



The Royal Philatelic Society London

# The London Philatelist

Archival Edition

1892 - 2005

Archive Editor Geoffrey Eibl-Kaye FRPSL



THE  
**London Philatelist**

THE JOURNAL OF  
THE PHILATELIC SOCIETY, LONDON.

All communications on Philatelic matters should be accompanied by the name and address of the writer, as a guarantee of good faith, and addressed to the Editor of THE LONDON PHILATELIST, Kingston Lodge, Richmond Place, Brighton. Letters enclosing valuables should be registered.

Letters, Enquiries, and Remittances connected with the Advertisement pages should be addressed Mr E. J. NANKIVELL, Carisbrook, Birdhurst Rise, South Croydon.

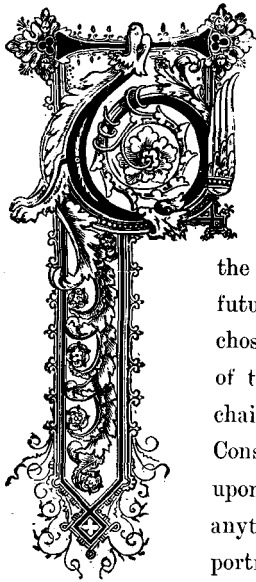
THE LONDON PHILATELIST will be sent, post free in Great Britain or the countries of the Postal Union, to any subscriber, on receipt of 6s. Subscribers' remittances should be sent to our publishers.

VOL. I.]

JANUARY, 1892.

[No. 1.

H.R.H. THE DUKE OF EDINBURGH.



HE loyalty of the English nation is of no uncertain character, and is at once a source of pride to the people that tenders it and the dynasty that receives it. The long and beneficent reign of Her Gracious Majesty the Queen has tended to consolidate this sentiment, while the knowledge that her direct descendants inherit, to a great extent, the virtues of their Royal mother, affords a happy augury for the future. The several members of Her Majesty's family have chosen each his *métier*, and by the conscientious discharge of the duties therein involved, have added another link to the chain that binds the English people in friendly fetters to the Constitutional Monarchy. The full light of publicity that is cast upon the members of the Royal Household renders supererogatory anything but a cursory glance at the life of the Royal Duke whose portrait forms so fitting a frontispiece to the initial number of this journal. His Royal Highness Alfred Ernest Albert, Duke of Edinburgh, who is the second son and fourth issue of Her Majesty, was born on 6th August, 1844, and is consequently in his 48th year: on 23rd January, 1874, His Royal Highness espoused the Grand Duchess Marie of Russia, sister to the present Czar, and his family consists of a son, born 15th October, 1874, and four daughters. The Duke of Edinburgh, at an early age, selected England's first line of defence—the Navy—as a profession, and after a long and devoted service in all quarters of the globe, has attained the rank of Admiral, and in virtue of that office now holds the important command of Devonport. It is no secret that His Royal Highness has been for many years an indefatigable collector of Postage Stamps. We have been informed by those

who have been privileged to inspect the treasures that the Duke has gathered together by assiduous industry and philatelic knowledge, that his collection is in many respects a fine one and well worthy of careful examination. These facts being known to leading members of the London Philatelic Society, they were emboldened to ask His Royal Highness to open the Jubilee Philatelic Exhibition of May, 1890, and when the Duke, graciously consenting, presided at the inaugural ceremony on the 20th May, he may be said to have publicly set the seal upon his connection with Philately. With the English method of our Royal family of not doing things by halves, the co-operation of the Duke did not stay there, as he not only exhibited a considerable portion of his own collection, whose merits were duly recognised by the judges, but by his attendances evinced his thorough interest in the subject. Those members of the London Philatelic Society who were privileged to meet his Royal Highness on those occasions were impressed with his wide grasp of Philately, and were more than gratified to note that in all respects the Duke was an ardent and conscientious collector. His Royal Highness has further added to the debt that English Philately owes to him by accepting, on 19th December, 1890, the post of Honorary President of the London Philatelic Society, an announcement that came as a most pleasant surprise to many collectors in this country, but was received with a universal chorus of congratulation. The manifold duties that are the inevitable prerogative of Royalty, doubtless interfere with the leisure hours that the Duke can devote to his Philatelic treasures, but we can assure his Royal Highness that on any occasion when he can honour the Philatelic Society of London by his presence, in his official capacity, he may rely upon the grateful and cordial appreciation of its members, and that among Her Majesty's lieges he will find no more loyal or devoted adherents than the members of that Society, who are privileged to acknowledge him as their president.

---

OURSELVES.

---



THE appearance of another new journal, whether devoted to any special interest, such as Philately, or to general literature, is not, in these days of wide-spread periodicals, an event to make a red-letter day, and might be deemed to be destined to such an ephemeral existence as oft befalls the ventures of other Philatelic (?) journals. We may, however, claim that as the literary labours of the London Philatelic Society, in another form, have now been prominently before the world of collectors for some years, and have been adjudged no inconsiderable value in the study of the science, it is to be inferred, that in setting its *imprimatur* on a periodical that shall be its recognised organ, the London Philatelic Society may be relied upon to evolve a journal that shall be neither trivial in its aims nor evanescent in its existence. We deem it better to judge of performances than to hold out promises, and we are therefore content to modestly proclaim our pro-

gramme in the simple dictum—that irrespective of pecuniary considerations—this journal will always be a paper written by collectors for collectors, and that its sole aim will always be, the advancement of scientific and intellectual Philately. In pursuance of this, while we shall always open our columns to collector and dealer alike, we shall, without personal feeling, unreservedly express our opinions on “men and things,” convinced, that as the honesty of our efforts is recognised, we shall not, even where we differ, give offence to any opponent. We have been promised the most cordial co-operation of most of the leading Philatelists of this country in the endeavour to make this journal a success; and it will be the endeavour of those connected with the management of this journal to provide as many original contributions as possible, including, *en parenthèse*, a history of the London Philatelic Society from its inception. We start, therefore, with the best augury of success; but nevertheless we would impress upon all the Members of the Society that it is at once their bounden duty to support the LONDON PHILATELIST by every means in their power; if they wish this journal to faithfully reflect the varied interests and the reputation of their Society, they must aid it by their literary contributions. One of the principal objects in launching our new venture has been to bring Metropolitan and Country Members more in touch with each other; it is, therefore, obvious that the more each Member strives to make it the medium for the communication of his Philatelic knowledge the more certain will be the attainment of this object. We can promise on behalf of the staff of the LONDON PHILATELIST an ungrudging devotion to its interests, but in order to make it a conspicuous success, the co-operation of each and every Member of the London Philatelic Society is an imperative necessity.

## New Issues and Unchronicled Varieties.

NOTE.—*The co-operation of Members of the London and other Philatelic Societies, and of all Collectors and Dealers is invited, in order that these lists may be as complete as possible. The earliest intimation of Novelties is desired, accompanied, if possible, by the specimen referred to, which will be acknowledged, with the sender's name, unless otherwise requested.*

### ADHESIVES.

**Afghanistan.**—We have seen specimens of a new issue with the inner circle wider, also varying in other particulars as to the design and the paper on which they are printed. We hope to illustrate these varieties shortly, and to include all the varieties of which several contemporaries give varying lists.

**British Guiana.**—Mr. W. T. Wilson has discovered a new variety; it is the 1860 type, 1 cent black, with overprint “Official,” word barred out in black, and without perforation between a pair, which are otherwise perf. 10. By a reference to the Society's work (p. 66) it will be seen that this variety is chronicled among the Official Stamps.

Issue of June 1875; 1 c. black, with official barred *imperf.* vertically on one side.

**British Honduras.**—From Messrs. Whitfield King & Co., we have a fresh



variety of a lower value than heretofore, caused by the requirements of increased postal facilities. The overprint, which consists of a large numeral 1 on the word cent in thin upright Roman capitals, similar to the other values previously issued, is well printed in that clear, shiny black that betokens Metro-



politan handiwork. We are informed that *only* 30,000 of these stamps were thus surcharged, and (as already elsewhere chronicled) the permanent value is now in issue.

1 c., black surcharge on one penny, pale green, watermark C.A. and Cr., perf. 14.

1 c., green, current type ... .. " " " "

We illustrate the surcharged varieties that recently appeared.

**Curaçao.**—The 50 c. of the current set has been overprinted in a similar manner to the 30 c. value recently chronicled, *i.e.*, with large clumsy numerals, and words "25 cents" in two lines.

25 c., black surcharge on 50 c. violet, current issue.

**Dutch Indies.**—Following the example of the Mother Country, the Unpaid Letter Stamps have been appearing in the re-modelled type with fancy numerals and the word cent in the central disc as illustrated. The following are the values at present in circulation according to the *Timbre-Poste*; paper and perforation presumably as before.



2½ c., lilac and black.

5 c., " "

10 c., " "

**Great Britain.**—At the meeting of the Brighton Philatelic Society on 4th January, Mr. J. H. Redman showed a curious variety of the 1s. green. The stamp in question was a specimen of Plate 1, with the small letters in the corners—the letter (K) in the lower left angle being in the centre of a small white circle that almost touches the four outer edges of the block of solid colour containing the letters. The remaining three angles are normal, nor can we gather the reason for this unusual variety.

1s., (1862) issue, watermark four flowers, with white circle containing left lower angle letter.

**Grenada.**—We have another provisional from this prolific philatelic possession—thanks to Messrs. Whitfield King & Co. The overprint is in figures, 2½d., nearly 4 mm. high. Mr. Maycock has also sent us a pair—printed, as usual, *tête-bêche*—which shews that there are two varieties of the "½d.," and further states that the 6d. value will shortly be operated on.

2½d., black surcharge on 8d. brown, current issue.

**Hawaii.**—We give an illustration of this recently-issued stamp, bearing the Royal presentment of Queen Kamaka-Liliuokalani, sister of the late monarch.

2 c., dull lilac, perf. 12.



**India.**—We hear from various sources that the new design for the Rupee stamp to supersede the one that was so freely imitated has been executed, that the colours are to be carmine and green, and the perforation and watermark as heretofore.

1 rupee, carmine and green.

The 4 anna olive green has also been surcharged  $2\frac{1}{2}$  annas pending the issue of the permanent stamp of that value.

$2\frac{1}{2}$  annas, black surcharge on 4 annas olive (current issue).

Messrs. Stafford Smith & Co. have sent us a specimen of the new permanent design for the value last mentioned. The design is almost the same as the late 4 as. 6 pies. stamp which was utilised for making the provisionals. The octagonal frame enclosing head differs very slightly indeed, but the ornamental work outside this is different, the colour (green) is of a less *yellow* cast, and the value is of course "Two annas and 6 pies." Watermark and perforation as last.

$2\frac{1}{2}$  annas green, watermark star, perf. 14.

**Jeypore.**—We append illustrations of the variously announced new issues for this Sultanate; of the first type there are:—

$\frac{1}{2}$ anna, green	blue surcharge.
1 " brown-violet	"
2 " blue	"
4 " olive	"



And of the second:—

$\frac{1}{2}$ anna, green (?)	black surcharge.
1 " brown-violet	"
2 " blue	"
4 " olive	"
$\frac{1}{2}$ " green (?)	red surcharge.
1 " brown-violet	"
2 " blue	"
4 " olive	"



**Johore.**—A new series of stamp has been issued for this State with some pretensions to individuality, and is therefore a welcome accession. They bear a three-quarter face portrait of the reigning Sultan, within an arched oval, with the value at the base in two octagons, in English and Native characters respectively, between which is the inscription in small letters on solid ground, "Johore Postage and Revenue." The values are as under:—

2 cents,	lilac and yellow.
4 "	" blue.
5 "	" green.
6 "	" blue.
1 dollar,	green and rose.

**Labuan.**—We present an illustration of the latest provisional for this Colony, as recently announced in Philatelic Journals.



**Martinique.**—The *Timbre-Poste* announces the 2 c., with the simple surcharge "Martinique—0,1 c.," in black, and states that there are two varieties of the numeral. Numerous more or less interesting variations are noted in the same source on the 30 c. unpaid letter stamp type. 0.1 centime, black surcharge; on 2 c. bistre, current type.

**Negri Sembilan.**—The recent apparition of a new type for the several States of the Malaccan Peninsular has been welcomed as holding out a prospect of a termination of the monotonous list of surcharges (the latest of which we illustrate). Except for the name of the issuing State, Pahang, Perak, Selangor, and S.(un)jei Ujong, the design is identical, and, as will be noted from our illustration, has at least the merit of novelty.



**Persia.**—The whole of the new issue of stamps here has now made its appearance, nor, as will be noted, are the designs of any striking merit; if, as the *Timbre-Poste* states, they emanate from Vienna, something handsomer might have been anticipated from a city whose artistic tastes are so well known. Paper white, perforation 11½.



Type 1—1 shahi, black.

- " 2 " bistre.
- " 5 " dark blue.
- " 7 " slate.
- " 10 " carmine.
- " 14 " orange.

Type 2—1 kran green.

- " 2 " pale orange.
- " 5 " " yellow.



**Porto Rico.**—Principally with a view to prevent fraud, new colours—being those of the Postal Union—are to be given to these stamps.

The *Stamp News* announces three values:—

- 1 c., de peso, blue green.
- 5 c. " green.
- 10 c. " rose.

**Queensland.**—At a recent meeting of the London Philatelic Society, Mr. Vernon Roberts showed a vertical pair of the old 5s. no watermark stamp, without any perforation between them.

5s. rose (1866 issue), *imperf.* horizontally on one side.

**Russia.**—The highest value of the new series with the thunderbolts has at last made its appearance, similar otherwise to its preceding companions.

7 roubles, black and yellow.

*Schatz (Tamboff).*—This well-known stamp has been altered somewhat (*Timbre-Poste*), notably in the ornaments of the oval, as shown by our illustration.

3 kop., black on rose, perf. 11½.



**Sweden.**—We have two more values of the new handsome series.

30 ore, brown, new type, perf. 14.

50 " grey " "

**St. Lucia.**—We have received from Messrs. Cheveley, Wilson & Co. specimens of a new provisional surcharge that inspires us with a very limited feeling of pleasure. The stamps in question were received on a letter direct from the Colony by our correspondent on the last day of the old year, and there seems, therefore, no room to doubt their authenticity, but we can conscientiously affirm that the primitive and slovenly method of imprinting the surcharge is at once a discredit to this Colonial Postal administration, and an incentive to fraudulent imitations. The overprint consists of the words "One Penny" in two lines of black upright Roman capitals, badly formed and worse printed. We hear that the 3d. value has also been surcharged "One Halfpenny" in three lines.

1d., black surcharge "ONE PENNY" on 4d. current issue. Wmk. C.A. & Cr., Perf. 14.

**St. Pierre and Miquelon.**—We are indebted to Messrs. Whitfield King & Co. for a sight of another set of twelve varieties of French Colonials. At the rate of issue that has obtained for the several Gallic possessions during the past few months it will not be long before "France and Colonies" will be more numerous than this country and its dependencies; but whether the same aggregate of value will be attained is a widely different matter! This series consists of the current set overprinted diagonally from left to right in small Roman capitals, about  $1\frac{1}{2}$  mm. in height, "St. Pierre M—ON."

1 c., black on blue, black surcharge (current type).  
 2 c., brown on bistre, black "  
 4 c., violet on pale blue, black "  
 5 c., green on greenish-red, black, "  
 10 c., black on violet-red, black "  
 15 c., blue on pale blue, black "  
 20 c., brick on green, black "  
 25 c., black on rose, black "  
 30 c., brown on fawn, black "  
 40 c., vermilion on bistre, black "  
 75 c., carmine on rose, black "  
 1 fr., brown on green, black "

Surcharge inverted.

75 c., carmine on rose, black surcharge.

1 fr., brown on green, " "

For the further necessities of the enormous postal requirements of St. Pierre and Miquelon—and, of course, not for the delectation of dealers and the exploitation of enthusiasts—surcharged varieties have been called into existence, but as the three values are sent both with and without surcharge there is no apparent dearth of the denominations created, and we are compelled to draw the inference that the latter and not the former reasons have called these into existence. Our Belgian contemporary has also some criticisms hereon—as just as scathing. The surcharge consists, in addition to that of the name of the possession as previously described, of a thick numeral 4 mm. high above the centre and below the word "cent," in heavy lower-case type about  $2\frac{1}{2}$  mm. in height, all three overprints being of course diagonal.



1 c., black surcharge, on 5 c. green on greenish (current type).  
 2 c., " " on 10 c. in black on blue.  
 4 c., " " on 20 c. brick on green.

**Tasmania.**—We are informed that the 4d. has lately appeared of a dark chrome colour—probably a provisional printing, as was the case with the 1d., as recently described.

**Victoria.**—The *Monthly Journal* announces a modification in the colour of the postage due stamp, which has been seen in the lowest values, *e.g.*, from *brick red* and *pale blue* to—

½d. postage due *carmine* and *blue*.

### ENVELOPES, WRAPPERS, &c.

NOTE.—Unless otherwise stated, the description of *Novelties* under this heading applies to ordinary *Postal Envelopes*.

**Bahamas.**—The reduction of the postal tariff has caused another change here, and we have been favoured by Messrs. W. King & Co., of Ipswich, with the inspection of two newly issued varieties on the current fourpence envelope. The value at the base is ruled out by three pairs of thin parallel lines, extending to the edges of the oval, and “2½d.” is imprinted on the lower portion of the bust in small upright numerals. We are informed that the issue consisted of 500 of each variety.

2½d, red surcharge, with six lines on 4d., dull mauve (current issue).

2½d., black “ ” “ ”

**British South Africa.**—We have received from Mr. Nankivell a specimen of the new Registration Envelope issued by the Company. Embossed on the flap is a large transverse oval with broad white border, containing the inscription in small block capitals, “The British South Africa Company,” and below, in a small coloured oblong cartouche, the words, “British Central Africa,” in small white capitals; the centre is occupied by the Arms of the Company embossed on a solid ground of colour, and beneath, in a large scroll extending beyond the oval on either side, is inscribed, “Registration Two Pence,” in white capitals on coloured ground; the design as a whole is of novel and pleasing appearance, and is of a bright blue shade. The face of the envelope is cross lined as usual, and inscribed above, in large Roman capitals, “British Central Africa Administration,” below this, “Registered Letter,” in large block capitals, with the usual instructions below, and a large R on the oval to left, and a square to the right directing the place of the adhesive; the usual cross lines are added, the whole being in blue; the envelope is linen lined, with a heavily gummed flap, and measures 151×98 mm.

Registration Envelope, 2d., blue on white.

**Leeward Islands.**—We give an illustration of the recently issued Registration Envelope, as also of a Wrapper, similar in type to those now in use for other British possessions.



Registration Envelope, 2d., pale blue.

Wrapper, ½d., green on manilla.



**New South Wales.**—We have the current Registration Envelope, reduced in value by a circular black line erasing the words, “Four Pence,” while across the stamp is imprinted in thin upright Roman capitals, “Three Pence.” The size of the

specimen submitted to us by Messrs. Whitfield King & Co., is 98×153 mm. (3¼ by 5¼ inches).

*Vindin's Philatelic Monthly* announces the fact that there is a second type with the word threepence in thin block capitals, and that there are the two usual two sizes of each variety.

Registration Envelope, 3d., black surcharge, Roman capitals, on red (current issue).

” ” ” block capitals, ” ”

## POST AND LETTER CARDS.

NOTE.—Unless otherwise stated, the description under this heading applies to the ordinary single Post Card.

**Brazil.**—We learn from the *Illustriste Briefmarken Zeitung*, on which Journal Dr. F. Kalekhoff, a member of the London Philatelic Society has recently joined the editorial staff, that the recently issued Brazilian letter cards—with head of Liberty and landscape—have appeared in somewhat rainbow fashion. Our contemporary notes the following colours, presumably of official issue, and in any case to meet the legitimate requirements of the public! The impressions are in the old colours, but they necessarily vary in appearance owing to the shade of the cards on which they are imprinted.

Letter Card, 80 r. (1891 Issue) on *dull yellow* card.

”	(	”	)	”	<i>brown</i>	”
”	(	”	)	”	<i>green</i>	”
”	(	”	)	”	<i>blue rose (!)</i>	”
”	(	”	)	”	<i>light brown</i>	”
”	(	”	)	”	<i>orange-red</i>	”
”	(	”	)	”	<i>salmon</i>	”
”	(	”	)	”	<i>flesh-pink</i>	”

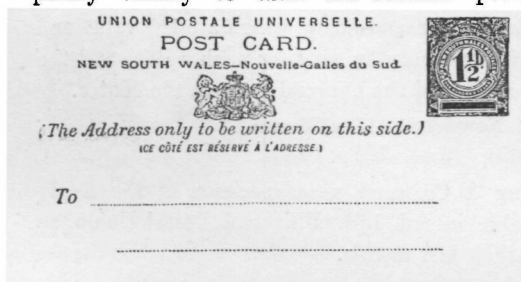
**India.**—Messrs. Whitfield King & Co. send us a specimen of the current *half*, one and a half anna Postal Union Card with its value reduced to “One Anna” by a black upright surcharge of block capitals 3 mm. in height, traversing the stamp immediately over the arched label of value.

1 anna, black surcharge on 1½ a., blue, current type.

**French Colonies.**—Our Belgian contemporary states that the black on chamois card has been adopted for all the French Colonies. If this means that one uniform card, innocent of all surcharges, is to be adopted *for all* collectors will heave a sigh of satisfaction.

10 c., black on chamois.

**New South Wales.**—We have to note another new and apparently temporary variety to meet the reduced postal tariff. As will be seen by our

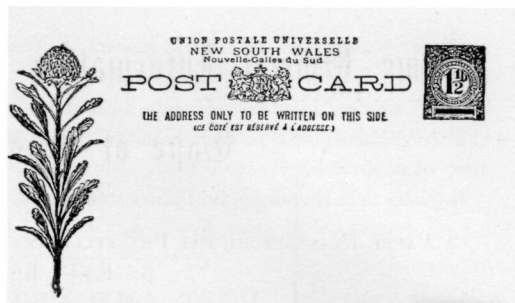


illustrations this consists in the alteration of the current card, and that for the reply, to that of a higher value, by the elimination of the view of Sydney and its replacement by prosaic numerals of value, an alteration that is certainly *not* an improvement in the eyes of Philatelists.

The other half is for the Reply only.  
La carte ci-jointe est destinée à la réponse

1½d. current issue with numeral added,  
blue on pale yellow.

1½ × 1½ current issue with numeral  
added, blue on pale yellow.



**Spain.**—We gather from several sources that the 10 c. card has appeared with the inscription “Union Postal Universal” in larger letters; the same alteration also applying to a lesser extent with the other lines of the heading.

10 cents red-brown on chamois (*altered inscription*).

**Straits Settlements.**—The 3 c. card has been converted to a 2 c., value (*Monthly Journal*) in the following varieties:—

2 c., red surcharge, block numeral “2” over figure “3” on 3 c. current card.

2 c., black “ ” “ ”

2 c. “ ” sloping block capitals in two lines, over figure “3” “ ”

Mr. Gillespie has shown us a card of an official and apparently novel kind. The face has the inscription above, “Post Card,” in Roman capitals, below this, in Gothic, “Straits Settlements;” and in the former type, beneath this, again, “The Address only to be written on this side.” The lower half of the card is occupied by the direction in three lines, “To the—Registrar of Servants—Singapore;” the second line in large Roman capitals, and the third in large block. The upper right corner of the card is occupied by the Royal Arms, thus apparently signifying exemption from the necessity of adding any further stamp. The obverse of the card is taken up by a blank form extending over eight lines, to be filled up by the master whose service has been left by a servant, and who is compelled to register the same! This would be an improvement here, but we fear our masters, the servants, would revolt; and, indeed, we hear that even the Cingalese domestics rebelled as this card was speedily withdrawn. The large oval red embossed stamp of 20 c. value, occupying the right hand corner on the reverse side, has apparently no postal signification.

Official Card—Registry of Servants—buff.

**United States.**—We have from Messrs. Cheveley, Wilson & Co., specimens of the long heralded cards. The general appearance is bold and satisfactory, the engraving being well executed. As we shall probably illustrate the types, it will be only necessary to state that the design consists of a medallion at the right hand, with three-quarter face portrait of General Grant, with the name of the country in large Gothic type, surrounded by ornamentation, above and below which are the value and direction in smaller capitals. The inscriptions vary in size for each value, and the smaller card boasts, in addition, a small replica of the national arms in the centre.

1 c., blue on white. New issue, 117 × 73 mm.

1 c., grey-black on buff. “ 155 × 95 ”

**Victoria.**—Messrs. Whitfield King & Co. send us a specimen of the Reply Card, with the additional surcharge value in red, 1½d. Universal Postal Union, as described in the various Philatelic magazines last month.

1½d., violet on buff; surcharged in red on current value, Reply Card.

# Some Official Information on the Stamps of the Cape of Good Hope.

A PAPER READ BEFORE THE PHILATELIC SOCIETY, LONDON, JANUARY 1ST, 1892,  
By E. D. BACON.

**W**HILST consulting the pages of the early English Philatelic publications, in order to see what light they could throw upon the history of the stamps of the Cape of Good Hope, I was struck by the almost total absence of information there is upon the postal issues of this Colony. Not one of the early writers have, so far as I have been able to discover, ever published any paper, or given out to the Philatelic world at large any facts they may have become acquainted with concerning these stamps: and, further, if we consult the magazines of more recent years, we still find the same silence maintained with regard to their history. It is true that in *The Philatelist*, Vol. IX. page 35, "A Reference List" of the stamps may be found, which was compiled by the Philatelic Society of London, in 1875, but the list can hardly be said to be more than a plain catalogue of the various issues. I have been engaged for some months past collecting materials for a paper on these stamps, and I venture to hope the new particulars I am enabled to lay before you this evening may be found both interesting and instructive.

If we turn to the old "Reference List" of the Society I have drawn attention to, we find that the date of the first issue is vaguely given as 1853 for the four values. Mons. Moens in the seventh edition of his *Catalogue* puts January 3rd, 1853, for the one penny and four pence, and 1858 for the six pence and one shilling. I am somewhat curious to know from whom Mons. Moens took his date for the two lowest values, as he would, I feel sure, never venture to give such a precise date without some good authority for so doing. The following notices extracted from *The Cape of Good Hope Government Gazette* for August 18th, 1853, proves his informant was certainly not to be relied upon, for we read:—

#### PROCLAMATION

*By His Excellency Lieut.-General the Hon'ble Sir George Cathcart, Knight Commander of the Military Order of the Bath, &c., &c., &c.*

WHEREAS, by the 8th Section of Ordinance No. 1, 1846, entitled "Ordinance for the Regulation of the Post Office and Postage," it is enacted that it should be lawful for the Governor of the Colony to provide *Stamps*, to be affixed to letters, and to announce by Proclamation by whom, and at what places such stamps should be issued to the Public, and from and after what date such stamps should be receivable, in lieu of postage, at the several Post Offices within this Colony,—Now therefore, I do hereby PROCLAIM, DECLARE, and MAKE KNOWN the several matters following, that is to say,—

1st, That certain stamps, of the value of 4d. each, and certain other stamps of the value of 1d. each, have been provided by Government for the use and convenience of the Public.

2dly, That upon and from the 1st of SEPTEMBER NEXT, all persons desirous of purchasing any of the said stamps will be able to obtain the same from the Postmaster-General in Cape Town, and from the several Postmasters throughout the Colony.



The six penny stamp prepaid the half ounce letter rate to Great Britain, while the one shilling value was employed to defray the higher postal rates to foreign countries. The half ounce rate to Great Britain was raised on April 1st, 1863, to one shilling by *packet*, and lowered to four pence for letters sent by *private ships*.

The first four values of postage stamps used in the Colony were printed by Messrs. Perkins Bacon & Co., and the design is, in my opinion, one of the most beautiful of their many striking productions. The original die, which had the value one penny upon it, and from which the dies for the three other values were afterwards manufactured, was engraved by Mr. W. Humphreys, an artist employed by Messrs. Perkins Bacon & Co., for several of the early colonial stamps printed by their firm.

The plates from which the stamps were printed were steel, and each contained 240 specimens, in fifteen horizontal rows of 16 stamps, which were arranged in eight squares. All four plates were handed over to the Agents for Crown Colonies on January 28th, 1862, and Messrs. De la Rue & Co. have since held the contract for printing the Cape stamps.

Proofs in black upon white card struck from the dies, are known of all four values, and I possess proofs, also in black, of the one penny and one shilling, which were taken from the plates. Mr. Alfred Bacon, the secretary of Messrs. Perkins Bacon & Co., Limited, has been good enough to make me out a detailed list of all the Cape of Good Hope stamps printed by the Company, which shows the dates the various consignments were despatched from London. A copy of this interesting list will be found given as an appendix to the present paper.

On 15th September, 1860, a local delivery of letters was established in Cape Town, and the half ounce letter rate for that town was fixed at one penny. The Proclamation instituting these postal facilities appeared in *The Gazette* for 4th September, 1860, and the following is a copy of that document.

#### PROCLAMATION

By HIS EXCELLENCY SIR GEORGE GREY, Knight Commander of the Most Honourable Order of the Bath, &c., &c., &c. WHEREAS, by the 7th section of the Ordinance No. 1, bearing date the 7th day of January, 1846, the Governor is empowered to establish offices for posting and delivering letters within the limits of any town in this colony, as such limits shall be by him for that purpose fixed, and to fix the rate of postage to be charged and paid for such town delivery : I do hereby proclaim and make known, that, in pursuance of the power and authority so vested in me, I appoint the General Post Office in Cape Town to be a receiving and delivering office for and within the limits of the Cape Town Municipality, and do establish the Pillar Letter Boxes erected in the localities hereunder mentioned, as places for the posting and receipt of letters within the same limits, namely :—

- 1st. Near Castle Bridge.
- 2nd. At the corner of Long and Bloem Streets.
- 3rd. At the corner of Strand and Bree Streets.
- 4th. In Orange Street, at the top of the Government Gardens.

And further, that I do fix the rate of postage chargeable and payable upon all letters, &c., posted within the said limits, and intended for delivery therein, as follows, namely :—

On every letter not exceeding half an ounce, one penny.

On every letter exceeding half an ounce, and not exceeding one ounce, two pence.

On every letter exceeding one ounce, an additional sum of two pence for every ounce or fraction of an ounce.

The prepayment of such postage to be compulsory and effected by stamps affixed or impressed on such letters.

The Cape Town Penny Post deliveries will be three in each day, Sundays excepted, namely :—

The first to commence at 9¼ a.m.

The second to commence at 1½ p.m., and

The third to commence at 3½ p.m.

Letters posted at the Cape Town Pillar Boxes up to 9 o'clock in the morning, will be included in the first delivery; those posted up to 1 p.m. will be included in the second delivery; and those posted up to 3 p.m. in the third.

And lastly, I do hereby fix and appoint the fifteenth day of September next, as the day from and on which this Proclamation shall come into operation and have effect.

(Signed)

GEORGE GREY,  
Governor.

(Countersigned)

WM. DE SMIDT,  
Under-Colonial Secretary.

In the number of *The Gazette* for 23rd April, 1861, a similar Proclamation to the above appeared, establishing a Local Post for the town of Port Elizabeth, at the same reduced rates as those previously instituted for Cape Town. Mr. A. Wilmot was postmaster of Port Elizabeth at the time this local Penny Post came into operation there on the 1st May, 1861.

A one penny rate for half ounce letters came into force, between a few towns in the vicinity of Cape Town, on 1st February, 1864, and this rate was gradually extended to other towns at a more remote distance. It was not, however, until as recently as 1st January, 1889, almost fifty years later than Great Britain, that the penny rate became uniform over the whole of the Colony.

(To be continued.)

## Half Hours with the Australian Stamps.

By M. P. CASTLE, V.-P.



AT the suggestion of some of my *confrères*, I propose, under the above heading, to submit for the benefit (or otherwise) of the readers of the LONDON PHILATELIST the result of such observations as I may have been able to gather in the study of current literature in this wide field and in the formation of my own collection. I do not propose at the present, in view of the many matters calling for notice in the first number of the Society's Journal, to do more than give an indication of my purpose, and I cordially invite from my brother collectors any expression of their views on the subject. I may add, that while I hope not to lose sight of Philatelic requirements, I should aim at making the articles of an easy, mentally digestible nature, so that they may appeal to the sympathies alike of the advanced scientist who revels in the minutest varieties, and of those collectors who are content with a representative array of the Australian Stamps. It is obvious that much has been learnt since the publication of the London Philatelic Society's work on Oceania, and my object would be to embody, as far as possible, all the information that has been brought to light since that period, in the hope that it may eventually be of some service in the preparation of the second edition of that work, whenever it is undertaken. In some cases it would increase the interest of the "chapter" if the stamps treated of could be first submitted to the Society, and subsequently published with such illustrations as might be necessary, which course, I trust, may commend itself to those who may be good enough to follow my remarks

## The Laureated Reprints of New South Wales.

**I**T may excite a little surprise to see this now familiar heading reproduced in the initial number of a new magazine, nor do we propose to again go over the ground that has been so amply traversed by various writers lately in the *Philatelic Record* and Stanley Gibbons' *Monthly Journal*. It will, however, be seen by a perusal of the following extract that justice demands a compliance with the request contained in the closing sentence. For the benefit, however, of those of our readers who may not be *au courant* with all that has gone before, we will very briefly state the facts that lead up to Mr. Vindin's present letter. About four years since the late Mr. T. K. Tapling, M.P., Mr. M. P. Castle, Mr. B. P. Rodd, and other collectors received from Mr. Vindin a sheet of each of the values of the Laureated series of New South Wales, of the 2d., 6d., and 8d. values, unused, which purported to be genuine originals recently discovered, and being part of eight sets only thus found. Some of these gentlemen, with others also members of the London Philatelic Society, eventually became purchasers of these sheets at large prices. A year or two later it was evident that the original eight sets had considerably expanded, until it became an ascertained fact that hundreds of sheets existed. These sheets were brought to this country by Mr. A. Van Dyck, of Sydney, the principal for whom Mr. Vindin had previously avowedly been acting as to the earlier "find." The former mysteriously disappeared, and lately arriving in America disposed of a further quantity there, openly acknowledging them as Reprints. As soon as these facts became patent, in self-defence Messrs. Stanley Gibbons, who are the present holders of the stock, acquired in a perfectly legitimate manner, published a full statement of all their knowledge on the subject, and Mr. M. P. Castle (the Vice-President of the London Society), who had been in continued correspondence with Mr. Vindin, also set forth all the information that he had acquired. The burden of these statements was necessarily to cast the blame on those who made false statements in selling these stamps, and to shift the onus of their deception to the original vendors. The various Philatelic Journals having reached the antipodes, Mr. Vindin hastens as far as he is able to rehabilitate his character as an agent in the disposal of these sheets.

(*Vindin's Philatelic Monthly*, 24th Nov., 1891, p. 41.)

"Having just returned from New Zealand and Tasmania, I hasten to reply to the article on the above stamps, published in the *Monthly Journal* of September. In the next issue of the *Monthly* I intend reprinting the article from the *Monthly Journal*, and will reply thereto fully. In the meantime I wish to state that I have had nothing to do with, and have no actual knowledge of, these stamps having been reprinted. When I offered these stamps for sale in 1887 I believed they were original impressions, and that only *eight* sheets each of the 2d. Star, 6d., and 8d. orange, and *one* sheet of the 8d. in blue existed. My belief was based on the knowledge that the plates were not in the possession of the N.S.W. Government, and I was further of the opinion that these plates had long before 1870 been destroyed under instructions from the Government. Mr. Alfred Van Dyck negotiated their purchase—at least, he told me he purchased the twenty-four sheets for £350 from an *unknown* party whom he had reason to believe was a Government official. He offered me liberal terms to sell these sheets, understood that the selling should be left entirely in my hands, and arranged for me to state that I myself purchased them, as

he did not wish to be mixed up with buying and selling stamps. I had known Mr. Van Dyck for five years and, with everyone else, had the utmost confidence in him. During that time Mr. Van Dyck was living in Sydney and held a good position, had no business or occupation, and must have lived at the rate of fifteen hundred a year or more. Dr. Houison trusted Van Dyck when he left for London with his collection worth £1,000 to be sold, and has never received a penny from him since; the N.S.W. Postal Department lent him some much-prized proofs and essays of New South Wales stamps, and these are still wanted by them. It can, therefore, be understood that I had every reason to believe in the gentleman in question. I acted as his agent when I offered the stamps for sale, and, further, issued a *personal* guarantee with all those I sold. Fortunately I sold very few of the stamps. One set of sheets to Dr. Houison, with whom I have since arranged; one set of sheets, at a comparatively low price (under unusual circumstances), to Mr. Rodd, of Hamburg, which, I afterwards heard from several of Mr. Rodd's personal friends in Sydney, had been cut up by him *over two years ago*, and sold at a large profit. This statement was made by Mr. Rodd's own family in Sydney, and was repeated to me and also to several local collectors by friends of the family, so it is reasonable to suppose it is the truth. Of course, Mr. Rodd had every reason to believe the stamps were original, and therefore was justified in re-selling them. Beyond these six sheets I only sold a few single copies and blocks of each, and in every case guaranteed them. The whole of the balance I handed over to Mr. Van Dyck when he left for London in 1888, since then I have had *none* of these stamps in my possession, and therefore cannot have sold any. The first I knew of there being more than eight sheets of each was when I found them being offered so freely at the London auctions, therefore the principal London collectors and dealers knew of such being the case before I did. I naturally regret my connection with this swindle, for such it seems to me it is. It has worried me a good deal, and has resulted in a serious pecuniary loss, but my conscience in the matter is quite clear, and I consider I stand only in the same position as does Mr. M. P. Castle. I believed in the stamps and so did he, and he knew as much about them as I could tell him. I believe Mr. Van Dyck worked his "game" single-handed. I feel sure that no one at this end of the world can tell more than I have done in the course of this explanation. Both the Postal and Government printing office authorities have endeavoured to fathom the mystery for months past, but without success. In the next issue of the *Monthly* I will deal with the matter more fully, and meanwhile would esteem it a favour if the editors of the various publications in England, America, and Europe will reprint this statement."

The burden of Mr. Vindin's defence is that he acted in good faith as an agent for and the tool of Van Dyck. *Les absents ont toujours tort*, but in the present instance the saying seems to have strong ground for credence. Many of the facts as to Van Dyck quoted in the foregoing are known from independent evidence to be correct, and, as will be seen by a reference in the quotations from Mr. Vindin's correspondence (S. Gibbons' *Monthly Journal*, 1891, pp. 58-62), they tally with those therein contained. Mr. Castle in his remarks on the latter expressly gave Mr. Vindin credit for "sticking to his guns," in his statements as to his knowledge, and was more directly concerned to locate the blame of these scandalous proceedings in the proper quarters without necessarily imputing to Mr. Vindin a conscious share in it. It is only fair to add that from two well-known and respected sources in Australia we have received assurances of the writer's full belief that Mr. Vindin was imposed upon by Mr. Van Dyck, almost equally with the philatelic world on this side of the globe.

We shall await with interest the promised statement that Mr. Vindin announces for his next issue, and trust that it may be as full and explicit as possible. In that gentleman's remarks no mention is made of the fact that the late Mr. T. K. Tapling purchased a set at full price, nor is it stated if any collector in Sydney bought a set under like conditions. If, as we sincerely hope, Mr. Vindin can to a great extent exonerate himself it is all the more to be desired that he should associate himself with his fellow sufferers in endeavouring to trace the mischief home to its authors. We use the plural advisedly, as we feel certain that however astute and reserved Van Dyck may have been, he was not alone in the matter, and we are of opinion that this swindle, for such it is, to have been brought to such a successful issue, must have been aided and abetted by some person or persons of assured position. We should like to know the name of the "unknown party whom he believed to be a Government official" from whom he is stated to have purchased; we should like to know who made the paper. From inquiries made by Mr. Castle in London some time since at the hands of experts, it was stated that paper of this sort must have been made especially for the purpose, it being totally different from any made at the present day, and that the preparation of this would entail the expenditure of a considerable sum. It should also not be difficult to ascertain who printed these sheets. It would be an unusual transaction, one involving skill, care and risk, and as several persons must thus have been aware of the transaction, even though unaware of the illegal nature of the proceeding, it is possible that information might be forthcoming if the proper steps are taken. The Sydney P.O. Authorities might well enough offer a reward to this end.

The Australian stamps have always been so favoured in this country, the London Philatelic Society has taken so prominent a part in the study of them, and so many of its members have been mulcted in large sums by this nefarious proceeding, that we feel confident we are only acting in the best interests of its members by using this and every future opportunity to unravel the tangled skein, and to bring to light the authors of perhaps the biggest fraud that has ever been perpetrated on collectors.

Mr. B. P. Rodd sends us the following reply to the remarks made by Mr. Vindin in connection with his name:—

"I have received from Sydney *Vindin's Philatelic Monthly* for November last, containing, under the above heading: 'A Preliminary Explanation by D. A. Vindin' in which, after giving his version of his transactions with Mr. Van Dyck, he proceeds as follows:—'Fortunately I sold very few of the stamps. One set of sheets to Dr. Houson, with whom I have since arranged, one set of sheets at a comparatively low price (under unusual circumstances) to Mr. Rodd, of Hamburg, which I afterwards heard from several of Mr. Rodd's personal friends in Sydney had been cut up by him over two years ago and sold at a large profit. This statement was made by Mr. Rodd's own family in Sydney, and was repeated to me and several local collectors by friends of the family, so it is reasonable to suppose it is the truth. Of course Mr. Rodd had every reason to believe the stamps were original and therefore was justified in reselling them.'

"From this one would suppose that instead of being victimised, that I had been instrumental in disposing of these stamps at a large profit, &c. Had Mr. Vindin been contented with simply stating the fact that he had sold one of the sets to myself, I would have been spared the trouble of writing this, and I cannot imagine his reason for going into further particulars, especially as they are *totally untrue*, and if the rest of his statement is *equally* to be relied upon, I regret to say it is not worth the ink he took to write it. The following are the *facts* so far as I am concerned, and which I can

prove by his own handwriting, &c. When the eight sheets were first offered, and I believe just before Mr. Castle offered to buy the lot, he sold one set at the 'comparatively low price' of £150 to my mother—subject to my approval within a certain time—she paid a deposit of £75, which in the event of my returning the sheets within the term, he undertook to repay. Not being satisfied with what I had heard from Mr. Castle I returned the sheet within the term, and upon same being presented to him and the £75 claimed, he pleaded his inability to repay same, and therefore my mother was obliged to keep them, of course 'under the unusual circumstances,' for the amount of the deposit £75. My mother 'under the unusual circumstances' returned them to me, and they still are, and have ever since been in my collection—neither 'cut up, *over two years ago*, nor ever offered to any one. He goes on to kindly justify my good faith, in *selling* what he himself had guaranteed, and what I still have. With his *Monthly* I have also received copy of a letter that my mother immediately upon reading his 'Preliminary explanation' wrote to him, calling upon him for an explanation, and to withdraw his remarks, &c., in his next issue, also in a postscript to same reminding him that within the last *three months* she had reminded him that I had not been able to dispose of them. As he writes that he has arranged with Dr. Honison there is still some hope that he will do so with me."

Since the above was written we have been informed that Mr. Dawson A. Vindin has sailed for this country, and may be very shortly expected here. We understand that the primary object of his visit is in connection with these laureated reprints, and we are confident that his statements will receive an impartial consideration, the sole object of all the writers on the subject having been to drive home the blame to the culpable parties.—Ed.

## Reviews.

### THE STAMP NEWS ANNUAL.\*

**T**HE second venture of this Christmas Philatelic literature will, on the whole, compare favourably with its predecessor, which it resembles in size and general appearance (83 pp. quarto), except that—perhaps, in deference to the wide-spread mortality due to the insidious influenza—it appears in a rather funereal garb as to its cover. Among the numerous articles forming its contents, we may cite as the best, The Stamp of Prince Edward's Isle, by Mr. A. A. Bartlett; of Portugal, by Mr. J. N. Marsden; of Azores, by M. de Reuterskiöld; of the South Australian Officials, by Delta (why the modesty of this *nom de plume*?); of Bavaria, by the Rev. D. Dunbar; and of Venezuela, by Mr. G. Lockyer. Among the papers of a general nature, we note as interesting that of Some Reminiscences, 1863-70, by a Parisian Collector—eminently readable throughout, and evidently by "an old Philatelic hand." Mr. Westoly discourses on French "Postage Stamp Statistics," and the Vice-President of the London Society gossips on the "Fashions in Stamps." The difficulties of prophecy are set forth by the Editor, and there are other articles of varied degrees of merit. The revision of the work is somewhat faulty, as there are many typographical errors, notably in the index, but, as a whole, the work is one that will readily be welcomed by the collecting fraternity, and is a credit to the enterprise of Messrs. Theodor Buhl & Co.

\* The Stamp News Annual for the Year 1892: Theodor Buhl & Co., 11, Queen Victoria Street, London, E.C.

# Philatelic Societies' Meetings.

## THE PHILATELIC SOCIETY, LONDON.

*Honorary President* : H.R.H. THE DUKE OF EDINBURGH, K.G., &c.

*Committee for the Year 1891—92.*

*President* : F. A. PHILBRICK, Q.C.      *Vice-President* : M. P. CASTLE.

*Secretary* : D. GARTH.      *Assistant Secretary* : J. A. TILLEARD.

*Treasurer and Librarian* : C. N. BIGGS.

E. D. BACON.

MAJOR EVANS.

A. W. CHAMBERS.

T. MAYCOCK.



THE Fifth Meeting of the Season 1891-92 was held at the Salisbury Hotel, Fleet-street, on Friday, the 4th December, 1891, at 7.30 p.m. The members present being Messrs. E. D. Bacon, T. Maycock, A. W. Chambers, R. Pearce, E. J. Nankivell, E. A. Elliott, A. Ludwig, C. N. Biggs, F. Ransom, R. Meyer, J. D. Henderson, J. H. Redman, E. Stanley-Gibbons, C. J. Dunn, J. A. Tilleard and D. Garth.

In the absence of the President and Vice-President, the chair was taken by Mr. Bacon, and the minutes of the last meeting were read and confirmed. A letter from Mr. John Walker of Edinburgh, offering to present to the Society's Library a copy of the 5th Edition (1864), of Mount Brown's Catalogue, and also a copy of the 3rd Edition (1865), of Dr. Gray's Catalogue, was read, and the Secretary was directed to accept these with the thanks of the Society. The Secretary reported the result of the replies to the circular sent to the members in regard to the annual dinner, and it was resolved that the dinner should be postponed to a date to be fixed in January or February of the ensuing year. Mr. W. T. Willett, of Brighton, proposed by the Vice-President and seconded by the Secretary, and Mr. W. Silk, of Hampstead, proposed by Mr. Nankivell and seconded by the Secretary, were duly elected members of the Society, the balloting for the two other proposed members whose names were on the list for the evening being postponed to the next meeting. The consideration of the arrangements for the publication of the Society's proposed new journal was then proceeded with, and the Secretary stated what had been done towards this end since the last meeting, and he explained the recommendations of the Committee in this respect. Mr. Bacon read a letter he had received from Mr. Cheveley, offering on behalf of his firm of Cheveley, Wilson & Co., to undertake the sale of the journal, and the canvassing for and the management of the advertisements, for a remuneration of 15 per cent. of the receipts, and, in addition, to take for his firm one page in the journal for the advertisements of the firm, paying the usual price for the same, and to allow the Society one page for advertisements in each of the sale catalogues free of charge. After much discussion, Mr. Bacon moved and the Secretary seconded a resolution: "That a letter should be sent to Messrs. Cheveley, Wilson & Co., thanking them for their letter, and stating that the Society were unable to accept the offer." Mr. A. W. Chambers moved as an amendment that the words "as a whole" should be added to the resolution as proposed by Mr. Bacon, but the amendment was not seconded, and the original motion, on being put to the meeting, was carried. After a long discussion the above recommendations of the

Committee were adopted. Upon the motion of the Secretary seconded by Mr. Bacon, it was resolved that all matters connected with the publication and general management of the journal be left to the discretion of the Editor. It was further resolved that a letter should be written to Messrs. Theodor Buhl & Co., as the proprietors of the *Philatelic Record*, informing them of the intentions of the Society, and that a circular should be sent to the leading collectors and dealers, announcing the proposed publication and inviting subscriptions. The Treasurer gave notice, that, at the next meeting, he would move a resolution as to a separate banking account being opened in the name of the Society. On the consideration of this subject it was resolved as an instruction to the Treasurer, that the accounts with the new journal should be kept separately. The revision of the reference list of the stamps of Ceylon, which was on the Agenda for the evening, was postponed, owing to the time occupied by the discussion of the foregoing business.

---

The Sixth Meeting of the Season was held at the Salisbury Hotel on Friday, the 18th December, 1891, at 7.30 p.m., the following members being present, viz., Messrs. M. P. Castle, V. Roberts, E. D. Bacon, C. N. Biggs, T. Maycock, A. W. Chambers, W. Silk, jun., R. Pearce, E. J. Nankivell, A. B. Creeke, jun., H. E. Wright, W. T. Willett, J. A. Tilleard, and F. Street. The chair was taken by the Vice-President, and the minutes of the last meeting were read and confirmed. Amongst the correspondence read there were letters from Mr. Bambridge, the private secretary of H.R.H. the Duke of Edinburgh, and letters from Mr. L. Gibb and Messrs. Theodor Buhl & Co. In the course of the discussion on the correspondence, it was determined that it should be left to the Secretary to arrange the date for the annual dinner. In reply to Mr. Bambridge's inquiry as to the purchase of a copy of the Society's recent work on the stamps of the West Indies for Prince George of Wales, it was resolved that a copy of the work should be suitably bound and offered for the acceptance of H.R.H. Mr. L. Gibb, in his letter from Montreal acknowledging the receipt of a copy of the recent publication, referred to the interest with which the work had been received by the members of the Society at Montreal. He also mentioned that the collectors in Canada felt some difficulty in acknowledging the existence of the 12d. stamp of that country on wove paper as having ever been issued and used. Messrs. Theodor Buhl & Co. in their letter stated that they would shortly communicate to the Society their decision regarding the continuation of the *Philatelic Record*. In the course of a discussion on this subject it was reported that arrangements had been made for the continuation of that journal under the editorship of a well-known Philatelist. In view of the arrangements made for the publication of the Society's new journal it was moved by the Assistant Secretary, seconded by Mr. Chambers, and resolved, "That the resolution of the 19th December, 1890, in reference to the communication to the *Philatelic Record* of the minutes of the Society's meetings be rescinded." Mr. F. Street, proposed by the Secretary and seconded by the Assistant Secretary, and Mr. H. Ferrier-Kerr, proposed by the Secretary and seconded by the Vice-President, were duly elected members of the Society, the balloting for a third candidate being postponed to the next meeting, in the absence of his proposer and seconder. The revision of the reference list of the stamps of Ceylon was proceeded with and adjourned. The Vice-President, taking advantage of the presence at this meeting of Mr. Vernon Roberts, the President of the Manchester Society, and Mr. Willett, the Honorary Secretary of the Brighton Society, offered through these gentlemen the congratulations of the London Society on the formation

of the new Societies, and wished them every success in their endeavours to promote the science of Philately. Mr. Vernon Roberts showed a pair of the 5s. stamps of Queensland imperforate horizontally, a variety which does not appear to have been hitherto chronicled. Mr. Vernon Roberts also brought to the meeting a large number of very rare stamps all in fine condition. Amongst these were Great Britain 1d. V.R., 4d. small garter, and a pair of 2s. brown imperforate (all unused), Switzerland double Geneva (unused), Tuscany 3 lire, Hong Kong 96c., yellow brown (unused), Mauritius fine natives, including the large fillet, British Guianas of 1862, New Brunswick O'Connell, and a splendid selection of the shilling values of all the British North American stamps, Peru Medio peso rose, New South Wales, a pair of the 5d. large square stamp imperforate, and many other rarities in these countries and in the stamps of Moldavia, India, Ceylon, Cape of Good Hope, Victoria, Western Australia, &c.

---

The Seventh Meeting of the season was held at the Salisbury Hotel, on Friday, the 1st January, 1892, at 7.30 p.m., and was attended by the following members, viz.:—Messrs. M. P. Castle, R. Pearce, E. J. Nankivell, W. Silk, Junr., H. E. Wright, T. Maycock, R. Meyer, F. Street, E. D. Bacon and J. A. Tilleard.

The Vice-President having taken the chair, the minutes of the last meeting were read and confirmed. A telegram was received from the Secretary announcing his inability to attend the meeting in consequence of ill-health, but there was no further correspondence before the meeting. The ballot for one of the candidates whose name was down for consideration at this meeting was postponed, owing to the absence of his proposer and seconder, and Dr. Mallman, Mr. Krapf, Lieut. Ludwig Schwarz, and Mr. Strohmeier (the members nominated by the Vienna Society, as suggested in the recent correspondence), all proposed by the Vice-President and seconded by the Secretary, were duly elected members of the Society. The motion standing in Mr. Biggs' name, in reference to the Society's Banking Account, was, in his absence, postponed to the next meeting. Mr. Bacon read a paper entitled—"Some official information on the stamps of the Cape of Good Hope." After remarking upon the small amount of written information hitherto published in regard to the history of these stamps, Mr. Bacon gave the result of his researches in the official records, which enabled him to fix with certainty the dates of most of the various issues, including the first issue, and the number and arrangement of the stamps on the sheets. An interesting fact in regard to the 1d. rate of postage for letters in this Colony was referred to, viz.:—that although in 1861 the 1d. rate came into force for Port Elizabeth, it was not until 1889, or nearly 50 years after the introduction of "Penny Postage" into Great Britain that this rate became general over the whole of the Colony of the Cape of Good Hope. In regard to the locally printed stamps known as the "wood blocks," beyond the names of the printers and the number and arrangement of the stamps on the sheets, very little appears to be known, but Mr. Bacon in his paper suggested the probable mode in which these stamps were prepared for use. In reference to the 1d. triangular stamp with the watermark Crown and C.C., it appears that very little information is forthcoming, and in suggesting the probable cause of the existence of this stamp, Mr. Bacon invited further research into its history. A curious feature was noted in regard to the  $\frac{1}{2}$ d. (black) stamp, which appears to have been chronicled as early as 1876, although it was not until 1882 that the  $\frac{1}{2}$ d. Inland rate for newspapers came into force. A large amount of interesting and valuable information was given in regard to the other stamps of the Colony, and the numerous extracts from the official Gazettes, and the

statistics given in respect of the number of stamps printed, showed the great labour and infinite pains which the author of the paper had bestowed upon his work so as to render it as complete as possible. After some discussion upon several of the points raised, a cordial vote of thanks, upon the motion of the Assistant-Secretary seconded by Mr. Meyer, was accorded to Mr. Bacon for his most interesting paper, which it was proposed, with his consent, to publish in the Society's journal. The further revision of the reference list of the stamps of Ceylon, which was upon the Agenda for the evening, was adjourned until the next meeting.

---

### BRIGHTON AND SUSSEX PHILATELIC SOCIETY.

---


*Honorary President:* BARON DE WORMS.

Committee for the Year 1891-92.

*President:* M. P. CASTLE.      *Vice-President:* J. H. REDMAN.

*Hon. Sec. and Treasurer:* W. T. WILLETT.

A. DE WORMS.		J. W. GILLESPIE.
H. STAFFORD SMITH.		J. H. ESCOLME.

HE Third Meeting of the Season (1891-92) was held at Markwell's Hotel, Brighton, on 4th January, at 7.30 p.m. Eleven members and one visitor were present; the President in the chair. The minutes of the previous meeting having been read and confirmed, the Secretary announced the receipt of a parcel of books from Messrs. Theodor Buhl & Co., as a donation to the library of the Society; on the motion of the Secretary, seconded by the Vice-President, a cordial vote of thanks was given that firm for their liberal gift. The Secretary moved, "That in future, the minutes of the Society be sent to the LONDON PHILATELIST, *Philatelic Record*, and *Monthly Journal*;" this was seconded by Mr. H. Stafford Smith, and carried unanimously. The Vice-President read an interesting paper on "Areas of Collecting;" a short discussion ensued on this subject, the further consideration of which was postponed till the next meeting. The Vice-President exhibited a curiosity—the English 1s., small letters, with a white circle round the letter (K), in the left hand bottom corner. He also showed, on behalf of the Rev. E. H. Rogers, a proof, in red, of the current 2½d. New Zealand. Mr. Gillespie exhibited a Straits Settlements Post Card, specially prepared for the Registration of Servants.

---

### MANCHESTER PHILATELIC SOCIETY.

---



MEETING of this Society was held at the Mitre Hotel, Manchester, on Friday, the 18th December, the Vice-President in the chair.

Two gentlemen who had been proposed at the last meeting came up for election, and were duly elected.

The Vice-President, addressing the meeting, referred to the absence of the President, who was attending a meeting of the London Philatelic Society the same evening, and finally called upon Mr. Collett (who had kindly consented to act as secretary for that meeting) to read a letter which had been received from the hon.

secretary of the Society tendering his resignation of that office owing to business engagements.

The letter having been read, the Vice-President moved, and Mr. Collett seconded, and it was resolved, that the resignation be accepted.

A discussion then took place as to the best means of raising a Library Fund, out of which all the principal Philatelic books could be purchased for the use of the members. Several suggestions were made, but it was eventually decided to adjourn the matter for further consideration to the next meeting.

Mr. Durst then read a paper on the Postage Stamps of Lubeck, in the course of which he made numerous references to official documents. He dealt with the reason of the water-marked paper being employed, and also with the semi-official reprints. The conclusions drawn from the official documents quoted by Mr. Durst tended to show the stamps on water-marked paper were those first in use. This, the vice-president pointed out, was, he believed, against the order given by the authorities.

A discussion took place on the paper, after which a vote of thanks was accorded to Mr. Durst for his interesting paper.

The rest of the evening was spent in the exhibition of novelties and new issues.

---

## Correspondence.

---

### AUCTIONS.

*To the Editor of the LONDON PHILATELIST.*

SIR,—There are several points in connection with the stamp auctions now being so frequently held which call for careful consideration.

The foremost question is, of course, whether these auctions are a benefit to Philately as a science? This question has been mooted before, and I am not sure that the answer to it should be in the affirmative.

It is very convenient for a person who desires to sell his collection to know that his stamps can be readily disposed of, and that by breaking them up into lots, and submitting them piecemeal to competition, a higher price for the whole is to be got than if he had to negotiate a sale *en bloc* to a dealer or another collector. But this is an advantage to an individual only, and in many cases to an individual who is ceasing to take an active interest in Philately. It is doubtful whether there is a corresponding advantage to collectors, whilst it is a matter for regret to hear that a valuable collection is broken up and its gems dispersed, so that reference to them may be no longer possible.

Owing, in a large measure, to the auctions, collectors have seen a great increase in the prices of stamps, and, to a very large extent, this rise in values has been brought about by

the action of dealers at the auctions. Dealers have been the principal buyers, and although jealousy and a desire for notoriety have apparently been sometimes the motives leading to competition, yet is it not to the common interest of dealers to effect a rise in prices? And are the interests of dealers and collectors always identical?

Further, is not the whole tone of our pursuit lowered by this constant putting of a money value on stamps? Should we gloat over this or that stamp simply because it is worth so many pounds? I think there is a great harm to Philately by the lowering of everything to a commercial and money basis.

Moreover, has not this continual open dealing in stamps, with the prominence given to their money value, and the public ear-marking of the varieties most sought after, given an impetus to the forgery of these stamps?

I am aware that much can be said in favour of auctions, and that ills formerly existed which it was hoped public sales would cure. But I should like to know from Mr. Garth whether the result has been all that he hoped for when he organised the first of these modern sales.

I may be premature in giving expression to the doubts which I confess that I feel. Perhaps those laws which govern all other transactions into which "business" enters are,

if somewhat slowly, already beginning to act on our sales, and that a remedy for the evils which have existed is almost in sight. Time will show.

But may I be permitted to refer to some other aspects of the case. If we are to have these sales it is absolutely necessary that the auctioneers should have a good knowledge of stamps, and this is the case with the gentlemen who conduct the more important sales. But is it also necessary that the auctioneers should be dealers, or intimately connected with dealers? When Mr. Bull was induced to undertake Mr. Garth's tentative sale it was felt to be a matter for congratulation that while Mr. Bull had an excellent knowledge of stamps, he had also an amateur's love for them, and was not in any way connected with the stamp trade. These conditions cannot, I think, be said to exist now, as among the subscribers to the Memorandum of Association of Mr. Bull's Company appeared the names of the partners of a well-known firm of stamp dealers and large buyers at the auctions. But I do not find a cause of complaint in this, and to answer my own question, I fear that (under existing conditions) it is unavoidable that auctioneers should be dealers. But there is a danger in the fact that we do not know who are the sellers behind the auctioneers. I have heard it said that some dealers, taking advantage of the high prices they have helped to create, have come to the auctioneers as sellers and then bid for and run up their own stamps. The mere existence of suspicions of this sort is a source of injury to auctioneers, dealers, and collectors alike, and I would suggest that whenever possible auctioneers should state in their catalogues the names of the vendors, and that it should be understood that in every case buyers should have a right after the sale to demand this information with respect to their own purchases. If a dealer should wish to sell a portion of his surplus stock by auction, there is no reason why he should not openly do so, and I, for one, should be glad to see dealers hold periodical sales.

One other point. I believe that four out of the five firms who have been holding auctions in London withdraw a stamp if challenged by any dealer or collector of standing, and in doubtful cases a guarantee is given for a stated time. May we not expect a similar course to be followed in every case? We do not want to see lots described in catalogues as "postage stamps" sold, as I have seen them, with the remark, "I guarantee nothing. You must buy them for what they are worth." I would suggest that one of the experts of the

London Philatelic Protection Association should challenge bogus stamps at sales in the name of the Association, and that no collector or dealer should bid for a stamp so challenged. I am sorry to say I have seen a dealer bid, without making any reserve, for a stamp which a competent authority had declared to be a forgery.

In concluding my, I fear, over-long letter, should like to quote from the catalogue of a recent sale the description of one lot of "postage stamps," and to give the price for which it was sold:—

"*Roumania, Moldavia*: 1854, circular 54 paras green, 81 paras blue, 108 paras pink; 1860, 40 paras blue, 80 paras red. *Moldo-Wallachia*:—1862, 3 paras yellow, 6 paras red, 30 paras blue."

Sold for six shillings! (There were other lots equally good and equally cheap!) For what purpose were they bought? And do such sales as these benefit Philately?

Your journal, Sir, has been started with no personal object, but with the hope that it may be of help and interest to all connected with Philately. Wishing you every success,

I am, your obedient servant,

R. PEARCE.

London, 9th January, 1892.

#### A TRANSVAAL STRANGER.

To the Editor of the LONDON PHILATELIST.

DEAR SIR,—At one of the recent stamp auctions in London a 1 penny red *inverted* surcharge on Queen's head was offered for sale, but was immediately challenged by several dealers as a bogus surcharge, and was thereupon withdrawn. I was not present at the sale, but I had previously inspected the stranger and could discover nothing to justify suspicion, though quite prepared to be sceptical of a stamp, the existence of which I had never heard of before.

It would be interesting to know on what grounds the stamp was challenged—whether it was simply because it was unknown, or whether it had been closely compared with a genuine surcharge and so condemned. To my knowledge two other large collectors of Transvaals who examined the stamp saw nothing in it to justify suspicion.

And now that such a stamp has turned up, it would be interesting to know whether any collector or dealer has ever met with an undoubtedly genuine inverted surcharge, red or black, on the Queen's head issue.

Yours truly,

EDWARD J. NANKIVELL.

## PROPOSED PHILATELIC CLUB.

To the Editor of the LONDON PHILATELIST.

DEAR SIR,—A proposal is being put forward to establish a Philatelic Club at some central place of meeting in London, and I understand that it goes the length of opening some two or three rooms at a subscription of a couple of guineas per annum. The object of the club, as now proposed, seems to be to bring collectors and dealers together in one club for their mutual advantage, and, I suppose, their mutual—profit. Now I have my doubts as to the success of this idea, for three reasons.

1. That there are not to be had a sufficient number of subscribers who, in addition to the almost numberless calls upon their pockets for subscriptions to this, that, and the other thing, care to establish another two guinea per annum call. 2. That those who can spare the money, have not also the time to spare to avail themselves of the proposed advantages, and, 3. That a club of dealers and collectors will not work, for the simple reason that, although a few of our best dealers would scrupulously abstain from bothering their collector fellow-members to “buy, buy, buy,” in season and out of season at the club, human nature is so constituted, that, in the long run, dealers would make the club a rendezvous for catching desirable customers for recent acquisitions.

But why not remove the mask from the proposal and start it right away as a Philatelic Exchange, for which dealers and collectors may be eligible, and let it be a place of meeting, with an exhibition room and a smoking room, where dealers may congregate to show collectors their recently purchased collections and novelties and rarities. Most collectors would, I believe, be willing to subscribe the small annual subscription which would be necessary to provide two such rooms, and, of course, it would be to the advantage of all leading dealers to be members of the Exchange. Indeed, I am of opinion that it would pay the leading dealers to establish an Exchange at their own cost, charging, if desirable, a nominal membership fee. The sales room might be let for auctions, and so focus them into one well known central place of Philatelic rendezvous, instead of holding them, as now, here, there, and everywhere, to the confusion of all concerned. An “Auction Announcements” board would keep every probable buyer informed as to the next auction. Dealers might also advantageously get up practical and unpretentious exhibitions. For instance, on the publication of a new volume of the magnificent catalogue of the London Philatelic Society an

exhibition might be held of the stamps described, and no doubt collectors would crowd around to inspect and to fill up gaps in their albums.

Again, there might be “open” and “close” days at the Exchange. “Open” days for the attendance of collectors generally, and “close” days for purely trade transactions, when the dealers might meet in secret conclave and fleece each other.

Yours truly,

WIDE ROULETTE.

## THE LONDON PHILATELIC SOCIETY.

To the Editor of the LONDON PHILATELIST.

DEAR SIR,—In the December number of the *Philatelic Record* an interesting correspondence is opened up which, now that the London Philatelic Society is to have, in the LONDON PHILATELIST, a monthly journal of its own, may well be continued in our own columns. Mr. Garth, as Secretary of the Society, writes to answer, once and for all, the question that, he says, is almost daily put to him, “What benefit do I individually reap by being, or shall I reap by becoming, a member of the London Society?” And he goes on to say that he has received letters which “show that the writers seriously expect that in return for their moderate annual subscription our Society should present its members with at least five times the equivalent in valuable stamps.” He further adds, “I am also twitted with the existence of rival societies, and with the formation of new societies, offering equal advantages, at a subscription of a nominal half-crown or five shillings per annum.”

To all this Mr. Garth pertinently replies that the London Philatelic Society aims at something more than mere periodical meetings, that “it has always sought to advance the science of Philately by giving, not only its members, but to the world at large, the benefit of its research, and it aims at placing in the hands of the collector, little by little, the complete history and catalogue of the postal issues of the world.”

That Mr. Garth should receive suggestions for increasing the Society’s usefulness would surprise no one who knows how influential and international is its membership, but the question, “What benefit do I reap, or shall I reap?” from membership is, to say the least, strange and curious. The man who wants his “pound of flesh” may easily be recognised as the intolerable drone who is always crying out for his *quid pro quo*, though he never contributes a farthing more than will entitle him to

benefit from the unselfish labour of his fellow-members.

The magnificent volumes of the Society's catalogue, and the eager expressions of pleasure which greet the production of each succeeding volume, go to prove that there cannot be many such drones in our Philatelic hive. That there are many outside must be due to sheer ignorance of the advantages of membership. For putting the question on a pure *quid pro quo* "pound of flesh" footing, I defy anyone to produce a Philatelic or any other Society that yields for membership a return at all equal to that which the London Philatelic Society now gives to its country members for their subscription of one guinea.

For that self-same guinea there are supplied without further charge the handsome volumes of the Society's catalogue once a year—so much appreciated by others that almost any one volume will, if sold to-morrow, more than return in hard cash a year's subscription. Commencing with this year, there is also supplied, without further charge, a monthly

Philatelic journal in which will be gathered together the ripe experience of the most expert philatelists of our day. Besides all this, membership in the London Society is accepted all the world over as an unquestionable guarantee of Philatelic status. And in these days it is worth more than a guinea to be so separated from the rag-tag and bob-tail, the fakers and surchargers, and the chemical dyers and cleaners, who vex and puzzle the Philatelic soul in every quarter of the globe.

The London Philatelic Society never has touted for members, and there is no sign that it will ever need to do so. It can best serve the permanent interests of Philately by pursuing in the future the wise policy that has marked its past with so much success. Its rank, its position, its influential membership and its published work, justify its rigorous and healthy action in promoting the survival of the fittest and the best, in matters Philatelic, individual and material.

Yours truly,  
CEDRIC.

## Occasional Notes.

It is with much regret that we have to announce the death of a well-known Continental dealer, and one with whom we have ourselves for many years past been personally acquainted. Herr Anselm Larisch, after a brief illness, and at the early age of 48, expired on the 12th of this month at his residence in Munich. The catalogues issued by Mr. Larisch have attained a wide circulation throughout Germany, and his name has been a household word in stamp circles for many years past as an energetic and honourable dealer. The sympathies of collectors here and in the Fatherland will be extended to his wife and young family.

\* \* \*

We regret to learn that, after an existence of two years, one of our most able and interesting contemporaries, the *Federal Australian Philatelist*, has ceased to exist. Some consolation may, however, be derived from the announcement that the defunct journal is to be embodied in *Vindin's Philatelic Monthly*, and that the co-operation of Mr. A. F. Basset Hull, its editor, is assured for the latter. Mr. Hull, who is a member of the London Society, is such an able writer that the whole Philatelic community would suffer by his abstention

from future literary work, and we trust, therefore, that his absence will be but of a temporary character.

\* \* \*

THE scarcity of Plate 9 of the halfpenny value of this country is well known to most collectors; it has therefore been somewhat surprising to note the frequent recurrence of specimens at auctions and elsewhere during the past few months. We have seen pseudo copies of this stamp which revealed the fact, after careful examination, that the figures denoting the plate number had been carefully and cleverly altered from a "3" to a "9." On examination it will be noted that this can be comparatively easily effected, and we would warn all collectors to closely scrutinise any specimens that may be offered to them. The "imitations" have the head of the 9 smaller than usual, while the tail extends further out, as with Plate 3. They should be held to a strong light and examined from the back, when the alteration can be distinctly noted.

\* \* \*

WE have received from Messrs. Stanley Gibbons & Co., Limited, a copy of an innovation in the shape of a "Duplicate Stamp Album." The novelty consists in the arrange-

ment of a number of envelopes, three of which are securely fastened to each page of the book, each, while readily unfolded, being so contrived that its contents are securely held. Every envelope is consecutively numbered and indexed, so that a ready reference can be obtained to the contents of the volume. As nearly 150 of these neat little receptacles are furnished it will be evident that a large number of duplicates can be thus stored away. Different sizes are published, all of which are neatly bound and well turned out in every respect. We have, after making practical experiments, satisfied ourselves as to the usefulness of these Duplicate books, and can therefore cordially recommend them to the notice of collectors.

\* \* \*

MAJOR E. B. EVANS has sent us a copy of a catalogue of stamps that were dispersed at auction on the 20th of this month at Chicago, by Messrs. Elison, Flersheim & Co., in which the following *rara avis* is described:—

“Victoria, 1863, 4d, rose, wmk. 4, *surcharged 1d in red*. This is an unrecorded provisional, and its condition is such as to preclude any doubt as to its authenticity. The figure 1 of the surcharge is  $1\frac{1}{2}$  mm thick and 12 mm tall; the d is somewhat elevated and is nearly the same thickness and height. The stamp bears a light cancellation and postmark, the latter showing ‘MEL MY 2 63,’ and is unmistakably over the surcharge.”

Our correspondent adds that it hardly seems to be a likely variety, an opinion that has our ready concurrence. It would be passing strange that, in a country so exempt from the curse of surcharging as Victoria, this old “beaded oval” issue should, for nearly 30 years, have embraced this unknown variety. Until we have personally inspected this *lusus natuæ* it would be unfair to condemn it, but like our Northern countrymen “we hae our doubts.”

\* \* \*

THE Assmus Case, which at the close of last year was fully reported in the several Philatelic journals, was again heard on January 6th, and as will be seen from the following report for which we are indebted to the *Standard*, the Prisoner was committed for trial:—

At the Marlborough-street police-court, Bernhard Assmus, a journalist, of Islington, who was committed for trial last month on a charge of obtaining money from Mr. Giweeb, a stamp dealer, by representing a forged “V.R.” black penny stamp to be genuine, was

brought up by habeas corpus to answer other charges of a similar kind.

Mr. Charles Reya, antiquarian bookseller, Harris’s-place, Oxford-street, said he became acquainted with the Prisoner in respect of some pictures, in July, 1890. In December of that year the Prisoner called at his office and showed him an Indian four-anna red and blue stamp, with the head of the Queen reversed. He said he wanted money, and asked Witness to buy it. He named £20 as its value. Witness told him he must make inquiries about it, and then the Prisoner said he would take £8 for it. Witness told him to reduce it to £7 10s, and then he left the stamp with him, on the understanding that he was to call again in a day or two. In the meantime Witness took the stamp to a firm of stamp dealers and offered it to them for £15. They accepted the offer, and on his again seeing the Prisoner he handed him the £7 10s and obtained a receipt. Witness believed that it was a genuine stamp. Subsequently the Prisoner called again, with another stamp—a penny blue Cape of Good Hope, saying that it belonged to his brother, and was a very valuable one. He offered it for £3 or £4, and it was left on approbation as before. On Witness again seeing the firm alluded to, the stamp was detected as a forgery, and they kept it in their possession. He communicated the result to the Prisoner, and did not see him afterwards.

Mr. Hannay: How did you know what to ask for the stamp?

Witness: From my experience in dealing in good books. I generally ask double (a laugh).

Mr. C. Phillips, secretary to Stanley Gibbons & Co., stamp dealers, of Gower-street, spoke to the purchase of the anna stamp from Mr. Reya at the price of £15. He thought at the time that it was a genuine article. The Cape of Good Hope stamp was a forgery, and it was detained. It had been chemically altered. A red stamp of the kind would be worth about 1s. 6d., and the blue one, which the one detained was made to represent, about £30. The 4 annas stamp was submitted to Major Evans, an expert, and that, too, was denounced as a forgery. It differed in various details from a genuine one. Witness believed there was only one genuine stamp with an inverted head in England. The inversion was caused by the printer accidentally when printing the first two sheets of a particular issue. The 4 annas stamp was sold by them shortly afterwards to Mr. Garth, a collector, for £20.

Mr. T. M. Bright, a dealer in foreign postage stamps, the Arcade, Bournemouth, said he received, in reply to an advertisement, a letter bearing the signature of the Prisoner, and dating from Church-street, Islington, offering some Baden stamps for sale at 5s. each. Witness bought four for 15s., and then, as he stated he could forward 40 or 50 more, further purchases were made, and a cheque for five guineas was sent to the address given in payment. Hearing of the existence of "dangerous" forged stamps, Witness came to London and saw Mr. Phillips, and then the various points of difference were pointed out. The pearls on the band of the crown in the genuine stamps were regular in size, with a little colour in the centre of them, whereas in the forged stamps the pearls were different in several respects. There was also a difference in the tissue of the paper and the colours in the post marks.

Prisoner: Being so sharp in the purchase of stamps you bought those that were sent to you, and yet you did not detect they were wrong ones until you made an examination of them with a big dealer. Do you expect, then, that other people, collectors and the like, must know better than you?

Witness said he did not expect people who speculated in stamps to send out three or four lots of forgeries one after the other.

Detective-sergeant Penson said he searched the Prisoner on the 21st November at the Vine-street Police-station, and found upon him 900 stamps. Altogether, on his person and at his rooms, he discovered 4,900 stamps. There were green Badens, four-anna Indians with the Queen's head reversed, and Cape of Good Hope, similar to those produced. The Prisoner had passed in the name of Bernhardt and Assmus.

Major E. B. Evans, late of the Royal Artillery, West Hill, Sydenham, said he had been a collector of stamps for twenty or thirty years, and had written various books upon them. He had examined a large quantity of postage stamps shown him by Detective-sergeant Penson. The Baden stamps were forgeries.

Mr. Hannay: Entirely manufactured, or altered?

Witness: Entirely manufactured. They corresponded with those sold to Mr. Bright. He had also seen the four-anna stamp with the head inverted. Part of it was a forgery, and the rest was genuine. It was worthless as it was. If genuine it would have been worth £20 or more. Two other stamps shown to him by the detective corresponded. They also had been partly forged. The Cape of Good Hope stamp had been chemically changed from red to blue, so as materially to alter its

value. If it was a genuine blue stamp it would be worth from £25 to £30. It had originally been a red stamp, worth only about 1s. 6d. Witness examined about 800 stamps amongst the lot produced, and all were forgeries. They included Bavarian and green Mauritius, the latter having been changed from blue.

By the Prisoner: Witness did not think he should have recognised the Baden stamps as forgeries unless his attention had been called to them beforehand. If he had been offered a single specimen, he probably should have purchased it as a genuine one. They were very good imitations of the genuine article. An unskilled person would be easily deceived by them.

The Prisoner, in defence, said if the stamps which he had sold were forgeries, all he could say was that he bought them and disposed of them without being aware of their character. In fact he had been deceived in the same way; but it was said he had deceived others. He was only a collector in a small way, and if gentlemen of such great experience as those who had given evidence had been deceived, surely it was very likely he would be deceived also. He had no intention to defraud anybody.

The Prisoner was committed for trial.

\* \* \*

#### ALLEGED FORGERY OF STAMPS.

A BRILLIANT commencement for the New Year has been made by the Philatelic Protection Association, as will be shown by the following announcement:—

At the Thames Police-court on 24th December, Alfred Benjamin, twenty-nine, a stamp dealer, of 46, Oval-road, Lambeth; Julian Hippolite Sarpy, thirty-two, a stamp dealer, of the same address; and George Kirke Jeffreys, twenty-four, a clerk, of 80, Grove-road, Bow, were charged, on warrants, with having in the years 1886-90 conspired and confederated together with other persons, by means of false pretences, to cheat and defraud Percy May Bright, Charles James Phillips, and divers other persons.—Mr. Muir, barrister, instructed by Messrs. Wilson and Wallis prosecuted. Mr. E. S. Purcell, barrister, appeared for Sarpy and Benjamin; and Mr. C. E. Jones, barrister, represented Jeffreys.

Counsel, in opening the case, said the warrants were only granted on Wednesday, and in addition to the charge of fraud there was no doubt the Prisoners were amenable to other charges. He proposed now to proceed with the charge of conspiracy. Jeffreys was a manufacturer of forged disused stamps, which were bought by collectors. The other

Prisoners bought them from him, and passed them off on the public as genuine stamps. When Jeffreys was arrested and taken to the station in a cab, a parcel, containing a very large number of forged postage stamps, was afterwards found in the vehicle. Amongst them were English stamps, marked "Zululand" and "Rorke's Drift."

Detective-sergeant S. White stated that he saw Benjamin at 1, Cullum-street, City. Witness told him the charge, and read the warrant to him. He said, "I have expected this for some time." Witness then took him to Leman-street Police-station, where he was searched. A large number of stamps and other papers were found in his possession, amongst them being two cards.

Mr. Muir: One is addressed to persons dealing in forged stamps, and the other to those dealing in genuine ones.

Sergeant White, continuing, said he arrested Jeffreys at 80, Grove-road Bow. In reply to the charge the Prisoner said, "I have done the printing for Benjamin and Sarpy. We used to do it on this table. There are fakes in every trade. I admit I have done printing and have faked up stamps for Benjamin and Sarpy, but I have done nothing for them for some time. I have sold my press and given up the business. I have not defrauded anyone." At the station he was searched, and some documents found in his possession. Shortly afterwards Witness received a large envelope containing a very large number of postage-stamps from the police of the M division. He showed them to Jeffreys, who said he knew nothing about them. That morning Jeffreys called him and said, "I put the envelope and stamps under the seat of the cab. I was foolish to do it, and I am very sorry."

Detective Cumner proved arresting Sarpy at St. George's-road, Southwark. On telling him the charge, he said, "This is only spite. I have been expecting this for a long time." On him witness found a pocket-book containing documents and a large number of stamps.

Mr. Dickinson remanded the prisoners, and consented to accept bail each in two sureties of £300, with notice to the police.

Remanded till 1st January, the following evidence was given, on the last occasion only evidence of arrest being taken:—

Detective-Sergeant White, re-called, stated that on the 29th ult. he obtained a warrant to search the house 80, Grove-road. On the 30th ult. he made his search. In a coal cellar he found two printing presses and a number of lithographic stones. One of the latter bore impressions of "Victoria 1s. stamps." These

were blue stamps. On the 24th ult. he searched the other prisoners' rooms at 46, Oval-road, where he found a number of stamps and documents. On the 31st ult. he obtained a search warrant at the Mansion House to search 1, Cullum-street, City. This was a shop occupied by Benjamin and Sarpy. He found there a quantity of stamps and documents. Besides these he found three perforating machines, and also perforating tools. He also saw a number of bottles containing acid, some paint, and printers' ink.

By Mr. Purcell: He did not see a notice that no stamps were warranted unless asked for. Such a notice might have escaped his attention. The things he found were not concealed. He should say there were millions of stamps in the shop.

By Mr. Jones: He had only brought one of the stones from Jeffreys' house. He found a large quantity of Victoria 1s. stamps.

Henry Thomas Pauncefort, printer and engraver, of 16, Little New-street, said that in August, 1886, a person named Jeffreys came to his shop and gave him an order to engrave two steel plates from designs given to him by Jeffreys. He engraved the stamps produced. The two plates were the same except as to the number. He printed 1,000 from each plate. One was in blue and the other in carmine. There was now what purported to be a post-office obliterating mark on the stamps. They were not there when he executed the order. He was paid £3 15s. for the plates and £1 9s. for the 2,000 impressions. He did not know for what purpose the stamps were intended.

By Mr. Purcell: His business was established in 1816 by his father, and witness had been 21 years in business. He had never before or since printed fac-similes of stamps. He thought it was for something ecclesiastical. (Laughter.)

By Mr. Jones: He would not swear that the two stamps produced were two of those he printed. He printed them separately and had nothing to do with the perforation. Both were Sandwich Islands stamps.

George Frederick Clayton, a postman, said that he resided at 25, Hazelwood-crescent, Westbourne Park. He had known Jeffreys since 1881 or 1882. Witness had sold stamps for him, but could not remember the names. He had sold "Columbian" stamps for him, but could not recollect whether he had sold "Bermudas." He had sold "Sandwich Islands" stamps for him. Those he sold were marked with a postmark, while others were marked with a surcharge. Witness did not remember selling some of the Sandwich Islands stamps to Mr. Buhl, a dealer in the City. The witness,

on being confronted with Mr. Buhl, admitted that he had sold that gentleman two stamps which were unmarked. He agreed to pay back some money to Mr. Buhl because the stamps were not genuine ones. Jeffreys told him to sell the stamps, and get as much as he could. Witness had received something out of the proceeds. He had sold fiscal stamps with postal surcharges for Jeffreys. He had also sold fiscal stamps with postmarks on them. They were not genuine postmarks. He had been to Jeffreys' house, and seen him at work cutting out the postmarks on wood. He had also seen Jeffreys print stamps of the "Universal Postal Union," with surcharges on them. That would increase the value from the collector's point of view. He had seen Jeffreys use a small printing press. He saw the prisoner perforate the stamps after they came from Pauncefort's. He also postmarked them. Witness also knew Benjamin and Sarpy, whom he first met in the City. He had seen Jeffreys with them. On one occasion Jeffreys showed him some Tasmanian stamps, which he said were "the latest." Witness knew that he meant that they were the latest forgery or "false." Jeffreys told him that he had got a good machine, which cost a considerable sum. About two years ago Sarpy showed witness how he put surcharges on the stamps, and Benjamin looked on. He knew the yellow and green stamps of Grenada, and had seen Sarpy put postmarks on them with a small metal die.

By Mr. Purcell: Before he entered the Post-office he served as steward on board a ship. He was not connected with the stamp society. He was first spoken to by Mr. Moser, a private inquiry agent. There were no Sandwich Islands stamps, consequently those he sold were worthless. He had taken stamps from Sarpy and Benjamin to sell to others, but did not sell any after he had seen the machinery for making them. Dozens of varieties came from the Continent of stamps that had no genuine existence, while others were facsimiles. There were catalogues and books for the purpose of verifying stamps.

By Mr. Jones: No country used a dated cancelling stamp.

Albert Felsenthal, a dealer in foreign stamps, trading as Edward Lester, of 101, Greenwood-road, Dalston, stated that he had known Jeffreys for five or six years. He was introduced to him by Benjamin. About five years ago he called on Jeffreys at his residence and sold him some stamps, taking payment partly in money and partly in stamps. Jeffreys showed him a number of stamps. He

bought some Argentines, upon which Jeffreys put a forged surcharge. He showed witness a sheet of paper on which were impressions of various forged surcharges. He called this sheet of paper the "Faker's Pride." On several occasions since then Jeffreys had shown him forged stamps, and asked him to purchase them. On the 22nd November, 1890, he called on Jeffreys and asked him if he could "clean" for him some Victoria fiscal stamps. He replied that it was not worth his while, as he had not cleaned stamps for some years, and was playing for better game. He added that he had quite a dozen new things (meaning forgeries) inside of which no one except himself knew anything. He also said anything new he was bringing out he should first supply to the Continent, together with his customers, and then he did not mind selling it to the boys (meaning men who sold forgeries), as they had spoiled his market on several occasions. He asked Jeffreys how to clean Victoria fiscal stamps, and he replied, "I will do so if you don't mention it to anyone, and if you let me have any of high value." He then wrote on the paper produced a list of chemicals he used in cleaning various stamps, and said, "You can afterwards easily obtain the post mark." He had frequently seen Jeffreys in Benjamin's shop at 1, Cullum-street.

By Mr. Purcell: He knew Mr. Moser, and first saw him about seven weeks ago. Witness sold the stamps as forgeries. He knew a man named Reece who had been convicted of stealing stamps. Witness had sold stamps for him, and they might have been stolen. He knew three more besides the prisoners who dealt in fictitious stamps.

Mr. Dickinson again remanded the prisoners.

At the second remand on 8th January the following further evidence was adduced:—

Albert Felsenthal, in answer to Mr. Jones, said he wished to correct his statement that he had sold Mr. Buhl forgeries as genuine stamps. He had sold forged stamps to Mr. Buhl on one occasion for another dealer. He had been twice to Jeffreys' house, the first time being about five years ago. He had heard that Jeffreys had been in respectable employment at Covent Garden. It was after he had a consultation with Mr. Moser that he went to J. Jeffreys' house. He went there as a spy. He had not tried the preparation Jeffreys gave him. He had received £2 15s. from Mr. Moser. He knew a man named The Rajah, but did not know he was a collector of forged stamps, and that the Duke of Edinburgh wanted to purchase them. Witness had sent stamps

to Holland. He remembered a robbery of high-priced telegraph stamps, and it was after that he sent the stamps to Holland. At that time the witness Clayton was in the Post Office, but witness was not in frequent communication with him, and had not received stamps from him. He was questioned about the robbery of stamps by an officer named Doubleday. He remembered the robbery of British North Borneo stamps, and he had some of them for sale. He did not give the police any information that led to Jeffreys being taken to the police-station to see if he could be identified. He did not remember the robbery of a show-case from Mr. Hart's, in Bell-alley. On the first occasion he went to Jeffreys' house he saw him put a surcharge on an Argentine stamp. He bought a number of these stamps to show to other dealers, and he might since have sold them. The "faker's pride" was a piece of blue paper. Columbian stamps were in black and white, but the one produced should be darker. Jeffreys told him he had quite a dozen new things, meaning forgeries.

Rudolph Meyer, Sussex House, Queen Elizabeth-walk, Lordship Park, deposed he was managing clerk to a firm of shipping agents. He had been a collector of stamps for many years, and had been in the habit of making purchases from Benjamin and Sarpy. They had often boasted to him about forgeries they had been in the habit of making and selling. He had seen forged Bavarian stamps at their shop. Witness had also seen Sarpy clean fiscal stamps, post-mark, stamp, and roulette them. The latter was a substitution for perforation. Those processes, in some instances, would considerably enhance the value of stamps. The Victoria stamp, if rouletted, was worth pounds, and its value was enhanced twenty-fold. Benjamin had been present while Sarpy was doing it, and would see what witness had described. Sarpy had shown him the implements used. Witness had sold them genuine stamps, and had been told how they made 12kr. Bavarian stamps. Sarpy told him he intended to sell them for what they looked like—genuine stamps.

By Mr. Purcell: He only bought stamps as a collector. He was known amongst the dealers as "The artful man." There did not appear to be any secrecy about what Sarpy and Benjamin did. He had heard of the Public Prosecutor, but did not go to him about it. He had asked Benjamin and Sarpy to repair stamps for him. He lent Sarpy an East African stamp to forge, and he

told witness he could get the type to forge the surcharge.

Detective-Sergeant Thomas Cumner, H Division, said on the 31st ult. he went with Inspector Hunt and Sergeant White to 1, Cullum-street, and searched the place on a search warrant. The things found were taken to the Mansion House. On the 1st inst. the things were handed over to witness. He now produced 124 stamps, five wooden type blocks, one type stock, and one type stamp. He saw a notice in the shop to the effect that no stamp would be guaranteed unless a written guarantee was given. That notice was posted up on the side of the wall.

Otto Dannenberg, 4, Lewar-villas, Erskine-road, Hoe-street, Walthamstow, deposed that he was a clerk. He knew the prisoners. In the beginning of last year witness was in the employ of Mr. Hart, a stamp dealer, of 29, Fenchurch-street. He had seen Jeffreys there, and he sold Hart some forged penny red Sydney view stamps at the rate of 3s. each. The proper value for a genuine stamp of that description was between 20s. and 30s. Jeffreys said nothing was to be said to Benjamin or Sarpy about the transaction, as they had previously bought a quantity from him on condition that he did not sell to any one else in London within a certain period. On one occasion witness went to Jeffreys' house, where he was shown some impressions of an 8d. Ceylon stamp, and he saw some star water-marked paper which was used for the manufacture of stamps.

By Mr. Purcell: He had been on the Continent selling forged stamps for Mr. Hart. Witness had himself removed the perforation from a blue New Zealand stamp, and afterwards sold it for 15s. Witness had sold forged stamps for other people. There were people in the world who bought forged stamps. The poor Belgians were taken in with the stamps he sold them.

By Mr. Jones: He had not sold any dead telegraph stamps abroad.

John Wm. Jones, manager to Messrs. Stanley Gibbons & Co., stamp dealers, of 435, Strand, said that about six months ago he attended a sale at Carshalton, Surrey, at which some stamps were sold. He saw Sarpy there, and that prisoner said, "Give our compliments to Mr. Castle, and thank him for his article on the Sydney views. We have had the plate altered, and they are all right now."

Mr. Theodor Buhl, stamp dealer, 11, Queen Victoria-street, City, said he knew Benjamin, who formerly had a partner named Bannister. Witness had purchased "1s. (St. Vincent)

vermillion, surcharge 4d." He paid 45s. or 50s. for three of them, and purchased them as genuine. Afterwards he found the surcharge was forged. He then communicated with Benjamin, and requested the return of the money. First of all they denied they were forged, and afterwards admitted the surcharge was forged, and returned the money. Some

years ago he purchased some Sandwich Island stamps from Frederick Clayton. They were post-marked. He paid £2 10s. for them, and believed they were a new issue of stamps. Afterwards he discovered they were not genuine. He saw Clayton about them, and at his instigation he procured other stamps.

Mr. Dickinson again remanded the prisoners.

## The Philatelic Market.

An interesting collection of stamps has lately changed hands, Messrs. Cheveley, Wilson & Co. having purchased the Philatelic possessions of Captain W. E. Williams, one of the oldest members of the London Philatelic Society. The Mackwood collection, and also that of Mr. E. D. Bacon, were component parts of Captain Williams' treasures, and it may therefore be readily imagined that the collection contains many scarce varieties. Amongst the more interesting stamps are a fine lot of Afghan, Mexican, early Swiss stamps and West Indian, and there is also a magnificent Plate of the Mauritius 1848 1d. red in a very early state of the die, the acquisition of which stamps must have proved a very paying investment to the original purchaser.

A sale was held by Messrs. Thomas Bull & Co., Limited, on the 2nd of this month noticeable for a number of the early Mauritius stamps, which changed hands at satisfactory rates. The 4 and 5 pesos Buenos Ayres, which realised respectively £9 10s. and £8 10s., another 1869 30c. U.S., with centre inverted, that went for £15, were the best lots. We note that as in other sales the scarce Plate 9 of the halfpenny of Great Britain was sold at a good price. Our readers will see that reference is made to these stamps elsewhere in this issue. We must congratulate Mr. Bull in having arranged his catalogue according to the "quarters" of the globe, thus saving materially both the time and patience of his clients. A sale was also held by Mr. Hadlow on the 9th January, but there was nothing to call for comment in the lots submitted.

Since the inauguration of auctions in this country by the Secretary of the London Philatelic Society there has not been, with one exception, such a well-attended and successful sale as that carried out by Messrs. Cheveley, Wilson & Co. on 16th and 17th December. As in the case of the previous exception, the event was rendered noteworthy from the fact that all the lots emanated from

one collection, and once more testifies to the Philatelic world that the careful and thoughtful collecting of stamps will always repay itself when the moment arrives for "parting." We are informed by the auctioneers that these stamps were the property of a well-known gentleman residing in one of our Colonial dependencies, and he will have good reason to be satisfied with the results, the sum of £1,490 having been the aggregate attained.

Amongst those present at the sale we noticed—Collectors: V. Roberts, Avery, Blest, Street, Ransom, Castle; dealers: Gibbons, Buhl, Giwelb, W. T. Wilson, Ginn, Callf, Astruc, of Paris, and many others. From the outset it was evident that there were many eager bidders, and as in numerous instances the same lots were required the resultant high prices perhaps should hardly be taken to represent the actual values. The highest price attained was £49 (Theodor Buhl & Co.) for an 81 paras Moldavia, in our opinion £20 above its present value, the set of the four values of their first issue reaching the stupendous figure of £91 15s.! The blue Trinacria of Naples, unused, was bought by Mr. Castle for £32; the other Europeans, such as Swiss, Tuscany, &c., more than realising the previous record of prices. A slightly damaged "Connell" fetched £16 10s., and the so-called provisionals of Nova Scotia were knocked down, those with the smaller type for £13 the pair, and with the larger for £36, a good price considering that they were expressly stated to be sold on their merits, and, as is well known, that their claims to be issued postal varieties is by no means admitted. British Guianas, Nova Scotia, &c., went off very well, £18 was paid for the 1863 Columbian error 50c. red, and £13 for the Medio peso rose of Peru. We are informed by the auctioneers that the largest buyers were Messrs. Stanley Gibbons, Limited, Theodor Buhl & Co., W. T. Wilson, Hadlow, Roberts, Giwelb and Castle.