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THE

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EDWARD J. NANKIVELL.

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ABBREVIATIONS.

A. *Articles*; C. *Correspondence*; E. *Editorial Notes*; F. *Forgeries and Reprints*; G. *Philatelic Gossip* N. *Novelties and Discoveries*; P. *Philately in the Mags*; R. *Reviews*; S. *Stamp Trade Notes.*

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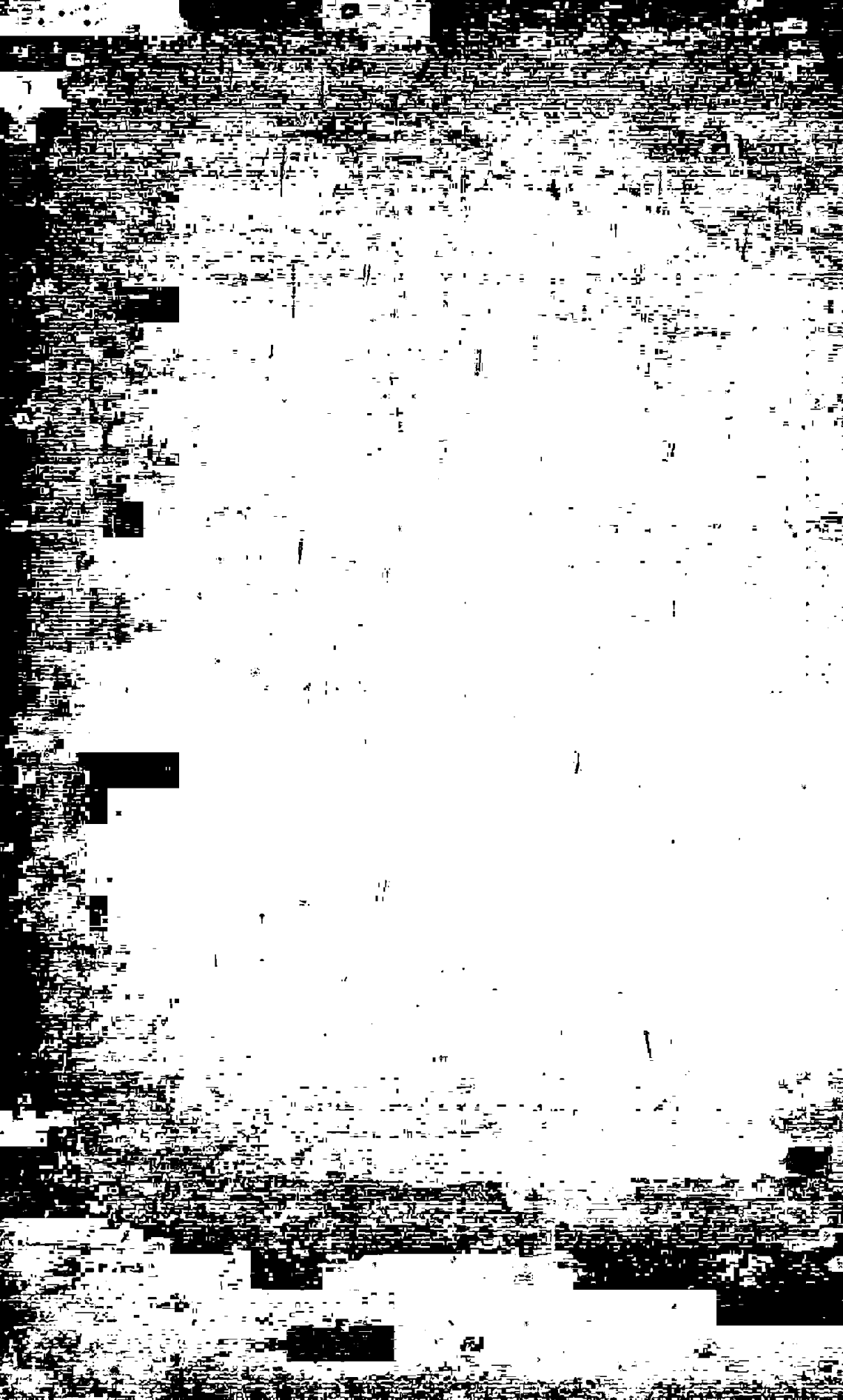
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THE

PHILATELIC RECORD

And Stamp News.

JANUARY, 1896.

EDITORIAL NOTES.

SOME explanation of the change which marks this issue of the *Philatelic Record* will naturally be expected from us.

When our publishers, in 1890, purchased the business of Messrs. Pemberton, Wilson & Co., the *Philatelic Record*, as an item in that transaction, came into their possession, and since then they have continued, as separate publications, both the *Record* and the *Stamp News*. From the first, however, the separate publications were felt to be more or less unnecessary, and at last it has been decided to amalgamate them under their joint titles. Hence we now bespeak for the *Philatelic Record and Stamp News* the undivided support of past readers of both journals.

We shall endeavour to maintain in the new series the high standard which has so conspicuously marked the *Record* during the seventeen years of its existence. Eminent philatelists have conducted it in the past, and have earned for it a solid philatelic reputation. That reputation we accept as a tradition to be preserved and continued to the best of our ability.

Such changes as we shall effect will be adopted with the view of broadening and deepening our hold upon stamp collectors in general. Whilst catering for the specialist, the general collector will not be forgotten. In our "Editorial Notes" we shall deal with topics that come to the surface from month to month. Scientific articles will be contributed by leading specialists; indeed no labour or expense will be spared to secure for our pages the ripest work of the best philatelists of the day; current philatelic literature will be critically but kindly reviewed; under the head of "Philately in the Mags." will be included brief notices of our contemporaries, with interesting extracts from the best articles of the month, after the style of Mr. Stead's *Review of Reviews*; New Issues will be written up to date and illustrated; in dealing with the reports of Societies we shall break away from the ancient practice of wasting space in recording routine formalities, and confine ourselves to pithy and kindly notices of work done that will interest the general body of collectors; forgeries will be exposed and described; letters raising points of interest for discussion will find a ready welcome in our pages; a brief summary of the chief prices realised for interesting pairs or single specimens will be published each month during the auction season; and last, but not least, we shall gather up under the head of "Philatelic Gossip" many interesting and chatty items of information as to what is passing in philatelic circles. In fact, we hope to present our readers with a monthly budget specialistic, instructive, topical and gossipy.

It will be noted that the changes include an alteration in the size of the page. This was decided after much serious consideration. It was felt that the old size of the *Record* was much too small to admit of such developments as those upon which we have embarked. Despite the enlarged size, and a substantial increase also in the number of pages, the subscription rate has been reduced from five shillings to three shillings per annum. The more popular price, combined with a broader programme, will, we trust, secure for the *Philatelic Record and Stamp News* a foremost place in the "big circulations" of the day in the world of philately.

Mr. Seebeck's reply to criticism.

Mr. N. F. SEEBECK feels very sore over the criticism with which his first letter has been received. He is grieved that the olive branch that he held out has not been recognised as the genuine article. Whatever may be the case elsewhere, we think we can answer for it here, that with Mr. Seebeck personally we have no quarrel whatever; that, on the contrary, we are more than pleased to learn that he is a collector, and therefore one of us. As an engraver he has fallen into a groove that has led to seriously bad results for philately, and the consensus of opinion is unmistakably dead against his system of helping out poverty-stricken States by supplying them gratuitously with revenue-earning labels in return for their permission to traffic in remainders. If Mr. Seebeck could rid himself of the incubus of the "remainder" part of his contracts, his exquisite designs would raise him to the pinnacle of popularity as an engraver. But we cannot separate his beautiful labels from the pernicious system that has eaten, like dry rot, into philately. He alone can and must see to that. We are not sure that he properly estimates the objection yet, for he imagines that he quite counterbalances matters by supplying large quantities of stamps at a price which, in the parlance of the day, brings them within reach of every collector. He fails to recognise the fact that collectors are interested only in studying stamps which are the result of genuine and honest postal needs. The inevitable cure is working its own drastic remedy. Already the States which are wedded to a systematic traffic in "remainders" are disappearing from respectable collections.

New Issues versus Old Issues.

"RING out the old, ring in the new!" is the motto of a new movement in favour of confining latter-day collecting to new issues, and leaving the older issues to the wealthy specialist. The suggestion has much to commend it. The old issues are every year getting scarcer and dearer. Every year shoals of old stamps are placed beyond the reach of ordinary mortals. The gaps that only the wealthy and fortunate few can hope to fill, grow wider and wider, and the task of collecting the old rarities is surrounded with so many disappointments that it is no wonder many give up in despair. It is a pity 'tis so; for, after all, the true philatelist must ever find more real and unalloyed pleasure in the study of primitive methods in the production of postage stamps than in the competitive scramble for modern stamps "made for collectors." True all modern stamps are not of the "made for collectors" class, but so many are open to that suspicion that it is no easy matter to separate the good from the bad. We are told that there is plenty of scope for the most industrious collector within the range of stamps issued since 1890, that, in fact, one collector has, within those limits, filled no less than ten books of seventy pages.

The fastidious philatelist would probably like to know what proportion of those ten vols. is taken up with such philatelic shoddy as Seebecks.

If the "New collector" could be piloted clear of the ineffable rubbish that strews the path that he will have to follow in the new order of things philatelic, the advice to the rank and file of stamp collectors to confine themselves to the more attainable issues of a later date would command unqualified support, but if

he is to collect everything in the shape of a label that has passed muster as a postage stamp, then is he indeed to be pitied. Better sigh for the old rarities in vain, than cumber oneself with the worthless weeds that spring up apace on every side in the shape of new issues.

The End of the Chalmers Myth.

THE *Monthly Journal* has undertaken the task of laying the ghost of the Chalmers controversy, and it is devoutly to be hoped that we have really arrived at the concluding chapter. Many, many years ago Mr. Pearson Hill submitted to the experts of the Philatelic Society of London, ample evidence to warrant that Society in the promulgation of its strong opinion that the Chalmers claim to priority in the invention of the adhesive postage stamp was absolutely untenable; of course, it must be very annoying to find people who ought to know better, leading us astray in the matter in Encyclopædias and Historical Handbooks. It is in evidence, however, that Mr. James Chalmers made his plan public some ten months after Sir Rowland Hill's proposals were published; and that Mr. Chalmers honestly withdrew his claim to priority, and even expressed his regret that he had, in error, put it forward. Surely the establishment of these facts is enough; nevertheless, the flood is let loose upon this long suffering generation once more, and seems likely to run its persistent course through many pages of our excellent contemporary.

More Cornering in U.S.

ACCORDING to the *Weekly Philatelic Era*, the American Express Company has bought up all the $1.00 stamps of the current issue on unwatermarked paper that could be found in the country. Evidently it will be necessary to compile and publish a regular list of "cornered" stamps, as a warning to collectors not to allow themselves to be rushed into paying absurd prices, when, by the exercise of a little patience, they will force the "cornerers" to disgorge, or suffer loss. A "cornering" operation means sales at artificially advanced prices within a reasonable time. Any delay beyond that period means that accumulating interest is rapidly wiping out prospective profit. Hence in the competition of cornerer *v.* collector, the collector can afford to play at the waiting game with much more certainty than the cornerer. The cornerer must sell, but the collector is not compelled to buy. Blank spaces in albums now-a-days are the common lot. Even the wealthiest cannot fill every blank. Therefore, where the supply cornered runs into thousands it is pretty safe to wait. Besides, the collector has two chances to the cornerers one, for a collector may any day come across the desired stamp in the ordinary course of collecting. The adoption of a waiting policy would probably have kept certain West Indians at a reasonable figure: a mad rush for those stamps has had the opposite effect.

Threatened Commemorative Stamp Flood.

A representative of Kentucky (may his shadow rapidly decrease), according to a daily paper, is preparing a bill for submission to the United States Congress, which will be nothing short of a bolt from the blue, if it ever passes into law. He proposes that cities having a population of not less than 100,000 shall be entitled to postage stamps of special designs "commemorating the history of said city, or the memory of inhabitants now deceased." The stamps, we are told, could, as now, be manufactured by the Government, but the special cost would be defrayed by the cities qualified and desirous to have them.

And when that day arrives, what will become of stamp-collecting in the great Republic? The patriotic fever will assuredly receive a new and irresistable stimulus. Foreign stamps will be wanted no more. They will be shipped to

Europe by a specially chartered fleet of steamers. Stamp dealers will have more than enough to do to collect the pictures of deceased inhabitants for sale to collectors. And prominent citizens will hasten merrily to their decease in sure and certain hope of their postal resurrection.

Collecting Cripples.

In *Alfred Smith & Son's Monthly Circular* for December there is a vigorous editorial protest against the collection of errors due to the erroneous insertion of a portion of the moveable parts of the die. Inverted heads in Spanish, &c., inverted swans in Western Australians, and inverted centres in U.S. should accordingly be tabooed. "Such errors," we are told, "are constantly occurring where stamps are printed by two separate operations, and the same may be said of the bi-coloured Spanish stamps. "There are no limits," continues the protesting editor, "to the carelessness and want of skill on the part of workmen, and a collector who likes to try and make an album of all the blunders that arise from this cause will find that he has a wonderful collection of cripples of all kinds." And even so we fear ninety-nine philatelists out of a hundred would envy him his possession. Cripples they may be, but what is the difference in collectability between an error made by the engraver and one made by any other workman through whose hands the dies may have to pass in the process of printing? No one, not even the editor of the *Monthly Circular*, would presumably bar errors in the engraving from the most exclusive list of collectable stamps. Why, then, should he bar other errors? Surely it is only a question of degree.

Official Speculators.

When the surcharge "Halfpenny" on the 6d. of the old type of Natal appeared, the Philetelic Society of London, upon evidence furnished of official speculation in connection with the issue, made strong representations to the Colonial Minister. That these representations have borne good fruit is attested by the announcement in a Colonial paper that "The Home Government, having heard of the alleged dealings by members of the Civil Service in the halfpenny postage stamps, have written to the Local Government in terms of strong condemnation on the matter. The subject has been brought officially under the notice of all the members of our branch of the Civil Service."

The *South African Philatelist*, commenting on this piece of good news, says:—

"It is well known that all the important stamp firms had, in most of the countries where stamps were issued, a certain amount on deposit for the supply of any new issues that might appear. Now it must be quite evident to all that a postmaster of a given country, discovering that he has in hand from £500 to £1000 which might so easily be utilised, might feel the temptation of making an additional commission, and place before his Government, as a means of increasing postal revenue the plan of issuing new stamps for which he could assure an immediate sale. The stamps are issued; the sale effected. Everything is swimmingly satisfactory. Another batch of orders for future issues; more supplies; and so it went on from bad to worse. Besides other considerations, the postmaster's gains from private speculations would also affect his actions."

Some day we may be able to publish an interesting list of postmaster-dealers. Such a list would be most instructive. It would explain much, and open the eyes of many collectors to what is going on in certain quarters.

ABNORMAL VARIETIES OF GREAT BRITAIN.

By Hastings E. Wright.

THE obscurity which has so long surrounded the abnormal varieties of the stamps of Great Britain is doubtless accountable for the erroneous views and uncertainty so widely prevalent respecting their precise status and philatelic value. The subject is one of much importance to the earnest philatelist, and particularly to the specialist who is desirous of forming his collection of English stamps on a consistent and intelligible basis. I venture to say that hitherto few collectors have had any clear and definite reasons from a philatelic standpoint for including or rejecting many of the varieties they meet with. One hears the terms "stamp," "proof," "essay" applied in a haphazard and indiscriminate fashion, with the result that *stamps* are rejected because they are thought to be "proofs," and essays accepted under the belief that they are stamps. It may, therefore, be of interest to consider what is really implied by these terms, and what constitutes an impression, a "stamp," "proof," or "essay."

From an official standpoint a *stamp* (using the term in the limited sense of a postal adhesive) is a label, which, by its conformity to certain legal requirements, possesses the power of franking postal matter to the extent of its face value. To decide, therefore, whether an impression from a plate or die is or is not a *stamp*, it is necessary to consider the legal and official requirements, and then determine whether it conforms thereto.

Three points are essential:—

1. The impression must be taken from a plate duly approved and authorised by the Commissioners of Inland Revenue.
2. It must be struck upon paper bearing the watermark assigned to the face value denoted by the impression.
3. It must be in the colour approved and authorised by the Revenue authorities.*

Any impression, therefore, conforming to these essentials is a *stamp*, and as such possesses franking power. Whether the impression be perforated or remain imperforate is immaterial. Perforation is merely for the convenience of post office officials and the public, and has no official significance whatever in relation to franking power. Again, it is a common fallacy to assume that in order to render duly qualified impressions capable of denoting the prepayment of postage, it is essential that they be bought over the counter of a post office This is by no means the case, and in any event the stamps cannot reach outside hands until the Revenue has received their face value. Stamps fulfilling the conditions we have seen to be essential can only lose their power of franking by cancellation, which, in the case of impressions for which the Revenue has not received the face value, is effected by over-printing them with the word "specimen."

Let us now turn to the consideration of "proofs," of which there are two kinds, *i.e.*, impressions from the "die" and impressions from the "plate." It is with the latter only that we are now concerned.

Probably no term in philately is so often incorrectly applied, and there would

* Not necessarily that in which the "imprimatur" sheet was struck. A change of colour was not always registered. The 2s. (for example) was registered in blue, but when the colour of this value was subsequently altered to brown, no sheet in this colour was officially preserved. Watermarks also, as such, were always ignored in registration, though certain watermarks were assigned to certain values and to no others. Hence no sheet of the 4d. with watermark of "middle garter" exists in the official archives, because no change had been made in the colour or design of the impression, and when a change was subsequently made the "middle garter" watermark had ceased to be used.

Europe by a specially chartered fleet of steamers. Stamp dealers will have more than enough to do to collect the pictures of deceased inhabitants for sale to collectors. And prominent citizens will hasten merrily to their decease in sure and certain hope of their postal resurrection.

Collecting Cripples.

In *Alfred Smith & Son's Monthly Circular* for December there is a vigorous editorial protest against the collection of errors due to the erroneous insertion of a portion of the moveable parts of the die. Inverted heads in Spanish, &c., inverted swans in Western Australians, and inverted centres in U.S. should accordingly be tabooed. "Such errors," we are told, "are constantly occurring where stamps are printed by two separate operations, and the same may be said of the bi-coloured Spanish stamps. "There are no limits," continues the protesting editor, "to the carelessness and want of skill on the part of workmen, and a collector who likes to try and make an album of all the blunders that arise from this cause will find that he has a wonderful collection of cripples of all kinds." And even so we fear ninety-nine philatelists out of a hundred would envy him his possession. Cripples they may be, but what is the difference in collectability between an error made by the engraver and one made by any other workman through whose hands the dies may have to pass in the process of printing? No one, not even the editor of the *Monthly Circular*, would presumably bar errors in the engraving from the most exclusive list of collectable stamps. Why, then, should he bar other errors? Surely it is only a question of degree.

Official Speculators.

When the surcharge "Halfpenny" on the 6d. of the old type of Natal appeared, the Philetelic Society of London, upon evidence furnished of official speculation in connection with the issue, made strong representations to the Colonial Minister. That these representations have borne good fruit is attested by the announcement in a Colonial paper that "The Home Government, having heard of the alleged dealings by members of the Civil Service in the halfpenny postage stamps, have written to the Local Government in terms of strong condemnation on the matter. The subject has been brought officially under the notice of all the members of our branch of the Civil Service."

The *South African Philatelist*, commenting on this piece of good news, says:—

"It is well known that all the important stamp firms had, in most of the countries where stamps were issued, a certain amount on deposit for the supply of any new issues that might appear. Now it must be quite evident to all that a postmaster of a given country, discovering that he has in hand from £500 to £1000 which might so easily be utilised, might feel the temptation of making an additional commission, and place before his Government, as a means of increasing postal revenue the plan of issuing new stamps for which he could assure an immediate sale. The stamps are issued; the sale effected. Everything is swimmingly satisfactory. Another batch of orders for future issues; more supplies; and so it went on from bad to worse. Besides other considerations, the postmaster's gains from private speculations would also affect his actions."

Some day we may be able to publish an interesting list of postmaster-dealers. Such a list would be most instructive. It would explain much, and open the eyes of many collectors to what is going on in certain quarters.

ABNORMAL VARIETIES OF GREAT BRITAIN.

By Hastings E. Wright.

THE obscurity which has so long surrounded the abnormal varieties of the stamps of Great Britain is doubtless accountable for the erroneous views and uncertainty so widely prevalent respecting their precise status and philatelic value. The subject is one of much importance to the earnest philatelist, and particularly to the specialist who is desirous of forming his collection of English stamps on a consistent and intelligible basis. I venture to say that hitherto few collectors have had any clear and definite reasons from a philatelic standpoint for including or rejecting many of the varieties they meet with. One hears the terms "stamp," "proof," "essay" applied in a haphazard and indiscriminate fashion, with the result that *stamps* are rejected because they are thought to be "proofs," and essays accepted under the belief that they are stamps. It may, therefore, be of interest to consider what is really implied by these terms, and what constitutes an impression, a "stamp," "proof," or "essay."

From an official standpoint a *stamp* (using the term in the limited sense of a postal adhesive) is a label, which, by its conformity to certain legal requirements, possesses the power of franking postal matter to the extent of its face value. To decide, therefore, whether an impression from a plate or die is or is not a *stamp*, it is necessary to consider the legal and official requirements, and then determine whether it conforms thereto.

Three points are essential:—

1. The impression must be taken from a plate duly approved and authorised by the Commissioners of Inland Revenue.
2. It must be struck upon paper bearing the watermark assigned to the face value denoted by the impression.
3. It must be in the colour approved and authorised by the Revenue authorities.*

Any impression, therefore, conforming to these essentials is a *stamp*, and as such possesses franking power. Whether the impression be perforated or remain imperforate is immaterial. Perforation is merely for the convenience of post office officials and the public, and has no official significance whatever in relation to franking power. Again, it is a common fallacy to assume that in order to render duly qualified impressions capable of denoting the prepayment of postage, it is essential that they be bought over the counter of a post office This is by no means the case, and in any event the stamps cannot reach outside hands until the Revenue has received their face value. Stamps fulfilling the conditions we have seen to be essential can only lose their power of franking by cancellation, which, in the case of impressions for which the Revenue has not received the face value, is effected by over-printing them with the word "specimen."

Let us now turn to the consideration of "proofs," of which there are two kinds, *i.e.*, impressions from the "die" and impressions from the "plate." It is with the latter only that we are now concerned.

Probably no term in philately is so often incorrectly applied, and there would

* Not necessarily that in which the "imprimatur" sheet was struck. A change of colour was not always registered. The 2s. (for example) was registered in blue, but when the colour of this value was subsequently altered to brown, no sheet in this colour was officially preserved. Watermarks also, as such, were always ignored in registration, though certain watermarks were assigned to certain values and to no others. Hence no sheet of the 4d. with watermark of "middle garter" exists in the official archives, because no change had been made in the colour or design of the impression, and when a change was subsequently made the "middle garter" watermark had ceased to be used.

be less error and confusion in this respect if it were more generally known that throughout the series of English stamps printed by Messrs. De La Rue, the *proofs* (namely, impressions taken from a newly-constructed plate in order to prove its correctness) have *always* been struck in black upon stout unwatermarked paper and *never in colour*. These impressions, which alone are entitled to be termed proofs, are preserved in the official archives quite apart from the "imprimatur" sheets of *stamps*.

Specimens of these proofs are of the highest degree of rarity, and may be said never to reach the hands of the collector, any surplus impressions not required for official reference being carefully destroyed. Notwithstanding, therefore, the frequent and indiscriminate use of the term "proof," it will be seen that only in extremely rare instances can its employment be correct.

We now pass in natural sequence to the consideration of "essays." The plate having been found correct and duly approved, impressions, which are either stamps or essays, but never proofs, are then struck in colour. To which of these categories such impressions properly belong depends upon circumstances. If the plate denotes a new value, or expresses an alteration in the design of a value then current, or if a change of colour has been decided upon, then the impressions are essays, because the particular colour in which the stamps are hereafter to be printed has not been determined. On the other hand, if the new plate is simply a duplicate of a previous one,* and no change of colour is contemplated, the impressions are stamps, because they are then struck only in the colour already authorised. These impressions may be very few or may number thousands, the number depending upon whether the plate is wanted for immediate use or not. In either event one of the impressions is retained for official registration, the remainder (generally less than half-a-dozen sheets in the case of a plate not required for immediate use) being placed to stock and issued in the ordinary course.

In the creation of essays (or colour trials) the procedure is as follows, taking as an illustration the case of a new value, which necessitates not only a new plate but a fresh design and colour for the impression:—The design† and plate having been approved, a dozen or more impressions, each differing in colour, are then taken, usually on watermarked paper. From these the Post Office and Revenue authorities select the colour deemed to be most suitable, and it may here be observed that the sheet of essays so selected becomes *ipso facto* a sheet of stamps (provided the impression be upon paper bearing the proper watermark), as it is thereby in conformity with all the conditions essential to labels possessing franking power. The other impressions remain what they always were, merely essays. A warrant is then issued to the printer authorising the creation of a stated number of sheets of the stamp in question, and from the sheets so struck one is taken and placed (always imperforate) in the official archives. The impressions so preserved are known as "imprimatur" sheets, from the official endorsement each bears, to the effect that all similar impressions are thereby authorised to denote the prepayment of postage.

Sufficient has now been said to indicate broadly the considerations which should govern the application and use of the terms "stamp," "proof," and "essay"; but in order to determine the precise degree of interest, from a philatelic standpoint, attaching to individual examples various minor details must be taken into account. All impressions from the plate must come under one or other of three heads, two of which may be further sub-divided as follows:—

Proofs.—Impressions always in black on unwatermarked paper.

* An alteration in the plate number does not signify.

† A new design, or any alteration in a previous one, is approved of by the medium of proof impressions from the die prior to the construction of the plate. These impressions are struck in black upon glazed card, and the official approval is endorsed thereon.

Essays (Colour Trials).—Impressions always in colour either on unwatermarked paper, watermarked paper, imperforate, or perforated.

Stamps.—Impressions, perforated or imperforate, possessing all the features essential to their endowment with franking power:—

(*a*) Circulated impressions from plates "put to press." *
(*b*) Circulated impressions from plates never "put to press." †
(*c*) Circulated impressions struck before the plates were "put to press," and differing in colour from the later impressions.
(*d*) Non-circulated impressions (intended for issue) from plates "put to press."
(*e*) Non-circulated impressions (intended for issue) from plates not "put to press" until the design had been modified.
(*f*) Non-circulated impressions (intended for issue) from plates never "put to press."
(*g*) Impressions from approved plates, struck with a view to their possible issue, but never circulated.
(*h*) Impressions from approved plates, but not intended for circulation, though possessing franking power.

The following stamps will serve to illustrate this classification:—

(*a*) Any of the ordinary issues.
(*b*) 9d. plate 3 (hair lines), 10d. plate 2, 2s. plate 3, &c.
(*c*) 4d. plate 17 in green, 6d. plate 13 in buff, &c.
(*d*) 1½d. lilac rose, 8d. brown, &c.
(*e*) 3d. plate 2 (first state, with reticulated background).
(*f*) 1d. black, V.R. (intended for official use only).
(*g*) 3d. plate 8, 6d. plate 9, 1s. plate 4, &c., on chemically-prepared paper, bearing the usual watermark.
(*h*) 1d. black (so-called reprint), with watermark Large Crown.

To indicate more clearly the reasoning upon which this system of classification is founded, one or two examples may be taken for fuller consideration. The £5 telegraph stamp in gold, for instance, is an impression somewhat difficult of exact classification; it is not a proof, neither can it strictly be said to be a stamp, yet it is entitled to be considered as something more than a mere essay, because there had been a definite intention to issue it. For a stamp of so high a value gold was thought the most appropriate colour and was accordingly approved, the series of colour essays usual in the case of a new value being dispensed with. It was only when Messrs. De La Rue called attention to the excessive cost of printing the stamp in this colour that it was abandoned, and essays were thereupon struck in various colours in order that a less expensive one might be adopted, Very few impressions had been struck in the original colour, and, under the circumstances, none were put into circulation, nor was a sheet preserved for official reference. Nevertheless, the specimens still existing were stamps in intention, though not in fact. This much can never, of course, be said of an essay pure and simple.

To take another example; the 1½d. of 1860, in lilac-rose, is commonly regarded as a mere essay, because never put into circulation, but if the facts be considered the error of this classification will be apparent. The variety was duly and authoritatively constituted a *stamp*, and the endorsement on the imprimatur sheet declares that all similar impressions shall denote the prepayment of postage to the extent of 1½d. for each label. English postal adhesives are never demonetised, hence the franking power once conferred upon impressions they must retain it until cancelled by destruction or otherwise. In the case of the stamp under consideration, the supply printed in 1860 remained in stock for several

* This term is officially applied to plates brought into constant use.
† *i.e.*, printed from to a limited extent, but not brought into regular use.

years, and until their cancellation (by burning) they were reckoned in the official accounts as representing their face value. Had the impressions been anything but actual stamps no monetary value would have attached to them.

A few words may here be said respecting an impression possessing the extraordinary feature of being an illegal or unauthorised issue. The 10d. of 1867, on paper bearing the watermark of "Emblems" is a variety now tolerably well authenticated, and a collector fortunate enough to obtain a specimen would doubtless consider that he had secured a treasure of the first magnitude, and in a sense he would be perfectly justified in so regarding it. A careful consideration, however, will show that it is not strictly entitled to be classified as a *stamp*. The watermark, an essential feature, is not in accordance with official regulations, and the impressions therefore had properly no franking power. Paper bearing the watermark of "Emblems" was not then, nor at any time authorised to receive impressions denoting the value of 10d., and any sheets so struck would inevitably have been destroyed if discovered.

The "Error" is not analogous to the well-known example of more recent date, namely, the £1 struck upon paper watermarked "Orb," because in printing these the printers were carrying out the official instructions, and the impressions became duly authorised by the fact of their being in conformity with the terms of the warrant authorising their creation. The position differs widely in the case of the 10d., because here it was an error on the part of the printers who were acting (of course inadvertently) contrary to the official instructions, hence the impressions upon "Emblem" paper were unauthorised and always remained so.

Finally we may pass under review a third example. The so-called reprint of the 1d. Black of 1840, is an impression possessing some unique features, and to classify it involves consideration of several interesting points. The variety owes its existence to the fact that in the year 1864 some members of the Royal Family having commenced to form a collection, application was made to the Revenue Authorities for specimens, including the 1d. Black of the first issue. None of these being found in stock impressions were authorised to be struck in black from one of the plates of 1d. then in use. The plate employed for the purpose differed from the original of 1840, only in that it was constructed from the retouched die. The impressions were necessarily on paper watermarked "Large Crown," none with the "Small Crown" watermark remaining on hand at that date. That these impressions were intended to be reprints of the old 1d. Black, and were officially regarded as such is beyond question, but their correct classification is the problem which now presents itself for solution. Are they (notwithstanding the official intentions at the time of their creation) as a matter of actual fact *stamps* or mere curiosities? True, it was known or assumed at the time that the impressions would not be utilised for postal purposes, but such an assumption would not *per se* be sufficient to deprive them of franking power if they otherwise possessed it. To possess the power of franking a label must, as I have shown, be in conformity with certain legal requirements, and it will be seen upon further examination that these impressions are, in all essential respects, in accordance therewith. They were struck from a duly approved plate, upon paper bearing the watermark assigned to their face value, and were in a colour which, though not then in use, had been authorised in former years for stamps denoting the same value, and which had not been demonetised. The reprints had therefore a legal status in respect of colour. Finally, there remains the question of design. Though struck from a plate constructed from the re-touched die and thus differing in minute details from the original, this does not alter their status as *stamps*, or cause them to fall short of the essential requirements.

Plates constructed from the re-touched die (prior to the introduction of letters in the upper angles) were officially regarded as identical with all previously constructed, though the differences which exist were of course known. These, however, had not been introduced intentionally, but were due to the impossibility of deepening the lines in the die, in order to secure clearer impressions, without

making minute (but unintentional) alterations in the features of the Queen's head. This is a point which, though it could not escape the attention of the philatelist, was regarded officially as non-existent in so far as it affected the design, which was intended to, and did in effect, remain unaltered. It would follow, therefore, that these reprints possess, from an official and legal standpoint, precisely the same status as though they had been struck from a plate constructed from the old die, and if this be so they must come within the category of *stamps*, though to the philatelist this definition will be qualified by the knowledge that they were not intended for circulation. This, however, is not the point at issue.

The opinions herewith advanced may be thus summarised.

To constitute an impression a *stamp* it must have franking power, and this it obtains by its conformity with three essential conditions. Given these, then the absence of perforation, the fact of non-circulation, or the mere official *intention* in respect to any individual impression cannot deprive it of this power, which is only to be annulled by cancellation.

I am not, be it observed, arguing in favour of abnormal varieties being necessarily included in a collection of English stamps. Every Philatelist worthy of the name is fully competent to decide for himself the scope of his collection, but I have endeavoured to show that the abnormal creations, possessed as they are of much interest, in many instances deserve to receive, upon strictly Philatelic grounds, a larger measure of consideration than has yet been accorded them.

The specialist may decide that his collection shall embrace as far as possible every variety of impression in the nature of a stamp, or he may elect to confine it within the narrower, though (from a financial standpoint) sufficiently wide limits defined by the labels actually put into circulation, but whatsoever varieties be included or rejected, let it be upon adequate and consistent grounds, so that it be no longer possible to witness the spectacle of the "V.R." for example, assigned the place of honour as a rarity of the first water* and the gem of the collection, while other varieties possessing equal or greater merits and a far higher degree of rarity are rejected with scorn. In considering the claims to recognition of each abnormal variety the decision should be governed by a just estimation of facts, instead of being influenced by the old preconceived ideas founded upon mere prejudice and hearsay.

PHILATELY A NATIONAL PASTIME.

By Edward J. Nankivell.

THERE is no gainsaying the fact that stamp collecting has passed from the craze, or faddist stage, into the secure position of a national pastime. It can now count its followers in almost every village of the country, and its flourishing societies in every great city of the Empire. It is connected by prosperous trade ramifications with every civilised state. It has its monthly and weekly journals by the score, and even its own daily paper devoted exclusively to the interests of stamp collecting. Many a struggling government keeps its head out of bankruptcy by the revenue which it draws from stamp collectors. Royalty has succumbed to the fascinations of the pursuit. Millionaires pay fabulous prices for the little bits of paper that are classed among the gems of philately. Speculators dabble in its securities. Cautious investors rank the money they lock up in stamp collecting as amongst the safest and best of

* Documentary evidence exists which goes to prove that probably upwards of 3000 (and possibly many more) copies of the 1d. V. R. are still in existence, exclusive of the impressions officially reserved.

their investments. It has passed through years of deepest depression, with bounding prices, absolutely unaffected by the universal gloom. A collection recently sold for £2200, cost the collector, 30 years ago, just £69. One hundred per cent. is not a bad return in these days; and the fact that it has been a safe return for thirty years speaks volumes for the stability of stamp collecting as a national pastime.

These are a few of the more sordid reasons which may be adduced in explanation of the popularity of a so called craze, which has forced its way into our national life as a recognised pastime.

But the true philatelist, though he cannot fail to be more or less influenced by the investment phase of the pursuit, reaps his keenest enjoyment from the work of accumulating and studying the representative labels of the postal issues of the various countries, their history, and their manufacture. He is, in fact, the student and historian of the postal service. The literature of philately, counted by hundreds of volumes, is replete with the history of the inception and the growth of postal communication, its laws and its decrees. Over and over again the philatelist has unearthed from forgotten archives, and gathered into permanent book form the early history of the establishment of the postal service in country after country. And every year by industrious and continuous research he is gathering and preserving invaluable material for a comprehensive history of one of the most interesting, and most important, developments of modern life.

The investment argument in favour of stamp collecting is, however, not an unmixed good. It tends to dominate philately a great deal too much. It determines too often the question as to what should be collected. And it is a too important factor in the continual changes that are taking place from one group of countries to another. The enthusiasm for a country is too often tainted by the consideration of its prospective monetary value, and many countries are unpopular for the simple reason that they comprise no stamps that fetch long prices. This should not be. That the financial basis of philately should be solid and safe is right enough; but that everything should be regarded simply and solely from the £. s. d. point of view is, to say the least, undesirable in the best interests of philately as a national pastime.

We are accustomed now-a-days to divide collectors into three classes; general collectors, specialists, and speculants. The latter is a parasitic growth that is calculated in the end to work evil to the cause of philately. The continual cornering of stamps, the mad rush for provisional issues, the eccentricities of fashion, and artificially inflated prices: these are a few of the rocks ahead against which we have to guard our hobby, if we would preserve what is best in its pursuit for the enjoyment of the true philatelist.

That collectors should occasionally become dealers cannot be helped. The temptation to put their capital and their knowledge to greater use from the £. s. d. point of view will, now and then, over balance the desire to rank only as collectors; but the insiduous and growing practice of a few well known collectors of secretly competing with the recognised dealers in the buying and selling of stamps which they do not collect is quite another matter.

Yet after all is said that can be urged by would-be Cassandras as a warning of coming trouble, if not of coming dissolution, we are sanguine enough to believe that philately will long continue to strengthen its claim to be regarded as one of the most enjoyable of all our established national pastimes. Its more permanent pleasure yielding capabilities are so widespread that they cannot be dwarfed by the solid selfishness of a few speculating collectors.

RECENT QUEENSLAND ISSUES.

By. J. E. Newell Bull.

STAMP matters have been lively here lately, or rather, I should say, for the past six or seven months. The first stir was caused by our ordinary "Q and crown" paper running out, and pending a fresh supply from England resource was had to "beer duty," *i.e.*, paper originally intended for beer duty stamps, a very thick paper watermarked with large "Q and crown." The 1d. and 2d. were both printed on this paper. Some say that occasionally a vertical row will be found with no watermark, but I think that such is not the case. I was shown a strip by a collector who said they were "no watermark," and at first glance I thought so too, but later on, when examining them carefully, found a part of the watermark showing just on the edge of each stamp. This paper was only used for a short time, when objections were made by the public that it was too thick, and stamps often parted company with the envelopes. The 1d. was then printed on plain soft paper rather thicker than the old Q and crown paper, and as a protection a band of network (termed *moiree* or *burele*) printed in blue horizontally across each row of stamps. After printing a few sheets of this type it was found that there was a defect in the plate which caused the PE of PENNY in the stamp in the northwest corner of the sheet to be blotched out, making the value read "ONE NNY." This was rectified and the printing proceeded with.

The forerunner of a new series now appeared in the shape of the ½d. wrapper, which came with the background around the head taken out. This was followed by the 1d. adhesive stamp with the background removed. This came on the ordinary Q and crown paper which had arrived meanwhile.

The 2d. was the next to appear, and up to the time of writing this is as far as we have got in the way of new designs.

Recently (about June, as near as I can remember) a letter card was issued of the value of 2d. This is a delusion and a snare, as the ordinary letter rate is 2d. to any address in the colonies, and I should not be surprised if it is withdrawn or the value altered to three halfpence, as the N. S. W. folks have theirs.

Since the production of the letter card some more provisional adhesives have appeared. This time it is the ½d. (new type), which for some reason was printed on the *burele* paper. This was on sale for four days, and as I live some distance (130 miles) from the capital, to which, I believe, the sale was limited, I consider myself fortunate in possessing two used specimens, though doubtless I shall come across some more in due time.

The ½d. was then printed on the beer duty paper; this was on sale for three days only, when they were printed on plain paper, but with a secret mark.

As a finish to this article, I will give a synopsis of the recent provisionals and also a list of stamps, &c., at present in use, as I find many do not know what stamps are issued by our Government.

QUEENSLAND.

On Beer Duty Paper.

1. 1d., type A4 in Scott's, but without period after PENNY. Orange-red.
2. 2d., same, blue,
3. ½d., type A6 in Scott's, but with head on white.

On White Paper with Burele on back.

4. ½d., type, similar to No. 3, green.
5. 1d., type, similar to No. 1, orange-red.

On White Paper with Secret Mark.

6. ½d., type similar to No. 3, green.

ERROR.

7. 1d., (No. 5), ONE. NNY, orange-red.

REGULAR ISSUE.

In use at present date, August 19, 1895. This does not exactly allude to the ¼d., as the "secret mark" is still on sale, but these are the regular issue.

½d., type similar to No. 3, green.
1d., ,, ,, ,, 11, orange-red.
2d., ,, ,, ,, 1, blue.
2½d., ,, ,, to Scott's A7, rose.
3d., ,, ,, ,, A4, brown.
4d., ,, ,, to No. 1, yellow.
6d., ,, ,, ,, 1, green.
1s., type of 6d., mauve.
2s., ,, brown.
2s. 6d., Scott's A5. vermilion.
5s., ,, carmine.
10s., ,, brown.
20s., ,, green.

All the above are on white paper watermarked with a crown over the letter Q. The ½d., being oblong, has the watermark with the crown toward the left. From the 1d. to 2s. the crown is at the top: the other (high) values, being extra large, have two watermarks to each stamp—one below the other, with the crowns toward the sides. Perforated 12½.

ERRORS.

These can scarcely be called the regular issue, but as they occur in the same types I think this is the best place so mention them.

4d., spelled PENGE.
4d., spelled PENCE.
6d., Queensland spelled QUEENSIAND.
4d., imperforate.
5s., imperforate.
10s., imperforate.
3d., imperforate.

CARDS, ETC.

1d., rose.
1d. + 1d., rose, reply.
1½, brown.
1½d. + 1½d., brown, reply.
½d., wrapper, green, type of adhesive.
2d., letter card, blue on bluish.

No stamped envelopes are issued for this colony.

NEWSPAPER STAMPS.

1d., red on white, no watermark.
1d., red on white, watermarked Q and crown.
3d., brown on white, no watermark.
6d., green on white, no watermark.
1s., violet on white, no watermark.

These stamps are used exclusively for sending bulk parcels of newspapers by rail.

From the "Eastern Philatelist."

DEATH OF LORD KINGSTON.

DEATH has removed yet another eminent philatelist in the very prime of life. Lord Kingston, after many months of patient suffering, died at Cairo on Monday, the 13th of January, aged 48.

Henry Ernest Newcomen King-Tenison, Earl of Kingston, County Roscommon, Viscount Kingston of Kingsborough, County Sligo, Viscount Lorton of Boyle, County Roscommon, Baron Kingston of Rockingham, County Roscommon, Baron of Erris, County Roscommon, in the Peerage of Ireland, and a Baronet, was the younger son of the sixth Earl (who was previously Viscount Lorton) by his marriage with Anne, daughter of the late Sir Robert Gore Booth, Bart., and was born in 1848. He was Lieutenant-Colonel of the 5th Battalion of the Connaught Rangers (Militia), and a Magistrate for the Counties of Roscommon and Leitrim, and was Lord Lieutenant for the former county. He succeeded his brother, the seventh Earl, in 1871, and in the following year married Florence Margaret Christina, only surviving child and heiress of the late Mr. Edward King-Tenison, of Kilronan Castle (whose name he assumed by Royal license in 1883), by Lady Louisa Anson. The late Lord Kingston was a representative Peer for Ireland. The title passes to his only surviving son, Henry Edwyn, Viscount Kingsborough, born in 1874, who was educated at Eton, and is a lieutenant in the 3rd Battalion Leicestershire Regiment (Militia).

The Earl of Kingston was an enthusiastic stamp collector. He became a member of the Philatelic Society of London in 1887. Proposed by his relative, Mr. Thornhill, and seconded by the late Mr. T. K. Tapling, he was elected at a meeting of the society held at the Salisbury Hotel, on the 18th of March of that year.

At the Society's great International Exhibition of Postage Stamps held in London in 1890, he won one of the gold medals for his exhibit of the issues of Great Britain, which was thus described in the official catalogue:—"a nearly complete set of English issues, unused, containing proofs of the Mulready envelope on India paper and on card, together with the V.R. black 1d. essay, and interesting specimens of the original Heath die of the 1d., without the engraving of the head; all the later varieties and other interesting specimens." Like other industrious members he was continually adding to his treasures, and at the time of his death it was a truly grand collection. In some ways it was considerably finer than Mr. Philbrick's, but he did not include Telegraph Stamps. Its distinguishing feature was an abundance of large blocks and strips of stamps in mint condition. The finest block was probably a large one from the upper portion of a sheet, with margins, complete, of the 1d. black from plate 11. This grand block is, we believe the only one known of this rare plate. He had a fine set of the early pennies in blocks, notably, a block of six of the 1d. red brown, large crown, perf. 16. In the twopennies he was not so strong, but he had the rare plate 7. Of the octagonal stamps he had what is believed to be unique, namely, an entire sheet, less one corner stamp, of the one shilling green embossed, and he was fairly strong in the 10d. and 6d. issues. He had some fine copies of the 4d. small garter, and the cross and anchor watermarks of the £1, 10s., and 5s.; of the 9d. hair line he had a used copy. The whole collection was beautifully arranged with a true artist's regard for geometrical design. The work of hinging and arranging was done with his own hand, for he was no mere accumulator. He took a specialist's pride in displaying his own stamps. An old-fashioned love

for the book form of album led him to prefer massive volumes with fixed leaves for the final enshrinement of his gems. There was a finality about the presentation of the collection such as few, if any, of our restless, present-day specialists would ever dream of emulating. From the ideal point of view, of course, finally arranged pages of set design, and being, like unto the laws of the Medes and Persians, unalterable, is, and ever must be, the ultimate goal. But who ever expects to reach it in these days of surprises, finds, and discoveries? Who does not secretly believe that he may some day add yet another distinct shade, or a more perfect copy to even his most perfect page? In the Kingston collection there was repose and finality. On the occasion of his last visit to the Philatelic Society of London the late Earl laid his handsome, massive volumes on the table with the air of a man who had completed his task; and for him, indeed, it was completed.

Two to three years ago he was a very active member of the Philatelic Society of London, and read several interesting papers giving the results of his own study. One was on "Humphry's retouch of the one penny of Great Britain, 1854." another on the "three halfpence die of Great Britain. 1860." a third paper dealt with the "De-oxidation of Postage Stamps." Though terribly shattered in health he attended and personally read the last-mentioned paper at a meeting of the Society held at Effingham House on the 19th of October, 1894. That was his last appearance at a meeting of the Society. He had brought his collection over from Ireland, he said, to show it to the members before he died. "No, no," protested the hon secretary, "you will pull round all right again" "No," he replied, sadly. "I feel that my days are numbered."

He went abroad, and in response to anxious inquiries he was at times reported to be improving and then going back, till, as a last resource, he underwent a very serious operation, an operation which few ever survive. But he survived, so much so that life seemed once more to look hopeful for him.

"Our readers," said the October *London Philatelist*, "will share with us our great gratification in being able to announce the continued improvement in health of the esteemed President. A most serious operation was undergone by Lord Kingston a few weeks since, which has hitherto been attended by the most gratifying results, and we are enabled to state from personal experience that his lordship is at present in the enjoyment of better health and spirits than has been the case for months past." Alas, it was only a temporary rally. And just when we were all hoping and believing that the genial philatelist would soon be back with health fully restored, the sad news came that yet another prominent member of the premier Society had been cut off in the flush of manhood and philatelic success.

The death of Lord Kingston leaves a vacancy in the post of President of the Society, which it will be difficult to fill. The late earl was unanimonsly elected to the office on the retirement of Mr. Philbrick, Q.C., in 1892. His social rank and his position as a philatelist who had won his spurs in open competition with his fellow philatelists, were a happy combination of qualifications for the position to which he was so cordially elected.

REVIEWS.

The African Colonies. Part I.

The Postage Stamps, Envelopes, Wrappers, Post Cards, and Telegragh Stamps of the British Colonies, Possessions and Protectorates in Africa. Part I. Compiled and published by the Philatelic Society, London.

This latest work of the Philatelic Society of London marks a new departure in the matter of production. The illustrations, instead of being grouped together in separate autotype plates, are sprinkled about in the text in the shape of engraved process blocks. The advantage of textual illustration is unquestionable, but there is no denying the fact that process engraving is not so clear and good for the purposes of study as the autotype. Envelopes, wrappers, and postcards are grouped into eight sheets of photo-mezzotype illustrations, all of which are very clear, some remarkably so.

Turning to the text we note that the work deals only with British Bechuanaland, British East Africa, British South Africa (including British Central Africa), and the Cape of Good Hope, leaving the remaining colonies for a second part.

Taking the colonies in detail we find the twopence British Bechuanaland with 2d. blue-green surcharge chronicled as a pair in the Tapling collection on the original envelope. The surcharge "Protectorate" in small block capitals is discredited. It is a pity that the source of supply of this variety cannot be traced. Of the surcharge "Protectorate" in larger type we are told that only 800 were printed, and yet the stamp seems to be fairly common. Of the "One—Half—Penny" in three lines on the 3d., only 700 are said to have been printed, and collectors are warned against forged inverted surcharges and errors of spelling.

The imperforate issues of British East Africa are now stated on the authority of the company to have been issued "and sold at the company's offices in the usual manner. They were used for postage, and are still available for such purpose." The following is a list of the officially recognised imperforate issues :—

½ anna brown	4a pale red brown
1 anna green	4½a lilac
2a vermilion	8a blue
2½a black on yellow	1 rupee rose.
3a black on rose red	

As to the errors of colour, *i.e.*, the gray stamps, the company state that "it was at first intended to use them for inland revenue purposes, but, as this was found inconvenient, it was decided to use up those already printed for postal purposes. Fortunately, only a few of the eight annas and one rupee had been printed. The four annas, gray, had not advanced beyond the imperforate stage, and those we had in that form were sold and used along with the others, in the usual course."

The following stamps are chronicled as having escaped perforation between some of the rows :—

½a brown,	imperforate	vertically	½a brown,	imperforate	horizontally
2½a black on yellow	,,	,,	2½a black on yellow	,,	,,
3a black on rose red	,,	,,	3a black on rose red	,,	,,
4½a lilac	,,	,,	4a lilac	,,	,,

Mr. Bacon contributes to the section dealing with the Cape of Good Hope a mass of valuable information as to the dates of issue and the numbers printed of the early stamps. The numbers printed of the triangular series were :—

1p, 5,850,000	6p, 920,000
4p, 7,510,000	1s., 380,160

And as to the so-called "wood-blocks" the Postmaster-General of the Colony

supplies the following interesting information, showing that they were not "wood-blocks" in the sense of being printed from engravings on wood:—

The stamps were printed by Saul Solomon & Co., of 49 and 50, St. George's Street, Cape Town, the one penny on April 10th, 1861, and the four pence on April 12th of the same year. The original dies for the stamps were engraved on steel, from which sixty-four impressions were afterwards taken of each value, by what is known as the stereotype process. These impressions were cemented on to a wooden block to form the printing plate, hence the designation "wood-blocks" that has always been applied to these two stamps. The sixty-four impressions of both values were each arranged in four horizontal rows of sixteen stamps to the row, forming eight squares, and in cementing the impressions on to the two wooden blocks, one of the four pennies was by mistake placed among the one pennies, and *vice versa*, thus accounting for the two well-known errors of these stamps. The number of the one penny stamps printed was 24,600, while there were 12,840 of the fourpence, and both values were issued as soon as they were obtained from the printers. Laid paper with fairly wide lines was used, and although the laid lines in some specimens are only visible in part, and on others are apparently altogether absent, the quality and make of the paper seems nevertheless the same throughout the issue.

The number of the errors of course entirely depends upon whether the mistakes on the plates were noticed and corrected previous to the completion of the printings. Supposing they had been, I cannot but think that the errors would at once have been cut out of the sheets and destroyed. According to the number of stamps printed, there were at the most but 201 of the one penny error, and 386 of the four pence error, so the only surprise is that these stamps are not even rarer than they are.

Only one printing of these provisional stamps was required, as on referring to the appendix it will be noticed that Messrs. Perkins, Bacon, and Co. forwarded further large supplies of One Penny and Four Penny stamps to the colony on the 1st and 29th of April, and again on the 8th of May, 1861. The provisional stamps could not, therefore, have been wanted beyond a few weeks, but no doubt the stock printed off of both values was used up by the Post Office.

In the matter of type and printing, the work is not what it should be. Errors of spelling, battered type, and letters of wrong founts, are abundant. One correspondent totals them up at over 1,200!

An Azores Catalogue.

Stamps Catalogue and Price List for 1896. *Manuel Ferreira Travassos, Stamp Dealer, St. Michaels, Azores.*

We have received a "Stamps Catalogue and Price List for 1896," published by "Manuel Ferreira Travassos, stamp dealer, St. Michaels, Azores." It is confined to the stamps of Azores and Portugal, which are priced in English currency. The preface is a curiosity, as illustrating "English as she is spoke" in the Azores. It reads as follows:—

This is the first page that you ought to read before you see our price list. Lately has appeared in the circulation Azorean stamps with false surcharges not only in the Azores but also in Portugal and in many other foreign countries. We always become surprised when we have opportunity to see some foreign stamp catalogues, and looking at the two first issues price list almost complete, when those stamps are so rare here in the Azores, that there are only four or five collectors in all the islands who may have the Azorean set completed!!! This is the advertisement we make to the stamp collectors, to be careful with the Azores stamps sold by other houses.

A Catalogue of U.S. Stamps.

United States Comprehensive Catalogue, 1896. *Henry Gremmel*, 85, *Nassau Street, New York.*

Mr. Gremmel, of New York, has published in pamphlet form the excellent catalogue of United States stamps contributed to the pages of the *Post Office* by Mr. Crawford Capen, to which are added the prices at which the stamps may be obtained from the publisher. The great rarities are only approximately priced. The Alexandria 5c. is priced at £300; Baltimore 10c., £240; Milbury 5c., £200, and Brattlebro' 5c., £130. Illustrations are given to guide the collector in the work of distinguishing national from continental plates.

NEW ISSUES.

Borneo.—The current set are said to have been surcharged "postage due."

British Central Africa.—We have received the twopenny British South Africa stamp, surcharged "B.C.A.," altered to a 1d, value by a surcharge in black, with the words one penny in Roman capitals in one line. The original value is obliterated with a thick bar.

Adhesives.—1d. on 2d., red and olive, black surcharge.

British East Africa.—Much makeshift surcharging has been taking place in this territory consequent on the change from the Chartered Company to Imperial control. First the stock in hand at Mombasa of the Company's stamps were all roughly surcharged with a band stamp British East Africa in three lines. Then the Indian stamps at Zanzibar were surcharged with the same words to keep up the supply till special stamps for the colony were received. These are said to be on their way. The two surcharges vary in detail. That on the Company's stamps is in capitals and small capitals, and measures as follows:—"British," 11½ mm.; "East," 7 mm.; "Africa," 11 mm., on all values. On the Indian stamps the surcharge is in capitals and small letters, and measures as follows, on values expressed in "Annas":—"British," 11 mm.; "East," 7 mm.; "Africa," 11 mm. But on the rupee values the surcharge is slightly larger, and measures as follows:—"British," 12 mm.; "East," 8 mm.; "Africa," 11 mm. We illustrate the surcharge on the Company's stamps, and as we have only chronicled the series in instalments, we now tabulate each series from full sets which we have received.



Adhesives.

On I. B. E. Company's stamps:—

½a., brown,	black surcharge.
1 a., green,	"
2 a., red,	"
2½a., black on yellow,	"
2½a., in red on 4½ mauve,	"
3 a., brown on red,	"
4 a., brown	"
4½a., violet,	"
5 a., black on blue-green,	"
7½a., black,	"
8 a., blue,	"
1 r., rose,	"
2 r., brown-red,	"
3 r., slate-violet,	"
4 r., bright blue,	"
5 r., olive-green	"

On Indian stamps:—

½a., green,	black surcharge.
1 a., plum,	"
1½a. brown,	"
2 a., blue,	"
2½a., in *red*, on 1½a., brown,	"
3 a., orange,	"
4 a., olive,	"
6 a., bistre,	"
8 a., purple,	"
12 a., brown on red,	"
1 r., slate,	"
2 r., carmine and brown,	"
3 r., brown and green,	"
5 r., blue and violet,	"

British South Africa.—Mr. D. Montague Jacobs sends us the 2d. value on thicker paper, and the colour changed from olive to green. The 4d. has also been printed on thicker paper and colours changed to pale brown. The varieties are due to a change of printers.

2d., red and green.
4d., pale brown.

Bulgaria.—According to the *Timbre Post* the 1s. on 2s. is known with the surcharge reversed.

Adhesive. 1s. on 2s., surcharge inverted.

Ceylon.—Several values of the current series have been surcharged "on service," in two lines in black.

Curacao.—The 10c. of the old head of King series has been surcharged "2½ cent." in one line in red. The *M. J.* says the remainders so surcharged were 45,000. A new 10c. head of Queen has also made its appearance.

Adhesives. 2½c. on 10c. grey, red surcharge.
10c. ultramarine.

Fernando Po.—It is reported that new stamps are being prepared of the same type as the new Spanish.

Gibraltar.—Two new values have been added to the current type.

Adhesives. 20 c. olive.
2 p., black and carmine.

Grenada.—Mr. Mackenzie sends us a list of the values in the new type, as illustrated:—



Adhesives.

2½d. grey and blue.	8d. grey and black.
3d. grey and orange.	1s. green and orange.
6d. grey and green.	

Honduras.—The new Seebecks have been received as per list.

Adhesives.

1c. vermilion.
2c. deep blue.
5c. grey.
10c. carmine.
20c. blue.
30c. lilac.
50c. brown.
1p. green.

Envelopes.

3c. grey-black.
10c. brown-violet.

Postcards.

2c. green on buff.
2c. by 2c. green on buff.
3c. green on lilac.
3c. by 3c. green on lilac.

India.—We illustrate the new surcharge—"Postal Service."



Mauritius.—We have received the 3c. of the new design which we will illustrate in our next number. It is a pleasing departure from the monotonous De la Rue type. The arms of the Colony on a fanciful shield occupies the centre of the stamp; above is the word "Mauritius," and curved, and in a straight label at the bottom of the shield is the "3 cents." A correspondent writing from Port Louis on the 20th of December, says 100,000 of stamps of this new design had been received, and that 800,000 more were expected, but report anticipated that they might be of a different colour. Another report states that the stamp is to be withdrawn because of the omission of the word "Postage."

Wmk., crown and c c., perf. 14.
Adhesive. 3c., lilac.
Wrapper. 3c., green on buff.
Post Card. 2c., black on white.

Perak.—We illustrate the new type already chronicled by us.



Salvador.—More Seebecks, with alarming developments, as per illustrations.







Adhesives.

Parcel Post Stamps:—

5c., orange.
10c., blue.
15c., red.
20c., yellow.
50c., green.

Money Order Stamps:—

1c., green.
2c., brown.
3c., carmine.
7c., dark blue.
10c., orange.
25c., dark blue.
50c., grey lilac.
100c., yellow green.
200c., dark violet.

Unpaid Letter Stamps:—

1c., 2c., 3c., 5c., 10c., 15c., 25c., and 50c., olive.

Letter Cards.

2c., green on pale green.
2c. × 2c., " "
3c., red on pale red.
3c. × 3c., " "
5c., blue on pale blue.
5c. × 5c., " "

Transvaal.—We have received the ½d. with disselboom to replace double shaft to wagon The inevitable "error that was discovered and afterwards corrected," has at last turned up on the recent surcharge "Halve Penny" on 1s. green. It takes the form of "Pennij." One industrious possessor of sheets is spreading the report that only 50 sheets were printed, but as one casual caller at a post office informs us that he got six sheets, they will probably be plentiful enough in due time when the official cornerers are pleased to put their stock on sale.

Adhesives.

½d., pale grey, one pole.
½d., on 1s. green, *error* pennij.

Zanzibar.—For more than a month past Indian stamps surcharged "Zanzibar" with capital and small letters, have franked letters to this country. A special series in De la Rue type is, we hear, in preparation. In the surcharge the second "z" is generally misplaced. Being of a smaller fount it shifts about, and is found sometimes above and sometimes below the level of the other letters. The surcharge is in black, and measures 15½ mm.

Adhesives.

½a., green.
1a., plum.
1½a., brown.
2a., blue.
2½a., green.
2½ in red on 1½a., brown.
3a., orange.
4a., olive.
6a., bistre.
8a., purple.
12a., brown on red.
1r., slate.
2r., carmine and brown.
3r., brown and green.
5r., blue and violet.

Error.

6a., bistre surcharge "*Zanzidar.*"

PHILATELY IN THE MAGS.

U.S. Stamps on Ribbed Paper.

Mr. Crawford Capen, who has done so much to popularise the minor varieties of U. S. stamps, is now directing attention to the study of stamps on ribbed paper. In an opening article in the December number of the *Post Office* he tells us that the ribbing is sometimes vertical and sometimes horizontal, but the vertical shows most plainly.

The date of the issue of these stamps does not appear to be established, if we may judge from the dates given in the lists that have been published. The paper seems to have been used all through the year 1875, and we have to the present time seen no evidence which inclines us to believe that it was in use before that year. The three cent. of which we have the largest number, is always found in the *bright*, dark yellow green shade of ink which was used in 1872. The two cent brown was printed in the shade of ink last used for the two cent brown stamp. The best specimen of a horizontally ribbed stamp which we possess is a five cent blue Taylor from an early and good plate made by the Continental Company, which stamp was not issued until October 5th, 1875. The fifteen cent is of the orange shade of 1875, and the seven cent and twelve cent are of the latest shades used for printing those stamps.

United States Department stamps on ribbed paper are very scarce, and the most that we have seen of them have been stamps that were marked specimen. As the circular announcing the sale of specimen stamps by the Government was issued March 27th, 1875, this is a further indication of the date of the use of the ribbed paper.

The Cornered Stamp.

Under this heading a writer in the *Eastern Philatelist* (*U. S.*) condemns the practice of cornering stamps as an abomination, but he tells us by way of consolation that it is not an unmixed evil.

There are many modifying conditions, especially in that branch of monopoly which relies on the pleasure-seeking good will of the consumer. If a combination of men seek to control the supply of a certain postage stamp, they are under several obligations to collectors at large. They will be afraid to raise the price to an exorbitant figure, or a boycott of their ware will bring them to terms. Their monopoly will benefit not only themselves, but also the lone collector who holds a more or less abundant supply of the cornered stamp. Their trust may yield a golden fruit, but it harms no one; you need not purchase unless you wish, and no one is at hazard save the speculators themselves.

If these are all the modifying conditions in the business the less said about it the better. The only hope lies in the prospect of the "cornerers" burning their fingers. And if collectors will treat "cornerers" as the natural enemies of philately, and refuse to do business with those who gamble for an artificial rise, the end will not be far off.

Belgian Unpaid Letter Stamps.

Mr. Jules Bouvez contributes to the December number of the *American Journal of Philately* a very interesting history of the first issue of the unpaid letter stamps of Belgium. These stamps were first brought into use in 1870, and despite the fact that they have remained in issue up to 1895, we are informed that of the large quantities used only 11,029 of the 10c. and 93,765 of the 20c. were attached to articles available for collectors. Consequently M. Bouvez believes that they will soon be considered rarities. There has also been a provisional:—

We will also point out a special circumstance which deserves attention. On the 1st April, 1895, several Belgian post offices being without unpaid letter stamps of 10 and 20 centimes, because a fresh stock of these values had not been able to reach them in time, it was necessary to replace them provisionally. The offices which were in this position, not having received any instructions, and not being able to delay the distribution of the "catch" letters, used postage stamps of 5 centimes green, 10 centimes bistre, and 20 centimes olive, shorn of their Sunday slip, and surcharged with a black T (Taxe) applied by means of a hand stamp with thick ink. The use of these provisional unpaid letter stamps was, however, not of long duration, for as soon as the authorities learnt that the stock was exhausted they hastened the shipment of unpaid letter stamps.

A "Beer and Baccy" Postcard.

When the New Zealand Postal Authorities so quickly abandoned the printing of advertisements on the backs of their stamps, it was generally hoped and believed that we had seen the last of that objectionable form of adding to the postal revenue. But the Colony of Victoria has recently let space on the address side of its post cards for the advertisement of tobacco and lager beer. The Australian correspondent of the *London Philatelist* tells us that this venture has roused a perfect storm in the Colony.

Minister total abstainers from beer and tobacco, Secretaries to Young Mens' Christian Associations, &c., have taken strong objections to demoralising advertisements. They have cut them off, or pasted paper over them, only to find that the mutilated or covered card is charged 2d. on delivery! Mr. Duffy, the Postmaster-General, says that revenue is wanted, and if any members

of the public object to use the advertisement cards, they can use their own cards, with a 1d. adhesive stamp. I think, however, that the reign of the "Beer and Baccy" card will be a short one, as even now non-abstainers dislike the thing and complain about it.

The Good Time Coming.

The *Philatelic World* keeps an expert versifier on the premises. Here is a sample:—

Oh for a good time coming—
When the world shall be delivered from "commemoration" trash,
With the Sydney O.S. shivered, and the reprint gone to smash;
When our dripping pens flow freely with each faking forger's gore;
When the seebecks cease from troubling, and the gumbugs glare no more.

———

Shylock Up-to-date.

We must also find space for another "fragment" entitled "Shylock up to date," which deals with the extortionate levy of the Indian Customs Authorities on consignments of stamps, and bears the new familiar signature "Dak."

DUKE (to SHYLOCK)—

Shylock, the world thinks (and I think so too)
That thou'lt but learn the spirit of the tariff
To the last clause of th'act; and then, 'tis thought,
Thou'lt show thy mercy and good sense more strange
Than is thy strange apparent selfishness,
And, where thou exactest the penalty
(Some five per cent. of good Antonio's cash)
Thou wilt be blind to that the tariff saith,
And touched with human friendliness, wilt wink
Thy dexter optic upon principle,
Glancing the other eye upon his worries
That have of late so huddled on his back
(Enough to press a royal collector down)
And pluck commiseration of his state
From faking forgers with rough hearts of flint,
From gumbug folk, and seebecks never trained
To tender thought for fair philately.
We wish a gentle answer, don't you know!
Shy.
I have possessed your grace of what I purpose,
And by our Clive Street have I sworn
To have the due and forfeit of the Act.
If you deny it, let my minious light
Upon your baggage and your weekly mails.
You ask me why I rather choose to place
A toll on carrying stamps than to receive
Your thanks to pass them. I'll not answer that,
But say it is my orders. Are you answered?
Ant.
'Tis a hard answer, thou unfeeling man,
To curb the current of Philately.

N.S.W. Recent Issues.

The *Australian Philatelist* is doing good service in publishing a series of articles bringing the London Society's work on "Oceania" up to date. As a sample of the work we quote the Reference List of the Centennial and Postal Union Series.

CENTENNIAL SERIES.

Dates of issue as gazetted.

1d., 9th July, 1888.	6d., 26th Nov., 1888.
£1, 1st May, 1888.	8d., 17th January, 1889.
2d., 2nd Sept., 1888.	1s., 20th Feb., 1889.
4d., 4th October, 1888.	5s., 13th March. 1889.

1d., violet, wmk. N.S.W. and Crown, perf. 12, 11 × 12, 12 × 11½, 11 × 11½.

1d., violet, wmk. N.S.W. (Stamp Duty paper), perf. 11 × 12.

2d., blue. wmk. N.S.W. and Crown, perf. 12, 11 × 12, 12 × 11½; 11 × 11½, imperf.

2d., blue, wmk. (Stamp Duty paper), perf 11 × 12.

4d., brown, wmk. N.S W. and Crown, perf. 12, 11 × 12, 12 × 11½.

6d., rosine, wmk. N.S.W. and Crown, perf. 12, 11 × 12, 11 × 11½.

8d., plum, wmk. N.S.W. and Crown, perf. 12, 11 × 12, 11 by 11½.

1s., brown violet, wmk. N.S.W. and Crown, perf. 12, 11 × 12. 11 × 11½.

5s., purple, wmk. 5/-, perf. 10.

5s., purple, wmk. 5/- N.S.W. (within diamond), perf. 10, 12, 10 × 11.

20s., blue, wmk. 5/-, perf. 10

20s., blue, wmk. 20/- N.S.W. (within circle), perf. 10.

POSTAL UNION SERIES.

Dates of issue as gazetted.

2½d., 5th December, 1890.

½d., (surcharged)
7½d., „
12½d., „
} 13th January, 1891.

½d., 29th February, 1892.

2½d., ultramarine, wmk., N.S.W. and Crown perf. 12, 11 × 12, 12 × 11½

½d., grey and black, wmk., N.S.W. and Crown, perf., 10, 11 × 12.

1d. (error, without surcharge), grey.

7½d., brown and black, wmk., N.S W. and Crown, perf. 10, 11 × 12.

12d., red and black, wmk., N.S.W. and Crown, perf. 10, 11 × 12.

½d., grey, wmk., N.S.W., and Crown, perf. 11 × 12, 12, 12 × 10, 10. 11 × 11½.

3d. (Diadem), green, wmk., italic 10, perf. 10.

———

U.S. Plates.

The New York Correspondent of the *Philatelic Era* tells us that—

After the contracts for the manufacture of the stamps of the United States had been turned over to the Bureau of Printing and Engraving, and the American Bank Note Co. had no more use for the plates, they have all been cancelled and thus made useless for any further printing. After this had been done five cart loads loaded with as much as two horses could draw were sent over to the Navy Yard in Brooklyn

and the fine steel plates used in the repair shops for our Navy.

End of the N.S.W. Swindle.

The *Monthly Journal* publishes the following extract from the *Australian Star* of October 31st last, in reference to the bogus New South Wales Reprints of the O.S. stamps.

The philatelists of the colony are very much annoyed at the action of Postmaster-General Cook, in debasing the stamp currency of the Colony at cheap rates, and to-day a deputation from the society waited on Mr. Cook to argue the point with him. The deputation did not mince words. They considered that the issue of stamps purporting to be postmarked which were out of date, and had never been through the post, amounted, for all practical purposes, to a forgery. Any private individual who made a postmark on stamps was a forger, and to them the department seemed equally culpable. Stamp collectors obtained stamps which had been used for franking letters, but here the Government was selling copies, which never had franked letters, as genuine. The result was a great injury to the dealers, and the Government seemed to be following in the lines of South America republics, where the revenue was sometimes assisted by bargaining with New York stamp dealers. As a result of the conversation, the Minister promised that he would not have any more of the stamps printed. He explained that altogether a thousand sets were printed, and of these a considerable number had been sold. He would not withdraw any of the balance from sale, but when they were all disposed of, that would complete the issue.

The cool audacity of the concluding announcement is quite on a par with the conception of the swindle.

The English 3d. of 1873.

Mr. Ewan, in his excellent *English Specialists' Journal*, now in its third number, gives us some very interesting particulars concerning the 3d. adhesive of 1873. He writes:—

Between 1873 and 1880, ten plates of the Threepenny Adhesive were constructed, numbered 11 to 20. No. 13 was found to be defective and was never used. Of the remaining nine, seven were brought into use during the first three years of this period (1873-75), whilst the other two were sufficient to supply all threepenny stamps that were required during 1876-80. The single letter rate to France and the continent generally was reduced in 1875 from 3d. to 2½d., hence the unequal demand.

I recently had an opportunity of examining a large correspondence, and have been able to ascertain fairly correctly when each plate was in use. The catalogue of English stamps, published by Messrs. Hilckes & Co., Ltd., is the only one at present that gives the date of issue of each plate, and as the dates given there are in every case quite unreliable, I publish the results of my search.

Plate.	Registered.	Hilckes.	Earliest date found by me.
11	Dec. 21st, 1872	July 15th, 1873	London, E.C. July 12th, 1873.
12	June 21st, 1873	Feb. 18th, 1874	London, E.C. Oct. 28th, 1873.
14	Aug. 27th, 1873	June 2nd, 1874	London, E.C. April 29th, 1874.
15	Nov. 25th. 1873	Nov. —, 1874	Huddersfield, Aug. —, 1874.
16	June 10th, 1874	March 8th, 1875	London, E.C. Jan. 11th, 1875.
17	Sept. 30th, 1874	July 1st, 1875	London, E.C. April 14th, 1875.
18	Jan. 26th, 1875	March, 1876	London, E.C. Sept. 14th, 1875.
19	May 7th, 1875	Dec. 1st, 1876	London, E.C. July 17th, 1876.
20	Nov. 29th, 1878	April 16th, 1880	Glasgow, Nov. 20th, 1879.

The periods during which these plates were in use were as follows:—

Plate.	Issue.	Period of use.
11	July, 1873, to January, 1874	*4-3/2 months.
12	October, 1873, to July, 1874	3-6/2 ,,
14	April, 1874, to November, 1874	1-7/2 ,,
15	August, 1874, to March, 1875	1-7/2 ,,
16	January, 1875, to July, 1875	1-6/2 ,,
17	April, 1875, to January, 1876	1-8/2 ,,
18	September, 1875, to December, 1877	18-10/2 ,,
19	July, 1876, to January, 1880	24-7/2 ,,
20	November, 1879, to January, 1881	12-3/2 ,,

The above figures show how little reliance should be placed on the period of use, when considering the relative value of the plates. Plate 18, longer in use than any other plate except 19, is the rarest, whilst plates 15 and 16, in use the shortest period, are by far the commonest. Plate 19 was only temporarily issued during the latter half of 1876. The general issue of this plate commenced about January, 1878.

*means 4 months alone and 3 months side by side with another stamp.

Stamps v. Diamonds.

Mr. L. Seidenberg, writing on the "Financial Stability of Stamps" in the *Philatelic Journal of America*, contends that stamps stand unrivalled and unique in their position as a joint source of pleasure and profit. He says:—

"Let us compare them with diamonds. Fresh supplies of diamonds are constantly being discovered, and the value of those already on the market is therefore seldom permitted to advance, as the supply keeps fairly abreast with the volume of consumption. Not so with stamps, and particularly with the rarest philatelic gems. It is the exception that a fresh supply of any extremely rare label is brought to light, and even then it is not likely that prices will be depreciated for the supply can never be in proportion to the growth of population, and the greater proportionate increase in the number of collectors. The probabilities are that philatelic rarities will become more precious gems every year because of this disproportionate increase in the number of collectors, the lack of supply, and because of the likelihood of the destruction from one of many causes of some of them."

An Unchronicled Italian Error.

The Australian correspondent of the *London Philatelist* tells of an unchronicled error of Italy. He writes:—

About twelve years ago I had an approval sheet from a leading (then and now) English dealer, from which I took a stamp purporting to be the 40c., 1854, Italy. It was undoubtedly a genuine used stamp, and had not been removed from the piece of original letter. On closely examining it, however, I found the inscription embossed to be "c. cinque" instead of "c. quaranta." I prized that stamp very much; and it was only the temptation of the late Dr. Ellison, who offered the two Cape "wood-blocks" in exchange, that induced me to part with it. As late as 1892, I saw it again at Brisbane, Q., in Dr. Ellison's collection; but where it has gone to since his decease I know not. I have never seen this particular error chronicled, and yet there must have been at least one whole sheet printed.

A Successful Exchange Club.

The *Stamp Collectors' Fortnightly* (Jan. 25) publishes a very interesting interview with Mr. F. A. Wickhart, the indefatigible secretary of the Northern Stamp Exchange Society. The great obstacles to success in exchange clubs, as every collector knows to his cost, are the scramble for first choice, delays, and an insufficient supply of good stamps. Mr. Wickhart has his own vigorous and efficient method of dealing with each of these difficulties, as the following extract will show:—

"How do you manage to get such fine sheets?" I asked.

"By adhering strictly to the rules I have framed. There is no favouritism whatever. The next position to my own on the postal list is balloted for every month; this gives even the smallest collector-member a chance of early view; then the names follow in order of value (not always the owners' value but sometimes my estimated value) of sheets. I occasionally find that a member will mark one or two stamps excessively high, in order to get near the top, but it is wasted effort, for I reserve the right to place the members according to the real value of the sheets sent in. My other rules include one prohibiting a member from making any marks on another member's sheet, except it be to note a forgery, in which case the name has to be appended. Another provides that every member shall be responsible for the packet from the time he receives it until he hands it the post office for transmission to the next member. A third rule prohibits any member from allowing the packet to go out of his possession, under pain of expulsion."

"Have you ever had any stamps changed by unprincipled members?"

"Only twice since the Club started. On one occasion a couple of Cook Island stamps were taken, and a damaged couple put in their places. I found out the culprit, and I expelled him from the Club. Had the evidence been a little stronger, I would have prosecuted him. It seems strange that a man should risk his reputation and the chance of imprisonment for the sake of a few shillings."

"How are you able to tell if a stamp is substituted?"

"In several ways. I conduct the 'Northern' as a hobby, and not for any gain it may bring (up to the present it has been a loss), and I devote a considerable amount of time to the packets. I have a habit of dropping on particular members each month before and after they receive a packet, and having the packets sent to me for inspection. By a private system of listing some, and marking other stamps, I am able to tell if a stamp has been changed. No member knows when he may be requested to send the packet to me, neither does he know if I have seen the packet prior to his receiving my request to return it to me."

An accompanying table gives the value and of packets of the sales for each month of the past two years. The first year's packets totalled up to £1537, and the sales therefrom amounted to £318. In the next year (1894-5) the packets increased to £6191, and the sales to £1343.

A Great Dealer.

Mr. Sellschopp, in *Philatelic Facts and Fancies*, recording his impressions of a recent visit to Europe says, of Senf's establishment:—

The ground floor of a large brick building on the Eilenburgerstrasse in a suburb of Leipzig is occupied by this firm. In one corner is the private office of the head of the firm, and from this point he can look through two suites, each composed of several large rooms. One of these suites is occupied by quite a number of young ladies, who handle the enormous stock of stamps of the establishment. The arrangement of their stock is a really ideal one. It is divided into what is designated as the working stock, and the first, second, third and star reserve. It requires nine large safes to hold the more valuable portion alone of the stock. The star reserve is arranged in a fine safe in Mr. Senf's private office, and some of the little labels in this reserve stock actually made my mouth water. If anything in the working stock runs short, the first reserve is resorted to to replenish it. The second and third reserve stocks contain mostly large quantities of stamps that are also represented in the first reserve, while the star reserve contains a limited number of very choice specimens of almost all kinds of stamps, common as well as rare. Only extremely fine stamps, in all possible shades, cancellations, &c., are kept in this stock, and are for the present not for sale, even at full catalogue.

Bargains! Bargains!

There are some good folks who believe that the opportunities of securing bargains in rare stamps are getting fewer and fewer

every year; that in fact so much is being published — "given away" some call it— concerning rare varieties, that before long the specialist's knowledge will be common property; that then there will be no more bargains. True, the specialist generally doles out his knowledge for the benefit of his fellows; but then the power of retaining all such knowledge in one cranium is by no means common property, and for that reason alone the patient but poor collector will probably find the excitement of rare variety hunting as lucrative in the twentieth century as in the present benighted age. Mr. Sellschopp, a keen dealer, of San Francisco has been scouring the Fatherland for gems, and according to his own account in his chirpy *Filatelic Facts and Fallacies*, he has no reason to regret his trip. From the many good stories he has been telling extract the following:—

At Leipzig I had a most enjoyable experience, which I later ascertained was quite a common thing with European dealers who visit this town. At a small place I found a fine unused copy of the early impression of the Hawaiian. 1853, 13c. vermilion, which I secured for about 90c. I exhibited this great bargain, as I considered it, to another dealer, an intimate friend, and told him the price I paid. He promptly pronounced it a counterfeit, and when I offered to pay him a good price for similar counterfeits, he produced a counterfeit collection containing a whole page of Hawaiian stamps, saying, "You can have any of the 13c. at a mark less than what you paid the other fellow," and much to my astonishment and pleasure I found, among one or two reprints and quite a number of counterfeits, a fine genuine copy.

"But this is robbery, pure and simple," I said, "and I cannot take this rare stamp from you at such a ridiculous price."

"But you must," he answered, "for if it is genuine for you, for me it is still a counterfeit, and I am not the only one who thinks so."

And thus I got another Hawaiian stamp, this time for only 65c.

Western Australian Provisionals.

Another unnecessary issue has been nipped in the bud, thanks to the watch kept on postal authorities by members of the S.S.S.S. We take the particulars from the *Stamp Collectors' Fortnightly*:—

Re the late ½d. stamp, surcharged in red and green on 3d. and in green only. After these stamps had been out of issue for three weeks (writes our special Western Australian Correspondent) we received private information to the effect that the P.M.G. was going to re-issue a quantity of the above errors, and had given orders for the printing to commence. As several out here have joined the S.S.S.S., we saw at once that this came under the programme of same; so we arranged for a deputation to wait on the Minister of Posts and Telegraphs, and lay the matter before him. We received an appointment for 3.30 on the 12th. We then pointed out to the Minister (Hon. E. H. Wittenoom), that as the stamps were an error, any reprint of them would be condemned by the S.S.S.S. as an unnecessary and speculative issue. The Minister knew nothing about the issue till he saw Mr. Fothergill on the previous day, so he now asked the P.M.G. (who was present) to explain. The P.M.G. said he was bound by the Postal Union to send to Berne 750 stamps of each sort issued, including errors, and that he found it was necessary to print some to send them, and so printed a few more. But why did he print more when only 750 were required? Because, said the P.M.G., he thought a few more would not hurt. We then pointed out that if this sort of thing was indulged in here, it would bring the Government into disrepute for trying to make revenue out of stamp collectors. Mr. Wittenoom then said: "Did we suppose the Government would submit any stamps that they wanted printed (when necessary) to the Philatelic Society of W.A., and ask their consent? We explained that we did not want this, and, finally, Mr. Wittenoom said, if, as we had told him, there was a sufficient stock of the green ½d., then he would treat us in a fair and square way. Although he was no collector himself he sympathised with us, and, if this would suit us, he would not allow the stamps to be issued. We thanked the Minister for having so patiently heard us, and for having met us in so friendly a spirit.

Booming New Issues.

The *Philatelic Journal of Great Britain* has set itself the task of creating a New Order of Collectors. With an irresistable plausibility the Editor tells the "rank and file" of collectors that they must face the inevitable, and "put behind them, once for all, the thought of collecting the gilt-edged old, and take to collecting the NEW." That there is ample field for the energies of the most industrious he holds to be attested by the fact that a friend of his "has ten books each of some seventy pages entirely filled with genuine new issues since the year 1890, and even he has not got them all." Again, recruits of the new order are assured that even as an investment new issues march along at a very satisfactory pace—a pace "which no fever and fizzle of politics can disturb or depress." In proof of this certain recent issues are listed which have advanced in price from 9s. to 60s., 20s. to 40s., 1s. 6d. to 10s., and so on. And to settle the whole business beyond all possible cavil Mr. Whitfield King, of the firm of Messrs. Whitfield King & Co., is quoted as a "high authority" for the following statement in bill-poster type:—

There is quite as much pleasure in buying the new issues as they come out as there is in the search for old stamps. I speak from experience, having been engaged for some months

in forming a collection for myself, consisting of issues from 1890 only. I have finished all except Oceania, and I have derived more pleasure from the task than I ever expected I should. I am, moreover, convinced that it is a good investment.

Messrs. S. C. Skipton and W. Brown have undertaken to pilot the "Ninety Boys" through the devious paths of new issues. The first lesson appears in the January number of the *P. J. G. B.* with the following introduction:—

A great deal has been written lately about the collecting of "Old Issues," the demand has been great and consequently the value and cost of the better stamps have risen enormously, in many cases putting the rarer specimens quite out of the reach of any but the more wealthy of collectors. This difficulty in completing a collection, even of one or a group of countries has no doubt decided many to give up collecting. We think, however, that a remedy is at hand, namely, to collect "New Issues"; and to give collectors a guide, we have decided on publishing the following list, giving all the varieties that we have in our own collection and that we hear of from reliable sources. We have taken the year 1890 as a commencement, as in that year the Postage Stamp celebrated its Jubilee.

There are many things to be said in favour of the despised "New Issues" They are, as a rule, pretty, and for the most part, cheap (at any rate, soon after they are issued). On the other hand, they have shown, and probably will show, quite as much increase in value as time goes on as the "Old Issues." There are plenty of minor varieties to be looked for by the earnest collector, and a number of errors, &c., to be found, to be regarded with pride by the owner and envy by his friends; and, finally, the issues of 1890, and even 1895, will in time be "Old Issues."

We propose publishing these lists as soon as finished in book form, profusely illustrated, and shall be glad to receive the names of all who would like the book when published.

We intend to give the list of each year separately, and would ask all our readers kindly to examine their stamps by the aid of the list in the Journal, and let us know at once any varieties or additions, so that when published in book form it may be as complete as possible. We should esteem it a special favour if the stamps were sent for inspection to our publishers, and that permission were given for their illustration, if necessary.

Inverted Seychelles.

Mr. W. S. Manton, a collector, supplies the following information to *Mekeel's Weekly Stamp News* concerning the discovery of inverted surcharges on the stamps of Seychelles:—

In February, 1893, it became necessary to surcharge certain values in order to meet pressing requirements on account of a change in postal rates. The face values of this emission, as is well known, were 3 cent on 4, 12 cent on 16, 15 cent on 16, 45 cent on 48, and 90 cent on 96. The work was done at the Local Government printing office by printers who had had no previous experience in this branch, which, perhaps, accounts for the very indifferent manner in which all our overprints have been effected.

Some time after the stamps had been sent back to the Post Office and put in issue a sheet of reversed 3 cent on 4 cent was accidentally discovered by the postmaster—who had only lately been appointed—when making a distribution to the subordinate offices of his department. This discovery led to a general search through the other values, when a sheet of 15 cent on 16 was found similarly reversed.

The postmaster being in doubt as to whether these stamps should be issued for postage purposes or withdrawn, they were put on one side for the time being, but after a correspondence on the subject it was decided that the mere fact of a surcharge being reversed did not alter the value of the stamp in so far as the question of postage was concerned, so long as it was defaced with the same words or figure as the others, and that accordingly they might be sold as *bona fide* postage stamps, but the printer was warned to be more careful in future.

During the interval a local collector got to know the secret and secured the whole of the 240 stamps the moment they were placed on sale, eventually selling 200 to a French dealer in Paris at 5 francs a-piece, generously distributing the remainder, except one of each value, amongst his friends who were collectors.

Number of each value issued: 120 of 3 cent on 4 cent, reversed surcharge; 120 of 15 cent on 16 cent, reversed surcharge.

N.S.—1894-5.

Mekeel's Weekly Stamp News gives the dates when the Bureau of Engraving and Printing began to print each value of stamps and when watermarked paper was first used, as follows:—

	Unwatermarked.	Watermarked, used.
1c.,	June 11, 1894.	May 29, 1895
2c.,	June 25, 1894.	May 20, 1895
3c.,	Aug. 10, 1894.	Oct. 31, 1895
3c.,	Aug. 23, 1894.	July 13, 1895
5c.,	Sept. 7, 1894.	July 10, 1895
6c.,	July 9, 1894.	Sept. 3, 1895
8c.,	Feb. 18, 1895.	July 24, 1895
10c.,	Aug. 21, 1894.	July 20, 1895
15c.,	Oct. 8, 1894.	Sept. 11, 1895
50c.,	Oct. 17, 1894.	Nov. 9, 1895
$1.00,	Oct. 16, 1894.	Aug. 13, 1895
2.00,	Nov. 12, 1894.	Aug. 14, 1895
3.00,	Nov. 12, 1894.	Aug. 16, 1895
Special delivery.		
10c.,	Sept. 19, 1894.	Aug. 17, 1895
Postage Due.		
1c.,	Aug. 11, 1894.	Aug. 30, 1895
2c.,	July 14, 1894.	Sept. 16, 1895
3c.,	Oct. 22, 1894.	Oct. 30, 1895
5c.,	Sept. 17, 1894.	Oct. 15, 1895
10c.,	Sept. 14, 1894.	Oct. 16, 1895
30c.,	Oct. 24, 1894.	
50c.,	Oct. 24, 1894.	

FORGERIES AND REPRINTS.

Prefatory.

As often as occasion may require, we propose to devote a page or two to the exposure and description of forgeries. The more collectors and dealers are put on their guard against these insiduous foes the better. A mere warning that dangerous forgeries of such aud such stamps have recently been put into circulation, is of little use. Some distinguishing defects must be given to help a collector to identify an imposter. At the same time we do not believe in pointing out all defects. That would be educating and helping the forger. As a rule one or two defects are ample to safeguard the careful collector. When necessary we will publish photographic illustrations. Everything will be carefully indexed at the end of each volume, so that our readers will have an invaluable reference list of forgeries at their fingers' ends, and be able to turn to it readily whenever it may be needed. We shall, of course, be glad of any help our readers can render us in this matter, in sending us early intimation of new frauds, with specimens for illustration.

We shall also include in this page notices of reprints. Some reprints are not so bad as forgeries; some are a great deal worse, as they are more difficult of detection than an absolute forgery, and are equally intended to deceive. In too many cases the *raison d'etre* of reprints is the hope that they may pass muster as originals.

Swazieland.

The following forgeries are noted in an article upon the stamps of this country in the *South African Philatelist*, for November:

I have seen the 1885 3d. and 6d. Transvaal sur-charged "Swazieland" in black.

The first, of course, is purely bogus. The type is slightly larger, the greatest difference being that the initial letter "S," quite plain in the genuine, is of a fancy type in the forgery. On examining the stamps closely under a magnifying glass, I find the surcharge to have been printed *over the postmark*. The naked eye would not easily discover this, only heavily postmarked Transvaal stamps having been brought into service.

The most outrageous of all the forgeries is the 2d. Swazieland, surcharged "4," in violet, in the corner of the stamp on each numeral "2," and once in the centre. The stamp itself is genuine in all repects, the provisional "4" being bogus. The forger disposed of quite a quantity of these to unwary philatelists.

In 1893 a Transvaal post card surcharged "Swazieland" was announced to have been issued, in Bremeradorp, by *Senf's Journal*.

The information has been supplied to Senf by the local Postmaster. It turned out, however, to be a bogus card, not authorised by Government.

It now only remains for me to warn both collectors and dealers against the Swazieland stamps with full stop after the surcharge. I have seen a large quantity of these on the ½, 1d., 2d., and 10s. The surcharge, with the exception of the full stop, is perfectly identical with the original. I am not at the present moment in a position to give further information as regards these stamps, but, though I may not yet designate them forgeries until I have made further inquiries at headquarters (it being too late to do so for this issue) I again warn readers against purchasing Swazieland stamps with the above-described surcharge.

British Bechuanaland.

The following forgeries are described by the *South African Philatelist* for November:

Issue 1817. Surcharged on Cape of Good Hope. Wmk., Cabled Anchor. Perf..

No. 1, ½d., black and grey. Double surcharge inverted.

No. 2, 1d., black and carmine. Double surcharge.

In the forgeries "British" measures 9mm., and "Bechuanaland" 17½mm., while in the genuine they measure respectively 7⅝mm. and 10⅝mm.

Prov. Issue 1891. Surcharged vertically on Cape of Good Hope. Wmk., Anchor. Perf.

No. 3, 1d., black and carmine.

No. 4, 2d., black and brown.

The forgeries differ from the genuine in the following respects:

There is no full stop after the word "Bechuanaland," and the words "British" and "Bechuanaland" are half a millimeter longer. The surcharges appear to have been printed by hand press

No. 5, 4d., black and blue.

No. 6, 6d., black and violet.

No. 7, 1sh., black and green.

Nos. 5, 6, and 7 are bogus, these values never having been surcharged for use in British Bechuanaland.

Natal First Issue.

The *Stamp Collectors' Fortnightly*, which has done great service in the prompt disclosure of forgeries, publishes a timely warning against forgeries of the first issue of Natal:—

We have received the following extract of a private letter dated 11th November, 1895:—"A lot of forged first issue are being introduced into the market out here, the old date stamp, Pietermaritzburg, having been temporarily appropriated for that purpose by persons unknown." Although the above information is somewhat scanty, it will serve to put our readers on their guard.

PHILATELIC GOSSIP.

Stamps that will not stand water.

According to a correspondent of the *Philatelic Era* (U.S.), the new shade of the eight cent. Canada must be added to those stamps which will not stand being plunged into water. After a few minutes immersion, the paper, we are told, changes to a pinkish tint, which remains after the stamp has been dried. In this connection someone has suggested that a list should be published of stamps that will not stand the bath. Such a list would, no doubt, be a very acceptable addition to the general catalogue. Meanwhile we extract from Major Evans's excellent work on "Stamps and Stamp Collecting," the following general list of stamps that will not stand water:—

Afghanistan, current type.
Belgium, some of the recent issues.
Bhor
Cashmere, the early issues, and the ½ anna, brown on yellow.
Deccan, some of the *official* surcharges will wash off.
Great Britain, current and recent issues. Most of the values lose some of their colour by washing.
Russia, many of the earlier stamps.
Soruth, the first stamp.
Tasmania, several values of the current stamps have been printed in fugitive inks, but they are not very soluble in water.

Collecting Plate Numbers.

A writer in *Mekeel's Weekly* sneers at the collection of marginal plate numbers, and attributes the recent activity in this direction in the United States to the initiative of an enterprising dealer. This dealer, we are told, in looking about for new varieties of U.S. to double the price and work off his stock, hits upon plate numbers. He buys up a lot at the P.O. value. He writes and causes to be circulated in the philatelic press, articles on plate numbers; he advertisers to buy certain numbers that are rare, &c., and so a new branch is developed in philately. This version of the origin of even U.S. plate number collecting scarcely accords with the fact that the "enterprising dealer" was able to draw upon already-formed large collections of plate numbers for his information. As a matter of fact it is by no means a new fad. It would be much more correct to speak of it as the popularising of a long-recognised branch of specialising. Many specialists have quietly worked at it for years. Indeed, we question whether any leading specialist in this country ignores it. Its importance has been interestingly emphasised by the recent discovery of retouches in De la Rue stamps, in the study of which plate numbers are all important.

A Philatelic Badge.

Some of our friends across the water are agitating the old question of a philatelic badge. The latest suggestion is that it should be worn blue ribbon fashion on the lapel of the coat. For little boys that may "take on," as they phrase it. Still, though the aged may be inclined to laugh at the idea as a silly one, it is hard to get away from the wish that there could be some means of ascertaining by a freemasonary wink, or postage stamp sleeve links or breast pin, or "seebecked" shirt front, that a fellow passenger suffers from a like affliction. Such a discovery might often transform a tedious railway journey into the pleasantest of pleasant trips.

How to examine Paper.

In some cases it is extremely difficult to decide whether a stamp is on wove or on laid paper. As a rough and ready means to that end, the following plan for ascertaining the make of paper on which a stamp is printed will be found most serviceable. It is taken from an excellent paper by Mr. Krauth on mechanical aids to stamp collecting.

It is simply a little box open at one side, and having within an adjustable hinged mirror. Above it I have an arrangement for holding a small ordinary lens. The box has a glass top, and under it a piece of cardboard with an opening adapted to the size of stamp which we wish to examine. The stamp is laid on top of the glass, and the mirror is adjusted with the fingers. The open side of the box is turned toward the source of light, either artificial or natural, the mirror is adjusted until the entire light is reflected upward through the stamp. This is then shielded with the head or, better still, with a little piece of paper, half a cardboard box, or anything which will not interfere with the light coming in below and falling upon the mirror, but will cut off extraneous light at the top. This illuminates the stamp very brilliantly, all the rays of light passing through the paper. You can determine then with the greatest accuracy by means of your magnifier whether the paper is laid or wove, and what is the nature of it.

The apparatus is easily made; any druggist's dovetailed box will do. This part for holding the lens, while I have made it of metal, can be

just as well made of wood. To a person that has never tried that method of examining stamps by reflected light through the paper, it will be quite a revelation to see what it shows.

The Suburban Stamp Exchange Club.

The Secretary informs us that three packets were despatched on the 27th of December. Two of these packets were composed exclusively of sheets valued at not less than £5 each, with an aggregate value of not less than £1000. There were also some fine specimens of old West Indians and Australians at reasonable pricings. Seven applications for membership were received during the past month, of which five were accepted.

Hon. Secretary; H. A. Slade, Tudor House. St. Alban's.

Imperial British East Africa Company Remainders.

The stock of remainders of the Imperial British East Africa Company, in hand at the London Office of the Company, have been sold to a London merchant, who purchased them for a good round sum as a speculation. The amount paid is said to run into several thousand pounds. There are said to be very few of the 2½ annas. We understand that the plates have been destroyed, so that there can be no reprinting of these stamps.

Responsibility of Experts.

Is an expert responsible for damages for giving an Incorrect opinion? Such is the alarming question which a correspondent puts to a French contemporary. The editor, in reply, says an expert is not responsible unless he has been guilty of culpable negligence, or unless a wrong opinion has been intentionally given—in other words, the expert is responsible for damages which may result from a wrong judgment if he has not taken the ordinary means to convince himself of the correctness of his opinion. This is a serious, not to say alarming, matter. The very thought that we may be within measurable distance of seeing Major Evans and Messrs. Castle and Bacon marched off to Holloway makes one shiver with apprehension. Perhaps it would be well for all experts to safeguard their liberty by prefacing their opinions in future with the pious legal formula "to the best of my knowledge and belief."

A Forger's Defence.

A person in Paris charged with forging the current stamps of foreign countries ingeniously and coolly urged in defence that he did not sell them without obliteration. All the same his stock was confiscated, and he had to pay a fine of sixteen francs.

Telegraph Stamps.

Out of all the countries which issue postage stamps only forty-four have yet issued separate labels for telegraph purposes. The tendency is, except in stamp-speculating countries, to make ordinary stamps serve the purposes of both postage and telegraph.

Mr. Hughes Hughes' Collection Sold.

Messrs. Stanley Gibbons, Limited, have purchased Mr. Hughes Hughes' collection. The price paid is said to have been about £2200. The collection, which is a general one, is mostly unused, and contains the only known unused copy of the Cape of Good Hope 4d. red error, wood block. We shall be curious to know at what price this great rarity changes hands. It should beat even the record of the Post Office Mauritius. Indeed we hear that an offer of £400 has already been refused. The price put upon it is said to be £500. If we are patient we shall yet reach the four figure price for a single stamp. P.S.—On going to press we hear that the stamp has been sold frr £500.

Dominican Republic Postal Dragoons.

In the Dominican Republic letters are forwarded by horsemen, so called dragoons. Their appointment does not rest with the postal authorities, but is settled by the village communities. Sometimes the service comes to a standstill for want of dragoons. The Minister of Posts and Telegraphs has been endeavouring to alter this for some time, and the authorities have now decided that in each district there shall be a corps of horsemen for the purpose of carrying on the postal business. Out of each corps men are to be selected iu turns, or as occasion requires. In this way it will be possible to have a post once a day in each district instead of only two or three times a week. This republic is one of the few states in which postage stamps are not sold at the post office. They are distributed by the National Bank, and by agencies in the outlying districts. The public continually complain about this as the bank agents do not keep a sufficient supply.

Curious Trial in Paris.

Ten persons were recently charged in Paris with having made and sold forgeries of foreign stamps. Before the conclusion of the case, however, the Public Prosecutor stated that the postal authorities had informed him that the State had not suffered.

through the forgeries made by the accused as they were *foreign* stamps, and the prosecution would, therefore, be withdrawn. If the protection of the Public Prosecutor extends only to the State Departments, what becomes of the community in France?

The Hard Time Coming for Forgers.

It is said that the members of the Postal Union are arranging to make a law regarding the forging of postage stamps more stringent than it is at present in all the countries within the Union. Where there is no law at present, as in Austria-Hungary, Spain, Siam, and Victoria, it is intended to introduce the necessary measures. The next meeting of the Postal Union Congress will certainly be an important one from the philatelic point of view. If it only puts an end to the Jubilee nuisance it will have done much to safeguard the interests of our hobby.

Kashmir Remainders.

The Kashmir postal arrangements having been handed over to the British Government, the remainders of the native stamps have been put up to tender. In all, there are 39,000 (seven values) of so-called "private stamps," and 34,000 (six values) service stamps, and 3000 post cards. Tenders will be received up to the 29th of February, 1896, by C. R. Kiernander, Accountant-General, Kashmir State.

The Tapling Collection.

Mr. E. D. Bacon informs us that he has changed the exhibits of the Tapling Collection at the British Museum for the following countries, which are now on view:— Mauritius, Lagos, St. Helena, Labnau, British North Borneo, and the Fiji Islands. In Mauritius the Tapling Collection is very strong. Both the great "Post Office" rarities are represented, the "twopence" by an unused specimen and the "one penny" by a used copy. The native printed stamps altogether are a very fine lot.

Minor Varieties of English.

Stamp Collectors' Fortnightly promises a series of articles "dealing with many uncatalogued varieties" of English stamps. The series will be illustrated, and will be issued in the form of four-page octavo supplements, so that when completed the various sheets can be easily detached from the paper and bound up separately, forming a volume of the same size and style as the publishers' "Catalogue of English Adhesives."

A Question of Gum.

Mr. J. M. Andreini in a paper on U.S. plate numbers 1894-5, recently read before the New York Philatelic Society, and which is published in the January No. of the *Metropolitan Philatelist*, gave some interesting particulars concerning the shades of the various plates as well as hints as to what are rare. As to the gum used by Uncle Sam when he took to printing his own stamps Mr. Andreini says:—

> We have all protested about the early gum on pink 2c., and its unsatisfactory adhesive qualities, and we all know that the P.O. Authorities were obliged to issue an order to forward all letters which bore no stamps, but showed marks of an unsuccessful attempt to affix them, as though they were actually prepaid letters.

Count Primoli's Collection.

The Stamp Collectors' Fornighly says, Comte Primoli, whose superb collection has been secured by M. Victor Robert for the sum of 150,000 francs, is a Frenchman of high degree—a nephew in fact of the Princess Mathilde. The collection was formed by the father of Comte Primoli, and it is remarkable from the fact that every stamp it contains is unused. It includes some rare Moldavians, the scarce Reunion twins, and a fine copy of the 3 lire of Tuscany.

Miscellaneous.

The Scott Stamp and Coin Company announce that they sold 25,000 copies of the fifty-fifth (1894) edition of their catalogue, and that they have printed 30,000 of their fifty-sixth (1896) edition.

U.S. periodical stamps, being unobtainable in the country of their origin, have to be imported from Europe for American collections.

It is said that the colour of the U.S. 2c. is to be changed.

A recent issue of the U.S. Postal Guide, warns postmasters against selling periodical or due stamps to the public.

The latest "corner" in U.S. stamps is said to be an attempt to run up the price of 50c. Columbians.

The "File" family of the *P.J.G.B.* has betaken itself to Florence for a few weeks' holiday.

Herr Von Neulinger is busy with a sequel to his stamps of Turkey, a translation of which will appear in due course in the *P.J.G.B.*

Mr. Hadlow has been elected counterfeit detector to the International Philatelic Union.

CORRESPONDENCE.

Albums and Speculative Issues.

SIR,—*Mekeel's Weekly Stamp News* is not quite easy in its editorial mind about the operations of the S. S. S. S. Seebecks still cumber the philatelic earth. Even the deservedly commended action of the Scott Stamp and Coin Co., in excluding all condemned stamps from its new albums is not quite the thing. Says the Editor:—

We believe in discouraging the collection of new stamps *made for stamp collectors*. In this way only will such things be stopped; but it is just as important to discourage the collection of past issues that were made for the same purpose, for in this way only will the parasite who lives on the collector be made to suffer. It is foolish and inconsistent to eliminate the issues recently tabooed by the S. S. S. S. for Portugal, South African Republic, Greece, &c., from an album or catalogue, and include in the same book the Seebeckized issues of Dominician Republic (1879-80), Bolivar (1879-85), Escudor (1892 to date), Honduras (1889 to date), Nicaragua (1890 to date), Salvador (1889 to date).

But human nature is human nature, even in St. Louis. For instance, I note that the Mekeels in the self same number of their publication advertise full sets of Seebecks and Chinese locals.

What about these "leetle incousistencies?"

However, I won't look a gift horse in the mouth. I will presume that the Mekeels intend to bring out an album which shall really draw a hard and fast line at all rubbish, past and present. If they want to take a rise out of their competitors let them produce such an album. I question very much whether they dare go to such a length to show that they have the courage of their convictions.—Yours,

AN OLD GRILLE.

Society Auctions.

SIR,—Every time I read the report of auctions held at meetings of American philatelic societies I ask myself the question, Why don't we have something of the same sort in our English societies? I see no objection to the business, though I am in a difficulty to know how it could be managed without a licensed auctioneer. Presumably to attempt to auction stamps, or anything else, in the ordinany way without holding an auctioneer's licence would be getting within the meshes of the law. The Dutch auction method of starting at a top price and coming down is generally understood to be allowable, but I doubt if that plan would serve the purpose of a stamp sale.

Perhaps it is the legal difficulty that bars the way to the introduction of the American practice of auction sales at our society meetings. Here in the provinces, where we have no chance of attending regular stamp auctions, I feel certain the innovation could not fail to be very popular.

Will some "legal" collector enlighten us as to the penalties and possibilities of this matter?

Personally I should prefer some such medium for the disposal of my duplicates to the risks, delays, and disappointments of exchange clubs. Besides, one could see in this way a much commoner class of duplicates than auctioneers care to waste their time in cataloguing and selling, except in "giving away" lots.—Yours truly,

DUPLICATE.

How to deal with Seebecks.

SIR,—To my mind one of the most pressing questions in philatelic circles just now is—How to deal with Seebecks? They are admittedly the worst of all the Speculative Issues, and yet they are not vetoed by the S.S.S.S. And I am not sure that the good work done by the S.S.S.S. in other directions is not neutralised by the Society's pointed silence in regard to Seebecks. Before the establishment of the Society collectors began to shun Seebecks, but they are now puzzled to find that a Society that was established to warn collectors against rubbish is absolutely silent about Seebecks, and in this case, silence amounts almost, if not altogether, to consent. Therefore the S.S.S.S. is actually strengthening the position of Seebecks.

I do not say that the S.S.S.S. can rationally condemn stamps which are put into genuine circulation, but I do think that such a strong committee of practical men ought to be able to devise some means for dealing with the Seebeck flood. Its condemnation should be placed on the stamps in some way. I confess I cannot suggest a way out of the difficulty; nevertheless, it is certain that some way should be found; and it is also equally certain that the position of the S.S.S.S is considerably weakened by its failure to warn collectors against these worst of annual weeds. There may be much unreasonableness in the sneer that the Society has not the courage to place Seebecks on its list, bnt all the same the sneer is a telling one iu the minds of thousands of collectors who do not trouble to consider the difficulties of the position.

ANTI-SEEBECK.

SOCIETIES IN SESSION.

Johannesburg.

After a brief existence of eighteen months, this society has been allowed to collapse. A liquidator has been appointed to realize and distribute the assets. The *South African Philatelist* attributes the collapse to "Want of energy by the committee, and a waning interest by the members. We are somewhat surprised at the collapse, as indications in other directions in the Transvaal point to a decided increase of interest in matters philatelic. Perhaps a new and more staple society may be raised on the ashes of the old. There is plenty of good work remaining to be done in the solving of problems relating to Transvaal issues alone.

Plymouth.

Mr. Tyeth Stevens, the Vice President seems to be the working member of the Plymouth Society. He has large stores of valuable information, which his society never seems to tire of utilizing. He has recently been through the West Indian Colonies, scattering tips right and left what to secure, and what to avoid, and how to collect. He occupied the evenings of December 4th and 18th with Antigua, Bahamas, and Barbados. On the 8th Jan. Mr. A. E. L. Westaway read a paper on U.S. 1872 issues, in which he explained in detail the differences in the several printings of the 1c. and 2c.

Sec.: Mr. W. J. W. Miller, 5, Athenæum Terrace, Plymouth.

Birmingham.

On December 19th Mr. W. Pymm read a paper on St. Vincent, which was illustrated by a fine display, including his own collection and those of Messrs. G. F. Jackson, R. Hollick, and G. Johnson, together with selections from other members. Almost every variety of watermark and perforations was shewn in unused and used condition, in singles, pairs, and blocks. The 4d. on 1s. was shewn in both types used and unused. All recent values and provisionals, from ½d. to 5s. inclusive, were shown in complete sheets. It was noted that the only stamp required to complete the exhibit was a *used* copy of the 5s. star wmk. Several unused copies were shewn, but no one showed it used.

The following is the programme for the remainder of the present session :—

Feb. 6.	Debate—Reprints, for and against.	
Feb. 20.	Display of Novelties and New Issues.	
Mar. 5.	Display—Tasmania.	
Mar. 19.	Paper—Argentine.	Mr. G. Johnson.
Apr. 2.	Paper—Hamburg.	Mr. F. J. Lord.
Apr. 16.	Paper ——	Mr. R. Hollick.
May 7.	Paper—Greece.	Mr. P. T. Deakin.
May 21.	Philatelic Display.	Mr. W. B. Avery.

Sec.: Mr. G. Johnson, 208, Birchfield Road, Birmingham.

Brighton.

The following is the programme for the remainder of the present session :—

Feb. 3. The Stamps of Tuscany. Mr. M P. Castle.
„ 17. Postmarked Adhesives of Great Britain. Mr. C. F. D. Marshall.
Mar. 3. General Display. Mr. H. Stafford-Smith.
„ 17. Stamps of Switzerland. Mr. Otto Pfenniger.
Apr. 7. Stamps of Norway. Mr. J. W. Gillespie.
„ 21. Stamps of Bahamas. Mr. A. de Worms.
May 5. The Stamps of Parma. Mr. M. P. Castle.
„ 19. Annual Dinner.

Sec: Mr. W. G. Willet, West House, Brighton.

Manchester.

The following is the programme for the remainder of the present session :—

Feb. 7.	Exhibition and Discussion—"Bavaria."	
„ 14.	"Greece," Part I.	W. D. Beckton.
„ 21.	Discussion—"Philatelic Literature."	
„ 28.	"Greece," Part II.	W. D. Beckton.
Mar. 6.	Exhibition and Discussion—"Italian States."	
„ 13.	"Egypt."	J. H. Abbott.
„ 20.	Exhibition—"Errors and Curiosities."	
„ 27.	W. W. Munn.	
Apr. 1.	Exhibition and Discussion—"Nova Scotia and Newfoundland,"	
„ 10.	"Lantern Exhibition."	J. H. Abbott
„ 17.	Exhibition and Discussion—"Denmark and Iceland."	
„ 24.	"Cyprus."	J. C. North.

Sec.: Mr. W. W Munn, Ashfield, Peel Causeway, Altruncham

London, City Club.

The City of London Philatelic Club, which now meets on Mondays at Keenan's Hotel, Crown Court, Cheapside, E.C., has recently instituted Auction Sales at its meetings. One held on Jan. 13th is said to have been very successful. Another will be held on Feb. 10th.

Sec: Mr. C. Forbes, 42, Strahan Road, Bow, London

AUCTION SALES.

Unused are distinguished by an asterisk.

VENTOM, BULL, & COOPER, Jan. 2, 1896.

	£	s.	d.
Barbados, 6d. vermilion, imperf, block of 4*	3	15	0
British Columbia, 10c. blue and pink, perf. 12½*	2	12	6
British Guiana (1851), 1c. majenta ...	4	0	0
Canada, 6d. purple-black, perf.* ...	12	10	0
7½d. green* ... ... £12 and	12	12	0
another, used	2	7	6
10d. blue	0	0	0
Ceylon, 6d. on bluish, imperf. pair* ...	2	2	0
8d. brown, star, perf., 2 copies, *each*	3	0	0
9d. brown, ditto, ditto, block of 4*	2	17	6
Mauritius, *Britannia*, magenta, block of 4*	2	17	6
Naples, 50gr. lake	2	4	0
Nevis, 4d. rose*	3	10	0
1s green, perf. 13, fine, but no gum*	4	10	0
1s. purple*	2	15	0
New Brunswick, 6d. yellow	2	15	0
Newfoundland, 2d. carmine	0	6	0
4d. orange	3	10	0
6½d. carmine red, cut close... ...	7	5	0
New Zealand, 1d. red on blue, pair ...	4	0	0
2d. ultramarine, thick paper, serrated, on original, fine, but torn ...	5	10	0
Nova Scotia, 1s. cold violet	17	0	0
Oldenburg, 2*nd issue* ⅓gr. green* ...	6	7	6
St. Lucia, 1s. black and orange ...	3	4	0
St. Vincent, 1d. rose-red, imperf. pair*	13	10	0
4d. deep blue, no wmk., block of 4*	3	0	0
1s. indigo, perf. 12, block of 4* ...	10	10	0
ditto, perf. 11, strip of 3, with margins*	11	0	0
Saxony, 3 perf. red	3	0	0
Tobago, 6d. ochre, C.A.	10	0	0
Victoria, 1d green, Queen on throne, block of 9*	5	0	0
Western Australia, 6d. bronze-black	2	0	0
Wurtemberg, 3k. orange, no thread*	4	10	0
3k. orange, thick paper, perf. 13½*	2	4	0
7k. dull blue, roulette*	2	2	0

VENTOM, BULL, & COOPER, Jan. 14, 1896.

British Columbia, 10c., imperf.* ...	2	0	0
British Honduras, 1s. carmine, C.A.	7	10	0
Brazil, slanting figures, 600r. ...	5	0	0
Buenos Ayres, 3p.	2	0	0
ditto, 4p., damaged	3	15	0
ditto, 5p.	5	0	0
Ceylon, 1st issue, 10d. vermilion* ...	2	10	0
ditto, 4d. rose	15	15	0
ditto, 9d, brown	3	0	0
ditto, 2s. blue	7	0	0
8d. yellow-brown*	10	0	0
9d. brown*	4	0	0
Cape of Good Hope, 1d. red, wood block	3	3	0
ditto, 1s. dark green	2	5	0
Canada, 7½d. green*	2	4	0
ditto, another, used	3	0	0
Great Britain, 10d. Oct. plate, 3* ...	2	0	0
Hanover, 10gr.	2	10	0
Mauritius, large fillet, 2d. blue ...	8	0	0
Mexico, eagle, 3c. brown, with sur. ...	2	15	0
Monaco, 1*st issue*, 5fr.*	2	0	0
Naples, ½ tornase, blue "cross" ...	4	12	6
ditto, 50 grana	2	0	0
Natal, 1s. green, curved carmine sur.	14	10	0
ditto, 1s. green, curved black sur....	3	5	0
New Brunswick, 6d. yellow... ...	3	3	0
Nevis, 4d. rose...	2	15	0
ditto, 4d. orange, perf. 14* ...	2	2	0
ditto, 1s. purple*	2	7	6
New South Wales, Sydney view, 1d., plate I.	2	10	0
Nova Scotia, 1s. cold violet	18	10	0
Oldenburg, 2nd issue, ⅓gr.*	3	0	0
ditto, 3*rd issue*, ⅓gr. moss green* ...	3	15	0
ditto, ⅓gr. green	3	15	0
Peru, medio peso rose	12	0	0
Queensland, 1st issue, 1d. carmine, imperf	2	0	0
St. Christopher, 6d. olive-brown, pair	7	7	0
ditto, same (single)*	2	7	0
St. Vincent, 4d. on 1s.	9	10	0
South Australia, 1st issue, 1d. yellow-green, imperf.	2	2	0
Spain (1850), 10rls. green	2	10	0
ditto (1852), 2rls. red	10	0	0
ditto (1853), 2rls. red	6	0	0
Switzerland (Basle), 2½r.* £3 10s and	3	17	6
Tuscany, 60 crazie, damaged... ...	2	8	0
ditto (1860), 3 lire	40	0	0
United States (1856), 90c. blue ...	4	15	0
ditto, 93c., Justice	5	15	0
Virgin Islands, 1s., single line border*	4	0	0
Wurtemburg, 18kr. blue, no thread*	3	0	0
ditto (1859), 3kr. orange, thick paper	2	0	0
ditto, ditto, 6kr. green*	5	0	0
Zululand, 5s.	3	17	6

CHEVELEY & CO., Jan. 8 and 9, 1896.

Antigua, 1s. purple, strip of 6* ...	5	15	0
Antioquia, 1*st issue*, 2½d. blue, penmark	10	0	0
ditto, 1 peso, red, postmark ...	7	0	0
Baden, 3k. rose, perf. 13½*	3	3	0
Bahamas, 1d. lake, imperf, block of 4*	2	16	0
Bavaria, 1 mark, imperf*	3	0	0
British Honduras, 6d. yellow* ...	2	6	0
1s. grey*	2	12	0
50c. on 1s. grey*	3	3	0
Canada, 7½d. green, on entire ...	3	15	0
Ceylon, 2d. emerald, C.C.*	2	10	0
5d. purple-brown, cut at top* ...	2	6	0
6d. claret, imperf*	2	2	0
8d. brown, star, perf.	3	15	0
1s. 9d. green, imperf.*	3	0	0
2s. blue, imperf., fine, but line cut one side*	6	5	0
Dominician Republic (1865), ½r. green*	4	7	0
ditto, 1r yellow, cut close	7	5	0
Gambia, 1s. green*	2	6	0
Great Britain, 1d. red, small crown, perf. 14, block of 12*	10	10	0
I.R. Official, £1 green	2	15	0

Hamburg, 9sch, yellow, perf.	2	0	0
Hong Kong, 96c. yellow-brown*	7	0	0
Lagos, 2s. 6d. brown*	3	12	0
Naples, ½t. blue, arms	14	0	0
½t. dark blue, cross	4	4	0
Nevis, 4d rose*	3	10	0
another, used	2	12	0
4d. orange, engraved*	3	3	0
another*	2	12	0
4d. orange, litho.*	9	0	0
6d. grey-lilac, £2 8s., £2 10s., and	2	12	0
6d. olive, litho.	13	0	0
another	12	0	0
6d. green	8	10	0
1s. green, perf. 13*	3	10	0
1s. yellow-green	4	4	0
1s. purple, strip of 6*	13	0	0
a single*	2	8	0
Nova Scotia, 6d. dark green*	10	0	0
Oldenburg, *2nd issue*, 1/3rdgr. green*	6	5	0
ditto, 2gr. rose*	4	10	0
ditto, 3gr. yellow*	4	15	0
St. Christopher, 6d. olive-brown*	2	12	0
1s. lilac, strip of 5*	5	15	0
St. Lucia (1886), 6d. lilac*	3	12	0
ditto, 1s. orange*	6	0	0
St. Vincent, 4d. orange, no wmk.*	3	3	0
another, no gum*	2	14	0
4d. dark blue. star*	6	10	0
4d. ultramarine, CA., perf. 12*	3	10	0
6d. blue-green*	2	10	0
6d. pale-green*	2	14	0
6d. yellow-green, thick paper*	3	8	0
1s. slate, perf. 15*	2	0	0
1s. blue-black*	4	10	0
1s. vermilion, star*	2	10	0
5s. rose, star*	15	0	0
Tobago, 6d. ochre, CC., imperf.*	2	2	0
6d. ochre, CC.*	4	4	0
6d. ochre, CA., heavy postmark	11	10	0
Trinidad (1862), 1s. purple-blue	7	10	0
United States (1869), 90c.	2	2	0
Virgin Islands, 6d. rose, perf. 15*	6	10	0
Zululand, 5s.*	3	0	0

PUTTICK & SIMPSON, Jan. 6 and 7, 1896.

Bremen, 7gr. yellow	2	4	0
France, *1st issue*, 20c. blue, error, on original	3	12	6

HADLOW, Jan. 13, 1896.

Afghanistan, ½ rupee black, tablet	5	15	0
Canada, 6d. purple-black, perf., cut one side*	3	0	0
Mexico (1872), 100c. green (error)	5	5	0

TO CORRESPONDENTS.

Editorial Communications.

Articles of special interest will be paid for. M.S. dealing with particular points in an exhaustive manner will be most welcome. As we wish to arrange matter in advance, we shall be glad to hear from Specialists who are open to write up their special countries.

We shall be glad of the earliest information of New Issues from our correspondents and readers, with, when possible, a specimen for illustration.

All communications on Editorial matters should be addressed to the Editor, Mr. EDWARD J. NANKIVELL, 28, Birdhurst Rise, Croydon. Letters enclosing valuables should be registered.

Exchanges.

We shall be glad to exchange two copies with each of our leading contemporaries; one copy should be posted to our publishers and the other to the Editorial address as above.

Subscriptions.

THE PHILATELIC RECORD AND STAMP NEWS will be sent post free to any subscriber at home or abroad, on receipt of 3s. Subscribers' remittances should be sent to the Publishers, Messrs. BUHL & Co., LIMITED, 11, Queen Victoria Street, London, England.

Replies to Queries.

G. M. (Kington).—The Ceylon (1887) 1r. 12c., perf. 14, C.C., you will find duly chronicled in the London Philatelic Society's work on India and Ceylon, on page 78, and the Provisional 1r. 12c. on 2r. 50c., C.C., perf. 12½ by 14, in the same work on page 77.

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Quarter Page.....	1 2 0	1 0 0	0 18 0	0 15 0

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☞ Letters, Enquiries, and Remittances connected with the Advertisement pages should be addressed to Mr. E. J. NANKIVELL, 28, Birdhurst Rise, Croydon. Advertisements must be received not later than the 15th of the month for publication in the next issue.

CHARLES JONES, PRINTER, LONDON

THE

PHILATELIC RECORD

and Stamp News.

FEBRUARY, 1896.

EDITORIAL NOTES.

FROM the many kind letters of congratulation that we have received from all parts of the country, we gather that the changes we have made in the *Philatelic Record* commend themselves very agreeably to our readers. Several express the hope that we may be able to maintain the high standard that we have set up. It is true we have mapped out a very comprehensive programme. It is true also that it may take us a month or two to perfect our arrangements for the smooth working of our plans. We are conscious of slips in our first number, of the paucity of our new issues chronicle, and of the delay which attended its issue. In these matters we shall soon get ship-shape. After this number we shall no doubt appear with respectable punctuality, and with the help of our kind friends, especially those in the colonies and in foreign countries, our chronicle will not be lacking in those new issues that are worth chronicling. And here we may observe that we do not intend to waste our space in illustrating or chronicling ephemeral rubbish obviously intended for speculative purposes only. We shall, therefore, not even pretend to chronicle everything. Those who think that the alpha and omega of a philatelic journal is the length to which its new issue pages can be strained by including everything in the image of a postage stamp will have to look elsewhere than in our pages for their ideal. But apart from this economy of space we shall do our level best to make our chronicle as interesting and complete as possible.

We want, *and we intend to have*, a thumping big circulation, and nothing that we can accomplish in the direction of the attainment of that object shall be lacking on our part. We, therefore, appeal confidently to stamp collectors everywhere to help us in popularising the old *Record* by widening and increasing the circle of its adherents. It must be obvious to any one that such a journal as this new series of the *Record* represents cannot possibly be produced except at very heavy loss, unless it can secure an exceptionally large circulation.

That exceptionally large circulation we are sanguine enough to believe may be win for the *Record* with its new programme.

Our Sorrowing Friends.

Some of our good friends have taken to putting on their "weepers" for us. To us it seems rather early in the day, but, all the same, they mourn for us, and great tears of apparent sorrow trickle down their dear, long-drawn faces with a sincerity so obvious that we feel more than half-inclined to join with them in their general lamentation over our own decease. They

tell us that the good old *Record* is dead, and they carry us back, with reminiscent sadness, to the days of yore when *they* steered the good old ship from port to port.

But we hasten to assure the dear souls that they have only buried an empty coffin deep down in their loving hearts. The old friend that should have been enshrined therein is still very much alive, and we hope to keep it so for many a long day. We are not weighed down with any anxiety that the readers of the *Record* will be persuaded to put on their "weepers" and part company from us because we have, at a considerable increase of expenditure of time and money, more than doubled the amount of matter, and at one and the same time reduced the subscription rate from five shillings to three shillings. These changes do not seem to us to justify any lamentation on the part of our readers. The last volume of the old *Record* was numbered XVII, and the first volume of the new *Record* will be numbered XVIII. We have added "the Stamp News" as a sub-title because that journal has been amalgamated with the *Record*, and it is just possible that, in the sweet by and bye, we may amalgamate even more distant relatives, and yet live on and prosper.

The Booming of New Issues.

Is it wise? Is it kind? Is it even politic, on the part of the boomers of New Issues to sling mud at such old friends as the Old Issues? Mr. Whitfield King in a recent advertisement says, "we do not consider it a safe investment to pay the unnaturally inflated prices now being asked for many of the rarer old issues; and we anticipate a re-action and a fall in prices before very long." Alas! our Ipswich friend has joined the Cassandras. And if these prophets of evil omen, of coming disaster, of a slump in prices of Old issues, were endowed with the abnormal foresight they are so ready to assume, stamp collecting would, years and years ago, have been a thing of the past. No hobby has been so liberally supplied with prophets of evil. They started in the business, we verily believe, with the first recognised attempt at a collection of postage stamps, and they are still as lively and as persistent as ever, and quite as sanguine that they are on the right track. They jeered in the auction room at the prices paid for old issues in the first sale held in London nearly a quarter of a century ago, when a Brattlebro was bought in at £3, a 1869 U. S. 15c. with inverted centre was sold for 36s., and the Athens (U. S.) would not sell for 30s., nor the St. Louis 5c. for £2. 13s., the 10c. for £2. 7s., and the 20c. for £6. These were scouted as exorbitant and fictitious prices. But who would not drop even New Issues to get them now at those prices. Whether the prices of some old issues are unnaturally inflated, or not, time only will show. The prices we have quoted were in 1872 ridiculed as "fictitious," "inflated," and "exorbitant," by even such an authority as Pemberton. The same adjectives are in use to-day, and yet despite all the denunciation, and all the terrible warnings, the prices of the old rarities keep bounding upwards and getting further and further out of reach. The reaction has been anticipated time out of mind, but it has not come. Mr. Whitfield King is a devotee to the New Issue movement. It is the axe that he has been grinding for many years, and no one will blame him for putting a bit of extra polish on it now.

We do not wish in any way to throw cold water on the movement in favour of the collection of new issues. It is, from many points of view, to be much commended to a very large class of collectors, but we very seriously doubt the wisdom of attempting to win adherents for the new movement by undermining the confidence of collectors in the older issues.

The Making of Catalogues.

To the making of Catalogues there seems to be no end. The fashion of the day is in the direction of much in little space—small albums and small catalogues. The album that required a powerful crane to lift it is known only to a few philatelic hermits, and the ponderous catalogue is now equally out of fashion. In its place we have the popular pocket size, with its miniature type and its miniature illustrations. But we are not concerned just at present so much with the size and style of our latest catalogues as with the very

interesting question how they deal with the delicate question of the stamps that have been condemned by the Society for the Suppression of Speculative Stamps. On the whole they are eminently satisfactory. Scott's and the A. B. C. are the only catalogues that have had an opportunity of declaring their policy, for the last editions of Gibbons, Seuf & Moens were all published before the S. S. S. S. had fairly got to work.

Scott's Catalogue, as promised, excludes all the condemned stamps with one exception. It breaks away from the Society on the Transvaal commemorative stamp, which it illustrates and includes as a collectable stamp. As a purely speculative issue it is probably the worst of all the stamps that have been condemned by the Society. Its inclusion in the Scott's Catalogue, in the opinion of the best authorities on this side, seriously mars the fact that the Scott Stamp and Coin Co. were the first to announce that they would loyally set their ban on the stamps condemned by the society. The Scott Catalogue gives at the end of the regular issues a very useful list of the stamps which have been condemned.

The A. B. C. Catalogue is loyal to the backbone in its exclusion of every stamp that has been condemned, and it backs up its loyalty with the following announcement in its preface: "We are glad to express our full sympathy with the objects which the Society for the Suppression of Speculative Stamps have in view. We have eliminated from this catalogue all issues which have been condemned by this Society as speculative or unnecessary, and we do not sell them. We wish we could also exclude from the catalogue the 'Seebeck' labels, but they do a large postal duty, and we cannot see how they can be legitimately excluded. We, however, advise all collectors to leave them severely alone."

So far, the Society for the Suppression of Speculative Stamps may congratulate itself upon its success. It has embarked upon a delicate and difficult undertaking, and its success must largely depend upon the support of the publishers of catalogues and albums. That support, up to date, has been accorded to its recommendations, almost unanimously as they phrase it at political meetings.

Training future Collectors.

MR. E. F. GAMBS is a far-seeing American. He notes a falling off in the demand for stamps on the part of the younger element. Consequently he suggests that the large dealers should combine to give away a few millions of continental stamps to school children by some method that would ensure the wide distribution of the stamps. And he offers to lead the way with half-a-million. Mr. Gambs is on the right track, and there is plenty of room for further help in the same direction. As a matter of fact, we do little or nothing to help our young collectors. Our journals are, one and all, written for the advanced collector; our albums are tending more and more in the same direction, and our catalogues are being swollen out of all proportion by the enumeration of such varieties as gladden the heart of the specialist. In every direction, in fact, the specialist is the dominant factor. This should not be. Someone should find it worth while to cater for the junior collector. A halfpenny or penny monthly which should guide, counsel and instruct, would surely be a success, and pay an enterprising dealer-publisher in more ways than one. The ideal "Junior Collector" monthly should deal with normal issues only, and not vex the soul of the beginner with the finer distinctions of paper, perforation and watermark. Stamp collecting as presented by the advanced collector from the scientific point of view is far too complex ever to be popular with the average school boy. Most of the best collectors of the day started their philatelic career as school boys. But in their day stamp issuing countries were not numerous, and minor varieties were practically unknown. It was all plain sailing then. All that is changed. The *pons asinorum* is child's play compared to the complications of the average catalogue with its compound perfs, *percé en scie*, serrated perfs; papers bleuté, pelure, bâtonné; printings, lithographed, engraved, surface printed; and so on *ad infinitum*. If no one looks to the training of the young collector, stamp collecting will assuredly lose its popularity with our boys and girls, and as the veterans drop out of the ranks there will be no one to fill their places.

ALSACE-LORRAINE.

[*Read before the Manchester Philatelic Society.*]

By G. B. Duerst.

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THIS year being the twenty-fifth anniversary of the Franco-German War, which was the cause of the issue of special stamps for the provinces of Alsace, Lorraine and the occupied territories of France, I consider it rather appropriate to make these stamps the subject of my next paper.

We all know that these stamps were issued in consequence of the Franco-German War, and this in itself should make them interesting to all collectors, considering that they owe their origin to a decidedly historical period, a time of trouble and anxiety, not only to the two nations principally concerned, but also to all the other nations of Europe in a minor degree. How many stamps do exist that have such a weighty reason for their existence? Their stern simplicity of design seems to bear witness to the time of issue; no name, no ornamentation, neither head nor coat-of-arms, everything points to the fact that they were issued at a grave period, when nobody could fore-see the ultimate end.

Let us remember, to begin with, that these stamps were not made for the German troops, as all soldiers' letters, parcels, &c., were forwarded free of charge. On the contrary, these were made for the benefit of the inhabitants of the conquered territories, and in order not to humiliate a brave foe more by forcing them to use German stamps when sending letters to their sons, prisoners of war in Germany, the German government decided to issue special stamps, the inscription of which was in the French language, and the value of which was expressed in French money. We must not forget either that at first the German government lost 2 pfennig, equal to 1 farthing, on every ordinary letter franked with such stamps, the rate for such letters in Germany being 10 pfennig, whereas 10 centimes equals only 8 pfennig.

It is interesting to know that the German government already in August, 1870, had practically decided upon what land had to be ceded by France, as all the obliterating dies of places within this radius having French names were issued bearing their old German names. Thus we find:

Mulhouse	changed to	Mülhausen.
Strassbourg	„	Strassburg.
Nancy	„	Nanzig.
Thionville	„	Diedenhofen
Riquevihr	„	Reichenweier.
Ferrette	„	Pfirt.
Wasselonne	„	Wasselnheim, &c.

Of course, we also find the old French obliterating dies, but rarer.

For all places outside this radius the French obliterating dies were used as they were found, but, in uniformity with the German custom, only the dies having name and date inscribed. The French dot dies have also been used, but very rarely; as a matter of fact, it was against all orders to do so. Naturally, when the French die was worn out or got damaged a new one had to be made, and then we find German-shaped dies with French names, notably Rouen.

Wherever the German troops went they established post offices, but whether these stamps were ever used in Paris is very doubtful. Reinheimer, in his work, mentions a specimen with the Paris obliteration, but, unfortunately, the die does

not give any year. Krötsch gives also one, but the date there is August 16th, 1871; a date which is about six months after the time these stamps could be used in France, besides there is on the envelope a French stamp (Head of Liberty), 20 c. blue, which paid the postage.

As far as official records can be found, no German post office was established in Paris during the limited stay of the German troops, and, of course, if no German post office existed, no letters with Alsace-Lorraine stamps would be forwarded.

The name these stamps generally go by, namely stamps of Alsace-Lorraine, I consider to be rather a misnomer, as they were really intended to be used in the whole of the occupied provinces of France, and not only in the two ceded provinces of Alsace and Lorraine. The appellation which I have seen in print formerly, "Franco-German war stamps," is also not quite correct, as the stamps were still in use nine months after the peace was signed. Besides, they were really used after the war had passed the district, and then only by private people, not by soldiers. Of course, a great many of these private letters were forwarded by the German field post service, and were then obliterated with the specific dies belonging to each service.

The only expression I can find to cover the whole ground is: "Stamps used in French territories occupied by German troops in 1870 and 1871;" but this is much too long for all practical purposes. Dr. Moschkan calls them in his book, "Occupation stamps," and, although this might apply to different countries, I think it is the best so far.

This "Occupation" postal service came into use in the beginning of September, 1870. It had its own administration, with headquarters at first at Nancy, later removed to Rheims; also General Post Offices at Metz (from the 6th of October) for German Lorraine, and at Strassburg (from the 1st of October) for Alsace. It had its own laws, taxes, &c., &c., and came to an end on the 24th March, 1871, when all offices outside the ceded provinces of Alsace and Lorraine were handed over to French officials in accordance with the convention signed on the 22nd of March. A few places were still in German hands, but further negotiations also gave these back to France. The most notable of these places was Belfort.

From this date (24th of March, 1871) all letters in the interior of France, or from France to other countries, had again to be franked by French stamps at the same rates that were in force before the war.

In the ceded provinces of Alsace-Lorraine these stamps were used until the 31st December, 1871. Mr. R. F. Albrecht says in the *Illustrated Stamp Journal*, that letters franked with such stamps were allowed until late into 1873, but I cannot quite agree with him, as the decree dated Berlin, 16th of October, 1871, distinctly states that letters franked with such stamps after the 31st of December, 1871, should be considered as not franked.

Until February 15th unused stamps could be exchanged at the post offices for German stamps, which had to be used since the 1st of January, 1872.

It was not until after the Battle of Sedan that a German post was established in the occupied territories, and the first decree for this service was published in the *Official Gazette* under date of September 6th, 1870, as follows:

The following rules have to be observed in regard to correspondence with the district of the Postal Administration at Nancy:

ARTICLES, THAT CAN BE FORWARDED.

(*a*) Ordinary and registered letters, post cards, newspapers and samples.
(*b*) Letters with declared contents (money or valuables).

ROUTES ALL POSTAL MATTER HAS TO BE SENT BY.

(*a*) *Via* Saarbrücken— Forbach—Remilly.
(*b*) „ Frankfort-o/Maine—Landau—Weissemburg.

TARIFF.

A. From Germany.

(*a*)	For ordinary prepaid letters up to 1 loth*	1 gr. or 3 kr.
	„ postcards	1 „ 3 „
	„ ordinary prepaid letters, 1-15 loth	2 „ 7 „
(*b*)	„ „ unpaid „ up to 1 loth	25 centimes
	„ „ „ „ 1-15 loth	40 „
(*c*)	„ prepaid newspapers, per 2½ loth	⅓ gr. or 1 kr.
	„ „ samples, „ „	⅓ „ 1 „
(*d*)	„ „ registered letters in addition to the ordinary postage	2 „ 7 „

B. To Germany.

(*a*)	For ordinary prepaid letters, up to 15 grammes	10 centimes
	„ postcards	10 „
	„ ordinary prepaid letters, 15-250 grammes	25 „
(*b*)	„ „ unpaid „ up to 15 grammes	2 gr. or 7 kr.
	„ „ „ „ 15-250 grammes	3 „ 11 „
(*c*)	„ prepaid newspapers, per 40 grammes	4 centimes
	„ „ samples, „ „	4 „
(*d*)	„ registered letters an additional fee of	25 „

For the prepayment of all letters, etc., from the district of the Postal Administration of Nancy, new stamps have to be used bearing the inscription POSTES and the value in centimes. Stamps will be issued as follows:

1 centime, light green impression on white paper
2 centimes, dark brown „ „ „
4 „ grey „ „ „
10 „ light brown „ „ „
20 „ blue „ „ „

Letters franked with other stamps than the above will be treated as not franked. For letters to and from foreign countries the old rates of the district of Nancy remain in force.

On the 29th September, 1870, Paris was completely surrounded by German troops, and in order to establish some connection with the rest of France, the Postal Administration despatched a number of balloons. Some of these balloons landed in Belgium and Holland, which was the cause of the following decree:

No. 176. BERLIN, *October* 9, 1870.

A number of letters sent per balloons from Paris, consisting of small open letters, have been forwarded by the Post Office at Lille, enclosed in a wrapper, to Germany.

Such letters, if their contents should allow of their being forwarded, have in future to be enclosed in separate envelopes by the receiving post office, and these envelopes have to be fully and legibly addressed.

On the back of these envelopes the following remark has to be made:

"Enclosure received per balloon post from France."

Such letters have to be treated as unpaid and the tax for the same will be 2 groschen or 7 kreuzer, payable by the receiver.

In the same number of the *Official Gazette* the public was notified that letters for Paris could not any longer be guaranteed to arrive there.

On the 13th of October, 1870, a further decree appeared, dealing exclusively with the internal postal arrangements of Alsace and Lorraine.

The most important item in this decree is the tariff, as follows:

(*a*)	For ordinary prepaid letters, up to 15 grammes, and cards	10 centimes
(*b*)	„ „ „ „ 15-250 grammes	25 „
(*c*)	„ „ unpaid „ up to 15 grammes	25 „
(*d*)	„ „ „ „ 15-250 grammes	40 „
(*e*)	„ printed matter, samples, per 40 grammes	4 „
(*f*)	„ registered letters, an additional fee of	25 „
(*g*)	„ double receipt of receiver to be returned to sender	25 „
(*h*)	„ express delivery of letters in the same town	30 „
(*i*)	„ „ „ „ per 7½ kilometers (5 miles)	75 „

* 1 loth = 16 grammes.

For letters to and from the North German Confederation the rates, as per decree of September 6th, remained in force.

On November 8th, 1870, money orders were introduced, the rates for which were as follows:

For sums up to	100	francs	25 centimes
„ from	100-200	„	50 „
„ „	200-300	„	75 „
and so on for every	100	„	25 „

It is very strange that up to now no official decree has been found concerning the issue of the 5 and 25 centimes stamps. The latter was no doubt necessitated by registration and money order fees, and the former by the raising of the postage for ordinary prepaid letters from 10 to 15 centimes, doubtless occasioned in consequence of the more and more extended occupation area of the German armies.

Regarding the issue there seems to be no doubt that the 1, 2, 4, 10 and 20 centimes stamps were sold early in September, but the two values, 5 and 25 centimes, most likely not till the middle of December. An exact date for these two values cannot be found.

Issue of September, 1870.

Large figure of value in centre, at top in a straight line POSTES, below also in a straight line CENTIME resp. CENTIMES, the design is surrounded by four thick lines, and a network of wavy lines fills the background. The shape is upright rectangular. The stamps were printed in colour on white wove paper, in sheets of 150 stamps in 15 rows of 10. Perforated 14 × 13½.

The best assortment of shades has been compiled by Krötzsch, and I do not think I can improve on it.

I. The points of the network are upwards:

		Design.	Net.
1.	1 centime	olive green	blue green
2.	„	grey green	„
3.	2 centimes	brown	red brown
4.	„	violet brown	„
5.	4 centimes	lilac grey	grey
6.	„	grey	„
7.	10 centimes	fawn	fawn
8.	„	„	dark yellow brown
9.	„	„	light „
10.	„	„	brown
11.	„	„	light brown
12.	„	light brown	„
13.	„	„	dark yellow brown
14.	„	„	light „
15.	„	yellow brown	„ „
16.	„	„	dark „
17.	„	„	brown
18.	„	brown orange	light yellow brown
19.	„	„	lemon
20.	20 centimes	ultramarine	ultramarine
21.	„	„	light blue
22.	„	„	dark blue
23.	„	blue	light blue
24.	„	„	ultramarine

II. The points of the network are downwards:

		Design.	Net.
25.	1 centime	olive green	blue green
26.	„	grey green	„
27.	2 centimes	brown	red brown
28.	„	violet brown	„

		Design.	Net.
29.	4 centimes	lilac grey	grey
30.	„	grey	„
31.	10 centimes	fawn	fawn
32.	„	„	dark yellow brown
33.	„	„	light „
34.	„	„	brown
35.	„	„	light brown
36.	„	light brown	„
37.	„	„	dark brown
38.	„	„	light yellow brown
39.	„	yellow brown	„ „
40.	„	„	dark „
41	„	brown orange	light „
42.	„	„	lemon
43.	20 centimes	ultramarine	ultramarine
44.	„	blue	light blue

ISSUE OF DECEMBER, 1870.

Identical with last.

I. The points of the network are upwards:

		Design.	Net.
45.	5 centimes	green	green
46.	„	„	light green
47.	„	grass green	grass green
48.	„	„	light green
49.	„	light green	„
50.	„	„	dark green
51.	25 centimes	dark yellow brown	dark yellow brown
52.	„	„	light „
53.	„	„	yellow brown
54.	„	chocolate brown	„
55.	„	dark grey brown	„
56.	5 centimes	light green	dark green
57.	25 centimes	dark brown	light brown

The reversed network owes its origin to the fact that these stamps were printed in two operations, first the net and then the design. In the hurry of printing, much attention was not paid to the sheets after having received the net impression when they were put into the machine for the printing of the design.

The rotation of the rarity of the stamps with reversed net is as follows, to begin with the lowest :—

Unused : 10c., 4c., 20c., 1c., 25c., 2c., 5c.

Used : 10c., 2c., 4c., 1c., 20c., 25c., 5c.

Nearly one-third of the whole issue of 10 centimes is with reversed net.

Sometimes the network is printed in such light colours that it is scarcely visible. This applies principally to the 10 centimes stamps.

I will next explain the mode of printing these stamps, and the reason of the existence of different types in all values will then be quite clear.

(*To be continued.*)

THE STAMPS OF REUNION.

By William Herrick.

Read before the Philatelic Society, New York, January 20, 1896.

FROM the beginning of stamp collecting, the name of Reunion has brought to the mind of collectors stamps of great rarity, that, even in the early days, were put among the unattainable ones; but strange to say, while stamps that were then common have increased in value a hundred fold; the two first stamps of Reunion have not appreciated nearly as rapidly, though the few specimens that occasionally are put on the market command very reputable prices.

The Island of Reunion is situated on the eastern coast of Africa, about 375 miles S. E. of Madagascar and 100 miles S. of Mauritius; the principal city is St. Denis, and the population of the Island is about 200,000.

Reunion was the first French colony to issue stamps of its own, for in 1852 the two well known type set stamps were brought out, preceding by about seven years the regular eagle colonial issue.

As this first issue is very interesting, I hope I will be excused for giving at full length the translation of the decree authorizing it.

FRENCH REPUBLIC.

Liberty, Equality, Fraternity.

In the name of the French People, We, Governor of the Island of Reunion, considering Article 11, of the law of April 24, 1833, about the legislation of the Colonies.

Considering the ministerial despatches of June 13 and August 14 last, Nos. 230 and 330, concerning the prepayment of letters for France and foreign countries and the use of postage stamps.

On the report of the director of the Interior.

The privy council having been heard, have decided and decree as follows:—

ART. 1. From Jan. 1 next, the prepayment of letters for France and for the countries to which France is intermediate, can be effected by means of postage stamps, according to the tariffs A and B annexed to the present decree, whether the letters be sent by trading vessels going to France or by the British post.

ART. 2. All letters sent from the Colony to France by trading vessels must carry:

1st. The rate applicable in France to letters going in the interior of the country, from office to office, the tariff of which is fixed as follows:—

For letters weighing	7½	grammes and less,	fr. 0·25
	7½	„ to 15gr.	0·50
	15	„ to 100gr.	1·00
	100	„ to 200gr.	2·00

and so on, adding 1fr. for each weight of 100gr. or fraction thereof.

2nd. A fixed charged of 0·10 for sea carriage from the shipping port to the port of arrival in France.

ART. 3. The letters from the Colony for France, carried by the British packet boats, are taxed as follows:—

1fr.	if the letter weighs		7½	grammes.
2fr.	„	„ „	7½ to 15	„
3fr.	„	„ „	15 to 22½	„

and so on, adding 1fr. for each additional 7½ gr.

This rate represents all the charges due to England and France from Alexandria to its destination.

The letters sent from the Colony to countries to which France is intermediate, can be prepaid with postage stamps, according to the rates given in the tariffs A and C, viz.:—

1st. Those sent by trading vessels, according to the rates of tariff A, plus the fixed charge, for sea carriage, of 10c. per letter.

2nd. Those sent by way of Suez, according to the rates of tariff C.

ART. 4. The tax of 10c. for sea carriage, is not applicable to letters sent to France by non-com. officers or privates of the army or navy, when the letters are not sent by a foreign route.

ART. 5. The prepayment of letters through the Colony can be effected by means of 30c. stamps for single rate letters, weighing 7½ gr. and under. Letters weighing more than 7½ gr., will pay proportionately to their weight, at the rate of 30c. for each additional 7½ gr. or fraction thereof.

ART. 6. If the prepayment is insufficient, the balance must be paid by the recipient.

ART. 7. The local rate for the interior remains fixed at 15c., whatever may be the weight of the letter. The prepayment can be effected by means of postage stamps that will be sold to whosoever wishes to use them, on payment of 15c. for each stamp.

ART. 8. The postage stamps will be sold for cash in all distributing offices.

There will be 10c., 25c. and 1 fr. stamps for the letters for France and foreign countries, and 15 and 30c. stamps for the interior service of the colony.

ART. 9. Whosoever makes use of stamps having already been used shall be punished by penalties of simple police.

ART. 10. The rates mentioned above for foreign postage do not include those due to the British post office to Alexandria for letters sent by way of Egypt.

ART. 11. The Director of the Interior is entrusted with the execution of this decree, which will be published and registered and inserted in the Official Bulletin of the Colony.

St. Denis, Dec. 10, 1851. THE GOVERNOR DORET.

The Director of the Interior, ED. MANER.

The stamps authorized by the decree given above, are of the value of 15c. and 30c., both type set and printed in black, on thin bluish wove paper.

The design is different for each value; both stamps have at the top the words: "Ile de la Reunion," in one line, and at the bottom "Timb.-Poste," 15c. or 30c., also in one line, the space between these two inscriptions being filled up with an ornamental design; for the 15c. it is a rosette, surrounded by a rectangular frame composed of eight shaded balls, connected by straight and curved lines; for the 30c. it is a rectangular frame of small, straight crossed lines and curved lines, which also fill up the centre of the frame. The whole stamp is surrounded by a frame formed of two lines, the inner one thin, and the outer one thick.

There are four types of each value, differing one from the other by minute details. The relative position of the different types is not known, as no unsevered pairs have come to light. It is possible, however, that both values were printed on one sheet. The stamps were not gummed and seem to have been generally affixed on the letters with wafers, which, taken together with the thinness of the paper, accounts for the damaged condition of many of the specimens known.

There was only one issue made, towards the end of 1851, when 7,500 stamps of each value were printed; they were in use from Jan. 1, 1852, until Jan. 1, 1860, but they do not seem to have met with much favour, it is said, on account of their not being gummed, for during five years the post office at St. Denis, the most important of the Island, only sold 8frs. worth of these stamps.

In 1860, when the regular colonial stamps of the eagle type were received, all the remainder were burned. These stamps are always cancelled with pen strokes, for regular cancelling stamps were only brought into use in the Colony in 1860.

In 1866, reprints were made for Mr. Moens of Brussels, but owing to the plate having been damaged by rust, for it had been kept in a damp cellar, the reprinted sheets only show three types of each value, printed in two horizontal rows, the 30 below the 15. These reprints can be distinguished from the originals by the paper, which is lighter in color, and especially by the outer line of the frame, which, in the originals is formed by two thin printer's rules, and in the reprint by a single thick one.

On Dec. 10, 1885, in order to supply a deficiency of 5, 10 and 25c. stamps, a decree, signed by the Governor Cuinier, authorized the surcharging of 300,000 stamps of old issues in stock.

The quantities printed were 167,500 5c., 82,500 10c., and 50,000 25c.

The stamps used were the 40c. vermilion, of the eagle type, surcharged 5 and 25, the 30c. brown, laureated head of the emperor, surcharged 5, the 40c. orange, head

of the republic, surcharged 5, and the 40c. vermilion, of the 1877 issue, surcharged 5 and 10, all imperforated.

The surcharge consists in the figures 5, 10 or 25c. and underneath a capital roman R.

The length of the surcharge 5c. is 8mm., of the 10c. 11½mm., and of the 25c. 11mm.; the height of the figures is 4¾mm.; the letter R is 2¾mm. high and 2½mm. wide.

There are no varieties worth mentioning, except inverted surcharges of the 5c. on all the four different types of stamps used. A surcharge 25c. reversed and reading 52c. came out and caused long discussions, but it was finally found out to have been made by an employé of the St. Denis post office, who was punished for the offence.

On May 20, 1886, new surcharges were authorised by a decree signed by the Governor Cuinier, this time to increase the supply of 5 and 20c. stamps. 54,000 5c. and 26,000 0·20c. were made by surcharging the 30c. brown stamp of the 1887 issue.

The surcharges are similar to those of the previous issue, the only difference being in the spacing of the figures of value, the length of the 5c. being 8½mm., and that of the 20c., 12¼mm.

No varieties are known of this issue.

No more surcharges were made until June 28, 1891, when a decree, signed by the Governor Lougnon, gave notice that after July 15 following, all the stamps in use would be withdrawn and replaced by the same, bearing the name Reunion, surcharged diagonally in black, one month being allowed for people holding the stamps in use, to exchange them for the new ones.

This was due, as it was in other colonies where the stamps were surcharged with the name only, to the attention of the postal authorities having been drawn to the fact that stamps were being sent by speculators from one colony to another, to take advantage of the differences in currency.

The stamps surcharged were the following ones, of the perforated 1881-6 issue:

1c. black on bluish.
2c. brown on yellowish.
4c. violet on bluish.
5c. green on greenish.
10c. black on lilac.
15c. blue.
20c. red on green.
25c. black on pink.
35c. brown on yellow.
40c. red on straw.
75c. carmine on pink.
1fr. olive on yellowish.

In addition to these, some remainders of older issues were used.

Of the 1872-3 head of Liberty issue:

40c. orange and 80c. carmine,

and of the 1877 issue:

30c. brown.
40c. red on straw.
75c. carmine.
1 fr. olive on yellowish.

The surcharge consists in the name, Reunion, in roman capitals printed diagonally from the left upper to right lower corner.

The height of the letters is 2½mm., and the length of the name about 15mm., but this latter measurement varies on some stamps, as the type was set to surcharge an entire sheet of 150 stamps at a time, so minor varieties, due to broken letters and irregular spacing, are comparatively numerous.

The only varieties worth mentioning are double surcharges on the 1c., 5c., 20c., of the perforated stamps; also the letter I, of REUNION, missing on the 2c. and 5c. perforated.

A paragraph of this last decree authorized the creation of 2c. and 15c. stamps, by surcharging in black the new value, and, in addition, the name REUNION

printed diagonally on the 20c. red on green, of the 1881 issue, 100,000 to be made of each value; this was due to the reduction in the rate of local postage, from 20 to 15 centimes.

These surcharges, as the previous ones, were set to print an entire sheet of 150 stamps.

The name, Reunion, is of the same type and has the same measurements as on the stamps with name above; the value 0·2c. and 15c. in letters 2mm. high, is printed horizontally over the original value; there are numerous varieties, caused by the figures 2 or 5 being higher or lower than the 0 or 1, also by one or both of the figures slanting: the only ones worthy of notice are the name REUNION spelled RUNION and PEUNI N respectively on the 3rd and 25th stamps, of the lower left hand pane; these two errors exist for both values.

In this issue, both the stamps with name alone and with value changed have no accent over the E of REUNION, while those of the next issue have one.

This new issue was authorised by a decree of Nov. 30, authorising the making of 200,000 more 2c. stamps by a surcharge to be printed on the same 20c. stamp red on green, used for the previous issue, the figure 2 to be larger than the former one.

As was the case in the last issue, an entire sheet was printed at one time, the surcharge being similar, consisting in the name printed diagonally and the figure 2, without the letter C, printed on top of the original value.

There were three types of figure 2 used, which I will describe and designate by the letters *a, b, and c*

Type *a*, 70 on the sheet, the figure 2 is 4¾mm. high, the bottom line is slightly curved upward and ends squarely, the top stroke of the 2 ends in a ball.

Type *b*, 54 on the sheet, the figure 2 is 4¾mm. high, the bottom is perfectly straight and ends squarely, the top stroke of the 2 is thick but does not show any ball.

Type *c*, 26 on the sheet, the figure 2 is 4mm. high and of almost the same thickness throughout, the bottom stroke ends in an upward curve.

As in the previous issues, there are many unimportant varieties, the only ones worth considering are the following ones, in which the name is mis-spelled by transposition of the letters RUENION, type *b*, found on the 6th stamp of the left upper pane, REUNOIN, type *a*, on the 22nd stamp of the left inside pane, and type *b* on the 11th stamp of the left upper pane.

The next issue was the one of Jan. 1893, now in use, of the general type with the name printed in red or blue in the bottom label. As these stamps are so well known, I will say nothing about them, but only mention some varieties that have been chronicled.

10c. with no accent over the E.

25c. and 75c. with the name printed twice, and 75c. on yellow paper, coloured through instead of only on the surface.

This issue did not entirely put an end to surcharges, for on Dec. 7, 1893, the Governor Danel signed a decree authorising the surcharging of 300,000 20c. stamps red on green of 1881-6, with the figure 2, for the 2-centime stamps still seemed to be in great demand; a paragraph of the decree provides for the burning of imperfectly surcharged stamps.

The surcharge consists simply in a large figure 2, followed by the letter C, printed over the original value; the setting up was made to surcharge only one pane of 25 stamps at a time.

There are three types of the figure 2.

Type *a*, 18 on a sheet, height of 2, 5½mm., the top stroke ends in a ball.

Type *b*, 6 on a sheet, height of 2, 6mm., the top stroke ends in a thin line, curving upward.

Type *c*, 1 on a sheet, height of 2, 6¾mm., similar to type *a*.

No varieties are known.

Postage Due Stamps.

Besides the different issues of postage stamps I have mentioned, there are two issues of postage due stamps which I will briefly describe.

The first issue was made in 1889 and comprises four values 5, 10, 20, and 30 centimes.

These stamps, of the same type for all four values, are type set and printed in black on yellowish wove paper.

At the top is the name REUNION and at the bottom the word POSTES, both in roman capitals ; between, and separated from them by a thin line, and a row of typographical ornaments, the figures of value 5 (10, 20 or 30), 3½mm. high, to the right of which is the inscription Centimes á percevoir on three lines in lower case type, letters ¾mm. high ; the whole surrounded by a double lined frame, about 17½mm. wide by 21½mm. high. There are ten types printed in two horizontal rows showing only insignificant differences ; the same setting up was used for all four values by simply changing the figures.

The four values have been seen with double impression.

In 1893 the same stamps were printed again, but a 15 centimes was substituted for the 30.

The same setting up was used, but these stamps can be distinguished from the earlier ones by the paper which is grayish ; the setting also seems to have been going to pieces for varieties exist here especially in the second stamp of the top row, besides several other less important ones. In the 5 and 15 centimes the second stamp shows the ti of centimes and the á missing ; on the 10 centimes that stamp has the last N of REUNION distant from the other letters. The 30 does not show any very marked variation.

Numerous lithographic counterfeits have been made of the first issue, but they can be easily detected by the examination of the frame indicated for the reprints.

In 1885 bogus surcharges were concocted in Paris consisting in the name La Reunion with the value underneath, both printed vertically, 5 was surcharged on the 2 and 4 centimes and 25 on the 20.

From the "Metropolitan Philatelist."



REVIEWS.

—o—

Scott's Catalogue. 56th Edition.

The Standard Postage Stamp Catalogue, giving the date of issue, color, shape and value of every postage stamp that has ever been issued by any Government of the World. New York: The Scott Stamp & Coin Co., Ltd.

The 1896, or 56th, edition of this popular catalogue is on the same lines as its excellent predecessor of 1895. Seven closely printed pages of very useful "Hints for Collectors" preface the edition, followed by a glossary of technical terms used in philatelic catalogues, first in English, French and German, then in French and English, and German and English. Next we have a table of stamp issuing countries whose names in French differ materially from the English, and the same for German. These tables are not duplicated in the reverse order as they might be, for a tyro looking for, say, the Netherlands in Moens' catalogue would be as much at sea as ever, even with the help of this table, to find it under the head of Pays-Bas. The same applies to Suriname, which our French friends place under Guyane hollandaise. Indeed, the table would be more useful to the English collector if the English-French and English-German were given, instead of *vice versâ*. A coin table is, of course, a necessary part of every well ordered catalogue, and the list of Colonies controlled by European States will be helpful. It might be improved if the Colonies were given under their several Continents, instead of in alphabetical order. In the pricing many alterations are noticeable, mostly in the upward direction, though the publishers have not scrupled to lower prices here and there. U. S. stamps are, of course, up by leaps and bounds. The departmental stamps which totalled up to $164·21 unused and $159.04 used, have risen to $285·75 unused and $278·76 used. Some North Americans also show a considerable increase in price. New Zealand stamps with advertisements on the back are chronicled for the first time. They are divided into two sets, one perf. 11½ and the other perf. 10, but they are not priced. We suppose there was no help for cataloguing this shoddy, though no doubt the temporary boycott to which they have been subjected has had a good result. Despite the excellent lead of Gibbons' catalogue, our American friends, in their conservative way, preserve the old method of mixing up adhesives, envelopes and postcards. We are glad to note that reprints are omitted. Their inclusion was a very noticeable defect in the 1895 edition. Speculative and unnecessary issues which have been condemned by the S. S. S. S. are excluded, with the regrettable exception of the Commemorative stamp of the Transvaal, as bad an example of the speculative type as any stamp that has been condemned, the inclusion of which is a blot on an excellent catalogue.

Bright's A.B.C. Catalogue.

Bright & Son, the Arcade, Bournemouth.

Just as we are going to press we have received from Messrs. Bright & Son their much-advertised "A. B. C." catalogue. It is admirably printed, and with its 700 pages is a marvel of cheapness at 1s. 9d. post free. For size and style it follows Scott and Gibbons. Many of the illustrations, however, are sadly lacking in clearness, but the beautifully clear type and print of the text compensate for much. Upon the pricing we cannot be expected to say ditto all round, but we are bound to confess, upon a cursory inspection, that it has the stamp of independence and care. Later on, if space permit, we may enter upon a more critical examination of the new claimant. Meanwhile we congratulate Messrs. Bright & Son upon the strong position taken up in the "A. B. C." in regard to stamps condemned by the S. S. S. S., every one of which is excluded from the "A. B. C."

NOVELTIES AND DISCOVERIES.

Argentine Republic.—The *P. J. G. B.* hears that :

The authorities are not satisfied with the watermark of the present paper, which is artificial, being impressed after the paper is made. Some paper has been obtained with a true watermark, and already the ½c. and 2c. and 3c. have been printed on it. The watermark is slightly larger, and of course more distinct, while the paper is whiter. In the ½c. which is before us, the blue is a slightly different shade.

Adhesives.

½c., blue, on wmk. paper
2c., green ,, ,,
3c., orange ,, ,,

Austria.—We have the 1g. and 2g. in new colours and varying perfs. The 1g. is perf. 10½ and the 2g. 11½.

Adhesives.

1g., pale lilac
2g., pale green

Austrian Levant.—We have received the old type in new colours. The top is perf. 11½ and the 20p. is perf. 10½.

Adhesives.

10f. on 1g., pale green, black sur.
20f. on 2g., pale lilac ,, ,,

British East Africa.—The following illustrations show the surcharge of 2½ on 4½a. on the I. B. E. A. Company's stamps, and the type of the surcharge on the Indian stamps chronicled by us last month.

We have no further news as yet of the contemplated new issue of permanent type, but understand that they are on the way.





Cuba.—The colours of the current type have been changed.

Adhesives.

½m.	de p.,	blue green.	1c.	de p.,	lilac brown.
1	,,	,,	2	,,	claret.
2	,,	,,	2½	,,	rose.
3	,,	,,	5	,,	slate-blue.
4	,,	,,	10	,,	emerald-green.
8	,,	,,	20	,,	violet.

Curacao.—Last month we chronicled a surcharged 2½ cent in one line in red. There is also a 2½ cent in two lines in black. We illustrate both types.





Adhesive.

2½c. on 30c., grey, black sur.

Cyprus.—*The Australian Philatelist* chronicles the following values, each printed in two colours.

Adhesives.

30 paras. lilac and green.
½ piastre, green and carmine.
1 ,, rose and blue.
2 ,, blue and chocolate.
4 ,, olive and purple.
6 ,, brown and green.
12 ,, pale brown and black.

Falkland Islands.—Messrs. Whitfield, King & Co. inform us that the 1s. stamp is now on paper, watermarked C.A. Two new values have been added to the types of the current series.

Adhesives.

2d., reddish lilac.
9d., vermilion.
1s., pale brown.

Mauritius.—We illustrate the new 3 cents lilac chronicled by us last month.



Holland.—According to the *Timbre Poste* we may shortly expect a 5 gulden stamp, also new letter cards, with portrait of the young Queen.

Orange Free State.—Our publishers have received from a correspondent in the

Orange Free State, a variety of the provisional type sent out in December last, with the ½d. stamp overprinted with the arms of the Republic. The peculiarity of this variety is that it has a surcharge of ½d. in black on the ½d. stamp. The correspondent says it was only in use for about ten days.

Postcard.

½d. on ½d. surcharge with arms.

Santander.—We have a new type of 5c. which is said to be the fore-runner of a new series. It was issued on Jan. 1.

Servia.—According to the *Ill. Br. Journal* the current stamp of 1 dinar has been issued in new colours, and the *A. J. P.* chronicles a variety of the 10 paras postcard without arms to the left.

Adhesive.

1 dinar, red on blue.

Postcard.

10 paras, blue on cream, *without arms.*

Siam.—Mr. F. J. Durrant sends us a curious variety of the surcharge of 2 atts on 64 atts, in which the "s" is separated from the "t" in atts by a fullstop.

Spain.—The new types with older portrait of the young King, will consist of the following, according to *Die Post* :—

Adhesives.

1c., green.
2c., blue green.
5c., light blue.
10c., red.
15c., violet.
20c., light green.
25c., blue.
30c., gray.
40c., dark brown.
50c., rose.
75c., yellow.
1p., light violet.
4p., carmine.
10p., flesh.

Postcards.

5c., green on buff.
10c., carmine on buff.
15c., blue on buff.

Transvaal.—The *South African Philatelist* calls attention to the fact that the 2½d. though chronicled in the new type, has not yet been issued. The same journal has the following announcement :—

In a very short time the postage stamps now in distribution in the Republic will be supplemented by an entirely new stock, with improved design. This morning the Postmaster-General has received a few advance sheets of 1d. stamps, the value being printed in the national colour—green. This idea will be followed out in every case, and will doubtless be received with favour by the public. Acting in agreement with his colleague in Cape Colony, the Postmaster-General has decided that the following colours will be henceforth uniformly employed : ½d. green, 1d. lake, 2d. raw sienna, 2½d. blue, 3d. carmine, 4d. yellowish green, 6d. reddish violet, 1s. drab, 2s. 6d. violet, 5s. burnt sienna, 10s. slate, £5. dark grey. Should the change give general satisfaction, the Free State Government has intimated its intention of co-operating in this matter.

To this information the *S. A. P.* adds, on the authority of the Postmaster of Johannesburg, that these new stamps "will not be issued until all of the present type of stamps are disposed of. As each value runs out the new design will replace it. As regards the 2½d. stamp of the current design, now under order, if they are already through the press they will be issued before the new stamp of this value."

Mr. F. J. Durrant sends us specimens of a variety of the 1d. green surcharge on 2½d. in which there is no top stroke to the figure.

Uruguay.—We give some further illustrations of the very beautiful stamps provided for this country by Messrs. Waterlow & Sons. In the Dec. No. of our last vol. we illustrated the 1c. and 5c.

The *Montevideo Times* of Dec. 3rd had the following information concerning this new series :—

The new postage stamps were put in circulation yesterday. The 2 cent is indigo blue, with a picture of the Solis Theatre. The 7 cent is olive or sea green, and bears a bull's head, symbolic of our principal industry. The 10 cents is sepia brown, and has a figure that we take to be Ceres, holding a sheaf of corn. The 20 and 25 cents are of large size and in two colours, the picture in the centre being in black. The 20 cents is green, and presents a large ship in full sail, which we may imagine to be carrying Uruguayan produce to all parts of the globe. The 25 cents is sienna colour, and has the figure of an armed Amazon who may pass for Bellona. These two last stamps remind us very much of those now in use by North Borneo, Labuan, and Liberia. The engraving, done by Waterlow & Sons, is remarkably fine, and as works of art the stamps are really beautiful specimens. Still, to our thinking, the work is too finicking to be effective, and a simpler but bolder design would have been more to the purpose. There was a tremendous rush at the Post-office yesterday to secure specimens, and no doubt large quantities will be sent to Europe for collectors. In this case it cannot be pretended that the issue is superfluous, for the former issue of these values had been exhausted some time, much to public inconvenience.

And on the 3rd Jan. the same journal added :—

New postage stamps of the values of 50 cents, one, two and three pesos were issued to the public on New Year's Day. The 50 cents is of the same size as the 25 cents, the frame-work in pale blue on a white ground, and the centre design, which is in black, representing a winged head of Mercury. The remaining stamps are of still larger size, as befits their more exalted values, and are oblong. The one peso has a border of sienna brown, with the arms of the Republic in the centre in black. The two pesos has the border in mauve, and the

centre design, in sea green, represents what we imagine to be a view of the ancient fortress of Montevideo, long since demolished. The three pesos stamp has the border in carmine, whilst the centre design, in royal blue, represents a highly imaginative view of the Matriz or Cathedral in the Plaza Constitucion, to which the engraver, in his liberality, has given the proportions of a St. Peter's at Rome.

The stamps are perf. 14½. Up to date the full series stands as follows:—











Adhesives.

2c., blue.
7c., green.
10c., brown.
20c., black and green.
25c., „ red brown.
50 cent, black and blue.
1 peso, black and brown.
2 pesos, sea-green & mauve.
3 „ blue and carmine.

Official Stamps.

1c., blue, black sur.
2c., brown-red „
5c., red „

Venezuela.—Mr. Marks has shown us the 1 bolivar with the surcharged arms reversed.

1 bol., carmine and black, sur. inverted.

Victoria.—Our publishers have the 1d. brown newsband with the word "duty," in the design spelled "dutw." The error is very distinct. The specimen is dated Oct. 18, 1895.

Western Australia.—We quoted from the *S. C. F.* under the head of "Philately in the Mags." in our last No. the history of the recent surcharges "Half Penny" on 3d., but omitted to include them in our Chronicle.

Adhesives.

½d. on 3d., brown, *green sur.*
½d. on 3d., brown, *red sur.*

Zanzibar.—We illustrated the surcharge on the Indian stamps. It will be noted that it is the old type of 1 rupee, not the new type, that is surcharged.





MONTHLY PACKETS OF NEW ISSUES.

No. 1.—Price One Shilling (postage extra). The February Packet contains five Varieties, all unused, viz.:—Gibraltar 20c.; Perak 2c.; Norway 1 ore; and British Central Africa 1d. and 2d.

No. 2.—Price Five Shillings (postage extra). The February Packet contains ten Varieties, all unused, viz.:—Gibraltar 1 peseta; Holland Unpaid, 1895, 1c., 1½c., 2½c., 5c., 10c., 12½c., 15c. and 25c.; and St. Thomas 10 on 50c.

These packets are on sale from February 25th to March 24th (unless the supply is previously exhausted), and are supplied only to *Subscribers* to the "Philatelic Record and Stamp News." Similar packets will be on sale every month, and may be subscribed for in advance for the year (January to December inclusive), at the following rates: No. 1 Packet (sent by book post with the Paper), 12s. 6d., post free. No. 2 Packet (by letter post), Inland, 61s.; Abroad, 62s. 6d., post free.

The Subscription to the Paper (3s. per Annum) is extra. BUHL & Co., Limited, 11, Queen Victoria Street, London, E.C.

PHILATELY IN THE MAGS.

—o—

What shall we Collect?

The principal article in the January *London Philatelist* is a very interesting one from the pen of Mr. Castle, under the curious title of "Philately in the Expiring Century." Its object is to provide an answer to the old question, What shall we collect? Needless to say, the advice of such an old hand as the writer of the reply is full of food for reflection. Opening with a consideration of the different schools, Mr. Castle subdivides "the modern apostles of specialising" into four classes :—

A. Used stamps entirely.
B. Unused stamps entirely.
C. Both unused and used stamps.
D. Unused and used stamps indiscriminately.

With regard to Class A he admits that "beyond the rapidly dying fallacy that used stamps are more likely to be genuine than unused," he favours "a little of postmark, but not very much of it," for

The generality of used stamps that are commoner than uncancelled specimens are, unless spoiled by the postmark, the next best thing to used. They have, as a rule, the great advantage of being far more easily obtainable, and they are frequently invaluable, for the following reasons :—

The dates of the postmarks.

The help towards discriminating between reprints and originals.

The exposition of all the shades and printings of a stamp; almost impossible in unused alone.

As to his known preference for unused he says :—

The pioneers of advanced stamp collecting, almost without exception, from the "sixties" downward, have always held the stamp unused as the special object of their adoration. Their example has slowly but surely gained way, in spite of the tremendous obstacles to the general acceptance of the creed. In olden days, there was a general belief among the multitude that postmarks in some way were a guarantee of genuineness. This fallacy, though it long lingered on the Continent, has passed away. Its successor was the fear that used stamps were safer, on account of the reprints. Thanks to the great strides made in Philatelic knowledge, this bugbear has almost disappeared, and it is safe to say that, within a very few years, the means of discernment between genuine Original and Reprint will be so generally spread, that no collector who is not inherently lazy will need to be deceived.

I advocate, in short, the collection of unused stamps for all who can afford it, I believe that not only do they constitute the greatest beauty, but also the true Philatelic difficulty of collecting. I think, further, that those who consider the financial aspect of the question will find their best investment, however large, in immaculate unused specimens. Outside the more difficult countries to be named in Classes B and C, there are plenty whose stamps, *unused*, will constitute, for years yet, a happy hunting ground of real rarities, at comparatively low prices; and they will be wise, in my humble judgment, who "take time by the forelock."

His advice in the selection of specimens in the collection of used stamps will be borne in mind by every careful collector :—

It is hardly necessary to point out the advisability of weighing with used stamps as well as unused, the several important points of colour, impression, well-centreing, margins, etc. The one feature, however, which is all important for my Class D is the obliteration. My motto for Class D is briefly *A minimum of postmark at a minimum of outlay*. Except in the case previously mentioned, of the few countries where the obliterations are of more value than the stamps (and of an occasional date-stamp), it should be the view of collectors that postmarks are in the nature of acquired evil to the stamp (as innocent of it at its birth), and that the less there is of it the better. The general disregard of this view has been frequently brought to my notice for many years past, as I find stamps with perhaps fifty per cent. of postmark covered surface. A golden rule in this matter is to endeavour, as far as possible, to avoid taking specimens in which the centre is not clear of printer's ink. The main feature of a stamp is almost invariably the central design, whether a head, a heraldic design, an animal, or a landscape, and if the prominent features of any of these are blurred out by postmark, not only the stamp suffers itself, but the whole row on which it is placed.

The following lists will be scanned with the deepest interest, and will probably be useful to many who are hesitating as to what to collect :—

LIST OF COUNTRIES WHERE STAMPS ARE MAINLY RAREST USED.

	GROUP.
Bergedorf	Germany
Bremen	
Lübeck	
Mecklenburg-Strelitz	
Romagna	Italy
Ionian Islands	Great Britain
Prince Edward's Island	
Virgin Islands	

PARTIALLY RARER.

Hamburg, early issues	Germany
Heligoland ,,	
Mecklenburg-Schwerin, later issues	
Schleswig-Holstein, early issues	
Thurn and Taxis ,,	
Modena, later issues	Italy
Parma ,,	

LIST OF COUNTRIES WHOSE STAMPS ARE GENERALLY FAR RARER UNUSED THAN USED.

Austria, Lombardy, and Hungary.
Australia (all seven colonies).
Baden.
Belgium.
British West Indies (almost all).
Brunswick.
France.
Great Britain.
Hanover.
Naples.
Parma (except last issues).
Portugal.
Prussia.
Sweden.
Thurn and Taxis.
Tuscany.
Wurtemburg.

LIST OF COUNTRIES WHOSE STAMPS ARE MAINLY RARE, UNUSED, OR USED.

British North American Possessions.
British Guiana.
Buenos Ayres.
Cape of Good Hope.
Ceylon.
Colombia, United States of.
Confederate States of America.
Fiji.
Hawaii.
Mauritius.
Moldavia (pre-Roumania).
Mexico (including component states).
Natal.
Nevis.
New South Wales.
New Zealand.
Oldenburg.
Philippines.
Portuguese Indies.
Réunion.
Shanghai.
Spain.
Switzerland.
Transvaal.
Trinidad.
United States (Postmaster's Issues, Locals, etc.)

In his final list Mr. Castle has italicised the countries that he thinks especially neglected, and worthy of study, and he has marked with a star those that are more difficult. We have followed his arrangement :—

UNUSED AND USED STAMPS INDISCRIMINATELY.

Argentina.
Austria, Austrian-Italy, and Lombardy.
Baden.
Barbados.*
Bavaria.
Belgium.
*Bolivia.**
*Brazil.**
*British European Possessions (including Heligoland.)**
*British West African Possessions (including St. Helena.)**
Chili.
Cuba and Porto Rico.
Dutch Colonies.
Denmark.
Dominican Republic.
Egypt.
*Finland.**
*France.**
Germany, Thurn and Taxis, Emp. and Conf.
Great Britain.*
Greece.
Hamburg.
Hanover.
Holland.
Hongkong.
*India.**
Italy and Sardinia.
Jamaica.
*Japan** (*not plates*).
Luxemburg.
Norway.
Paraguay.
Parma.*
Prussia.
Roumania.
Russia (Imperial).
Servia.
Sicily, Naples, and Two Sicilies.*
*South Australia.**
Straits and Minor States.
Sweden.
Turkey* (issued varieties only).
*Tuscany.**
*Uruguay.**
*Venezuela.**
Wurtemburg.

Belgium Issues of 1865.

Hitherto it has been the practice of the cataloguers to recognize two distinct printings of the Belgian issues of 1865; for all values, viz.: 10 c., 20 c., 30 c., 40 c., and 1 fr. But according to the *Timbre Post* the ingenuity and skill which have been devoted to the separation of these alleged printings have been so much labour wasted. We quote our excellent contemporary's explanation in full, and congratulate Mr. Westoby upon his discovery.

On the strength of "official" information, we have stated in the past, both in the *Timbre Poste* and in a brochure which we devoted to the stamps of our country, that in 1865 there was a series of stamps printed in London as well as in Belgium. But of the former, we had latterly completely lost sight of the 10, 20, 30 and 40 centimes, and consequently entertained doubts as to their existence. But how to make sure that these doubts had any foundation? It was practically impossible for us to do so, and as to applying to our virtuous Minister of Posts, it was not to be thought of.

Having been in communication lately with our old friend Mr. Westoby, the latter by means of his influential position has been able to obtain precise information on this subject which will put an end to the researches and to the despair of a considerable number of collectors. Here is the letter which we have received :

Folkestone, 15 *Janry.* 1896.

Dear Mr. MOENS,

The doubts which you express with regard to the London prints of the 10, 20, 30 and 40 centimes of the 1865 issue are well founded. I can tell you positively that the only printing of the stamps of that issue which was made in London was confined to 1,500 sheets of 1 franc stamps, *the whole of which were delivered perforated.*

The consignment was accompanied, it is true, with some proofs in colour of the 10, 20, 30 and 40 centimes, but there was none of these values for postal use.

Accept, &c.,

W. A. S. WESTOBY.

When the printing material arrived in Belgium, it was found that Messrs. De la Rue & Co. had sent a supply of the various inks and also some of the paper intended for the printing of the stamps. The English workmen, who received good pay (25 francs a day, it used to be said), executed the first printing for the instruction of the Belgian printers who would have to continue the work. It is this first printing which has caused confusion.

In fact, of the London printing of 1865, with white surfaced paper and the perforation 14 × 14, there is but one value only:

1 franc, lilac,

and of the local printing, *on the same paper*, perforated 14 × 14½:

10 centimes, iron-grey,
20 „ light blue, blue,
30 „ reddish-brown,
40 „ carmine,
1 franc. lilac.

For want of a machine, the perforation was at that time confided to a private individual, M. Gouweloos, of Brussels; this perforation changed, and as a result of circumstances of which we have spoken, the Government decided to buy a machine perforating both ways at once, the contrary to the machine of Gouweloos; whence we have the perforation 15 on all four sides.

We examined again the stamps of the so-called London impression.

On comparing them with the proofs which accompanied the shipment of Messrs. De la Rue & Co. we find that:

the 10 centimes is in the correct colour,
„ 20 „ is of a little darker blue,
„ 30 „ is of a deeper colour, and less red,
„ 40 „ is in rose instead of carmine.

The printing of all is less distinct.

On comparing the 1 franc, London print, with the proof of that colour, we find them identical.

The U.S. Watermark.

The watermark on the current series of the stamps of the United States is certainly very indistinct. The perfection of a watermark is one which is complete and clear on each stamp. The U.S. watermark is sprawled over several stamps. It is to be hoped that the following from the *Weekly Philatelic Era* (U.S.) is correct:

The watermark on U.S. stamps is shortly to be changed—I think. I know that the following design has been prepared, and will be used if it is possible to make a clear, distinct watermark on each stamp. The design consists of the letters U S P O inside of a large letter D; and the whole thing goes on each stamp. I have my information from a paper expert who has been consulted as to the feasibility of the scheme, so you see, I'm positive.

U.S. Triangle Varieties.

Mr. Luff, in the *American Journal of Philately*, has an interesting note on the triangle varieties on the current U.S. stamps. He says:

Plate 170 (two cents) is composed of stamps of triangles II and III. Only the three vertical rows at the left side of the upper left quarter of the sheet are of triangle II. The balance of the plate is of triangle III. I am indebted to Mr. H. B. Philips, Mr. Calvert Meade and Mr. E. Roberts for information on this subject. The explanation of this oddity is that two transfers were used in entering the stamps on the plate. It is not probable that new dies were made for the stamps of the second and third varieties of the triangle, but rather that the alterations were made on the transfer rolls. It might easily happen that two transfers were used on one plate, especially as there are often several transfers on one roll. It would be possible to have all three types of triangle on one plate and in almost endless variety of arrangement. But this is not at all probable.

The Capped 2c. of U.S. 1890.

Another peculiar minor variety in U.S. stamps is the somewhat recent discovery of capped twos in the 1890 issue. This variety Mr. Luff, in the *American Journal of Philately*, now explains to be due to defective workmanship:

By some means a bit of the transfer was chipped off, in one case at the top of the left-hand figure, in the other case at the top of both. These broken transfers were used in making plates and the combination of the two with others not damaged made some very interesting things for collectors of pairs and blocks. I have seen in the collection of Mr. H. E. Deats a strip of ten stamps from the right upper quarter of plate VV246, of which the first three stamps (counting from the left) had caps on the left hand figure, and the other stamps of the row had caps on both figures. In the same collection are strips from plates TT235, VV247 and VV 248, all the stamps of which have caps on the figure at left, and a strip from VV245 with caps on both figures. It may be of interest to mention that plates SS232, TT236, 238 and 239 have no caps. UU240, 241, 242, 243 and 244 are one cent stamps. Other adjacent numbers I have not seen. It is possible that some of them are of the capped varieties.

I have not said anything about the variety with cap on the right 2, because I do not believe in it. It has been listed and I have seen several copies, but I consider them simply dirty work. Some careless workman failed to properly clean his plate at night and the next morning the dried ink in the sunken lines of the plate made the cap. I have seen blocks of this sort of thing with caps, dashes and assorted spots all around the numerals.

Impending Changes in South Africans.

The *South African Philatelist* heralds important changes in South African stamps. Its announcement is as follows:

The terms of the proposal laid before the various South African States by the Postmaster General of the South African Republic for universal colours for the postage stamps of South Africa has been adopted. The colours of the various issues will be the same as those of the current South African Republic, the values being printed on a coloured band. The colour of the band for the S. A. R. stamps will be green, those of the Cape of Good Hope red, of the Orange Free State probably orange, and of Natal blue.

The *S. A. P.* surmises that the object of such wholesale changes is "to facilitate the identification of the various denominations, which process is now somewhat trying to an official who may be sorting letters from the different states in quest of insufficiently prepaid letters. Natives have a knack of prepaying just the half of the postage due, and the scheme is therefore quite justified."

Chilian Varieties.

Mr. H. A. Slade dealing with Chilian issues, in the *Bazaar* Supplement, notes some interesting varieties. He says:

On some copies of the 10c. imperforate, a hair-line may be discerned, starting from the right side of the "I" of "CHILE," cutting across the left side of "L" of "CHILE," crossing "V" of "CENTAVOS" from left to right, and so running off the edge of the stamp. Whether this was done with some ulterior motive or arose from a damaged die, is conjectural; but as it exists, it cannot be rejected as a variety unworthy of notice. Are not hair-lines of some importance in certain English stamps, well known to some of us?

Again, on the 10c. blue of the perforated issue there appears either a secret mark or a flaw in the die. Look to the left of Christopher's ear and you will see a small white dot that is never absent on this value, and never present on any other. The early impressions of this 10c. are a fine deep indigo, but the plate appears to have worn a good deal, until the stamps arrive at a very pale blue.

Indian Native State Issues.

Mr. C. Stewart Wilson, President of the Bengal Philatelic Society, has, in the *Bazaar* Supplement, taken up the cudgels on behalf of the much despised stamps of the Native States of India. He explains that:

Within British India there are three main varieties of postal administration, each one of which is represented by a different class of postage-stamp. We have (1) the Imperial Post; (2) the posts of certain native States, working independently, as far as their internal communications are concerned, but at the same time connected with the Imperial Post by certain duties and privileges, laid down in formal documents called "Conventions"; and lastly, (3) the purely local and generally very primitive postal arrangements of certain native States, which have no connection with any other postal system whatever.

To begin with the last class, which is represented mainly by the queer, uncouth, lithographed labels that we know so well, the main point of interest to a philatelist is that these stamps are available only within the bounds of the State issuing them. Some of these states are so small, *e.g.*, Bhor, Bamra, and Poonch, that their stamps cannot claim any more philatelic interest than Russian locals. The only really interesting stamps of this class I consider to be those of Kashmir, Hyderabad, Soruth, and Jhind, and then only if the collector has sufficient knowledge to keep clear of reprints. It is reprints that have made this class of stamp so unpopular; for the mere fact that the stamps are not available for franking letters outside the Raja's territories can hardly be held to be important, so long as the early Malta halfpenny stamps and the early issues of the Central and South American States are run after.

To the States which have been permitted to enter into "Conventions" with the Imperial Post has been accorded the privilege to use British Indian stamps, surcharged with the name of the State using them. Such stamps frank postal matter to any part of India served by the Imperial Post, as well as throughout the confines of the particular State concerned. While, therefore, they too are "locals," they are so in a very different sense from those mentioned above.

They are supplied to the States "on indent." The stamps are withdrawn from the store kept by the Government of India and are surcharged in the Government Press, under a system of perfectly unimpeachable superintendence. None of the workmen employed can possibly possess himself of the surcharged stamps, so that they are not tempted to make "errors" intentionally; while the integrity of the official in charge of the work is above suspicion. The stamps, after surcharge, are supplied direct to the indenting State. The Government of India sells none of them, except to the State concerned, nor can any one get them except from the Post-Office of the State to which they have been despatched. No profit is made by the Indian Government out of the transaction. The price charged is merely the actual cost of the stamps supplied by Messrs. De la Rue, plus cost of carriage and expense of surcharging.

The U. S. and Philatelists.

The Postal Authorities in the Great Republic seem to blow hot and cold on Philatelists. Plate number fiends as they are termed have taken to worrying the postmasters right and left for strips of three with the plate no. attached. The postmasters in not a few cases have returned the money sent. But the "Post Office Guide," according to the *Weekly Philatelic Era*, is more considerate in the matter of stamped envelopes. It announces that:—

All stamped envelopes of the current issue can be purchased of the Postmaster of Washington, D.C., on application in person, or by letter, enclosing the price and return postage, including registration fee. This is limited to small quantities desired by collectors as specimens, and not to satisfy business demands.

Causes of Speculation.

The *Philatelic Chronicle* has been trying to find the reason why speculation now so largely enters into stamp collecting. It says :—

Two causes appear to have been largely instrumental in bringing about this state of affairs. The greater, in our judgment, is the fact that through all the vicissitudes of business, and the depression in prices consequent upon hard times, stamps have steadily maintained their values. There have been absolutely no declines in the prices of valuable varieties. A second and related cause is the plain safety of investment in certain stamps. There can be no decline in the value of the United States stamps bought in sheets from the post office. Hence large quantities have been laid aside with the speculative notion that a great rate of interest on money invested may be realised as the natural result of collectors' and speculators' desire to secure specimens when they have gone out of issue.

But yet another and probably truer explanation might be found in the high prices to which rare stamps have run up, and the necessity which this forces on most collectors of making both ends meet by a little amateur dealing or speculation.

Indian Postal Inquisition.

The following from the *Indian Philatelist* will show the depth to which the Indian Postal authorities have descended in their dealings with the public and philatelists :

NOTICE.

A foreign R. L., No. 2000, to your address, received from abroad, is in detention in the General Post Office (under section 60 of the Post Office Act) on suspicion of containing an article on which duty is owing to Government. You are, therefore, requested to appear at the office, either personally or by agent, within 48 hours of receipt of this notice, to witness the opening of the said R. L., failing which it is liable to be opened in your absence.

2. If the contents appear to be dutiable the R. letter cannot be delivered, until the duty has been assessed by the Customs authorities at Bombay.

(Signed) W. B.
.....Post Office. Postmaster,
Dated 6th Oct., 1895. Place.

The printed notice says that the letter is "liable to be opened." The above is a case in which the letter was not only opened but was delayed a week in delivery. This Paul-prying into private registered letters is simply disgusting, and is unworthy of the Great British Imperial Government. If such an Act exists it is simply a disgrace to its framers as it puts great power in the hands of inquisitive and unscrupulous Postmasters.

A case occurred lately with a philatelist, who sent the following reply to the above printed notice from the Postmaster :—

SIR,—I cannot walk two miles to see a letter opened. Please send letter by Postal peon and I will open it in his presence, and if contents dutiable will return letter to you.—Yours,

A. B.

To this the Postmaster replied :—I am very sorry I cannot comply with your request, as it is imperative the cover should be opened at the Post Office. If you can't come yourself, I shall personally open the article, as the letter is now lying four days in deposit.—Yours truly,

(*No date*) W. B.

And opened the letter, without any authority from the addressee.

How U.S. Periodical Stamps are obtained.

If you want to know what it is to bear the burden of a State secret, ask any collector of U. S. stamps how he got his set of "Periodicals." *Mekeel's Weekly* explains one method :—

In a recent conversation with a collector of this city considerable light was thrown on the subject. "Why," he said, "there is little difficulty in obtaining these stamps if you only know how to go about it. Watch for the newly-appointed postmasters. They are not likely to know the need of strictly observing the rules which forbid the sale of these stamps to the general public, and many in fact do not know of the existence of these rules, until an infraction of them is called to their attention."

St. Helena Postal Speculation.

The good people of St. Helena, if their views are correctly voiced by the *St. Helena Guardian*, look to stamp collectors for revenue. We are told quite candidly that :—

There is but one thing that will be the main factor in saving it from ultimate bankruptcy—and that is Philately. At the present time the colony possesses but one stamp die—the sixpenny one. All of the other values are reprints from this die. Now it doesn't require a very extraordinarily keen perception to understand that by having a new stamp die—say, if we are fortunate enough to obtain a reduction to the 2½d. rate, a 2½d. die—and have the other values printed from it, there will be a tremendous demand by Philatelists for both old and new stamps, that it will certainly pay the government to get one, and be the salvation of the Colony. Like begets like, and so, with a substantial surplus in the treasury, the government will be able to assist in opening up and developing island industries, and so once more bring us into a state of prosperity as in times past.

Probably the recent sale of 1s. stamps was a move in the direction of saving the island from bankruptcy.

FORGERIES AND REPRINTS.

—o—

Counterfeit U.S. 2 Cents.

According to the *Weekly Philatelic Era* (U.S.), the postmasters at the capitals of every state, were supplied with specimens of the counterfeit 2 c. stamps by the P. O. Department, for comparison with any doubtful stamps that they might think were counterfeit. Regarding them the department says:

The clear cut steel engraved stamps received from the department should be compared with the suspected counterfeit, remembering, for some weeks beginning Oct. 5, '94, the genuine 2 c. stamp was very pale in color, but did not exhibit the chalky-white appearance distinguishing the counterfeits, attributal, principally to the broken horizontal lines, while those of the true steel engraved stamp are clear, continuous and clear cut.

Cape of Good Hope Error.

The *South African Philatelist* in its second number, continued its excellent warnings against forgeries of South African stamps, and we gladly avail ourselves again of the opportunity of giving them further circulation in order that collectors may be on their guard. The *S.A.P.* thus describes a forgery of the red error of 1860:

The general appearance of this forgery is very deceptive. On closer examination I find that the figure of "Hope" and the Anchor do not come out so clearly as in the genuine, the face being totally unrecognisable, nor are the corner ornaments as regularly formed. The length of the base of the triangle in the forgery is 42 mm. against 40 mm. in the genuine, while the left and right sides of the triangle in the forgery each measure 30½ mm. as against 29 mm. in the original. The paper is yellowish wove, that of the genuine, laid.

Zululand.

We hear of considerable activity in the forgery of the surcharge "Zululand" on our English stamps, but have not yet come across a specimen. We shall be glad to have one for inspection and exposure, as early as possible, if any of our readers who have been victimised will oblige us. Meanwhile, we note the following warning of the *S.A.P.* of a bogus surcharge on Natal 1d. rose, of 1882-4, water-mark, Crown and C.A., black surcharge. The *S.A.P.* says:

The Natal 1d. rose was never surcharged "Zululand" for use in that country. The type used is larger in all respects than that of the genuine. The Natal stamp on which it is surcharged has gone through the post.

British Bechuanaland.

Thanks to the *S. A. P.* the numerous forgeries of the surcharged Bechuanaland stamps are being set out in such clear detail that no careful collector need be deceived. The latest addition to the list is the 1d., black and carmine, of 1887, surcharged on Cape of Good Hope, water-mark anchor.

In the forgeries, "British" measures 9¼ mm. and "Bechuanaland" 18 mm., while in the genuine they respectively measure 7¾ mm. and 10¾ mm. This is a very feeble forgery. The type used is slightly larger than that of the genuine.

Finland.

The *Timbre Poste* describes a fraud, ostensibly the 1 mark, *mauve*, of the 1885 type, with serpentine perforation. The *Monthly Journal* says that, fortunately, the perforation on three sides of this stamp does not correspond with the gauge of the Finland stamps, and the cancellation is of an unknown type. It is supposed to have been made out of an imperforate proof or essay, and we warn our readers against it if it should be offered to them.

Swazieland Reprints.

As sheets of inverted surcharges of Swazieland stamps are being hawked about just now, the following from the *S.A.P.* will be of interest:

Regarding my remarks about the "Swazieland" surcharge with full stop, I am now in the position to present to the readers a letter from the Postmaster General to the Postmaster of Johannesburg on the subject.

General Post Office, South African Republic,
Pretoria, 12 *June*, 1895.

The Postmaster, Johannesburg. Dear Sir,—In response to your request, I have the pleasure hereby to certify that the stamps surcharged "Swazieland" (with a fullstop after it) bought by you from the Head Office, form portion of a supply of 10 sheets each of ½, 1 and 2p. and one sheet of 10/-, of which the printing took place in the month July 1894.

I gave instructions that these stamps should be printed from the old type, and the difference has only now been noticed by me, and grieves me.—I have the honour to be your obedient Servant (signed) I. VAN ALPHEN, Postmaster General.

It will be seen from the letter that this printing took place in July, 1894, long after they were withdrawn from circulation. In reply to my query why were they reprinted, I was informed that it was on account of political reasons which could not be divulged to me. It is, therefore, evident that they are Official Reprints.

PHILATELIC GOSSIP.

—o—

A good Story.

The *Stamp Collectors' Fortnightly* has the following good story from a correspondent from Western Australia who is on a visit to this country :—

It appears that the reprinting of the errors mentioned in our last issue (which was so promptly stopped by the action of the Western Australian Philatelic Society) was really an act of spite on the part of the Postmaster General. It seems that a clerk in the post office purchased nearly all the errors over the counter, and when he was asked by the Postmaster General to hand them back to the government, he very naturally refused, he having bought them in the legitimate way. Then out of spite, and in order to lower the value of these very scarce errors, the P. M. G. hastened to reprint them, but not being a philatelist, he lost sight of the fact that he had no more 3d. brown with the watermark C.C. in stock. He therefore surcharged the 3d. brown with C.A. watermark, so that his "revenge" missed fire completely.

The New French Stamp.

Mons. Grasset's design for the new French stamps is winning quite a chorus of praise from the French newspapers. His "Dame Republic" is a girlish creature of some twenty-five summers. She wears a pleated robe, and over her shoulders is a plate of armour. The right hand rests upon a sword while in the left is an olive branch. A shield in the right hand corner bears the value in antique figures ; and two scrolls have the word "Postes" and "Republique Francaise" inscribed upon them. Owing to the delicacy of the design the stamp will be produced by two successive printings. Forgery, it is claimed, will be impossible.

Percy Cassandra Bishop.

The co-editor of the *S. C. F.* has taken to prophecy in his old age. Says he, "If speculation pure and simple be the New Philately, it likes us not. It is a shoddy, sordid innovation that will disgust the true timbrophile, as the shooting of caged pigeons disgusts the hunter of big game. Once put philately in the grip of the speculator, and our hobby is doomed. A hobby it will cease to be ; and when it is no longer a hobby, down will go the prices that are now paid for *intrinsically valueless* scraps of paper, and instead of the "boom" that the apostles of the New Philately predict, there will come a swift disastrous 'slump.'" But why get so downhearted and make so much fuss over the cute business move of a couple of dealers who are simply booming their own particular wares in the shape of new issues ?

Measurement of Perforations.

We are now settling down in this country to the invariable measurement of perforations on the following lines :— Compound perforations : top, bottom and sides. Mixed perforations : top, bottom, left, right. And we cannot do better than stick to this order of measurement.

The U. S. Craze.

Mr. Crawford Capen, who has done more than almost any other man to popularise U.S. issues, now complains in the *American Philatelic Magazine* that the collection in the Republic of U. S. stamps tends to the neglect of other countries. He protests that :—

The most valueless of all stamps on the ground of rarity are the common varieties of United States issues. No country in the world has or does issue such immense numbers of stamps as the United States. There are in existence enough of the commonest varieties to supply all collectors of the world with ten to one hundred or even more specimens of each stamp. What actual value then have these stamps ? None whatever. Dealers must get something for them though. They have not the time to handle them for nothing. The rush to buy such United States stamps as are really scarce, that is, those of which the number issued and preserved is less than the number of collectors desiring them, has pushed the prices up above what the great majority of collectors can afford to pay for them. It is to be remembered that the majority of American collectors are young people, mostly boys and girls in school. They catch the prevailing fever for United States stamps and buy what ? Valuable stamps ? Not at all. They purchase stamps for the most part priced from one to ten cents each, whose value is the cost of handling.

Further he contends that the neglect of other countries results in all fine and rare foreign stamps being sent out of the country.

Seebecks dying out.

Although Seebecks have not been condemned by the S. S. S. S. everybody recognises that they are really the most worthless of all speculative issues, and the indirect condemnation of the successful outcry against speculative stamps is gradually putting an end to their sale. The Boston correspondent of *Mekeel's Weekly* says :—

Seebecks are practically dead in Boston, as they deserve to be. I know of only one dealer who is buying any stock at all of this trash, and his stock is light. Most of the dealers have a few on hand and will sell when they are asked to do so, of course, but they do not advertise them in any way or do anything to push their sale.

More Transvaal Surcharges.

The epidemic of surcharges which broke out in the Transvaal a year or so since does not yet seem to have run its course. Any way here is an ominous warning from the *South African Philatelist*:—

Another value is out of stock in our Post Offices, viz. the current 2½d. We find that out of a stock of a million of these stamps, 900,000 were pressed into service to represent the 1d. value in the shape of the late 1d. on 2½d. green surcharge. Naturally there is a run on the ½d. and 2d. stamps for Oversea postage, and unless the 2½d. arrive soon we should not be surprised to hear of more provisionals. Surely it was a little impolitic to use nine-tenths of a stock of a stamp so important for the foreign mail, especially as there is now an extra demand, the postage to any country in the postal union being reduced to 2½d.

Chilians: Used and Unused.

Mr. H. A. Slade, in an article in the *Bazaar* Supplement on specialising, says the older issues of Chili "generally speaking, are of much greater value in a used condition." And he instances the 1 centavo as being worth 10s. each with the "cancelled" postmark, whereas unused copies can be purchased for less than a quarter of that sum. Those of us who specialise in Chili find the very opposite to be the case. As a matter of fact the 1 centavo is absolutely the only stamp of the early issues which is rarer used than unused. Indeed *unused* Chilians of the first issues are getting very scarce, and will soon rank amongst the high-priced South Americans. Has Mr. Slade ever seen an unused 10c. blenté?

CORRESPONDENCE.

—o—

Booming New Issues.

SIR,—I am glad to find that you have a good word to say for the new movement for confining collecting to postage stamps issued since 1890.

It seems to me to be the only way out of a growing difficulty. Every year wealthy and greedy specialists are more and more monopolising the best stamps of the old issues. Indeed I cannot help calling it a public scandal that those said wealthy specialists should bulk up their collections with whole pages of the same stamps. It seems to be quite the fashion of the day in their class to boast of the number of specimens they can show of a great rarity. And let us remember that it is not a far cry in this drift of specialism from a page of a rare stamp to the cornering of the lot. Some day for instance, we shall find amongst the Fashionable Intelligence of the *Philatelic Record* something of this sort:—Mr. Avery has secured at last all the known copies of both values of the "Post-office" Mauritius, and that Mr. Castle has completed his collection of the entire issue of 81 paras of Moldavia.

Yours growlingly,
ONLY A EWE LAMB.

SIR,—You say in your Editorial Note that the movement in favour of limiting collecting, when ways and means have to be considered, to issues since 1890 has much to commend it.

In my humble opinion, as one who has to consider ways and means, the new movement is the most arrant nonsense. Anyone with half an eye can see that the suggestion has no connection whatever with the pretended limit in the matter of the ways and means of the collector, but is simply and solely a scheme on the part of a couple of dealers for working up a brisk business in new issues for their own profit. Anything more obvious it would be impossible to conceive, and I do hope that my fellow collectors will not be such simpletons as blindly to follow the piping of these philatelic Pied Pipers of Ipswich and Salisbury.

The collector who wants to keep his collecting within the range of limited ways and means may find abundant scope for his energies in the cheaper countries, such as Chili, Denmark, France, Greece, Holland, Servia, Luxemburg, Norway, Sweden, Paraguay, and the newer English Colonies of British Bechuanaland, British South Africa, and Zululand, Niger Coast, etc., in which there are very few, if any, stamps that can-

not be had, either used or unused, at a reasonable figure.

Further, I have no hesitation in saying that a more ridiculously worthless investment could scarcely be found than the proposed indiscriminate collection of new issues since 1890. Of course, it is easy to bolster up the case for the new movement by quoting a few good new issues which have advanced in price, but if you weigh against those few the utter rubbish that constitutes the great bulk of new issues the bottom is quickly knocked out of the so-called new movement.

New movement, indeed! New road for soft Tommies!—Yours truly, W. C. M.

SIR,—I have had a little experience in the buying of new issues from new issue dealers, with the result that I am case-hardened against any further plunges into that slump. As a rule the stamps were double-face in price, and when there was a provisional there was a sensational scramble, I thought myself mighty well treated to have got one off "the one sheet we were so fortunate as to secure out of the 50 issued." Of course, I did not get that rare provisional at double-face, I paid through the nose for it, to find, after all, that it was only a common garden variety of the new issue weed.

Time after time have I been had in that way. But having paid for my experience I am not going to be caught in this "Ninety" Company, Limited. Not if I know it!

I am now quietly collecting countries that are off the beaten track of the wealthy specialist, and I am content, for I find my countries most interesting.—Yours, etc.

W. ASHER.

How to deal with Seebecks.

SIR,—I quite agree with Anti-Seebeck in your last issue that it is about time the S. S. S. S. did something in the direction of condemning Seebecks. The Society was established to endeavour to put an end to the flood of unnecessary and speculative issues, and Seebecks certainly come under both those heads.

Surely the Society might go so far as to veto the traffic in Seebeck remainders, and get the dealer members of the Society to pledge themselves not to deal in them, and you Editor members should agree not to chronicle or illustrate them.

ANOTHER ANTI-SEEBECK.

Natal. 3d. Blue, watermark Star.

SIR,—All the catalogues that I have yet seen give the date of issue of the 3d. Blue, Natal, watermark Star, perf. as 1860. I find, however, that I have a specimen which was given to me some time ago, on bit of original envelope, from which I copied the dates as follows: posted in Natal, Nov. 10th, 1859; Ripon postmark, Dec. 26th, 1859. Have any of your readers any dated examples that will corroborate this?—Yours faithfully,

T. KERSHAW SKIPWITH.

Headingley, Leeds, Feb. 28th, 1896.

AUCTION SALES.

Unused are distinguished by an asterisk.

MESSRS. BUHL & Co., LIMITED,

February 3rd, 4th and 5th, 1896.

	£	s.	d.
BARBADOS, 1d. on left half of 5/- rose..	3	10	0
BAVARIA, 6k. brown, broken circle*...	3	10	0
BOLIVAR, *first issue*, 10c. green, penmark	4	17	6
CANADA, 10d. blue, large margins, but slight tear*	4	0	0
CEYLON, 2 rupee 50cts.	3	7	6
DOMINICAN REPUBLIC (1865), ½r. green*	3	0	0
ditto, 1r. straw*	8	8	0
GT. BRITAIN, 2½d. lilac-rose, plate 3, orb*	3	2	0
£1. purple-brown, 3 orbs*	3	12	6
MAURITIUS, *Post Paid*, 2d. medium ...	3	5	0
Britannia, 4d. black on green ...	3	3	0
MEXICO, 3c. brown, town and control numbers*	4	15	0
NATAL, 1/- green, curved, red surcharge, fine, but slight tear	12	0	0
NEVIS, 6d. grey on bluish*	3	15	0
NEWFOUNDLAND, 1/- carmine-red, heavy postmark	10	15	0
ST. VINCENT, 1d. on half 6d. blue green, pair*	13	0	0
5/- lake, star*...	16	0	0
STRAITS SETTLEMENTS, *Selangor*, 2c. brown, CA. (S.G. 3)*	3	5	0
Sungei Ujong, 2c. brown (S.G. 2)*...	3	10	0
SWEDEN, 24sk. bco.*	3	0	0
TOBAGO, 6d. ochre, CC.	3	0	0
TUSCANY, 9c. on white £3 4s. and	4	0	0
VIRGIN ISLANDS, 1/- single line* ...	3	17	6
WESTERN AUSTRALIA, 2d. brown-red, roulette	4	0	0

February 20th and 21st, 1896.

CEYLON, 4d. rose, imperf.	8	5	0
BRITISH GUIANA, 4c. "pearl in fan" border	3	0	0
NEW BRUNSWICK, 1/- violet	6	6	0

MESSRS. CHEVELEY & Co.,

January 23rd and 24th, 1896.

NEVIS, 1/- yellow-green, perf. 15, engraved,* fine but no gum... ...	15	10	0
NEW SOUTH WALES, *Sydney view*, 2d., plate 1	3	5	0
PORTUGUESE INDIES (1874), 20r. red, small figures, rubbed	5	5	0
ST. CHRISTOPHER, 4d. blue, C.A.* ...	8	0	0
ST. LUCIA, *first issue*, blue*	3	6	0
(1885), 6d. lilac*	3	0	0
1/- black and orange*	4	10	0
another, used	3	8	0
(1885), 1/- orange-brown*	7	0	0
another, used	4	0	0
ST. VINCENT, 1d. on half 6d. blue-green*	4	0	0
4d. dark blue, star*	6	5	0
5/- rose, small ink stain*	10	10	0
TOBAGO, 6d. ochre, CC.*	3	16	0
6d. ochre, CA.	12	0	0

MR. W. HADLOW, *January 20th and 21st*, 1896.

TURKS ISLANDS, 2½d. on 1/- puce (No. 4)*	3	15	0
2½d. on 1/- dull blue (No. 7)* ...	8	0	0
VIRGIN ISLANDS, 1/- crimson, double line*...	4	4	0

February 13th, 1896.

GREAT BRITAIN, Telegraph 3/- slate, plate 1, wmk. crowns	3	0	0
NEVIS, 4d. rose	3	3	0

MESSRS. PUTTICK & SIMPSON,

January 28th and 29th, 1896.

BOLIVAR (1863), 10c. green, pair* ...	11	10	0
BREMEN, 7gr. yellow, imperf.	3	14	0
BRITISH COLOMBIA, 5c. rose, imperf....	13	0	0
BRITISH GUIANA, *first issue*, 8c. green, cut round, on entire	15	0	0
(1862), 2c. yellow (No. 21), roulettes 2½ sides	7	5	0
CANADA, 6d. purple-black, perf.* ...	10	0	0
7½d. green*	14	0	0
10d. blue, thin paper, block of 3, one with small hole*	15	0	0
a single, thick paper*	5	5	0
CEYLON, 4d. rose, imperf.	20	5	0
2 rupees 50 cts. perf. 12½ × 14* ...	4	4	0
CONFEDERATE STATES, *Tellico Plains*, pair 5c. and 10c.*	21	0	0
GREAT BRITAIN, 10d. brown, octagon*	4	7	6
HANOVER, 10gr. green*	3	3	0
LAGOS, 2/6 brown*	3	12	0
5/- blue*	5	7	6
MAURITIUS, *Post Paid*, 1d. on white, early, on piece	10	0	0
ditto, a pair, early ditto	25	0	0
ditto, a vert. pair, early ditto £19. 10s. and	20	0	0
ditto, 2d. medium, on pieces £3, £4 and	5	10	0
ditto, ditto, superb	11	0	0
Britannia, 4d. on green, strip of 3...	10	5	0
NAPLES, ½t. cross, on entire	5	5	0
NEW BRUNSWICK, 1/- mauve, fine, but cut close	15	0	0
NEW ZEALAND, 1d. red on bluish ...	3	10	0
NOVA SCOTIA, 1d. brown, strip of 3*	6	5	0
QUEENSLAND, 1d. carmine, imperf., 2 on one piece	4	5	0
ST. CHRISTOPHER, 6d. olive, with control number*	3	3	0
ST. LUCIA, 6d. lilac, CA.*	3	5	0
1/- orange, CA.*	5	0	0
ST. VINCENT, 1d. black on 6d. yellow-green	3	0	0
4d. dark blue, star*	5	0	0
4d. on 1/- vermilion	11	5	0
1/- rose, large perf.*	7	5	0
SPAIN (1850), 10 reales, green ...	3	17	6
SWITZERLAND, *Basle*, 2½r., on entire...	5	13	0

TOBAGO, 6d. ochre, CC.	3	10	0
TUSCANY, 60cr. red, slightly rubbed ...	7	0	0
UNITED STATES (1856), 90c. blue* ...	3	15	0
ditto, 90c., with grill*	4	10	0
VIRGIN ISLANDS, 1/- crimson, single line*	4	15	0
WURTEMBURG, 70k. violet*	3	12	0
70k. rose-lilac*	3	16	0

February 17th and 18th, 1896.

GREAT BRITAIN, 2/- red-brown ...	3	3	0
INDIA, Service Prov., 4a	3	5	0
NOVA SCOTIA, 1/-	19	0	0
NEVIS, 1/- green*	3	7	6
ditto, 6d. green*	8	10	0
ST. LUCIA, 4d. blue*	3	5	0
TOBAGO, 6d. ochre, CC.	4	4	0
TRINIDAD, 1d. blue, litho.	4	10	0

MESSRS. VENTOM, BULL & COOPER,

January 30th and 31st, 1896.

CEYLON, 8d. brown, imperf.	8	0	0
INDIA, 8a, *Service* ... £8 and	9	0	0
LABUAN, 12c. carmine, CA· sideways*	3	15	0
MAURITIUS, *Post Paid*, 2d. deep blue, earliest, fine margins, penmark ...	31	10	0
Large Fillet, 2d. blue, fine margins..	31	0	0
NAPLES, ½t., arms, slight damage, on entire with a common	11	0	0
½t. cross, £3 8s.; on entire	3	15	0
NATAL, *first issue*, 1/- buff	4	0	0
NEWFOUNDLAND, 1/- orange, fine margins, bottom margin torn	18	0	0
1/- carmine, fine but cracked in corner	10	10	0
NEW SOUTH WALES, *Laureated*, 3d. green, wmk. 2	18	0	0
5d. green, imperf.	30	0	0
NEW ZEALAND, 6d. brown, thick paper, serrated	6	0	0
PARMA, 5c. yellow*	4	4	0
SERVIA, *first issue*, 2p. green on rose (error), fine but slightly cut* ...	9	17	6
TASMANIA, 1d. dull carmine, star* ...	5	5	0
TUSCANY, 2 soldi brick-red	5	2	6
VICTORIA, 10d. grey*	3	10	0
5/- blue on yellow	7	10	0

February 11th and 12th, 1896.

LUBECK, 2½sch. brown (error) ...	6	0	0
GREAT BRITAIN, *V.R.** no gum ...	6	6	0
ditto, 9d. brown, hair line	3	10	0
ditto, 1d. brown-lilac, orbs	3	10	0
NAPLES, ½ tornese blue cross* ...	4	8	0
BRITISH GUIANA (1851), 1c. black ...	3	10	0
CANADA, 7½d, green*	10	10	0
ditto, 10d. blue*	6	15	0
ditto, 6d. purple-black*	8	15	0
NEWFOUNDLAND, 4d. carmine-red ...	3	0	0
UNITED STATES (1857), 90c. blue* ...	4	4	0
NEW SOUTH WALES, *Sydney View*, plate II, 2d. deep blue, horizontal pair	8	10	0
VICTORIA, 5/- blue on yellow	4	0	0
WESTERN AUSTRALIA, *first issue*, 2d. brown on red, roul.*	20	10	0
ditto, *first issue*, 6d. bronze, roul.*...	7	15	0
ditto, *first issue*, 1/- brown, roul.* ...	8	0	0
BARBADOS, 1d. on half 5/-	3	2	6
MONTSERRAT, 4d. blue, CA., torn ...	3	12	6
NEVIS, 4d. orange, perf. 15	3	3	0
ST. LUCIA, 1/- black and orange* ...	3	10	0
ditto (1885), 6d. lilac*	3	15	0
ditto, 1/- red brown	4	0	0
ST. VINCENT, 1d. on half 6d. £3 10s. and	4	0	0
ditto, 4d. on 1/- vermilion	7	7	0
VIRGIN ISLANDS. 6d. rose, perf. 15 ...	5	15	0
ditto, 1/- crimson, single line border..	3	12	6

TO CORRESPONDENTS.

Editorial Communications.

Articles of special interest will be paid for. MS. dealing with particular points in an exhaustive manner will be most welcome. As we wish to arrange matter in advance, we shall be glad to hear from Specialists who are open to write up their special countries.

All communications on Editorial matters should be addressed to the Editor, Mr. EDWARD J. NANKIVELL, 28, Birdhurst Rise, Croydon. Letters enclosing valuables should be registered.

New Issues.

The earliest information as to New Issues will be much appreciated by us, and will be duly credited to the Correspondent, or firm, sending it. Our foreign Correspondents can materially help us in this direction. When possible a specimen should accompany the information, which must be addressed to the Editor, as above.

Exchanges.

We shall be glad to exchange two copies with each of our leading contemporaries; one copy should be posted to our publishers and the other to the Editorial address, as above.

Subscriptions.

THE PHILATELIC RECORD AND STAMP NEWS will be sent post free to any subscriber at home or abroad, on receipt of 3s. Subscribers' remittances should be sent to the Publishers, Messrs. BUHL & Co., LIMITED, 11, Queen Victoria Street, London, England.

Replies to Queries.

F. J. D.—All reprints with forged postmarks.

H. C. A.—Your 3d. Sydney is genuine; value about 25/-. The 1½d. English are all plate 1.

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Letters, Enquiries, and Remittances connected with the Advertisement pages should be addressed to Mr. E. J. NANKIVELL, 28, Birdhurst Rise, Croydon. Advertisements must be received not later than the 15th of the month for publication in the next issue.

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THE

PHILATELIC RECORD

and Stamp News.

MARCH, 1896.

Editorial Notes.

STILL they come—subscriptions galore and kindly congratulations in abundance, with, here and there, a flavour of criticism. The said criticism is mostly devoted to our cover. Our first cover took such fast hold on the affections of some of our friends that they have somewhat rigorously resented the change to our second, and we issue our third with fear and trembling. Others, again, clamoured for a change from the pulpy, easily soiled first cover. Our mission, of course, is to please all and sundry. And we, therefore, hope that the still further expense incurred in the excellent cover now adopted will gain for us immediate admission to the undying affections of both parties. It must be remembered, so far as the present helmsman is concerned, that though the change may have been long under consideration, he had precious little time to settle his plans, hence the experimental stages through which we have passed. Now, having sown our wild oats, we will endeavour to settle down to the work of providing a generous philatelic bill of fare.

Philatelic Geography.

Mr. J. R. F. TURNER, of Oxford, in some "West Indian Notes" which he has been contributing to the *Bazaar Philatelists' Supplement*, included the Falkland Islands in the West Indian group. Philatelists cleaned up their spectacles and got upon their hind legs for a closer look. There was no mistake about it: this learned collector, hailing from classic Oxford, had got rocky on his geography. So a collector approached the Editor for an explanation, and Mr. Turner replies to his questioner as follows:—

It is quite obvious that the writer cannot be a specialist in West Indians. Treated geographically, the Falkland Islands undoubtedly do not come within the sphere of the West Indies; but treated philatellically, they have always, as far as my recollection carries me, been placed, for the sake of convenience, in the West Indian group. In support of this statement I need only add that the London Society's exhaustive work on the stamps of the West Indies includes those of the Falkland Isles. If the writer who calls my remarks into question is not a philatellist I can readily understand the error into which he has fallen. If, on the other hand, he poses as a philatelist, it is clear that his philatelic knowledge must be of a limited character.

This reply is a bit rough. To tell a man that his education has been sadly neglected because he does not recognise the fact that an island may, geographically, belong to one continent, and philatelically, to quite another, and, further, to quote a published work of the Philatelic Society of London in support of such a curious assertion, is, to say the least, most refreshing. Mr. Turner says the London Society has included the Falkland Islands in its West Indian book. It has done nothing of the sort. If Mr. Turner will refer to the work in question, as he should have done before he wrote such a ridiculous reply to his questioner, he will see that the title is thus set forth—the italics are ours:—"The Postage Stamps, Envelopes, Wrappers, Postcards, and Telegraph Stamps of the British Colonies in the West Indies, *together with British Honduras and the Colonies of South America*." Popularly, it is true, the work is known as the "West Indian book," but it is more than that, as clearly explained in the title. It affords, in fact, no excuse for Mr. Turner's classification of the Falkland Islands as "the least interesting of the entire West Indian group."

New South Wales O.S. Reprints.

A WRITER, signing himself "N. S. W. & Crown," in the *Australian Philatelist* protests strongly against the manner in which we have seen fit in this country to condemn the O.S. cancelled reprints. Mr. Castle is told that he is "very intemperate" in styling the business a "barefaced swindle," and, of course, Major Evans ought to know better than to regard such an honest transaction as a piece of "official rascality."

In our estimation those terms are the mildest which could be used to fairly represent the opinions of collectors in this country. It is, therefore, really amusing to learn now, on the authority of "N. S. W. & Crown," that the transaction was "a perfectly honest endeavour to gratify the *expressed wishes* of a very large section of the stamp collecting community." This extraordinary statement is followed up by an equally extraordinary editorial, in which the manufacture and sale of the cancelled reprints is justified on the curious ground that people "have a perfect right to do what they will with their own property." On such a dictum we should be justified in cleaning any used stamps we may possess and selling them as unused specimens.

Booming New Issues.

SOME good souls have imagined that because we have had the hardihood to condemn some of the tactics adopted in the booming of new issues, that we are, therefore, opposed to the collection of new issues. One writer in *Pearson's Weekly* suggests that the leading Philatelic journals are so much in the hands of dealers in the older issues that they naturally oppose the new. Such a statement is altogether uncalled for, and is obviously made by one who is utterly unacquainted with the facts. The *Monthly Journal* is published by the firm of Stanley Gibbons, Ltd., and Major Evans, as the Editor, has more than once stated that he has an entirely free hand. Again, the editorship of the *Record* has been traditionally untrammelled, so much so that the proprietors do not even trouble themselves to see the proofs. The *London Philatelist*, it is true, is edited by a devotee to the older issues, but it is the official organ of the Philatelic Society of London, and, therefore, cannot be said to represent dealers in old issues.

But let us define our own position. We have said that we are vigorously opposed to the booming of rubbish, but we are quite as vigorously opposed to the idiotic craze for condemning new issues as a whole, because, forsooth, a few weeds creep in here and there. New issues, so long as they are the honest outcome of genuine postal needs, by the very virtue of their novelty,

are intensely interesting. That the antique should prefer the antique is natural enough, but if the younger generation of collectors is to be encouraged we must look to new issues to keep up their interest.

Some people seem to think that the S.S.S.S. was established to make a clean sweep of all such new issues. It was established to do nothing of the sort. As a matter of fact, it was started in the interest of new issues. Its object is to put an end to speculative issues, in other words to compel all stamp-issuing countries to confine their attentions to genuine postal needs. And, with this one reservation of unrelenting opposition to speculative stamps, we shall do our best to generate and increase the interest which is taken in current issues. The continual harping on record prices for great rarities, of towering prices for great collections, of hair-splitting minor varieties, the publication of catalogues exclusively in the interest of the specialist, and the utter neglect of young collectors, are working incalculable harm to stamp collecting. So much so that we hail with infinite satisfaction this new movement in favour of current issues. If it be kept free from the ineffable rubbish that now and again will sneak into the market, it cannot fail to deepen the hold of our hobby on the rising generation.

The Commemorative Stamp.

WHAT are we to do with the Commemorative Stamp? The S.S.S.S. shows a disposition to condemn all commemorative stamps, and such a condemnation would probably err, if it erred at all, in the right direction. Unfortunately there are obstacles in this rough and ready method of dealing with these parasites. It is conceivable that a commemorative issue may be an honest one, and that it may be made a permanent issue. In such a case it would be unwise, and probably futile, to condemn it. Some members of the Postal Union have shown a very laudable disposition to get the next Congress to place its ban on all commemorative stamps, and to bar them from circulation between countries in the Postal Union. If such a bar were placed on the issue of commemorative stamps the course of the philatelist would be as clear as noonday. At present the S.S.S.S. is perfectly justified in condemning all stamps limited either in quantity or in the duration of their issue. But it is difficult to place an equal condemnation upon stamps placed on general and unrestricted sale, even though they be heralded as commemorative. The problem needs careful consideration, in order to secure a solution which shall command respect and support. It is one thing to condemn an issue; it is quite another thing to give effect to that condemnation.

Lond. Phil. Soc. Increased Entrance Fee.

COMMENCING with the 1st of April—omnious date—the entrance fee for membership in the Philatelic Society of London will be increased from one guinea to two guineas. The premier Society has heavy calls upon its exchequer, and the extra funds thus provided will no doubt be a welcome addition to its available revenue. The extra imposition, it is believed, will be no bar to the infusion of new blood, without which most Societies have a tendency to lapse into a more or less moribund condition. The class of members regarded as "desirable" by the Philatelic *élite* will no doubt prefer to pay two guineas.

The Society's measure of a collector's suitability for election is that of a first-class London club, and, inasmuch as most first London clubs insist upon an entrance fee of from five to twenty guineas, the new entrance fee to the salon of the Philatelic Society of London must, we suppose, be regarded as being cheap at the price. Another gain which may be fairly credited to a substantial entrance fee is the probability that members will be very careful,

by the regular payment of their subscriptions, to steer clear of the risk of having to pay that entrance fee a second time for re-instatement.

Clipperton Island Rubbish.

In its second circular, dated 25th July, 1895, the Society for the Suppression of Speculative Stamps set its ban upon labels bearing the name of Clipperton Island. The reference was as follows:—

6. Clipperton Island. A set of stamps bearing this name, has lately been distributed (anonymously) among the London dealers; the specimens are obliterated by a hand stamp, with the name of a firm in San Francisco. Clipperton is off the western coast, and is a part of the United States; so that even if these stamps are not absolutely illegal and bogus, they are at any rate either speculative or unnecessary, or both. Under these circumstances, collectors and dealers are warned to beware of them.

Amongst the journals which joined in the exposure of this rubbish was the *American Journal of Philately*, the leading American Philatelic Journal. Subsequently the Scott Stamp & Coin Co., in their Catalogue listed this rubbish under the head of "Fraudulent Issues." Upon this they received the following letter which was addressed to dealers in San Francisco, who were selling their catalogue:—

San Francisco, *January 14th*, 1896.

Dear Sirs: My attention has been called to your Standard Postage Catalogue, 56th edition, in which you refer on page 617 to Clipperton Island Stamps under "*fraudulent issues.*" Since my name is connected with these stamps, I strongly protest against this expression!

Under date of April 4th 1895, at a meeting of the Board of Directors of the Oceanic Phosphate Company, the legal owners of Clipperton Island and its Guano deposits, situated about 110° W 10° N. in the Pacific, I was authorised to issue a set of stamps, illustrating features of Clipperton Island. These stamps were intended for local use between Clipperton Island and San Francisco, and as an advertisement for the products of Clipperton Island only. Since I do not offer, and never did offer, these stamps for sale to stamp collectors or dealers, I fail to see with what authority you claim "*fraud.*"

I request you to withdraw the Clipperton Island stamps from the space "Fraudulent Issues," or otherwise bear the consequences.

Very respectfully, W. Frese.

In this letter it will be noted that Mr. W. Frese "states that he does not offer, and never did offer, these stamps for sale to stamp collectors or stamp dealers." Here he has over-reached himself, for Messrs. Whitfield King & Co. received from Messrs. Frese & Co. a letter distinctly offering unused sets at face value, and furthermore stating that a limited number of sets of cancelled stamps could be supplied at a rebate of 25 per cent. on face value. Apparently the impudence of these San Francisco speculators knows no limit.

Alsace-Lorraine

[*Read before the Manchester Philatelic Society.*]

By G. B. DUERST.

(*Continued from page* 40.)

THE manner of manufacture of these stamps is very interesting, and deserves to be fully explained, especially as it contains the key for the different types, which can be found by examining the relative positions of the figures and letters.

To begin with, the stamps were required very urgently, a competition for a design was therefore out of the question. Material that was handy had to do duty, and yet that material had to be of such a nature as to render imitation difficult. The simpler the design the quicker the result, yet so intricate and difficult as to baffle the imitator. In order to attain the latter object, it was decided to make use of the same engraved plate that had done service in providing the stamps of the North German Confederation with the burelé network. This network was printed in acetate of lead, and is therefore invisible, but it can be made visible by chemical means. On the Alsace-Lorraine stamps this network, however, was printed in colours, according to the different values, and was considered a sufficient guarantee to frustrate the designs of any forger. It speaks well for the printers, that in spite of the great hurry, no stamps have been found printed on the wrong network, seeing that the network was printed first and the design by a second operation; nor have any been found with the network printed on one side, and the design on the other. This network finishes with the stamps at the top and the bottom of the sheet. At the sides, however, it overlaps the stamps by about 5 mm. The margin on the left and the right of the sheets is therefore not quite white.

The design was set up by hand in type letters, figures, and thick lines, 150 times, to arrive at the size of the sheets, which contain 150 stamps in 15 rows of 10 stamps. The letters are not of an uniform size, some are a trifle shorter, others longer; this difference is hardly perceptible to the naked eye, but when thrown on the screen and magnified about 2500 times, it can be very easily discerned. What, however, can be seen with the eye is the difference in the finishing strokes of the "E's and T's"—some end sharp and fine, others are shorter and blunt. Slight differences exist also in the figures; for instance, the curve of the "5" ends as a rule in a direct line with the upper downstroke, but sometimes there is a slight deviation, and continuation lines would intersect each other instead of running into one another. The surrounding lines are $1\frac{3}{4}$ mm. in width, but of varying lengths, as they do not meet in the corners. On one side of the stamp they form complete corners, on the other side there are slight spaces at top or bottom showing that the right hand border must have been shorter than the one on the left hand side.

In addition to all these slight differences it is quite possible that several type-setters were employed to set up one plate. Of course this was done to expedite matters, but did not at all contribute to the uniformity of the stamps. Considering the difficulty one type-setter has of spacing 150 times exactly alike, *i.e.* leaving always exactly the same distance between the borders and the first and last letters, how much more so would it be with several type-setters.

Then also the slightest difference in the width of these low pieces, as they are called, would throw the commencement of a word more to the left or to the

right, and in consequence the relative position of the letters and the figures would be altered. Thus, to give an illustration, take the 20 centimes value: supposing the figures "20" being in two stamps in the identical space, and the beginning of the "2" to be in one stamp over the "C" of the word centimes, the slightest deviation in the width of the low pieces, used to fill in the space between the border and the "C" would bring the "C" nearer the border, and in consequence as the "E" would follow the "C" closely up, the beginning of the "2" would be over the "E" and not over the "C." The second down stroke of the "1" in "10" and the "O" in "POSTES" also explains fully my meaning. In this value there are three very distinct varieties. In the first, a continuation of the second downstroke of the "1" would run through the centre of the "O"; in the second, through the right of the "O"; and in the third, between the "O" and the "S." Furthermore, the letters do not seem to be of uniform width, as we find considerable variations in the length of the words. Thus, the word "POSTES" varies from 11½ to 12¾ mm. in length. The distance of the "P" from the margin varies from 3 to 3½ mm., the distance of the "C" in centimes, from the border, is from 1¾ to 2¼ mm. In consequence of this the "S" at the end of "POSTES" and of "CENTIMES" varies also. This is caused by not having used low pieces of a uniform width. All the letters are not always on the same line—some seem to have dropped. In fact, I should not be surprised if every stamp on the sheet were different.

Having explained the mode of making the plates, I will describe the process of printing. The engraved plate for the network was ready for printing. The type-set matter was stereotyped, *i.e.*, a cast was taken in plaster of Paris, this cast was then filled with type-metal, and this, when set, could be used for printing; of course, such plates could not last long, and in order to make them more durable, they were electrotyped, *i.e.*, an uniform layer of copper is electrically deposited on the soft type-metal. This process can now be done in about 6 hours, but at the time we speak of, it took about 70 hours. Sometimes, the stamps were printed with the type-metal plates, and such stamps can be distinguished by the thicker printing; such plates did not, however, last long, and new ones had to be prepared, which, of course, show all the differences. There is no doubt that even a few new plates were set up, as we find some curious letters in later printings, which do not exist in the early issues.

The network was first printed with the engraved plate, the design was afterwards printed in a second operation. If the sheets provided with the network were put into the printing machine for the second operation the wrong way up, the design would be on reversed net. No attention seems to have been given to this, as the official records do not mention the two kinds at all. The same indifference is observable in the stamps of the North German Confederation, where the burelé pattern or network is very often found reversed, though, being invisible, has escaped the keen eye of the collector.

The foregoing explanation, concerning the printing, shows clearly that collectors can find considerable numbers of varieties, but, at the same time, I should advise them not to collect more than three principal varieties for each value. These are easily detected, and will repay anyone for the trouble of looking for them. Furthermore, I consider stamps with letters that have dropped down collectable, being in fact a clear proof of their manner of manufacture.

On the evening of January 28th, 1871, after the capitulation of all the forts round Paris, an armistice was concluded for three weeks, which was prolonged until February 24th, noon, and on the 26th of this month the preliminaries of peace were signed. These events caused the followlng notices to be published in the Official Gazette:

CORRESPONDENCE WITH PARIS.

BERLIN, *January* 31*st*. 1871.

Ordinary open letters for Paris will be received from this date at the same rates that were in force before the war.

Closed letters will not be forwarded.

On the 6th of February, 1871, we find the additional notice :—

According to Section 15 of the Armistice of Jan. 28th, only open and not registered letters can be forwarded to Paris.

On the 14th February, 1871, however, we find the following :—

To and from Paris ordinary closed letters will be forwarded at the same rates that were in force before the outbreak of hostilities. Registered letters will not yet be forwarded.

The next day, however, February 15th, 1871, brought the notice, that registered letters, as well as letters with declaration of value, can now be sent to Paris at the old rates, *i.e.*, the rates in force between Prussia and France before the outbreak of the war.

At last, on March 24th, 1871, we come to the final decree, as follows :—

In consequence of an agreement with the Postal Administration of France, all the post-offices on French soil that have been worked by the German Postal Administration will be handed over to the French Postal Administration—of course with the exception of the offices in the ceded provinces. All correspondence has in consequence to be franked according to rates in force before the outbreak of the war.

This decree finally disposes of the use of these stamps on French soil. In the ceded provinces of Alsace and Lorraine, however, with the addition of the following places: Belfort, Giromagny, Welsch Kappeln, Cirey, and Moncel-sur-Seille, which five places were returned to France before July, the stamps under discussion were in use until the 31st of December, 1871.

It is a very curious fact that so few stamps can be found with the obliteration, 1870. To enable me to compile this paper I have looked through a considerable quantity, and was highly astonished at the small proportion of 1870 obliterations.

Besides this Occupation Postal Service for the inhabitants, the Army, or rather every division, had its accompaniment of Military postal officials, commonly known under the name of Fieldpost service. This service forwarded all letters, parcels, newspapers, &c., from the soldiers free of charge, and according to the official figures given for a short period, must have done a great deal of work, as these figures amount to over 400,000 missives per day. We must also not forget that this service was carried on under great difficulties ; the final destination of letters, &c., could very often only be reached by means of carts or on horse-back through the centre of a hostile population.

This Fieldpost service remained in use for the German troops, while they still held possession of French territory, until each succeeding instalment of the war indemnity freed province after province, and when the last German soldier left the French soil, this service ceased.

OBLITERATIONS.

These can be divided into four classes as follows :—

I. Obliterated with round dies, bearing the name of the town from whence they are despatched—

(*a*) In Alsace-Lorraine with French names.

(*b*) „ „ „ „ German „

(*c*) „ the occupied provinces of France during the war.

II. Obliterated with the French dies (dots surrounding the number of the post office).

III. Obliterated with field-post dies.

IV. „ „ railway „

Besides these, some have been found obliterated with pen and ink, or with blue pencil, but these are more or less accidental.

I. Stamps obliterated with round dies bearing the name of the town.

As soon as the German troops occupied a town or village of any size, the German postal administration took possession of the post office for the despatch of all postal matter. The French dies bearing the name of the town in French, were, if possible, altered to the German style in all those territories, which were considered as having to be ceded to Germany at the end of the war. If no French dies were found, new dies were ordered in the style of those in vogue in the postal administration of the North German Confederation, and if the French die could not be altered a new one was prepared. in the meantime, however, the French dies were used.

Thus we find :—

Nancy and Nanzig.
Sarrebourg and Saarburg.
Strasbourg and Strassburg im Elsass.
Mulhouse and Mülhausen „ „ &c.

Of course the obliteration with French spelling is considerably rarer than the one with the German spelling, being in most cases only used for a short time.

In all the occupied territories of France outside Alsace-Lorraine, however, the French obliteration dies with the name of the town were used. The obliteration, consisting of the number of the post office, surrounded by dots, was forbidden to be used, as such a system of numbering was not in force in the North German Confederation.

A notable instance of German dies being used in a French town is Rouen, but no doubt the French dies were worn out, and the new ones were made to the German pattern.

II. Stamps obliterated with the French dot die with number of post office in centre.

Though the use of this cancellation was forbidden by the German authorities, stamps must have been obliterated with them, as they are found.

III. Stamps obliterated with fieldpost dies.

All letters from soldiers were forwarded free of charge, therefore no stamps appear on such letters, but a great quantity of private letters were handed by the smaller post offices to the fieldpost to be forwarded to the next larger post office. Such letters were obliterated by the postal officials of the fieldpost service with their own dies. Each army had separate dies with the name of the division or the army inscribed ; the dies were mostly round, but sometimes oblong. The Bavarian armies' dies were modelled on their own home dies—the well known half circle.

IV. Stamps obliterated with railway dies.

All letters posted at railway stations were, as is usual in Germany, obliterated with special dies, consisting of an oblong containing the words : *Eisenbalm Postbureau* (railway post office) underneath, which was the route the train was going, for instance, Frankfurt à/M—Nanzig, and the date and time of posting.

Great care must be observed by all collectors taking an interest in these obliterations, especially in the rarer kinds like stamps used and obliterated in towns that were not ceded to Germany. To be genuine they must always have a date before the 24th of March, 1871.

FORGERIES.

The most common of these forgeries are the so-called official reprints, which a certain Mr. Wiering, of Hamburg, got printed by a special permit of the German Postmaster-General in 1885. The original engraved plate was used again for the network, which is the reason of this net being so well executed. The design, however, had to be re-set up, and the letters, especially in the word "POSTES," are much more even in length and width than in the originals. The distance of the "P" in "Postes," from the margin, is only $2\frac{3}{4}$ m.m., the "M" in "CENTIMES" is too large, and the perforation, vertically, is too small, nearly $14\frac{1}{2}$. The colours are good, but their whole appearance is too fresh and clear.

In 1893, another forgery was announced, and was said to come from Brussels. The reversed net and the dull colours are well imitated, but the word "POSTES" measures 13 m.m. in length, and the perforation is $13\frac{1}{2}$ all round, instead of $13\frac{1}{2} \times 14$.

A very good forgery was also made in Paris. The net and the design look well, and are apt to decéive collectors at a first glance, but here also the perforated $13\frac{1}{2}$ all round condemns them. This forgery is also found obliterated.

Exchange Clubs.

By H. A. SLADE.

MOST collectors are familiar with the working of Exchange Clubs—the contribution of sheets of stamps priced on the basis of a specified catalogue, the circulation of packets to members in order that they may take what stamps they please, and the settlement of outstanding balances at stated periods.

These are the main features of the majority of Clubs, and writing as a Secretary of several years' experience, I venture to submit some remarks on the subject.

Let us consider the essentials of a model Club:—The integrity of its members, an impartial and painstaking secretary, a high average of moderately-priced sheets, satisfactory sales, speedy circulation of packets, and prompt return of sheets and squaring-up of accounts. This combination of advantages, it is evident, must commend itself to all philatelists having duplicates to dispose of, or wishing to fill up blanks in the album at a reasonable cost. Unfortunately, but inevitably, this Arcadia does not always exist. There is the worrying member, who queries everything; the careless member, who omits to initial or enter his takings, and who fails to notify to the secretary the despatch of packets; the untidy member, who leaves the sheets in dire confusion, and who makes formidable blotches with his pen or name-stamp. These, and others, have to be dealt with by the secretary in his discretion. He should, however, never lose sight of the fact that a soft answer turneth away wrath, and that it is an impossible task to endeavour to give satisfaction to everybody. A more serious matter is that black sheep have gained entrance into Clubs in spite of precautions and references, and have sowed trouble and distrust broadcast, as many a secretary can bear witness. But the changing of stamps, tardiness of payments, and other reprehensible practices indulged in by these gentry, have been minimised of late, principally owing to the exertions of the Stamp Exchange Protection Society. This body has done and is doing much useful work, which I do not think has been sufficiently recognised by

the general body of collectors. Searching enquiries are made, black lists are drawn up, secretaries are warned against undesirable members, and Clubs of doubtful antecedents are not recommended.

As members placed first on the list enjoy the privilege of snapping up the bargains and the best specimens, priority is much coveted, and the question arises how should these positions be allotted? If the order of places be determined by the value of sheets, it is obvious that long purses and the possession of rare duplicates will always carry the day, and that the modest beginner will be permanently relegated to the rear. This creates a certain amount of dissatisfaction and lack of interest in the Club, or engenders the temptation to overprice contributions in order to get a higher place. Balloting for the first and second places, and arranging an ascending scale for the others, seems open to little objection. In the "Suburban," my procedure has been to make up four packets every month—two A's containing sheets valued at not less than £5 each, and two B's with sheets under that amount. The A's, on their return, are circulated among contributors to the B's who have notified their wish to see them. This involves a longer period before sheets can be returned to their owners, but gives every member an opportunity of seeing good selections.

With regard to the objections raised in some quarters against the inclusion of dealers as members, much may be said on both sides. Doubtless the professional eye is swift to light on anything worth taking; but this applies also in little less degree to the great majority of members, amateur or otherwise. My experience teaches that a short course of Exchange Clubs produces a fairly accurate knowledge of the market quotations of stamps, and that half catalogue prices for fair copies (especially in the case of the rarer varieties) are seldom met with. Were it not so, there would be no lack of buyers indeed, but few sales would be effected, as nothing but rubbish would be contributed. For this reason it is necessary to allow discretionary powers as regards prices. It seems difficult to draw a hard and fast line between those who do and those who do not purchase stamps for profit, for many dealers are ardent specialists who take pride in their collections, while few amateurs disdain to turn over the nimble sixpence when a favourable deal presents itself. Besides, one of the advantages claimed for the collection of stamps is that—from a mercenary point of view—it is a good investment, and easy of realisation. This, to some extent, explains the comparative failure of Clubs that are conducted on lines of exchange pure and simple—no cash settlements being allowed. The proposal for putting dealers last on the list seems so partial a measure that it would properly meet with strong opposition. Either exclude the trading element *in toto*, or accord the privileges enjoyed by the other members. They (the dealers) generally contribute good sheets, and were their stamps not priced moderately, few would be taken, whereas the opposite more often prevails.

As the popularity of a Club greatly depends on the value of its packets (some now total well over £1000 nett, and are continually increasing) it seems very difficult to confine membership solely to *bonâ fide* non-dealing amateurs. Surely their duplicates do not often run into Sydney views, Post Paid Mauritius, and the like? They must buy loose stamps or collections somewhere, and it is not likely they would offer them on Club sheets at a loss.

Allowing for Sunday as a *dies non*, and for unavoidable delays in circulation, a packet of ordinary size, submitted to about forty members, should not take longer than three months in going its rounds. If possible, it is advisable that accounts be adjusted monthly rather than quarterly, though the Secretary, whose spare time is limited, will find this arrangement a severe tax on his leisure. Fines for delay of packets, non-payment of balances, &c., should be rigidly enforced, otherwise the regulations will tend to fall into disuse, and the Club will practically be useless.

The New French Stamp.

OPINIONS will probably differ widely as to the artistic merit of M. Grasset's design for the new French Postage Stamp, which is said to have found favour with the authorities. We give an enlarged sketch of the design, and it is only fair to say that we should wait for the actual stamp itself before we say aye or nay to the new claimant for philatelic favour. We hope it will improve upon acquaintance in postage stamp form. It is certainly strikingly novel. M. Grasset, the well-known artist was commissioned by the Minister of Commerce to send in a sample drawing, and our sketch is said to be the result of eight months of ardent toil during which the great designer recast his work twenty times over.



The design is intended to represent France bare-headed, crowned with laurels, leaning with one hand on a sheathed sword, and with the other holding the olive branch of Peace. In the background are *lictors' fasces*, crowned with the Cap of Liberty and encircled with a laurel wreath. It is to be in three tints: one dark, for line and ground; then a half tint to colour and strengthen certain parts of the composition, and lastly, in reserve, the white of the paper itself, which will light up the hands and features and give life and animation to the whole.

The *Echo de la Timbrologie* says—"In two printings the little engraving will be made perfect; one printing for the strong tint, the other for the pale. The hair which twines and gleams on the proud young head conceived by the master, is in the half-tint, which also plays on the lamellated cuirass and in the folds of the covering robe; it also serves to soften into the background the governmental emblems, which must needs be present but are not to be emphasized. In spite of the care given to the engraving and the expense of the machines and the double printing, the new stamps will cost only 24 centimes the thousand, while abroad, in the countries where recess-engraving is employed, the price is at least 50 to 75 centimes a thousand. Our stamp will not be inferior to any other, for it is a work of art, freshly inspired and executed, noble in character, and, furthermore, a true engraving, the engraving of an artist.

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College Messenger Stamps.

By H. D. Catling, B.A.

A paper read before the Cambridge University Philatelic Society.

THE system of college messenger stamps originated in 1871, when the Dean of Jesus College received permission from the Postmaster-General to make use of a form of private local letter transmission, which was not contrary to law. In 1879, the Bursar of Clare College obtained the sanction of the authorities to a more extended service, which being found a convenient and rapid method of conveying local messages, was presently adopted by the remaining colleges of the University. It was not, however, until the end of the year 1882 that the messenger stamp made its appearance, the first college in Cambridge to adopt this form of prepayment for transmission of letters and parcels being Selwyn. The idea was copied from Keble College, Oxford, where stamps had been in use since 1871. This use of stamps did not appear to have been favourably received by the colleges in general, as Queen's, which adopted them at the end of November, 1883, and St. John's about the middle of January, 1884, were alone found imitating the example set by Selwyn. The real explanation for the non-adoption of stamps by other colleges was most probably to be found in the fact that one messenger did duty for several colleges—notably in the examples of Caius, Clare, King's, and Trinity Hall, which employed a single servant for the duty, as did also Emmanuel, Sidney, and Christ's colleges—in which cases it would have been a matter of difficulty, if not of impossibility, to introduce a stamp sufficiently representative to satisfy everybody, while the arms or crest of a single college belonging to the group would have incorrectly denoted its usage. It might be thought that so large a college as Trinity would have adopted a stamp of its own. The reason it did not do so was because a fee was charged for attendance at this college, which included the services of a messenger. Mr. Catling proceeded to describe the various college stamps, beginning with that of Selwyn in 1882. Of these there were six different examples. The printing was not always in the same colour, and the paper was not of uniform thickness or quality, thus showing that the printers did not take the care necessary in the case of Government issues. Those of Queen's were by far the scarcest of the college stamps, and there were no varieties of these that he had discovered. There were, however, several varieties in the stamps of St. John's, and there were also a number of forgeries of the stamps of this college. How these might be detected was minutely explained. Eventually the Post-office authorities interfered for the suppression of the system, which they claimed to be illegal, and a considerable amount of correspondence took place on the subject. The postal authorities pointed out that what was being done was not a casual delivery, but a systematic private post. The first communication from the Postmaster-General was received by the Master of Selwyn on November 14, 1885, and after prolonging the controversy to the end of the October term of 1886, the authorities abandoned the system, and no more stamps were issued. To compensate for the suppression of the messenger service, the Postmaster-General offered to increase the number of Post-office deliveries, but it was pointed out that his proposed additional service would not be adequate compensation. — *From the Cambridge Independent Press.*

U.S. Official Notices.

Since July 1st, 1894, when the Bureau of Engraving and Printing assumed the manufacture of stamps, the following changes are noted :—

ORDINARY POSTAGE STAMPS.

DENOMINATION.	FACE.	COLOUR.	DATE OF ISSUE.	ON WATERMARKED PAPER AFTER—
1 cent	Franklin	Blue	October 10, 1894	April 29, 1895
2 cent	Washington	Carmine	October 5, 1894	May 2, 1895
3 cent	Jackson	Purple	September 24, 1894	October 31, 1895
4 cent	Lincoln	Velvet brown	September 11, 1894	June 5, 1895
5 cent	Grant	Light brown	September 28, 1894	July 11, 1895
6 cent	Garfield	Light maroon	July 18, 1894	August 31, 1895
8 cent	Sherman	Lilac	March 25, 1895	July 22, 1895
10 cent	Webster	Milori green	September 17, 1894	June 7, 1895
10 cent	Special delivery messenger boy.	Blue	October 10, 1894	August 16, 1895
15 cent	Clay	Deep blue	October 15, 1894	September 10, 1895
50 cent	Jefferson	Orange	November 1, 1894	November 9, 1895
$1.00	Perry	Black	November 15, 1894	August 12, 1895
$2.00	Madison	Sapphire blue	December 10, 1894	August 13, 1895
$5.00	Marshall	Gray green	December 10, 1894	August 16, 1895

Prior to the above dates there were no ornaments in the upper corners of the stamp. There was a 30-cent and a 90-cent which were supplanted by the 50-cent and one dollar, and there has been no dollar stamps of this series.

POSTAGE-DUE STAMPS.

DENOMINATION.	DATE OF ISSUE.	ON WATERMARKED PAPER AFTER—
1 cent	August 14, 1894	August 29, 1895
2 cent	July 20, 1894	September 14, 1895
3 cent	April 27, 1895	October 30, 1895
5 cent	April 27, 1895	October 15, 1895
10 cent	September 24, 1894	September 14, 1895
30 cent	April 27, 1895	.....
50 cent	April 27, 1895	.....

The old stamps were 1 by $\frac{13}{16}$ inch. Their successors, mentioned above, are $\frac{7}{8}$ by $\frac{13}{16}$ of an inch. The colour is brown, near the shade of the original stamp, and the design is considerably changed, though the main feature—large numerals to represent their value—is retained.

NEWSPAPER AND PERIODICAL STAMPS.

DENOMINATION.	COLOUR.	FIGURE.	ON WATERMARKED PAPER AFTER—
1 cent	Black	America	January 11, 1896
2 cent	Black	America	November 21, 1895
5 cent	Black	America	.....
10 cent	Black	America	September 13, 1895
25 cent	Pink	Astræa	October 11, 1895
50 cent	Pink	Astræa	September 19, 1895
$2.00	Orange	Victory	.....
$5 00	Blue	Clio	January 16, 1896
$10.00	Green	Vesta	.....
$20.00	Slate	Peace	January 27, 1896
$50.00	Carmine	Commerce	.....
$100.00	Purple	Indian	January 23, 1896

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By H. D. Catling, B.A.

A paper read before the Cambridge University Philatelic Society.

THE system of college messenger stamps originated in 1871, when the Dean of Jesus College received permission from the Postmaster-General to make use of a form of private local letter transmission, which was not contrary to law. In 1879, the Bursar of Clare College obtained the sanction of the authorities to a more extended service, which being found a convenient and rapid method of conveying local messages, was presently adopted by the remaining colleges of the University. It was not, however, until the end of the year 1882 that the messenger stamp made its appearance, the first college in Cambridge to adopt this form of prepayment for transmission of letters and parcels being Selwyn. The idea was copied from Keble College, Oxford, where stamps had been in use since 1871. This use of stamps did not appear to have been favourably received by the colleges in general, as Queen's, which adopted them at the end of November, 1883, and St. John's about the middle of January, 1884, were alone found imitating the example set by Selwyn. The real explanation for the non-adoption of stamps by other colleges was most probably to be found in the fact that one messenger did duty for several colleges—notably in the examples of Caius, Clare, King's, and Trinity Hall, which employed a single servant for the duty, as did also Emmanuel, Sidney, and Christ's colleges—in which cases it would have been a matter of difficulty, if not of impossibility, to introduce a stamp sufficiently representative to satisfy everybody, while the arms or crest of a single college belonging to the group would have incorrectly denoted its usage. It might be thought that so large a college as Trinity would have adopted a stamp of its own. The reason it did not do so was because a fee was charged for attendance at this college, which included the services of a messenger. Mr. Catling proceeded to describe the various college stamps, beginning with that of Selwyn in 1882. Of these there were six different examples. The printing was not always in the same colour, and the paper was not of uniform thickness or quality, thus showing that the printers did not take the care necessary in the case of Government issues. Those of Queen's were by far the scarcest of the college stamps, and there were no varieties of these that he had discovered. There were, however, several varieties in the stamps of St. John's, and there were also a number of forgeries of the stamps of this college. How these might be detected was minutely explained. Eventually the Post-office authorities interfered for the suppression of the system, which they claimed to be illegal, and a considerable amount of correspondence took place on the subject. The postal authorities pointed out that what was being done was not a casual delivery, but a systematic private post. The first communication from the Postmaster-General was received by the Master of Selwyn on November 14, 1885, and after prolonging the controversy to the end of the October term of 1886, the authorities abandoned the system, and no more stamps were issued. To compensate for the suppression of the messenger service, the Postmaster-General offered to increase the number of Post-office deliveries, but it was pointed out that his proposed additional service would not be adequate compensation. — *From the Cambridge Independent Press.*

U.S. Official Notices.

Since July 1st, 1894, when the Bureau of Engraving and Printing assumed the manufacture of stamps, the following changes are noted :—

ORDINARY POSTAGE STAMPS.

DENOMINATION.	FACE.	COLOUR.	DATE OF ISSUE.	ON WATERMARKED PAPER AFTER—
1 cent	Franklin	Blue	October 10, 1894	April 29, 1895
2 cent	Washington	Carmine	October 5, 1894	May 2, 1895
3 cent	Jackson	Purple	September 24, 1894	October 31, 1895
4 cent	Lincoln	Velvet brown	September 11, 1894	June 5, 1895
5 cent	Grant	Light brown	September 28, 1894	July 11, 1895
6 cent	Garfield	Light maroon	July 18, 1894	August 31, 1895
8 cent	Sherman	Lilac	March 25, 1895	July 22, 1895
10 cent	Webster	Milori green	September 17, 1894	June 7, 1895
10 cent	Special delivery messenger boy.	Blue	October 10, 1894	August 16, 1895
15 cent	Clay	Deep blue	October 15, 1894	September 10, 1895
50 cent	Jefferson	Orange	November 1, 1894	November 9, 1895
$1.00	Perry	Black	November 15, 1894	August 12, 1895
$2.00	Madison	Sapphire blue	December 10, 1894	August 13, 1895
$5.00	Marshall	Gray green	December 10, 1894	August 16, 1895

Prior to the above dates there were no ornaments in the upper corners of the stamp. There was a 30-cent and a 90-cent which were supplanted by the 50-cent and one dollar, and there has been no dollar stamps of this series.

POSTAGE-DUE STAMPS.

DENOMINATION.	DATE OF ISSUE.	ON WATERMARKED PAPER AFTER—
1 cent	August 14, 1894	August 29, 1895
2 cent	July 20, 1894	September 14, 1895
3 cent	April 27, 1895	October 30, 1895
5 cent	April 27, 1895	October 15, 1895
10 cent	September 24, 1894	September 14, 1895
30 cent	April 27, 1895	.....
50 cent	April 27, 1895	.....

The old stamps were 1 by $\frac{13}{16}$ inch. Their successors, mentioned above, are $\frac{7}{8}$ by $\frac{21}{32}$ of an inch. The colour is brown, near the shade of the original stamp, and the design is considerably changed, though the main feature—large numerals to represent their value—is retained.

NEWSPAPER AND PERIODICAL STAMPS.

DENOMINATION.	COLOUR.	FIGURE.	ON WATERMARKED PAPER AFTER—
1 cent	Black	America	January 11, 1896
2 cent	Black	America	November 21, 1895
5 cent	Black	America	.....
10 cent	Black	America	September 13, 1895
25 cent	Pink	Astræa	October 11, 1895
50 cent	Pink	Astræa	September 19, 1895
$2.00	Orange	Victory	.....
$5 00	Blue	Clio	January 16, 1896
$10.00	Green	Vesta	.....
$20.00	Slate	Peace	January 27, 1896
$50.00	Carmine	Commerce	.....
$100.00	Purple	Indian	January 23, 1896

The denominations of these stamps from 1 to 10 cents, inclusive, are of the same design. The numerals in the upper corners are equal in size in the 1, 2 and 5-cent stamps, while those in the 10-cent stamp are condensed so as to fill the same space that is given to the others, besides being slightly different in style. Those in the 1 and 5-cent denominations are shaded dark on the lower half; those of the 2 and 10-cent stamps are white-faced. All these stamps bear an engraving of the statue of America, by Crawford, which surmounts the dome of the Capitol at Washington, the same subject as that on the lower denominations of the old series, except that the presentation is in full face instead of three-quarters. The words "U. S. Postage" at the top of the stamps are in white block letters upon an arched line, and the words "Newspapers" on the left and "Periodicals" on the right are in vertical lines. The denominations at the bottom are in white Roman letters, and there is a foliate ornamentation in the lower corners.

The upper border line of the 25 and 50 cent stamps is broken by two indentations, separating that border into three equal parts, and the side inscriptions follow a curved line upon a scroll. The dimensions of the stamps below the $2 denominations are $\frac{27}{32}$ by $1\frac{3}{8}$ inches.

The remaining denominations, from $2 to $100, are of the same size as the stamps of the retired series—that is to say, $\frac{15}{16}$ by $1\frac{3}{8}$ inches.

This new series was first issued February 1st, 1895.

The number of ordinary postage stamps of the Bureau design that have been issued on unwatermarked paper is as follows:—

1 cent,	404,168,300	10 cent,	12,263,180
2 cent,	1,271,048,700	15 cent,	1,583,920
3 cent,	20,214,300	50 cent,	175,330
4 cent,	16,718,150	$1.00,	35,046
5 cent,	30,688,840	$2.00,	10,027
6 cent,	5,120,800	$5.00,	6,251
8 cent,	2,426,100	10 cent Special Delivery	3,506,500

Sales of Newspaper and Periodical and Postage-Due Stamps.

Postmasters throughout the country are being solicited to sell Postage-Due Stamps and Newspaper and Periodical Stamps, and are, it is regretted, complying with such request, in spite of the law and the rules of the Department. "Newspaper and periodical stamps are NEVER TO BE SOLD to any person nor loaned to other postmasters. Their only proper use is to be affixed and immediately cancelled on the stub of each receipt given for second-class matter accepted for mailing." The law also provides (Section 513, P. L. and R.): "That the postage-due stamps shall in NO CASE BE SOLD by postmasters, or received by them in prepayment of postage." In many cases, when discovered in the practice of selling these stamps, they plead ignorance of the restrictions of the Department in this respect, and the Department is daily being solicited for information on subjects that are fully treated of in the Regulations, the POSTAL GUIDE and circulars, which are readily accessible. The excuse, therefore, of ignorance on these points will not be entertained, and the postmaster will not be relieved of any loss that he may sustain by his negligence.

Every postmaster is enjoined to read the Postal Laws and Regulations through carefully, and all instructions, either in the POSTAL GUIDE or circulars, immediately upon their receipt.

Reviews.

A Catalogue for Advanced Collectors.

A Catalogue for advanced collectors of Postage Stamps, Stamped Envelopes, and Wrappers compiled, from the most recent authorities and individual research, by Henry Collin & Henry L. Colman. Part IX. Peru—Royal Mail Steam Packet Company. New York: The Scott Stamp and Coin Co., Limited.

We have received the ninth instalment of this splendid catalogue. It commences with Peru and brings the work down to the Royal Mail Steamship packet stamps. Peru covers not less than eighteen of the large quarto pages; Phlippine Islands occupy nine pages, Portugal seven pages. It also includes very full lists of Portuguese Indies, Queensland and Roumania. It is, in fact, a most interesting part. In the matter of detail it probably errs on the side of including everything. Prince Edward Island, for instance, has in full detail all the dots and broken letters which Mr. A. A. Bartlett has been nursing so carefully for years past, but many of which an inspection of the plates, now in the safe custody of the Philatelic Society of London, prove must be due to defective printing, and not to their presence on the plates themselves. The illustrations are excellently engraved, and the character of previous parts fully maintained.

Along with the part are some fourteen separate plates. Of these a plate of Tolimas of 1870, a gem of the 1865 issue of the Dominican Republic from the Tapling Collection, and five plates of early Philippines, are very fine. But we fancy an appeal to Mr. Castle for a few photographs from his grand Moldavians would have secured a better show of these rarities.

The Stamps of Great Britain.

Postage Supplement to Walter Morley's Catalogue and Price List of the Stamps of Great Britain. London: Walter Morley

Mr. Morley has revised his prices of the stamps of Great Britain, and published them up to date in the shape of a supplement to his general price list. Needless to say, the prices have not been revised in the downward direction, for the popularity of English Issues is still on the increase. Marginal Control Letters are all priced, and we note that the prices are not confined to pence or even shillings: one, indeed —1d. lilac A, with no outer line—is priced £5. Two others, the quite recent letters L and N, are distinguished by the additional variety of "watermark inverted." Truly, the collecting of English is getting to be very comprehensive.

Novelties and Discoveries.

The earliest information as to New Issues will be much appreciated by us, and will be duly credited to the correspondent, or firm, sending it. Our foreign correspondents can materially help us in this direction. When possible, a specimen should accompany the information, and be addressed to the Editor, Mr. EDWARD J. NANKIVELL, 28, *Birdhurst Rise, Croydon.*

Belgium.—Mr. W. A. Riley writes to us from Bornhem, Belgium, as follows:—

When I was in England I read in some philatelic paper (which, I cannot say) that they intended to do away with the Sunday Coupons in Belgium. So I wrote to the Belgian Minister if it was true he intended to do away with the coupons, and if he intended issuing commemorative stamps for the Brussels Exhibition of 1897, to which I received the following answer, which I give in English:—

Sir,—In reply to your letter of 12th March inst., I have the honour to inform you that there is no question af suppressing the coupon attached to the post-stamps.

A commemorative postage stamp will be issued in all probability for the International Exhibition of Brussels in 1897. It is not actually possible to say what will be the value of this stamp, or to fix the time during which it will be issued.

Please to agree, sir, with the assurance of my distinguished consideration.

Au nom du Ministre,
Le directeur Général,
P. DELARQ.

Mr. W. A. Riley,
Bornhem.

I hope the above information will prove of interest to the readers of your esteemed paper.

The *A.J.P.* says:—

Mr. J. K. Schuh has sent us the 10 centimes Postal Packet Stamp with figures of value in black. The peculiarity of this stamp is that it is printed in an ink which seems to dissolve in benzine—at least the orange colour which is in it—as the stamp which we threw into benzine in order to see its watermark had changed after an immersion of a few seconds from a brown orange to a bistre, although an immersion of several minutes in water, of the same stamp, had no effect upon it. This is the only stamp in our experience on which benzine has this effect.

British South Africa.—Mr. D. Montague Jacobs writes us from Salisbury, Rhodesia:—

I have been favoured with a view of a specimen of the new series of stamps to be issued by the British South Africa Company for use in this country. To obviate the necessity of describing this stamp, I have much pleasure in enclosing one of the 4d. value. There are six rows of ten in each row to the sheet, which has an outer line of colour outside the perforations on each sheet. The left hand margin of the sheet has a small figure 2 in a small circle, opposite the top row of stamps. I understand there is a full series of this new issue, but as the 4d. one is the only sheet yet unpacked, I am unable to give you the necessary information, but I shall do so as soon as it is in my possession, and if possible send you a set of the lower values, with full description of higher ones. These stamps are not to be placed in issue until the present issue is completely exhausted, which is not likely to be for a couple of months yet.

To this we are enabled to add that the values of the new stamps are, ½d., 1d., 2d., 3d., 4d., 6d., 8d., and 1s.; but we cannot yet give the colours of the series.



These stamps have been designed and printed by Messrs. Perkins, Bacon & Co., and compare very unfavourably with the splendid workmanship of Messrs. Bradbury, Wilkinson & Co., who formerly printed the B.S.A. stamps. We illustrate the 4d. sent us. The others vary only in colour. Apparently they are to be bi-coloured, as this 4d. is printed in blue, with finicking red dots in the neighbourhood of the figures of value. The stamps are perf. 14.

In chronicling the 2d. and 4d. of the old design on thicker paper, we should have noted that they are perf. 12½.

Bulgaria.—Messrs. Whitfield King & Co. send us a set of the "Boris" commemoration stamp, and as we are unable to obtain any reliable information whether these stamps are to be a permanent issue or not, we must perforce chronicle them.

If they are to be a permanent issue, as we are assured on one hand, we don't see how they can be set aside. They are issued to commemorate the baptism of Prince Boris into the Greek Church on the 14th Feb. last. The stamps are lithographed on white wove paper, perf. 13.



Adhesives.
1 stot, green.
5 stot, blue.
15 stot, mauve.
25 stot, red.

China.—The following telegram appeared in the *Times* on March 28th under the heading of "Chinese Postal Reform":—

We are informed that the following telegram has been received in London, dated Peking, March 27:—

Imperial Edict issued extending Customs Post Office Department and establishing Imperial National Post Service under Sir Robert Hart, as Customs and Post Inspector-General."

Colombian Republic.—Mr. W. P. Parry writes that he has received a new registration stamp, type and perf. similar to last issue, but printed on a yellowish paper in a pale brown tint.

Adhesive.
Registration stamp.
5c. pale brown on yellow paper.

Cuban Republic.—A recent issue of the *Westminster Gazette* contained the following:—

The stamp-collecting enthusiast should be on the alert to secure early specimens of the postage-stamps of the Republic of Cuba. It is true that as the Cuban Republic is not yet definitely constituted, or accepted into the fraternity of legitimate States, its postage-stamps do not enjoy at present a recognised international currency. A correspondent, however, assures us that they are ready for circulation all over the world. They have been printed, as might perhaps be expected, in the United States. The postage-stamp of the Cuban Republic (*in spe*) is tall and narrow. In the centre there is an oval space, containing the upstanding banner of the new Commonwealth. (The banner, by the way, is blue, with two white stripes, between which is a white star in a red triangle.) Above the picture of the banner are inscribed the words "Republica de Cuba," and below it "Cuba Libre." The colour of the central oval differs according to the value of the stamp. The 1-centavo stamp is orange-yellow, the 5-centavos green, the 10-centavos blue, and the 20-centavos black.

It should be needless to warn collectors against this sort of rubbish, but we give it publicity that they may be on their guard, for this is not the first time that an issue for a Cuban Republic has been offered them. Of course these stamps will be included in the ban of the S.S.S.S.

Eritrea.—Recent events seemed to point to the retirement of Italy from Africa, and the consequent closing of this series. But Italy now seems determined to maintain her hold. Meanwhile we have from Messrs. Whitfield King & Co. the 20c. and 25c. of the new Italian types to chronicle with the familiar curved surcharge "Colonia Eritrea" in black, perf. 14½, wmk. crown.

Adhesives.
20c. brownish orange.
25c. blue.

Fernando Po.—Messrs. Whitfield King & Co. send us two stamps of the current series in new colours, and we presume the change will run through the whole series as in the case of Cuba already chronicled.

Adhesives.
2c. red.
5c. green.

Finland.—According to the *Illustrierte Briefmarken Zeitung*, the 10 pennia rose is now also issued with perforation 14.

Adhesive.
10p. rose. Perforated 14.

Great Britain.—Our publishers inform us that a new official surcharge has been issued, namely, O.W., which stands for Office of Works. It is of the same type as the I.R. official, and exists only on the ½d. and 1d. values. It was issued for the first time on the 12th of March.

Adhesive.
½d. red..... sur. O.W.
1d. mauve „ „

Hong Kong.—The *Review Philatelique Belge* announces the issue of a 4c. grey, C.A., perf. 14.

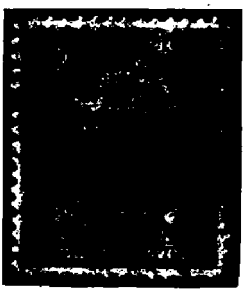
Adhesive.
4c. grey.

Nowanugger.—The current stamps are said to have been surcharged "Service" in native characters.

Adhesives.
1 docra black ..... sur. red.
2 „ blue green „
3 „ orange „

Peru.—We have from Messrs. Whitfield King & Co., an entirely new, and as we understand, permanent set. The portraits on the adhesives are as follows:—1 and 2c., Manco Capac; 5c., 10c., and 20c., Pizarro; and 50c. and 1 and 2 soles, La Mar. The series of portraits are curiously interesting.

Manco Capac is the traditional first father of the ruling Incas of Peru, and the founder of the Inca monarchy. Pizarro (presumably Francisco) was the Spanish conqueror of Peru in the sixteenth century. La Mar is, we presume, the Spanish American general who commanded the Peruvian troops at Ayacucho in 1824, and who, three years afterwards, was elected President of Peru. It is, to say the least, somewhat strange that Peru should thus endeavour to popularise the memory of its former conquerors and masters alongside of its own great traditional Inca.







Adhesives.

1c.	ultramarine, portrait of Manco Capac.		
2c.	blue,	,,	,, ,,
5c.	bronze blue	,,	Pizarro.
10c.	yellow	,,	,,
20c.	orange	,,	,,
50c.	pink	,,	La Mar.
1 sol.	vermilion	,,	,,
2 soles	rose lake	,,	,,

Envelopes.

5c.	bronze blue, portrait of Pizarro.		
10c.	yellow	,,	,,
20c.	orange	,,	,,

Wroppers.

1c.	ultramarine, portrait of Manco Capac.		
2c.	blue	,,	,,
5c.	bronze blue	,,	Pizarro.
20c.	orange	,,	,,

Philippine Islands.—We have three of the current set in new colours from Messrs. Whitfield King & Co., presumably the change will run through the whole series.

Adhesives.

2c. blue.
10c. pale brown.
15c. green.

Santander.—We illustrate the new 5c., chronicled by us last month.



Selangor.—Messrs. Whitfield King & Co. send us the following extract from a letter received by them from the Postmaster of Selangor in reply to one sent him last July, enclosing a draft for the new stamps:—

I must, however, inform you that for the future such requisitions will not be entertained by this office, as it is entirely out of our province of duty to supply stamps for other than *legitimate* purposes.

Servia.—We have the new 1 para value from Messrs. Whitfield King & Co., also 1 dinar.

Adhesive.

1 para, pale red.
1 dinar, red on blue.

Tolima.—Messrs. Whitfield King & Co. send us some new cubiertas or registration labels. They are oblong as before, and measure 5in. by $2\frac{5}{16}$in. They are all gummed on the back.

Adhesives.

20c.	brown on white.
30c.	green on white.
40c.	red on white.
60c.	black on yellow.
70c.	black on brown.
80c.	black on green.
90c.	black on blue.
1peso.	black on magenta.

Tonga.—Tongan stamps have been under a cloud for some considerable time. There was ample circumstantial evidence that Tonga was playing fast and loose with us, so much so, that the S.S.S.S. listed its issues as unnecessary and speculative. But it seems we must not always judge too definitely by appearances or by circumstantial evidence.

The following letter from the British Vice-Consul of Tonga, received from Messrs. Whitfield King & Co. puts a new complexion upon the condemned stamps.

Auckland, New Zealand, *Feb. 11th*, 1896.

Sir,—My attention has been drawn to a notice grounded on insufficient data, and emanating from the S.S.S.S., to the effect that

late issues of Tongan stamps have been unnecessary and speculative, and perhaps my evidence as an Official of the Imperial Government, resident in Tonga, and therefore entirely disinterested, may be believed when I state most emphatically that they have been neither one nor the other.

Upon the accession to the throne of his present Tongan Majesty he was, like other youthful monarchs nearer home, anxious to see his own features on the stamps of the country, and he commissioned the latePremier of Tonga who was resident in Auckland, to superintend the execution of the new stamps, which was all the more necessary, as the lower values of the 1892 issue were nearly sold out.

This commission resulted in the abortions mentioned in the notice first referred to, but as these could not be at once available, the various surcharges of the latter end of 1893 were resorted to.

It further appears that a large number of essays were sent in to the late Premier, some fifteen I believe, and he knowing that the post office in Tonga was very short of stamps, on his own authority, I believe, had the surcharges in red, and the 1½d. blue set struck off and sent on to Tonga.

Native governments are slow to move, and since the dismissal of the late postmaster the Premier has been more than ever distrustful; he will take no action himself, and will not authorize the present postmaster to do so either, but to accuse him of speculating, or knowing what it means, or how to set about it, is the wildest imagination, and utterly without foundation, and I am positive that the Tongan Government not only has never heard of the S.S.S.S., but would not let the knowledge, if they had, interfere in the least with the even tenour of their somewhat lethargic way, and had it not been for the eagerness of dealers to obtain these very stamps, the various supplies would not have run out so fast, and in consequence the surcharges would not have been nearly so numerous.

When I left on leave a few days ago the supply of ½d., 1d. and 2d. had entirely run out, and the 2½d. nearly so.

The postmaster was at his wits' ends to know what to do, therefore more surcharges will, in all probability, be resorted to, and the object of the Post-office being primarily to meet the convenience of the letter-writing public, and not the dealers, I cannot see the enormity of using up the old stamps in stock with the denominations necessary to meet the convenience of that same public pending the arrival of the permanent issue, which I will now refer to.

His Majesty not being flattered with his portrait as delineated on the new stamps, has for the last month had the services of a first-rate photographer from Auckland. That gentleman returned with me from Tonga, and is now arranging and designing the stamps for a new issue ranging from ½d. to 4s., which are to be printed in England (if meanwhile the Tongan Government does not forget all about it).

I am not at liberty to say what the designs are, but I believe that before the end of this year Tonga will possess, as works of art, one of, if not the most beautiful set of stamps in the world, but meanwhile the unfortunate postmaster has a very hard row to hoe.

Let the S.S.S.S. in mercy bear this in mind, and not be in too great a hurry to condemn. "*Audi ulteram partem*" is very applicable.

(Signed) R. B Leefe,
Vice-Consul.

Transvaal.—Messrs. Whitfield King & Co. send us the 1d. red with figure and letters of value "1 Penny" in green.

Adhesive.
1d. red, green label.

Our Monthly Packets of New Issues.

No. 1, price one shilling (postage extra).

The February packet contains seven varieties, all unused, viz.: — British South Africa Co. (new type) ½d., 1d., 2d., and 3d.; Cuba 1896, ½, 1, and 2 mils green.

No. 2, price five shillings (postage extra).

The February packet contains ten varieties, all unused, viz.: Bulgaria 1896 (Boris) 1, 5, 15, and 25 stot.; San Marino 20c. violet; Uruguay 2c. blue; British South Africa Company (new type) 4d., 6d., 8d., and 1s.

These packets are on sale from March 25th to April 24th (unless the supply is previously exhausted), and are supplied only to *Subscribers* to the "Philatelic Record and Stamp News." Similar packets will be on sale every month, and may be subscribed for in advance for the year (January to December inclusive), at the following rates:—No. 1 packet (sent by book post with the paper), 12s., post-free (if by letter post the postage is 1s. extra Inland, 2s. 6d. Abroad). No. 2 packet (by letter post), Inland 61s., Abroad 62s. 6d., post-free.

The subscription to the paper (3s. per annum) is extra.—Buhl & Co., Limited, 11, Queen Victoria Street, London, E.C.

Philately in the Mags.

U.S. 30c. of 1872. Secret Mark.

To Mr. G. A. Padro, Mr. Hilckes and the *S.C.F.* apparently belong the credit of the discovery of the engraver's "Secret mark" on the 30c. U.S. of 1872. We are indebted to Mr. H. for permission to quote his explanation of the discovery in full, and for the use of the illustrations.

Most collectors of the United States stamps are aware that the 1872 issue was printed by the National Bank Note Company, and that in 1873 the plates were handed over to the Continental Bank Note Company, who added to every value some sort of a mark to distinguish its own printing from that of the National Company. This it appears was done in the following way: The entire plate was before the engraver, and he was instructed to *add* to every stamp on that plate a certain secret mark, which, since it was separately added to every stamp on the plate, would necessarily show under the microscope small deviations, although perhaps very minute. This, in my opinion, is a most important fact, and the reason will be apparent from the following description of what I believe to be the secret mark of the Continental Company on the 30c. black, which so far has escaped the eagle eyes of our American collectors. Mr. G. A. Padro drew my attention some weeks ago to a certain dot appearing on the 30c. black, a dot corresponding to a similar mark upon the 30c. brown, but which was missing from many specimens. He and I then undertook a most careful examination of a very large number of these stamps, which I happened to have in stock, and we soon came to the conclusion that what we had discovered was to all intents and purposes the secret mark. I have carefully prepared enlarged illustrations which will simplify the description.

I begin with the 30c. brown. Opposite the first shading line underneath the mouth running to the left, within the white frame separating

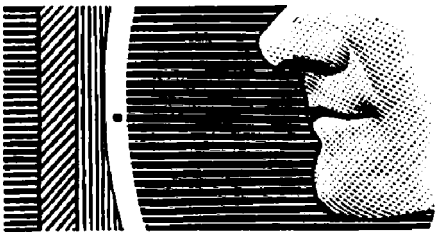


Figure 1.

the central medallion from the border frame a small dot is visible which apparently has no connection whatever with the design (figure 1). I will at once add that this dot is not always in precisely the same position—sometimes it is a shade higher, sometimes lower, sometimes almost touching the frame on the left, and at other times nearly touching the shading lines. The size of this dot also varies. Sometimes it is very pronounced, and of irregular shape; sometimes perfectly round, and, again, sometimes extremely minute. All this is in favour of my assertion that the various marks were added to every stamp on the plate separately, and by hand.

We then examined the 30c. black, searching for the same dot, and very soon found a large number of copies which showed quite a different



(Secret Mark). Figure 2.

mark at or about the same place. We found that the same line (the first underneath the mouth) considerably protruded over the rim of the medallion into the white frame, thus appearing as a projection of a more or less pronounced character (figure 2). We became excited. More copies were examined, and we again found that although this projection was visible in a very large number of copies it was always of a different shape, and plainly proved that it was really not part and parcel of the design, but a kind of after-thought. In some instances, we even found that although we could not see any absolute projection, this lengthening of the shading line happened to fall between two shading lines.

This made the chain of evidence complete. Let us repeat, the first issue of the 30c. black printed by the National Bank Note Company does not show either dot or projection (fig 3).



(First Plate). Figure 3.

The copies we found without this mark are always on the hard paper well known to be peculiar to this issue. The second lot printed

by the Continental Bank Note Company, and showing the projection, is partly on the hard paper and partly on the soft paper; the retouch die, showing the dot only, does not occur on anything but the soft paper. The brown 30c., which can for obvious reasons be only printed from the retouch plate, always shows the dot and never the projection. Even in those cases where the dot is not very plain it can be distinguished with a strong microscope, but I have a better proof which more than endorses the above.

The proofs on cardboard are always without the secret mark as far as the black stamp is concerned, but the brown proof always shows the dot, and, further, those black proofs with "specimen" which are grilled or embossed are printed from the retouch plate *with* dot, thus proving that they are reprints and *not* the original issue. The discovery of this secret mark is of course of great moment in distinguishing forged grills from genuine ones, since as a matter of fact the first printing on the hard paper without any secret marks is very rare, and only these *first* printings were used for the embossing process.

Colonial English.

There has been considerable discussion as to whether an English stamp used for franking a letter from a colony or a foreign country is changed, hey, presto! by virtue of the colonial or foreign cancellation, from an English into a colonial or foreign postage stamp, and the time has come when we may profitably collate the arguments used on both sides of the question.

MR. HILCKES STARTS THE BUSINESS.

Mr. Hilckes seems to have set the ball a-rolling by chronicling "postmarks used abroad in the homeward-bound mail" in his Catalogue of English Adhesives, published in 1894. Under the heading of "Colonial Postmarks" he wrote:—

Very few collectors are aware that British Stamps were used in the Colonies before the special issues of the various Dependencies. Here we may say that no attention whatever has been paid to these issues, and we maintain that a British Stamp used, say, in Antigua or Lima, is really not a British Stamp, but an Antiguan or Peruvian Stamp. It is utterly immaterial whether the design happens to coincide with those in use in the British Island; it might just as well have been a piece of paper with the respective postmark. The latter, in such a case, gives the stamp a new character and transfers it into a stamp belonging to the country where it is used.

WHAT MAJOR EVANS SAYS.

Major Evans was the first leading philatelist to protest against the claim of the so-called "Colonial English." In the *Monthly Journal* for last November he wrote:—

We have not yet been quite educated up to postmark-collecting pitch; we by no means deprecate their study, but we are still unable to see that a variation in the postmark can fairly be held to constitute a variety of the stamp upon which it is impressed. A knowledge of English postmarks will tell us that one stamp was used at Birmingham and another at Manchester. But there is something else that requires to be demonstrated, and that is what possible difference this makes in the stamp. The postmarks will, we believe, still tell us at which of the islands any of the current Leeward Islands stamps were used; are we to collect and catalogue them still under Antigua, Dominica, &c. &c.? A line mus tbe drawn somewhere, and we should draw it at such variations as never existed in unused specimens. In our humble opinion, this multiplying and "booming" of unnecessary varieties, is quite as great a danger to Philately as the producing of unnecessary issues.

This of course roused the ire of the other side, and a correspondent replied as follows:—

Your editorial remarks respecting Colonial Postmarks seem to me to have somewhat missed the point. What the collector of these interesting varieties seeks for is, not such trivial affairs as the difference between, say, Leeds and Manchester, but to obtain a collection of the English stamps used in our Colonies and in Foreign Countries.

To this Major Evans replied:—

In our opinion there is no greater interest attached to a stamp used in a British Post Office abroad, than to a stamp used in a British Post Office at home. The stamp is identically the same, and the postmark (except to a collector of postmarks, who in his turn would ignore the stamp) cannot make it different. The offices abroad, at which these stamps were used, were just as much British Post Offices as those at Manchester or Leeds.

WHAT MR. EWEN SAYS.

Mr. H. L. Estrange Ewen, Editor of the *English Specialists' Journal*, replying to Major Evans, says:—

We agree with Major Evans that British stamps, whatever the postmark, are British stamps. But, apart from this, is there not a very good reason why "Colonial English" *should* be collected? We must say we think great interest attaches to them. If their collection and study is not philately, well, then, it must be something else. Personally we do not mind at all, and Major Evans is welcome to his contention. It probably is not philately according to the original meaning of the word. But if a hobby is interesting and profitable, why should it not have devotees?

This is practically admitting that the collecting of "Colonial English" is simply *postmark collecting*.

A POSTMASTER-GENERAL'S OPINION.

Next we have a real Postmaster General's opinion. Mr. C. Stewart-Wilson, Postmaster-General of Bengal, President of the Philatelic Society of Bengal, himself a collector, in a paper published in the *Philatelic World* of Calcutta, contends that the postmark obliteration of early Maltese, and the overprint in local currency for the Levant, are on a par as to collectability, and that it would be absurd to reject the distinguishing postmark obliteration and accept the currency overprint.

THE PHILATELIC WORLD DISSENTS.

The Editor of the *Philatelic World*, commenting on Mr. Stewart-Wilson's paper, says:—

We have never accepted, and can never accept, the doctrine of Postmarks. If a Country or Colony, having no stamps of its own, is compelled to use the stamps of the mother country, or a neighbouring colony, it does not follow to our thinking that those stamps can be classified as the stamps of the Colony so using them. If it is *Postmarks* that we collect, then of course the question assumes a different phase. The stamp, if not surcharged, is the stamp of the country which originally issued it, not of the country which used it.

WHAT THE PHILATELIC SOCIETY OF LONDON SAYS.

And lastly we have the following entry from the Minutes of the Philatelic Society of London relating to a meeting at which the question was discussed.

In the discussion which ensued, the general opinion prevailed that, although the claim of some specialists that the stamps of the United Kingdom, bearing foreign or Colonial postmarks, should be collected as being stamps of the place from which they were posted could not be supported, the investigation of the subject of their use abroad was one of considerable interest in the study of postal history.

THE WEIGHT OF EVIDENCE.

Therefore, the weight of evidence seems to be altogether in favour of the assertion that though the collection of so-called "Colonial English" may be most interesting from a *postmark* collecting point of view, it cannot be classed as philately, or the collection of postage stamps. To treat a mere *cancellation* of a stamp as a *surcharge* is obviously absurd. The cancellation is done to prevent the stamp being used a second time, but a surcharge, such as the currency overprint for the Levant, is clearly intended to alter the availability of the unused stamp. Surely it is the stamp in its *unused* condition that must determine its character, and not its cancellation or defacement.

Seychelles Provisionals.

The abnormal activity in the manufacture of varieties that has been observable for some time in Seychelles issues has at last secured official attention. We quote from "Our Stamp Album" in *Pearson's Weekly*:—

We have before us a copy of the SEYCHELLES GOVERNMENT GAZETTE, December 31st, 1895, with the announcement that "Gov't Notice No. 78, of October 26th, 1895, notifying certain changes in the postal rates, is hereby cancelled until further orders."

The explanation of this step is to be found, no doubt, in the anxiety of the authorities to prevent any suspicion of designs on the philatelic market. The Governor of Mauritius, who has himself had a wigging from the Colonial Office about his own surcharges, sent the cablegram to the Administrator of Seychelles, ordering him to issue no provisional stamps till authorised from London to do so. He has consequently postponed putting into operation the change in postal rates which would have rendered these provisionals necessary.

These changes in postal rates are not in Colonial hands, but are decreed by the Bureau of the International Postal Union, for the reason that the tremendous fall in the worth of the rupee has disordered all the currency values of the East. This accounts for the recent surcharges on the Siamese, Borneo, Labuan, and other Asiatic stamps, and in the case of Seychelles, which now has no denominations that would fit the proposed scale of rate, it will necessitate a new set of stamps.

The Late Lord Kingston.

The late Lord Kingston (says the *World*), although always suffering from chest affections, was a thorough sportsman, and such a dead shot, that nobody dared attack him in those troublesome times when he carried his life in his hands, and traversed disturbed districts of Ireland without the smallest fear. He exercised much old-fashioned hospitality at Kilronan Castle, where he will be greatly missed. He was immensely popular with his tenants, and, indeed, with all who knew him.

Changes in Victorians.

The *Australian Stamp Collector* gives the history of recent changes in some of the postage stamps of Victoria.

In September last, the colour of the 2s. stamp was changed from sage-green on green paper (in which it has been issued for about ten years), to pale green on white paper. In the new shade it resembles the ninepenny, and a complaint came from the post-office that the clerks had sold a quantity of the 2s. in mistake for the 9d. Thereupon the stock in the G.P.O. was destroyed, and all the white paper issue called in. The few dealers and collectors who

were "in the know" bought up all they could get at about double face value, and we have heard of specimens changing hands since at 5s. and 6s. each. For about a month no 2s. stamps were issued, the postal authorities stating that a new plate was being prepared, but a few weeks since the same design came out again in a new shade, a brilliant cobalt green being the current colour, and this tint has never been used in any other Victorian stamp. The colour of 9d. was also changed from green to dark-red, and the 8d. rose on pink paper has been withdrawn.

Paper of U.S. Stamps 1870-1885.

Mr. Crawford Capon, the industrious specialist of U.S. issues, has in the *Post Office* (*U.S.*) of February tackled the knotty question of the varieties of paper in the issues of 1870-1885. He says:

The study of the paper of United States stamps is one of the most difficult which can be attempted, that is, if the student expects to attain any marked degree of certainty in his results. The study of paper of the period from 1870 to 1885, at which latter time the Government distinctly specified what kind of paper should be used in printing its stamps, is one especially fraught with difficulties. The paper was changed repeatedly during these years, and in some of them many trials were made in order to secure, if possible, greater perfection in the completed stamps.

Taking the different periods, he gives the following as the general characteristics of the various changes of paper:—

I. National Bank Note Company, 1870-73, The paper is hard, smooth, opaque or translucent, varying little in thickness. II. Continental Bank Note Company, 1873-77. The paper is hard, rather rough, opaque or translucent. III. Continental Bank Note Company. 1877-79. The paper of the preceding period was used largely during this period, but there was a peculiar paper introduced about 1878 which is characteristic of this period. It may be described in the terms we have used as hard, smooth, translucent and porous. IV. American Bank Note Company, 1879-85. Hard, then soft, rough or smooth, usually porous, opaque, then translucent, lined horizontally.

Guarantees at Auctions.

The Editor of the *Post Office* lays down a law of his own as to the guarantees which should be the practice in regard to stamps sold by auction. On this side we now have a seven days' limit, which is found to be sufficient.

The true position, and the one which is taken by the foremost auctioneers, is that every guarantee should be good for an indefinite time. A guarantee for a limited time, or no guarantee at all, would do well enough for dealers who inspect stamps personally before purchasing at sales. They are expected to look out for themselves, and would undoubtedly do so in case no guarantees were given. The collector, however, does not, in many cases, have any means of judging as to the genuineness of a stamp. His reliance is on the integrity and knowledge of the firm selling at auction. A limited guarantee is for him practically worthless.

Mr. Walter F. Scott, a dealer of New York, says in the *Philatelic Era*:—

My personal view of the matter is that the guarantee of the genuineness of the stamps should be unlimited. A limited guarantee is not worth the paper it is written on, and some one is bound to get deceived in the end. It is like passing a counterfeit bank note, it might be fine enough to pass through several hands, but it is sure to be detected when presented to the government.

Great Britain: Very Minor Varieties.

Our friends who are booming all sorts and conditions of minor varieties of the English issues are scathingly overhauled by the Editor of the *Monthly Circular*. He asks:

Can the most devoted of the little band who are running after what they term minor varieties, say what are the great results they have brought to light or have thrown light upon? One thinks he has made a great discovery when he finds that on one of the embossed stamps of one penny there is a white speck on the ground opposite to Her Majesty's nose. Yes, it is so; the die evidently got a knock, and so did a die of 1½d., which was damaged on its outer edge. In die 2 of the 4d., the "T" in POSTAGE had from the first a very weak head, which got worse until none at all was left visible. We could go on with a long list of cripples of all kinds, but who wants to collect them save those who, like the Pharisee, pay tithes on the meanest pot-herbs and neglect matters of more importance.

It would be positively dangerous for a very-minor-variety-monger to approach too close to that Editor.

Heligoland Remainders.

In the *Deutsche Briefmarken-Zeitung* Herr Lindenberg has published an exhaustive paper on the stamps of Heligoland, in which he especially deals with the quantities sold by the Post-office during the period from 1873 to 1890. As the figures are based upon official information, they are absolutely reliable. On this occasion the author corrects a misstatement in his former paper. Of the 2 schilling of the first issue were printed 200,000, and of the 6 schilling 100,000; he had previously given these figures in reversed order. The quantities of the remainders have some interest, and may,

therefore, find room here. There were left, in round numbers, of the

½ schilling	108,000	3 pfennig	32,000
½ „ error	15,000	5 „	22,000
½ „	15,000	10 „	76,000
¾ „	40,000	20 „	74,000
1 „	4,000	25 „	54,000
1½ „	16,000	50 „	17,000
1 pfennig	100,000	1 mark	6,000
2 „	204,000	5 „	7,000

Of the 2 and 6 schilling the figures could not be ascertained. The purchaser of the old remainders has fixed them at 75,000 and 40,000 respectively, but these figures are very likely too low The above will afford a good foundation for estimating the relative rarity of the different kinds of the unused originals of Heligoland.

Compound Envelopes.

The *English Specialists' Journal* asks itself the question: Should compound envelopes be collected? and answers it in the following very sensible manner:—

No envelopes or entires stamped to order are worthy of collection in their entire state. An impression from each die is, however, of philatelic interest, and may be as conveniently shown on a piece of paper two inches square. There is no need to keep the entire envelope, as this is quite unofficial. Two or more stamps struck side by side on the same piece of paper surely have no more philatelic interest than two adhesive stamps attached to the same piece. In the case of the envelopes, &c., issued by the Post Office, these should certainly be collected entire, as the paper as well as the stamp is official.

U. S. Issue of 1873.

The *Post Office* (U.S.) in calling attention to the peculiarities of this issue says:—

There are certain stamps of the issue of 1873 which are worth a careful attention. They correspond with these worn plate stamps, but are not *plain* frames. The general characteristic of stamps printed by the National Bank Note Company is perfect evenness in the distribution of the ink over the whole surface of the stamp. The better processes employed by each of the companies who have printed United States stamps have produced this evenness in the distribution of the ink in all the stamps they have manufactured. The Continental Company began in 1873 with an inferior process, and the principal characteristic of their work is a lack of evenness in the distribution of the ink. The central ovals are usually darker, or have a larger amount of ink upon them than the surrounding portions. These remarks apply with exactness to stamps from new or unworn plates.

Honduras Postal Service.

Honduras has been one of the very worst offenders in the Seebeck system, but it has recently turned out a series of obviously home manufacture. The interest of philatelists in the stamps of Seebeckised countries is of course reduced to a minimum, still the following particulars concerning the postal service of Honduras taken from the *Bay State Philatelist* is worth preserving:—

Previous to the year 1887 the postal service of Honduras was in a very disorganized condition, and the transmission of internal mails was neither regular nor certain. Since that time, however, great improvements have been made, and the service is now surprisingly prompt and regular, considering the lack of good roads and the fact that the mails are carried by couriers on foot. These men make astonishing trips over mountain trails and swollen rivers, climbing steep hills and fording streams with heavy mail bags on their shoulders, yet generally outstripping mounted travellers and arriving safely at their destination. In 1879, Honduras entered the Universal Postal Union, and a thorough reorganization was then made and a new tariff of charge adopted. Postage from the United States is 5 cents for letters not exceeding half an ounce; postal cards, 2 cents; newspapers, 1 cent per 2 ounces. From Honduras to United States: Letters, 10 centavos per half ounce; postal cards, 3 centavos; newspapers and books, 2 centavos per 2 ounces; registration, 10 centavos; charge for return receipt, 5 centavos. Postage to the interior of the Republic, and to Gautemala, Salvador, Nicaragua, and Costa Rica, is as follows: Letters from 15 to 50 grammes, 5 cents; printed matter, for each 50 grammes, 1 cent; commercial circulars, 5 cents for the first 250 grammes, 1 cent for each additional 50 grammes; samples, 2 cents for the first 100 grammes; and 1 cent for each additional 50 grammes; packages, 3, 5, 15, and 25 cents for each 450 grammes for the respective distances of 5, 10, 20, and 35 leagues, 40 cents. Correspondence addressed to the bishop or postmasters is free of postage.

Discovery of 10c. Baltimore.

The *Daily Stamp Item* (U.S.), gives the following account of the discovery of the 10c. Baltimore:—

Mr. Duncan, a young man about 19 years of age, who had secured the permission of a Louisville lawyer to look over his papers, was told that he was welcome to anything he might find in the way of rare stamps, but the papers had already been overhauled by many others. This did not discourage Duncan, and he set to work to make a systematic search. The result of the find was as follows:—

1 Baltimore, 10c., adhesive, on original cover.

5 New York, 5c., black (one pair and three single specimens). One of the single stamps appeared to be a variety.

150 United States, 1847, 5c.

110 United States, 1847, 10c.

The 10c. Baltimore is the only stamp of the kind known to exist. Another stamp of the same denomination will be offered for sale in

the Woodward auction, to take place next week, but this stamp is on blue paper, whereas the one found in Louisville is on white paper. It is also a perfect specimen, and is, without question, the rarest stamp known.

Paraguay Stamp Sales.

The *Bay State Philatelist* gives the following interesting particulars concerning the postal service of Paraguay :—

In 1888 the sales of stamps and stamped envelopes and wrappers were $11,293.78; in 1889, $12,936.27; and in 1890, $15,680.70. The unstamped correspondence yielded, in 1888, $239.58; in 1889, $76.65, and in 1890, $43.60. The receipts from post office boxes were, in 1888, $1,045.60; in 1889, $1,396.80, and in 1890, $1,479.20. According to the *Diario Official* of December 3, 1893, the postal movement in Paraguay in 1892 was as follows :—

Private letters	469,783
Printed matter	603,149
Postal cards	14,101
Samples	1,830
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Total	1,171,950

Ecuador Postal Service.

Ecuador is a country which has cancelled its Seebeck arrangement for the gratuitous supply of its postage stamps, but has nevertheless shown that it cannot entirely abandon speculative issues. The *Bay State Philatelist* gives us a glimpse into its postal arrangements :—

Ecuador is a member of the Universal Postal Union, and has entered into parcel-post conventions with several countries. The money-order system was introduced into the country by way of experiment in 1889, between the cities of Quito, Ambato, Cuenca, Guyaquil, and Azognes. The Secretary of the Treasury, under whose control the branches of post offices and telegraphs have been placed in Ecuador, says, in his report to the Congress of June 10, 1892, that the mail service is now as perfect as possible; "So far as regularity, safety, rapidity, and cheapness are concerned, nothing better can be expected, if the fact is taken into consideration that the mail is carried on mule-back. The service reaches every place in the Republic, and even the remotest and least important town or village enjoys its benefits." The Government expended in this branch $92,316.04 in 1890, and $99,366.65 in 1892.

Great Britain: Control Letters.

Some day a fierce war of words will be waged over the collectability of Control Letters. The materials for such a war are being accumulated. The latest addition to our information is contributed by Mr. Hyde to the *Bazaar*. He explains :

During 1895 the Control Letters on our penny stamps were O, P, S, and T. They are found on the margin, under the eleventh stamp of the last row of each sheet.

The year commenced with S, which had been in use during the end of 1894, and continued for the greater part of 1895, which commenced and ended with that letter. In April O was issued, and remained in use during May and June, at the end of which month P appeared, and lasted until very early in July, when it ceased for the rest of the year. It was succeeded by T, which alternately with S, was used duriug the remainder of 1895.

A collection of stamps with control letters attached will show hereafter the year, and often the month, when these stamps were issued; without them no one can tell the difference between our penny stamps of 1882 to 1895, or any year between.

Of our halfpenny stamps, the control letters, in January, 1895, were I, M, and N. These lasted up till April, when J appeared for a couple of weeks, to the 30th, and then gave place to M and N, the latter remaining in exclusive use from 20th July until 31st December.

Cuba Y½ Stamps.

The *Weekly Stamp News* suggests that cataloguers should, in future, include these surcharged stamps under the heading of "Ynterior, or City Delivery Stamps," as placing them under the heading of "Issues for Cuba and Puerto Rico" is misleading, because the said surcharged stamps were only authorised to be used within the city of Havana.

Uruguay: Official Decree.

The *American Journal of Philately* gives the following translation of the official decree authorising the issue of the new Uruguay stamps of 50c., 1 peso, 2 pesos, and 3 pesos :—

NOTICE.

By arrangement of the General Management on January 1st, 1896, there will be put into circulation a new issue of postage stamps of the following prices :—

$0.50 centésimos, sky blue and black,
1.00 mahogany, brown and black,
2.00 violet and green,
3.00 carmine and sky blue.

Ninety days are allowed from the date mentioned for the withdrawal from circulation of those of the same values now in use, the exchange of these for those of the new issue to be made within the last ten days of the period mentioned, all the offices of the department being authorised to make this operation.

Warning is hereby given that after the period mentioned postage stamps of the issue which is being withdrawn will be considered nul and of no value for the prepayment of postage.

MONTEVIDEO, *December 30th*, 1895.

THE SECRETARY.

therefore, find room here. There were left, in round numbers, of the

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Ecuador Postal Service.

Ecuador is a country which has cancelled its Seebeck arrangement for the gratuitous supply of its postage stamps, but has nevertheless shown that it cannot entirely abandon speculative issues. The *Bay State Philatelist* gives us a glimpse into its postal arrangements :—

Ecuador is a member of the Universal Postal Union, and has entered into parcel-post conventions with several countries. The money-order system was introduced into the country by way of experiment in 1889, between the cities of Quito, Ambato, Cuenca, Guyaquil, and Azognes. The Secretary of the Treasury, under whose control the branches of post offices and telegraphs have been placed in Ecuador, says, in his report to the Congress of June 10, 1892, that the mail service is now as perfect as possible; "So far as regularity, safety, rapidity, and cheapness are concerned, nothing better can be expected, if the fact is taken into consideration that the mail is carried on mule-back. The service reaches every place in the Republic, and even the remotest and least important town or village enjoys its benefits." The Government expended in this branch $92,316.04 in 1890, and $99,366.65 in 1892.

Great Britain: Control Letters.

Some day a fierce war of words will be waged over the collectability of Control Letters. The materials for such a war are being accumulated. The latest addition to our information is contributed by Mr. Hyde to the *Bazaar*. He explains :

During 1895 the Control Letters on our penny stamps were O, P, S, and T. They are found on the margin, under the eleventh stamp of the last row of each sheet.

The year commenced with S, which had been in use during the end of 1894, and continued for the greater part of 1895, which commenced and ended with that letter. In April O was issued, and remained in use during May and June, at the end of which month P appeared, and lasted until very early in July, when it ceased for the rest of the year. It was succeeded by T, which alternately with S, was used during the remainder of 1895.

A collection of stamps with control letters attached will show hereafter the year, and often the month, when these stamps were issued; without them no one can tell the difference between our penny stamps of 1882 to 1895, or any year between.

Of our halfpenny stamps, the control letters, in January, 1895, were I, M, and N. These lasted up till April, when J appeared for a couple of weeks, to the 30th, and then gave place to M and N, the latter remaining in exclusive use from 20th July until 31st December.

Cuba Y½ Stamps.

The *Weekly Stamp News* suggests that cataloguers should, in future, include these surcharged stamps under the heading of "Ynterior, or City Delivery Stamps," as placing them under the heading of "Issues for Cuba and Puerto Rico" is misleading, because the said surcharged stamps were only authorised to be used within the city of Havana.

Uruguay: Official Decree.

The *American Journal of Philately* gives the following translation of the official decree authorising the issue of the new Uruguay stamps of 50c., 1 peso, 2 pesos, and 3 pesos :—

NOTICE.

By arrangement of the General Management on January 1st, 1896, there will be put into circulation a new issue of postage stamps of the following prices :—

$0.50 centésimos, sky blue and black,
1.00 mahogany, brown and black,
2.00 violet and green,
3.00 carmine and sky blue.

Ninety days are allowed from the date mentioned for the withdrawal from circulation of those of the same values now in use, the exchange of these for those of the new issue to be made within the last ten days of the period mentioned, all the offices of the department being authorised to make this operation.

Warning is hereby given that after the period mentioned postage stamps of the issue which is being withdrawn will be considered nul and of no value for the prepayment of postage.

MONTEVIDEO, *December 30th*, 1895.

THE SECRETARY.

Philatelic Gossip.

The Ecuadorian Pecksniff.

The Government of Ecuador has turned up its nose at Seebecks, and decided to have nothing more to do with such bad company. It is going to start the manufacture of rubbish on its own account, and will begin with a label to commemorate an insignificant local squabble. The manner in which the intended label is being hawked, must raise Mr. Seebeck considerably in his own postal opinion. Ecuador has been invited to cancel the Seebeck contract, and it has availed itself of the opportunity of showing that there are lower postal depths than any that have been sounded by Mr. Seebeck.

Philatelic Garbage.

A Correspondent of *Mekeel's Weekly Stamp News*, has heard of a large collector in Boston who is quietly speculating in a small way in those issues which the S.S.S.S. has tabooed. He reasons that the time is coming, by-and-by, when, the speculative fever having died out more or less, the society will cease to exist, and the speculative issues will be restored to good society. When that time comes, he thinks, they may be hard to get, and so he is saving some of them now. Of course, there is no reason why any man who is bent on the collection of garbage should not please himself, just as some industrious scavengers find it pleasant and profitable to sort over surburban dustbins. And while the Mekeels provide the necessary receptacles in the shape of albums, such collectors will always find a place to shoot their philatelic garbage.

Stamping Niggers.

A Correspondent in British South Africa sends the *S.C.F.* information that every negro must supply himself with one of the Company's postage stamps every month, which he calls a pass ticket. There was a time when certain sanguine traders in the great Republic hoped that postage stamps would be available for the transit of live stock, that they might, when desirable, stick a postage stamp on a jackass for despatch from one state to another. Eventually B.S.A. has taken time by the forelock in this direction, so far as niggers are concerned. In the case of a letter, we are instructed to place the stamp in the right-hand corner. The *S.C.F.* does not tell us where it is placed on a nigger's shining skin.

U.S. Stamps.

The *Westminster Gazette* which now and then, as the fit seizes it, poses as a great Philatelic authority, in a recent issue says: "The works of art which American postal authorities grant are generally of a nature to render their obliteration by the process of cancellation a result to be striven for as quickly as possible." That is not kind. Such a remark may seriously interfere with the peaceful solution of the Venezuelan question. As a matter of fact, the American stamps from the first issue to the last, even including the Columbians, are accepted by competent authorities on art as being far above the average. and philatelists certainly regard them as a spendid series of unequalled portraits.

Luxemburg Stamps.

People are getting most obliging to us stamp collectors. The Luxemburg Minister of Finance recently declared in the Chamber that the stamps which have accumulated since 1880, on Parcel Post and Money Order Cards, are now being removed, and will be sold for the benefit of the pensior fund. The stamps in question are those of 25 centimes and upwards, and the face value of the lot is estimated to be about 30,000 francs, or, roughly speaking, £1,200. As regards the official service stamp, surcharged "S.P.," the Minister declared that since 1887 the sales of these stamps to collectors and dealers amounted to £300 per annum. Private letters could not be franked with these stamps, and if outsiders desired specimens they had to pay full face value. It was also stated that there was no truth in the rumour that plates of the earlier issues of Luxemburg have been purloined. They were either destroyed or are still in the hands of the Government, under lock and key.

This is a move in a perfectly legitimate direction. What a vista of philatelic discovery it opens up. It might recom-

mend to the attention of Mr. "O.S." Cook, and our colonies in general.

U.S. Department Stamps.

Mr. Townsend, in the *Weekly Philatelic Era*, tells the following interesting story of the disposal of the U.S. Department stamps :—

It is well known to most collectors that the Act of Congress which abolished the use of the Dept. stamps also declared that all remainders should be called in and destroyed. Some of the Depts. questioned the right of Congress to give such an order; said they had bought and paid for the stamps, and Congress had no control over them, so while some Depts. consigned their remainders to the flames, others have kept them and dole them out to collectors. The Chief Clerk of the War Dept. was assigned the task of disposing of the War stamps, to his disgust, and to get rid of them, he gave them to anyone and everyone, without question, many of the small boys in town getting numbers of sets each, and he states that he gave away 1000 sets inside of a week. The State Department intended to do the same thing, but when they came to put up the stamps, it was found that all the dollar values had disappeared. There were known to have been eight of the $5 ones, and varying amounts of the others. Collectors here have ever since been on the look-out for the stamps to turn up, but unsuccessfully until last week, when one of our boys caught a fine lot of the $10 and $20 ones, in perfect gummed condition. But not a $5 one did the man have, so evidently there was another finger in the pie, and we are now wondering whether they have been disposed of long ago by the pirate who got them, or whether they will still turn up and paralyse us some time in the future.

An Advertising Dodge.

Here is another good story from the *Era*.

In a small Californian town a certain stationery dealer, by the means of several clerks, bought up all the stamps from the post-office. The postmaster was rather puzzled about whether he ought to sell out his entire stock or not, and mentioned that the stamps were for sale for the convenience of the general public, but he was finally overruled by being asked if he did not have to sell to whoever called for them Then, while the confused postmaster rustled around and sent in a requisition for some more stamps, the enterprising stationery dealer advertised his store as the only place where stamps could be bought, and everyone who wanted any had to go to him for the next two or three weeks. As an advertising scheme this is hard to beat, but just how the Post-office Department would look upon such a transaction is an open question. Let the philatelic world be thankful that the postmaster was not sufficiently up to date to scribble his name across sheets of gummed paper and issue them as provisionals.

English "Postage Due" Stamps.

The Editor of the *Bazaar Philatelist's Supplement* suggests the issue of English "Postage Due" stamps. Well, we have no objection. On the contrary, we plump for the idea as affording a prospect of getting back in kind the fines we are now and again compelled to pay for other people's carelessness. Such an issue could not be met with the stereotyped reply that it would add seriously to the expenses of the Department, for we should, of course, indulge wholesale in the see-saw game of posting unpaid letters to each other for the purpose of getting the otherwise unobtainable stamps at face value, and the Department would add our coppers to its revenue with considerable glee. But the poor postman, compulsorily turned stamp dealer, minus the profits, would probably swear vociferously as he waited at each doorway for the said coppers.

A Catalogue for Beginners.

We are glad to note that Mr. J. W. Scott, the veteran dealer of New York, has had the courage to issue an edition of his catalogue omitting minor varieties. This innovation has been met with considerable ridicule, but, all the same, we give it a hearty welcome as a much-needed catalogue for young beginners. Our ordinary catalogues are rapidly developing into catalogues prepared by specialists for specialists, and are, therefore, utterly unsuitable as guides for the young collector.

U.S. Commemorative Stamp.

Mr. Mekeel, commenting in his *Weekly Stamp News* on the bill presented to Congress (to which we referred in our January issue, p. 3), for the issue of commemorative stamps for each city, curiously enough favours the ridiculous proposal. He says :—

With the desire to see a more active interest among the young, we favour, under certain conditions, the issuance of the special series of stamps, suggested in the Pugh bill, which we understand is to be presented to Congress. Of course, it would depend materially upon the manner in which these stamps were brought into use, but should the different cities be authorised to issue them as legitimately as the Columbian issue, by the national Government, we can see no possible objection, and think that it would be greatly to the advantage of the pursuit. Perhaps the most favourable feature foreshadowed by the bill in question is that the stamps could be accumulated at a minimum of expense, and it is the cost of philately, to

some extent, that crowds out the youth at the present time.

The youth of the future is to be pitied if this is the kind of shoddy that he is to be encouraged to buy.

A Puttiala Error.

Mr. Whitfield King has a keen scent for the needful. He lets us into a little of his confidence in the *Bazaar* He was the first to notice the error *Auttialla* on the Puttiala stamps. There was only one error in a sheet of 240. He wrote to the postmaster and asked him if he would pick out the errors. This he did, and charged only face-value, though offered a premium. He had not noticed the error till his attention was called to it, and seemed only too pleased to get rid of them. Mr. Whitfield King got some thousands of the ½ anna. What an obliging postmaster he must have been! And how self-sacrificing! Thousands! Say 5000 at 6d. each = £125.

U.S. Plate Number Collecting.

American collectors have recently taken with great earnestness to the collection of plate numbers, but the Metropolitan Philatelic Club of San Antonio waxes wroth over the business, and has given voice to its indignation in a series of resolutions which deserve to be preserved for ever as undeniable gems of the first water. Here they are in their pristine beauty:—

TO THE PHILATELIC PUBLIC IN GENERAL.

Greeting: There having at various times appeared frauds, faker and speculative stamps for stamp collectors to collect, and the latest fake and money-making scheme for those who have them to sell, that, the collecting of plate numbers of United States Stamps having made its appearance, a complete collection of which is unobtainable by the average collector, and for the little if any benefit to be derived from the collecting of the same, the unusefulness and foolishness connected with it, and the last and most important, that the same will materially help to "kill" collectors of U. S. stamps and for the benefit of the future of Philately,

Be it Resolved: that this Club, organized for the promotion of the advancement of Philately, does hereby declare the collecting of plate numbers of the stamps of the United States or any other country with no reference whatever with Philately, as it has no relation with the study of any stamp, nor can information be gained by the collecting of said plate numbers.

And be it resolved further, that this resolution be filed among the records of this Club, spread upon its minutes, and that a copy of the same be sent to the leading philatelic organizations and publications in the United States.

The New Cyprus.

Has anyone seen the new Cyprus stamps chronicled on the authority of the *Australian Philatelist*? The news has the impress of probability, but it seems strange to not a few of us that information giving details of this new issue should reach us first from the Antipodes, and be so much in advance of the actual issue itself.

Incorrigible Colonies.

The *American Journal of Philately* suggests that the Society for the Suppression of Speculative Stamps should send a representative to Barbados, and the following extract from the *Demarara Argosy* clearly shows that some intervention will be necessary to induce some of our Colonies to conduct their postal arrangements with decency and honesty. We would suggest that the attention of our Colonial Minister should be called to the matter.

Stamp collectors should know what is going on in Barbados in the way of a provisional arrangement. A farthing newspaper postage rate has been legalized, and, until farthing adhesive stamps can be imported, the newspapers will be stamped at the counter "paid at Barbados." Why don't our neighbours take the chance to issue a provisional stamp, the sale of which amongst collectors would be sure to add to the colony's revenue. As to our own colony, the time has arrived when we ought to be running short, especially of all the higher-grade stamps, and issuing provisionals for each. The revenue on the 31st of March will be short of the estimated amount by a very large sum, and a judicious issue of provisionals would go a long way, if not altogether, to meet the deficit; and at the same time it would add a new pleasure to the lives of the myriads of persons whose self-imposed and hard enough duty it is to provide for and support their stamp-albums.

Speculative Issues.

Protest of American Stamp Collectors against Speculative Issues.

As spokesmen for millions of earnest men who devote their leisure time and surplus energy and resources to the scientific study and collection of postage stamps, we, the undersigned representatives of philatelic societies, respectfully memorialize all enlightened governments to discountenance certain evil practices which tend to demoralize and degrade the postal service.

The evil practices which we condemn may be classed under three separate heads, differing more in form, however, than in substance, viz.:

(1) Farming out to printers or private speculators, the monopoly of balances remaining after a stamp issue has been withdrawn; the temptation and tendency being to withdraw the issues prematurely and frequently so as to make the monopoly more profitable to the speculator and the official confederates.

(2) Issuing stamps for purely occasional or provisional use, as a commemorative emblem rather than for the legitimate purpose of acknowledging prepaid postage; the tendency being to degrade the historic value and thereby destroy the commercial value of the token as a postage stamp; and

(3) The reckless or deliberately superfluous multiplication of unusual varieties of the same stamp by means of surcharging oftener than the legitimate needs of the Post Office require, the tendency and temptation being that officials whose surcharging cannot be controlled will create new varieties for purely speculative purposes, accounting to the Government only for the original values booked against them, and pocketing the commercial profit.

The stamp that is sold by a private speculator after the Goverument has ceased to control it, cheapens the product to which it is intended to give value; it shakes the confidence of stamp collectors in all the postal issues of the offending Government, and it even affects national credit by creating the impression that the nation is too poor to raise revenue by legitimate methods.

But not less offensive, though less deliberately fraudulent, is the evil practice of issuing commemorative paper emblems which masquerade as postage stamps It is debasing, deprecating and discrediting the postal currency of any Government, and subjects its financial methods to the suspicion of bad faith. Besides, the ease and frequency with which this commemorative business can be repeated hold out a bait to official speculation.

The same danger attaches to the practice of arbitrary and discretionary surcharging which enables every petty postmaster to create at will new varieties of an established issue. The temptation to exploit this power for private gain is almost irresistible: For there is no way to check the operation of surcharging. The passion for private speculation tends to grow, and it grows at the expense of official honesty and industry.

We solemnly protest against all these vicious methods. We do not ask that our interest as collectors should be considered as even of incidental importance. We ask that the postal service be administered without the slightest regard to our market. The Post Office is a civilising agency. we protest against its degradation to the level of a bargain counter. From the moment that the postage stamp is consciously made to serve a purpose foreign to its true character—to prove the prepayment of postage—be that purpose pious or mercenary, laudable or disreputable, commemorative or speculative, it loses its integrity, its value, and its dignity. And then, even though its sale be legally authorised, it is nevertheless a masked fraud, a bastard disguised under an honourable name.

In the interest, therefore, not only of our guild, but of all who honour a nation's highest aims, we plead for a restriction upon the legalising of these frauds. We ask for a return to honest methods. It is proper in this connection to say that the Republic of Ecuador, on receipt of our respectful memorial, immediately issued a decree—dated November 8, 1895—cancelling its contract and stopping all sales of unnecessary stamps.

We appeal for the historical integrity of the postage stamp, and for national dignity in the administration of the postal service, as a factor in the intellectual, social, and moral progress of all enlightened nations.

The Committee for the suppression of speculative and unnecessary postage stamps:—

WILLIAM HERRICK, *President.*
J. H. RICH, *Secretary.*

J. M. ANDREINI.	H. E. DEATS.
R. R. BOGERT.	F. W. HUNTER.
G. B. CALMAN.	J. W. SCOTT.
ALVAH DAVISON.	

Rooms of the Philatelic Society,
25, Ann Street, New York.
February 15, 1893.

Correspondence.

Booming New Issues.

SIR,—It seems to me that your correspondent, "W. C. M.," somewhat misses the mark. If I read my *P.J.G.B.* aright, it was not the *indiscriminate* collecting of *all* new issues that was advocated. Even W. C. M. recommends some of the "newer English Colonies," and includes in his list a Protectorate that has made itself notorious for its absolutely unnecessary issues of provisionals, surcharges in all colours, and all types, split stamps, diagonal and vertical, and all the usual abominations, and a more flagrant offender could scarcely be found. If this had been a French colony! What an outcry! But because it is "English, quite English," it is well worth collecting.

Every fair-minded philatelist will admit the great interest which attaches to many new issues—the debatable point is what to accept and what to reject. Well, we have the S.S.S.S. for this very purpose, but unfortunately stamp collectors are invariably pigheaded, and in some cases they refuse to accept the dictum of this famous body. As long as stamp collecting is such a big thing, speculative issues will never *entirely* cease. The only thing to be done is to support all well-meant efforts for the suppression of the unnecessary and speculative, and "educate the masses" by the spread of knowledge in the shape of journals like the *Record* and, others which are doing a good work, and I heartily recommend your suggestion about a Journal for Juveniles to some enterprising would-be publisher.—Yours faithfully,

W. C. TAYLOR.

Albums and Speculative Issues.

SIR,—Inasmuch as you have given space to the communication of "An Old Grille," referring to us in connection with albums and speculative issues, we presume you will admit these lines.

Our albums provide space for all postage stamps regularly issued for postage by any government in the world. We have not eliminated either the Seebecks or the stamps condemned by the S.S.S.S., therefore we contend that there is no inconsistency in our position.

If we issue an album that eliminates the stamps of the S.S.S.S., we shall certainly be consistent and eliminate all other stamps of a similar character, whether they be Seebecks or others.

Our criticism which you quoted was simply applied to those dealers who have taken the high moral ground (?) of eliminating certain stamps, the collection of which they discourage, and including a far worse class of rubbish.

With regard to the production of an album eliminating all speculative issues, I would say that we do not believe such a book is in demand, and have no such work in contemplation. The printed album has been practically abandoned by the intelligent class of philatelists, because the collection of the stamps of most of those countries that are guilty of Seebeckism and the issue of speculative issues has been practically discontinued; therefore, the blank album is more to their taste.

Printed albums will continue to be sold to boys and beginners, and as long as we publish such books they will be entirely consistent in arrangement; that is to say, we will either *eliminate all* rubbish and speculative issues, or we will *provide spaces for all* stamps regularly issued for postal purposes.

With regard to the sale of Seebecks, Chinese locals, or any other stamps, the same remark will apply, for we have not joined any S.S.S.S. movement, nor have we bound ourselves to boycot the regular postal issues of any country. Our business is to supply the demands of our patrons. The demand for Seebecks has diminished to such an extent that it is unprofitable to handle them, and we have advertised such as happened to be in stock at cost prices to clear them out, not failing, at the same time, to discourage their collection, and classifying them as almost worthless rubbish.

For the same reason that we are not handling Seebecks, we are not handling some of the rubbish that has been boycotted by the S.S.S.S.

We do not buy these stamps for stock, because we consider them of little value, and unprofitable as an investment; it is not because a certain Society has placed them on their list.—Yours truly,

CHAS. H. MEKEEL.

Notable Stamps at Auction.

Unused are distinguished by an asterisk.

CHEVELEY & CO., Feb. 27 and 28, 1896.

	£	s.	d.
BRITISH GUIANA, 4c. blue, perf. 12½*	6	10	0
DOMINICA, 1s. carmine, C.A.* two copies ... ... *each*	5	0	0
GREAT BRITAIN, the V.R.* ...	11	0	0
1d. red on Dickinson paper, block of 6*	10	0	0
LAGOS, 10s. purple*...	15	0	0
NEVIS, 6d. on bleuté	5	10	0
6d. litho. fine, but one corner perf. gone*	8	15	0
NEWFOUNDLAND, 4d. orange* ...	7	10	0
1s. orange	28	0	0
1s. carmine-red	23	0	0
NEW SOUTH WALES, *Laureated*, 2d., stars in corners*	7	15	0
ST. LUCIA, 1s. orange, C.A.* ...	6	5	0
SWITZERLAND, *Zurich*, 4r., one hor. one vert. lines; both type 3 *each*	18	0	0
TURKS ISLANDS, 1s. prune, no perfs. at top	12	10	0

March 4, 5, and 6, 1896.

GREAT BRITAIN, 6d. violet, octagonal*... ... ... *pair*	7	5	0
ditto, 8d. brown*...	5	0	0
ditto, 5s. plate, 4 on bluish* ...	8	0	0
SPAIN, 3 cuartos*	15	10	0
GENEVA, 5c.+5c.	30	0	0
VAND, 4c.	24	10	0
BASLE, 2½r.	5	5	0
ZURICH, 4r. hor. lines	17	10	0
NAPLES, ½ tornese, arms	15	0	0
ditto, ½ tornese, cross	5	0	0
SAXONY, 3 perf.	5	5	0
CEYLON, 4d. rose, imperf. £15 10s. &	16	10	0
ditto, 8d. brown. £21 10s. and	23	10	0
INDIA, ½ a. red, pair*	13	10	0
NEW SOUTH WALES, Sydney 2d., plate I.	8	0	0
CAPE OF GOOD HOPE, 4d. wood block	6	5	0
GOLD COAST, 20s. Carmine and green	9	10	0
MAURITIUS, Postpaid 1d. vermilion. £6 10s., £8 5s., £10 10s. and	11	15	0
ditto, 2d. blue, PENOE error £13 10s. and	12	0	0
ditto, 2d. blue £9 15s. and	12	0	0
NATAL, 9d. blue, first issue... ...	23	0	0
TRANSVAAL, 1d. all caps, sur. inverted	5	15	0
BRITISH GUIANA, 1c. black on magenta	5	10	0
ditto, 4c. black on crimson ...	21	10	0
NEW BRUNSWICK, 1s. violet ...	19	10	0
NOVA SCOTIA, 1s. violet	20	10	0
ST. LUCIA, 1s. orange	6	5	0
ST. VINCENT, 4d. on 1s., on original	12	15	0
ditto, 5s. wmk star	16	0	0

HADLOW, Feb. 24, 1896.

	£	s.	d.
NEW ZEALAND, 1d. brown, N.Z. wmk.	14	10	0

PUTTICK & SIMPSON, Feb. 24, 1896.

BUENOS AYRES, 3 pesos, green ...	5	10	0
CAPE, wood block, 1d. blue, mended	25	10	0
ditto, do., do., damaged	18	10	0
COLUMBIA (1863), 50c. red (error)...	17	1	0

March 2 and 3, 1896.

NOVA SCOTIA, 1s. violet	18	0	0
BRITISH GUIANA (1851), 1c. magenta	5	10	0
ditto (1856), 4c. crimson ...	21	10	0
CAPE OF GOOD HOPE, 4d. dark blue	6	5	0
CEYLON, 4d. rose, imperf	16	10	0
ditto, 8d. brown, imperf.... ...	23	10	0
GOLD COAST, 20s. green and rose*...	9	10	0
INDIA, ½ red, pair	13	10	0
MAURITIUS, postpaid 1d. on yellowish, early	11	15	0
ditto, 1d, on bluish, early, £8 5s. &	10	10	0
ditto, medium, early	6	10	0
ditto, 2d. early, £9 15s. and	12	0	0
ditto, 2d. PENOE, early £12 and	13	0	0
NAPLES, ½t. blue, arms	15	0	0
ditto, ½t. blue cross	5	0	0
NATAL, first issue, 9d. blue... ...	23	0	0
NEVIS, 6d. green*	9	10	0
NEW BRUNSWICK, 1s. violet ...	19	10	0

VENTOM, BULL & COOPER, Feb. 25 & 26, 1896.

CANADA, 10d. blue*...	6	10	0
FRANCE, 1 franc, orange	9	0	0
SPAIN (1852), 2 reales red, pair on original	22	0	0

BUHL & Co., Limited, March 26 & 27, 1896.

GREAT BRITAIN, 5s. rose plate 4*...	8	8	0
BRITISH GUIANA, 1862, provisional 1c. with border of grapes ...	7	10	0
ST. LUCIA, 1885, 1s. red-brown, a pair	12	15	0
TOBAGO, 1882, 6d. ochre, C.A. ...	10	0	0

WM. RIDOUT, March 20th, 1896.

TUSCANY, 2 soldi	6	6	0
MOLDAVIA, 54 paras	14	14	0
ditto, 108 paras	31	0	0
ST. VINCENT 5s. star wmk.	17	10	0
ditto, 4d. on 1s.*	12	0	0

To Correspondents.

Editorial Communications.

Articles of special interest will be paid for. M.S. dealing with particular points in an exhaustive manner will be most welcome. As we wish to arrange matter in advance, we shall be glad to hear from Specialists who are open to write up their special countries.

All communications on Editorial matters should be addressed to the Editor, Mr. EDWARD J NANKIVELL, 28, Birdhurst Rise, Croydon. Letters enclosing valuables should be registered.

New Issues.

The earliest information as to New Issues will be much appreciated by us, and will be duly credited to the correspondent, or firm, sending it. Our foreign correspondents can materially help us in this direction. When possible, a specimen should accompany the information, which must be addressed to the Editor, as above. Copies of official decrees and circulars in reference to postal changes are particularly requested.

Exchanges.

We shall be glad to exchange two copies with each of our leading contemporaries; one copy should be posted to our publishers and the other to the Editorial address as above.

Subscriptions.

THE PHILATELIC RECORD AND STAMP NEWS will be sent post free to any subscriber at home or abroad, on receipt of 3s. Subscribers' remittances should be sent to the Publishers, Messrs. BUHL & Co., LIMITED, 11, Queen Victoria Street, London, England.

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Whole Page	£3 0 0	£2 16 0	£2 12 6	£2 4 0
Half Page	1 14 0	1 10 0	1 7 0	1 4 0
Quarter Page.....	1 2 0	1 0 0	0 18 0	0 15 0

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THE

PHILATELIC RECORD

and Stamp News.

APRIL, 1896.

Editorial Notes.

THERE is a very considerable and growing demand for another general public Exhibition of Postage Stamps. At every successive exhibition at the rooms of the Philatelic Society of London, dealers, one and all, have urged their need of another General Public Exhibitionof Postage Stamps. "Your Exhibitions," they have said, "are for specialists, and are confined to your own members. Neither dealers nor outside collectors can participate. We are free to admire, and we do admire, the grand collections of the members of the great society.

Wanted another General Philatelic Exhibition.

But that is not enough. Despite your undoubted hospitality we are out in the cold. Why not get up another General Exhibition, such as you held in 1890 in Baker Street?" Aye, there's the rub! It is easy enough to talk about getting up great Exhibitions, but it is quite another matter to do the work. Since the Exhibition of 1890 there have been plenty of proposals, but no one has come forward to do the work. One journal after another has endeavoured to get up the necessary enthusiasm for another show. But they have been whipping tired horses. Those who did the work in 1890 were not ready to face another such task, nor are they now, without substantial help. Indeed, we believe the general feeling still is that dealers should shoulder the burden of the next Exhibition with the help of the old workers; or, that it should be a combined effort, in which the work and the kudos should fall to the share of collectors and dealers, in more or less equal proportions.

The cordial relations which have always existed between the premier society and the leading dealers of the metropolis and the provinces, have of late been cemented by common action in the revolt which has taken place against speculators and unnecessary stamps. In whatever direction we look we are afforded the most convincing proofs that the interests of collectors and dealers are so interwoven that we form a philatelic fraternity in which we have everything to gain and nothing to lose, by community of action. Therefore, the next Exhibition should be the result of a combination of collectors and dealers.

A sufficient time has elapsed since the last great Exhibition to justify the anticipation that another, if attempted within the next for months, would be

even more successful. Since 1890 great strides have been made in the bulking up of grand collections, and there is little doubt that, as a show, any general Exhibition that may now be ventured upon will far surpass anything ever before attempted in this country, or any other, in the matter of completeness. The last six years have been characterised by remarkable developments in the direction of specialism. Collectors have narrowed and concentrated their powers of collection, with the result that nothing now-a-days escapes the keen scrutiny of the specialist. In the scientific study and arrangement of a country's postal issues we are undoubtedly far in advance of the work done up to 1890. Indeed, all along the line there has been a general advance in the methods of collection and arrangement. Latter day fastidiousness in the accumulation of immaculate specimens, and of grand ranges of shades, particularly in the massing of stamps in an unused condition, will go far to render our next Exhibition an eye-opener to the average collector.

So far, then, as the necessary materials are concerned, there is not likely to be any lack of the needful in that direction, nor is there any question as to the welcome which would greet a definite announcement that another long-desired general Exhibition on a large scale has been decided on.

We wait only for someone to lead the way. Some of those who did so much to win success for the 1890 Exhibition are more than half persuaded to go into harness again. We would, therefore, suggest that collectors and dealers should forthwith appoint Committees to meet and discuss the pros and cons for another general Exhibition, and to ascertain what financial help can be obtained. Without a substantial guarantee in money matters it would be very hazardous to embark on the undertaking. A Committee hide-bound for want of funds would be crippled disastrously. Hence, a large sum for even preliminary expenses will be necessary to ensure success. Will this be forthcoming? On the Continent, we are told, they manage these things better than we do in this country. They ask for guarantees to the limit of possible expenditure, and then they issue bonds to each guarantor to the amount of his guarantee; and if, at the close of the Exhibition, when all accounts are paid, there is a surplus, that surplus is divided amongst the guarantors by way of dividend. We are accustomed to discuss deficits in such matters, but we are assured that, when properly managed, philatelic exhibitions on the Continent result not only in the return of moneys advanced by the guarantors, but also in substantial dividends.

Here we leave the suggestion for the time, merely adding, by way of encouragement to the unbelieving, that more than one influential "Barkis is willin'" and that signs in that direction during the next few weeks will not be confined to the *Philatelic Record.*

Indian Postal Annoyances.

Our Indian confreres seem to have many and various complaints against their Postal authorities, so much so that, viewed from the old country, the Post Office, instead of being an unmixed good, seems to be converted into an instrument for testing the patience and temper of all who are forced to avail themselves of its services. We have already alluded to the manner in which the Post Office has been used by the Customs authorities for levying an infamous tax on the full value of goods sent on approval for selection. Our excellent contemporary, the *Philatelic World*, now exposes another and most inexcusable practice, in which the Post Office itself seems to be solely to blame. The Postal Department, we are told, is in the habit "of running thread *through* registered matter committed to its care," and the *Philatelic World* says, "most of us have suffered from this unpleasing little whim." Little whim indeed! When the little whim is exercised in the boring of holes and passing thread *through* valuable stamps sent in registered letters it is time that stamp merchants at home who have dealings through the

Indian Post Office should unite in drawing the attention of the Secretary of State for India to this idiotic destruction of property sent through the Indian Post Office. We have no doubt such a representation, backed by the evidence of a few samples of such perforation, would be effective in putting a stop to such a senseless practice.

In defence of the S.S.S.S.

SOME wiseacres seem inclined to run their heads against the S.S.S.S. because, forsooth, it is between the devil and the deep sea in the matter of condemning all commemorative issues, and because it has mistaken the idiotic freaks of his Tongan Majesty for a little cunning speculation. Now, it is well to recognise the fact that the question of commemorative issues is an extremely difficult one to deal with. It is unfortunately conceivable that there may be honestly issued commemorative stamps, but we have on the other hand ample evidence that the commemorative stamp is in nearly every instance only a means to an end, and that end is the pocket of the stamp collector.

If the stamp collector does not wish to be warned, and to be protected against such impostors, let him say so. Up to the present we have seen no indication that the *genuine stamp collector* is not grateful for the revolt which has found such effective voice in the circulars of the S.S.S.S. The future of stamp collecting and the prosperity of stamp dealing, especially in new issues, is much more closely bound up in the continued activity of the S.S.S.S. than many people seem to imagine.

More Commemorative Portuguese.

Mekeel's Weekly gives illustrations of nine labels of an intended further commemorative issue. This time the event to be commemorated is the four hundredth anniversary of the discovery, in 1497, of the Cape route to India, and the issue will, of course, take place next year. These commemorative issues of Portugal, are so clearly of an unnecessary and speculative cast that there will be no difficulty in their being included in the S.S.S.S list. It is true it is hard to always draw the line, even in commemorative issues, in the case of stamps placed on general and unrestricted sale for postal purposes, but the cure will come in one of two ways. If the Postal Union Congress, to be held next year, acts upon the invitation to bar all commemorative issues, such issues will at once be relegated to the position of local stamps, and those who include locals will take their choice, but there will be no further excuse for including them in an ordinary collection of postage stamps. The other cure will be the boycott, which will assuredly make itself felt, in the wise measure of ceasing to collect the offending countries after a certain date, which will stop short of all commemorative labels. It is a thousand pities that such an old philatelic favourite as Portugal should be so bent upon courting neglect. Admittedly it is very hard up financially, and there might be much excuse for a frequent change of issues, but this blatant, undisguised manufacture of gaudy labels for collectors, will be resented and repudiated, and Portugal will be relegated to the effective cure of neglect.

First Issue of Western Australia.

By Lipman E. Hush.

AMONG the earlier stamps of Western Australia I am of opinion that there is still much to be discovered; it is with the idea of rousing others, who may have more opportunities than I have, to investigate and unearth what at present is hidden from us.

Literature on the stamps of the Colony is incomplete and incorrect. Lately the *London Philatelist* has had some excellent papers, and what I have to write will, I hope, supplement them.

At present, it is generally thought that there are no "minor" varieties of the first One Shilling. It will be remembered that Mr. W. T. Wilson was fortunate in obtaining two large blocks of the first Fourpence, which clearly showed that there were many minor varieties of that value due to the process of lithography, and I see no reason why the same might not be the case with the first One Shilling. I have noticed in one of a pair that whilst all the lettering of the inscription was fairly equal, the other stamp showed marked differences noticeable chiefly in the two LLs of Shilling, which were much smaller than any of the other letters. In other specimens I have noticed many minor varieties in the lettering.

In the stamp of the value of Twopence, which has so far been the most neglected of all the W. Australian stamps, there is much to study and much to be found out. It is generally described as "Brown on red. Indian red or orange red," the reason for this is sheer neglect. Once the stamp is examined with a lens the error of this description is apparent. I have always been of the opinion that this stamp was printed in bronze, varying in shade from gold to copper on white paper watermarked a swan upright, and an overprint was added to distinguish it from the first sixpence. The overprint is in red. Indian red or orange red. The bronze soon loses its lustre, as is easily seen in the sixpence, and the process of "deoxidising" darkens the colour.

It is also thought that the border of the Sixpence was merely altered in the lower label, and Twopence was substituted for Sixpence. This is also erroneous. The border of the Twopence consists of two parts which I will describe as (*a*) inner border (*b*) outer border. The inner border is a thick border measuring $3\frac{1}{2}$ m.m. in width and bearing upon it the words—(L) Western, (T) Postage, (R) Australia, (B) Twopence, in block letters.

The outer border is a thin border entirely surrounding this, and is perfectly plain or solid.

The size of the stamp is $24\frac{7}{8}$ m.m. × $20\frac{1}{3}$ m.m.

The first sixpence differs from the first twopence in two points (*a*) size, (*b*) borders.

The size is $23\frac{1}{2}$ × $20\frac{1}{3}$ m.m.

Its borders are three in number, which I will call—

(*a*) inner (*b*) middle (*c*) outer.

The inner border is a thin solid border encircling the central design.

The middle border is the thickest, and contains the inscription—(L) Western, (R) Australia, (T) Postage, (B) Sixpence.

The outer border surrounds this, and is, like the inner one, plain.

The width of the border is $3\frac{1}{4}$ m.m.

(*a*) measures about $\frac{1}{8}$ m.m.
(*b*) ,, ,, 3 m.m.
(*c*) ,, ,, $\frac{1}{8}$ m.m.

The date of issue of the above stamps is a matter of conjecture so far. I am of opinion that the first One Penny, Fourpence, and One Shilling were issued on August 1st, 1854.

From the rates of postage in force at that date, I think that the necessity of stamps of the value of Twopence and Sixpence was soon felt, and so they may have been issued in 1854 or 1855. I do not think the Postmaster-General of the Colony would allow stamps of the value of One Penny or Fourpence to be used in such great quantities, as they must have been in the absence of the Twopence and Sixpence values, for any length of time. It is known that the stamps were lithographed in the Colony, and that in 1854 the Government lithographer resigned his appointment and was succeeded by Mr. A. Hillman. To this latter gentleman I think we are indebted for the stamps of the new design, and it was probably before the end of the year that he produced them. Anyhow, it is unlikely that the first lithographer (Mr. Horace Samson) should take the centre similar to that of the One-penny, and from it produce the Fourpence and Shilling similarly, and have an altogether new design for the values of Twopence and Sixpence; or that Mr. Hillman should provide a Twopence and Sixpence of an entirely new design, and then revert to the old one for the One Shilling stamp.

It is also more than likely that the new comer desired to "win his spurs" and show what he could do.

I should therefore affix the following dates to the stamps of the first issue :—

August 1st, 1854. *imperf.* *wmk. a swan.*

One Penny .....black.
Fourpence.....blue shades.
One Shilling.....brown shades.

1854—55.

Twopence.....Bronze and red shades.
Sixpence .....Bronze.

Notes on Nevis and St. Kitts.

BY DOUGLAS MACKENZIE.

IN the *Philatelist's Supplement* issued with the *Bazaar* of 25th inst., "Some West Indian Notes," appear by Mr. J. R. F. Turner, and the countries dealt with are Nevis and St. Christopher.

In dealing with Nevis he states that, "as all the issues are absolutely clear of anything in the shape of a surcharge, besides being now obsolete, their claims on philatelists are second to none."

How about the Provisional issue of 1882? Has Mr. Turner overlooked it? These hand-stamped provisionals with their black and purple surcharges reading upwards and downwards, also with double surcharges, on right and left side of the stamps, I have always considered, the one blot on the otherwise clean escutcheon of this island, and the only easy opportunity to afford "fakers" of reaping a harvest from its postal issues, and one of which I regret to say, they were not slow to avail themselves.

In referring to the present prices of Nevis stamps, Mr. Turner informs us that, in his opinion, they are exorbitantly listed, and to prove his statement says that, judging by the numbers which appear in Auction Catalogues, these stamps exist in much larger quantities than is generally supposed. The best proof that the prices are not exorbitant, is that in spite of the "large numbers" which are sold by auction, the stamps always fetch full prices, clearly showing that the demand is greater than the supply.

While not agreeing with Mr. Turner that the prices of the early issues are exorbitant, I must, however, admit that the remainder of the C.A. issues are too highly listed, and I consider that we are pretty certain to see a fall in the prices now asked for them.

Judging from Mr. Turner's remarks *re* the one shilling purple, it is evident he considers it is still available for postage, as he says that "some on letters will doubtless soon reach these shores." I hardly think this at all likely, as at the time the Leeward Islands remainders were withdrawn from use I was informed on very good authority that the stamps ceased to be available for postal purposes. I understand, however, that Mr. Thompson, the purchaser of the remainders, is not quite satisfied on the point, and that so far he has been unable to get any definite answer from the Government authorities as to whether the stamps are demonitized.

In writing of the stamps of St. Christopher (commonly called St. Kitts), Mr. Turner says that the 1d. or 2½d., small surcharge, is its rarest stamp. Although this is undoubtedly a scarce stamp, it is by no means rarer than the 1d. or 2½d. large surcharge *reversed.* I am unaware whether it has ever been published that only one sheet of 20 stamps of each of these varieties was printed, but I was informed of the fact at the time by the Postmaster (the late Mr. France), who very kindly sent me one of each of these specimens. The small surcharge can really be looked upon as a proof, as the Postmaster when sending me the specimen wrote "the small surcharge was tried first but not pleasing, the larger one was adopted as being clearer." On the sheet margin of the specimen sent me the large type surcharge is printed, and as this was done for comparison I cannot but look upon the small surcharge otherwise than as a trial print. It has been largely forged, and many more copies than the original 20 copies are now in existence. I have never seen used specimens of either of these two surcharges, which had been properly authenticated.

The Antigua stamps used in St. Kitts, during a temporary dearth of stamps in that island, are very interesting, and should most certainly be collected in conjunction with the other issues of St. Kitts. A fact which has escaped the notice of philatelists in general is, that before the necessary authority was obtained to use these stamps, the postal authorities in St Kitts had to resort to franking all letters during the months of October and November, 1889, with a circular hand stamp lettered 

which was applied on the top right-hand corner of the envelopes, the ordinary postmark of the island being afterwards stamped on the envelopes in addition. As this "frank" was used for foreign, as well as inter-colonial correspondence, I should have thought that authority would have been obtained to use other values of Antiguan stamps, but so far, I have not been able to find this was done, and the one penny value, is the only stamp of Antigua, I have ever received on letters from St. Kitts These envelopes are also surely of great interest, yet they are not generally collected, as many philatelists, I fear, are not aware of their existence.

As it may perhaps be of interest to your readers, I herewith give a list of the Leeward Islands remainders, taken from the Government form inviting the tenders, which shows the exact number of the various stamps offered for sale :—

	STAMPS.						CARDS.			
	1s.	6d.	4d.	2½d.	1d.	½d.	1d.	1½d.	2d.	3d.
Antigua	1387	6300	38464	26009	110749	41064	...	...	2224	2321½
St. Kitts	1580	2505	29122	13944	42631	36821	2372	1628	2020	2058
Nevis ...	1457	2944	4332	5045	5872	7227	1006	663	1030	985
Dominica	1428	3608	9498	9238	19290	18807	963	1164	188	204
Montserrat	...	1166	7232	4977	5463	5437	759	461	143	737
Virgin Islands	3801	6408	8746	10007	38969	17364	2988	1668	...	...

The total face value is £4788 odd.

Obsolete Leeward Islands.

SOME time since one of our American contemporaries ridiculed the high prices paid for used copies of many of the obsolete stamps of the Leeward Islands, and backed its opinion by the assertion that, as a matter of fact, the stamps were still available for postage. As there seemed to be considerable doubt on this latter point, a member of the Philatelic Society of London wrote to the post-masters of each of the Islands for information, with the following results :—

The Postmaster of St. Kitts replied on the 25th March, 1896, as follows :—

Your letter of the 10th ult., came duly to hand, and I regret being unable to reply to it ere this, but I could not do so till the matter was decided by the Government, to whom your letter was referred.

The obsolete Leeward Islands stamps were in the several presidencies available for postage till June, 1894, when an order was issued to the several Postmasters to refuse to accept them in future. This order I received on the 5th June, 1894, and since then I have always refused to accept them either in payment of postage, or to cancel them for dealers or collectors. The Government has, however, now instructed me *not* to receive the St. Kitts stamps in payment of postage, or to cancel them for collectors ; but I am also instructed to cancel them in such a manner, as to render them of little or no value to collectors or dealers, as these stamps would only be so used for the purpose of being passed through the post, and thus increasing their value.

The Postmistress of Nevis replied on the 28th February, 1896, as follows:—

Your letter of 10th inst. reached me in due course. In reply I beg to state that the *Nevis* Postage stamps have been withdrawn by the Government (and consequently have become obsolete). The Leeward Islands stamps *only* are available for postage.

The Postmaster of Dominica replied on the 3rd March, 1896, as follows :—

I have the honour to acknowledge the receipt of yours of 10th ult , and beg to say in reply that the "Dominica" stamps, of all values, were withdrawn from circulation in 1890, and ceased from that period to be current for postage purposes. I shall be happy at all times to afford you any information in my power.

Stamps of Impoverished States.

By Edward J. Nankivell.

PERHAPS it is just as well to candidly recognise the fact, that it is next to impossible to effectively protect our philatelic pockets from systematic pickings on the part of poverty-stricken States. There are some parasites that cannot be removed, but must be endured. And we very much fear that the poverty-stricken State with a keen eye on the philatelic pocket, is one of those inevitable parasites. On the one hand is the almost empty exchequer, and on the other hand is the well-filled philatelic purse. A postage stamp is an effective ticket of admission for a dip into the philatelic pocket, and the more impoverished the exchequer, the more often is it tempted to audaciously print a fresh supply of tickets of admission for further dips. For years we philatelists have been crying out, "Have a dip! Have a dip! Penny dips! Twopenny dips! Threepenny dips! Fourpenny dips," and so on, up to £5 dips! and shortly we are to have farthing dips. Till at last it is a recognised business. So long as we got a convertible *quid pro quo* we did not mind, but we now find that we are getting such a lot of shoddy that is not convertible into a *quid pro quo*, that we naturally cry out that we won't play the game any longer. Consequently, the question now arises, what is to be done? The poverty stricken state having enjoyed so many dips in the past, is not to be choked off. We have no objection to continue the business of the dips, if we can have some rational, fair and square arrangement. And we are inclined to believe that some arrangement may be arrived at which shall be mutually beneficial. Why not compromise matters a bit? Let impoverished States that must be helped from our philatelic pockets, on their side, agree to discontinue the manufacture of commemorative rubbish, and all arrangements for the systematic sale of remainders *à la* Seebeck, and let us on our side raise no philatelic objection to an annual change of issues, provided they do not exceed the ordinary postal requirements of a well-ordered State. Such an annual issue would generate philatelic interest, and would, in the long run, bring far more money to needy exchequers, than the spasmodic issue of commemorative shoddy. For years Spain annually changed its postage stamps, and stamp collectors looked forward from year to year, with unalloyed interest to the "new Spanish," and there would be no objection to-day to annual issues, even of Seebecks, if they were free from the hawking about of remainders. We commend this suggestion to the careful attention of all States which feel the need of help from the philatelic purse. We have no objection to maintain a few States, or to contribute to the maintenance of a few tottering thrones here and there, but it is only fair, that in such an undertaking, some consideration should be extended to our sentimental idiosyncracies. We are not over exacting, we are only asking for genuine postal issues, and those we are willing to buy with a generosity that cannot fail to provide the needful funds for many an impoverished exchequer.

Failing some such arrangement as this, we shall have to go on cutting each others' throats. We shall have to boycot the issues of those States which will not come to terms, and thus at the same time deprive ourselves of the pleasure we should otherwise seek, in studying the postal developments of countries that should be full of interest for us. There is really no occasion for us to quarrel. We have the funds and we are willing to help those who will act honestly in return. Hitherto, we believe the States, to whom we

address this appeal, have jeopardised their own financial interests by listening to ignorant advisers. Let them come to terms with us philatelists, from whom they wish to draw their funds, and be guided by us as to what is wanted in return, and then all will be well.

It is time that the stupid fallacy was exploded, that stamp collectors are overjoyed over the appearance of every new issue. Ignorant advisers acting upon this fallacy, have persuaded needy States to enter into the business as one of supply and demand. "These philatelists," they have urged, "have more money than wit; they are wealthy 'soft Tommies' that you can draw upon 'at sight' to an unlimited extent. You cannot fail to have noticed that the bulk of your postage stamps are sold to stamp collectors. That being so, it is surely worth your while to cultivate so profitable a source of revenue. They will buy your bits of paper, that cost you a mere nothing, and ask you for no postal service in return." So far the argument keeps within the boundaries of truth, but there has been a false deduction from these facts, for the would-be advisers proceeded to recommend the manufacture of commemorative rubbish, to tempt the philatelic palate, and one, who posed as a philatelist said, "you give me your contract for the manufacture of your stamps, and I will provide you free with all you need for your postal services if you will permit me to print and sell remainders to stamp collectors." And so the manufacture of stamps for sale to collectors has proceeded briskly, postal needs dropping into a very secondary back-ground consideration. Hence, stamp collectors soon found that they were buying immense quantities of miniature picture labels, that had but a very slender connection with the postal requirements of the manufacturing States. The disgust engendered by this discovery generated the revolt which led to the formation of the Society for the Suppression of Speculative Stamps. Already the S.S.S.S. has diminished the revenue of many a needy State by thousands of pounds, and unless those States come to terms, and confine their issues of postage stamps to genuine postal needs, with the old freedom to the stamp collector to buy such as he may require in the ordinary way, they will find that they have foolishly cut off a very expansive and lucrative source of revenue.

Therefore, in the mutual interests of needy stamp-issuing countries on the one hand, and of stamp collectors on the other, we come back to our proposal that more profit may be made out of honest, annual, genuine postal issues, than out of commemorative issues, or the sale of remainders. We are not anxious to see many annuals, and we only suggest them as a choice of evils. It is a compromise that would, in all probability, be heartily welcomed by all who wish well to the spread of stamp collecting.

Some people may possibly consider that in this suggestion we are opening the flood gates to speculative governments. We hope not Our suggestion is that they should confine themselves to genuine postal issues, and we have endeavoured to prove that they can do this, and at the same time improve, rather than diminish, their revenue from the sale of postage stamps. As we have stated, the annual issues of Spain were welcomed by philatelists, and we believe that an honest annual issue by the Seebeck States, of postage stamps freed from the sale of remainders, and the undue multiplication of values not required for genuine postal purposes, would stimulate the collection of the stamps of those countries which are now so largely boycotted by stamp collectors.

Lubeck Error of 1859.

AMONG the errors of the stamps of the smaller German States, the most interesting one, without doubt, is the Lubeck stamp of 1859, 2½ schilling red-brown, instead of 2 schilling red-brown.

The meaning of the word error, as applied to postage stamps, is explained differently by different authorities. By that name, I understand, in the first place, impressions taken from plates that have a mistake of engraving, and in the second place, stamps that are printed in one colour instead of another.

That is to say that I do not count among errors, stamps which, by some accident, show some slight mistakes in one or two specimens: these may be collected as curiosities, but they should be called mutilated specimens rather than errors (see, for example, the 2d. and 3d. issues of Oldenburg, upon which the name of the country sometimes appears to be spelled with letters that do not belong to it)

Nor do I think that, among our German stamps, we can reckon as errors, stamps that are in circulation in an unperforated state, when they should be perforated. In that case, they are evidently stamps that were issued in haste, before they were quite ready, like the 3 kreuzer rose of Baden. In their design and in their colour they differ in no wise from the more correct specimens. If we stick to the true meaning of the word error, we cannot place among them the stamps that have a different watermark from the rest of the issue as, for example, Hanover, Number 1, with watermark.

But those stamps which, by mistake, are printed in the wrong colour are errors; in that case we have to do with specimens which have gone through all the single processes of printing, only that they were not printed in that particular colour which had been selected for them, so that they differ in that from all the other corresponding values of the same issue. This mistake may occur from the fact that, in preparing the different values of one issue, one or two sheets of one of the denominations was passed by mistake under the presses charged with the colour for another stamp, or it may occur in stamps of more than one colour, when the colour prepared for a certain part of the stamp was applied by mistake to the other part, and *vice versâ*. To the first class belongs the well-known error of Saxony, 1851, '52, ½ Neu Groschen, bright blue, instead of grey, printed in the colour of the bright blue, 2 Neu Groschen; and also the 9 kreuzer of Baden, 1851, green instead of violet, printed in the colour of the 6 kreuzer, green, of the same issue; this error has been discovered quite lately. To the second class belong the Heligoland error of 1873, the ¼ schilling, which shows a red oval and a green frame, instead of a green oval and a red frame.

But the most striking and most peculiar of errors are those originating from impressions being taken from imperfect plates; the stamps then slipped through unnoticed, or for some reason, they are quietly suffered to circulate, although their error has been discovered. Well known among this class are the errors of Bergedorf, 1861, 1½ Schillinge, black on yellow, instead of 1½ Schilling; and Bremen, 1885, 1860, 5 Grote black on rose with the inscription "Franko-Marken" instead of "Franko-Marke." Neither of these errors, however, have been officially put in circulation.

But the stamp which answers best to our idea of error is the stamp of Lubeck with the inscription in letters: "Zwei ein halb Schilling" (2½ schilling), while at the same time it bears, in figures, the value 2 schilling: these stamps have been used postally for quite a while. In 1858, when the stamps

of Lubeck were to be introduced, the firm of H. G. Rathgens were instructed to manufacture them. The first issue, which altogether amounted to 4000 sheets of 100 stamps each, consisted of five values: ½ schilling, lilac; 1 schilling, reddish-yellow; 2 schilling, red-brown; 2½ schilling, rose, and 4 schilling, green.

These stamps were produced in the following manner. After the design had been decided on by the Lubeck Postal Department, one original die was made for each value. From these, and by the means of japanned paper, they took 100 copies in order to be able to prepare sheets of 100 stamps, 10 rows of 10 stamps each. These 100 copies were arranged together like a mosaic, resulting in a complete table; this was afterwards reproduced upon a stone which formed the printing plate. From this plate all impressions were taken, and it is evident that by this process there can be absolutely no varieties or differences of type, especially as accidental small mistakes could easily be removed from the plate before its use by slight retouchings.

According to official documents the following number of stamps were printed:—

400 sheets of 100 stamps of the ½ Schilling.
200 sheets of 100 stamps of the 1 Schilling.
About 1400 sheets of 100 stamps of the 2 Schilling.
500 sheets of 100 stamps of the 2½ Schilling.
1500 sheets of the 100 stamps of the 4 Schilling.

They were issued gradually as needed. About three years later 1,100 and 500 sheets of the two lowest denominations were again printed, but on different paper. Now the curious fact took place that upon the sheets of the schilling stamps an error appeared, repeated twice; the stamps affected are the 6th and 7th of the last row, that is to say, the 96th and 97th of the whole plate. Here we see side by side two stamps, which, although they have exactly the same red-brown colour of the balance of the sheet, still deserve in full to be looked upon as errors. These two stamps, upon the left scroll, bear, in letters, the inscription, "Zwei ein halb" (2½), while upon the four corners the indicated value is 2.

I remember very well that about in the year 1868, a gentleman who enjoyed the reputation of being an authority on stamps, had explained this error by saying that the engraver had, by mistake, engraved "Zwei ein halb" in preparing the plate. At that time this explanation had satisfied me fully; nobody said anything about a second error, and it is probable that it remained unknown to most connoisseurs until lately. But if we bear in mind the way in which the plate was prepared, and which I have described above, we will understand that it is impossible for this error to have originated in that manner. Nor is it possible to admit that such a serious error should owe its existence to probable after retouches of the plate; such a supposition would surmise a temporary aberration of mind on the part of the workman. But we believe that the facts of the case were about in this wise. It must have been in preparing the 100 copies from the original engraving, for future reproduction upon a stone, that, by mistake, two of the copies of the 2½ schilling crept among those of 2 schilling. It is known that the 5 values of the issue were manufactured at the same time; therefore the copies of all of them, 500 in number, must have been together near the workman, and it may easily be understood how his hand got hold of two of the wrong ones. It is not known, at least not to me, who discovered the error, and why it was only in part corrected. I think, however, that it remained unnoticed by any member of the Rathgens firm, and that it also escaped being detected by any of the committee who examined the essays and proofs. In the last minute, however, somebody must have suddenly become aware of it; time, unfortunately was wanting for a thorough change, which, moreover, would have been very costly. So they

went to work to remedy the difficulty as best they might. The correction consisted in hastily removing the 2½ from the four corners and substituting a 2 in its place. The inscription on the left scroll, being in letters, was too long and could not be changed, and so one of the queerest of all errors was put in circulation. We have seen that not quite 1,400 sheets of the 2 schilling were printed; as there are only two errors in each sheet, the total number of errors will fall a little short of 2,800. Postally used specimens of this stamp form one of the greatest rarities of philately. I have been unable to determine exactly how many sheets remained on hand at the post-office, but I have reasons to believe that it was a not unimportant number; most errors now in collections came from this stock on hand. This I know to be a fact, because these errors are almost without exception unprovided with gum, and because I learned from a member of the Rathgens firm that they had not delivered all the stamps at one time, and gummed. On the contrary, they were in the habit of remitting small quantities to the authorities, as the stamps became needed, and they only kept in stock a small number of sheets gummed in advance.—*Translated from the German by Prof. G. Raymond.*

Orange Free State Issues.

(*From the South African Philatelist.*)

THE Orange Free State is bounded on the North by the South African Republic, on the East by Natal and British Basutoland, on the South by the Orange River, and on the West by the South African Republic and Griqualand West. The area is 70,000 square miles, and the population, according to the census taken in March, 1890, is 207,503, of which 77,716 are white, and 129,787 coloured.

Up to 1854 the Orange Free State was a British Colony under a separate government. On the 23rd of February of that year the Sovereignty was abandoned by a convention executed at Bloemfontein, owing to the Imperial Government not considering it worth the expenditure. The Volksraad (Parliament) assembled in April, 1854, and shortly afterwards Mr. J. P. Roffhan was elected first President of the Republic. The ex-President, Mr. Reitz, resigned in December, 1895, owing to ill health, and pending the election of a President, Mr. P. J. Blignaut, the Government Secretary, is Acting President.

In February, 1868, the first issue of the stamps took place, consisting of three values, viz.—1p. brown, 6p. rose, and 1s. orange. The design being an orange tree loaded with fruit, and three post horns on back-ground consisting of 86 horizontal coloured lines, within a rectangle measuring 13mm by 16½mm. On sides "Oranje Vrij Staat (Orange Free State). Below, value. The whole design is enclosed within a rectangle consisting of two lines, the outer being heavier than the inner line, and measuring 18½mm by 22½mm. Printed on unwatermarked wove paper. Perforated 14.

In 1887 the necessity for a 4d. stamp was felt, and pending the arrival of the permanent stamp of that denomination the 6d. value was surcharged with the numeral "4" in five different types in as many sizes. The surcharge with a large numeral "4" being the scarcest. Inverted surcharges also exist.

In 1878 the permanent 4d. arrived, being the same type as that of 1868, the colour being blue.

In 1879, owing to the increase of mail matter of a heavy nature, it was deemed necessary to issue a stamp of a high denomination, and the 5s. value was issued of similar design to the preceding issue, colour green. Paper and perforation as of previous issues.

In 1881 it was found desirable to issue a ½d. stamp for circulation and newspaper purposes, and while awaiting the arrival of the permanent stamp, the 5s. value of 1879 was surcharged "½d" in black, the original value being erased by a single heavy bar. There are four types of surcharge. This stamp also appears with the surcharge inverted, besides various misprints and broken numerals and letters, and erasing bar above or omitted altogether.

In the same year, owing to fresh supplies of the 1d. denomination not arriving, it became necessary to resort to further surcharging, the 5s. value being used for that object. Style of surcharge and type being identical with that of the ½p. provisional. There are five types of surcharge. This provisional also appears with a double surcharge.

At the end of 1882 a further new value was found necessary to facilitate postal business, namely a 3d. stamp, and to meet the case the 4p. stamp of 1878 was surcharged "3d." in black, the original value being erased by a single thick bar. Misprints such as erasing bar being above instead of through original value; with no erasing bar, &c. are also found. There are five types of this surcharge. This stamp also appears with surcharge double.

In 1883 the permanent ½p. red-brown, and 3p. blue were issued, as also a further new value, the 2p. violet. All on wove paper, unwatermarked and perforated 14. Design as of previous issues.

In 1888 the 2d. value ran out and the 3p. blue of 1883 was pressed into service to do duty with the surcharge "2d" in black. There is a variety in this surcharge in which the foot of the figure "2" is curved instead of straight. It is very difficult to obtain this variety.

In 1890 the 1p. stamp gave out and surcharging was once more resorted to. The balance of the 4d. blue of 1878, remaining after the provisional issue "3d. on 4p." of 1882, were surcharged "1d." in black. There are two types of surcharge. This stamp also appears with surcharge double, and also treble. Another variety of this surcharge has also to be recorded in which there is an "I" instead of a "1."

Owing to there not being sufficient stamps of the 4d. value to meet requirements, the 3d. blue of 1883 was surcharged "1d." in black in same type as that of the 1d. on 4p. There are also two types of this surcharge. The variety of the "I" instead of "1" appearing in the 1d. on 4p. has not been found in this provisional. There is, however, a variety to be noted, and that is the numeral "3" is 3mm. distant from the "d" instead of next to it.

In 1892, on the Orange Free State joining the Postal Union, it became necessary to have a 2½d. stamp, and for purposes of economy the 3d. blue of 1883 was surcharged "2½d" in black. This stamp is still in circulation.

In 1894 Mr. Klynveld moved a motion in the Volksraad that the Orange Free State should emulate the example set by many of the Central American Republics and increase its revenue by frequent changes in the postage emissions, and in the same year the colour of the 1p. brown of 1868 was changed to violet, being the same colour as the current 2p. It was feared that this was the forerunner of a new issue of stamps in terms of Mr. Klynveld's proposal, but fortunately this has not proved to be the case.

Reviews.

The Postal Issues of Hawaii.

History of the Postal Issues of Hawaii. A List of the Adhesive Stamps, Stamped Envelopes and Postal Cards of the Hawaiian Government. Compiled and published by Brewster C. Kenyon, Long Beach, California, U.S.A., 7*s.* 6*d.*

This is a neat pamphlet of some 26 pages, with an excellent full page portrait of the author, eight finely reproduced full page plates of stamps, and numerons textual illustrations of the type-set series. Mr. Kenyon should be able to speak with authority on these stamps, for he has studied them for more than 20 years, both at home and on the islands. He assures us that he has listed no stamp without ample proof of its existence as a *bonâ fide* Government issue. His dates, if not taken from the official records, are the earliest dates he has been able to find on cancelled copies. Mr. Kenyon gives us a mass of valuable detail in the most concise form. Some two or three years ago Mr. Walter M. Giffard, of Honolulu, published an excellent descriptive catalogue of the same stamps, and this, taken in conjunction with Mr. Kenyon's work under notice, should satisfy the most exacting specialist.

The American Philatelist, Vol. IX.

Year Book of the American Philatelic Association, February, 1896. *Published by the American Philatelic Association. Secretary, C. W. Kissinger, Reading, Pa. U.S.A.*

This portly volume of 138 closely printed, double column pages, should afford convincing proof of the vitality of the association which publishes it. It seems to be made up of a very full report of the tenth Annual Convention of the A.P.A., held at Clayton, N. Y., August 13-16, 1895. Most of the matter will of course interest only those who are members of the A.P.A.; still there are many pages of interest to the general philatelist. There is, for instance, a discussion on "Seebecks," in which Mr. Luff pointed out that the dangers to be apprehended from the Central American States are not confined to Seebecks. He scarcely thinks that it would improve matters if the offending States discontinued the sales of remainders and confined themselves to annual issues, nor does he put much faith in the boycott. It is, in his opinion, a weak weapon at the best. His panacea for the evil is that of the New York Society of memorializing the offending States, and calling their attention to the pernicious effects of their actions. Well, we don't know that it matters much by which road we reach the one desired end of confining the offending States to genuine postal issues. If the New York Society can get the moral suasion into effective working order, so much the better, and as there is nothing so effective in the moral suasion line as the ever-present fear of a terrible hereafter, the New York Society can use the threatened boycott of the S.S.S.S. as a powerful lever. We S.S.S.S. advocates don't want to fight, but, by jingo, if we do, &c., &c.

Novelties and Discoveries.

The earliest information as to New Issues will be much appreciated by us, and will be duly credited to the correspondent, or firm, sending it. Our foreign correspondents can materially help us in this direction. When possible, a specimen should accompany the information, and be addressed to the Editor, Mr. EDWARD J. NANKIVELL, 28, *Birdhurst Rise, Croydon.*

British East Africa. — The new design is expected shortly. We presume it will be of the stereotyped De la Rue pattern.

British Levant.—Our publishers inform us thatthey have the 2s. 6d. value on bleuté paper.

British South Africa. — Several journals announce the 6d. value on thick paper, perf. 12½, as already chronicled in the case of the 2d. and 4d. We are, however, authorised to say that the only printing by the new printers (Messrs. Perkins, Bacon & Co.) from the old plates engraved by Messrs. Bradbury, Wilkinson & Co, *i.e* on thicker paper, and perf. 12½, are the 2d. and 4d. values. These two values are varieties easily distinguishable from the ordinary series by any one of three tests, (*a*) thicker paper, (*b*) paler colouring, and (*c*) perf. 12½ instead of 14. They mark the change of printers, and are most interesting as being printings by the new printers from the old plates engraved by the previous printers.

We have now before us a full set of the new issue from ½d. to 1s., in all eight values. They are all of the same design and bi-coloured, and are all, with one exception, printed on thickish white wove unwatermarked paper. The one exception is the 8d., which is printed on a pale salmon-coloured wove paper. The stamps are arranged in sheets of 60 each, being printed on a thick white wove paper. Each stamp measures 23mm. wide by 29mm. long. The whole of the sheet is surrounded outside the perforations with a marginal line in the colour of the value. The four corner numerals of value and the bottom label are all printed in a separate colour from the main central design of the stamp which we illustrated in our last number. Perf 14

½d., slate-green	labels in	vollet.
1d., vermilion	,,	emerald green.
2d., amber	,,	mauve.
3d., red-brown	,,	blue
4d., blue	,,	mauve.
6d., mauve	,,	pink.
8d., olive-green, salmon paper	,,	violet.
1s., green	,,	blue.

Cyprus.—We are at last beginning to receive the new series which we chronicled in February (p. 47). Messrs. Whitfield King & Co., send us the 1, 6, and 12 piastres which they inform us have only just been issued. The 30 paras will be issued about the end of this month, but the ½, 2, and 4 piastres, Messrs. Whitfield King & Co. learn, will not be issued for at least two months yet, as there is a considerable stock of these values still in the island, and no new stamps are to be sold until the old ones of the same value are entirely exhausted.

France. — The *Monthly Journal* has received a set of the current stamps, as given below, surcharged "POSTE—FRANCAISE—Madagascar," in three lines, for use in that island. The *M. J.* quotes the *Le C. de T. P.* to the effect that the 10 + 10c. Card, the 25c. Letter Card, and the 5, 10, 30, 50 centimes and 1 franc Unpaid Letter Stamps, have all been surcharged with the corresponding values in Spanish currency for use at Tangiers.

FOR OFFICES IN MADACASCAR.

Adhesives.

5c., green	red	*surcharge.*
10c., black on *lilac*	,,	,,
15c., blue	,,	,,
25c., black on *rose*	,,	,,
40c., red	black	,,
50c., carmine	,,	,,
75c., black on *yellow*;	red	,,
1 fr., bronze-green;	black	,,
1 fr., lilac	,,	,,

FOR OFFICES IN TANGIERS.

Unpaid Letter Stamps.

5 centimos,	in *red*,	on 5c., blue.
10 ,,	,,	10c., brown.
30 ,,	in *black*,	on 30c., rose.
50 ,,	,,	50c., lilac.
1 peseta	,,	1fr., red-brown.

Post Card.

10 + 10 centimos, in *carmine*, on 10 + 10 c.

Letter Card.

25 centimos in *carmine*, on 25c.

Gibraltar.—It is stated that the remainders of the 5 pesetas, amounting to 6000 copies, have been sold, and that the 5 pesetas value will be discontinued.

We shall be glad of definite information on this point.

Great Britain. — More "cripples"! We cull the following from the *S. C. F.* :—

Messrs. Ridpath, of Liverpool, have been kind enough to send us for inspection an error of the current English 10d. The frame, which should be printed in carmine, appears in a bright violet, whereas the central piece, which should be printed in dull violet, appears in the green shade of the current 1/-. The stamp is postmarked "RD-STREET, S.O.W.C.," dated January 27th, 1890, with delivery time A6 at top. We think this is probably a colour trial used for franking. As explained in a previous article, stamps printed from any approved plate are always available for postage, and, so far, we are without evidence that the stamp is anything more than a postally used colour proof.

Guatamala.—There seem to be two types of the 1c. overprint on 5c. Messrs. Whitfield King & Co. inform us that the two types do not occur on the same sheet, but are two separate issues at different periods. In each case the overprint is "1—centavo — 1895," in three lines in red on the 5c. violet. The figure is much the same in both, but the word "centavo" in one measures 16mm., and in the other only 11½mm. The figures 1895 in one measure barely 10mm., and in the other 12mm.

Honduras.—This republic which for years past has been turning out such unlimited quantities of Seebeck postal stationery, seems to have taken, temporarily at all events, to the manufacture of its own stamps. They are not works of high art, it is true, but in this case the genuine home-brewed article is much more certain of a philatelic welcome than the most beautiful Seebeck yet included in the speculative arrangement. This new issue seems to be a rough lithographed portrait of the President in ordinary civilian dress.



Adhesives.

1c., blue.
2c., bistre.
5c., violet.
10c. red.
20c., green.
30c., blue.
50c., carmine.
1 peso, brown.

Adhesive.

1c. on 5c. violet, sur. in red, var. of sur.

Adhesive.

1893, 5c., blue, double surcharge.

Hawaii.—The *Metropolitan Philatelist* says the 5c. of 1893 has been seen with double surcharge.

India.—The *Monthly Journal* announces that the rate for soldiers' letters having been raised to an anna, the 9 pies stamp has been withdrawn from circulation. The *M.J.* adds:—

According to the *Indian Postal Guide* the ½a. postcards can be used for Postal Union purposes, with the 1a. rate made up by means of adhesive stamps. The 9 pies stamp is the one by which the rate can be made, but the Director-General of the Indian Post Office has decided that the department is "not bound to supply a special stamp for this purpose." The correspondent who tells us this, points out that the later printings of the 9 pies stamp are not quite in so deep a shade of *carmine* as the earlier.

The *Philatelic World* (Calcutta) says the current Indian stamps surcharged "On Postal Service" are supplied to post offices to represent Customs dues on foreign inward parcels. They are not available for sale to the public.

Japan.—The commemoration flood, which is gathering force at the expense of philatelists, is to receive a further addition in the shape of two new Japanese stamps to commemorate the late war with China. One will bear the portrait of the late Marshal, Prince Arisugawa Taruhito, "chief of the staff of the Army of the Japanese Empire," and the other a likeness of the late Lieut.-General Prince Kitashirakawa, commander of the Imperial Guards engaged in the subjugation of Formosa.

Labuan.—Messrs. Whitfield King & Co. send us a provisional postcard made by surcharging the current 8 cents. North Borneo postcard "Labuan— 4 — cents," in three lines, in black.

Postcard.

4c. on 8c. North Borneo, green; sur. black.

Luxemburg.—The *L.P.* hears of the following stamps changed from 12½ to 11½:—

Adhesives.

12½c., slate-blue; perf. 11½.
20 c., orange ,,
30 c., olive ,,
37½c., green ,,
50 c., brown ,,

Newfoundland.—The *L.P.* says the 2c. adhesive has been changed from vermilion to brown.

Adhesive.

2c., brown.

New Zealand.—Our New Zealand friends have a special new variety of their own in the shape of a defective die,

caused by an accident to the plate of the one penny. Messrs. Whitfield King & Co. inform us that the variety is in great demand in the Colony, and is known there as "slit ears," the accident making a white slit through the hair and on to the ear.

Mr. T. A. Skipwith writes to us:—I have just received a block of the current New Zealand 3d. yellow, perf. 12½ × 10—a variety which I have not seen chronicled.

Adhesive.

3d. yellow, perf. 12½ × 10.

The *Australian Philatelist* has received from Mr. H. Maclean, Hon. Sec. of the Philatelic Society of New Zealand, a list of the approved designs for the "coming" series of postage stamps. It is noted that the colours given are apparently those of the artists' designs, and not the adopted colours for the stamps. The *A.P.* says there will be doubtless some considerable delay before the stamps appear, as no decision as to whether they are to be engraved in the colony, or in England, has yet been made public. The following is the list:—

1d. small rect. violet, View of Mt. Cook, the highest peak in N.Z.
2d. „ „ „ Kiwi bird and Maori canoe paddles crossed.
2½d. long, rect. purple, View of Milford Sound.
3d. „ „ „ Mt. Earnslaw and Lake Wakatipu
4d. small rect. yellow, Mountain scene and Cabbage tree in foreground.
5d. „ „ blue, Mountain, Lake, Cabbage tree and canoe.
6d. „ „ red, Maori Whare or hut and Lake scene.
8d. „ „ brown, Mitre Peak, Milford Sound.
1s. „ „ red, Two birds on a branch, probably pigeons.
2s. long „ blue, Mt. Egmont
5s. „ „ carmine, The Pink Terrace, Rotorua (now destroyed).

Norway.—The 35 ore stamp has been issued with "Norge" in Roman capitals.

Adhesive.

35 ore, blue green.

Orange Free State. — President Steyn in his speech at the opening of the Volksraad on the 7th of April announced, that the Free State could not at present enter the Postal Union. The telegraphic report does not give the reasons for this holding aloof of the Free State, but these we shall presumably get later on in the Cape papers.

Philippine Islands.—The *A.J.P.* gives the following new colours, type unchanged, perf. 14.

Adhesives.

1m., blue	5c., violet
2m., brown	5c., green (U.P.U.)
5m., green	6c., carmine
½c., blue	8c., rose
1c., green	10c., gray brown
2c., blue	15c., blue green
2c., brown (U.P.U.)	20c., orange yellow

Post Cards.

2c. blue, *buff*	3c., gray, *buff*

Porto Rico.—The colours of the adhesive stamps have been changed as follows:

Adhesives.

½ mil. violet.
1 „ lilac-brown.
2 „ yellow-green.
4 „ blue-green.
1 centimo, claret.
2 centimos, red-brown.
3 „ ultramarine.
4 „ brown.
5 „ light blue.
6 „ lilac.
8 „ rose.
20 „ olive-gray.
40 „ salmon.

Queensland.—The *Australian Philatelist* says the supply of Crown Q. paper has again run short, and that the 1d. value is now printed on "secret mark" paper, perf. 13.

Adhesive.

1d., vermilion, "secret mark" paper.

Roumania.—The *A. J. P.* chronicles the 50 bani unpaid letter stamp with watermark, coat of arms, sideways.

Russia.—The *Illustrierte Briefmarken Zeitung* states that the 7 kopeck stamp of the issue of 1879 has been found printed on revenue stamp paper watermarked with hexagons.

Adhesive.

7k, gray and rose, wmk., hexagon.

Russia, Levant.—Several Journals Chronicle the 1 kopec surcharged 40 paras, but Messrs. Whitfield King & Co. write us that they have positive information from head quarters that no such stamp has been, or is likely to be issued.

Sierra Leone. — The 6d. is now printed in red-violet instead of violet-brown, wmk. c.c., perf. 14.

Adhesive.

6d., red-violet.

South Australia.—According to the *Australian Philatelist*, the £5 "Postage and Revenue" stamp has been issued in brown instead of pale grey, wmk. S.A. and Crown H., perf. 11½ × 12½. The *A. P.* quotes a newspaper cutting as announcing that designs have been invited for a new ½d. adhesive, a newspaper wrapper stamp, and a postcard. A premium of £5 is offered for the best suggestion, the subjects to be South Australian. The ½d. adhesive is to be of ordinary size, the little stamp in use at present being considered too small.

Mr. T. A. Skipwith notifies as unchronicled the 2s. broad star, perf. 10 at the top, the 2d. Crown and S.A. (close) top

and 11½ on the sides and bottom; also sides, perf. 10, and bottom 11½.

Adhesives.

2d. red, Cr. and S.A. (close), top and sides, perf. 10, bottom 11½.
2s. carmine, broad star, top perf. 10, sides and bottom, 11½.
£5 brown, wmk. S.A., Crown 11.

Straits Settlements.—According to the *Straits Budget*, the federation of the Malay States, instead of putting an end to the interminable crop of Native States issues by the wise adoption of a postage stamp common to all, will only afford an excuse for ringing further changes on philatelists. The *Budget* says it is rumoured that the Federation scheme includes a further change in the colours of the postage stamps, and it is not improbable that the new tiger's head will disappear for good. We trust and believe the Colonial Office will nip this little postal speculation scheme in the bud.

Tonga.—The *Australian Philatelist* tells us, on the authority of Mr. de Lambert, Postmaster of Tonga, that the "permanent" series to be shortly issued will consist of eleven values, and that the designs are to be representative of Tongan scenery and subjects.

Transvaal.—We are indebted to Mr. H. Guest of Kerksdorp, S.A.R., for a copy of the new ½d. green, and Messrs. Whitfield King & Co. send us a used copy. As the labels of value throughout the new series are to be in green, this ½d. will apparently be the only one that will not be bi-coloured, as label and stamp are all of one colour.

Adhesive.

½d., green.

Zanzibar.—The current surcharged Indian stamps will shortly give place to a specially designed series showing a portrait of H.H. the Sultan of Zanzibar, with palm trees, red flags, and Arabic characters. The series will consist of the following values:—½a., 1a., 2a., 2½a., 3a., 4a., 5a., 7½a., 8a., 1r., 2r., 3r., 4r., 5r.

Meanwhile we have to chronicle a few more varieties of the surcharge, discovered on inspecting an almost complete sheet of the ½a. kindly forwarded to us by Messrs. Whitfield King & Co. The printers having presumably run short of the letter "b," ingeniously used an inverted "q," thus:—"Zanzibar" instead of "Zanzibar;" another variety is a "b" of a different fount, of a block type thus: "Zanzibar" instead of "Zanzibar," and the capital "Z" below the level of the other letters, and another with the final "r" upside down. There are also minor differences in the letter "z." The wonder is that there are not more varieties of type in so many settings of the same letters.

We find we have omitted to chronicle the Envelopes and Postcards.

Envelopes.

½a., green, blue surcharge.
2a. 6 pies, black surcharge on orange; blue surcharge.

Registered Envelopes.

2as., blue (2 sizes); blue surcharge.

Wrappers. ½a., green; *blue* surcharge.
1a., blue.

Postcards.

½a., red-brown; *blue* surcharge.
½a. + ½a., red-brown ,, (reply).
1a. on 1½ anna blue ,,
1 + 1a. on 1½ +1½ anna blue; *blue* surcharge.

Zululand.—A 2s. 6d. stamp has been added to the current series. Wmk. cr. C.A.; perf. 14.

Adhesive.

2s. 6d., green and black.

Our Monthly Packets of New Issues.

No. 1, price one shilling (postage extra).

The April packet contains five varieties, used and unused, viz.: Peru 1896, 1c. blue; Columbia 2c. green, 2½c. unpaid, blue on salmon, registered 10c. brown on buff, and Queensland 1d., new type on thin paper.

No. 2, price five shillings (postage extra).

The April packet contains ten varieties, used and unused, viz.:—Transvaal 1d. rose and green; Peru 1896, 10c. yellow; Bulgaria 1896, 10c. and 30c.; Timor provisionais ½ avo on 2½r., and 1 avo on 5 reis; Columbia 5c. brown on buff, &c.

These packets are on sale from April 25th to May 24th (unless the supply is previously exhausted), and are supplied only to *Subscribers* to the "PHILATELIC RECORD AND STAMP NEWS." Similar packets will be on sale every month, and may be subscribed for in advance for the year (January to December inclusive), at the following rates:—No. 1 packet (sent by book post with the paper), 12s., post-free (if by letter post the postage is 1s. extra Inland, 2s. 6d. Abroad). No. 2 packet (by letter post), Inland 61s., Abroad 62s. 6d. post-free.

The subscription to the paper (3s. per annum) is extra.—BUHL & Co. Limited, 11, Queen Victoria Street, E.C.

Philately in the Mags.

Philately on the Continent.

Mr. Castle has been touring on the Continent, and in the *London Philatelist* he tells us, editorially, what he thinks of the philatelic outlook in the countries which he visited. After a scathing home thrustassertion that the only "foreigners" acknowledged in Philately "are those whose general conduct is not approved by their compeers," Mr. Castle says :—

In Germany and in Belgium the impression conveyed is, that the number of collections is larger than ever, and that the fine specimens available for acquisition are far fewer, while the general interest in Philately, and all that appertains thereto, is most keen. The number of collectors in the Fatherland is doubtless in excess of that in any other country in the world, but it lacks men of sufficient "pith and moment" to make collections of first or second rank. No present-day traveller in Germany who knew the country a quarter of a century since but would be struck with the enormous increase in the material prosperity of Germany, and it is therefore to be regretted that the Germans should allow, principally from want of pluck, so many of their finest stamps to go abroad. Philately—to use an Americanism—has come to stay, and some day the richer German collectors will be repurchasing their own stamps from abroad at prices far beyond those paid at this end of the century. In the literature affecting Philately, Germany has made vast strides recently, and now stands in the very first flight among nations.

It is naturally but a truism to state, that fine stamps, of any country, from Hawaii and Buenos Ayres downwards, find appreciators in every market; but the setting currents of Philately are more than ever marked on the Continent: England and Colonies, Europe, and United States, form the burden of desire. Each of the-e groups appeals strongly to the instincts of the collector, and, alas! still more forcibly to those of the "Spekulant," who form a large and important section of Philatelic humanity. We must confess to a limited sympathy with them, as being neither open buyers or sellers, but simply enhancers of the market prices; but they must be taken as an accepted factor in the situation. The broad result of the writer's experience in some dozen prominent cities of the Continent, inclusive of the capitals of France, Germany, and Belgium, is that in all these three great branches of Philately there is an ever-growing demand for rare stamps and fine specimens, and an ever and *most rapidly decreasing supply*. The true appreciation of unused stamps, notably Europeans, is also becoming daily more and more apparent, while the standard of condition is enormously raised. The combined result of the forenamed factors is, naturally, that there has been such a great and continuous increase of prices as to constitute an accelerated momentum, which latter movement —we presume—must have a terminus. This end, however, is not yet reached, and there is yet scope for many stamps to "go up" before the absurd maximum height is attained, that makes a fall inevitable. Meanwhile, and in our humble judgment, for centuries to come, perhaps, the *real rare gems* of Philately will remain as highly priced, and as keenly appreciated, as the precious stones of mother earth.

"For centuries to come," is quite exhilerating.

Differences In 1873 and 1882 U.S.

The *American Journal of Philately* gives the following hints to collectors to help them in distinguishing the re-engraved stamps of the 1882 issue of the United States from the 1873 issue :—

1 Cent.—The lines of the background have been added to in the upper part of the stamp, so that in most printings the background appears almost solid. The curved ornaments in the upper part have also had lines of shading added, so that they do not appear white and distinct as formerly, or as similar lines in the lower part of the stamp.

3 Cents.—The shadings of the central oval are only about half the width of those on the 1873 stamps. About 1 mm. below the "TS" of "CENTS" a short horizontal dash has been added.

6 Cents.—On the original stamps, four vertical lines of the back-ground could be counted from the edge of the panel to the outside of stamp. On the re-engraved stamps there are but three lines in the same place. Most of the lines of the stamp have been cut deeper, and the stamps seem blurred.

10 Cents.—On the left there were five vertical lines between the oval and the edge of the shield in the 1873 stamps. There are only four lines in the re-engraved stamps. Below the ribbon with "TEN CENTS" the horizontal lines of the groundwork are strengthened.

There are many other points of dissimilarity, but these are the most prominent.

Australian "Postal Fiscals."

As everyone knows who has studied the works of the Philatelic Society of London the premier society has not taken kindly to that suspicious hybrid, the "Postal Fiscal." The Society generally deals with the germs "postal fiscal" in a "foot note," which is in such cases only one of many ways for expressing one's contempt for "sich things." But we are bound to confess that Mr. A. F. Basset

Hull in the March number of the *Monthly Journal* makes out a very strong case for defendants, the said "postal fiscals." He contends that when the revenue stamp is permitted, by reason of a temporary dearth in the postal labels, to do duty as a postage stamp, it at once takes up a new position and character, and becomes a *provisional postal*. When such a change in its sphere of usefulness takes place, he points out that it is generally heralded by some kind of official authority—a decree—a postmaster's notice—a regulation—a ministerial sanction—all of which may authorise the temporary adoption of the revenue stamp into the postal fold. Then it becomes, he holds, a fairly collectable *provisional postal*, and for its admission into a postal purist's album, should be authenticated by a postmark bearing a date concurrent with the duration of its official authorisation, but *unused* he admits it is still a revenue stamp only. So that one who confined his collection to unused would have to deprive himself of such stamps. The postmark marks the change, *i.e.*, the postmark takes effect as a surcharge from Mr. Basset Hull's point of view. In fact the "Postal Fiscal" and "Colonial English" are very much on a par in this respect. But Mr. Basset Hull goes further and produces chapter and verse for the authorised use of fiscals as postage in the various Australian Colonies.

QUEENSLAND.

Queensland, he tells us, was the first Australian colony to authorise the postal use of stamps previously devoted to Revenue purposes.

Under date 22nd December, 1879, a notice made under authority of the Postage Act was inserted in the Government *Gazette* as follows:—

"The public are informed that, from and after 1st January, 1880, the issue of separate stamps for duty and postal purposes will cease.

"The present postage stamps from one penny to one shilling, and the present duty stamps from two shillings upwards will in future be the only stamps issued; and each denomination will be available to the full extent of its nominal value for all purposes for which separate stamps have hitherto been required."

NEW ZEALAND.

New Zealand followed suit with a wholesale notice in the *New Zealand Gazette*, on the 3rd November, 1881, which notified that—

His Excellency the Governor, &c., &c., doth hereby order and declare that, from and after the making of this order, it shall and may be lawful to use any kind of stamps issued by the Government of the said Colony (except those issued under "The Beer Duty Act, 1880") in payment of any matters which, under the Stamp Fee Acts of 1875 and 1880, and the regulations made thereunder, are required to be paid or denoted by stamps. And further, that penny postage stamps may be used for stamping receipts.

TASMANIA.

In Tasmania, Mr. Bassett Hull tells us—

The Act of 1882 invested *all* stamps originally issued in Tasmania for fiscal purposes, with the character of postage stamps. These include all varieties of colour of the St. George and Dragon Stamps, both perforated and otherwise, as well as the Platypus Stamps, the 3d., 6d., and 1s., of which were in use as the only postal representatives of those values for nearly ten years.

VICTORIA.

Victoria came next, and on the 1st January, 1884, "The Post-office Act, 1883," came into force. Section 4 enacted that: "Any stamp issued under the authority of 'The Stamp Statute, 1869,' of 'The Stamp Duties Act, 1879,' of 'The Post-office Statute, 1866,' hereby repealed, or of this Act, may be used for the purposes of the said Acts, or of this Act, save and except where an embossed stamp is required."

This enactment, therefore, definitely authorised the postal use of all the previously issued fiscal stamps. The "Stamp Statute" series of 1869, ranging from ½d. to £5, and the "Stamp Duty" series of 1879 onward from 1d. to £100, were by this Act invested with the quality of *postage stamps*. The Stamp Statute series was sold at the Post-office until the stock was exhausted, and the Stamp Duty Stamps, with a few minor alterations and additional values, are at the present time issued for postal use. The new series from ½d. to 2s. of January, 1884, and all subsequent issues, whether adhesive stamps or stationery, bear the words, "Stamp Duty," in order to render the whole class of stamps uniform.

WESTERN AUSTRALIA.

In Western Australia the legislation is quite recent. The Post and Telegraphs Act, 1893, provides (Section 23):—

"(1). Any stamp duties chargeable under the "Stamp Act," 1882, of an amount not exceeding one shilling, which may legally be denoted by adhesive stamps, and any postage fees or dues to the like amount, may be denoted by the same adhesive stamps."

"(2). With a view to exhaust any adhesive postage stamps denoting an amount not exceeding one shilling, which may have been unissued or unused, such stamps to a proper amount may be used to denote any stamp duties, chargeable as aforesaid, of an amount not exceeding one shilling, which may legally be denoted by adhesive stamps."

The first part of this section unquestionably makes postage stamps and revenue stamps, not exceeding 1s. in value, interchangeable as regards their sphere of usefulness. Of course the rabid collector came in, and used fiscal values up to 5s., but these can only be regarded as curiosities.

NEW SOUTH WALES AND SOUTH AUSTRALIA.

With regard to the two remaining Colonies little need be said. New South Wales never, under any circumstances, authorised, even for a single day, the use of fiscals as postals, and all specimens purporting to have been so used are either fraudulently manufactured, or due to "official laxity or complaisance."

South Australia never had a Stamp Act until 1886, when combined Postage and Revenue stamps were issued, bearing an inscription denoting their general character. These extend up to £20 in value, and are unhesitatingly catalogued as full postals; though, in all probability, the higher values are never used for postal purposes.

Unpaid Letter Stamps of France.

Le Collectioneur de Timbres Postes has been asked how to distinguish between the lithographed and typographed unpaid letter stamps of France, and in reply gives the following distinguishing features :—

TEN CENTIMES.

Lithographed. The letters and figures "10 centimes" are not as heavy. "Centimes" is in noticeable shorter letters, the accent over "à" is very different, it extends over the whole letter, the letters and ornaments in the outer frame are much clearer.

Typographed. The accent over the letter "à" is more vertical, lettering in outer frame not so clear. Being printed from a plate with raised surface, the back of the stamp almost always shows part or all of the design in relief; this is not the case in the lithograph, which being printed from a stone, is absolutely flat.

FIFTEEN CENTIMES.

This stamp was issued from Paris in 1863, from a typograph. The lithograph was made in Bordeaux in 1870, during the Franco-Prussian War.

Typographed. This is usually on yellowish paper, shows part of the design in relief on the back, the "à" is smaller, accent is oblique, and if continued would touch the letter.

Lithographed. This is usually on very white, or slightly bluish paper, no part of the design shows on the back, "centimes" is a little larger than the preceding, the "à" is larger, the accent is much nearer horizontal, and if continued would not touch the letter.

Queensland Perforating Machines.

A Queensland correspondent sends the *Monthly Journal* details as to the four perforating machines now in the possession of the Colonial Government.

1st, guage 13, obtained in 1862.
2nd, guage 12, 12½, obtained Jan. 2, 1874.
3rd, guage 9½, obtained May 29, 1883.
4th, guage 13, obtained April 5, 1889.

The 3rd is a rotary one, and the 4th is the machine now principally used, which perforates three sides of the stamp at once; but there seems to be no doubt that the first stamps printed in the Colony were perforated, as we stated last month, by a machine that did not belong to the Government.

Aggregate Printings of U.S. Departmentals.

The United States Official Postal Guide for March, 1896, gives the following interesting table showing "the aggregate number of Official Postage Stamps furnished the several executive departments during the whole period of their issue from May 29th to June 16th, 1884."

AGRICULTURE.	
1c.	95,415
2c.	230,150
3c.	435,060
6c.	120,000
10c.	95,260
12c.	51,265
15c.	54,050
24c.	60,265
30c.	82,265

EXECUTIVE.	
1c.	6,800
2c.	9,100
3c.	23,500
6c.	5,500
10c.	5,510

INTERIOR.	
1c	394,800
2c.	1,413,400
3c.	5,285,500
6c.	1,722,500
10c.	284,350
12c.	359,850
15c.	247,100
24c.	134,125
30c.	138,300
90c.	64,377

JUSTICE.	
1c.	25,000
2c.	26,900
3c.	182,000
6c.	84,000
10c.	20,500
12c.	26,800
15c.	12,800
24c.	6,400
30c.	8,600
90c.	3,200

NAVY.	
1c.	106,800
2c.	201,350
3c.	580,700
6c.	254,800
7c.	16,000
10c	55,210
12c.	61,300
15c.	37,500
24c.	26,000
30c.	29,690
90c.	11,270

POST OFFICE.	
1c.	1,114,250
2c.	894,000
3c.	65,297,700
6c.	3,306,800
10c.	182,460
12c.	298,780
15c.	109,285
24c.	87,625
30c.	133,255
90c.	65,200

STATE.	
1c.	31,800
2c.	41,800
3c	109,200
6c.	82,100
7c.	37,800
10c.	64,900
12c.	20,800
15c.	22,800
24c.	13,800
30c.	20,100
90c.	6,643
$2	3,508
$5	363
$10	363
$20	363

TREASURY.	
1c.	2,000,000
2c.	2,484,500
3c.	11,250,000
6c	4,105,000
7c.	220,000
10c.	1,291,500
12c.	783,000
15c.	663,000
24c	100,000
30c.	456,500
90c.	312,500

WAR.	
1c.	3,301,230
2c.	1,867,150
3c.	5,393,137
6c.	3,564,813
7c.	55,728
10c.	342,753
12c.	792,070
15c.	285,980
24c.	200,925
30c.	336,641
90c.	48,172

Commenting on this table, the *American Journal of Philately* says :—

The most important example of a stamp in which the quantity issued appears enormous,

and the price to-day by comparison enormous, is the 24c. of the Treasury Department; yet it would be difficult to find 500 of these stamps in the stock of all the dealers in the United States combined. Another interesting set of figures is that showing an exactly equal amount issued to the State Department of each of the three higher values, viz., $5, $10 and $20. It may seem strange that the order of rarity as at present estimated begins with the $5 stamp and ends with the $20, which is recognised as the commonest of the three. However, this is perfectly natural, as, while unused specimens of the $5 stamp are far rarer than those of the other two values, used specimens are found much more frequently. The Department of State is in the habit of sending very bulky documents to ministers and consular agents abroad, many of which would at that time have required stamps of from $2 to $5, while the use of a $10 or $20 stamp must have been a rare occurrence. As a natural consequence, more of the higher values remained in the department at the time that the use of the stamps was discontinued, and, therefore, the higher price now obtained for the $5 stamp is a perfectly natural result. It may be remembered that only three or four years ago a large quantity of the $20 stamps, somewhere in the neighbourhood of a hundred or so, were found in Washington and disposed of to a well-known dealer there.

Recent Curacao Provisionals.

The Speculative character of recent provisionals, 2½c. on 10c. blue, and 2½c. on 30c. grey, has been pretty clearly demonstrated by the *American Journal of Philately*, which on being taken to task by the Postmaster of Curacao, for its exposure of the speculation replies as follows:—

It may be that we somewhat exaggerated the proportion of these stamps held by relatives of the postmaster, but we can state positively that one nephew of this official held 5,000 stamps out of the total issue of 40,000 of the 2½c. on 10c. blue, which he offered at the modest sum of 1 florin each.

It appears that the second provisional, 2½c. on 30c., was not to be sold over the counter of the post-office, but was to be affixed by the clerk to all postal matter which required a 2½c. stamp, and it was stated by the post-master that this intention was strictly carried out. The rate for newspapers addressed to Venezuela, Colombia, and the West Indies is 2½c. and as a result of this ruling, thousands of newspapers were addressed to the countries above named on the date on which the provisional stamps were first offered to the public, but the majority of these newspapers never left the island of Curacao. The postmaster informs us that, in accordance with the existing rules of the office, the greater part of the newspapers so mailed were reclaimed before they had been forwarded, and that this request had to be complied with.

It may also be interesting to state, that the New York mails which left at about the same time as the provisional was made, also bore regular stamps of the 2½c, value, so that the necessity of creating the provisionals in question does not readily appear.

The U.S. 30c. 1872. Secret Mark.

A MARE'S NEST.

There is a cruel awakening this month in regard to Mr. Hilckes' discovery of the secret mark on the United States 30c. of 1872. No less an authority than Mr. Crawford Capen in the *Post Office* (U.S.) declares it to be nothing short of a mare's nest. Here is what he says:—

It is not often that anything very funny appears in the stamp papers, but the *Stamp Collectors Fortnightly* of London has an article entitled "A New Discovery," by Harry Hilckes, which has set America in a roar. This treats of the secret marks made by the Continental Bank Note Company upon United States stamps. After illustrating those from one cent to fifteen cents, which have been discovered by American collectors, the author announces his wonderful new discovery, the secret mark on the thirty cent. This is nothing more nor less than the plate dot which appears in the side of the oval, and which every school-boy collector in the United States understands. A column and a half of explanations is devoted to this splendid discovery, and three magnificent electrotype cuts elucidate its glories, but the sad fact remains that the great discovery is a plate dot and nothing more. We are sorry for the useless expense to which this editor has put himself. Had he but read understandingly American articles upon United States stamps he certainly would never have made this blunder. Still we do not know that we are very sorry for him, for his implication that American collectors have no eyes is most fittingly met by his discomfiture. One or two of the school-boy papers, such as this veteran disdains to notice, have called attention to the plate dots on nearly all the stamps of the 1870 issue as probable secret marks, but a word from the more experienced collectors has silenced them. We think Mr. Hilckes had better read a little more broadly before he undertakes to lead American collectors in their discovery of facts relating to their own stamps.

PLATE DOTS.

Plate dots are a device of the engravers for the proper placing of the die upon the plate. Originally, as seen in the plate of the three cent of 1851, lines were drawn on the plate for the purpose. A more perfect system of engraving recognised these lines as crude, and resorted to small dots conveniently placed for the purpose of securing the correct placing of the transfer roll on the plate. Mr. Hilckes will find these dots at the tops of many of the stamps of the 1869 issue, but they, as well as some fine lines used for the same purpose, will be found most commonly in the stamps engraved and printed by the National Bank Note Company from 1870-1873. The dot in the edge of the oval is certainly more frequent in the National than in the Continental thirty cent of 1870.

Chilians used in Peru.

Mr. H. A. Slade, continuing his notes on Chilians in the *Bazaar* dealing with Chilian stamps, postmarked and dispatched from post offices in Peru, during the war between Chili and Peru, gives the following list of varieties of cancellations employed :—

1. Two small circles, date in one line. "Lima Correos."
2. Two large circles, date in one line, larger type. "Callao Correos."
3. One small oval, no date. "Yca."
4. Distinctive oval Peruvian postmark, no date, name of town in Roman capitals. "Paita."

Few Peruvian towns and villages appear to have escaped these cancellations. The following list contains those that have actually come under my notice, but, of course, does not pretend to be complete : Lima, Pasco, Callao, Piuro, Yca, Salaverry, Paita, Arequipa, Lambayaque, and Mollendo.

Now the question arises, and must be settled by the authorities, on "Colonial English," what are these stamps ? Are they Chilian or Peruvian ? In the unused state they are Chilians, but they are used in Peru. So far, according to the "Colonial English" theory, they are Peruvians. But the matter is complicated by the fact that the originators of the stamps are on the spot as conquerors, controlling the postal arrangements.

At the "Cripples" again.

The learned editor of the *Monthly Circular* is making a dead set at what are generally termed "minor varieties," and which he calls "Cripples." Here is the latest outburst :—

There is a trite saying "*De minimis lex non curat*," but there are teachers at the present day who are endeavouring to educate stamp collectors into a belief that philately consists in caring about the very smallest atoms. They want to destroy the good all-round philatelist and to supply his place by a specialist who will be satisfied with the smallest crumb of comfort they can dole out to him. In the English line-engraved stamps these caterers for specialists first began with "ivory heads," which are nothing more than specimens in which the blue stain in the stamps has not extended over the more lightly shaded parts. Since that, they have been driven to try and make varieties of hair lines traversing the lower part of the stamp horizontally, of double-lettering, and of letters punched over others that have been imperfectly removed ; but all these are merely accidents that are likely to occur, more particularly when the operation is by hand. The hair lines are nothing more than the guide lines of the engraver who laid down the plate, and which he failed to keep, or made stronger in some places than in others, and do not appear after Messrs. Perkins & Bacon introduced their improved machinery. The double-lettering is only due to a slight displacement of the punch when the letters were punched on the plate ; one letter punched over another is the rectification of an error in one of the stamps ; but what have these microscopic investigations to do with philately ?

The "Boris" Bulgarian Issue.

We shall, no doubt, by-and-bye get at the truth as to the permanence or non-permanence of the Bulgarian commemorative issue. The latest scrap of evidence comes from the *S.C.J.*, and this we give. Despite its avowed hostility, the *S.C.J.* affords evidence that the issue is more or less a permanent issue. Undesirable as it may be from a philatelic point of view, we confess we see nothing in it yet to justify such wild language as "swindle."

We have received the following particulars about the "Boris" stamps from a correspondent in Sofia.—It appears that the "Sobranje," the Bulgarian Parliament, wished to present the young Prince Boris, on the occasion of his admittance to the Greek Church, a sum of 500,000 francs (£20,000). To raise this sum a special issue of stamps was proposed. The swindle—no other name can be found for the thing—had reached such proportions that Postal Officials bought up the stamps handed to them and sold them at a premium to the public. Clerks of the various agents for foreign dealers have been cooling their heels in the approaches of the Post Office from an early hour in order to be able to snap up the stamps as soon as put up for sale. At first it had been decided to hand over all receipts for these stamps to the Prince "as received," but one not quite void of all tact proposed to hand over the £20,000 right away, and to recoup by selling a sufficient quantity of these worthless labels. Up to now only half the required sum has been realised, and Boris stamps will still be printed till the full amount of £20,000 has been realised.

We should like to hear the other side of the story.

Designs on English Stamps.

We always enjoy the light philatelic touche of our versifying friend "Dak" in the columns of the *Philatelic World* (Calcutta). Here is his latest—a hit at the designs of current English stamps.

Once upon my Stamp was lined
  Noble head of contour queenly ;
Now upon my Stamp I find
  Vapid face that smirks serenely.
Then a regal head, and grand,
  Simply graced each postal *billet ;*
Now a paltry profile, and
  Lots of scrolls supremely silly.
Gracious me ! 'tis passing queer,
  Spite of Art's un easing wooing—
Though the reign's demise is near,
  Still we stick to De-la-Rueing.
Chuck the stuff ! ! To Heath and Wyon,
  Who designed our earliest label,
I'll revert the British Lion
  Just as quick as I am able ! !

DAK.

Philatelic Gossip.

A Postage Calculator.

According to the *Philatelic World* (Calcutta) a novel system of paying postage on letters, a so called "postage adder," has been accepted by the German postal authorities. The new apparatus is intended to save labour and time to such firms or individuals as have a very large business correspondence. It will do away with their using postage stamps, and enable them to pay for their postage according to the figures registered by the little apparatus.

This apparatus, in the shape of a box, is not very large, and bears in the front several dials arranged like those of a gas meter, showing units, tens, hundreds and thousands, &c.; underneath the dials there are six push-buttons, each of which bears a figure corresponding with the values of the German postage stamps principally in use, viz.: 3, 4, 10, 20, 25 and 50 pfennigs. A long narrow slot is provided which will admit the letters to be stamped. Within the box just over the slot there is a steel die, representing a characteristic symbol; in this case the arms of Germany, with the inscription "Deutsche Reichspost" as well as an unchangeable number, which is the registered number of the apparatus. Below this there are a stamp, giving the date and hour, and a wheel containing dies for the various values, fastened in such a way that the six push-buttons control the wheel bearing the figure dies, while the clock-work regulating the day and time, is accessible only to the postal clerk, who comes to inspect the apparatus once a week. If a number of letters are to be post-marked, they are placed one by one in the slot, and a pressure upon the knob on the top of the apparatus will stamp the necessary amount upon the envelope with indelible ink. The stamping of an envelope takes less than two seconds, so that with some practice it is possible to postmark about 2000 letters per hour with this little apparatus. A further advantage of this system is that it is not necessary to cancel this postmark at the post-office, which will save considerable work there. Another advantage is the possibility of paying for the postage, say, once a month, which is there regarded as of considerable benefit to both the public and the postal authorities. Since the apparatus registers automatically the entire amount of postage used by a firm, and since the mail matter placed into a post-office can be revised and counted off without much trouble by the postal clerk in charge at the receiving window for mail thus stamped, it will always be possible to compare the figures of the machine with those of the postal department, without entailing much labour upon the clerk receiving the matter. The new apparatus has been patented by a Munich engineer, and bids fair to revolutionize to a great extent the present system of selling stamps.

Mr. Castle on himself.

Mr. Castle has been beguiled by the seductive editors of the *Philatelic World* (Calcutta), into the following bit of Philatelic autobiography:—

I was born on October 28th, 1849. At the age of thirteen I made my first collection, out of which I was promptly swindled by a quondam dealer. At the age of seventeen I went for a year to Frankfort A/M., where I made a really decent collection. I can recollect buying unused Thurn and Taxis and Oldenburgs unused at 3s. 6d. the set. That collection was stolen, I fancy, by a schoolmate, and big as I was, I remember having a good howl! I commenced my next collection when I was twenty-four, after my marriage and settlement in Brighton. This collection went on very quietly for five or six years, until a sudden change of life drove me into stamps as a solace, and I forthwith went plunging, until in 1885, I had a large and valuable collection (some 50 books for adhesives, envelopes, &c., &c.) I was omnivorous and took Russian and U.S. locals, and everything used and unused. In 1885 the flood of new Peruvians (unlucky horse shoes!) Portuguese Indies, &c., drove me from general collecting, and up to last year I confined myself entirely to Australian stamps (including Philippines and other islands). But—there is always a "but"—some six years ago I started, what I thought a very small affair, a collection of Europeans in addition. Twelve months since I took stock, and I found neither time, energy nor funds would allow me to collect both groups *as I should like to*. So I came to the parting of the ways, and mainly because my Oceanian were nearly complete, while Europe's work lay before me, I decided to part with the former. As you know, they were given away for a paltry sum to Messrs. Stanley, Gibbons, Limited. I am now hard at work on Europeans, and hope (D.V.) to have them as fine as the Australians. I have at the present time mounted thirty-four books, but I have a lot to do yet. The collection consists almost entirely of unused stamps. In the "Dead States," such as Germany, Italy, Switzerland and Moldavia, I take both used and unused. Some of the countries in unused condition present, to my mind, a beautiful appearance, and I fancy would be a revelation to those who have never seen fine Europeans. They are as interesting as almost any other groups of stamps, and nearly as handsome in many cases. I need hardy say I have worked hard to keep them together. I have spent——well, "quite a lot," and have a vague idea that the money and labour are all thrown away.

Outside my collection my stamp work is not light. Expert Committee, Philatelic Societies' correspondence (I belong to about a dozen Societies), approval selections, correspondents' enquiries, the *London Philatelist* editorial work and general correspondence, take me on an average two or three hours a day all the year round, and I am loth to add to it, hence my letters are generally short and always illegible. I can only say that I have always had the greatest liking for stamp collecting, and, however long or short my future span may be, I shall always be at heart a Philatelist.

Nevis 4d., litho.

A good story is told of the adventures of a block of four unused 4d. Nevis, lithographed. An American collector bought the block in London some three years ago for £2. He offered it to a dealer for £6, but he refused it, and the stamps were sold to a collector for £7 12s. 0d. A year or so later the dealer, who apparently had been ruminating, changed his mind, and secured the block for £10. Subsequently, it was put up at auction, and sold for £22 12s. 0d., and the purchaser sold it back to its former owner for £38 10s. 0d. It is now said to have come back to London, the original owner having paid £40 for it, and he in turn is credited with expecting to sell it for £60.

The Cuban Insurgents' Stamp.

The following from the *New York Sun* shows that the Cuban Insurgents in search of funds have a keen eye on flats of the Philatelic persuasion. The opening of an office in New York for the sale of the stamps, is quite enough to show the object of the issues.

The postal system which has been perfected by the Cuban insurgents on the island and the Junta in this city, commenced operating yesterday. The stamps of the Cuban republic were put on sale in several places which have been designated by the Junta as postal stations, of which there are many in Florida, where many Cubans live. Station No. 1 is at the office of the Cuban paper *El Porvenir*, and a number of stamps, which are of two, five, ten and twenty-five denominations, were sold there, and also at the offices of the Junta, in this city.

Senor Octavus Zayas is the Postmaster in this city. The letters he receives are stamped, and the stamps cancelled, with implements which have been made for that purpose. Then the letters are sent to Cuba through channels which are known only to the Junta. When the letters arrive in Cuba they are stamped again and delivered to the proper persons. The stamps will be returned to the Postmasters in the different cities whence the letters came, to be sold to stamp collectors. The Junta are certain that they can carry out their plans, and deliver safely all letters entrusted to their care, whereas, now almost all letters received on the island are opened by the Spanish authorities, and many are confiscated.

U.S. Periodical Stamps.

U.S. collectors seem to be rather at a disadvantage in their own country in the matter of getting the Periodical Stamps for their collections. They are not sold at the Post Offices—indeed, the most stringent instructions have been issued to prevent Postmasters from selling them, and one firm of stamp dealers across the water has been frightened into announcing that they will not in future deal in them, either used or unused, on the ground that under existing legislation it is impossible to hold these stamps legitimately in America without laying oneself open to a criminal prosecution. They can always be got on this side "as a favour."

Philatelic Exhibitions Abroad.

The Hague Exhibition, which is being got up by the Netherlands Philatelic Society, will be open from July 17th to 22nd. The jury consists of four Dutch gentlemen, Bernichon of Paris, Petritz of Dresden, and Theodor Buhl of London. Further particulars may be had from our publishers.

In August there will be an exhibition at Geneva. The Committee contains many well-known names. Mr. P. Castle is one of the jury.

The Johannesburg Society.

The *South African Philatelist* announces that—

The Liquidators of the defunct Johannesburg Philatelic Society have at length wound up the affairs of that Society, having realised the assets and distributed the proceeds. The members have good reason to be satisfied with the result, having received as their share something like £9 10s. (Scott's Catalogue value) in unused Swazieland stamps for about £1 5s. cash paid by way of subscription, besides the other benefits which they received during the existence of the Society. The corresponding members also received their proportion of the assets.

"The Australian Philatelist."

Our excellent Australian contemporary, the *Australian Philatelist*, will in future be edited by Mr. A. F. Basset Hull, whose name will be familiar to English philatelists as that of a cultured writer on the stamps of Oceania. There is to be no change in the policy of the paper and no alteration in its style or arrangement, except that it will exclude all trade notices and advertisements.

This course was taken in deference to the expressed wishes of some philatelic friends, and though naturally lessening the publisher's opportunities for bringing his business before collectors, it will be continued for the future in the hope that such unselfish conduct will not go unrewarded.

Speculative Stamps.

The Society for the Suppression of Speculative Stamps.

Circular No. 5.

THE Society, in conjunction with the Special Committee appointed by the London Philatelic Society, having taken into consideration the Stamps mentioned below, are of opinion that they are not worth the attention of Philatelists, and appeal to all Collectors and Dealers to discountenance collecting or dealing in the same.

21. Ecuador.—The Government of this Country is an old offender, and its delinquencies were referred to in a previous circular. (See No. 4, paragraph 17).

From a Circular Notice in four languages, dated 5th December, 1895, it appears that a special postage stamp is to be issued on the 5th June, 1896, which will be available for postal purposes only on the day of issue, and ten following days. This issue is to commemorate the Esmeralda Incident. It is perhaps scarcely necessary to advise dealers to beware of it.

22. Indian Native States.—The postal departments of several of these States either have been or are about to be taken over by the Central Government. In the case of Jhind and Cashmere this has already been done, and it is reported that a similar course has been, or is shortly to be adopted, with regard to Bamra, Bhopal, Poonah, Wadhwan, Nowanugger, Bhor, Nangaon, and Faridkot.

It appears that the issues of some of these States have been reprinted, and are now being offered for sale. Collectors and Dealers should therefore be on their guard.

23. Republic of Cuba.—Stamps of an issue prepared in 1877 are now being offered for sale. The values are 2, 5, 10, and 25 centavos.

In the Third Circular, under the heading No. 13, reference was made to a contemplated speculative issue of Grecian Stamps to commemorate the Olympian Games. From a recently published notice, the issue appears now to be an accomplished fact, and to consist of twelve stamps in value from 1 lepta to 10 drachmas.

Bulgaria.—An issue has appeared in commemoration of the conversion of Prince Boris.

Collectors and Dealers should exercise discretion with regard to these stamps, unless they are intended permanently to supersede the current issue.

By order,

HERBERT R. OLDFIELD,
Hon. Secretary to Special Committee. London Philatelic Society, and Acting Hon. Sec. (pro tem.) to S.S.S.S.

April, 1896.

Correspondence.

3d. Natal, perf. wmk. star.

SIR,—With reference to Mr. Skipwith's letter, *re* above, we had in stock a short time ago a 3d. Natal perforated, on entire, dated *March, 1860*, and *unwatermarked*.

This seems to corroborate to a certain extent, Mr. Skipwith's theory that catalogue compilers are in error in ascribing *1860* as the date of the star watermark, and *1862* for the no watermark.

If the catalogue dates were correct, this stamp would scarcely be so rare as it undoubtedly is.—Yours faithfully,

TAYLOR BROS.

DEAR SIR,—Referring to my letter of enquiry, which appeared in your February number, respecting Natal 3d blue, watermark star, perf., I may say that, foolishly confiding in all the current catalogues, including the elaborate one by Messrs. Collin & Calman, I assumed that my specimen was watermarked with a star. On examination I find it to be without watermark, which issue is not catalogued until 1862, or three years later than the date I gave. I was not permitted to take the entire envelope, only to cut out the stamp with the postmark, so I copied the dates at the time. I am advised by eminent London Philatelists that not a single copy of the 3d. star *perforated* is known to exist. If this is so, why do all the principal dealers still go on giving it a place in their list without any note or query? I do not collect Natal myself, and only thought the date might interest those who do; there is no doubt this stamp should be catalogued as being issued in 1859, if not earlier.—Yours faithfully, J. KERSHAW SKIPWITH.

Current Business Notes.

By Theodor Buhl.

A Philatelic Club.

Announcements have been made of the intention to open a Philatelic Club and Exchange for stamp collectors in the West End. The following note on the matter is culled from a City paper:—

What may possibly prove a very useful undertaking has just been started with the name of the Philatelic Club and Exchange Limited. Stamp collectors are known to be ardent pursuers of their particular collections, and anything in the nature of an efficient exchange would certainly command a suitable amount of support. The capital is fixed at £12,000, in £1 shares, and the idea is to provide and maintain a suitable building for a Philatelic Club and Exchange in London.

And the following particulars are given in another City paper. Beyond this, and the advertisement which appears in our pages, I have no further information.

This company was registered on April 1st, with a capital of £12,000, in £1 shares, to adopt an agreement with R. R. Kennedy, and to carry on a Philatelic Club and Exchange in London. The subscribers are:—

	Shares.
A. J. Pettengill, 60, Watling Street, E.C., secretary	1
F. H. Sayle, 57, Arlingford Road, Tulse Hill, clerk	1
H. Royce, 662, Old Kent Road, S.E., clerk	1
W. M. H. Bray, 9, Stockwell Park Road, Clapham, accountant	1
E. W. Walker, 19, Queen Victoria Street, E.C., accountant	1
H. L. Harris, 47, Victoria Street, S.W., accountant	1
A. Laycock, 26, Brailsford Road, Brixton, agent	1

Table A mainly applies. Registered by J. Pettengill, 60, Watling Street, E.C.

Auctions.

We have fixed our next sale for 18th and 19th May. It will comprise some excellent Colonials and South Americans which are now coming very much to the front. Messrs. Ventom, Bull & Cooper, on May 14th and 15th, will offer the grand collection of Sir Henry Bunbury, and Messrs. Puttick & Simpson have a more than usually fine lot for sale on the 4th and 5th of May.

Mr. Hadlow, at the end of May, will offer a practically complete collection of West Indians, used and unused of nearly every stamp. St. Vincents, he tells me, are very fine, and include the 5s. star, used and unused; all the shillings, used and unused with gum, &c.

Novelties.

Just now there is a run on Africans: British South Africa, Zanzibar, and British East Africa being much in demand. We have just received a full supply of sets of the new British South Africa stamps, which we are offering at 4s. 6d. for the eight stamps.

No Depression in Stamps.

Some people are very fond of talking about a prevailing depression in stamps. Personally I have never been able to find any real all-round evidence of such a depression outside the croaking of a few. The fluctuation in certain countries, due to temporary changes of what may be termed fashion in collecting, cannot be construed into anything in the shape of a depression. The best barometer is to be found in the results of auction sales. Some countries, it is said, have been a little overdone, and there has been a natural reaction. But average stamps sell well. At my last auction, for instance, although there was little that could be called "gilt edged," there was a splendid attendance, plenty of commissions, brisk competition, and prices so good that as an auctioneer with a keen eye on the com., I could not complain.

The Hague Exhibition.

As a member of the jury I shall personally be attending the Hague Exhibition in July, and shall be very pleased to take charge of any Exhibits which any intending English Exhibitors may wish to send over. Amongst those Exhibits which have already been entrusted to my care is a grand collection, absolutely complete, of Spain and Colonies all unused, every stamp being in mint condition. A curiosity has been handed to me as an Exhibit in the shape of six china plates covered with designs made out of stamps and pieces of stamps. Our English collectors might with great advantage more frequently attend continental exhibitions of postage stamps. Different methods of arranging, &c., are worth studying.

Notable Stamps at Auction.

Unused are distinguished by an asterisk.

VENTOM, BULL & COOPER, March 11 & 12, 1896.

	£	s.	d.
CEYLON, 8d. brown, star, perf.* ...	7	15	0
DUTCH INDIES, *Unpaid*, 5c. yellow, pair	5	10	0
GREAT BRITAIN, *I.R. Official*, £1 green, a vert. pair, with Account Branch cancel	7	10	0
NEW BRUNSWICK, 1s. violet, small tear, otherwise fine	16	0	0
NEWFOUNDLAND, 6½d. carmine-red...	12	0	0
ST. VINCENT, 1d. rose-red, imperf., pair* £7 15s. and	9	0	0

March 24 & 25, 1896.

NEWFOUNDLAND, 1s. carmine-red, cut close at bottom	16	10	0
QUEENSLAND, 1d. lake, imperf. pair on entire	6	10	0
SPAIN (1852), 2 reales, red	12	12	6
SWITZERLAND, *Basle*, 2½r.	3	10	0
TUSCANY, 60cr. red	9	0	0

PUTTICK & SIMPSON, March 16 & 17, 1896.

GREAT BRITAIN, *I.R Official*, £1 green	4	4	0
NEW BRUNSWICK, 1s. mauve, fine, but touched one side	13	0	0
NOVA SCOTIA, 1s. deep violet, cut close	17	0	0
TURKS ISLANDS, 1s. prune, two perfs. off	14	14	0

March 30 & 31, 1896.

CANADA, 6d. purple-grey, perf., on thin vert. laid	6	17	6
1c. red-brown, on hor. laid* ...	4	15	0
CEYLON, 4d. rose, imperf., bad crease, otherwise fine	12	12	0
16c. lilac, CA.*	10	10	0
NAPLES, ½t. blue, arms, fine but dirty	13	0	0
Another,* but slight stain and no gum	18	10	0
SPAIN (1852), 2 reales red	9	15	0

CHEVELEY & CO., March 18 & 19, 1896.

CEYLON, 2s. blue, imperf., bottom line touched*	10	0	0
NEVIS, 6d. litho*	12	10	0
NEW BRUNSWICK, 1s. violet, fine, but cut close	14	10	0

Notices.

Editorial Communications. — Articles of special interest will be paid for. M.S. dealing with particular points in an exhaustive manner will be most welcome. As we wish to arrange matter in advance, we shall be glad to hear from Specialists who are open to write up their special countries.

All communications on Editorial matters should be addressed to the Editor, Mr. EDWARD J NANKIVELL, 28, Birdhurst Rise, Croydon. Letters enclosing valuables should be registered.

Subscriptions. — THE PHILATELIC RECORD AND STAMP NEWS will be sent post free to any subscriber at home or abroad, on receipt of 3s. Subscribers' remittances should be sent to the Publishers, Messrs. BUHL & Co., LIMITED, 11, Queen Victoria Street, London, England.

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CHARLES JONES, PRINTER, LONDON

THE

PHILATELIC RECORD

and Stamp News.

MAY, 1896.

Editorial Notes.

THE proposal to hold a grand International Philatelic Exhibition in London next year has made practical progress during the past month. In the first place the matter was brought before a meeting of the Philatelic Society of London, and a resolution was unanimously adopted on the motion of Mr. M. P. Castle, seconded by Mr. E. J. Nankivell, "that this meeting is of opinion that the time has arrived when another International Philatelic Exhibition in the Metropolis might advantageously be held." It is true that an opinion was generally expressed that although the Society could not undertake the entire management, as on the last occasion, it should co-operate in any scheme which might be initiated by those interested in the movement. No one will gainsay the fact that it would be eminently unfair to expect the Society again to shoulder, unaided, so great a burden.

Proposed Exhibition in 1897.

Following upon the news being spread of the proposal to hold another great Philatelic Exhibition, the Directors of the Crystal Palace promptly and generously offered the Palace for the purpose, and that offer is now under serious consideration. A Committee of Collectors and Dealers was forthwith appointed to confer with the manager of the Palace, and to report to an adjourned meeting of the Council of the Philatelic Society, the leading dealers, and Editors of the Philatelic Press.

How far the Crystal Palace may be suitable and available for the purpose will entirely depend upon the report of the influential Committee appointed to go into the details. That Committee comprises leading collectors and dealers who command the confidence of all branches of the philatelic fraternity, and may therefore be trusted to recommend the best available site for the Exhibition. There are some outside of the Committee who shake their heads over the prospect of an Exhibition at the Palace. They dread a prohibitive charge for insurance risks, and, whilst admitting that it may be desirable from the cheap packets and sets dealers' point of view, contend that it will not result in a large and frequent attendance of desirable collectors. Against these gloomy forebodings those in favour of the Palace, and they are many and powerful, contend that it will be a more attractive meeting place for all concerned, that

the Palace authorities remove the great burden of the cost of exhibition cases and expensive rooms elsewhere, and that they will advertise the Exhibition a great deal more than any Committee could afford to do if saddled with the immense deadweight of expensive rooms and the provision of expensive exhibition cases. These are the pros and cons of informal discussion. In all probability the site will be provisionally decided upon before our next month's issue. Meanwhile we may be content with the knowledge that the preliminaries are now in good hands for a serious and, we hope, a successful effort to get up a grand International Exhibition of Postage Stamps in the spring or early summer of next year.

What shall we condemn?

THE question, "What shall we condemn?" or, "What shall we, or what can we, agree in condemning?" is rapidly and surely assuming an acute form. It is becoming acute solely because we do not all see eye to eye on this most important question. We are all, collectors and dealers, admittedly intensely interested in a wise and judicious solution of this problem. That being so, let us confer together that we may arrive at a satisfactory and acceptable compromise. All admit that the S.S.S.S. has already done good work, that it has effectually closed the floodgates against much that was most undesirable, and that it has demonstrated the possibility of organising such incorporate bodies as collectors and dealers generally in a successful revolt against the ever increasing flood of bogus or unnecessary issues. And now, for the sake of the pursuit that yields so much genuine pleasure and profit, do not let us get at each other's throats just because we differ now and then on the condemnation of some particular issue.

The S.S.S.S. started with the intention of setting its ban upon all issues that bear unmistakable evidence of being speculative or unnecessary. It acted in response to an outspoken and long ripening revolt against the continually increasing flood of speculative and unnecessary issues. It directed its efforts especially against the ridiculous "commemorative stamps" that were "made for sale" to collectors. These "commemoratives" were only announced in "limited" quantities, and for a prescribed and definite time. The wily speculator, acting on the known fondness of the stamp collector for ephemeral issues, set himself to supply what he imagined to be a genuine demand, and now that he is convinced by the ban of the S.S.S.S. that his particular variety of ephemeral issue is objected to on the ground that it serves no postal need, says, "Very well, anything to meet your wishes, gentlemen; we will keep our little labels, that we offer you, in postal circulation for a time, so that you can say they have done postal duty." The Olympians, to which we have alluded elsewhere, are a clear case in point. They answer in every way the description of what was to be regarded as speculative or unnecessary; but now, to checkmate the ban that has been placed upon them, they are to be continued in use till October next. In such a case what are we to do? Are we to remove the ban? If so, what is to be the basis of future action? Or, are we to admit a checkmate and retire defeated, and once more throw open the floodgates to all the shoddy which we have by our support of the S.S.S.S. dammed back? These are the questions that confront us, and the only way to arrive at a satisfactory solution is for the S.S.S.S. and the Speculative Issues Committee of the Philatelic Society of London to jointly call a public meeting of collectors and dealers to discuss the most desirable compromise as a basis for future action. It will be most unwise to face, for a single moment longer than is abolutely necessary, the danger of defection or unwise individual action. This is essentially a question in which our strength must rest upon our being brought into general agreement, and being thus enabled to act upon a basis which shall command the loyal support of all self-respecting collectors and dealers.

Illustrations of Postage Stamps.

THE decision in the Queen's Bench in the case of illustrations of postage stamps used in the *Bazaar Philatelists' Supplement* has gone against the *Bazaar*. A report of the case will be found on another page. We regret the decision. It may be a serious blow to philatelic interests. It may interfere with the illustration of albums and catalogues as well as with chronicles, or it may not. It depends upon the lengths to which the authorities are determined to push the temporary victory they have won. By reason of a technicality, we understand there is no appeal against this particular decision, and that therefore it will be impossible to carry it to the House of Lords. That it must yet be fought to the House of Lords no one doubts, as there are those who are prepared to question the decision, and to accept a challenge to go to the House of Lords. For our own part, we should prefer to admit the control of the authorities over the right to illustrate postage stamps, provided they would recognise the rational needs of illustration by granting a license to responsible and trustworthy persons. All that the postal authorities need is such a control as will secure them from an improper use of the dies of postage stamps. The care exercised over the use of dies of postage stamps used for illustration purposes, extending over a period of more than a quarter of a century, fully entitles the Philatelic Press of this country to protection against unnecessary interference in this matter.

"Colonial English."

"COLONIAL ENGLISH," which is Kitchen Dutch for a move in favour of regarding colonially postmarked English stamps as Colonial English, or Colonials, has received a very serious check. The curious notion was first mooted by Mr. Hilckes in his catalogue of English stamps, and since then he has gone on preaching to the philatelic wayfarer, especially to those wayfarers gathered into the City of London Philatelic Club, this new gospel of his. With an activity and an enterprise worthy of a better cause he made converts right and left, till at last he thought his progeny might be trusted to face the east winds of a public debate. Consequently he gathered his chickens together under his wings one eventful evening in April. But the east winds were too strong for the scantily-clothed chicks, and the debate resulted in an overwhelming decision that a postmark does not alter the nationality of a stamp, and the unanimous acceptance of the following resolution:—"That although this Club is of opinion that a postmark does not alter the nationality of a postage stamp, it regards the collection of English stamps used abroad as being full of interest to philatelists." Hence, the official centre of "Colonial English" has decided that "Colonial English" belong to the *Postmark* Collector, and not to the philatelist otherwise than as interesting postmarks. The chicks which survived have been taken back to the Cheapside incubator, and may be brought out for another airing later on.

A Burglary of Stamps at Puttick's.

BURGLARIES of stamps have been unpleasantly frequent of late years, and some have been of a particularly daring character. The latest victims are, we sincerely regret to hear, the well-known firm of stamp auctioneers, Messrs. Puttick & Simpson. As we go to press we learn that on the 28th of this month, in the morning at half-past four—in broad daylight, in fact—a burglar came to the stamp collector's door and burst it open. Then the thief went upstairs, and a couple of thousand pounds' worth of valuable stamps lay at his disposal. He snatched up four albums and silently decamped. The four albums he took were the least valuable in the whole collection, and are said to be worth only £5 or £10. Fortunately the more valuable stamps were in glass cases in another part of the building.

Early Issues of Western Australia.

By Lipman E. Hush.

The First Issue of Western Australia.

ALL the stamps of Western Australia enumerated on p. 97 of the *Record* are known rouletted. Whether they were all issued from the Post-office in this state is not known. Moens had some sent to him in this state, but it is not probable that all were issued in this state, as we find that stamps of the second issue were issued imperforate. Fine copies showing the roulettes all round are almost unattainable now, and collectors must judge for themselves whether they are to be taken as philatelic rarities or merely as curiosities. The One Penny was printed in sheets of 240. The Fourpence and One Shilling were also printed in sheets of 240. There were probably fewer stamps to the sheet of the Twopence and Sixpence values, as the paper was all the same size, and would not hold so many even by using up the margins. And although I have never seen a copy of the Twopence or Sixpence with a marginal edge, I judge from copies of the Twopence printed on both sides, which often show the front stamp well centred, and on the back the impression is cut into two—that is the space between two stamps was opposite the centre of the stamp printed on the other side.

The Second Issue of Western Australia.

In January, 1860, Messrs. Perkins, Bacon & Co. made four new plates for four values new to them, viz.: Twopence, Fourpence, Sixpence, and One Shilling. These plates differ in two points from the first one made by the same firm.

(1). The plate for the One Penny stamps contains 240 dies. The new plates contained 120 each.

(2). The central design in each is the same, but if we examine the margins on which the words (L.) Western, (T.) Postage, (K.) Australia, (B.) Two Pence appear, we shall see that in the case of the One Penny stamp the border is reticulated, whereas in the other values the groundwork of the border is perfectly solid. Thus, whilst Messrs. Perkins, Bacon & Co. made four new plates, stamps from only three of them were put into circulation at the time.

1860. *imperf.* *wmk. a swan.*

Twopence ..... pale orange, orange, vermilion.
Fourpence ..... blue.
Sixpence..... sage green, sap green.

The Twopence and Sixpence are known rouletted.

This issue was not long in use, and copies of the Fourpence used are very rare. I suppose that the colour of the Fourpence was too dark, and the first Fourpence continued in use until the arrival of the Fourpence vermilion. There were apparently sufficient One Shilling stamps in stock to supply the needs of the Colony.

All the stamps of the second issue were printed in the Colony. Messrs. Perkins, Bacon & Co. made the plates, and sent out a proof sheet of each with the plates.

Mr. Bacon informs us (*London Philatelist*, Dec., 1892) that they were sent out on March 31st, 1860. The plates were inspected and approved of by the Colonial Authorities, and returned to England with all the "swan watermarked paper" remaining, and on this the stamps of the third issue were printed.

The Third Issue of Western Australia.

In this issue the designs are, with one exception, unchanged. The colours are, however, a certain distinguishing guide to the collector. A stamp of the value of One Shilling is introduced, the design of which is similar to that of the three higher values. This issue is either difficult or easy to deal with just as the collector pleases; but to the student of philately it is working in the dark.

I have said that the plates and paper were returned from the Colony to the printer, but I have not mentioned any particulars. Again I revert to the *London Philatelist*. In a letter dated 17th December, 1860, Messrs. Perkins, Bacon & Co. wrote to the Crown Agents for the Colonies, saying "One of the plates came to us materially damaged, and the paper was all injured by salt water, but the amount of printing upon the face, and of gum upon the back of the stamps, very nearly conceals this defect from the eye, so that we found it would answer for you."

The stamps were urgently needed. They were ordered on December 11th, and were to be in Southampton in time for the mail steamer leaving on the 20th. There was, therefore, very little time to be wasted, and a first batch of stamps were sent off by the said date. These stamps consisted of

24,000	..... 1d. rose.
6,000	..... 2d. blue.
2,400	..... 4d. carmine.
12,000	..... 6d. lilac.
3,600	..... 1s. green.

The above I include in the first printing, and I think the following points will distinguish them:—

(1). They are heavily printed.
(2). They all have blind perfs.
(3). Some of the colours vary, and appear to have run.

The 1d. is in rose, and the impressions are blurred.
The 2d. is in blue, and the colour has run.
The 4d. is in a dull orange, vermilion shade.
The 6d. is on bleuté paper caused by the action of the salt water.
The 1s. is in a deeper tone of green.

The 2d. and 4d. have not been catalogued with the rest of the series with rough perfs., but I have seen them and am quite satisfied as to their existence. They are undoubtedly rare, as the small number printed will show.

Stray Notes on Transvaals.

I. By Edward J. Nankivell.

Growing Popularity.

THE growing popularity of the interesting old issues of the Transvaal is now an unquestioned fact. The growth is slow, but it is steady. The auction prices tell the tale. Those prices are still absurdly low for such very rare stamps, but they are creeping up. A couple of years ago mixed lots of Transvaals, of 20 to 40 stamps, ranging, in the matter of catalogue value, from 5s. to 20s., and having a fair run of good copies, rarely fetched more than an average of one shilling per stamp. Now the average price is more than double, and when there is only a small proportion of damaged copies the average runs as high as 4s. and 5s. per stamp. In the sweet by-and-bye we shall look back on these prices and wish we had not been so short-sighted as to let them pass without challenge.

For those who want a country to specialise that shall give them unlimited scope, I am prepared to back my favourites against all comers. Of no country can it be said that there is so much yet to learn. I have collected them for close on ten years, and I have patiently studied them for the past seven years, and yet, even with the excellent help afforded by Mr. Tamsen in unearthing the official records, I feel that I am entering only the threshold of the inquiry.

In the collection of Transvaal diligent study and patient searching will in the end outstrip even the longest pocket. Your wealthy collector can take up such expensive old favourites as Buenos Ayres, Republic of Columbia, or Old Swiss, and with a cheque book and a fair general knowledge he can in a few weeks outstrip even the oldest collector of ordinary means. But to distance the patient collector of Transvaals he must be provided with the specialist's profound knowledge, or he will scatter his cheques wastefully on common varieties and pass the real gems unheeded.

The reason for all this is not far to seek. The stamps of the old favourites are well known and are generally priced pretty correctly in the matter of relative rarity. But it is an extremely rare thing to find a dealer who so thoroughly understands the grand range of the issues of the Transvaal. I could not name one. The consequence is that although some of the gems are fairly well known, such as the "Transvral" error; the unsurcharged blue on green, blue on rose, and violet on green; and the wide roulettes; there is still a wide range of gloriously recurring opportunities to the watchful specialist of picking up for a few shillings many splendid rarities.

A year or so ago, in company with my fellow collector, Mr. Pearce, I came upon a run of a variety hitherto unknown to us, and we scooped it up. It is not mentioned by Mr. Tamsen; and Mr. C. J. Phillips, who knows more about Transvaals than any other dealer with whom I am acquainted, had only seen one other copy. I have gone through all the leading stocks, and have never seen another copy. It is probably worth nearer £10 than £5. Our copies were priced 5s. each, and would probably have been passed over by Mr. Longpocket as a common garden variety. This is by no means a solitary example of patience and virtue rewarded. On the other hand the ordinary dealer, who is not to be blamed for looking upon Transvaals as a confounded nuisance, exemplifies Pope's dictum that—

A little knowledge is a dangerous thing.

He notices some peculiarity, and, fondly imagining he has caught a whale this time, he prices it accordingly, and Mr. Longpocket comes along and makes out

his cheque with a satisfied grimace. The specialist, looking over his shoulder, recognises a sprat, and smiles approvingly, for, says he to himself, if a sprat will fetch out such a cheque, what a small fortune my genuine whales will be worth some day. Ah, some day! That same "some day" plays an important and well-recognised part in the daily life of every sanguine philatelist.

What does the Postmaster General mean?

With the aid of a kindly interpreter I have been conning a copy of the Annual Report of the Postmaster General of the South African Republic for the year 1895, for which I am indebted to that courteous official. But I am sorely puzzled by the following paragraphs, which I cull from the Report:—

> Generally, but especially in foreign countries, there is a great desire to collect defaced postage stamps for arrangement in albums, and in many cases very high prices are paid for such stamps. On account of the delay in executing the orders for stamps in Europe, the Treasurer General has been obliged to have recourse to surcharging stamps of higher value so as to reduce the value in order to provide a temporary want. Such surcharged stamps are eagerly bought up by stamp collectors, but as surcharges in this country occur rather frequently, especially lately, an attempt has been made to get these stamps out of the trade.
>
> I think it a good sign. Such stamps, to my idea, are not intended for such purposes of trading. As long as they are used for free correspondence we cannot but admit that they are put to their proper requirements.

What does Mr. Van Alphen mean? He talks about "the trade" as though he were discussing the requirements of a customer. Surely the Postal Department of the Transvaal has not come so low as that. The Transvaal is a wealthy State. Its Postal Department has no need to stoop to shady subterfuges to eke out a revenue for the State as do some of the rag-tag-and-bob-tail Central and South American Republics. Why, then, in a State document discuss the idiosyncracies of the stamp-dealing trade? What is the object of the reference? Will Mr. Van Alphen allay the doubts which must arise, by an explanation?

The Postmaster General of the Transvaal may rest assured that if he imagines that he is doing a service to stamp collectors by catering specially for their requirements, he is making a very grievous mistake indeed. All that stamp collectors require is that a State shall attend to is own postal requirements, utterly regardless of the existence of stamp collectors. The postage stamps which represent those requirements, and those requirements only, will be of engrossing interest to stamp collectors, who on the other hand will regard with well deserved contempt catch-penny issues made at the suggestion of such parasites as speculating stamp collectors and stamp dealers.

I sincerely hope and believe that Mr. Van Alphen will be able to assure us that we have no need to fear such a prostitution of the integrity of the Postal Department under his charge.

Such an assurance from him just now will do much to allay the doubts which have naturally been occasioned by certain recent dealings of postmasters or assistant postmasters in the Transvaal. Collectors do not object to surcharges so long as they are genuine, and are not manipulated at the suggestion of speculators, or sorted over by speculators for the purpose of getting money from collectors.

Olympian Stamps of Greece.

BY THE EDITOR.

THE special issue of postage stamps, now known as the "Olympian Series," is likely to provide a bone of contention in philatelic circles. The intended issue was placed under the ban of the S.S.S.S. in Circular No. 3, published in December, 1895. In that Circular the issue was listed under the statement that "Commemorative Stamps have also been announced to be about to appear for the following places, and collectors and dealers are therefore warned beforehand concerning them." All that was then known was that a series of stamps was to be issued to commemorate the intended revival of the Olympian Games. It was then suspected that the issue was not to meet postal requirements, but simply to "commemorate" at the expense of dealers and collectors of postage stamps. That suspicion has been justified up to the hilt. The issue has from first to last had no relation whatever to postal requirements. It was advised and adopted on the ground that a new issue of stamps by Greece would be snapped up by stamp collectors in such quantities as to abundantly provide the necessary funds for properly celebrating the Olympian Games. The stamps have been issued, and as they have probably not sold in satisfactory quantities, we are now told that they are, by Royal decree dated 28th March last, to remain in use from the 6th of April to the 13th of October, 1896.

Up to the publication of this Royal decree everything has justified the severest condemnation of the issue as a purely speculative one. We would in particular refer our readers to a correspondence published in the *American Journal of Philately* in November last. In that correspondence is a letter from the President of the Athens Philatelic Club, offering the Scott Stamp and Coin Co. the monopoly of the entire issue of the stamp of 1 lepton at a discount under face value. To their credit, the Scott Stamp and Coin Co. refused the offer, and in doing so wrote, "From the standpoint of philately, this particular issue to celebrate the Olympian Games is too ridiculous to be mentioned, and we hope sincerely that collectors will be able to make it so unprofitable as to prevent any such abuse in the future. Governments of good standing should be ashamed of lending their names to issues of this character, and it is hoped that by the concerted exertions of stamp collectors and dealers in Europe and America other Governments will be dissuaded from carrying into execution similar projects." In reply, the President of the Athens Philatelic Club gave himself and his case away by contending that "the Helenic Government has not, like some other States, proceeded to issue these stamps as a speculation, but to help the Commission of the Olympian Games, which has to go to considerable expense in order to give a new lustre to these festivities."

Here we have the speculative character of the issue openly admitted. They are all the more speculative and unnecessary, from the stamp collector's point of view, because the profit is diverted to non-postal ends.

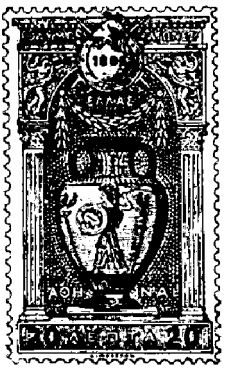
Now comes a Royal decree generously extending the period of sale till October next, when, we are told, the issue is to be demonetised in favour of a new Government issue. The generosity of the Royal decree lies in the fact that the Government consents to an extended alienation of postal revenue evidently in order to enable the shrewd promoters of the Olympian series to realise their anticipated sales.

The series is unquestionably a most interesting one, and the probability is

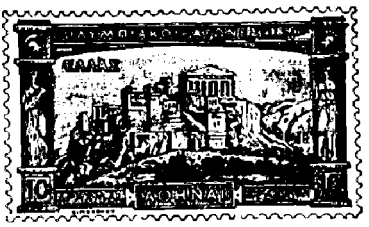


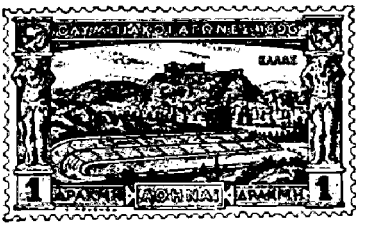


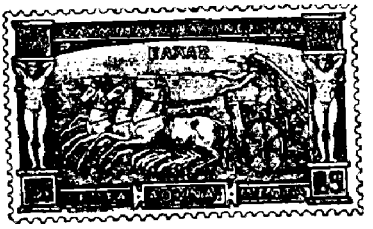












THE OLYMPIAN STAMPS.

that many collectors, who quite agree with the ban placed upon them by the S.S.S.S., will purchase them as a curiosity, and the fact that they are to-day freely franking letters will tend to shake the allegiance of not a few in the wisdom of the condemnation of the S.S.S.S. Nevertheless these Olympians answer, in every particular, to the most objectionable class of stamps that are speculative and unnecessary, and the question naturally arises whether collectors and dealers are going to hold together in their loyal support of a condemnation justified to the very letter by every scrap of reliable evidence, or whether they are going to allow themselves to be hoodwinked by the extended use of the series. The probabilities are that the sale of the series has been seriously crippled by the ban of the S.S.S.S., and that if that ban is loyally adhered to those collectors who desire a few sets as curiosities will be able to procure them when they are demonetised at their real value of a few pence instead of the twenty to thirty shillings now charged for them.

There is yet another point to be considered in discussing the ban placed on these stamps. We are told that these Olympian Games are to be held every four years in one or other of the great capitals of Europe. Therefore, the question arises are we collectors and dealers going to remove the ban we have placed on these stamps, by collective or individual action, and so establish a precedent for future celebrations at our expense. Surely we are not going to be so foolish and short-sighted.

As a matter of interest we illustrate the series and give the following details as to the designs :—

The 1 lepton and 2 lepta denominations have Corinthian columns at the sides and a central design showing two ancient wrestlers.

The 5 and 10 lepta have Ionic columns and in the centre a reproduction of Myron's famous statue "Discobolus" (quoit or discus thrower).

The 20 and 40 lepta are larger and show an antique vase standing in a niche of mosaic with Corinthian columns at the sides and an elaborately decorated arch above.

The 25 and 60 lepta are the same size, but the design is placed horizontally and shows in the centre a quadriga or four-horse chariot.

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

The 2 and 5 drachmas both show famous statues standing in niches of mosaic, the former represents the Hermes (or Mercury) of Praxiteles, with Ionic columns, and the latter represents the Nike (or Victory) by Paeonius, with Corinthian columns.

The 10 drachmas, the highest value of the series, has another view of the acropolis with female figures at the sides supporting the arch.

The stamps are typographed on wove paper and are perforated 13½. The four lower values are small, the others being large, and either oblong or rectangular in shape.

1l. brown, Wrestlers.
2l. rose, „
5l. violet, The Disc Thrower of Myron.
10l. grey, „ „
20l. brown red, Vase with Minerva.
25l. red, Four-horse Chariot.
40l. violet, Vase with Minerva.
60l. black, Four-horse-Chariot.
1dr. blue, Stadium at Athens.
2dr. brown, The Hermes of Praxiteles
5dr. green, The Victory of Paeonius.
10dr. brown, The Acropolis of Athens.

Orange Free State Issues.

From the South African Philatelist.

(*Concluded from page* 105.)

LAST month we gave an excellent sketch of the history of the postal issues of the Orange Free State from the pages of the *South African Philatelist*, and we now quote from the same source the Reference List which concludes the article. It will be seen that the Orange Free State opens a very fair field to specialists. The reference list notes but 43 stamps to be collected. There are, however, great possibilities to the earnest searcher of finding Nos. 4a., 7a., 9a., 14a., and 14b. with the different types of surcharge.

REFERENCE LIST.

Issue February, 1868. Perforated 14.

No. 1. 1p. Brown.
2. 6p. Rose.
3. 1s. Orange.

Provisional Issue, 1877. "4" on 6p. 5 types.

No. 4. 4p. (on 6p.) Black and rose.
4a. 4p. (on 6p.) „ „ „ surcharge inverted.

Issue, 1878. Perforated 14.

No. 5. 4p. Blue.
6. 5s. Green (issued 1879).

Provisional Issue, 1881. "½" on 5s. 4 types.

No. 7. ½p. on 5s. Black and green.
7a. ½p. on 5s. „ „ „ surcharge inverted.

Provisional Issue, 1881. "1p." on 5s. 5 types.

No. 8. 1p. on 5s. Black and green.

Provisional Issue, 1882. "3p." on 4p. 5 types.

No. 9. 3p. on 4p. Black and blue.
9a. 3p. on 4p. „ „ „ double surcharge.

Issue, 1883. Perforated 14.

No. 10. ½p. Red-brown.
11. 2p. Violet.
12. 3p. Blue.

Provisional Issue, 1888. "2d" on 3p.

No. 13. 2p. (on 3p.) Black and blue.
13a. 2p. (on 3p.) „ „ „ curved foot to "2"

Provisional Issue, 1890. "1d" on 4p. 2 types.

No. 14. 1p. (on 4p.) Black and blue.
14a. 1p. (on 4p.) „ „ „ double surcharge.
14b. 1p. (on 4p.) „ „ „ treble surcharge.
14c. 1p. (on 4p.) „ „ „ "I" instead of "1."

Provisional Issue, 1890. "1d" on 3p. 2 types.

No. 15. 1p. (on 3p.) Black and blue.
15a. 1p. (on 3p.) „ „ „ variety "d" 3mm. apart from "1"

Provisional Issue, 1892. "2½d" on 3p.

No. 16. 2½p. (on 3p.) Black and blue.

Issue, 1894. Perforated 14.

No. 17. 1p. Violet.

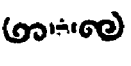
Lubeck Error of 1859.

FROM THE "ILLUSTREARTES BRIEFMARKEN JOURNAL."

(*Continued from p.* 104.)

A SURE proof that the error which we are considering was caused by retouching two of the electrotypes of the 2½ schillings for use in the plate of the 2 schillings, can be found in the peculiarities of the design, and above all, in the engraver's secret marks, which we find on the error; for these are just the same as those that are known to belong to the 2½ schillings, and the differences between them and those of the 2 schillings value may easily be pointed out.

Well known as engraver's secret marks, in the five values of the stamps of Lubeck, are those dots which the artist has added to the ornaments which fill the space between the two lower figures indicating the value. This ornamentation is found below the word "Postmarke," and consists of a horizontal stroke, at each end of which, but not touching it, is a vertical line, followed in its turn by an arabesque. Above and below the horizontal line, there



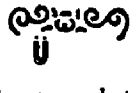
are a certain number of small dots, which vary in number and position according to the value of the stamp.

In the ½ schilling we find one dot above the horizontal stroke; in the 1 schilling there is one dot under the horizontal line; the 2 schillings shows us two dots under this same line, while in the 2½ schillings stamp we find one dot above and two dots below that line; the 4 schillings stamp, finally, has four dots under the central line. Now it happens that the arrangement of dots peculiar to the 2½ schillings (one dot above and two below) is exactly the arrangement found upon the error. Besides these engraver's secret marks, there are other pecularities of design, which furnish important guides when the genuineness of a Lubeck stamp is to be established.

We wish now to point out the most noteworthy differences between the stamps of 2 and those of 2½ schillings; of course, what we have to say about the 2½ schillings will also apply to our error.

I. 2 *Schillings, red-brown.*

1. Right above the word "Lubeck," is an ornament very similar to the one which we have pointed out under the word "Postmarke"; it is enlarged, however, by a half circle, open on top, just under the short central stroke and between it and the word "Lubeck." On both sides of this half



circle, in the inside of which is a dot, there are two short curved lines, convex upwards and looking very much like human eyebrows. The left end of the left curve points directly between the two dots over the "u" in the word "Lubeck."

2. There is no dot between the two heads of the eagle in the coat of arms.

3. There is a period after the word "Postmarke," and also one after the word "Schilling."



4. The space between the figures in the upper right and lower right corners, and between the scroll bearing the inscription "Schilling" and the frame of the stamp, is occupied by a slightly curved vertical line, and shorter horizontal strokes. The vertical stroke is drawn quite near to the frame line of the stamp.

(To be continued.)

Reviews.

The De la Rue Series of Indian Stamps.

Notes on the De la Rue Series of the Adhesive and Postage and Telegraph Stamps of India. A Supplement to the Postage Stamps, &c., of British India and Ceylon. Published by the Philatelic Society, London. 1896. 2*s.* 6*d.*

The Philatelic Society of London has published as a supplement to its excellent monograph on the stamps of India and Ceylon, a paper read by its honorary secretary, Mr. J. A. Tilleard, before the society at the beginning of last year. Mr. Tilleard's supplement is confined to the De la Rue Series, and it bears evidence on almost every page of exhaustive treatment and special information. Indeed, it is an open secret that Mr. Tilleard is probably the first philatelist who has been admitted to the De la Rue factory and has escaped to tell the tale of what he saw therein. Not only has he escaped to tell the tale, but, stranger still, he has been specially helped in the telling of his tale by the great contractors themselves. His paper is full of interest from cover to cover. It is replete with information extracted, deftly and judiciously, from a valuable source hitherto jealously guarded from the scrutiny of the philatelist.

To begin, Mr. Tilleard corrects a few slips in the original work, and also traverses a few of its theories. We have no space to follow him in these details, and must content ourselves with an extract from his interesting information concerning the 2 annas green, and his important contribution to the recently raised question of retouched plates of the De la Rue Series.

The 2 Annas, Green.

In the Society's list, the colour of the 2 annas stamp is given as "brown-pink," and in the remarks to Issue III. there is a statement that this was the colour of the stamps as originally transmitted from England, a date nearly two years later than that given for the issue being assigned to the well-known variety in green. Now the registered sheet of Plate I. of the 2 annas was undoubtedly printed in green. The date of registration is the 8th June, 1855, while the stamp in brown-pink does not appear to have been registered until the 2nd September, 1858, when the second plate was made.

I have ascertained from head-quarters that "the stamp was first printed in green," that those first sent out to India were of "this colour," and that there was "no subsequent printing in green."

It may perhaps be asked, How it is that we do not see more used specimens of the 2 annas, "green," if it was actually the first sent out? But I should imagine that it was at once found to be unsuitable, and was only employed to a very limited extent, if at all. The native-printed 2 anna stamps had only been issued late in 1854, and probably there was a sufficiency of these in hand to meet the demand, until a fresh supply in a more suitable colour was received from England. as it is on record that the "country manufactured" stamps were not called in or destroyed until 1858.

Retouched Plates.

Referring more particularly to the 4 annas of 1866-80, of which there were seven plates, Mr. Tilleard tells us that he has had the opportunity of inspecting proofs in black on card from the die as it existed, both before and after alteration, and, in these proofs, the changes are naturally easier to distinguish than is the case in the ordinary impressions from the plates. He found a number of minor differences which might be described, but the principal are, in the shape of the "fish tail," the rounding of the chin, an increased curve in the upper lip, and an alteration in the shading just beneath the mouth, caused by the removal of two of the shading lines.

He goes on to say:—

The chief guide for distinguishing the plates will, however, be found in the fact that the stamps from the altered die have a somewhat different general appearance, the profile from the point of the nose downwards, extending to half-way down the neck, being outlined by a well-defined line of colour, which does not appear in the earlier printed stamps The specimen from which the illustration of this value in the Society's work was taken, is one of the "retouched" type.

There does not seem to be any record of the precise reason for the change in the case of this stamp, but I understand that it was probably in consequence of some difficulty in working from the plates made from the die as it originally existed.

I am told that it is no uncommon occurrence to find that plates are not capable of all the work that should be obtained from them. Small defects in the detail, or otherwise, are discovered which causes "inking up," resulting in difficulty and delay in printing, owing to the constant attention and frequent cleaning of the plates which is required. When this happens the working die is softened, and the parts which give rise to the defects in the plates are deepened or modified, as may be found necessary, new plates being then made. Sometimes, in this operation, the die is damaged, necessitating the making of a fresh working die from the original "mother" die, which is never used for the making of the plates. I understand that it is often necessary to resort to some slight retouch of dies, and it is probable that a close examination of surface-printed stamps which have had any length of life, and have demanded the employment of many plates, may bring to light similar instances, in stamps of this and other countries, which have hitherto passed unobserved, owing to the change in the dies being so minute.

The appendices run into 14 pages, and are most valuable. We have a full list of the registered plates of the adhesive postage and telegraph stamps printed by Messrs. De la Rue & Co., giving value, colour, No. of plate, date of registration, and watermark, and also the descriptive list, prepared in 1871, by the late Lieut.-Col. Mainwaring, which has been revised by Messrs. De la Rue, so far as concerns the stamps manufactured by them and completed by them down to the date of revision. In regard to Col. Mainwaring's list, Mr. Tilleard remarks that—

The Half-Anna Black.

It is curious to observe that Col. Mainwaring keeps up, or perhaps is the originator of, the old tradition that the half-anna stamp, with the eight arches, was first printed in black and sent out for distribution. He adds that it was never issued in this colour to the public, as a large packet of the stamps was stolen, and the remainder were withdrawn to prevent the stolen stamps being used. He then proceeds to state that it was re-issued in red, and that on the vermilion ink running short, it was printed in blue. It would be interesting to know the origin of this tradition. Personally I have never seen this value in black printed on the watermarked paper, and if the circumstantial story above referred to were correct, I think we should have seen some watermarked copies, and not merely proofs. Possibly the story had its origin in the fact that for a short time the printers despaired of being able to obtain satisfactory results in blue, and strongly recommended the black impressions which had been successfully obtained.

The Current Series.

Even in the case of the current series of Indian stamps, Mr. Tilleard has some corrections to make and some information to add. He writes:—

The years 1881 and 1882 saw the introduction of an entirely new series of stamps for India. These are all included in the Society's list under issue XV., the dates there assigned being January, 1882, to April, 1888. It was assumed that the designs of all the values given were "probably approved in 1882"; but as a matter of fact the 4 annas and 6 pies, and the 12 annas values were not prepared until some years later. The designs for all the rest were approved in December, 1880. In September, 1881, the 1 anna 6 pies, and the 3 annas stamps were first printed, the 1 anna in March, 1882, the 8 annas and the 1 rupee in July, and the half-anna, the 9 pies, and the 2 annas were sent out in August of the same year. The 4 annas stamps were not delivered until October, 1885.

The New 6 Annas still to come.

And it seems that there is yet another of the new designs to come, for Mr. Tilleard tells us that—

Of the 6 annas value none have yet been printed for use, although the plate was registered on the 3rd January, 1882. I am indebted to Mr. G. J. Hynes for the information that so large was the stock on hand of 6 anna stamps of the previous design, that up to the present time it has sufficed for the demand; but that the next "indent" for stamps of this value from England will be for those of the new design, which has been so long waiting to make its appearance.

Although Mr. Tilleard's paper was read before the Society on the 15th February, 1895, this 6 annas of the new series is still to come.

Novelties and Discoveries.

The earliest information as to New Issues will be much appreciated by us, and will be duly credited to the correspondent, or firm, sending it. Our foreign correspondents can materially help us in this direction. When possible, a specimen should accompany the information, and be addressed to the Editor, Mr. EDWARD J. NANKIVELL, 28, *Birdhurst Rise, Croydon.*

Barbados. – Mr. Gurdji sends the *American Journal of Philately* the following extract from the Official Gazette of Barbados :—

POST OFFICE NOTICE.—On and after this date all printed newspapers posted at the General Post Office for delivery in this Island, will be liable to a postage rate of one farthing for a weight not exceeding 2 ounces, and an additional farthing for every additional 2 ounces.

No word or communication must be written or printed on the newspaper or on the cover thereof after publication, except the name and address of the person for whom intended.

No paper or thing shall be enclosed in such paper except the printed supplement, if any, belonging to it.

Pending the issue of adhesive one farthing stamps, the postage will be received at the General Post Office in Coin and the words "Paid at Barbados" will be impressed on the Newspaper by a hand stamp in the presence of the person posting same, who will be required to sign a paper stating the number of newspapers posted and the amount paid thereon.

In the case of Newspapers weighing over 2 ounces the postage will be required to be paid with adhesive postage stamps.

It will not be practicable at present to post newspapers at any of the Country Post Offices for delivery in this Island without a minimum postage of ½d. being paid.

W. P. TRIMINGHAM,
Colonial Postmaster.

General Post Office, 23rd January, 1896.

Canada. — Our publishers have the envelope of the 3 cents red value with stamp roughly lithographed instead of being embossed. Mr. J. B. Lewis, of Ottawa, says only 110 were printed.

Envelope.

3 cents, red, lithographed.

Cuba.—Messrs. Whitfield King & Co. send us the current baby head series in pale green as follows :—

Adhesives.

½ mil. green.
1 mil. ,,
2 mil. ,,
3 mil. ,,
4 mil. ,,

Cyprus.—Messrs. Whitfield King and Co. send us the new 4 piastres, olive and purple, of the series chronicled by us in February (p. 47). They inform us that the new ½ and 2 piastres will not appear for some time yet, but all the other values of the new series referred to are now in use.

French Morocco.—Messrs. Whitfield King & Co. send us a series of unpaid stamps with values surcharged horizontally in figures and words on the current unpaid series of France.

Adhesive (Unpaid Stamps).

5c. blue, sur. in red.
10c. chocolate, sur. in red.
30c. rose, sur. in black.
50c. lilac, sur. in black.
1 peseta, pale brown, sur. in black.

Great Britain—The Post Office Circular of March 24th contains the following official announcement concerning the new surcharge of "O.W. Official," which was first chronicled in our pages :—

The Postmaster General has approved of the use of stamps overprinted "O.W. Official," for denoting the payment of both postage and registration fees, on letters and other mail matter transmitted by certain officials of the Office of Works.

We are further informed that there will shortly be another official surcharge, viz. : "W.O. OFFICIAL," for the use of the War Office, and probably on ½d. and 1d. values.

Holland.—We are indebted to Mr. J. R. Robert for a specimen of the new envelopes issued on the 13th April. They are printed on duplex wove paper, white outside and blue inside, and measure 146 × 112 mm. A stamp of the current type is printed on the left upper corner.

Envelopes.

5c. blue, on white wove, inside blue.
12½c. grey, ,, ,,

India.—According to the *Quarterly Philatelic Circular* (Bombay), there are at least twelve sub-varieties of the nine pies embossed envelopes for soldiers and seamen, surcharged "one anna" with Crown, as per following list :—

1. Small "n" in "one"
2. "A" in "anna" without cross-bar.
3. "A" in "anna" with thin bar.
4. "A" in "anna" with dotted bar.
5. "A" in "anna" with half bar.
6. "A" in "anna" with double bar.
7. "E" in "one" with solid head.
8. "E" in "one" with three arms.
9. "O" in "one" without inner bar.
10. "O" in "one" with dotted cross-bar.
11. "O" in "one" with single cross-bar.
12. "O" in "one" with cross-bars joined to right.

Johore.—The *Philatelic Journal of Great Britain* has received the current set surcharged in small block capitals, "KEMAHKOTAAN," issued, so it is said, at the coronation of the new Sultan.

Adhesives.

1c. black and lilac and mauve.
2c. ,, ,, yellow.
3c. ,, ,, carmine.
4c. ,, ,, black.
5c. ,, ,, green.
6c. ,, ,, olive.
1$,, and green and carmine.

New South Wales.—A correspondent tells the *Monthly Journal* that he has found the 4d. Unpaid Letter stamp, perf. 10 × 11.

The following is from *The Government Gazette*:—

Postal and Electric Telegraph Department,
General Post Office,
Sydney, 27th February, 1896.

His Excellency the Governor, with the advice of the Executive Council, has, under the provisions of the 7th section of the Postage Acts Amendment Act 56 Vic. No. 31, approved of certain alterations being made in the design of the 1½d. post card, which consist in the removal of the waratah from the left-hand side of the card, and the substitution of an emblematic waratah and leaves for the words "One Hundred Years" in the stamp denoting the value.

JOSEPH COOK.

Adhesive (Unpaid Letter Stamp).

4d. green, perf. 10 × 11.

Post Card.

1½d. blue on straw; without waratah at left.

New Zealand.—The *Australian Philatelist* says the current 2d. is now perforated 10 × 11½ and the 8d. is perforated 10.

Adhesives.

2d. lilac, perf. 10 × 11½.
8d. blue, perf. 10.

Poland.—According to the *Monthly Journal* there is in the collection of Mr. Breitfuss an unused specimen of the 10c. adhesive, on vertically *laid* paper. "Possibly," remarks Major Evans, "the same paper as that which was used in 1866, according to the catalogues, for the Russian stamps."

Adhesive.

10c., blue and rose on *laid*.

Porto Rico.—Messrs. Whitfield King and Co. send us the current type of the baby head, in the following new colours:

Adhesives.

½ mil., pale purple.
1 mil., pale brown.
2 mil., pale green.
4 mil., blue green.

Queensland.—The *Australian Philatelist* is informed that the 1d. on "secret mark" paper, mentioned in our last, would not remain long in use, as a three months' supply of Crown Q. paper was expected in a few days (9th March). In July next a twelve months' supply of paper, the first of a new contract from Webster, is expected. It is said that this paper is thin, but whether watermarked or otherwise is not stated. More changes are looming in the near future. All the current stamps (presumably with the exception of the ½d., 2½d., and 5d.) are to be altered slightly in design, figures of value being inserted in the lower angles.

Russia.—The *Monthly Journal* says:—

Among the treasures in the Breitfuss collection, Mr. Phillips notes the following:—

1868. With horizontal laid lines—

1 kop. and 10 kop., *imperf.*

1879. The 7 kopecs printed on paper used for fiscal stamps, with a watermark of a hexagon pattern; the specimen was used in 1880, and is believed to be unique.

1884. The 14 kopecs divided diagonally, the upper left-hand half, and surcharged with a figure "7." The variety is known to be authentic, and to have been made by a local postmaster, to meet a temporary emergency.

1890. The 14 kop. with inverted centre, used at St. Petersburg, Feb. 13, 1893.

Adhesives.

1868. Horizontal laid lines.
1k., 10k., imperf.
1879. On Fiscal paper.
7k. wmk. hexagon pattern.
1884. The 14k. divided diagonally and surcharged '7.'
1890. 14k. centre inverted, used St. Petersburg, Feb. 13, 1893.

Samoa.—Messrs. Whitfield King & Co. send us two new post cards labelled "Samoa—Post Card—the address only to be written on this side," with one penny stamp of current adhesives design.

Post Cards.

1d. blue on pale green.
1d. + 1d. blue on pale green.

Shanghai.—*Mekeel's Weekly Stamp News* chronicles two high values of the current set (15c. and 20c.) reduced, by means of a simple surcharge in English and Chinese giving the new value in the two languages, to values in greater demand which had become temporarily exhausted. There do not seem to be any type varieties.

Adhesives.

4 cents on 15 cents, yellow and black, *black*.
6 cents on 20 cents, violet and black, *black*.

Siam.—Capt. Morier, writing from Singapore, having recently returned thither from Siam, sends us two new surcharges, namely, 2 atts on 64 atts, and 10 atts on 24 atts; and we hear also of 4 atts on 12 atts. They are all surcharged in black, in English, across the upper part of the stamp, and in Siamese over the labels of value.

Adhesives.

2 atts on 64 atts, lilac and orange, sur. black.
4 atts on 12 atts, lilac and carmine ,,
10 atts on 24 atts, lilac and blue ,,

Tolima.— The *American Journal of Philately* publishes the following :—

HONDA (Departamento del Tolima), Republica de Colombia, South America.

20th March, 1896.

Sir :—I beg to inform you that a few days ago the Post Office authorities here issued 500 of the two centavos stamps surcharged as follows :—

HABILITADA
VALE $0.01
HONDA

The stock in hand of the one centavo stamps having been sold and a number of circulars having been sent to the post office for transmission the post office officials were obliged to surcharge the two centavos as above stated pending the arrival of the one centavo stamps from Bogota, the capital of the Republic.

In order to get possession of a few of these stamps I sent circulars, etc., to some of my friends, at the same time requesting them to return me the stamps, and to prove that they have really passed through the post office I have stamped this circular with two of them. I shall be obliged by your returning me one of them, retaining the other for your good-selves.

I am prepared to sell the few stamps which I have in my possession at the rate of $1.00 (gold) each.

Yours truly,
John Gillies.

Transvaal.—We have another—the 1s.—of the new series of current type, with label of value in green, from Messrs. Whitfield King & Co., and our publishers have shown us the 1d. black perf. 12½, of 1885 of the old arms type, horizontally imperf. between.

Adhesives.
1s. bistre, value in green.
1885 Issue.
1d. black. imperf. horizontally.

United States.—The *Post Office* (U.S.) says one of the latest discoveries is a 10c Baltimore on white paper, of same type as the 5c. This was discovered in Louisville, Ky., and was sold to a stamp firm for $2,050, and they immediately turned it over to a New York collector for $4,400. Two new Confederate stamps have also been discovered, a 10c Beaumont black on yellow, and a 2c green Baton Rouge with error "McCcrmick." The publisher of the *Post Office* has found the 1863 2c black on horizontally laid paper, the watermark lines are very close together.

Baltimore Provisional Adhesive Stamp.
10c black on white.
Beaumont, Texas, Provisional Adhesive Stamp.
10c black on yellow.
Baton Rouge, La., Provisional Adhesive Stamp.
2c green (error McCcrmick).
Adhesive.
1863, 2c black, laid paper.

Zanzibar.—The following varieties exist in the Provisional Zanzibar stamps surcharged on the current India adhesives :—

B of Zanzibar with top stroke only at left side "b"—all values.

B of Zanzibar with top stroke to right and and left "b"—all values.

Second Z of Zanzibar small—all values.

Second Z of Zanzibar small and above the line—all values.

Second Z of Zanzibar small and below the line—all values.

Second Z of Zanzibar normal—all values.

Second Z of Zanzibar large and narrow—all values.

Top of B missing "D"—all values.

"Zanzidar"—all values.

Inverted "r"—2, 3 and 5 rupees.

Capital Z below the line—2, 3 and 5 rupees.

Our publishers have shown us the Indian, one anna, reply post card, doubly surcharged, in blue, "Zanzibar" on the first half, but unsurcharged on the reply half.

Our Monthly Packets of New Issues.

No 1, price one shilling (postage extra).

The May packet contains five varieties, used and unused, viz. : Queensland 1d. and 2d., new type : Transvaal ½d. green, &c.

No 2, price five shillings (postage extra).

The May packet contains ten varieties, used and unused.

These packets are on sale from May 25th to June 24th (unless the supply is previously exhausted), and are supplied only to *Subscribers* to the "Philatelic Record and Stamp News." Similar packets will be on sale every month, and may be subscribed for in advance for the year (January to December inclusive), at the following rates :—No. 1 packet (sent by book post with the paper), 12s., post-free (if by letter post the postage is 1s. extra Inland ; 2s 6d. Abroad). No. 2 packet (by letter post), Inland 61s., Abroad 62s. 6d., post-free.

The subscription to the paper (3s. per annum) is extra.—Buhl & Co. Limited, 11, Queen Victoria Street, E.C.

Philately in the Mags.

Alaska Postal Arrangements.

Last January *Filatelic Facts and Fancies* (U.S.) gave an account of a private mail, projected in Alaska, with the gold fields of the Yukon as the objective point. At that time two round trips of the carrier were scheduled to be made this winter. Since then information is at hand that one round trip has been completed, carrier Jackson bringing out about twelve hundred letters from Forty Mile Creek and vicinity. To further illustrate the stern surroundings of this hazardous winter enterprise of the frozen north, the *Filatelic Facts and Fancies* give the following account of the hardships and dangers encountered by the carrier on the first half of his trip:—

Jackson left Juneau in December last with the mail, accompanied by two white men, provisioned for about forty days, and loaded with about six hundred pounds of newspapers and magazines, in addition to the letter mail. Immediately after their departure heavy storms set in, and they were obliged to lie in camp several weeks, which reduced their provisions considerably. When Jackson and two Indian companions reached Lake LeBarge they were in desperate circumstances, but had the mail intact. They were met at this point by a party coming out. Jackson reported his face badly frozen, and said when their supply of provisions ran short they divided up and each man had to shift for himself. The two white men had been left behind nine days before, with half a sack of flour and some beans, both in a state of utter exhaustion from hardships and intense cold. Jackson and his mates killed and ate all their dogs, but pushed on, finally reaching Forty Mile Creek with one hind-quarter of a hound and a pint of flour remaining in their commissary department. It is thought the white men's chances are almost nil of surviving

The news from Circle City, while not exciting, is interesting. Beer is 50 cents. per schooner, a hair cut costs $1.00, sugar 25 cents. per pound, coal oil $25.00 per gallon, and about '49 prices for staple provisions of all kinds prevail, while the expressage on a single-rate letter over the perilous winter route of contractor Jackson is 50 cents.

The German Feldpost of 1870.

Mr. Karl Ludwig contributes to *Filatelic Facts and Fancies* (U.S.) a very interesting account of the German Feldpost of twenty-five years ago, from which we cull the following:—

There was no other government institution during the Franco-German war nearly so popular as the Feldpost, and indeed it did a great deal towards helping to bring about the final results, with success to the German armies. Assuring letters from home made the German soldiers confident, and helped them to bear the terrible hardships of the campaign; while on the other hand the genial originator of the Feldpost, Dr. Von Stephan (the creator of the World's Postal Union, and at the present time still Postmaster-General of the German Empire) is authority for the following statement:—"Right after the battle I was riding on the street from Etain to Sedan, where I asked some captured French soldiers about their feldpost. The answer I got was that since their departure they had not got a single letter from their dear ones, and that this fact had done a good deal toward their downheartedness."

On July 16, 1870, the mobilization of the army was ordered, and nine days later Dr. Von Stephan had finished all necessary postal arrangements for the war. At once 4000 employés (later on even 5900) were taken from the home force for this new department, and of these 2140 had to serve in the field. During the war about ninety millions of ordinary letters and postal cards, two and a half million papers, two million packets, one hundred and thirty million marks public and forty-nine million marks private money passed through this branch. The use of this service was absolutely free for the soldiers, while their relatives at home had to pay only a nominal amount for money orders and packets, while letters and postal cards did not cost any postage either. Yes, even the four hundred thousand captive Frenchmen were allowed to send letters and cards to their native country without charge.

On August 24th a German postal administration was organized for French territory occupied by German armies, with headquarters in Nancy. This one was followed later on by forty post-offices on French soil. Three days after the capture of Strassbourg, and only one day after the fall of Metz, both fortresses had first-class post-offices. One month later, November 30th, the province of Alsace Lorraine had 121 German post-offices. At Mars la Tour and at Sedan, and later on many other battle fields, mail clerks collected postal cards by the sackful on the very battle fields. What a joy must such a card often have caused, arriving as it did a few days after the short telegraphic notices about terrible battles, and telling that the sender was alive and sound.

Commemorative Issues.

What a blessing it will be when the Postal Union Congress bars all commemorative issues from use in the Postal Union. Then there will be philatelic peace. Till then we shall have to reckon with them in patience. Major Evans has

a word or two about these philatelic pests in the *Monthly Journal*. He says:—

About commemorative issues there appears to be a certain amount of misunderstanding. We have never intended to suggest condemning a permanent issue, whatever may be the occasion upon which it is made; our idea of a Commemorative issue has always been that it should be limited in the duration of its sale or use, or in the numbers printed, and not that the term should be applied to a regular issue, even if it were brought out upon some special occasion. Our own issue of 1887 was a perfectly legitimate one; a new set of stamps was urgently required, the previous issue, with several values in the same colour, was most inconvenient, and quite unsuited to its purpose; the Queen's Jubilee was a very fitting occasion for making such a change, and the stamps have continued in use ever since. The Guildhall card and the South Kensington envelope belong to another class; we can find no better excuse for them than for the Centennial envelopes and Columbian series of the United States—unless we may claim that the Jubilee of the Postage Stamp was a more suitable occasion for such sort of Commemoration than any other that could be imagined.

The 'Censt' Error of Johor.

In the course of an interview with the stamp firm of Messrs. G. Hamilton, Smith and Co., published in the *Stamp Collectors' Fortnightly*, Mr. Gwyer, a member of the firm, showing some of his best stock, said:—

Many of the best things here I picked up quietly and cheaply while resident in Penang, Malacca, and Singapore. See, here is the "Censt" error of Johor, of which only 108 copies were issued. Strangely enough, all the 108 were saved, for the Postmaster happened to notice the error before any of the stamps reached the public. Having a son who collected stamps he collected the whole 108 errors and gave them away to various friends. That specimen (Mr Gwyer added) he gave to me. You see, I have marked it £10, but if it were only a stamp belonging to a more fashionable country—Leeward Islands, say—it would fetch £50 at least.

A "Find" of Rare British Guianas.

Mr. J. W. Dorman, of Demerara, sends the *Stamp Collectors' Fortnightly* news of a recent find of rare British Guianas. He says:—

It may interest your readers to hear that a fine pair of the 2c. pink British Guiana, 1850, was recently found. The colour is good, the postmark light, and the initials clear and distinct. They were bought by the Hon. E. C. Luard, who subsequently let me have a share in them.

Last mail a sheet of the 2c. black and purple, 1889, with the red 2 inverted were taken home. These, I learn, never went through the post, and were apparently printed for amusement.

"Colonial English."

Now that "Colonial English" have been relegated in a fair stand-up fight, in its own castle, to the status of postmark collecting, Mr. Ewen seeks in his *English Specialists' Journal* to establish the claim of the surcharged Levant stamps to be regarded as British stamps. Of course, they are British, just as an Australian is a British subject. But surely the status of a stamp is determined by its *availability* in an *unused* condition. If the English stamp surcharged in Turkish currency is still available for postal use in this country, then it is still an English stamp, but if it is not acceptable here by reason of its currency surcharge, then it cannot be regarded as an English stamp. We do not admit the argument that the destination of the revenue derived from the sale of the stamps is a determining factor. To our thinking it is entirely a question of the *availability* of the stamp in its *unused* condition.

However, we quote what Mr. Ewen has to say for his view:—

British stamps, in our opinion, are those which denote payment of revenue to the British Government, and which are issued by post offices under its control. It will be seen that those of our colonies which govern themselves issue their own stamps, New South Wales and New Zealand for instance. In certain cases, where special stamps were required, but could not be printed immediately, a temporary issue has been made of English stamps overprinted with the name of the Colony. As these stamps denote revenue paid to the Colonial and not to the British Government, they are Colonial stamps. The Levant stamps surcharged in Turkish currency are, in our opinion, as much British as the unsurcharged British stamps with which they are sold side by side. They all denote revenue paid to the British Government. In what other manner can we explain the issue in Cyprus of first, British stamps; secondly, British stamps overprinted "Cyprus"; and thirdly, special Cyprus stamps? How is it there were two issues in Malta, one for inland and for foreign correspondence? The only explanation can be that revenue derived from the former went into the Maltese Exchequer, whilst that derived from the latter went to the British Government. If not, the duty of the ½d. Maltese stamp might well have been done by the ½d. English stamp, or *vice versa*.

But the whole question will be settled once and for ever, shortly; at least Mr. Bishop announces in the *S.C.F.* that he is going to have a lucid interval on the business He says:—

Before long we hope to argue this question out most exhaustively, and with, we trust, a lucidity which has hitherto been chiefly conspicuous for its absence in the controversy that has raged around the "Foreign" English stamps.

Annual Issues.

There is much to be said for and against Annual Issues. Major Evans, in the *Monthly Journal*, says:—

Annual changes, whether under such a contract as those of Mr. Seebeck or not, are legitimate enough, in a way; but if they become a nuisance, and a danger to our pursuit, we have a right to say that we will not collect them ourselves, and to do our best to deter others from encouraging them.

To all of which we gladly say "ditto." But annual changes would have the advantage that they probably would be free from the "remainder sets" arrangement; and they certainly would give a decided fillip to stamp collecting amongst junior collectors by reason of their provision of a desirable stream of novelties.

Great Britain 3d. Secret Mark.

With reference to the 3d. with trial perforation which is included in Mr. Ewen's Catalogue as *No. 85c., 3d. rose, plate 3, with white dot, trial perforation* 14, and which has been considered by some to be only a forged perforation, Mr. Ewen gives in the *English Specialists' Journal* the following letter from Mr. Peckitt as to their genuine character:—

In answer to yours of the 18th inst., I am pleased to be able to give you all the information in my power regarding these 3d. secret dot. The copies I had and sold last year were discovered on turning out the desk of an official of importance in Somerset House. As at the time of finding them he had left the service some twenty years, it is I think quite right to presume that they were perforated even longer back than that period. The perforation is what is known as the "penny perforation" from its having been used mainly for the 1d. stamps. There is not the slightest doubt that it is genuine, but whether they are perforated by the gentleman mentioned merely as an experiment I cannot say. Of course, it is needless to tell you that if they were perforated with the regular perforation, and had been sold over the counter of a P.O. they would have been worth nearer £40 than the figure I sold them to Mr. N. at.

And then Mr. Ewen goes on to explain that:—

All stamps of the surface printed series were printed by Messrs. De la Rue & Co., but perforated at Somerset House, the stamps being delivered there imperforate. The line engraved stamps were both printed and perforated by Messrs. Perkins, Bacon & Co. Somerset House perforation differs from the "penny perforation" of Messrs. Perkins, Bacon & Co., the holes being 4mm. in diameter in place of 3mm., and being much more cleanly cut out. All stamps belonging to what is now generally known as the De la Rue series (1880 to present day) are both printed and perforated by Messrs. De la Rue & Co., being delivered to Somerset House ready for issue.

Varieties of Gum.

Original gum is a precious product in the eyes of the ardent stamp collector, especially to the specialist, who is willing to pay for the genuine article something like £20,000 per pint. At present we do make a distinction between varieties of gum, and so long as it is not carried too far those varieties are most interesting. They are collected mainly in cases where they help in distinguishing some special printing or issue; as, for instance, in some of the stamps of the Transvaal the yellow, streaky gum is a factor of some value and interest, for it marks a particular printing by reason of the complaint lodged against the gum at the time in that particular case, but we scarcely think the collection of varieties of gum for gum alone will go down. The *English Specialists' Journal* asks:—

How long will it be before we specialise in varieties of gum? A great diversity of colour and quality may be found. For instance, the octagonal series may be found with blue, brown, or white gum; 2d. blue, plate 15, exists with both blue and yellow gum. Even De la Rue gum varies in shade from yellow-brown to white. Some of the old penny red stamps may be found with "double gum!" Even at present some of us collect as varieties stamps which are gummed on the face instead of the back.

Stamps of Impoverished States.

The *Philatelic Journal of Great Britain*, commenting on our article on the "Stamps of Impoverished States" in last month's number of the *Philatelic Record*, says:—

Mr. Nankivell on the Stamps of Impoverished States is likely to give rise to much discussion, possibly in government departments abroad as well as in philatelic circles far and near. Were the article to be published in the general press its tone would we think cause not a little astonishment to the average reader. Among stamp-men, however, Mr. Nankivell's proposal will itself be the subject of controversy. Startling as it appears, however, there is a great deal of commonsense in his argument. Nevertheless, it seems to us that if once the principle of supply and demand in our hobby is recognised in this bare-faced way, all the romance and more than half the fascination will quickly die out of it.

True. But in the discussion that we have raised we are only considering the "Impoverished States," and we cannot prevent their viewing matters from the sordid supply and demand point of view. That being so, our contention is that we should make the best bargain we can.

Queensland "Secret Mark" Paper.

The "secret mark" on recent Queensland stamps is already voted not only a puzzle, but a nuisance. The puzzle, the Rev. W. Earée explains as follows in the *Bazaar Philatelists' Supplement*:—

Either by intention or accident a sheet of plain paper was passed through the hot-press (a pair of heated, bright steel rollers) at the same time as a sheet of the crowned Q paper. Now, we all know that an ordinary watermark is *thinner* than the rest of the paper, and the result of the two sheets being squeezed together in the hot-press was very curious. The watermarks appeared *reversed* on the plain paper—reversed in a way very different from what is ordinarily meant by that term—that is to say, the watermarks were *thicker* than the rest of the sheet, instead of thinner. The same effect would be produced by a dandy-roll—only rather more so!—if the watermarks were engraved in it *en creux*, *i.e.*, hollow, instead of in relief. This is the whole history of the "secret mark." But there may be such a thing as *too much* secrecy; and I think that this is decidedly the case with the mark in question, for when a stamp watermarked by this process has been printed, gummed, perforated, licked, stuck on a letter, postmarked, and finally taken off, there is very little watermark left. Indeed, after all the above manipulations, the secret mark generally refuses to show itself by any of the ordinary tests of transmitted light, reflected light, black-slab-and-benzine, &c., and one is tempted to suggest the employment of "X-ray" photography as a last and final test.

The Tasmanian Platypus Type.

The Rev. P. E. Raynor contributes to the last issue of the *Bazaar Philatelists' Supplement* a very interesting history of the Platypus type of the Tasmanian stamps. He explains that

The Tasmanian Post Office, having a large supply of stamps of this type which were no longer required for their special fiscal purpose, decided in 1887 to issue them as postage-stamps, and to print no further supply of the ordinary postage-stamps until they were exhausted. The 1d. being most used, and existing in smaller quantities, was the first to be exhausted. When I arrived in Tasmania at the end of 1887 this 1d. Platypus had just gone out, and the ordinary type of 1d. had been reverted to. But during the three years that I was in the colony (1888—1890), the only stamps of the value of 3d., 6d., and 1s. to be obtained at the post-offices for prepaying postage were those of the Platypus type. This sufficiently establishes their claim to be regarded as postage-stamps. When the 6d. Platypus was exhausted there was no other stamp of that value available, so the old "Queen's bust" type was re-issued, and continued in use until the bi-coloured series came in. Similarly the Platypus 3d. was succeeded by a reversion to the 3d. of the ordinary type. When the bi-coloured type was chosen, it was deliberately adopted *only* for those values which did not exist in the Queen's head series. Thus, as there was no Queen's head type of 2½d., 5d., 6d., 1s., 2s. 6d., and 10s., bi-coloured stamps were adopted for these values; but the values of 1d., 2d., 3d., 4d., 8d., 9d., 10d.. and 5s. already existing with the Queen's head were retained, and are *still in issue.*

Mr. Castle on Himself.

SIR,—In your April issue there is an omission of a monosyllable of so much consequence that I venture to ask for its reinstatement. At the friendly importunity of my brother editor of the *Philatelic World*, I sent him a somewhat discursive series of notes, one of which was a brief account of my career as a collector. I hardly expected that this would have been deemed worth publishing, still less that it should have been reproduced so near home as in your columns. In the closing sentence of my remarks, referring especially to my collection in the past, I am made to say in the *Philatelic Record*, "I have spent—well, 'quite a lot,' and have a vague idea that the money and labour are all thrown away." It is here that the word "not" is omitted, the sentence in the *Philatelic World* reading "are *not* all thrown away."

I would not have troubled you with this correction but for the fact that it might create a bad impression upon collectors who have not been so long in the philatelic arena as myself. I need assuredly scarce emphasize my well-known belief in the reward offered by philately as regards either time or money. As to the former, it is a charming pursuit; and as to the latter, a safe investment in the opinion of

Yours faithfully,

M. P. CASTLE.

[We very much regret that such an error should have escaped our proof reader. Our extract was set up direct from the pages of the *Philatelic World* as a safeguard against error.—ED. *P.R.*]

Philatelic Gossip.

Proposed 1897 Exhibition.

The proposal to hold another large General Exhibition in London gets the following lift from the influential pen of Mr. Castle in the *London Philatelist*:—

The last exhibition in London was held in May, 1890, in commemoration of the fiftieth anniversary of the introduction of Penny Postage, and the intervening space of seven years represents a long hiatus in the recent abnormal development of Philately. There is abundant evidence that such an enterprise would elicit the widest support and receive the most cordial welcome from all classes connected with the pursuit of Postage Stamp collecting; hence we feel confident that, started under proper auspices, the undertaking would be not only a great success, but would give a marked impetus to Philately.

The experience gained by those connected with past exhibitions has shewn that such an undertaking is indeed one of "pith and moment" and that the difficulties to be met and overcome are many and onerous. The avoidance of some of the obstacles that militated against the complete success of the last exhibition would probably be secured by the early appointment of an influential committee, who would thus have twelve months to herald the exhibition, and to work out the scheme in all its details.

The advantage of such an exhibition would be shared by all classes connected with stamps alike, and it seems to us, therefore, fitting that the committee should be a widely representative one. This would involve the presence thereon of members of the London and Country Philatelic Societies, and of the leading dealers, and possibly, later on, necessitate the selection of a paid Secretary to carry out the behests of the Committee. This suggestion is not to be taken as emanating from the Philatelic Society of London, although we imagine that its support would be lent to any soundly devised scheme, but it results from a widely expressed conviction that the time is ripe for another exhibition, and that it would be of signal service in the best interests of Philately in this country.

Philately on the Continent.

Mr. Charles J. Phillips (Stanley Gibbons, Ltd.) contributes to the *Monthly Journal* a chatty, most enjoyable account of a recent business tour through France, Belgium, Germany, Austria, and Russia. He tells us that he found Paris rapidly resuming its place as the centre of philately on the continent. Brussels, on the contrary, is "as rapidly going down as Paris is going up the scale." He says:—

The dealers of Brussels have very little good stuff on hand; one of them who is well known through selling forgeries, false postmarks, cleaned fiscals, and mended stamps, thoroughly deserves to have his name published, and I would commend his doings to the notice of the Brussels Philatelic Society—by the way, this society is well known as containing a larger number of people of title than any other, but I am afraid the adage, "the greater the title, the smaller the purse," is but too often the case here.

At Frankfürt-on-the-Maine he saw several nice collections, and noted the great tendency is to secure fine unused stamps.

European, North Americans, and West Indies, especially the latter, being in greatest demand. Mr. Rosenberg's collection of Heligoland stamps is worthy of special notice; it is beyond doubt the finest in existence, as Mr. Rosenberg has specialised in this country for a long time, and is nearly complete in every variety of type, shade, postmark, &c., in addition to entire sheets and stamps on letters.

In Munich he inspected several fine collections; and good stamps seemed to be in fair demand. And then the shrewd man

Spent a day going the round of the dealers, and I was specially on the look-out for Bavarian stamps—the Arms type, with silk thread, *imperf.* and *unused*—and all to be had in Munich was a pair of 9 kr., brown, and one or two single 1 and 3 kr. stamps; fully bearing out my experience of the past two years, which has been that these stamps, in a fine unused condition, have been—and still are—much underrated. I have not seen a dozen for sale during the whole of my trip, and I am sure the prices must advance considerably, as they are in constant demand in Germany.

In Vienna of course he was met with the all-pervading question, "What do you think of the affair of the Austrian Mercuries?" He now says:—

From a careful examination of the results of the Vienna and Berlin researches, I am absolutely convinced that the *yellow*, *rose*, and *vermilion* Austrian Mercury stamps that have been coming from Vienna during the past five years are absolute *forgeries*. If this is so, the next thing is to find the culprit, and on this point there is much diversity of opinion. A legal action is now in course of progress in Austria, which may throw some light on the subject. If it does not, we shall all hope that the Austrian Philatelic Society may in some way get at the bottom of the mystery; its members have already done much to earn our gratitude, and we shall all wish them success in fathoming this immense swindle on its originator.

At Leipzig he spent an afternoon inspecting the "truly grand" collection of Baron J. von Mutzenbecher.

This collection is, beyond doubt, far and away the best and most valuable in Germany A special feature is stamps on entire envelopes, among which I noticed a square block of four 2d. blue "Large Fillet" Mauritius in beautiful condition, several round British Guiana, also, in the same country, that *very* rare stamp, the 4c., blue, 1856 issue, large oblong on the surfaced paper. About nineteen of the blue Naples (arms and cross) in fine shades is not such a bad show, and a set of the four first issue Moldavia is another trifle not often met with.

Next month we shall hear what he has to say about philately in the Empire of the Czar.

The Czar as a Philatelist.

Talking of the Czar, we are reminded that we were recently informed on the very best authority that the Czar has insured his collection of postage stamps in a well-known English Insurance Office for a considerable sum. The Czar may therefore be added definitely to the number of royal stamp collectors.

Booming New Issues.

"Specialising in stamps of the past five years seems to have less to recommend it" to our sprightly San Francisco contemporary, *Filatelic Facts and Fancies*, "than many other questionable forms of philately." It urges that "before the stamps of the last five years have been collected, another five years may roll round." That's so: they may. But then the idea of the so-called new movement, as we understand it, is to limit only the period of looking backward, but, so far as new issues are concerned, to go on for ever.

Our contemporary is, however, very keen in its criticism of the limitation of collecting to a start with 1890, when it contends that:—

> Philately is thus robbed of one of its chief charms—its identification with the history and changes of governments and nations. What can be more interesting than the political changes of the German or Italian States, or the history that is now being rapidly made in Central and South Africa?

"The Londoner Philatelist."

A trade journal under the title of *The Londoner Philatelist* has been issued by a stamp dealer in the West End of London. Naturally the *London Philatelist* is indignant at this obvious use of its title, and the Editor takes off his jacket to say that "the title has been selected without our knowledge or consent, and that the matter will not be allowed to rest here." Two to one, bar one, on M.P.C. No gloves.

Postmasters as Stamp Dealers.

Messrs. Stanley Gibbons, Ltd., have received the following interesting communication from the Assistant Postmaster of Johannesburg. Comment is needless!

"Box 2232, Johannesburg,
South African Republic,
14*th February*, 1896.

Gents,—Please give me cash offer for any of the following Z. A. R. stamps:—

½d. on 1s. (on envelope outside), used, price			2d.
Jubilee 1d.	ditto	„ „	2d.
1d. on 2½d.		„ „	2d.
6d. Revenue, surchg. 'Postzegel'		„ „	6d.

A reduction from these prices would be made on taking over 5000 of any one sort, or of clearing me out

As regards the 6d. Postzegel, I practically have all that are obtainable.

English notes taken at par.

Yours faithfully,
W. E. Masters,
Assistant Postmaster.

Messrs Stanley Gibbons & Co., London."

Bisected Chilians.

Mr. J. N. Marsden sends the *London Philatelist* "a cover bearing the left half of a bisected 10c. Chilian stamp of the first issue on white paper, imperforate. The cover in question," we are told, "was despatched from Valparaiso to Chili, and bears a date stamp in red emanating from the former town, with the date '18 Dbre, 1858.' The bisected stamp is postmarked with black concentric circles, *l'obliteration portant*."

Surely somebody has been nodding. To begin with, the bisected Chilian is a common garden variety which fetches from 3s. 6d. to 10s.; and Chili is not a "former" or "latter" *town*, but a fairly well-known Republic of South America.

The South African Philatelist.

It is with unfeigned regret that we chronicle the decease of this excellent periodical. The following valedictory remarks in the sixth number, dated 1st April, 1896, will explain matters:—

> This number ends the contract between us and our subscribers, to whom we guaranteed six numbers. The task was a most arduous one. We had to battle against not only the discomforts caused by the political disturbances here, but also the unsympathetic non-support of philatelists in South Africa. We had literally to write every syllable contained in the six numbers ourselves. We had indeed a promise of support in this direction abroad, but for some unknown reason this did not pass the initial step of fulfilment. Those who have any experience at all of the publication of a journal in spare time will understand what we had to contend with. If with all this to discourage and leaden

our burden we were successful in our work, as is proved by our reception by the home philatelic journals, we may confidently congratulate ourselves.

We have placed before our readers papers dealing with the "Stamps and Forgeries of Swazieland," "The Stamps of Natal," "The Stamps of British Bechuanaland and Bechuanaland Protectorate," and "The Stamps of the Orange Free State;" a short paper dealing with some "African Stamp Forgeries" and a "London Letter" were also published, besides other matters of interest to South African collectors. We have done our utmost to expose any doubtful dealing on the part of officials that has come to our notice.

We now beg to intimate to our readers, and not without feelings of regret, that this number is the last of our venture. We do not desire to discontinue the task we have undertaken, that of supplying South African philatelists with an organ, but we find that no advantage has been taken of its medium. If, then, our philatelists desire only the pleasure derived from perusing our pages, without contributing to their making, we will, for a limited period, publish only such matter as will be light and pleasurable reading on the subject in which we specialise

This publication will be a two-page one of the same size, and produced in the same manner as the *South African Philatelist*. Its title will be *The South African Philatelist Monthly Bulletin*, and will be circulated free, preferentially to the late subscribers of this journal. The news, and in fact all the matter, will be written in the same manner as the "Monthly Chat" herein. It will be launched in the trust that it will be as successful as the *South African Philatelist* now breathing its last.

The N.S. Wales "O.S." Swindle.

The *New South Wales Government Gazette* has the following naive announcement:—

With reference to the authority for the sale to stamp collectors and others of complete sets of obliterated "O.S." postage stamps, at £2 per set, it is hereby notified that his Excellency the Governor, with the advice of the Executive Council, has approved of the sale of these stamps being discontinued.

Thus endeth a most disgraceful official job. Had a private firm of stamp dealers been guilty of such rascality we wonder what would have happened.

Be Unfashionable.

That is the crying advice just now. It is shouted from philatelic housetops in all directions. Be philatelic Micawbers! Go in for anything, and everything, in the hope that something will turn up and that, in the revolutions of Fortune's wheel, the unfashionable stamps that you have been gathering together for pence will have their day and run into pounds. And some are reported to be even going the length of collecting Chinese locals and other refuse condemned by the S.S.S.S. In a judicious collection of neglected countries there is no doubt room for a far-seeing investment, inasmuch as experience shows us that all countries worth collecting get their turn in due course. But the shoddy!

Mr. Hilckes' Discoveries.

Mr. Hilckes seems to be a little unfortunate in his discoveries. He has in the *S.C.F.* for May 16th heralded a pointed bust of the "one anna blue," India, first issue. But we fail to see how there can be a pointed bust of the "one anna blue," inasmuch as there is no "one anna blue." It is possible that Mr. Hilckes may refer to the one anna red. All the pointed busts we have heard of occur in this stamp. We can hardly believe he has a "one anna blue" up his sleeve.

Then, again, he refers to a "very little known" variety of Virgin Islands, 6d. rose, with a large "V." He says the sheet consists of 24 stamps in four rows of six. A sheet of this value is before us, and consists of 25 stamps in five rows of five.

Again, Mr. Hilckes locates the large "V" variety as the last stamp in the third row, whereas it only occurs in the first stamp in the second row, and is so placed in the sheet before us.

A very Interesting Transvaal Variety.

Mr. J. N. Luff, in the April number of the *American Journal of Philately*, devotes two pages to the description of a variety (Transvaal 1d. with numeral of value in double frame) which he has not been able to find mentioned by any writer on this subject. Unfortunately, it is a well-known forgery. It is true it puzzled the early collectors of Transvaal for a time. It turned up in 1872, and was exhibited as an unchronicled variety by Dr. Viner at a meeting of the Philatelic Society of London on the 15th March, 1873.

Waiting till the Sack was Full.

A Government report is said to vouch for the following story:—The people of Welkuma, Indiana, U.S., used to write letters and get no answers. This was borne for a year or two, but finally the people got tired of it, and demanded an investigation. The post office inspector came, went through the office, and found a sack nearly full of letters, the accumulation of about three years. When asked why he didn't send the letters off, the postmaster replied that it was foolishness to put the Government to the expense of making a trip just for that little bundle. He thought he would wait until the sack was full.

Illustrations of Postage Stamps.

IN THE QUEEN'S BENCH.

18th May, 1896.

FREDERICK ISAAC DICKINS (OFFICER OF INLAND REVENUE), APPELLANT, AND L. UPCOTT GILL, RESPONDENT—CASE STATED BY SIR JOHN BRIDGE.

An information was exhibited by the appellant against the respondent under section 7, subsection (*c*) of the Post Office (Protection) Act, 1884, for having in his possession on June 8, 1895, a certain die and instrument for making a fictitious stamp. It was proved that the die was received by the respondent from one Van Hoytema, who had received it from the Continent of Europe, and that the respondent had ordered such die to be made for him for use in illustrating the philatelists' supplement of the *Bazaar, The Exchange and Mart* newspaper, and that it had been made and delivered accordingly. With the die a representation of 2½d. Cape of Good Hope stamp could be produced. It was, however, proved to the satisfaction of the magistrate that the only purpose for which he had ordered and had in his possession the said die was for making upon the pages of an illustrated stamp catalogue or newspaper illustrations in black and white, and not in colours, of the Cape of Good Hope stamp in question, and that such illustrations were intended to appear thereon, together with illustrations of other stamps, and that such catalogues were intended for sale only to stamp collectors and others and as part of a newspaper published for the instruction and amusement of readers of and persons buying such paper. It was contended on behalf of the respondent that, inasmuch as it had been proved or admitted that the die was used only for the purposes aforesaid, the respondent had shown a lawful excuse for the posssesion of the said die. The magistrate found (*a*) that the respondent did have in his possession a die or instrument capable of making a fictitious stamp; (*b*) that there were facts which showed absolute *bona fides* in the respondent, and that there was a certainty that the respondent would not use the die for any improper purpose. The magistrate thought that this was evidence of a lawful excuse, and found, as a fact, that there was a lawful excuse, and dismissed the information. The question for the opinion of the Court was—Whether it appeared on the evidence as a matter of law that there was no lawful excuse, and that consequently the magistrate was not entitled to find, as a fact, that there was a lawful excuse.

The SOLICITOR-GENERAL (Sir R. Finlay, Q.C.) and Mr. DANCKWERTS appeared for the appellant, and submitted that the Act absolutely prohibited the possession of a die unless there was a "lawful excuse." By a "lawful excuse" was meant such a case as that of a Custom House officer who seized an imported die, or a magistrate having a die in his possession during the hearing of a case, but the mere fact that there was an absence of guilty purpose did not constitute a lawful excuse within the meaning of section 7, subsection (*c*).

Mr. C. W. MATHEWS, for the respondent, contended that authority from the Crown, such as that suggested by the Solicitor-General in the case of the Custom House officer or magistrate, was not necessary in order to constitute "lawful excuse." Lawful excuse meant something less than "authority."

The COURT allowed the appeal.

MR. JUSTICE GRANTHAM said:—In this case, as the respondent could not get the die made here, he sent abroad and had it made there for the purpose of avoiding the money penalty under the Act. I think after that it would be difficult to make out his innocence within the meaning of the Act. He had in his possession a die which can be used for the purpose of making a fictitious stamp. It has been argued that if the respondent were convicted a stamp collector might be convicted under section 7, subsection (*b*), which says that a person shall not have in his possession, unless he shows a lawful excuse, any fictitious stamp. It would be very hard that a man who innocently bought a forged stamp should be punished. And I think he would have a "lawful excuse." He would be able to say, "I believed it to be genuine," and that would be an excuse in law. But here the respondent knew that he must go abroad to have the die made, and I do not think he has shown any lawful excuse.

MR. JUSTICE COLLINS concurred.

Case remitted to the magistrate, with a direction to convict.—From *The Times*.

Philatelic Society, London.

ANNUAL DINNER.

The Annual Dinner of the Philatelic Society of London was held at the "Monico," Piccadilly Circus, London, on Thursday, the 28th May. Mr. M. P. Castle, Vice-President of the Society, presided, and all told some fifty members and guests sat down to dinner.

Amongst those present were, we noticed, the following well-known collectors and dealers :—

Collectors.

Major Evans, Baron A. de Worms, Messrs. M. P. Castle, E. D. Bacon, J. A. Tilleard, H. R. Oldfield, Gordon Smith, C. N. Biggs, T. Maycock, R. Pearce, W. W. Blest, E. Stanley Gibbons. T. Wickham Jones, Rudolph Meyer, W. T. Willett, &c.

Dealers.

Messrs. C. J. Phillips (Stanley Gibbons Ltd.), W. T. Wilson, F. R. Ginn, Theodor Buhl (Buhl & Co., Ltd.), Henry Calman (Scott Stamp and Coin Co.), W. H. Peckett. R. F. Albrecht, and — Gwyer (G. Hamilton, Smith and Co.).

The Toast List.

The following was the toast list arranged by the Dinner Committee, Messrs. D. Garth, C. N. Biggs. and T. Wickham Jones, who, by common consent, had arranged the banquet admirably :—

1. The Queen.
   The Chairman.
2. The Prince and Princess of Wales and the rest of the Royal Family.
   The Chairman.
3. Our Hon. President and Vice-President, H.R.H. the Duke of Saxe-Coburg and H.R.H. the Duke of York.
   The Chairman.
4. Success to the Philatelic Society of London.
   The Chairman. J. A. Tilleard, Esq.
5. The Philatelic Press.
   H. R. Oldfield, Esq. E. J. Nankivell, Esq.
6. The Visitors.
   Gordon Smith, Esq.
7. The Chairman.
   Major Evans, R.A. The Chairman.

After the healths of the members of the Royal Family had been loyally proposed and loyally honoured,

The Chairman proposed the toast of "Our Hon. President and Vice-President, H.R.H. the Duke of Saxe-Coburg and H.R.H. the Duke of York." He regarded it as a very high honour that the Philatelic Society of London had the names of two such illustrious members of the Royal Family at the head of its membership, and he hoped that they would long be spared to fill the positions they occupied.

The Chairman then proposed the toast of the evening, "Success to the Philatelic Society of London." He felt compelled to refer at first to the great loss the Society had sustained in the lamented death of their much esteemed President, the Earl of Kingston, and of the Grand Duke Alexis Michaelovitch. During the past year an old member, Mr. Chambers, had retired from the Council, and Mr. Oldfield had been elected to fill his place. He (the Chairman) was extremely pleased to see gathered together that night such a numerous assemblage of gentlemen connected with stamp collecting and stamp dispersal—(laughter)—in various ways. (Laughter.) Turning to the question of the dinner, he suggested that in future they should have an annual fixed date for their annual dinner. (Hear, hear.)

Glancing at what had been achieved or attempted during the past year, he said, first and foremost, they had after repeated warnings —(laughter)—and considerable time, and thanks to the co-operation of some of their more gifted members, issued a fresh volume of the Society's publications. The first part of the Society's work on the African Colonies sustained the high level of excellence which had been reached in their previous publications, and he hoped it would not be an immeasurable —(laughter)—time before they would be able to issue part II. (Hear, hear.) Referring to the establishment of the S.S.S.S. during the past year he asked all who felt inclined to be critical to remember that the greatest general was he who made the fewest mistakes, and that the new Society was doing its best to remedy an admitted grievance, and even if it occasionally trod upon people's corns—(laughter)—was a most useful institution. (Hear, hear.) The very success which had attended stamp-collecting constituted a danger and compelled them to have some society to sift the tares from the wheat. The manly and straightforward manifesto issued by the American Society had been a great help in the right direction. He sincerely hoped in the interests of philately that they would allow the widest possible latitude and give credit to the new Society for conscientious work and discriminating power. During the year there had been no diminution of prices in stamps badly wanted,—(laughter)—but there had perhaps been somewhat of a surfeit of catalogues. (Laughter.) He scouted as ridiculous the attempts which had been made to price every stamp. No philatelist in his senses should attempt such an absolutely impossible task, and for those who did, it was, after all, only a question as to who made the fewest mistakes. After advising those present that the only way to make a fine collection was to spread their golden lime on the philatelic

trees, the Chairman dropped into a humorous vein, classifying the followers of their pursuit as birds, fishes, beasts, and reptiles. The birds of course were the pure philatelists, who soared above all sordid considerations—(laughter)—and devoted themselves to philanthropic and scientific work; the fishes were the common garden variety of collectors, who bought, sold, and swopped; the beasts were, of course, the dealers,—(roars of laughter)—who preyed upon the innocent birds and fishes—(laughter)—and the reptiles were the speculants who neither toiled nor spun, but simply hoarded. To which class he himself belonged he would leave them to decide for themselves. (Shouts of laughter.) After this digression, which was immensely enjoyed, the Chairman informed the audience that he expected to die some day, and probably others present were looking forward to a similar event, and then he managed, in an altogether non-suggestive way, to hint that other great societies had grown rich in assets upon benefactions, and why not theirs?

At this stage a comic entertainment dispersed the gloom which began to settle upon many well-known faces obviously forced into contemplating desirable benefactions to the Society "at my decease."

Mr. J. A. Tilleard, the hon. secretary, responded to the toast of success to the Society, and capped a well delivered speech with an important announcement: "I am very proud," said he, "to be able to tell you that I have only this day received an intimation from His Royal Highness the Duke of York, our honorary vice-president, to the effect that if it is the pleasure of the Society, he will be pleased to accept the position of President of the Council. He will thus knit himself closer to the work of the Society in becoming the actual president of the Society." (Loud cheering). Mr. Tilleard then referred to the work of the past season, and held that it had been above the ordinary standard of excellence by reason of the valuable papers which had been read. In every way, in fact, the work done had been instrumental in cementing the fabric which those who had gone before had built up with so much diligence and so much care. (Cheers). The question of an Exhibition for 1897 had been mooted, and was under serious consideration. They had an excellent offer from the Crystal Palace, but matters had not progressed sufficiently for any definite statement to be made, but he was sanguine enough to believe that they would be able to get up an Exhibition in 1897 which would eclipse all past efforts in the rich and rare treasures which would be laid open for inspection. (Cheers).

Mr. H. R. Oldfield, in a drastic speech, proposed "The Philatelic Press." He chaffed the general Press for its frequent displays of ignorance on matters philatelic, and the Philatelic Press for its contemptuous indifference on some matters brought to its notice.

Mr. E. J. Nankivell, in responding, defended both the general and the philatelic press from his friend's rasping criticism, underlying which he knew there existed the kindliest sympathy and appreciation.

The toast of "The Visitors" was proposed by Mr. Gordon Smith, and responded to by Mr. Henry Calman and Mr Albrecht. Mr. Calman, whilst admitting that their philatelic societies in America had not yet done anything to equal the splendid work done by the Philatelic Society of London, said they very heartily appreciated that work, and were not without hope of some day doing something which should entitle them to be considered honourable rivals. (Cheers.)

The health of the Chairman, proposed in eulogistic terms by Major Evans, and modestly responded to by Mr. Castle, brought a pleasant evening to a pleasant close at a reasonably early hour.

Notable Stamps at Auction.

Unused are distinguished by an asterisk.

VENTOM, BULL & COOPER.

April 16 & 17, 1896.

	£	s.	d.
CEYLON, 4d. rose, imperf.	14	0	0
MECKLENBURG SCHWERIN, ½ sur. red, rouletted	5	10	0
SWITZERLAND, *Basle*, 2½r.	5	0	0

April 28 & 29, 1896.

		£	s.	d.
BARBADOS, 1d. on half 5s. ...	*pair*	17	10	0
GREAT BRITAIN, 1s. green, oct. die 2*		5	0	0
LAGOS, 5s. blue		17	10	0
NEVIS, 6d. grey, litho.		10	0	0
ST. LUCIA, 1s. orange-brown ...		5	0	0
ST. VINCENT, 1d. red, on half 6d., blue-green on original		6	0	0
ditto 1s. indigo-blue, perf. 11 to 12½*		5	5	0
TRINIDAD, litho., fine ground, 1d. bright blue...		7	7	0
ditto ditto, coarse-ground, 1d. blue		6	0	0

May 14 & 15, 1896.

		£	s.	d.
OLDENBURG, second issue, ½gr., black on green*		5	5	0
WURTEMBURG, first issue, 6kr. green*		6	0	0
SPAIN, 1852, 2r. red	*pair*	16	5	0

	£	s.	d.
ZURICH, 4 rappen black, hor. lines ...	25	0	0
GREAT BRITAIN, 2d. without lines*	5	15	0
ditto, 4d. rose. medium garter hor. strip of 3*	37	0	0
ditto, 2s. brown*	5	0	0
ditto, 10s. grey-green, anchor on blued paper. "Specimen" ...	5	5	0
CEYLON, 4d. rose, imperf.	12	0	0
INDIA, 1a. red, pin perf. on original	8	0	0
ditto, ½a. red, pair*	12	10	0
CAPE OF GOOD HOPE, Woodblock, 4d. dark blue	8	0	0
MAURITIUS, Post Paid, 1d vermilion, *pair*	23	15	0
ditto, large fillet, 2d. blue ...	10	0	0
UNITED STATES, 1861, 5c. mustard	6	12	6
ditto, 1869 issue complete* ...	13	15	0
ditto, 1869 re-issue (except 30c.*)	20	10	0
UNITED STATES. Periodicals, up to 60 dollars*	15	15	0
ditto, Executive, complete set* ...	7	15	0
ditto, Treasury, complete set* ...	1	18	0
ditto, Justice, complete set* ...	13	5	0
ditto, State, complete set up to and including 90c.*...	5	15	0
ditto, State, 2 dollars*	2	2	0
ditto, ditto, 5 dollars*	18	15	0
ditto, ditto, 10 dollars*	10	15	0
ditto, ditto, 20 dollars*	9	15	0
CANADA, 6d. purple-black, perf. 12*	16	10	0
NEW BRUNSWICK, 1s. violet ...	17	0	0
NOVA SCOTIA, 1s. violet	20	0	0
BAHAMAS, 4d. rose, perf. 15* ...	8	5	0
ditto, 6d. violet, perf. 13* ...	9	5	0
ditto, 6d. grey, perf. 15*	8	2	6
BARBADOS, Prov., 1d. on half 5s., on original	5	12	6
BRITISH GUIANA, 1851, 1c. black on magenta	5	2	6
DOMINICA, 1s. carmine, C.A. ...	6	10	0
NEVIS, 6d. grey, litho.*	12	0	0
ST. CHRISTOPHER, 1s. orange-brown*	5	0	0
ST. VINCENT, 5s. rose-red*... ...	15	15	0
ditto, 1d. in red on half 6d. blue green* ... ... *pair*	15	0	0
ditto, 4d. in black on 1s. vermilion	10	0	0
ditto, 4d. red-brown perf. 14* ...	6	5	0
TOBAGO, 6d. ochre, C.A.*	12	0	0
VIRGIN ISLANDS, 6d. pink, perf. 15*	7	10	0
ditto, 6d. purple, entire sheet of 24*	6	10	0
ditto, 1s. brown, sheet of 12* ...	5	0	0
BOLIVAR, first issue, 10c. green* ...	7	0	0
DOMINICAN REPUBLIC, 1865, unreal, black on yellow, laid paper* ...	5	10	0
NEW SOUTH WALES, Sydney View 3d. green*...	5	0	0
ditto, Laureated, 8d. orange* ...	18	18	0
QUEENSLAND, first issue, 2d. blue ...	5	10	0
ditto, ditto, 6d. green*	11	15	0
VICTORIA, 2d. litho., constructed plate of 50...	5	12	6
ditto. 5s. blue on yellow, strip of 3,	12	0	0
WESTERN AUSTRALIA, 6d. orange ...	6	0	0

PUTTICK & SIMPSON, April 20 & 21, 1896.

BOLIVAR, first issue, 10c. green* ...	5	15	0
BUENOS AYRES, 4 pesos red* ...	19	0	0
COLOMBIA, 1862, 20c. red	7	15	0
WESTERN AUSTRALIA, 2d. mauve (error)*	8	5	0

May 4 & 5, 1896.

BRITISH GUIANA (1862), 1c. rose, grapes fine, but no roulettes ...	13	13	0
CAPE OF GOOD HOPE, Woodblock, 4d. red	21	0	0
CEYLON, 8d. yellow-brown, star, perf.	5	0	0
DOMINICA, 1s. mauve, C.A.	5	0	0
LABUAN, 6c. red on 16c. blue ...	5	5	0
MAURITIUS, Postpaid, 1d red ...	5	0	0
ditto, ditto, 2d. blue	8	0	0
NEVIS, 6d. grey, litho.	12	5	0
ditto, 6d, green	8	5	0
NEW BRUNSWICK, 1s. mauve ...	18	0	0
ditto, Connell, perfs. cut* ...	17	15	0
NEWFOUNDLAND, 6½ carmine-red ...	13	15	0
NEW SOUTH WALES, 5d. green, *pair*	11	10	0
NOVA SCOTIA, 1s. pale purple, cut...	10	10	0
ST. VINCENT, 1d. red on half 6d. blue-green* ... ... *pair*	14	15	0
ditto, 4d. on 1s. vermilion ...	10	10	0
ditto, ditto, ditto*...	16	5	0

BUHL & CO., April 22 & 23, 1896.

BRITISH HONDURAS, 3c. small, on 3d. brown, perf. 12½	8	10	0
NEVIS, 6d. grey, litho	8	5	0
TUSCANY, 60 crazie, brown-red ...	10	5	0

HADLOW, April 27, 1896.

TUSCANY, 3 lire, dark yellow ...	50	0	0

CHEVELEY, April 30 & May 1st, 1896.

BAHAMAS, 4d. on 6d. sur. inverted...	9	0	0
CEYLON, 4d. rose imperf.	12	0	0
GREAT BRITAIN, 5s. rose on bluish plate 4*	8	10	0

CHARLES JONES, PRINTER, LONDON

THE

PHILATELIC RECORD

and Stamp News.

JUNE, 1896.

Editorial Notes.

THE London Philatelic Society is to be heartily congratulated upon the fact that such a desirable President as H.R.H. the Duke of York has been found willing to fill the gap caused by the sincerely regretted death of the Earl of Kingston. H.R.H. is an ideal President. He combines the highest essentials for the post. His exalted position in the Empire and his enthusiasm for the pursuit entitle him to the highest philatelic honours, and the Presidency of the Philatelic Society of London is certainly the blue ribbon of Philately. In thus accepting the Presidency of the premier Society, H.R.H. has strengthened the ties that bind him to Philately. His occupation of the post will be no merely ornamental one, for he has long since established his right to be regarded as a keen philatelist, and the possessor of a very valuable collection that may, in many respects, be considered absolutely unique.

The new President of the London Philatelic Society.

As for the Society itself, it cannot fail to gain considerably in prestige and in influence by the election of H.R.H., and we shall assuredly only voice the sentiments of all philatelists in wishing the Philatelic Society of London a long, useful, and prosperous career under its distinguished President.

Proposed Exhibition in 1897.

THE proposed Philatelic Exhibition for 1897 will not be held at the Crystal Palace. The Committee inspected the Palace, discussed the matter with the Directors, and reported the facts to a joint meeting of Collectors and Dealers at Effingham House. After considerable discussion the Palace was reluctantly abandoned as unsuitable, mainly because of the risk of a prohibitive insurance tariff, and the difficulty that would (in the opinion of several large Collectors) be experienced in efficiently protecting the exhibits, under an open canopy, from burglary. Personally, we do not share the fears of those who have so strongly opposed the Palace, nor do we believe there is any real foundation for the statement used so effectively against the Palace, that leading collectors would not risk their stamps in such a place, or that country collectors object to it because it would necessitate yet another journey after reaching London. There is yet time for big collectors and country collectors to make their views known.

When such experienced philatelists as Major Evans and Mr. E. D. Bacon, after a full inspection of the Palace, remain strongly in favour of an exhibition being held there, no philatelist, however valuable his collection, need nurse any fears on the matter. The authorities of the Palace practically placed the arrangements, in every particular, at the disposal of the Committee: they offered to meet every possible requirement and make every possible arrangement for the proper care and protection of the exhibits. In our opinion Philately, as a pursuit, would gain immensely from the added popularity of an Exhibition at the Crystal Palace, and as an agreeable holiday rendezvous for London and provincial philatelists it certainly can have no equal in any rooms that may be selected in the sweltering streets of central London. But, perhaps, the less said about the opposition that has been raised to the Crystal Palace the better.

Having abandoned the generous offer of the Palace, the meeting was brought face to face with the necessity of raising a large guarantee fund to provide for the heavy expenditure which would be the inevitable result of holding the Exhibition in specially rented rooms elsewhere. This difficulty was at once met by Mr. Castle offering a guarantee of £100, Mr C. J. Phillips (Stanley Gibbons Ltd.) £100, Mr. W. H. Peckett £100, and Mr. W. Hadlow £50.

Thereupon the following Collectors and Dealers were appointed a preliminary Executive Committee to search for a suitable place for holding the Exhibition, to arrange the preliminaries, and to report to another joint meeting of Collectors and Dealers:—Major Evans, Messrs. E. D. Bacon, M. P. Castle, M. Giwelb, W. Hadlow, E. J. Nankivell, C. J. Phillips, W. H. Peckett, and J. H. Tilleard, Hon. Sec.

We are now waiting the report of that Committee. It has already met several times, has visited all the available halls in central London, and may be expected to report very shortly as to site.

End of the Seebeck Issues.

WE are informed that the Committee of the S.S.S. of the United States, after considerable negotiations, have succeeded in effecting the following agreement with Mr. Seebeck:—

In consideration of the fact that Mr. Seebeck agrees to use his influence with certain Central and South American Governments (with which he has contracts for the furnishing of postage stamps for the years 1897, 1898 and 1899), to induce them to accept, in lieu of a special issue for each year, a three years' supply of the stamps for 1897, also to place this issue in circulation on January 1st, 1897, and use it exclusively for the prepayment of postal matter for the term of at least three years,

We the undersigned, dealers in foreign postage stamps, hereby agree that, in case any of the governments above referred to should enter into any contract similar to those entered into with Mr. Seebeck, we will not purchase or sell the stamps issued under such contracts, either directly or indirectly, after they have become obsolete and are rendered useless for the prepayment of postage in the countries in which they may have been issued.

The *American Journal of Philately* holds that the effect of this agreement is to practically end the so-called Seebeck issues with next year.

But we observe that nothing is said about the traffic in "remainders," which after all is the objectionable part of the Seebeck arrangement. It seems to us to be an agreement to secure Mr. Seebeck from competitive contracts, rather than an agreement to protect stamp collectors from floods of shoddy. It is true it stipulates for a triennial flood in place of an annual one, but so far as we can interpret the arrangement the traffic in remainders is to continue unabated. In effect it really is an agreement to be signed by dealers to secure to Mr. Seebeck a safe monopoly of his traffic in remainders, for dealers are asked to bind themselves not to buy any remainders which may be put on the market in competition with Mr. Seebeck's. What collectors gain from this agreement we fail to see.

In our opinion it will take a great deal more than this one-sided agreement to whitewash the Seebecked States and make them collectable.

Illustrations of Postage Stamps.

SINCE the publication of our last issue the question of the privilege of illustrating postage stamps has reached another stage. Mr. Upcott Gill has been mulcted in a nominal fine by the magistrate who was directed by the Judges in the Queen's Bench to convict. But the most important phase of the matter was the statement by the Counsel for the prosecution that the Inland Revenue authorities are determined to put a stop to the practice of illustrating postage stamps. Under these circumstances we suggest that a meeting of Collectors and Dealers should forthwith be called to consider this decision, and to decide what steps are necessary to protect Philately and the trade from such a spiteful and wanton attack. The interests involved are wide-spread and important. It is not too much to say that illustrations of some sort are a *sine qua non* to the continued existence of our pursuit, and that some way will have to be found out of the difficulty that has been so unnecessarily raised. According to the latest dictum, no die may be used to illustrate a postage stamp that could be used for the production of a forgery. This apparently still leaves us the right of illustration by reduction or enlargement.

Another big Collection broken up.

Yet another big collection has got into the market, and this time it has fallen to the lot of Mr. F. R. Ginn to break it up. The collector who retires from the pursuit is Mr. J. Dalgety Henderson, an old member of the Philatelic Society of London. For years he has practically dropped out of collecting, and at last he decided to part with his treasures, and Mr. Ginn became the purchaser, the sum being £3,000. Amongst the plums in the collection, which covered several volumes and ran into some 40,000 stamps, mostly picked copies, were 1 cent, Canada, on pelure paper, unused; a fine array of Newfoundlands; British Columbia 2½d. and 5 cents, imperf.; unused Sydneys; St. Vincents, nearly complete, used and unused; a grand lot of early Ceylons and fine Nevis, used and unused. The retirement of an old collector is to be regretted from many points of view, but it is not an unmixed evil; it gives others a chance of filling blanks of which they may have begun to despair.

Early Issues of Western Australia.

By Lipman E. Hush.

The Third Issue *(continued)*.

MESSRS. PERKINS, BACON & CO. printed the stamps of the Colony at this time and furnished a further batch, after which their contract terminated, and they therefore handed the plates from which the stamps were printed to the Agents General for the Crown Colonies, who, when more stamps were required handed the plates and some paper (8,000 sheets) to Messrs. De La Rue & Co., who have since supplied the Colony. As far as I know, there is at present no means of distinguishing the impression of the one firm from that of the other, but I certainly am of opinion that there should be some differences either in retouches of the plates or in the perforations. I think the latter will be the means by which they will be eventually distinguished from each other. Access to the books of the printers does not seem to be so difficult a matter now, and it is a point which already requires investigating.

The Fourth Issue.

Messrs. De La Rue having used up all the swan-watermarked paper, proceeded to print the stamps on a thick greasy unwatermarked paper, changing the colours and also the perforation. We therefore have to add to our list :—

On white wove unwatermarked paper, perf. 13.

One Penny ..... carmine-rose, lake.
Sixpence..... mauve, lilac.

I have seen other values catalogued, but I believe that only two values were printed on this paper.

The Fifth Issue.

Messrs. De La Rue now printed the stamps on paper watermarked Crown and C.C., introducing a plentiful supply of errors, and giving us in all—

Wmk. Crown and C.C., perf. 12½.

1d. chrome yellow, bistre, yellow ochre.
2d. chrome yellow, bistre, yellow, mauve.
4d. carmine.
6d. lilac, mauve, red-violet, violet, purple.
1s. bright green, sage green and bistre.

There is a peculiarity about the stamps—it is that they exist with the watermarks in different positions.

The One Penny is watermarked sideways.

The Twopence, The Fourpence, The Sixpence } watermarked sideways or upright.

The One Shilling is watermarked upright.

I do not know of the One Penny watermarked upright, nor of the One Shilling watermarked sideways.

If they exist they must be very scarce, as I have examined some thousands of these stamps and not found them.

The Twopence, Fourpence, and Sixpence are quite common with the watermark upright, but with the watermark sideways the Twopence and Sixpence are scarce, and the Fourpence is almost rare.

With this issue some catalogues add some values watermarked a swan and perf. 12½. It is almost unnecessary to add that it is quite impossible for them to exist, as the printers had none of the paper of that watermark left, and they are in a perforation unknown in the swan watermarked stamps.

During this issue Western Australia was first reduced to the necessity of overprinting a stamp in order to meet the wants of a growing community, and for this purpose overprinted the stamp of the value Twopence with One Penny in two words in green.

So we have—Wmk. Crn. and C.C., perf. 12½.

Provisional Issue.

One Penny (on Two Pence) green on chrome yellow.

There are no varieties of this surcharge, and I herewith give the measurements.

The surcharge is 21mm. wide measured at the tops of the small letters, the initial capitals are 3mm. high, the small letters 1⅝mm. high. The word "Penny" is 11¼mm. long measured at the bottom, and the distance between "One" and "Penny" is 3mm. The surcharge is not in a straight line, the words begin on the same level and slope upwards to the right. There are numerous counterfeit surcharges, some of which are very dangerous and difficult to detect.

British East Africa and Zanzibar.

BY THE POSTMASTER-GENERAL.

WE have received the following very courteous reply from the Postmaster-General of British East Africa and Zanzibar to queries which we addressed to him in February last. We must confess we see no reason for the suspicion with which these provisionals have been regarded in some quarters.

ZANZIBAR POST OFFICE, *dated 12th March*, 1896.

From THE POSTMASTER-GENERAL *(British East Africa and Zanzibar), Zanzibar, to* EDWARD J. NANKIVELL, ESQ., "*Philatelic Record*," *Carisbrook, Birdhurst Rise, Croydon.*

"SIR,—I beg to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of 15th February, together with a copy of the *Philatelic Record*.

I think it is only due to genuine stamp collectors that any doubts they may have as regards the *bona fides* of the British East Africa and Zanzibar surcharged provisional and overprinted stamps should be removed; hence, although I am exceedingly hard pressed for time, I feel compelled to answer your inquiries.

(1) Previous to 20th November, 1895, the Post Office in Zanzibar was under the control and formed part of the Indian Post Office. On 20th November the Indian Post Office at Zanzibar was withdrawn, and the Zanzibar Government instituted its own Post Office. As the Zanzibar Government's own permanent stamp had not then been printed, it was necessary, with the kind consent of the Postmaster-General, Bombay, to use, provisionally, Indian stamps overprinted 'Zanzibar.'

(2) New stamps are ordered showing a photograph of H.H. the Sultan of Zanzibar, with palm trees, red flags, and Arabic writing. I expect to obtain the first supply within the next two months.

(3) The various values of stamps will be ½, 1, 2, 2½, 3, 4, 5, 7½, and 8 annas; Rs. 1, 2, 3, 4, 5.

(4) Indian Stamps.—I am unable to give you exact figures now, but over 10,000 of each value overprinted British East Africa, and over 15,000 of each value overprinted Zanzibar. The overprinting was done at *Zanzibar Gazette* Office, not in London as I have seen stated.

(5) Roughly speaking, about 3,000 of each of the values up to Rs. 1, and 1,000 of 2, 3, 4, 5 rupees of I. B. E. A. Company's stamps were overprinted British East Africa, excepting the 2 annas stamp, and there were very few of these in stock. Perhaps there were less than 3,000 of the 1, 5, and 7½ ans.

(6) The new design for British East Africa is ordered, and I expect the stamps shortly.

(7) The surcharging of the late I. B. E. A. Company's stamps was done at Mombasa by a hand stamp, under my supervision. This hand stamp was made by fixing printer's type into a wooden handle with a hollow at one end, and the type secured by pouring in melted lead. This was the only way to overcome the difficulty that presented itself when the Government took over the territory of the late I. B. E. A. Company, as I was unable to get them overprinted at a printer's in Mombasa, and there was no time to send them to Zanzibar. It was owing to the fact that the stock of stamps was so small at this time in Mombasa, that I was compelled to issue the provisional 2½ ans. surcharged on 4½ ans. I. B. E. A. Company's Stamp, overprinted British East Africa, and the 2½ ans. surcharged on 1½ ans. Indian stamps overprinted British East Africa; also the Zanzibar stock of Indian 2½ ans. stamp, being so small and becoming exhausted, compelled me to issue a provisional 2½ ans. surcharged on 1½ ans. stamp.

I have the honour to be, Sir,

Your most obedient Servant,

THOS. E. C. REMINGTON,

Postmaster-General."

Stamps of Bechuanaland.

[*From the South African Philatelist.*]

BRITISH Bechuanaland is bounded on the East by the South African Republic, on the South by the Colony of the Cape of Good Hope, on the West by the Molopo River, on the North by the said Molopo River to its division with the Ramathlabana Spruit, and thence from the said Spruit to the Frontier of the South African Republic.

The Protectorate is bounded on the East by the territory of British Bechuanaland, on the South by the Colony of the Cape of Good Hope, on the West by the twelfth meridian of Longitude East of Greenwich, and on the North by the Nosop or Oup River between its intersection by the twentieth meridian of East Longitude aforesaid and its junction with the Molopo River.

The area is 41,663 square miles, population 12,726, of which 5,254 were whites, 4,351 aboriginal natives, and 3,121 other coloured persons.

The Governor, His Excellency Sir Hercules Robinson, P.C., G.C.N.G.; Administrator, Chief Magistrate, and Deputy Commissioner, His Honour Sir Sidney G. A. Shippard, D.C.L., K.C.M.G.

On the establishment of the Crown Colony of British Bechuanaland the Republic of Stellaland became the Magisterial district of Vryburg.

The stamps of British Bechuanaland and Bechuanaland Protectorate do not present many difficulties to the collector, nor are they difficult in being obtained. The great drawback, however, is the large number of excellently executed forgeries in circulation, and collectors have to be very discreet in making purchases.

The surcharges in the "Protectorate" series are very interesting to the specialist, abounding as they do in such a large variety of misprints, errors, and sizes of surcharge.

I. British Bechuanaland.

The first issue took place in January, 1886, and might be termed a provisional issue, Cape of Good Hope stamps being used surcharged in black "British Bechuanaland" into two lines, the ½p. value being surcharged in red. The surcharge was printed in Cape Town, probably by the Government printers, Messrs. W. A. Richards & Co.

Four values constituted the first omission, the ½p. grey Cape of Good Hope with surcharge in red, the 1p. carmine, and the 3p. claret surcharged in black all on paper watermarked Crown and C.A. and the 4p. blue surcharged in black on paper with Crown and C.C. watermark.

In the same year three new values were brought into service, namely, the 2p. brown Cape of Good Hope, the 6p. violet, and 1s. green, all surcharged "British Bechuanaland" in black on paper watermarked Cabled Anchor.

The ½p. grey and 1p. carmine also appeared on paper with the latter watermark. These surcharges are surprisingly free from errors, the only two worthy of note being the ½p. and 1p. on paper watermarked Cabled Anchor with double surcharge.

In 1887 the permanent issue for British Bechuanaland came to hand, consisting of thirteen values, ½p. surcharged "British Bechuanaland" in black in two lines on the current English stamp of that denomination, and 1p., 2p., 3p., 4p., 6p., 1s., 2s., 2s. 6p., 5s., 10s., £1 and £5.

Type of the lower values from 1p. to 6p., "Queen's Statue Head" in square value on either side, below in small capitals in black "British" "Bechuanaland," "Postage and Revenue" in three lines. Watermark Orb.

Type of the higher values from 1s. "Queen's Statue Head" in oval, value above and below head in semi-circle, inscription below as in lower values. Watermark "V.R." slanting, the £1 and £5, however, being on paper bearing the orb watermark.

In the next year, 1888, the values most commonly used, namely, the 1p., 2p., 4p., 6p., and 1s. were surcharged with the numerals of value, the 1p , 3p., and 1s. being surcharged in black, the 4p. in red, and the 2p. both in red and 1p. green.

This was evidently found necessary to facilitate identification of the various denominations, and to prevent mistakes being made, as all the lower values up to 6p. are lilac with denominations printed in same colour.

Owing to the stock of ½p. stamps running out the 3p. lilac and black was surcharged "One Half-Penny" in black in three lines, the original value being erased by a single bar.

In January, 1889, the ½p. grey Cape of Good Hope stamp with watermark Cabled Anchor was again pressed into service with the surcharge in green and black. This also exists with double surcharge.

In 1891, pending a further supply of 1p. and 2p. stamps, the postal authorities had again recourse to surcharging, the 1p. carmine and 2p. brown Cape of Good Hope, watermarked Cabled Anchor, being surcharged vertically "British Bechuanaland" in black in two lines, the surcharge reading from bottom to top. This surcharge was carefully executed, no errors or misprints being made, or if they were made they were not placed in circulation.

In 1892, a new issue of the 1p., 2p., 4p., and 6p. took place. Type Current English stamps of those values surcharged "British Bechuanaland" in black, in two lines across the stamp.

In this surcharge, there are several minute varieties, which are only of interest to the specialist, such as the cross stroke of the "A" of "Bechuanaland" missing dots in various letters, crooked and broken letters, &c.

In December, 1893, owing to the supplies of the 1p. value not coming to hand, the Cape of Good Hope stamp of that value was surcharged "British Bechuanaland" in exactly the same type as the provisional issue of 1891, the only difference being that the surcharge runs from top to bottom, whereas that of 1891 runs from bottom to top. This surcharge was most carelessly printed, there being numerous varieties of broken types and omissions, the most noteworthy being broken "ch" of "Bechuanaland," and the dots of the "i's" in "British" being omitted. Each of these occur once on each pane of 120 stamps. A remarkable feature of this surcharge is that it also occurs inverted. Naturally we must possess either the surcharge with the dots of the "i's" omitted or with "ch" broken to identify the 1893 issue, as the normal surcharge, if inverted, would merely be one of the 1891 provisionals, *i.e.*, with surcharge running from bottom to top.

In September, 1894, the 1s. British Bechuanaland surcharged on current English stamp of that value was issued, this forming the complement of the 1892 omission.

On the 15th March, 1895, owing to the 2p. value being out of stock the Cape of Good Hope stamp of that denomination on paper with Cabled Anchor watermark, was surcharged "British Bechuanaland" in two lines in black, reading from top to bottom. Type being same as that of the Provisional 1p. of 1893.

For this surcharge the type was evidently re-set, as the errors and misprints occurring on the 1p. provisional are not found on this surcharge. This provisional issue was in circulation only for about six weeks.

REFERENCE LIST.

Provisional Issue January, 1886. On Cape of Good Hope stamps. Watermark Crown & C.A. Perforated 14.

1 ½p. red and grey
2 1p. black and carmine
3 3p " claret
4 4p. " blue (wmk. C. & C.C.)

On Cape of Good Hope stamps. Watermark Cabled Anchor. Perforated 14.

5 ½p. black and grey
5a ½p. " " (double surcharged)
6 1p. " carmine
6a 1p. " " (double surcharged)
7 2p. " brown
8 6p. " violet
9 1s. " green.

Issue 1887. British Bechuanaland. Postage and Revenue. Perforated 14.

10 ½p. black and scarlet (surch. on current English, wmk. Crown)
11 1p. black and lilac (wmk. orb)
12 2p. " " "
13 3p. " " "
14 4p. black and lilac "
15 6p. " " "
16 1s, " green (wmk. V.R. slanting)
17 2s. " " "
18 2s.6p. " " "
19 5s. " " "
20 10s. " " "
21 £1 " lilac (wmk. orb)
22 £5 " " "

1888. Surcharged with numerals of value.

23 1p. black and lilac (wmk. orb)
24 2p. red, black, & lilac "
25a 3p. green " " "
25 4p. red " " "
26 6p. black " "
27 1s. " green (wmk. V.R. slanting)

Provisional.

28 ½p. on 3p. black on lilac (wmk. orb)

Issue January, 1889.

29 ½p. green and black
29a ½p. " " (double surcharge)

1891. Provisional Issue or Cape of Good Hope. Wmk. Cabled Anchor. Surcharge reading from bottom to top.

30 1p. black and carmine.
31 2p. " "

1892. Surcharged on current English stamps. Wmkd. Perf. 14.

32 1p. black and lilac
33 2p. black, red and green
34 4p. black, brown and green
35 6p. black and purple and red

Sept. 1894.

36 1s. black and green

1893, December. Prov. Issue or Cape of Good Hope stamps. Wmkd. Cable Anchor. Surcharge reading from bottom to top.

37 1p. black and carmine
37a 1p. " " broken "ch"
37b 1p. " " do. inverted surch.
37c 1p. " " dots to "i's" omitted
37d 1p. " " do. do. inverted surcharge.

15 March, 1825.

38 2p. black and brown

II. Bechuanaland Protectorate.

The first separate issue for this place was made in July, 1888, when the then current issue of British Bechuanaland was surcharged "Protectorate" in black across the stamp. The following values constituted the first issue, viz.: ½p., 1p., 2p., 3p., 4p., 6p., 1s., 2s., 2s. 6p., 5s., and 10s. The values 1p. to 6p. having also numerals of value in black, the 4p. being in red. There are numerous misprints in the surcharge of the word "Protectorate," many of the letters being broken and making the word read in all sorts of fashions. The most important varieties being "Pr tectorate," "Piotecto-rate," "Proteciorate." The ½p. value appears with the word "Protectorate" printed in three distinct sizes of type, of which the one in large letters is scarcest.

In January, 1889, the ½p. grey Cape of Good Hope stamp on paper with Cabled Anchor Watermark was called in to do postal service with "Bechuanaland Protectorate" surcharged in green. This value appears also with double surcharge and with inverted surcharge.

In August, 1889, the ½p. of the 1888 series was surcharged "Fourpence" in black in one line. In this provisional there are innumerable varieties. In addition to the numerous varieties of misprints in the word "Protectorate" we have the word "Fourpence" spelt in all manners of ways such as "Foui," "Fcur," &c., also with the surcharge inverted.

REFERENCE LIST.

Issue July, 1888 Current British Bechuanaland surcharged "Protectorate," perf. 14.

1	½p. black and scarlet	surcharged in small type, wmk. crown
2	½p. " " "	in medium type, "
3	½p. " " "	in large type, "
4	1p. " and lilac,	watermark orb
5	1p. " " "	"
6	3p. " " "	"
7	4p. " " "	"
8	4p. black, red and lilac	" "
9	6p. " and lilac	" "
10	1s. " green	wmk., V.R slanting
10a	1s. " "	" surch. "Protectorate"
11	2s. black and green	wmk., V.R.
12	2s. 6p. "	" "
13	5s. "	" "
14	10s. "	" "

January, 1889. Cape of Good Hope Stamp surcharged "Bechuanaland Protectorate," perf. 14, wmk. Anchor.

15	½p. green and grey	
15a	½p. " "	double surcharge

Prov. Issue August, 1889. Current English ½p. surcharged "Protectorate Fourpence," wmk. Crown. Perf. 14.

16	4p. (on ½p.) black and scarlet	
16a	4p. (on ½p.) " "	inverted surcharge.

On the 15th November, 1895, British Bechuanaland was annexed to the Cape Colony and all British Bechuanaland stamps withdrawn from issue, those of the Cape of Good Hope being used. It is only natural therefore that the stamps of British Bechuanaland and Bechuanaland Protectorate should show a marked advance in price in the near future. I would advise collectors to complete their collections of the stamps of this country with as little delay as possible, recommending to them in particular the 1s. British Bechuanaland surcharged on the current English of that value.

Lubeck Error of 1859.

FROM THE "ILLUSTRIERTES BRIEFMARKEN JOURNAL."

(*Continued from p.* 132.)

II. 2½ *Schillings, rose.*



1. The "eyebrows" are smaller; the left one is not curved at all; it is very short, and does not extend nearly as far over the "u"; in fact, its extremity does not reach the right-hand dot over the "u."

2. Between the two heads of the eagle there are two dots; the one to the left is close to the neck, the other is on a level with the eye of the bird.

3. There is no period after either "Postmarke" or "Schilling."

4.—The vertical line does not curve quite so much, and is decidedly farther from the frame line of the stamp than in the stamp of 2 schillings.



I believe that we can now safely conclude that retouched electrotypes of the 2½ schillings were used when our error was printed.

Owing to the manner in which the plates were prepared, there can be no varieties of type in these stamps; therefore, the two errors would be of the same type were it not for the fact that, when the 2½ was removed and a 2 substituted, differences arose. It is evident that each 2½ had to be erased and replaced by a 2; this, of course, was done by hand, and the result was that each of the 2's has a peculiarity of its own; thus we have two very interesting types of the error, which are quite worthy of collection.

The differences are found in the shape of the figure 2, and I will now describe in succession the 2's of the four corners, comparing them at the same time with the 2 of the rest of the plate. Stamp No. 97 of the sheet I will call type I., and stamp No. 96 will then be type II.

We will begin our comparison with—

1.—The Figure 2 in the upper left corner.

a. The usual type of 2 *schillings.*



Here the first part of the 2 is short and thick; it stands quite close to the downward stroke, leaving only a very small brown space. The downward stroke is boldly drawn in its upper part; then it narrows down considerably and ends in a sharp point at the foot of the figure. The bounding line of the upper part of the long stroke, that is to say, the one which faces the head of the figure, is almost vertical; the boundary of the lower part is formed by a line turning sharply to the left. To this lower part is attached the foot of the 2; this foot has a decided swing to it, and its end points almost directly upwards. The foot is so attached that the sharp point of the main stroke is clearly visible below it. Altogether this 2 presents quite an elegant appearance.

b. Type I. of the error (No. 97):

The first part of the 2 is smaller, but advances farther out, leaving a wider space for the brown of the background. The downward stroke is stouter on the whole, and does not narrow down so much in its lower part; nor does it turn as sharply towards the left as in the ordinary type. The bounding of its upper part, facing the head of the figure, is no longer vertical, but curves towards the right. The lower part of this main stroke is broader. The foot of the 2 is short and broad, and has very little swing to it. Its extremity points still more directly upwards, and consequently approaches the main stroke more nearly than was the case before. Below this foot, the point of the main stroke is hardly perceptible. On the whole, the appearance of this 2 is not nearly as elegant as the 2 on the preceding stamp.



c. Type II. of the error (No. 96):

The head of the 2 is larger than in the other two stamps; it does not advance so far as in type I., but reaches farther down, so that there is a longer space for the brown of the background. The main stroke is quite stout, and is not of so pleasing a shape; its upper part is but little curved, and is prolonged for a considerable distance downwards; its lower part has more the appearance of being jointed to the upper part than of being simply an extension of it. The foot is short and stout; it is straight underneath and curved on top. The end is less steep, but stouter than in the two figures which we have described before.



2.—THE FIGURE 2 IN THE UPPER RIGHT CORNER.

a. The usual type of 2 schillings:

This figure is, on the whole, very similar to the one in the upper left corner, although less broad. The head of the figure advances still less; the upper part of the downward stroke does not curve so far to the right; the lower part of this stroke bends less sharply to the left, and is thicker. The foot is a little shorter and is decidedly curved; its end points directly upwards. Below the foot the end of the main stroke is distinctly visible.



b. Type I. of the error:

In the first type of the error, the upper right 2 is again more awkward than in the 2 schillings, although it is better formed than the upper left 2 of the error, as the proportion between the head and the foot is a better one. The head is small, not advancing so far out to the left; the upper part of the main stroke is quite thin; its lower part is almost of the same thickness as the upper, but it bends more to the left, thus leaving more space for the foot. This foot is indeed stout, but is long in proportion; its end is short and very steep. If, in the upper left 2, a line should be drawn perpendicularly, just touching the left curve of the head, it would not touch the foot at all; but if a similar line should be drawn in the upper right 2, it would pass through the foot of the figure. This right 2 has a very distinct point below the foot.



c. Type II. of the error.

This upper right 2 looks very much like the similarly situated 2 of the regular 2 schillings; the head, however, advances farther, thus causing a wider space between it and the main stroke of the figure; the main stroke is stouter, the foot heavier. Compared with type I., the head is larger and broader; the foot, on the contrary, is narrower, and the whole figure stiffer. Moreover this 2 is about ½ mm. longer than the 2 of the first type.



3.—THE FIGURE 2 IN THE LOWER LEFT CORNER.

a. The usual type of 2 schillings:

The head projects somewhat, but has the appearance of being quite long, because the line connecting it with the main stroke is exceedingly thin; indeed, in specimens that are not very clearly printed, the connection appears to be severed. In the upper 2, the bounding line of the main stroke facing the head, was vertical; it now slants from the right down to the left; the lower part is not so smoothly connected with the upper, but shows a sort of crooked joint; the lower part is very steep, and consequently does not advance so far to the left. The foot is sharply bent, short and broad; its end is much shorter than any of the 2's which we have so far described, and it points towards the right rather than upwards. The left point of the foot is long and sharp, and points almost directly downwards.



b. Type I. of the error:

The head is small, but compared with that of the regular 2 schillings, it advances very far to the left; the main stroke is less steep and less stiff. The foot is broad and but little curved; its lower bounding line, especially, is almost straight. The right end of the foot is beautifully curved; a very small point is visible below the foot on the left. The head of the figure appears quite thin in proportion to the size of the foot.



c. Type II. of the error:

The head and the whole upper part of this figure, when compared with the other two, appear very large, especially the upper part of the main stroke, which is very broad and descends to a considerable distance. The lower part of this main stroke is shorter in proportion, is more slanting than curved, and is very stout. The foot is not so broad; it has less of a swing than the same figure in the regular 2 schillings, but more than in type I. The main peculiarity here is in the end of the foot; it is more strongly curved than in any of the other 2's, so much so indeed that its tip points a little towards the left, that is to say, towards the centre of the figure.



(*To be continued.*)

Novelties and Discoveries.

The earliest information as to New Issues will be much appreciated by us, and will be duly credited to the correspondent, or firm, sending it. Our foreign correspondents can materially help us in this direction. When possible, a specimen should accompany the information, and be addressed to the Editor, Mr. EDWARD J. NANKIVELL, 28, *Birdhurst Rise, Croydon.*

Argentine Republic. — We quote from the *Monthly Journal* the following translation from *La Revue Philatelique Francaise* of an interesting letter from Mons. Marco del Pont, describing two varieties of the 1c., *brown* catalogued under 1889, but which was first issued November 3rd, 1888. It appears that the first die made was never properly hardened, and in consequence it was found impossible, after a short time, to make new plates from it, and a second matrix die had to be engraved. The most prominent points of difference between the two are as follows:—

Type I. 1. The background of the oval is formed of horizontal lines, crossed by diagonal ones; the latter are not always visible in impressions from the worn plates of this type.

2. The ground of the outer portion is formed of thin lines, close together, and is framed by a thick line at the sides and below.

3. The figure in each of the upper corners has a long and sloping top *serif*.

4. The inscription "CORREOS Y TELEGRAFOS" is in thin letters, and there is a space of about 1mm. at each end of the label containing it.

5. There is no dot in the centre of the "o" of "TELEGRAFOS."

6. The words "UN CENTAVO" measure 9mm.

7. The hair shows all round the outline of the head.

The colour of the impression varies from *deep brown* to *brown*, *grey-brown* and *yellow-brown*. The paper of the earliest printings was thick, showing a manufacturer's wmk. in certain portions of the sheets; in the later printings it was thinner and unwatermarked. The number printed was 17,050,000.

Type II. 1. The ground of the oval is of horizontal lines only.

2. That of the outer part is of thick vertical lines, further apart than in Type I., and is not framed.

3. The figures "1" have short upper *serifs*, almost horizontal.

4. "CORREOS Y TELEGRAFOS" is in thicker letters, and almost fills the label.

5. There is a dot, or flaw, in the centre of the "o" of "TELEGRAFOS."

6. "UN CENTAVO" measures 9¾mm.

7. There is a place bare of hair on the upper right side (left of the stamp) of the head.

The colour of the impression varies from *brown* to *grey-brown*. The paper is the thinner quality, without wmk. The number printed was 2,750,000, out of which 1000 copies were surcharged "MUESTRA" (specimen), and 29,544 remainders (among which may have been some of Type I.) were destroyed.

Barbados.—We have received from Messrs. Whitfield King & Co a copy of the one farthing stamp referred to in our last issue (p. 135). It is of the current type, printed in a grey colour with the value "one farthing" in carmine on the lower label.

Adhesive.

¼d. grey, value in carmine.

British East Africa.—Messrs. Whitfield King & Co. send us an envelope with a stamp of the new design, printed in blue. In the centre is a small medallion of the Queen, head and shoulders draped in widow's weeds, on each side is a lion rampant, spears extend diagonally behind the medallion to the four corners. At the top in coloured block letters on white ground in two lines are the words "British East—Africa." Immediately underneath, in smaller white letters on a coloured ground, are the words "Postage and revenue." A curved label at the base of the medallion bears the value in coloured block letters on a white ground, "2½ annas," and in a straight label, extending the whole width of the stamp at the foot, is the word "Protectorate" in coloured block letters on a white ground. The whole is surrounded with a thin coloured line. The design is novel, pretty, and effective. The size of the stamp is 22¾mm. by 19¼mm. The envelope, which is of white laid paper, measures 141mm. by 78½mm.

At the moment of going to press we are indebted to Mr. Bottliwalla, of Bombay for, a full set of the new design as follows:—

Adhesives.

½ anna, yellow.
1 ,, rose.
2 annas, chocolate.
2½ ,, blue.
3 ,, slate.
4 ,, deep green.
4½ ,, orange.
5 ,, dark ochre.
7½ ,, lilac.
8 ,, olive green.
1 rupee ultramarine.
2 rupees, orange.
3 ,, deep purple.
4 ,, lake.
5 ,, dark brown.

Envelope.

2½ annas, blue laid paper

British South Africa.—The present troubles in Mashonaland are likely to leave their mark on the postal issues of the country, for Mr. H. W. Garbutt writes to us by the last mail that "an entirely full set of Cape stamps are expected very shortly surcharged for use here, as the present stock is running short, and communication is closed with Salisbury, where the reserve stock is held."

Mr. Garbutt also sends us two new surcharges—1d. on 3d., and 1d. on 4s. The stamps surcharged are of the first issue of British South Africa. The surcharge is in black, and measures 16mm. The surcharge is "One Penny" in capitals and tall small letters. The original value is obliterated by three bars close together. Our Correspondent informs us that there are only 20 sheets = 1200, and that the Company will not sell more than six to one person. The first sheet had four errors, the "y" of "Penny" being inverted. At the time of writing these stamps were being used for fiscal purposes only; but as all British South Africa stamps are available for both postage and revenue, we presume this surcharge will also be available for postage if required. We shall be glad to hear from our Correspondent whether this is so, and if they have been so used postally.

Adhesive.

1d. on 3d., green and grey, black sur.
1d. on 4s., red and slate, " "

Cape of Good Hope.—We are indebted to Mr. Herman Guest for a copy of the 1s. value in a new colour—yellow in place of green. We have also just received the 2½ in its new colour of blue in place of sea green. These changes are evidently in consequence of the arrangement between the Cape and Transvaal authorities for uniformity of colours, but the Cape stamps are not bi-coloured like the Transvaal. Wmk. Cabled Anchor; perf. 14.

Adhesives.

2½ blue. 1s. yellow.

Cook Islands.—A correspondent writes to the *Philatelic World* as follows:—

You may be interested to hear that there will probably be another change shortly. The reason there may be another issue is that the Secretary of State for the Colonies has intimated that as there is a British Protectorate over the Island, the use of a portrait of the native Queen on the stamps cannot be allowed.

France—Madagascar—The *Monthly Journal* has received a set of the current stamps, as given below, surcharged "POSTE—FRANCAISE—MADAGASCAR" in three lines, for use in that island. The same journal states that the French Colonial issues of Diego Suarez, Nossi-Bé, and St. Marie de Madagascar are to be abolished, and one series used for the whole island.

Adhesives.

5c., green; red surcharge.
10c., black on *lilac*; red surcharge.
15c., blue " "
25c., black on *rose* " "
40c., red; black surcharge.
50c., carmine; " "
75c., black on *yellow*; red surcharge.
1 franc, bronze-green; black "
5 francs, lilac " "

German East Africa.—A new series has been issued, surcharged as per illustration.



The surcharge is in black.

Adhesives.

2 pesa on 3 pf., brown.
3 " " 5 pf., green.
5 " " 10 pf., carmine.
10 " " 20 pf., blue.
25 " " 50 pf., red-brown.

Post Cards.

3 pesa on 5 pf., on green.
3 + 3 " " 5 + 5 pf., green (reply).
5 " " 10 pf., carmine.
5 + 5 " " 10 + 10 pf., carmine (reply).

Grenada.—In our January number (p. 17) we chronicled and illustrated the new series. That list commenced with the 2½d. Messrs. Whitfield King & Co. now send us the 1d. value printed in lilac with name and colour in carmine.

Adhesive.

1d. lilac and carmine.

New South Wales.—The publisher of the *Australian Philatelist* has discovered a copy of the 9d. with double surcharge, the second surcharge being an indistinct bluish black, placed immediately above the other, which is in the usual black ink. The copy is used.

Adhesive.

9d. black and bluish black on brown.

Norway.—We have been shown the 1 sk. of 1872-5 with a very clear full stop between the two E s of "Een skilling."

Adhesive.

1872-5.

1 skilling, green, *variety.*

Paraguay.—Messrs. Whitfield King and Co. inform us that the 5c. stamps having run out, 60,000 provisionals have been made by surcharging the 2c. and 4c. telegraph stamps. The specimens sent are surcharged with a large fancy figure "5" enclosed in a double-lined circle measuring 11¾mm. in diameter, and enclosed in another double-lined circle measuring 22mm. in diameter. Between the two circles are "Correos" in block letters in the upper part and "centavos" in block letters in the lower part.

Adhesives.

5c. on 2c. brown, black sur.
5c. on 4c. yellow, ,, ,,

Siam.—We have heard of stamps surcharged on the gummed side in error; one such notable variety is the Transvaal 3d. red surcharge, but it has been reserved for Siam to surcharge both sides. Mr. Hadlow's catalogue of sale of June 18th included a block of six of the 2 atts or 64 atts, "surcharged on back as well as face."

Adhesives.

2 atts on 64 atts, sur. in black on face and back.

Tonga.—Messrs. Whitfield King & Co. have recently received a letter from Tonga stating that there are no stamps in the island except 2½d. ones, that some of these were surcharged locally for use as ½d. stamps, but that the postmaster refused to issue them, lest they should be bought up by speculators, which would leave them worse off for stamps than before. Pending the arrival of the new stamps from London, newspapers and printed matter have to be prepaid in cash and stamped with the Tonga Government frank, which has hitherto been used only for official correspondence.

Transvaal. — We are indebted to Messrs. Whitfield King & Co. for two more stamps of the bi-coloured series with labels of value in green—2½d. blue, and 2s 6d. lilac. In the 2s. 6d. the value is expressed as "2 sh. 6 Pence."

We have also the postcard with ½d. stamp of the current design in green on buff.

Adhesives.

2½d., blue, value in green.
2s. 6d., lilac, value in green.

Postcard.

½d., green on buff.

Zanzibar.—Our publishers have shown us two fresh surcharges—"2½" on the Indian 1 anna stamp. The surcharge is in black. The principal figure "2" measures 4mm. in height and exists in two varieties, one having a straight foot, and the other a curved foot. On another page we publish an interesting letter from the Postmaster-General as to these provisional issues. In that letter he speaks of "2½ ans. surcharged on 1½ ans stamp." Evidently this is a further supply for which the 1 anna has been made to do duty.

Adhesives.

Figure 2 with curved foot.
2½ on 1 anna, brown; sur. black.

Figure 2 with straight foot.
2½ on 1 anna, brown; sur. black.

The *Timbre Poste* says the error "Zanzidar" exists on the 6th stamp of the 4th row on the sheets, in the first printing of the ½, 1, 1½, 2, 2½, 3, 4, 6, 8, and 12 annas, and 1 rupee. This error is stated to have been corrected in a second edition. All these values also show the varieties of the small "z," and the 3rd stamp in the last row but one of the 2, 3, and 5 rupees has the letter "r" in the name inverted.

Our Monthly Packets of New Issues.

No 1, price one shilling (postage extra). The June packet contains five varieties, all unused, viz.: British East Africa Protectorate (new type) ½a., 1a., 2a., and 2½a., &c.

No. 2, price five shillings (postage extra). The June packet contains six varieties, all unused, viz. British East Africa Protectorate (new type) 4a., 4½a., 5a., 7½a., and 8a., &c.

These packets are on sale from June 25th to July 24th (unless the supply is previously exhausted), and are supplied only to *Subscribers* to the "Philatelic Record and Stamp News." Similar packets will be on sale every month, and may be subscribed for in advance for the year (January to December inclusive), at the following rates:—No. 1 packet (sent by book post with the paper), 12s., post-free (if by letter post the postage is 1s. extra Inland; 2s. 6d. Abroad). No. 2 packet (by letter post), Inland 61s., Abroad 62s. 6d., post-free.

The subscription to the paper (3s. per annum) is extra.—Buhl & Co. Limited, 11, Queen Victoria Street, E·C.

Philately in the Mags.

Philately on the Continent.

The second portion of Mr. C. J. Phillips' contribution to the *Monthly Journal* on his recent European trip covers Russia and Finland and the Scandinavian countries. It is delightful reading, both from the philatelist's and the traveller's point of view. His snap shots at the scenery by the way are admirable. There is no laborious verbosity. It is a simple record, and is therefore all the more enjoyable. The difficulty in such a choice of extracts, as are possible, is where to begin with the scissors. Fortunate as ever, even on the Russian frontier, in the stern inquisitive Customs official he met a friend. When his baggage was opened and four albums of Russian locals put rather a serious face on matters, the Customs official turned out to be a stamp collector—not only that, he "knew our firm."

THE BREITFUSS COLLECTION.

In this (St. Petersburg) city there is a strong branch of the Dresden Philatelic Society, which meets on the first and third Wednesday (Russian style) of each month at the "Restaurant Leinner." This section is presided over by Mr. F. Breitfuss, who is so well and deservedly known as one of the first philatelists of the day. Mr. Breitfuss has been a client of ours for over twenty-four years, and looking over his wonderful collection, and comparing some of the prices of things bought from us, and from Pemberton Wilson & Co., with their present values, made me quite sad. Nevis, 4d., orange, engraved, sheet of 12 uncut, bought for 9s., and other sheets at similar figures, will show a fair margin of profit at present prices. The Breitfuss collection is contained in over 100 volumes, but time did not allow me to see one-fourth of it, much to my regret.

At Helsingfors, from his bedroom window, he looked out upon a sea of solid ice, as far as the eye could reach, and numerous steamers were frozen in, set fast for four or six months. But the most notable thing he found in the Finnish capital was its Philatelic Society.

A NOVEL PHILATELIC SOCIETY.

Helsingfors, although a town of only some 70,000 inhabitants, is quite a philatelic centre, and has a capital Society, with about sixty members This was founded in January, 1893, and its rules and objects have had to be approved by the Senate of Finland. Amongst other things, the members are responsible one for another, and if, perchance, one member should not pay for stamps bought, the others would be all liable for the debt. The Helsingfors Society has published a very interesting catalogue of "The Stamps of Finland," illustrated with a full-plate photographic reproduction of the types. I have secured the right to use this list, which is most complete, in the next edition of our catalogue.

Of course he was bound to turn up that German catalogue again somewhere, and curiously enough it turns up at Helsingfors, after passing safely through Senfland at Leipzig. But let him tell his own story in his own enjoyable way:—

THAT GERMAN CATALOGUE AGAIN.

At Helsingfors I had a striking proof of the great value of a well-known German catalogue as a standard for purchasing by. I was dining with a collector there, and looking through his nice collection of unused stamps, in which I much coveted some scarce varieties, I asked my friend if he would sell. "Oh, no," he replied, "they are in my collection, and I don't care to take them out" Later on, noticing he had the current Senf catalogue, I said, by way of a final effort, "What should you say if I offered you twice or three times the Senf catalogue price for those pieces I want?" "Why, take it at once," he said; and so he did, and I bought things to the value of 2000 marks, on which I really do *not* think I shall make a very great loss!!!

At Stockholm he found the stamps of Scandinavia were first favourities. As the result of seeing some fine collections, especially Swedish, he makes the following notes:—

SWEDISH FOR SPECIALISTS.

The 1855 issue (value in sk.-bco.) are collected on thick and on thin paper, except the 3 sk-bco., which is not found on the thick paper.

The 1872 issue (our Catalogue. Nos. 18 to 31) are found both perf. 14 and perf. 13, and this also applies to the Unpaid Letter stamps, "Losen," and to the long official stamps.

I saw a grand specimen of the official stamp, 1 krona, blue and brown, *undoubtedly imperforate*, and properly used. The margins on all four sides were extremely wide, being 4 mm. *all* round.

It is surprising to me to find how many varieties (Scandinavian) exist that I had never heard of before. Many of these I shall list in the next edition of our catalogue, others I shall reserve until I have been able to lay in good stock of them!

That last sentence! Think of it! Got to wait till he lays in a stock of them! Ah, well, it's human nature, we suppose, and we all do it! The old

Adam is a component part of every philatelist!

MR. C. J. PHILLIPS IN A NEW CHARACTER.

At Copenhagen there was a surprise in store for him—a very great surprise. Again let him tell his own story:—

I can safely say that I am not often complimented upon the *cheapness* of my best stamps, but in Copenhagen I was so, seriously, by the two principal collectors, who had been used to such high local rates that my best endeavours seemed mild in comparison.

"Not often complimented," and his "best endeavours," are charming. We have seen a few of the "best endeavours," and if they can be beaten in Copenhagen we must be silently thankful for such mercies as we are permitted to enjoy.

Mr. Jeppe on Transvaals.

The *London Philatelist* has for some months past been publishing a series of papers on the stamps of the Transvaal by Mr. R. Pearce. These have drawn a reply from Mr. Jeppe, which is given in the May number. A special interest attaches to Mr. Jeppe's comments for the very good reason that he was the first Postmaster-General of the Transvaal Republic, and we therefore quote *in extenso* what he has to say, reserving our comments for our "Stray Notes on Transvaals," on another page. Mr. Jeppe, whose letter was dated 13th April last, writes from Pretoria, South African Republic, as follows:—

When Mr. Tamsen took the trouble of collecting all the information regarding the stamps of this Republic, and succeeded in obtaining and publishing, with great patience and intelligence, all the knowledge about the old stamps of the Transvaal that could be of value to the Philatelic world, I was under the impression that the subject was pretty well exhausted, that all doubts were set at rest, and that the mystery which involved some of the early issues was cleared up for good. But it seems, from a paper published in your periodical for February last, by Mr. R. Pearce, which was sent to Mr. van Alphen, the present Postmaster-General, and kindly given me for perusal, that I was very much mistaken; that, instead of the subject being thrashed out, there is still corn in Egypt, which has to go through the mill of public discussion, to be sifted into different sorts like flour.

I am not a "Philatelist," and therefore fail to see the use of raising a controversy about the quality of the paper on which the old issues were printed, or the shade of their colours, for the simple reason that, perhaps, only one in a thousand would be able to obtain a complete set of all the qualities and shades referred to. This ignorance on my part will very likely be much deplored by all real Philatelists, but as I take a great interest in Philately, owing to my former connection with the Post-office of this country, having been, as Mr. Tamsen observes, the originator of the postal service of this country, and its postage stamps, I crave permission to say a few words in reply to Mr. Pearce's interesting paper, especially as he has used my name rather freely, and has both expressed and implied a great deal of blame on some of my actions as former Postmaster-General of this Republic.

Mr. Pearce attributes the want of popularity of the Transvaal stamps among collectors to the sale of the notorious Mecklenburg bogus stamps and forgeries, and later on, in his paper, he says that I committed a most unfortunate blunder in allowing the engraver in Germany to sell stamps to dealers in Europe who had applied to me for supplies. I admit candidly that this *was* a great blunder, committed in the hurry of the moment; but it must be borne in mind that my permission given to Otto was limited to orders received for the 3d. value only, and not for the first three values, and that as soon as I was informed that Otto had sold beyond the authorised amount, and also stamps of other values, my authority was withdrawn at once on penalty of proceedings being taken against him in a court of law. When he, nevertheless, continued in his illegal sales, I published advertisements in English and German papers, warning the public against the purchase of unauthorised stamps, and engaged an advocate at Gustrow to proceed against Otto. The lawyer reported that, according to German law, I had no case against him for reasons too numerous to be stated here.

I must mention here in parenthesis that I knew Otto personally, having made his acquaintance in Paris in 1856, and that I had no reason to doubt his honesty and integrity when my brother, who then lived close to Gustrow, engaged his services as an engraver to furnish the plates according to the design supplied by me. Unfortunately my brother left Germany and came out here in July, 1870; and after his departure there was no proper supervision over Otto with regard to the illicit sale of stamps.

There is no question in my mind that when Otto delivered the first plates for the 1d., 6d., and 1s. values he kept duplicates, from which he printed and sold the quantities that flooded Europe. Was it my fault when—in spite of my warning, and the fact that the Mecklenburg bogus stamps were bought by the public in all colours, rouletted and unrouletted, defaced and undefaced, according to orders, *at 50 per cent. and more below face value* from the principal dealers on the continent?—even as late as 1886 these bastard issues were offered to the public at the above-mentioned reduction. If I had remained in office I would have taken further steps to prevent this swindle being carried on, but my successors in office after April, 1875, did not consider it worth while to trouble about the matter, although I brought it repeatedly to their notice. When the country was annexed by the British Government in April, 1877, the postal authorities considered that the surcharge of the letters 'V.R. Transvaal' and the subsequent new issue with the Queen's head was sufficient

protection, but they forgot that it was very easy for Mr. Otto, or anybody else, to imitate the surcharge. There is no doubt that it was done, for a well-known firm in Leipsic advertised these values so far below face value that everybody must have seen at once that they were *forgeries?* Even new values, which did not exist here at all, such as a 6d. brown "On Service" ("*Dienst Marke*," as a German collector called it), was made and palmed off on the public. Was I to blame when people allowed themselves to be defrauded with open eyes by Otto and a set of unscrupulous swindlers?

The adoption of postage stamps by the S A. Republic was proposed by me to the Government and resolved upon, long before the individual referred to by Mr. Pearce had written to me on the subject. The original colours had reference to the colours of the national flag, but white could not be used; the colours of the first three values were fixed as red, blue, and green, and the colour of the 3d. was chosen afterwards and approved by Law No. 7, 1873, Act 81. All the later colours of ½d., 4d., 2s., etc., issued by the British Government and the second Republic were never stipulated by any later law.

I naturally copied the design of the coat of arms, which was furnished by me and approved by the Volksraad 30th Sept., 1867, according to the rather vague stipulations of the "*grondwet*" of 1858. With regard to the manufacture of the stamps and the payments, everything was left to me, and whatever I did was approved by Government. The first issue was contemplated for the 1st January, 1870, but as the press and paper did not arrive before February, the issue was postponed to 1st May by a Government notice, dated 14*th April*, 1870. The date published by Mr. Tamsen (14th May) was an error copied by Mr. Pearce, and therefore the latter's remarks, based on an error perpetrated by the printer of Mr. Tamsen's paper, are out of place.

With regard to the 3d. stamp, I do not know that Otto kept a duplicate of the original matrix, as stated by Mr. Pearce, but it may be that he did, or kept a duplicate of the plates from which he sold afterwards, not *presumably* as insinuated by Mr. Pearce, but most undoubtedly, and quite positively, without any authority; *i.e.*, beyond certain small quantities authorised by me. It may be also that he did not keep a duplicate of the plates, but printed off a large quantity for his own use before the plates were delivered to my agent and forwarded. At all events, no plate for the 3d. value, or stamps of this value, were found in his possession when the 6d. plates were taken from him. In such a case the stamps sold by him may be called by any other name but *forgeries*, as they were printed from the original plates.

Being informed that the illicit sale of stamps was still carried on in Germany, I instructed my agent to enter his office, and demand delivery of the plates for the 6d. value (improved eagle), in June, 1882. Besides the plates, he found still about 800 sheets of 6d. stamps, of which about the half were ungummed and unperforated, and the other half gummed and rouletted. These plates and stamps were not destroyed, but placed in the Rostock Bank under safe custody, where they remained until the beginning of 1894, when they were forwarded to here, and delivered to Government. The plates were, on their arrival, in March, '94, placed in the Treasury vaults, and the stamps destroyed. It is strange that all these 6d. stamps were not of the last improved eagle, but of the old owl type. At the first glance, they appear the same as the first lot printed in Germany; but on closer inspection, the difference in the eagle's eye and the flagstaff, mentioned by Mr. Tamsen and Mr. Pearce, becomes apparent. (Specimen encl.) I found that the rouletted and gummed were rouletted 20 on the sides, and 17½ on top and bottom.

Regarding the question put by Mr. Pearce, whether the first stamps printed in Germany should be recognised as an official issue, I do not see why they should not. I was authorised by Government to sell these stamps to dealers, who had applied for them, in order to pay for the plates, and on this account they must be considered of the same value as stamps supplied from here later on. The only objection that may be raised against them is, that they were supplied before the first issue of May, 1870; but I know from experience, and could quote, several cases in which stamps were supplied to dealers before they were issued to dealers before they were issued by the Post-office.

As far as I can remember, the 1d. stamps printed by Borius were *all* printed in black. The scarcity of the black stamps, advanced by Mr. Tamsen, may be accounted for by the fact that, from the very first lot printed in September, '70, 6600, to the value of £27 10s., were sent to a well-known dealer in Plymouth, which never came into circulation, as they were destroyed in a fire that took place in the dealer's house. With regard to the law stipulating that the penny stamps should be printed in red, this had to be set aside very often, as the stocks of colour ran out. The 3d. value was printed in a variety of colours but the legal one, and the 1d. was printed again in black from 1883 to 1885, as Mr. Tamsen has shown in his paper.

In conclusion, I would like to say a few words with regard to the new issue now being given out, as a great deal of misunderstanding exists about it. A writer of articles on Philately in the *Durban Advertiser* told his readers that the Transvaal Government contemplated the issue of a new series *in design and colour*, which he considered wholly unnecessary. There was no intention of altering the design, the colours only being altered in accordance with an agreement entered into with the Cape Colony to adopt henceforth the same colours for the same values. This alteration was proposed by the local postal authorities to all the South African States for the benefit of the service and the public. Natal has declined to join the movement for the present, for reasons of its own; and the Orange Free State is debarred from adopting the new colours proposed on account of a resolution of the Volksraad of

the 7th July, 1894, in which the colours of the different values were defined for good. At present the colours of the values in the South African States are as follows:—

Value.	S. African Republic.	Cape Colony.	Orange Free State.	Natal.	New Colours adopted by Cape Colony and Transvaal.
½d....	grey	... grey-black ...	... yellow ...	... pale green ...	... green
1d....	carmine ...	... rose	... lilac	... rose	... rose
2d....	yellow-olive	... light brown...	... rose	... olive	... sepia (bistre)
2½d....	purple ...	... olive	... green ...	... blue	... blue
3d....	lilac	... brown-rose ...	... yellow-brown	... slate	... dark purple
4d....	greenish-black	... blue	... dark grey ...	... brown ...	... greyish-green
5d....	——	——	——	——	slate
6d....	blue	... violet ...	... blue	... violet ...	... medium purple
9d....	——	——	——	——	brown
1s....	green ...	... green ...	... red-brown ...	... orange ...	... light yellow
1s. 6d....	——	——	——	——	greyish-brown
2s. 6d....	yellow ...	... ——	orange ...	... ——	light purple
5s....	dark green ...	... orange ...	... carmine ...	... brown and violet	... orange
10s....	brown ...	... ——	——	——	light grey
£5...	medium green	... ——	——	——	puce.

For the ½d. and 1d. post cards the same colours are adopted as for the adhesives; *i.e.*, green and rose. With regard to the Transvaal, the words indicating the values ½ Penny, 1 Penny, &c., are printed in green, independent of the new colours adopted. Up to date only the ½d., 1d., and 1s. were issued (specimen attached); the other values will follow as soon as the old stocks are exhausted.

With regard to the Jubilee 1d., issued to commemorate the first penny postage in the Transvaal, I should like to know the reason why this stamp should be rejected by the S.S.S.S. It was issued for a legitimate purpose, was never a speculative stamp, and is still in use like the penny of the regular series. I enclose a specimen with the date stamp—Johannesburg, 10th April, 1896.

I shall be glad to see the second part of Mr. Pearce's paper on the Transvaal stamps, after the perusal of which I shall, perhaps, have something more to say.

"Find" of Rare British Guianas.

There has been another find of these very rare stamps. Particulars of the find are given in the following letter from Mr. Edward C. Luard, published in the *London Philatelist*:—

DEMERARA, 11*th April*, 1896.

DEAR SIR,—I think it may possibly interest you to know that an unsevered pair of the 1851 2c. rose circular stamps of British Guiana have just turned up. The last discovered were in 1889, and, since then, up to last week, I have hunted in every likely and unlikely place, in the hope of finding more. The pair in question belonged to an old lady, who handed them over to the Rector of Christ Church, Georgetown, as an "Easter offering," and refused to take any money for them. The Reverend Rector, however, promptly turned them into cash, and they are now my property. They are in excellent preservation, and the colour very well preserved. There is a little gum disfiguring one of them, however, which I suppose could easily be removed Since this find the old lady has been besieged, but alas! has no more.—I remain, dear Sir, yours truly, EDWARD C. LUARD.

Accompanying this letter was a photograph of the stamps referred to, and Mr. Castle says:—

As shewn by the photograph kindly sent by our correspondent, the "august" pair is in good preservation, and, placed horizontally upon the letter, present the whole of the design, although, as is almost, if not absolutely, universally the case with this stamp, they have the outer edges of the paper cut away close to the design. The obliteration "carries" on to the letter, which is postmarked 3 (?) 5, 1851, within parallel circles containing the name of the town (illegible, though probably Demerara), and the envelope is addressed "Miss Rose, Blankenberg."

The following further details of this "find" of rare British Guianas is supplied to the *Church Times* by Peter Lombard:—

In another column a passing reference is made to the sale of old postage stamps on behalf of Christ Church, Georgetown. The local parish magazine gives fuller details of this interesting collection, which is somewhat out of the common. It seems there was a good and urgent reason for the collection of a big sum last Easter, and the result of the special efforts and prayers resulted as follows:—

Three *used* Postage Stamps sold for	$1,038 60
Fifteen $5 Notes	75 00
Two Cheques	44 00
Gold	7 20
Silver	197 12
Copper	34 63
Value of Plants sold (Parsonage)...	4 08
	$1,400 63

A few particulars about the stamps will be interesting to the philatelists among my readers:—

One stamp was a blue (4 cents) stamp of 1853, for which $33 60 was received, and when, on

Easter Monday, the incumbent went to thank the kind donor, the incumbent naturally inquired whether she had made a careful search, and she replied in the affirmative; but as the incumbent is of a persevering temperament, he was allowed to make a search for himself, and lo! and behold whilst they were searching, an old envelope tumbled forth, and it had two stamps, 2c. circular rose of 1851, with the Post-Master's initials thereon—and the lady, knowing fully well its value, presented the same as her Easter offering, and could not be persuaded to receive a tithe—"not a penny, sir, these stamps were reserved for my dear old church," and she gave them willingly and cheerfully. These two stamps were sold for $1,005. Had they been able to wait they might, of course, have received more.

India, 1a. Red, First Issue, Varieties.

Writing to the *Stamp Collectors' Fortnightly* on varieties of type in the India, one anna red, of the first issue, Mr. Douglas Garth says:—

You suggest, in your article, "Minor Varieties of British and Colonial Stamps," in to-day's issue of the *Fortnightly*, that the eight varieties of type of the 1 anna red, first issue, of India, are worthy of collection in the same manner as the types of the 4 and 6 rappen, Swiss. May I, before your readers begin to search for these types, venture to question whether any such varieties are to be found?

It is true that there was (and it is, I believe, still preserved in the Calcutta Mint—the Post Office have no records) a copper plate, on which were engraved eight types of the one anna value, Nos. 1 to 7, on which Nos. 2 to 8 (as they appear reversed on the proof impressions) had the bust pointed, but transfers were not taken from the entire plate, one type (or at the most two) having been used.

Both proofs and reprints taken from the original plates are fairly common, and these, of course, show the varieties of type which you mention, but the stamps issued to the public will be found to be of two types only, namely, the round and pointed bust; and the late Mr. Tapling, after much research, propounded the theory, which has been supported by Colonel Waterhouse, head of the lithographic department in Calcutta, that of these two types, one was only a retouch of the other, and that, in fact, only one of the original dies (either No. 1 or No. 8) was ever used as a matrix.

And in the course of a further letter, Mr. Garth writes:—

The theory that I have maintained is that the engraver cut eight dies on the copper plate, intending probably that they should each be used in succession, but, that as a matter of fact, only one of such dies was ever employed, and this was touched up when worn, instead of using another as is intended by the engraver; the reason for this being that forgeries were in circulation, and the authorities thought it of extreme importance to adhere to the same die. It would of course upset this theory were two specimens known, "se tenant" one a rounded and one a pointed bust, but this I never saw.

Mexican Porte de Mar Stamps.

Filatelic Facts and Fancies gives what it calls a free translation from "Grosses Handbuch der Philatelia," just published, of some interesting particulars concerning the "Porte de Mar" stamps of Mexico:—

It is indeed queer that the simple translation and meaning of the words Porte de Mar seem to have created enormous difficulties in the philatelic world, some catalogues translating them "seaport stamps," as if such places had need for stamps for them alone. The Mexican post-office department distinguished two schedules of postage, the Porte de Tierra, inland postage, and the Porte de Mar, sea postage. About the use of the stamps, which are wrongly accepted by a good many authorities as some kind of postage-due stamps for incoming letters on which the postage had not sufficiently been paid, the following is said in the official order issued by the Directorio para las oficinas del servicio publico de correos:—

"While the English and French post steamers heretofore have carried the Mexican mail in consideration of a certain fixed amount, in the beginning of 1875 the directors of the English lines declared that according to higher orders they had to insist upon the payment of the sea postage (Porte de Mar) for every single piece of mail matter. The same declaration was soon afterwards made by the French agents."

In consequence, on all mail matter to be carried by English and French post steamers to Europe or other American states, a fee had to be levied outside of the ordinary Mexican inland postage, and this fee should not be paid by affixing the ordinary stamps. In the beginning no stamps at all were issued for this additional fee. But this way of doing business placed the postage clerk in the interior in a peculiar position towards the public, as the latter could not conceive that more postage had to be paid than stamps were affixed, and besides the accounting in Vera Cruz was made quite hard by the different marking of the letters. Therefore, by a decree of May 12, 1875, certain kinds of stamps for the payment of such sea postage were created. These stamps are called in the official circular Contrasenas, or accounting stamps. A special account had to be kept about these stamps which were affixed by the inland office on letters before shipping them through the sea post. Generally the stamps were placed on the back of the letters.

Private Posts in Berlin.

The Berlin Correspondent of the *Monthly Journal* has an interesting note on the private postal arrangements in Berlin. He says:—

Our private letter-carrying institutions have provided the public with two new kinds of letter boxes, some striped with black, white, and red, and others striped with yellow and green of a very sickly appearance. The boxes are intended for express letters to be delivered within an hour for five farthings, by carriers riding on cycles. Herr von Stephan and his staff are watching the progress of these private undertakings, and

would like to strike a blow at these competitors, who take away a good deal of custom from the post-office. The only private post existing in Berlin in 1893 carried 26½ millions of letters, 15½ millions of cards, and 13½ millions of book-post matter. Since that time we have got two more companies, and all of them satisfy the public by prompt delivery at cheap rates.

The Austrian Mercury Question.

The Austrian Mercury Stamp question remains unsettled. The Berlin Correspondent of the *Monthly Journal* tells us that the official experts at the Court of Vienna declared that they had no reason to doubt the authenticity of the stamps sold by Mr. Friedl, and that the experts of the Vienna Club have not given any precise explanation why they deem the stamps to be forgeries. The Correspondent himself has no doubt on the point. He says:—

There is, however, little doubt now that the Friedl stamps are forgeries of a most dangerous character. It has not been found possible as yet to ascertain how the original plates were made, but it seems very likely that they were composed of stereotyped casts, taken from an engraving on wood, and that the casts were afterwards retouched so as to produce the second type with horizontal bar to the "G." The Friedl stamps seem to have been done by lithography from a deeply etched stone (like the native stamps of Trinidad), which gives impressions similar to typographic printing. While of the original stamps in the second type no two are exactly alike, owing to the separate retouching of each cast, the Friedl stamps show special marks, which exist in every stamp, and which cannot be found in the original stamps.

The Olympian Stamps.

We are not a little surprised to find Mr. Castle among the apologists for the Olympians. In the May *London Philatelist*, writing evidently on insufficient data, he says:—

It has now, however, transpired that the conditions of the existence of this celebration issue are somewhat different from others, whose issue has been so limited, either in number or duration, as to play into the hands of Philatelic speculators. We are credibly informed that the Olympian series will be in use for many months, and hence be procurable by every collector, without any difficulty or enhancement of price. It is also stated that they will always be available for postage, and may even possibly supersede the head of Mercury stamps as a permanent issue. It is hence obvious that these, or any one of these statements, will weigh with the Committee of the S.S.S.S. in any future consideration of the real Philatelic status of this Olympian series.

If Mr. Castle will produce his evidence that "they will always be available for postage" he will certainly put a different complexion on the business and establish their right to recognition; but the available evidence seems to point in an opposite direction.

Meanwhile, in his own words:—

We would earnestly counsel all those who have the real future interests of Philately at heart, to exercise all precaution, before they traverse any of the decisions given by the Committee of the S.S S.S., which has so far performed such signal service.

The learned editor of the *Monthly Circular* writes:—

The Olympic games are over, but lest we should forget them, the legacy of a series of postage stamps, varying in value from 1 lepton to 10 drachmas, has been left us, of which we are to have the benefit till October next. This will be quite long enough, for we do not think that the series will be a popular one, nor that it will require any anathemas of the S.S.S.S. to inter it. One reason against its longevity is, that though the small values of 1, 2, 5 and 10 lepta are of the ordinary size, yet all the rest are of Columbian dimensions either in length or height; another is, that the designs will probably find scant favour; while a third is, that though the stamps are engraved by M. Mouchon, the clever Paris artist, and manufactured at the Paris Stamp Manufactory, yet they are what may be termed slop-work, which that establishment is quite capable of turning out as collectors of Djibouti stamps know to their cost. Our Brussels contemporary declares that some of the designs would make a gendarme blush.

British East Africa.

Messrs. Alfred Smith & Co., in a business note in their *Monthly Circular* for June, write:—

With regard to the obsolete British East Africa stamps it is stated in the London Society's book that in the first printings the outer edges of the outside lines of the stamps on the sheets were not perforated, but that this omission was rectified in the later printings. We think this is hardly correct, as it is to be presumed that the remainder now offered are taken from the latest printings. We have had these stamps, in our last supply, in entire sheets of 60, and the following values are imperf. at the edges of the sheets: 1, 2, 4 and 8 annas, and 1, 2, 3, 4 and 5 rupees. In these values 28 out of every 60 stamps are imperf. on one or two sides.

Philatelic Gossip.

Major Evans and the "Record."

There is a bit of history in an editorial note in the May number of the *Monthly Journal* which must not be overlooked. In a paragraph in the *Daily Stamp Item* on the recent change in the editorship of *The Philatelic Record*, the information is added that "Major E. B. Evans, who has served as Editor since 1885, retires." Commenting on this, Major Evans writes:—

As a matter of fact, Major Evans cannot boast of having ever been Editor of *The Philatelic Record* for more than six months at a time, and then only in a kind of stop-gap capacity; that journal afforded space for some of his earliest philatelic efforts, and he is proud of his connection with it, but from 1885—1895 (except for an interregnum of half a year) it was in far abler hands.

American Philatelic Campaigning.

In America campaigning for the office of President in one of the various philatelic associations seems to be quite as serious a business as campaigning for President of the Republic itself. Just now the storm clouds are concentrated on the election for President of the "Philatelic Sons of America," called for brevity the P.S.A., and freely translated by one combatant into "Prevaricating Sons of Ananias." The present holder of the office is denounced as a Dictator, a Napoleon, and "a would-be-owner of the P.S.A," others figure as "mud slingers," "liars," etc. He must be a brave boy who would voluntarily stand in the way of such missiles.

Lithographed British Colonials.

We learn from the published minutes in *Filatelic Facts and Fancies* of the 89th meeting of the Pacific Philatelic Society, held at San Francisco, that the Society on the 21st April last—

Listened to an original article, by Mr. Weber, on the "Emergency issue of lithographed British Colonials," containing much new and interesting information. He mentioned a long list of stamps as being produced by lithography that had not previously been catalogued as such, his argument being that they had been issued only in such small quantities, in response to urgent calls for stamps, and where the contractors did not have time to produce them from engraved plates in the usual manner, as to have heretofore escaped the notice of collectors.

We very much regret that we were unable to attend that meeting!

Mr. E. S. Gibbons reminiscent.

Mr. E. Stanley Gibbons in the last number of the *Monthly Journal* gives himself up to a little reminiscence. He writes:—

Turning over a few of the pages of my letter-book, how extraordinary the quotations of that year (1864) seem when compared with the current. There I find myself selling Buenos Ayres, 1858, ship issue, brown and blue, without regard to expressed value, at 2s. each. Then, again, I had contrived through a friend, a purser in the Royal Mail Packets visiting the West Indies, to purchase from the Trinidad and Barbados Post Offices some of the early penny and fourpenny stamps, both perf. and imperf. These, that would now fetch, in pairs or blocks, some pounds sterling, I retailed at the time at the magnificent price of 6d. and 1s. each, irrespective of their marginal condition. I have a very distinct remembrance, and there are many others, no doubt, who can remember it also, that perforations and watermarks were at this period utterly disregarded, being looked upon as distinctions unworthy of notice. Just about this time I find I advanced my selling price of the 1d. *blue*, Cape of Good Hope "error," of which I had taken the precaution to corner a few, to 5s. each, and a few pages further on an offer of 9d. each for New South Wales, eightpence laureated, provided they are in good condition. I might multiply these instances *ad infinitum*, but think more would only weary the reader. But these few figures only go to show the enormous difference between current prices and those of thirty years ago. Where will it end?

Nicaraguas postmarked to order.

The publisher of the *Monthly Circular* says:—

Sets of Nicaragua, 1890, 1891, 1892, 1893, and 1894, are now on the market, "oblitérées de complaisance avec les cachets originaux dans le pays." This means that the sets have been selling so slowly lately that they have been sent back to Nicaragua to be daubed over with postmarks to make them more attractive to the schoolboys.

Our advice would be to leave the Seebeck countries severely alone, used or unused. They can only be relied upon for shoddy.

Speculators unloading.

Referring to the 1d. rose Grenada stamp, now obsolete, a correspondent writes to the *Monthly Circular*:—

"The remaining stock was bought up by a syndicate who will be offering them at 3d. each." The "slump" has soon set in, however,

for he adds, "I have decided to withdraw from the syndicate and to dispose of my lot of 6000 on my own responsibility. I am not wishful of holding these stamps for a rise, but will sell at once my lot at 2d. each—*i.e.*, £50 for the lot. I hope you will see your way of taking them over. I do not wish to split them up, and will not accept less."

"One hundred per cent.," remarks the publisher of the *Monthly Circular*, "is a nice little profit to make in a few days, but the £25 is not coming out of *our* pockets, and we hope and believe that the disintegrated syndicate will burn its fingers."

And so say all of us!

The Mekeels and the Cyclone.

We are very pleased to learn that the Mekeel Stamp and Publishing Company premises in St. Louis, U.S., escaped damage from the terrible cyclone which swept over that City on Wednesday, the 27th of last month (May). The *Daily Stamp Item* of the 30th May, published by the Mekeels, says:—

While the storm-swept section was remote from the general offices of our publishers, the terrific rumble of the cyclone could be heard and the fierce clouds seen. Though great excitement naturally prevailed, the corps of clerks displayed great presence of mind, and in accordance with the discipline of the office all valuable assets were rapidly transferred to their regular places of safety in the mammoth vault and numerous fire-proof safes. The moment this was accomplished the restraint of order was dispelled and the fury of the elements watched by those nerved to the scene of awful magnificence, while others crouched in fear in places considered the least dangerous in the event of the building being demolished.

The lightning was blinding, accompanied by deafening peals of thunder and a deluge of rain. Several shocks were received by employés who stood in the open air watching the clouds, but accidents were fortunately escaped.

Another Philatelic Castle.

What! Another Philatelic Castle! Even so, it seems. The great Republic, now that boundary disputes and other international questions are getting somewhat flat, has determined upon running a philatelic Castle of its own. A presidential message, duly announcing the fact, may be expected at any moment. Meanwhile, the new Castellated competitor, one Mr. W. A. Castle, type II., stars and stripes, has gone into training by annexing a whole 10 cents. Baltimore at a cost of somewhere about £900. To show that our own genial variety was forewarned, and is inclined to make things lively, we may mention that he forthwith ordered a hundred guinea philatelic safe, which took a gang of men several days to lift into Kingston Lodge.

British Empire Postal Arrangements.

At the sittings of the third Congress of Chambers of the Empire held in London on Thursday, 11th June, 1896, some attention was directed to inter-colonial postal arrangements. We extract from *The Times* report the following affecting matters philatelic:—

Mr. PLUMMER (Newcastle and Gateshead) moved, "That, so far as possible, it is most important that Inter-Imperial postal and telegraph routes should be established between this country and the colonies, as well as between the colonies themselves, without such routes passing through other countries."

Mr. COATES (Ottawa) seconded the resolution, Mr. ROSS (New Zealand) supported it, and, after observations from Mr. WASHINGTON EVES (Jamaica), Mr. WILSON (Kendal), and Mr. E. TRIPPE (Trinidad), it was carried unanimously.

Mr. T. W. DOBSON (Croydon) moved, "That in view of the difficulties correspondents experience in prepaying closed replies to letters sent to foreign countries, and especially the British colonies and dependencies (a facility which exists in regard to open post-cards and telegrams), the Council of the London Chamber of Commerce be requested, on behalf of this congress, to communicate with the Imperial and colonial postal authorities for the purpose of recommending—(*a*) That the reply letter-card (used by France and Ceylon for inland correspondence) be adopted by the British Imperial Postal Service, as a means of facilitating and increasing intercourse through the British Empire; (*b*) that the reply letter-card is applicable to international communication in the same way as the open reply post-card, and that the recent objections raised in regard to it can be met; (*c*) that at the Postal Union Congress, to be held at Washington in 1897, the British and Colonial Postmasters General be requested to take steps for the extension of the reply letter-card to international postage as an efficient substitute for the oft-proposed international postage stamp, and less open to the objections raised on the ground of the financial difficulty involved."

Mr. PATTERSON (Belfast) seconded the resolution, which was agreed to.

American Bank Note Co. Proofs.

According to the *Post Office* (U.S.) the secretary of the American Bank Note Co. has caused it to be given out that no more proofs of any stamps whatever will be sold or given away by the company. "This," adds the *Post Office*, will naturally affect to some extent the value of proofs which have been bought considerably during recent years." We are a little surprised at this revelation of the extent to which the sale of proofs has been carried. It seems rather strange that the American Bank Note Co. should feel itself at liberty to sell proofs off a customer's plates. Surely it is not usual with engravers generally. We know it is not so with De La Rue or Waterlow and Sons in this country.

Correspondence.

Gibraltar 1889 Issue.

25c. on 2d. brown violet.

It is some three years ago since I pointed out to the members of the Manchester Philatelic Society a discovery I and another member (Mr. Abbott) had then recently made of the existence of two types of the figure 5 in each of the values of this issue in which that figure formed part of the surcharge.

The two types vary in the lobe of the 5: in the first or common type, it is cut off horizontally, making the curl straight at the top; and in the second type, the upper stroke of the lobe is cut off at an angle of 45°.



Type I.



Type II.

The existence of these two types is without doubt now known to most collectors, although I don't remember having seen any mention thereof in any of the Magazines.

What causes me to refer to the matter again is that recently I acquired a sheet of these stamps and was thereby able to see the arrangement of the two types, which I must confess rather suprised me, having expected to find the types more equally divided.

The sheet consists of 120 stamps in two panes of 60 each. The surcharges on each pane are identical, from which I conclude the sheets must have taken twice putting under the surcharging machine.

The stamps in the second vertical row are all type II., and the other stamps on the sheet are all type I.

The 6d. stamp from the top in the second vertical row is the well-known variety short "i," and the bottom stamp in fifth vertical row is the other well-known variety short "ɴ".

W. Dorning Beckton.

Manchester.

Recent Transvaal Issues.

We have received the following letter for publication:—

No 67, Gordon Avenue, Southampton,
June 8th, 1896.

Messrs. Stanley Gibbons, Ltd.,
391, Strand, London, W.C.

Gentlemen,—A friend in South Africa has sent me the March number of your monthly journal, in which under the head of "Transvaal" (page 157), you state that a letter signed by the Assistant-Postmaster of Johannesburg had been received by your publication which "seems to be worthy of all possible publicity, as it throws a light upon the why and wherefore (as well as the present whereabouts) of some of the varieties lately issued by the Republic"; the general impression thus conveyed to any reader being that the Transvaal Government had issued speculative stamps, and that I, in my official capacity, was instrumental in and party to the disposal of the same, both of which statements are clearly libellous. The same article would infer you were exceedingly careful in watching philatelists' interests, and apparently their specially appointed and constituted guardian "stamp angel," free, gratis, for nothing, &c.

The libel on the Government of the S. A. Republic is no concern of mine *yet*, but the consequences likely to arise between the Government of the S. A. Republic and myself from the publication of Libel No. 2 is a matter which I shall hold the firm of Stanley Gibbons & Co., to whom my letter was addressed, personally accountable and responsible for.

A firm having such business capacity and knowledge as yourselves, and having "publishers" also connected with the flourishing house, should naturally be competent to distinguish the difference between the Asst. Postmaster writing officially (even if the publishers thought it likely this official would remain 6,000 miles away) and W. E. Masters writing under the distinguishing title of Asst. Postmaster parenthetically! Yet the latter by a "printer's error" seems accidentically or purposely omitted, and the publication of the letter accidentally or purposely inserted.

Now as the management of the *Stanley Gibbons Monthly Journal* attached such importance to my (unofficial) letter to the firm, and so far forgot or were ignorant of the elementary ethics of journalism, it occurred to me that it might dawn upon the publisher (in the interests of the British stamp collecting public, whom they have so unwittingly misled—those who look to this journal for guidance on matters philatelical) that it would be only fair and instructive to publish in the same journal a refutation of the libels contained in their March issue, and place the public in a position to form their own opinion by having the other side of the case free from any vulgar "commercial adulterations," possibly indicative of "sour grapes."

Firstly, as regards your inference of "speculative" stamps being issued by the S.A.R., allow me to state that the control of postage stamps in the S.A.R. is vested in the Treasurer-General, and not in the Postmaster-General. The latter would never have issued a provisional, as he detests all temporary measures, and is far

too good a superintendent to let his stock get low; but the Treasurer-General, whose duties are very manifold, has, I believe, through overwork and staff illnesses (substitutes being an unknown quantity) occasionally overlooked this least important branch of his department, hence the necessity of issuing provisionals; but where the element of speculation exists in such issue, or in what way *I* am concerned, I must really leave to the "commercial adulterations" of your imaginative publisher, as it is beyond me.

The issue of the 1d. oblong, red commemorative stamp was not a necessity, but nevertheless is entirely free from the stigma of being called speculative.

Any thoughtful person will, I judge, readily concede there is such a thing as patriotism—pure and unalloyed—even in such a country as the South African Republic; if not, he should go there to experience it. The Volksraad (Parliament) of that country are nothing if not patriots; hence, when deciding that a uniform penny postage should be introduced for the first time, determined to celebrate the same by the issue of a special jubilee stamp, and that the first penny post should come into active operation on the Postmaster-General's birthday as a token of honour to him for bringing the Postal Department to be the finest worked branch in the Government Service of that country.

Circulars were issued throughout the country that no other 1d. stamp would be sold, or could be bought at any post-office in the land during the month, commencing on the 7th day of September, and it was so well known that every person determined to have one if he paid a big price for it. No one believed in its being issued for speculative purposes then. Three days previously we anticipated a rush, and ordered very largely, but could only get a small supply of £1000, which was sold over the counter inside of four hours. Whatever postal clerk or other official bought these stamps had to take his chance with the public in buying: the result was that they were sold within the next twenty-four hours at 5s. to 1s. 6d. each. Brokers' notes were passed by the Johannesburg Stock Exchange members for thousands of them for several days afterwards, the price gradually receding to 6d. Where the element of speculation exists in so far as concerns the Government or the Postmaster-General I fail to see, and I know more of the matter than you do; but it will, I presume, satisfy everyone as long as you *can* see it. Of course, you know the stamp merchants boycotted them? and the why and the wherefore also? I can only conjecture!

And now as regards the 6d. "Postzegel" (this seems to be, after all, the sore point): How it was that I managed to get quite a large supply when you could get none.

Allow me to explain why and how they were issued, and how I obtained my supply.

When the stock of 6d. stamps became too low for safety, a cable was sent to Holland to despatch (per quickest means) a supply at once. This supply would have been received in ample time but for an accident—instead of being sent from the coast by passenger train, it was, by a railway blunder, sent per goods train, thereby incurring a delay of ten days Doubtless your publishers will say this was only an excuse for another speculative issue, but like your other statements, would be false, because at that time, owing to the block of goods on the line, they might just as likely have been ten weeks in transit as ten days.

Why they were surcharged on Revenue stamps was because the whole supply of postage stamps was so very low that none could be spared. This will also account for the 1d. on 2½d., the ½d. on 1s., which used up both the 2½d. and 1s. stamps entirely, and none were obtainable till three months afterwards.

The Johannesburg office ordered as usual a supply of 6d. stamps (of which a great quantity was sold, but now that the registration fee is reduced to 4d. is considerably lessened) and received a small quantity of 6d. revenue surcharged "Postzegel," which being insufficient for our supply had to be repeated. Almost immediately after we had received the second supply the stamps turned up that had been cabled for from Holland, leaving us with nearly the whole of the last supply in the safe. These were bought by me at 6d. each (I mention the price for your publisher's information), a portion of which I obliterated, and a portion I used on Parcel Post forms in place of the ordinary stamps, which instead of being destroyed as usual were obliterated and obtained by me again. I could thus sell them at 6d. each with a little profit, but your firm will be boycotted at that price.

Just one word more on "Speculative Stamps of the S.A.R." Johannesburg (the business centre of the Transvaal) sells in postage stamps about £125,000 or £10,000 a month.

The sale of surcharged stamps did not appreciably increase this: certainly not more £30, therefore, where the necessity exists for a country with such a huge surplus as the Transvaal, and with no National Debt, to issue speculative stamps, neither I nor any sensible person can understand.

For a firm of your standing to confound a great republic like the Transvaal—where one town can subscribe in four hours £65,000 to relieve distress—with some trumpery State which augments its revenue by issuing speculative stamps, appears to me to be a wonderful example of the way in which round men get pitchforked into square holes in this otherwise grand country.

I am sending press copies of this to other parties interested in the truth of matters philatelical.—I am, Gentlemen, Yours faithfully,

W. E. Masters,
Late Asst. Postmaster, Johannesburg.

Illustrations of Postage Stamps.

AT THE BOW STREET POLICE COURT.

On the 12th June, 1893, before Sir John Bridge, Mr. L. Upcott Gill, the proprietor of the *Bazaar, Exchange and Mart*, was charged with the unlawful possession of a die for the production of fictitious stamps. The defendant was originally summoned before Sir John Bridge for this offence in November last, and it was then held that he had a lawful excuse for the possession of the die in question—which would produce a representation of a 2½d. Cape of Good Hope stamp, inasmuch as it was only intended to be printed in a philatelic supplement to his paper, in black ink, for the information of the public. The Inland Revenue authorities appealed against this decision, and Mr. Justice Grantham and Mr Justice Collins, before whom the case was heard, allowed the appeal, holding that no lawful excuse within the meaning of the Act, had been made out, and the case was accordingly remitted to the magistrate, with a direction to convict. Mr Alpe appeared for the Inland Revenue authorities, Mr Matthews for the defendant. Mr Matthews said that the learned Judges held that for a person in the possession of such a die to prove a lawful excuse it would be necessary for him to prove either that he did not know that he had it in his possession or that he did not know that it could be used for such a purpose as the production of fictitious stamps, the learned Judges holding that they were bound to give it this meaning for the due protection of the public. This, however, was purely a legal point and in no way reflected upon the action of his client, and he was perfectly certain that Sir John Bridge would not find it his duty to inflict more than a nominal penalty. Mr. Alpe said that the decision amounted to this—that no person in the country could have in his possession any die for making any stamp without incurring a penalty. The Commissioners of Inland Revenue were determined to put a stop to the practice. He hoped that great publicity would be given to this decision, for it had an exceedingly wide bearing, showing as it did that it was not even allowable to have a die for the purpose of illustrating any stamp. With regard to the question of costs, he had no instructions, but any remarks the learned magistrate should see fit to make would be most carefully considered. Sir John Bridge said that this was really a strong ground why the Commissioners should not ask for their full costs from the defendant. The learned Judges only went into the question of the law; they had nothing to do with the conduct of the defendant, and he might therefore repeat, without in any way being supposed to differ from the learned Judges, that there was nothing in the conduct of Mr. Gill which showed any desire to do wrong to the public, or to do wrong in any way. He thought, and to some extent he was justified in thinking, that he was not breaking the law, but he was, as this decision showed. Mr. Alpe said he fully concurred in these remarks. A fine of 10s. was imposed on the defendant.

Notable Stamps at Auction.

Unused are distinguished by an asterisk.

CHEVELEY & Co., May 18 and 19, 1896.

	£	s.	d.
Gt. Britain, V.R., pin holes ...	5	0	0
India, Provisional Service, 8a. ...	6	15	0
Mauritius, 1848, medium 2d. ...	5	5	0
Dominica, C.A., 1s., pair*	10	10	0

May 26 and 27, 1896.

Dominica, 1s., carmine, C.A., pair*	10	10	0
India, *Service*, 8a., green and lilac...	6	15	0

W. HADLOW, May 20, 1896.

Barbados, large star, 1d., pair* ...	6	6	0
„ 1d. on ½, 5s., pair, showing both types of "I" and "D"	21	0	0
Montserrat, C.A., 4d., blue* ...	10	15	0
Nevis, litho, 6d.*	13	0	0
„ „ 6d., used	11	11	0
„ 6d., green*	8	8	0
„ „ used	7	10	0
St. Christopher, C.A., 1d., lilac-rose, on so-called laid*	6	10	0
St. Vincent, no wmk., perf. 15—15½ 6d. yellow-green (Gibbon's 8)*	42	0	0
St. Vincent, perf. 11½-12½ × 14-15 1d. rose-red	11	11	0
„ „ 6d. yellow-green*	5	5	0
„ 1d. in red on ½ 6d. blue-green, pair*	16	0	0
„ star, 5s.*	16	10	0
„ „ 5s., used... ...	17	10	0
„ 4d. on 1s.*	14	10	0

W. HADLOW, May 20, 1896.—*continued.*

	£	s.	d.
St. Vincent, C.A., perf. 14, 4d. bright blue*	6	6	0
,, ,, 4d. deep-blue*	6	10	0
,, ,, Perf. 14., 4d. red-brown*	5	5	0
Tobago, 1d. pen surcharge on half 6d. on piece original envelope ...	5	10	0
Turks Isles, 1s. prune	19	10	0
,, 4d. on 1s. prune, type 9*	5	0	0
,, 2½ on 1s. prune, type 6*	7	0	0
Virgin Isles, perf. 15. 6d.* ...	8	0	0
,, 1s. double lined frame*	5	10	0

June 1, 1896.

Selangor, complete sheet of 60 of 2c. on 24c., green, showing the varieties of types	5	5	0
Columbia, 1862, 20c., red, postmarked	5	10	6

PUTTICK & SIMPSON, May 28 & 29, 1896.

Spain, 1851, 2rls., orange-red ..	20	10	0
,, 1852, 2rls., pair on original...	24	0	0
,, 1854, 1rl.	9	0	0
Mauritius, post paid, 1d., orange-red	11	0	0
Virgin Islands, 6d., rose, perf. 12, entire sheet of 25	24	0	0

VENTOM, BULL & COOPER, May 21 & 22, 1896.

Great Britain, oct., 10d., Die 2, block of 4*	21	0	0
,, ditto, vertical pair* ...	6	0	0
France, 1f., orange, dotted postmark	8	5	0
,, 1f., ,, grill postmark	6	10	0
Ceylon, imperf., 4d.	11	0	0
,, ,, 8d.	8	10	0
B.C.A. on B.S.A., £10, used ...	8	10	0
U.S., 1861, 5c. mustard*	7	2	6
,, Executive set	6	6	0
,, Justice set, 1—30c.	4	17	6
,, ,, 90c., torn	6	0	0
,, State, 1—90c.	5	0	0
Nevis, litho., 6d.*	12	0	0
St. Vincent, ½d. on ½ 6d., strip of 4*	12	12	0
N.S.W., large square, 1s., wmk. 8*	6	10	0
Queensland, imperf., 2d.	5	0	0
Western Australia, 1st issue, 2d.	5	5	0

Notices.

Editorial Communications. — Articles of special interest will be paid for. M.S. dealing with particular points in an exhaustive manner will be most welcome. As we wish to arrange matter in advance, we shall be glad to hear from Specialists who are open to write up their special countries.

All communications on Editorial matters should be addressed to the Editor, Mr. Edward J Nankivell, 28, Birdhurst Rise, Croydon. Letters enclosing valuables should be registered.

Subscriptions. — The Philatelic Record and Stamp News will be sent post free to any subscriber at home or abroad, on receipt of 3s. Subscribers' remittances should be sent to the Publishers, Messrs. Buhl & Co., Limited, 11, Queen Victoria Street, London, England.

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Quarter Page	1 2 0	1 0 0	0 18 0	0 15 9

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THE

PHILATELIC RECORD

and Stamp News.

JULY, 1896.

Editorial Notes.

WE publish in our Philatelic Gossip page some resolutions which were adopted by a Meeting of Collectors and Dealers held at Effingham House on Wednesday, the 15th July, 1896. From those resolutions it will be gathered that the beautiful Gallery of the Institute of Painters in Water Colours in Piccadilly has been finally selected for the holding of the proposed International Philatelic Exhibition in London next year. It will also be noted that the members of the Provisional Committee, *i.e.*, the Council of the Philatelic Society of London, and the leading dealers invited to attend the conclave, formed themselves into a General Exhibition Committee, with power to add to their number. It was also decided to ask Mr. J. A. Tilleard to act as honorary secretary *pro tem.*

Philatelic Exhibition for 1897.

Such is the sum and substance of what we are *authorised* to convey to our readers as matters already settled.

The rooms selected are eminently suitable for the purposes of a philatelic exhibition. They are lighted from the roof, consequently there will be no danger of delicately-coloured stamps suffering from prolonged exposure to the sun's rays. They are also most conveniently situated in a fashionable main thoroughfare with omnibuses continually passing the door from early morning till midnight, with a direct service to all the main line railway stations; indeed, it would be difficult to find accommodation more convenient in any other part of the metropolis.

We understand that the rooms will not be available till the middle of July, and that, therefore, the Exhibition will be held in that month instead of, as first proposed, in the month of May. This change will probably be regarded as an advantage rather than otherwise, for it will work in better with the holiday arrangements of most people.

The gallery comprises three splendid rooms and a secretary's office. There will thus be ample scope for the exhibits and for setting apart a room for dealers' stalls. There will also be excellent lounge accommodation in the spacious landings, where tired sightseers may enjoy the luxurious repose of many a quiet chat. Properly arranged and carried out, the Exhibition can scarcely fail to be a great success; for, after all, the main element of success must be the proper and convenient housing and display of the exhibits, and that desideratum has been unquestionably secured in the fortunate choice of the Gallery of the Institute of Painters in Water Colours.

British Levant. In our correspondence page Mr. R. Pearce has re-opened the question of English stamps used abroad. But he takes up a side issue. The question was, "Does a postmark alter the nationality of a stamp?" We contended that it did not, and that the nationality could only be changed by a surcharge which altered the availability of a stamp in its unused condition. Then we were asked if we regarded the surcharged "40 Paras" as an English stamp or a foreigner, and we contended that the surcharge altered the availability of that stamp, and that, therefore, it could no longer be regarded as an English stamp. Mr. Pearce calls it a "British" stamp, and we don't know that we are inclined to disagree with him, but we question very much if the authorities at St. Martin's-le-Grand would regard it as an English stamp if presented for payment of postage in this country.

Then Mr. Pearce makes a great deal of the book-keeping point of view. To our mind the book-keeping arrangement does not affect the question. For instance, say an English colony, instead of going to the expense of making stamps of its own, bought and sold English stamps for its postal service. Those stamps, we submit, would remain English stamps so long as they were in their unused condition available in the country of issue for the prepayment of postage. No amount of book-keeping or post-marking would alter their nationality.

However, we are glad that Mr. Pearce has found a point of difference, if only for the valuable information which he has embodied in his letter.

The term "Levant" has always had a somewhat elastic application. It is really an Italian word signifying "East." But it may be as well, now that Mr. Pearce has so interestingly brought it to the front, to quote the authorities as to the accepted limitations of the word or term.

Butterworth, in his book, *Zigzag Journeys in the Levant*, says, "The lands of the *Levant* are properly those that lie upon and stretch away from the eastern shores of the Mediterranean, the lands of the sunrise; but these comprise territories so important and historic that the word *Levant* has come to be applied to the whole East."

The *Standard Dictionary* says it applies to "(1) The Eastern Mediterranean and the Coasts of Syria, Asia Minor, and Egypt; (2) the regions between Italy and the Euphrates."

The *Encyclopædic Dictionary* says it is "a name given to those countries, and more especially to the coasts of those countries lying on the eastern part of the Mediterranean and the neighbouring seas, as Turkey, Greece, Egypt, Asia Minor, Syria, &c."

The *Cyclopædia of Names* says it is "The region, east of Italy, lying on and near the Mediterranean, sometimes reckoned as extending east to the Euphrates and as taking in the Nile valley, thus including Greece and Egypt; more specifically, the coast region and islands of Asia Minor and Syria."

Keith Johnston's *Dictionary of Geography* says it "is commonly applied to the eastern coasts of the Mediterranean, namely, those of Syria and Asia Minor."

Advancing Prices. An outcry has been raised against advancing prices for rare stamps. Under the head of "Philately in the Mags" we have quoted what Mr. Phillips and Mr. Castle have to say on the matter. Dr. Lindenberg opened the protest, and he is told by Mr. Phillips to study the law of supply and demand, and by Mr. Castle that Berlin is not the dominant arbiter of Philatelic prices. We do not attach much importance to the outcry, for the simple reason that we do not believe it is in the power of any dealer to unduly advance prices without suffering, sooner or later, for his own folly. Against this view it may, of course, be urged that two or three

dealers practically command market prices by the fact that their catalogues are accepted as the guides to sell by. In this there is a great deal of truth, but there is a strong corrective influence in the powerful combined competition of the smaller dealers, and also in the fact that few, if any, dealers can afford to hoard stamps in quantities sufficient to affect market prices to any serious extent. For the great rarities the prices will always be an indefinite quantity and will always be more or less subject to ever-varying conditions. But for the general run of stamps there can be no effective prolonged inflation of prices. The dealer who put up prices beyond their proper level would soon work injury to his own business, for some one would be sure to step in and undersell him. Again, no dealer can long afford to court the reputation of being "high priced." Dealers in stamps cater for customers as much and as keenly as any other trader, and can no more afford in the long run to play fast and loose with the market in which they deal than the dealer in any other commodities. It is true that in some lines, as the ordinary trader would phrase it, a stamp dealer, now and again, gets a certain amount of monopoly when he can dictate his own terms, but the manner in which he dictates even those terms will affect his hold upon his customers. So that from every point of view the dealer in stamps, just the same as other dealers, is bound by self-interest to be careful how he tampers with the ordinary market level of prices, or he will have to pay the inevitable penalty of loss of custom.

Some Dealers and the S.S.S.S

THE editor of the *Post Office* is "surprised at the little effect which the decisions of the S.S.S.S. have upon the action of dealers in relation to the most obviously speculative issues." If our confrère had written "some dealers" we should have agreed with him. But it is an obvious fact that the leading and more respectable firms do not deal in condemned shoddy. The S.S.S.S. can, therefore, well afford to wait the natural conclusions which will inevitably be drawn by collectors between those who have too much respect for their business standing to sell rubbish and those who, for the sake of loaves and fishes, vend stamps condemned by the S.S.S.S.

But it must not be forgotten that the S.S.S.S. confines itself to making recommendations. It does not attempt to dictate to anyone. It simply says in conjunction with the Philatelic Society of London we have inquired into the character of such and such issues, and we have good reason to consider them speculative or unnecessary, and we "appeal to all collectors and dealers to discountenance collecting or dealing in the same." The response to such an appeal must be left to the good sense and self-respect of each individual collector and dealer.

The collector who disregards the appeal does little harm to anyone but himself, except that he helps to make a speculative issue profitable by becoming a purchaser; but the dealer who advertises and sells the condemned rubbish undoubtedly does incalculable harm. He may honestly think his own judgment is better than the result of the combined work of the S.S.S.S. and the Philatelic Society of London, but it is a question even in that case whether the game is worth the candle. Already, be it noted, more than one firm is *advertising* its loyalty to the decisions of the S.S.S.S., and in our humble opinion more solid reputations will be gained in stamp dealing by erring with the S.S.S.S. than by joining the crowd, all and sundry as it is, of a dubious fraternity that find special pleasure in flouting its recommendations.

Early Issues of Western Australia.

By Lipman E. Hush.

(*Continued from page* 153).

The Sixth Issue.

ABOUT 1869-70 the perforation of most of the De La Rue printed stamps underwent a change of perforation, viz., from 12½ to 14, and though there is no difference in the die, paper, or watermark, we have a new issue which is not a very easy one to complete, viz.:—

Wmk. Crown and C.C., perf. 14.

1d. bistre, yellow ochre.
2d. chrome yellow.
4d. carmine.
6d. pale violet.

The One Shilling value apparently was in hand in sufficient quantity to last until the present one came into use.

Of this issue the Twopence and Sixpence are known with the watermark upright. All values are found with the watermark sideways.

The Seventh Issue.

New Value.

Typographed on white wove medium glazed paper.

Design: Swan swimming to left in oval; sides filled with ornaments (bullrushes).

Inscription: top, Western Australia; bottom, Postage Threepence.

Watermark: Crown and C.C., perf. 14. Watermark sideways. Threepence, dark brown, brown, pale brown, red brown.

The Eighth Issue.

Same designs. Wmk. Crown and C.A., sideways.

(*a*) *perf.* 12½.

1d. yellow brown.
2d. chrome yellow.
4d. carmine.
6d. violet.

(*b*) *perf.* 12.

1d. bistre.
2d. chrome yellow.
4d. carmine.
6d. pale violet.

(*c*) *perf.* 14.

1d. bistre, yellow bistre.
2d. chrome yellow, bistre.
3d. red brown, pale brown.
4d. carmine, lake.
6d. pale violet.

(*d*) *perf.* 12 × 14.

1d. bistre, yellow bistre.

In my classification of the different issues of this Colony I have followed far more able writers than myself, and I think it would be better still to call the

Fifth, Sixth, Seventh and Eighth issues the Fifth, and merely to group them all as one, and separate them philatelically merely as sub-varieties. The change of a watermark or perforation, although of the greatest importance to us, was probably unnoticed by the Postal Authorities in the years 1869-72.

Mr. C. J. Phillips, in the *Monthly Journal* (vol. IV.) says, that though he has classified the stamps according to the position of their watermarks, he thinks they were printed quite indiscriminately. I am of opinion that the stamps watermarked upright are of the first printings, and consequently those showing the watermark sideways are of a later printing. If I am correct there must have been a stock printed and on hand, but unperforated, when the machines were changed, as we find two values of the Sixth issue with the upright watermark. Coming to the Seventh issue, which contains one stamp only, it may be well to remark that the 3d. wmk. Crown and C.C., perf. 14, is just lately obsolete, and for the last year or two its only use has been for surcharging purposes.

The Eighth issue is a very perplexing one. The stamps appertaining to it in section (*b*) are generally described in Catalogues as perf. 12. Mr. Phillips' lists a set perf. 12½ section (*b*), and I admit I have never seen any with this perforation with the watermark C. A. I have merely copied his list.

They exist perf. 12, and a little less; three sides will sometimes gauge 12 perfectly, and the fourth will be about 11¾, due to the inaccurate spacing of the needles in the machines. In section (*c*) we come across the 3d., to which I beg to draw the reader's attention. Previously to November, 1895, these stamps were out of issue in the Colony, there being a supply of the C.C. paper in stock. After the recent provisional Half-penny on Threepence was printed, it was found that the whole of the stock of Threepenny stamps on C.C. paper had been used up, and the present stamp of the value of Threepence is on paper watermarked Crown and C.A., but the colour is different to that of the previous stamp; it is on a dark brown or chocolate. Collectors should compare the shades before paying too much for what may be a current stamp; and they should also take a stamp with the C.A. watermark known to be of the 1882-5 issue, as the C.C. watermarked stamp exists in the same shade as the one newly issued. Whilst I am writing of this stamp I may add that there is less variation in the thickness of the paper in this value than in that of any other.

In the first three issues the paper varies greatly in thickness, as is only natural in hand-made paper. All the stamps may be found on thick and thin paper. Some, especially the Twopence vermilion imperforate of 1860, are found on paper verging on pelure.

The paper of the fourth issue varies a little in the stamp value sixpence, but I have never found one penny stamp on thin paper.

Of the Fifth—Eighth issues (excepting the threepence value) all may be found on distinctly thin and thick papers.

(*To be continued.*)

St. Thomas and La Guayra.

(Translated by permission from "Le Timbre Poste.")

THE lithographer who was called upon to furnish the first stamps for St. Thomas and La Guayra only made one matrix, giving it the value of ½ centavo, and placing the figures on a groundwork of horizontal lines This made it very easy for him to constitute his printing plate for this value, but led him to considerable trouble in preparing plates for the other values—viz., 1, 2, 3, and 4 centavos. In each case he erased the whole central portion containing the figure from the transfers, re-united the horizontal lines, and then inserted the figure of the new value. This operation has not been done carefully, and in consequence we find a great many varieties, which we will describe, basing our observations on the stamps we possess, though unfortunately we have too few to present an exhaustive study.

½ Centavo.

No alterations being necessary, the plate used for printing the ½ centavo value does not show any varieties. The only point worth mentioning is, that the horizontal lines of the background always cross the figures of value.

The different printings can be classified as follows:—

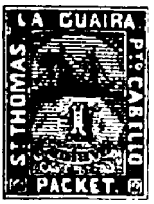
(1) On ordinary yellowish white wove paper.
(2) ,, ,, white ,, ,,
½ centavo, black on yellowish white.
½ ,, ,, ,, white.

We only possess parts of sheets of several values, and these show us that the stamps have been printed in groups of 24 stamps in 10 horizontal rows. But it is quite probable that these groups have been repeated several times on the sheet (most likely four or six times).

This value was issued in July, 1864.

1 Centavo.

For this value we have three types, occasioned by the alterations of the transfers for each printing.



Type I.—This type can be easily distinguished, three dots of varying size in the centre of the figure of value; the third dot is, however, not always visible. The centre line in the ornamentation at the bottom of the figure measures ½mm.; the figure itself is 1mm. wide, the height of it is 3½mm. on the left and 3¾mm. on the right.

All the 24 stamps of the transfer from the ½ centavo value were retouched, contrary to other information that only four horizontal stamps were treated in this manner. This system, however, gave the lithographer so much trouble that he discontinued to do so for the other values. The transfers from the four retouched stamps were used to make the other five rows.

Only possessing two blocks of eight stamps and one pair, we cannot find out the rotation in which they were printed on the sheet, and must be content to make the following observations:—

(1) The figure of value is not always in the same place; this can be easily seen by counting the horizontal lines over the figure, or by the position the figure occupies in reference to the T of centavo, the figure is either before or after the T. Sometimes the figure inclines towards the left.

(2) The horizontal lines were badly redrawn after being erased; they do not join the portions of the old lines that were left, being very often between them, and sometimes their number is larger.

(3) The figure 2 of ½ is not always completely erased, and portions of it in the shape of one dash, two dashes, or thicker lines or dots, can be found on the right.

The vertical lines separating the stamps are very often double, which is not the case in any of the other transfers.

This value was issued in July, 1864.

1 Centavo, black on rose (24 varieties).



Type II.—The figure of value has no dots in the centre. It is 1¼mm. wide and 3¾ high, and the centre of the ornamentation at the bottom is not so deep as in the preceding type, only ¼mm.

There are 4 horizontal varieties in this type, as follows:—

1st variety.—On the right hand side of the figure of value there are two small dashes remaining from the figure 2 in ½, which had not been completely erased on the transfer, and the horizontal lines are quite regular.

2nd variety.—The figure 1 inclines towards the left, the centre of the ornamentation at the lower end of the figure is exactly over the T of centavo, and the horizontal lines of the background are regular.

3rd variety.—The figure 1 inclines towards the left, and there is a small dash at the bottom on the right-hand side.

4th variety.—The figure 1 is quite upright, the horizontal lines of the background are not joined and leave white patches, and there is a small dash on the right-hand side of the figure.

The time of issue of this type is not known, but the third type was first chronicled in September, 1868. It took, therefore, about four years to run through two printings. It is, therefore, to be surmised that the second type was issued about June, 1866, perhaps a few months earlier.

1 Centavo, black on rose (4 varieties).



Type III.—The figure 1 is similar to the one of the last type, but crossed by the horizontal lines of the background and differs slightly in form. It is 1¼mm. wide and 3¾mm. high, and the ornamentation at the bottom is ¼mm.

We do not know the rotation of the four varieties possessing only single specimens.

1st (?) variety.—There is only one line over the figure of value; the horizontal lines of the background do not join, leaving a white space on the left-hand side; on the right the redrawn lines run between the old ones, and there is an oblique line from the E to the O of centavo.

2nd (?) variety.—There is only one line over the figure of value; the redrawn horizontal lines on the left-hand side run between the old ones instead of joining them, and there is a portion of the 2 in the shape of a curved line remaining on the right.

3rd (?) variety.—There are two lines over the figure of value, the horizontal lines are regular on the left and irregular on the right-hand side of the figure, and there is a curved line on the same side in the middle.

4th (?) variety.—Same as last, and in addition there is a large black dot on the right-hand side.

1 centavo, black on rose (4 varieties).
1 ,, ,, violet (4 ,,).

We have chronicled the 1 centavo violet in the *Timbre Poste* of September, 1868, without noticing that the figure of value was crossed by horizontal lines. It is, therefore, quite possible that the same value in rose, of which we have the same four varieties, was in use before this date, and as nobody perceived the change, the III. type in the rose colour was never chronicled.

2 Centavo (!).

We have two types for this value.



Type I.—The figure of value is not crossed by horizontal lines.

With the exception of the first variety, we do not know the rotation; of the first variety we possess a specimen with margin, and are therefore enabled to place it correctly.

1st variety.—The lines are irregular on the left, and the T of centavo is to the left of the hollow in the foot of the figure of value.

2nd (?) variety.—The lines are regular, and the T of centavo is to the right of the hollow in the foot of the figure 2.

3rd (?) variety.—The lines are regular, and the T of centavo is just underneath the hollow in the foot of the figure 2.

4th (?) variety.—We do not have this variety.

2 Centavo, black on green, yellow green (4 varieties).

This type was issued in July, 1864.

Type I.—This type differs only slightly from the preceding one, the shading in the top portion of the figure of value being lighter. The principal difference is that the figure of value is crossed by the lines of the background.

We possess only single specimens, and find it therefore impossible to give the rotation.

1st (?) variety.—There is a vertical line ½mm. in front of the 2; on the right-hand side of the figure there is a curved line, and the T of centavo is under the hollow in the foot of the figure 2.

2nd (?) variety.—The horizontal lines are irregular on the left, the vertical line is 1½mm. in front of the 2; on the right-hand side there are two dots, and the T of centavo is placed exactly like the first variety.

3rd (?) variety.—The horizontal lines are regular; the vertical line is ½mm. in front of the 2, and the T of centavo is to the left of the hollow in the foot of the figure 2.

4th (?) variety.—Of this variety we have not a single specimen.

2 Centavo, black on blue (4 varieties).

This stamp has been first chronicled by the *Timbrophile* in March, 1870, but without stating the fact, that the horizontal lines cross the figure of value. It was stated at the same time that the 2 centavo in blue arrived about two months since on newspapers from that country. It has been thought that this stamp also existed without the lines, and that it owed its origin to an error, but it is not so. It seems to us after our researches that the colours of the 2 and 4 centavos have been crossed, it may be in error.

The date of issue of this stamp is January, 1870.

3 Centavo (!).

Here we also find two types.

Type I.—The figure of value is not crossed by the horizontal lines of the background. The four varieties are as follow :—

1st variety.—There is no horizontal line over the figure of value; the horizontal lines on the left and right-hand side of the figure are badly joined; the C of centavo is crossed by two lines, and the lower portion of the figure 3 on the right-hand side is 3½mm. from the first line of the frame.

2nd variety.—The horizontal lines are badly joined on both sides of the figure; the C of centavo is crossed by only one line, and the figure 3 is only 3mm. from the inner frame on the right-hand side.

3rd variety.—The horizontal lines are nearly regular; the C of centavo is without any crossing line, and the distance of the 3 is 3½mm. from the inner frame.

4th variety.—The horizontal lines are regular; the C of centavo is without a line, and the 3 is 3½mm. from the inner frame on the right-hand side.

3 Centavo, black on yellow (4 varieties).

This stamp appeared in July, 1864.

Type II.—The figure is similar to the one in the first type, but more thick set, and it is crossed by horizontal lines.

We have only seen single specimens, and can only give the varieties we know; it is also impossible to give the rotation.

1st (?) variety.—The old and new horizontal lines of the background are badly joined on the left and the right-hand side of the figure of value; there are two dashes at the top and one dash at the bottom of the figure on the right-hand side, and the figure 3 is 3½mm. from the inner frame on the same side.

2nd (?) variety.—The lines are as badly joined as in the last variety; there are only two dashes to the right of the figure, and the distance of the 3 from the inner frame is 3½mm.

3rd (?) variety.—The horizontal lines are badly joined on the right; there is only one dash on the right, and the distance of the 3 from the inner frame is 3½mm.

4th (?) variety.—Unknown.

3 Centavo, black on orange (4 varieties).

This stamp was probably issued together with 2 centavo blue.

4 Centavo (!).

There are also two types for this value.



Type I.—The figure of value is not crossed by horizontal lines, and the foot of the 4 is rounded off on both sides.

The four varieties are as follow :—

1st variety.—The horizontal lines of the background are regular; there is a dash to the right of the figure, and the C of centavo is crossed by one horizontal line.

2nd variety.—There are no lines over the figure of value, the upper ornamentation of the figure 4 bears a pearl, and the C of centavo is not crossed.

3rd variety.—There is a white space between the old and the new lines, and the C of centavo is not crossed by a line.

4th variety.—The horizontal lines are regular, but the C of centavo is crossed by two lines.

4 Centavo, black on blue (4 varieties).

This stamp was issued in July, 1864.



Type II.—The figure of value is crossed by horizontal lines, and the foot of the 4 is straight instead of curved.

With the exception of the 1st variety, of which we possess a specimen with margin, we cannot give the rotation, having only seen single specimens. All varieties have regular horizontal lines.

1st variety.—There are two lines over the figure of value; and the distance from the 4 to the inner frame on the right is 3½mm.

2nd (?) variety.—There are two lines over the figure of value; the distance of the figure to the inner frame is 3mm. on the right, and there are seven oblique lines in the top left corner in place of the L of LA GUAIRA.

3rd (?) variety —There are three lines over the figure of value, and the distance of the 4 is 3½mm. from the inner frame on the right-hand side.

4th (?) variety.—There are three lines over the figure of value, and the figure 4 is 3½mm. from the right-hand side inner frame.

4 Centavo, black on green (4 varieties).

This stamp was probably issued together with the 2 centavo, blue, and the 3 centavo, orange, in 1870 (?).

The stamps with figures crossed by horizontal lines were not known until 1881. The consequence of their being chronicled so late was that everybody thought they were reprints. We do neither believe they are reprints nor that the 2 centavo, blue, and the 4 centavo, green, were errors. There has been a crossing in the colours of these two values, in error probably, but the stamps have been issued in a regular manner. It is possible that this change dates from the time of issue of 1 centavo or of the 2 centavo—*i.e.*, 1868 or 1870.

These stamps have therefore to be catalogued, according to our showing, as follows:—

I. Issue of July, 1864.

Plain figure of value, thin coloured paper.

1 centavo, black on rose (24 varieties).
1 ,, ,, ,, green (4 ,,).
2 ,, ,, ,, yellow (4 ,,).
3 ,, ,, ,, blue (4 ,,).

II. Issue of 1865 or 1866.

1 centavo, black on rose (4 varieties).

III. Issue of (?) 1868.

Lined figure.

½ centavo, black on white.
1 ,, ,, ,, rose (4 varieties).
1 ,, ,, ,, violet (4 ,,).
2 ,, ,, ,, blue (4 ,,).
3 ,, ,, ,, orange (4 ,,).
4 ,, ,, ,, green (4 ,,).

We shall be glad to receive any communications about these stamps, that we may be enabled to amplify and complete the observations which we have made.

Lubeck Error of 1859.

FROM THE "ILLUSTRIERTES BRIEFMARKEN JOURNAL."

(*Continued from p.* 161.)

4.—THE FIGURE 2 IN THE LOWER RIGHT CORNER.

a. The usual type of 2 schillings.



This figure is very similar to the lower left 2, except that it is still narrower and straighter. It is too long in proportion to its width, and has a weaker appearance than any of the other 2's.

b. Type I. of the error:

The figure 2 of this first type is exactly the opposite of the 2 which we have just described. Here the figure is compact and rounded; it really appears to be more broad than long, and appears to be much stouter than any of the other 2's. The head is much larger than any which we have had occasion to describe.



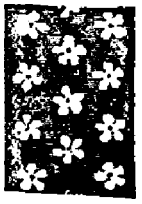
c. Type II. of the error:

In this type, the main characteristic is the head, which advances far out to the left. The figure is less compact, and more slender than in type I., but it is broader and not so stiff as the corresponding figure of the regular 2 schillings. The differences in the figures are nowhere so striking as in the lower right corner; these are, therefore, the most useful in distinguishing between the two types of the error.



It only remains to add that the stamps of this first issue of Lubeck have a watermark, consisting of five-leaved ornaments, strongly resembling flowers. At any rate, the stamps were printed upon paper with this watermark; either this paper was furnished by the postal authorities to the Rathgens firm, or, and this is just as possible, the paper was already in the possession of the firm; there were in all 3,992 sheets of this paper. Of the 2 schillings stamps, exactly 1,392 sheets were printed (not 1,400).

Towards the end of 1861, it became necessary to prepare a new issue of the two lowest values, viz., ½ and 1 schilling, because the supply of these two stamps was exhausted. This new issue does not have the same watermark, as it was not possible to procure any more paper of the same sort; the new watermark consists of numerous dots, presenting a marble-like appearance. The watermark of small flowers is extremely difficult to see, even upon whole sheets; it is only visible in a few stamps, or perhaps in the margin of the sheet, and even then it is never complete, but shows only a flower or part of a flower here and there.



The counterfeits of the first two issues of Lubeck are numerous and more or less dangerous; but none has been made of the error, unless we wish to consider as counterfeits the artistic fac-similes which were made of them some time ago.—*Translated from the German by Prof. Raymond for "Mekeel's Weekly Stamp News."*

Novelties and Discoveries.

The earliest information as to New Issues will be much appreciated by us, and will be duly credited to the correspondent, or firm, sending it. Our foreign correspondents can materially help us in this direction. When possible, a specimen should accompany the information, and be addressed to the Editor, Mr. EDWARD J. NANKIVELL, 28, *Birdhurst Rise, Croydon.*

Alsace and Lorraine.—Mr. Theodor Buhl writes: "While I was at Cologne, Mr. Reinheimer, of Frankfurt, showed me a most interesting envelope, franked by what appears to be the first issued stamps of Alsace and Lorraine. The envelope bears the signature of the postmaster authorising the communication to be forwarded by the Feld Post, which is signed Nancy, 5th September, 1870. The stamps evidently having been put on the next morning, are post-marked Nancy, September 6th, 1870, and it is suggested that these were the first two stamps used at all. What is stranger still is that the envelope is franked with an ordinary stamp of 20 centimes and a specimen of the 10c. with *reversed network*, showing that both were in use at the same time. I send you this information, as it may interest some of the readers of the *Record*.

Argentine Republic.—We have a copy of a new wrapper stamp which, according to the *Monthly Journal*, was issued on the 25th of May, the eighty-sixth anniversary of the independence of this republic, but is intended to replace the current issue. The stamp is of the large circular embossed type, with head surmounted with cap of liberty in centre; above "Republica Argentina," and below figure and word of value. The *Monthly Journal* says the inscriptions upon the wrappers and cards are the same as upon those of the previous issue, but the word "*solamente*" is added to the instruction upon the post cards. The full list of stationery is given by the *Monthly Journal* as follows:—

Envelopes.

5c., pink, on *cream laid;* 150 × 87 mm.
5c., ,, ,, 148 × 125 mm.

Wrappers.

½c., pale blue on *straw wove;* 116 × 280 mm.
1c., brown ,, ,, ,,
2c., green ,, ,, ,,
4c., grey ,, ,, ,,

Post Cards.

3c., orange on *pale buff;* 132 × 80 mm.
4c., grey ,, ,,
6c., mauve ,, ,,
6+6c., ,, ,, ,,

Letter Cards.

3c., orange on *pale buff;* 140 × 85 mm.
4c., grey ,, ,,

British South Africa.—We have received three values of the Cape stamps surcharged "British — South Africa — Company," in three lines, in sans serif capitals, for use in Buluwayo and other places cut off by the rebellion from the source of supply at Salisbury; so that at the same time there are two series of stamps current in Rhodesia, the regular British South Africa series of latest design, chronicled and illustrated by us in our March issue (p. 76), in the Salisbury district, and the temporary supply of Cape stamps surcharged as described for use in the portion cut off from Salisbury.

The *Rhodesia Review* published at Buluwayo, in its issue of the 23rd of May last, says:—

In consequence of the lack of communication with Salisbury, the Government have for some time past run short of postage stamps in this town, and in order to fill up the hiatus found it necessary first to surcharge eighteen sheets of 4s. and seven sheets of 3d. stamps down to the value of "One Penny." This was followed again with fifty sheets of 5s. stamps overprinted to "Threepence," and by the last coach a very large stock of all values, from ½d. to 6d. of the current stamps in use at the Cape have arrived and been put in circulation. We trust that before this lot is exhausted the Company will be able to get a fresh stock of its own stamps from Salisbury. The earlier values surcharged to "One Penny" and "Threepence" were never issued to the public, who had to hand their letters in, paying cash for them at the counter, and the stamps were then affixed and defaced by the Post Office officials.

The *London Philatelist* says the following quantities of surcharged Cape stamps were despatched from the B.S.A. head office in Cape Town:—

£50—½d., £150—1d, £150—2d., £33—3d., £150—4d., and £99—6d.

The surcharge measures as follows:—"British" 7¾mm. long, "South Africa" 14½mm. long, and "Company," including full stop, 10mm. long. The letters are uniformly 1¾mm. in height. Total depth of surcharge 20¼mm.; space between the lines of surcharge 2½mm.

A minor variety may be noted in all the stamps of the 5th vertical row, in which the final "A" of "Africa" has a defective short right hand stem.

Adhesives.

½d. grey-black ; *black surcharge.*
1d. carmine " "
2d. ochre " "
3d. claret " "
4d. blue " "
6d. violet " "

Variety : Short "A" in "Africa."

½d. grey-black ; *black surcharge.*
1d. carmine " "
2d. ochre " "
3d. claret " "
4d. blue " "
6d. violet " "

Bulgaria.—Messrs. Whitfield King & Co. inform us that *Le Timbre Poste* is in error in stating that the Boris stamps have been put out of circulation, for they are still on sale at the post offices, and in daily use. Messrs. Whitfield King & Co.'s correspondent at Sophia, in answer to an inquiry, says that no limit has yet been placed on the time during which these stamps may be used for postage.

Messrs. Whitfield King & Co. send us two new high values of the ordinary series, namely, 1, 2, and 3 leva, perf. 13, wmk. on sheet?

Adhesives.

2 leva, pink.
3 leva, black and buff.

Canada.—Dr. Mitchell, writing in *Mekeel's Weekly*, says he "has received a one-half cent Canada that has been retouched, and the whole stamp lightened up; there are several pronounced marks of difference."

Ceylon.—We have from Messrs. Whitfield King & Co. a 2 cents post-card of the same type as the 3 cents lilac, printed in yellow brown on white.

Post-card.

2 cents, yellow brown.

Great Britain.—To the "O. W. official" and the "W. O. official" we have now to add the "Army official." It is announced that from September 1 the cost of postage of letters at home military stations, now borne by the public, will be defrayed by means of postage stamps marked with the words, "Army—official."

We have not yet heard what values are to be surcharged.

Gwalior.—Messrs. Whitfield King & Co. inform us that they have received the current 2½ annas, 1 rupee (carmine and green) 2, 3 and 5 rupees Indian, surcharged for this State in the same type as the other values.

Holland.—Mr. Theodor Buhl writes to us from the Hague that the new 5 gulden has appeared. Type, same as the 2gl. 50c. Colours, a bronze green border and red brown centre.

Adhesive.

5gl. bronze green and red brown.

Macao.—We give an illustration of the new series which has been already chronicled.



Madagascar. — Messrs. Whitfield King & Co. send us the new series which replaces the surcharged French stamps, and also those of St. Marie, Anjouan, and Diego Suarez. The label under the figure of value has the words "Madagascar — et Dépendances," in two lines.



Adhesives.

5c. green, label in red.
10c. black on lilac, label in blue.
15c. blue " "
25c. black on red, label in red.
40c. red, " blue.
50c. rose, " "
75c. black on orange, label in red.
1fr. bronze green, label in blue.

Mexico.—Our publishers inform us that they have had the 2 reales of 1861 printed in green on brown, which is the colour of the 8 reales. The copy was used and was on part of the original envelope.

Adhesive.

1861, 2r. green on brown, *error.*

Roumanian Levant.—Messrs. Whitfield King & Co. send us a set of three values of the current Roumanian stamps surcharged in "Paras" for use in the Roumanian Levant. The surcharge "Paras," in sans-serif type, with figures of value on each side, is printed in violet over the original value at the bottom of the stamp. But a used set on the original envelope is roughly surcharged in black.

Adhesives.

10 paras on 5 bani, blue ; *violet surcharge.*
20 paras on 10 bani, green ,, ,,
1 piastre on 25 bani, violet ,, ,,
10 paras on 5 bani, blue ; *black surcharge.*
20 paras on 10 bani, green ,, ,,
1 piastre on 25 bani, violet ,, ,,

Surcharge Inverted.

10 paras on 5 bani blue ; *black surcharge.*

Spain.—In a Spanish paper mention is made of a new stamp issued by the government for the exclusive use of the house of representatives. It is of elegant design, carnation in colour. These are intended to take the place of the frank, such as is used by members of the United States Legislature, and the new stamp can only be used by them. They will be distributed to the members free of charge by the government. They bear the coat of arms of Spain and the inscription, "Congreso de los diputados."

Adhesive.

No value. Carnation.

Timor.—We illustrate the new series already chronicled.



Virgin Islands.—A correspondent sends us the top row of a sheet of the 6d. purple, and draws our attention to a variety in the third stamp from the left which may very well pass muster as a large capital I, the upper portion of the stroke rising above the level of the other letters. On a close examination, however, it will be seen that it is not a die variety, but a simple spreading of the ink in the lithographic process by which this value was reproduced. To the same defective workmanship may be attributed other minor varieties which may be noted, as, for instance, a distinct full-stop after the "V" in the fourth stamp from the left in the second row. Such defects are inseparable from all but the very highest class of lithographic work.

Western Australia.—We take the following from the *Australian Philatelist* :—

Mr. James A. Healy has for some time past been running a Cycle Express Co. from Coolgardie to some of the outlying mining districts not yet served by the Government, for the purpose of conveying letters and packets. A Sydney collector has favoured us with specimens of two stamps issued by this Company, and the following extracts from a letter received from the proprietor :—

"Enclosed pleased find a few envelopes which have been used in forwarding letters by the Coolgardie Cycle Express Co.'s cycle mails, with Company's stamps of 1s and 2s. 6d. on them. As these mails will be discontinued in a few months, owing to the Government running camel and horse mails, they will serve as a souvenir of a service that has had no small share in the opening up of the field, and bringing together the prospectors and capitalists. I despatched cycle mails some time back to the undermentioned places, but, owing to the reasons referred to above, discontinued some of them :—To Mount Margaret, Yerilla, Pindinni, Hawke's Nest, etc., 2s. 6d. ; Dundas, Norseman, Menzies, Niagara, Mount Malcolm, via Ninety Mile, 1s. ; Lake Darlot, Cutmore's Reef, etc., 2s. 6d. ; Dunnville, via 25-mile, 1s. ; special mail to Hannan's, 2s. 6d.

"Yours faithfully,
"JAMES A. HEALY."

The stamps are plain coloured rectangles with a white space in the centre containing the representation of a bicycle ; below is the value in figures (2s. 6d. and 1s.) and the inscriptions "Coolgardie - Cycle - Express - Company - Cycle Messages" surround the design. Blue on white wove paper, perf. The cancellation is effected by a rubber stamp, "Per Coolgardie Cycle Express Co., Hunt Street." These locals are very interesting, and will doubtless shortly become scarce.

Our Monthly Packets of New Issues.

No. 1, price one shilling (postage extra).

The July packet contains Cyprus 30 paras, Grenada 1d. ; 1896, Servia 1 para red, &c.

No. 2, price five shillings (postage extra).

The July packet contains a set of ½d., 1d., 2d. provisional issue on Cape stamps for British South Africa, Cyprus (1896) 1 piastre, 4 piastres, &c.

These packets are on sale from July 25th to to August 24th (unless the supply is previously exhausted) and are supplied only to *Subscribers* to the "PHILATELIC RECORD AND STAMP NEWS." Similar packets will be on sale every month, and may be subscribed for in advance for the year (January to December inclusive), at the following rates :—No. 1 packet (sent by book post with the paper), 12s., post-free (if by letter post the postage is 1s. extra Inland ; 2s. 6d. Abroad). No. 2 packet (by letter post), Inland 61s., Abroad 62s. 6d., post-free.

The subscription to the paper (3s. per annum) is extra.—BUHL & Co. Limited, 11, Queen Victoria Street, E.C.

Philately in the Mags.

The Philatelic Society of London.

The Annual Report of the Hon. Sec. of the Philatelic Society of London is published in the June number of the *London Philatelist*. The following extracts will be read with interest :—

An interesting feature of the new elections, showing the attractions afforded by Philately to men of literary and scientific pursuits, is the fact that a large proportion of our recruits belong to one or other of the learned professions.

The total number of members borne on the books of the Society at the present time is 296, a net increase of fourteen in the course of the year.

The rule under which the entrance fee has been increased came into force on the 31st March last; and for the future, all new members will have to pay an entrance fee of two guineas, instead of one guinea, as heretofore.

In the course of the season the Society has issued Part I. of the work on the Stamps of the British Colonies, Possessions, and Protectorates in Africa. The book has been well received; and the fact that, within a very few weeks of its appearance, every copy of the edition available, after providing for the requirements of the members, has been disposed of, bears testimony to the success of the publication.

It is hoped that the remaining portion of the work may be completed in the present year; and I am pleased to be able to report that the book on the Stamps of Great Britain, by Mr. Hastings Wright and Mr. Creeke, is also fast approaching completion.

A paper read by the Honorary Secretary early in the last season, on the De La Rue Series of the Postage and Telegraph Stamps of India, has also been published by the Society, as a supplement to the work on the Stamps of India and Ceylon.

An important decision which has recently been given in the courts of law on the subject of what constitutes "lawful excuse" in the possession of dies used for the purposes of illustration, raises a question which affects this Society in the publication of the works from time to time produced under our auspices. The matter is one which should engage the serious attention of the Council during the ensuing season.

I think I may fairly say that the prospects of Philately have never been so fair as at the present time. On all sides, both at home and abroad, we hear of a large and steady addition to the numbers of earnest Philatelists, attracted by the scientific aspects of our pursuit. The increase in, and the improved quality of, the literature devoted to the science; the growth of Societies and the good work done by many of them; the frequency of auction sales and the high prices realized for stamps; the exhibitions which are being organised throughout the world; and the general prosperity of the stamp trade—all attest that Philately has come to stay, and can hold its own among other kindred pursuits.

It is incumbent on us, therefore, to see that our Society retains the prestige which it has acquired in the past, and that it shall continue worthy to be regarded as the premier Society in the Philatelic world. The work of the Society itself, and of individual members in the outside field of Philately during the past year, has been of a character to maintain the reputation already achieved, and I make no doubt that the work of the coming year, in what bids fair to be an exceptionally busy season, will be such that the Society will continue to hold the proud position to which it has attained.

Advancing Prices.

The question of advancing prices has come somewhat to the front of late, and Dr. Lindenburg, the eminent philatelist of Berlin, who has led the way in the matter of protest, is told by Mr. C. J. Phillips in the *Monthly Journal* that he is, both in his writings and in his speeches, taking a course that is calculated to do no good to any philatelist and only harm to the general body of collectors, and he is recommended to study the laws of supply and demand that he may learn that "many of the medium and fine stamps are still priced far under their true value." Mr. Phillips then adds :—

Some years ago it was quite a common thing in all the large centres of population, and perhaps especially in London, for very large finds of old stamps to come to light in merchants' and bankers' offices. The consequence was that the dealers secured these and were able to retail them at a moderate profit; now it is not once a year, in our experience, that such finds are made. The only one of any account that we can call to mind during the past twelve months is the wonderful lot of St. Louis stamps that turned up in America. The consequence of this dearth of stamps, combined with the greatly increased demand for them, is that the prices have advanced very considerably; but everything tends to show that the stamps are becoming rarer year by year, and are also being more sought for, and the consequence must be that there will be a rising market in all the really better-class goods. Among these we do not class such things as the Leeward Isles remainders, or other stamps of this kind, which have undoubtedly been unduly inflated; and such excessive speculation is to be deplored, as it tends to frighten collectors out of the field. However, I might say, personally, that I am

in a very fair position to judge of the demand for stamps, and also the supply; and from all the information that I get, I am absolutely convinced that the better-class stamps will hold their value and increase it for many years to come.

His Worship of Brighton also reads the offender a brief but kindly admonition in the very best style of ye bench. Says Mr. Castle, in the *London Philatelist*:—

We are of opinion that his premises are too narrow, and that in his purview of the situation apparently he is led unconsciously to regard Berlin as the dominant arbiter of philatelic *prices*. The exact converse is the case. Philately is, moreover, world-wide, and its markets are universal; and it is, therefore, unsafe to enunciate financial *dicta* without regard to *general* market conditions. In market overt, the law of supply and demand inevitably governs the prices, and the same truism applies to stamps. Rapid rises are often the precursors of equally speedy falls; a steady and gradual rise generally means permanency. The best advice that Herr Lindenberg or we ourselves can tender to collectors and investors is "to put not your trust in Prints," but to study the philatelic aspect of their purchases, to ascertain the real relative *rarity* (not the mythical "catalogue value") of their requirements, and, having made up their minds as to the sum, to wait, and be *prepared to purchase* when the *opportunity* arrives. The failure to observe these conditions frequently results in the non-acquisition of desired rarities and subsequent piteous wails as to raised prices—and missed opportunities. Outside two or three dealers, how many German collectors could truly price and discriminate as to the relative rarity of their own stamps unused?

Applause in Court.

Royal Mail Packet, 10c., Pink.

During his recent Eastern tour Mr. Stanley Gibbons had an interesting philatelic conversation with Capt. Nash, the commander of the steamship *Malda*, in which he voyaged from Calcutta to Rangoon. Mr. Gibbons writes in the *Monthly Journal*:—

Captain Nash, it appears, was formerly in the Royal Mail Packet Company, and in the year 1875 was second officer on board a local boat running between St. Thomas and Porto Rico. It was in that year the well-known 10 cents, *pink*, Royal Mail Packet stamp made its appearance, and according to my informant, was issued solely for use between St. Thomas and the many small ports of Porto Rico. I believe the fact of the circulation of this stamp being limited in its use to letters between these few ports will be new to most collectors, and this fact, no doubt, accounts for the relative scarcity of used specimens. They were, of course, issued by the company, and at the time were found to be an immense convenience to the inhabitants. The British Postal Authorities made a strenuous effort to put a stop to their use, but were unsuccessful, it being pointed out to them that the stamps, although issued by an English Company, were solely for use between foreign ports. Consequently the British Postal Authorities had no jurisdiction in the matter, and their efforts to stop the use of the stamps were fruitless. Eventually the matter was arranged by the English Government paying a subsidy to the Mail Packet Company for the suppression of this private postal service.

Major Evans on the S.S.S.S.

Major Evans, in the *Monthly Journal*, has a timely editorial on the S.S.S.S., its work, and its objectors. He writes:—

We have again to look back over twelve months, and endeavour briefly to review the leading philatelic features of that period. The letter "S," four times repeated, figures prominently in our numbers, and although the Speculative and the Unnecessary are still with us, we can fairly say that the Society, to whose initials we allude, has been doing excellent work. So much so, indeed, that it has been accused of "howling down new issues," and of discouraging the Young Collector, and the New Collector, and other worthy persons who are supposed to require encouragement. That there was a danger to philately, from the unbridled increase of issues made mainly for sale to collectors, was practically universally acknowledged twelve months ago; and that a distinct effect has been produced by the Suppression Society formed over here, and by the kindred association in New York, is equally certain.

The provisional issues of pretty pictures, professedly to commemorate this, that, or the other, but in reality for the purpose of raising the wind—either for some impecunious State, or, more frequently, for the local speculators who promoted the scheme—are, to our mind, even less interesting, philatelically, than the annuals. But the question of the acceptance or rejection of either class is an entirely practical one. It should have rested, in the first instance, with collectors to say whether they would, each for himself, collect these things or not. In effect their answer was—we collect by our catalogues; if these things are chronicled and catalogued, we shall collect them, until we get too sick of them to collect at all.

It then became the duty of those of us who make our living, or some portion of it, by buying and selling stamps, or by editing magazines and catalogues, to consider whether all this profusion of issues was likely to destroy the popularity of philately, and thus to damage our interests; and the majority of us came to the conclusion that such was likely to be the case. Now, we believe, there are some who, having put their hand to the plough of the S.S.S.S., are inclined to look back after the flesh-pots of Egypt, the idea being that it is possible still further to stimulate the production of Golden Eggs, without any actual risk of killing the bird. And, with this fine mixture of metaphors, we will quit the subject for the present.

The German S.S.S.S.

Some short-sighted individuals, for motives too apparent, are nervously anxious to drive a nail or two into the coffin of the movement for the suppression of speculative shoddy. But its steady progress amongst the more self-respecting class of dealers and collectors is an encouraging sign of the times. The *Stamp Collectors' Fortnightly* says:—

It is a significant fact that the new Federation of German Philatelic Societies, already mentioned and described in our report of the Cologne Congress, is the direct outcome of the German S.S.S.S. There are a great many people who look upon the S.S.S.S. of this country, and its sister organisation in Germany, as somewhat useless institutions. To such people it will be startling news to learn that the protest against speculative issues of stamps, to be laid before the Washington Postal Congress, is a happy result of proposals addressed to the Postmaster of Berlin by the German S.S.S.S. The Postmaster entered readily into the matter, and requested the Secretary of the S.S.S.S. to send him a full list of the countries which in his opinion had issued speculative stamps. This was done, and eventually the German Government declared that the matter was one in which they were called upon to move. Accordingly the English Government was approached. England at once agreed to join hands with Germany as the seconder of her motion. Other governments, we believe, are now falling into line, and it seems probable that when the motion is brought forward at Washington, it will not fail for want of supporters.

Of course, this action on the part of the German and English Governments is not merely for the assistance of stamp collectors, but has its chief reason in the great inconvenience caused to postal officials in checking the foreign mails. The constant changes in the issues of stamps, especially in the Seebeckised States, make the duties of such officials inordinately trying and heavy.

Major Evans' Reply to Mr. Masters.

Last month we published a copy of a curious letter addressed by Mr. Masters, late assistant-postmaster at Johannesburg, to Messrs. Stanley Gibbons Ltd. Major Evans, in his reply to that letter, writes in the *Monthly Journal*:—

Without wishing to pose as angels of either sort, we venture to claim a right to hold and to express an opinion upon the propriety of government officials speculating in the stamps which pass through their hands, and from the distinction which the writer of the letter seems anxious to draw between the Assistant-Postmaster and Mr. W. E. Masters we gather that he agrees with us to some extent.

We have explained our attitude in these matters so often that it seems hardly necessary to go over the ground again. We have always held that an issue need not be both Speculative and Unnecessary to merit depreciation, but that it is sufficient if it is one or the other of these; and again, that by Speculative we do not necessarily imply that the issue was a speculation on the part of the government which made it, but that it was made under circumstances which afforded a plain opening for speculation on the part of government officials and others, on the spot. To come to details; the only Transvaal issue that has been condemned in these pages is the "Jubilee 1d.," and if the motives of the purchasers of the stock of this stamp were purely patriotic, it cannot matter to them whether it was condemned here or not. It may have been pure patriotism that caused the inhabitants of Johannesburg to struggle for copies, at prices which rose as high as 5s. and afterwards fell to one-tenth of that amount; but does Mr. Masters wish us to understand that pure patriotism also led the Assistant-Postmaster of Johannesburg to secure, according to his first letter, not less than 5000 copies, at a price which enabled him to offer them at 2d. each, with a reduction on taking a quantity?

Against the provisional issues of last year we had nothing to say, until we found in what hands such large quantities of them had accumulated.

The U.S. Bureau of Printing and its Stamps.

When Uncle Sam first took to printing his own stamps, everyone prophesied that he would have to take the work back to the American Bank Note Co., but the bad work has given way to excellent printing.

It is now about two years (says the *New York Times*) since the Bureau first undertook the manufacture of stamps. It had been demonstrated to the satisfaction of the Postmaster General that the Bureau could perform the work at an expenditure far below that necessitated by the then existing system, and he determined to make the change. The result at first was far from satisfactory. Millions of stamps were ruined at a heavy expense to the Government. When, after tedious experiments, the colour of the stamps was brought to the desired shade, it was found that the purely original process of making the mucilage adopted by the Bureau had resulted in placing on the market millions of stamps that would not stick. After a few months of this kind of experience, the Bureau "struck its gait," and ever since the stamp product has been marked by its uniform excellence.

Tongan Stamps.

In our March number we published (p. 78) a letter from Mr. R. B. Leefe, British Vice-Consul of Tonga, in defence of certain issues which had been condemned by the S.S.S.S. We have now the other side of the picture presented to us by Mr. Bassett Hull in the *Australian Philatelist*. He writes:—

Mr. Leefe, we fear, is championing a somewhat unworthy cause. We have a recollection

of a statement made by the Hon. Shirley Baker, late Premier of Tonga, to an interviewer, in which he takes credit to himself for having replenished the almost exhausted coffers of the Tongan treasury by means of certain surcharges, created solely for the purpose of sale to collectors, and not to supply any immediate postal necessity. He chuckled to that interviewer over what he claimed was an ingenious novelty and an invention of his own resourceful brain. The example thus set by the Premier of the Kingdom was diligently followed by Mr. A. M. Campbell, the late Postmaster, who lost his position through supplying large quantities of Tongan stamps, cancelled to the order of dealers, and neglecting to explain in his accounts the difference in value resulting from the cancelling process This transaction culminated in a libel action brought by Mr. Campbell against the Tongan authorities, out of which he came triumphant. His successor, of the same surname, but not in any way related, has succeeded in producing an abnormal number of varieties of surcharged stamps which certainly require strong evidence to enable us to accept them as strictly necessary for postal requirements only. It must be borne in mind that there is at least monthly communication between Tonga and both Auckland and Sydney, so that supplies of stamps could be readily obtained, and the same dies could have been used instead of ringing the changes in the distressingly involved manner that has characterised the emissions of the last year or two. Had there been a sudden demand necessitating the local printing of a supply, we could understand a variety of surcharge being issued, but when it is understood that every variety of surcharge was obtained from Auckland, it is hard to explain the necessity for printing a series from the 2d. plate in a new colour and surcharging four fresh values thereon, when all the old plates were available. If King George II. objected to the perpetuation of his father's portrait, there were designs with the arms of the Kingdom which could have been drawn upon, but no such course was taken. On the contrary, every effort appears to have been made to produce an entirely new combination of type, colour, and surcharge for each fresh issue.

Mr. Leefe states that the Tongan Government is entirely free from any desire to issue stamps for mere speculative purposes; that it has never heard of the S S.S.S . and even if it had, would not let that alliterative Society interfere with the even tenor of its way, but we think that a Government is responsible for the acts of its authorised agents and servants, and even Mr. Leefe's "disinterested" letter will not clear the Tongan surcharge shoal from the stigma of being unnecessary issues.

Again, in the words of Mr. Castle,

We would earnestly counsel all those who have the real future interests of Philately at heart, to exercise all precaution, before they traverse any of the decisions given by the Committee of the S.S.S S., which has so far performed such signal service.

In these days of Olympian temptations and Tongan seductions, we thank the V.-P. of the London Society for teaching us those wise words. May we all—V.-P. and plebeians—scrupulously observe them.

The Olympians.

The suggestion that the Olympian stamps of Greece should be whitewashed (*i.e.*, have the ban of the S.S.S.S. removed) does not meet with much favour. Messrs. Alfred Smith and Son, in their *Monthly Circular*, write :—

The true history of the whole affair does not seem to have been revealed, but it looks as if the sale of the original stock had hung fire, and that the Government is making the best of a bad job by using up stock which would otherwise be so much waste paper. We assure collectors that in any case they will lose nothing by not buying these stamps at the present time. Let them wait in patience a little longer. For ourselves we have not wavered in supporting the Society which has done so much in the interests of collectors; and until the legitimacy of these stamps is beyond question, we shall not offer them for sale.

Filatelic Facts and Fallacies says :—

Now comes the information that the period of postal usefulness for these stamps will expire with the 13th of October of this year, and further, that one value, the 60 lepta, has already been sold out. Strange facts are connected with this value. While of the 5 and 10 drachmai (face value $1.00 and $2.00) 100,000 and 50,000 were deemed necessary for the short period of six months, of the 60 lepta (face value 12c.) only 20,000 copies were issued; and rumour has it that this was done not entirely accidentally, but that some persons of a good healthy pull wanted, without too much outlay, to corner one value in order to reap a handsome profit by a large increase. If this is true, if the Government could really lend its services to such a scheme, the Olympian issue is one of the most flagrant examples of speculation, and well fitted for the indignation of the Society for Suppression of Speculative Stamps.

The following quantities of each value of the Olympian Games stamps were delivered by the Parisian printing house to the Athens authorities :—

1	lepton	4,000,000
2	lepta	3,000,000
5	„	3,000,000
10	„	2,000,000
20	„	4,000,000
25	„	2,000,000
40	„	150,000
60	„	20,000
1	drachma	200,000
2	drachmai	150,000
5	„	100,000
10	„	50,000

Protection of Cancellations.

According to the *Post Office*, numerous devices have been tried by the United

States Government to prevent the washing of cancellation ink from stamps. Our contemporary thinks the last plan of printing in colours that will run to a slight extent, the best and effectual one. But—

There were stamps issued from 1877-79, into the paper of which some sort of a chemical was introduced. This does not appear until the stamp is put into water, but the moment it is, it becomes stiff, brittle and translucent like a piece of gelatine. The stamp appears and is worse than a mucilage soaked one. Alcohol will not remove it; benzine does not affect it, nor can it be removed entirely by any chemical which we have so far discovered, which does not at the same time destroy the ink of the stamp.

U.S. Outer Line.

The *Portland Express* (*U.S.*) has the following about the stamps of the United States:—

Stamp collectors who collect the minor varieties of United States stamps are complaining to themselves at a new variety which the bureau of engraving and printing has produced, presumably for their benefit.

This latest production is what might be technically termed as "outer line," and is put on by the bureau to secure accurate work in the perforation.

The current postage stamps, all values from one cent to five dollars, are engraved and printed in sheets of 400 stamps, and afterwards cut down to "panes" or sheets of 100, ready for delivery to the post-offices of the country. The division of the large sheet into lesser sheets is done at the same time as the perforating, by means of a revolving "slitting-knife." The perforation, by the way, is the last machine operation on the stamps, being done after the stamps are gummed.

To help the operator find the correct location for the perforations, angular marks were formerly placed on the side of each large sheet, dividing it into quarters.

For some reason these were not sufficient, and the sheets now have guide lines extending entirely across.

The lines across are so large that where the perforations do not hide them they are plainly visible on either one or two sides of the stamps according to their position in the sheet.

Destruction of Hawaiian Remainders.

To Mr. Walter M. Gifford, the well-known Hawaiian specialist, is due much of the credit for the following resolution in reference to the disposal of remainders, which we copy from our esteemed contemporary, *Filatelic Facts and Fallacies*:—

The resolution was submitted by the Joint Finance Committee, Representative Richards reading:—

"Be it resolved by the Senate and the House of Representatives, that on and after November 1st, 1896, the sale of postage stamps, postal cards, and stamped envelopes, issued previous to the present issue, shall cease at the post-office, after which date, all, if any, that may remain, shall be destroyed. And the President shall appoint a Committee of three (3) disinterested persons, who shall serve without pay, to act with the Minister of Finance and Postmaster-General, for the purpose of checking off all remaining stock on that date, and to see that the resolution relating to the destroying of the same is strictly carried out."

Representative Richards said that he thought the Government might make a good thing out of these stamps, as collectors and dealers all over the world would certainly be anxious to get them.

Representative Kamauoha proposed making the date December 31st. Seconded by Representative Winston, and the resolution as amended was adopted.

The *F.F.F.* says:—

The stamps, etc., on hand are of the following kinds only—2c. purple, 5c. ultramarine, 10c. brown, 12c. black, 18c. red, 50c red, $1.00 red, 5c. blue envelopes, 10c. black envelopes.

Austrian Newspaper Stamps, 1867-89.

The Editor of the *Boston Stamp Book* in the July instalment of his interesting reference list of die and type varieties, has the following note on the Austrian newspaper stamps of 1867-89:—

This issue, the most common of the Austrian newspaper stamps, appears in three distinct dies. Their order is not known, but there is general agreement that the order here given is the correct one. In the first type the shading of the winged cap or petasus is made up of dotted lines. The outer circle of the medallion, in which the head is drawn, does not touch the upper label. The second die agrees with the first in this latter point, but the shading of the petasus is of continuous lines. In the third type the lines are also continuous, but the medallion touches the upper label.

A. Dotted shading; space between medallion and label.
B. Lined shading; space as in A.
C. Lined shading; medallion touches label.

Mr. F. Trifet on Old Times.

Mr. F. Trifet, the well-known and old-established Boston dealer, has been treating the local philatelic society to a series of reminiscences of old times in philately. His paper is published in the *Boston Stamp Book*. Like every other dealer whose connection with stamps reaches back into the sixties and seventies, he has some good stories of lost opportunities. Here is one:—

At an early period I established friendly relations with the Post Office Department, through the third Assistant Postmaster-General. Nothing in the way of information, proofs, or

essays, but what I could get through them. In all those years their chief clerk was Mr. William M. Ireland, a liberal-minded man, much interested in stamps and Post Office matters, with which he had been connected since the forties. It was through him that in 1876 I was intrusted with the entire Government collection gathered by his efforts from all parts of the world. This I arranged in two magnificent volumes, adding to its treasures stamps valued at that time at fully three thousand dollars. When completed I took it to Washington and presented it to Mr. Barber for the department. He was very much pleased, and was sorry he could give me in return only some old stamps held as waste paper, and some proofs and essays, all of which he considered but ill repaid me for my labours. If I had locked them up in a safe and lost the combination until now, what would I have found?

18 sheets of each of the eight values, 1851-60.

120 complete sheets of the officials, including all the high value State in sheets.

150 each of the compound envelopes with and without patent lines.

Thousands of all the old envelopes.

1847 to 1869 reprints in sets by the hundred, essays, proofs, specimens, &c., &c.

Among other things were 183 of the "grill all over" stamp.

U.S. "Grill all Over."

Mr. F. Trifet, speaking of some U.S. "Grill all over" stamps which he received from the Post Office in the early days, says, in a paper printed in the *Boston Stamp Book* for July:—

When I received these from Washington I was told by Mr. Ireland that he gave orders to make two sheets of them, and that upon trial of a few specimens through the Washington Post Office, it was found not to work satisfactorily, and the smaller grill was tried and was satisfactory. He assured me that 200 of the 3c. were all that were made, and no other value was experimented on, or issued, with grill *all over*. I am not making any claims for or against the "grill all overs," but I must admit that Mr. Ireland's statement made to me in 1877 has more weight with me than all other proofs as yet submitted as to the genuineness of many so-called grilled stamps.

A Speculation in Grenadas.

The *London Philatelist* has the following account of another "cornering" operation in which the "cornerers" have come to grief:—

A somewhat interesting story, the outcome of which is the issue of the ½d. and 1d. adhesives of the De La Rue type, transpires concerning the old 1d. adhesive (1887). Two or three speculators bought up the entire stock of this value with the intent of selling at 3d. each as a minimum (the amount of the purchase being some hundreds of pounds!), but the plenteous supply of these stamps became only too evident to the would-be speculators, or one of them at least, who is still waiting the appearance of some buyer for £25 worth at *double* face!

The 10c. Baltimore.

Since the discovery of the 10c. Baltimore chronicled by us in March last (p. 84), two other specimens have come to light, making three known specimens of this stamp. *Mekeel's Weekly* thus describes the three copies:—

One is on blue paper; this one is badly torn, about ¼ of the stamp being damaged. The other two are on white paper; one of these is creased about 4mm. from the right end, and the other is cut very close along the top.

The *Weekly* holds that—

It is still the rarest stamp in the world, and also holds two price records—the highest price ever paid by a dealer for a single stamp, and the highest price ever received for any postage stamp.

A Speculation Frustrated.

While in Rangoon, on his recent trip, Mr. Stanley Gibbons tells us in the *Monthly Journal*, a very remarkable attempt to foist an issue of stamps on an Indian State, some fifteen years ago, came to his knowledge. Here is the story:—

My informant, Mr. Paul, the Deputy Commissioner for Nepal, told me that he, being at the time attached to the English residency at Bhotan, in Northern India, distinctly remembered a parcel of specially designed postage stamps, of various values in Indian currency, being received in his office. This consignment came from London, of all places in the world, and was an entirely unsolicited one. The stamps were sent to the Residency on speculation, and were accompanied by the cool request that they should be issued for use in the State.

The £40,000 Collection.

For some months past a big collection has been advertised for sale in the advertisement pages of the *London Philatelist* at a figure (£40,000) which made us all curious to find out what eminent collector was selling out. The indefatigable C. J. P. has run it to earth in Hamburg; and after inspecting the forty-thousand-pounder, here is his report from the June number of the *Monthly Journal*:—

In this town (Hamburg) I had the pleasure of inspecting the vast collection, which was offered some months ago in the *London Philatelist* for the sum of something like £40,000. However, this accumulation might rather be called a dealer's stock than a collection. The esteemed owner has made a practice for some years past of buying up various collections and stocks, and appears to have kept every stamp that he purchased, without considering whether it was wanted in his collection or not; the

consequence is that in many cases he has the same stamp fifty or a hundred times over, even when there is no variety of postmark. This especially applies, of course, to the Hamburg stamps, which are the grandest lot that I have ever seen. The collection is undoubtedly an extremely valuable one, but it does not possess a very high philatelic interest, because, first of all, the rarities are missing; secondly, many of the stamps are not in fine condition, and they are not well classified. I was sorry also to note that a number of the rarer varieties are forgeries. The owner would be well advised to have a fine selection made from this great accumulation, and he would then have the basis or nucleus of a remarkably fine general collection, to which the rarities could be added as opportunities occurred.

Great Britain, Early Perfs.

The *English Specialists' Journal* will lose caste as a journal for English specialists if it lays itself open to being tripped up as it is in the June number of the *Monthly Circular*. The Editor of the *Monthly Circular* writes:

We have lately seen it gravely stated in a journal written especially for specialists that the English line-engraved stamps were perforated by Messrs. Perkins, Bacon & Co., and that only the surface-printed ones were perforated at Somerset House. Messrs. Perkins, Bacon & Co. never perforated for the Government a single sheet of the line-engraved English stamps. Perforation of penny postage stamps began at Somerset House on 27th January, 1854, and the first postage stamp manufactured by De La Rue & Co. was issued in 1855. Perkins, Bacon & Co. had not for many years the machinery for perforating stamps, and when they did begin they had only single-line machines. The machine they exhibited at the Philatelic Exhibition of 1890 was, we believe, the first they made use of, and this was a rotary machine, hand worked.

The paragraph referred to above was quoted by us (p. 140) last month. Though not holding ourselves responsible for the correctness of all we quote, we do not wittingly pass obviously incorrect statements. This error was noted, but too late to exclude it.

New Issue for France.

A few months back we heard a great deal of an intended new issue for France, and an illustration of a curious design went the rounds of the press as the accepted design. Our illustration will be found in our March number, p. 71. The project seems to hang fire. The Editor of the *Monthly Circular* writes:—

We hear that the projected new issue for France is as far as ever from being realised. The Post-office Department in France is under the dominion of the Minister of Commerce for the time being, and unless he can be in office for the period required to decide on, prepare, and issue a series of stamps, his successor in office will probably undo all that has been done. The late Minister was for the Phrygian Cap and all that nonsense that formed no part of M. Grasset's original design, which was made in the time of his predecessor, but the wheel of fortune has gone round and another occupies the place of Minister.

Philatelic Gossip.

Philatelic Exhibition for 1897.

A meeting of Collectors and Dealers was held at Effingham House on Thursday, 16th July, 1896, to receive and consider the Report of the Sub-committee appointed to make inquiries as to a suitable place for holding the proposed International Philatelic Exhibition to be held next year.

After some discussion the following resolutions were adopted:—

That the recommendation of the Sub-committee to hold the proposed Philatelic Exhibition for 1897, at the Gallery of the Royal Institute of Painters of Water Colours, Piccadilly, be accepted, and that Mr. J. A. Tilleard be authorised to engage the premises without delay.

That the members of the Provisional Committee form themselves into a General Exhibition Committee, with power to add to their number.

That Mr. J. A. Tilleard be asked to act, *pro tem.*, as Hon. Sec.

Mr. Trifet and the S.S.S.S.

Mr. F. Trifet, the Boston Dealer, does not seem to love the S.S S.S. Says he:—

A society exists which keeps the small boy down by condemning legitimate stamps that pay postage, and allows one of its officers to send to its members stamps of a republic which exists only in the hearts of those fighting for its freedom, that has no Post Office Department, and whose stamps are utterly useless for postage.

Perhaps Mr. Trifet will condescend to details, and tell us what *legitimate* stamp the S.S.S.S. has condemned: we do not know of one. And who is the "official" who has been dealing in the rubbish complained of?

Conflicting Castles.

According to the *Daily Stamp Item* (U.S.), Mr. Albrecht, the New York Dealer, while recently on a trip to Europe, bought an entire sheet of Saxony 3pf., and sold the same at once to Mr. Castle. The sheet in question for some time formed part of the Friede Museum collection in Vienna.

But the *Daily Stamp Item* is very much exercised, and so are we, because the despatch does not state whether the purchaser was Mr. Castle, of America, or only the Brighton variety. When there was only one Richard in the field we were content; now there are two, we shall be for ever mixing them up like the celebrated twins.

A Strange Customer.

Messrs. Bogert & Durbin, in their *Philatelic Monthly*, tell the following curious story of an incident which happened in one of their places of business:—

A short time ago, our New York office was the scene of an event so out of the common and so very extraordinary, that we feel compelled to acquaint our readers with it.

A new customer, after buying about $10 worth of the current unused stamps of Italy, Egypt and Olympic stamps of Greece, deliberately tore them up into small fragments and deposited them on the floor.

Deeming this curious conduct, deserving an explanation, he stated that he had been travelling with a party in the said countries, that the manager had bribed the customs officers to pass the trunks of the members of the party, which fact he had not known till too late to pay the proper duties That he had made a liberal estimate of the duties rightfully due, and had adopted the means above described to pay the same.

The Hague Exhibition.

PRINCIPAL AWARDS.

Special honorary medal given by the Queen of Holland:—C. F. Leliman.

Class	A.—Anton M. Van Hoek, Rotterdam	1
„	- Th. Lemaire, Paris	2
„	J. A. Wreesman, Groningen	3
„	B.—(Hamburg), Julius Lossau, Hamburg	1
„	- (Mauritius), A. Wülbern, Hamburg	2
„	- (Port. Indies), Th. Lemaire, Paris	3
„	D.—A. Beddig, Hannover	1
„	E.—C. F. Leliman, Heerde	1
„	- H. de Jongh, Hertogenbosch	2
„	F.—J. J. Post, Rhenen	1
„	G.—J. L. Van Dieten, Rotterdam	1
„	H.—Otto Friese, Magdeburg	1
„	J.—C. F. Leliman, Heerde	1
„	- H. de Jongh	2
„	K.—C. F. Lücke, Leipzig	1
„	- E. Heitmann, Leipzig	2
„	L.—Hugo Krotsch, Leipzig	1
„	- Whitfield King, Ipswich	2
„	M.—J. B. Moens, Brussels	1
„	- J. H. L. Van Kinschot, Hasselt	1
„	- Scott's Stamp & Coin Company, New York	2
„	- E. Diena, Modena	3
„	N.—H. G. Smit, Wissekerke	1
„	O.—H. N. Campbell, London	1

Messrs. Buhl & Co., Limited, did not exhibit for competition, Mr. T. Buhl being a Member of the Jury.

Our Philatelic J.P.

The *Stamp Collectors' Fortnightly* says:

It looks as though Mr. M. P. Castle, in his capacity of magistrate, may shortly have an opportunity of sitting in judgment upon a philatelic burglar. On Wednesday, June 17th, a studio in North Street, Brighton, occupied by a Mr. W. Feldewicke was entered by midnight visitors. The studio contained a large quantity of foreign stamps and rare coins, but, as Mr. Feldewicke humorously remarked to a representative of the *Sussex Daily News*, the burglar was evidently more of a numismatist than a philatelist, and, while he left valuable stamps to take care of themselves, he appropriated about thirty shillingsworth of foreign silver coins from boxes which were at the time on the counter. The thief, or thieves, then stole away; and so far the police have no clue.

A Tall Story.

The following story, told by the *Agents' Guide*, is quite tall enough to be enjoyed on both sides of the Atlantic:—

A young man had been collecting postage stamps for years, and the passion had so grown upon him that he began to care more for the quantity than the quality of his bits of stamped paper. He accordingly inserted in the *Times* one day the following announcement:—

> MARRIAGE. — A handsome brunette, twenty years of age, possessing £100,000 in her own right and an expectancy of half a million, would marry an honest man, even though he had no fortune. Letters will be received until the end of the month, and should be accompanied with stamps for return postage to secure attention.

The result may be guessed. From all parts of Europe, and even Asia and Africa, the responses came. The result was that the young man's collection of stamps was augmented by over 25,000 specimens, from nearly every country in the world.

An Editor takes a Holiday.

Mr. Ewen announces in the July number of the *English Specialists' Journal* that the next number of the *E. S. J.* will not appear until October 7th "owing to the necessity of our taking a short holiday after the hard work of the past season." Truly, this editor who rusticates by the sea shore in quaint little Swanage, makes us envious of his idea of "a short holiday," and his method of arranging it.

American Bank Note Co. Proofs.

Last month (p. 172) we quoted a statement from the *Post Office* (U.S.) as to the sale of "proofs" by the American Bank Note Co., but expressed our surprise that the Company should feel itself at liberty to sell proofs. It now seems that our contemporary made a slip. Instead of saying that the Secretary of the American Bank Note Co. had caused it to be given out that no more proofs of any stamps would be sold or given away by the Company,

It should have been the Secretary of the Treasury of the United States has caused it to be given out that no more proofs of any kind will be distributed by the Government. We understand that the American Bank Note Co. never did sell or give away any proofs of stamps.

Stamp Exchanges.

Mr. A. E. C. Lyell, of 73, Loanhead Terrace, Aberdeen, sends us a very neat little book of rules of his International Stamp Exchange Club. The following extract from an explanatory page may prove of interest to those of our readers who have not yet tried this method of adding to their collections and disposing of their duplicates:—

As a great many private collectors do not quite understand the objects and working of Exchange Societies, it is thought advisable to give a general idea of how our Society is conducted. As will be seen from Rule 3, members are requested to send a sheet or sheets of their best duplicates to the Secretary, if possible, by the 20th of each month for insertion in the packet issued on the first of the month following. Having received these sheets, the Secretary takes a note of each, and encloses the lot in a special leather case, which is then sent to the first member on the list, who will look over the lot, retaining such as he may desire, and entering total number and value on list accompanying. Having done this, he will post or hand it to the next number on the list, who will act similarly, and so on until the packet is returned to the Secretary, previous to being sent abroad to foreign members. At the end of every two months the Secretary will make up a note of the accounts, and in the event of any member having bought more stamps than he has sold, a note of his account will be rendered, when a prompt remittance of the balance is requested. If, on the other hand, he has sold more than he has bought, a postal order for such balance will be sent.

Sale of the Boston Stamp Book.

The *Boston Stamp Book*, which on its first appearance at once won the hearts of many collectors by its neat get up, has been purchased by its editor, the Rev. John Luther Kilbon, who will continue it on the old lines. The June number, which is the first number under the change, is before us. Editor Kilbon tells us that "the reason why there is a new owner is because the magazine could be sold at a handsome profit to its former owner, and still promise to pay its new owner a good round sum of money every year." We congratulate our confrère and wish him success.

The Egyptian Post Office.

Seba Pasha's annual report for 1895 shows a further increase in the business done by the department over which his Excellency presides. The number of pieces dealt with by the post-office amounted to 22,446,000 in 1895, against 21,070,000 in 1894, the internal traffic alone accounting for half this increase. During the last five years the volume of postal traffic in Egypt itself has risen steadily from 11,523,000 to 15,270,000—an increase which clearly reflects the general growth of activity and prosperity under British control. The most important reform effected during 1895 was the abolition of the Government monopoly and reduction of rates for the conveyance of specie—a very considerable boon, as Saba Pasha points out, in a country where there are no bank notes, and money can therefore only be transmitted in the shape of specie. This liberal policy has as usual led to a large development of business, and the loss of revenue has consequently proved very much smaller than was anticipated. Though calculated in the estimates at only £E100,000, the receipts of the Egyptian Post Office amounted in 1895 to £E110,352, or only £E3,148 less than in 1894. The expenditure was £E95,119.

A Philatelic Outing.

The City of London Philatelic Club propose to organize this summer an Up-River Excursion on the lines of the very enjoyable outing of two years ago. August is thought to be the most suitable month, and Saturday, August 22nd, has been suggested as a good date for the trip. At an informal gathering of some of the Committee Members of the Club, the programme was to some extent outlined—tentatively of course. It was suggested that members and others participating in the outing should meet at Waterloo Station at 8.30 a.m., proceed by train to Windsor, and thence by steam or electric launch up-river. Lunch would be taken on board, and tea either at Marlow or on the return journey. The cost of the trip, including railway fare, steam launch, luncheon and tea, would be 12s. 6d. per head, or for double ticket (lady and gentleman), £1 : 1 : 0. As it is desirable to know at once how many would like to take part in this excursion, applications to that effect (which would not be in any way binding at this stage), should at once be made to the Hon. Secretary, Mr. C. Forbes, 42, Strahan Road, Bow, E. Any philatelist, member of the Club, or otherwise, will be cordially welcome.

Unwise Collecting.

Willoughby Cook, twenty-two, living at Ferndale Road, Stamford Hill, was recently charged on remand at Stratford with obtaining £11 7s. 5d. by means of false pretences with intent to cheat and defraud the New Oils Company, Limited, of Silvertown.—The accused was in the employ of the company, and he paid the wages and kept the books. The allegation of the prosecution was that he had for some time past drawn wages which had not been earned.—Mr. C. C. Sharman said the prosecution had no desire to press the case. Prisoner had hitherto borne a good character, and his family were in good positions. So far as could be discovered, all the money prisoner had embezzled had been expended in the purchase of postage stamps, which he had offered to give up.—Mr. Fred George, who appeared for prisoner, said his stamp collection was worth several hundred pounds.—Prisoner was bound over under the First Offenders' Act.

An Aged Postmistress.

The *Glasgow Herald* records the recent death of Mrs. Betsy Swan, postmistress, Dalton Village, Dumfriesshire, the oldest postal official in the kingdom. Mrs. Swan, who had long been a widow, received the appointment of postmistress fifty years ago, and although she was ninety years of age continued to hold the office, and, with the exception of a very few days, discharged her duties until the last. Some doubt existed whether, when the telegraph system was introduced to Dalton, two years ago, Mrs. Swan would be able to conduct the work, but she quite surprised the post-office officials by the rapidity with which she became an efficient telegraphist.

The Oldest Philatelic Magazine in America.

The June number of the *Eastern Philatelist* is labelled "Centennial Number," and in its editorial it explains as follows:—

"With this issue the *Eastern Philatelist* arrives at an age seldom attained by a stamp publication, it being our centennial number. For one hundred months it has regularly visited the philatelic public; it has never skipped a month nor issued any double numbers. For nearly a year it has enjoyed the distinction of being the oldest philatelic magazine in America, which proud position we hope to occupy for many years to come."

This number of the *Record* is, we believe, about the 200th, and we, therefore, tender our centennial confrère our centennial greetings. May we long continue to enjoy our old age and our career of usefulness in the pursuit we have at heart.

Hilckes' Auction Summary.

Mr. Hilckes announces that the second volume of his auction summary will be published in a few weeks. The price will will be reduced to 1s. 6d., though the book will be increased in bulk. Sundry improvements will be made to facilitate the work of reference. Such an excellent work deserves a free advertisement, and we give it this preliminary notice in the hope that it may help to popularise a useful little book, the production of which must be more a labour of love than of profit.

Ashanti Army Telegraph Stamps.

The *S.C.J.* has seen a complete set of the telegraph stamps recently used by the British Army of Occupation. It says the stamps used are similar to those used in British Bechuanaland, but the bottom label is inscribed "Army Telegraphs." The *S.C.J.* gives the list as follows:—

1d. mauve and black	2s. 6d. green and brown
2d. mauve and blue	5s. green and puce
6d. mauve and green	10s. green and carmine
1s. green and black	£1 mauve and black

An Automatic Post Office.

An automatic stamp distributor (says the *Devon Gazette*) has been invented by Mr. Shapley, of Park Street, Bristol, and is being submitted to the Post Office authorities. The object is to supply penny and halfpenny postage stamps at the pillar boxes and also at local offices after hours, as well as the country places, where often a long distance has to be walked before a stamp can be obtained The working parts of the machine are simple in construction and perfect in action.

Commemorative French.

It is announced that a special set of stamps is in preparation for the French Exhibition which is to be held in 1900, which will have pictures of episodes in French history. It is to be hoped that long before the year 1900 all commemorative issues will be barred from use in the Postal Union, and will thus be relegated to their proper level of local stamps.

Correspondence.

"British Levant Stamps."

DEAR SIR,—I have read with interest the recent discussion with regard to what have been called "Colonial English" stamps. On the main point I agree with the views generally expressed at a recent meeting of the Philatelic Society and advocated in the *Philatelic Record*. The fact that a stamp issued by this country, at whose cost the service denoted by the use of the stamp has been performed, has been cancelled outside the United Kingdom cannot make that stamp a postal issue of the country or colony in which such cancellation has taken place.

But in the course of discussion another point has been raised, and opinions have been expressed with which I do not agree. It has been argued with special reference to the British stamps overprinted with the Turkish currency, that such overprint "divorces" those stamps from this country and makes them "foreigners." In the *Stamp Collectors' Fortnightly* for the 2nd May last I read that "Mr Nankivell, hard pressed . . . concerning the Constantinople stamps, stuck steadfastly to his guns. The surcharge of '40 paras' on the 2½d. stamp made that stamp a foreigner, but 1d. stamps sold and *used* at Constantinople remained British." From that statement I dissent, and contend that the 2½d. stamps continue to be British. A 2½d. stamp surcharged "40 paras" used at Constantinople would be cancelled by a defacing stamp bearing the words "*British* Post Office." The stamp could only be bought at a post office maintained by this country, and it would only defray the postage of a letter posted at a British post office. The overprint does not alter the nationality. A British stamp surcharged with Turkish currency would not be accepted at a Turkish post office, but the letter bearing it would be treated as unpaid.

As the sum paid for one of these stamps would reach the British exchequer, I believe that the stamp could be legally used in the United Kingdom, although probably the authorities at St. Martins-le-Grand would not accept it owing to their devotion to the sacred red tape. It must also be borne in mind that the amount fixed by the Postal Union as the rate for a half ounce letter from

Turkey to England is not quite the same as the rate fixed for a letter from England to Turkey: 40 paras are not equivalent to 2½d.

The stamps are surcharged with the Turkish currency to comply with the international regulations of the Postal Union, but not for that purpose only. The rate from Turkey to England for a letter weighing six ounces has been fixed at 12 piastres. Great Britain has no stamp of a value exactly corresponding to 12 piastres, but the stamp of the nearest value is taken—the 2s. 6d. stamp—and overprinted "12 piastres." But 2s. 6d. is equal to 13¾ piastres; consequently, if 2s. 6d. stamps could be bought in Constantinople *unsurcharged* for 12 piastres, a profit could be made, and a fraud on the revenue of this country committed, by buying the stamps in Turkey for use or for sale here.

It may be of interest to trace the origin of foreign post offices in Turkey, and it will be seen that the right of the various Powers to maintain these offices originated in a treaty made before the adhesive postal label was thought of.

So far back as June, 1783, a Treaty of Commerce was made between Russia and Turkey which gave reciprocal facilities for the postal couriers of the two States, and in the following year a treaty between Austria and Turkey declared by one of its articles that the "the Government of Austria is entitled to claim for its subjects, without exception, the same privileges, advantages, and favours which are now enjoyed, or may hereafter be enjoyed, by other Frankish nations, and particularly by the French, the English, the Dutch, and the Russians, or by any other still more favoured nation." In virtue of that stipulation an Austrian post office was established in Constantinople; and a French post office was opened there under a treaty between France and Turkey dated 25th November, 1838. A British post office was first established in Constantinople in 1857, Great Britain being entitled by treaty to the same privileges as are enjoyed by other countries. A German post office was opened in 1876.

Turkey has on more than one occasion endeavoured to obtain the rescission of these treaty rights and to acquire sole control over the postal system within the empire, but these attempts have been strenuously resisted by some of the powers, and especially by Great Britain.

These British stamps are classed in the catalogue of Messrs. Stanley Gibbons as a "Special Issue for Levant Post Offices." I do not think this a correct nomenclature. Although rather cumbersome for a heading, the description should be "Special Issue for British Post Offices in the Ottoman Empire."

A book of reference says that the word "Levant" is a name applied to all the regions eastward from Italy as far as the Euphrates and the Nile. It, therefore, embraces Greece, Cyprus, and Egypt, where these stamps are not used.

Yours truly,

R. PEARCE.

Indian Postal Annoyances.

DEAR SIRS,—On the arrival of the last mail I received an intimation from the Post Office informing me that a packet had arrived and to attend the Post Office and open the same, in order to enable the Postmaster to see whether the letter contained any dutiable goods. I consequently attended the Post Office, when I found that the letter was from you and was dated 15th April, with a sheet of rare stamps. After an inspection of the contents the letter was taken back by the postal authorities and sent to the Custom House. Two days afterwards the letter was again sent to me with an intimation that it would be delivered over on my paying £3 on account of duty. I refused the letter and went immediately to the Custom House and asked the collector there to allow me to pick out whatever stamps I liked from it, and I would willingly pay duty for what I took, but he would not allow the bulk to be broken, and also declined to give me refund for what I returned, as he said stamps are very difficult to be identified. This is very hard, and I had no other help but to return the stamps. I may not even keep from the sheet the worth of the duty that I pay.

This tariff business will entirely paralyse the stamp-collecting business in India. You know that very often Exchange prices are very fictitious, and it is very hard to ask a man to pay duty of £1, £2, £3, or more, when from stamps of £10 sent for approval the man may not keep 10s., and also to prevent him from getting drawback. I hope you will kindly move in the matter in England and ask your Society to take up the matter, and also ventilate our grievances in the *Philatelic Record*.

Yours truly,

Karachi, *May, 1896*. F. E. P.

Forgeries and Reprints.

Newfoundland Reprints.

There is bad news from Newfoundland. That struggling Colony whose stamps have hitherto been amongst the most prized of all our philatelic treasures, has taken to reprinting. The *Boston Stamp Book says*:—

We have in our possession a set of the reprints lately issued by Newfoundland. They are the 1-2 c., red, 1 c., brown violet and 2 c., green, of 1880 and 1881. The purpose of the issue is evidently to obtain cash from stamp collectors for the nearly bankrupt government. The reproductions are not perfect, of course, but they will be very hard to detect without originals at hand for comparison. The paper is a little whiter, though of about the same weight and texture, and the colours all differ by a shade. The 1-2 c. is the poorest of the lot, the colour having a somewhat washed-out appearance. The 1 c. is a really more attractive shade than either of the originals, being somewhat richer and more of a purple cast, though still brown. The green is as nearly a pure green as can be readily found, having nothing of the yellowish cast which is generally to be noticed in the original 2 c. stamps. The best test, so far as we have been able to discover, is in the gum. The colour is practically the same, though the new gum has a somewhat lighter look. But on the originals the gum is heavy and very smooth, showing sometimes slight traces of the brush by which it was applied. In the reprints, the gum, while still thick, is a very little crackled, though not very distinctly so.

We understand that the reprints are available for postage, and they do not appear to be distinct enough to be classed as a new issue. The S. S. S. may make a fuss over these reprints, but unless they buy them all up as fast as Newfoundland wants to print them, we do not see what more they can do.

The *Philatelic Journal of Great Britain* says the shades of the reprints are quite distinct from the originals. Old brown gum has been used, and the perforation, 12, is correct. The paper is close wove, and bears evidence of having been printed by the British American Bank Note Company, Montreal. The *P. J. G. B.* gives the shades as follows:—

1880.

Original.	Reprint.
1c. lilac to deep violet.	1c. yellowish brown.
2c. light yellow-green.	2c. dark blue-green.
3c. amber.	3c. dark brown.

1887.

½c. carmine.	½c. orange-red.
3c. dull blue.	3c. dark blue.

It is to be hoped that no further reprintings will take place. If the Colony is so hard up that it must draw upon stamp collectors and really cannot afford to pay for a new design, it would be much more honest and less objectionable to ring the changes of new colours on the current series.

Doctoring U.S. Stamps.

The *Post Office* (U.S.) hears that a further attempt at deceiving collectors of United States stamps has been made.

It is reported that the outer ornaments on stamps of the 1861 issue have been removed by some one, who understands how to do such work, and specimens have been offered for sale as those of a separate issue of United States stamps. The fraud is apparently the work of the same party whose fraudulent grills are noticed in this number of the *Post Office*. We mention no name at present, but as soon as we have positive proof we shall do so. It is said also that ten cent. stamps of the common type of 1861, are being changed to the rare variety by the removal of the line above U.S. Postage. This is a fraud quite easily detected by one acquainted with the characteristics of the plate from which the scarce stamp was printed. Collectors should be more careful than ever about buying scarce varieties from any but responsible dealers.

Great Britain.

The *English Specialists' Journal* notes the following:—

I. R. Official.—Mr. Heron Allen has shown us a 1d. lilac with forged overprint "I. R. Official," and informs us he has both the 1d. "16 dots" and 1d. "14 dots." The height of the letters in the forgery is 3mm., or ¼mm. shorter than in the genuine overprint. The length of the word "Official" is also less than in the genuine, being 15mm. in place of 15¾mm.

1d. Black—In a parcel of stamps purchased recently we found a forgery of 1d. black, the only forgery of an English stamp we can remember having seen. It was thin at the back, and appeared to have a small crown watermark, but we cannot be certain. Placed side by side with a genuine copy, no one could mistake its character.

The 1d. black may occasionally be found on slightly bluish paper.

Several 1d. reds, chemically changed to black, have been offered recently, and, we understand, sold as this variety.

Fined for Selling Forgeries.

A German dealer has been fined 150 marks, or 30 day's imprisonment, for having in December, 1893, offered to a collector certain forgeries of Hanover as genuine stamps. A Post Office official in Hanover had sold the dealer an old die for 40 marks, and from this he got a Dresden printer to print off copies

Notable Stamps at Auction.

Unused are distinguished by an asterisk.

BUHL & Co.,

12th June, 1896.

	£	s.	d.
Mauritius, Post Paid, 2d. blue, early, PENOE*	51	0	0
Peru, medio peso, rose ...	4	17	6
United States, Columbian, complete set	3	12	6

CHEVELEY & Co.,

13th June, 1896.

Bahamas, 1d. lake, no wmk.*	3	0	0
Ceylon, 1s. 9d. green, star, perf.*	3	5	0
Confederate, mobile 2c. black	5	15	0
Mauritius, small fillet, 2d., pair	3	7	0
Nevis, 4d. rose*	5	5	0
Switzerland, *Basle* 2½r.*...	5	5	0
Ditto, 1850, 10r. cross-framed	4	0	0
United States, 1856, 90c. blue*	3	6	0

24th June, 1896 (at Manchester).

British Guiana, 1853, 1c. brown-red*	3	7	6
Ceylon, 8d. brown, imperf.	19	0	0
Ditto, 9d. violet-brown, imperf.	4	0	0
Ditto, 9d. ochre-brown, star, perf.*	3	10	0
Dominica, 1s. carmine, C.A.*	5	5	0
France, 1fr. orange ...	5	15	0
Great Britain, 6d. octagonal, pair*	5	0	0
Gambia, 1s. green ...	2	0	0
Gibraltar, *first issue*, 1s. brown	2	4	0
Mauritius, Post Paid, 1d., ear y	8	5	0
Ditto, 2d. medium early, PENOE	8	10	0
Ditto, 2d. early	7	5	0
Nevis, 4d. rose*	4	0	0
Ditto, 4d. orange, litho*	7	10	0
Ditto, 6d. grey, litho.*	13	10	0
Newfoundland, 6d. orange*	7	0	0
New South Wales, Sydney View 2d., "Crevit" omitted	3	10	0

PUTTICK & SIMPSON,

15th and 16th June, 1896.

Azores, 1882, 150r. blue ...	4	5	0
Brazil, 600 reis, sloping figures	3	15	0
Cape of Good Hope, wood-block, 1d. red* ...	8	5	0
Ditto, another, used ...	3	15	0
Fiji, 2d. on 12c. on 6c., fancy V.R.*	6	0	0
India, 4d. blue and red, dividing line*... ...	5	5	0
Mauritius, Post Paid, 1d., medium early... ...	5	15	0
Ditto, ditto, vert., pair	11	10	0
Ditto, ditto, 2d. deep blue	19	0	0
Ditto, ditto, another, light shade	9	10	0
Nevis, 6d. olive, litho.* ...	7	16	0
Ditto, 1s. yellow-green	4	5	0
New Brunswick, 6d. yellow	3	3	0
Oldenburg, second issue, 1/3gr. green	3	15	0
Sierra Leone, ½d. on 1½ lilac, C.C., pair* ...	10	0	0
Spain, 1853, 2r. red ...	5	5	0
Switzerland, *Basle*, 2½r. ...	4	18	0
Zurich, 4r. perf. lines ...	17	5	0
Turks Islands, 1s. prune...	22	0	0
Virgin Islands, 6d. rose, perf. 12, sheet of 25*...	26	0	0
Western Australia, 6d. grey-bronze	3	3	0
Ditto, 6d. green, roul. three sides*	3	17	0

2nd July, 1896.

Naples, ½t. arms, mended	10	10	0
Cape of Good Hope, wood-block 4d. blue... ...	3	7	6
Natal, first issue, 9d. blue	10	5	0
Barbados, ½d. on 4d. brown, double surcharge* ...	3	0	0
Dominica, 1s. mauve C.A.	3	5	0
St. Lucia, star, 4d. blue, pair	7	5	0
Ditto, star, 6d. green*...	3	12	6
Trinidad, 4d. grey, pin perf., pair	10	10	0
Ditto, 6d. green, pin perf.	6	5	0

VENTOM, BULL & COOPER

17th June, 1896.

Barbados, 1d. on half 5s., pair	25	0	0
Canada, 6d purple-black, perf.	9	15	0
Ditto, 7½d. green ...	6	0	0
Ditto, 10d. blue on thick	4	10	0
Ditto, 2c. rose on ribbed	9	15	0
Cape of Good Hope, wood-block, 4d	5	10	0
Naples, ½t. blue, cross ...	4	4	0
Natal, first issue, 9d. blue, on piece	24	0	0
Ditto, another ..	20	0	0
Nevis, 6d. green*	9	0	0
Oil Rivers, 5s. in violet on 2d.*...	3	12	6
Ditto, 10s. in red on 5d.*	7	5	0
St. Vincent, 1s. rose red, star*	4	12	6
Switzerland, *Basle*, 2½r. ...	3	19	0
Trinidad, 1d. blue, litho...	8	5	0
Ditto, 6d. dark green, perf. 11½ to 12* ...	4	10	0
United States, 1869, 24c., inverted centre ...	23	10	0
Victoria, 5s., blue on yellow, pair	9	0	0
Wurtemburg, 70k., violet	3	10	0

Notices.

Editorial Communications.—Articles of special interest will be paid for. M.S. dealing with particular points in an exhaustive manner will be most welcome. As we wish to arrange matter in advance, we shall be glad to hear from Specialists who are open to write up their special countries.

All communications on Editorial matters should be addressed to the Editor, Mr. EDWARD J. NANKIVELL, 28, Birdhurst Rise, Croydon. Letters enclosing valuables should be registered.

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THE

PHILATELIC RECORD

and Stamp News.

AUGUST, 1896.

Editorial Notes.

PHILATELY stands very badly in need of a philatelic M.P. to look after the serious interests of stamp collecting. The permanent officials of the Post Office, whose favourite occupation is the harrassing of the public in every possible direction, have latterly turned their attention to the worrying of stamp dealers. They seem to have conceived the idea of successfully throttling the industry in this country, and the possibility is that they will do it serious injury if some philatelic M.P. does not rise to the occasion and expose the absurdity of the proceedings. The seriousness of the position will be apparent to anyone when we state that there are hundreds, if not thousands, of stamp dealers in this country; that the leading firms have a working capital, each, from £10,000 up to £100,000; that in several instances there are large staffs of clerks; that dealers, travellers, and collectors visit this country regularly from the European capitals and from America to make purchases. Many of our stamp-dealing firms have purchasing agents in all the great capitals of the world; and so great is this purchasing trade on behalf of stamp collectors, that many small countries would be absolutely bankrupt but for their participation in the benefits of the stamp trade. Foreign buyers candidly admit that London is incomparably the best source of supply. Yet, forsooth, even this flourishing industry, in which we admittedly distance all competitors, is now to be harrassed and driven out of the country, because some petty official has taken it into his head that the harmless illustrations which have been an undisturbed feature of our stamp journals and catalogues for more than thirty years, may, by some scamp, be used for the manufacture of forgeries. Despite the fact that those illustrations have been used for over thirty years in the promotion of the stamp trade, and that during those thirty years not a single case can be cited of improper use of the illustrations, this silly fiction of the danger of their some day being improperly used is now being turned to account as an argument for driving this important and increasing trade out of the country.

Menacing our Stamp Trade.

If there were any foundation for the fear vamped up by Post Office officials, it would have found expression long ago in the stamp dealing trade itself, for there is nothing so injurious to that trade as the danger which arises from the production of forgeries; so that in its own interests the stamp trade is bound to discountenance anything and everything that may tend in the direction of forgeries made easy. Therefore, the charge of the Post Office officials that the

stamp trade produce illustrations which may be used as forgeries is altogether too far fetched an idea to warrant serious interference with a staple and established industry in which we, as a country, still hold the premier position.

The extent and importance of the trade in stamps is not exhausted when we enumerate the actual current business capital at stake. There is still to be taken into account the money invested by collectors, which, in the case of one English society alone, has been shown to exceed a quarter of a million sterling. If the petty officials of our Post Office are allowed to give free play to their peculiar whims and fancies this enormous investment, which at present is regarded by those concerned as being as safe as Consols, would be considerably imperilled.

Such fanciful danger as may exist can be rationally and effectually provided for by licensing the privilege to illustrate to responsible parties. In other countries freedom of illustration exists, and is never questioned. In Germany stamp journals may even illustrate the current stamps of their own country, whilst their law for dealing with forgeries is much more strict and effective than it is with us. The illustration of postage stamps is a vital necessity to the stamp trade. It supplies an absolutely necessary aid to collecting. Without it the trade in this country would languish and probably flit eventually to countries more tolerant to its essentials.

The Young Collector.

THE young or junior collector is coming to the front at last, with the danger that he may be pampered just a little too much. In the past few years the specialist has been so much in evidence that he has held undisputed sway over all catalogues and albums in the matter of arrangement. His attention to minor varieties has resulted in a mass of detail that has been the despair of junior and general collector alike. Now it is proposed to change all that, and some of the reformers in their enthusiasm would, apparently, after the manner of all too enthusiastic reformers, like to make a clean sweep of the specialist and all his works. But these hot bloods, who are mostly of the juvenile caste of speech and pen, will learn in their own good time that the specialist is the main stay of philately in its very best sense. We may herald the day of more active encouragement for the collection of the simple normal issues of each country, without at the same time playing the fool by scouting the continued devotion of specialists to the deeper study of all that appertains to the pursuit. The junior collector, like most other human beings, will gradually grow older, and with age and experience will come the irresistible craving to specialise.

Meanwhile, we may note the trend of the new movement for the encouragement of junior collecting. In New York a syndicate or company has been formed for the publication of a journal devoted to the interests of the junior stamp collector, and for the publication of catalogues and albums suited to his needs. So far, so good. The idea of the new combination is one in the right direction. Properly conducted it should result in giving an immense impetus to collecting. But it will need some care and thought. Stamp collecting should be an educational help in our best junior schools, and if it could be freed of its too frequent connection with unscrupulous approval-sheet harpies, it would, no doubt, be encouraged more often than it is.

Commemorative Issues.

WE publish this month two articles bearing on the question of the status of commemorative issues. Dr. Socolis contends that the Olympian stamps should not be regarded as speculative. He says they will be in use for six months, and that they were issued to commemorate an international event. But it cannot be denied that they were

initiated and issued for the purpose of getting the funds for the celebration of that international event, mainly out of stamp-collectors' pockets. Therefore, they were essentially a speculation in that direction. Their extended use is an after thought, and will not blind stamp collectors. Then Dr. Socolis points out that the Columbian set of U.S. stamps was a similar commemorative issue, and that it has nevertheless escaped condemnation by the S.S.S.S. Quite so; and for the very sufficient reason that the action of the S.S.S.S. has not been made retrospective. The Columbians have never come up for decision. If Greece had withdrawn its ordinary issues and put the Olympians entirely in their place, there could then have been no objection to the series as a commemorative one, even though the limitation was made to the year of commemoration, as in the case of the Columbians.

Mr. Basset Hull endeavours to cool what he terms the cheerful optimism that is abroad that the Postal Union Administrations may help in the campaign against speculative stamps, and he points out that there are certain difficulties in the way; that the regulations do not admit of such cavalier treatment of the adhesive postals, and that nothing can be done until the next Convention. Just so. We are all perfectly aware of that fact. Our hope is centred on the next Convention; and our cheerfulest optimism is based upon the solid fact that that Convention will be most influentially asked to set its ban upon commemorative issues.

The making of Catalogues.

THE time for the making of Catalogues is once more approaching, and we would once more urge our point in favour of some consideration being extended to the young collector in the arrangement of the lists. Our plan, or suggestion, is simple in the extreme; and it has the advantage that whilst it will serve the interests of the young collector, it will not abate one jot from the practice of including in the Catalogues all the leading varieties that are so dear to the heart of the Specialist. We suggest to the Catalogue-makers that they should give the normal issues of each country in ordinary type, but print the "Varieties" in a very much smaller type. This plan would draw a distinct, practical, and useful boundary line between the fields of Junior collecting and Specialising. It would remove the difficulty of the availability of the ordinary Catalogue for the purposes of Junior collecting. The one Catalogue would then be rendered serviceable for all classes of collectors.

Every year we are overloading the ordinary Catalogue with minor varieties, and making the task of collecting on the part of the junior collector more and more perplexing. There is no necessity for this state of things Each class of collectors can be equally well served in the one Catalogue by the simple distinction of type that we suggest. Of course we are aware that our plan will relegate some of the highest priced stamps to small print; but what of that? They will be none the less valuable to their devotees for that little idiosincracy.

Greece: Olympian Stamps.

By Dr. jur. C. S. Socolis, Athens.

THE S.S.S.S. has declared these stamps to be speculative, and in consequence most philatelists, principally in England, do not collect them. As a member of this Society I can only submit to their decision, but I hope a few words on this subject will not be out of place.

To speak the truth, the Olympian stamps are not speculative, at least I do not consider them as such. The expression "speculative" is very vague, considering that this word has never been properly defined. What is speculative? The Society says, a stamp that is not necessary. But who has to show that a stamp is not necessary? The Society? Then a state has to depend on the Society. By a state? Then without any doubt an issue is necessary, because the state that issues it wants it, and in consequence believes it to be necessary. This is the way in which the S.S.S.S. proceeds; nothing definitive is put forward. The expression "speculative" should be explained and defined very clearly.

The set of Olympian stamps will be in use during six months, and was issued to commemorate an international event. For the same reason the Columbian set was issued by the United States. Why was not this set declared speculative? In accordance with the tenets of this Society this set was not necessary, but yet it was not declared speculative. Why? Is it because it was issued during a whole year? In that case it would be the length of circulation of a set of stamps, that would make them either speculative or not, and then this time should be fixed. The Olympian stamps appeared exactly under the same conditions as the Columbians of the United States, with the exception of the time, which was twelve months in the latter case, whereas it was only six months for the Olympian stamps.

Besides, none of the other stamps which have been declared speculative by the Society resemble in any way the Greek issue. As a rule a limited quantity is printed and sold at the post offices during one, two, or three days, then the sale stops, but the circulation continues. On the other hand, in Greece a large quantity of stamps have been printed, and are sold at all post offices until October. As the value of 60 lepta, and later on those of 40 lepta and 1 drachma were sold out, a new quantity of these three were ordered to be printed. These are sold now, and the speculators cannot do anything. It was believed a difference would be found in the second printing of the 40 and 60 lepta and the 1 drachma stamps was counted upon, but the Hotel de la Monnaie, in Paris, where these stamps were printed, took good care that nothing of the sort happened, and the stamps of the second printing have the identical colours of those of the first printing.

I cannot see therefore the reason why the S.S.S.S. consider the Olympian stamps speculative. The only danger may have been occasioned by a paragraph which appeared in the last number of the *Revue Philatélique*, where it was stated that the Greek government would sell the remainders of this issue at reduced prices as soon as the time stated had elapsed. But there need not be any fear of that. It is well known there is still a large stock of old stamps in the Greek treasury, but none have ever been sold at any price or to anyone. These will be burned some time or other in accordance with a fixed rule. So that if any stamps of the Olympian set did remain, which I do not believe, having regard

to the immense sale these stamps have had and still have, they will be burned or remain in stock like the others. Besides, it is the first time that Greece has issued a commemorative set of stamps. Occasions have not been wanting for such issues, for instance the inauguration of the canal through the Isthmus of Corinth, &c. &c., but Greece would only issue such stamps for an event that was entirely out of the common, and international like the Olympian games.

Early Issues of Western Australia.

By Lipman E. Hush.

(*Concluded from page* 181).

By a notice inserted in the *Gazette* in January 31st, 1884, a reduced rate of postage came into force, viz.—that of one half-penny for newspapers addressed to the other Australian Colonies or New Zealand This rate was chargeable on and after February 1st, and this must be taken as the earliest date of issue.

Provisional Issue.

The 1d. of the Eighth Issue was surcharged ½d. in red, giving—

(*a*) perf. 12, ½d. on 1d. yellow.
(*b*) perf. 14, ½d. on 1d. yellow.

There are many minute differences of the surcharge, the bars being of varying degrees of thickness and the tail of the 2 has all manner of shapes.

The surcharge is done with a dull ink. I have met with forgeries of this surcharge in which the overprint was done with a bright glossy ink.

In May, 1885, the supply of half-penny stamps from England came to hand.

Design: Swan swimming to left in oval; ornaments at sides enclosed in parallel columns; arabesques filling corners between oval and sides.

Inscription: Top, Western Australia; bottom, Postage One Half-Penny.

Watermark Crown and C A., perf. 14. Half-penny green (shades).

No doubt the extra call upon the Penny stamps made a provisional issue necessary, and this time the Threepence stamp of 1872 was surcharged 1d. in green.

Wmk. Crown and C.C., perf. 14.

1d. on Threepence green on red-brown, brown variety.
1d. on Threepence green on red-brown, brown.

This is a distinct variety occurring on the whole of the bottom row of the sheet.

There are many minor varieties in the sheet, chiefly differing in the serifs of the 1.

Ninth Issue.

In 1889 the colours of some of the values underwent a change, giving us—

Wmk. Crown and C.A., perf. 14.

1d. pale carmine, rose.
2d. gray, blue-gray, slate
4d. red-brown, pale brown.

The Twopence is a scarce stamp unused, and the Fourpence is scarce used or unused.

Tenth Issue.

In 1890 there were issued four stamps of a new type, followed in 1892 by two others, and by one in 1893.

These comprise the present issue of Western Australian stamps. Two new values are introduced 2½d. and 5d.

In the One Penny stamp the swan is on an octangular ground. The inscription at top is Western Australia; bottom, Postage One Penny.

In the Twopence Stamp the Swan is in arc oval, the inscription is in a band surrounding the central design, and is above, Western Australia; below, Postage Twopence.

The design of the other values is Swan swimming to left in oval.

Inscription in band, above, Western Australia; below, value.

There is no indication of the nature of the label in the higher values.

The list is as follows, the dates are the dates of issue:—

Wmk. Crown and C.A., perf. 14.

1d. carmine, 1890.
2d. pearl-grey (shades), 1890.
2½d. blue, 1892.
4d. brown, red-brown, 1890.
5d. olive-yellow, bistre, 1892.
6d. mauve-violet, 1893.
1s. olive-green, 1890.

Another dearth of one-penny stamps occurred in 1893; and again, the threepence of 1872 was pressed into service, being surcharged ONE-PENNY in green in small capitals.

Provisional Issue.

Wmk. Crown and C.C., perf. 14.

ONE PENNY in Green on Threepence brown, red-brown.

Either having used up his stock of 3d. stamps on C.C. paper, or for the benefit of Philatelists, the Postmaster-General found it necessary to print the above surcharge on the 3d. on C.A. paper, adding to our list.

Wmk. Crown and C.A., perf. 14.

ONE PENNY in green on Threepence brown.

At the end of last year (1895) it was found that the stamps of the value of one half-penny were running very low, and "further supplies were cabled for to England." The authorities desired it not to be known, and thus it was probably that it was published as news in this country. The Threepence of 1872 was again, and, I think, finally pressed into service being surcharged half-penny in red. The overprint not being sufficiently distinct they were overprinted a second time in green, only 90 stamps were so treated, the remaining provisionals (11,910) had to be satisfied with a single overprint.

Wmk. Crown and C.C., perf. 14.

Half-penny in red and green on Threepence.
Half-penny in green on Threepence.

The demand for provisionals had not died out when the fresh batch of ordinary stamps arrived, and the Postmaster, for reasons best known to himself, had further provisionals surcharged. (Un)fortunately these are on Crown and C.A. paper; but, perhaps, this will not be noticed by the Postal Union officials, for whom they are said to have been printed.

Since the above provisional there has been issued:—

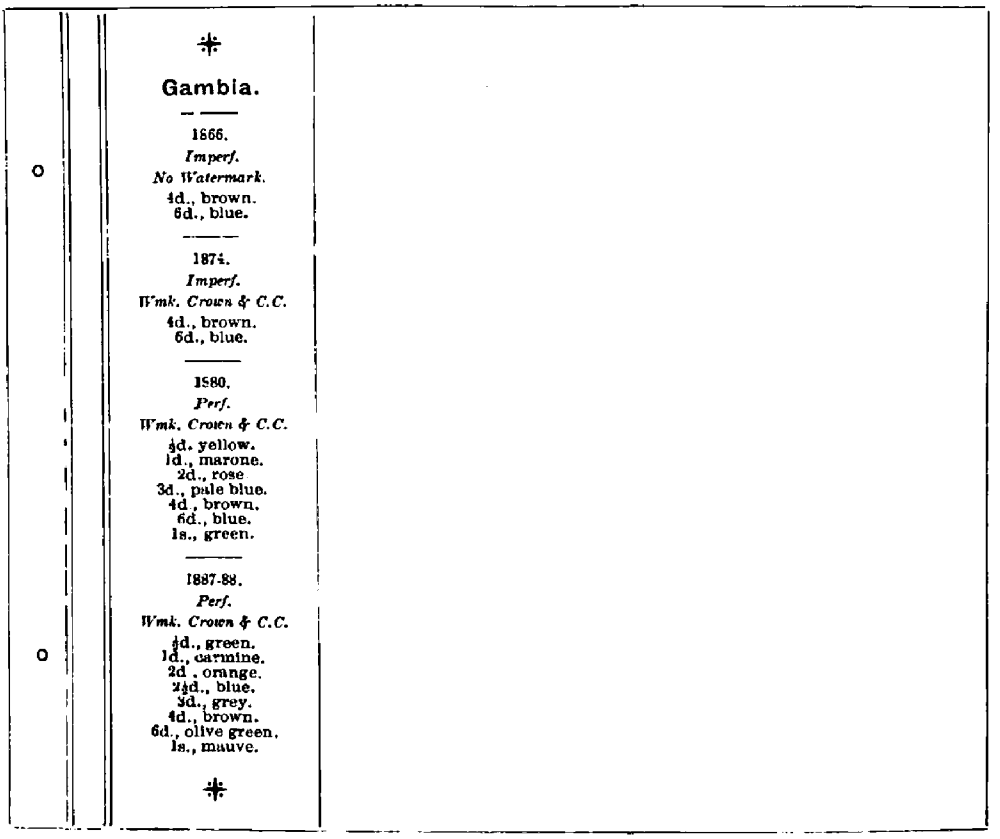
Wmk. Crown and C.A., perf. 14.

Threepence, dark brown.

A Permanent Printed Album.

By Edward J. Nankivell.

THE great need of the general collector is a Permanent Printed Album. The specialist prefers blank leaves which he can arrange as he pleases. But the ordinary collector is, generally speaking, a collector pure and simple, and not a deep student. Therefore, he likes his pages arranged in such a manner that he has nothing to do but get the stamps and hinge them in their places. The ordinary printed album soon goes out of date and requires supplementary volumes, which are open to the objection that they split up the collection. Various attempts have been made to provide the much needed permanent



Gambia.

1866.
Imperf.
No Watermark.
4d., brown.
6d., blue.

1874.
Imperf.
Wmk. Crown & C.C.
4d., brown.
6d., blue.

1880.
Perf.
Wmk. Crown & C.C.
½d. yellow.
1d., marone.
2d., rose
3d., pale blue.
4d., brown.
6d., blue.
1s., green.

1887-88.
Perf.
Wmk. Crown & C.C.
½d., green.
1d., carmine.
2d., orange.
2½d., blue.
3d., grey.
4d., brown.
6d., olive green.
1s., mauve.

printed album. Extra blank leaves have been tried, but somehow the countries for which blank leaves have been provided have done nothing towards helping the unfortunate collector to fill them, while countries which seemed to need no extra leaves have suddenly displayed an abnormal activity in issuing stamps for which no provision had been made.

The difficulty in the way of providing a permanent printed album can, however, be easily overcome. The practice of printing the catalogue of issues on one page and numbered spaces on the opposite page must be abandoned, and the pages must be arranged as shown in our diagram. These pages are intended to be printed as loose sheets after the manner of an ordinary album with movable leaves. Under such an arrangement a publisher

would sell the leaves at so much each, and a collector could make up his album of all countries, or only of such countries as he cared to select. It would avoid the necessity of collecting everything or leaving ugly blank pages. It would enable a collector to add new issues to any extent. He might be provided with extra blank leaves and write in the new issues himself, or buy them in neat printed slips from the publisher for pasting on the blank leaf. Or he might, when a country had bulked up enough for an added printed leaf, get the leaf from his publisher, remount his stamps on the new leaf, and insert it in its proper place.

Some such arrangement as this is a growing necessity, and, if adopted, it will surely settle many album difficulties. I throw out the suggestion as one who has given considerable attention and study to the album question, and as one who believes that the general collector sorely needs the freedom of choice which this plan would give him.

Postage Stamps of Iceland.

[*From the "Philatelic World."*]

ICELAND has probably not taken the fancy of collectors very much by reason of its very simplicity. It has not sinned enough to be interesting, nor multiplied varieties with the rapidity of many equally small states which require the formation of a special society for their correction.

The philatelic history of Iceland ought to be looked upon by such a society as a happy one, but by many collectors it will be pronounced as domestically tame. Still even in a well ordered household there are always to be found certain ups and downs which disturb the peace, and the study of Iceland's philatelic household will shew sufficient variety to make it interesting.

It was not until 1873 that this dependency of Denmark, with its population of 70,000, began to issue postage stamps, and that issue might have continued to this day but for the fact that three years later the currency of the country was changed from *skilling* to *aur*.

Moens gives the date of the first issue as 1st January, 1873, and it included the 2sk. blue, 4sk. carmine, 8sk. brown, and 16sk. yellow. The 3sk. grey was not issued until the March following. The watermark in all Iceland stamps is the Danish crown.

From careful measurement of a considerable number of stamps, I find that the 2sk. measures 13½ vertically and 14 horizontally. This agrees with Senf, in his catalogue, who heads the list with the figures 14 × 13½, but makes no mention of a 12½ perforation.

The 3sk. I have only found perf. 12½, but Major Evans gives it perf. 13½ as well.

The 4sk. exists in both perforations, but the 12½ is very much the scarcer of the two.

The 8sk. I have only found 13½ × 14.

The 16sk. is found in both, but the small perforation is much rarer than the other.

Of the two official stamps the 4sk. green is perforated in both gauges, but of the smaller perforation I have seen only one specimen.

The 8sk. lilac I find perforated only 13½ × 14.

These skilling stamps shew hardly any varieties of shade ; the 8sk. official being the only one, with dark and pale shades of lilac.

All these stamps are much scarcer used than unused. The population of the country is small, and the communication with other countries intermittent. The sudden change to the New Currency in 1876, doubtless left a considerable remainder of the old issue, unused, in hand.

The new stamps were issued in July, 1876, and consisted of the 5 aur. blue, 6 aur. grey, 10 aur. carmine, 16 aur. brown, 20 aur. mauve, 40 aur. green. These were all perforated $13\frac{1}{2} \times 14$, with the addition that the 5 aur. blue was also issued, perf. $12\frac{1}{2}$. These latter seem to be not quite so numerous as those with normal perforation.

In July, 1882, the 3 aur. yellow was added and the colours of the 5, 20 and 40 aur. changed to green, blue and lilac respectively.

The 50 aur. carmine and blue, and the 100 aur. lilac and brown, were issued in 1892.

Of the official stamps in the new currency, the 10 aur. blue, 16 aur. carmine, 20 aur. green were issued in July, 1876 ; the 5 aur. brown was added in March, 1878, and the 3 aur. yellow in July, 1882. There appear to be no varieties of perforation.

All the stamps of these later issues shew greater varieties of shade than the skilling series. This is probably due to the longer period of their existence, but partly also to a change in the composition of the ink, which appears latterly to be of a fugitive (? aniline) nature.

The 6 aur. is found with a very clear impression in light grey, but sometimes it appears quite dark, and the impression is smudged. It has been suggested to me that this may be due either to too much ink, or to the paper being damp at the time of printing. Anyhow, the contrast is striking.

The 10 aur. shews very clearly the two kinds of ink mentioned above ; so also does the 20 blue, and the difference is much more marked under artificial light.

The 16 aur. shews hardly any variety of shade ; while on the other hand the 20 aur. mauve has two very distinct shades, one being light and more or less faded looking, the other is dark, almost violet, with a clear impression. These latter I guess to have been issued last, as I have seen more of them unused.

The 40 aur. green varies but little, while the 40 mauve has been issued in (? first) an ordinary mauve, and then in quite a reddish-mauve. The second 5 aur. is found in dark and light green, and also with revised watermark.

Of the official stamps, the 10 aur. blue is the only one I possess with much contrast of colour, some are light and some deep ultramarine. In this case too the character of the ink seems to have been changed.

Of the postmarks on the Iceland stamps the majority are naturally those of Reykjavik, the capital. The older postmarks are in Roman capitals, the latter ones in thin block capitals.

In many cases the stamps have been cancelled at Edinburgh and Leith, where the Iceland mail steamers call, and whence there is a regular service in summer, and not unfrequently a Danish postmark, say of Copenhagen, may be observed—" Ship's letter " too is not uncommon.

All the stamps of the skilling issue except the 3sk. grey exist in an imperforate state, the 4sk. being the scarcest. They all have the watermark, but it is uncertain whether they are merely " specimen " copies, or proofs, or if they were accidentally issued in this way—I have never seen one used.

Of the later issue I possess the 5 blue, 6 grey, 16 brown, 20 light mauve and 40 green imperforate, and of the official stamps the 10, 16 and 20 aur. but there may be others.

Postal Union and Commemoratives.

By A. F. Basset Hull.

SEVERAL philatelic journals have recently published paragraphs regarding the attitude of certain Postal Union Administrations towards commemorative issues, and with cheerful optimism the writers look to the Union as a very probable ally in the campaign against speculative stamps.

At present, however, there are certain difficulties in the way of those countries which desire to treat commemorative issues with a limited period of validity as *ab initio* invalid. The detailed Regulations of the Principal (Vienna) Convention do not admit of such cavalier treatment of the adhesive postals of any Union administration; and until the next Convention meets nothing definite or legal can be done to check the flow of such labels, so long as they are duly recognised by the country of issue, and notified to the other countries in the Union.

With regard to post cards the case is different. Here the detailed regulations are, more or less, definite on at least one point, and that is the inadmissibility on the face of the card of anything not strictly relative to its proper scope. Regulation XVI. provides that "(1) Post cards must be sent unenclosed. The face is reserved for the postage stamps, for *indications relating to the postal service* (registered, acknowledgment of delivery, etc.) and for the address, which may be written in manuscript or be shewn upon a gummed label not exceeding 10 centimetres by 5. Moreover, the sender has the option of indicating his name and address on the face or on the back, either in writing or by means of a stamp, autograph stamp, or any other typographical process. Engravings or advertisements may be printed on the back. *Except stamps for prepayment, and the labels mentioned in paragraphs 1 and 6 of the present regulation, it is forbidden to join or attach any article whatsoever.*

"(2) Post cards may not exceed the following dimensions: length, 14 centimetres; width, 9 centimetres. . . .

"(4) The postage stamp representing prepayment appears in one of the top corners of the *face*, as should also any supplementary stamp which may be added.

"(6) The sender of a post card with reply paid may indicate his name and address on the face of the reply half either in writing or by affixing a label to it.

"(9) Post cards not fulfilling so far as regards dimensions, external form, &c., the conditions laid down by the present regulation for this class of correspondence are treated as letters."

The commemorative card issued by Italy in 1895 was distinctly in contravention of sub-section (4) of Regulation XVI. in that the stamp was placed on what to all intents and purposes was the *back* of the card. The elaborate design on the face might be considered as contravening that portion of sub-section 1 which reserves the face of the card for indications relating to the postal service.

It does not appear satisfactorily clear, however, that the regulation was intended to forbid the printing by the issuing office of any design or ornamentation in addition to the mere stamp and directions. The words "join or attach" seem to relate to the addition of anything previously disconnected from the card, such as an extra piece of card or paper, money order advice, stamps not intended for prepayment, &c., and not to anything

printed upon the face. Certainly the permission accorded to the sender to stamp or write his name and address on the face might be taken as the limit of extraneous addition, and this is apparently the view taken by those administrations which have refused to accept the Boris commemorative cards of Bulgaria as strictly complying with Regulation XVI. The vignette or portrait of that youthful convert cannot by any stretch of the terms of the regulation be brought within the limits of an "indication relating to the postal service," hence the cards were by some countries treated as insufficiently prepaid letters, and taxed accordingly.

It is perhaps difficult to draw a hard and fast line between the "indications" strictly permissible and those which render the card liable to treatment as a letter. Can an ornamental border be considered either as an "indication" or as part of the stamp for pre-payment? Further, how far does the addition of the delicate tracery of volcano, palm tree, and steamer on the cards of Nicaragua and Salvador contravene the regulation? The waratah on the New South Wales card was equally as inadmissible as the vignette of Boris, and yet no exception was ever taken to that floral emblem. Certainly it has been recently removed, but not on account of international objections.

It may be necessary to await the next convention before anything definite can be decided with regard to the post card question even, but it seems that the threatened treatment of the Greek adhesives issued in commemoration of the Olympic games is indefensible from a strictly Postal Union point of view.

U.S. Reprints and Re-issues.

By John N. Luff.

[*From the "American Journal of Philately."*]

THESE are the days of specialism. Of this there can be no doubt. Even general collectors usually give attention to minor varieties in the stamps of one or more countries. In this part of the world this attention is naturally directed towards the stamps of the United States. A very general interest has been manifested in the secret marks, papers, and printings of the 1872-82 issues and in other varieties which have recently been discovered. All classes of collectors, from beginners to the most advanced, are seeking these varieties and finding the supply not equal to the demand. Nor is the interest confined to this country alone, for in Europe and all over the world the demand for the stamps of the United States is large.

With this interest in the recently discovered varieties has come an increased interest in many other things which are closely related to the regular issues of our stamps. Collectors are adding proofs and essays to their collections, and in time I expect to see this develop into a very interesting branch of our pursuit. "Specimen" stamps also receive attention from those who are most thorough. But most of all has interest developed in the sets of reprints and re-issues prepared by our Government about the time of the Centennial Exposition.

I have frequently been asked why the 56th edition of the Standard Catalogue does not list the reprints of the 1847 and 1857 issues, while it does those of later issues. It is because the former are reprints and the latter re-issues, and the 56th catalogue does not list any reprints. Allow me a few words of definition, for I find many collectors do not clearly draw the line between "re-issue" and "reprint." Reprints are printings of stamps which are not available for postage, either because the original stamps have been declared obsolete or because the reprints themselves are not allowed to do postal duty. Re-issues are printings of stamps which are available for postage,

though the originals may have been replaced by a later issue. In 1861 the stamps of the 1847, 1851, and 1857 issues were declared obsolete and of no further postal value, in order to prevent any use of the large quantity in the hands of postmasters in the disloyal states; hence any subsequent printings of these stamps are reprints. But the stamps of 1861 and all later issues are yet available for postage, and this applies to all printings of them, made at whatever date. Therefore the 1875 printings are to be called re-issues.

I trust a brief description of the 1875 printings and comparison with the originals will prove not uninteresting.

Reprints of the 1847 issue. It has been the custom for many years to call these two stamps government counterfeits. I consider this a misnomer. It is a well known fact that the plates of this issue did not belong to the government, but remained in the hands of the contractors, Messrs. Rawdon, Wright, Hatch, and Edson. But the dies were government property. At the time it was decided to reprint, these dies were brought out and found to be somewhat the worse for wear and rust. They were, therefore, recut to a small extent and from them new plates were made. Thus the stamps are impressions from new plates made from retouched dies. They are reprints, and in no sense counterfeits. We might as well claim that an impression from a new plate of the current issue is a new issue. I think a little careful study of the stamps will satisfy anyone that my statements are correct, and that the slight differences between the originals and reprints are merely the result of recutting. We might certainly expect more pronounced differences had the dies been engraved anew.

The originals of these stamps are usually on a thin crisp bluish wove paper, much like the ordinary note paper in use at that date. They also exist on thin yellowish white wove paper. The reprints are on a thicker coarse bluish wove paper of deeper colour than that of the originals. They are also found on bluish hand-made paper, and the five cents on horizontally laid paper. The colours of the originals and reprints differ decidedly. They are—

	ORIGINALS.	REPRINTS.
5 cents:	orange brown, red brown	yellow brown, red brown
	brown, black brown	bistre brown
10 cents:	deep black, gray black	slate black

Owing to recutting the reprints vary somewhat from the originals. The point most readily noticed in the reprints is the indistinctness of the letters "R. W. H. & E." at the bottom of each stamp. In the originals these letters are very clear. In the original five cents. the left side of the white shirt frill touches the frame of the oval opposite the top of the "F" of "Five" while in the reprint it touches the oval near the top of the figure "5." In the reprint of the ten cents. there is a sleepy look about the eyes, the line of the mouth is straighter, and a strongly defined curl in the hair near the right temple has been smoothed out.

Reprints of the 1857 issue are readily distinguished by the perforation, which gauges 12, instead of 15 as in the originals. The paper is also very white, and there is a generally new look about the stamps. The colours are—

	ORIGINALS.	REPRINTS.
1 cent:	blue, dull blue, dark blue	sky blue
3 cents:	rose, brown red, Indian red	scarlet
5 cents:	brown, red brown, brick red	orange brown
10 cents:	yellow green	blue green
12 cents:	full black	greenish black
24 cents:	gray lilac	dull violet
30 cents:	red orange	yellow orange
90 cents:	marine blue	dark marine blue

There seems to have been no attempt to imitate the colours closely, especially the scarcer shades of the 5 cents. On the original plates of several of the values the stamps were set so closely together that they would have been seriously damaged if perforated by a machine of the coarse gauge in use since 1861. To obviate this difficulty new plates were made for the 1, 3, 10, and 12 cents values. On these plates the designs are set further apart, to the improvement of the appearance of the stamps. The 1 cent has the full ornaments, so rarely seen on the originals. The 3 cents has the outer lines at top and bottom. None of these new plates have any imprint or number, and they have only one hundred stamps each, while the originals have two hundred each. The reprints of the 5 cents are made from

the plate on which projecting ornaments at top and bottom of the stamps are cut away, and present the two varieties of ornaments partly and entirely removed.

The re-issue of the 1861 set can only be distinguished from the original printings by the whiteness of the paper, brightness and freshness of the colours and sometimes the crackly white gum. The originals had a brownish gum. The re-issues were sometimes sold without gum.

The colours are—

	ORIGINALS.	REPRINTS.
1 cent:	pale blue, deep blue, chalky blue	pale ultramarine
2 cents:	gray black	deep black
3 cents:	pink, rose, brown rose, scarlet	Indian red
5 cents:	yellow, brown, red brown, black brown	pale brown
10 cents:	yellow green, dark green	blue green
12 cents:	gray black	hard deep black
15 cents:	soft full black	hard deep black
24 cents:	red lilac, lilac, gray lilac	dark violet
30 cents:	pale orange, orange	brown orange
90 cents:	pale blue, deep blue	marine blue

No attempt was made to reproduce the pink and scarlet 3 cents or the yellow and red brown 5 cents.

The re-impressions of the 1869 issue have the bright colours, white paper, and crackly white gum, characteristic of the 1875 printings. They also differ from the originals in the absence of the grill. The very rare ungrilled originals may be distinguished from the re-issue by their smooth brown gum, and by slight differences in the colours. Of the 15 cents only the variety without the frame and the diamond above the central picture was re-issued. For this a new plate was used, at least I have not so far found any originals printed from this plate. In the originals there can be seen behind the picture a ruling of faint brown lines, making a band about 1mm. wide. In the re-issue these lines are omitted, except one which crosses, on a level with the top of the picture, the space formerly occupied by the diamond. The colours vary but little.

	ORIGINALS.	REPRINTS.
1 cent:	brown orange	dark brown orange
2 cents:	pale brown, dark brown	brown
3 cents:	ultramarine	ultramarine
6 cents:	ultramarine	ultramarine
10 cents:	bright orange	pale orange
12 cents:	dark yellow green	dark blue green
15 cents:	pale brown and pale blue	dark brown and dark blue
24 cents:	yellow green, green and violet	blue green and violet
30 cents:	carmine and pale ultramarine	carmine and dark ultramarine
90 cents:	gray black and carmine	deep black and deep carmine

I have never been able to understand the necessity or reason for a special printing of the 1873 issue, since, save the few values which were obsolete, the stamps of that issue were in use at the time. The only explanation which I can suggest is the desire to keep the manufacture and sale of these special sets of stamps entirely separate from the regular business and accounts of the Post Office Department. On the other hand, the regular stock of department stamps seems to have been drawn upon to supply the "specimen" sets sold at the same time as the reprints and re-issues. It may be, however, that the "specimens" first sold were specially printed for the purpose—from some peculiarities of paper and perforation I am inclined to this opinion—and that the "specimens" with gum and apparently from regular stock may have been issued in later years and under a changed system of accounts. Whatever the reason, it is certain that a special printing of the then current issue was made. This included the 2 cents vermilion and the 5 cents blue (Taylor) of 1875. It is extremely difficult to distinguish the stamps of this printing from those of the regular issue. The colours are almost identical. Only those who have given long and careful study to sets of the stamps known to belong to this printing and who have a keen eye for colour values can tell the majority of them from the regular issue. They have the freshness which is characteristic of the companion sets and the appearance of careful workmanship, though many of them are from worn plates. They are on the peculiarly white, hard, crisp paper used for

the reprints and re-issues. Occasionally one has the crackly white gum, but most of them have none. A notable feature of this set is that the perforations are seldom perfect. The stamps were not separated in the usual way by tearing them apart, but were cut apart with scissors and very carelessly. As a result the perforations are usually much mutilated and frequently the design. Many of the "specimen" department stamps show the same ill-treatment, and this is one of the points indicative of a special printing of those stamps. The colours, as nearly as they can be described, are—

	ORIGINALS.	REPRINTS.
1 cent.	pale ultramarine, chalky blue	deep ultramarine
2 cents:	yellow brown, brown, black brown	dark brown
3 cents:	dark green, blue green	deep blue green
6 cents:	carmine, dull rose	brownish rose
7 cents:	vermilion, orange vermilion	carmine vermilion
10 cents:	brown, yellow brown	dark brown
12 cents:	violet, black violet	dark gray violet
15 cents:	dull orange	bright orange
24 cents:	purple	dull violet
30 cents:	jet black, dull gray black	clear gray black
90 cents:	deep carmine, rose carmine	dull carmine
2 cents:	vermilion, orange vermilion	carmine vermilion
5 cents:	full blue, dark ultramarine	clear pale blue

Of this set the 7, 12, and 24 cents were obsolete, and are properly called re-issues. The 2 cents brown may well be placed under the same head, since, though it did not become obsolete until July 1st, 1875, some three months after the first official notice of the sale of reprints, the sale continued about ten years, and there is no possibility of separating the stamps sold before July 1st, 1875, from those sold after that date, nor any reason for doing so, if it were possible. The balance of the set are neither reprints nor re-issues, and I can find no more distinctive term for them than "special printing."

I now wish to call your attention to a similar set of stamps which I think has never been chronicled, and which is known to only a very few collectors. It is a set of the 1873-75 stamps, printed on the soft porous paper used by the American Bank Note Co. This paper was not used for our stamps before 1879, and the presence in the set of the 2 cents brown, 7, 12, and 24 cents shows them to be re-issues. Variations in colour mark the rest of the set as a special printing, similar to that made by the Continental Bank Note Co. in 1875. I have here a letter, or rather a printed form, from the Post Office Department, dated Feb. 1st, 1881, which was sent to a purchaser with certain sets of reprints and "specimens." The 1870 set (it is thus officially termed) which accompanied this letter was the exact duplicate of that I now show you. The 2 cents is a black brown, the 12 and 24 cents are slightly darker than in the re-issue by the Continental Bank Note Co. and the thirty cents is a greenish black. The colours of the other values are rather richer than those of the originals, but the differences are too slight to admit of successful description. This printing was probably made in 1880. I believe these sets to be of the most extreme rarity. I have seen only three of them complete, though I have examined carefully many large collections.

It is very difficult to distinguish between originals and reprints of the Franklin Carrier stamp, especially as some of the latter are said to have been printed on remainders of the original paper. The colour of the originals is either a bright true blue or a dull dark blue. That of the reprints is a dark marine blue, varying slightly in tint. The impression of the originals is clear and fine, while the reprints are too heavily inked and somewhat blurred. The reprints are also found on a thicker paper of a duller and paler colour. These are usually called the second reprint (I do not know on what authority) and it is possible that they also are the work of the American Bank Note Co.

The reprints of the Eagle Carrier stamp were at first perforated, which readily distinguishes them from the originals. They were afterwards issued imperforate and can then be known by the absence of gum, white paper and rich dark blue colour. The originals have brown gum and are either a dull greenish blue or an indigo blue. These stamps are also found on the soft porous paper of the American Bank Note Company in colour identical with that used for the 1875 reprints.

There seems to be at present a diversity of opinion on the question of reprints of the Newspaper and Periodical stamps of 1865. We have been accustomed to consider

certain of the darker shades of these stamps as reprints. But evidence has lately been supplied from official sources tending to prove that reprints of these stamps were never sold.

We have also the testimony of a prominent dealer that, at the date the reprints were made, there was on hand a large stock of originals of the two higher values. Nevertheless, if it was thought necessary to make a special printing of the current set of adhesives, I fail to see why reprints of the Newspaper stamps were not equally desirable.

I wish at this point to call your attention to a set of these stamps which are usually considered as proofs. This set consists of the three values, 5, 10, and 25 cents, all without the coloured border and all imperforate. They are on a paper similar to, if not identical with, that used for other reprints. I have heard that these exist in sheets of ten (not twenty, as were the originals) and that they have neither imprint nor plate number, a peculiarity of other plates prepared for making reprints to which I have already called attention. I am strongly inclined to think these were intended to form part of the 1875 re-issue, but, for reasons not known and probably not to be learned at this late day, they were never used for the purpose. There is room for further investigation here, but we will have to leave the subject until further information is at command. But, whatever the Continental Bank Note Company may or may not have done, the American Bank Note Company do not leave us in doubt as to their work. Here are two 5 cent stamps of this series on the characteristic porous paper, used only by the latter Company, and proving them to be reprints beyond question. I have never seen the other two values on this paper and doubt their existence. Presumably the supply of remainders of those values was more than sufficient for any demands.

There seems to be no information of value concerning the stamps supplied to collectors to represent the 1875 issue of Newspaper and Periodical stamps. According to the official circular they were to be sold ungummed and, since specimens fully gummed might be bought at the Post Offices for the same price, it is not probable that many were ordered from Washington. I have seen the values from 2 to 60 cents which, together with some reprints, were bought at the time. Those shown herewith are in every way identical and I presume may be safely credited to the same source. The paper is, as usual, very white, crisp, and hard, and the workmanship excellent. The values from 2 to 10 cents inclusive are printed in clear gray black and from 12 to 96 cents inclusive in soft pale rose. About the higher values I know nothing. I doubt if any of this series were anything else than regular stock without gum.

Last of all we come to the stamps for Postage Due. As they were not issued until 1879, we need not look for any among the reprints and re-issues supplied by the Continental Bank Note Company. I recently purchased a set of these stamps from a collection which contained an almost complete series of reprints and "specimens." They are of a peculiar deep brown shade which I have not seen elsewhere and are perfectly matched. Collectors know that it is almost impossible to make sets of these stamps which are absolutely alike in tint. For these two reasons I think it is quite probable that this set represents another special printing for the benefit of philatelists.

I trust I have proved to your satisfaction that reprints and re-issues were made by the American Bank Note Company, and special printings by both the Continental and American Companies. I also hope that specialists will think these stamps worthy of their attention. They will certainly find that many of them are far from easy to secure.

Reviews.

U.S. Plate Number Catalogue.

J. M. Bartels & Co.'s First Complete Price Catalogue and Reference List of the Plate Numbers of United States Adhesive Postage Stamps issued from 1847 *to* 1896. *Published by J. M. Bartels & Co.,* 439, *9th Street, N.W. Washington, D.C., U.S.A.* 50 *cents.*

THE collection of plate numbers is one of the latest forms of Specialism in the United States, and we should imagine that it is also one of the most interesting and engrossing. Mr. Bartels' Catalogue and Reference List must, therefore, be a very welcome addition to the very extensive literature that has already grown up so rapidly around this new phase of collecting. The prices of plate numbers of the first six issues are ominously conspicuous by their absence. But commencing with the seventh issue every plate number is priced, with the exception of the postage due and periodical stamps; which presumably are not saleable, at least not thus publicly.

MR. BARTELS, in his preface, tells us that many of the plate numbers of the second, third, and fourth issues are practically unattainable. But by way of encouragement we are informed that those issued since 1879 are all attainable. Most of the Bureau sheets show the plates on top, bottom, right and left sides. Some people, he tells us, collect all positions, but as all plate imprints are identically the same, Mr. Bartels, writing in an economical vein, suggests that one plate number and imprint of each ought to be sufficient.

The Daily Stamp Item.

Volume I. January 1*st to March* 31*st,* 1896. *C. H. Mekeel Stamp and Publishing Company, St. Louis, Mo., U.S.*

TWELVE months ago the idea of a daily paper exclusively devoted to stamp collecting and dealing would have been scouted as a mad project, and yet here we have not merely the first number, but the first volume of a brisk little daily stamp paper. From cover to cover it is packed with items of interest to collectors or dealers. We have only one fault to find with it, and that is the absence of an Index. Such a mass of interesting and valuable matter should have been rendered available for ready reference by the provision of an index and continuous paging. This first vol. covers a period of three months, so that a second vol. must be ready. We have not yet seen the second vol., but we hope this serious want of an Index will have been met.

An Up-to-date Album.

Postage Stamp Album by Richard Senf. Supplement No. VII. Containing all issues (Stamps, Envelopes, Wrappers) from September, 1893, *to August,* 1895.

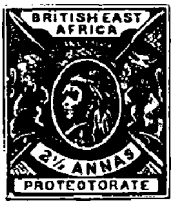
THIS is a very useful and excellently printed and arranged supplement to the Senf. Album. The arrangement is the same as the main work, and seems to be fairly complete and up to date. The illustrations are very clear, and are arranged in a very helpful manner for those who like them printed where they must be covered by the actual stamp when obtained.

Novelties and Discoveries.

The earliest information as to New Issues will be much appreciated by us, and will be duly credited to the correspondent, or firm, sending it. Our foreign correspondents can materially help us in this direction. When possible, a specimen should accompany the information, and be addressed to the Editor, Mr. EDWARD J. NANKIVELL, 28, *Birdhurst Rise, Croydon.*

Argentine.—Mr. Abel Fontaine, of Buenos Ayres, sends us samples of the new issue of the current series on thinner paper. It will be remembered that the current series is on stout paper. This new series is on what we should term medium paper. The new series is also distinguished by a more clearly defined watermark. Colours and values as before. Perf. 11½.

British East Africa.—We illustrate the new issue of new design chronicled by us in June (page 162).



British South Africa.—The *Monthly Journal* gives the following as the quantities printed of recently issued provisionals:—

Adhesives.

1d. on 3d., green and grey	1,200	*surcharged.*
1d. on 4s., red	1,200	,,
3d. on 5s.,	3,000	,,
½d., black (Cape of G. H.)	24,000	,,
1d., rose (,,)	36,000	,,
2d., brown (,,)	18,000	,,
3d., claret (,,)	2,640	,,
4d., blue (,,)	9,000	,,
6d., violet (,,)	3,960	,,

We have half a dozen high values of the new design of the new engravers, Perkins, Bacon, & Co., from Messrs. Whitfield King & Co.

Adhesives.

2/- blue and green on buff
2/6 brown and purple on yellow
3/- green and lilac on blue
4/- red and blue on green
5/- red and greeu on white
10/- slate and carmine on rose

British Central Africa.—Messrs. Whitfield King & Co. send us a double surcharge of the "one penny" provisional on 2d. red and olive, chronicled by us in January last (p. 17). They explain that this specimen is from the first sheet printed, the printer having set the surcharge too high up, put the sheet on the press a second time after altering the position of the surcharge. They further inform us that while these provisionals were being printed, there being no 1d. stamps in stock, H. M. Commissioner and Consul-General authorised the Postmasters of Blantyre, Chiromo, and Zomba to cut the 2d. stamp in two and use each half as a penny stamp for postage on newspapers, &c. These were only employed a day or two, and when the provisionals were issued, no more split stamps were allowed. Less than 50 were so used. They were cut straight down the centre, and not diagonally.

Adhesive.

1d. on 2d., red and olive; *Double surcharge.*

Canada.—Mr. J. M. Bartels in the *Daily Stamp Item* says, he learns that a new issue of Canadian adhesives will be ready in September, and that the designs are to be the same as the current 20c. and 50c.

Ceylon.—The following have been changed in colour, the Post Card being in the type of the 1885 2c.

Envelope.

2c. green on green, size 135 by 80 mm.

Post-card.

2c. brown-yellow on white, size 123 by 85 mm.

Chili—According to the *T.P.* there exist two types of the Officially Sealed stamps. The first has a portrait of the President in circle and is inscribed 'Admistraction Principal de Correos'—'Republica de Chili'—'Valparaiso,' and measures 39 by 27 mm. The second has the head of Columbus and the name of the town 'Santiago,' and measures 32 by 41 mm.

Adhesives.

O.S.—blue on yellow-green,	Perf. 12,	Type I.
— ,, greenish-black,	,,	,,
— ,, clear green	,,	,,
—brown on buff	,,	,,
—red-brown	,,	Type II.

Finland.—According to the *Monthly Circular* the 5p., 20p., and 25p. have now been issued with perf. 14. The stamps issued with this new perforation up to date, are—

Adhesives.

5p. green.
10p. rose.
20p. orange.
25p. blue.

Mexico.—The P.J.G.B. says the following Post Cards have been issued. The fleur de lys at the sides have been replaced by balls, and the Interior Cards have three instead of two dotted lines for the address.

An Official Card without stamp has also been issued inscribed 'OBSERVATORIO METEOROLOGICO CENTRAL.'

Post Cards.

2c. rose, formula rose on buff, 21 balls, Interior.
3c. brown, ,, ,, 20 balls, ,,
3c. ,, ,, ,, 21 balls, ,,
2c. rose, formula green on buff, 21 balls U.P.U.
3c. brown, ,, ,, 20 balls, ,,
3c. ,, ,, ,, (direceion), ,,
Off. P.C —black on grey.

Niger Coast.—We have the ½d. of the current series from Messrs. Whitfield King & Co, in a much paler shade of green.

Paraguay.—A correspondent in Asuncion writes to us under date of June 24th, "In fifteen days there will be a complete and entirely new series of Paraguayan postage stamps, consisting of 1c., 2c., 4c., 5c., 7c., 10c., 14c., 15c., 20c., 30c., 40., 60c., 80c., 1 peso, and 5 pesos."

Messrs. Whitfield King & Co., send us the new 1c. in which the error "1 centavos," is corrected to "1 centavo."

Adhesive.

1 centavo, grey.

Queensland.—Mr. W. Hadlow sends us the 2½d. in a pink shade instead of carmine.

Adhesive.

2½d. pink.

Russia.—The *Timbre Poste* chronicles a copy of the 2k. of 1875, postmarked 10th July, 1880, with ground work reversed.

Adhesive.

1875. 2k. red and black, inverted ground work.

Servia.—Messrs. Whitfield King & Co. send us the 1 dinar in new colour.

Adhesive.

1 dinar, brown on blue.

Shanghai.—The publishers of the *Monthly Journal* have a sheet of the "ONE CENT" on 20c., brown, the provisional of 1893, the 11th and 12th stamps upon which are surcharged "HALF CENT," as upon the 15c. of the same issue.

Adhesive.

½c., in *blue*, on 20c., brown; *error*.

South Australia.—The *Australian Philatelist* reports the 2s. with the "O.S." surcharge in narrow capitals.

Service Stamp.

2s., carmine, *narrow* "O.S."

Straits Settlements.—*Selangor.*—The *Australian Philatelist* chronicles the following additional values for this State.

Adhesives.

25 c.,	green and carmine;	*Crown and*	CA.
2 dol.	,,	,,	CC.
3 ,,	,, olive	,,	,,
10 ,,	,, purple	,,	,,
25 ,,	,, orange	,,	,,

Spain.—Our publishers have shown us the 5c. War Tax stamp of 1873, printed in the colour of the 10c, *i.e.* blue.

Adhesive.

War Tax, 1873, 5c. blue, *error*.

Tasmania.—The *Australian Philatelist* reports the 9d. in *light blue*, wmk. "TAS" close type.

Adhesive..

9d., light blue.

Tonga.—We quote the following from the *Monthly Journal*:

The unfortunate Postmaster has been obliged to issue the provisional ½d. stamps after all, but the edition is, we understand, strictly limited, and it is only by special favour that a few have been supplied to others than those who required them for actual postal use. Even these few seem only to have been allowed to pass out of the office after having been cancelled with a neat postmark, which was carefully applied to the centre of each block of four at 8 a.m. on May 23rd.

The overprints upon the unfortunate stamp are of a peculiarly complicated description; it was originally the 2d. of the type of 1892, printed in *blue*, and overprinted vertically "SURCHARGE—7½d." in *carmine*, in two lines reading upwards; there is now added "VAEUA OE BENI," in *black*, vertically, reading downwards, and "*Half—Penny—*," in *violet*, in two lines horizontally.

Adhesive.

½d. in *violet* and *black* on 7½d., in *carmine* on 2d. blue.

Transvaal.—Several of our contemporaries chronicle the 5s. as having been issued in the new colours. They have, however, fallen into error; for no such stamp has been issued; indeed, it has not yet been ordered. The only stamps which have been issued in the new colours, *i.e.* with labels of value in green, are ½d., 1d., 2½d., 1s., and 2s. 6d. The 2d., 3d., 4d., and 6d. values will soon be issued, but the higher values, viz., 5s., 10s., and £5 have not been ordered, there still being a sufficient supply on hand.

United States.—*City Despatch Post;* Mr. Gregory, of New York, writing in the *Daily Stamp Item*, says:—

Mr. Hunter has shown me a new discovery in the line of U.S. locals. The City Despatch Post, 3c. on white paper is well known and not particularly scarce. Now, after more than fifty years, a copy on crimson paper on the original cover, with postmark carrying, is found. This ranks in interest and value with the greatest of recent discoveries.

According to the *Philatelic Monthly (U.S.)* the current 3c. has been issued with triangle, type 3, *i.e.*, with the crossing lines removed from within the frame lines of the triangular ornaments.

Adhesive.

3c. purple, triangle, type 3.

Uruguay. — More commemoratives! On July the 18th special postage stamps were issued to commemorate the unveiling of a statue of Joaquin Suarez, who took a leading part in the War of Independence. The stamps are three in number—1c., 5c., and 10c. Samples of each have been sent us by Messrs. Whitfield King & Co. The stamps were to be on sale from July 18th to August 25th only. The 1c. contains a portrait presumably of the hero of the occasion, the 5c. has a full length picture of the statue, and the 10c. a full view of the statue and pedestal. The central portion is printed in black in each case, the colours being varied in the fancy frame work. The stamps are exquisitely engraved, and are evidently the work of Messrs. Waterlow & Sons.

Adhesives.

1c., purple, brown and black
5c., pale blue and black
10c, red and black

Western Australia.—Our publishers have had the 4d. blue of 1860 (Gibbons type 4908), rouletted, in an unused pair. This variety has been submitted to the Expert Committee of the Philatelic Society of London, and pronounced genuine.

Adhesive.

1860. 4d., blue, rouletted.

Zanzibar.—The *Philatelic Journal of Great Britain* says, there are three types of the 2½ on 1 anna chronicled by us in June (p. 164), viz., the large 2—1st with straight tail, 2nd with thick curly tail, and 3rd (rarest) with thin curly tail.

The *P. J. G. B.* also states that some of the New British East Africa stamps have been borrowed and surcharged, and that the 1 rupee India of the new design has been surcharged. We find we have omitted to chronicle the ½a. green (India) with blue surcharge, and the *Monthly Journal* adds the 1a. plum, with blue surcharge.

Adhesives.

½a. green, surch. in blue (India)
1a. plum, surch. in blue (India)
2½ in black on 1a. plum, 3 types (India)
1r. black on green and rose (India)
½a. green and black (B.E.A.)
1a. carmine ,, ,,

Our Monthly Packets of New Issues.

No. 1, price one shilling (postage extra).

The August packet contains four varieties, all unused, viz:—Peru, provisionals, surcharged with head of President, 2c. vermilion, 2c. lake, and 2c. purple; Spain, 1895, Congress stamps, 15 centimos, pink.

No. 2, price five shillings (postage extra).

The August packet contains four varieties, viz:—British East Africa, provisionals (surcharged on Indian stamps), 4 annas, olive, and 1 rupee, green and rose; Spain Congress stamps, 15 centimos, yellow, and Transvaal, 1/- yellow and green.

These packets are on sale until September 30th (unless the supply is previously exhausted) and are supplied only to *Subscribers* to the "PHILATELIC RECORD AND STAMP NEWS." Similar packets will be on sale every month, and may be subscribed for in advance for the year (January to December inclusive), at the following rates:—No. 1 packet (sent by book post with the paper), 12s., post-free (if by letter post the postage is 1s. extra Inland; 2s. 6d. Abroad). No. 2 packet (by letter post), Inland 61s., Abroad 62s. 6d., post-free.

The subscription to the paper (3s. per annum) is extra.—BUHL & Co. Limited, 11, Queen Victoria Street, E.C.

Philately in the Mags.

Canada: Pence Issues.

Mr. Donald A. King, in the first instalment of a series of articles on the Stamps of Canada contributed to the *Monthly Journal*, thus discusses the question of the early perforations:—

EARLY PERFORATIONS.

It is an open question whether these stamps were delivered to the Canadian Post Office Department in a perforated condition or not. The manufacturers are wholly unable to throw any light on the subject; and while there is much to be said in favour of their having perforated the stamps, there are points against it almost as strong.

In favour of it there is the fact that, at the date these stamps were issued, it was more than probable that a firm like the manufacturers would have perforating machines. The normal gauge of the perforated set is 12, that being the only size of perforation ever used by the manufacturers, or their successors, the American Bank Note Company; indeed, they call 12 their standard and only gauge.

On the other hand, we find that there are perforated stamps of the first series issued, viz., the 6d. on *laid* paper; also that there exists two different varieties of perforation that were never used by the makers, viz., one gauging 14, and another that is described in *The American Journal of Philately* for January, 1891, as follows:—

> "CANADA.—In a large lot of pence issues, purchased by us lately, we have found two copies of the 3d, on greyish wove paper, perforated 13, with oblique parallel cuts. This seems to confirm the theory that the pence issues of Canada were not perforated by the manufacturers, but either by the Canadian Government, or by some persons authorised by them, who most likely experimented with different perforating machines, finally selecting the one perforating 12."

Considering these facts, it may be that the stamps were sent to Canada in an imperforate condition, and that the Post Office Department had them perforated there, either buying a perforating machine, or entrusting them to some manufacturers of stationery. Perforations gauging 13 and 14 may have been experimental, as specimens of these varieties are rare; perforation 12 being adopted as giving the best results, the other sizes not being at all clearly cut, as the 12 generally is. All the stock of ½d., 3d., and 6d. on hand would, in this case, have been perforated, which might account for the copy of the 6d. on *laid* paper that is known in this condition. There always remains the query why the 7½d. and 10d. were not treated in the same manner, and to this no answer can be given. Probably the safest theory to advance, and the one that I think is correct, is that the 12 gauge was the official one by the manufacturers, and that the 13 and 14 were the result of private enterprise by people using large quantities of stamps, and they may possibly ante-date the regularly perforated issue. This point can only be settled by copies being found on the original covers.

EARLY PRINTINGS AND REMAINDERS.

Mr. King gives the following quantities issued of printings of the pence issues, inclusive of the perforated series:—

½d.	3,389,960
3d.	3,528,700
6d.	402,900
7½d.	82,110
10d.	151,500
12d.	1,510

THE 12D. STAMP.

Of the 12d. stamp there were delivered by the printers 51,400, but the accounts show very small quantities issued, leaving eventually a balance on hand of no less than 49,490. Mr. King says the remainders of all the first issues were destroyed, and with them no doubt this stock of 12d. that had been withdrawn from circulation some years previously. Of this peculiar value Mr. King writes:—

The 12d. deserves a word in explanation of the way in which the value was expressed. This was undoubtedly done intentionally, as though it was intended for a one shilling stamp, yet it could not be called that, as there were a number of *shillings* of different values in circulation in the Colony. If the stamp had been lettered "One Shilling," the Post Office was liable to have tendered for it, 6¼d., 7½d., 10d., or 12d. according to locality. To obviate this, the value was expressed as "Twelve Pence," leaving no room for error.

THE REMAINDERS DESTROYED.

Taking the figures of the Postmaster-General's Report for 1859, containing the last *pence* stamp account (quoted by Mr. King), which gives the balance on hand on June 30th, 1859, we arrive at the following quantities of remainders destroyed, to which we add the 12d.:—

½d.	60,600
3d.	21,700
6d.	17,578
7½d.	17,970
10d.	31,200
12d.	49,490

Lithographed British Colonials.

In our June number (page 171) we referred to a Mr. Weber's "discovery" of a long list of stamps produced by

lithography, that had not previously been catalogued. The paper has turned out to be, as we suspected, merely a long list of absurdities. It was read, as already stated, before the San Francisco Philatelic Society. Major Evans, in the *Monthly Journal*, deals effectively and very instructively with the so-called lithographs, and as some of our contemporaries have reproduced the original canard we quote Major Evans in full :—

The list includes a curious mixture of impressions. Two, the Virgin Islands, which are stated by the best authorities to have always been lithographed, and in connection with which, therefore, there can be no question of lithographed *emergencies;* not less than a dozen surface-printed stamps, which we believe even professional printers cannot in all cases distinguish from good lithographs; and one embossed envelope stamp. It is possible that we are mistaken in supposing that the writer of the paper intended to imply that *all* his examples were steel engravings, as that expression is usually understood, but that certainly is the impression conveyed; and, at any rate, the fact that he includes the two Virgin Islands among stamps that are usually "steel engraved," must detract considerably from the value of his opinion.

But curious as is the list, it is far less curious than the reasons given for these "emergency issues." The writer states—upon what authority we know not—"Only the steel matrix of the stamp is preserved and kept by the Crown agent, but not the plates, these being destroyed as soon as the required issue has been printed therefrom. When a reissue is required, a new plate is prepared from the same matrix; this takes time—several weeks, at least. When a demand is made for an *immediate supply*, the lithographic stone is resorted to, a transfer made from the matrix, and an edition run off sufficient to last till the steel plate is ready for use." Now, all this is the purest nonsense; no plates, steel or other, of British Colonial stamps, are ever destroyed until they have become useless, either through wear and tear, or by the stamps becoming obsolete—and they are not invariably destroyed even in the latter case. We have some doubts whether Messrs. De La Rue & Co. have ever constructed any steel engraved plates for Colonial stamps; we believe they are still using, for the stamps which they print by that process, the plates which were handed over to them when they obtained the contracts for printing those stamps. It is their method of printing from these plates, or the highly-milled paper which they use, that produces these supposed lithographic impressions. One of the most noticeable of these is the ½d of St. Helena, about which we made some enquiries last year, with the result that we were assured, upon the very best authority, that no St. Helena stamps had ever been lithographed at all!

It is worthy of remark that the writer of the paper, to show that the specimens he has examined are not lithographic forgeries, draws attention to the fact that, with the exception of four, all the stamps in the list "have the regulation watermark Crown & C.C., or Crown & C.A., &c." The four exceptions are, we presume, the Canadian envelopes, the Falkland Islands 1d. of 1878, and the two Virgin Islands stamps. The second is the only one of these that needs special mention. To the best of our belief, only one supply of this was ever sent out, and, as it was the first issue of 1d stamps, it is in the last degree improbable that a portion of the supply was printed by one process and the rest by another. Moreover, there are no such marked variations in the colour of the impression, as there could hardly fail to be in the case of stamps produced by two such different methods. All the steel engraved stamps watermarked Crown & C.C., or C.A., were printed by Messrs. De La Rue & Co., and naturally exhibit the peculiarities of the printing of that firm. Some of their impressions from the Ceylon plates show these peculiarities in a marked degree.

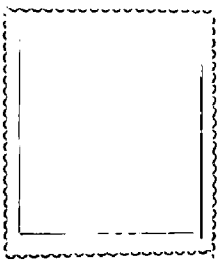
Of the Mauritius 5s., *mauve*, it is certain that only one supply was ever printed, the whole of which was sent out at the same time.

We believe that we are right in saying that all the Australian stamps in the list were printed on the spot, and some of them from plates sent out from England, which certainly were not destroyed as soon as an edition had been struck off, and we fancy that this discovery of lithographed *emergencies* is only the finding of a common, or garden, mare's nest.

Gambia, 6d. Variety.

Mr. Harry Hilckes in the *Stamp Collectors' Fortnightly*, calls attention to an interesting and curious variety in the 6d. stamps of Gambia. He writes:

The stamps are printed in sheets of fifteen, and the specimen on the top right corner has the appearance of the illustration we annex. Evidently the plate must have been indented through falling on the middle surface, which thus gave this stamp a crooked appearance, the right side line being shorter by about three quarters of a millimetre than the left side line. The left hand top stamp also shows a similar characteristic, but here the crookedness is not so pronounced. I have so far not been able to ascertain whether this peculiar variety exists in the imperf. sheets, not having come across any copies; but I have found it in the blue as well as in the olive colour of the perforated series.



Testing this matter by our sheet of the 6d., we find the greatest width of the sheet is on the lefthand edge of the fourth row of stamps, and here the sheet measures 71¾ mm. On the extreme left edge the sheet measures 70¾mm., and on the extreme right edge barely 71mm. The plate must, as Mr. Hilckes suggests,

have had a fall, but the injury has not been to the middle edge, but to each side of the top edge. The stamps lie perfectly true to a straightedge at the base of the top row, but if the top of the sheet is tested with a straight edge rule, it will be seen that the stamps bulge up near the centre, the third and fourth stamps being highest. To the left the incline is gradual over three stamps from 71¾mm. to 70¾mm., but to the right the fall from 71¾mm. to 71mm. nearly all takes place in the right-hand top corner stamp, hence the peculiarity noted.

Seychelles Islands Issues.

A correspondent at Mahe contributes the following interesting letter to *Mekeel's Weekly Stamp News* concerning the Seychelles stamps, past, present and future:

Some time ago I announced that there would probably be certain changes in our present postal rates. I have now to inform you that the Secretary of State for the Colonies has sanctioned these changes, but the new rates will be somewhat lower than those recommended by the local authorities. The new rates, with the equivalents in English money, are as follows: For printed matter, 4 cents of a rupee, ½d.; for postal cards, 8 cents of a rupee, 1d.; for single letters, 18 cents of a rupee, 2½d.

As we already have 4 and 8 cents stamps, I am of opinion that only two new values will be issued, viz., 18 and 36 cents. There is some talk of a 1 rupee stamp, but the question is not yet decided. In any case it will be 5 or 6 months before any new regular stamps are on sale, bur one or two provisional values may, of course, be issued.

As the above changes are about to be made in our local values, the following information with reference to previous issues of all values, may be of interest:

POSTAGE STAMPS, POSTAL CARDS AND STAMPED ENVELOPES ISSUED IN THE COLONY OF SEYCHELLES TO 1ST JUNE, 1896.

Value.	Number Issued.	Stock on Hand.
2 cents.	169,440 ...	81,000
3 "	131,880 ...	72,000
4 "	156,720 ...	79,440
8 "	*145,080 ...	69,000
10 "	99 960 ...	†96,560
12 "	107,880 ...	90,000
13 "	28,800 ...	†15,000
15 "	100,860 ...	60,000
16 "	161,200 ...	†12,000
45 "	47,160 ...	†37,200
48 "	28,200 ...	†3,000
96 "	16,803 ...	‡None.

*Those not sold for postage are surcharged 4 cents and used for inland revenue purposes.

†When present stock is disposed of, no more will be issued.

‡Obsolete

SURCHARGES.

Value.	Number Issued.	Stock on Hand.
3c. on 4c., ...	90,480 ...	Out of issue.
12c. on 16c., ...	23,760 ...	5,880
15c. on 16c., ...	24,000 ...	5,160
45c. on 48c., ...	13,200 ...	Out of issue.
90c. on 96c., ..	8,160 ...	Out of issue.

No further supplies of these values will be issued.

STAMPED ENVELOPES.

Value.	Number Issued.	Stock on Hand.
8 cents, ...	30,700 ...	23,200
15 " ...	31,175 ...	22,100
30 " ...	31,300 ...	26,770

Issued in March, 1895, are being disposed of very slowly. The 30c. will probably be overprinted 18c.

POSTAL CARDS.

4 cents.....	number issued,	15,275
6 cents.....	" "	12,175
8 cents.....	" "	15,275

A large stock of these cards still on sale, both single and reply.

ERRORS, ETC.

Inverted surcharges appeared on two denominations, only 120 being so issued in each case. These denominations were: 3c. on 4c., and 15c. on 16c.

Of the 12c. on 15c. surcharge, 4 copies were issued with double surcharge, this being by long odds the rarest Seychelles stamp.

Norway 1 öre: Varieties.

The following description of the several "varieties of the 1 öre of Norway" has been translated (by *Mekeel's Weekly Stamp News*) from *Le Timbre-Poste:*

The *1st Variety* appeared on the 1st of January, 1877, with all the other values: 3, 5, 10, 12, 20, 25, and 50 öre. The posthorn is shaded on its widest end. The perforation of the stamp is 13½; the smallest figure 1 has, above, quite a lengthy sloping serif, and below, a very pronounced horizontal foot stroke.

1 öre, dark greyish bistre.

2nd Variety.—In March, 1892, the color was modified, and also the small figure 1, which has no strokes, either above or below; perforation, 13½.

1 öre, dark brown.

3rd Variety.—In 1893 a new change took place in the small 1, which appears now with very small serif and foot stroke; perforation 13½.

1 öre, pale yellowish-grey.

We are assured that this third variety is quite rare.

4th Variety.—In December, 1895, there was a modification of all inscriptions, the type used being materially different. The small 1 is larger than in the other varieties; perforation 13.

1 öre, pale yellowish-grey.

This last variety is the only one in use to-day.

Roumanian Levant.

The Roumanian Levant Stamps which we chronicled last month (p. 189) are already obsolete. The Porte objected to little Roumania having a post office of its own at Constantinople after the manner of the Great Powers, and the service had to be withdrawn. The *Timbre Poste* says the service lasted from March 15th to May 25th, and that the offices were on board the vessels of a Roumanian Company. According to the *Philatelic Monthly* (U.S.) the stamps were printed in the following quantities :—

10 pa. on 5 b.,	black surcharge,		750
20 ,, ,, 10	,,	,,	6300
1 pi. ,, 25	,,	,,	3900
10 pa. on 5	violet	,,	3300
20 ,, ,, 10	,,	,,	7200
1 pi. ,, 25	,,	,,	3900
		Total,	25,350

Sweden 2 öre Vermilion.

We are promised some "eye openers" in some future edition of our "Gibbons" as to the stamps of Sweden. Meanwhile, we pick up the crumbs as they fall. Here is one from the *Philatelic Californian* concerning a variety of the 2 öre vermilion :—

There is a variety of this stamp that is but little known to collectors in general. All the stamps have a period after "Frimarke," but in this variety there is a full, round dot before "Frimarke" as well, opposite the middle bar of the "F." Ten stamps of this variety are found in each full sheet, being alternate stamps in the fourth and ninth horizontal rows. The first stamp of the row is the common one, the second the variety, and so on.

Chili ; Re-engraved (1894) Issue.

In the Inquiry Department of *Mekeel's Weekly Stamp News* the question is asked, "What is the difference between the re-engraved 1 and 2 centavos stamps of Chili 1894 issue, and the old stamps of the same denominations?" The reply may be helpful to collectors of this favourite South American Republic :-

The principal difference between the new and old dies of these stamps was in the figure of value. The new "1" is about ½ mm. thicker than the old and the top is also broader. The new "2" instead of ending in a ball at the top has a thin crescent-shaped line. This figure is also ½ mm. broader than the original type. The difference between the two 1's is quite conspicuous after the attention has been once called to it, as the re-engraved figure is much stouter looking than the old one.

Protection of Cancellations.

Last month we quoted (p. 194) from the *Post Office*, concerning a device tried by the United States Government for frustrating the fraudulent removal of cancellations. Mr. H. B. Phillips, in *Mekeel's Weekly Stamp News*, tells the whole story of what he terms the "starched back" stamps by the publication of the following specification of the patent. Mr. Phillips states, on the authority of the inventor, that there were a million or so issued informally.

POSTAGE STAMPS.

CHAS. F. STEEL, NEW YORK, N. Y.

(Filed March 15, 1875.)

To All Whom It May Concern :

Be it known that I, Charles F. Steel, Superintendent of the Manufacture of Postage Stamps for the Continental Bank Note Company, in New York City, in the State of New York, have invented certain improvements relating to postage stamps, of which the following is a specification :—

Many efforts have been made by myself and others to produce a practically successful postage stamp from which the cancelling ink cannot be removed to allow their fraudulent reuse. My present invention is for that purpose.

I take a soft unsized paper analogous to blotting paper, quite soft and absorbent. Having printed the face from the properly engraved plates, and allowing the ink thereon to dry properly, I treat the back with a solution of starch of just a proper consistency, having the effect both to lay a thin coating or covering on the back surface, and also to fill the interstices between the fibres in the paper, so as to give the back surface of the paper a firmer character than the front. Then after flattening in a press, I apply British gum or other adhesive layer on the back of the starch layer, and, having again pressed the sheet of stamps, they are ready for shipment and use like ordinary stamps. My improved stamp is cheaper to produce than the double thickness stamp described in my patent of 1869 (No. 86952) while it possesses in a great degree the same desirable qualities. The soft face will readily absorb the cancelling ink, and will be soaked and washed away on any attempt to remove the latter.

This soft body paper should be of such a character as to be removed and destroyed by a moderate friction after being wetted, care being taken to avoid employing so extremely soft a paper as will become destroyed by ordinary unskillful manipulation in affixing the stamp. What is called in the trade "water leaf" paper will suffice. The layer of starch should be of such consistency as to strike a little, but only a little, into the thickness of the paper. The qualities of the soft body induce less disposition in the stamp to curl when moistened and applied on a letter; there is, also, less disposition to curl after the gumming in the process of manufacture. Less care is required in the subsequent pressing and preparation, in the handling, and shipment. A thinner and lighter paper may be employed.

I claim as my invention a postage or revenue stamp formed wholly of water leaf or other soft and absorbent paper, provided on the back with a filling coating of starch or analogous material,

and a superposed coating of ordinary gum, substantially as and for the purposes set forth.

In testimony whereof I have hereunto set my hand on this 13th day of March, 1875, in the presence of two subscribing witnesses.

CHAS. F. STEEL.

Witnesses: Wm. C. Dey, M. A. Van Namee.

U.S. Triangle Varieties.

The current issue of United States issue promise enough work for an ordinary specialist, for what with varieties of printing, of triangle, and of watermark, with plate numbers thrown in, the series is already imposing. Hitherto the three varieties of the triangular ornaments have been confined to the 2 cent value, but now it seems they are to run through the whole series. Mr. Bartels, of Washington, writes to the *Daily Stamp Item* as follows:—

The appearance of triangle III. in the corners of the current 3 cent watermarked stamps revives the rumour that the whole series is to be treated in the same manner very soon. Proofs of all the values have been seen with triangle III.

U.S. Plate Numbers.

Mr. Bartels sends some interesting notes concerning U.S. Plate Numbers to the *Daily Stamp Item*. Here is a word of explanation as to the scarcity of the much discussed plate No. 89.

The extreme scarcity of plate No. 89, 2c., is explained by the fact that the plate was broken during the printing, and only one quarter the usual quota of stamps were issued. Nothwithstanding the fact that this plate was only issued in January, 1895, I consider it the rarest plate No. that has been printed in the past ten years. The sum of $5,000 has been offered recently without bringing forth a single specimen.

U.S. Current 2 cents varieties.

Mr. H. L. Watts summarises in the *Eastern Philatelist* (U.S.) the varieties of the current 2 cents varieties as follows:—

On October 5. 1894, the Bureau of Engraving and Printing began the issue of this stamp. The result of the first few days was what is known as the "pale pink" stamp. This variety is printed on very thin paper with a very pale pink ink, and is gummed with a thin. colourless gum. These stamps were only issued for a few days, when they gave way to the second variety.

The second variety was issued about October 10. In this stamp the printers went to the other extreme and produced a specimen on thick paper, with heavy gum, and of a dark rose colour. This stamp, also, was issued in small numbers, but is not so valuable as variety one.

Variety three differs from the second variety only in colour and paper. The colour is a very light scarlet, and the paper is lighter. This variety is numerous.

In variety number four we have the first plate difference. In varieties one, two, and three the triangles are the same, but in number four the shading inside of the triangles is reduced, and makes it appear lighter than the shading outside. This stamp appears in a medium shade of carmine, on a paper nearly as light as number one, with a smooth gum.

Number five exhibits the second plate difference, which consists in the shading between the lines of the double triangles being entirely removed, while the shading inside the triangles appears as in variety four. The paper is the same as used for variety three. The colour is a dark carmine, on some specimens approaching a rose colour.

Variety six is nearly the same as number five in appearance, but is on watermarked paper; each stamp bearing one of the four letters, U.S.P.S. Of this variety there are several minor varieties, including shades of colour and inverted watermarks.

Paper of U.S. Current Issue.

Mr. J. M. Bartels, of Washington, supplies the following interesting item of information concerning the paper used in printing the current stamps of the United States:—

When the Bureau of Engraving and Printing accepted the contract for supplying the Government with postage stamps, a small quantity of paper was turned over to the authorities by the American Bank Note Company, and this was the first used by the Bureau for printing stamps. The manufacturers of this paper were at first unknown to the government officials, and the former contractors refused to divulge the source of their supply. The Bureau was, therefore, compelled to use a similar paper which was found on hand for printing stamps until the firm which had supplied the American Bank Note Company became known to the authorities.

Immediately a contract was made, and ever since the Government has drawn its supply from this source.

Philatelic Gossip.

The Ban of the S.S.S.S.

Critics and grumblers are beginning to learn that the ban of S.S.S.S. is a power in the land. Even our American friends who cried out over the matter are coming round. There is not one in the whole crowd that dare to take up a single case and fight it out as a specimen of an unwise decision of the S.S.S.S. Mr. Trifet and Mr. Kilbon, both of Boston, have had a great deal to say against the ban of the Society. Let them stand to their guns and make a definite charge of a wrong decision.

The S.S.S.S., as they know perfectly well, has been called into existence for the sole purpose of endeavouring to put an end to the unscrupulous fleecing of collectors that was fast growing into a recognized trade. We are heart and soul with the whole movement; and whilst we are connected with it we intend to fight its battle against all comers. If Mr. Kilbon wants some "spicy" copy for his *Boston Stamp Book*, let him make his journal the arena for the fray. We are ready.

British South Africa Provisionals.

The provisionals on Cape stamps have had a short and a merry life. They are already superseded by a supply of the ordinary issue from Salisbury. While the provisionals lasted there seems to have been a daily scramble for them. The Post Office officials were at their wits' end to make the temporary supply last till communication was restored with the source of ordinary supply. As a protection against the whole stock being gobbled up by stamp speculators all letters had to be handed in at the Post Office, and they were stamped by the officials, no stamps being sold to the public. For receipt purposes a maximum of six could be got on a very solemn promise that they were going to be used as receipt stamps. A collector bought six in that way, and timorously ventured to post one to himself. It arrived safely, but in an eclipse condition. The iron heel of a 20-stone official had evidently been used as a cancelling machine, with the result that only a very small portion of one of the top corners gave rise to a suspicion that there was a postage stamp underneath. Already the provisionals are at famine prices in Rhodesia, as much as thirty shillings each being offered for copies. Under these circumstances unused copies should be worth securing early.

"Picked Specimens."

Is the Editor of the *London Philatelist* going into training as a grim humourist? If not, what does he mean by the following reference to the attendance at the Eighth Philatelic Congress at Cologne:—

> Almost every other European nation was represented – in some cases perhaps not by "picked specimens" as although their *designs* might have been deemed well-marked, their condition left much to be desired!

Postage Stamp Repairers.

The following from the *Daily Mail* (London), will show that our confrères of the daily press have been nosing about in the back slums of philately:—

> As an outcome of the rage for postage-stamp collecting, there are several men in London who make a good living as postage-stamp repairers, their duty being to ingeniously piece together valuable stamps which have been torn or mangled.
>
> Perhaps the chief of all their duties is that of putting a new perforated edge upon valuable stamps which have been carelessly cut out from envelopes instead of being carefully torn away or otherwise removed. They do this so well that it is impossible for anyone but a very nice expert to tell that a false perforation has been added. It should here be said that any mutilation in the case of a stamp greatly detracts from its value amongst collectors.
>
> In some cases, where mutilated stamps are concerned, two imperfect specimens are made to form one perfect one, and even the colours, where very considerable fading has taken place, are restored.

Supplying a Perforation.

The Rev. John Luther Kilbon, editor of the *Boston Stamp Book*, thus discusses in the *Daily Stamp Item* the morality of supplying a perforation on the fourth side of a stamp which has been issued with perforations on three sides only.

> There can be no doubt that such perforation adds value to the specimen which does not belong to it in its own right, and so those who oppose the practice rest their claim on that fact. But in theory and practice a good many of the leading collectors here have had such work done to their own stamps, arguing that they did it simply to improve the appearance of

their albums. So far, so good; but what when the albums are sold, as they are pretty sure to be in the near or distant future?

We are sorry for "the leading collectors" of Boston here referred to. If they will tamper with a stamp in one matter, why not in another? If they will add a perforation, why not also remove a perforation, or a surcharge, or vary a surcharge from a normal to a rare variety? Can it be that of such are "the leading collectors" of Boston?

The Scott and Mekeel Companies.

It is announced that the Scott Stamp and Coin Co. of New York, and the C. H. Mekeel Co. of St. Louis, have entered into a contract for the future publication of all their stamp albums on a joint account. An album for junior collectors, omitting minor varieties of watermark, perforation, &c., is in course of preparation for publication by the joint firms in the autumn. They will also provide the junior collector with an illustrated stamp catalogue conforming to the scope of the abridged album.

A Journal for the Young Collector.

The young collector in the States is also to have a journal of his own in future. The "Stamps" Publishing Co. of New York has been incorporated "to publish a journal devoted to the interest of stamp collectors." Capital: £100. Directors: F. W. Hunter, G. B. Colman, J. S. Rich, and others.

The Columbian Slump.

It has come at last. Says Mr. W. F. Gregory in the *Daily Stamp Item*:

I saw to-day a speculator unload his $2.00 Columbians—500 copies at 10 per cent. discount from face. So ends his speculation, but what results do we foresee? These large quantities marketed of late by speculators pass into the hands of bankers and others who use them.

The Saxony 3pf. Sheet

In his notes in the *Monthly Journal* Mr. C. J. Phillips gives the history of the Saxony 3pf. sheet, which changed hands recently at Cologne: —

The best thing sold at the meeting no doubt came to England, Mr. Castle and our own firm being probably the two largest buyers present. Mr. Castle secured, for a sum of about £300, an unsevered and unused sheet of 20 Saxony 3pf. red. This is believed to be the only sheet known, and is the one formerly in the Friedl Museum of Vienna. Mr. Friedl got it from a Castle in Saxony, where it was found pasted on a fire-screen, and varnished over! Naturally it is not in the most brilliant condition, but it is a unique piece, and well worth the price paid.

Our Next Auction Season.

Already, and in the sweltering days of August, we have the first of the Catalogues of the next Auction Season. Of course, restless people, like our publishers and Messrs. Cheveley & Co. cannot help troubling the souls of the most peacefully inclined even in July and August; but considerate folks, like Messrs. Ventom, Bull, & Cooper, and Puttick & Simpson, by a summer recess, do give us a little rest. The first Catalogue we have received is from Messrs. Ventom, Bull, & Cooper, for the 24th September next. It is full of evidence that good things are still turning up. For instance, there are a couple of fine specimens of the 30c. black on bluish, first issue Reunion, and India Service Stamps, 1867, 4as. green and lilac, a superb strip of 4, ½a. green and lilac, a pair, surcharged "Service," 2as. yellow and 4as. green, a pair, all used on piece of original, probably unique in this condition.

More Korea.

According to the Washington correspondent of *Mekeel's Weekly Stamp News* the Korean issue of 1895 stamps were printed in Washington by A. B. Graham, a lithographer. The lithograping was done on gummed sheets, and the total issue is said to have been 200,000.

The Philatelic World.

There has been a slight change in the editorship of our excellent Indian contemporary, the *Philatelic World*. With the July number, just received, Mr. C. F. Larmour takes on the editorship single handed, which he has hitherto shared with Mr. Wilmot Corfield. From an editorial announcement we gather that Mr. Larmour means to put his back into the work of still further improving the journal which has fallen into his keeping. He is an experienced collector with plenty of energy, and a facile pen.

Buhl & Co., Limited.—Dividend.

Our publishers have just declared a dividend of 7 per cent. on the preference shares and 5 per cent. on the ordinary shares for the year ending June 30th, 1896.

Yet another Buchanan.

The purchaser of "the only known Buchanan 10 cent" must be getting somewhat dubious about his investment, for the cry is "still they come." A second discovery of this "rarest stamp in the world," was a mild surprise; then

there was a third, and now the *Philatelic Monthly* (U.S.), says:

We hear that still another 10 cent Buchanan stamp has been discovered by a boy among the old letters in a bank. The young man showed the stamp to his employers who remembered reading an account of the sale of a stamp for several thousand dollars, so they determined to investigate the matter and see if the stamp found among their papers was of much value. They were highly gratified to discover that the stamp was of great value and promised the boy a substantial part of the proceeds of his find when it has been turned into cash. This is the fourth specimen found.

Replies to Queries.

Scoticus: The presence of the Nyassalands on an approval sheet of "the leading firm" must have been an oversight.

Correspondence.

DEAR SIR,—The letter from "G" published in the issue of the *Stamp Collectors' Fortnightly* of Saturday last, is so calculated to convey a wrong impression as to the action of the Philatelic Society of London, and the views and intentions of the promoters of the proposed Exhibition, that I think it desirable to explain what has actually been done.

Some time before any communication from the Crystal Palace Company, the idea of holding an Exhibition in London in the coming year had been discussed between some of the leading Collectors and Dealers, and steps had been taken with the object of initiating the movement.

While the matter was thus under consideration the London Society was invited by the Authorities to arrange and organise for the Crystal Palace Company an Exhibition at Sydenham. The suggestion was brought before a General Meeting of the Society, and was referred to the Council to be dealt with.

Feeling the necessity of securing the co-operation of the Dealers, a large number of the principal Members of the Trade, and of the Philatelic Press, were invited to meet the Council. After a full discussion, representatives of both bodies interviewed the Manager of the Crystal Palace and ascertained in detail what arrangements could be made, and only after full inquiries had been instituted as to the cost of Insurance (an expense which had to be provided for), and other matters of vital importance for ensuring success, it was decided that the Crystal Palace would not be a suitable place for the Exhibition.

None of the very great advantages of the offer of the Crystal Palace Company were by any means overlooked, and it was only with very great reluctance and regret that an adverse decision was arrived at.

The principal reasons for this decision—there were many minor ones—were, the heavy cost of Insurance; a doubt as to the possibility of sufficiently guaranteeing the safety of Exhibits; and the fact that several of the largest Collectors, whose co-operation is absolutely necessary to the success of any Philatelic Exhibition, were so strongly opposed to the idea that their Stamps would not have been available.

Under these circumstances the Council had no alternative but to decline the offer, as the Society could not be expected to organise an Exhibition without the certainty of being able to make it a success.

At the same time, as there was a generally expressed opinion that an Exhibition should be held in London, it was felt that the Meetings afforded an opportunity of taking the preliminary steps for securing this object. Inquiries were accordingly made as to the most suitable places, and almost every available place in London was visited and inspected, with the result that the Galleries of the Royal Institution of Painters in Water Colours were found to be the most suitable under all the circumstances which had to be considered.

In order to make a beginning a provisional General Committee was formed, consisting of persons who had attended any of the Meetings, with power to add to their number, and, although possibly this Committee is not yet thoroughly representative so far as the Collectors are concerned, the trade is already strongly represented.

A start having been made, it is intended at the first Meeting, to be held this week, to propose that the President and Secretary of each of the principal provisional Societies, together with other prominent Collectors and Dealers who have not yet promised their support, should be invited to join the Committee, and the Members will, I feel sure, gladly welcome suggestions as to any other well-known Philatelists willing and able to help them in the exceptionally heavy work which the Exhibition will entail.

I think I have said enough to show that there is no intention that the Exhibition should be "confined to a few Members of the London Society," and that there is no foundation for the suggestion of "autocratic measures."

In conclusion, I trust that there will be an end to recriminations, and that all lovers of our hobby will heartily co-operate to make the International Philatelic Exhibition of 1897 the great success which I feel sure it will be.

Yours truly,

J. A. TILLEARD.

4, Lombard Court, London, E.C.,
27th July, 1896.

Notable Stamps at Auction.

Unused are distinguished by an asterisk

BUHL & Co.,

7th and 8th July, 1896.

	£	s.	d.
Antigua, 2½d. brown, C C.*	1	10	0
Bolivia, 1867, 50c. blue, penmark	1	8	0
British Guiana, 1862, 2c. yellow, pearls, roulette two sides ...	3	0	0
Canada, 7½d. green ...	3	5	0
10d. blue, thin paper, on piece	1	3	0
Dominican Republic, *first issue*, 1r. yellow* ...	6	0	0
Great Britain, 10s. grey, anchor	1	10	0
£5 orange, on bluish ...	1	18	0
Mauritius, *post paid*, 2d. blue, medium early ...	2	12	6
New Brunswick, half of 6d. yellow, on entire...	2	10	0
6d. yellow	4	15	0
1s. lilac, fine	21	0	0
Newfoundland, 2d. carmine-red	3	15	0
2d. orange	2	2	0
4d. orange, pencil-mark	1	16	0
6d. orange	2	10	0
1s. carmine-red	28	0	0
6½d. lake	1	6	0
5c. brown	1	4	0
New South Wales, *Sydney*, 1d., plate 1, on yellowish, a pair	2	17	6
Ditto, on bluish... ...	1	8	0
Ditto, 1d., plate 2, on bluish	1	4	0
Ditto, on yellowish ...	1	10	0
Ditto, 2d., plate 1, early	3	5	0
Ditto, 2d., plate 2 ...	2	12	0
Ditto, 2d., plate 3 ...	2	10	0
Ditto, 3d. green... ...	1	4	0
New Zealand, 1d. orange on blue...	1	6	0
2d. orange, lozenge wmk.	3	0	0
£6 orange	1	6	0
Nova Scotia, 6d. deep green*	2	4	0
1s. deep violet, on piece with a 3d. and three 1d.	30	0	0
Peru, medio peso yellow...	1	18	0
St. Christopher, 4d. blue, C.A.*	6	15	0
Tolima, *first issue*, 5c. black on buff	2	2	0
Trinidad, *litho, fine*, light blue	2	6	0
Turks Islands, ½d on 4d. grey*	3	5	0
United States, 5 red-brown, imperf.	1	11	0
(1869-75), 30c. no grill*	3	0	0
Victoria, *first issue*, 2d purple brown fine ground	2	0	0
Virgin Islands, 4d. on 1s. crimson*	1	14	0
Western Australia, *first issue*, 6d. grey-black...	1	15	0

CHEVELEY & Co.,

17th July, 1896.

	£	s.	d.
Oldenburg, 1860, 1/3 gr., error DRITTE ...	4	7	6
Ceylon, imperf., 4d. ...	7	0	0
Ditto, perf., star, 8d., yellow-brown, slight tear	3	15	0
Transvaal, 1878, 3d. lilac on buff, block of 25, two varieti s of V.R.* ...	5	10	0
Mauritius, Env., 1s. yellow, cut square*	5	0	0
Nevis, 1s. purple, block of 4*	7	10	0
St. Christopher, 6d. olive, pair*	4	8	0
Montserrat. C.A., 4d. blue	4	0	0
Nevis, engraved, 4d. orange*	3	3	0
B Guaina, 1862, 2c. crossed ovals £4 5 0 &	3	10	0
Buenos Ayres, 4p. red ...	9	5	0
Colombia, 1862, 20c. red, fine	4	12	6

PUTTICK & SIMPSON,

20th and 21st July, 1896.

	£	s.	d.
Naples, ½ tornese cross ...	4	0	0
Ditto, ½ tornese arms on entire original ..	14	5	0
Oldenburg, second issue, 1/3 gros.	4	10	0
Roumania, Moldavia, 81 paras	82	10	0
Ditto, 108 paras, cut ...	10	0	0
Tuscany, third issue, 9 crozie, pale violet ...	2	10	0
Ceylon, 2s. blue, imperf.*	10	0	0
India, first issue, 4a. blue*	3	5	0
Mauritius, post paid, 1d. orange red	2	6	0
Ditto, Britannia, sur. fourpence	2	10	0
Newfoundland, 6½ carmine vermilion	9	0	0
Ditto, 1s. orange vermilion	16	0	0
Dominica, 1s. C.A., pair*	7	0	0
Montserrat, 4d. blue, C.A.	3	3	0
Nevis, 1s. yellow green ...	3	4	0
Ditto, 6d. grey, pair* ...	20	10	0
Ditto, single copy* ...	10	10	0
St. Vincent, 4d. on 1s vermilion*	15	12	6
Tobago, 6d. ochre... ...	10	0	0
Turk's Islands, 2½d. on 1s. prune*	7	15	0
Ditto, 4d. on 1s. prune*	4	10	0
Virgin Islands, 1s, single line border*	4	18	0

Notices.

Editorial Communications.—Articles of special interest will be paid for. M.S. dealing with particular points in an exhaustive manner will be most welcome. As we wish to arrange matter in advance, we shall be glad to hear from Specialists who are open to write up their special countries.

All communications on Editorial matters should be addressed to the Editor, Mr. EDWARD J. NANKIVELL, 28, Birdhurst Rise, Croydon. Letters enclosing valuable should be registered.

Subscriptions.—THE PHILATELIC RECORD AND STAMP NEWS will be sent post free to any subscriber at home or abroad, on receipt of 3s. Subscribers' remittances should be sent to the Publishers, Messrs. BUHL & Co., LIMITED, 11 Queen Victoria Street, London, England.

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Advertisements must be received not later than the 15th of the month for publication in the next issue.

THE

PHILATELIC RECORD

and Stamp News.

SEPTEMBER, 1896.

Editorial Notes.

OUR Postal and Revenue authorities, who seem obstinately bent upon doing all the injury they can to Stamp Collectors and the Stamp Dealing trade of the country, appear to us to be more obtuse and short-sighted than usual. They pounce down upon us as being guilty of producing illustrations of stamps that may be used as forgeries, when, as a matter of fact, the very existence of the trade depends upon its ability to protect itself from the production of forgeries. We wonder if it has ever occurred to our, or indeed to any, Postal authorities that, instead of being a menace to the production and sale of genuine stamps, Stamp Collectors and Stamp Dealers are really a keen, vigilant, and efficient army of detectives, sleeplessly on the watch to expose forgery. They are keen and watchful in their own interest, and they are efficient by reason of their incomparable experience in immediately recognising forgeries. No Postal official, unless, indeed, he be a Stamp Collector of great experience, can hope to equal the efficiency of the Stamp Collector in the detection of fraudulent stamps. Any decently executed forgery would deceive a postal official, but it would soon be exposed by an experienced Stamp Collector. In all probability the manufacture of forgeries of postage stamps would be a most lucrative business but for the knowledge that it is next to impossible for even the cleverest forgery to escape early detection by Stamp Collectors. Had forgers no one more watchful and efficient than our Postal officials to fear, the probability is that they would milk the revenue, with the greatest ease and safety, of many thousands of pounds every year. But, with the ever-watchful eyes of a vast army of philatelists upon them, the forgers know perfectly well that even their best laid schemes would be exposed before they could be profitably exploited. Surely such an undoubted service is worthy of grateful recognition at the hands of our Postal authorities. Stamp Collectors ask nothing but toleration from Postal authorities, and in consideration of such toleration Stamp Collectors may successfully continue their self-imposed task of guarding the postal revenue from being a continual prey to the Stamp forger.

Stamp Collectors as Detectives.

The Coming Season.

AUCTIONEERS, dealers, and collectors are all looking forward to the coming season with no little interest, and are speculating as to what will be its characteristic feature. Will it be a season of advancing prices, or of disagreeable surprises? Will it tend to the advancement of Philately, or will it be marked by serious defections from the ranks? Will there be a plethora of gems or a growing and marked scarcity? Who can tell? We may not forecast our philatelic future, but we may reckon up with more or less certainty those tendencies, or influences, which we may speak of as being "in sight," and as being likely to affect for good or ill the trend of matters philatelic. First and foremost, though fixed for the end of the season, looms up the forthcoming Exhibition of 1897; it must affect the season that precedes it. There will be gaps to be filled by intending exhibitors; indifferent specimens to be laid aside for perfect copies; and neglected countries to be brought up to exhibition standard. All round, in fact, there should be a general and even exceptional activity in philatelic circles in preparation for the great show in July. The trade will benefit accordingly. The outside public even will catch at least some of the enthusiasm, and recruits will swell the ranks and help to further popularise one of the most enjoyable and sociable of all our indoor pastimes. Then, again, the threatened famine of rarities is checked by the unexpected turning up at our auctions. Someone tires of the pursuit, or wants to realise, and there is a distribution of an unexpected hoard. Already the season gives promise of some rare opportunities in this direction. Interest has also been awakened in the welfare and encouragement of the junior collector, and the coming season will probably be marked by the impetus which it will afford in this important direction. Gloomily inclined persons may find reasons for being despondent. They may tell us that stamp collecting is getting to be more and more a sordid matter of £ s. d.; that not a few of our prominent collectors are more dealers than collectors; that in too many cases "market price" is a matter of conscience, and that many consciences are most elastic; all this we have heard before. The gloomily inclined, like the poor are always with us. When their livers get out of order they are almost unbearable. Yet, despite their forebodings, we are inclined to believe that the forthcoming season, bar the unforeseen, will be a bumper season all round.

Indian Customs Duty on Stamps.

A CORRESPONDENT informs us that a local solicitor has taken up the matter about the charging of duty on the full value of approval sheets of postage stamps sent to collectors in India, and it will shortly be tested before a Court of Law. He will contend that the charging of duty on old stamps is illegal. We are asked in this connection if we can strengthen the plea that philately is a science. In order to reply, we must lay down an acceptable definition of what may be regarded as a science, and for this we turn to the best dictionaries, which tell us that science may be defined as "any department of knowledge in which the results of investigation have been worked and systematized; an exact and systematic statement of knowledge concerning some subject or group of subjects; especially a system of ascertained facts and principles covering and attempting to give adequate expression to a great natural group or division of knowledge; as the *sciences* of astronomy, botany, chemistry, and medicine; the *science* of theology."

Philately, in its scientific aspect, deals with the manufacture and distribution of stamps in all their multifarious details, and their application to the postal requirements of the various countries of the world. We go back to the beginning of things, and we trace the development of postal communication from the earliest days to the present time, and we investigate in the minutest manner every process that contributes to postal development. Hence we become the scientific historians of the world's postal services. Our published

investigations are preserved in hundreds, if not in thousands of volumes. Our monthly literature equals, if it does not exceed, that devoted to any other science, and our workers include many leading men of other sciences. What more can be needed to establish our claim that our study ranks as an admittedly scientific pursuit.

What the connection may be with the ridiculous tax levied by the Customs authorities of India on returnable articles of no intrinsic value, we fail to see, but whatever it may be, we trust it will help to convince those authorities of the absurdity of their tax. If our Indian friends fail, we hope to have a shot in other, and, we hope, more rational quarters.

We are also asked whether we regard stamps as curiosities? Undoubtedly they are curiosities. What else are they? They have not even the intrinsic value of a coin, which, apart from its value as a curiosity, has, in the case of gold and silver coins, an intrinsic value. An old stamp has none, except as waste paper. It is, from the philatelic point of view, simply an interesting historical document which enables us to investigate and understand the postal development of a particular country. Often it is also a clue to interesting research as to primitive methods employed in the early settlement of our colonies, in engraving and printing.

London Philatelic Exhibition, 1897.

On another page we publish the full list of the General Committee which has undertaken the task of getting up an International Philatelic Exhibition to be held in London in July of next year. We also publish the names of the Executive Committee, chosen out of the General Committee, which will have to shoulder the actual burden of the work. This Executive has been made up of volunteers who have practically placed their time at the disposal of the General Committee. With twenty such volunteers the success of the Exhibition should be assured. The first work of the Executive will be to get out the general scheme as early as possible, in order that collectors and dealers all over the world may have ample opportunity of contributing their quota to the exhibits. Even to collectors at home the notice will be none too long to give them time to negotiate and prepare the countries they may advantageously hope to exhibit. Despite the splendid rooms at the disposal of the Committee, the demand for space will probably exceed the supply, in which case the Committee will naturally have to take care that their final choice shall represent the "survival of the fittest." In our next issue we hope to be able to publish the full scheme, with details as to medals and prizes.

East African Protectorates.

Our East African Protectorates are evidently undergoing a process of reconstruction of peculiar importance to collectors of postage stamps. Our authority for this statement is the following notice in a recent issue of the *London Gazette*:—

Foreign Office, August 31st.—It is hereby notified for public information that all the territories in East Africa now under the protectorate of Her Majesty, except the Islands of Zanzibar and Pemba and the Uganda Protectorate, are for the purposes of administration included in one Protectorate, under the name of the East Africa Protectorate. This Protectorate includes the territories bounded on the north by the river Juba, on the east by the Indian Ocean, on the south by the German sphere, on the west by the Uganda Protectorate, and also all adjacent islands between the mouths of the rivers Juba and Umba.

From this we gather that "British East Africa" becomes in future "East Africa Protectorate," and out of the old "British East Africa" territory is to be carved a new Protectorate which will be known as the "Uganda Protectorate." For each of these practically new Protectorates we may, in the ordinary course of nature, expect sets of postage stamps.

The Stamps of Egypt.

By G. B. Duerst.

THE stamps of Egypt, the land of the Pharaohs, have always had a great hold on the minds of philatelists, and have in a good many cases run a close second with youthful collectors to the triangular Capes, and it is surprising to find how few, even amongst good collectors, know the great variety of types, apart from perforations and water-marks, that can and ought to be collected. Egypt is even in these days of high prices a good hunting ground for the specialist, and a fine collection can be made at a moderate cost. The great variety of design, colour, and execution gives such a collection a great charm, and will amply repay anyone for the trouble.

The State religion, being Mohammedan, forbids the Khedive to have his likeness depicted on the stamps, and after the first issue we find the monuments of the great past of the country aptly represented by the Pyramid and the Sphynx, which slightly modified appear since 1867.

I. Issue. *1st of January*, 1866.

The decree for this issue was dated December 21st, 1865, and the principal paragraphs are as follows:—

Rules for the Internal Postal Service.

(This decree comes into force on the 1st of January, 1866.)

Art. 1.—The monopoly of the postal service belongs by right to the Government.*

Art. 2.—The following are exempt from this monopoly:—

(1) Newspapers and periodicals distributed in the town where they are printed.

(2) Letters, circulars, &c., by societies, firms, &c., delivered in the same place where they are established.

(3) Plans, law papers in connection with the courts, registers, &c., unaccompanied by a letter.

(4) Freight notes, bills of lading, and other notes brought by captains, carriers, porters, muleteers, or others having reference only to the goods they carry.

(5) Letters, even closed, and newspapers, when taken by persons, if the number is not such as to be deemed to be a business matter.

(6) Letters and papers referring to the railway service, and taken over the lines.

Art. 3.—Messengers, muleteers, captains or owners of rafts, &c., arriving at any port or place within the state have to take all the correspondence which they bring to the next post-office.

Art. 4.—The postal officials have to watch that the administration of the railway, the steam ship companies or their agents, horse owners, &c., do not take and convey letters or other correspondence.

Art. 5.—The rate of postage for ordinary letters is according to weight for 10 grammes or any portion thereof.

Art. 8.—The franking of ordinary letters is optional, that of registered letters compulsory.

Art. 47.—The paper used for the stamps, and the manufacture thereof, is reserved to the Government, which determines the form and the price.

* The internal postal service of Egypt was before this time in the hands of private people, principally Italians; the first Postmaster-General was also an Italian.

Art. 48.—The stamps for ordinary letters must be put on by the sender, those for registered letters by the postal officials.

Art. 49.—All stamps will be obliterated at the first post-office. The difference in postage for insufficiently stamped letters will be collected from the receiver.

Sec. 50.—The postage for letters that are not franked will be put on the address side in large figures.

Sec. 52.—The franking of correspondence by means of stamps cut in two is inadmissible, the value of such stamps is lost to the sender, and newspapers franked with such cut stamps will be destroyed.

Sec. 53.—All the correspondence will be distributed at the post-offices and not delivered.
Further articles deal with the inviolability of the secret of the letters, dead letters, money orders, and confiscated correspondence.

GENERAL INSTRUCTIONS.

The post-offices alone are authorized to sell postage stamps.
The postage stamps are of seven different kinds, which are distinctive by the colour and the value, viz. :—

5, 10, and 20 paras.
1, 2, 5, and 10 piastres.

The correspondence for foreign countries must not be thrown into the letter boxes, but taken to the post-offices. Foreign letters must be franked by Egyptian stamps to Alexandria, the foreign postage must then be paid in the stamps of the country that is charged with the forwarding.

Cairo, December 21st, 1865.

By order of H.H. the VICEROY,
The Chancellor of the Exchequer,
HAFIZ PASHA.

The POSTMASTER-GENERAL
MUZZI-BEY.

From the foregoing decree it is clearly seen that the stamps were intended only for inland use, and that all foreign letters had to be forwarded as before by one of the foreign post-offices established in Alexandria. England, France, Austria, Italy, Belgium, Greece, and Russia had offices there, and even at the present time France, Italy, Austria, and Greece still forward any letters that may be handed to them, though the Egyptian Government joined in 1875 the Union Postale Universelle, and has in consequence the right of forwarding letters to any part of the globe.

This issue is frequently placed incorrectly in collections, and the only guide to obviate this is to place the stamp so that the loop of the centre black surcharge points upwards. This Central surcharge signifies "masr" or Egypt.



When the stamp has been placed in this position the surcharge on the left reads "masrije" or Egyptian, at the top "busta" or postage, and on the right "tamgaï" or stamp. The surcharge at the bottom contains the value in letters as follows :—

besch para	=	5 paras.
on "	=	10 "
jighirmi "	=	20 "
bir grousch	=	1 piastre.
iki "	=	2 piastres.
besch "	=	5 "
on "	=	10 "

The whole surcharge is in the Turkish language, and was printed by a second operation after the stamps were printed.

For the stamps themselves only one original matrix for each value seems to have been made, and from this the necessary number of clichés. Not in a single instance, however, does the top half correspond with the bottom half of

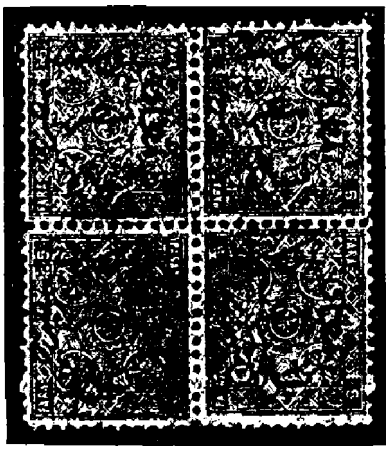
the stamp, and thus, when clamped together to form the printing plate, we find the two types of each value very often together. If it were not for the surcharge we should only have one type, as then we should not know which is the top and which the bottom of the stamp—in fact, the 5 and 10 paras stamps ought then to be placed sideways. As a matter of fact, they were depicted thus in old catalogues.

The design consists of arabesque ornaments in various frames, and each value is quite distinct, though there is a uniformity in the execution. For the two lower values the figures are in the top left and the bottom right hand corners, for the remainder in the top right and the bottom left hand corners. The stamps are upright, rectangular in shape, and were printed by Fratelli Pellas, in Genoa, on greyish white wove paper, containing as watermark a pyramid surmounted by a ten-rayed star, with the exception of the 1 piastre, which is unwatermarked. They were delivered in Alexandria not perforated, which was done there as they were required, and this accounts for the many varieties found in the size of the stamps. This work must have been done very carelessly, as so many imperforated stamps are found, although strict instructions had been given not to sell such to the public. Of course there is no doubt that officials always saw their way to oblige collectors, and also themselves. The official perforation was 12½. The gum is yellowish white and thin. Proofs of this issue exist imperforated and printed on thick unwatermarked paper.

(1).—5 paras, grey green. Type I. The ornamentation in the top border on the left-hand side next to the figure of value is  and the six-rayed star in the inner right-hand top corner is open towards the word PARA.

(2).—5 paras, grey green. Type II. The ornamentation in the top border on the left-hand side next to the figure of value is  and one ray of the star in the inner right-hand top corner points towards the word PARA.

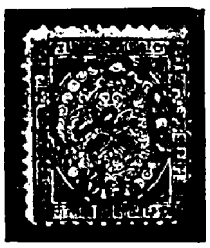
TYPE I. TYPE II.

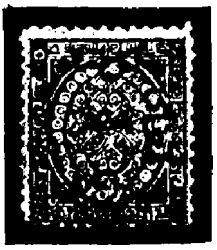


(3).—10 paras, brown. Type I. The ornamentation in the top border next to the figure of value commences vertically, thus 

(4).—10 paras, brown. Type II. The ornamentation in the top border next to the figure of value commences horizontally, thus 

TYPE I. TYPE II.





(5).—20 paras, blue. Type I.
The little crescent-shaped ornamentation over the central arabesque is pointed and nearly closed 

(6).—20 paras, blue. Type II.
The little crescent-shaped ornamentation over the central arabesque is flat and wide open 

(7).—1 piastre, rose lilac. Type I.
The two scroll ornaments in the inner oval touch, thus 

(8).—1 piastre, rose lilac. Type II.
The two scroll ornaments in the inner oval do not touch, thus 

(9).—2 piastres, orange. Type I.
The rope-like ornamentation under PE in the left-hand top corner has ten strokes.

(10).—2 piastres, orange. Type II.
The rope-like ornamentation under PE in the left-hand top corner has eleven strokes.

(11).—5 piastres, rose. Type I.
The loops of the inner scroll ornamentation touch both the outer circles containing the value at the top.

(12.)—5 piastres, rose. Type II.
The loops of the inner scroll ornamentation do not touch both the outer circles containing the value at the top.

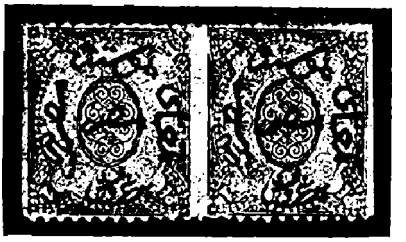
(13).—10 piastres, slate blue. Type I.
A line drawn through the o of the 10 in the right-hand top corner would intersect the nearest pearl in the inner oval.

(14).—10 piastres, slate blue. Type II.
A line drawn through the o of 10 in the right-hand top corner would pass into the oval over the nearest pearl.

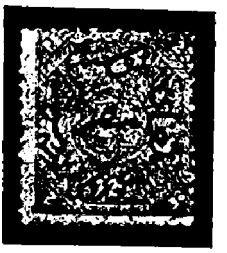
TYPE I. TYPE II.



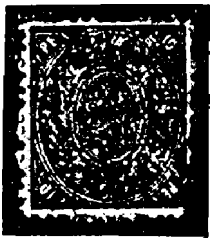
TYPE I. TYPE II.



IMPERFORATE VERTICALLY.







The whole issue exists with watermark inverted, of course with the exception of the 1 piastre, which is unwatermarked. A curious thing in connection with this watermark is, that writer has never seen the 5 paras with the watermark in the right position; no doubt it exists, but it must be very rare.

Errors :—

(15).— 5 piastres, rose. Type I. with surcharge of the 10 piastres.
(16).— 5 " " " II. " " " 10 "
(17).—10 " slate blue. " I. " " " 5 "
(18).—10 " " " II. " " " 5 "

According to Moëns the 2 piastres stamp was cut in half diagonally at Alexandria from the 16—31 July, 1867, during a temporary scarcity of 1 piastre stamps, and used as such.

The whole issue exists with the Constantinople obliteration, but whether Egypt had a post-office there is not known to writer.

For specialists the following lists of other varieties may be of interest, but all of them are unofficial :—

A :—Imperforated.

5 paras,	grey green.....	Types I.	& II.
10 "	brown.....	"	"
20 "	blue	"	"
1 piastre,	roselilac	"	"
2 piastres,	orange	"	"
5 "	rose...	"	"
10 "	slate blue	"	"

Also the two errors.

B :—Imperforated horizontally, and perforated 12½ vertically :—

5 paras,	grey green.....	Types I.	& II.
10 "	brown.....	"	"
20 "	blue	"	"
1 piastre,	roselilac.....	"	"
2 piastres,	orange	"	"
5 "	rose	"	"
10 "	slate blue	"	"

C :—Imperforated vertically, and perforated 12½ horizontally :—

5 paras,	grey green.....	Types I.	& II.
10 "	brown.....	"	"
20 "	blue	"	"
1 piastre,	roselilac	"	"
2 piastres,	orange	"	"
5 "	rose	"	"
10 "	slate blue	"	"

D :—Perforated 5 :—

10 piastres, slate blue, with surcharge of the 5 piastres stamp. This stamp was found by Ferd. Meyer.

II. Issue, *1st of August*, 1867.

Decree.

H.H. the Viceroy has approved of a new issue of stamps of 5, 10, 20 paras, and of 1, 2 and 5 piastres, which will be for sale on the 1st of August next.

During the same month the present stamps, as well as the new ones, can be used indifferently for the franking of letters, patterns, and printed matter. On the 1st of September next the present stamps cease to frank correspondence, but can be exchanged for new ones. Letters, &c., franked with them will be considered as not franked.

The stamps at present in use can be exchanged at all post-offices until the 31st of October of this year, after which date they will not be of any value.

This decree, with the reproduction of the new stamps, will be hung up in every post-office during this time.

The POSTMASTER-GENERAL,
MUZZI BEY.

Alexandria, 11th of July, 1867.

The design consists of a pyramid and sphinx in an oval, the whole surrounded by a double rectangular frame The two top corners contain the word PARA resp the letters P on the left and E on the right meaning piastre; between these there is a label containing the Arabic words "Tamgaï Posta Masrie," meaning Egyptian postage stamp. The two bottom corners have the figures of value inscribed on solid ground, between which there is a label containing the value in Arabic as follows:—

Hams parat	=	5 paras.
Ashra "	=	10 "
Ashrin "	=	20 "
Ghersh Wachet.....	=	1 piastre.
Ghersheen.....	=	2 piastres.
Hamsat Gheroush	=	5 "

On the left-hand side there is a representation of Pompey's pillar, and on the right one of Cleopatra's needle. The stamps are oblong, rectangular in shape.

The stamps were drawn on stone by F. Hoff, from Hirschberg (Silesia), and were printed by V. Penasson in Alexandria under the supervision of the Government. After printing, the stones were sent to the head quarters of the postal service at Cairo. A second printing was necessary in July, 1869. Printed in colour on medium to thick white wove paper and watermarked, or, more correctly speaking, relief impressed with a crescent and a five-pointed star. The gum is yellowish, sometimes giving the paper a yellowish tinge. Perforated 15 × 12½.

Four separate stamps for each value were drawn on stone, varying in several points, and thus we have four distinct types of each in this issue.

(*To be continued*).

British South Africa Provisionals.

BY CAPT. NORRIS NEWMAN, F.R.G.S.

ON the outbreak of the rebellion in Rhodesia, toward the end of March, 1896, the post office authorities in Bulawayo found themselves left with only a very small stock in hand of the old issue by Bradbury, Wilkinson & Co., and those only of low values, whilst the Civil Commissioner's office had also only a small number of sheets of the higher values from 2s. 6d. upwards, used for both postal and revenue purposes, although the head office in Salisbury had just received large quantities of the new issues—which, by the bye, are too large and ugly in the extreme—and of which only the 1d. variety had been sent to Buluwayo. The use of stamps for revenue purposes almost necessarily ceased during the rebellion, when all civil work was paralysed. Communication with Salisbury being entirely cut off for weeks, and the stock in hand having run out, other

means had to be taken to provide the more common values, viz., 1d. for local work and receipts, and, later on, 3d. for outside communication; though as the postage to England was 6d. I cannot quite make out why a 6d. provisional was not also issued; the only reason that I can see was that the rate to other parts of South Africa being 4d., the authorities thought the 1d. and 3d. would make up that rate, whilst two of the 3d. would take a letter to England. There being only a short supply of higher values available for surcharging at all, and the expense being heavy in each case, it was resolved that none of the stamps so surcharged should be sold to the public, and that all letters should be handed over the counter to the Post Office official, with the amount due for postage in money, when the department would affix the stamps and deface them.

Early in April the Civil Commissioner wanted some penny stamps for receipts, &c., and not caring to lessen the small number of ½d. and 1d. left in the Post Office, sent seven sheets (sixty each) of the 3d. value, being all he had in his possession, to the Government printing office for surcharging to 1d., which was done somewhat carelessly. The seven sheets of the 3d. had no errors or varieties, but the 4s. value had four errors on the first sheet, viz., the capital "P" in "Penny" reversed. Then again, one sheet had only a one line debarment, whereas the proper number was three. This was at once altered. On the following day, after sending the seven sheets of 3d., eighteen sheets of the 4s. value were sent to be surcharged with the same "One Penny" overprint. But the lot were issued on the same day.

Meanwhile, seeing that postal communication was fairly regular by the Bulawayo-Mafeking route, and that the weekly postage requirements of the public were greater than was expected or calculated upon, the authorities wired to the Cape office, asking them to get a number of sheets of the Cape stamps of different values surcharged and sent up as soon as possible. All the values except the 8d. having run clear out during April in the Post Office, fifty sheets of the 5s. were sent to be surcharged down to 3d. This was done in a better and bolder type. The first sheet showed only four errors, two R's on the top half pane and two T's on the right half pane being found reversed. This was altered, and all the other sheets were without error or variation.

The quantities printed of these provisionals were, therefore, as follows:—

7	sheets of 60 each	of "One Penny"	on 3d.,	making 420
18	sheets of 60 each	of do.	on 4s.,	making 1080
50	sheets of 60 each	of "Three Pence"	on 5s.,	making 3000

These stamps lasted until the 22nd of May, when the new stock from the Cape arrived and were issued to the public. The quantities received were as follows:—

100	sheets of ½d.	in four panes of 60 each, 240 stamps,								making 24,000
150	sheets of 1d.	...	do.	...	do.	...	do.	...	...	36,000
75	sheets of 2d.	...	do.	...	do.	...	do.	...	...	18,000
11	sheets of 3d.	...	do.	...	do.	...	do.	...	...	2,600
37½	sheets of 4d.	...	do.	...	do.	...	do.	...	...	9,000
16½	sheets of 6d.	...	do.	...	do.	...	do.	...	...	3,900

So that the 3d. and 6d. values are the rarest and will be difficult to obtain hereafter. There are several minor varieties of type on each sheet (from four to five) consisting of broken letters, long letters, and, here and there, a slight double surcharge.

London Philatelic Exhibition, 1897.

AT a Meeting of the General Committee held on 24th Sept., 1896, at the rooms of the Philatelic Society of London, Effingham House, Arundel Street, Strand, the List of the General Committee was finally settled as given below. From this General Committee of representative collectors and dealers, an Executive Committee of twenty collectors and dealers was chosen to plan and carry out the active work of the Exhibition. We append the List of the Executive. As will be seen, it is also very representative, but it is chosen exclusively from those who felt at liberty to make a more or less unconditional sacrifice of their time and convenience for the purposes of the Exhibition. It speaks volumes for the probable success of the venture that so many admittedly busy men have placed themselves so unreservedly at the disposal of the General Committee.

General Committee.

E. D. Bacon.
C. N. Biggs.
M. P. Castle.
R. Ehrenbach.
Major E. B. Evans.
D. Garth.
T. Wickham Jones.
T. Maycock.
H. R. Oldfield.
R. Pearce.
J. A. Tilleard.

(Members of the Council of the Philatelic Society, London).

Manchester Philatelic Society.
W. Dorning Beckton, *President.*
A. H. Harrison, *Hon. Sec.*

Sheffield Philatelic Society
C. B. Hunt, *President.*
R. Sneath *Hon. Sec.*

Liverpool Philatelic Society
F. B Broadway, *President.*
M. Broad, *Hon. Sec.*

Plymouth Philatelic Society.
Capt. R. W. H. Stockdale, R.E., *President.*
W. J. W. Miller, *Hon. Sec.*

Birmingham Philatelic Society.
W. T. Wilson, *President.*
G. Johnson, *Hon. Sec.*

Bradford Philatelic Society.
O. Firth, *President.*
W. H. Scott, *Hon. Sec.*

Brighton Philatelic Society.
Baron A. De Worms, *Hon. Sec.*

Cambridge Philatelic Society.
Oscar Browning, Esq., *President.*
H. D. Catling, *Hon. Sec.*

Oxford Philatelic Society.
J. A. H. Murray, M.A., L.L.D., D.C.L., *President.*
F. A. Bellamy, *Hon. Sec.*

Leeds Philatelic Society.
J. H. Thackrah, *President.*
W. Denison Roebuck.
F. K. Skipwith, *Hon. Sec.*

J. H. Abbott.
W. B. Avery.
F. G. Bepler.
W. W. Blest.
D. Brosnan.
P. M. Bright.
Theo Buhl.
E. Clarke.
H. J. Duveen.
H. L'Estrange Ewen.
M. Giwelb.
E. S. Gibbons.
F. R. Ginn.
S. E Gwyer.
W. Hadlow.
E. Hawkins.
Harry Hilckes.
Pearson Hill.
G. F. Hynes.
W. R. Joynt.
H. A. Kennedy.
C. Whitfield King.
C. J. Lambert.
W. Lincoln.
P. J. Lloyd.
C. Lockyer.
W. Morley.
E. J. Nankivell.
Lieut. F. N. Napier.
J. A. Nix.
W. H. Peckitt.
C. J. Phillips.
F. Ransom.
Rev. P. E. Raynor.
T. Ridpath.
Vernon Roberts.
Walter Scott.
Gordon Smith.
B. T. K. Smith.
J. Scott Stokes.
T. H. Thompson.
Rev. W. N. Usher.
Capt. R. A. Vansittart.
Dr. C. W. Viner.
— Winch.
W. T. Willett.
A. H. Wilson.
Hastings E. Wright.

Executive Committee.

W. B. Avery.
E. D. Bacon.
W. D. Beckton.
M. P. Castle.
R. Ehrenbach.
Major Evans.
M. Giwelb.
S. E. Gwyer.
W. Hadlow.
G. F. Hynes.
T. W. Jones.
T. Maycock.
E. J. Nankivell.
H. R. Oldfield.
W. H. Peckett.
C. J. Phillips.
R. Pearce.
Gordon Smith.
J. A. Tilleard.
W. T. Wilson.

The Postmaster-General's Report.

THE forty-second annual report of the Postmaster-General has been submitted to the Lords of the Treasury by the Duke of Norfolk, and was published on the 24th of August last. We take the following excellent summary of the report from *The Times*:—

The report gives an account of the business of the Department for the year ended March 31, 1896. It is estimated that during that year the number of postal packets delivered in the United Kingdom was:—Letters, 1,834,200,000; postcards, 314,500,000; book packets, circulars, and samples, 672,300,000; newspapers, 149,000,000; parcels, 60,527,000. This makes a total of 3,030,527,000 postal packets in one year, or an average of 77 to each person. There is an increase under every head, except newspapers, where the decrease is very slight.

The Duke of Norfolk, in his present report, takes as his starting point the year before the establishment of uniform penny postage. In that year, 1839, the number of letters (including six million franks) which passed through the post was 82 millions, and in the following year under penny postage it rose to 169 millions. Up to 1870, or during the first thirty years after the introduction of penny postage, the changes in the postal rates had not been extensive, but in 1870 changes greater than any which had occurred since the reform of 1839 were made.

On October 1, 1870, postcards were introduced; the rate for book packets and samples was reduced to ½d. for 2oz.; and the rate for newspapers was fixed at ½d irrespective of weight. In the following year the letter rate of postage, up to 12oz. was reduced to the present scale of 1d. for the first ounce, ½d for the second ounce, and an additional ½d. for each additional 2oz The sample post was abolished at the same time.

The rates of postage for letters were not again altered till 1885, when postage on weights above 12oz. was reduced to ½d for each additional 2oz.

The book and newspaper rates have since remained unaltered, but a great stimulus was given to the book post in 1892, when greater freedom was given both in the mode of packing and in the definition of a book packet.

To complete this summary of the changes of the conditions of the post it ought to be added that the price of postcards and the conditions of their use have been changed from time to time since their first introduction in 1870.

In 1872 a charge of a halfpenny a dozen in addition to the stamp was made. In 1875 stout cards were first issued, and the charge for thin cards raised to 1d. a dozen.

In 1889 the present rates—viz., 1d. for 10 stout cards and ½d. for 10 thin cards—were fixed, and stout cards began to displace thin cards to the extent of 18 millions a year. On September 1, 1894, private cards first passed under a halfpenny adhesive stamp. Cards of "court" size were issued on January 21, 1895. In consequence of these various changes, in 1894-95 the number of postcards of all sorts rose from 272 to 313 millions, while the number of official postcards showed a decrease of 31 millions.

A table then shows the growth of the business of the Department, from the 82 millions of letters in 1839 to the 1,834 millions in 1895-96, and the total of postal packets from 600 millions in 1856-60 to 3,030 millions in the last year.

In connection with this historical sketch, the Duke of Norfolk gives particulars of the revenue and expenditure of the Post Office at different periods. The total revenue in 1839 was £2,435,040, and the expenditure £756,999. In 1871-72 the postal revenue was £5,322,356 and the telegraph £754,634, or a total of £6,076,990; while the expenditure was £4,473,967. In 1895-96 these figures had risen to £11,759,945 postal and £2,879,794 telegraph, a total of £14,639,739. The expenditure was £11,007,617, leaving a net revenue of £3,632,122. It should be noticed here that the Telegraph Department has for the last five years shown a deficit. This deficit was £178,439 in 1893-94, and decreased to £34,787 in the year under consideration.

With regard to the decrease in newspapers the Duke of Norfolk says:—

For the decrease in late years in the number of newspapers passing by post I am unable to account, but I presume that it is due to increased energy and improved system on the part of the great newsagents.

From the revenue point of view the tendency to relieve the Post Office of the duty of distributing newspapers is no matter for regret, for, as has been often stated in public, the State loses much money by the work.

The number of parcels delivered in the United Kingdom was 60,527,000, an increase of nearly 6 per cent. The average postage per parcel is now 5·44d., of which the Post Office share is 2·86d. The number of registered parcels has been 662,196. The total number of rail-borne parcels was 52,196,217, an increase of 5·3 per cent., and of road-borne parcels 8,331,221, an increase of 9·5 on last year.

The express delivery service, which came into operation in 1891, shows an increase of 33 per cent. during the present year, the number of express services having been 363,971. Two-thirds of the total number of services have been performed in London. The number of returned packets dealt with were as follows:—Letters, 6,331,086; postcards, 1,016,005; book packets, 9,538,097; newspapers, 707,004; patterns and samples, 62,769; parcels, 146,407. The report says:—

The decrease in the number of postcards and books is, no doubt, due to the abolition of the charge for the re-direction of these classes of packets, the Post Office having thereby been enabled to deliver a large proportion of these packets to the addresses.

The value of property found in letters which were opened in the Returned Letter Office exceeded £580,000, and, in addition to these, many registered letters having the name and address of the sender outside were returned unopened.

The letters posted without any address were 31,879, of which 2,133 contained property of the value of £3,860. The number of parcels found in the post without address was 6,462. The corresponding numbers for the previous five years were as follows:—1890-91, 9,986; 1891-92, 9,350; 1892-93, 8,263; 1893-94, 5,343; 1894-95, 5,631.

The decrease in the number of such parcels between 1891 and 1894 was no doubt due to the efforts made by the Postmaster-General of the day to warn the public against the use of "tie on" labels, which are often insecurely fastened to the parcels. It is to be regretted that the numbers should have risen in the last two years. I hope that the attention now drawn to the matter may cause greater care to be taken by the public in the protection of the property which they intrust to the post.

The facilities for posting letters in London with late fee for Sunday night mails have been extended to more offices. The average number of letters so posted last year reached nearly 3,000 each Sunday. The money-order system has been extended during the year to Finland and Servia and certain places in the Levant. The actual number of postal orders during the year has been 64,076,377, representing £23,896,594 7s. 6d. In the Post Office Savings Banks the amount due to depositors at the end of 1895 was £97,868,975, and the number of accounts open was 6,453,597.

During the year 78,839,600 telegrams of all descriptions were forwarded, showing an increase over the previous year of more than 10 per cent. Of these 5,915,646 telegrams were transmitted at Press rates, an increase of 9·5 per cent.

With regard to the National Telephone Company, the arrangement arrived at, after negotiations extending over four years, was executed on March 25. On July 16, 1895, the system was thrown open to the public, and there has been a steady development of the business.

From the financial point of view the past year has been one of unexampled prosperity in the Post Office. The general election and the revival of trade have enabled the Postmaster-General to realise a profit of £3,632,122.

Two hundred and sixty-four new post-offices and 1,087 new letter-boxes have been added during the last year. There are now 27,022 letter-boxes and 20,398 post-offices in the United Kingdom. Money-order and savings-bank business is transacted at about 11,000 offices, telegraph business is transacted at 7,653, but, in addition, telegraph business is performed for the Post Office at 2,273 railway stations. New telegraph offices have been opened during the past year at 244 post-offices and 21 railway stations.

Postal Reform in China.

Translated from *der Ostasiatische Lloyd* in the *American Journal of Philately*.

IN view of the approaching establishment of an Imperial postal service in China on the European pattern, a birds-eye view of the existing postal service, as well as its past history, ought to be of general interest. The service itself was always in the care of the Ministry of War. It was during the supremacy of the Ming Dynasty (1368-1644) that the transmission of passengers and mails acquired considerable importance, and began to be well handled. However, in the 17th century, this system fell from its high plane, because the Government officials began to exploit it for personal advantage. It was only on the accession of the second Mantschu Emperor that the service again achieved its previous success, and in fact became greatly extended. The conquest of new territories made good and regular connection more necessary than ever. For the management and general control of this service a special class of officials were appointed, who were under the supervision of the Minister of War. At the stations, the majority of which were located on the principal roads, all the necessaries for expedition, such as horses, camels, wagons, boats, &c., were held in readiness.

The service was divided into two classes. By the means of the first Imperial despatches and by the second passengers and baggage, as well as war material, were forwarded. This Imperial Post is at present administered by the Postmaster-General, whose office is in Peking. The branches are restricted to the provincial capitals, and Vice-Postmasters are in charge. These officials are selected exclusively out of the upper military class. The Imperial post was to forward only imperial edicts, regulations, and similar official writings, however, in reality, the messengers also carry the private correspondence of the upper classes. The carriers are especially selected and enjoy a number of privileges, as, for instance, the right to live at hotels and obtain food for their horses free of charge.

The second division is known as "General Postal Service (Yuting);" it extends over all of China. The main office is in Peking, and in every Chinese city that is walled in there is a branch. The Taotais, or District Governors, are generally the Postmasters of their respective districts. They name their subordinates who act as local postmasters. The latter again control and are responsible for the carriers and messengers. Each one of these must forward the mail from his station to those points which are nearest to his centre. The average distance between these does not exceed 100 li. (about 40 English miles). At every station there is a man who keeps accounts of all letters received and forwarded. All post office buildings are the property of the government.

Almost all official documents, which are to be forwarded, bear a superscription which states how quickly they are to be carried. Ordinary documents are marked 200 li (about 80 miles) per day; those which are to be especially expedited are expected to travel 400 li, and those which are in great haste, as much as 800 li per day. The messenger must traverse this distance, no matter what the state of the weather may be, otherwise he is subject to punishment. The best time which has ever been made in China is 280 German miles (nearly 1400 miles) in four days, or almost 14 miles per hour. This occurred in the year 1851 in the Taiping Rebellion. The expense of this postal service is borne by the provincial authorities.

As perfect as the Imperial postal system of China may have been, even in former centuries, it was never used to any extent by the commercial or private interests. Even had they been permitted to send letters or packets by the means of this service, it is still doubtful if they would have availed themselves of the privilege, as the officials would have been suspected of tampering with private letters. In consequence, independent postal agencies were established in the cities and market towns for the convenience of bankers, merchants, and private individuals, which undertook the forwarding of letters and packets. In the large cities there are generally several of these private enterprises, and these produce considerable competition. As a result, it occurs more frequently than anywhere in the world, that postal officials collect mail matter from the houses of customers instead of the latter sending letters and packets to the office itself.

These private postal enterprises entrust the mail matter either to native boats which

travel regularly between the different cities, or to letter carriers the majority of whom travel on foot, although occasionally they go on horseback. Every one of the postal boats referred to has a special man on board, who is entrusted with the reception and delivery, as well as the care, of the letters in the mail. All letters are registered at the office of receipt, the contents are insured up to their full value, and great liberality is shown in the matter of weight. The postage need not necessarily be paid in advance, but as a rule the writer pays about 30 per cent. of it, the remainder being paid by the recipient. These postal agencies frequently carry running accounts with their customers, which are settled monthly. If the writer is particular to have a letter delivered rapidly and safely, he writes on the envelope a promise of payment of a liberal sum in copper coin on the delivery of the letter.

The transmission of mail matter through letter carriers is also rapid and safe. On the average, these men traverse a geographical mile (four and three fifths English miles) per hour. As soon as they reach their destination, that is the next station to which their letters are addressed, they immediately hand the mail to another man, who, without regard to the condition of the weather, must immediately start on his way, and having arrived at the next station, hand it over to a third messenger, which process is repeated until the final destination is reached. As the country, through which the carriers walk, is frequently a mere waste and but thinly inhabited, they are exposed to the attacks of robbers. For protection against these attacks they are always armed.

In regard to the rates, they are not fixed, although, in general, fixed rates are made to regular customers, while occasional correspondents must pay considerably more. For short distances, the rates are lower than in Germany; for longer distances, say beyond a radius of 50 miles, they are naturally high, as the dispatches must be transferred so many times.

This private postal system answers the requirements pretty well. Letters and packets are delivered just as safely, even if a little less rapidly, than they are with us. Large sums of money are also sent by this means. The money, in case it is sent by boat, is weighed by the captain of the vessel, who makes out a receipt and, for a small percentage, he gnarantees to pay the money to the party addressed. Thefts are of rare occurrence.

In the Spring of 1893, Sir Robert Hart, the chief inspector of Chinese maritime customs, addressed a letter to the Foreign Office in Peking in regard to the institution of a postal system in China after the pattern of similar institutions existing in Europe. This memorial was also sanctioned by the throne. In accordance with the proposed scheme, every capital or province was to be endowed with a non-resident Director of Posts, and every capital of a province with a non-resident subaltern postal official. Their assistants were to be chosen from the Chinese population, but it was to be required that they be familiar with the English language. In the country towns, as well as in the cities of the second and third rank, the post office was to be administered by Chinese. This scheme referred only to the non-treaty ports and the interior of the country. In the treaty ports the postal administration was to be administered in connection with the custom house. It was intended to retain the existing carrier service, but the private postal agencies were to be abolished, while retaining, so far as possible, in the new administration, the people employed in these private agencies.

After three years, this project has finally ripened. Sir Robert Hart has been appointed General Postal Director, and, according to all appearances, the new service should be in operation in a few weeks. The Chinese newspaper *Schenpao* publishes the rules and regulations promulgated by Sir Robert Hart for the new Imperial post. It is stated therein that these regulations are intended only to cover the general outlines of the postal service, and that more minute regulations will follow later on.

ORGANIZATION.

The customs post offices in the different treaty ports shall in future be designated as Imperial Post Offices. The places at which such post offices exist shall be considered as belonging to the Universal Postal Union. The remainder are not as yet included therein.

The management of the Imperial Post Offices in the sea-ports shall be under the charge of the customs commissioners, who shall co-operate with the Chinese customs superintendents.

The existing postal service in Peking, which is under the General Customs Inspection, shall be raised to the dignity of the Chief Imperial Post Office. It shall have control over the different Imperial Post Offices in the sea-ports, and receives its authority from the "Tsungli Yamen" (Council of State).

As the post office in Shanghai will be the most important office of transit, special officials shall be appointed for it, but they shall also be subject to the authority of the customs commissary and customs superintendent.

The director of the Bureau of Statistics in Shanghai shall have general supervision over the postal service. All reports of postmasters, to the general inspector of customs, shall pass through his hands.

Later on, branch postal establishments, with special employées, shall be established in places adjacent to the treaty ports, like Taku, and Tongku near Tientsin, also at railroad and telegraph stations, in Wysung near Shanghai, Tschenhai near Ningpo, Pagoda Anchorage near Futschau, Whangpo near Canton, Wuhsüeh near Kiukiang, Aking and Tatung near Wuhu, Nanking near Tschingkiang, &c.

Method of Transmission.

The post office transmits letters, postal cards, samples and printed matter. The transmission of single articles will be either in large mail bags or separately. In shipments in transit, the mail bags will not be opened, and mail matter for the immediate neighbourhood will be unpacked and distributed either piece by piece or placed into a new bag for further transmission.

Each mail sack will be accompanied by an exact description of its contents. The receiving post office, in the first instance, shall make out a receipt for the matter to be forwarded, after it has convinced itself that the mail matter on the waybill has actually been delivered to it.

From one seaport to another transmission of the mail will be by steamer, and in the inland by the means of Chinese private offices, with which special arrangements will have to be made, and notice of which is to be given to the public.

Postage.

The rate of postage is different, according to whether letters go from seaport to seaport, into the inland, or to foreign countries. For foreign letters it shall be regulated by Art. 5 and 6 of the Universal Postal Union agreement. If a foreign letter is to be sent through an Imperial post office into the inland, to a place which is not included in the Universal Postal Union, the receiver has to pay the inland postage in addition. Likewise, for letters from an inland station to foreign countries, the sender has to prepay inland postage. The amount of this inland postage is to be determined and collected by the private post office establishments.

For transmission from one treaty port to another the following scale shall apply :—

Post cards	1 c.
Letters up to ¼ Chinese oz. (Tael)	2 c.
,, ,, ½ oz.	4 c.
,, ,, 1 oz.	8 c.
and upwards on the same scale.	
Newspapers, Chinese	1 c.
,, European	2 c.
Samples and Printed Matter, per 2 oz.	2 c.

For registered letters an additional impost is collected. A receipt is to be given therefor. For foreign letters, the regulations contained in Art. 5-7 of the Universal Postal Union agreement are to govern. For a return receipt in addition to the cost of registration, double the impost is to be paid.

All private postal establishments are compelled to inform the nearest post office of their rates, in order that they may be made public.

For the prepayment of foreign letters, and letters addressed to treaty ports, special stamps shall be printed, which are to be pasted on the letters. These stamps shall be sold at the post offices, and at such stores as may be designated by them. Counterfeiting of these stamps will be punished in the same way as the counterfeiting of bank notes.

Shipments of Money.

The post office undertakes also the transmission of money from one Postal Union office to another, but only in sums not exceeding 100 Taels. The sender receives a receipt for his shipment.

Transmission of Packets.

Later on, as soon as the postal service has been further developed, it will also, as in Europe, transmit packets. The regulations governing the weight of the packets, their bulk, and the charges will be determined later on.

Relation of the Post Offices to the Private Postal Establishments.

If a private postal establishment desires to forward letters by steamer, *viâ* an open port, it must send them in a closed bag to the Imperial Post Office in that port, which shall attend to the transmission, but in no case shall they be sent direct to the steamer. For this service it has to pay the regular rates of postage for intermediate ports. The Imperial Post Office is to receive a receipt from the private postal establishment to which the mail bag is addressed.

If private postal establishments desire to be admitted into the Universal Postal Union, they will have to be registered in an Imperial Post Office, and will have to obtain a certificate, which, however, will be issued free of charge. If, later on, they desire to sever their connection with the Union, the certificate must be returned for cancellation.

Penalties.

Post Office officials, who open letters or packets and violate the secrecy of the mails, shall not only be disciplined, but shall be punished according to the laws of their respective states.

Only registration offices are permitted to forward letters within the circuit of the Imperial Post Office. Whoever forwards letters unauthorized shall be subjected to a punishment of 50 Taels for every piece of mail matter so forwarded.

Steamship companies, captains, sailors, and passengers on steamers plying between the treaty ports shall be prohibited from carrying letters which should properly be carried by the post. Every infringement of this law shall be punished by a fine of 500 Taels. Open private papers, letters of recommendation, business and ships letters are not included under this head.

Accounting.

All post offices are to furnish a monthly account of receipts and disbursements to the director of the Bureau of Statistics in Shanghai, who, in turn, shall periodically send tabulated accounts to the General Inspector of Customs, who shall present them to the Tsungli Yamen.

Records.

All in and outgoing mail matter is to be entered in the register. The blanks therefore are to be patterned according to Art. 4 and 17, and to Paragraphs 23 and 24 of the special regulations.

Overland Post in Winter.

On account of the freezing over of the Rivers in Northern China, the mail shall, in Winter, be forwarded overland from Tschingkiang to Tschifu, Tientsin, Peking and Niutschuang. The post offices concerned in this service shall publish all further regulations in regard to it.

Tschungking and Yangtse Ports.

The post office in Tschungking shall for the present forward only single letters and not mail bags. If private postal establishments desire to have any of the latter forwarded, they must send them to the Imperial Post Office in Itschang. Mengtse and Lungtschau shall also for the present forward only single letters.

Imperial Post Offices, with special officials under the customs commissaries, shall be established at the six Yangtse ports: Lu-hsi-kon, Wu-hsueh, Hukou, Angking, Tatung and Nanking.

Transmission of Letters from and to Foreign Countries.

The transmission of letters to a country belonging to the Universal Postal Union, after China shall have entered the Union, shall be in accordance with its rules.

Letters from foreign countries must be delivered direct to the addressee by an Imperial Post Office; they shall not be permitted to use any intermediate service. Only, in case such letters are sent *viâ* Shanghai, to a place not included in the Postal Union, they will have to be sent by the Shanghai Post Office to a registered private postal establishment for further transmission. The latter shall collect the inland postage from the recipient in accordance with its own schedule rates.

If an Imperial Post Office has no direct steam connection, it shall send the letters for further transmission to a post office with such connection. The charges for such service shall be in accordance with the rates of the Postal Union.

Reviews.

Hilckes' Auction Summary.

Hilckes' Auction Summary for the Season 1894—5. *A complete Guide to the Values Postage Stamps. Compiled and arranged by Harry Hilckes. London: Harry Hilckes & Co., Ltd.*, 64, *Cheapside. Price* 1s. 6*d. cloth.*

This is the second year of publication of Mr. Hilckes' Auction Summary. Many little improvements have been introduced. The size is slightly reduced in width to make it more convenient for the pocket. Black-face type has been used to better distinguish the various stamps. The former notation, classifying mint, average, and damaged copies is wisely retained. It is the nearest approach to efficient classification that has yet been suggested, and without some such separation the value of the record of prices would necessarily be somewhat vague. The date of sale of each copy is given, and also an initial indicating the auctioneer. The little book is excellently got up, and is a monument of patient skill that we trust will be appreciated. It is an invaluable record that we hope to see continued on the same lines for many years. Whilst the compiler admits, in his preface, that there is a difference of opinion as to the actual value of market prices, we quite agree with him "that although some prices may not be reliable, a whole season's report should be a fair reflection of actual market value." They certainly are the best, if not the only, guide to prices at which a collector may hope to realise. Probably they range on the whole, somewhat below average catalogue values. It is natural that they should, seeing that the bulk of the purchases are by dealers for the purpose of replenishing their stocks.

Norwegian Stamps.

Price List of Norwegian Stamps: wholesale and retail, and for Specialists. Hubert Buckley, Rosenkrantz Gd. 2. *Kristiana, Norway. Gratis.*

Mr. Buckley sends us a very beautifully printed and most elaborate catalogue of Norwegian issues that should delight the heart of the specialist. Every variety of type known to the specialist is given and priced, used and unused. With such a clear guide before him the veriest tyro may safely specialise in Norwegians, and he may do so, with the knowledge that he will find very few countries of the cheaper class so enjoyable, and so full of interesting varieties.

A Catalogue for Beginners.

The American Standard Catalogue of all Postage Stamps. 1896 *Edition. The J. W. Scott Co. Ltd.*, 40, *John Street, New York City. Price* 25 *cents.*

Mr. J. W. Scott in this catalogue has omitted all reference to watermarks, as he holds that these are entirely out of place in the album of the general collector, while the specialist can study them to better advantage in the handbooks of the countries he may be interested in. Perforated are distinguished from imperforated, but varieties of perforation are not given. These limitations seem to us to be wise and necessary. Nothing is more discouraging to the junior collector, and even to the ordinary general collector, than the puzzling varieties of perforation in which the specialist of to-day finds so much pleasure.

Novelties and Discoveries.

Antioquia.—On 15th June last, says the *Monthly Circular*, the new series made its appearance, and is said to have been manufactured in the United States. The type resembles that of 1892, but the numerals of value above the word CENTAVOS is now in the centre under the arms. The stamps are engraved and printed on plain white wove paper. The perforation is 14.

Adhesives

2	centavos,	grey
2½	,,	reddish-brown
3	,,	vermilion-red
5	,,	green
10	,,	violet
20	,,	orange-bistre
50	,,	grey-bistre

British Central Africa. — Messrs. Whitfield King, and Co. write us as follows concerning the "One Penny" provisional with double surcharge, chronicled in our last issue (p. 221):

We have just received a letter from the Postmaster of the B.C.A. Protectorate containing some additional information about the doubly surcharged 1d. on 2d. This is quite a different type to the ordinary variety, which is thus accounted for:—100 sheets of 60 of the 2d. stamps were sent to the Government printing office at Blantyre to be surcharged "One Penny." After putting one sheet through the press twice over, it was sent in to the P.M.G., who was dissatisfied, and not considering that the overprinting could be done properly in B.C.A. he recalled the remaining 99 sheets and sent them to the P.M.G. of the Cape of Good Hope to be surcharged. Accordingly one sheet was done at Blantyre and 99 sheets at Cape Town. This will explain the difference in the two types.

British Guiana.—Mr. A. E. Tuttle has shown the *American Journal of Philately* an uncatalogued variety of the 4c. 1863, on thin paper; it is perforated 11½ all round, a new gauge for this series.

Adhesive Stamp.

4c. blue, 1863, perforated 11½.

British South Africa.—We learn that the wretchedly printed stamps of the current issue will shortly be replaced by another issue of practically the same design, but redrawn and re-engraved. In the redrawing, sundry improvements have been introduced; the most noticeable of these will be found on the top of the stamp, and in the ribbon that crosses the legs of the supporters on each side of the central arms. The upper labels of value will in the new series be raised to the level of the top of the design. In the current set they drop below it. The ribbon which crosses the legs of the supporters in the current design will be curled up clear of the legs in the new stamps. With the addition of a £1 stamp the values and colours will—at least for the present—remain unchanged. The new stamps are being engraved and printed by Messrs. Waterlow.

Bundi State (Rajputana).—A correspondent sends the *Monthly Journal* a small block of stamps, which were sent him at the end of last year as specimens of an issue for this State. Major Evans describes the design as an exceedingly rough copy of that of the Alwar stamps, and says no doubt exists in as many types as there are stamps on the sheet, the eighth in the block being each more rudely drawn than its neighbour. They appear to him to be lithographed, on thin, greyish wove paper, imperforate.

Adhesive.

1 anna (?), grey-blue.

Canada.—The ½ cent, adhesive, is said to have been retouched and the whole stamp lightened up.

Cyprus. — We learn from Messrs. Whitfield King & Co. that the 2 piastres of the bi-coloured series has now appeared, and that ½ piastre will be issued at the end of this month (Sept.)

It may be of interest to put on record the exact numbers of the now obsolete Cyprus stamps which have been issued up to the time of their being superseded by the bi-coloured series.

For this we are also indebted to Messrs. W. K. & Co. The numbers are:—

½ piastre, green	3,039,840
30 peras, mauve	187,920
1 piastre, rose	424,800
2 piastres, blue	983,700
4 piastres, olive green	90,000
6 piastres, slate	54,000
12 piastres, vermilion red	19,000

Fernando Po.—We have the following from Messrs. Whitfield King & Co.:—

Adhesives.

1/8	centavo, slate.
6	c., de peso, lilac.
12½	c., de peso, brown.
20	c., de peso, blue.
25	c., de peso, rose.

Provisional.

5c. on 10c. de peso, brown, black sur.

Fiji.—Messrs. Whitfield King & Co. send us the 1d. value changed in colour from black to mauve.

Adhesive.

1d., mauve.

Great Britain.—We are indebted to Mr. H. L'Estrange Ewen for an early specimen of the Army Official Stamp issued on September 1st. He informs us that there are three values:—½d., 1d., and 2½d. The overprint on the 2½d. is in thicker type, and the words are 9¼ mm. apart instead of 12 mm.

Adhesives.

Army Official Stamps.

½d., vermilion; sur. in black.
1d., lilac; sur. in black.
2½d., purple on blue; sur. in black.

Greece.—A correspondent of the *Monthly Journal* describes a specimen of the 1 lepton first type, Athens print, which appears to be a heavily-inked impression from a worn plate, the cross at the right top corner and the Greek-pattern border at the right side being quite invisible. He also tells of a variety of the 20 l., *red*, of the second type, on *laid* paper.

Gwalior.—Our contemporaries have chronicled the higher values of India surcharged for this State in English and in native characters, and also the 2½a.

Adhesives.

2½ annas, green.
1 rupee, carmine and green.
2 rupees, carmine and brown.
3 ,, brown and green.
5 ,, blue and violet.

Holland.—We are indebted to Mr. J. R. Robert for a copy of a 50 cent. value in the type of larger size of the 2gl. 50c. The outer portion of the stamp is printed in green, and the medallion of the young queen in the centre in brown. Perf. 11½.

Adhesive.

50c. green, centre brown

Japan.—We have received the Commemorative War Stamps which we illustrate. They are intended to commemorate two heroes who lost their lives in the War with China—Prince Arisugawa, and Prince Kitaskirakawa.

There are two sets of two values=4; 2 sen. and 5 sen., each of the portraits being repeated on each value; but which is 'Aris and which is Kit, we are unable to say. We understand that these stamps are intended to be a permanent issue.





Adhesives.

2 sen, portrait of Prince Arisugawa.
5 sen, portrait of Prince Kitashirakawa.





Adhesives.

2 sen, portrait of Prince Kitashirakawa.
5 sen, portrait of Prince Arisugawa.

Madagascar.—*Le Collectionneur de Timbres Poste* gives the numbers of the stamps recently surcharged in Madagascar to supply a want of certain values as follows:—

5 on 1 c., 500 | 25 on 3 c., 900
15 on 2 c., 900 | 25 on 4 c., 900
25 on 40 c., 1,000

They were not sold to the public, but affixed to letters at the Post Office. The Decree does not mention a 25 on 2c. which it may be hoped does not exist.

The same journal says 21,000 copies of the 1 franc stamp had the name "MADAGASCAR ET DÉPENDANCES" printed in error in *blue*, instead of *rose*.

Adhesives.

1 fr., blue and bronze; *error*.

New South Wales.—The *Australian Philatelist* announces that:—

Owing to Fiji having agreed to accept letter cards at the intercolonial rate of 1½d., an alteration has been made in the inscription on the back of the New South Wales letter card, which has been effected by obliterating the word "and" after "Tasmania," and all the words after "Australia" in the third and fourth lines, and adding the words "and Fiji." The alterations are made in red ink.

Letter-card.

1½d. red on drab (pink inside), with altered inscription.

New Zealand.—The *Monthly Journal* says it is assured by a correspondent, upon whose judgment it can rely, that he has seen an undoubted specimen of the 3d., first type, upon *pelure*, "a variety, the existence of which," says Major Evans, "has never before been satisfactorily proved." It would be still more satisfactory if the stamp were submitted to the Expert Committee of the London Society before it is fully admitted to our catalogues.

Adhesives.

3d. lilac on *pelure*.

Portugal.—There is to be still another set of commemoratives to make glad the Editor of the *Boston Stamp Book* and other critics of the work of the S.S.S.S. in putting down rubbish. It is to be issued on the occasion of the "National Celebration in 1897 of the Fourth Centenary of the departure of Vasco di Gama for the Discovery of India"

Queensland.—In chronicling the recently issued 2½d. value (p. 222), we omitted to state that the background has been removed around the head.

Roumanian Levant.—The *Berliner Briefmarken-Zeitung* says that in addition to the surcharged stamps, chronicled in our July number (p. 189), some 80 stamps were used in Constantinople without a special surcharge.

Servia.—The publishers of the *Monthly Journal* have found in their stock a pair of the 1866 40c., *ultramarine on pelure*, perf. 9½ all round, and imperforate between the two stamps.

Seychelles.—We are indebted to Messrs. Whitfield King & Co., for a copy of the following Government notice:—

GOVERNMENT NOTICE, No. 65 OF 1896.

It is hereby notified for Public information that in virtue of Art. 1 of Ord. 5 of 1890, His Honour The Administrator, in Executive Council, has been pleased to alter the present rates of postage from Seychelles to the countries of the Postal Union—

FOR LETTERS.

	Rs.	c.
Not exceeding 15 grammes	0	18
Exceeding 15 grammes, but not exceeding 30 grammes	0	36
with 18c. for each additional 15 grammes or fraction of 15 grammes.		

FOR POST CARDS.

To countries of the Postal Union (single cards)	0	08
" " " (reply cards)	0	16

For Commercial Papers, Newspapers, Books, Printed Papers, Patterns, &c.

	Rs.	c.
For 50 grammes	0	04
With a proviso of a minimum for a packet of commercial papers of	0	18
And for Patterns or Samples	0	08

The new rate will come into operation on and from the 1st August, 1896.

The following values, now existing, will be abolished from that date:—

13c., 15c., 45c., 45c., 48c, and 96c.

Pending the arrival of new stamps 18c. and 36c. overprints will be supplied; and 18c. overprint envelopes.

(By order) LEO GEMMELL,
Government Clerk.

Government Office, Seychelles,
13th July, 1896.

Shanghai.—We are indebted to Messrs. Whitfield King & Co. for copies of some new provisionals:—"Four cents" in sans serif letters on 15c. yellow, and "six cents," same style, on 20 cents, mauve.

Adhesives.

4c. on 15c., yellow, black sur.
6c. on 20c., mauve, black sur.

Sierra Leone.—Messrs. Cameron & Co. have had an entire pane (60 stamps) of the 1½d., wmk. crown and C.A., with the "HALF PENNY" surcharge inverted. The error "HALF PFNNY" exists on one specimen only.

Adhesive.

½d. on 1½d., lilac; *surcharge inverted.*

South Australia.—Mr. G. Blockey informs the *London Philatelist* that he has heard from an official source that the 3d., olive green, perf. 10, will not be reprinted after the present supply is exhausted, and also that the 1s. plate which has been in constant use since 1856, is now very much worn, and will probably be replaced shortly by a fresh design.

Tasmania.—A correspondent of the *Australian Philatelist* has been informed that this Colony intends issuing new 1d., 2d., and 6d. stamps in place of those now in issue, but the Editor inclines to the belief that his correspondent is in error as to the probability of a new 6d. stamp, and thinks it will more likely be a 4d., as that value was not included in the 1892 series.

Trinidad.—Messrs. Whitfield King and Co. send us a full series of a striking new design which we illustrate. Up to

and including the 1s. the stamps are all of the small design.



The 5s. and other higher values are of the larger design. Wmk. crown and C.A.; Perf. 14.



½d. lilac, value in green.
1d. lilac, value in carmine.
2½d. lilac, value in blue.
4d. lilac, value in yellow.
5d. lilac, value in violet.
6d. lilac, value in black.
1d green, value in red.
5s. green, value label in red.
10s. green, value label in blue.
£1 green, value label in carmine.

United States.—The *American Journal of Philately* has secured an entirely new local stamp, used on a letter dated Cincinnati, October 19th, 1848, and addressed to Batavia, Ohio. The inscription is "H. Frazer's City Express Post," and this Post may have been the successor to Frazer & Co.'s City Despatch Post. The stamp is printed in black from a wood engraving on salmon paper.

Adhesive.

H. Frazer's City Express Post.
2c black on salmon, imperf.

United States.—The *Metropolitan Philatelist* chronicles the 1 cent, watermarked, imperforated.

Adhesives.

1 cent., blue, imperf.

Zanzibar.—Messrs. Whitfield King & Co. write us that they have received a letter from Zanzibar franked with the 2 anna, blue, surcharged on India, and over-printed "2½" in red, in the same type as the 2½ on 1½.

Our publishers have shewn us the ½a., 1a., and 2½a. of the new design stamps of British East Africa, surcharged Zanzibar. The ½a. and 1a. are surcharged in black and the 2½a. in red. The type of the surcharge is the same as on previously surcharged stamps for this Protectorate.

Adhesives.

2½a. on 2a., blue (India)
½a., yellow, sur., in black on B.E.A.
1a., rose, sur., in black on B.E.A.
2½a., blue, sur., in red on B.E.A.

Our Monthly Packets of New Issues.

No. 1, price one shilling (postage extra).

The September packet contains four varieties, all unused, viz.:—Japanese war stamps, 2c. and 5c. (two varieties of each).

No. 2, price five shillings (postage extra).

The September packet contains thirteen varieties, all unused:—Chamba, ½a.; Cyprus, 1 piastre; Holland, 50c., green and brown; Mocambique Company, 1892 issue, complete set of 10.

These packets are on sale until October 31st (unless the supply is previously exhausted) and are supplied only to *Subscribers* to the PHILATELIC RECORD AND STAMP NEWS. Similar packets will be on sale every month, and may be subscribed for in advance for the year (January to December inclusive), at the following rates:—No. 1 packet (sent by book post with the paper), 12s. post-free (if by letter post the postage is 1s. extra Inland; 2s. 6d. Abroad). No. 2 packet (by letter post), Inland 61s., Abroad 62s. 6d., post-free.

The subscription to the paper (3s. per annum) is extra.—BUHL & Co, Limited, 11, Queen Victoria Street, E.C.

The earliest information as to New Issues will be much appreciated by us, and will be duly credited to the correspondent, or firm, sending it. Our foreign correspondents can materially help us in this direction. When possible, a specimen should accompany the information, and be addressed to the Editor Mr. EDWARD J. NANKIVELL,
28, *Birdhurst Rise, Croydon.*

Philately in the Mags.

Nevis Varieties.

Mr. Charles J. Phillips, in the *Monthly Journal* (the August number of which, by the way, is a record number from a philatelic point of view), announces his discovery of two prominent varieties amongst the stamps of Nevis, hitherto unchronicled. He writes:—

THE ONE PENNY, VERMILION.

Here I have to draw attention to a palpable retouch of No. 1 on the plate of the lithographic transfers of 1879. This retouch is only found on stamps printed from very worn stones, and consists of a line drawn along the top outline of the hill, with three horizontal lines lower down, each one crossed with five or six vertical lines, and also of a few slight traces of diagonal lines to the left of these lines. This variety is only found on stamps of the latest printing from a very worn stone, and so far I have only met with it in the stamps perforated 15.

The 1d. vermilion, perf. 11½, is usually considered a later printing than that perf. 15, but from a close study of a number of sheets of each perforation, I have come to the conclusion that the order should be—first, the stamps perf. 15, clear, sharp impressions; second, the stamps perf. 11½, with the stamps showing some traces of wear; and third, and lastly, a re-issue of the 1d., perf. 15, with No. 1 on the sheet retouched, as shown in the illustrations.

ONE SHILLING, GREEN.

Here I find a variety that is very curious. A reference to the plate of illustrations will clearly show two short, crossed lines on the top of the hill, under the E and V of Nevis.

This cross I do not know in the 1s. stamps of 1861, perf. 13, nor on the 1s. stamps of 1867, on the blue-green; but it is first found in the rare yellow-green engraved stamps of this latter year, and is No. 9 on the sheet.

In 1879 lithographic transfers were made from the original plates, and these stamps are found in two very distinct shades, namely, green and pale yellow-green, both about equally scarce. Now comes the interesting point, which is, that in several uncut sheets of each shade that I possess, *all* the sheets of the pale yellow-green stamps show the variety No. 9, with the cross on hill; and all the sheets of the other shade—the deeper green—do *not* show any traces of such a cross.

This cross cannot in any way be termed a retouch, but is more of the nature of an accidental blow from some tool; but its existence on some sheets, and not on others, may be interesting as tending to prove two transfers from the engraved plate, especially as on the sheets of the darker green stamps I notice that, in stamp No. 9, the outline of the hill, on the right, is not as sharp and distinct as in the other stamps, thus tending to show that this accidental flaw had been removed before a second transfer was made.

Thus I think we may assume the order of these stamps to be,

(1) Engraved, perf. 15, blue-green, no cross.
(2) Engraved, perf. 15, yellow-green, with cross.
(3) Lithographic transfer, perf. 15, pale yellow-green, with cross.
(4) Second litho. transfer, perf. 15, darker green, with cross removed.

Two splendid full-page plates, showing four complete sheets, and five single stamps considerably enlarged, are given with the number to illustrate the varieties described.

Canada: Perforation of Pence Issues.

Major Evans, in the course of some notes at the end of Mr. Donald King's paper on the Stamps of Canada, in the *Monthly Journal*, writes as follows, on the question as to the perforation of the *pence* issues:

Mr. King says, "It is an open question whether these stamps" (the *pence* series) "were delivered to the Canadian Post Office Department in a perforated condition or not." Here we are inclined to differ with him. We are of opinion that there can be no question whatever that the ordinary 12 gauge perforation, as applied first to the later printings of the *pence* issue, and afterwards to the similar stamps with values in *cents*, was done by Messrs. Rawdon, Wright, Hatch, and Edson, and their successors the American Bank-note Company. The guage appears to be the same throughout, so that if the earlier stamps were perforated in Canada, the later ones would have been so likewise, and some evidence of this should be forthcoming. On the other hand, if we had the details of the sums paid to the manufacturers for the *pence* stamps, it is probable that we should find a charge made for perforating the later supplies. And further, if the Canadian Government had possessed a perforating machine in the latter part of 1857, it is surely extremely improbable that nearly 60,000 7½d. stamps, and more than 84,000 10d., would have been issued between October 1, 1857, and June 30, 1859, without being perforated.

Current South Australians.

Mr. G. Blockey contributes to the *London Philatelist* the following enumeration of the series of South Australian stamps at present in use. He writes:—

There seems to be a great deal of uncertainty among European collectors and cataloguers concerning what stamps are being used in South Australia at the present time, and there are two or three stamps generally catalogued which we out here are in total ignorance of. For instance, Stanley Gibbons have the following in their list:

187 3d., olive-green; perf. 15.
190 1s., brown; perf. 15.
566 O.S., 3d., olive-green; perf. 10.

Also the following have been chronicled in error:

O.S., 2½d. on 4d.; perf. 15.
O.S., 3d., green; perf. 15.

I thought perhaps if a full list of present issues was published it might clear up one or two points of uncertainty.

DATE OF ISSUE.		PERF.	FORMER ISSUE.
Jan. 1893	½d., red-brown	15	ditto; perf 10 × 10 × 10 × 11½.
July 1895	1d., green	13	ditto; perf. 15.
,, 1895	2d., orange	13	ditto; ,, 15.
,, 1895	2½d., blue-lilac	13	ditto; ,, 15.
,, 1892	3d., olive-green	10	sage-green; 10
Jan. 1896	4d, bright violet	13	dull violet 15.
1895	5d., brown-purple	13	ditto; but deeper shade; perf. 15.
Mar. 1896	6d., bright blue	13	ditto; perf. 15.
1892	9d., lilac-rose	11½	ditto; but deeper shade; perf. 11½
June 1895	1s. light sepia	11½	brown; perf. 11½ and 11½ × 12½
1876-96	2s., crimson	11½	ditto; perf. 10 and 11½ and 12½
1894-95	2s. 6d, lilac	11½	ditto; perf. 10.
	5s., rose	,,	,, ,,
	10s., green	,,	,, ,,
	15s., yellow-brown	,,	,, ,,
	£1, blue	,,	,, ,,
	£2, red-brown	,,	,, ,,
	50s., venetian-red	,,	,, ,,
	£3, sage-green	,,	,, ,,
	£4, lemon	,,	,, ,,
	£5, olive-brown	,,	grey ,,
	£10, bronze	,,	,, ,,
	£15, silver	,,	,, ,,
	£20, mauve	,,	,, ,,

The £10, £15, £20 postage and revenue stamps are not kept in stock at the Post-office, but are obtained from the printer as ordered.

Service stamps surcharged O.S. (in thin type).

DATE OF ISSUE.		PERF.	FORMER ISSUE
May 1896	½d., red-brown	15	same perf. 10 × 10 × 10 × 11½.
Jan. 1896	1d., green	13	same; perf. 15.
,,	2d., orange	13	,, ,, 15.
1892-93	2½d. on 4d., red and green	10	,, but Block O.S.
1894	4d., dull violet	15	violet; perf. 10
1891	5d., carmine and brown	10	none.
1893	6d., bright blue	15	same; perf 10.
1894	1s., brown	11½	,, but Block O.S
May 1896	2s., crimson	10 × 11½	same; but Block O.S.

Blued Paper.

We take the following interesting contribution to the old question of blued stamps from an editorial in the *Monthly Circular*.

Our readers all probably know that the adhesive revenue stamps in England were in 1855 printed on paper, in the composition of which prussiate of potash had been introduced, with the object of rendering it impossible to remove an obliteration made by writing ink, without its being readily detected. The sulphate of iron in the ink acted on the prussiate of potash, for at that time sulphate of iron entered into the composition of all writing ink, which is no longer the case in the chemical inks of the present day. Similar paper was made use of for the first postage stamps manufactured by De La Rue & Co., the fourpence being issued in 1855 on similar paper, and the impression of the sixpence, registered 29th March, 1856, and that of the one shilling, registered 27th June, 1856, were on similar paper. The use of it was, however, abandoned for all the three stamps in 1856, the sixpence and one shilling not having been issued printed on that paper. When investigating the matter some years since, we were told by the highest authority, the chemist in the firm of T. De La Rue & Co., that the action of the prussiate of potash was "very capricious," which we understood to mean that some times it showed its presence more distinctly than at other times. This is consistent with facts that cannot be ignored. There are certain specimens of the fourpence, small garter, which are almost white; there are specimens of the sixpence which are blued more or less uniformly, and in the one shilling we find some specimens with the paper of a bluish tone. But in the case of the specimens, more especially of the sixpence, the blue tinge appears to us to have been developed by atmospheric influences. We were also told that orders were given in 1856 to discontinue the prussiate of potash in the paper for the postage stamps, though it was continued for that of the revenue stamps to a much later date, showing itself more or less till within the last ten years. The revenue adhesive stamps of threepence and sixpence on anchor paper and those of one penny are notable instances of the capricious nature of the ingredient, and though many of them are on paper apparently white, we can scarcely suppose that the ingredients was not in the paper, but that it was there in a latent state. That in the case of the postage stamp paper it was discontinued entirely after 1856 we consider to be past any doubt, but what we do think is that the transition from the safety blue paper on which the fourpence was first printed to the apparently white of the latter part of the issue on medium sized garter paper, was not so sudden and entire as a change from black to white. At what stage of the manufacture of the paper the prussiate of potash was introduced into the pulp we are not aware, but, probably, when the order came to discontinue its use there was pulp already in hand charged with it, and this was softened down and not discarded. The printers, however, treated it as white, which it was in comparison of the blue safety.

Nova Scotia Remainders.

According to the *Metropolitan Philatelist*, a very interesting discovery has been made, consisting of the last issued stamps of Nova Scotia, aggregating some

200,000 sets minus the 5c. value. Mr. J. W. Scott adds:—

We presume this is the lot from which we used to buy a few hundred sets at a time some fifteen years ago.

The *London Philatelist* informs us that these stamps have been sold to a syndicate in Canada at face value.

Columbian Republic.

The *Metropolitan Philatelist*, which is indebted to Mr. W. T. Curtis for the sight of entire unused sheets of the first two issues of the stamps of this country, supplies the following valuable information as to the make-up of the sheets:—

FIRST TYPE OF 1859.

10c. orange, sheet of fifty stamps, 5 rows of 10 stamps.

The second stamp on the second row is inverted.

SECOND TYPE OF 1859.

5c. violet blue, sheet of fifty-five in 5 rows of 11 stamps.

On first row the ninth and eleventh stamps are inverted.

On second row the second stamp is inverted.

On fourth row the fifth stamp has the value 50c. above and below. In the sheet before us this stamp has been cancelled by punching out the shield with a large circular punch.

On the fifth row the sixth stamp is inverted.

20c. blue, sheet of fifty-five in 5 rows of 11 stamps.

On first row the second stamp is inverted.

On third row the third stamp has had the value altered; the lines of background at sides of value are very faint and the numerals large, ill-shaped, and very heavily printed.

On fourth row the second stamp is of the value 5c., both upper and lower numerals being perfectly formed.

Japanese Stamps.

The editor of the *Philatelic World* (Calcutta) has seen a beautiful book published by the Japanese Postal Department, containing descriptions and examples of every stamp ever issued by the Government.

With the exception of a very few of the earlier issues, which are reprints, the rest are all genuine stamps unused, and of themselves form an almost complete and very handsome collection.

The book is called "A Short History of the Postage Stamps of Japan," is bound in the most bewitching golden silk brocade, with purple bows, and is printed on the best of paper. The actual bare historical facts are recorded in English as well as Japanese, but (alas!) all the elaborated statistical portion of the work is in Japanese only.

Will no one send us a translation, especially of the statistical portion of this book?

Demonetised U.S. Stamps.

A correspondent of the *Chicago Times Herald* has been investigating the circumstances under which stamps issued prior to the great Civil War were demonetised, and he gives the following interesting history of the matter:—

I sought information in the files of the *National Intelligencer*, preserved in the library of congress, which was the organ of the Department in 1861. I found, in the issue of June 13, 1861, the following "extract from the departmental files," published for the information of the public:—

"There are now no postmasters of the United States in the seceded States, authorized to sell stamp or collect postage, since the 1st of June, for this government. Postmasters, therefore, must treat all matter since the 1st of June coming from the seceded States, and mailed within these States, as unpaid matter to be held for postage. All such matter is ordered to be sent to the dead letter office at Washington to be disposed of according to law."

In the issue of the following day, June 14, 1861, the following appeared as an editorial paragraph:—

"In consequence of the retention and improper use of postage stamps by delinquent postmasters in some of the seceded States, the postmaster-general has ordered a new stamped envelope, which will be ready for use in a few days, and that by the 1st of August there will be a new stamp with devices altogether different from the present."

In August, 1861, the department sent circular letters to postmasters throughout the country, forwarding stamps and stamped envelopes of the new designs, and giving instructions as follows:—

"You will immediately give public notice through the newspapers and otherwise that you are prepared to exchange stamps of the new style for an equivalent amount of the old issue during a period of six days from the date of notice, and that the latter will not thereafter be received in payment of postage on letters sent from your office."

"It being impossible to supply all offices with the new stamps at once, you will deliver letters received from Kentucky, Missouri, Illinois, Ohio, Maryland and Pennsylvania, prepaid by stamps of the old issue until Oct. 1; those from other loyal States east of the Rocky Mountains, until the 15th of October, and those from the States of California and Oregon, and the territories of New Mexico, Utah and Washington until the 1st of December, 1861."

All stamps issued before the war are known to and designated by the department as the series of 1847 and 1851. Of the series of 1847 there were but two denominations, 5 and 10 cents. There were eight denominations of the regular postage stamps of the series of 1851, viz.: 1 cent; 3 cents, 5 cents, 10 cents, 12 cents, 24 cents, 30 cents, and 90 cents, and two styles of 1 cent carrier stamp.

In his report to congress, submitted Dec. 2, 1861, Mr. Blair referred to the stamp episode as follows:—

"In order to prevent the fraudulent use of the large quantity of stamps remaining unaccounted for in the hands of postmasters in the disloyal States, it was deemed necessary to change the design and the colour of those manufactured under the new contract, and also to modify the stamp upon the stamped envelope, and to substitute, as soon as possible, the new for the old issue. It was the design of the department that this distribution of the new stamps and envelopes should commence on the 1st of August, but from unavoidable delay that of the latter did not take place until the 15th of that month. * * * All post offices in the loyal States, with the exception of certain offices in Kentucky and Missouri, have been supplied therewith. Those of the old issue have been exchanged and superceded."

The action of Mr. Blair was neither specifically approved nor condemned by congress, and, on the theory that "silence gives consent," the nonaction of the legislative branch of the government was assumed to be a confirmation of the action of the executive branch.

U.S. Triangle Varieties.

Mr. J. M. Bartels, the well-informed Washington correspondent of the *Daily Stamp Item*, says:—

It is not contemplated by the Bureau authorities to issue the entire current set with triangle III. to correspond with the 2c. denomination. They also deny that the recently chronicled 3c. value has been thus issued. No new plates of this denomination have been made for more than a year, and it is impossible that the old ones could have been altered to this extent. A proof of the 3c. triangle III. is, however, known to exist.

Postal System of the "Cuban Republic."

The *Philadelphia Inquirer* gives us a glimpse into the attempts of the so-called Cuban Republic authorities to establish postal communication in the revolted region.

After post-offices had been secretly but regularly established throughout the several Cuban provinces, and officers appointed through whose hands all communications were to pass, the following novel scheme was hit upon to insure the safe and prompt transmission of a letter to any one in the ranks of the insurgent armies, no matter in what part of the island he might happen to be at the time the missive should be received in Cuba.

To each stamp was attached the portrait of some one of the four famous Cuban leaders, Marti, Gomez, Maceo, and Garcia, it being intended that the portrait selected should indicate the destination of the letter on which it was placed. For instance, to reach a friend fighting under General Maceo in the province of Pinar del Rio, a letter must be properly addressed to the headquarters in this city. The manager at the headquarters simply stamps the missive with an adhesive stamp to which is attached a picture of General Maceo. The official into whose hand the letter comes on its first arrival in Cuba knows by a glance at the stamp just to what part of the island the letter is to go.

U.S. Plate Numbers.

Plate number collecting in the United States is certainly doing philately general service in the interesting information which it brings to light. We quote the following from Mr. Bartels, in the *Daily Stamp Item*:—

The Bureau always runs four plates at once when printing the lower denominations of postage stamps, and an equal number of impressions is made from each plate used. No. 89 was put into service on November 26, 1894, and used eleven days until December 7th, when it was found defective and immediately discarded. During this period 39,500 sheets of 400 stamps were printed from the set of plates, of which 9,875 were No. 89. Let us assume that 875 of the sheets were found imperfect and destroyed (which would be about the proper proportion) and we would have 9,000 full sheets left. Each one having eight plate numbers would make 72,000 89's which were distributed among the various post-offices. No one knew of its scarcity at the time, and very few indeed seem to have been saved, as orders at $50.00 each for plate numbers cannot be filled by dealers.

Another number which is considered scarce is 116. This plate was put into use on December 28, 1894, and continued until March 12, 1895. During this time 75,383 impressions were made from it, which would be about three quarters of the average number each plate is supposed to print before it becomes worn and unfit for use.

U.S. Bureau Perforation.

According to Mr. Bartels, in the *Daily Stamp Item*, the Bureau at the start made as bad a hand of perforating its stamps as it did in printing them. He writes:—

It is well known that evenly centered unwatermarked dollar values are exceedingly scarce and command quite a premium, and it would seem that all stamps of these values printed were sent out by the department, no matter how poor they were. But the fact is, the Bureau at first turned out many sheets of stamps which were centered worse than any specimens we have ever seen. It would often happen that towards the top of the sheet the perforations would go through the middle of the stamps, which, of course, rendered them worthless. Frequently, only the lower portion would be considered sufficiently good to be issued, sometimes only two or three rows, or even none at all. These were always detached and used for filling requisitions of postmasters.

The next Postal Union Congress.

The *Daily Stamp Item* quotes from the *Diplomatic and Consular Review* the following interesting information concerning the next Postal Union Congress, which is to meet at Washington the first Wednesday of May next. Some of the methods and subjects are of great interest. All the proceedings are to be in French, that being the official language of the Postal Union. There are now fifty-three countries embraced in the Union, Cape of Good Hope being the last to join. China, Orange Free State and Corea, are the only important organized governments yet outside, and these are expected soon to take steps towards joining. The place of meeting is undecided, but is hoped to secure the senate chamber in the Capitol.

The much agitated proposition to adopt a universal postage stamp will be brought up for action, and the outlook now is very favourable.

Except as specially provided by each country the universal stamp would not be good for domestic postage, but each country party to the Union compact would be required to recognize it when addressed to or from any other country.

When this subject was discussed at Vienna instructions were given the Bureau at Berne "to inquire into the subject and make its report." The great difficulty encountered is the varying currencies, which opponents of the scheme claim would open the door to speculation.

The international postal rates are fixed also in French currency—25 centimes for 15 grammes in weight. Thus, the nearest equivalent in each country is made the rate, the metric weight being universally used.

Spain, 1852.

The *Filatelia* continues its interesting article on the stamps of Spain. We will just give the numbers of the different values issued and sold, as these seem to us to have great interest.

	Printed.	Sold.	Remainders.
6 quartos, rose ...	13,029820	11,252,886	1,776,934
12 ,, lilac ...	227,630	145,014	82,616
2 reales, red	22,100	3,394	18,706
5 ,, green ...	104,210	79,484	24,726
6 ,, blue.....	55,590	21,665	33,925

It is a great pity that the article, which deals otherwise very comprehensively with the matter, does not say a word about the different papers these stamps are printed on.

Russia: Variety of the 20 Kop. 1875.

The *Briefmarkenboerse* points a variety out in the 20 kop. stamp of the 1875 issue. the seventh letter in the value at the bottom is generally a T, but in a few copies the vertical stroke crosses the horizontal stroke, thus forming a +. This variety is very rare, and this fact seems to indicate that only one exists on the sheet.

Alsace-Lorraine.

So far we have only seen two numbers of a new philatelic paper dealing exclusively with the stamps of Alsace-Lorraine and their obliterations. The contents are interesting and instructive, though, of course they will only appeal to a small number of specialists.

A few of the prices demanded for different obliterations will no doubt be of interest:—

Abreschwiller ...	(French obliteration)	20/-
Albersweiler ...	(German ,,)	5/-
Ars. s. Moselle...	(French ,,)	8/-
Ars. auder Mosel	(German ,,)	-/6
Avricourt.....	(French ,,)	10/-
,, ...	(German ,,)	1/6
Beufeld	(French ,,)	15/-
,, ...	(German ,,)	-/3
Bischwiller	(French ,,)	15/-
Bischweiler	(German ,,)	-/1
Brumath	(French ,,)	20/-
Brumat	(German ,,)	-/6

The Cheapest Rate of Postage.

Die Post points out that Brazil enjoys at present, in consequence of the drop in the value of the milreis, the cheapest letter rate in the world. When Brazil entered the Union Postale Universelle the inland rate for ordinary letters was fixed at 100 reis, and for foreign letters at 200 reis. With the milreis at about 9d., a foreign letter costs a little under 2d., and an inland letter a little under a penny, and considering the tremendous extent of the country, it is no wonder that the post-office shows a big deficit.

Turkey.

Der Philatelist (Dresden) prints a further portion of Neulinger's paper on Turkey. We may mention the following uncatalogued varieties as being of interest:—

Issue 1876.—This issue being bi-coloured, the stamps were printed in two operations, and as usual, some sheets were reversed by mistake, when they were put in the press for the design. This, of course, gives us the whole issue of six values (10, 20, and 50 paras, 2, 5, and 25 piastres) with Turkish inscriptions reversed, imperforated and perforated 13½ and 11½.

Furthermore, all of them exist *tête-bêche*.

Italian Levant.

The *Berliner Briefmarken Zeitung* has a short but very instructive article on the

Italian Levant stamps and their obliterations. The differences in the designs of the stamps for the 1874 and 1877 issues are very clear, those of the 1881 issue however, less clear. Forgers generally took the Italian stamps and surcharged them "Estero." They even supplied the 30 centesimi value, which officially never existed. The obliterations can be divided into three classes—genuine, forged, and done by favour after the stamps were out of issue.

The genuine obliterating dies are very similar to the English ones containing various numbers within thick bars, the three centre bars broken to admit the number of the post-office. Thus 234 is Alexandria, 235 Tunis, 3,051 Tripolis, 3,336 Goletta, 3,840 Assab, & C. At the post-office in Rome very large numbers of practically every value have been obliterated just to oblige collectors with 3,364 and 3,862, which two numbers belong to Susa and Massowah. Forged obliterations generally have the number 234.

U.S. Plates.

Mr. J. M. Bartels, in the *Weekly Stamp News*, writes:—

Plate number collectors are informed that the issuing of a new plate number does not always mean that the former number or numbers of plates are put aside or withdrawn from use. From what I can learn, each perfect plate is supposed to print about 100,000 sheets of stamps before its surface becomes too much worn. For this reason I do not believe it likely that any new plate numbers will be made for a long time for the higher denominations, commencing at the 50c. value and upwards. I also learn that the only reason for issuing a second or duplicate plate is the fact that the Bureau officials wish to have another plate handy in case of accident.

Sydney Views.

Mr. Bassett Hull recently lectured before the Sydney Philatelic Club on Sydney Views, and from a report in the *Australian Philatelist* we learn that—

He referred to the vast and successful labours of the English philatelists who had succeeded in reconstructing the plates from separate copies, and pointed out the difficulties under which these early pioneers had laboured. He ventured to assert that there were still a few points left for elucidation, and showed enlarged illustrations in support of his theory that, in addition to the accepted retouches or "states" of the 2d. plates, there were several intermediate and partial retouches.

A block of five 2d. plate I, retouched, two from the top row and three from the bottom, were shown. In these the deepening of the lines above "Twopence" and below "Postage" were very distinct, but the upper compartment line *single*. Another stamp from the top row, also retouched, was then shown, the upper compartment lines being *double*.

South Australian Designs.

The authorities of South Australia do not seem to have been very successful with their offer of prizes of £5 each for the best design for a half-penny postage stamp, for a postcard, and for a newspaper wrapper; in each case local characteristics to be shown. The *Australian Philatelist* informs us that—

In all fifty-four designs were forwarded to the Postmaster-General. Several possess considerable merit, but unfortunately none was considered to be exactly suitable without some modification.

Philatelic Gossip.

Imperial Penny Postage.

Some day we shall have Imperial Penny Postage. Yes, some day, when our masters at St. Martin's-le-Grand wake up to the fact that they are going a little too far with the patience of the public. Mr. H. O. Arnold-Forster, M.P., speaking at the recent Annual Conference of the Institute of Journalists, said :—

At present the only obstacle which stands between this country and an Imperial Penny Postage from this country to the Colonies is a sum of some £50,000 or £60,000, in reality it is the ordinary *vis inertiæ* of the Post Office. That the thing can be done, ought to be done, and will be done, is as certain as that you are in this room at the present moment. The only question is, how much longer it shall be put off? The other day I was a passenger on a steamer which brought a thousand tons of cargo from Calcutta at 10s. per ton. I do not want to suggest that, bad as freights are, this represents the normal rate of Indian freights, but I would have you observe the fact, with reference to the question of the cost of Imperial Penny Postage, that there are over 35,000 ounce letters in a ton, and that 35,000 pence make £145, which leaves a fair margin on the 10s. of freight. Undoubtedly the objection is not one of cost. There are certain departmental objections which would not live for a quarter of an hour if once any single person in authority made up his mind that the thing should be done, and I honestly believe at this moment the only serious, real obstacle to the reform is the fact that the Post Office authorities have already so many times refused to make it. A week's good crusade, carried on with the ability which is now at the service of our great papers, would knock the nonsense out of the Post Office, and give us an Imperial Penny Postage with the most absolute certainty.

Congos for Collectors.

We get a side light now and then into the extent to which new, or poverty-stricken States, cater for the Stamp Collector for revenue purposes. Mr. J. W. Scott, in the *Metropolitan Philatelist*, gives a peep into Congo State methods of picking the pockets of collectors. He writes :—

The Congo stamps, although nominally made for use, are really beautiful pictures made to sell to boys, and of course had to be beautiful to secure a large sale. The cost of production must have been very large, as the officials refused to sell to the J. W. Scott Co., Limited, 20,000 of the lowest values unless they purchased a large quantity of complete sets, which would indicate that the stamps must have cost somewhere near a cent each, and conclusively proving that they could not afford to perform any postal service prepaid by such expensive labels.

Quotation.

A practice is prevalent amongst philatelic periodicals of giving the initials of the title of a journal quoted instead of the full name. The journal thus quoted is obviously robbed of the advertisement value of the quotation. We confess to having fallen into the practice ourselves at times as a space-saving device; but as a journal is entitled to the full advertisement value of its quotation, we propose to our contemporaries that titles, and not initials only, shall be given; not necessarily the full title, but sufficient to identify the journal referred to.

Manchester Philatelic Society.

The Syllabus of the Manchester Society is the first to reach us of work planned out for the coming winter season. It is a model of what a syllabus should be, and is far ahead of the hand to mouth arrangement from week to week. We give the syllabus in full :—

SYLLABUS.—SESSION 1896-7.

1896.		
Sep. 25	OPENING MEETING, 7 p.m. Lantern Exhibition. Part I., Secret Marks: the stamps of Hamburg. Part II., Dangerous Forgeries.	
Oct. 2	Exhibition of Stamps acquired during the recess.	
,, 9	"Philatelic Exhibition." A Paper.	W. D. BECKTON.
,, 16	Discussion on the proposed London Exhibition.	
,, 23	Austria: Lombardy-Venetia.	G. B. DUERST.
,, 30	Discussion and Revision of above.	
Nov. 6	Exhibition of Countries.	
,, 13		
,, 20	Greece.	W. D. BECKTON.
,, 27	,, Discussion thereon to settle Reference List.	
Dec. 4	,, Part II.	W. D. BECKTON.
,, 11	,, Discussion.	
,, 18	ANNUAL DINNER, 7 p.m.	
1897.		
Jan. 8	Norway.	A. H. HARRISON.
,, 15	,, Discussion thereon.	
,, 22	,, Part II.	A. H. HARRISON.
,, 29	,, Discussion.	
Feb 5	Lantern Exhibition.	J. H. ABBOTT.
,, 12		
,, 19	Sweden.	R. H. W. WHAPHAM.
,, 26	,, Discussion thereon.	
Mar. 5	Russia, an article on	D. OSTARA.
,, 12	Exhibition of Countries.	
,, 19	Hayti.	J. H ABBOTT.
,, 26	,, Discussion thereon.	
April 2	Two Sicilies.	E. PETRI.
,, 9	,, ,, Discussion thereon.	
,, 14	Finland.	G. B. DUERST.
,, 23	,, Discussion thereon.	
,, 30		W. W. MUNN.

Our Back Numbers.

Our publishers desire us to state that their stock of back numbers of the current volume is running very short, and that they will have to raise the price of the January number shortly. Glad to hear it. Of that January number we printed 2500 copies! We are now preparing some specimen page circulars, which we shall be glad to supply in quantities to those of our readers who think the *Record* is deserving of recommendation to their philatelic friends. We want all the kindly help we can get in extending our circulation.

Replies to Queries.

Miss M. M.—We are very much amused at your quotation of a report that "a special yellow stamp which was only circulated for one year in Spain for the exclusive use of the Senate (House of Peers) was sold in London for 1500 pesetas,= £60, the Duke of York and another member of the London Society being the only two persons who possessed a specimen of the same kind." If you refer to our advertisement pages in our last month's number you will there find that our publishers, in their "Bargains and Novelties" list, offered you the identical stamp for *sixpence!*

Stamp Trade Notes.

BY A DEALER.

Introductory.

I have been asked by Mr. Editor to gather up month by month a few of the crumbs of news that are knocking about in "the trade." "No personalities—at least none of the offensive caste," says the autocrat, in his letter of instructions. "Just take your stand in the market place and report progress as if you were doing an iron-trade report." Umph! Cold-blooded sort of instructions those; but I suppose they must be obeyed. Anyway, if they are not I am promised "the sack."

The Nova Scotia Deal.

What a noise there is over this deal. So far as I can learn the firm of Stanley Gibbons got the exclusive distribution of these Government remainders for all countries outside America. They have been selling them in wholesale lots only, and the lowest price at which they are sold in the largest lot precludes their being retailed at 10s. at a profit. Yet one dealer asserts that he has been offered thousands of sets at 2s. 6d. per set. I understand that the Strand firm at once offered this party 4s. per set for a thousand sets, and a well-known collector emphasised his unbelief in the assertion by offering £500 cash down for a supply; but in neither case, sad to say, is the "2s. 6d. per set" supply forthcoming. If the statement is true, which I very much doubt, it can only be explained by the fact that the syndicate which secured the remainders has broken faith with the Strand firm and will have to stand the penalty, by no means a light one.

Philatelic Literature.

I wonder some one does not set up as a dealer in Philatelic literature; considering the prices which some old philatelic volumes realise, there should be room for a profitable turnover. At the Auctions bound volumes fetch extraordinary prices. I have seen current books knocked down at figures beyond their published price, and old magazines bring fancy prices. Part I. of the African Colonies work of the London Philatelic Society, which was published a few months since at 10s. is now catalogued at 17s. 6d., by Hollick, of Birmingham.

By the way, Messrs. Buhl & Co., Limited, will offer at their sale on the 7th October, a most luxuriously bound full set of the works of the Philatelic Society of London, for which I anticipate a regular scramble.

The Junior Catalogue.

Those who want a junior catalogue can surely find it in the price lists issued by one or two old-fashioned dealers, who have never troubled to follow the later developments of the Specialist school. I don't expect they would like to be considered old fashioned, and I hesitate, therefore, in naming their catalogues, lest I should get into trouble. All the same, that Boy's catalogue is bound to

come for we cannot afford to let our American friends step in and scoop up *our* Boy trade.

Cheap Collections.

Cheap collections are coming into favour, for the very good reason that many beginners like to have a foundation of ordinary sorts to commence with, and not a few Specialists have of late taken to running a general collection alongside their specialty, with a view to opening out other countries later on. In my humble opinion it is a wise plan for every Specialist to run a general collection. It may be done for common stamps at a comparatively small cost, and ordinary current stamps may be added without any very heavy tax in the matter of outlay. Then, when he wants to specialise another country he will find that he has a good foundation, and probably many stamps which would be hard to get, if not expensive to buy. Messrs. Buhl & Co.'s "new departure" of making a collection by easy stages, of packets of 125 stamps, each different to the previous packet, is an idea worth developing even beyond their advertised limit of a 2000 collection. Dealers might do worse than sort up their medium stamps into packets in this way. I could even venture to suggest that the idea might be worked in packets at all prices, so that all might be accommodated, from the boy with his shilling to the monied collector with his sovereigns galore. With such a range of cheap stamps in all countries as we now have, there should be no difficulty in making up large collections by 5s. stages.

Another Dealer Strand-ed.

Yet another dealer has joined the multitude in the Strand. Mr. Hadlow has been creeping Strandwards for some years. He started many years ago as a collector in Tottenham, then developed into a full-blown dealer and migrated to Holborn! from thence he made his way to Exeter Street, looking into the Strand; and now he has moved into the great philatelic thoroughfare itself with a fine range of rooms, and an excellent stock of British Colonials, at 331, Strand, W.C., just opposite Somerset House.

Definition of a Dealer.

I recently found myself in a warm corner in Philatelic Avenue on the question of how to define a dealer in stamps. The *Bazaar*, I was informed, defines a dealer as one who buys stamps that he may sell them at a profit. Therefore a collector who buys a collection for the sake of some stamps which may be added to his own collection and sells the remainder is a dealer, which, of course, is absurd; for under such a definition all collectors would be dealers. My friend of Philatelic Avenue agreed, and held that a dealer should be distinguished by a simple definition as a person who gets his living by selling stamps. I ventured to point out that this would omit many who even advertised themselves as dealers. But my friend stuck to his guns, and contended that that did not matter; his definition was, he stoutly contended, the only way out of the difficulty. As a compromise it may be, but I fear it would not pass muster at Effingham House. Perhaps the premier Society will offer a gold medal at the forthcoming Exhibition for the best and most workable definition.

Ceylons and Australians.

Mr. Hadlow has a Specialist's Collection of India, Ceylon, and Australia, which he proposes to sell by auction on November 16th and 17th. I have had a look through it. There are many grand copies of rare stamps, both used and unused. It is certainly rich enough to create a brisk competition for "first pick" under the hammer.

The Current Market.

It is rather early in the season for me to say much as to what is selling best. Of course, we shall all be curious to see whether West Indians maintain their prices of last season. I scarcely think they will drop, for they are good stamps, and will always be worth their money, for many reasons. Most dealers are replenishing their stocks of West Africans. I heard the other day of one dealer, who, finding himself short of West Africans, cleaned out page after page from another dealer's stock-books at full marked prices.

Personalities.

Mr. Whitfield King, who has been overdoing it in the matter of hard work, has gone off to Davos Platz to recruit. My best wishes go with him for a speedy recovery to vigorous health. As the head and front of the New Collector School for the popularising of New Issues, he can ill be spared, even for a brief holiday.

I also regret to hear that Mr. Brosnan has been very ill.

Suppression of Speculative Stamps.

Circular No. 6.

391, STRAND, LONDON, W.C.

The Society, in conjunction with the Special Committee appointed by the London Philatelic Society, having taken into consideration the stamps mentioned below, are of opinion that they are not worth the attention of Philatelists, and appeal to all Collectors and Dealers to discountenance collecting or dealing in the same.

25. URUGUAY.—From the *Monte Video Times*, of July 14th, and also from an official circular received from the Direction General of Posts and Telegraphs, we learn that it was proposed to issue a set of stamps to commemorate the inauguration of the statue of Don Joaquin Suarez. The set consists of the following values :—

1 Centisimo (portrait of Suarez) black and violet.
5 „ (statue of Suarez) black and sky-blue.
10 „ (the Suarez monument) black and carmine.

This set was to be concurrent with the regular issue, from the 18th July to the 25th August.

The following extract from the newspaper above named expresses very pertinently what business people think of such an issue :—

"After August 26th they will no longer be valid for postal purposes, but may be changed for similar values of the current emission until September 30th. This issue will not affect the present emission, which remains valid and may be used concurrently. This is all very well, but instead of attending to these 'celebration' emissions—which have been so grossly abused by many countries of late years that they have lost all value with genuine stamp collectors, and are shunned by the more respectable dealers—we think it would be far better if the Post Office endeavoured to supply the present painful deficiency of post cards, stamped envelopes and wrappers, the want of which is a serious detriment to commerce. As we said recently, it is a monstrous thing that a note or acknowledgment of two or three lines cannot be sent abroad except in a letter costing 10 cents, instead of on a post card of 2 or 3 cents. It is some two years now that we have been without post cards, and the Post Office is seriously to blame, besides being a loser, for not paying more attention to the ordinary wants of the public."

26. VENEZUELA. — A commemoration set has lately been issued, consisting of the following values :—5c, 10c., 25c. 50c., and 1 bolivar, but we have at present no further information concerning them.

GORDON SMITH,
Sec. S.S.S.S.

HERBERT R. OLDFIELD,
Hon. Secretary to Special Committee, London Philatelic Society.

29th August, 1896.

Notices.

Editorial Communications.—Articles of special interest will be paid for. M.S. dealing with particular points in an exhaustive manner will be most welcome. As we wish to arrange matter in advance, we shall be glad to hear from Specialists who are open to write up their special countries.

All communications on Editorial matters should be addressed to the Editor, Mr. EDWARD J. NANKIVELL, 28, Birdhurst Rise, Croydon. Letters enclosing valuable should be registered.

Subscriptions.—THE PHILATELIC RECORD AND STAMP NEWS will be sent post free to any subscriber at home or abroad, on receipt of 3s. Subscribers' remittances should be sent to the Publishers, Messrs. BUHL & CO., LIMITED, 11 Queen Victoria Street, London, England.

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Advert sements must be received not later than the 15th of the month for publication in the next issue.

CHARLES JONES, PRINTER, LONDON

THE

PHILATELIC RECORD

and Stamp News.

OCTOBER, 1896.

Editorial Notes.

WE hear that an important order has been issued from headquarters to all colonial postmasters putting a stop, once and for all, to the evil practice of postmarking stamps to order. Many postmasters in our colonies have been far too obliging in this matter. Most of them probably were not aware of the nature of the deceit to which they were being made accessory. Others, probably, less innocent, did a good trade in this form of deception. Postmarking to order has been carried on in several colonies as quite a trade, the idea being to palm off as used stamps "postmarked to order" copies that had never done postal duty. We have seen sheets from the native states of the Malay Peninsula, and other places thus postmarked. The practice has also been rife in several of the West Indian Islands. Now, by a wise order of the home authorities, there is to be an end to this pettifogging practice on the part of our colonial postal officials. The order comes none too soon for the credit of all concerned.

Stamps cancelled to order.

Another instruction included in the same order, we understand, prohibits the sale of more than £5 worth of stamps of any value at a time to any stamp dealer. This prohibition is a drastic one, and will no doubt cause much inconvenience to dealers all over the world. At the same time it must not be forgotten that colonial postmasters have been subjected to a great deal of inconvenience by the manner in which their stocks have been denuded by speculators to the disadvantage of the postal services. There is, we believe, a saving clause that any demand for more than £5 worth of stamps must be referred to the home authorities. Such a reference is not likely to be called into operation, for by the time a reply would be received the coveted stamps would be sold out.

London Philatelic Exhibition, 1897.

FURTHER progress has been made during the month towards getting matters into shape for the great Philatelic Exhibition of next year. Last month we published the full list of the General Committee and the Executive chosen from that body. We are now enabled to give the particulars of the business-like manner in which the Executive has divided the work amongst its members. For the present it will be seen that the Executive has been split up into three sub-committees, viz.:—Finance, General Purposes, and Adver-

tising and Publicity Committees. Thus the preliminaries are in a sound way of being efficiently and thoroughly carried out. Later on, when the preliminaries have been satisfactorily arranged and completed, and the eventful weeks draw near, there will have to be a further apportionment of the work, not the least important of which will be a Hanging Committee. So far, everything has gone smoothly and most satisfactorily. The selection and appointment of the Executive has given unalloyed satisfaction to all English Philatelists. It is wisely made up of names that in themselves are an ample guarantee that the Exhibition will be in the safe keeping of the most trusted and ablest of English Philatelists. The names of Major Evans, Mr. Castle, Mr. E. D. Bacon, and Mr. Ehrenbach are alone a host in themselves.

Bi-coloured Colonial Types.

Our Colonial types of postage stamps seem to be passing through a stage of transition. A few years since it was thought that one De la Rue type had come to stay for all time; that, in fact, it was as unalterable as the laws of the Medes and Persians. But, lo and behold, we are suddenly face to face with sweeping changes, the end of which no one can foresee. The old stern, set, type of the Queen's head within an octagonal frame, with straight labels above and below for name and value respectively, in one colour, first gave way to a modification of printing the name and value in another colour, and now we have coming into fashion a more fanciful type already in use for the Leeward Islands, also in bi-colour. This type has just been adopted for the latest issue of Sierra Leone. As a further evidence that Messrs. De la Rue are not hide-bound in the matter of design we have still another variation in the current Tasmanian stamps. But in one and all there is the dominant idea of the utility of bi-coloured stamps. How long this latest experiment in postal design will survive the rigorous test of hard use remains to be seen. It may, however, be taken for granted that those stamps are open to great objection in which the main portion of the design is printed in the same colour for all the low values, leaving the distinction to be made only in the variety of colour used for the name and value. The new Trinidad, and the still newer Sierra Leone stamps, are thus seriously open to the objection that they do not afford sufficient distinction in the matter of values.

Minor Varieties.

Why is it that some people can never advocate an idea of their own without running amuck of the favoured fad of somebody else. The proposal that collecting should be simplified for the junior collector has the hearty sympathy of most advanced philatelists. In this awakening of interest in the junior collector, few have done greater service than Mr. J. W. Scott of New York. He has had the courage to issue a catalogue which omits all the minor varieties of watermark and perforation. So far he has earned our thanks. But when he enters into a tirade against the collection of minor varieties by advanced philatelists, and tells us that "the most potent influence for evil so far developed is the multiplication of minor varieties with their attendant albums and catalogues," we begin to doubt not only his discretion, but even his sanity. As an old philatelist he must know perfectly well that some of the most interesting of all philatelic problems are indissolubly bound up with the study of minor varieties. To the earnest and advanced philatelist the study of minor varieties yields the only available key to the many interesting questions as to differences of engraving and printing Minor differences of paper, of ink, and of perforation, all, in turn, afford some necessary evidence for the piecing together of the postal history of the countries in which we happen to be interested. In helping forward the movement in favour of junior collecting, there is no shadow of necessity or excuse for this senseless tirade against the study of minor varieties by advanced philatelists.

The Stamps of Egypt.

By G. B. Duerst.

(*Continued from page* 241.)

(19).—5 paras, orange, orange-yellow. Type I.

The first A in PARA in the left-hand top corner is narrow and pointed, and the middle dot over the last sign of the Arabic inscription in the top label is slightly higher. The point of the pyramid touches the inner oval.

Type I. Type II.



(20).—5 paras, orange, orange-yellow. Type II.

The first A in PARA in the left-hand top corner is broad and square, and the first dot over the last sign in the Arabic inscription in the top label is the highest.

(21).—5 paras, orange, orange-yellow. Type III.

The three dots over the last Arabic sign in the top label are on a level.

(22).—5 paras, orange, orange-yellow. Type IV.

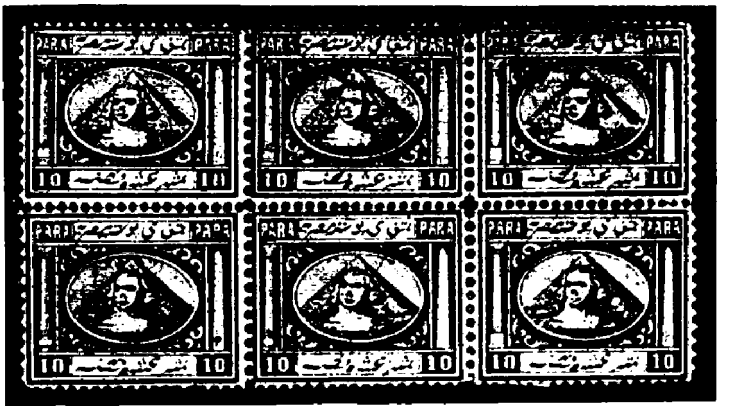
Type III. Type IV.

The first dot over the last Arabic sign in the top label is the lowest; the hair of the sphynx touches the pyramid on the left, and Pompey's pillar is without abacus.

(23).—10 paras, lilac, grey lilac, bright violet. Type I.

The head of the P in PARA in the left-hand top corner is much larger than the one in the right top corner, and the first dot over the last Arabic sign in the top label is larger than the other two.

Type I. Type II. Type I.



Type III. Type IV. Type III.

(24).—10 paras, lilac, grey lilac, bright violet. Type II.

The point of the pyramid touches the inner oval; the hair of the sphynx touches the pyramid on the left; the three dots over

the last Arabic sign in the top label are of uniform size, but the first is slightly higher than the other two.

(25).—10 paras, lilac, grey lilac, bright violet. Type III.
The last A in PARA in the left-hand top corner is very narrow.

(26).—10 paras, lilac, grey lilac, bright violet. Type IV.
The three dots of the last Arabic sign in the top label are of uniform size, but the centre is slightly higher than the other two.
Types I. and III. have only three dots over the last Arabic sign in the bottom label, whereas Types II and IV. have four dots.

(27).—20 paras, green, dark green, yellow-green. Type I.
The pyramid touches the ground on the left-hand side and not the inner oval; the shaft of Pompey's pillar is not well centred on the base, being more to the left, and the first Arabic sign in the bottom label touches the upper line.

(28).—20 paras, green, dark green, yellow-green. Type II.
The 2 in 20 in the left-hand bottom corner hangs over to the left.

Type I. Type II.



Type III. Type IV.

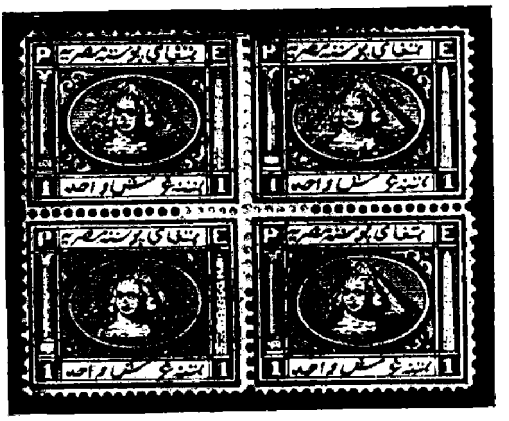
(29).—20 paras, green, dark green, yellow-green. Type III.
There is a small accent over the first A in PARA in the left-hand top corner; the pyramid touches the inner oval on the left, and the last A of PARA in the right-hand top corner leans over to the right.

(30).—20 paras, green, dark green, yellow green. Type IV.
There is a small white dot before the 2 of 20 in the bottom right-hand corner, thus: ·2, and the two dots underneath the second Arabic sign in the bottom label have run into one another, forming a line, whereas in all the other types these two dots are quite distinct.

(31).—1 piastre, red, rose. Type I.
The 3 dots over the last Arabic sign in the top label are on a level; the line forming the pyramid on the right runs through the ground and touches the inner oval.

(32).—1 piastre, red, rose. Type II.
Cleopatra's needle touches the line under the E, the pyramid touches the inner oval on the right, and the first dot over the last Arabic inscription in the top label is higher than the other two.

Type I. Type II.



Type III. Type IV.

(33).—1 piastre, red, rose. Type III.

The centre stroke of the E in the right-hand top corner is very short; the point of the pyramid touches the inner oval, and the dot over the ٩-shaped Arabic sign in the bottom label touches this sign and also the inner line of the label.

(34).—1 piastre, red, rose. Type IV.

The pyramid does not touch the oval on the right-hand side, and the centre dot over the last Arabic sign in the top label is slightly lower than the other two.

(35).—2 piastres, blue. Type I.



The two dots over the third Arabic sign in the top label are on the same level; the pyramid touches the inner oval on the right, and Cleopatra's needle touches the line under the E.

(36).—2 piastres, blue. Type II.

The two dots over the third Arabic sign in the top label are not on the same level, and the point of Cleopatra's needle does not touch the line under the E.

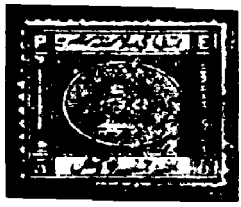
(37).—2 piastres, blue. Type III.

The ٩-shaped Arabic sign in the bottom label is larger and more open than in the other three types.

(38).—2 piastres, blue. Type IV.

The 2 in the right-hand bottom corner hangs over to the left, and the bottom stroke is quite straight instead of being curved.

(39).—5 piastres, brown. Type I.



The three dots over the last Arabic sign in the top label are on one level, and there is a clear line of shading between the pyramid and the inner oval.

(40).—5 piastres, brown. Type II.

The three dots over the last Arabic sign in the top label are not on a level, the first dot being the highest and the point of the pyramid touches the last line of the background.

(41).—5 piastres, brown. Type III.

The last dot over the last Arabic sign in the top label is the highest.

(42).—5 piastres, brown. Type IV.

The end stroke of the third Arabic sign in the top label ends in a straight line, whereas it is curved in the three other varieties.

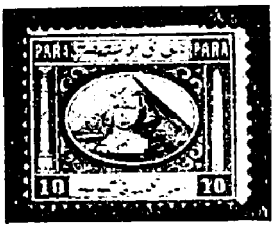
Although expressly forbidden by Art. 52 of the official decree, we also find in this issue diagonally cut stamps used as follows:—

(43).—5 paras (½ of 10 paras), bright violet.

(44).—20 paras (½ of 1 piastre), rose.

(45).—1 piastre (½ of 2 piastres), blue.

The stock of the 10 and 20 para stamps having run low in 1869, a new supply was ordered. They look much cleaner than the former issue, especially the Arabic inscription in the bottom label looks much smaller; it seems as if less colour was used in this printing. Coloured impression on white paper. Perforated 15 by 12½.



(46).—10 paras, bright violet. Type I.
(47).—10 " " " II.
(48).—10 " " " III.
(49).—10 " " " IV.
(50).—20 paras, bright green. Type I.
(51).—20 " " " II.
(52).—20 " " " III.
(53).—20 " " " IV.

For specialists the following unofficial varieties may be of interest:—

A.—Imperforate.
5 paras, yellow.
20 paras, green.
1 piastre, red.
2 piastres, blue.

B.—Perforated horizontally 12½, and imperforate vertically.
5 paras, yellow.

C.—*Percés en lignes.*
1 piastre, red.

D.—Perforated 16.
1 piastre, red.

Varieties.—Printed on both sides:
20 paras, yellow-green.
1 piastre, red.

Some of these stamps are so badly perforated that they have the appearance of being rouletted.

By a firman dated June 8th, 1867, the Sultan conferred the title ot Khedive upon the Viceroy, and in consequence a new issue of stamps was necessitated, bearing the present title

III. Issue. *January 1st*, 1872.

Decree.

It has pleased H.H. the Khedive to approve of the issue of new postage stamps of seven different values: 5, 10, and 20 paras, and 1, 2, 2½, and 5 piastres.

These stamps will be put into circulation on the 1st of January, 1872, and during that month the general use of both the present and the new issue is allowed for the franking of letters and printed matter.

The present stamps will cease to be accepted for such purposes on the 15th of February, 1872, and letters, &c., bearing such stamps after this date will be considered as not franked at all. The public, however, can exchange all stamps for new ones of the same value at the post offices until the 31st of March, 1872, after which date they will not have any value.

A copy of this decree, with specimens of the new stamps, will be hung up during this period in all post offices.

The Postmaster-General,

Alexandria, 19th of December, 1871. MUZZY BEY.

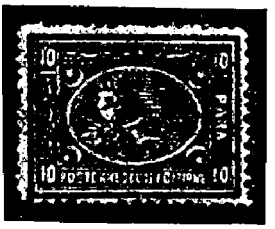
The design is very similar to that of the last issue, but the pyramid is more to right and the sphinx more to the left. The four corners contain the value

in figures. The Arabic inscriptions in the upper label reads: "Poste Khedevie Masrie"; in the bottom label, in Italian, "Poste Khedeuie Egiziane," both meaning "Post of the Egyptian Khedivate." The label on the left-hand side contains the value in Arabic as follows:

Hams parat	=	5 paras.
Ashra "	=	10 "
Ashrin "	=	20 "
Ghersh Wachet.....	=	1 piastre.
Ghersheen	=	2 piastres.
Ghersheen e nuss	=	2½ "
Hamsat Gherush	=	5 "

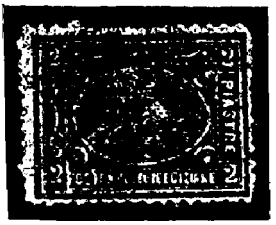
The label on the right-hand side bears the inscription PARA, PIASTRA or PIASTRE in Italian, according to the value. This issue was printed in the Government offices at Cairo. They were printed lithographically in colours on medium to thick yellowish white wove paper, in sheets of 200 stamps, in 20 rows of 10 stamps. A decorative fancy border, 9mm. wide, in the colour of each value, was printed on the margin. The paper was dry impressed with a crescent and five-pointed star, resembling a watermark. The gum was at first yellow, in later printings white. Variously perforated.















SHOWING THE BORDER.

This issue is the worst Egypt has ever produced, and is without the slightest doubt the workmanship of native printers. The whole appearances point to carelessness and slovenliness.

Type varieties also exist in this issue, but the stamps are so badly executed that it is impossible to say which is type variety and which is defective printing.

A.—Perforated 12½ all round.

(54).— 5 paras, reddish-brown, light to dark.
(55).—10 " lilac, pale to bright, grey-lilac, grey.
(56).—20 " blue, dark blue, grey-blue, blue-slate.
(57).— 1 piastre, rose, pale rose, red, bright red, vermilion.
(58).— 2 piastres, yellow, dull yellow.
(59).—2½ " violet, pale to bright, slate.
(60).— 5 " pale green, yellow-green.

B.—Perforated 12½ horizontally × 13½ vertically.

(61).— 5 paras, reddish-brown, light to dark.
(62).—10 " bright lilac.
(63).—20 " blue.
(64).— 1 piastre, rose-red.
(65).— 2 piastres, yellow, dull yellow.
(66).—2½ " violet, slate.
(67).— 5 " yellow-green.

C.—Perforated 13½ horizontally × 12½ vertically.

(68).—10 paras, pale lilac.
(69).—20 ,, grey-blue.
(70).— 1 piastre, bright red.
(71).— 2 piastres, yellow.

D.—Perforated 13½ all round.

(72).— 5 paras, reddish-brown, light to dark.
(73).—10 " lilac.
(74).—20 " dull blue, dark blue, grey-blue.
(75).— 1 piastre, bright red.
(76).— 2 piastres, yellow, dull yellow.
(77).— 5 " pale green, yellow-green.

All the stamps of this issue exist tête-bêche, and also with watermark inverted. Stamps with double perforation are also found.

The 20 para stamp, grey-blue, has been cut in two diagonally.

(78).—10 paras (½ of 20 paras), grey-blue.

For specialists the following unofficial varieties are added:—

Imperforated:—

5	paras	reddish-brown.
10	"	lilac.
20	"	blue.
1	piastre	red-rose.
2	piastres	yellow.
2½	"	violet.
5	"	yellow-green.

Towards the end of 1874, the stock of the 5 para stamps got very low, and a fresh supply was needed. They were printed at the government offices by

native printers, and the result has been exceedingly curious. Not a single stamp on the sheet is correct; centres and labels are all mixed up, and the stamps are all over the sheet in a glorious confusion. This issue is generally known under the expression: the 5 paras with inverted figures.

April, 1875.

A.—Perforated 12½ all round.

(79).—5 paras, light reddish-brown.

B.—Perforated 12½ horizontally × 13½ vertically.

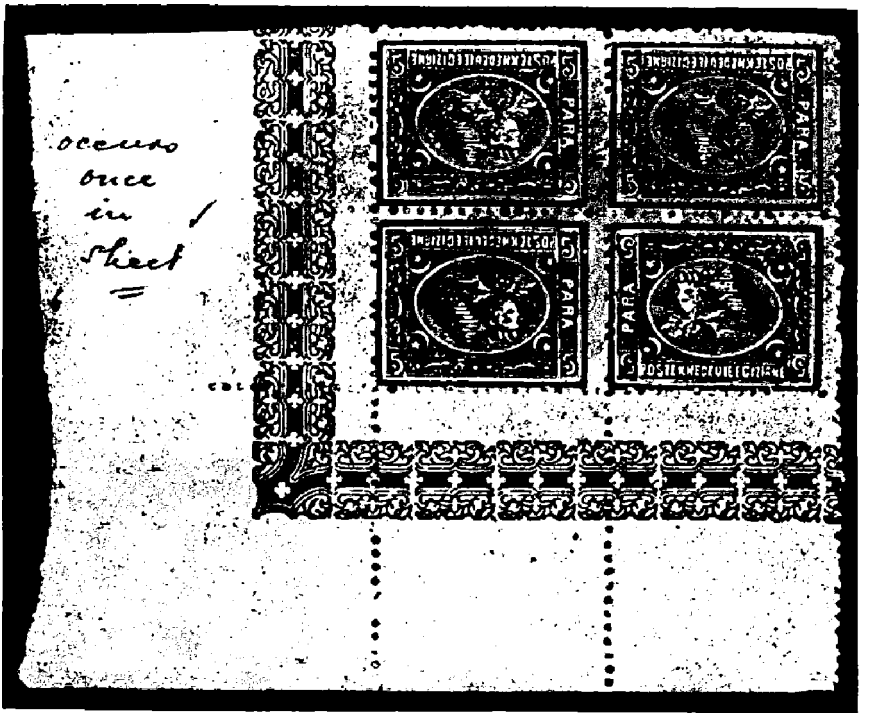
(80).—5 paras, light reddish-brown.

C.—Perforated 13½ horizontally × 12½ vertically.

(81).—5 paras, light reddish-brown.

D.—Perforated 13½ all round.

(82).—5 paras, light reddish-brown.



Specialists will have to collect this value in pairs, strips, and blocks, as the most curious and varied tête-bêche combinations are found. This stamp also exists imperforate.

The new value of 2½ piastres, appearing for the first time is this issue, being little in demand, the government thought it best to surcharge them with a more useful value, and as the New Year was approaching and for this occasion 5 and 10 para stamps being very much required, 1700 sheets were sucharged, 850 sheets for each value.

The surcharge consists of a large figure, on the left of which is the word PARAS and on the right the value in Arabic as follows :—

Hams parat = 5 paras,
Ashra " = 10 "

The whole surcharge is in black bold type.

1st of January, 1879.





A.—Perforated 12½ all round.

(83).—5 paras on 2½ piastres, lilac, deep lilac.
(84).—10 " 2½ " " "

B.—Perforated 12½ horizontally × 13½ vertically.

(85).—5 paras on 2½ piastres, lilac, deep lilac.
(86).—10 " 2½ " " "

C.—Perforated 13½ all round.

(87).—5 paras on 2½ piastres, lilac, deep lilac.
(88).—10 " 2½ " " "

This surcharge exists also inverted, and the following varieties are found :—

A.—Perforated 12½ all round.

(89).—5 paras on 2½ piastres, lilac, deep lilac.
(90).—10 " 2½ " " "

B.—Perforated 12½ horizontally × 13½ vertically.

(91).—5 paras on 2½ piastres, lilac, deep lilac.
(92).—10 " 2½ " " "

C.—Perforated 13½ all round.

(93).—5 paras on 2½ piastres, lilac, deep lilac.
(94).—10 " 2½ " " "

As every sheet of the 2½ piastres contains one tête-bêche variety, such tête-bêche pairs must also be found with the surcharge right and inverted.

The surcharged stamps could only be used in Cairo and in Alexandria, and were sold the last days of December 1878.

(*To be continued.*)

London Philatelic Exhibition, 1897.

THE arrangements for the great Exhibition to be held next year in the Metropolis are progressing very satisfactorily in every respect. We have already published the full list of the General Committee, and the election from that numerous body of an Executive Committee of those who were willing to place their services at the disposal of the General Committee. The Executive so chosen has lost no time in apportioning the work amongst its members. It met on the 15th of October at the Rooms of the Philatelic Society of London, and sub-divided itself into the following Committees :—

Finance Committee :

W. B. AVERY. MAJOR EVANS. W. H. PECKETT.
M. P. CASTLE. G. F. HYNES.

General Purposes Committee :

E. D. BACON. M. GIWELB. R. PEARCE.
M. P. CASTLE. H. R. OLDFIELD. GORDON SMITH.
W. JONES. R. EHRENBACH. W. T. WILSON.
W. D. BECKTON. W. HADLOW.

Advertising and Publicity Committee :

S. E. GWYER. E. J. NANKIVELL. C. J. PHILLIPS.
T. MAYCOCK.

The Prospectus, giving full particulars of the grouping of countries, and a most liberal list of Medals for competition, is in course of revision, and will probably be ready for publication in our next issue. As soon as that Prospectus is in the hands of the public, it is to be hoped that all philatelists will set to work, and do their best to contribute to the final success of the Exhibition. The responsibility shouldered so willingly by the busy men who compose the Executive Committee should be a sufficient incentive to every English philatelist to do his level best to make the Exhibition worthy of our country.

The First Postage Stamps.

From the *Eastern Philatelist*, U.S.A.

FROM time to time articles on the origin of the prepaid postage stamp have appeared in our leading philatelic papers, most of which have reckoned the postage stamp era from the Sardinian issue of 1818. But in an interesting little pamphlet entitled "Du Service des Postes, et de la Taxation des Lettres au Moyen d'un Timbre," by M. Piron, Under Director of the Posts (Paris, 1838), we find mention made of postage stamps issued and used something over a century and a half before this.

It was in 1653 that M. de Velayer, a resident of Paris, established in that city, with the sanction of Louis XIV, the reigning monarch, a penny post; placing boxes at the street corners for the reception of letters wrapped in envelopes, which were franked by bands of paper fastened around them, and on which was printed, "Post

paid the——day of——1653." The date was to be filled in at the time of mailing by the user.

These were the first steps towards the modern stamped envelopes, and were the very first prepaid postage stamps. They were sold for a *sou-tape* each, being procurable at various places throughout the city. M. de Velayer, however, does not seem to have found this enterprise a success, and it survived but two years.

But in 1758, under Louis XV., M. De Chamouset, a wealthy Parisian, established a post for that city, charging two *sols* for single letters under an ounce in weight, which were prepaid by adhesive stamps similar to those now in use.

Backed by abundant capital, the system was very successful until the Crown, jealous of its increasing revenues, revoked M. De Chamouset's privilege, compensating him by an annual pension of twenty thousand francs, and endeavoured to continue the service as a government office. So meagre, however, were the arrangements that the stamps soon fell into disuse and ceased to be issued.

The first government to issue postage stamps was Spain, when by royal decree of December 7, 1716, she authorised their use in prepayment of matter passing over the government post lines. These stamps, which consisted of the royal arms of Castile and Leon impressed in ink on the envelope or wrapper, were at first for the use of the public, but some weeks later their use was restricted to public officials only and matter concerning public affairs. These stamps remained in use until the beginning of the present century.

Next, and third on the list, comes the Sardinia (Italy) issue of 1818. It consists of three values of stamped envelopes, the 15, 25, and 50 centesimi, all being of the same simple design. They were placed on sale November 1, 1819, and after a few years' existence were withdrawn March 30, 1836.

An unsuccessful attempt was made about this time to secure the adoption of stamped envelopes by the post office department of Sweden by one Trefenberg, but the bill failed to pass the Assembly of Swedish nobility.

We now come to Great Britain, the first country to establish a complete public postal system, although the fourth to issue postage stamps. In 1644, Edmund Prideaux, a member of the House of Commons, was appointed master of the posts, and he established a regular post (weekly) to all parts of the kingdom. In 1656 an act of Parliament settled the following rates for single letters to any part of England, Scotland, and Ireland: 2d. for seven miles and under, and ranging to 14d. for not more than 300 miles.

Between this period and 1838 more than 150 Acts relative to postal affairs were passed, but the rates of postage remained unchanged. These rates were almost prohibitory, and but a small quantity of paid matter went through the mails, but, on the contrary, the franking privilege, which had been granted to members of Parliament and to officers of the government was much abused.

In 1837, Mr. Rowland Hill, then not connected with the postal service, published a pamphlet on post office reform, in which he advocated a sweeping change, in fact a doing away with almost all the established customs of the department. He suggested that all inland postage be reduced to a uniform rate: 1d. for each half-ounce; the weight of the letter and not the number of sheets to form the basis of the rate; the entire abolishing of the franking system; and finally, the prepayment of all postal matter by stamps. These were incorporated by him into a bill which he introduced into Parliament. It was a bold project and met with strong and determined opposition, but upon receipt of thousands of petitions from people throughout the realm, begging for the change, Parliament, moved by such a general manifestation, appointed a committee to examine the plan. Finally, after many stormy debates, it was adopted in 1839, the first stamps being used on May 6th, 1840.

As soon as the issuing of postage stamps was decided on, the authorities published an offer of five hundred pounds for the best design for a stamp, "simplicity and facility in working, combined with such precautions as should prove effectual against forgery," being the essentials required. Thousands of designs poured in, but almost the simplest of them all, the well-known production of Heath of London, secured the award. About the same time the Mulready envelope, whose elaborate design contrasts strongly with the adhesives, made its appearance.

Thus begins the history of the postage stamp, of which thousands are now issued annually and whose collectors are numbered by tens of thousands.

Novelties and Discoveries.

Argentine Republic. — Mr. Morgenthau has shown the *American Journal of Philately* three varieties of the 2c. green of the Argentine Republic of the 1888 issue, the principal difference consisting in the distance between the top of the head and the frame above it, which measures respectively 2, 2½, and 3 mm. in the three types.

Belgium.—We are indebted to Mr. Walter A. Riley for a copy of a special stamp to commemorate the Brussels Exhibition of 1897. It is of the large rectangular plaster variety, measuring 35 mm. × 24 mm.; is labelled "Bruxelles, Brussel, 1897," and has a perforated Sunday label. It is of the nominal value of 10c., its real value is about the same as waste paper.

Adhesive.

10c., brown, Exhibition stamp.

British Central Africa.—Our publishers have received the large rectangular fiscals used postally. They appear to have been used in the month of May of this year.

Adhesives.

Fiscals used postally.

1s. on £1, blue, value in red, *black sur.*
2s 6d., lilac, value in red.
4s., black, value in red.

British East Africa. — Our publishers have received two new varieties in postcards: 1a. on 1½a. India, surcharged with the ordinary surcharge; and another of the same value, surcharged in blue, in larger type.

They have also had two fresh varieties in envelopes; 2½a., surcharged on the Indian 4½a., showing two varieties of the surcharge, one being in three lines in blue and close together, the other in black and much wider apart.

Also the 2½a. in red on the 1½a. Indian, with and without the fractional dividing line.

Adhesives.

2½ on 1½a., brown, India, without fractional dividing line.

Postcards.

1a. on 1½a., India, two vars. of sur.

Envelopes.

2½a. on 4½a., India, two vars. of sur.

British Guiana. — Our publishers have had the 2c. black and violet of 1889, with red figure "2" inverted.

Adhesive.

1889. 2c., black and violet: "2" *inverted.*

British South Africa.—We have to add the 1s. value to the Cape stamps, surcharged "British — South Africa — Company." The stamp surcharged is the recently issued 1s. ochre.

Adhesives.

Provisional on Cape stamp.

1s. ochre, black sur.

Curacao.—Messrs. Whitfield King & Co., send us the 15c. unpaid in a slightly altered type, and inform us that all the stamps on the sheet are now exactly of the same type.

Adhesive.

Unpaid Stamp.

15c. green and black.

France.—The *Monthly Journal* publishes the following from *L'Autorite*:—

Mons. Boucher, Minister of Commerce, has decided upon the suppression of the following classes of postage stamps, the demand for which is very small, and which have the inconvenience of uselessly increasing the numbers of postal values in stock at each Post-office:—

1. Adhesive stamps at 75 centimes.
2. Large-sized envelopes at 5 centimes.
3. Small " " 15 centimes.
4. Stamped wrappers 3 "
5. Unpaid letter stamps at 60c. and 1 franc.

According to Alfred Smith's *Monthly Circular* the design for the new French stamp, which we illustrated in March last (p. 71), has been definitely accepted by the authorities. The impression will not, it is said, be in two colours, but in one colour on tinted paper, as at present.

ZANZIBAR.—Messrs. Whitfield King & Co. send us the current French 5f., surcharged 50 annas, for use in Zanzibar.

Adhesive.

50 annas on 5fr., lilac, sur. in black.

Great Britain: Levant. — Messrs. Whitfield King and Co. send us the current 10d., English adhesive, surcharged "4 piastres" in sans serif letters. The surcharge measures 17 mm. in length and 2 mm. in height.

Adhesive.

10d. purple and scarlet, black sur.

Mr. Morley sends the following notes to the *Monthly Journal*:—

2d., blue, wmk. Small Crown, perf. 16 and perf. 14, plates 4 and 5. Mr. Morley finds that these can be readily distinguished by means of the corner letters.

Fiscal Stamps admitted to Postal use. 1d., lilac (Draft or Receipt), wmk. Foul Anchor; there are three varieties of this anchor 16 mm. in height, but a copy has turned up with the Foul anchor measuring 18 mm.

1s, vermilion (Inland Revenue), wmk. Anchors, Die F. Die E only has been previously noted.

Government Parcels Stamp. The 1s., green, current type, without the stop under the letter "T" of the surcharge.

Letter Card. The card is found in two distinct varieties of shade.

Gwalior. — The Postmaster-General, Gwalior, informs the *Quarterly Philatelic Circular* that the following postage stamps have been overprinted for use in this State:—

Adhesives.

2 annas, 6 pies, green.
1 rupee, carmine and green.
2 rupees, carmine and brown.
3 rupees, brown and green.
5 rupees, blue and mauve.

Johore.—The new design with the portrait of the new Sultan is to hand. Messrs. Whitfield King & Co. send us a series of seven values, viz., 1c., 2c., 3c., 4c., 5c., 6c., and 1 dollar They are something after the style of the current Siamese with coloured labels of value in the lower corners, to the left in native character, and to the right in English. The portrait is in an octagonal frame with native inscription around. Between the labels of value are the words "JOHORE—POSTAGE —REVENUE," in three lines. The stamps are watermarked with a cross, and are perf. 14.

Adhesives.

1 cent, green.
2 cents, green, labels in blue.
3 cents, green, labels in mauve.
4 cents, green, labels in red.
5 cents, green, labels in brown.
6 cents, green, labels in yellow.
1 dol., violet, labels in green.

Mexico. — The *American Journal of Philately* chronicles a new watermark, viz., the letters "R M" interlaced appearing in full on each stamp. On inspecting their stock the publishers of the *A. J. P.* find that this watermark came into use some time ago, but seems to have escaped notice until now.

They have the 1, 2, 3, 4, and 5 centavos with this new watermark, and give the earliest dates that they have found on each value as follows:—

1c. ..... February 22nd, 1896.
2c. ... . February 24th, 1896.
3c. ..... March (?), 1896.
4c. ..... February 10th, 1896.
5c. .... December 29th, 1896.

Queensland. — Mr. Wm. Hadlow sends us the new type of penny with figures of value in the lower triangles.

Adhesive.

1d., red, new type.

Samoa.—*Filatelic Facts and Fancies* says the current stamp, King Malietoa, of 2½d. value, has been printed in the black shade of the New Zealand ½d. According to Postmaster Davis, of Samoa, only one printing was made in this colour by the Auckland government printers, and that by mistake. Since this printing the publishers of the *F. F. F.* have received the copies of the stamp in the old colour.

Adhesive.

2½d., black, *error of colour.*

St. Helena.—Messrs. Whitfield King & Co. inform us that this colony joined the Postal Union on the 1st October, 1896. They send us a set of new values in the current colonial type Seychelles pattern, but printed in one colour instead of being bi-coloured. So long ago as 1890 a 1½d. of this type, bi-coloured, was issued. The new values are—1d., 2d., 2½d., 5d., and 10d. They are watermarked Cr. and CA. and perf. 14.

Adhesives.

1d., red.
2d., yellow.
2½d., blue
5d., violet.
10d., brown.

Sierra Leone.—The old type has at last given place to the new bi-coloured stamp. The design is the same as the current Seychelles type. Wmk. Cr. and CA. Perf. 14.

Adhesives.

1d., lilac, name and value in red.
2d., lilac, name and value in yellow.
2½d., lilac, name and value in blue.
3d., lilac, name and value in slate.
1s., green, name and value in black.

Tonga. — The *Australian Philatelist* has received from this country what it terms "the most remarkable object ever seen," and which it describes as follows:

It purports to be a provisional ½d. stamp, and may be briefly described as "Imprimis, a 2½d. adhesive stamp, printed in *pale blue*, overprinted vertically 'surcharge 7½d.' in *red*, reading upwards, again overprinted 'Vaeua oe Beni' in *black*, reading downwards, again overprinted

'Halfpenny' in two lines in *violet*, reading crosswise." The final overprint has been applied by means of a typewriter! and we have the Vice-Consul's assurance that such things are *necessary*.

Adhesive.

½d. on 7½d., on 2½d. violet, black, red, and blue.

Uganda Protectorate.—According to the *Quarterly Philatelic Circular* this new Protectorate may be expected before long to attract the attention of philatelists, as it is reported that Mr. F. J. Jackson, one of the Assistant Commissioners, has, with considerable ingenuity, instituted a sort of native post, in connection with which he has had prepared a series of typewritten postage stamps, the currency being in cowrie shells. It is said that the natives are availing themselves of the new medium of sending messages and letters to their friends, and that the post may be said to be in thorough working order. The obliteration of the stamps is done with pen and ink.

Zanzibar. — It will be a philatelic blessing when this eruptive Protectorate settles down to hum-drum postal issues. We are quite out of breath in our "best endeavours" to keep pace with the numberless varieties that we hear of from month to month. It was most inconsiderate of that last Sultan to flit as he did just when a permanent series had been arranged.

Our publishers have the 2½a., in red, on 1½a., India, with and without the fractional dividing line.

Also the 2½a., in red, on 2a., blue, India, with two varieties of the large figure "2," one about ½ m. larger than the other. Of the larger figure there are 24 stamps in two rows of 12 on each sheet of 120 stamps.

Also further values of the British East Africa new design, surcharged "Zanzibar," viz., 4½a., 5a, and 7½a., all surcharged in black.

And, lastly, they have found in their stock of surcharges on Indians a fresh variety in the shape of the letter "i" without the dot. This variety probably runs through all values, but so far they have only found it on the ½a., 2a., 4a., 6a., 8a., and 1r.

Messrs. Whitfield King & Co. send us the current 1 rupee, carmine and green, of India, surcharged "Zanzibar."

Adhesive.

1 rupee, carmine and green (India).

Our Monthly Packets of New Issues.

No. 1, price one shilling (postage extra).

The October packet contains several varieties, viz.:—Bulgaria, 1 stot; Servia, 1 para; Greece, 1 lept; Fiji, 1d., rose, &c.

No. 2, price five shillings (postage extra).

The October packet contains several varieties, viz.:—British South Africa Co. (current type), re-drawn, ½d., 1d., 2d., 3d., 4d., 6d., 8d., and 1s., &c.

These packets are on sale until November 30th (unless the supply is previously exhausted) and are supplied only to *Subscribers* to the PHILATELIC RECORD AND STAMP NEWS. Similar packets will be on sale every month, and may be subscribed for in advance for the year (January to December inclusive), at the following rates:—No. 1 packet (sent by book post with the paper), 12s. post-free (if by letter post the postage is 1s. extra Inland; 2s. 6d. Abroad). No. 2 packet (by letter post), Inland 61s., Abroad 62s. 6d., post-free.

The subscription to the paper (3s. per annum) is extra. —BUHL & Co, Limited, 11, Queen Victoria Street, E.C

The earliest information as to New Issues will be much appreciated by us, and will be duly credited to the correspondent, or firm, sending it. Our foreign correspondents can materially help us in this direction. When possible, a specimen should accompany the information, and be addressed to

the Editor Mr. EDWARD J. NANKIVELL,

28, *Birdhurst Rise, Croydon.*

Philately in the Mags.

France; 1 Franc Vermilion.

The *Schweizer Briefmarken Zeitung* (Geneva) publishes the following notice from the Geneva Exhibition :—

Amongst the exhibits there was an official decree dated December 1st, 1849, and affixed to the same are two half-stamps, one of 1 franc red vermilion, the other of 1 franc carmine. The decree reads as follows :—"Whereas the stamps of 40 centimes shortly to be issued have been printed in red vermilion, there is great fear that the colour of this stamp will clash with that of the 1 franc, and will be the cause of loss to the Treasury. In consequence, it has been decided that all stamps of 1 franc in the colour of No. 1 on this sheet be returned to the Administration, and be replaced immediately by stamps of a deeper shade than No. 2."

This would place the date of issue of the 1 franc carmine three months earlier than it has been done up to now.

Spain, 1864, Perf. 12½.

The *Philatelist* (Dresden), in the September number, notices the following novelty, which no doubt will interest our readers :—

A gentleman bought a great quantity of ordinary Spanish stamps, in all 615,000. In sorting these out he found twenty of the 4 cuartos, 1864, rose on flesh-coloured paper, *perforated* 12½, the existence of which was not known. The stamps had been collected by a Spanish naval officer, who seemed to have had little or no knowledge of stamps, as some rather valuable stamps were found bundled together with the cheapest rubbish. It seems, therefore, impossible that these stamps, or rather the perforation, has been forged. The question is, were these stamps perforated privately, or is it a trial perforation.

Roumania, 5 bani, error.

The *Timbre-Poste* has a very interesting article on the question, whether the 5 bani rose, 1879, is really an *error* or only an *essay*. M. Moëns, in his latest catalogue, declares it to be an *essay*. Mr. Friedl, of Vienna, says it is a genuine *error*, and sends M. Moëns a postcard, addressed to himself, in 1879, franked with one of these 5 bani rose stamps, in addition to the 5 bani impressed on the card—in all, 10 bani, which is the postage for postcards in the postal union.

The *Timbre-Poste* continues—

Unfortunately, the obliteration, which is partly on the card and partly on the stamp, is not the same either in thickness or in colour. It is dark blue on the stamp and light blue on the card The first letter of the town Tseverin, which is on the card, is a hook instead of a T, and is in light blue, whereas the rest of the obliteration on the stamp is in dark blue. It seems to us that the original stamp on the card has been replaced by the 5 bani *essay*, which had been obliterated with a forged die.

Besides, the plate of the 10 bani dark blue of 1876 was corrected by the suppression of the error before the printing of the 10 bani ultramarine in November, 1878. This error could, therefore, not exist in April, 1879, in rose.

But what about the pair of 10 and 5 bani rose, 1879, shown at the Vienna Exhibition, 1894? They were undoubtedly a genuine vertical used pair, and their existence seems to prove conclusively that the error still existed on the plate in November, 1879.

Roumanian Levant.

From the *Courrier des Timbres-Poste* we take the following with regard to the official character of the Roumanian Levant stamps :—

GENTLEMEN,

In answer to your favour, the Director General of the Roumanian Post directs me to say that the Ottoman surcharge on Roumanian stamps has been effected by the Agent of the Roumanian Steamship Company, at Constantinople, with our permission, but that the sale of these stamps has been stopped for some time.

Yours, &c.,
G. FLORESCO,
Secretary.

Baden : Errors of Colour.

The *Deutsche Briefmarken Zeitung* (Berlin) has a very interesting article by C. Lindenberg on Baden with special reference to the errors of colour. The greatest care has to be observed when acquiring the 9 Kreuzer green, as it is very easy to change the rose lilac colour to green. Genuine copies undoubtedly do exist, but they should only be taken with great caution and never without a guarantee.

The Baden stamps are printed in water colours, which can be easily discharged. Re-dying them to any desired colour is

then very easy. Every value can be had on white paper, especially the 3 Kreuzer yellow.

Vaud, 5c.

The *Schweizer Briefmarken Zeitung* (Geneva) publishes the following notice:

In the Exhibition at Geneva was a reconstructed sheet of the 100 varieties of the 5c. Vaud; only two stamps were short—No. 28 and No. 76, and these have never been seen yet. On the upper margin the following inscription can be seen:—

TIMBRES d'AF
valables pour le canton de
Genève à
lith.

The full text would be: "Timbres d'affranchissement valables pour le canton de Genève à l'exception de l'enclave de Céliquy, lithographie Schmid à Genève," but only part of the margin has been found.

San Marino. Numbers printed.

The *Berliner Briefmarken Zeitung* has a short article on the stamps of San Marino.

The quantities printed are given as follows:—

1877. — 2c., 100,000; 10c., 50,000; 20c., 300,000; 30c., 25,000; 40c., 25,000.

1892.—5 on 30, 10,000; 5 on 10, 20,000; 10 on 20, 40,000; 10 and 20 on 20, 40,000.

1892, new issues in different colours.—5c., 100,000; 30c., 25,000; 40c., 25,000; 45c., 25,000; 1fr., 5.000.

1894.—2c., 100,000; 10c., 40,000; 15c., 20,000; 65c.. 15,000; 2fr., 10,000; 5fr., 5,000.

1894, Jubilee issue.—25c., 200,000; 50c., 100,000; 1fr., 100,000.

1895.—2c., 200,000; 20c, 40,000; 100c, 5,000.

in all 1,625,000 stamps for a population of about 8000.

Mauritius Postal Report.

The *Monthly Journal* publishes the following extract from *The Merchants' and Planters' Gazette*, published at Port Louis, and dated August 7th, 1896:—

"Second Interim Report of the Postal Department Inquiry Committee.

"With reference to the question of determining the values of the new stamps, to be indented for from England, consequent on the alteration in our postal rates, and in presence of the suggestion from the Secretary of State for the Colonies, in his Despatch, No. 323, of 18th December, 1894, that in future postage stamps should be applicable to both postal and revenue purposes, the Committee recommend that stamps of the following values be ordered, viz.:—

Of 1c. to be used for making up differences with other stamps, when necessary.
do. 2c. for Post Cards, Christmas and New Year's cards.
do. 4c. Inland Postage and Receipt.
do. 5c. do. Letters, Drafts at sight.
do. 8c. do. Local Registration.
do. 15c. do. Letters, Drafts, Bills, &c.
do. 18c. do. Present Postal Tariff for abroad.
do. 25c. do. Letters, Drafts, Bills, Bills of Lading.
do. 50c. do. Letters, Drafts, Bills of Lading.
do. R. 1 do. Civil Status Acts, Bills, &c.
do. Rs. 2.50 for Letters, Bills, &c.
do. Rs. 5 for Letters, Bills, &c.
do. 18c. and 36c. for envelopes similar to existing sizes of Registered Envelopes, F. & G.
do. 8c. for Post Cards, single.
do. 8c. for Reply Post Cards (each page).

"This combination, it is calculated, will meet all probable requirements, both postal and revenue.

"The stamps to be of the new design; *i.e.* 'the Arms of Mauritius.' Each series to bear a different colour.

"To obviate the necessity of the words 'Postal and Revenue' appearing on the stamps, for which there does not appear to be sufficient space on the die already cast, the Committee recommend that a Regulation be framed, enacting that the stamps of the new issue shall be available for both postal and revenue purposes.

"There being no possibility, however, of including in the above combination the Inland Revenue Stamps which are, at present, issued in *series of three*, and Insurance Stamps, as per Ordinance No. 2 of 1869, the Committee consider that these stamps may continue to be issued for certain Revenue purposes, for which they were designed, the dies being preserved to meet future requisitions.

"The Committee beg to draw attention to the fact that the cost of the new stamps is not likely to exceed by much the sum of Rs. 3000, including exchange; since in terms of a letter from the Crown Agents for the Colonies, of 12th December, 1894, the same die will serve for the printing of all the stamps. The only additional expenditure to be incurred will be on account of the *overprint*, including the different values of the stamps required, and the printing of the stamps, which cost only 10d. per thousand.

"W. T. A. Edwards, M.D.,
Chairman,
"*Postal Department Inquiry Committee.*
"Council Chambers, *28th July*, 1896."

Australian Prices.

A wicked scribbler having had the hardihood to suggest that there is a "slump" in Australians in the matter of prices, Mr. Castle has taken up the cudgels "on behalf of this most interesting group." He contends in the *London Philatelist* that there is no slump: not a bit of it; only a drop in prices. The main reasons "for the less prominent position now held by Oceanian stamps are not far to seek," and he sums them up as follows:—

We should cite the fact of the bad times in Australia, which have caused so many collectors "out there" to part with their treasures; the cessation of their collection, through various causes, by certain leading collectors in Europe, *e.g.* the late Mr. T. K. Tapling, MM. Caillebotte (to one of whom the same sad prefix must be given), and the present Vice-President of the London Society; the fact that many other collectors have completed their plates; and lastly, the extraordinary and volcanic impetus that has raised the West Indian stamps to be the fashion of the day.

Cape Wood Blocks.

In a long and interesting series of Notes on the Cape Stamps, by Capt. Norris-Newman, published in the *London Philatelist*, we get a little further light on the so-called "wood blocks."

The supplies of 1d. and 4d. triangular stamps beginning to run short in January, 1861, arrangements were made with Messrs. Saul Solomon & Co., the then Government printers, to issue a temporary supply, which was done during April, 1861, after a long correspondence and some difficulty. The original design was copied and engraved on wood—two separate engravings of the 1d. and 4d.—by the late Mr. Charles Bell, the Surveyor-General of the Cape Colony; and these were reproduced by some electrotype or stereotype process separately, until sixty-four blocks of each were done. These were then cemented on wood, in four horizontal rows, of eight pairs in each row; but the dies were so unevenly arranged and put together on the wood, that the spaces between the stamp-pairs and rows vary from one-sixteenth to three-sixteenths of an inch, irregularly throughout: the total length and breadth of the sheets being $10\frac{1}{4} \times 4$, with a margin all round of nearly three-quarters of an inch. Owing, doubtless, to carelessness in cementing the reproduced dies together, one error crept into each block. viz., a 1d. red die with the 4d. blue plate, and *vice versa*.

Of this provisional issue the records show that 385 sheets—twenty over = 24,660—of the 1d. were issued by the Government to the public; and of the 4d. 200 sheets—forty over = 12,840; but there is nothing to show what quantity was printed by Saul Solomon & Co., or actually delivered by them to the authorities.

It is hardly probable that they would have delivered anything but complete sheets; so that the likelihood is that a complete sheet or more, and the missing portions of the others, were acquired as specimens by officials previous to their issue to the public.

The paper used was a very ordinary white laid of average quality; well gummed, with no wmk. or perforations. There is no record in the office of any more than one printing, as they were all delivered on the same day; but the difference in colour and shade shows distinctly that the printers must have used separate lots of ink, and may have made two or more printings of the issue. Neither is there anything to show whether the error of change of dies was found out during the printings or afterwards, as it was only after their reproduction for reprinting purposes in 1884 that the dies were removed—two from the 1d. and one from the 4d.—and the blocks afterwards put away; they are still kept locked up in the vaults under three keys, in the possession of the Under Colonial Secretary, the Auditor-General, and the Treasurer-General, all of whom must be present to get them out. There is nothing to show absolutely when these dies were removed from the block, or what has become of them; but the Assistant-Treasurer assured me that to the best of his knowledge they were only removed previous to the reprinting, and subsequently destroyed.

This provisional issue was entirely sold out about Sept., 1861; and no sheets, or even single specimens, were left in the possession of the Post Office officials or Department, the Postmaster-General having none for insertion in the official collection! From information I obtained from a late foreman in the litho. printing department of the late firm of Saul Solomon & Co., it is certain that no strict official check was particularly kept upon the printing of this first provisional, as the firm priced all the paper and materials themselves; and he remembers several sheets being destroyed, as being defective, during the printings, for he says they were not all printed off on the one day.

Nova Scotia Remainders.

According to the *Boston Stamp Book*, the recent find of Nova Scotia remainders of the cents issues consisted of 200,000 stamps, not sets, divided as follows:—

On white paper—

1 cent	52,000.
2 cents	54,000.
10 cents	28,000.

On yellow paper—

8½ cents	54,000.
12½ cents	12,000.

British Guiana Die Varieties.

The *Boston Stamp Book*, in its interesting "Reference List of Type and Die Varieties" by the editor, Mr. John Luther Kilbon, in its October issue, has the following note on die varieties of British Guianas:—

1853—1860.

The first issue of this design was put out with the date 1853, one numeral in each corner, on an ornamental back ground. In 1860, the design was altered by making the ground at the corners plain, and making the date 1860. A white square was drawn around each numeral. This set was made up with a wide space between the value and the word "cents." In 1863 the lettering at the bottom was changed, though the date numerals remained the same. As a consequence, the space between the value and the word "cents" is much narrower in this type, which is one of the most often seen.

A. Date 1853; numerals unframed on fancy ground.

B. Date 1860; numerals framed on plain ground; wide space between words of bottom label.

C. Date 1860; numerals framed on plain ground; narrow space.

1881, 2 CENTS ON 96 CENTS.

The shape of the numeral in the surcharge is different in the two types of this stamp. In one, the bottom of the numeral is straight, in the other it is curved.

A. Bottom of numeral straight.
B. Bottom of numeral curved.

South Australia 2d., Orange, Wmk. SA. Close.

Mr. George Blockey sends the *London Philatelist* the following complete list of the varieties, rare and otherwise, of perforation of the 2d. orange, close "SA," all of which he has in his own collection, fortunate man:—

Dates when in use or issued.

1876-93...	perf.	10
Aug. 1877 and Mar. 1880	,,	11½
,,	,,	11½ × 12½
Mar. 1880	,,	11½ × 11½ × 11½ × 10
Oct. 1878	,,	10 × 12½
,,	,,	10 × 11½
Oct. 1878	,,	10 × 10 × 10 × 11½, or 10 × 10 × 11½ × 10
,,	,,	10 × 10 × 10 × 12½, or 10 × 10 × 12½ × 10
Mar. 1880	,,	11½ × 10
,,	,,	11½ × 10 × 10 × 10, or 10 × 11½ × 10 × 10
April 1, 1893	,,	15.
July 1, 1893	,,	13.

German Stamps: Last year's supply.

Amongst the most interesting information that a philatelist can secure from the official records, are particulars of the numbers printed of the various issues. We are indebted to *Filatelic Facts and Fancies* for the following:—

It may be interesting to our readers to know how many stamps were furnished by the Imperial printing office, post office department of Germany, in one year, from the 1st of April, 1895, to the 31st March, 1896, and we, therefore, give the list as follows:—

3,306,600	sheets	of stamps of	3 pfenige.
3,314,100	"	"	5 "
7,283,000	"	"	10 "
1,563,500	"	"	20 "
412,200	"	"	25 "
806,500	"	"	50 "
8,380	"	"	2 mk.

This gives a grand total of 16,754,280 sheets, equal to 1,675,428,000 stamps at 184,396,300 marks. Besides the foregoing there was a good lot of postal stationery, with over 256,000,000 postal cards, and closing with the small amount of 5000 pneumatic reply cards.

U.S. Bureau Minor Varieties.

Mr. Bartels, of Washington, gives in the *Weekly Stamp News* the following interesting particulars as to some of the minor varieties which have been found in stamps turned out by the Bureau of Engraving:—

There recently appeared a long article in the *Metropolitan Philatelist*, which was copied in the *Daily Stamp Item*, in regard to minor varieties issued by the Bureau of Engraving and Printing. The following explanation in regard to some of these has been given which may be of interest to some of your readers.

In the beginning the Bureau was taxed to its utmost ability to keep up with the demand for stamps, and the employés had to work day and night. The examining and re-examining had to be dispensed with entirely, which permitted a number of sheets to get out perforated vertically only. The imperforate varieties are probably sample sheets which were sent to the Post Office Department, and by some means got into the hands of the public. These latter must be very scarce, and it is believed that not more than one or two sheets of several denominations were sent out in all.

It was formerly the practice of the Bureau to cancel all imperfect sheets by running them through the perforating machine a second time, causing a double perforation. Some of these must have gotten out and are the ones referred to in the article. This method of canceling the rejected sheets has been abandoned, and is now accomplished by a special machine with narrow black parallel lines across the whole sheet There is a record kept of every sheet printed, the rejected as well as the good. They are sent to the Treasury Department together, and the former are returned to the Bureau to be macerated, for which purpose special machines are used.

Philatelic Gossip.

The Coming Season.

According to Mr. Castle, who is a pretty shrewd prophet, the coming season will, like its predecessors, be one of advancing prices. He testifies, from recent Continental experience, to a rush for the better class of Europeans—including Scandanavians. It is an open secret that Scandanavians are to be advanced in price shortly, and to have added to their list several varieties hitherto unknown, or unnoticed, except to native specialists. Mr. Castle also bears testimony to a distinct revival of the interest taken in the better class of South American countries and the Transvaal. The Transvaal is, no doubt, steadily rising in the scale of popularity. But until recent events in the Transvaal have had time to settle, the anticipated advance in prices will probably bide its time. Just before the troubles a strong local demand for the early issues had set in, and supplies were being rapidly returned to the country of their origin, at stiffening prices. Since the trouble the demand has dropped off considerably. When the troubles have been shelved, and business resumes its course once more, these grand old stamps will be in further demand. Meanwhile, the opportunity is with us to pick up these trifles at knock-out prices. Some day they will assuredly be appreciated at their real value.

British East Africa Stamps.

Everybody has been wondering why we have not yet been able to get any of the British East Africa stamps of the new design. At last we have an explanation from Messrs. Whitfield King & Co. The sale to the public has been stopped, and letters have to be handed in at the post office, where the stamps are affixed. But why? Surely in the case of the new and presumably settled design there should be sufficient to supply the demands of a public sale over the counter in the ordinary way. We must confess we are a bit puzzled still. With an emergency, surcharged issue, we can understand the necessity of restricting the sale; but not in the case of a permanent issue such as that of the new design for British East Africa.

Epidemic of Secret Dots.

There is quite a serious epidemic of "Secret Dots." It broke out first in a somewhat virulent form in a fortnightly paper, published for the dissemination of brotherly love, then it crossed the herring pond, from thence it travelled to the far East, reappearing in the shape of discoveries of secret dots in Brazilians, and now it returns to this country in the form of discoveries in Chilians. By and bye, we shall ask of every stamp, where is the Secret Dot?

Decrease of Good Specimens.

A writer in *Filatelic Facts and Fancies* draws attention to the continual decrease of good specimens which goes on. He was reminded of this by the fact that he, though a most careful collector, had just damaged two valuable stamps in transferring his collection from one album to another. Two years ago Mr. Castle drew attention to the same thing. He asserted then that the collector who has never had a mishap or loss with any stamp is lucky indeed. As the years roll by, and what Mr. Castle aptly termed the "shrinkage of rarities" goes on, this shrinkage by accidental handling will gather importance as a disagreeable factor in the rise of prices. When we note the clumsy manner in which some collectors handle their gems, and consider the numberless risks of damage that rare stamps have to pass through from dealer to collector, thence to auction, thence on another round of dealers' stock books, to be thumbed by collector after collector, it seems little short of a marvel that we have so many fine specimens of forty-year-old stamps as we have.

The U.S. Boy's Paper.

We have not yet received the first number of this new paper that is to wake up the interest of the boy collector in postage stamps in the United States; but from the notices that have appeared in some of our American contemporaries we gather that it will be largely devoted to the encouragement of the collection of commemorative rubbish. The editor who has been appointed certainly holds peculiar views in that direction.

Those Terrible Tongas.

There seem to be two sides to every statement about Tongan stamps. One day we have the most circumstantial evidence of a speculative issue; the next day the so-called speculatives are whitewashed with exhaustive vigour. In fact it may truly be said that in all that relates to Tongan stamps "You never know where you are." One day we are certain that the place must be exclusively peopled by wicked stamp speculators; the next day we are convinced that it can be none other than the favourite residence of the Saints. The latest protest of its purity comes from Mr. Campbell, chief postmaster of Tonga. He writes to the *Monthly Journal* as follows:—

I would like you to bear in mind that Tongan stamps are not issued for speculation. There is not a single postmaster allowed any commission for the sale of stamps, and neither am I. Therefore my salary would just be the same whether the sale of stamps amounted to £5 or £500. I simply execute foreign orders as a matter of courtesy, and because it slightly increases the returns of my department. I am open to admit that the recent issues of stamps are very far from what they ought to be. But having no other stamps to go on with we were compelled to put them in circulation to meet the public convenience.

U.S. Post Offices.

An official report recently issued by the Post Office Department at Washington, U.S., shows that 70,360 post offices were in existence on June 30th. During the year 1750 offices had been removed from the list and 2046 added. Missisippi and Georgia show the largest gains, 83 and 54; whilst the greatest loss was 23 in West Virginia. The number of complaints received by the department during the year was 108,037, including 16,563 relating to foreign mail. The number of registered packets handled was 13,851,000, of which only one in 16,254 was lost. The arrest or killing of a number of the most prominent outlaws in the Middle West, and the breaking up of several of the worst gangs of bandits that ever existed in the country have led to a pronounced decrease in number of train and stage robberies and of post office burglaries. There were 2074 arrests during the year for offences against the postal laws, 842 of the prisoners belonging to the service.

Philatelic Society Lotteries.

Here is a wrinkle for those Philatelic Societies that find it hard to get up a programme sufficiently attractive to ensure a good attendance at their regular meetings. It comes from far East, from India, in fact, through the sober columns of the *Quarterly Philatelic Circular*, and refers to the Bombay Philatelic Society.

A novel feature was inaugurated at the last meeting of the Society, constituting a source of a good deal of merriment and amusement. Each member supplied a packet of stamps, and a Grand Stamp Lottery was held. Some people got good prizes, while others, of course, had to do with ordinary ones. It is believed that a lottery of this kind will become a permanent monthly fixture.

Specialising Chilians.

In the last issue of the *Philatelists' Supplement to the "Bazaar"* (Oct. 14th), Mr. Slade returns to his favourite topic of specialising Chilians. After the terrible and never-to-be-forgotten dose of varieties of watermark which he administered in a previous number, he might have refrained from inflicting any further horrors upon us. But, unmerciful man, he is at it again! In this issue he gives us a newly-discovered variety in an inverted "V" in "Centavos." An inverted letter in an engraving of a steel die! Mr. Slade had better keep that sort of philatelic information for the Horse Marines.

Forgeries and Reprints.

Reprints of Victoria.

Has Postmaster Cook, of New South Wales reprint notoriety, been transferred to Victoria? Anyway, the following statement by Mr. C. J. Phillips, in the *Monthly Journal*, seems to point to the necessity of a searching investigation by the authorities to put an end to another obvious swindle.

We have received a communication from a first-rate authority in Australia, that some reprints of various issues of old Victorian stamps have lately been put on the market, without any distinguishing overprint, such as the word "Reprint" or "Specimen," which has been used on former occasions. We also hear that a certain Swedish collector, coming from Melbourne, will be likely to offer these stamps in England within a short time; the stamps may be described by him as remainders, but they are actually reprints, as any remainders there were have been destroyed. We think that the Victorian postal authorities are to be severely condemned for allowing this to take place. It is only about twelve months ago that the Philatelic Society of Victoria brought under the notice of the Postmaster-General the issue of reprints of their colony. A promise was then made that no further supply should be printed without some distinguishing mark, but, by the connivance of someone in the Post Office, they are still being put on the market in that Colony; and from Melbourne, of course, by degrees they get to London and the Continent. The stamps reprinted are the following, and have the same watermark, perforation, etc., as the originals:—

1885. 4d., carmine, surcharged "Stamp duty," our number 197.
„ 1s., blue, surcharged "Stamp duty," our number 198.
1886. ½d. grey, our number 200.
1888. 1s. 6d., blue, our number 203.
1892. 1d., carmine, envelope, our number 638.

We are also informed that it is possible that the 9d. red-brown, on rough paper, watermark V and Crown, and also the 1d. + 1d., brown, envelope have been reprinted, but our informant is not sure on this point.

Brazil, 1894 Issue.

The *Illustrirte Briefmarken Zeitung* (Leipzig) warns collectors to be very careful when acquiring the present issue with inverted centre. The police at Rio are investigating the matter, and have traced the manufacture of the same.

Tuscany 60 Crazie.

The *Berliner Briefmarken Zeitung* announces a forgery of the 60 crazie of Tuscany, 1851, as follows:—

It is made out of the 9 crazie by erasing the 9 and replacing the same by the figure 60. The best way to recognise the forgery is to measure the word "crazie," which is 9 mm long in the genuine 60 crazie stamp and 10¼ mm. in the 9 crazie stamp.

England: Levant 40 Paras.

The *Austrian Philatelist* (Prague) has seen forgeries of the English Levant stamp of 40 paras on 2½d lilac.

The forged surcharge can be easily seen, as the 4 of 40 has a horizontal stroke at the bottom, the space in the head of the 4 is too small, and the s of Paras is reversed, *i.e.*, the larger half is at the top. Besides, all the used forgeries have English cancellations.

Mexico 1866 Issue, 50c.

From the *Austrian Philatelist* (Prague) we take the following description of a very good forgery of the 50c. 1866 issue, with head of the Emperor Maximilian.

This forgery is so good that no doubt many collectors will be taken in. The whole execution is good, only the beard is rather too long. The inscriptions are rather too thin, making them appear longer than in the genuine. So far, only unused specimens have been found.

Portugal, 1st Issue, 1853.

The *Portuguese Philatelist* has the following highly instructive notice about these stamps:

The extreme rarity of some values in the unused state has induced some dealers to bring their chemical knowledge to bear on the stamps of this issue, with the result, that lately quite a number of unused Dona Maria stamps of 50 and 100 Reis, which formerly were nearly unattainable, have been offered to the public.

Up to now these have been offered at moderate prices to collectors and dealers, who, at high prices, would not buy.

These two values have been used very largely for the stamping of judicial papers, and are now looked for in all the archives. They are always cancelled with pen or pencil strokes, and some of them very lightly. Even strips and blocks up to 6 have been found. The *modus operandi* is to take them off the paper as carefully as possible, taking care not to wash all the original gum off, then the ink is removed chemically, and lo and behold a high-prized and much-looked-for stamp is the result.

Correspondence.

Norway 1 öre: Varieties.

DEAR SIR,—I take the opportunity of pointing out a few errors in the article on "Norway 1 öre: Varieties," in the August number (p 226), to hand to-day:

1st Variety, 1877 issue—Shaded all round posthorn. Perf. 14½ by 13½; not 13½ as stated.

2nd Variety—Not only colour modified, but whole stamp, the posthorn being unshaded. Perf. still 14½ by 13½; not 13½. This stamp shows curious varieties of "N" in Norge, some being like Z sideways.

3rd Variety—Perf. 14½ by 13½; not 13½. Serif and foot stroke of small "1" often invisible.

4th Variety—All lettering in ornamental capitals. Perf. 13½ by 12½. Many of this issue have appeared also perf. 14½ by 13½ Doubtless the 1 öre will too, sooner or later.

Yours faithfully,
HUBERT BUCKLEY.

Christiana,
7th September, 1896.

A Permanent Printed Album.

DEAR SIR,—I have read your article on the "Permanent Printed Album" in your August issue with great satisfaction, and agree with you that "the general collector sorely needs freedom of choice in the arrangement of his stamps."

May I suggest the following simple and economical idea as supplemental to that set forth by you.

Let publishers issue plain quadrille-lined leaves of suitable size, shape, and quality at so much per dozen, prepared for binding in either fixed or moveable covers, as the purchaser may choose. The catalogue should be prepared separately and sold in books, the leaves of which consisted of lists in perforated columns, which could be detached and hinged neatly at the side of the page in the prepared marginal space, so as to turn with the page.

These lists (each a portion of a country's catalogue) need not be illustrated, and so their cost should not be excessive. They could be published up-to-date, say, once a year, and a collector could, on the appearance of each new edition, substitute it for the previous one already hinged in his albums.

If carefully thought out, scientifically prepared, neatly printed and arranged with a view to the artistic treatment of a page, and so as to provide for, say, twenty stamps on a page large enough to hold, say, thirty, I am convinced such slip catalogues would become very popular.

Yours faithfully,
WILMOT CORFIELD.

Calcutta,
22nd September, 1896.

Nova Scotia Cents Issue, 1860.

DEAR SIR,—In the *Leisure Hour* for August 1st. 1863, there is an illustrated article on "Rare and Curious Postage Stamps." The writer refers to those of Nova Scotia as follows:—"The most beautiful stamp is the Nova Scotian twelve and a-half cents, manufactured in the United States, and universally called the Queen of Stamps. A recent number of a well-known Belgian newspaper says of it, 'Never, perhaps, has the engraver's art created aught more lovely in so circumscribed a space, and it is only to be regretted that this little masterpiece must ever be outraged by the cancelling mark.'"

At the present moment, when the majority of philatelists are talking of the remarkable find, I thought the above would be interesting to your readers.

Yours faithfully,
W. H. EARL.

Newcastle, Staffs.,
19th October, 1896.

Congo State Stamp Speculation.

DEAR SIR,—Seeing a remark about Congo stamps on page 251 of your September number, you may allow me a few words about these stamps.

In the first place, it is a fact that the Congo Free State has always—since its foundation—made enormous speculations with poststamps and postcards, and the revenue out of it is certainly reaching fifty thousand francs a year.

To show it clearly, I may say that you need only call at the Brussels offices and you can get stamps and postcards, USED or unused, *just as you like it*. If you show some preference for anniversary—you can have it. The same with Boma and for certain dates—as for instance, your Banana, Matadi, etc., etc. You understand that these stamps have never seen the big "Congo Free State."

A fine speculation was made with the 1894 5-cent. blue and 10-cent. brown-red. The whole stock was sold to a dealer with promise to *change the colour with the new edition*. This is done, and of 100,000 of the 5-cent. blue value *not a single one has seen the Congo River*. It is not worth while sending them over as all are stamped in Brussels "to order."

You may be assured it is the same with the 5 and 10-franc values and the 50-centimes grey, the so-called "error"! Every child knows that the Congo State needs money, and there is no difference from Seebeck States. You know the old proverb: "Make money if you can honestly," etc., etc.

Yours truly,
THEODORE HEIGES.

Paris,
11th Oct., 1896.

Notable Stamps at Auction.

Unused are distinguished by an asterisk

BUHL & Co.,

18th August, 1896.

	£	s.	d.
Naples, ½t. blue, arms, on entire newspaper ...	17	10	0
St. Lucia (4d.) blue, star*	4	4	0
Spain, 12 cuartos red and blue, imperf., inverted centre, cracked across	5	0	0

8th September, 1896.

Cape of Good Hope, 6d. lilac, triangular, block of four, with gum, but slightly stained* ...	5	17	6
Ceylon. 4d. rose. imperf., torn one side, good margins	9	0	0
8d. brown, star, perf.*...	8	8	0
2s. blue, imperf., slight defect, fine margins ...	5	0	0
India, ½a. red, pair, with bottom margin ...	13	10	0
Mauritius, *post paid*, 1d., medium early, on entire	12	10	0
Natal, *first issue*. 9d. blue, unevenly cut (26 by 32mm.)	5	0	0
Nevis, 6d. litho, slight stain*	9	0	0

21st and 22nd September, 1896.

Baden, perf., 13½, 3k.* ...	4	8	0
Brunswick, 1st issue, 2sg.* (no gum)	4	0	0
Bulgaria, error, 5s. carmine on flesh*	7	7	0
Meck. Schwerin, 4 - 4s., pair, rouletted ...	9	5	0
Naples, Arms, ½t. blue ...	15	0	0
,, Cross, ½t. blue £5 5s. &	4	10	0
Oldenbury, 2nd issue, 1/3gr.	5	10	0
Basle, 2½r.*	5	10	0
,, 2½r. each	4	15	0
Zurich, 4r. ... £15 and	10	10	0
B. E. A. on Company's stamps. Complete set, ½a. to 5r.	10	10	0
Gold Coast. C.A., 1d blue*	9	0	0
Lagos, 5s blue*	7	10	0
Mauritius, Greek border, 1d.*	6	5	0
British Guiana, 1851, 1c. magenta	5	10	0
Ditto, 1862, 2c. grapes...	8	8	0
St Lucia, 1884. 1s. orange*	4	7	6
Ditto, 1s. orange (used)	4	4	0

CHEVELEY & Co.

7th September, 1896.

Geneva envelope, smallest size, used, entire ...	12	0	0
St. Vincent, star 5s., defective	5	0	0

28th September, 1896.

Geneva, 10c., severed but rejoined*	27	10	0
Vaud, 4c., cut at top ...	16	10	0
Tuscany, 60c.	9	12	0
Wurtemburg, 1st issue, 9k.* (no gum) ...	6	10	0
Mauritius, 1848, 1d., very early	10	10	0
Ditto, small fillet, 2d., pair*	16	10	0
Ditto, Greek border, 1d *	5	5	0
Sierra Leone, C.C., ½ PENNY on 1½d.*...	4	15	0
S. Australia, 6d., perf. by roul., pair*	12	0	0
Newfoundland, 6½d. carmine. used	15	0	0
Ditto, 6½d. carmine ...	11	0	0
Ditto, 6d. orange* ...	9	0	0
N. Brunswick, 6d +½ 3d.	5	0	0
St Christopher, C.A., 4d., blue*	6	0	0

PUTTICK & SIMPSON.

20th and 30th September, 1896.

Great Britain, 1d. plate numbers complete* ...	6	0	0
Spain, 1852, 2r., pair ...	20	10	0
Basle., 2½r	6	0	0
Zurich, 4r.	19	0	0
Tuscany. 60c.	10	10	0
Ceylon, 6d. on bleuté* ...	5	10	0
Hong Kong. 96c. yellow*	6	0	0
Cape. wood block, dark blue	4	17	6
Mauritius, large fillet, 2d.	14	10	0
Canada, 7½d. green* £15 10s and	7	15	0
Ditto, 10d blue, thick paper, pair*	26	15	0
Ditto, single copy* ...	9	10	0
Ditto, perf., 6d. violet-black, pair*	29	10	0
Ditto, single copy* ...	12	10	0
New Brunswick, Connell*	10	10	0
Nova Scotia, 1s. red-violet	10	5	0
Barbados, 1d. on ½ 5s., pair	24	0	0
Barbados, ½d. on 4d. in black and in red, pair*	7	5	0
Dominica. C.A., 1s.* ...	3	0	0
Nevis, perf. 15, 1s. yellow-green*	18	0	0
Ditto, litho, 1s., sheet of 12*	23	0	0
Ditto, 6d. green* ...	8	2	6
St. Christopher, C.A., 4d. blue*	5	10	0
St. Vincent, first issue, 1d., pair, imperf.*... ...	3	5	0
Ditto, star. 1s. vermilion, large perf*	5	5	0
St. Vincent, 4d on 1s.* ...	14	0	0
Trinidad, pin perf., 1d. rose-red*	4	4	0
Ditto, 4d., grey-lilac* ...	5	7	6
Ditto, 6d. green* ...	7	0	0
Turks, 2½d. on 1d., 1873, pair, types 6 and 7*...	13	0	0
Virgin Isles, perf 15, 6d. rose*	7	5	0
Ditto, 6d. used	4	12	6
British Guiana. 1862, 1c. entire sheet, unsigned remainders*	36	0	0
N. Caledonia, first issue, entire sheet*	10	0	0
Sydney. plate 2, 2d., CREVIT omitted ...	7	15	0
New Zealand, blue paper, 1d.*	14	10	0
Westralia, first issue, 4d. block of 40*	20	0	0

VENTOM, BULL & COOPER.

24th and 25th September, 1896.

Oldenburg, second issue, 1/3gr.*	5	15	0
Saxony, 3pf. red	4	15	0
India, Service, 4a. provisional, strip of 4; ½a., ditto, pair; 2a., small surcharge, 4a., green, ditto, a pair; all on piece of original ...	20	0	0
Cape woodblock, error, 4d. red, slightly damaged	24	0	0
Lagos, C.C., perf. 13, 3d., 6d., 1s., all*	8	0	0
Ditto, 5s. blue, used ...	6	17	6
Reunion, 30c., on entire, but unused	68	0	0
Ditto, pen cancelled ...	68	0	0
U.S., 90c. blue, with grill*	6	6	0
Newfoundland, 1s. orange	12	10	0
Barbados, 1d. on ½ 5s., pair* 105		0	0
British Guiana, first issue, 4c. on orange, cut to shape	16	0	0
Ditto, 1862, 1c., balls ...	7	7	0
Dominica, C.A., 1s., pair*	5	0	0
Nevis, litho, 4d.*	14	0	0
Ditto, 6d. pair*... ...	28	10	0
Trinidad, perf. 13, 6d. emerald*	5	0	0
Virgin Isles, double lined border, 1s.*	4	17	6
Sydney, plate 2, 2d.* ...	8	15	0
Queensland, 1860, 2d., rough perf., imperf. horizontally*	9	10	0
Victoria, 5s. blue on yellow, £4 10s. and	3	10	0

CHARLES JONES, PRINTER, LONDON

THE

PHILATELIC RECORD

and Stamp News.

NOVEMBER, 1896.

Editorial Notes.

ON another page we publish in full the Prospectus of the Philatelic Exhibition which is to be held in London next year. It is a very comprehensive document, and may be taken as an earnest of the thoroughness with which the work is being carried out, even in the matter of preliminaries.

London Philatelic Exhibition, 1897.

The Exhibition will be held at the Galleries of the Royal Institution of Painters in Water Colours, in Piccadilly. It will be opened on the 22nd July, and will remain open until the 5th of August; that is to say, it will be kept open for fifteen days. The charge for space to exhibitors will be 3d. per square foot, and the insurance will be at the rate of 2s. 6d. for each £100 insured. No special size of cards is obligatory, but the Committee hope that collectors will, as far as possible, send in their exhibits mounted on cards of the following sizes:—10 inches in height by 8 inches or 12 inches in width, or 15 inches in height by 12 inches in width. Exhibitors may not publicly price their exhibits for sale, but arrangements will be made for facilitating sales through the Secretary at the nominal charge of 5 per cent. In the matter of classification a more rational system of grouping has been followed than in previous exhibitions. Hitherto it has been the practice to group countries for competition against each other solely on the basis of their relative philatelic value. In next year's Exhibition consideration will be paid both to geographical and political relation. Thus: Class 2, division 1, includes the various possessions of the British Empire; division 2, the countries and States of Europe; division 3, Asia and Africa, excluding British possessions; and so on. In order to preserve as much uniformity of value as possible, each division is further sub-divided.

Even the young collector is not forgotten in the arrangements. For his special encouragement the Philatelic Society of London will give two prizes for the best collections shown by any exhibitors under the age of 16 years.

The medals offered for competition are on the most liberal scale. In the regular classes 13 gold, 43 silver, and 48 bronze medals, making in all 104 medals are offered for competition. In addition to these there are special prizes, which includes 7 gold, 16 silver, and 7 bronze medals. Add to all these attractions the fact that the Exhibition will be held under the royal and kindly patronage of H.R.H. the Duke of York, and the official countenance of His

Grace the Duke of Norfolk, as Postmaster-General, and it will be admitted that the London Philatelic Exhibition of 1897 already bids fair to make next year a red-letter year in the annals of Philately.

Labuans for Crazy Philatelists.

THE *Financial News* tells us that "one of the most interesting features about the Colony of Labuan, is the fact that last year the Postal Revenue increased by $3,710 to $8,199, through the demands of stamp collectors." And it adds, "so long as the crazy enthusiasts, who dub themselves philatelists, are content to buy stamps right and left, it is well that poor States and Colonies should make something out of the eccentricity."

Can we wonder at sneers when collectors buy such trash as current Labuans which are obviously made solely for sale to collectors. The Colony now forms part of North Borneo, and is governed by the North Borneo Company, and there is not the slightest excuse for the use of a separate set of postage stamps. Yet separate sets are made by surcharging the gaudy rubbish of the North Borneo Company with the word "Labuan," and while collectors are foolish enough to buy such worthless and unnecessary trash they must expect sneers even from low-class City rags.

There was a time when the stamps of Labuan were much prized by collectors. They were then issued in numbers commensurate with a genuine postal demand. Now the issue of Labuan stamps has little or no relation to genuine postal demand, and have consequently fallen as low in general philatelic estimation as the issues of the governing Company. The remedy, however, is simple. Philatelists should limit their attention to the engraved series, and leave the lithographs and subsequent issues under the North Borneo Company severely alone.

Rarity and Value.

THE *International Stamp* has been charging the Scott Stamp and Coin Co. with basing the prices of their 57th Catalogue upon the number of stamps in their stock, and not regulating them by the relative rarity and value of the stamps listed. To this the Scott Stamp and Coin Co. reply:—"As to your statement in regard to the used Department stamps, we are fully in accord with you in your opinion that the used stamps of most varieties are far rarer than the unused, but rarity alone does not establish a market value, as this is dependent in a far greater degree upon the demand than upon the supply. Many collectors, probably 99 per cent., prefer an unused specimen to a used one, and hence the price for the unused stamp is apt to rise far out of proportion to its rarity in comparison with the used stamp."

Theoretically, of course, the value of a stamp should depend upon its relative rarity. But this theoretical idea of the value of a stamp is a very superficial one; other and more powerful factors dominate the market value of a stamp. First comes the law of supply and demand—of some stamps a thousand copies would be a glut; of others, the limitation to a thousand copies would lead to sensational figures. Then again, the collectability of a country counts for something. If the country is an uninteresting one, historically and postally, its issues do not count for much.

But the question more immediately raised against the Scott Stamp and Coin Co. is, that they price used stamps at a lower rate than unused, despite the fact that the used are admittedly scarcer. The reply to this is unanswerable: "Many collectors, probably 99 per cent., prefer an unused specimen to a used one." And there can be no question that the preference for unused is an important and growing factor in the stamp business, and naturally so, for an unused stamp is a matter of pristine condition.

The Stamps of Egypt.

By G. B. Duerst.

(*Continued from page* 274.)

IV. Issue. *April* 1, 1879.

THE new design issued on the 1st of April was heralded in the following Decree. It will be noted that stamps of the old design had their period of use generously extended to the 31st October, after which they could be exchanged for stamps of equal value of the new issue till the end of the year, when they were finally demonetised.

Decree.

The Postmaster-General has the honour to inform the public that the postage stamps at present in use will be replaced by postage stamps of a new design, which will be put into circulation on the 1st of April, 1879.

The postage stamps at present in use will continue to serve either by themselves or in conjunction with those of the new issue, for the franking of correspondence until the 31st of October next. From that date they cease to be accepted as payment for any postal matter whatever.

From the 31st of October to the 31st of December, 1879, all post offices are authorised to exchange the present postage stamps against others of equal value of the new issue. After that time they will not be accepted at all.

The new issue will consist of the following postage stamps:—

5 paras, brown.
10 „ light violet.
20 „ blue.
1 piastre, rose.
2 piastres, orange.
5 „ green.

Alexandria, 20th of March, 1879.

The design consists of pyramid and sphinx in an oval surrounded by various frames. The Italian inscriptions have given place to French inscriptions in the left and top labels; the other two labels still contain Arabic inscriptions. The bottom label reads: "Posta Masrie" or Egyptian post; the right label contains the value in Arabic. The value in Arabic and figures are in the four corners.

They are engraved in taille-douce, and printed in colour by De la Rue & Co. on white wove paper, watermarked with crescent and five-pointed star. Perforated 14. The gum is at first yellowish, later on white.

(94).— 5 paras, dark brown.
(95).—10 " lilac, pale to deep.
(96).—20 " blue.
(97).— 1 piastre, rose, pale rose.
(98).— 2 piastres, orange, pale to deep.
(99).— 5 " green, bright green.

All these are found with watermark inverted.

The following, imperforate, are unofficial:

5 paras, dark brown.
10 " lilac.
20 " blue.
1 piastre, rose.
2 piastres, orange.
5 " green.

The colour of the 10 para stamp was changed in January, 1881, to red-violet. Perf. 14.

(100).—10 paras, red-violet.

I have never seen this stamp without watermark inverted.

7 and 10 piastre stamps were printed, as the Egyptian post office thought of instituting a parcel post service, but were not issued.

Again the colour of 10 paras stamp was changed, this time to French grey. Perf. 14. 25th January, 1882.

(101).—10 paras, French grey.

This stamp with inverted watermark is very scarce.

Feb. 1st, 1884.—Running out of 20 paras stamps the post office decided to surcharge 4000 sheets of 5 piastres stamps.

The surcharge consists of a big 20 with PARAS on the right, and value in Arabic on the left hand side, the old values in the four corners being crossed out. This surcharge was printed in black in the Government office at Cairo.

(102).—20 paras on 5 piastres, green.

I believe this stamp with watermark inverted to be the rarest Egyptian stamp.

By mistake 12 sheets were printed with reversed surcharge, all of these were bought by an official, who sold them to dealers, used as well as unused.

(103).—20 paras on 5 piastres, green. Surcharge inverted.

V. Issue. *December* 15, 1884.

At the end of 1884 the colours of the different values were changed, otherwise they were printed from the same plates. Perforated 14. They are found with white and yellowish gum. Dec. 15, 1884.

(104).—10 paras, green, pale green.
(105).—20 " carmine, pale carmine.
(106).— 1 piastre, blue, pale blue.
(107).— 2 piastres, brown orange.
(108).— 5 " grey (loose colour).
1885.—5 piastres, grey (fast colour).

VI. Issue. *January 1st*, 1888.

The coinage of the country was changed at the beginning of 1888 from 1 £ E gold = 100 piastres to 1 £ E = 1000 millièmes. In consequence new stamps bearing the new value and new plates were prepared slightly differing in the central design. The sphinx is now a little more to the left in the inner oval. The French inscriptions are now in the left hand side and the top labels, the remaining two labels being filled with Arabic inscriptions. Perforated 14; white gum, &c.; watermarked with a crescent and a five-pointed star. All exist with watermark inverted.

The decree for this issue appeared as follows :—

From the 1st of next January the present stamps of 5 and 10 paras will be replaced by new stamps of 1 and 2 millièmes. In consequence all stamps of 5 and 10 paras will be replaced by such of 1 and 2 millièmes in all post offices.

None of these new stamps have to be sold before the first day of the year, and no more 5 and 10 para stamps must be sold from the same date All the remainders in stock at this date must be returned to the General Post Office, and full credit will be given to each office.

A new stamp of 5 millièmes will also be put in circulation at the beginning of the year to replace the 20 para stamps. As, however, a considerable stock of 20 para stamps is still at the different post offices, the new stamps will not be supplied until the stocks are used up.

Later on instructions will be given to the different post offices concerning the time the present stamps can still be used.

Alexandria, December, 1887.

On the 21st of March, 1888, it was decreed that the stamps of the last issue could be used until the 31st of October of that year.

The stamps were printed in London by De la Rue & Co.

This firm added the Jubilee line in the same way as they had done in the case of the stamps for Great Britain and some of the Colonies. Jan. 1st, 1888.

(109).—1 millième, chocolate brown.
(110).—2 millièmes, green.

March 1st, 1888.—Same type as before. Perforated 14.
(111).—5 millièmes, carmine.

Jan. 1st, 1889.—Similar type, but the four corners filled in with stars. Perforated 14. White gum.

(112).—10 piastres, bright violet.

On the 1st of March, 1890, the postage for inland letters was reduced from 1 piastre to 5 millièmes.

The decree for this reduction is as follows :—

1.—The rate for letters within Egypt will be reduced to 5 millièmes in case of franked letters, and double in the contrary case for every letter and for every 15 grammes or part thereof.
2.—The present decree will come into force on the 1st of March, 1890.
3.—Our Chancellor of the Exchequer will be charged with the execution of this decree.
MEHEMET TERFIK.

CAIRO, January 25th, 1890.

The foreign postage remained at 1 piastre for each single letter.

On the 1st of January, 1892, the postage for letters posted and delivered in the same town was reduced from 5 millièmes to 3 millièmes. A new stamp was therefore required for this value.

Jan 1st, 1892 —Similar in type. Perforated 14.

(113).—3 millièmes, puce.

From the beginning of 1893 a special stamp was issued to frank official correspondence. Similar in style to the present issue, but instead of the Pyramid and the Sphinx the inner oval is filled with the words "Service of the State" in French and Arabic. Perforated 14, and printed on white wove paper, watermarked with crescent and a five-pointed star.

(114).—No value, brown-orange.

The following official decree was published on the 10th of July, 1893 :—

From the 1st of August next the post offices will cease to sell the stamps of 3 millièmes and of 2 piastres of the present issue. At this date stamps of the same value will be issued, the 3 millièmes will be in yellow, and the 2 piastres in brown orange.

Aug. 1st, 1893.—Same type. Perforated 14.

(115).—3 millièmes, yellow.
(116).—2 piastres, brown-orange.

Unpaid Letter Stamps.

I. ISSUE. *February 1st*, 1884.

Large figures of value in the centre, Paras, Piastre resp. Piastres on the left, and the word "Tarif" on the right, the whole enclosed in a double rectangle. The inscription on the left hand side is "Postes Egyptiennes," on the right the same in Arabic; at the top "a Percevoir," and at the bottom value in Arabic. Printed in sheets of 100 stamps on medium thick white wove paper, impressed with crescent and five-pointed star. Perforated 10½. White gum.

(1).—10 paras, vermilion.
(2).—20 " "
(3).— 1 piastre "
(4).— 2 piastres "
(5).— 5 " "

Only 150,000 were printed, and of this number 70,000 were 2 piastre stamps.

II. Issue. *August 1st*, 1886.

Same as last issue, but printed on unwatermarked paper. Perforated 10½.

(6).—10 paras, vermilion.
(7).—20 " "
(8).— 1 piastre "
(9).— 2 piastres "

III. Issue. *January 1st*, 1888.

In consequence of the change in the coinage the decree of December, 1887, also deals with the unpaid letter stamps, and announces a new set.

The type is exactly the same as in the last issue, but the inscriptions in the inner rectangle are altered to Millièmes and Piastres at both sides. The Arabic inscription of the value at the bottom is consequently also altered. Printed in sheets of 100 stamps on white wove, not watermarked paper. Perforated 11½.

(10).—2 millièmes, green.
(11).—5 " rose.
(12).—1 piastre, blue.
(13).—2 piastres, yellow orange.
(14).—5 " grey. I. Type with full stop after piastres.
(15).—5 " " II. Type without " "

IV. Issue. 1889.

New type. Large numeral of value with Millièmes, Piastre resp. Piastres on the left and right hand side in an oval. The whole in a double rectangular frame. The inscription on the left hand side is "Egyptian Post" in Arabic, on the right "Postes Egyptiennes" in French; at the top value in Arabic, and at the bottom "A Percevoir."

Printed by De la Rue & Co. on white wove paper, watermarked with crescent and five-pointed star. Perforated 14.

(16).—2 millièmes, green.
(17).—4 " puce.
(18).—1 piastre, blue.
(19).—2 piastres, orange.

(Concluded.)

Stamps of Selangor.

BY OUR PAHANG CORRESPONDENT.

IN 1878 the first stamps were issued in Selangor. They were surcharged with the star and crescent and the letter S in an oval, on the Straits 2 cents brown. The watermark is a Crown and C.C. The surcharge was black. They are exceedingly rare. A later issue of these stamps, with a red surcharge and watermark Crown and C.A., is supposed to have taken place in 1882. It is, however, improbable that any such issue ever occurred, seeing that in 1881 the horizontal surcharge of the word "Selangor" on the 2 cents brown, without the star and crescent, was introduced. The watermark was a Crown and C.C. In 1883 the 2 cents brown stamp, with watermark, a Crown and C.A. was surcharged with a big letter "S" and a full stop after it.

From then till now all watermarks have been C.A., and, with the following exceptions, the surcharges have always been the word "Selangor" printed horizontally on 2 cents rose stamps. In 1889 a vertical surcharge—two different capital types, one large Roman and the other italics—were used in printing the word "Selangor." In 1891 there were issued 6000 stamps bearing a horizontal surcharge "Selangor two cents" on 24 cents green. There were in each row of ten stamps five distinct surcharges. These stamps were issued owing to a delay in the supply of Selangor "tiger" stamps ordered from the Crown Agents. They have reached a higher value than have the similar surcharges of the other states, and are practically unobtainable in the Straits and Native States. During 1891 the tiger stamps were issued. At first the 2 cents, rose coloured, was the only stamp printed. Afterwards 1 cent, green, and 5 cents, blue, were obtained. Still later, a 5 cents, rose, stamp sucharged 3 cents has been issued (368,000 of them), and the 2 cents stamp has been altered to yellow.

Death of Sir Rowland Hill's Brother.

MR. FREDERIC HILL, the last surviving brother of Sir Rowland Hill, the postal reformer, died on Tuesday evening at his residence at Hampstead, in his 94th year. He was born in Birmingham, and assisted his brother until 1833 in carrying on the well-known Hazlewood School. Subsequently he became one of the first Inspectors of Prisons under the Home Office, being assigned the District comprising Scotland, Northumberland, and Durham. He afterwards held office as an Assistant-Secretary in the Post Office, and retired on a pension in 1876. A few years ago he published his reminiscences.

London Philatelic Exhibition, 1897.

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(To whom all Communications should be addressed).

Prospectus.

A PERIOD of nearly seven years has elapsed since the holding of the London Philatelic Exhibition in 1890, under the auspices of the Philatelic Society, London.

During this interval very remarkable progress has been made in Philately. The immense increase in the ranks of Philatelists, and the great interest which is now taken in the pursuit in its more scientific aspects, justify the conclusion that the time has arrived when an International Exhibition could advantageously be held in the Metropolis.

It has accordingly been decided to invite Philatelists to join in the festivities of the ensuing year in celebration of the fact that Her Gracious Majesty the Queen has been spared to reign over her subjects for a longer period than that vouchsafed to any previous sovereign, by organising the London Philatelic Exhibition of 1897.

The Exhibition will embrace British, Colonial, and Foreign Postage Stamps, Envelopes, Post Cards, Newsbands, Proofs, Essays, etc., as well as Albums, Books, and Philatelic appliances, Literature and Curiosities, and Objects of Interest in connection with Philately and the Postal Service.

It will be opened at the GALLERIES of the ROYAL INSTITUTION OF PAINTERS IN WATER COLOURS, 191, PICCADILLY, W., on Thursday, the 22nd JULY, 1897, and it is hoped that the Committee will have the hearty co-operation of all Philatelists in their endeavour to make the undertaking a success worthy of the occasion, and thoroughly representative of all aspects of the pursuit to which it is devoted.

The galleries chosen have been specially constructed for the exhibition of valuable paintings in oil and water colours, and combining as they do the advantages of ample space, good light from above without fear of damage by exposure to the sun's rays, security against the risk of fire, and a position in a leading central thoroughfare in the West End, they have been selected as the most eminently suitable place in London for an Exhibition of Stamps.

All stamps will be exhibited under glass in locked or sealed cases; night and day watchmen will be employed, and every possible precaution will be taken to secure Exhibits from damage or loss; but no personal responsibility will be undertaken by the Committee.

The provisions against the risk of loss by fire or theft are specially referred to in the Rules and Regulations set out below.

The support of philatelists throughout the world is cordially invited, and it is hoped that the leading collectors in the British Colonies and all Foreign Countries will, by sending Exhibits, co-operate in making the Exhibition thoroughly representative of the best interests of Philately.

Special arrangements will be made to facilitate the passing through the Customs of Exhibits from abroad without risk of damage, and for such examination (if any) as may be deemed necessary being conducted in the presence of a representative of the Committee.

The Exhibition will remain open to the public until the evening of THURSDAY, the 5th AUGUST, 1897, and all Exhibits will be returned to the owners as soon as possible after that date.

It will be a great convenience, and the work of the Committee, especially in the Official Catalogue, will be considerably lightened, if intending Exhibitors will send full particulars of their Exhibits at the earliest possible moment.

It has been decided that the Exhibition shall be subject to the following Rules and Regulations, of which all Exhibitors will be held to have had notice.

Rules and Regulations.

1.—Exhibits in Classes I., II., and III. must be mounted on cards, paper, or loose pages. Although no special size of cards or other material is obligatory, it is hoped that Exhibitors who mount their stamps specially for the exhibition, will as far as possible endeavour to assist the Committee in securing uniformity, for the sake of economising the space at their disposal. This object will be attained by the use of cards of the following sizes, viz.: 10 inches in height by 8 inches or 12 inches in width, or 15 inches in height by 12 inches in width, and if desired, cards measuring 10 inches by 8 inches can be supplied on application to the Secretary, at a trifling cost. The sizes in centimetres will be 25½ by 20¼ or 30½; or 38 by 30½.

2.—A charge for space according to the size of the exhibits, or of the cards or other material on which they may be mounted, will be made on the following scale:—

For each square foot	3d. (minimum charge 2/6).
For each album or volume of stamps	5/-
For each volume shown in Divisions 1 and 2 of Class VIII., and for each album or volume, &c., shown in Class IX.	4/-
For Exhibits in Division 3 of Class VIII. for each foot run of space occupied	1/- (minimum charge 2/6).

Arrangements have been made by the Committee for Insurance against loss by fire or theft of Exhibits while in the custody of the Committee, either before or during the continuance of the Exhibition, and after the close of the Exhibition until despatched for return to the owners. An inclusive charge of 2s. 6d. will be made for each £100 insured. Owners of Exhibits desiring to insure, and paying the prescribed amount, will have the benefit of the policy effected by the Committee to the extent of the value at which such exhibits are accepted for Insurance, but no personal liability is incurred by the Committee in regard to loss.

The charge for space and Insurance (if any) will be payable by the Exhibitor on sending in his Exhibit.

All Exhibits will be returned free of charge to their owners by post or otherwise, but transmission will in all cases be at the sole risk of the owner—Insurance in course of transit (if any) being paid by him.

3.—Notice of the nature and extent of the Exhibits, with the value for insurance, should be sent to the Secretary as early as possible, *but not later than the 1st May*, 1897, on the accompanying form.

4.—All Exhibits must be delivered, post or carriage paid, between the 7th and 10th July, 1897, at such place as may be notified to the Exhibitor by the Secretary. Punctuality in delivery is particularly desired to ensure accurate description of the Exhibits in the Official Catalogue.

5.—The right of refusing any Exhibit without assigning any reason for such refusal is reserved by the Committee, as also the right of showing such part of any Exhibit as the Committee may decide in case of there being insufficient space available for showing the whole.

6.—All Exhibits entered for competition must be *bonâ fide* the property of the Exhibitor. Joint collections must be shown in the joint names, or firm name, as the case may be; but no combination made solely for the purposes of the Exhibition can be admitted for competition.

7.—Albums and volumes of stamps will be exhibited open at the most interesting pages, to be varied from time to time during the Exhibition by a member of the Committee No albums will be allowed to be inspected (except by the Judges) without the written permission of the owner, and at his risk, and then only in the presence of a member of the Committee.

8.—No price or other notification that it is for sale may be affixed to any Exhibit, but the owner may intimate to the Committee his desire to sell, and arrangements will be made accordingly to facilitate this fact and the price being made known. No Exhibit can be removed before the close of the Exhibition, and in case of sale the price will be payable to the Committee, who will account to the owner for the purchase-money, after deducting 5 per cent. to be applied towards the general expenses of the Exhibition.

9.—The Judges will be appointed by the Executive Committee, and their decision will in all cases be final. They will be seven in number, of whom it is proposed that three at least shall be chosen from representatives of Foreign Countries.

10.—No Exhibits by any of the Judges can be entered for competition.

11.—The following scheme of competition has been adopted by the Committee; but all Exhibits which the owners may desire to enter as "Not for Competition" will be so marked in the several classes in which they may be shown. *In making their awards, the Judges will be requested to take into special consideration, not only the rarity and completeness of the Exhibit, but also the neatness and accuracy of arrangement, method of mounting and condition of the specimens submitted and the Philatelic knowledge displayed by the Exhibitor.*

Class I.

Will consist of Special Collections of Adhesive Stamps of Great Britain.

Division 1.—Adhesive Postage Stamps (including fiscals available for Postage), *unused* only.
„ 2.— „ „ „ „ *used* „
„ 3.—Telegraph Stamps.

Awards in this Class.—Division 1.—One Gold, 1 Silver, and 1 Bronze Medal.
„ 2.—One Silver and 1 Bronze Medal.
„ 3.—One „ 1 „

Class II.

For Special Collections of Postal Adhesive Stamps of any one of the Countries or combinations of Countries named below :—

Division 1. BRITISH EMPIRE, including Protectorates, etc.

A.

British Guiana.
Cashmere and Native States of India.
New South Wales.
Mauritius.
Victoria.

Awards.—One Gold, 1 Silver, and 1 Bronze Medal.

B.

Canada, British Columbia (including Vancouver), and Prince Edward Island.
Ceylon.
India.
Natal.
New Brunswick, Newfoundland, and Nova Scotia.
New Zealand.
Queensland.
South Australia.
Do. departmental stamps.
Tasmania.
Trinidad.
Western Australia.

Awards.—One Gold, 2 Silver, and 2 Bronze Medals.

C.

Bahamas and Bermuda.
Barbadoes.
Cape of Good Hope.
Fiji Islands.
Grenada and Jamaica.
Griqualand.
Nevis.
St. Vincent and St. Lucia.
Straits Settlements and Dependencies.
Turks Islands.

Awards.—Two Silver and 2 Bronze Medals.

D.

Any three or more of the following, or any other British possessions or protectorates not enumerated, viz. :—

Antigua, British Bechuanaland, British East Africa, British South Africa, and British Central Africa, Cyprus, Dominica, Falkland Islands, Gambia, Gibraltar, Gold Coast, Hong Kong, Ionian Islands, Labuan, Lagos, Leeward Islands, Malta, Montserrat, North Borneo, Oil Rivers and Niger Coast, St. Christopher, St. Helena, Seychelles, Sierra Leone, Tobago, Virgin Islands, Zanzibar, Zululand.

Awards.—One Silver and 3 Bronze Medals.

Division 2. EUROPE.

A.

Austria, Austrian Italy, and Hungary.
Germany (any three of the following)—
Baden, Bavaria, Bergedorf, Bremen, Brunswick, German Confederation and Empire (including Alsace and Lorraine), Hamburg, Hanover, Heligoland, Lübeck, Mecklenburg-Schwerin and Strelitz, Oldenburg, Prussia, Saxony, Schleswig-Holstein, Thurn and Taxis, Wurtemburg.
Italy (any three of the following)—
Italy, Modena, Naples, Papal States, Parma, Romagna, Sardinia, Sicily, Tuscany.
Roumania and Moldo Wallachia.
Russia, Finland, Russian Levant, and Poland.
Russian Locals, Livonia, and Wenden.
Spain.
Switzerland.
Turkey.

Awards.—One Gold, 3 Silver, and 3 Bronze Medals

B.

Belgium.	Holland and Luxemburg.
Bulgaria, Roumelia, Servia, and Montenegro.	Norway, Denmark, and Iceland.
France and Monaco.	Portugal.
Greece.	Sweden.

Awards.—One Gold, 2 Silver, and 2 Bronze Medals.

Division 3. ASIA AND AFRICA.

A

Afghanistan.	Philippine Islands.
Azores and Madeira.	Portuguese India.
French Colonies and Possessions.	Other Portuguese Colonies.
Japan.	Transvaal.

Awards.—One Gold, 2 Silver, and 2 Bronze Medals.

B.

Egypt and Suez Canal.	Persia.
New Republic.	Shanghai and China.

And any two of the following, or of others not enumerated, viz.: Congo, Dutch Indies, Liberia, Orange Free State, Sarawak, Siam.

Awards.—Two Silver and 2 Bronze Medals.

Division 4. AMERICA.

A.

Colombian Republic (including the various States).	Mexico (including locals).
Confederate States of America (including Postmasters' Stamps).	United States of America (including Postmasters' Stamps).
Hawaii.	United States Locals.

Awards.—One Gold, 2 Silver, and 1 Bronze Medal.

B.

Argentine Confederation and Republic, Corrientes, and Cordoba.	Buenos Ayres.
Bolivia.	Peru and Pacific Steam Navigation Company.
Brazil.	San Domingo.
	Uruguay.

Awards.—One Gold, 1 Silver, and 1 Bronze Medal.

C.

Chili.	Parsguay.
Cuba and Porto Rico, and Fernando Po.	Venezuela and La Guiara.
Guatemala.	

And any two of the following, viz.:—Costa Rica, Curaçoa and Surinam, Danish West Indies, Ecuador, Hayti, Honduras, Nicaragua, San Salvador.

Awards.—Two Silver and 2 Bronze Medals.

Exhibitors may compete in all or any of the divisions or subdivisions, and the number of Exhibits is not limited.

Class III.

For Collections of Rare Stamps.

Each Exhibit to consist of not less than fifty nor more than one hundred stamps.

Awards.—One Gold, 1 Silver, and 1 Bronze Medal.

Class IV.

Will consist of entire Collections of Postal Adhesives, with or without Envelopes, Postcards, &c., in albums or volumes.

Division 1.—Special or General Collections, without limit as to number.
„ 2.— „ „ „ total number not to exceed 4000.
„ 3.— „ „ „ „ „ 2000.

Awards.—*Division* 1.—One Gold, 1 Silver, and 2 Bronze Medals.
„ 2.—One Silver and 2 Bronze Medals.
„ 3.—One „ „ 1 „ Medal.

Class V.

Is for Collections of Entire Envelopes and Wrappers.

Division 1.—One or more of the following countries:—

Austria, Hungary, and Lombardy.
Germany, and all States.
Great Britain.
Mauritius.
Russia, Finland, and Poland.
United States of America.

Division 2.—Any four countries not named in Division 1.

Awards.—Division 1.—One Gold and 1 Silver Medal.
„ 2.—One Silver and 2 Bronze Medals.

Class VI.

Will consist of Collections of Entire Post Cards, and Letter Cards.

Division 1.—One or more of the following countries:—

Finland.
Germany, and all States.
Jamaica, Barbadoes, and Trinidad.
Japan.
Luxemburg.
Mexico.
Roumania.

Division 2.—Any six countries other than those named in Division 1.

Awards.—Division 1.—One Silver and 1 Bronze Medal.
„ 2.—One „ „ 1 „ „

Class VII.

For Exhibits by Stamp Engravers and Manufacturers of Postage Stamps and Telegraph Stamps.

N.B.—Stamps shown by any person, firm, or company, in this Class must be limited to specimens of their own work, and may comprise Stamps as issued, Proofs, or Essays, or all three.

Awards.—One Gold and 2 Silver Medals.

Class VIII.

For Philatelic Literature and Works.

Division 1.—Current Philatelic Journals, exhibited by the Publishers.
„ 2.—Philatelic Works published since 31st October, 1890, and shown by the Publishers.
„ 3.—Collections of Philatelic Literature, published prior to 1880.

N.B.—In case of serial publications, in Division 1 the last volume published, and in Division 3 the first volume only to be shown.

Awards.—Division 1.—Two Silver and 2 Bronze Medals.
„ 2.—Two „ „ 2 „ „
„ 3.—One „ „ 1 „ Medal.

Class IX.

For Albums, &c.

Division 1.—The most suitable Album or Book for a special collection.
„ 2.— „ „ „ „ general collection.
„ 3.—The best Book, Method, or System, for arranging and showing Classes V. and VI.

Awards.—One Silver and 1 Bronze Medal in each Division.

Class X.

For Philatelic Accessories and Appliances for use by Collectors.

Awards.—Two Bronze Medals.

Class XI.

Special arrangements of Stamps, Stamps on Original Letter Sheets or Envelopes, Telegraph Stamps (except those of Great Britain), Proofs, Essays, Curiosities, and Objects of Interest in connection with Philately and the Postal Service.

Awards.—Two Silver and 4 Bronze Medals.

A Special Gold Medal,

Being the Grand Prize of the Exhibition, will be given for the most meritorious Exhibit of Adhesive Postage Stamps shown in Classes I. or II.

The following Special Prizes will also be awarded:

One Silver and one Bronze Medal in each of Classes I., II., III., IV., and XI. for the best Exhibits by Members of Provincial Philatelic Societies resident in the United Kingdom, who do not gain prizes in the open competition in the Class for which the special prizes are awarded.

The *Philatelic Society, London*, will give two prizes for the best Collections shown by any Exhibitors under the age of sixteen years, and also prizes for the best exhibit by any amateur not a member of the Society; for the neatest and best arranged Exhibit shown; and for the best exhibit of stamps in the finest condition; and also two Silver Medals to be awarded to authors of Philatelic Works shown in Class VIII.

Messrs. Stanley Gibbons, Limited, have placed at the disposal of the Committee one Gold and one Silver Medal to be awarded for the two best Collections exhibited in any Album of English manufacture containing over 8000 stamps, and one Gold and one Silver Medal for the two best Collections in any Album of English manufacture containing under 8,000 stamps.

Mr. W. H. Peckitt offers onr Gold and one Silver Medal for the two best Collections of unused Postage and Telegraph Stamps of Great Britian, and also one Gold and one Silver Medal for the two best exhibits shown in Class III.

Mr. W. T. Wilson will give one Gold and one Silver Medal for the two best Collections of the Stamps of Mexico.

Mr. M. Giwelb offers one Gold Medal for the best Collection of the Stamps of the Colombian Republic and States.

Mr. W. Dorning Beckton one Silver and one Bronze Medal for the two best Exhibits shown by ordinary members of the Manchester Philatelic Society.

Mr. M. P. Castle one Gold and one Silver Medal for the two best exhibits of European Stamps.

Mr. W. Hadlow one Silver Medal for the most complete Collection of the Stamps of Queensland.

Mr. R. Ehrenbach one Silver and one Bronze Medal for the two best Exhibits shown by Continental Collectors.

A further limited number of medals will also be placed at the disposal of the Judges, for Award in any cases in which they may consider an Exhibit specially deserving of recognition, and the Committee will also award Silver Medals for special services rendered to the Exhibition.

No Exhibitor can take more than one prize in each Class (exclusive of special prizes) except in Class II., in which Class not more than two prizes may be taken by one Exhibitor. The Judges shall be at liberty to withhold any prize if from insufficiency of competition or for any other reason they shall think that it should not be awarded.

Orange Free State Provisional.

From the "American Journal of Philately."

WE have received the 3d. blue surcharged in black ½d. There are seven types of the surcharge and a number of minor varieties, caused by broken figures. The stamps are in sheets of 240, four panes of 60 stamps each. The surcharge covers two panes. The upper and lower halves of each sheet should therefore be alike, but, owing to some defect, the sixth stamp in the first vertical row of the upper half and most of the stamps of the first and second vertical rows of the lower half are very faintly surcharged. To remedy this defect they have been overprinted by hand with type 5, producing five varieties of double surcharge. We have examined a number of sheets and found the varieties in the first row, on both halves, are always the same, but on some sheets part of the surcharges in the second row of the lower half are sufficiently clear not to require the second impression.

We illustrate five of the types.



I. III. IV. V. VII.

Type II differs from type I in having the figure 1 with a straight serif, and type VI differs from type VII in having the figure 1 with a slanting serif. The sheet is composed of eighty-four stamps of type I, fourteen of type II, twenty of type III, eighteen of type IV, fifty-eight of type V, thirty of type VI, and sixteen of type VII.

We also illustrate by the following diagram the make-up of sheets, giving all the double surcharges of the various sheets. The double surcharges are represented by two numerals in the square, the lower numeral being the type number of the original surcharge, and the upper that of the second surcharge.

Adhesive Stamps.

Perforated.

½p on 3p blue, black surcharge, type I
½p on 3p blue „ „ II
½p on 3p blue „ „ III
½p on 3p blue „ „ IV
½p on 3p blue „ „ V
½p on 3p blue „ „ VI
½p on 3p blue „ „ VII

Varieties.

a. Double surcharge, types I and V
b. Double surcharge „ II and V
c. Double surcharge „ III and V
d. Double surcharge „ IV and V
e. Double surcharge „ VI and V

On the next page we reproduce the diagram referred to above.

DIAGRAM showing make up of Sheets of Orange Free State Provisional ½d.

1	1	1	1	1	1
1	1	1	1	1	1
1	2	1	1	1	1
1	1	1	1	1	1
3	3	4	4	4	4
5 5	6	6	6	3	3
6	6	6	6	6	7
5	5	5	5	7	7
5	5	5	5	5	5
5	5	5	5	5	5

1	1	1	1	2	2
1	1	2	1	2	1
1	1	1	2	1	1
1	1	2	1	1	1
4	4	4	4	4	1
3	3	3	3	3	3
6	7	7	7	7	6
6	6	7	6	6	6
5	5	5	5	5	5
5	5	5	5	5	5

5 1	5 1	1	1	1	1
5 1	5 1	1	1	1	1
5 1	5 2	1	1	1	1
5 1	5 1	1	1	1	1
5 3	3	4	4	4	4
5 5	5 6	6	6	3	3
5 6	6	6	6	6	7
5 5	5 5	5	5	7	7
5 5	5 5	5	5	5	5
5 5	5 5	5	5	5	5

1	1	1	1	2	2
1	1	2	1	2	1
1	1	1	2	1	1
1	1	2	1	1	1
4	4	4	4	4	1
3	3	3	3	3	3
6	7	7	7	7	6
6	6	7	6	6	6
5	5	5	5	5	5
5	5	5	5	5	5

Four panes of 60 Stamps each.

Novelties and Discoveries.

China.—Mr. David Benjamin informs us that China will join the Postal Union from the 1st of January next, and will issue stamps of the following values:—½c., 1c., 2c., 4c., 6c., 8c., 10c., 20c., 30c., 50c., and $1, besides other postal stationery.

Great Britain.—Mr. E. J. Cooper sends us the ½d. and 1d. "Army Official" with error of "OFFICIAI." He informs us that one exists in the lower half of each sheet. We have not seen the 2½d., but the error is no doubt reproduced in that value also. In the specimens before us the last letter is clearly an "I" and not a broken "L."



Adhesives.

Error "OFFICIAI.

½d. vermilion.
1d. lilac.

Hawaii.—The following notice appeared in the *Daily Stamp Item* for Oct. 29th:—

Honolulu, H. I., Oct. 12th, 1896.

The Department of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Hawaii is to have a complete set of department stamps of the denominations of two, five, ten, twelve, and twenty-five cents. The entire set will be similar in design, distinguished only by the numerals and different colours. They will have the head of Hon. L. A. Thurston, late Minister to the United States. At the top of the stamp is the monogram "R. H.," and the words "Department of Foreign Affairs." The words "Foreign Affairs" form the upper part of the oval, and the eight stars symbolic of the Hawaiian group form the lower part.

Holland.—We have another of the high values in larger size and in bi-colour from Messrs. Whitfield King & Co.

Adhesive.

1 gulden, brown, centre in olive.

Jamaica.—The *Post Office* (New York) publishes the following official document concerning Jamaica's unsurcharged split provisional:—

Appendix p. 113.

GOVERNMENT NOTICE.

General Post Office,
20th Nov., 1891.

For the greater convenience of persons availing themselves of the facilities afforded by the book post, and also for the prepayment of newspapers forwarded within the Colony, his Excellency the Governor, in executive committee, has been pleased to authorise the recognition of one-half of the present postage label in prepayment of the half-penny rate of postage.

The label must be divided diagonally so as to render the ½-penny label triangular—the only shape in which it will be recognised in payment of postage.

ALEX. J. BRYMER,
Postmaster for Jamaica.

Labuan.—Messrs. Whitfield King & Co. send us three fresh surcharges, "Labuan" in large sans-serif type on current North Borneo stamps, with colours changed.

Adhesives

25c. green	sur. black.
50c. brownish red	,,
1 dol. blue	,,

Orange Free State.—We have received a used copy of a new ½d. provisional from Messrs. Whitfield King & Co. According to the *American Journal of Philately* there are seven varieties and several double surcharges as set out in the diagram which we print on another page.

Adhesive Stamps

½p. on 3p. blue,	black surcharge,	type	I
½p. on 3p. blue,	,,	,,	II
½p. on 3p. blue,	,,	,,	III
½p. on 3p. blue,	,,	,,	IV
½p. on 3p. blue,	,,	,,	V
½p. on 3p. blue,	,,	,,	VI
½p. on 3p. blue,	,,	,,	VII

Varieties.

a.	Double surcharge,	types	I and V
b.	Double surcharge,	,,	II and V
c.	Double surcharge,	,,	III and V
d.	Double surcharge,	,,	IV and V
e.	Double surcharge,	,,	VI and V

Patiala.—The following high value Indian Stamps are chronicled, surcharged with name in black:—

Adhesives

1r.	black,	green and carmine.
2r.	,,	carmine and brown
3r.	,,	brown and green.
5r.	,,	blue and violet.

Portugal.—The *Deutsche Brief.-Zeitung* chronicles the following with stamps of the type of the current adhesives:—

Envelopes.

25 reis, green on *buff*; 142×110 mm.
50 ,, blue ,, ,,

Post Cards.

10×10 ,, green ,, 140×90 mm.
20 ,, lilac ,, 144×86 mm.
20×20 ,, ,, ,, 138×86 mm.
30 ,, brown ,, 144×86 mm.
30×30 ,, ,, ,, 138×86 mm.

Letter Cards.

25 ,, green on *ochre-yellow*; 120×74 mm.
50 ,, blue on *azure*

Seychelles.—Messrs. Whitfield King & Co. send us a new provisional—"18 cents" in one line in sans-serif type in black on the current 45c.

Adhesive.

18c. on 45c. brown and carmine.

Shanghai.—We are indebted to Mr. David Benjamin for specimens of some new printings of the current design. They are 2c. red and black on white wove paper, 4c. orange and black on yellow wove paper, and 6c. carmine and black on pink wove paper. Mr. Benjamin informs us the 2c. is changed to a different shade to prevent their being mistaken for the ½c. stamps. The watermark on these new printings is slightly larger, being on remnants of the Jubilee large 2c. paper. Perf. 13½ × 14.

Adhesives.

2c., red and black on white paper.
4c., orange and black on yellow paper.
6c., carmine and black on pink paper.

Sierra Leone.—We have received the higher values of the new type from Messrs. Whitfield King & Co., as follows:—

Adhesives.

2s. green, name and value in blue.
5s. green, name and value in red.
20s. brown on red.

Tobago.—By an error Messrs. De la Rue sent out a supply of 6000 of the 1s. value printed in orange brown, the colour of the 6d. As soon as the error was discovered the issue was withdrawn by cable, but the authorities seem to have jobbed off the lot to a speculator.

Adhesive.

1s. orange brown, *error of colour.*

Transvaal.—Two more values have to be added to the current set. Our publishers send us the 10s., and Messrs. Whitfield King & Co. the 6d. The 6d. is bi-coloured, with value in green in conformity with the rest of the series issued up to date. The 10s., however, despite the fact that it is chronicled by several of our contemporaries with value in green, is not bi-coloured, the value being in the same colour as the rest of the stamp, viz., brown.

Adhesives.

6d. lilac, value in green.
10s. brown.

Our Monthly Packets of New Issues.

No. 1, price one shilling (postage extra).

The November packet contains—Italy 1c. and 2c.; Trinidad, new type, ½d. and 1d., &c.

No. 2, price five shillings (postage extra).

The November packet contains Set of 6 Chili, unpaid, red on yellow; St. Helena, new type, ½d., 1d., and 2½d., &c.

These packets are on sale until November 30th (unless the supply is previously exhausted) and are supplied only to *Subscribers* to the PHILATELIC RECORD AND STAMP NEWS. Similar packets will be on sale every month, and may be subscribed for in advance for the year (January to December inclusive), at the following rates:—No. 1 packet (sent by book post with the paper) 12s. post-free (if by letter post the postage is 1s. extra Inland; 2s. 6d. Abroad). No. 2 packet (by letter post), Inland 61s., Abroad 62s. 6d., post-free

The subscription to the paper (3s. per annum) is extra. —BUHL & Co, Limited, 11, Queen Victoria Street, E.C.

The earliest information as to New Issues will be much appreciated by us, and will be duly credited to the correspondent, or firm, sending it. Our foreign correspondents can materially help us in this direction. When possible, a specimen should accompany the information, and be addressed to the Editor MR. EDWARD J. NANKIVELL,
28, *Birdhurst Rise, Croydon.*

Philately in the Mags.

Nova Scotia Remainders.

Here, at last, is the full history of the Nova Scotia Remainders. We quote from Mr. C. J. Phillips' "Notes" in the *Monthly Journal*.

We shall now endeavour, as far as lies in our power, to relate all the facts in reference to the lot of remainders of these stamps, that we have been for some weeks supplying to the trade.

We should have published some particulars before this, but we are not the only persons interested, and we have had to correspond with Mr. Bartlett in Prince Edward's Island, which necessarily took up much time; and even now we cannot give as many details as we should wish.

The first intimation we had of the existence of any remainder of the cents issue of Nova Scotia was on May 14th last, when we received the following cablegram from the Hon. W. S. Fielding, then Premier and Provincial Secretary of Nova Scotia, but since advanced to the important position of Finance Minister of the Dominion of Canada:

"For what quantity Nova Scotia stamps of cents issue will you give face value? Our Government guarantee them to be remainders. —FIELDING, Premier."

The same day we replied by cable as follows:

"State quantity of each value; we probably take all. The lot must not be broken, or market will be spoiled. —GIBBONS."

On May 15th we received a reply cable from the Premier:

"Denominations one, two, eight and-a-half, ten, and twelve and-a-half. You might offer for each denomination, with your own limits; if offer satisfactory, will close for whole.—FIELDING, Premier."

On the same, or following, day we cabled again as follows:

"Cable quantity of each value; our offer cannot be made until this is known.—GIBBONS."

No answer was received to this last cable, and the next information we had was that the entire stock of remainders had been purchased by Messrs. A. A. Bartlett, of Charlottetown, Prince Edward's Island, and Mr. Donald A. King, of Halifax, Nova Scotia, both well-known philatelists of many years' standing.

We at once opened negotiations with Messrs. Bartlett and King, to see if a business arrangement could not be entered into, for us to have the sole sale of these stamps for certain districts, and eventually we secured the sole right of sale in Europe, Asia, Africa, and Australia.

The following certificate was given with the stamps:—

"Halifax, N. S.,
"*June 4th*, 1896.

"A. A. Bartlett, Esq.

"Dear Sir,—For the information of all whom it may concern, I desire to say that, acting for the Government of Nova Scotia, I have sold and delivered to you the remainder of the cents issue of Nova Scotia postage stamps, and that no other stamps of that issue are in the possession of this Government.

"Yours faithfully,
"W. S. FIELDING,
"*Provincial Secretary.*"

As soon as we received a supply of the stamps, we prepared the following circular, for issue to the trade generally in the countries we represent:—

"NOVA SCOTIA.

"GOVERNMENT REMAINDERS OF THE CENT ISSUE.

"The Government of Canada, through the Premier of Nova Scotia, the Hon. W. S. Fielding, has just sold the whole remainder of the Cent Issue of that Colony to a strong syndicate of stamp dealers; and the entire sales of these stamps for the whole of Europe, Asia, Africa, and Australia, have been placed in the hands of Stanley Gibbons, Limited.

"The stamps have been carefully sorted, and divided *pro rata* into three classes, to be sold respectively at £12:10:0, £51:10:0, and £103, net cash with order.

"The prices are guaranteed, and no lot will be obtainable for a less sum than that quoted. As soon as a certain number are sold, the price will be advanced.

"The following lots can now be supplied:—

No. 1. Price £12:10:0, contains:

27	stamps of	1	cent	black.
26	,,	2	,, ...	mauve.
27	,,	8½	,, ...	green.
14	,,	10	,, ...	red.
6	,,	12½	,, ...	black.
100				

No. 2. Price £51:10:0, contains:

134	stamps of	1	cent	black.
133	,,	2	,, ...	mauve.
133	,,	8½	,, ...	green.
66	,,	10	,, ...	red.
34	,,	12½	,, ...	black.
500				

No. 3. Price £103, contains:

320	stamps of	1	cent	black.
320	,,	2	,, ...	mauve.
320	,,	8½	,, ...	green.
160	,,	10	,, ...	red.
80	,,	12½	,, ...	black.
1200				

"The stamps are all guaranteed GENUINE ORIGINALS, and all have the full gum.

"STANLEY GIBBONS, LIMITED,
"391, Strand, London, W.C."

We arranged that this circular should be posted on the last day of August, and no lot was delivered until September 1st, when Messrs. W. H. Peckitt, Buhl & Co., Limited, Richard Senf, etc. etc., had their lots either delivered or posted to them. Unfortunately, owing to delay in procuring the electros of the stamps for the heading of the circular, the issue of this was delayed a few days, and hence the fuss some of the small dealers have kicked up about lots having been offered at so many different prices prior to the issue of our circular.

In September we wrote to Messrs. Bartlett & King, and suggested that the number of stamps of each value in the "remainders" should be published; and under date of October 1st, we have the following reply:

"We do not feel called on to take the dealers into our confidence, and give them details of the number of stamps we purchased; and so far as the collectors are concerned, we think they will scarcely find any grave cause for complaint, when we cheapen the set to them, as we do, and give them that queen of handsome stamps, the 8½ cents, at a quarter the price it has been selling at in the past year, and at the same time we guarantee never to lower the price."

Personally we think it would have been better to quote the actual numbers sold; but, as the price is guaranteed by responsible persons, the number is really not important.

We quite agree with Mr. Phillips that it would have been better to have given the actual numbers of the stamps sold. Mr. Bartlett certainly has not raised himself in the estimation of his fellow dealers by his boorish refusal to do so.

Bolivia: 5 centavos, 1866.

Some valuable "Notes on the 5 centavos Stamp of Bolivia," by Mr. H. R. Oldfield, are published in the *London Philatelist*. Instead of one plate with two retouches as specified by one authority, or three separate plates as implied by another, Mr. Oldfield's investigations lead him to believe in the existence of one or more plates in five different states. He formulates the chief characteristics of the five plates he has met with as follows:—

PLATE A.—The lines of the globe are crossed by a series of small vertical lines, and at the extreme right by two or three diagonal lines curving slightly inwards. With the exception of some few stamps, mostly in the two top rows, these vertical lines commence about the centre of the upper part of the globe, extending thence to the right. In the exceptions mentioned, these vertical lines are confined more to the right and lower part of the globe.

The shading on the breast of the eagle is almost entirely composed of diagonal and horizontal lines. There are some few indicating the line of the throat, and one, or perhaps two, running parallel with the vertical lines of the wings, but the comparative absence of vertical lines of shading is one of the features of this plate.

PLATE B.—The vertical lines on the globe have almost disappeared. The diagonal lines at the right have been strengthened, deepened, or newly cut, so that they stand out much more clearly or distinctly than in Plate A. Numerous VERTICAL lines of shading have been inserted on the breast of the eagle.

If you compare the stamps of Plate A with those of Plate B, it is easy to detect the differences in the lines of shading, indicating the eye, the mouth, and the lines of the throat, or some one or more of them.

PLATE C.—The disappearance of the diagonal lines from the globe, as well as of the vertical ones, except in the case of some few stamps, notably Nos. 1, 2, 6, 9, 12, 22, 54, 64, and 66. There is however, in many of the stamps a thickness or dark indistinctness in this part. New short horizontal lines have been added to the right of the globe (as stated in the *Catalogue for Advanced Collectors*), or in some cases the existing lines have been merely deepened and broadened.

Speaking generally, the breast of the eagle in this plate has a much more open and white appearance than in Plate B, the lines of shading there being decidedly less numerous. There is an error in this sheet, the stamp No. 66 in the bottom row being lettered "Bolivia" instead of "Bolivia."

Plate D.—That the thickness to the right of the globe, as described in Plate C is much more strongly marked, approaching almost to a dark shadow in this spot. The lines of the background are much closer together, and in places the background appears to be almost solid (as it does in the stamps of Sicily), unless examined through a magnifying glass.

Generally speaking, the stamp has a much rougher and coarser appearance than in the earlier plates. The word "Bolivia" in stamp No. 66 in the bottom row is correctly spelt.

PLATE E.—Generally speaking, I can only say that the workmanship is decidedly rougher and coarser than in Plate D. The background in most cases is composed, apparently, only of confused lines in blocks, instead of consisting of crossed vertical and horizontal lines running continuously across the stamp from top to bottom, or side to side. The plate has the appearance of being upon its last legs, and quite fit to give place to a new issue, which, I should imagine, were then about to appear. In stamp No. 66 the lettering much more nearly approaches "Bouvia" than "Bolivia."

Stamps in Washington.

Here is an interesting growl from a Washington correspondent in the columns of the *Weekly Philatelic Era*:—

The Post Office here has at last used up the terrific number of 1c. Columbians which were

foisted on us, and now has, to the general surprise of collectors, begun to distribute a generous number of sheets of the 1c. 1890, which will have to be worked off before we can have the Bureau stamps. We have a pretty tough time of it in Washington. This Post Office is a general dumping ground for old stuff that is returned by other offices, and we poor local people have it dished up to us until it is exhausted before we can have what others have. For over a year now the merchants here have been obliged to use the 1c. Columbians on all their circulars., etc., despite their protests and growls. A number of them have made a practice of sending to Baltimore for their 1c. stamps when there was a large lot to be used at one time, in order to avoid the extra licking and trouble. Nice state of affairs for the nation's capital, isn't it?

Greece: Perfs. 1888-1889.

From the *Gazette Timbrologique* we take the following interesting item respecting the perforation of the Belgian prints of Greece:—

Finding that Belgian prints perforated 13½ were rather scarce, a specialist wanted to know whether this perforation was official or only private, or perhaps trial; so he applied to the head of the stamp department at the *Ministère des Finances*, and received the following reply: "The Chancellor of the Exchequer ordered a perforating machine guaging 13½ in order to supply the public with perforated stamps, being easier to separate. When the machine was delivered he ordered all sheets in stock to be perforated. The Belgian impression, however, was nearly exhausted, and only three or four sheets of each of the 1, 5, 10, 20, 25, and 40 leptas (each of 300 stamps) were found and perforated 13½. The 50 leptas and 1 drachme were not perforated on account of the different size of the sheets. These few sheets were issued and afterwards the Athens impression was perforated in the same guage. Very shortly, however, this machine broke down, a new machine was ordered guaging only 11½, and all stamps have since been perforated 11½."

Alsace Lorraine.

Up to now the exact day of issue for the stamps of Alsace Lorraine has never been clearly shown. From the paper that has appeared in these columns we saw that the official decree was published on the 6th of September, 1870, and now Mr. Reinheimer, according to the *Austria Philatelist*, has found an envelope with such a stamp obliterated with this date, September 6th, 1870. This will enable us now to fix the exact day.

Switzerland: Cantonals.

The *Schweizer Briefmarken Zeitung* gives a detailed list of all the Cantonal stamps shown at the Geneva Exhibition. This list differs in nearly every total from that given in the *Monthly Journal*, and as it is compiled by one of the foremost members of the Geneva Society we believe it to be correct.

	Unused.	*Used.*
Bale, 2½ rp.	12	53
Zürich, 4 rp., horizontal lines..	2	33
„ vertical lines ..	2	50
„ 6 rp., horizontal lines..	15	102
„ vertical lines ...	3	85
„ no lines	2	—
Geneva, 10c.	4	32
„ 10c., cut in half	2	31
„ 5c., large eagle	8	65
„ 5c., small „	7	58
„ 5c., dark green	11	57
„ 5c., green on white...	2	24
Vaud, 4c.	4	32
„ 5c.	55	135
Neuchâtel, 5c.	5	48
Winterthur, 2½ rp.	6	76
Orts Post, with frame	38	430
„ without „	5	293
Post Locale, with frame	42	521
„ without „	2	35

Lost Opportunities.

Dr. E. Diena gives a short extract in the *Schweizer Briefmarken Zeitung* from two catalogues, printed in 1864 and 1865, and cites the prices of a few stamps, which fairly make us wish we could transplant ourselves back to those times. For instance—

	Unused.	*Used.*
Naples, 1860 trinacria	Fr. 6.00	Fr. 4.00
„ „ cross	4.00	2.50
Saxony, 1850, 3pf.	—	2.50
Spain, 1851, 2 reales	—	4.00
„ 1852, 2 „	—	3.00
„ 1853, 2 „	—	2.50
Tuscany, 1851, 2 soldi	—	10.00
„ 1852, 60 crazie ...	—	10.00
„ 1856, 9 „ ...	—	0.30
„ 1860, 3 lire	—	4.00
Würtemberg, 1850, 18kr. ...	—	1.00
Ceylon, 1854, 1sh. 9d.	4.00	2.00
New Brunswick, 1851, 1/-	—	5.00
Nova Scotia, 1851, 1/- ...	—	5.00
Bâle, 1845, 2½rp.	4 00	2.00
Geneva, 5c.	—	1.25
Neuchâtel, 1850, 5c.	—	1.50
Vaud, 1849, 4c	—	2.50
„ „ 5c	—	1.50
Winterthur, 1850, 2½rp.....	—	1.00
Zürich, 1843, 4rp.	—	1.50
„ „ 6rp.	—	0.75

Philatelic Gossip.

The New Gibbons Catalogue.

The new Gibbons Catalogue is to be a thing of beauty and a joy for ever. It is to be in three volumes. Vol. 1 will include the adhesive stamps of Great Britain and her Colonies; Vol. 2 will comprise the adhesive stamps of all countries other than those included in the British Empire; Vol. 3 will be devoted to envelopes, wrappers, and postcards. We understand that the work is being edited and largely re-written by one of the very highest authorities, assisted by one of the strongest committees of experts that could be got together in this country. The pocket size is to be maintained, and there will be a full index, with cross references in each volume. The first vol. is promised for December, the second for January, and the third for February. Till then we shall exist in a state of animated expectancy.

A Good Story.

Here is a good story from the *Westminster Gazette*:—

The writers of love-letters will do well when inditing or preserving these missives to remember the moral of an incident which happened a week or two ago. A youthful philatelist received permission from his father to sell or exchange a number of old postage stamps he had discovered in a lumber room. The frugal-minded papa impressed upon the son the fact that if he left the stamps on the envelopes he would get a better price for them. The boy adhered so strictly to this rule that he gave the letters he found in some of the old envelopes into the bargain. Two days afterwards a lady informed the papa that the whole town was reading, with intense interest, some letters he had written before their marriage to his present wife. Notwithstanding the frantic efforts made by the composer of the love lyrics, they were not returned, and there is no knowing but that they may turn up one of these days in a neat "Guide to the Writing of Love Letters."

Passing Strange.

The *Quarterly Philatelic Circular* (Bombay) thinks it passing strange that "although the new 9 reis stamp of Portuguese Indies cannot be obtained in any single post office in Goa, they are being offered for sale by London dealers, and have been on the market for the past month." Our contemporary should not be surprised at any such happenings in Portuguese postals of either the colonies or the home country. They sometimes happen in the best regulated philatelic families, but they are chronic in the Portuguese.

"Mr. Stanley."

What an affliction it must be to have a double-barrelled name. Mr. Stanley Gibbons, whose name after all is not a double-barrelled one, is spoken of by the 'eathen Chinee and other ill-informed persons, as often as Mr. Stanley as Mr. Gibbons. The latest comes from India. We are told that Mr. Stanley was introduced to Native Society on his recent visit to India, that one swell wedding was delayed so as to be in time for his arrival, that he was tempted with all sorts of philatelic gems, and so on. It's a Jeykell and Hyde business which, of course, may have its advantages as well as its drawbacks.

The Nova Soctia Affliction.

The list of evils distinctly traceable to the Nova Scotia Remainder deal threatens to exceed that of the cures which may be effected by taking an extra dose of Cockles' Antibillious Pills. According to an unimpeachable authority, the panic which it occasioned has no equal in this country since the Great Plague. Poor victims were seen crawling into a court off Cheapside to die in terrible agony; vast numbers of collectors who put their faith in unused are now suffering from philatelic nightmare, brought on by conjuring up other hoards of unused, etc., etc. And there seems to be but little doubt that it will lead to a further slaughter of Armenians, foggy weather, an outbreak of rabies, an epidemic of Secret Dots, scurvy, and further displays of brotherly love.

Mr. Ewen and his Publications.

Mr. H. L'Estrange Ewen, who has just removed from Swanage to 32, Palace Square, Norwood, announces that the second vol. of his *English Specialists' Journal* will commence with No. 10, to be published on December 7th, and will conclude with No. 17 (July, 1897). On December 1st, he will publish a new Album for British Specialists' Stamps. The first 1000 copies he intends to give away, at a cost of £90, for the purpose of advertising his change of address.

The Height of Philatelic Impudence.

The editor of the *Post Office* (New York), having been charged with appropriating other people's labour, without acknowledgment, and presenting it as his own deep research, in reply thus justifies his action and consoles the victim :—

Any man who thinks must be constantly changing his views; therefore, credit for what he writes in magazine articles from month to month, is about as apt to do him dishonour as honour.

Great Scott! Comment would be quite superfluous!

The Birmingham Society.

The Birmingham Society is a real live Society. It is full of energy and work. It makes up its programme in a business-like manner for the whole Session, and rattles through it with a record of unflagging interest. It keeps Exchange Packets going that are the delight of all concerned, and with a punctuality that is begotten of real terror of an exacting secretary. Here is the programme for the coming Session :—

1896.

Oct. 15.	Presidential Address. Mr. W. T. Wilson.
Nov. 5.	Display—Ceylon.
„ 19.	Paper—South Australian Officials. Mr. G. Johnson.
Dec. 3.	Display—South Australia.
„ 17.	Display—United States.

1897.

Jan. 7.	Paper—Cape of Good Hope. Mr. G. Johnson.
„ 21.	Display—Postal Curiosities.
Feb. 4.	Display—Trinidad.
„ 18.	Paper—Mexico. Mr. W. T. Wilson
Mar. 4.	Paper—"Used Stamps, and why I prefer to collect them;" followed by a Display of his collection of West Indies. Mr. R. Hollick.
„ 18.	Paper—Barbados. Mr. W. Pimm.
Apr. 1.	Paper—Austria and Hungary. Mr. V. Lundeblad.
May 6.	Philatelic Display. Mr. W. B. Avery
„ 20.	Paper—Roumania. Mr. H. Edelmuller.
Oct 7.	Annual General Business. Meeting

Suppression of Speculative Stamps

In the Native States of India.

The following letter has been addressed by the Philatelic Society of Bengal to the Director General of the Post Office of India, as a protest against the issue of unnecessary stamps for Native States :—

On behalf of the Philatelic Society of Bengal, I beg to address you on what appears to us to be the issue of unnecessary stamps of Native States.

These stamps being intended for use only within those States of British India, need not, it appears to us, be either of numerous denominations or of high values. We desire to raise no objections to the use of the following denominations :—

½a., 1a., 2a., 4a., 8a., 12a.. 1r.

We would point out very respectfully that these are all which can possibly be necessary for the purely postal purposes of the States concerned. Nearly all the supplies of stamps of other denominations are, according to our information, sold to stamp dealers and collectors. With regard to the values over 1r. this is specially true. In short our information leads us to believe that these States buy many denominations of stamps from Government at cost price, and sell to dealers and collectors at face value, thus deriving a considerable income without trouble and at the expense of Government.

Very respectfully we should like to say that this course is not advantageous to Government. Nor is it dignified for the Government of India to lend itself to practices which have hitherto been considered peculiar to countries such as the Republics of Central America and others. We feel sure that this has only to be pointed out to be remedied.

While on this subject, we venture to take up your time with another branch of it. The surcharging of these stamps is done by the Government Press, apparently without special precaution in correcting the proof, so that almost every printing discloses some mistake. This has led to the belief among collectors that the Government of India orders these mistakes to be made in order that it may dispose of the "errors" at high prices. No one acquainted with the circumstances of the case could give credence to such an absurd theory, but it is an ascertained fact that this is a very common idea among collectors of all classes in England, Europe, and America.

We would, therefore, suggest that very special precautions should be taken in correcting the proofs of these surcharges in future. It appears to us that a little more care would do away with cases of "wrong fount" and "broken letters" being used, and to prevent cases of "transposing."

Notable Stamps at Auction.

Unused are distinguished by an asterisk.

BUHL & Co.,

5th October, 1896

	£	s.	d.
Buenos Ayres, ship, 4p. red	15	0	0
Nova Scotia, 1s. violet ...	18	0	0

CHEVELEY & Co.

14th and 15th October, 1896.

	£	s.	d.
Nevis, 6d. olive grey, litho*	15	0	0
United States, 1856, 90c. blue	5	0	0
Victoria. 5s. blue on yellow	4	5	0
Virgin Islands, single line	4	7	6

WM. HADLOW.

16th October, 1896.

	£	s.	d.
Ceylon, 2s blue	3	0	0
Nevis, 4d. orange, litho, imperf....	4	4	0
Virgin Islands, 6d. pink, perf. 16	8	0	0

19th and 20th October, 1896.

	£	s.	d.
Barbados. 5s. rose* ...	4	0	0
British Guiana, first issue, 12c. blue	7	7	0
Great Britain, 1d. block, V.R.*	8	8	0
New Brunswick, 1s. dull violet	10	15	0
Switzerland, *Vaud*, 4c. ...	11	10	0
Ditto, *Zurich*, 4c., vert. lines	8	0	0

PHILATELIC AUCTION Co.

5th October, 1896.

	£	s.	d.
Ceylon, imperf., 8d. ...	10	0	0
Ditto, 4d. ...	6	0	0
Canada, 7½d.*	12	0	0
New Brunswick, 1s. violet	15	15	0
St. Lucia, 1883, 1s.* ...	4	7	6

PUTTICK & SIMPSON.

12th and 13th October, 1896.

	£	s.	d.
Barbados, ½d. dark green, perf. 12 by 15* ...	4	10	0
Canada, 10d. blue on thick, pair*	30	0	0
Cape of Good Hope, wood block, 1d. red* ...	4	0	0
Great Britain, 3d. rose, small letters, plate 3, with dot, imperf* ...	3	3	0
Ditto, 4d. on bluish, medium garter* ...	4	12	0
Ditto, 6d. buff, plate 13	4	4	0
Ditto, 10s., wmk. anchor on white, perf, initials*	4	10	0
Lagos., 2s. 6d. brown ...	4	4	0
Mauritius, post paid, 1d. red-orange on entire...	13	10	0
Nevis, 4d. rose on bluish*	4	0	0
Newfoundland 4d.orange*	5	5	0
Turk's Islands, ½d. on 4d. grey, pair on entire with a 4d. grey ...	5	0	0
United States, 1856, 90c. blue*	4	12	0

26th and 27th October, 1896.

	£	s.	d.
St. Vincent, 1s. rose red, no wmk., perf. 12* ...	7	10	0
Ditto. 5s. rose red, star*	11	10	0
Tobago. 6d. ochre, C A....	6	5	0
Virgin Islands, 6d. rose, perf. 15	5	0	0

ENTOM, BULL & COOPER.

8th and 9th October, 1896.

	£	s.	d.
Dominica, 1s. carmine, C.A., pair*	5	10	0
Nevis, 6d. olive grey, litho*	14	0	0
Ditto, 1s. blue green, perf. 13*	4	4	0
Ditto, 1s. pale green, pair*	4	0	0
New South Wales, Sydney view, 2d., plate 2 ...	13	0	0
Ditto, 2d., plate 5 ...	4	4	0
Do., 3d. green, no gum*	13	0	0
Victoria, 5s. blue on yellow	3	10	0

28th and 29th October, 1896.

	£	s.	d.
B.C A. £10*	10	0	0
Cape, woodblock, 1d. ...	4	4	0
Mauritius, large fillet, 2d., slight nick	7	15	0
Ditto, corner gone, tear	8	0	0
Oil Rivers, 10s. on 5d. English*	7	10	0
Sierra Leone, wmk. sideways, perf. 12½, 4d., block of nine* ...	6	0	0
Newfoundland 1s. orange	10	0	0
Barbados, small star, red, pair*	4	10	0
British Guiana 1862, 4c., pearl in heart... ...	4	0	0
Nevis, litho, 6d.* £13 10s. and	11	5	0
Ditto, used ...	9	0	0
St. Vincent, no wmk., 1s. indigo, perf 12* ...	6	15	0
Ditto, star, 1d drab* ...	5	5	0
Ditto, C.A , perf 12, 4d. ultramarine*	4	10	0
Turks Isles, 2½ on 1s. prune, Gibbons 7* ...	6	6	0
Ditto, 4 on 1s. prune, Gibbons 9*	3	5	0
Ditto, 2½ on 1s. blue, Gibbons 6*	10	5	0
Fiji, 2d. in black on 6d., Gothic V.R.*... ...	4	4	0

CHARLES JONES, PRINTER, LONDON

THE

PHILATELIC RECORD

and Stamp News.

DECEMBER, 1896.

Editorial Notes.

WITH this number we conclude the first volume of the new series of the *Philatelic Record*, making the eighteenth volume in all. The kindly and flattering reception which has been accorded to the new series, despite many defects, affords ample justification for the departure. We have, in fact, had abundant evidence that the present make-up of the contents of the *Record* is much appreciated by a steadily increasing number of regular subscribers.

In closing the first chapter of our experiment we shall naturally be expected to say something about the future. Emboldened by the success which has attended our efforts, we propose in the new year to further develope our programme for the solid improvement of the *Record*. There can be no finality in the direction of improvement. Every year yields its own crop of suggestions, and of more or less fruitful criticism. Every commendation, every critique, and even the snarl of the dyspeptic, are all to some extent helpful in indicating the road that leads to success, which, being interpreted, means a booming circulation.

Our Programme for 1897.

For the new year we have already arranged with careful Specialists for several series of high class scientific and instructive articles. In the January number Mr. Grant R. Francis will commence a series of articles descriptive of the regular issues of the United States from 1847 to the present day, which, whilst being eminently useful to budding specialists, will deal exhaustively with the Plate Dots and other Minor Varieties. Mr. Francis has for many years made the issues of the United States his special study, and the growing popularity in this country of the beautiful stamps of the Great Republic is sufficient to warrant the space which will be devoted to them in the January, February, and March numbers of the *Record*. It is no slight commendation to the postal issues of a country in these days to say, as we can say of the issues of the United States, that in all those fifty years it has never once disfigured a single stamp with a surcharge. Mr. Beckton, who has for a considerable time been devoting himself to the study of the classic, but much neglected, issues of Greece, has undertaken to write for the *Record* an exhaustive series of papers on Greek stamps, which cannot fail to open the eyes of many of our readers to the undoubted attraction of the stamps of Greece. They share in common with those of the United States the distinction of being free from surcharges. The early issues are full of interest for the painstaking specialist, indeed it is

a matter of constant wonder to the specialist in Grecians that such deeply interesting stamps have not been more sought after in the past. Other papers are in course of preparation and will be announced later on. We shall our selves contribute some "Stray Notes on Transvaal," which we trust will be helpful to those who are studying the issues of the South African Republic. Their unsolved problems, their range of genuine varieties, their primitive issues, their historical association and importance, invest the stamps of the Transvaal with an interest that deepens as events unfold the history of African development.

By way of lending variety to our contents we propose to publish a series of illustrated interviews with leading collectors, dealers, and auctioneers. The first of the series will appear in our January number in the shape of an interview with Mr. E. D. Bacon.

Our regular departments will all be maintained and edited to the best of our ability. In our endeavour to keep our New Issues Chronicle up to date we shall be grateful for all the help we can get, first hand, from our foreign and colonial readers. Early specimens of new issues or provisionals for illustration will be most helpful. Copies of Government Gazette Notices are most important in presenting from month to month the postal history of the various countries that interest us.

Our date of Publication.

WITH the view of bringing the *Philatelic Record* into line with other publications, and so conforming to the custom of the bookselling trade, we propose to advance our date of publication from the end to the beginning of the month. In future, commencing with the January number, we shall publish on the 25th of each month for the succeeding month. This will give time for the *Record* to be in the hands of all our home readers and many of our foreign friends, on the first of the month. It will also considerably facilitate the distribution of the *Record* through the ordinary bookselling channels, and materially affect our circulation. Our January number will be placed on sale on the 24th of December. The February number will be published on the 25th of January, and so on.

Our Subscription Rates.

WE find after a year's experiment that we must revert to the old rates of subscription, viz., 5s. per annum, post free. The 3s. rate has meant a loss on each number sold. The postage of each number has been 1d. Add to that the cost of envelopes and addressing and there is not much left to satisfy the printer. Not only so, the enormous difference between our subscription rate and our price for single numbers has been a source of constant friction with the bookselling trade, and has seriously hampered our circulation through ordinary trade channels, for we were practically underselling the trade. In addition to all this we find the number of pages calculated for a 3s. subscription too few for our programme, and we have, in most numbers, very much exceeded our publishers' limit. The re-establishment of the old rate will give us a freer editorial hand. We, therefore, propose, in the new year, to print the *Record* from new type throughout, and upon a very much better finished and better quality paper.

The Stamp Speculator.

SOME very hard things have been said about the Stamp Speculator, and the manner in which he has been anathematised of late would lead an ordinary individual to believe that the Stamp Speculator is quite a recent growth, or to speak more scientifically, a recently recognised evolution. Indeed it is only quite lately that we have divided ourselves up into three classes, viz., Collectors, Dealers, and Speculators.

Yet so long ago as 1863 the Stamp Speculator was very much in evidence; a writer in the *Stamp Collectors' Magazine* of that year calls attention to "a practice" which "has recently arisen among postage stamp collectors of laying up considerable numbers of obsolete and even current stamps." This practice, the writer tells us, "is grounded on the assumption that the TIMBRO-MAINE will continue in vogue for several years, and that before it goes out many stamps now comparatively common may become rather valuable to collectors;" and then he adds, "we are acquainted with several persons who are thus storing French, Indian, and other common issues."

The storing up of French and Indian might not have been a good illustration of the best choice which could have been made in 1863, but a reference of a curious list drawn up by Mr. Gilbert Lockyer, and published on another page, will pretty clearly demonstrate the fact that a few pounds judiciously invested, even some two or three years later, in common postage stamps, if hoarded till this present year of grace, might have meant the turning of a few pounds into quite a little fortune. To-day of course the chances of speculation seem to be less, because stamps are now printed by the million instead of by the thousand. Still there are those who believe in common British Colonials as an investment.

Classification of Collectors.

COLLECTORS have for some time been divided by common consent into three well defined classes, namely, General Collectors, Specialists, and Speculants. Into this simple category most of us seem to fall, or were placed by our more zealous friends. The Speculant, of course, prefers being classed as a Collector. Now we are, it seems, to be further subdivided. A German writer makes no less than seven classes, thus:—

1. Beginners.
2. Average ("mittlere" collectors).
3. Serious collectors. (Collections worth £2,000—£5,000.
4. Important Collectors. (Collections worth £5,000—£10,000.
5. Prominent Collectors. (Collections over £10,000).
7. "Hors pair" or "hors ligne." (Collections over £50,000).

This is positive, comparative, and superlative with a vengeance. It is rather hard to learn that a collector cannot hope to be regarded as a *serious* collector till he has amassed between £2000 and £5000 worth of stamps, and that he must toil for another £5000 before he can rank as an *important* collector, and yet another £5000 to be classed as a *prominent* collector; whilst to be hung on the "ligne," "hors" fashion, we must hoard up to the tune of £50,000.

Curious Post Offices.

By Edward J. Nankivell.

THE exigencies of primitive civilisation, of the opening up of new countries, and of more or less unyielding circumstances, have led to many curious makeshifts in postal matters. The postal arrangements of our own country, past, and even present, are a fruitful source of contrast and amusement, and sometimes there are sarcastic growlings at the shortcomings which they exhibit. But when we turn to less favoured countries and conditions we find an interesting crop of makeshifts that defy comparison.

Sailors' Post Offices.

Probably no examples of crude postal arrangements exceed those which may be termed "Sailors' Post Offices." Many years ago on the Island of Ascension, a small volcanic bit of terra firma in the Atlantic, between Africa and Brazil, there was a peculiar crevice in a large rock, known as the "Sailors' Post Office." In that crevice crews of vessels passing to India, or returning, left such letters as they wished to send back. Those letters were faithfully taken to their destination by the next ship passing in the contrary direction.

Another similar arrangement is well known, and is, I believe, still in use in the Straits of Magellan. On the extreme point of one of the farthest south stretching promontories of Patagonia, opposite Tierra del Fuego, about half way through the Straits, near Port Famine, on a singularly exposed jutting rock, almost overtopped by the waters of the sea, is erected a lofty flagstaff, and on the middle of the pole are coarsely painted, in red letters, these two words—"Post Office." Beneath is suspended by an iron chain, a middling-sized cask, whose lid, provided with a hinge, may be freely opened and shut, being destitute of either lock or padlock. This cask forms the Post Office. Vessels passing westwards through the Straits of Magellan, on their way to the countries in the Pacific Ocean, launch a boat and deposit letters intended for European ports, and take out letters or packets found in the cask for ports in the Pacific. Vessels passing eastwards deposit letters for Pacific ports and take out those in the cask intended for European ports. This postal service has been in operation for a great many years, how many I cannot say, but sailors assert that the letters have never been tampered with. Letters posted in the historical cask are as safe for delivery as if posted at the General Post Office in London.

In an Old Man's Hat.

Omaha, in the State of Nebraska, U.S., had a population of 140,452 souls at the last census. But a few years ago its only Post Office was an old man's hat. When the first sod of the Union Pacific Railway, for completing railroad communication from the Atlantic to the Pacific, was cut, a citizen gave the assemblage an account of his arrival at that city, or rather at the site, in October, 1854. "Along a narrow path," he said, "cut by some stalwart men through tall, rank prarie, I wended my way in search of the Post Office. At length I found an old pioneer, seated apparently in solitary rumination upon a piece of hewn timber, and inquired of him for the Post Office. He replied that he was Postmaster, and would examine the office for my letters. Thereupon he removed from his head a hat, to say the least of it, somewhat veteran in appearance, and drew from its cavernous depths the coveted letters." The old man has passed away, and palatial buildings have taken the place of his old hat for the reception and custody of letters.

An Old Open Wooden Box.

Mr. Julius M. Price, special artist correspondent of the *Illustrated London News*, tells us in his book "The Land of Gold," in which he details his journey through the Western Australian Gold Fields, of a roadside letter box which he passed in his travels. "It consisted simply of an old wooden box, such as might have been used for packing tinned provisions in, nailed to a post. In the front of it was roughly written '20 mile letter box.' There was no lid or safe-guard of any sort, yet into this primitive receptacle our driver dropped several letters. Their owners, who had stations round about, would probably be passing that way during the course of the day, and would find them, if they thought of looking, so our driver explained."

In a Billiard Saloon.

According to a correspondent of *Modern Society* the postal arrangements of British Honduras are peculiar. He says: "I have been in one town for a month, and the post office has only been open once during that time. When you want a stamp, or to mail a letter, you must hunt up the postmaster, who carries on a billiard saloon, and will sell stamps, deliver your letters, or register a letter all in the saloon, but the receipt for the registered letter you must write out yourself on any bit of paper which may be handy, the postmaster not even having a book for the purpose."

In a Tree by the Wayside.

Mr. Castle also, in the account of his tour round the world, gives us some interesting glimpses into the primitive arrangements which still exist in the Great Republic. He wrote in the *London Philatelist* for July, 1893, "The townships in the mountains are amusingly primitive—Grub Gulch, Giant Springs, or Fish Camp, consisting of five or six rough modern houses, the Post Office having its designation placed over the door by someone who was not evidently brought up to sign-writing, and the 'Postmaster' being an obvious Jack-of-all-trades. When some of these small settlements are situated away from the mail road, a wooden box is attached to a tree adjacent to the road, and the letters deposited therein by the stage driver, literally 'to be left till called for.' This receptacle is simply a small white-painted box, fastened on to the friendly tree trunk by irons, and, being innocent of any lock, it is to be presumed the worthy settlers are all of the greatest probity; at the same time, were I a dealer, I should feel afraid of sending out approval sheets thus!"

Crude but Trustworthy.

Despite their crude character, their absolute reliance upon the common honesty of erring human nature, the evidence of travellers of all degrees is that letters posted in these most primitive of post offices have been singularly free from interference. It would be interesting to collate the makeshifts of all countries. There must be an abundance of interesting material. India alone is full of primitive makeshifts; indeed every country that has not been crossed and recrossed by railways must have a story to tell of its initiatory struggles to imitate the postal services of more favoured countries.

Something of Value.

By Gilbert Lockyer.

"COMPARISONS are odorous," Mrs. Malaprop thought, and no doubt she was right; but for all that there is in the process a certain charm, a peculiar pleasure, which never seems to fail, whether applied to individuals, places, pleasures, or even misfortunes—given two men, a little sympathy and interest in kindred subjects, a chance meeting, and hours will pass unheeded while they compare notes, grieving, or perhaps rejoicing, over the difference between "now and then," mingling sweet recollections of long ago and bitter thoughts of wasted opportunities.

A comparison of prices, it follows, can hardly fail to be of interest to philatelists who would be up to date. Thinking thus, I have no intention of starting an inquisition on the inconsistency of values of which there are many palpable instances; or of referring to auction values, which I consider unreliable guides, varying from day to day according to the number of buyers, the condition of the specimen and money market, the weather, or what not; but I will speak solely of the prices in a dealer's catalogue at which it is presumed he was and is prepared to sell.

For this purpose, no lists can perhaps equal those of Messrs. Stanley Gibbons, Limited, best known to the majority of collectors, while no stamps can be selected with better effect than those of the West India Islands, just now prominent in interest and inflated in price! So let us take the catalogues of Messrs. Stanley Gibbons for 1886 and 1896, the latter still in use, and see the difference in value, within a period of ten years, of some of the most prominent stamps of the Islands referred to. Such collectors who have not followed the rapid increase of the last few years will, methinks, be rather startled. Only the other day a friend, utterly ignorant as to the modern value of stamps, brought me a small collection laid by for years, probably ever since his school days, and was joyfully surprised to learn that the Nova Scotia shilling and the Newfoundland shilling which it contained, both in fine condition and unused, were worth a small fortune to him. Perhaps there are others in the same happy state of innocence who may be enlightened by the odious comparisons in the list which follows. Of course the fact of the issues of the Leeward Islands having been superseded in 1890 accounts for much, but many stamps issued between 1886 and 1890, which do not appear here, show quite as great, if not a greater rise, and in a shorter period of time.

					1886.			1896.		
					£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.
DOMINICA.										
1879.	2½d.	brown.	CC.	..... *unused*	0	0	5	0	6	0
	4d.	blue	"	..... "	0	0	8	0	6	0
MONTSERRAT.										
1876.	6d.	green.	CC.	..... "	0	1	0	0	10	0
1879.	4d.	blue	"	..... "	0	0	8	0	15	0
NEVIS.										
1861.	6d.	grey		..... "	0	3	0	3	0	0
"	1s.	green		..... "	0	5	0	4	10	0
1867.	4d.	orange		..... "	0	1	0	2	5	0
	1s.	sea-green		..... "	0	2	0	5	0	0
1879.	6d.	grey, litho		..... "	0	1	6	10	0	0
1882.	2½d.	brown		..... "	0	0	6	0	17	6

			1886. £	s.	d.	1896. £	s.	d.
SAINT KITTS.								
1879.	2½d. brown	"	0	0	8	1	5	0
VIRGIN ISLES.								
	4d. red brown	"	0	0	8	0	12	0
	1s. crimson, with line...	"	0	2	0	5	0	0
	1s. " with margin	"	0	2	0	1	5	0
1880.	1d. green	"	0	0	9	0	8	6
	2½d. red brown	"	0	1	6	2	0	0
	½d. orange	"	0	0	6	0	7	6
BARBADOS.								
1852.	(½d.) on blued paper.....	*used*	0	2	6	1	0	0
1873.	3d. purple brown	*unused*	0	1	6	0	15	0
GRENADA.								
1864.	6d. rose, star	"	0	2	6	0	12	6
1881.	½d. error OSTAGE.....	"	0	3	6	1	0	0
1882.	8d. grey	"	0	1	4	0	10	6*
	1s. mauve	"	0	1	9	3	0	0*

* Not in Gibbons: prices taken from Bright's A.B.C. Catalogue of 1896.

ST. LUCIA.								
1863.	6d. emerald	*unused*	0	4	0	0	15	0
1864.	1s. orange, perf. 14	"	0	2	6	1	0	0
1881.	½d. black and green, C.C.	"	0	1	6	0	12	6
1883.	4d. black and yellow, C.A.	"	0	0	10	0	17	6
	1s. black and orange "	"	0	2	6	4	10	0
1885.	1s. orange-brown "	"	0	1	9	8	0	0
SAINT VINCENT.								
1869.	4d. yellow	"	0	1	6	4	5	0
	1s. slate	*used*	0	2	0	1	0	0
	1s. brown	"	0	1	6	1	5	0
1871-1881.	4d. dark blue, star	"	0	1	0	2	0	0
	4d. ultramarine, star.....	"	0	0	6	0	12	6
	6d. green, star	*unused*	0	1	6	1	10	0
	1s. lake, star	*used*	0	1	0	0	17	6
	1s. scarlet, star	"	0	0	9	0	10	0
	5s. lake red, star.....	*unused*	0	8	6	14	0	0
1883.	6d. green, C.A.	"	0	1	0	1	0	0
	1s. scarlet "	"	0	1	9	0	15	0
DITTO: Provisionals.								
"	½d. on half 6d.	"	0	5	0	1	10	0
"	1d. on half 6d.	"	0	10	0	4	10	0
"	1d. on 6d.	"	0	15	0	3	0	0
TOBAGO.								
1879.	3d. blue, C.C.	"	0	1	0	0	10	0
	6d. orange "	"	0	1	6	0	10	0
	1s. green "	"	0	2	0	1	5	0
1881.	6d. ochre "	"	0	1	0	3	5	0
	1s. buff "	"	0	2	0	0	10	0
1884.	4d. green, C.A.	"	0	1	0	1	0	0
TRINIDAD.								
	5s. lake, C.C.....	"	0	8	6	2	0	0
	4d. grey, " perf. 14 ...	"	0	1	6	0	10	0
1882.	4d. " C.A.....	*used*	0	0	9	0	7	6

Examples may be multiplied without difficulty by anyone having the catalogues, and time to spare; but more words seem superfluous.

Western Australia.

By Lipman E. Hush.

Postal Fiscals.

TO the article in the *Monthly Journal*, Vol. ii. p. 130, there is little for me to add. At the present time there are large quantities of fiscal stamps coming over from the Colony. Postage is allowed to be prepaid by these. They are the Internal Revenue Stamps of the values of One Penny, Twopence, Threepence, Sixpence, and One Shilling. On white wove paper, long rectangular in shape. Printed in lilac, perforated 14, and watermarked, Crown and C A. Since the goldmining industry has been so rapidly developed stamps of higher values have been accepted at some Post Offices for the prepayment of Postage and Registration on parcels of gold dust. The collection of these higher values must be left to individual taste and discretion.

Telegraph Stamps.

Of these we know that the One Penny and Sixpence were authorised for use as postage stamps. These are the only stamps of Western Australia that have not the design of the Swan portrayed on them. They are watermarked Crown and C C. The Penny is known perforated 12½ and 14. The Sixpence only in one perforation, viz:—14.

Official Stamps.

As regards the stamps used for official purposes, the greatest care is requisite at the hands of the collector. They are distinguished from the stamps used for ordinary purposes by having a hole punched through them. Two sizes of hole are found—(*a*) measuring about 3 mm. in diameter; (*b*) measuring about 4 mm. in diameter. All the stamps issued between 1854—1886 are known to have been so punched. Most of them are known with both variety (*a*) and (*b*), and many are known with two holes in one stamp caused, presumably, the same as a double surcharge. Mr. C. J. Phillips, in the *Monthly Journal*, gave a list upon which I cannot improve. I would strongly recommend collectors to take no copies of (so-called) official stamps, unless they are at least upon part of the original covers on which they were cancelled, and each one must use his own judgment as to whether the hole was punched before or after the cancellation of the stamps. I have come across specimens with holes of all sizes and many shapes: circular, oblong, triangular, and square.

In general collections such as are often offered for sale, it is almost disheartening to see the poor show Western Australia makes. They are amongst the prettiest stamps worth collecting, and they are stamps well worthy of much greater attention than many of those which have been so eagerly fought for at auctions during the last two seasons. The London Society's book "Oceania" gave a great impetus to Australian stamps generally, but Western Australians seemed to have been too late in the alphabetical list to come in for their fair share of otherwise liberally bestowed treatment.

France: 20c. 1870 (Bordeaux).

By Ad. Reinheimer.

(Translated from the *Deutsche Briefmarken Zeitung*).

ALTHOUGH all German and foreign catalogues give above stamp in three types, one seldom sees any in collections.

Even in large collections this stamp is generally represented only by one type, at the most by two types. The reason why these undoubted type-varieties are not more studied or collected like those of other countries (I mention only Bavaria 6 Kr. with broken circle, Dutch unpaids, U.S. of America II., III., and IV. issue, the different types of surcharges, &c. &c.) is, in my opinion, that it is so difficult to define the types clearly.

Even now, after they have been described in long and explicit articles, and shown by M. V. Robert enlarged on the screen, there is still the want of a simple, clear definition by which to class the different types, and to be able to say at once this is type I., II., or III.

All the well-known catalogues so far simply gave the size of the letters as principal guide for the different types, for instance—

Senf	Type	I.	thin	lettering
	,,	II.	small	,,
	,,	III.	large	,,
P. Kohl	,,	I.	thin	,, bad execution.
	,,	II.	small	,,
	,,	III.	larger	,,
	,,	IV.	thicker	,,
Stanley Gibbons	,,	I.		
	,,	II.		
	,,	III.		

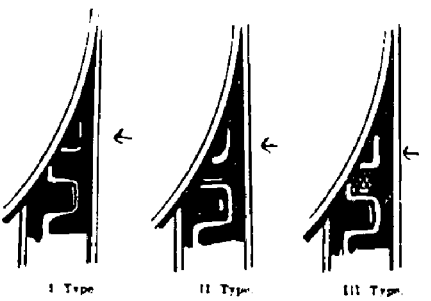
Scott gives three illustrations, which, however, afford little explanation, as they are too small, and the bad printing in consequence of the large issue gives only a very imperfect picture.

Moëns does not offer a word of explanation in the first type, he simply quotes it higher in price. The second type he calls *type refait* (retouched) with small lettering; the third type he also calls retouched with larger lettering.

How is it possible for the inexperienced collector to find the four types? Where is a certain guide for the different types?

Even in the fourth type of this stamp the lettering is small and thin, and it is scarcely possible to say with certainty to which type any of them belong.

By publishing a simple and clear guide, I hope to be able to do away with all the uncertainty regarding these types. All those that are interested in these types will be able, after my description, to recognise at once any of the four types.



The size of the lettering, as well as the often-mentioned shading on the neck and below the eyes are only marks of identification in the second degree

In order to make the matter clear to my readers I give the principal point of the various types enlarged, as Type I., II., and III.

The three drawings show clearly the differences in the Greek ornamentation in the right-hand bottom corner.

Whether the stamps are printed heavily or not, these differences in the Greek border are always apparent; in very heavily-printed stamps the shading may be invisible, but the principal point of difference (*i. e.* in the beginning of the border) can always be seen.

It will be easy for everybody by the help of these drawings to recognise the type of every 20 centimes stamp, Bordeaux issue. Besides these points of difference the ordinary points have to be taken into consideration:

Type I. The shading on the neck and under the eye consists of dots, and the beads of the circle are very irregular.

Type II. The shading on the neck consists of fine lines, and a fine white line is visible along the back of the head.

Type III. The white line at the back of the head has disappeared; underneath the eye the shading is thicker, and all the shading on the neck consists of lines. The dots between the words of the top and bottom inscriptions are very small, and sometimes disappear altogether.

Type IV. is mentioned in very few catalogues. This is not right, as its existence has been proved. The Greek border in this type is exactly the same as in type III., but the lettering is much bigger, and by the size of the letters this type can be easily distinguished. The letters are not only longer, but also thicker, so that they nearly fill the height of the tablets. The whole stamp has the appearance of having been printed from worn plates; the white lines of the frame and the circle are broader; the spandrils are lighter and not so distinct, in one word—more white paper is visible.

It is quite possible that, in consequence of the wearing of the plate of the III. type, the plate was retouched for the third time, and this in itself would be sufficient to collect a IV. type.

Concerning the grades of rarity of the various types, I classify them as follows (the lower the number the more common the stamp):—

	UNUSED.	USED.
Type I.	7	5
,, II.	4	2
,, III.	3	1
,, IV.	8	6

Early impressions of the four plates are very rare.

South Australia ½d. Varieties.

By Geo. P. Grignard.

(Translated from the *Revue Philatélique Française.*)

I DO not know whether anyone has already discovered that the first plate of the ½d. of South Australia was made with two differently-engraved heads; I, however, venture to claim this discovery for myself until I get a proof to the contrary, and to give the same first to the readers of the *Revue.*

We know that each pane of the first plate of the ½d. of South Australia contains six horizontal rows of 20 stamps, in all 120 stamps. A sheet consists, I believe, of four such panes. The two engravings are alternately in the horizontal rows, whereas the vertical columns only contain one of them; a pane of 120 stamps has therefore 60 stamps to each engraving.

To facilitate the description one has only to call the first stamp of the first horizontal row Type I., and the second stamp of the same row Type II. By means of a magnifying glass the following differences can then be found:—

Type I.	Type II.
The end of the bust in front is pointed, and touches the last but one line of the background.	The end of the bust in front is less pointed, and does not touch the last but one line of the background.
The back of the bust does not touch the line of the background immediately under the end.	The end of the bust at the back is prolonged by a dash, which touches the horizontal line of the background immediately underneath.
The shading near the neck extends to the seventh line of the background (the line touching the chin not counted).	I may say here that this dash does not always exist. In 60 stamps of this type I have found it 52 times, the other eight were without. I have not found it in the first printings of the plate. This particularity is therefore neither a large nor an essential difference. However, I have never found this dash on any of the stamps of Type I.
The twisted hair at the back seems to be flattened against the fine white line of the frame.	The twisted hair at the back does not quite touch the fine white line of the frame, and the lines of the background at the lower half of the hair can be seen.

These differences, though slight, are nevertheless an incontestible proof that two matrixes have been used for the head of the Queen. I say of the head alone, as the inscriptions and the rest of the stamps are absolutely the same in both types.

Moreover, the differences which I have mentioned are not the only ones which have attracted my notice, others exist in the crown, the hair, &c., but they are too difficult to describe, and add nothing of importance.

My examination is based on the upper left pane of the sheet, but I have every reason to believe that the three other panes are the same.

This discovery will not stop the earth from rotation. It will be, perhaps, more appreciated by specialists in Australia, and by our neighbours across the Channel, than by us; but it was interesting to me to know that two types exist of the small stamp of ½d. of South Australia.

Indian Native States Stamps.

BY LIEUT. MADDEN.

LIEUTENANT MADDEN, Hon. Sec. of the North Western Provincial Philatelic Club, recently read a paper before the Philatelic Society of Bengal, on Indian Stamps surcharged for Native States.

Some months ago Mr. Stewart-Wilson contributed a paper on Native States issues to the Bazaar. In that paper he divided the postal arrangements of British India into three classes, viz.:—

(i) The Imperial post.

(ii) The posts of certain Native States working independently as far as their internal communications are concerned, but at the same time connected with the Imperial post by certain duties and privileges, laid down in formal documents called "Conventions."

(iii) The purely local and generally very primitive postal arrangements of certain Native States which have no connection with any other postal system whatever.

After approving of this classification as the only possible one, Lieut. Madden goes on to say:—

To begin, as he (Mr. Stewart-Wilson) does, with the last first, I would divide class (iii) into three minor heads:—

(a) Curiosities quite unnecessary for postal requirements, and on a level with Chinese locals.

(b) Ordinary stamp, ranking with all small States and countries.

(c) Rare stamps and difficult to study, ranking with Afghans.

Under iii (a) I would place all issues emanating from *Bamra*, the recent Bhopal, Native issues of Faridkhot, Poonch, and some of the still smaller States. In my opinion the vast majority of these stamps found used have only been postmarked to order, such as the Wadhwan I produce, while many of these states are reprinted. Under iii (b) I would classify all ordinary issues of Alwar, Cochin, Holkar, Rajpeepla, Sirmoor, Deccan, and others. Under the final subdivision of class (iii) must come foremost "Kashmir," a hard country to study and one well worth the labour, Soruth and Jhind are also both interesting. Surely the various papers, inks, colours employed make these countries as interesting as Afghanistan, while the reconstruction of their sheets are in themselves studies more interesting than the child's play of the English sheets.

Little has been done by Indian philatelists to the study of the surcharged stamps, and were more known about them I am certain they would be just as much sought after as the unending surcharges of Africa, Australia, &c. To commence with, the various colours employed for surcharging in India we have two only that have been used; the red being employed as a trial measure, found wanting and dropped. Why should this be an argument against the Native States stamps, when Turks Islands, Peru, Philippines, Costa Rica, and many not such good stamps as those we have under discussion are eagerly sought after in several colours. Is it the difficulty to get some that bars them?

Coming on next to "errors," under this heading I would class—

(i) Use of type from wrong founts.

(ii) Mistakes in spelling.

(iii) Inverted surcharges or double surcharges.

(iv) Spaces inserted in printing where not required.

(i) The use of type from wrong founts is shown in the small A errors. I would not include the Gwalior vernacular surcharges as errors, as they could not have been

done by mistake, but I would rather hold them up as the most interesting of Native States surcharges.

(ii) Inspecting the sheets before us we find one stamp surcharged "GWALICR." This cannot possibly be taken for a defective O, as the C with its little cap is complete. Before proceeding I would here like to point out for the consideration of the members of the Society that such stamps as 9 pie, 1½ annas, 2½ annas are unnecessary for Native States, and as such should be suppressed; the 2½ annas stamp recently issued for Gwalior is quite unnecessary, as it is the stamp for abroad, and Gwalior stamps cannot carry letters out of India. Our Indian Postal Department, which is so unimpeachable, as a rule, should really not allow "indents" for useless stamps to be passed.

Other mistakes in spelling are Auttialla which you will see occurs but once in this panel, and does not occur at all in the top panel. Two stamps above this one you will see the minor variety Putitialla, and here a curiosity in the shape of "Uttialla;" both these latter I would not class as "varieties" even.

The half anna CHMABA, used, finishes my illustration of incorrect spelling.

Inverted surcharges and double printing are, in my opinion, among the rarest of the "errors" that occur. I have here the double printing in "service." These must be more uncommon than an error by wrong spelling, or using type from a wrong fount, as in these latter every sheet printed takes the error, but in the former the sheet only takes the double impression or inverted surcharge, and is certain to be cornered by the first man who sees it. Still it is an error and a hard one to obtain.

I now come to spaces inserted where not required; these are, I think, legitimate errors. Perak has one catalogued in Gibbons with space between A and K (page 294 No. 41): surely this ½ anna Gwalior is just as much an error as the Perak stamp is.

The 8 in lieu of S I also consider an error, as the tips of the S are not near enough to make ink run into the shape of a perfect 8, they would be blurred, whereas all these 8's I show are perfect figures. In conclusion, I would like you to examine these sheets of Gwalior; you will not find an error, or minor variety on them, so perfectly have they been surcharged, which speaks volumes for the care which is taken with these stamps, which are an interesting group in themselves. They will take considerable time to obtain both used and unused, and will repay any study spent on them, and when better known are certain to take a higher place in the minds of philatelists. Till then let us study them, so that when their day comes we shall be ready and shall have treasures of our own.

Reviews.

Ewen's Catalogue of English Stamps.

The Standard Priced Catalogue of the Postage and Telegraph Stamps and Postmarks of the United Kingdom. No. 5. November, 1896. Compiled and published by H. L'Estrange Ewen, 32, Palace Square, Norwood. 218 pp. Price 2/6.

The plan is comprehensive and clear. Book I. Part I. deals with adhesive postage stamps; Part II. telegraph stamps; Part III. fiscal stamps; Part IV. stamps of restricted franking power, *e.g.*, issues for the Levant, for government department, and for private persons; Part V. minor varieties of design, watermark, and perforation; Part VI. stamps of which no regular issue was ever made, *e.g.*, essays, proofs, &c.; Part VII. stamps issued privately, *e.g.*, stamps issued by colleges, delivery companies, railways, private telegraph and telephone companies. Book II. is devoted to the vexed but interesting question of postmarks.

Of this plan of his Mr. Ewen in his preface says :—

> Former editions, apart from their incompleteness, have been written for advanced specialists; the method of arrangement, and the inclusion of minor varieties, having tended to confuse and dishearten the beginner. Whereas the collector of thirty years ago ignored varieties of paper, watermark, and perforation, we, at the present day, not only collect these, but many collectors also devote much time and trouble to the study of every minor variety, whatever its nature. As opinions differ as to the collectability of many such varieties, we have in the present edition separated them from the regular or 'standard' issues. Minor varieties are frequently due to a speck of dust or a hair on the plate, or to the sheets of paper being placed upside down during the process of printing, thus causing the stamps to have an inverted watermark, or to some act of carelessness. Whether such varieties are really worth any attention at all is open to doubt, and we have excluded them from the principal catalogue, although they are fully described later on.

Those minor varieties which require for their recognition a powerful microscope and an equally powerful imagination are best secluded from general view in a chapter to themselves. Whether Mr. Ewen has removed all the "minors" to their proper place may be open to question. Some of the so-called double letters require a vast amount of primitive faith. These, however, are minor matters after all. We are more fairly concerned with the book as a whole. And as a whole the catalogue is excellent—excellently printed, excellently planned, and clear and concise in its details. The "notes" to each issue are specimens of what such notes should be.

The pricing is a detail of the controversial kind upon which we dare not enlarge for fear of tumbling into a hornet's nest. We merely observe that many things are left unpriced, notably some unused.

Another controversial detail is the question of British stamps used abroad, sometime since nicknamed "Colonial English." In this matter Mr. Ewen is a bit shaky. We find him in one place making the admission that "these varieties are undoubtedly interesting, but to say that the postmark alters or decides the nationality of the stamp, as some collectors do, *is ridiculous*," and we say "hear, hear." But later on he says, in the smallest of small type, in a foot note :—

> The whole question turns on whether the country issuing the stamp received for its own use the whole or part of the revenue derived from the sale of it. If this was the case, then the nationality of the stamp was changed; but as a matter of fact the post offices of which we write were as much British as those established within the borders of the United Kingdom, the whole revenue derived from the sale of stamps going into the British exchequer.

In our humble opinion the postmark, under no circumstances, can be held to alter the nationality of a stamp.

Novelties and Discoveries.

Brazil.—A 200 reis unpaid letter stamp has been issued of the same design as the current 2000 reis. Perf. 11½.

Adhesive

Unpaid Letter Stamp.

200 reis, lilac.

British Central Africa.—It seems that the long rectangular fiscals used postally which we chronicled in October (page 277) were due to the industry of a postal official who also acted as revenue officer The following letter received from Messrs Whitfield King & Co. explains matters:—

November 13th, 1893.

SIRS,—I have the honour to inform you in reply to your enquiry of yesterday, that none of the Revenue stamps of British Central Africa were ever used postally.

The one you sent me has been taken off an old expired licence, and has been improperly obliterated.

There is a special stamp issued to cancel Revenue stamps, and in addition, Revenue Officers are instructed to write the date across the stamp.

In the case in question the Revenue Officer at Port Herald is also postmaster, and the mistake has thus arisen.

I return the stamp returned for me to see.

I have the honour etc.

J. E. MCMASTER,
Postmaster General, B.C.A.

We may add that we have seen several of the stamps in question in the possession of our publishers and Messrs. Stanley Gibbons, and in no case was there any writing across the stamp indicating fiscal use, the only obliteration being that of an ordinary postal cancellation. Perhaps the said Postmaster of Port Herald will explain matters further.

According to the *Australian Philatelist* the current series is now watermarked, the values up to 1s. being on Crown and C.A. paper, and the higher values on Crown and C.C. paper.

British Guiana.—The *Monthly Journal* chronicles a vertical pair of the "One Cent" on 1 dollar, of 1890, each stamp of which shows two impressions of the *red* surcharge, the one partly covering the other, but both quite plain and distinct.

Adhesive.

1c., in *red*, on 1 dol., black and green; *double surcharge.*

Buenos Ayres.—The *Monthly Journal* makes the following announcement:

Our publishers have found, amongst a lot of stamps recently obtained from the correspondence of a business house in Cordoba, a specimen of the "IN PS.," *blue*, printed on both sides. The impression on the face is in *dark blue*, and is well centred; that on the back shows about three-fourths of one stamp, and one-fourth of another, in a paler shade, but quite sharp and well defined. We must suppose that the paler impression was defective in some part of the sheet, and that the paper was in consequence turned over, and put a second time through the press.

Chamba.—Our contemporaries chronicle the following current Indian stamps surcharged "Chamba State." Wmk. star. Perf. 14.

Adhesives.

1a. 6p., bistre, black sur.
2a 6p., green, black sur.
2r., brown and rose, black sur.
3r. green and brown, black sur.
5r., purple and blue, black sur.

Columbian Republic.—The *American Journal of Philately* says the current 10 centavos is now printed in bistre on rose paper.

Adhesive.

10c., bistre on rose paper.

Ecuador.—Mr. J. M. Andreini has shown the *American Journal of Philately* the current 50 centavos adhesive, surcharged diagonally "Diez Centavos."

The *Nederlandsch Tijdschrift* chronicles a series of official stamps for 1895 of the same type as the regular adhesives of the same date, but printed in gray and overprinted in carmine "Franqueo Oficial."

Adhesive.

10c. on 50c. dark blue, carmine surcharge.

Official Stamps.

1c gray, carmine surcharge.
2c. gray, carmine surcharge.
5c. gray, carmine surcharge.
10c. gray, carmine surcharge.
20c. gray, carmine surcharge.
50c. gray, carmine surcharge.
1s. gray, carmine surcharge.

Finland.—To the values, perf. 14, chronicled by us in August (page 222), the *Timbres Poste* adds the 1 mark—at least we take it that what it chronicles as 13½ is the same. Will some correspondent inform us whether the new

perf. on the 1 mark is 13½ or 14 as in the other values.

Great Britain.—Mr. Ewen reminds us that the surcharge "Army Official" on the 2½d. is in a different type, and that therefore the error which we chronicled last month of "**OFFICIAI**" for "**OFFICIAL**" on the ½d. and 1d. values is not likely to recur on the 2½d.

The Times newspaper of the 15th September, 1896, has the following very interesting communication concerning our embossed 2½d. envelope for foreign correspondence:—

Mr. Frederick Green writes from Thornfield, Tunbridge Wells:—"The envelopes with embossed stamps for foreign letters sold by the Post Office have several admirable qualities, but one defect so serious that anybody who has once used them will not do so again. Though light, cheap, tough, and convenient in size, they are perfectly transparent, so that the part of a letter inside and in contact with the envelope is as legible as if uncovered. Early in 1894 Mr. Griffith-Boscawen, M.P. for the Tonbridge Division of Kent, called the attention of the Postmaster-General, Mr. Arnold Morley, to the matter by a question in the House of Commons. The defect was admitted, and the answer was that when the stock in hand was exhausted a new issue without the defect complained of would be made, and it was added that the new issue would be made in about two years' time. However, this Session, when the two years had elapsed, and the same inquiry was made by the same member, the answer was that there was little demand for the envelopes, and it would take ten years to exhaust the stock in hand. That is a long time to wait. But if the Post Office would make an immediate sacrifice of the practically unsaleable stock they would suffer but little loss, while the public would be gainers. The Department sell these envelopes at the rate of ten for 2s. 3d., which, after deduction of 2s. 1d. for the ten 2½d. stamps, leaves 2d. as the cost of the envelopes alone, or one-fifth of a penny apiece. If, therefore, the stock consists of half a million, then the value at the selling price would be a little over £400, and the cost price or loss to the department probably £300. Evidently, unless pressure be brought to bear on the Post Office the public will not have what it wants. I trust, therefore, you may find room in *The Times* for this letter.

Hayti.—Mr. Gremmal has shown the *American Journal of Philately*, the 2c. dark purple of the 1883 issue with perf. 13½.

Adhesive.

2c. dark purple, white paper, perf. 13½.

Indo-China.—Messrs. Whitfield King & Co. send us the 5 francs in violet, with name in tablet in blue.

Adhesives

5 fr., violet, name in blue.

Morocco.—According to the *Monthly Circular* the French postage due stamps chronicled as surcharged in Spanish currency for use in the French post offices of Morocco, are to be superseded by a new issue at the end of the present year.

New South Wales.—The *Australian Philatelist* says a sheet of the current 3d. has escaped vertical perforation. It would be interesting to know whether that sheet has been secured unused or whether it has been passed into use.

Adhesive.

3d. green, imperf. vertically.

A correspondent in this Colony has sent the *Monthly Journal* a cutting from the *Sydney Morning Herald* of August 22nd, showing that the 1d. Postcard has undergone similar changes to those which took place in the 1½d. card, earlier in the year:

NEW PENNY POSTCARD.—It is announced that the introduction of a new penny postcard, of size and design in conformity with the regulations of the Universal Postal Union, has been approved. In the new issue the waratah ornamentation has been omitted from the face of the card, and an emblematic waratah and leaves substituted for the words 'One hundred years' in the tablet below the central circle in the stamp denoting the value.

Postcard.

1d. lilac on *white; without Waratah at left.*

Orange Free State.—Following closely upon the heels of the "½d." provisional which we chronicled last month (pp. 303, 304, 305), we have another for the same value, but surcharged "Halve—Penny" in two lines, with a bar presumably intended to obliterate the original value. These second provisionals like those surcharged in figures are on the 3d. stamp. The stamps are printed in four panes of 60 stamps each, the two top and two lower panes being evidently surcharged separately. Upon examining a sheet we find one error, an inverted "n" in "Penny," and another variety with the full stop omitted after "Penny." The inverted "n" occurs in the first stamp in the fourth row of the top left-hand pane and is repeated in the same position in the lower left-hand pane. The omitted stop occurs in the last stamp of the top right-hand pane, and is repeated in the same position in the lower right-hand pane. The surcharge is in black ink and measures "Halve" 8¾mm., and "Penny" including the full stop, barely 10mm.

The relative position of the two words "Halve" and "Penny" varies.



Adhesives.

½d. on 3d blue, black surcharge.

Varieties.

½d. on 3d. blue, black surcharge *inverted* "n."
½d. on 3d. blue, black surcharge, *omitted stop.*

Sirmoor.—The *Philatelic Journal of Great Britain* says, "We have received some copies of the official stamps with a fresh setting up of the surcharge. The stamps are the old issue, head in centre, the new issue, elephant in centre, not having yet been surcharged. The surcharge is the usual "On S. S. S.," but smaller, and is a fresh setting up. The 3p. is set up in blocks of 20 (two rows of 10), and there are the following varieties:—No. 1 has the 's' at bottom vertically under the 'o' of 'ON.' No. 11 has the 's' at the left inverted, and the stop too high, and Nos. 16 and 17 have the stop after the right hand 's' too high. The 6p. are set up in 10 varieties (one row). We also found a block of the 3p. with surcharge inverted." The *London Philatelist* in addition, chronicles the 3p. orange, and the same with surcharge inverted.

Adhesives.

Official Stamps.

2p., red and black.
3p., orange.
4p., orange and black, *yellow tinted paper*
6p., carmine and black *rosy tinted paper*

Variety.

3p., orange, *sur. inverted.*

South Australia. — The *Monthly Journal* says the ½d. stamp is now issued perf. 13.

Adhesive.

½d., brown, perf, 13.

Transvaal.—What appears to us to be a curious error escaped our notice when chronicling the new 10s. brown, last month (p. 306). We omitted to note that in the label of value, the value instead of being "10 shillings" is printed as "10 shilling," which is an obvious error, and will need correction.

Our Monthly Packets of New Issues.

No. 1, price one shilling (postage extra).

The December packet contains—
SIX VARIETIES, ALL UNUSED.

No. 2, price five shillings (postage extra).

The December packet contains—
EIGHT VARIETIES, ALL UNUSED.

These packets are on sale until December 31st (unless the supply is previously exhausted) and are supplied only to *Subscribers* to the PHILATELIC RECORD AND STAMP NEWS. Similar packets will be on sale every month, and may be subscribed for in advance for the year (January to December inclusive), at the following rates:—No. 1 packet 12s., post free. No. 2 packet. 60s., postage extra.

The subscription to the paper (3s. per annum) is extra.—BUHL & Co, Limited, 11, Queen Victoria Street, E.C.

The earliest information as to New Issues will be much appreciated by us, and will be duly credited to the correspondent, or firm, sending it. Our foreign correspondents can materially help us in this direction. When possible, a specimen should accompany the information, and be addressed to
the Editor Mr. EDWARD J. NANKIVELL,
28, Birdhurst Rise, Croydon.

Philately in the Mags.

Official Stamp Dealers in Victoria.

The *Sydney Bulletin* recently announced the discovery of what it curiously termed "unauthorised and scandalous trading by certain individuals at the Melbourne G.P.O.," and it added the following particulars:—

An unsuitable issue of 2s. stamps in dark green was made last year, and after eight days the issue was officially stopped, 150 sheets of unsold "specimens" being condemned to destruction. Immediately the stamp collector's price for the few specimens that had gone into circulation rose to a fancy figure, and dealers bought and sold them as genuine rarieties. Meanwhile the condemned sheets were privately disposed of by two or more officers of the G.P.O., who, without absolutely robbing the Department—for they substituted ordinary 2s. stamps in place of the obsolete ones they were selling—made a shilling or eighteenpence premium on each item in the illicit deal.

The sequel—a very satisfactory one from the philatelic point of view—is supplied by an Australian Correspondent to the *Stamp Collectors' Fortnightly*. He writes:—

We have received the following by the latest mail from our Australian correspondent:—Some rather shady transactions have been going on for some time, it appears, among certain officials in the postal and public service of the colony of Victoria, which has resulted in a departmental inquiry, and the suspension of Messrs. C. Morkham, comptroller of stamps; W. H. Sinnott, chief distributor; A. Coulson and H. C. Treyvaud for trafficking and illegally disposing of a quantity of obsolete stamps. When the mail left, on 20th October, only one of the culprits had been examined, but the evidence brought out showed that several sheets of the 1s. 6d. blue (1889 issue), 4d. carmine with and without the "stamp duty" surcharge, and some of the yellow-green 2s. withdrawn in September, last year, after being in issue only a few days, were obtained by false representations, and disposed of to some of their friends and offered to dealers. The department appears to have been conducted in a very loose manner, and a searching inquiry is to be held, which will no doubt have the effect of preventing similar scandals in the future.

Canada. 8c. Registration.

The *Philatelic Chronicle* thinks the 8c. registration stamp of Canada should be worth more than it is at present catalogued at. Gibbons prices it at 9s. unused, and 10s. used, and Scott at 10s. unused and used. Says the *Chronicle*:—

The total number printed was but 125,000, but upon an order issued by the postmaster-general in 1878, all of the supply then on hand, numbering 75,000, was destroyed. This was done because the rate was changed and the 8 cent could no longer be put to use. As a consequence, 50,000 specimens represent the sum total of the emission. Now nearly twenty years have elapsed since the remainders were destroyed, and one can readily see that their worth is far above catalogue.

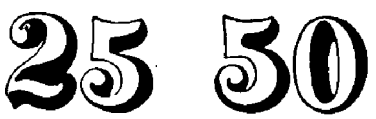
Holland, 1867.—Types.

The *Nederlandsch Tijdschrift voor Postzegelkunde* (Hague), has a very interesting article on the different types of the 25 and 50 cent stamps of Holland, 3rd issue, 1867.

The oldest perforation in this issue is undoubtedly 12½, agreeing with the perforation of the 1864 issue. Later on the stamps were perforated 13, 13½ and 14 horizontally, and at last 10½. This perforation, however, only had a short duration, because the stamps tore so easily across.

Now as regards the 2 types, the following drawings easily show the differences.

Type 1



Type 2



The 2 types of the 5 and 20 cents have the same characteristics, but in only one perforation do both types exist in all values, as the following tables will show:

TYPE I.

12½ × 12	.....	5,	10,	15,	20,	25, 50.
13 × 14	.....	5.			20.	
13¾ × 13½	.....	5,		15.		
13¼ × 14	.....	5.				
14 × 14	.....	5.				

TYPE II.

12½ × 12	.....	5,	10,	15,	20,	25, 50.
13 × 14	.....	5,	10.			
13½ × 13½	.....	5,	10,	15,	20.	
13 × 13	.....	5,	10.			
13½ × 14	.....	5,	10,	15,	20,	25.
14 × 14	.....	5,	10,	15,	20.	
10½ × 10	.....	5,	10,	15,	20.	

Particular care has to be taken when measuring these stamps only to give the number of

teeth to 20 millimeters, not simply the points, and if that is done a 14½ or 15 perforation is impossible.

The 15 cent stamp of the I. issue, pin perforated 15, sold recently by auction, the writer of the article does not believe in, and pities the poor buyer.

Pitcairn Island Postal Arrangements.

The *Daily Mail* gives us an insight into the postal arrangements of the Pitcairn Islanders, from which we extract the following:—

A gentleman, now in London, was once on board a ship deputed to carry the Pitcairn mail for Tahiti, and below he tells how it was done.

"We left San Francisco in the ship City of Hankow, and were off Pitcairn Island on Christmas Day. Only about one ship makes the island, and as we should lose no ground by waiting a few hours, we hove to and signalled to the shore. Then the two boats came off with two loads of vegetables. The governor of the island came off and asked us to carry some letters to Tahiti.

"We smiled at first, but when he produced seven letters and told us that there was no other way to send them we consented, and started on our journey again.

"Those letters were the cause of a good deal of inconvenience. When the captain landed at England he took the letters ashore and went to the postmaster. Then he was informed that he must make an affidavit, and must apply to the postmaster-general for sevenpence, the tariff for carrying letters from countries not in the postal union. Eventually the letters were handed in at the Falmouth post-office, after we carried them about 13,000 miles.

"From Falmouth they went to Southampton and were sent in the usual course of events to New York, another 3000 miles. They then crossed to San Francisco, and were put on board one of the Australian steamers, and put off at the nearest point to Tahiti, their destination. The remainder of their journey was covered by a small boat. In all, the letters travelled a distance of over 25,000 miles, and occupied four months and a half en route. The distance between Pitcairn and Tahiti, it should be said, is 1,200 miles.

Abyssinian Postal Arrangements.

We take the following from the *Monthly Circular*:—

The *Courier des Timbres-poste* gives some curious information regarding Abyssinia, which is stated to have been received from a friend who has just returned from that country. The monetary unit is the *thaler* of Maria Theresa, which is worth about 4s., divided into 100 piastres of silver alloy, the piastre being rather smaller than a half-franc piece. He had never heard of "guerche" as a coin; and, according to him, the values of the stamps were ¼ piastre, ½ piastre, 1, 2, 4, 8, and 16 piastres. The thaler and piastre were the only moneys in metal that were in use in Abyssinia, and for small sums the payment was made in blocks of salt, the value of which increased according to the distance from the sea or the salt lakes.

As to the postal arrangements, there are two post offices, and two only, in Abyssinia, one at Harar, and the other at Entotto, and correspondence is only sent between these two towns, and from Harar to Djibouti. At Harar the service is gratuitous, and is done by the French Capuchin fathers, who sell the stamps and prepay the letters. The mail is made up in bags duly sealed, and is conveyed by two Abyssinians mounted on mules. This is as regards the transport from Harar to Djibouti; but from Djibouti to Harar it is by French couriers, who travel on camels, and take three days and three nights for the journey.

We have not given a translation of the article, but only a summary—sufficient, however, to show that if the account is correct, there is no great necessity for the array of postage stamps, &c., with which we have been lately favoured. We were told that a new coinage had been made in Paris. Is this to supersede the small change of the piastres, which, being in small blocks of salt, cannot be very convenient to carry in one's purse. Surely there must be some metallic change for a piastre worth about 2¼d.

The truth would seem to lie in this, that the values are in "piastre," the Amharic of which is "guerche," in the same way as we find a lira equivalent to a franc, or a stotinka to a centime; but that a stamp of ¼ guercho has to be paid for in salt we can scarcely credit.

Gibraltar: Obsolete Issues.

The *Monthly Journal* publishes the following from the *Gibraltar Chronicle and Official Gazette* for October 8:—

PUBLIC NOTICE.

The following stamps of obsolete issues, which are unfit for use through the Post, but may be of value to Collectors, may be obtained on application at the Colonial Treasury, where the stamps can be seen daily during office hours:—

194	specimens of 75 centimo stamps.		
61	,,	1 peseta	,,
18	,,	5 ,,	,,

Offers for the purchase of any or all these stamps should be in writing, and should be addressed to the Cashier, Colonial Treasury. Offers will be dealt with strictly in the order in which they are received, and no offer under the face value will be accepted.

By order of His Excellency the Governor,
H. M. Jackson,
Colonial Secretary for Colonial Treasurer.

Colonial Treasury, *8th October*, 1896.

Major Evans presumes that these stamps are damaged in some way, have lost their gum, perhaps, and that they are not pronounced "unfit for use" simply because they may not be of the latest pattern.

Columbian Dollar Values.

Mr. A. C. Townsend informs the *Weekly Philatelic Era* that on the 1st October there were on hand at the Washington Post Office the following quantities of Columbian Dollar Stamps:—

$2	Columbians	3002
$4	Do.	3437
$5	Do.	4581

Mr. Townsend adds:—"It is quite a problem as to whether any of us will live to hear the welcome words 'All gone' spoken about these stamps." All in good time our American friends will learn that commemorative rubbish is about as bad an investment as can be found.

Zanzibar Issues.

The following interesting letter appears in a recent issue of *Mekeel's Weekly Stamp News* in defence of the various surcharges which have appeared, and which some folks have been in such a great hurry to condemn.

DEAR SIR,—I saw a statement in your paper that the Zanzibar provisional surcharges are unnecessary and speculative. When the facts about this matter become known, I hope you will change your opinion. For years Zanzibar had no postal administration of its own, and the post-office was controlled and administered by the Bombay office. The business transacted had of late become of so much importance that the Sultan's government wished to benefit by the revenue derived from it, and proposed that the post-office should be handed over to them. This was done, the stock of Indian stamps taken up at cost price and surcharged Zanzibar. The exact date of transfer was November 15th.

Before this the administration of the British East Africa Co. had been taken up by the Imperial government, and before special stamps could be prepared for use in the territory, stamps were obtained from the Zanzibar Indian office which were surcharged "British East Africa." The stock, therefore, of Indian stamps had to be divided between two places and had besides to provide for purchases which were not strictly for postal purposes. This resulted in a rapid depletion of stock and the total disappearance of the ½a. values. This led to the surcharge on the one anna six pies stamp. There is not much demand for this value in India itself, as it does not correspond to any particular tariff, and was the value of which larger quantities existed, and could be more easily spared. This was a very necessary surcharge, and if not issued would have led to the exhaustion of the ½, 1, 1½, and 2a values, thereby perhaps demanding the issue of four or five provisionals on high values, instead of one.

New stamps with the Sultan's head were ordered, and a fresh supply was ordered from India. This again gave out in April, and the postmaster was compelled to issue the 2½ on 1a. for Zanzibar, which lasted for two mails. The Sultan's head had not yet come, and the British East Africa Protectorate stamps arrived on May 26. There were no Indian low values in stock, and the high values were also few. The postmaster could not exhaust the 2½a, of the Protectorate, surcharging them for Zanzibar, but had the three low values (½, 1, and 2½a.) thus treated. These again lasted two mails, until the Indian stamps which had been indented for came to hand. In July again there were no 2½a. stamps, and the ½ and 2½a. of the Protectorate were also out. The postmaster did his best to prevent a provisional issue. He used up the stamps reserved for the Postal Union Bureau at Berne for the mail of Aug. 11th, until on the 15th he had to overprint the 2a. There were no ½a. stamps to complete the 2½a. rate for letters; as the stock of the 2½ on 2a. was small, and there were still no signs of the permanent issue, and the stamps applied for from India might take time in arriving, the 4½, 5, and 7½a. of British East Africa were also surcharged "Zanzibar." These are the most useful values and do not occur in the Indian set. Their issue prevented the complete exhaustion of the 2½a., and almost insuperable embarrassments in consequence. The supply from India arrived on August 26th; a fresh supply of the Protectorate stamps came on September 10th from London, and the Sultan's head ten days later. If these stamps had not come, there would have been even other provisionals. The postmaster did his best to prevent any speculation with these various provisionals, selling only a few at a time over the counter, and the demand increasing, refusing to sell them at all, ordering them to be placed on letters by the postal clerks. He sold them at face value, and refused to sell them to dealers, who failed to get a supply. *Hinc illae lacrymae.* I am afraid. The *bona fides* of these issues is further demonstrated by the fact that dealers and others got a scent of their issue through Bombay, from people who saw the stamps on the letters themselves, and that after the lapse of months.

Capital has been made out of the fact that there is one postmaster-general for the two places. They are not small places; they are almost empires, but they represent different administrations. The British East Africa Protectorate is directly under the Imperial government; Zanzibar and Pemba are under native rule. The revenue and expenditure of these places are controlled differently and have never been amalgamated. One postmaster-general may be an economical arrangement and nothing more. It does not necessarily mean one series of stamps, as the proceeds of the sales do not go into one pocket.

Yours faithfully,

JULIO RIBEIRO.

B.C.A. Postal Fiscals.

Under the head of Novelties in this number we publish a letter condemning the British Central Africa Postal Fiscals recently chronicled by us. Here is what

Messrs. Stanley Gibbons have to say in reply to that letter :—

We carefully examined a number of stamps that we have bought, which came from the Postmaster of Port Herald, and although it may have been contrary to the law for these stamps to be used postally, we are absolutely convinced that they were so used.

We have before us some of the 2s. 6d. and the 1s. on £1 stamps, and find at least four different and distinct cancellations, some of which are similar to those found on the ordinary postage stamps themselves, issued from and used in this part. These cancellations we should describe as follows :—First, the words "Port Herald," in a circle, and the letters B.C.A. at the bottom, and the date "My 23 95," in two lines in the centre ; about the same size circle as that of the ordinary cancelling stamps of most English country towns. Second, we find a larger double-lined circle with the words "British Central Africa" in full, between the two lines and the date, in one line across the centre. Third, we find another small but much thicker, circle containing the name and date, exactly of the size of the first-named one, but in different type and with thicker characters. Fourth, we have the numbers "852" in an oblong, enclosed between an oval of thick bars, somewhat similar to old English cancellation stamps used about 1850.

We are making some further inquiries into the use of these fiscal postals, and shall communicate with the Postmaster of Port Herald, and hope to publish here any particulars we can get in due course. In the meantime, if any of our customers who have bought these stamps from us care to return them at the prices they have paid, we will *at once refund the money ;* in fact we should be rather glad to have them back, because we are sound believers in the stamps, and consider they will be rarities in a short time. If any of our customers in South Africa have any of the other values except the 2s. 6d. and 1s. on £1, we shall be glad to negotiate for the purchase of them.

Obviously the Postmaster-General of British Central Africa will have to settle this little business with his subordinate of Port Herald.

The S.S.S.S.

Mr. Basset Hull in the *Australian Philatelist*, commenting on the recently condemned, but beautifully executed, commemoratives of Uruguay, breaks out into the following :—

And the beautiful must perish !
What vanquishes men philatelic
Can the merciless breast move not of S.'s quadruplex ?
Once alone did pity o'ercome him who guides the suppressors,
Yet at the threshold itself harshly recalled he the boon.
Not even labels olympic loved of the Goddess Minerva,
Famed for the Phidian wrestlers and muscular throwers of diskos,
Softened the adamant bosom of him who delivered the judgment
See, thou ! the gods are lamenting,
Each Goddess with them is lamenting,
That the beautiful must perish, and the perfect departs !
Yet a death Song upraised by lips of affection is glorious ;
But Stamps that are mean and base pass unsung to the grave.

Notice !

INDEX TO THIS VOLUME.

A TITLE PAGE, CONTENTS, and elaborate INDEX to this Volume of the *Philatelic Record and Stamp News* will be sent out Free with our Next Issue, or may be had separately, Price 6d., post free.

Philatelic Gossip.

New Canadians.

The report that a new issue of Canadian postage stamps may be expected before long gathers force. The latest item of news in that direction is the following paragraph in the *European Mail*:—

Hitherto the contract for the engraving and printing of Dominion notes and postage and Inland Revenue stamps, has been in the hands of the British American Bank Note Company, of Ottawa. The Minister of Finance has, however, decided to terminate the contract next year, and tenders have been invited for the work. The contract will be for five years, from July 1, 1897, and it is stated to be worth about $100,000 per annum.

The Saxony 3pf. Sheet.

In August last (p. 230). we announced that Mr. Castle had, for a sum of £300, secured at Cologne, an unsevered and unused sheet of 20 pf., red, Saxony. According to the *Philatelic Monthly and World* the bargain has fallen through after all, and the sheet has been returned to the New York dealer (Mr. Albrecht), who sold it.

The Paris-Russian Postcard.

A good story is told by the *Philatelic Chronicle*. A special postcard, which we have not thought it worth while to mention before, was issued during the Czar's recent visit to Paris. The card bore on its address side portraits of the Czar and President Faure in opposite corners, with the French and Russian arms between, and, underneath the arms, the words "Paris, 6th Octobre, 1896." As this inscription violated the regulations under the Postal Union, an extra charge of 3d. has been levied upon the cards coming into this country. It is to be hoped the Postal Union will, some day, serve temporary commemorative adhesives in a similar manner.

Garters.

The *Philatelic Chronicle* is getting very facetious, as witness the following:—

One of my collector friends has sent me the following as his impression. "History informs us that it was in the year 1855 that Victoria, Queen of Great Britain, first used garters, they being then of small size. During the next year, she used the medium size; but in the following year (1857), she was obliged to use the large size. Lest there might be some misapprehension, it might be well to state, the garters were watermarks and were used on the fourpenny postage stamps."

Obsolete Trinidads destroyed.

Mr. J. H. Stevens informs the *Weekly Philatelic Era* that he has received a letter from the Postmaster at Trinidad, stating that all the old issue of that colony have been destroyed.

A Novel Arrangement.

Every one to his fancy. Arrangement is largely a matter of fancy, or taste. Some will prefer a chronological method; others by values. But for novelty, an American, of course, is easily first. It is simplicity itself. Does away with such ricketty and troublesome things as catalogues, and albums with marked spaces. Every stamp in the collection is arranged in the exact order in which it was obtained. It is claimed for this plan that no blank spaces remain to be filled; there is a space for every stamp you collect, and no space for those you don't collect, or have not got; there are no monotonous pages of the same design, but a sweet and enjoyable confusion; rare stamps crop up as surprises, like oases in a desert; and so on. It must be admitted that this plan would be hard, very hard to beat—for absurdity

Transvaal Postal Deliveries.

The *Westminster Gazette* gives the following account of the inauguration of postal deliveries in the Transvaal:—

A house-to-house delivery of letters has only lately been inaugurated in Johannesburg, and one of the Transvaal papers gives an interesting description of the glorious time the postmen had on the first day of the delivery in question. The postmen, it seems, had no uniforms because they were not finished, but each carried a large canvas bag marked in black letters. They could not "rat-tat," mainly because knockers are not in fashion in Johannesburg. Then it turned out that a large proportion of the letters posted for delivery on this particular day bore fictitious addresses. One unhappy postman was found demanding "No. 44" of all the world. "This is an awful job," he said; "there's No. 42 and there's No. 46, but there are no houses in between." Many of the houses were not numbered, and the residents had no idea what number they themselves lived at. In a large

number of cases the postman was treated—under a mistaken idea of his mission—to the warm welcome usually accorded to a process server. It was estimated that the first morning delivery in Johannesburg would be completed, as far as it ever would get completed, about midnight!

U.S. Envelopes.

The following announcement by Mr. Bartels, of Washington, in *Mekeel's Weekly Stamp News* will interest collectors of United States Envelopes in this country:

I wish to take this opportunity to announce that we are preparing an up-to-date list of entire U.S. envelopes which will be published some time next month. It is our desire to have it absolutely complete, and for this purpose request the co-operation of envelope collectors throughout the country. We shall endeavour to give the market value for unused and used, entire and cut square, which will, no doubt, add much to the value of the work. Only envelopes regularly issued to the public will be chronicled, and all sample issues which only exist surcharged "Specimen," such as the 4c. green on blue and oriental buff, will be omitted. Particular attention will be paid to the newly discovered dies and the 1894 to 1896 issues, which have never been listed. Lend your aid in trying to supply one of the greatest needs in philatelic literature.

Correspondence.

The Stamps of Egypt.

SIR,—I have read with much interest the article on the stamps of Egypt by Mr. G. B. Duerst, published in the *Philatelic Record*, and I pray you to permit me to correct an error into which all writers have fallen—from Mr. J. B. Moëns in his pamphlet on the "Timbres d'Egypt" to Scott in the magnificent Catalogue for Advanced Collectors.

In the classification of the Egyptian stamps, and describing third issue of 1st January, 1872, Mr. Duerst falls into the same error. He says that the stamps are printed *lithographically*.

It may be easily discovered on examining these stamps, that they are printed *typographically*, for they show the special character of typography in the cavity, more or less visible, caused by the pressure of the types: besides which the inking in typography shows a little thickness that is never met with in lithography, in which process the surface of the paper presents an entirely smooth surface.

Each stamp shows the usual type to which for every denomination have been joined the lateral labels bearing the figures and inscription of value, and the junction of the labels is shown by the little white lines that are different in nearly all the stamps, whilst if they were made in lithography the lines would be all equal in every denomination.

The 5 paras in the article is said to have been printed in Cairo, by native printers, and "not a single stamp is correct, centres and labels are all mixed up and the stamps are all over the sheet in a glorious confusion." This confusion is due precisely to the amalgamation of the typographical *cliches* by inexperienced workmen.

The marginal ornament also clearly shows that the stamps were typographed and not lithographed.—I remain, &c.,

PIO FABRI.

ROME,
20th Nov., 1896.

Notable Stamps at Auction.

Unused are distinguished by an asterisk.

BUHL & Co.,

3rd, 4th, and 5th November, 1896.

	£	s.	d.
Cape of Good Hope, wood-block, 1d. red* ...	4	15	0
Colombia, 1862, 1 peso violet*	3	7	6
Great Britain £5 orange...	2	12	6
United States, *Periodicals*, 6 dols *	1	4	0
Ditto, Ditto, 9 dols * ...	1	18	0
Ditto, Ditto, 12 dols * ...	2	4	0
Ditto, Ditto, 24 dols.* ...	3	5	0
Ditto, Ditto, 36 dols.* ...	3	15	0
Ditto, Ditto, 48 dols.* ...	3	5	0
Ditto, Ditto, 60 dols.* ...	5	0	0

CHEVELEY & Co.

2nd November, 1896.

	£	s.	d.
Great Britain, oct. 1s * ...	4	12	0
Oldenburg, 2nd issue 1/3gr.	4	0	0
Buenos Ayres, ship 3p. green	4	7	6
Nevis, Litho, 6d *... ...	15	10	0
New Brunswick, 6d.* ...	12	0	0
Ditto, 6d and ½ 3d. = 7½d.	4	5	0

WM. HADLOW.

9th and 10th November, 1896.

	£	s.	d.
Ceylon, 8d brown, imperf.	8	0	0
Newfoundland, 6½d. carmine red*	7	12	6
Spain, *Madrid*, 3 cuartos, bronze*	11	0	0
Confederate States, Athens, 5c. purple, strip of four	45	0	0
France 1 fr. orange	4	0	0
New Brunswick, ½ 6d. orange	2	5	0
Ditto, 6d. orange ...	3	15	0
Ditto, two copies, one on entire	6	0	0
Newfoundland, 4d carmine red	3	15	0

16th and 17th November, 1896.

	£	s.	d.
Ceylon 4d. rose, imperf ...	10	10	0
Ditto, 8d. brown, cut close	4	0	0
Ditto, 2s. blue	3	15	0
Ditto, 8d. brown* ...	5	10	0
Ditto, 8d. yellow-brown, perfs cut	4	0	0
Ditto, 2r. 50c.*	4	0	0
India, ½ anna red	5	0	0
New Zealand, 6d. black-brown, pelure perf.*...	3	9	0
Ditto, 6d. red-brown, perf., N.Z. wmk. ...	12	9	4

VENTOM, BULL & COOPER.

12th and 13th November, 1896.

	£	s.	d.
Afghanistan, 1292. Abasi, black pair*	8	8	0
British Columbia, 1 dol. green, perf. 12½* ...	3	0	0
British Guiana, first issue, 8c. green	31	0	0
Ditto, 1856, 4c. crimson	6	6	0
Canada, 12d. black ...	22	0	0
Great Britain, V.R. ...	12	5	0
Ditto, 2d. blue, no lines*	4	0	0
Ditto, 10s. grey-green, cross*	21	0	0
Montserrat, 4d. blue, C.A.	3	0	0
New Brunswick, 1s. violet	8	5	0
Newfoundland, 1s. orange, cut	5	5	0
Nova Scotia, 1s. violet cut	8	0	0
St. Vincent, 4d. on 1s., vermilion	10	10	0
Spain, 1850, 10r. green* ...	4	4	0
Ditto, 1852, 2r. red ...	12	10	0
Ditto, 1853. 2r. red ...	6	10	0
Turks Islands, 2½ on 1s. dull blue	10	0	0
Ditto, 4d. on 1s. prune	3	10	0
Tuscany, 60cr. brown-red	7	15	0
Wurtemburg, 70k. violet...	3	15	0
Ditto, 70k. violet-rose ...	2	15	0

Notices.

Editorial Communications.—Articles of special interest will be paid for. M.S. dealing with particular points in an exhaustive manner will be most welcome. As we wish to arrange matter in advance, we shall be glad to hear from Specialists who are open to write up their special countries.

All communications on Editorial matters should be addressed to the Editor, Mr. EDWARD J. NANKIVELL, 28, Birdhurst Rise, Croydon. Letters enclosing valuable should be registered.

Subscriptions.—THE PHILATELIC RECORD AND STAMP NEWS will be sent post free to any subscriber at home or abroad, on receipt of 3s. Subscribers' remittances should be sent to the Publishers, Messrs. BUHL & Co., LIMITED, 11 Queen Victoria Street, London, England.

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END OF VOL. 18.

CHARLES JONES, PRINTER, LONDON

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THE PHILATELIC RECORD

and Stamp News.

EDITED BY

EDWARD J. NANKIVELL.

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February 25th and 26th.—A fine general selection of rare British, Foreign, and Colonial Postage Stamps, including Ceylon, wmk. star, perforated 8d. mustard and 8d. brown; Canada, 6d. green and 10d. blue, unused, in mint state; Great Britain, I.R. Official £1 green, a fine pair; Jamaica, splits on pieces of original; Turks Islands, provisional ½d. on 4d., used; a fine lot of 1st issue Tolimas; France, 15c. error in a pair with 10c., unused; Buenos Ayres, 4 pesos red; a rare lot of Nevis and other West Indies; Sydney Views, Cape woodblocks, early Mauritius, fine German States, and other Europeans; also a grand selection of Collections.

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These packets are on sale from January 25th to February 24th (unless the supply is previously exhausted), and are supplied only to *Subscribers* to the "PHILATELIC RECORD AND STAMP NEWS." Similar packets will be on sale every month, and may be subscribed for in advance for the year (January to December inclusive), at the following rates:—

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THE PHILATELIC RECORD

and Stamp News.

EDITED BY

EDWARD J. NANKIVELL.

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MAKE THE SALE OF

RARE POSTAGE STAMPS

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On MONDAY and TUESDAY, the 16th and 17th of MARCH,

The above Sale will be followed by Sales on the 30th and 31st March; 20th and 21st April; 4th, 5th, 28th and 29th May; and 12th and 13th June.

Property for inclusion in their April and following Sales should be forwarded at once, as the Catalogues are Published One Month in advance in order that they may circulate in America.

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Telegraphic Address: "PHILATELY," London.] [ESTABLISHED 1880.

VOL. 18.—No. 3. March, 1896.

THE PHILATELIC RECORD

and Stamp News.

EDITED BY

EDWARD J. NANKIVELL.

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Triangulars in pairs and blocks, fine shades of C.C. and C.A., and the surcharges.

No. 25.

St. Vincent.

Good shades of the early issues, compound perfs., &c., &c., and all the recent issues.

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Starting with the C.C. 12½ and 14 there is a fine range of shades through the provisionals and recent issues. Now is the chance for picking up early dies and the retouch.

No. 20.

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A very nice lot of Trinidad, especially in shades of the early issues; also an unusually fine lot of pin perfs., the accumulation of years, now arranged for sale for the first time. In Tobago there are some nice shillings, 4d. C C. and C.C., and several of the rarities

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WURTEMBURG, 5 Marks, Used,

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Ditto, ½, 1, 2, 3, 4, 4½, 5, 7½, 8 annas, and 1 rupee. Set of ten for 5s.

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3 annas, brown on red	5	0
4 „ brown	2	0
8 „ blue	5	0
1 rupee, rose	7	6
3 rupees, purple	30	0
4 „ blue	30	0
5 „ green	60	0

Indian Stamps surcharged "British East Africa."

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Zanzibar Protectorate.

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½, 1, 1½, 2, 2½, and 3 annas. Set of six for 10s.

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RARE POSTAGE STAMPS

HELD BY

VENTOM, BULL, & COOPER

(Who originated them in this Country),

AT THE

St. Martin's Town Hall, Charing Cross, S.W.

DATES OF SALES.—April 16th & 17th, 28th & 29th; May 14th & 15th, 21st & 22nd; June 11th.

Messrs. VENTOM, BULL, & COOPER, in announcing the dates for this year, beg to draw attention to the following Important Sales :—

APRIL 16th & 17th.—A private collection, including Hanover, 10gr.; Hungary, 3kr., litho. unused; Modena, the large B.G.; Oldenburg, nearly complete; Sarawak, the very rare provisional 2c. on 3c.; Dominican Republic, 1st issue, ½rl. green, 1rl. green, &c.; Victoria, 5s. blue on yellow; Spain, nearly complete; rare Swiss Cantonals; Shanghai, the rare provisionals, used and 1st issues; Sydney Views, a very good assortment; West Indies, a very fine lot, including rare Nevis, St. Vincent, St. Christopher, Tobago, &c., and many others.

APRIL 28th & 29th.—A fine general selection of British, Foreign, and Colonial Postage Stamps.

MAY 14th & 15th.—Messrs. VENTOM, BULL, & COOPER have received instructions from St. Henry Bunbury, Bart., to dispose of his very fine collection, including the following rarieties: Great Britain, a very fine lot, unused, including many rarieties; Switzerland—the Basle, Winterthur, Vaud, Zurich, 4 rappens (unused), and 6 rappens; Wurtemburg, 1st issue, unused originals; Oldenburg, complete unused, including superb specimens of the ⅓rd. gr.; Hanover, 10 gr., unused, very fine; Italy, complete unused, mostly in mint state; Baden, 3 kr. unused, small perfs.; a magnificent lot of West Indies, the following Islands being practically complete unused, St. Lucia, Bahamas, Dominica, Tobago, Nevis (superb), Virgin Islands, St. Vincent, and Barbados; others well represented; United States, nearly complete, including Departmentals and Periodicals (2 sets) complete; Canada, superb 6d. green and 10d. blue; Nova Scotia and New Brunswick, 1s. violet; a fine lot of Newfoundlands; British Columbia, complete unused, except 2½d. and 5 cents imperf.; Cape woodblocks, including 4d. dark blue, very fine; a grand lot of Sierra Leone; India, ½ anna red, a superb unused pair, 1a. rouletted on piece; Ceylon, 4d. rose imperf., &c.; fine Sydney Views; Queensland, 2d. blue imperf. (3 very fine); Trinidad, fine lithographs, 6d. green imperf., magnificent specimens; Victoria, 5s. blue on yellow, a fine block of 4; British Guiana, 1860 1c., a strip of 3, and single on entire, showing different types, and others.

Owing to the large number of applications that the Auctioneers receive from America and the Continent for their Catalogues, these are issued, when practicable, one month before the date of Sale. In order to facilitate this arrangement, owners intending to include Stamps should forward them at the earliest possible moment.

The greatest care is requisite in the preparation of these Catalogues, so that a correct and comprehensive description of the Stamps may be given.

VALUATIONS MADE IF REQUIRED.

Catalogues of all Sales and Terms can be had on application to

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ESTABLISHED 1761

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And will comprise the second portion of

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ANTIOQUIA, 1st issue, 5 cts. green. **BOLIVAR**, 1st issue, 10 c., green, unused. **CAPE**, 1d. and 4d. woodblocks. **CANADA**, 6d., perf.. on wove; and 6d., perf., on *laid*. **CEYLON**, 4d., 8d., and 2s., imperf. **COLUMBIAN REPUBLIC**, 1862, 20 c., red, and 1 peso, lilac on bluish. **NEW BRUNSWICK**, 6d. and 1s. **NEWFOUNDLAND**, 4d., carmine, unused; 6½d., carmine; and 1s., orange. **NOVA SCOTIA**, 1s. **NEW ZEALAND**, a rare lot. **NEW SOUTH WALES**, some very fine Sydney Views, including 1d. and 2d., unused. **OLDENBURG**, complete, including several errors. **QUEENSLAND**, 1d., 2d., and 6d., imperf. **REUNION**, an entire original sheet of 1st issue, 10 cts, black. **SAXONY**, 3 pf. **SCHLESWIG HOLSTEIN**, 1st issue, 1 sch., used. **SPAIN**, 1852, 2 reales, and many others. **SWITZERLAND**, the double Geneva, Basle, and 4 rap., Zurich. **TRINIDAD**, Lady MacLeod Local. **TUSCANY**, 60 crazie. **UNITED STATES**, a fine lot. **VICTORIA**, 5s., blue on yellow; 6d., orange, beaded oval, &c. **WESTERN AUSTRALIA**, 1st issue, complete, and the error, 2d., mauve; and many other rarities, the collection being especially strong in the early issues of **S. AMERICA** and **AUSTRALIA**.

This Sale will be followed by another—

On Monday & Tuesday, 4th & 5th of May.

Amongst the many Rare Stamps included will be the following:—

GREAT BRITAIN, 9d. hair lines, used, very fine. **SWITZERLAND**, Vand, 4 c, very fine, on original, and others. **LABUAN**, 6 c. on 16 c., blue, **CAPE**, 1d. woodblock, unused. **MAURITIUS**, a very fine lot of the "Post Paid," on pieces of original. **CANADA**, 6d. perf, **NOVA SCOTIA**, 1d., strip of 3, and 1s, violet, 2 copies. **NEW BRUNSWICK**, 1s, mauve, unused, and the Cannel stamp. **NEWFOUNDLAND**, 6d., carmine, used, superb, and 1s., orange, fine. **DOMINICA**, 1s., C.A., an unused pair. **NEVIS**, 6d., litho, used; 6d., green; 6d., green, 2 fine used copies; and 1s., violet, a pair; and two others. **ST. LUCIA**, 1s., black and orange (2). and wmk. C.A., 6d., violet, and 1s., orange brown (2), all used and fine. **ST. VINCENT**, 1d. on 6d., and 4d. on 1s., superb. **TURKS ISLANDS**, 1s. prime, two very fine copies. **VIRGIN ISLANDS**, perf. 15, 6d. rose, and 1s. single line border. **WESTERN AUSTRALIA**, the rare error, 2d., mauve, used, and other varieties.

The next Sales will be held on 28th & 29th May, and 15th & 16th June.

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3†	,, ,, ½a. to 1 Rupee, set of 10	4	6 ...	48	0
4†	,, ,, ½a. to 5 Rupees, set of 15	25	0 ...		
5†	,, ,, provisional, ½ anna (in manuscript) on 3 annas ...	30	0 ...		
6*	British East Africa, provisional (on Indian), ½, 1, 2, 2½a.	30	0 ...		
7†	,, ,, ½a., 1a, 1½a., 2a., and 2½a., set of 5	30	0 ...		
8†	,, ,, provisional (on B. E. A. Co.), 3 annas	8	0 ...		
9†	,, ,, ,, ,, 4 annas	8	0 ...		
10†	British Bechuanaland, 1s. (on English)	7	0 ...		
11†	Niger Coast, 1st issue, 2½d.	0	10 ...	9	0
12†	,, ,, 5d.	1	6 ...		
13†	British Bechuanaland, ½d., Protectorate, in large type	6	6 ...		
14†	Bulgaria, 1896, 1, 5, 15, and 25 stot, set of 4	0	9 ...		
15†	Cuba, 1896, ½d., 1d., and 2 mils green	0	2 ...	1	6
16†	Gibraltar, 1896. 20c. olive	0	4 ...	3	3
17†	Perak, 2c., 1895	0	2 ...	1	6
18†	Norway, 1893, 1 ore	0	1 ...	0	6
19†	Uruguay, 1896, 2c. blue	0	2 ...	1	6
20†	Straits Settlements, 2c. brown, C.A.	6	0 ...		
21*	,, ,, ,, ,, ...	3	0 ...		
22*	Gwalior, 1895 (native surcharge), ½a.	0	2 ...	1	6
23*	,, ,, ,, 1a.	0	3 ...	2	6
24†	Queensland, 1895, ½d., with *burelé*	0	3 ...	2	6
25†	,, ,, ½d., thick paper	0	2 ...	1	9
26†	,, ,, ½d., with "secret" watermark	0	3 ...	2	6
27†	Mauritius, 3c. lilac	0	2 ...	1	9
28†	Portuguese Indies, provisional (crown type), 1½ on 5 Reis	0	2 ...	1	6
29†	,, ,, ,, ,, 1½ on 20 Reis	1	6 ...	15	0
30†	,, ,, ,, ,, 1½ and 4½ (double surcharge) on 5 Reis	15	0 ...		
31†	,, ,, ,, ,, 4½ on 5 Reis	2	0 ...	18	0
32†	,, ,, ,, ,, 4½ on 20 Reis	0	4 ...	3	6
33†	Transvaal, ½d. on 1s. green	0	3 ...	2	6
34†	,, 1d. on 2½d. violet	0	4 ...	3	0
35†	,, 6d. pink fiscal, surcharged "Postzegel," in green	3	6 ...	35	0
36†	Sweden, 6 ore, *with posthorn*	10	0 ...		
37†	British Guiana, 1889, 2c. mauve and black	1	3 ...	12	6

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BRITISH SOUTH AFRICA COMPANY.

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Of Rare Postage Stamps.

Messrs. BUHL & CO. Limited,

BEG TO ANNOUNCE THAT THEIR NEXT SALE WILL BE HELD AT

ANDERTON'S HOTEL, FLEET STREET,

LONDON, E.C.,

On APRIL 22nd and 23rd, 1896.

The Catalogue will include an exceptionally fine collection of Colonial and other rarities, and many useful lots of Duplicates, &c., fuller particulars of which will be duly announced.

Catalogues may be had gratis of the Auctioneers as below.

PERIODICAL MONTHLY SALES

WILL BE HELD THROUGHOUT THE SEASON.

Collectors and others wishing to include Lots in these Sales should send them to the Auctioneers as early as possible.

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11, QUEEN VICTORIA STREET, LONDON, E.C.

Telegraphic Address: "PHILATELY," London.] [ESTABLISHED 1880.

Charles Jones, Printer, 5 & 6, West Harding Street, London, E.C.

VOL. 18.—No. 4. April, 1896.

THE PHILATELIC RECORD

and Stamp News.

EDITED BY

EDWARD J. NANKIVELL.

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A very nice lot of Trinidad, especially in shades of the early issues; also an unusually fine lot of pin perfs., the accumulation of years, now arranged for sale for the first time. In Tobago there are some nice shillings, 4d. C.C. and C.C., and several of the rarities.

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2 a.	3 6	4 0
2 a.	2 0	2 6
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4 a.	3 0	5 0
6 a.	5 0	7 6
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1 rupee	10 0	12 0
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(Small "z" and inverted "q" instead of "b").

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1 „	0	9	6 „ ...	3	6
1½ „	1	6	8 „ ...	4	0
2 annas	1	6	12 „ ...	5	0
2½ „	1	6	1 rupee ...	8	0
3 „	3	0			

		s.	d.
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Gibraltar,	5 pesetas, obsolete ...	7	6
Trinidad,	5s., 1894	8	0
Zululand,	5d., on English ...	4	0
„	9d. „	7	6
„	1s. „	8	0
„	5s. „	60	0
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DATES OF SALES. — April 28th & 29th; May 14th & 15th, 21st & 22nd; June 11th.

Messrs. VENTOM, BULL, & COOPER, in announcing the dates which have already been fixed to the end of this season, beg to draw attention to the following Important Sales :—

APRIL 28th & 29th.—A fine selection of rare British, Foreign, and Colonial Stamps, including the following rarities:—Vaud, 4c., Basle, Neufchatel, Tuscany; 9cr. on white, rare errors of English, imperforate and colours, Bremen envelope used, 7gr. used, Barbados 1d. on half 5s. a fine pair, St. Lucia, 1s. black and orange and 1s. orange-red used, St. Vincent, 1d. on half 6d. used on piece, 1d. on 6d. and ½d. on half 6d. a pair, Tobago 1d. on half 6d. used on piece, Trinidad, lithographed, superb specimens of coarse and fine printings, 4d. and 6d. imperf. fine; Virgin Islands, 1s. crimson used; Victoria, 5s. blue on yellow superb; Nevis 6d. lithographed used, and several collections.

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3†	,, ,, ,, provisionals, 5a. and 7½a., pair	20	0 ...		
4*	,, ,, ,, ,, ,, ,, ...	22	6 ...		
5†	,, ,, provisional, ½a. (in manuscript) on 3 annas ...	30	0 ...		
6†	British South Africa Co., 1896. ½d. to 1s., complete set of 8	4	6 ...	48	0
7†	British Bechuanaland, 1s. (on English)	7	0 ...		
8†	Bhopal, 1896, ½a black	0	2 ...	1	3
9†	,, ½a. red	0	2 ...	1	6
10†	,, ½a., green	0	3 ...	2	0
11†	Bulgaria, 1896, 1, 5, 10, 15, 25 and 30 stot, set of 6	1	3 ...		
12*	Columbia, 2c., green	0	2 ...	1	4
13*	,, 5c., brown	0	3 ...	2	0
14*	,, 10c., Registration, brown on buff	0	4 ...	3	0
15*	,, 2½c., Unpaid, blue on Salmon	0	3 ...	2	3
16†	Corea, 1895, 5c. green	0	1 ...	0	2
17†	Cuba, 1896, ½, 1, and 2 mils	0	2 ...	1	6
18†	Gibraltar, 1896, 20c. olive	0	4 ...	3	0
19*	Gold Coast, 10s., rose and lilac	7	0 ...		
20*	Gwalior, 1895, native inscription, ½a.	0	2 ...	1	6
21*	,, ,, ,, 1a.	0	3 ...	2	6
22*	Labuan, 1892, litho., ½c. to 40c. (cancelled) set of 7	1	10 ...	20	0
23†	Mauritius, 1896, 3c. lilac	0	2 ...	1	6
24†	Norway, 1896, 1 ore	0	1 ...	0	6
25†	Pahang, 1895, 3c.	0	2 ...	1	9
26†	Portugal, 1895, 10r	0	2 ...	1	3
27†	Perak, 1895, 1c.	0	1 ...	0	9
28†	,, 2c	0	2 ...	1	6
29†	Peru, 1895, 10c., yellow	1	0 ...	10	0
30*	,, ,, 10c., green, surcharged with head	0	6 ...		
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Zanzibar Protectorate.

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BRITISH INDIAN STAMPS SURCHARGED "ZANZIBAR."

Type I, surcharged "Zanzibar."

	s.	d.		s.	d.
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1 „	0	6	6 „	3	6
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2 annas	1	0	2 rupees ...	12	0
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(Small "z").

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2 annas	1	0	12 „ ...	5	0
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1 „	0	6	6 „ ...	3	6
1½ „	1	0	8 „ ...	4	0
2 annas	1	6	12 „ ...	5	0
2½ „	1	6	1 rupee ...	8	0
3 „	3	0			

		s.	d.
Bulgaria,	Prince Boris, 4 adhesives and 3 postcards ...	1	6
Gibraltar,	5 pesetas, obsolete ...	7	6
Trinidad,	5s., 1894	8	0
Zululand,	5d., on English ...	4	0
„	9d. „	7	6
„	1s. „	8	0
„	5s. „	60	0
Dominica,	1s. C. A.	140	0
„	6d. C. A.	21	0
St. Helena,	1s. C. C.	3	0

Monthly List of Philatelic Novelties, 6d. per annum, post free.

WHITFIELD KING & CO.,

Stamp Importers,

IPSWICH.

ESTABLISHED 1869.

PERIODICAL SALES BY AUCTION OF

RARE POSTAGE STAMPS

HELD BY

VENTOM, BULL, & COOPER

(*Who originated them in this Country*),

AT THE

St. Martin's Town Hall, Charing Cross, S.W.

THE LAST SALE OF THE PRESENT SEASON

WILL BE HELD

On June the 16th and 17th,

And will include the following rarities, viz. :—

BASLE, 2½ rappen; OLDENBURG, second issue, ⅓ gr., used, &c.; SAXONY, 3 pf.; GREAT BRITAIN, £5 on bluish; MECKLENBURG-SCHWERIN, ⅓ gr., rouletted; superb lithographed TRINIDADS on entires; fine early FIJIS, including TIMES EXPRESS; BARBADOS, provisional 1d. on half 5s, a pair; CEYLON, 9d. and 2s. imperf.; CAPE OF GOOD HOPE, fine woodblocks and 4d. triangular rouletted on entire; MAURITIUS, Post Paid. 1d. and 2d.; provisional, 1s. on 5s., unused pairs; SOUTH AUSTRALIA, 1s. imperf., strip of three; UNITED STATES, 1869, 24c. with centre inverted, 30c block of six; TASMANIA, 1d. blue (3); WURTEMBURG, 70 kr., a superb used specimen; magnificent specimens of CANADA, 6d. green, 6d. perforated, and 10d. blue; VICTORIA, 5s. blue on yellow, a fine horizontal pair; and a grand lot of unused NEVIS, ST. VINCENT, DOMINICA, VIRGIN ISLANDS, ST. LUCIA, &c.; also a few collections.

NOTICE.

Messrs. VENTOM, BULL, & COOPER will commence their next Season's Auction Sales of Rare Postage Stamps about the end of September. It is particularly requested that owners desirous of obtaining special days of Sale should communicate as early as possible in order that due publicity may be given.

VALUATIONS MADE IF REQUIRED.

Catalogues of all Sales and Terms can be had on application to

VENTOM, BULL, & COOPER,

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THEIR NEXT SALE WILL TAKE PLACE

On Monday & Tuesday, 15th & 16th of June.

Amongst the many Rare Stamps included will be the following :—

Great Britain, a fine lot, including 6d. octagonal, an unused block of four 2s. red brown, two pairs, 1s. hair lines, a pair, imperf., 3d. with secret mark, 2d. Mulready's, used, &c., &c.

Spain, 2 reales, 1851, 1852, and 1853. and many others.

Switzerland, Zurich, 4 rappen, Basle, double Geneva, and other locals.

Tuscany, 2 soldi and 60 crazie.

Naples, ½ tornese, arms.

Portugal, 1st issue, 100 reis.

British East Africa Protectorate, a complete set, used, and other scarce provisionals.

Cape, woodblocks, 1d. and 4d., very fine.

Mauritius, Post Paid, 1d. and 2d., several superb copies, and others.

India, Long Service, 2 and 8 annas.

Dominica, 1s. C.A. and other rare West Indians.

Brazil, slanting figures, 180, 300, and 600 reis.

United States, fine sets of proofs of 1851, 1861, 1869, and 1870 issues, Departmentals, newspaper stamps, &c., complete.

Virgin Islands, a complete sheet of the 6d. perf. 12.

AND MANY OTHER RARITIES.

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Handy Pocket Albums for reconstructed sheets of English Stamps. 3d. each, 2s. 6d. per dozen.
(*Fourth Edition now Publishing*).

The plating of English Stamps has so caught on, by the issue of these little books, that there has already been constructed more sheets of English Stamps than all the other Countries of the World. 1,000 of these Albums take 240,000 Stamps to fill them—and although this cannot seriously affect used 1d. red plate numbers, such Stamps as 1d. Blacks and 2d. Blues (no lines)—will some day be as hard to complete as Sydney Views and Nevis.

Fine Selections of English and Colonial Stamps can be submitted on approval. References required.

OUR MONTHLY LIST OF
BARGAINS AND NOVELTIES.

IN ORDERING ONLY THE NUMBER NEED BE QUOTED.

		EACH. s.	d.	DOZEN. s.	d.
	* *Used.* † *Unused.*				
1†	British East Africa (on Company stamps), 4a.	2	6 ...		
2†	,, ,, ,, ,, 1 Rupee...	5	0 ...		
3†	,, ,, ,, ,, 4 Rupees	20	0 ...		
4†	British East Africa Co. (obsolete) ½a. to 1 Rupee, set of 10	4	0 ...	45	0
5†	,, ,, ,, ½a. to 5 Rupees, set of 15	20	0 ...		
6†	,, ,, ,, provisionals, 5a. and 7½a., pair	20	0 ...		
7*	,, ,, ,, ,, ,, ,, ...	22	6 ...		
8†	,, ,, provisional, ½a. (in manuscript) on 3 annas ...	30	0 ...		
9†	British South Africa Co., 1896, ½d. to 1s., complete set of 8	4	0 ...	45	0
10†	Bhopal, 1896, ¼a black	0	2 ...	1	3
11†	,, ½a. red	0	2 ...	1	6
12†	,, ¼a., green	0	3 ...	2	0
13†	Bulgaria, 1896, 1, 5, 10, 15, 25 and 30 stot, set of 6	1	3 ...		
14*	Columbia, 2c., green	0	2 ...	1	4
15*	,, 5c, brown	0	3 ...	2	0
16*	,, 10c., Registration, brown on buff	0	4 ...	3	0
17*	,, 2½c., Unpaid, blue on Salmon	0	3 ...	2	3
18†	Corea, 1895, 5c. green	0	1 ...	0	2
19†	Cuba, 1896, ½, 1, and 2 mils	0	2 ...	1	6
20†	Gibraltar, 1896, 20c. olive	0	4 ...	3	0
21*	Gwalior, 1895, native inscription, ¼a.	0	2 ...	1	6
22*	,, ,, ,, 1a.	0	3 ...	2	6
23*	Labuan, 1892, litho., ½c. to 40c. (cancelled) set of 7	1	10 ...	20	0
24†	Mauritius, 1896, 3c. lilac	0	2 ...	1	6
25†	,, 1880, 50c., green	2	3 ...		
26†	Laurenco Marques, 150r., pink	1	6 ...		
27†	New South Wales, 1885, 10s., blue surcharge	15	0 ...		
28†	Perak, 1895, 1c.	0	1 ...	0	9
29†	,, 2c	0	2 ...	1	6
30†	Panama, 1c. on 2c., pink, 2 types ... ... pair	0	6 ...		
31*	Peru, 10c., green, surcharged with head	0	6 ...		
32†	,, 1896, 1c., blue	0	1 ...	0	10
33†	Queensland, 1d., new type, on thin paper	0	4 ...	3	0
34†	Selangor, 1895, 3c.	0	2 ...	1	9
35*	Sweden, 6 ore, *with posthorn*	0	6 ...	5	0
36†	Siam, 1 on 64 atts, small surcharge	0	4 ...	2	9
37†	Transvaal, 1896, ½d. green	0	1 ...	0	10
38*	,, 1896, 1d., red and green	0	2 ...		
39†	Timor, ¼avo. on 2½r.	0	1 ...	0	10
40†	,, 1 avo. on 5r.	0	2 ...	1	6
41†	Uruguay, 1c., bistre	0	1 ...	0	9
42†	,, 2c. blue	0	2 ...		
43†	Victoria, unpaid, ½d., red and green	0	2 ...		

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BUHL & CO., Ltd., 11, Queen Victoria Street, London, E.C.

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Cape of Good Hope.	Newfoundland.	Greece.
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Barbados.	British Columbia.	Mauritius.
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New Brunswick.	Labuan.	St. Vincent.
All African Colonies.	Virgin Isles.	New Zealand.

The above and all others, as they are ready, **will be sent out in order of application, to Philatelists furnishing good and substantial references.**

Each book is a philatelic study of the stamps of the country represented.

SPECIAL ATTENTION

Is drawn to the fine condition and beauty of the specimens in this Collection, nearly every copy being specially picked and of the choicest description. Such stamps are worth three and four times as much as the ordinary Catalogued Specimens.

The Collection was made side by side with the

CELEBRATED TAPLING COLLECTION,

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Fine Specimens of old issues are fast appreciating in value, and in many cases will soon become unattainable. It may be interesting to note, that it took the late owner some 30 or 35 years to make this Collection.

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VOL. 18.—No. 6. June, 1896.

THE PHILATELIC RECORD

and Stamp News.

EDITED BY

EDWARD J. NANKIVELL.

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New Brunswick.	Labuan.	St. Vincent.
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½d., 1d., 2d., 4d., 5d., 6d., 10d., 1s., 2s., and 5s.; set of 10 for 17s. 6d.

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	* *Used.* † *Unused.*	*s.*	*d.*	*s.*	*d.*
	British East Africa Protectorate, New Type:—				
1†	½a., 1a., 2a., 2½a., 3a., 4a., 4½a., 5a., 7½a., 8a., and 1 Rupee—set of 11	9	0 ...		
2†	½a. to 5 Rupees complete set of 15	35	0 ...		
3*	British East Africa (on Company stamps), 1 Rupee...	7	6 ...		
4*	„ „ „ „ 4 Rupees	25	0 ...		
5†	British East Africa Co. (obsolete) ½a. to 1 Rupee, set of 10	4	0 ...	45	0
6†	„ „ „ ½a. to 5 Rupees, set of 15	20	0 ...		
7†	„ „ „ provisionals, 5a. and 7½a., pair	25	0 ...		
8*	„ „ „ „ „ „	30	0 ...		
9†	„ „ provisional, ½a. (in manuscript) on 3 annas ...	30	0 ...		
10†	British South Africa Co., 1896, ¼d. to 1s., complete set of 8	4	0 ...	45	0
11†	Barbados, 1896, ¼d.	0	1 ...	0	6
12†	Bolivia, 1894, 1c. to 100c. complete set of 7	3	0 ...		
13†	Bulgaria, 1896, 1, 5, 10, 15, 25 and 30 stot, set of 6	1	3 ...		
14†	Cuba, 1896, ½, 1, and 2 mils	0	2 ...	1	6
15†	Falkland Islands, 2d.	0	4 ...		
16†	Gibraltar, 1896, 20c. olive	0	4 ...	3	0
17*	Labuan, 1892, litho., ½c. to 40c. (cancelled) set of 7	1	10 ...	20	0
18†	Mauritius, 1896, 3c. lilac	0	2 ...	1	6
19†	Panama, 1c. on 2c., pink, 2 types ... ... pair	0	6 ...		
20†	Porto Rico, 1896, ½, 1, 2, and 4 mils, set of 4	0	4 ...	3	0
21†	Philippines, 1896, ½c., 1, 2, and 5 mils, set of 4	0	4 ...	3	0
22†	Queensland, 1d., new type, on thin paper	0	4 ...	3	0
23*	Sweden, 6 ore, *with posthorn*	0	9 ...	7	0
24†	Transvaal, 1895, ½d. grey	0	3 ...	2	6
25†	„ 1896, ½d., green	0	1 ...	0	10
26*	„ 1896, 1d., red and green	0	2 ...		
27†	Timor, ½avo. on 2½r.	0	1 ...	0	10
28†	„ 1 avo. on 5r.	0	2 ...	1	6
29*	Zanzibar (on Indian) ½a., 1a., 1½a., 2a., 2½a., and 4a., set of 6	15	0 ...		
30*	„ 2½ in red on 1½a., ...	30	0 ...		

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934*	„	— do., lilac-brown ...	30
935*	„	— do , blue	30
936*	„	— do., dark slate ...	30
937*	„	1851, red on *white* ...	45
938*	„	— do., lilac-brown ...	30
939	„	— do., red, *pair* ...	85
940	„	— do., red-brown ...	65

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944	„	— do., red	90
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821*	„	— 6d., star	90
822	„	— do., used	50
823*	„	1863, 4d., C.C.	14
824*	„	— 6d., „	18
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826	„	— do., used	10
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Vol. 18.—No. 7. July, 1896.

THE PHILATELIC RECORD

and Stamp News,

EDITED BY

EDWARD J. NANKIVELL.

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For announcement of Eleventh Sale, see p. vii.

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6†	„ „ „ ½a. to 5 Rupees, complete set of 15	20	0	...		
7*	British East Africa (on B. E. A. Co.), 4 Rupees, blue	30	0	...		
8†	„ „ (on India) 1 anna	0	6	...	5	0
9*	„ „ „ 1 anna	0	9	...		
10†	„ „ „ 1½ annas	0	10	...	9	0
11*	„ „ „ 1½ annas	1	3	...		
12†	„ „ „ 2 annas	0	9	...	8	0
13*	„ „ „ 2 annas	1	3	...		
14†	„ „ „ 4 annas	1	6	...	15	0
15*	„ „ „ 4 annas	2	0	...		
16†	„ „ „ 1 rupee, grey	6	0	...	65	0
17*	„ „ „ 1 rupee, grey	8	6	...		
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23†	„ envelope, 5c., blue	0	2	...	1	8
24†	„ 4c., rose, C.A.	1	3	...	12	0
25†	Cyprus, 1896, 30 paras	0	2	...		
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28†	Johore, 1896, 1c.	0	1	...	0	8
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32†	Oil Rivers, postcard, 1d., red	0	6	...	4	6
33†	Portuguese Indies, 1873, 10r., 15r., and 20r., small figures set of 3	4	6	...		
34†	„ „ 1873, 10 and 20 reis, on bluish, pair	2	6	...		
35†	„ „ 1873, 10r., small figures, "V" not barred	1	9	...		
36†	„ „ 1873, 10r. and 20r., large figures, "V" not barred, pair	2	6	...		
37†	„ „ 1873, 40r., blue, on thick paper	4	6	...		
38†	„ „ crown, 1½ on 20 reis	1	3	...		
39†	„ „ „ 1½r. and 4½r. on 5r. (double surcharge)	15	0	...		
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45†	Soruth, 1877, 1a., green on laid, imperf. (Sheet of 15 types, 7/6)	0	6	...		
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VOL. 18.—No. 9. September, 1896.

THE PHILATELIC RECORD

and Stamp News.

EDITED BY

EDWARD J. NANKIVELL.

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A very fine lot of unused English; Lagos, 2s. 6d. and 5s.; Virgin Islands, 1s., single lined border; New Zealand, 1d., on blue paper, several very fine copies; St. Lucia, C.A., 1s. orange; Queensland, 1d., imperf., a fine pair; &c., &c.

The following Sale on 26th and 27th OCTOBER will contain amongst other Fine Stamps:—

A magnificent collection of West Indians, including Dominica, C.A., 1s., used and unused; Montserrat, C.A., 4d. blue; St. Christopher, C A., 1d, lilac rose, unused; St. Vincent, 5s.; Virgin Islands, 6d., perf. 15, and 1s, single lined border, &c., &c.; New Brunswick and Nova Scotia, 6d. and 1s.; United States, fine Departmentals.

In addition to the above Sales, Messrs. Puttick & Simpson will hold Sales of Rare Postage Stamps on October 26th and 27th; November 17th, 18th, and 30th; December 1st and 14th. 1897—January 5th, 6th, 19th and 20th; February 2nd, 3rd, 16th and 17th; March 2nd, 3rd, 16th and 17th; April 5th, 6th, 27th and 28th; May 11th, 25th and 26th; June 15th, 16th, 29th and 30th.

When possible Messrs. Puttick & Simpson issue their Catalogues one month in advance, in order to circulate in America and on the Continent.

LIBERAL ADVANCES PENDING REALISATION, IF REQUIRED.

FOR TERMS AND FULL PARTICULARS ADDRESS:

Messrs. PUTTICK & SIMPSON,

Established 1794. *47, LEICESTER SQUARE, LONDON.*

Our MONTHLY LIST of BARGAINS & NOVELTIES

IN ORDERING ONLY THE NUMBER NEED BE QUOTED.

* *Used.* † *Unused.*

		EACH. s.	d.		DOZEN s.	d.
1†	British East Africa (on India) ½a. to 5 Rupees, complete	60	0	...		
2†	,, ,, 2 annas, blue	0	9	...	7	6
3†	,, ,, 1 Rupee, grey	7	0	...	70	0
4*	British East Africa Co. provisionals, ½ anna in manuscript on 3 annas ...	21	0	...		
5*	,, ,, ½a., 2½a., 3a., and 4½a. Pair, *imperforate between* each pair	30	0	...		
6*	British South Africa Co., on thick paper, perf. 12½, 2d. and 4d. pair	12	0	...		
7	,, ,, (obsolete), ½d. to 2s set of 9	8	6	...		
8†	Fiji, 1d., rose	0	2	...		
9*	Gibraltar, 75c., green	2	6	...		
10†	,, 5 pesetas, black	8	6	...		
11†	Japan War stamps, 2s., rose, 2 varieties ... ... each	0	3	...	2	0
12†	,, ,, 5s., blue, ,, ... each	0	5	...	4	0
13†	Mocambique Co., 1892... ... ... set complete	3	6	...	37	6
14*	,, ,, ... ,,	3	3	...	35	0
15*	,, 1894, 2½ to 100r. ... ... set of 10	4	0	...		
16*	,, 1894... ... ... complete set of 15	15	0	...		
17*	Madagascar, British Inland Mail, 1895, 1d., 4d., 8d. and 1s. set of 4	30	0	...		
18†	Peru, surcharged with head, 2c., vermilion	0	4	...	3	0
19†	,, ,, ,, 2c., lake	0	4	...	3	0
20†	,, ,, ,, 2c., purple	0	4	...	3	0
21†	South Australia, set from 2s 6d. to £20, complete, surcharged "specimen"	40	0	...		
22†	Spain, 1895, Oficial, 15c., yellow	0	6	...	5	0
23†	,, 1896 ,, 15c., rose	0	5	...	4	0
24*	Straits Settlements, 2c., brown, C.A...	2	3	...		
25*	,, ,, 4c., rose, C.A.	4	0	...		
26†	Swazieland, 1s., green	2	6	...		
27†	Victoria, 1895, 2s., yellow green	21	0	...		
28†	Zanzibar (on India), set from ½ anna to 5 Rupees, complete	60	0	...		

POSTAGE EXTRA.

BUHL & CO., Ltd., 11, Queen Victoria Street, London, E.C.

TURKS ISLANDS.

1882-7 issue. (Watermarked crown and C.A.) 6d. yellow brown and 1s. black brown unused.
The pair, 5s. 6d. only.

Complete sheet of 30 stamps each with full margin and gum.
The 60 stamps for £7.

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MULREADY 2d. BLUE.

An entire uncut sheet of 12 letter sheets and a similar sheet of the envelopes.
Handsomely framed and in superb condition.

Apply to—D. T., c/o BUHL & Co., Ltd., 11, Queen Victoria Street, E.C.

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"PEROZE" COLUMBIAN COLLECTION

(The Finest in the World)

Will be SOLD at AUCTION in NEW YORK

During the month of NOVEMBER.

CATALOGUES CAN BE OBTAINED OF THE

J. W. SCOTT CO., Ltd.,
40, John Street,
New York City, U.S.A.

MR. W. HADLOW,

331, STRAND,

(LATE OF EXETER STREET),

LONDON, W.C.

STAMPS BOUGHT, SOLD, OR EXCHANGED.

Collections Wanted:

ANY PRICE

From £1 to £1000.

Lots sent on approval will either be settled for or returned same day.

BRITISH COLONIALS

Principally Wanted.

Foreign Correspondence Desired.

Selections of Stamps sent on approval on receipt of satisfactory references.

Note change of Address—

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AFGHANISTAN.

We have just Purchased a

CHEAP PARCEL OF THE UNDERMENTIONED RARE VARIETIES,

Which we are enabled to offer at

EXTRAORDINARILY LOW PRICES.

NO.		EACH.
1.	1870 (1288), dotted inner circle, Shahi black (catalogued 20s.) ...	5/-
2.	1870 (1288), dotted inner circle, Sunar black (catalogued 40s.) ...	10/-
3.	1870 (1288), dotted inner circle, Abasi black (catalogued 20s.) ...	6/-
4.	1870 (1288), plain inner circle, Shahi black (catalogued 50s.) ...	12/-
5.	1870 (1288), plain inner circle, Sunar black (catalogued 65s.) ...	15/-
6.	1870 (1288), plain inner circle, Abasi black, (catalogued 50s.) ...	12/6
7.	1875 (1293), Shahi grey and greenish grey, each	2/-
8.	1875 (1293), Sunar grey and greenish grey, each	3/-
9.	1875 (1293), Shahi brown ...	15/-
10.	1876 (1294), Shahi green ...	3/-
11.	„ „ Shahi purple ...	1/6
12.	„ „ Shahi yellow ...	2/-
13.	„ „ Shahi grey	2/6
14.	1878 (1295 I), Shahi grey ...	2/-
15.	„ „ Sunar „	2/-
16.	„ „ Shahi greenish ...	2/-
17.	1878 (1295 II), Shahi green ...	1/6

ALL THE ABOVE ARE USED.

In ordering only the number need be quoted.

BUHL & CO., Limited,

11, QUEEN VICTORIA STREET,

LONDON, E.C.

TWELFTH SALE.

MESSRS. BUHL & CO., LIMITED,

BEG TO ANNOUNCE THAT THEIR NEXT

SALE BY AUCTION

WILL TAKE PLACE AT

Anderton's Hotel, Fleet Street,

LONDON, E.C.,

On 6th and 7th of OCTOBER, 1896,

AT 6 O'CLOCK EACH DAY.

The Catalogue will contain a fine Collection and other lots from various private sources, including, among other rarities :—

SPAIN.—A fine lot of the earlier issues in superb blocks, strips, &c.

BUENOS AYRES.—4 pesos red, and other rare South American; **Nova Scotia** 1s. violet; Rare West Indian, &c. &c. Also many useful lots of remainder of collection, duplicates, and scarce philatelic works.

PERIODICAL MONTHLY SALES

Will be held throughout the season, and Sales have been fixed on the following dates :—

November 3rd and 4th; December 1st, 2nd, and 17th. 1897: January 12th and 13th; February 9th and 10th; March 9th and 10th; April 6th and 7th; May 4th and 5th.

Collectors and others wishing to include Lots in these Sales should communicate with the Auctioneers as soon as possible.

Terms on Application.

LIBERAL CASH ADVANCES MADE

Pending Realization, if desired.

Catalogues gratis of the Auctioneers,

BUHL & CO., LIMITED,

Philatelic Experts, Dealers, Auctioneers, and Publishers,

11, QUEEN VICTORIA STREET, LONDON, E.C.

Telegraphic Address: "PHILATELY," London.] [ESTABLISHED 1880.

Charles Jones, Printer, 1 & 2, West Harding Street, London, E.C.

VOL. 18.—No. 10. October, 1896.

THE PHILATELIC RECORD

and Stamp News.

EDITED BY

EDWARD J. NANKIVELL.

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11, QUEEN VICTORIA STREET, E.C.

SIXPENCE.

ESTABLISHED 1880.

FREDERICK R. GINN,

143, STRAND, LONDON.

HAS BOUGHT A

Collection 40,000 Stamps,

ONE OF THE

MOST IMPORTANT PURCHASES

Ever made in the Philatelic World. Every Stamp in most beautiful condition. The rarest to commonest varieties in superb ranges of shades.

THIS MAGNIFICENT COLLECTION is specially rich in Old Colonials and European issues; although every country is well represented. The following books are now ready, fresh ones added every week:—

Ceylon.	Canada.	Queensland.
Cape of Good Hope.	Newfoundland.	Greece.
Trinidad.	Nova Scotia.	Japan.
Barbados.	British Columbia.	Mauritius.
Bahamas.	Tobago.	St. Helena.
New Brunswick.	Labuan.	St. Vincent.
All African Colonies.	Virgin Isles.	New Zealand.
Great Britain.	All European Countries.	

The above and all others, as they are ready, **will be sent out in order of application, to Philatelists furnishing good and substantial references.**

Each book is a philatelic study of the stamps of the country represented.

The Collection was made side by side with the

CELEBRATED TAPLING COLLECTION,

NOW IN THE BRITISH MUSEUM.

Fine Specimens of old issues are fast appreciating in value, and in many cases will soon become unattainable. It may be interesting to note, that it took the late owner some 30 or 35 years to make this Collection.

SPECIAL ATTENTION!

A CATALOGUE FULL OF BARGAINS.

Just Published. Season 1896-1897.

PRICE CATALOGUE (over 300 pages) only 1s. post free.

FULL OF BARGAINS. All Stamps priced are in Stock. Many Stamps are quoted 20 to 50 per cent. lower than other catalogues, and a great saving will result to all ordering from this Catalogue.

FREDERICK R. GINN,

143, STRAND, LONDON.

London's Philatelic Centre for Buying or Selling Stamps.

BANKERS: The London and Provincial Bank, and Messrs. Glyn, Mills, Currie & Co.

HADLOW'S AUCTIONS

Nov. 9th. — General Sale. Wholesale Lots, Collections, etc.

Nov. 10th.—Very fine Collection of Entires and Stamps on Entires, Fine British North Americans, Splits, etc, Rare Europeans.

Nov. 16th & 17th.—Very fine Collection (Specialists) of Ceylon, India and Australia, including the following:—

Ceylon, imperf., 4d., 8d., 9d., 1s. 9d., 2s.; perf., 8d. brown, unused, 8d. yellow-brown, unused, 2 rupees 50c., used and unused. **India**, ½ anna, error; 6a 8 pies Service; Long Service, 24 and 8 annas, unused. **Victoria**, strip of 3, 1st issue, 1d. red-brown, pair of ditto brick-red, pair of 3d., unused, 6d orange serpentine, perf., pair. **South Australia**, 8d. O.S. **New South Wales**, fine Sydneys. **Western Australia**, 1st issues, 2nd issue, 4d. used. **Tasmania**, 1st issue, 1d., unused, 6d. rouletted. **New Zealand**, early issues, unused, 6d. pelure, unused, 6d. N.Z., unused. **Queensland**, a superb collection, 1st issue, 1d., unused; 1d script, unused; 1d. red-brown, unused; 2d., imperf., 6d., imperf., 5s., unused, 1s. burele, unused, and very many other rarities, all in beautiful condition.

Dec. 11th. — General Sale. Wholesale Lots, Collections, etc.

Mr. W. HADLOW will now hold his Auction Sales of Postage Stamps in the spacious and commodious Rooms of the LONDON PHILATELIC CLUB & EXCHANGE, 40, Jermyn Street, London, S.W., each day as advertised at 6 o'clock promptly.

REFRESHMENTS PROVIDED.

All Lots on View a Week previous to Sale.

Note New Address:

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331, Strand,
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ARE MAKING UP A

NEW SERIES

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Of Separate Countries or Groups.

A list of those which are ready will be sent on application.

THERE are no great rarities, nor are minor varieties of perforation, &c., charged at fancy prices; but the moderate Collector will be able to fill up many gaps in his collection from these books at a reasonable price.

Applicants unknown to us must send first-class references.

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British East Africa,

Provisional "2½" in red on 1½ anna Indian, 20/- each; undivided pair for 35/-

The "INTERCHANGEABLE" ALBUMS

Are the best for advanced Collectors. We send them on approval, and we quote reduced prices for three or more volumes.

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Monthly List of Philatelic Novelties and Bargains 6d. per annum, post free.

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STAMPS OF GREAT BRITAIN.

Considerably over 10,000 distinct varieties in stock, comprising

Postage, Fiscal, Telegraph, College, Railway, Envelopes, Newsbands, Postcards, &c., which have been carefully selected for mint condition, unused and lightly cancelled used copies. Collectors wanting really fine copies should see my approval books of any of the above varieties, and make their selections from

THE PICK OF THE MARKET.

Also a good stock always on hand of British Colonials and Foreign Postage, Fiscal, and Telegraph Stamps.

Reconstructed sheet of 2d. blue, 1841, imperf., plate 3, 60s.; ditto, plate 4, 60s.; ditto, 1d. red, perf. 14, large crown, 5s. 6d.

WALTER MORLEY,
186, West Green Road, Tottenham, N.

ALL COLLECTORS

Wishing to improve their Collections are advised to inspect our

ENORMOUS & COMPREHENSIVE STOCK.

SELECTIONS sent on Approval (against satisfactory references) of CHEAP and RARE Varieties of ENGLISH, COLONIAL, and FOREIGN Stamps, arranged and classified
GOOD DISCOUNT allowed, and Orders promptly executed from any current Catalogue.
PRICE LIST of Hundreds of Cheap Packets, Sets, and Albums, Gratis.

Established 1870. **WINCH BROTHERS,** Established 1870.
COLCHESTER.

H. L'ESTRANGE EWEN,

Specialist Dealer in British Stamps,
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Magnificent Stock of all British Postage and Telegraph Stamps NOW ON HAND.

Three Fine Collections now ready to be sent on approval:—

I. Essays, Proofs, Imperforates	£1,250	PRACTICALLY EVERY VARIETY IN STOCK.
II. Unused	£850	
III. Used	£150	

10 per cent DISCOUNT ALLOWED.

N.B.—The 5th Edition of my STANDARD CATALOGUE of BRITISH STAMPS IS NOW READY. Over 200 pages. Full particulars on application. See special Advertisement in next number.

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Whole Page	£3 0 0	£2 16 0	£2 12 6	£2 4 0
Half Page.....	1 14 0	1 10 0	1 7 0	1 4 0
Quarter Page	1 2 0	1 0 0	0 18 0	0 15 0

Small Advertisements—5s. per inch, in double column, prepaid

Accounts for a series payable quarterly. Single insertion payable in advance.
Enquiries connected with the Advertisement pages should be addressed to Mr. E. J. NANKIVELL, 28, Birdhurst Rise, Croydon.
Advertisements must be received not later than the 15th of the month for publication in the next issue.

REVISED PRICES FOR NOVEMBER.

The following are all in Stock at the time of offering:—

BRITISH SOUTH AFRICA CO.

		†Unused.	*Used.	£	s.	d.
*1891,	½d., 1d., 2d., 3d., 4d., 6d., 8d., 1s. and 2s.		Set of nine	0	8	0
* ,,	6d. dark blue			0	1	0
* ,,	5s. yellow			0	10	0
* ,,	10s. dark green, fiscal cancellation			0	6	0
* ,,	£1 blue, ,, ...			0	10	6
* ,,	£5 olive green, ,, ...			1	7	6
† ,,	½d.			0	0	1
† ,,	1d.			0	0	2
† ,,	1d. variety on white paper			0	5	0
† ,,	8d.			0	1	6
† ,,	2s. 6d.			0	4	6
*1895,	on thick paper, perf. 12½, 2d. and 4d. Pair			0	12	0
†1896,	Provisional "Threepence" on 5s. yellow			0	17	6
† ,,	Provisional on Cape, ½d.			0	1	6
† ,,	,, ,, 1d.			0	1	6
† ,,	,, ,, 2d.			0	1	6
* ,,	,, ,, 2d			0	2	0
† ,,	,, ,, 3d.			0	12	0
* ,,	,, ,, 3d.			0	12	0
† ,,	,, ,, 4d.			0	6	6
† ,,	,, ,, 6d.			0	8	6
* ,,	,, ,, 6d.			0	8	6
† ,,	½d. to 6d. Set of six...			1	10	0
†1895,	New design, ½d., 1d., 2d., 3d., 4d., 6d., 8d., and 1s.		Set of eight ...	0	6	0
†1896,	Do. re-drawn, ½d. to 1s.		Set of eight	0	4	6

BRITISH CENTRAL AFRICA.

*1891,	3s. brown and green	0	6	0		
*1896,	3s. black and yellow	0	3	6		
*1896,	2s. 6d. fiscal, used postally	0	7	0		

BRITISH EAST AFRICA CO.

†1890,	½a to 1 rupee. Set of 10	0	4	0		
† ,,	½a to 5 rupees. Complete set of 15...	0	18	0		
† ,,	8 annas and 1 rupee, grey. Pair	1	12	6		
* ,,	½ anna (in manuscript) on 3 annas	1	10	0		
† ,,	Provisionals, 5 on 8a. and 7½a. on 1 rupee	1	5	0		

BRITISH EAST AFRICA PROTECTORATE.

*1896,	(on B. E. A. Co.) 4 rupees blue	1	10	0		
† ,,	(on India) 1a	0	0	6		
* ,,	,, 1a.	0	0	9		
† ,,	,, 1½a.	0	0	9		
* ,,	,, 1½a.	0	1	0		
† ,,	,, 2as.	0	0	9		
* ,,	,, 2as.	0	1	0		
† ,,	,, 4as.	0	1	3		
* ,,	,, 4as.	0	1	9		
† ,,	,, 1 rupee grey	0	8	6		
* ,,	,, 1 rupee grey	0	10	6		
† ,,	,, ½ anna to 5 rupees. Complete set of 15	3	0	0		

ZANZIBAR.

†1896,	(on India) ½ anna to 5 rupees. Complete set of 14	3	0	0		

Cash with order. Postage extra.

BUHL & Co., Ltd., 11, Queen Victoria St., London, E.C.

PERIODICAL SALES BY AUCTION

OF

RARE POSTAGE STAMPS.

HELD BY

Messrs. VENTOM, BULL & COOPER

(WHO ORIGINATED THEM IN THIS COUNTRY), AT THE

ST. MARTIN'S TOWN HALL,

CHARING CROSS, S.W.

MESSRS. VENTOM, BULL, & COOPER beg to announce that their Dates of Sales for the ensuing season will be as under:—

1896. October 28th and 29th; November 12th and 13th, 26th and 27th; December 15th and 16th, and 30th.

1897. January 13th and 14th, 28th and 29th; February 10th and 11th, 25th and 26th; March 11th and 12th, 30th and 31st; April 14th and 15th, and 29th; May 12th and 13th, 27th and 28th; June 16th.

OCTOBER 28th & 29th.—A Fine Private Collection, comprising the following rarities:

Oldenburg, complete, including ½ gr. yellow, used; French Colonies, 4 c. grey, a fine pair; Hungary, 3 kr. litho., unused; Cape of Good Hope, woodblocks, 1d. red, superb, and 4d. dark blue, fine; Mauritius, large fillet, 2d. blue; British Guiana, fine large unused blocks of 1860 issues, provl. 2 c. and 4 c.; Grenada, ½d. error postage, used; Canada, 7½d. green, used, on piece, very fine; Nevis, lithographed, 6d. olive, used, and another unused, and others; New Brunswick, 6d. yellow, fine; St. Domingo, 1st issue. 1 real yellow, used; St. Vincent, wmk. star, 1d. drab, and 4d. ultramarine, unused, with gum, and provls.; fine Sydney Views and laureateds; Philippines, 1 rl. violet, surcharged Habilitado, &c., used; Turks Islands, a scarce lot of provisionals; Ceylon, 1s. 9d. fine; Victoria, 2d., fine background; Fiji Islands, early issues, a fine lot; Queensland, 1st issue, 1d., 2d., and 6d.; Virgin Islands, 1s. crimson on blue paper, unused and fine; an original £100 Thompson lot of West Indies; and others.

NOTICE.—Messrs. Ventom, Bull, & Cooper have received instructions from Mr. Dominic Brosnan, who is going abroad owing to ill-health, to Sell by Auction, at the St. Martin's Town Hall, Charing Cross, on Wednesday, October 28th, at 5.30 p.m. precisely (just previous to the sale of Stamps), the Lease of the Shop, No. 27, New Oxford Street, now in his occupation, occupying a prominent position nearly facing Mudie's Library, together with the Goodwill of the business, successfully carried on during the last 8 years. The Lease has 2¾ years unexpired, with option of renewal at the low rent of £100 per annum, including rates and taxes. Particulars of Guilford E. Lewis, Esq., 14, South Square, Gray's Inn; at the St. Martin's Town Hall; and of the Auctioneers, 35, Old Jewry, London, E.C.

These Sales are attended by all the principal known Collectors and Dealers, and afford the best means of disposing of collections and rarities, the prices obtained being most satisfactory to owners. It is advisable that owners desirous of obtaining special days of sale should communicate as early as possible, as the dates are being rapidly filled up.

Owing to the large number of applications that the Auctioneers receive from America and the Continent for their Catalogue, these are issued, when practicable, one month before the date of Sale. In order to facilitate this arrangement, owners intending to include Stamps should forward them at the earliest possible moment. The greatest care is requisite in the preparation of these Catalogues, so that a correct and comprehensive description of the Stamps may be given.

VALUATIONS MADE IF REQUIRED.

CATALOGUES of all Sales and Terms can be had on application to

Messrs. VENTOM, BULL, & COOPER,

(Philatelic Department), 35, OLD JURY, LONDON, E.C.

TELEGRAPHIC ADDRESS: "VENTOM," LONDON. TELEPHONE NUMBER, 15,076.

ESTABLISHED 1761.

MESSRS. PUTTICK & SIMPSON,

Literary, Fine Art, and Philatelic Auctioneers,

47, LEICESTER SQUARE, LONDON, W.C.,

MAKE THE SALE OF

RARE POSTAGE STAMPS

A SPECIALITY.

THE NEXT SALE

WILL TAKE PLACE ON

The 26th and 27th OCTOBER,

And contains amongst other Fine Stamps,

A MAGNIFICENT COLLECTION OF WEST INDIANS,

INCLUDING

Dominica, C.A., 1s., used and unused; Montserrat, C.A., 4d. blue; St. Christopher, C.A., 1d. lilac-rose, unused; St. Vincent, 5s. rose; Tobago, 6d. ochre, C.A.; Nevis, 6d. green; St. Lucia, 1s. orange, used and unused; Virgin Isles, 6d., perf. 15, and 1s., single-lined border, &c., &c.; New Brunswick and Nova Scotia, 6d. and 1s.; United States, fine Departmentals.

In addition to the above Sales, Messrs. Puttick & Simpson will hold Sales of Rare Postage Stamps on November 17th, 18th, and 30th; December 1st and 14th. 1897—January 5th, 6th, 19th and 20th; February 2nd, 3rd, 16th and 17th; March 2nd, 3rd, 16th and 17th; April 5th, 6th, 27th and 28th; May 11th, 25th and 26th; June 15th, 16th, 29th and 30th.

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Established 1794. *47, LEICESTER SQUARE, LONDON.*

Our Monthly List
OF
BARGAINS & NOVELTIES.

IN ORDERING ONLY THE NUMBER NEED BE QUOTED.

			EACH. s.	d.	DOZEN s.	d.
1†	Fiji, 1d., rose		0	2 ...		
2*	Gibraltar, 75c, green		2	6 ...		
3†	,, 5 pesetas, black		8	6 ...		
4†	Japan War stamps, 2s., rose, 2 varieties ... ... each		0	3 ...	2	0
5†	,, ,, 5s., blue, ,, ... each		0	5 ...	4	0
6†	Mocambique Co., 1892... ... ... set complete		3	6 ...	37	6
7*	,, ,, ... ,,		3	3 ...	35	0
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Vol. 18.—No. 11. November, 1896.

The Philatelic Record

and Stamp News.

EDITED BY

EDWARD J. NANKIVELL.

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11, Queen Victoria Street.

LONDON, E.C.

Our Monthly List
OF
BARGAINS & NOVELTIES.

IN ORDERING ONLY THE NUMBER NEED BE QUOTED.

			EACH.		DOZEN	
	* *Used.* † *Unused.*		*s.*	*d.*	*s.*	*d.*
1†	Fiji, 1d., rose		0	2 ...		
2*	Gibraltar, 75c., green		2	6 ...		
3†	,, 5 pesetas, black		8	6 ...		
4†	Japan War stamps, 2s., rose, 2 varieties ... ... each		0	3 ...	2	0
5†	,, ,, 5s., blue, ,, ... each		0	5 ...	4	0
6†	Mocambique Co., 1892... ... ... set complete		3	6 ...	37	6
7*	,, ,, ... ,,		3	3 ...	35	0
8*	,, 1894, 2½ to 100r. ... ... set of 10		4	0 ...		
9*	,, 1894... ... ... complete set of 15		15	0 ...		
10*	Madagascar, British Inland Mail, 1895, 1d., 4d., 8d. and 1s. set of 4		30	0 ...		
11†	Peru, surcharged with head, 2c., vermilion		0	4 ...	3	0
12†	,, ,, ,, 2c., lake		0	4 ...	3	0
13†	,, ,, ,, 2c., purple		0	4 ...	3	0
14†	Spain, 1895, Oficial, 15c., yellow		0	6 ...	5	0
15†	,, 1896 ,, 15c., rose		0	5 ...	4	0
16*	Straits Settlements, 2c., brown, C.A...		2	3 ...		
17*	,, ,, 4c., rose, C.A.		4	0 ...		
18†	Swazieland, 1s., green		2	6 ...		
19†	Victoria, 1895, 2s., yellow green		21	0 ...		

POSTAGE EXTRA.

BUHL & CO., Ltd., 11, Queen Victoria Street, London, E.C.

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THE ARCADE, BOURNEMOUTH, ENGLAND.
Special Offers of Rising Stamps.

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		EACH.			PER DOZ.	
		s.	*d.*		*s.*	*d.*
†	**Seychelles,** 45c. on 48c., obsolete	2	0	.....	18	6
*	,, 45c. ,, ...	1	6	.....	16	0
*	,, 48c. ,, ...	2	0	.....	18	0
*	**Bechuanaland,** surcharged on Great Britain, ½d., 1d., 4d., 6d., and 1s., *complete set*...	8	6	.....	7	0
†	,, Ditto ditto ditto ...	6	6	.....	5	6
	,, 1887, 1d., 2d., and 3d., *unused*, and 4d., 6d., and 1s., *used*	4	6	.....	4	0
†	**B. S. A. Co., surcharged B.C.A.,** 1d., 2d., 4d., 6d., 8d., 1s.	7	6	.....	—	
†	,, ,, 2s., 2s. 6d., 5s. ...	24	0	.....	—	
*	**Cyprus,** 1882-4, 30 paras, ½, 1, 2, 4, and 6 piastres	4	6	.....	—	
*	**Falkland Islands,** ½d., 1d., 2d., 2½d., 4d., 6d., 9d., and 1s. ...	4	9	.....	—	
	Gibraltar, 1889, 5, 10. and 25c. on 2½d., *unused*, 25c. on 2d. 40, 50, 75c., used, *complete set*	20	0	.....	—	
†	,, 1889, 25 centimos on 2d., *used*	3	0	.....	30	0
*	,, 40 centimos, red-brown, obsolete	1	3	.....	10	6
*	,, 50 ,, lilac, ,, ...	1	6	.....	12	6
*	**Trinidad,** *obsolete*, ½d., 1d., 2½d., 4d., 6d., 1s., 5s., complete set	17	6	.. ...	—	
*	**St. Helena,** *obsolete*, ½d., 1d., 1½d., 2d., 2½d., 3d., 4d., 6d., 1s., and 5s., complete set	20	0	.....	18	6
†	,, C.C., 1s.	2	0	.....	20	0

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10.	1876 (1294), Shahi green ...	3/-
11.	„ „ Shahi purple ...	1/6
12.	„ „ Shahi yellow ...	2/-
13.	„ „ Shahi grey	2/6

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MESSRS. BUHL & CO., LIMITED,

WILL HOLD THEIR

Fourteenth Sale by Auction of

RARE POSTAGE STAMPS

AT

ANDERTON'S HOTEL, FLEET STREET,

LONDON, E.C.,

On 1st and 2nd of DECEMBER, 1896,

AT 5.45 PRECISELY EACH DAY,

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Telegraphic Address: "PHILATELY," London.] [ESTABLISHED 1880.

Charles Jones, Printer, 1 & 2, West Harding Street, London, E.C.

VOL. 18.—No. 12. December, 1896.

THE PHILATELIC RECORD

and Stamp News.

EDITED BY

EDWARD J. NANKIVELL.

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W. HADLOW,

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1897.

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— 2s. red brown (specimen) ...	1	0	0
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And many others; also proofs, Essays, etc.			
CEYLON, imperf. 1d. unused ...	1	0	0
— „ 10d. „ ...	2	10	0
— „ 1s. 9d. „ ...	4	0	0
— „ 9d. used	3	0	0
— perf. 5d. unused	1	0	0
— „ 10d. „	1	0	0
— „ 1s. „	1	0	0
— „ 4d. „	2	10	0
— „ 8d. ochre, unused ...	8	0	0
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10c. vermilion	„ „	6 0 ...	2 0
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IN ORDERING ONLY THE NUMBER NEED BE QUOTED.

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1†	Fiji, ½d., rose	...	0	2	...	
2†	Japan War stamps, 2s., rose, 2 varieties	each	0	3	2	0
3†	,, ,, 5s., blue, ,, ...	each	0	5	4	0
4†	Mocambique Co., 1892...	set complete	3	3	35	0
5*	,, ,, ...	,,	3	0	30	0
6*	,, 1894, 2½ to 100r.	set of 10	4	0	...	
7*	,, 1894...	complete set of 15	12	0	...	
8*	Madagascar, British Inland Mail, 1895, 1d., 4d., 8d. and 1s.	set of 4	25	0	...	
9†	Peru, surcharged with head, 2c., vermilion		0	4	3	0
10†	,, ,, ,, 2c., lake		0	4	3	0
11†	,, ,, ,, 2c., purple		0	4	3	0
12†	Spain, 1895, Oficial, 15c., yellow		0	6	5	0
13*	Straits Settlements, 2c., brown, C.A...		2	3	...	
14†	Swazieland, 1s., green		2	6	...	
15†	Victoria, 1895, 2s., yellow-green		15	0	...	
16†	Siam, 4 atts on 12 atts			6	5	0
17†	Morocco (French), 5 centimos on 5c., unpaid		0	2	...	
18†	Salvador, 1893, 1c. on 2c.		0	2	...	
19†	,, 1895, 1c. on 12c.		0	3	...	
20†	,, 1895, 1c. on 24c.		0	2	...	
21†	,, 1895, 1c. on 30c.		0	2	...	
22*	Grenada, postage due, 1d. black		0	3	2	6
23*	,, 2d. yellow, fiscal, used postally		0	9	7	6
24*	Greece, 1896, 1 lept. to 60 lept.	set of 8	1	6	...	
25*	Chili, unpaid, 1c. to 10c.	set of 6	1	10	...	
26†	Santander, 1895, 5c. brown		0	4	...	
27*	Guatemala, 1886	complete set from 1c. to 200c.	7	6	...	

British South Africa Co.

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29*	**1891**, 6d. dark blue	0	1	0
30*	,, 10s. dark green, fiscal cancellation	0	4	0
31*	,, £1 blue, fiscal cancelln.	0	10	6
32*	,, £5 olive green, fiscal cancellation	1	7	6
33†	,, ½d.	0	0	1
34†	,, 1d.	0	0	2
35†	,, 1d. variety on white paper	0	5	0
36†	,, 8d.	0	2	0
37*	**1895**, on thick paper, perf. 12, 2d. and 4d. Pair	0	12	0
38†	**1896**, Provisional on Cape, ½d.	0	1	6
39†	,, ,, ,, 1d.	0	1	6
40†	,, ,, ,, 2d.	0	1	6
41*	,, ,, ,, 2d.	0	2	0

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42†	**1891**, ½d. to 5s. ... Set of 11	1	10	0
42*	**1891**, 3s. brown and green ...	0	5	0
43*	**1896**, 3s. black and yellow ...	0	3	0

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46*	**1896**, (on B. E. A. Co.) 4 rupees blue	1	10	0
47†	**1896**, (on India) 1a.	0	0	6
48*	,, ,, 1a.	0	0	9
49†	,, ,, 1½a. ...	0	0	9
50*	,, ,, 1½a. ...	0	1	0
51†	,, ,, 2as. ...	0	0	9
52*	,, ,, 2as. ...	0	1	0
53†	,, ,, 4as. ...	0	1	3
54*	,, ,, 4as. ...	0	1	9
55†	,, ,, 1 rupee grey	0	8	6
56*	,, ,, 1 rupee grey	0	10	6

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		£	s.	d.
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		EACH		DOZ.	
58†	Trinidad, new type, ½d.	0	1	0	9
59†	,, ,, 1d.	0	2	1	6
60†	Italy ,, 1c.	0	1	4	0
61†	,, ,, 2c.	0	1	5	0
62†	Orange Free State, "Halve" on 3d.	0	5	4	0
63*	Labuan, 1892, 2c. to 40c. Set of 7...	2	0	20	0
64*	,, 1893, 1c. to 24c. Set of 9 ...	3	0	28	0
65†	Argentine, 1896, ½, 1, 2, 3, 5c., and 12c. Set of 6 ...	1	3	...	

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OF

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HELD BY

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(WHO ORIGINATED THEM IN THIS COUNTRY), AT THE

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1896. December 15th and 16th.

1897. January 13th and 14th, 28th and 29th; February 10th and 11th, 25th and 26th; March 11th and 12th, 30th and 31st; April 14th and 15th, and 29th; May 12th and 13th, 27th and 28th; June 16th.

December 15th and 16th.—A very fine Selection of West Indian Stamps and other Countries, including the following rarities:—

Barbados, 1d. on half 5s., a fine pair, with two varieties of 1, and a single specimen unused, 5s. rose; British Guiana, first issue, circular, 12c. unused and cut round, 1851 1 and 4c., 1856 4c. black on magenta, 3 specimens on entires, and a single cut square, 1853 1c. vermilion, 2 fine blocks of 4, 1863 provisionals, 1c. (2 varieties), 2c. and 4c., 1889 2c. with red surcharge inverted; a fine lot of Dominican; Nevis, practically complete, including a fine used specimen of the 6d. lithographed; St. Christopher, complete, including provisional 1d. on 6d. with double surcharge; St. Lucia, 1s. black and orange unused, with gum, and fine fiscal postals; Tobago, a fine lot of provisionals, including 8 ½d. on 6d. orange-brown, used on entire envelope; St. Vincent, a fine series; Trinidad, 1s. indigo-blue, perforated and unused, and several fine lithographed (blue); Oldenburg, nearly complete; Wurtemburg, fine unused; Naples, ½ tornese blue and the 50 grana lake (unused, with gum); Spain, 1851, 2 reales, fine; South Australia, 3d. in red on 4d., unused; Sydney Views, sheets of early Virgin Islands, made up plates of Nevis, early Western Australias, Victoria 5s. blue on yellow, superb specimens; India, long service stamps; Nova Scotia, 6d. dark green, unused and fine; Newfoundland, 4d. orange, with fine margins; a fine lot of unused United States, Canada 7½d. green (fine), Cape wood-blocks, early Mauritius, and fine lot of unused English and many others.

January 13th and 14th.—A fine Collection, including a grand Selection of North American Splits on Entires.

These Sales are attended by all the principal known Collectors and Dealers, and afford the best means of disposing of collections and rarities, the prices obtained being most satisfactory to owners. It is advisable that owners desirous of obtaining special days of sale should communicate as early as possible, as the dates are being rapidly filled up.

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Catalogue, November 7th. Album, December 7th. English Specialists' Journal, December 7th.
WRITE FOR PARTICULARS.

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1878-82. 5s., 10s., and £1 unused.
Telegraphs, 5s., 10s. and £1 unused.
U.K. Electric Telegraph Co., first and second issues complete.
Same, Special Director's Stamp.
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Do. used, set of 11	2	0	0
Do. 2½ on 1½, used	1	10	0

ZANZIBAR.

½ to ans 8, set of 9, used	1	0	0
Do. used and unused	0	15	0
2½ on 1½	1	10	0
2½ on 1	1	0	0
2½ on 2, used, large type	1	10	0
Do. small type	1	0	0
½, 1, and 2½ on B.E.A., used	1	10	0
4½, 5, and 7½ on B.E.A.	1	10	0

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† „ Ditto ditto ditto ...	6	6	.....	5	6
„ 1887, 1d., 2d., and 3d., *unused*, and 4d.. 6d., and 1s., *used*	4	6	.....	4	0
† **B. S. A. Co., surcharged B.C.A.,** 1d., 2d., 4d., 6d., 8d., 1s.	7	6	.....	—	
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* **Cyprus,** 1882-4, 30 paras, ½, 1, 2, 4, and 6 piastres	4	6	.....	—	
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* „ 40 centimos, red-brown, obsolete	1	3	.....	10	6
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