885, 2, 3, and 5 c. do.	3 ...	1	6
128*	Do.	do., used	6 ...	1	9
129†	**MONACO.**	1891-1901, 1, 2, 5, 10, 10, 15, 15, 25, 50, and 75 c.; Prince Albert	10 ...	2	9
130†	**MONTENEGRO.**	1898, 2, 3, 5, 15, 20, and 25 nov.; Prince Nicholas	6 ...	1	9
131†	**NICARAGUA.**	1903, 1, 2, and 5 cent.; President Santos Zelaya	3 ...	0	4
132†	**PARAGUAY.**	1892, 1, 2, 4, 5, 10, 14, 20, and 30 c.	8 ...	1	6
133*	Do.	do., used; portraits of Juan Batista Ejusquiza, etc.	6 ...	1	6
134†	**PERSIA.**	1876, 1, 2, 5, and 10 shahi; Shah Nasr-ed-Dhin	4 ...	1	6
135†	Do.	1882-84, 10 ch. and 1 and 5 fcs. do.	3 ...	2	6
136*	Do.	do., 10 ch., 1 fc., and 5 kr. do.	3 ...	1	0
137†	Do.	1889, 10 ch., 1, 2, and 5 kr. do.	4 ...	1	3
138*	Do.	1891, including large and small 1, 2, and 5 kr.; Shah Nasr-ed-Dhin	7 ...	1	3
139†	Do.	1894, 10 and 16 ch., 1, 2, 5, and 10 kr.; Shah Nasr-ed-Dhin; the two last with silver and gold borders	6 ...	3	6
140†	Do.	1898, 2, 3, and 5 kr.; portrait of Shah Muzzaffar-ed-Dhin	3 ...	2	0
141†	Do.	1899 do. with surcharge	3 ...	2	0
142†	Do.	1903, 1, 2, and 5 kr.; portrait of Shah Muzzaffar-ed-Dhin	3 ...	5	0
143*	Do.	do., 1, 2, 5, and 10 kr. do. do. used	4 ...	3	6
144†	Do.	Service Stamps, 5, 10, and 12 ch.	3 ...	0	8

(To be continued.)

NEW ISSUES.

ALL UNUSED UNLESS OTHERWISE STATED.

AUSTRIAN OFFICES IN CRETE.

1905. *New types and surcharges.*

	s.	d.
25 centimes, black and ultramarine	0	5
50 ,, ,, dull blue	0	9

BHOPAL.

1903-4. *Type* 13, *redrawn.*

½ a., black on *wove*	0	6

BRAZIL.

1904. *Change of colour. Perf.* 11½.

700 reis, black and mauve	1	3

CHARKHARI.

1894-7. *Type* 1. *Reduced prices.*

¼ a., mauve (No. 3)	0	1
½ a. ,, (No. 5)	0	1
1 a., green (No 6*a*)	0	2
2 a., dark green (No. 9)	0	3
4 a. ,, (No. 11)	0	6

GERMAN LEVANT.

1904. *Type* 61, *altered.*

10 para on 5 pf., black and green	0	1
20 para on 10 pf. ,, carmine	0	2

HOLKAR.

1904. *Types* 5, *etc.*

¼ a., orange	0	1
3 a., violet	0	5
4 a., blue	0	6

INDIA.

1904. *King's Head.*

12 a., purple on red	1	4
1 r., carmine and green	1	9
2 r., yellow-brown and carmine	3	6
3 r., dark green and brown	5	0
5 r., mauve and ultramarine	8	6

NATAL.

1904. *King's Head. Wmk. Crown and C C.*

£1 10s., green and violet	36	0

1905. *King's Head. Multiple wmk.*

½d., green	0	1

NEPAUL.

1899. *Type* 2. *Native paper. Imperf.*

½ a., black-brown	0	1

ORANGE RIVER COLONY.

1903. *King's Head. Single wmk.*

	s.	d.
½d., yellow-green	0	1
1d., scarlet	0	2
2d., brown	0	3
2½d., ultramarine	0	4
3d., mauve	0	5
4d., sage-green and scarlet	0	6
6d., mauve and scarlet	0	8
1s., bistre	1	4
Complete set of eight	3	3

PERAK.

Oct. 30th, 1900. *Provisional for three days used at Tanjong Malim Post Office when the ordinary stamps were exhausted. Black on plain paper, inscribed* "POSTAL RECEIPT FOR THREE CENTS."

3 cents, black on white	24	0

Gibbons Stamp Weekly

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	Gt. Britain and Colonies.	U.S.A. and Canada.	France, Italy, or Spain.	Germany.
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12 ,,	6s. 6d.	$1.60	fc. 8.00	m. 6.50

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In Great Britain it will be cheaper for our readers to order *G. S. W.* from their nearest Newsagent or Stationer, or from the Railway Bookstall. This will save postage, and the paper will be delivered flat, instead of folded as it would be if posted.

OUR PRIZE COMPETITIONS

COMPETITION No. 2.

RESULTS.

CLASS I. *No age limit.*

First Prize.—Mr. JAMES COATES,
Pitcullen House,
Perth, N.B.

Second Prize.—Mr. A. H. SMITHERS,
3, Harcourt Terrace, Downs' Road,
Enfield.

Extra Prize.—Mr. S. B. RELTON,
Broadmoor, Crowthorne,
Berks.

CLASS II. *Under 17 years.*

First Prize.—Mr. CHARLES CARE,
184, Holland Park Avenue,
Kensington,
London, W.

Second Prize.—Mr. W. J. HARTLEY,
36, Waterloo Road,
Dublin.

NOTES ON COMPETITION No. 2.

WE received a very large number of answers, in fact far more than we anticipated, as this competition was certainly more difficult than No. 1.

***

From many of the answers we shall be able from time to time to use one or more suggestions, and we thank our readers for the great trouble they have taken in suggesting so many, and in some cases very ingenious, ideas for future competitions.

***

An extra prize has been awarded Mr. S. B. RELTON because he not only sent in three good ideas, but also **seventeen** others, several of which we may be able to use.

***

GRATIS STAMP. No. 3

IN the annexed space our subscribers should find a Mauritius, 1877, Halfpenny on 10d., rose, unused, but overprinted "CANCELLED" by the Government when they sold the stock to our publishers about 1880.



Messrs. STANLEY GIBBONS, Limited,

Have the honour to announce that they have purchased the well-known businesses of . .

Messrs. HAMILTON-SMITH & Co.,

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LONDON, E.C.,

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7, Argyll Street, Regent Street,

LONDON, W.

CAPITAL.

The Capital of these Amalgamated Businesses is as follows:—

ORDINARY SHARES . .	**£91,500**
DEBENTURES	**25,000**
	£116,500

all of which has been taken up privately, fully paid, and no Shares or Debentures are available for Public Sale.

DIRECTORS.

The Directors of the new Company are as follows:—

CHARLES J. PHILLIPS, Managing Director.

D. W. GLENDINING,
S. E. GWYER,
G. HAMILTON-SMITH,
W. H. PHILLIPS,

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Premises have been taken at

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On the junction of Leadenhall Street and Gracechurch Street, and nearly facing Cornhill, where it is proposed, early in FEBRUARY, to open a large Shop and Offices for the purposes of conducting our rapidly increasing City business, and to take advantage of the opportunity of purchasing current Used Stamps in bulk, at better prices than have hitherto been obtainable in the City.

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Mr. G. HAMILTON-SMITH,

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The business of *GLENDINING & CO.* will be converted into a private Limited Company, in which all the shares are taken up by *STANLEY GIBBONS, Limited,* and the Directors of that firm.

This Business will in future be conducted under the name of

Messrs. GLENDINING & Co., Limited,

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No. 7, Argyll Street, Regent Street, London, W.

Messrs. GLENDINING & CO., Limited, will, as hitherto, hold AUCTION SALES of *COINS, MEDALS, STAMPS, BRIC-À-BRAC,* and *FINE ART* generally, and with the largely increased Capital at their command will be prepared to make *LIBERAL ADVANCES* on the most advantageous terms upon collections of any of these properties.

This Branch will be under the management of

Messrs. GLENDINING and GWYER

as hitherto.

The Head Office and Registered Offices of the Company will remain as hitherto.

STANLEY GIBBONS, Limited,

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GLENDINING & CO.,

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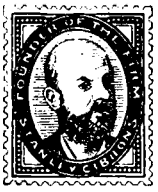
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Vol. I. No. 8. One Penny.

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EDITED BY
EDWARD J. NANKIVELL.



25 February, 1905.



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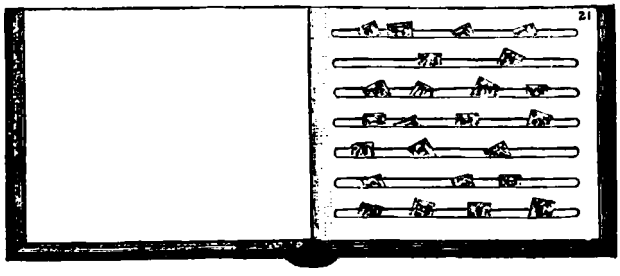
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N.B —In ordering please give the number of the set and the price.

BIOGRAPHICAL SETS.

Set No.			No. of stamps.	s.	d.
119‡	**MEXICO.**	1868, 6, 12, and 25 c.; Hidalgo	3 ...	0	9
120‡	Do.	1872 do. do. do.	3 ...	0	5
121†	Do.	1874, 4, 5, 10, 25, and 50 c. do.	5 ...	1	0
122*	Do.	do., 5, 10, 25, and 50 c. do.	4 ...	0	8
123†	Do.	1879, 1, 2, 5, 10, 25, 50, 85, and 100 c.; President Juarez	8 ...	5	0
124*	Do.	do. used do.	7 ...	3	0
125†	Do.	1882, 12, 18, and 24 c.; President Juarez	3 ...	0	6
126†	Do.	1884, 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, and 50 c., and 1 and 2 pesos; Hidalgo	9 ...	1	9
127†	Do.	1885, 2, 3, and 5 c. do.	3 ...	1	6
128*	Do.	do., used	6 ...	1	9
129†	**MONACO.**	1891-1901, 1, 2, 5, 10, 10, 15, 15, 25, 50, and 75 c.; Prince Albert	10 ...	2	9
130†	**MONTENEGRO.**	1898, 2, 3, 5, 15, 20, and 25 nov.; Prince Nicholas	6 ...	1	9
131†	**NICARAGUA.**	1903, 1, 2, and 5 cent.; President Santos Zelaya	3 ...	0	4
132†	**PARAGUAY.**	1892, 1, 2, 4, 5, 10, 14, 20, and 30 c.	8 ...	1	6
133*	Do.	do., used; portraits of Juan Batista Ejusquiza, etc.	6 ...	1	6
134†	**PERSIA.**	1876, 1, 2, 5, and 10 shahi; Shah Nasr-ed-Dhin	4 ...	1	6
135†	Do.	1882-84, 10 ch. and 1 and 5 fcs. do.	3 ...	2	6
136*	Do.	do., 10 ch., 1 fc., and 5 kr. do.	3 ...	1	0
137†	Do.	1889, 10 ch., 1, 2, and 5 kr. do.	4 ...	1	3
138*	Do.	1891, including large and small 1, 2, and 5 kr.; Shah Nasr-ed-Dhin	7 ...	1	3
139†	Do.	1894, 10 and 16 ch., 1, 2, 5, and 10 kr.; Shah Nasr-ed-Dhin; the two last with silver and gold borders	6 ...	3	6
140†	Do.	1898, 2, 3, and 5 kr.; portrait of Shah Muzzaffar-ed-Dhin	3 ...	2	0
141†	Do.	1899 do. with surcharge	3 ...	2	0
142†	Do.	1903, 1, 2, and 5 kr.; portrait of Shah Muzzaffar-ed-Dhin	3 ...	5	0
143*	Do.	do., 1½ 2, 5, and 10 kr. do. do. used	4 ...	3	6
144†	Do.	Service Stamps, 5, 10, and 12 ch.	3 ...	0	8

(To be continued.)

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	Gt. Britain and Colonies.	U.S.A. and Canada.	France, Italy, or Spain.	Germany.
3 months	1s. 8d.	40 c.	fc. 2.00	m. 1.70
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12 ,,	6s. 6d.	$1.60	fc. 8.00	m. 6.50

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Edited by Major E. B. EVANS.

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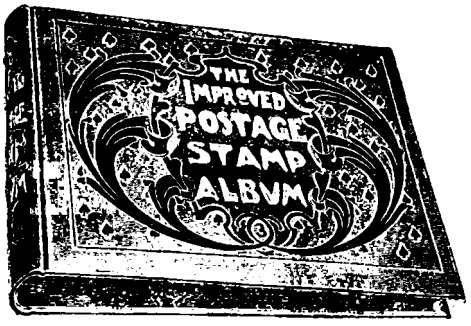
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Vol. I. No. 9. One Penny.

Gibbons Stamp Weekly

EDITED BY
EDWARD J. NANKIVELL.



4 March, 1905.



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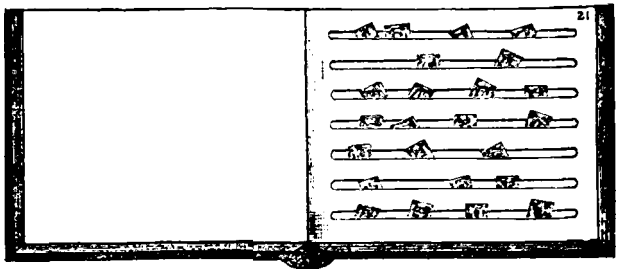
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3d. ,, olive	0	5
6d. ,, brown	0	8
2s., green and violet	2	8
5s. ,, blue	6	6

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COUPON No. 3. 25 FEBRUARY, 1905

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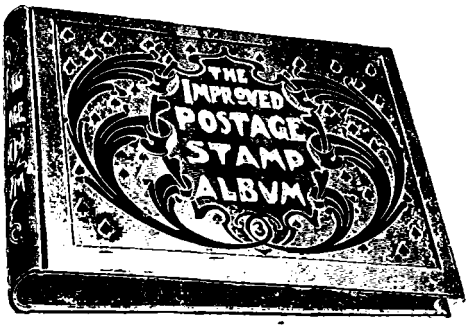
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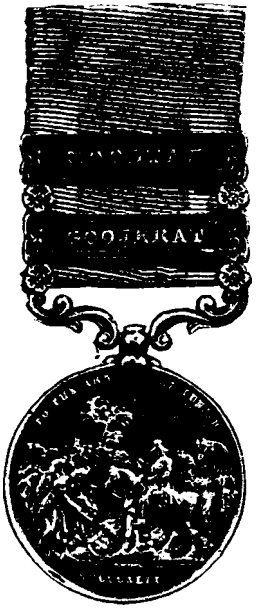
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Gibbons Stamp Weekly

EDITED BY
EDWARD J. NANKIVELL.



11 March, 1905.



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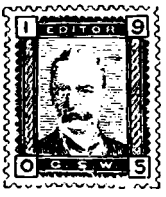
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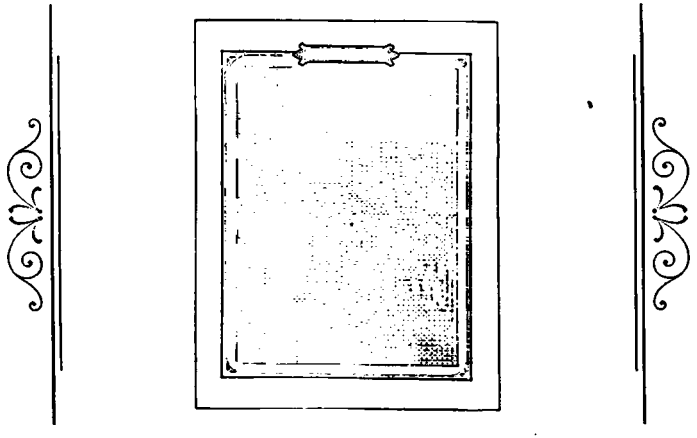
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1903. *Type* 44. *Marino, surcharged* "CORREOS YRAPA."

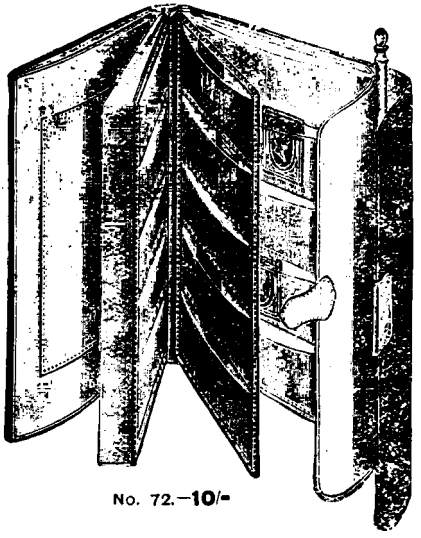
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1903. *Type* 45. *Maturin, surcharged* "CORREOS MATURIN."

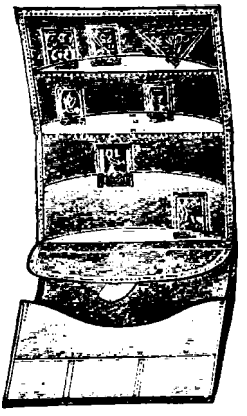
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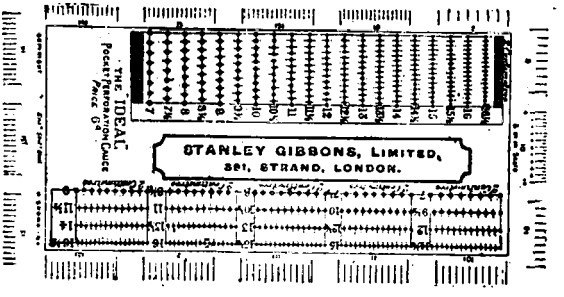




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No. 20.—The Five Shilling Packet of Rare Unused Stamps contains 60 varieties, including the following uncut envelopes: Ceylon, Canada, and Egypt; also adhesives: rare Siam, Guatemala, British Guiana provisional 1 c., rare provisional United States, Shanghai, Sandwich Isles, Martinique, Alwar, Johor, obsolete Tolima, Perak, provisional Ceylon, provisional West Australia, Cyprus, Argentine, Mexico Porte de Mar, Granada Confederation, Cashmere Service, Brunswick, Swiss newsband, Chili, Bechuanaland, Finland, Jhalawar, Porto Rico, Belgium, provisional Norway, Spain, British Honduras, Greece, Chefoo and provisional Straits Settlements, and many others. All different and warranted genuine. Post-free, 5 1.

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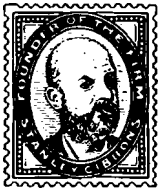
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Vol. I. No. 11. One Penny.

Gibbons Stamp Weekly

EDITED BY

EDWARD J. NANKIVELL.



18 March, 1905.



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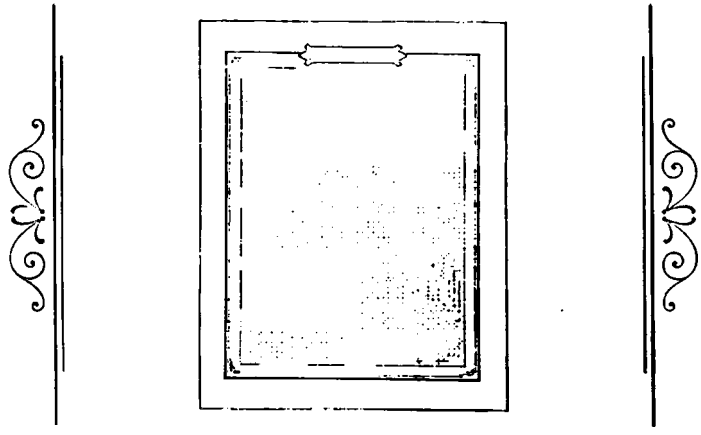
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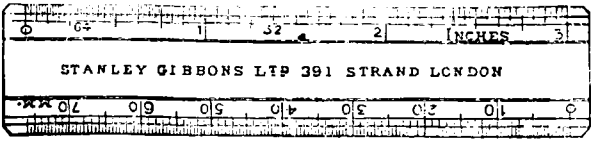
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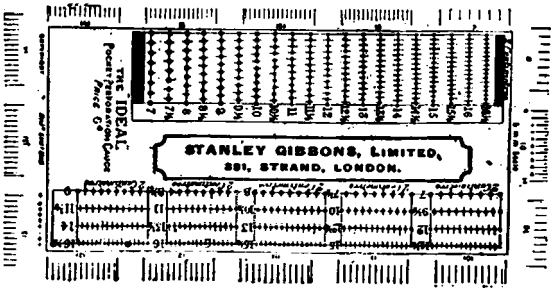
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In order to economise space we have omitted the introduction and business notices hitherto printed in French, German, and Spanish.

The question of the *prices* quoted in this Catalogue has received our most careful attention. These have been most carefully revised and lowered where justified, but we cannot close our eyes to the fact that our stock of old English Colonial Stamps is becoming exhausted, and the difficulty of replenishing it now has been enormously increased compared with our experience of a few years ago, and in many hundreds of cases we are unable to *buy* stamps at the prices at which we *sold* them last year, therefore very many varieties will be found advanced in price.

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Vol. I. No. 12. One Penny.

Gibbons Stamp Weekly

EDITED BY
EDWARD J. NANKIVELL.





25 March, 1905.

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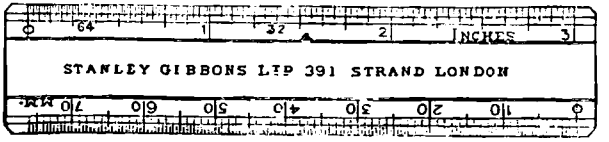
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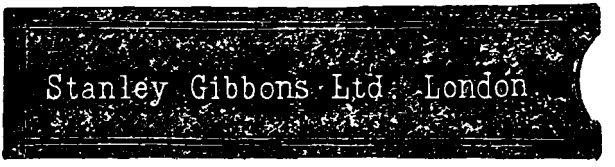
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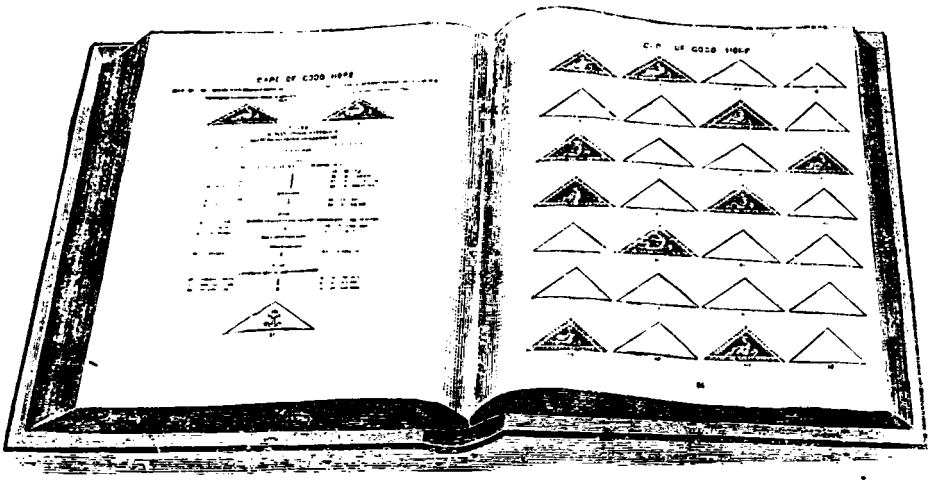
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We are rather sorry to say that in order to place the large illustrations in double column it has been necessary to enlarge the Catalogues by about an inch, both in width and length.

In this edition also a more expensive paper is used, which being thinner than that in former use, is better adapted for bringing out the type and illustrations more clearly.

In the last edition we announced that we had ceased to price unused British Official stamps; but now that these have been withdrawn from use, and the authorities do not object to their sale in small quantities, we have in the present edition priced such as we had in stock at the time of going to press.

In like manner, finding from inquiries made that in many colonies similar stamps, *e.g.* "Officials," "Service," "O.S.", Postage Dues, etc., have at one time or another been sold to the public, we again quote prices for such as have thus been legitimately obtained, and which we had in stock at the time of going to press.

It has not been necessary to rewrite many lists in Part I., but we would draw especial attention to that of TRANSVAAL, 1869 to 1878, which has been—we hope finally and completely—listed, following the exhaustive researches of Mr. R. B. Yardley, whose aid in preparing this new list we most gratefully acknowledge.

UGANDA has also been rewritten on the lines of the articles published by Mr. C. J. Phillips in the *Monthly Journal*.

The stamps of SCINDE were really the first postage stamps used in India and have now been placed in their proper place in front of the Indian general issues.

THE STAMPS OF INDIA OVERPRINTED FOR USE IN THE NATIVE STATES, such as Chamba, etc., have been rearranged according to the excellent handbook published by the Philatelic Society of India.

The illustrations of the watermarks used by Messrs. Perkins Bacon and Co. and Messrs. De La Rue and Co. for Stamps printed by them for various colonies and possessions have been grouped together on page xiv of the introductory notes, and reference is now made to them thus, instead of, as in previous Catalogues, under each particular colony.

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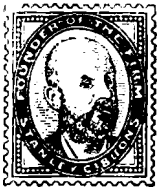
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1 April, 1905.



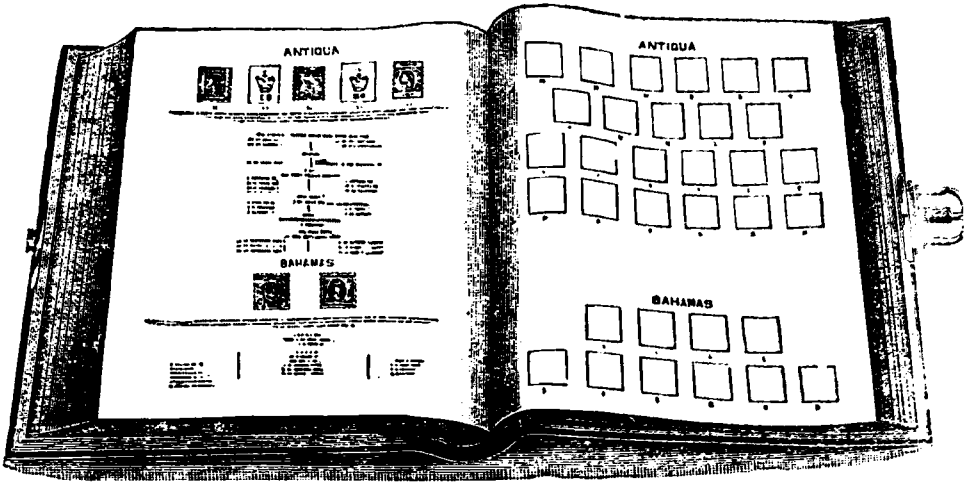
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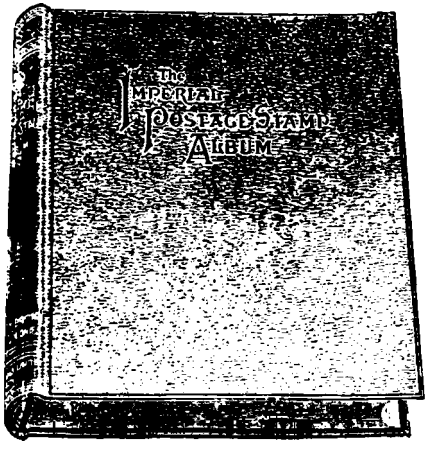
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THE
Monthly Journal.

Edited by Major E. B. EVANS.

Published on the last day of each month.

SUBSCRIPTIONS: **2/-** per Annum.

All Subscriptions must be prepaid, and commence with the first number of a volume. Collectors who subscribe now will receive the back numbers of the current volume.

THE *Monthly Journal* is chiefly intended for Stamp Collectors who are rather advanced. The chief features are—

1st.—A series of entirely Original Articles by the leading Philatelic Writers of the day on all subjects of interest to Stamp Collectors.

2nd.—A special and most carefully compiled list of all New Issues, Discoveries, Minor Varieties, etc. etc.

The JANUARY number contains amongst other features—

THE STAMPS OF SIRMOOR, by Major Evans.

NOTES AND NEWS, by Charles J. Phillips.

A TRIP ROUND THE WORLD, by L. L. R. Hausburg.

Eight and a half pages of NEW ISSUES, etc. etc.

NEW ISSUES
AND SPECIAL BARGAINS.

ALL UNUSED UNLESS OTHERWISE STATED

ARGENTINE REPUBLIC.

1896-7. *Wmk. large Sun.*

		s.	d.
50 c., deep green	*used*	0	2
1 peso, lake	,,	0	4
2 pesos, deep green	,,	0	6

1899-1900. *Types 68 and 69.*

12 c., sky-blue	*used*		6
12 c., slate-blue	,,	0	4
20 c., lake	,,	0	1
24 c., violet	,,	0	2
50 c., bright blue	,,	0	2
1 peso, deep blue and black	,,	0	3

1901-3. *Same types.*

6 c., black	*used*	0	3
12 c., olive-green	,,		4
15 c., slate-blue	,,	0	2
15 c., greenish blue	,,	0	1
30 c., vermilion	,,	0	1

DOMINICAN REPUBLIC.

1904. *Provisionals; surcharged on 1901 issue.*

5 c. on 50 c., black and lilac	0	9
5 c. on 1 p., brown ,, ,,	0	9
10 c. on 1 p. ,, ,,	1	6
5 c. on 50 c. (inverted surcharge)	5	0
5 c. on 1 p. (,, ,,)	5	0
10 c. on 1 p. (,, ,,)	7	6

August, 1904. *Official stamps of Type 81 surcharged for postage.*

5 c., blue, black, and red	0	9
10 c., green and black	1	6
2 c., scarlet and black (inverted surcharge)	6	0
5 c., blue, black, and red (,, ,,)	4	6

1904. *Unpaid Letter stamps surcharged for Postage.*

1 c. on 2 c., carmine and sepia (inverted surcharge)	2	6
2 c. ,, ,,	0	5
2 c. ,, ,, (inverted surcharge)	3	6
1 c. on 4 c. ,, ,,	0	4
1 c. on 4 c. ,, ,, (inverted surcharge)		6

HUNGARY.

1905. *Types 7 and 8. New type of Crown wmk.*

1 f., grey	0	1	25 f., blue	0	4
2 f., olive-yellow	0	1	30 f., orange-brown	0	5
3 f., orange	0	1	35 f., red-lilac	0	6
5 f., emerald	0	1	50 f., lake	0	7
6 f., olive-green	0	1	1 kor., red-brown	1	2
20 f., brown	0	3			

IVORY COAST.

1903. *Parcel Post.*

50 c., lilac	2	6
1 fr., red	3	0
50 c. on 15 c., green		6
50 c. on 15 c. ,, *used*	1	6
1 fr. on 5 c., blue ,,		0
Un fr. on 5 c. ,, ,,		0
1 fr. on 10 c., lilac-brown	5	0
1 fr on 10 c. ,, *used*		0
4 fr. on 15 c., green ,,	8	6
4 fr. on 60 c., lilac ,,	8	6
50 c., dull lilac (surcharged *C.P.*)		6
1 fr., red (,, ,,)		6
4 fr. on 5 c., blue		0
8 fr. on 15 c., green		0

LEEWARD ISLANDS.

1903. *King's Head. Single wmk.*

½d., lilac and green	0	1	6d., lilac and brown	0	8
1d. ,, carmine	0	2	1s., green and carmine		4
2d. ,, ochre	0	3	2s. 6d. ,, black		3
2½d. ,, ultramarine	0	4	5s. ,, blue		6
3d. ,, black	0	5			

MADEIRA.

1876-80. *Overprint Type 5. Perf. 12½.*

120 r., blue (No. 80) *used*		0

1876-80. *Overprint Type 5. Perf. 13½.*

100 reis, pale lilac (No. 96) *used*		0

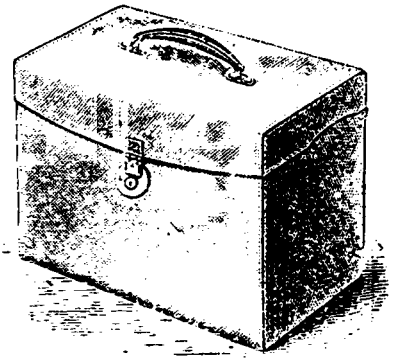
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BLANK ALBUM, No. 32.

IN response to inquiry for a book to hold stamps issued since the publication of the Imperial Album, we have brought out one of the same size, but without illustrations.

It contains leaves of

HEAVY WHITE PAPER

with a neat border of neutral grey, with a quadrillé background inside the grey border, and name space at top of each page, printed on one side of leaf only.

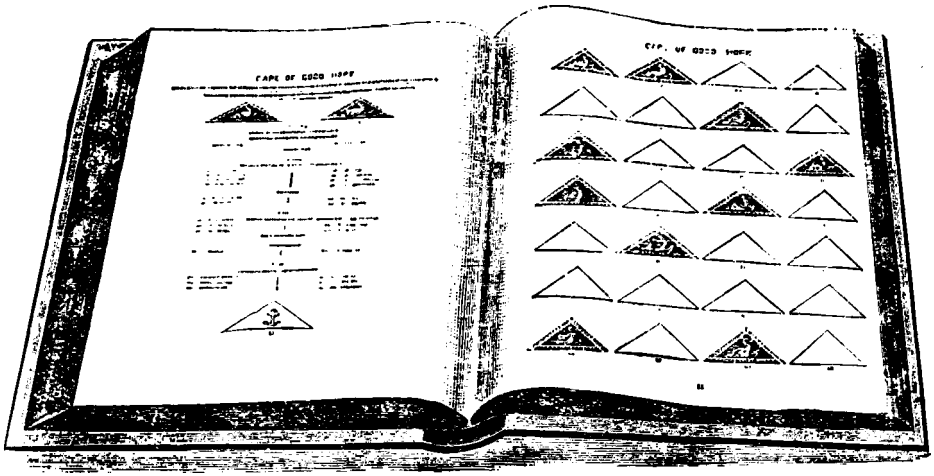
Bound in dark green or marone.

When ordering mention colour desired.

No. 32.—150 leaves bound in cloth, bevelled boards, gold lines on front of cover, lettered on back, "POSTAGE STAMPS," with blank panel above and below in which particulars of contents can be inserted, gilt edges.

Price 10/6; post-free 11/3; abroad, 12/3.

British Africa Postage Stamp Album.



OWING to the fact that the war in South Africa has caused great attention to be drawn to the stamps of the British Possessions on that continent, and to the enormous increase in the number of collectors that has ensued from the issue of the War Provisionals in Mafeking, Bloemfontein, Pretoria, etc., we think this a good time at which to place before the public a new and very complete Album, designed for the British Possessions, etc., on the African Continent.

The Album is designed upon the well-known plan of the Imperial Albums—the stamps in numbered spaces of the correct sizes on the right-hand page, and the description, full particulars, and illustrations on the opposite page.

In order to make this a *permanent* Album we have provided from one to four blank pages *after each country*, thus making the Album available for the issues of many years to come.

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1905.

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READY END OF MARCH.

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IN issuing the 1905 Edition of our Priced Catalogue, we wish to draw attention to the chief alterations made therein.

After a trial for some years of small illustrations, we have come to the conclusion that they are not suitable for the *leading Stamp Catalogue*, chiefly from the fact that when they have been used in printing two or three large editions of this work all the fine lines wear out, with the result that, in many cases, the young collector has had great difficulty in identifying varieties. We therefore decided to go to the great expense of inserting new and exact-sized illustrations throughout our Catalogue. The cost has been close upon £800, and we leave our readers to judge whether the result is not greatly superior to any that has hitherto been attained by similar trade lists. A comparison of this new edition with any other catalogue will, we venture to think, conclusively prove that for general get-up and for beauty and clearness it far excels any previously published.

We are rather sorry to say that in order to place the large illustrations in double column it has been necessary to enlarge the Catalogues by about an inch, both in width and length.

In this edition also a more expensive paper is used, which being thinner than that in former use, is better adapted for bringing out the type and illustrations more clearly.

In the last edition we announced that we had ceased to price unused British Official stamps; but now that these have been withdrawn from use, and the authorities do not object to their sale in small quantities, we have in the present edition priced such as we had in stock at the time of going to press.

In like manner, finding from inquiries made that in many colonies similar stamps, *e.g.* "Officials," "Service," "O.S.", Postage Dues, etc., have at one time or another been sold to the public, we again quote prices for such as have thus been legitimately obtained, and which we had in stock at the time of going to press.

It has not been necessary to rewrite many lists in Part I., but we would draw especial attention to that of TRANSVAAL, 1869 to 1878, which has been—we hope finally and completely—listed, following the exhaustive researches of Mr. R. B. Yardley, whose aid in preparing this new list we most gratefully acknowledge.

UGANDA has also been rewritten on the lines of the articles published by Mr. C. J. Phillips in the *Monthly Journal*.

The stamps of SCINDE were really the first postage stamps used in India and have now been placed in their proper place in front of the Indian general issues.

THE STAMPS OF INDIA OVERPRINTED FOR USE IN THE NATIVE STATES, such as Chamba, etc., have been rearranged according to the excellent handbook published by the Philatelic Society of India.

The illustrations of the watermarks used by Messrs. Perkins Bacon and Co. and Messrs. De La Rue and Co. for Stamps printed by them for various colonies and possessions have been grouped together on page xiv of the introductory notes, and reference is now made to them thus, instead of, as in previous Catalogues, under each particular colony.

Owing to the largely increased cost of these Catalogues it has been necessary to raise the price of each part to 2*s.* 6*d.*, or 2*s.* 9*d.* post-free.

The question of the *prices* quoted in this Catalogue has received our most careful attention. These have been most carefully revised, and higher prices have become necessary in many cases.

An important point to remember is that *all prices* quoted in our Catalogue are in every case based upon *stock in hand* at the time of going to press. We do not believe in "guess-work prices," or those based upon the average of other catalogues.

♣ ♣ ♣

VOL. II. contains the

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Price 2/6; post-free, 2/9. READY END OF MAY. Prepaid orders now booked.

NOTE.—The collector will find in this Catalogue a mass of useful information given by no other catalogue known to us. We divide and price separately all minor varieties of perforation, watermark, and type, and thus enable the collector to discover the value of rare varieties he may possess, and which are not given in any other catalogue.

☞ ***None of our Prices are guess-work; they are based on our stock of stamps, and all stamps priced are in stock as we go to press.***

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Vol. I. No. 14. One Penny.

Gibbons Stamp Weekly

EDITED BY
EDWARD J. NANKIVELL.



8 April, 1905.



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THE PRESENT VOLUME has been prepared for the reception of the Stamps cut from Envelopes, Registration Envelopes, Wrappers, etc., for which in previous Editions provision was made after the Adhesive Stamps of the respective countries to which they belong.

In the collection of this class of Philatelic matter the general collector will find his occupation only second in interest to that of the gathering together Postage Stamps proper; and while the difficulty of filling the spaces will be much smaller than in the case of Adhesive Stamps, these excised Stamps, nevertheless, exist in sufficient numbers to add a zest to his labours. The material advantages which he has in his favour are—(1) a far smaller number of spaces to fill; (2) a larger proportion of unused specimens obtainable; and (3) last, but not least, he will find that, by a very moderate outlay, he will be able to build up a much more advanced state towards completion than would be necessary in the case of Postage Stamps.

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If a client starts a collection by ordering even the cheapest stamps from our Catalogue, the cost soon runs to an appreciable amount, as our lowest unit for a single stamp is one penny, whereas it is only a fraction of that amount if he starts with the cheaper packets.

We therefore recommend beginners to start with a good *packet;* the larger and greater number of stamps that it contains, the better will be the value he will get for his money.

When the contents of the packet have been arranged in his album, the collector will then be able to see in which countries he is weakest, and can then with great advantage turn to the *Set List*, in which we quote nearly 2,000 different sets of stamps, at prices from 20 per cent. to 50 per cent. less than our retail Catalogue prices. He can there select just those sets that will help to make a good display in his album; and eventually, when he has filled up his pet country or group in this manner, can then turn to the retail Catalogue and order any particular variety he may be short of in his collection.

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3d., yellow-brown	0	5	1s., brown-red	1	0

AUSTRIA.

1904. *Stamped Newspaper Labels. Type* 27.

2 h., blue on yellow	0	1	2 h., blue on green	0	1

1905. *Newspaper Stamp. With shiny bars*

2 h., blue		1

CEYLON.

1903-4. "ON SERVICE." *King's Head. Single wm.*

2 c., orange-brown *used*	4	0	5 c., lilac *used*	2	0
3 c., green ,,	5	6	15 c., blue ,,	3	6
30 c., violet and green ,,				7	5

CRETE.

1905. *New Picturesque Stamps.*

2 lepta, purple	0 1
5 ,, green	0 1
10 ,, carmine	0 2
20 ,, blue-green	0 3
25 ,, ultramarine	0
50 ,, brown	0 8
1 dr., carmine and brown	1 7
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5 dr., black and sage-green	3
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CUCUTA.

1905. *Colours changed. Imperf.*

1 c., green on yellow	0 1
2 c., pink ,,	0 2
5 c., indigo ,,	0 4
10 c., red-brown ,,	0 6
20 c., deep green ,,	1 0
50 c., red ,,	2 6
1 p., lilac	5 0

CYPRUS.

1904. *King's Head. Multiple wmk.*

½ pi., green and carmine	0 1
1 pi., carmine and ultramarine	0 2
2 pi., blue and marone	0 4
4 pi., sage-green and marone	0 5
6 pi., sepia and green	1 0
9 pi., brown and carmine	1 6
18 pi., black and brown	3 0
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5 c., pale blue	0	1	50 c., lilac		2
10 c., brick-red	0	1	1 p., indigo		4
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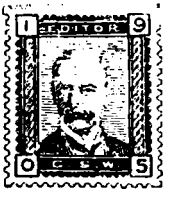
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Gibbons Stamp Weekly

EDITED BY
EDWARD J. NANKIVELL.



15 April, 1905.

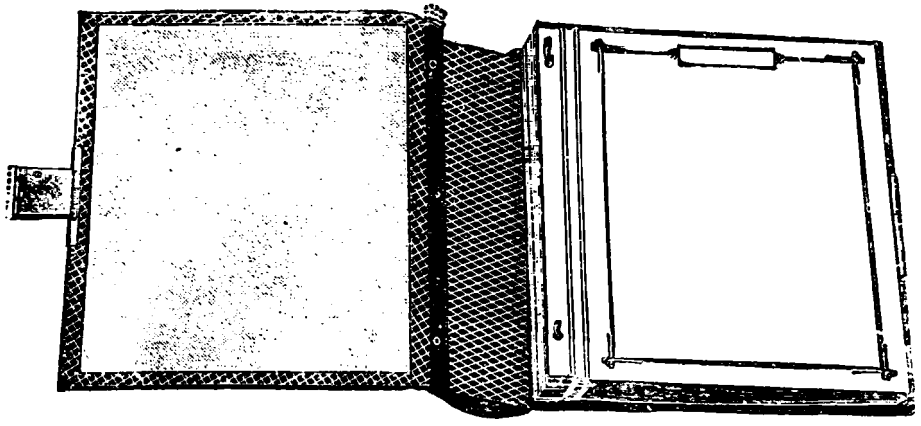


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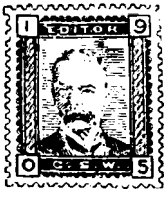
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Gibbons Stamp Weekly

EDITED BY
EDWARD J. NANKIVELL.



22 April, 1905.



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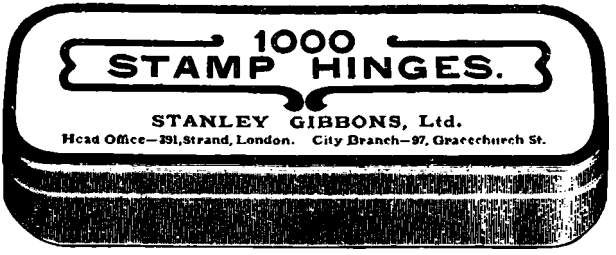
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After a trial for some years of small illustrations, we have come to the conclusion that they are not suitable for the *leading Stamp Catalogue*, chiefly from the fact that when they have been used in printing two or three large editions of this work all the fine lines wear out, with the result that, in many cases, the young collector has had great difficulty in identifying varieties. We therefore decided to go to the great expense of inserting new and exact-sized illustrations throughout our Catalogue. The cost has been close upon £800, and we leave our readers to judge whether the result is not greatly superior to any that has hitherto been attained by similar trade lists. A comparison of this new edition with any other catalogue will, we venture to think, conclusively prove that for general get-up and for beauty and clearness it far excels any previously published.

We are rather sorry to say that in order to place the large illustrations in double column it has been necessary to enlarge the Catalogues by about an inch, both in width and length.

In this edition also a more expensive paper is used, which being thinner than that in former use, is better adapted for bringing out the type and illustrations more clearly.

In the last edition we announced that we had ceased to price unused British Official stamps; but now that these have been withdrawn from use, and the authorities do not object to their sale in small quantities, we have in the present edition priced such as we had in stock at the time of going to press.

In like manner, finding from inquiries made that in many colonies similar stamps, *e.g.* "Officials," "Service," "O.S.", Postage Dues, etc., have at one time or another been sold to the public, we again quote prices for such as have thus been legitimately obtained, and which we had in stock at the time of going to press.

It has not been necessary to rewrite many lists in Part I., but we would draw especial attention to that of TRANSVAAL, 1869 to 1878, which has been—we hope finally and completely—listed, following the exhaustive researches of Mr. R. B. Yardley, whose aid in preparing this new list we most gratefully acknowledge.

UGANDA has also been rewritten on the lines of the articles published by Mr. C. J. Phillips in the *Monthly Journal*.

The stamps of SCINDE were really the first postage stamps used in India and have now been placed in their proper place in front of the Indian general issues.

THE STAMPS OF INDIA OVERPRINTED FOR USE IN THE NATIVE STATES, such as Chamba, etc., have been rearranged according to the excellent handbook published by the Philatelic Society of India.

The illustrations of the watermarks used by Messrs. Perkins Bacon and Co. and Messrs. De La Rue and Co. for Stamps printed by them for various colonies and possessions have been grouped together on page xi of the introductory notes, and reference is now made to them thus, instead of, as in previous Catalogues, under each particular colony.

Owing to the largely increased cost of these Catalogues it has been necessary to raise the price of each part to 2*s.* 6*d.*, or 2*s.* 9*d.* post-free.

The question of the *prices* quoted in this Catalogue has received our most careful attention. These have been most carefully revised, and higher prices have become necessary in many cases.

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Transvaal	2,992
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Great Britain	1,837
Greece	786
British Guiana	845
Orange River Colony	866
Bechuanaland and Zululand	283
Griqualand	363
United States	1,573
Luxemburg	304
Austria and Hungary, etc.	766
Tasmania	1,082
Persia	279
Egypt	203
Victoria	1,430
British East Africa, British South Africa, Zanzibar, etc.	1,177
Roumania	510
Hong Kong	293
Dominican Republic	354
Tonga, etc.	215
Uganda, etc.	255
Cape of Good Hope	1,040
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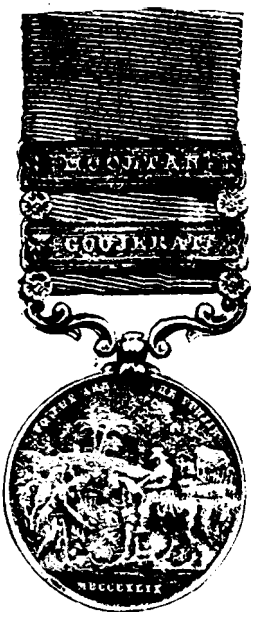
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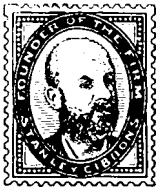
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Gibbons Stamp Weekly

EDITED BY
EDWARD J. NANKIVELL.



29 April, 1905.



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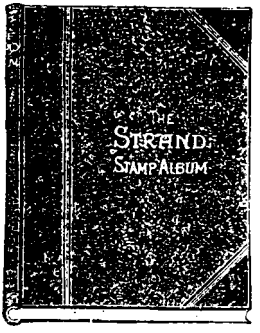
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NEW ISSUES AND VARIETIES. Six pages.

A STANDARD ARTICLE ON THE POSTAGE STAMPS OF THE PHILIPPINE ISLANDS, by L. Hanciau.

THE STAMPS OF SIRMOOR, by Major E. B. Evans.

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The Stamps will be classified from the answers received, and the competitors will thus be their own judges.

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Nearly 500 answers have been received in this competition, which is open to Foreign readers until May 10th; therefore results cannot be announced until about the middle of May.

COUPON No. 4. 29 APRIL, 1905

Name and full address.

(Please write distinctly, and say if *Mrs., Miss,* or *Mr.*)

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1905.

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IN issuing the 1905 Edition of our Priced Catalogue, we wish to draw attention to the chief alterations made therein.

After a trial for some years of small illustrations, we have come to the conclusion that they are not suitable for the *leading Stamp Catalogue*, chiefly from the fact that when they have been used in printing two or three large editions of this work all the fine lines wear out, with the result that, in many cases, the young collector has had great difficulty in identifying varieties. We therefore decided to go to the great expense of inserting new and exact-sized illustrations throughout our Catalogue. The cost has been close upon £800, and we leave our readers to judge whether the result is not greatly superior to any that has hitherto been attained by similar trade lists. A comparison of this new edition with any other catalogue will, we venture to think, conclusively prove that for general get-up and for beauty and clearness it far excels any previously published.

We are rather sorry to say that in order to place the large illustrations in double column it has been necessary to enlarge the Catalogues by about an inch, both in width and length.

In this edition also a more expensive paper is used, which being thinner than that in former use, is better adapted for bringing out the type and illustrations more clearly.

In the last edition we announced that we had ceased to price unused British Official stamps; but now that these have been withdrawn from use, and the authorities do not object to their sale in small quantities, we have in the present edition priced such as we had in stock at the time of going to press.

In like manner, finding from inquiries made that in many colonies similar stamps, *e.g.* "Officials," "Service," "O.S.", Postage Dues, etc., have at one time or another been sold to the public, we again quote prices for such as have thus been legitimately obtained, and which we had in stock at the time of going to press.

It has not been necessary to rewrite many lists in Part I., but we would draw especial attention to that of TRANSVAAL, 1869 to 1878, which has been—we hope finally and completely—listed, following the exhaustive researches of Mr. R. B. Yardley, whose aid in preparing this new list we most gratefully acknowledge.

UGANDA has also been rewritten on the lines of the articles published by Mr. C. J. Phillips in the *Monthly Journal*.

The stamps of SCINDE were really the first postage stamps used in India and have now been placed in their proper place in front of the Indian general issues.

THE STAMPS OF INDIA OVERPRINTED FOR USE IN THE NATIVE STATES, such as Chamba, etc., have been rearranged according to the excellent handbook published by the Philatelic Society of India.

The illustrations of the watermarks used by Messrs. Perkins Bacon and Co. and Messrs. De La Rue and Co. for Stamps printed by them for various colonies and possessions have been grouped together on page xiv of the introductory notes, and reference is now made to them thus, instead of, as in previous Catalogues, under each particular colony.

Owing to the largely increased cost of these Catalogues it has been necessary to raise the price of each part to 2*s.* 6*d.*, or 2*s.* 9*d.* post-free.

The question of the *prices* quoted in this Catalogue has received our most careful attention. These have been most carefully revised, and higher prices have become necessary in many cases.

An important point to remember is that *all prices* quoted in our Catalogue are in every case based upon *stock in hand* at the time of going to press. We do not believe in "guess-work prices," or those based upon the average of other catalogues.

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Greece	786
British Guiana	845
Orange River Colony	866
Bechuanaland and Zululand	283
Griqualand	363
United States	1,573
Luxemburg	304
Austria and Hungary, etc.	766
Tasmania	1,082
Persia	279
Egypt	203
Victoria	1,430
British East Africa, British South Africa, Zanzibar, etc.	1,177
Roumania	510
Hong Kong	293
Dominican Republic	354
Tonga, etc.	215
Uganda, etc.	255
Cape of Good Hope	1,040
Western Australia	755
New South Wales	1,331
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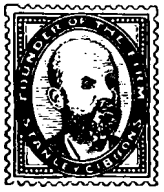
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Gibbons Stamp Weekly

EDITED BY
EDWARD J. NANKIVELL.



6 May, 1905.



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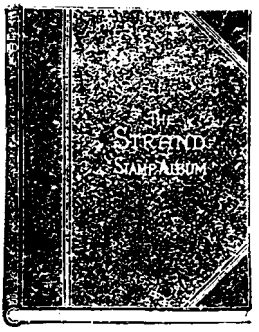
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NEW ISSUES AND VARIETIES. Six pages.
A STANDARD ARTICLE ON THE POSTAGE STAMPS OF THE PHILIPPINE ISLANDS, by L. Hanciau.
THE STAMPS OF SIRMOOR, by Major E. B. Evans.
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1905.

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IN issuing the 1905 Edition of our Priced Catalogue, we wish to draw attention to the chief alterations made therein.

After a trial for some years of small illustrations, we have come to the conclusion that they are not suitable for the *leading Stamp Catalogue*, chiefly from the fact that when they have been used in printing two or three large editions of this work all the fine lines wear out, with the result that, in many cases, the young collector has had great difficulty in identifying varieties. We therefore decided to go to the great expense of inserting new and exact-sized illustrations throughout our Catalogue. The cost has been close upon £800, and we leave our readers to judge whether the result is not greatly superior to any that has hitherto been attained by similar trade lists. A comparison of this new edition with any other catalogue will, we venture to think, conclusively prove that for general get-up and for beauty and clearness it far excels any previously published.

We are rather sorry to say that in order to place the large illustrations in double column it has been necessary to enlarge the Catalogues by about an inch, both in width and length.

In this edition also a more expensive paper is used, which being thinner than that in former use, is better adapted for bringing out the type and illustrations more clearly.

In the last edition we announced that we had ceased to price unused British Official stamps; but now that these have been withdrawn from use, and the authorities do not object to their sale in small quantities, we have in the present edition priced such as we had in stock at the time of going to press.

In like manner, finding from inquiries made that in many colonies similar stamps, *e.g.* "Officials," "Service," "O.S.", Postage Dues, etc., have at one time or another been sold to the public, we again quote prices for such as have thus been legitimately obtained, and which we had in stock at the time of going to press.

It has not been necessary to rewrite many lists in Part I., but we would draw especial attention to that of TRANSVAAL, 1869 to 1878, which has been—we hope finally and completely—listed, following the exhaustive researches of Mr. R. B. Yardley, whose aid in preparing this new list we most gratefully acknowledge.

UGANDA has also been rewritten on the lines of the articles published by Mr. C. J. Phillips in the *Monthly Journal*.

The stamps of SCINDE were really the first postage stamps used in India and have now been placed in their proper place in front of the Indian general issues.

THE STAMPS OF INDIA OVERPRINTED FOR USE IN THE NATIVE STATES, such as Chamba, etc., have been rearranged according to the excellent handbook published by the Philatelic Society of India.

The illustrations of the watermarks used by Messrs. Perkins Bacon and Co. and Messrs. De La Rue and Co. for Stamps printed by them for various colonies and possessions have been grouped together on page xiv of the introductory notes, and reference is now made to them thus, instead of, as in previous Catalogues, under each particular colony.

Owing to the largely increased cost of these Catalogues it has been necessary to raise the price of each part to 2*s.* 6*d.*, or 2*s.* 9*d.* post-free.

The question of the *prices* quoted in this Catalogue has received our most careful attention. These have been most carefully revised, and higher prices have become necessary in many cases.

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Bechuanaland and Zululand	283
Griqualand	363
United States	1,573
Luxemburg	304
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Tasmania	1,082
Persia	279
Egypt	203
Victoria	1,430
British East Africa, British South Africa, Zanzibar, etc.	1,177
Roumania	510
Hong Kong	293
Dominican Republic	354
Tonga, etc.	215
Uganda, etc.	255
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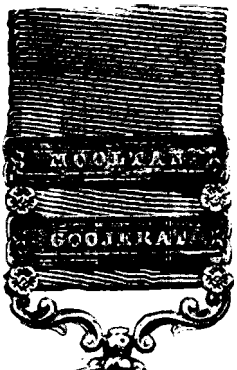
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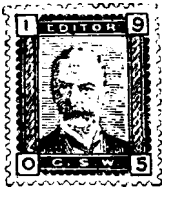
Gibbons Stamp Weekly

EDITED BY

EDWARD J. NANKIVELL.



13 May, 1905.



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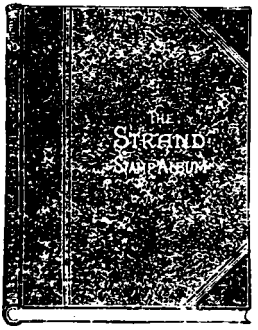
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10d., emerald-green	1	9
1s. ,, ,,	2	0

1902-4. *Perf.* 11½, 12 *comp. with* 11.

½d., emerald-green	0	2	
1d. ,, ,,	0	3	
2d., emerald-green	0	4	
8d. ,, ,,	1	6	

1902-5. *Perf.* 11.

3d., emerald-green	0	8
4d. ,, ,,	0	9
6d. ,, ,,	1	3

BECHUANALAND PROTECTORATE.

1905. *King's Head.*

1d., carmine	0	2	
2½d., ultramarine	0	4	

BRITISH GUIANA.

1905. *Type* 28. *Multiple wmk.*

1 c., green	0	1
2 c., purple and black on red	0	2
12 c. ,, violet	0	8
24 c. ,, green	1	4

BULGARIA.

1505. *Head of King Peter. New value.*

30 paras, black and slate	0	6

DOMINICA.

1903. *Picture Stamps.*

½d., green	0	1
1d., carmine and grey	0	2
2d., brown and green	0	3
2½d., ultramarine and green	0	4
3d., grey-black and mauve	0	5
6d., chestnut and grey	0	8
1s., green and magenta	1	4
2s., magenta and grey-black	2	8
2s. 6d., maize and grey-green	3	3
5s., brown and black (Kirg)	6	6
Complete set of ten values	14	9

FEDERATED MALAY STATES.

1904-5. *Type* 3. *Multiple wmk.*

1 c., green and black	0	1
3 c., brown ,,	0	2
10 c., claret ,,	0	4
20 c., black and lilac	0	8
50 c., orange and black	1	6

GAMBIA.

1904. *King's Head. Multiple wmk.*

1d., carmine	0	2

GOLD COAST.

1904. *King's Head. Multiple wmk.*

2d., lilac and orange	0	3

GRENADA.

1902. *King's Head. Single wmk.*

½d., purple and green	0	1
1d. ,, carmine	0	2
2d. ,, brown	0	3
2½d. ,, ultramarine	0	4
3d. ,, orange	0	5
6d. ,, green	0	8
1s., green and orange	1	4
2s. ,, ultramarine	2	8
5s. ,, carmine	6	6
10s. ,, magenta	12	6
Complete set of ten values	23	6

MAURITIUS.

1904-5. *Type* 36. *Multiple wmk.*

6 c, lilac and carmine on red	0	2

PANAMA CANAL ZONE.

1903. *New types. Surcharged* "CANAL ZONE."

1 c., green	0	1	
2 c., carmine	0	2	

1903-4. *Old Types. Surcharged* "PANAMA" *and* "CANAL ZONE."

5 c., blue, black, and red	0	6
8 c. on 50 c, ochre, black, and red	0	8
10 c., orange, black, and red	0	10

The "S. G." Stamp Hinges.



EXACT SIZE.

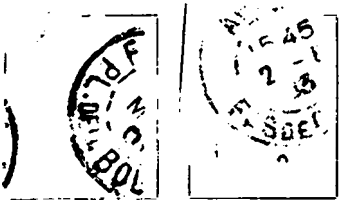
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In the annexed spaces our subscribers should find two French 15 centimes. The Orange one is the issue of 1900, which was only in use a short time, and should become scarce; the pale red is also obsolete, and will be a good little stamp in time.



1905.

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IN issuing the 1905 Edition of our Priced Catalogue, we wish to draw attention to the chief alterations made therein.

After a trial for some years of small illustrations, we have come to the conclusion that they are not suitable for the *leading Stamp Catalogue*, chiefly from the fact that when they have been used in printing two or three large editions of this work all the fine lines wear out, with the result that, in many cases, the young collector has had great difficulty in identifying varieties. We therefore decided to go to the great expense of inserting new and exact-sized illustrations throughout our Catalogue. The cost has been close upon £800, and we leave our readers to judge whether the result is not greatly superior to any that has hitherto been attained by similar trade lists. A comparison of this new edition with any other catalogue will, we venture to think, conclusively prove that for general get-up and for beauty and clearness it far excels any previously published.

We are rather sorry to say that in order to place the large illustrations in double column it has been necessary to enlarge the Catalogues by about an inch, both in width and length.

In this edition also a more expensive paper is used, which being thinner than that in former use, is better adapted for bringing out the type and illustrations more clearly.

In the last edition we announced that we had ceased to price unused British Official stamps; but now that these have been withdrawn from use, and the authorities do not object to their sale in small quantities, we have in the present edition priced such as we had in stock at the time of going to press.

In like manner, finding from inquiries made that in many colonies similar stamps, *e.g.* "Officials," "Service," "O.S.", Postage Dues, etc., have at one time or another been sold to the public, we again quote prices for such as have thus been legitimately obtained, and which we had in stock at the time of going to press.

It has not been necessary to rewrite many lists in Part I., but we would draw especial attention to that of TRANSVAAL, 1869 to 1878, which has been—we hope finally and completely—listed, following the exhaustive researches of Mr. R. B. Yardley, whose aid in preparing this new list we most gratefully acknowledge.

UGANDA has also been rewritten on the lines of the articles published by Mr. C. J. Phillips in the *Monthly Journal*.

The stamps of SCINDE were really the first postage stamps used in India and have now been placed in their proper place in front of the Indian general issues.

THE STAMPS OF INDIA OVERPRINTED FOR USE IN THE NATIVE STATES, such as Chamba, etc., have been rearranged according to the excellent handbook published by the Philatelic Society of India.

The illustrations of the watermarks used by Messrs. Perkins Bacon and Co. and Messrs. De La Rue and Co. for Stamps printed by them for various colonies and possessions have been grouped together on page xiv of the introductory notes, and reference is now made to them thus, instead of, as in previous Catalogues, under each particular colony.

Owing to the largely increased cost of these Catalogues it has been necessary to raise the price of each part to 2*s.* 6*d.*, or 2*s.* 9*d.* post-free.

The question of the *prices* quoted in this Catalogue has received our most careful attention. These have been most carefully revised, and higher prices have become necessary in many cases.

An important point to remember is that *all prices* quoted in our Catalogue are in every case based upon *stock in hand* at the time of going to press. We do not believe in "guess-work prices," or those based upon the average of other catalogues.

♣ ♣ ♣

VOL. II. contains the

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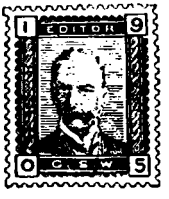
Gibbons Stamp Weekly

EDITED BY

EDWARD J. NANKIVELL.



20 May, 1905.



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THE STAMPS OF SIRMOOR, by Major E. B. Evans.
DENMARK: VARIETIES OF TYPE, by L. Hanciau.
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1904-5. *King's Head. Multiple wmk.*

½d., yellow-green	0	1
1d., vermilion	0	2
2½d., ultramarine	0	4

MALTA.

1905. *King's Head. Multiple wmk.*

1d , black and carmine	0	2

MAURITIUS.

1900-4. *Type* 36. *Single wmk.*

1 c., grey and black	0	1
2 c., lilac and violet	0	1
3 c., green and carmine on yellow	0	1
4 c., black and carmine on blue	0	1
5 c., lilac and black on buff	0	2

SARAWAK.

1899-1901. *Type* 17. *Raja Brooke. No wmk.*

1 c., dull blue and rosine	0	1
2 c., green	0	1
4 c., carmine	0	2
8 c., yellow and black	0	4
10 c., ultramarine	0	5
12 c., bright lilac (new shade)	0	6
16 c , pale brown and green	0	8
20 c., bistre and mauve (new shade)	0	9
25 c., brown and blue	1	0
50 c., sage-green and rose	1	9
$1, carmine and green	3	6

SERVIA.

1905. *Head of King Peter. New value.*

30 paras, black and slate	0	6

SPAIN.

1905. *Don Quixote Celebration.*

5 c., green	0	1	40 c., rose	0	6
10 c , red	0	2	50 c., grey	0	8
15 c., purple	0	3	1 p., lake	1	3
25 c., indigo	0	4	4 p., mauve	5	0
30 c., blue-green	0	5	10 p., orange	12	0
5 c. to 50 c., set of seven				2	0
1, 4, and 10 pesetas, set of three				15	0

VIRGIN ISLANDS.

1904. *King's Head. Multiple wmk.*

½d., purple and green	0	1
1d. ,, scarlet	0	2
2d. ,, ochre	0	3
2½d. ,, ultramarine	0	4
3d. ,, black	0	5
6d. ,, brown	0	8
1s., green and scarlet	1	4
2s. 6d. ,, black	3	3
5s. ,, blue	6	6
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1902. *Wmk. V and Crown. Perf.* 12½.

1d., carmine-rose	0	2	2s., red on yellow	2	8
2d., yellow	0	3	2s. 6d., deep blue on rose	3	3
4d., brown	0	6	5s., green	6	6
8d., yellow-green	0	10	10s., lilac	12	6
9d., orange	1	0	£1, brown-orange	25	0
10d., red	1	2			

ZANZIBAR.

1904. *Arms type.*

½ a., green	0	1	8 a., olive-green	0	11
1 a., rose-red	0	2	1 r., ultramarine and red	1	9
2 a., brown	0	3	2 r., green ,,	3	6
2½ a., blue	0	4	3 r., violet ,,	5	3
3 a., grey	0	5	4 r., purple-brown ,,	7	0
4 a., blue-green	0	6	5 r., olive-brown ,,	8	9
4½ a., black	0	7	½ a. to 8 a., set of ten	4	3
5 a., yellow-brown	0	8	1 r. to 5 r., set of five	24	0
7½ a , purple	0	10			

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Dalston, N.E.

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Mr. P. J. BROADRIBB,
Oldford, near Frome,
Somerset.

Third Prize.

Mr. G. D. MATHEWS,
Denby Farm, Heaton Chapel,
Stockport, near Manchester.

CLASS II.—Under 17 years.

First Prize.

Mr. P. LANGTON, (16)
Hayes,
Uxbridge.

Second Prize.

Mr. LAIRD BRISTOW, (15)
Eccleston,
St. Ronan's Road,
Southsea.

Third Prize.

Master DEREK SILTZER,
D'Anvers Home,
Culworth, Banbury.

B
COMPETITORS OUT OF EUROPE.

CLASS I.—No age limit.

First Prize.

Mr. W. S. ANDREWS,
14, East King Street,
Toronto, Canada.

Second Prize.

Mr. E. WETHERELL,
Greenwood,
Bangalore,
S. India.

Third Prize.

Mr. L. R. HALSEY,
Russell House,
Detroit, Michigan,
U.S.A.

In CLASS II. we are not able to make any awards, as the entries were very few and very poor.

This Competition has been the most successful one that we have started. We have received slightly over 500 replies, but many competitors sent in copies of recent yarns that have appeared in the *Captain*, etc., etc., and which stood no chance. The bulk of the replies consisted of "Limericks," many of them very good, and we hope to use a selection in our paper in due course. Really good stamp stories were few and far between.

1905.

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IN issuing the 1905 Edition of our Priced Catalogue, we wish to draw attention to the chief alterations made therein.

After a trial for some years of small illustrations, we have come to the conclusion that they are not suitable for the *leading Stamp Catalogue*, chiefly from the fact that when they have been used in printing two or three large editions of this work all the fine lines wear out, with the result that, in many cases, the young collector has had great difficulty in identifying varieties. We therefore decided to go to the great expense of inserting new and exact-sized illustrations throughout our Catalogue. The cost has been close upon £800, and we leave our readers to judge whether the result is not greatly superior to any that has hitherto been attained by similar trade lists. A comparison of this new edition with any other catalogue will, we venture to think, conclusively prove that for general get-up and for beauty and clearness it far excels any previously published.

We are rather sorry to say that in order to place the large illustrations in double column it has been necessary to enlarge the Catalogues by about an inch, both in width and length.

In this edition also a more expensive paper is used, which being thinner than that in former use, is better adapted for bringing out the type and illustrations more clearly.

In the last edition we announced that we had ceased to price unused British Official stamps; but now that these have been withdrawn from use, and the authorities do not object to their sale in small quantities, we have in the present edition priced such as we had in stock at the time of going to press.

In like manner, finding from inquiries made that in many colonies similar stamps, *e.g.* "Officials," "Service," "O.S.", Postage Dues, etc., have at one time or another been sold to the public, we again quote prices for such as have thus been legitimately obtained, and which we had in stock at the time of going to press.

It has not been necessary to rewrite many lists in Part I., but we would draw especial attention to that of TRANSVAAL, 1869 to 1878, which has been—we hope finally and completely—listed, following the exhaustive researches of Mr. R. B. Yardley, whose aid in preparing this new list we most gratefully acknowledge.

UGANDA has also been rewritten on the lines of the articles published by Mr. C. J. Phillips in the *Monthly Journal.*

The stamps of SCINDE were really the first postage stamps used in India and have now been placed in their proper place in front of the Indian general issues.

THE STAMPS OF INDIA OVERPRINTED FOR USE IN THE NATIVE STATES, such as Chamba, etc., have been rearranged according to the excellent handbook published by the Philatelic Society of India.

The illustrations of the watermarks used by Messrs. Perkins Bacon and Co. and Messrs. De La Rue and Co. for Stamps printed by them for various colonies and possessions have been grouped together on page xiv of the introductory notes, and reference is now made to them thus, instead of, as in previous Catalogues, under each particular colony.

Owing to the largely increased cost of these Catalogues it has been necessary to raise the price of each part to 2*s.* 6*d.*, or 2*s.* 9*d.* post-free.

The question of the *prices* quoted in this Catalogue has received our most careful attention. These have been most carefully revised, and higher prices have become necessary in many cases.

An important point to remember is that *all prices* quoted in our Catalogue are in every case based upon *stock in hand* at the time of going to press. We do not believe in "guess-work prices," or those based upon the average of other catalogues.

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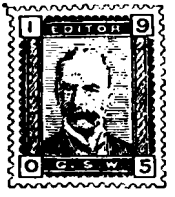
Gibbons Stamp Weekly

EDITED BY

EDWARD J. NANKIVELL.



27 May, 1905.



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THE STAMPS OF SIRMOOR, by Major E. B. Evans.

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1 a., carmine	0	2
2 a., purple (2 shades) . . . *each*	0	3
2½ a., ultramarine	0	4
3 a., orange-brown	0	5
4 a., olive-green	0	6
6 a., ochre	0	8
8 a., magenta	1	0
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2s. 6d., brown and black	3	3
5s., yellow ,, ...	6	6

1905.

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In like manner, finding from inquiries made that in many colonies similar stamps, *e.g.* "Officials," "Service," "O.S.", Postage Dues, etc., have at one time or another been sold to the public, we again quote prices for such as have thus been legitimately obtained, and which we had in stock at the time of going to press.

It has not been necessary to rewrite many lists in Part I., but we would draw especial attention to that of TRANSVAAL, 1869 to 1878, which has been—we hope finally and completely—listed, following the exhaustive researches of Mr. R. B. Yardley, whose aid in preparing this new list we most gratefully acknowledge.

UGANDA has also been rewritten on the lines of the articles published by Mr. C. J. Phillips in the *Monthly Journal*.

The stamps of SCINDE were really the first postage stamps used in India and have now been placed in their proper place in front of the Indian general issues.

THE STAMPS OF INDIA OVERPRINTED FOR USE IN THE NATIVE STATES, such as Chamba, etc., have been rearranged according to the excellent handbook published by the Philatelic Society of India.

The illustrations of the watermarks used by Messrs. Perkins Bacon and Co. and Messrs. De La Rue and Co. for Stamps printed by them for various colonies and possessions have been grouped together on page xiv of the introductory notes, and reference is now made to them thus, instead of, as in previous Catalogues, under each particular colony.

Owing to the largely increased cost of these Catalogues it has been necessary to raise the price of each part to 2*s.* 6*d.*, or 2*s.* 9*d.* post-free.

The question of the *prices* quoted in this Catalogue has received our most careful attention. These have been most carefully revised, and higher prices have become necessary in many cases.

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Gibbons Stamp Weekly

EDITED BY

EDWARD J. NANKIVELL.





3 June, 1905.

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IN issuing the 1905 Edition of our Priced Catalogue, we wish to draw attention to the chief alterations made therein.

After a trial for some years of small illustrations, we have come to the conclusion that they are not suitable for the *leading Stamp Catalogue*, chiefly from the fact that when they have been used in printing two or three large editions of this work all the fine lines wear out, with the result that, in many cases, the young collector has had great difficulty in identifying varieties. We therefore decided to go to the great expense of inserting new and exact-sized illustrations throughout our Catalogue. The cost has been close upon £800, and we leave our readers to judge whether the result is not greatly superior to any that has hitherto been attained by similar trade lists. A comparison of this new edition with any other catalogue will, we venture to think, conclusively prove that for general get-up and for beauty and clearness it far excels any previously published.

We are rather sorry to say that in order to place the large illustrations in double column it has been necessary to enlarge the Catalogues by about an inch, both in width and length.

In this edition also a more expensive paper is used, which being thinner than that in former use, is better adapted for bringing out the type and illustrations more clearly.

In the last edition we announced that we had ceased to price unused British Official stamps; but now that these have been withdrawn from use, and the authorities do not object to their sale in small quantities, we have in the present edition priced such as we had in stock at the time of going to press.

In like manner, finding from inquiries made that in many colonies similar stamps, *e.g.* "Officials," "Service," "O.S.", Postage Dues, etc., have at one time or another been sold to the public, we again quote prices for such as have thus been legitimately obtained, and which we had in stock at the time of going to press.

It has not been necessary to rewrite many lists in Part I., but we would draw especial attention to that of TRANSVAAL, 1869 to 1878, which has been—we hope finally and completely—listed, following the exhaustive researches of Mr. R. B. Yardley, whose aid in preparing this new list we most gratefully acknowledge.

UGANDA has also been rewritten on the lines of the articles published by Mr. C. J. Phillips in the *Monthly Journal*.

The stamps of SCINDE were really the first postage stamps used in India and have now been placed in their proper place in front of the Indian general issues.

THE STAMPS OF INDIA OVERPRINTED FOR USE IN THE NATIVE STATES, such as Chamba, etc., have been rearranged according to the excellent handbook published by the Philatelic Society of India.

The illustrations of the watermarks used by Messrs. Perkins Bacon and Co. and Messrs. De La Rue and Co. for Stamps printed by them for various colonies and possessions have been grouped together on page xiv of the introductory notes, and reference is now made to them thus, instead of, as in previous Catalogues, under each particular colony.

Owing to the largely increased cost of these Catalogues it has been necessary to raise the price of each part to 2*s.* 6*d.*, or 2*s.* 9*d.* post-free.

The question of the *prices* quoted in this Catalogue has received our most careful attention. These have been most carefully revised, and higher prices have become necessary in many cases.

An important point to remember is that *all prices* quoted in our Catalogue are in every case based upon *stock in hand* at the time of going to press. We do not believe in "guess-work prices," or those based upon the average of other catalogues.

♣ ♣ ♣

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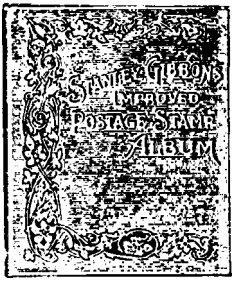
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Gibbons Stamp Weekly

EDITED BY

EDWARD J. NANKIVELL.



10 June, 1905.



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30 ,, green	0	3
40 ,, violet	0	4
50 ,, carmine	0	5
100 ,, blue	0	9

CAYMAN ISLANDS.

1905. *King's Head. Multiple wmk.*

½d., green	0	1	6d., brown	0	8
2½d., ultramarine	0	4	1s., orange	1	4

CUCUTA.

1904. *Revised prices.*

1 c., black	0	1
2 c., green	0	1
5 c., red	0	2
10 c., blue	0	4
20 c., brown-red	0	8
50 c., mauve	1	9
1 peso, yellow	3	6
Complete set of seven values	5	6

1905. *Revised prices.*

1 c., green on yellow	0	1
2 c., pink ,,	0	1
5 c., indigo ,,	0	2
10 c., red-brown on yellow	0	4
20 c., green ,,	0	8
50 c., red ,,	1	9
1 peso, lilac	3	6
Complete set of seven values	5	6

GIBRALTAR.

1905. *King's Head. Multiple wmk.*

2s., green and blue	2	8

GWALIOR.

1902-3. *Service stamps.*

3 pies, grey (Queen) *used*	1	0
3 ,, ,, (King) ,,	0	2

INDIA.

1902-3. *King's Head.*

2½ as., ultramarine *used*	0	2
4 as., olive-green ,,	0	1

JHIND.

1903. *Service stamp. King's Head.*

1 a., carmine	1	0

PATIALA.

1903. *King's Head.*

3 pies, grey	0	1
½ a., pea-green	0	1
1 a., carmine	0	2
2 a., purple	0	3
3 a., orange-brown	0	5
1 r., carmine and green	1	9

SANTANDER.

1904. *Revised prices.*

5 c., blue-green	0	1	50 c., yellow	0	1
5 c., emerald	0	1	1 p., black	0	2
10 c., carmine	0	1	5 p., blue	0	6
20 c., deep mauve	0	1	10 p., red	1	0

1905. *Revised prices.*

5 c., pale blue	0	1	50 c., lilac	0	1
10 c., red	0	1	1 p., indigo	0	2
20 c., emerald-green	0	1	5 p., carmine	0	8

URUGUAY.

1904. *Unpaid Letter stamp. Surcharged* "UN CENT'MO."

1 c. on 10 c., blue	1	6

VENEZUELA.

1904. *Official stamps.*

5 c., green; 10 c., carmine; 25 c., blue; 50 c., lake; 1 b., lake. Set of five	3	3

TO OUR READERS.

Are you satisfied that we give you good value for your penny once a week? If so, we want you to help us to make our little paper much more widely known.

In five months we have run the circulation of "G. S. W." up to 8,000 copies a week; but this is not enough, and we want YOU PERSONALLY to do what you can to try to sell at least one copy of this week's number to some collecting friend who has not previously taken our paper.

This paper is costing us over £1,400 a year—NET LOSS—and we cannot afford that amount unless we get a much greater circulation; but on the contrary, if each reader will lend a helping hand and find new subscribers and readers, then we shall be able to enlarge the scope of our Weekly and introduce many novel features.

OUR GRATIS STAMPS.

MANY readers will have been disappointed not to have had one of these stamps in the last number of our Weekly, but the fact is that we have had some difficulty with the Authorities at the General Post Office, and it has been decided:—

1st. That NO postage stamp, either used or unused, can be enclosed in a weekly paper sent out of Great Britain by book post rates, but can only be enclosed in the paper if it is forwarded by letter rate, which is, of course, too expensive.

2nd. IN Great Britain the Authorities most kindly allow us to give away a USED postage stamp, but if we wish to distribute an UNUSED stamp they say we must forward our paper at letter rates, sealed up! !

Now, kind readers, what are we to do? We can only see one way before us, and that is to discontinue sending any stamps in copies of "G. S. W." sent out of this country, and we ask those subscribers abroad who desire to have the gratis stamps to send us a stamped and addressed envelope once every six months, on the completion of a volume, and these gratis stamps will then be sent to them at letter rates.

* * * * * * *

GRATIS STAMPS Nos. 11 & 12.

In the annexed spaces our British readers should find Canada, 1868, 3 cents, and 1897, 1 cent, both used.





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„ 16	„	9	0

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„ 22	„	26	0

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„ 9	„	51	0

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„ 69	„	51	0

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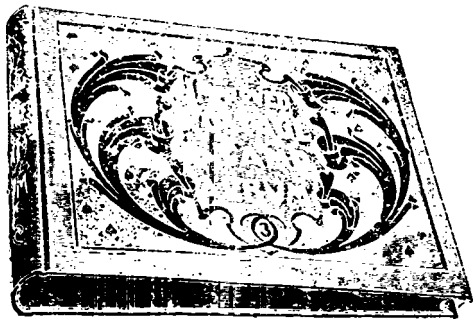
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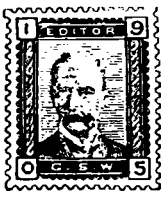
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Gibbons Stamp Weekly

EDITED BY
EDWARD J. NANKIVELL.



17 June, 1905.



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THE 1886-7 ISSUES OF TOLIMA, by T. W. Hall.
A TRIP ROUND THE WORLD, by L. L. R. Hausburg.
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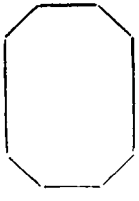
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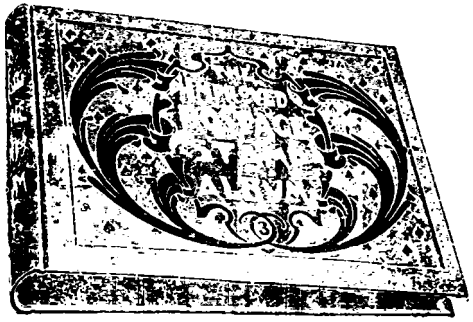
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Gibbons Stamp Weekly

EDITED BY

EDWARD J. NANKIVELL.



24 June, 1905.



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NABHA.

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2,314†	Black surcharge, 1, 1, 1½, 3, 4, and 6 annas	6	2	0
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20 f., brown	0	3
25 f., blue	0	4
30 f., orange-brown	0	5
35 f., red-lilac	0	6
50 f., lake	0	7
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7½d., green and black	0	11
10d., carmine and black	1	2
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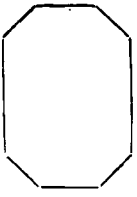
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