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**London Philatelist**

THE JOURNAL OF  
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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. B. J. NANKIVELL, Carlsbrook, Birdhurst Rise, South Croydon.

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VOL. I.]

FEBRUARY, 1892.

[No. 2.

THE NEW POSTAL STATIONERY.



THE somewhat tardy innovations elsewhere described in our columns may be taken as an index that our postal authorities are awakening to the necessity of moving with the times, though it is but an instalment of the reforms that are needed in the interests of the multitudes for whose benefit the Post Office was intended. Her Majesty's Postmaster General would, no doubt, gladly travel further on the road of concession to the writing public but for the drag on his progress in the shape of the Chancellor of the Exchequer, who is apt to view St. Martin's Le Grand rather as an instrument to increase the National Revenue than a system devised for the comfort and convenience of the taxpayer. So progressive has, however, been the financial aspect of our postal system, that, to say the least, a strong claim for a co-operative share of the increment of profit has been clearly established, and it would be a salutary rule that a certain percentage of the profits of the Postal Service should always be placed at the absolute disposal of the Postmaster-General in order to confer fresh concessions to his multifarious customers. Were this principle conceded, Mr. HENNIKER HEATON and his coadjutors would be in a fair way to see the speedy realisation of their wishes as to Over-Sea Penny Postage, and perhaps without any ultimate reduction of the National Revenue. The new envelopes of 2½d. value, for service under the conditions of the Postal Union, are creditable productions, and are notable as being the first officially issued envelopes of a higher value than 1d. since the 2d. dark blue, with silk threads, that appeared in the early part of 1841. There is no novelty as to design, the die of the 2½d. brown pink by Messrs. De la Rue, of

April, 1876, used for printing to order, being brought into use, changed in colour to a pale blue, the paper is eminently adapted for the purpose required, and from inquiries we have made, we note that the amount charged beyond the impressed value bears favourable comparison with stationery of a similar class. We are, however, not much convinced of the utility of the Letter Card, and it would seem that at the high price of 10 for a shilling they have but little *raison d'être*. A dozen envelopes and sheets of notepaper of excellent quality can be obtained for about twopence, hence these cards cost more than an ordinary letter: had they been issued at the same price as the stout postcards, there would have been some concession. It will be seen, in another column, from a question asked by Mr. HEATON in the House of Commons, that the ideas of the Post Office as to the limits of the uses of postcards is of a somewhat fossil order. A comparison of our cards with those of the leading European nations will show to our disfavour both as to the quality and size of the English Postcard; it might well be increased to the dimensions of, say, the French Card, and assuming that those used did not exceed the prescribed limit, we quite fail to see why an ordinary plain card with a halfpenny adhesive should not be allowed to pass. This desirable alteration would, perhaps, take from the Government a slight profit, but would give the paper trade a stimulus by allowing them fair competition with the Government in supplying a public want. It is to be hoped that our Postal Authorities will be more progressive in the future, and consider the million rather than the Chancellor of the Exchequer.

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## New Issues and Unchronicled Varieties.

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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.*

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### ADHESIVES.

**Bahamas.**—Mr. W. T. Wilson informs us of a variety of perforation of the no watermark issue of the old type, *e.g.*,

4d., 1st issue, no watermark, perf. 12 and 11 one side only.

**Bermudas.**—Messrs. Whitfield King writes as follows:—"The philatelic journals have several times chronicled a Bermuda  $\frac{1}{2}$ d. *green*. We have been informed officially on several occasions that no such stamp exists, and we have this day received another letter stating that no change of colour in the  $\frac{1}{2}$ d. stamp is even contemplated."

**British Bechuanaland.**—From the same firm we receive a novelty of this country. The stamp is the 1d. red, watermark cabled anchor, and surcharged British Bechuanaland vertically in lower case letters. The lettering is larger and bolder than before, the dimensions being "British"  $9\frac{1}{2}$  mm. long and Bechuanaland



the overprint consisting of the inscription, "Congo Français—5 c." As usual, there are only 2,000 to be issued, and there is, of course, the official proclamation!

5 c., black surcharge, on 25 c., black on rose (1881).

**Curaçao.**—The juvenile Queen of Holland's presentment has appeared on some of the Colonial stamps, of which the following values are announced. It will be noted, by the illustration, that the only difference consists in the change of the portrait.

12½ c., green, with head of Queen.

15 c., rose, " "

25 c., brown, " "



An esteemed correspondent doubts the authenticity of the recently chronicled 25 on 50 cents, but gives only negative reasons against it. We chronicled it on good authority.

**Costa Rica.**—Mr. E. D. Bacon informs us that a new set of stamps for this Republic has been executed by Messrs. Waterlow & Sons, Limited, and that they have been despatched to that country.

**Chamba.**—The high value of the Service set has been noted by the *Monthly Journal*, with the "M" preceding the first "A."

Service Stamp, 1 rupee, black and grey, *error*, CHMABA.

**Diego Suarez.**—By the accompanying illustrations, it will be noticed that the



recent fecundity of this Colony remains an undiminished quantity. It will be seen that the types are entirely different, as also the position of the surcharge, while one variety is within a rectangle. Fortunately, our representations obviate the necessity for further describing



this speculative trash.

5 c., red surcharge, on 10 c., black on violet, current type.

5 c., black " 20 c., brick on green, "

**Dutch Indies.**—Following the mother country, this Colonial possession has instituted her little Majesty's portrait. At present only the below-mentioned has been met with, but we hear that others will follow very quickly.

20 c., blue, with head of queen.

The *Timbre Poste* states that the Unpaid letter stamps are to be modified in type as in the case of Surinam.



**Egypt.**—Another value has been added to the current set, having been issued on the first of January. Watermark and perforation remain unchanged.

3 milliemes, reddish brown, type of current set.



**Ecuador.**—Messrs. Whitfield King & Co. have sent us complete sets of the 1892 stamps for those unhappy South American Republics who have delivered themselves into the hands of the enemy—from a philatelic aspect. We have such a supreme disgust for this system of recruiting the finances of a Government by the depletion of collectors' pockets, that we intend to give scant notice to their philatelically worthless productions. We shall content ourselves by the briefest of

descriptions in stating that the design consists of a much be-medalled three-quarter face portrait of a warrior with an elaborate amount of exiguous ornamentation, the inscription of value, country, year of issue, &c. The official series have words "Franques oficial" in red letters, diminishing in size towards the centre. The stamps are handsomely engraved, as is to be expected, being the products of the Hamilton Bank Note Co., but are too large for postal requirements, although they might usefully adorn a scrap book.

1 c., orange, perf.	20 c., dark brown, perf.
2 c., brown, "	50 c., maroon, "
5 c., vermilion, "	1 s., blue, "
10 c., green, "	5 s., purple, "

Official :—

1 c., light blue, carmine surcharge, perf.
2 c., " " " "
5 c., " " " "
10 c., " " " "
20 c., " " " "
50 c., " " " "
1 s., " " " "

**Fiji.**—Mr. Robert Ehrenbach has shown us a block of 6 of the 2d. green surcharged "2½d." in large type, that appeared last year. All the three right-hand stamps have the surcharge wider by nearly 1 mm. than the left, the nearest portions of the numeral and the fraction being ½ mm. further apart than is the case with the left-hand stamps.

2½d. black surcharge on 2d. green *variety of surcharge.*

**France.**—The 15 c. of the current issue has been found, inadvertently no doubt, innocent of perforations on three sides, says the *Revue Philatélique*.

15 c., blue, current type, *perf. only above.*

**Great Britain.**—Some of our readers, perhaps, may not have heard of the following comparatively recent addition to the I. R. official set.

2½d. black surcharge on blue, current set.

**Greece.**—The *Timbres Poste* mentions the fact that since the 15th of January the 2 lepta of the Athenian impression has been issued both with and without perforations.

2 lepta, pale brown, Athens impression.

" " perf. 11½ "

**Grenada.**—We illustrate the surcharged variety chronicled in our last issue.

**Holkar.**—Mr. E. D. Bacon sends us the information that Messrs. Waterlow & Sons, Limited, have engraved and printed the following values, similar in type to the current half anna.



¼ anna, orange-yellow.

1 " dark green.

2 " vermilion.

**Holland.**—There is to be a new value shortly issued, says our Brussels contemporary, for the reduced town to town postage, to wit, 3 cents. The following varieties have to be added to those of the new type :—

15 c., light brown.

20 c., green.

22½ c., blueish-green.

25 c., violet.

50 c., bistre.



**Johore.**—The accompanying cuts will show better than our description of last month this novel and rather pleasing design. The colour of the 4c. is lilac and black, not blue, as inadvertently stated.



**Malta.**—The highest value has made its appearance, says the *Timbre Poste*, with a change of watermark.

5s., carmine, *Watermark C. A. & Crown*, perf. 14.

**Mexico.**—Messrs. Ridpath & Co. send us a specimen of a new issue of the unpaid letter stamp. The central portion is, as before, occupied by the letter T, but it is much larger, of a fancy type, and is in a horizontal lined background; the sides are occupied by a fancy shaped border; the words "Falta de Porte" above, and "20 cts." below, are inscribed in coloured letters on white ground, extending to the entire width of the stamp, the whole design differing absolutely from the last issued type with the green network. The paper is white wove with a blueish tinge.

Unpaid letter stamp 20 c., red; perf. 11.

**Negri Sembilan**—of the type that we illustrated last month have now appeared, according to information, from various sources.

1 cent, watermark C. A. & Cr. perf. 14,

5 blue, " "

**New South Wales.**—Messrs. Stanley Gibbons & Co. recently showed us a specimen of the £1 of the current issue with the added letters for official service which came through a good source, and whose authenticity seemed to be assured.

Official stamp, £1 current issue, *surcharged O.S.*

**New Zealand.**—M. Moëns, on the authority of an anonymous correspondent, questions the authenticity of the 1d. brown with watermark N Z, as described in our leading Philatelic journals at the close of the year; it is stated to be simply an oxydised specimen of the 1d. red, which stamp perforated, by the way, is not so common as M. Moëns' friend imagines! We saw the stamp in conjunction with others who have studied "Australians," and although we only saw it by gaslight, we utterly failed to see either anything approaching oxydation or of a suspicious nature at all. Until this is shown to us we shall continue to believe the evidence of our own eyes.

**Nicaragua.**—King Seebeck, has his foot well on the neck of the Nicaraguan Postal Authorities, as evidenced by the abundance of the new crop which consists of no less than 30 varieties of adhesives, inclusive of telegraph stamps. A vignette, almost the size of an ordinary postage label, portrays some event in Nicaraguan history that has taken place aboard ship, in a picturesque and artistic manner, flanked above and below by the requisite inscriptions, while the well-known sugar loaf mountain on the arms of the country have also a minute representation. The official series has a similar surcharge to those of Ecuador.

Surcharged Official in dark blue.

1 c., yellow-brown, perf.	...	1 c., yellow-brown, perf.
2 c., red	...	2 c., red
5 c., blue	...	5 c., blue
10 c., slate	...	10 c., slate
20 c., carmine	...	20 c., carmine
50 c., purple	...	50 c., purple
1 p., brown	...	1 p., brown
2 p., green	...	2 p., green
5 p., carmine	...	5 p., carmine
10 p., orange	...	10 p., orange

**Nossi-be.**—Every month brings its weary round of the perennial French surcharges from almost every colony. How long will it be before a Hercules is found to cleanse the Augean stables? The advantages of a Republic may be many, but amongst them are not included the privileges that Postmasters are allowed to abuse, which would perhaps have been stifled in their birth by a most autocratic hand. One of our fresh varieties is of the third issue of the *Timbres-Taxe* series, and is the result of an error, of course, says the *Timbre-Poste*.

25 c., black surcharge on 20 c. brick on green (unpaid type).

We illustrate the other variety, which differs as to the letters N. S. B. from those previously chronicled.

25 c., black surcharge on 1 fc. brown *variety of surcharge*.



**Obock** (French Colony).—At the last moment Messrs. Whitfield King & Co. send us a list of ten varieties for this colony. A postponement of the descriptions of these stamps will probably not awaken much regret in the hearts of Philatelists.

**Philippines.**—We have received from Messrs. Clarke & Co. a pair of the impresos series imperf. of the 5 c.; as with many of the Spanish Colonial stamps, it is probable that the whole set can be obtained thus.

**Queensland.**—Messrs. Stanley Gibbons & Co. recently showed us a vertical pair of the no watermark series without any perforation between them.

1s., brownish grey, 1864, without watermark, *imperf. horizontally above*.

**Porto Rico.**—Messrs. Stafford Smith & Co. have shown us another value in the changed colours of the "baby king" type.

8 c. de peso, brown,

**Réunion.**—Not satisfied with the avalanche of new varieties that crushed out the life of Philatelic editors a month or two since, it has been considered necessary



to issue a fresh surcharge. It will be seen from our illustration that the shape of the figure 2 differs materially, and there is a sub-variety of the 1st, while on the sheet have been found by the editor of the *Timbre Poste* pleasing little variations of spelling, such as Ruénion and



Reunoin, as well as letters separated, accents omitted, &c.

2 c., black surcharge, on 20 c. brick on green. Type I.

2 c., " " " " " " II.

**Roumania.**—Reference has been made in various journals to the varying perforation of the current issue of these stamps. The same varieties, perf. 11½ and 13½ are apparently to be seen in the "Jubilee" set from a specimen submitted to us by Messrs. Ridpath & Co. As soon as an approximate list of all these varieties can be made out we shall be pleased to insert it.

**Russia—BOGDOROSK (Moscow).**—Since the end of October last 1 & 5 kopee stamps have been issued in the following colours.

1 kop., violet, perf. 11½.

5 kop., carmine, "

**LOUGA (ST. PETERSBURG).**—The type of 1886 has been reset. The letters in the centre are smaller; the designs on each side of the central figure are in colour instead of in white, and the figures in the angles are larger. There are other minor details to mention. The stamp is printed in colour on white paper.

3 kop., vermilion.



ZADONSK (WORONJE).—The 5 kop. of 1891 has now a larger figure.

5 kop., blue & bistre, perf. 11½.

ZOLOTONASCHA (POLTAVA).—The 2 kop., in consequence of an increase in rate, has been surcharged 3. (*T. Poste.*)

3 on 2 kop., green & black.

**Salvador.**—There is only one set of the 1892 adhesives here, and no values higher than the Peso. This should be seen to, as surely the cost of printing double and treble sets by means of a surcharge and the addition of values up to Pesos, would bring revenue to the Government and its postal contractors! This design consists of an historical event (on land this time!) the principal figure of which is evidently preserving his perpendicular position by the aid of a flagstaff, and may therefore be taken as a graceful and delicately veiled allegory showing the Salvadorian Post Office supporting itself by the aid of the immortal Seebeck colours! The design is surrounded by handsome involved scroll work frame, containing the necessary inscription.

1 c., green, perforated.	11 c., brown, perforated.
2 c., light brown, „	20 c., orange, „
3 c., ultramarine, „	25 c., maroon, „
5 c., gray, „	50 c., yellow, „
10 c., vermilion, „	1 p., carmine, „

**Selangor.**—As with the other minor States, the following have been issued of the new type.

1 c., green, watermark C.A. & Cr., perf. 14.  
5 c., blue, „ „

**Shanghai.**—The 2 cents is now perforated 12, and the 15 perforated 15, both having the watermark, “Kongboo,” in Chinese characters. (*Timbre Poste.*)

2 c., brown, perf. 12, paper yellowish.

15 c., blue, „ 15, „

The paper is yellowish, also on the undermentioned.

5 c., red, perf. 15, paper yellowish.

10 c., black, „ „

20 c., violet, „ „

**Sirmoor.**—The Service surcharge has been added to the 3 pies, says a Continental contemporary, while Messrs. Clarke & Co. have sent us a specimen of the 1 anna, with black surcharge in place of red as heretofore, the authenticity of the surcharge seeming to be assured.

Official Stamp, 3 pies, yellow, surcharged in black, on S.S.S.

„ 1 anna, yellow, „ red „

**South Australia.**—In an interesting book of the stamps of this country, submitted to us by Messrs. Theodor Buhl & Co., we note two varieties that are new to us—the 2d. of 1859 with double roulette—and the 2s. printed on both sides; the other varieties mentioned in the *Stamp News* not, however, being novelties.

2d., orange-red, 1859, watermark Star, with double roulette.

2s., carmine, watermark Star, perf. 10×12½, printed both sides.

**Surinam.**—Two more values of the Unpaid Series, with the altered numerals and the word cents added, have been issued, viz. :—

Unpaid Letter Stamps, 2½c., lilac and black.

5c. „

**Straits' Settlements.**—Messrs. Whitfield King & Co., have sent us a sheet of a new provisional. The surcharge consists of the words “one cent” in capitals, nearly 2½ mm. high, in two lines, the first being 8, and the second 10 mm. long. As

usual, the sheet consists of 60 varieties, in 10 rows of 6, three of the stamps in the bottom row showing decided variations as to the relative position of the two words, as the "T" of "cent" comes almost directly under the "E" of "one." The whole sheet is beautifully postmarked *par complaisance*, and for that reason our correspondents returned them to sender, preferring unused stamps to meaningless obliterations. They did not emanate from the Post Office in this condition, but the mere fact of their existence shows a laxity of control as remarkable as it is reprehensible.

1 c., black surcharge on 8 c., yellow, watermark C.A. & Cr., perf. 14.

The *Stamp News* announces the 32 c. vermilion, overprinted in black, thirty cents in two lines.

30 cents, black surcharge on 32 c. vermilion, wk C.A. & Cr., perf 14.

We illustrate the provisional that recently appeared—10 c. on 24 c., green.



**Sungei Ujong.**—An esteemed correspondent writes: "Some time ago we wrote to a contemporary firm pointing out the omission from their catalogue of the 8c. and 10c. Sungei Ujong stamps; they thereupon, inadvertently no doubt, described them in the next issue of their journal as a new issue, and since then all the philatelic papers have unsuspectingly copied the 'news,' and all fallen into the same error. This mistake has never been rectified. Of course there is no *new* issue of the stamps referred to; they were issued in 1882, and we have them in stock since that year. They are described in Evans' catalogue, p. 193, also in Moëns' 1883 catalogue, p 683."

**St. Lucia.**—As we go to press Messrs. Whitfield King & Co. send us the following three new surcharges to chronicle: "One Penny" on 4d., "one halfpenny" on 3d., and  $\frac{1}{2}$ d. on vertical half of 6d.

**St. Pierre—Miquelon.**—In our last we gave a list of three apparently superfluous varieties of this country. We now give an illustration of the type, and four more varieties chronicled by the *Timbre Poste*.

- 1 on 10 c, violet, black surcharge.
- 2 ,, 15 c., blue, ,, "
- 4 ,, 30 c., bistre, ,, "
- 4 ,, 40 c., vermilion, ,, "



**Transvaal.**—Mr. W. T. Wilson informs us that he has a specimen of the 3d. dull lilac, in a deep shade, on pelure paper, with overprint, V.R. TRANSVAAL, in red, printed on the back of the stamp, and adds, "It is easy to understand how this error has occurred: the paper being very thin, the lilac colour has gone through it, and glancing at the back, one can easily understand the printer mistaking it for the front. This is a curious error; I cannot call to mind a parallel case in any (so called) surcharged stamps."

3 dull lilac pelure paper, surcharged "V.R. Transvaal" on the back.

**Uruguay.**—Mr. E. D. Bacon has heard that a fresh issue is shortly to be expected here, differing entirely in design from the present set, and being smaller. They are executed by Messrs. Waterlow & Sons, Limited, who have already despatched the dies for the following values, which, we understand, are to be printed in the colours given.

1 c. green, 2 c. dull rose, 5 c. blue, and 10 c. red.

## ENVELOPES, WRAPPERS, &c.

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

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**Bahamas.**—With reference to the envelopes described by us having 6 bars of surcharge, a correspondent points out it might be gathered from our remarks that this was the first surcharge. Such, however, was not our intention, as we were well aware that the preceding variety with the 8 bars had made its appearance last year. (See *Philatelic Record*, p. 205), but we mention it in case any collector should not be aware of the fact of there being two distinct varieties (of which the second will apparently be the scarcer, the issue being limited).

**Brazil.**—We have a specimen of an envelope that is new to us, kindly sent by Messrs. Ridpath & Co. The design consists of a head of liberty to left within an irregular scrolled frame, above being "E. U DO BRAZIL" in a circular band, and below in a straight line, Reis—100—Reis in block letters, the whole being of a fancy ornamental shape. The execution of the die is not a source of pride; the paper is fairly tough white wove, and is watermarked apparently "GLOBOS B.E." Size 156×87 mm.

100 r., vermilion.

**Canada.**—As will be seen by the accompanying illustration the 1c. blue wrapper has changed its type. The principal differences are that the head is smaller and better drawn, the chignon is nearer the oval, and the background is composed of closer lines. The figures each side are placed in circles, breaking the exterior oval. There are no ornaments above the circles, and that below is smaller and farther away than formerly. Size 23×26½ mm. instead of 23½×26.



10 c. ultramarine on pale buff.

**Ecuador.**—The 1892 envelopes and wrappers have not even the one redeeming merit of a respectable appearance. The head to left on the former, within a large engine-turned frame, has a beak like a bird, and the latter is still worse, with a great ugly figure of value in the centre.

	5c., red on white.
	10c., green „, amber.
Wrappers	1c., orange „, blue.
	2c., brown „, blue.

**Great Britain.**—The somewhat unusual task of recording an envelope for our own country of a fresh value falls to us this month. In response, no doubt, to a legitimate demand on the part of the public for stamped envelopes available for Postal Union purposes, they have been issued in two sizes. The design is that of the 2½d. die used for stamping to order, and better known no doubt to collectors than the public, but in a different and prettier colour. They are impressed upon thin, tough, handmade, wove paper, watermarked with Messrs. De la Rue & Co.'s name, and are in two sizes the flaps are pointed and plain, and gummed to about two-thirds of their length.

2½	pale blue,	40 × 77½
"	"	140 × 110

**New South Wales.**—Appended is an illustration of the Registration envelope described last month.



**Nicaragua.**—As in the case of Salvador there is one uniform design for all the new issues here, but the envelopes and wrappers are very inferior in execution, being apparently type engraved. The picture is on a transverse oval, and is surrounded by a large scalloped engine-turned frame.

	5 c., blue on salmon.
	10 c., slate „ blue.
	20 c., red „ amber.
	30 c., brown „ amber.
	50 c., purple „ amber.
Wrappers	1 c., blue „ salmon.
	2 c., „ „ „
	3 c., „ „ „

**Russia.**—**Rjeff** (*Rjeff*).—A 3 kop. envelope has just appeared, having the stamp as illustrated, with arms printed in the left upper corner. The inscriptions of the circle in which the arms are enclosed read thus:—*Rjeffskaya Zemskaya Potchka* (*Rural post of Rjeff*). Size, 151×117 mm.



3 kop., gold on white, and blue wove.

**Salvador.**—The design for all classes of the new issue here has remained the same, but on the envelopes and wrappers the allegorical picture elsewhere alluded to is on a white shield, and is surrounded by a large scalloped octagonal frame, the whole being embossed. We are glad to note the saving mercy that these wrappers can *only* be procured on white and blue paper respectively!

	1 c., green	on white.
	5 c., blue	„ blue.
	10 c., carmine	„ amber.
	11 c., brown	„ salmon.
	20 c., orange	„ amber.
	22 c., dark blue	„ salmon.
Wrappers	2 cents., brown	„ blue.
	3 „	„ „ „
	6 „	„ „ „
	12½ „	„ „ „

**Sweden.**—A new value has recently been announced here, of which we give a representation, the size being 109×72 mm.

2 öre, dull yellow.



## POST AND LETTER CARDS.

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

**Austria.**—We gather from various sources that in the Polish Reply Card that “somebody has blundered:” *i.e.*, “Böhm” being found erased and corrected to “Poln” on the reply half.

**Barbados.**—A novelty is chronicled by several contemporaries, being the 1½d. reply card diminished in value to 1d. by a surcharge in block capitals at the base of the stamp.

1d.+1d. violet surcharge on 1½d.+1½d., mauve on buff.

**Bavaria.**—The P.K. notes the following variety :—

5 pf. green with horizontal wavy lines.

**Brazil.**—Messrs. Stanley Gibbons have shown us the following varieties of the current 80 reis letter card.

a. Without any perforation.

b. „ horizontal perforation above.

**Chamba.**—That irrepressible small “A” that in Chamba seems determined to associate himself in a “state” that does not befit him, has turned up *pace The Monthly Journal* on the Official Card.

Service Card,  $\frac{1}{4}$ -anna, black and brown *error* STATE.

**Egypt.**—The *Postiljon* says that the letter card has been modified in certain directions, notably as to the Arabian inscription, that in French being altered to *communication écrite fermée*.

Letter Card, 1 piastre, blue on pale blue.

**Ecuador.**—Of design identical with the adhesive, and accompanying ornamental inscriptions, appear the new cards.

2c., brown on lilac.

3c., blue on white.

**Nicaragua.**—Four post cards are issued here of design similar to the adhesives, and with the addition of a highly ornate Republica de Nicaragua at the top of the card, emerging from the clouds, that baffles description.

2c., blue on manila.

2+2c., „ „

3, red „

3+3c., „ „

**Salvador.**—Here also the adhesive design is reproduced, while a gorgeous inscription of the country's name, a map, and a huge banner practically occupy the whole side, and denote how much postal necessity has to do with the creation of this trash.

1c., blue on amber.

3c., green on white.

2c., brown on blue.

3+c., „ „

2+c., „ „

**Great Britain.**—The issue (on Feb. 11th) of a letter card is another innovation, but in view of the price at which it is sold, we quite fail to see its utility. At 10 for 1s. it is fully equal to 10 1d. stamps plus good note paper and envelopes, and except for occasional or hasty use, as in travelling, we fail to see much use for it; had it been issued at 10 for 6d., or even 8d., it might have been extensively utilised. The design consists of that familiar to us all in the Jubilee Card, with the Royal Arms on the centre of the card and “Letter Card” below it in thin block capitals; the outer edge, of course, is perforated, and on the lower portion of this is inscribed, in small block capitals, “To open the Letter Card, tear off the edge of the perforation,” while the back, as the *Pall Mall Gazette* neatly puts it, bears the “taint of Post Office red-tape in the shape of the following elaborate legend, which smacks very literally of the Circumlocution Office :—

‘If used for transmission abroad the additional postage required should be supplied by means of adhesive stamps.’

These words meander over the back of the card.” Adding, “Why was there not a telegraphically concise notice under the stamp :—

For places abroad, add the necessary stamps.” And, alluding to their trans-

parency when held up to the light, "that they should at 10 for 1s. at least possess an official opacity!"

Letter card, 1d., dull carmine on blue.

**Jamaica.**—Messrs. Ridpath send us specimens of both single and double cards printed on a slightly thinner material, and of a distinctly brighter and more yellowish colour.

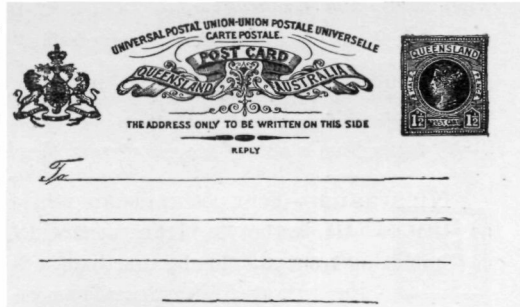
$\frac{1}{2}$ d., red-brown on *yellowish* card.

$\frac{1}{2} + \frac{1}{2}$  " " "

**Natal.**—From the same firm, and presenting the same variety as the Jamaicans we have.

$\frac{1}{2}$ d., red-brown on *yellowish* card.

**Queensland.**—The accompanying illustration renders unnecessary any description of the new card for this Colony called for by adhesion to the Postal Union; it is more creditable in execution than others that have lately appeared under similar circumstances.



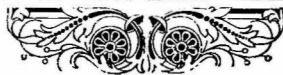
$1\frac{1}{2}$ d., brownish violet on buff.

**Straits Settlements.**—The types of the cards described by us last month are herewith illustrated, and to the list should be added reply cards in both types of the black overprint. (*Stamp News.*)

2+2 in numerals, black surcharge on 3 c., blue or buff.

2+2 in letters, " " "

**United States.**—We give illustrations of the cards described in our last issue.



## 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.

(Continued from Page 14.)

NOTE.—The plate of illustrations given with this number of the *Journal* is taken from specimens of "triangular" stamps in the "Tapling Collection." Numbers 1 to 4 represent the four values engraved and printed by Messrs. Perkins Bacon & Co. Numbers 5 and 6 illustrate the provisional stamps printed in Cape Town. Number 7 exhibits a variety of number 6, with the corner of one of the stamps defective, while number 8 is taken from a pair of the red stamps, showing the rare error fourpence attached to the one penny.



EARLY in the year 1861 the stock of one penny and fourpenny stamps became exhausted, and recourse was had to Colonial printers for a supply pending the receipt of a fresh consignment from England. The idea of surcharging the sixpence and one shilling values does not appear to have suggested itself to the then postal authorities, or if it did, was not approved of, though in later years, when fourpenny, one penny and other stamps were required, we find this course was adopted.

No notice appeared in the *Gazette* of this provisional issue, and I am entirely indebted to the courtesy of the present Postmaster-General of the Colony, Mr. G. W. Aitchison, for the following particulars, which he sent me in reply to questions I addressed to him. He informs me the stamps were printed by Messrs. Saul Solomon & Co., of 49 and 50, St. George's-street, Cape Town. They were engraved upon wood, and the sheet was composed of sixty-four stamps, arranged in four horizontal rows of sixteen stamps to the row, forming eight squares. He further adds:—"I have not been able to ascertain the exact date of issue, but the stamps were urgently applied for, the one penny stamps on the 5th April, and the fourpence on the 8th April, 1861, and it is probable that they were issued within a few days of the latter date." We may, therefore, put down the date of the issue as about the middle of April, 1861, and this is as near the actual day the stamps first came into use as I think we shall now discover. The Postmaster-General in the concluding paragraph of his letter says:—"Some difficulty has been experienced in obtaining the books from which the above information has been extracted." I feel duly grateful to Mr. Aitchison for taking the trouble to collect the facts which he has furnished me with, and I regret it was not in his power to send me a reply to all the questions I asked him concerning these interesting stamps. Mr. Aitchison, for instance, does not tell me what method was employed for printing the stamps. One of the two following must, I think, have been used:—1. Lithographic transfers made from the two engraved wooden dies, or, 2, Electrotypes taken from the two dies and clamped up together to the number of sixty-four stamps. I feel confident the first of these two methods was the one employed, but whatever process was adopted, it is clear that an impression from the one penny die got mixed up among the fourpennies, and *vice versa*,



1.



2.



3.



4.



5.



6.



7.



8.



as pairs of the stamps are known showing the two values joined together. (*Vide Illustration 8.*)

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

Reprints of these stamps were made, upon *wove* paper, about seven years ago, but I am unable to say for what purpose, without they were taken in order to enable the Post Office at Cape Town to present specimens to foreign countries in return for stamps received from them.

Mons. Moens gives the date of these reprints as 1885 in his *Catalogue*, but I find both stamps described in the *Timbre-Poste* for August, 1884, so they date back, at any rate, to the latter year.

I have already mentioned that Messrs. Perkins Bacon & Co. handed over the four steel plates they used for printing the triangular Cape stamps to the Agents for Crown Colonies, on the 28th January, 1862; and that from that date Messrs. De la Rue & Co. supplied all the postage stamps, etc., required by the Colony. The only value of the triangular stamps Messrs. De la Rue & Co. are supposed to have printed is the one penny, which is known upon paper watermarked "Crown C. C." But from information I have recently obtained, it is certain that Messrs. De la Rue & Co. made use of all four plates of Messrs. Perkins Bacon & Co., and that they printed all the four values upon the same "Anchor" watermarked paper as that used previously by Messrs. Perkins Bacon & Co. After Messrs. Perkins Bacon & Co. had delivered up the plates to the Crown Agents they found they had a stock of 29 reams of the "Anchor" watermarked paper they used for printing the Cape stamps left on their hands. This they handed over to the Crown Agents on the 25th June, 1862, upon the understanding that they should be paid for it as it was used. The Crown Agents delivered Messrs. De la Rue & Co. supplies of this paper at various intervals, and the following dates and quantities are those the Crown Agents returned Messrs. Perkins Bacon & Co. upon which the paper was used:—

1863.	
Jan. 21.....	570 sheets.
Mar. 25 .....	201 "
Dec. 1 .....	4,060 "
1864.	
Apl. 13.....	6,107 "
Total 10,938 sheets.	

The quantities and dates the triangular stamps of Messrs. De la Rue & Co. were despatched to the Colony are as under:—

1863.		
Jan. 31.....	398 sheets	6d.
" .....	158 "	1s.
Apl. 17.....	195 "	4d.
Dec. 2 .....	2,056 "	1d.
" .....	2,004 "	4d.
1864.		
Apl. 13.....	3,040 "	1d.
" .....	3,067 "	4d.
Total 10,918 sheets.		

This leaves a balance of 20 sheets of paper handed Messrs. De la Rue & Co., which were perhaps defective, or spoilt in some way or another during the process of

printing. The 10,938 sheets amount to 21 rms. 17 qrs. 13 sheets, so the Crown Agents still retained a supply of the paper, which apparently was never used. The triangular stamps of Messrs. De la Rue & Co.'s printing can be distinguished by the colours, which are distinct from those employed by Messrs. Perkins Bacon & Co.

The one penny is red-brown, in place of brick, red, or carmine-rose.

„ fourpence is bright blue, in place of dull blue, or dark blue.

„ sixpence is bright mauve, in place of pale lilac-mauve, grey-lilac, or dark lilac.

„ one shilling is emerald, in place of dark green, or yellow-green.

The list I have given above comprises all the triangular stamps Messrs. De la Rue & Co. sent out to the Colony. It is therefore difficult to account for the existence of the one penny watermarked “Crown C.C.” I am unable to give the true *raison d'être* of this variety, and I can only suggest that it may be due to the following cause. It was in the year 1863 that Messrs. De la Rue & Co. first commenced to use paper with the “Crown C.C.” watermark, and they may have intended to print off the whole batch of one penny and fourpenny Cape stamps ordered at the end of that year upon it. After trying a few sheets for the one penny value they probably found the size of the paper and the watermark so ill adapted to the plates of these triangular stamps that they at once abandoned their intention, and applied to the Crown Agents for a further supply of the “Anchor” watermarked paper. Whether they forwarded any of the stamps with “Crown C.C.” watermark to the Colony at present remains doubtful. I have never seen or heard of a used copy, and in face of the list of consignments I have given it looks as if none of these stamps were sent out. In this case the variety would be merely an interesting essay. The Society contains on its roll members resident in the Colony, and by diligent search amidst used specimens they might, by the discovery of such copies, once and for all settle the question whether the stamp is an essay or one actually issued for use. To help any of those who may feel disposed to undertake this task, I may tell them the colour of the variety is identical with that of the one penny value printed by Messrs. De la Rue & Co. upon the “Anchor” watermarked paper, *i.e.*, red-brown, and that the watermark “Crown C.C.” is found placed sideways, and only a portion of it is seen upon each stamp.

At the commencement of 1864 the rectangular stamps of Messrs. De la Rue & Co. commenced to appear, and gradually replaced the triangular varieties as the stock of the different values became used up. The change in the design, as might be expected, did not pass without comment in the Philatelic press, and I cannot do better than reproduce here some pertinent remarks made by Mons. Moens in the *Timbre-Poste* for March, 1864, upon this subject. He says:—

“Some sincerely regret the old design, which had become almost classical. It reminds us that in the early days of collecting a Cape stamp was not only rare, but was the necessary ornament of a collection, which was only considered as having some value when it contained at least one specimen. To have his ‘Cape’ was equivalent to the amateur of pictures who had his Raphael, the bibliophile who had his Elzevir. What noble lord, protecting art without understanding it, would admit not having a Raphael? That in a catalogue was to have everything as it should be. A Cape was, then, the Raphael of a collection. The peculiar estimation in which this stamp was held was owing solely to its shape, which was in strong contrast to the perpetual parallelogram of the greater part of its *confrères*. Let us recall, then, as far as we can, in searching our memories, the *naïve* reflections that the sight of these eccentric stamps provoked every time that a schoolboy of fifteen or sixteen triumphantly displayed his album to the astonished eyes of his mamma. Motherly consideration, put

too often to the proof, patiently submitted to learned dissertations on each particular stamp, but having arrived at a certain page, the rôles were almost inverted; the kind listener asks the name and origin of a stamp of such a *bizarre* design, and the scholar proudly replies 'Why it is a Cape.'

"The partisans of the old design have only this reason to produce in favour of retaining it in circulation—the habit of seeing the Cape represented by triangular stamps. This is a reason, in default of others, but it was not sufficient to retard a reform which all the inhabitants of this Colony who have correspondence must feel the usefulness. There is nothing more inconvenient than these triangular stamps, for the room they take and for their application on letters. From these two points of view the square is infinitely the best. As regards the artistic side, the merit of the new type is very open to discussion. The allegorical figure is certainly poor in conception. It partakes of the similitude of a dancer. We shall be told it is 'Hope,' and that with this appellation a sad or even severe expression could not appropriately be portrayed; it may be so, but a little more boldness in the drawing would not have saddened it."

I entirely agree with these remarks of Mons. Moens, for there is no doubt that in the early days of collecting a three-cornered Cape stamp was looked upon by young beginners as the acme of a collection. At the same time, from a postal point of view, the shape was certainly a disadvantage.

I have found no notices in the *Gazette* of the issue of the earlier rectangular stamps. The one shilling was the first value to appear in January, 1864. The one penny and sixpence are stated in the *Timbre-Poste* for October, 1865, to have been issued on 20th July of that year, and the four pence, although not in use at the latter date, was issued shortly afterwards.

Towards the end of 1868 the supply of fourpenny rectangular adhesives became exhausted, and for a time the old triangular fourpence was re-issued. After the small remaining stock of these stamps had been absorbed, the rectangular sixpence was surcharged "Fourpence" in red. This provisional stamp was issued on the 16th November, 1868, in accordance with the terms of the following notice published in the *Gazette* of November 17th of that year:—

## GOVERNMENT NOTICE.

*Colonial Office, Cape of Good Hope,*  
16th November, 1868.

His Excellency the Governor directs it to be notified for general information that he has sanctioned the conversion into Fourpenny Postage Stamps of a redundant stock of Stamps of the value of Sixpence.

This conversion has been effected by obliterating the words "Postage Sixpence" at the foot of the stamp, and printing across the body the words "Fourpence."

By command of his Excellency the Governor,

(Signed) R. SOUTHEY,  
*Colonial Secretary.*

The notice of the issue of the five shilling adhesive is found in the *Gazette* of the 25th August, 1871.

## POSTAL NOTICE.

The general public are hereby informed that Five Shilling Postage Stamps have been received from England, and are now procurable at the General Post Office.

(Signed) CHARLES PIERS,  
*Postmaster-General.*

General Post Office, Cape Town,  
22nd August, 1871.

In 1876 a halfpenny black adhesive was described in the Philatelic Journals. I have searched the *Gazette* in vain without finding any mention of this stamp, but what is more extraordinary is that at this date there was no use for such a value. The lowest postal rate at the time for either letters or newspapers, if I am not mistaken, was one penny, and it was not until the 1st July, 1882, that the inland rate on newspapers was reduced to a halfpenny. This value must, I think, have been prepared for some projected alteration in the rates which for some reason or other was not carried out at that time. The stock of this stamp, forwarded to the Colony, was sold off at the Post Office, and when a halfpenny value was required on and after the 1st July, 1882, a small number only could have remained on hand, as in this month or August of that year a provisional halfpenny had to be provided.

The following notice taken from the *Gazette* of the 22nd February, 1878, gives the date and other particulars concerning the issue of the first post-card used in the Colony:—

GOVERNMENT NOTICE.

*Colonial Secretary's Office, Cape of Good Hope,*  
20th February, 1878.

The subjoined notice relative to the issue and circulation of Penny Postal Cards is hereby published for general information.

(Signed) J. GORDON SPRIGG,  
*Colonial Secretary.*

POSTAL CARDS.

On the 1st proximo, the Cape Colony postal cards, imprinted with a penny postage stamp, will be procurable by the public at the following rates:—

Seven pence for six post cards, or one shilling and two pence for the dozen.

They will be available for use only wherever there is a street or town delivery, and between those places to which the Penny Post at present extends, viz., those between which there is a postal communication not less than *twice* a day.

To be made available for any other places they must bear additional postage stamps, at the usual letter rate of four pence the half-ounce.

(Signed) G. W. AITCHISON,  
*Postmaster-General.*

General Post Office, Cape Town,  
20th February, 1878.

This card was of Colonial manufacture, and was lithographed by Messrs. Saul Solomon & Co., of Cape Town, the printers of the provisional "triangular" adhesives. Specimens are known printed in black, in place of red, the usual colour of the issue. An extract from a correspondent's letter, in *The Philatelic Record* for October, 1883, says the Postmaster-General of the Colony states the black card "is a decided error." I wrote to the Postmaster-General upon this subject, and he replied, under date 12th June, 1889, as follows: "I cannot gather from the enquiries which I have made that postcards printed in black were ever issued to the public." No doubt proofs of the card were taken in black, as usual, before commencing the printing off of an order, and some of these may have got into the hands of persons interested in Philately. The mere fact of one of these "black" cards having passed through the post, as mentioned in the paragraph of *The Philatelic Record*, I have alluded to above, does not in any way prove that the card was issued to the public by the Post Office. For instance, many collectors can show specimens of extraordinary anomalies that have passed through the post, without attracting the attention of the officials, our own

country being by no means exempt in this respect. Mr. McDonald, the correspondent of *The Philatelic Record*, however, states he found three black specimens in a packet of cards he purchased at the Post Office, so if the black variety was an essay, some of the copies apparently got mixed up with the red cards.

The next notice gives the date and reason for the issue of three penny stamps. It was published in the *Gazette of October 31st, 1879*.

ALTERATION OF RATES OF POSTAGE.

FROM Saturday next, the 1st November, the rates of postage on letters posted in this colony, Basutoland, and the Transkeian Territories, for transmission to Post Offices within the same, will be THREE PENCE the half-ounce, or fraction of the half-ounce, whether the letter be conveyed by the General, Divisional, or Field-cornets Post, or by rail.

. . . . .  
 . . . . .  
 . . . . .

(Signed) G. W. AITCHISON,  
*Postmaster-General.*

General Post Office, Cape Town,  
 20th October, 1879.

A Note on the Current "One Halfpenny" and  
 "One Penny" of Great Britain.

By "QUILP."

**T**HE learned author of the "Notes on the Present Issue of Great Britain," which appeared in *The Philatelic Record* for August, 1890, in speaking of the block letter below the second stamp from the right, in the bottom row of the sheets of these values, says: "At first it was supposed these letters indicated a change of the plate. . . . . It has, however, been ascertained that these letters have nothing to do with a change of plate; they are simply to indicate the number of sheets printed off, as a means of checking the accounts. The printers insert the current letter to denote a fact convenient to the Revenue officer in charge to know, and as a species of control."

Mr. Westoby, in his "Postage Stamps of the United Kingdom," says, on page 31: "A letter of the alphabet has, since 1884, been printed under the last stamp but one of the sheet, to facilitate the keeping of the accounts, and has a certain philatelic importance, as showing approximately the date of the impression."

Now, neither of these theories is altogether accurate, though there is something of the truth in each.

The letter is not exactly a "plate-letter"—i.e., a letter belonging to one plate only—for the same letter appears on each electro, obtained from an original plate in the usual way, of any one edition of them. Thus, each electro (for the One Penny value) at present in use bears the letter "O."

The plate-lettering was devised to check the supply of stamps, as between the Inland Revenue and the printers—the latter not being supposed to have in hand, or to supply, any sheets marked with any letter other than the current one.

I think it may prove more intelligible to give an illustration of the actual use of this letter, than to describe it.

The present electros are all marked "O," and they will all continue in use until they show signs of wear, when the authorities will take over the supply of stamps printed therefrom then in the printers' hands, and there will be, as it were, a balance struck. Fresh electros will then be taken from the original plate, and they will be lettered "P."

After the known balance of the "O" stock is received, the sheets marked "P" will be the only ones which will be accepted from the printers, as the appearance of that letter will be evidence that no electros, other than those in proper use, are being printed from; and the change of letter, therefore, marks the time—about every nine months—when fresh electros are made, and when a "rest" is taken in the stamp-printing accounts.

The letter has, therefore, in my humble opinion, no philatelic importance, as the stamps themselves, from whatever set of electros printed, are absolutely identical; and, surely, we already have sufficient varieties in stamps, without creating purely artificial ones, dependent on a letter altogether outside the panes of the sheets.

*The Stamp News* for February mentions "the current One Penny with the letter N evidently printed by mistake, and struck out with a single line in violet, the letter O being printed at the side."

This little error (!) occurred some few months ago, just after the "N" electros had been replaced by those intended to be marked "O," one of which had been accidentally lettered "N"; or, perhaps, some "N" sheets had been accidentally retained. Eight thousand sheets existed thus; and the printers, knowing that objection would be taken to the supply, as not being marked with the current letter, asked for instructions. Through a desire not to destroy nearly two millions of stamps, it was suggested that the "N" should be struck out and the correct letter, "O," printed by its side. This was accordingly done, and these sheets were at once issued—all in London, I believe.

As this eminently collectable "error" has only just been discovered, it will most probably always remain scarce; and the fortunate amateur who possesses the necessary strip of gummed paper (even without any superfluous *stamps* adhering thereto) will be able to point with pride to the official correction of a mistake, by the side of which French Colonial errors pale into insignificance. May he live long to enjoy its possession!

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## Reviews.

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### M. MOËNS' NEW CATALOGUE.\*

**T**HE second instalment of this important work has now appeared, bringing the list up to Honduras (British). It will be remembered that the initial instalment was issued at the latter end of last year, that it consisted of some 83 pp. large quarto divided into double columns, with the normal varieties in larger type than the sub-varieties; that the fiscals were happily eliminated, and that in its typography and its interesting notes it marked a distinct advance on any of its predecessors. The present number is of larger dimensions, extending not only to 185 fresh pages of matter, accompanied by the corresponding illustrations, but also embraces the first part of the autotype representations of the sheets of stamps of varying type, as announced in M. Moëns' prospectus. These illustrations, printed in blue on a surfaced primrose paper, are, we gather, done by some new process, and are certainly extremely well executed. The magnitude of the work may be appreciated when we state there are 85 pages of these *fac simile* illustrations of the various sheets, but the value and importance of such a reference list to all collectors will be commensurate with the labour bestowed by M. Moëns on his work. Commencing with Afghanistan, which has no less than 13 plates, Bamra, Bhopal, and Bavaria necessarily occupy a good many pages. The types of the 1877 Colombian provisionals will be somewhat of a surprise to many collectors, while the Confederate Locals will perhaps have a warmer welcome than the French Colonials. British Guiana concludes the series, but the illustrations of the 1862 are inferior as to the 2 and 4 cents, and are not accompanied by the "portraits" of the earlier issues of 1850 and 1856. We do not think any especial purpose can be served by an exhaustive review, as the book will be in the hands of most collectors, and within the limits of our space will merely glance at the contents. The list of Colombian is an excellent one, but the Cubiertas have attained appalling dimensions. In the Cuban list will be found illustrations of the several varieties of the 1883 over-print with diagrams of the respective positions of the different types on the sheets. We note that there are over 500 varieties of the Egyptian "Administrative Stamp" of the well-known bottled beer label type that delighted our juvenile hearts in bygone days as having so much value for the money. They are still apparently cheap—labels! Coming so soon after the issue of the work on the stamps of Spain by the same author, M. Moëns has been able to make an admirable list, interspersed with many readable notes. We see that in France our friend nails his colours to the mast in the matter of the 20c. blue of 1850, and the same stamp with the red surcharge of 25, by stating that "Neither one nor the other has been issued," an opinion that we share, too, although we plead guilty to some temerity in giving an opinion on a point where the doctors differ. The V.R. English and the 8d., in our view, seem to present analagous features as to their nativity. A considerable portion is necessarily devoted to the various stamps of the United States (Etats Unis), as also of this country, while the varieties of British Guiana and Hawaii are also duly set forth. It would be hypercritical to say there

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\* Catalogue, Prix Courant de Timbres-Poste, Septième édition. J. B. Moëns, Brussels.

are no blemishes, but the excellence of the work in general will make the ardent philatelist unhappy until he has the book complete—a feeling perhaps shared by its learned author.

#### THE MULREADY CARICATURES. \*

WE are indebted to the courtesy of the publisher for a handsomely bound edition of Major Evans' well known work on Mulready's handiwork, and its numerous skits that has been for some months past appearing in serial form in the *Monthly Journal*. In a preface the author expresses his thanks to the President of the London Society and other well known philatelists who have assisted him in bringing the work to a completion, one that we are confident will add to the already high reputation of Major Evans as a most painstaking and accurate writer.

It is evident that the mere compilation of this book, with the searches and correspondence necessary to procure the material, must have involved a great labour, and we think that the result is one that reflects every credit upon the author not only for the succinct way in which he has marshalled his facts, but the literary garb in which he has dressed them for the delectation of his readers. Every type is not only fully described, but is accompanied by illustrations; it is therefore obvious that it will afford interesting reading to a far wider circle than the philatelic public, and should serve to while away many an hour to the traveller far more pleasantly and profitably than the "shilling shocker" that adorns the railway bookstalls. An appendix containing some of the newspaper critiques of Mulready's design in 1840 and a concise index are fitting adjuncts. The publishers may be congratulated on the printing and general appearance of the book, the wide margin of rough toned paper, the clear type and excellence of the illustrations being worthy of high commendation. In congratulating the author on his interesting book, we can cordially recommend the "Mulready Caricatures" to all philatelists.

## 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 Eighth Meeting of the Season 1891-92 was held at the Salisbury Hotel, Fleet-street, on Friday, the 29th January, at 7.30 p.m., the meeting, which had been summoned for the 15th January having been abandoned in consequence of the death of H.R.H. the Duke of Clarence and Avondale. The meeting was attended by the President (in the chair), the Vice-President, and Messrs.

\* A Description of the Mulready Envelope and of Various Imitations and Caricatures of its Design, &c.: Major E. B. Evans. London: Stanley Gibbons & Co. (Limited).

C. J. Daun, C. N. Biggs, E. D. Bacon, T. Maycock, E. A. Elliott, W. Silk, R. Pearce, E. J. Nankivell, A. B. Creeke, R. Meyer, T. Wickham-Jones, W. T. Wilson, and J. A. Tilleard, members; and Messrs. D. A. Vindin and J. E. Budd, visitors.

The chair having been taken by the President, the minutes of the last meeting were read and confirmed. Letters were read from Mr. W. A. Cunningham and Mr. Tilley resigning their membership, and the resignations were directed to be accepted with regret. A letter from Mr. Armistead in reference to the 1d. carmine stamp of Turks Islands, white crown and C. A. perf. 14, was also read, and it was explained that at the time of the publication of the Society's recent work this stamp had not been seen, but that its appearance had since been duly noted. Mr. W. R. Joynt forwarded a letter from Mr. Bond, of the Government Printing Office, Melbourne, in reference to the recent reprints of the stamps of Victoria, in which he explained that it was not intended to sell the obsolete stamps without being marked "reprint." It was also mentioned that the 5s. blue on yellow could not be reprinted, a remark which applied also to other stamps referred to in the letter. The secretary was directed to acknowledge with the thanks of the Society Mr. Joynt's communication, and Mr. Bond's letter was directed to be entered on the minutes.

Mr. F. de Coppet, proposed by Mr. Bacon, and seconded by the Vice-President, and Dr. J. N. Keynes, proposed by Mr. Geldard, and seconded by the Secretary, were elected members of the Society. The President then alluded in fitting terms to the death of H.R.H. the Duke of Clarence and Avondale, and it was resolved upon his motion, seconded by the Vice-President—"That this Society sincerely deplores the great national loss sustained by the recent death of H.R.H. the Duke of Clarence and Avondale, and desires to express to H.R.H. the Duke of Edinburgh, the Honorary President of the Society, its loyal and heartfelt sympathy with the members of the Royal Family in their sad affliction." Upon the motion of the Treasurer, seconded by the Assistant-Secretary, it was resolved—"That the Society open a banking account at the Consolidated Bank, Limited, and that the bankers be instructed to honour cheques signed by the Treasurer, Mr. C. N. Biggs." The President, in the name of the Society, welcomed Mr. D. A. Vindin as a visitor at the meeting, and the latter in reply, referring to the reprints of the laureated stamps of New South Wales, deplored his connection with the sale of these stamps, and explained the part which he had taken in the transaction. From the explanation given by Mr. Vindin it appeared that he thoroughly believed in the genuine character of the stamps, which he had purchased subject to the payment to his vendor of a large sum of money out of the first proceeds, and that he was assured and believed that the only sheets in existence were those sold to him. Mr. Vindin further stated that every endeavour was being made by the Government officials to trace the source of origin of the stamps, but so far without success. The revision of the reference list of the stamps of Ceylon was proceeded with, and adjourned until the next meeting.

The ninth meeting of the season was held at the Salisbury Hotel on Friday, the 12th February, 1892, at 7.30 p.m., and was attended by the President, the Vice-President, and Messrs. E. D. Bacon, C. N. Biggs, F. Ransom, F. Maycock, T. Wickham-Jones, R. Pearce, E. J. Nankivell, C. W. Silk, A. B. Creeke, R. Meyer, and J. A. Tilleard.

The President occupied the chair, and the minutes of the last meeting were read and confirmed.

The Assistant-Secretary read a letter from Mr. Bambridge, the private secretary of H.R.H. the Duke of Edinburgh, in reply to the resolution passed at the last meet-

ing and forwarded to H.R.H. The letter, which was in the following terms, was directed to be entered on the minutes:—

Admiralty House, Mount Wise,  
Devonport. Feb. 5, 1892.

Dear Sir,—I am directed by his Royal Highness the Duke of Edinburgh to acknowledge the receipt of a copy of the resolution passed by the members of the Philatelic Society which you have forwarded on their behalf as an expression of sympathy with the members of the Royal Family in their present sad affliction.

His Royal Highness asks you to kindly convey to the members his sincere thanks for these kind expressions of sympathy, which are truly appreciated by him.

I remain, dear Sir,  
Yours faithfully,

J. A. Tilleard, Esq.

G. F. BAMBRIDGE, *Private Secretary.*

A letter from Mr. A. W. Chambers was read, in which he stated that upon comparing some pairs of the 3d. Sydney View stamps of New South Wales, it appeared that an alteration should be made in regard to the position of the stamps in the plate, as described in the Society's work on the stamps of Oceania. It was suggested that Nos. 5, 24, and 25 were wrongly placed, and that in the plate in "Oceania" No. 5 should be No. 25, No. 25 should be No. 24, and No. 24 should be No. 5. It had been previously known that Nos. 5 and 25 were wrongly placed, and the Vice-President stated that on examining his own stamps a short time since he had come to the same conclusion as Mr. Chambers in regard to the proper order on the plate. From an examination of the pairs of the stamps sent by Mr. Chambers, and those produced by the Vice-President, it appeared that the correct order should be stated as above, and the secretary was directed to acknowledge Mr. Chambers' letter with the thanks of the Society.

Mr. L. Gibb, in a letter written from Montreal, explained the use of the  $\frac{1}{2}$  cent. stamp of Canada, and forwarded specimens of circulars on which the stamp had been used. It appears that these circulars are not addressed, but on being delivered at the Post Office with the stamp attached, are placed by the officials into every private Post Office box.

The Vice-President read a letter from Stanley Gibbons, Limited, sending for inspection of the meeting a copy of the 1s. stamp of Western Australia (Crown and CC.), printed in *bistre*, and also a copy of the 2d. (diadem) stamp of New South Wales, having for the watermark a double-lined figure one. Mr. Castle was requested to acknowledge the receipt of the letter with the thanks of the Society.

The Librarian reported that he had received from Messrs. Theodor Buhl & Co., for the Society's library, bound copies of the *Stamp News Annual* for 1891 and 1892, and the *Stamp News* and *Philatelic Record* for 1891, and also a letter stating it was the intention of the publishers to continue to present the monthly parts of the *Stamp News* and *Philatelic Record* for the current year. Mr. Biggs was requested to acknowledge the receipt of the letter and books, with the thanks of the Society. The only other correspondence consisted of a letter from the secretary of the Dresden Society, referring in complimentary terms to the first number of the new Journal, and suggesting that an exchange of copies for copies of the Journal of the Dresden Society should be regularly made, and the letter was handed to the editor of the Journal, with directions to arrange accordingly.

Mr. Paul Stroelin, proposed by the Vice-President, and seconded by Mr. Bacon; Mr. W. Armistead, proposed by Mr. Creeke, and seconded by the Secretary; and Mr. E. F. Weber, proposed by Mr. Rodd, and seconded by the Vice-President, were elected members of the Society.

The subject of the date of the annual dinner was again considered, and it was determined that it would be better to postpone holding the dinner until the month of May.

The Secretary gave notice that, with a view of reprinting the Society's statutes, he would at the next meeting submit the same for revision by the Society, so that all amendments which might be found necessary in consequence of the alteration already agreed upon by the Society might be made.

The revision of the Society's reference list of the Stamps of Ceylon was further proceeded with and adjourned.

On the motion of the Assistant Secretary, seconded by Mr. Wickham-Jones, it was resolved "That the Society has noted with satisfaction that a prosecution in regard to the sale of forged stamps has resulted in a conviction and sentence which it is hoped will have a salutary effect in preventing frauds upon philatelists."

### MANCHESTER PHILATELIC SOCIETY.

*President* : VERNON ROBERTS.

*Vice-President* : W. DORNING BECKTON.

*Hon. Sec. and Treasurer (pro. tem.)* : W. DORNING BECKTON.

*Assistant Hon. Sec.* : D. PIXTON.



THE Eighth Meeting of the Session was held at the Mitre Hotel, Manchester, on Friday, the 15th January, 1892, the President in the chair.

The President, before proceeding with the business of the meeting, referred to the lamented death of the Duke of Clarence and Avondale, and proposed the following resolution, which was seconded by the Vice-President, and unanimously agreed to by the members all standing :—

"That the members of the Manchester Philatelic Society learnt with extreme regret of the untimely death of his Royal Highness the Duke of Clarence and Avondale, and they humbly beg to tender their heartfelt sympathy to the Royal Family in the great calamity that has befallen them and the nation."

The minutes of the last meeting were read and confirmed.

The President then referred to the vacancy in the office of Secretary, and reported to the meeting that the committee in whose hands the appointment of a successor lay held a meeting on Tuesday last for the purpose of considering the matter, and had unanimously elected Mr. W. D. Beckton, hon. sec. *pro. tem.* Mr. W. D. Beckton had under the circumstances consented to undertake the duties until the annual general meeting of the Society, provided the committee appointed an assistant hon. sec. The committee thereupon recommended the appointment of Mr. D. Pixton as assistant hon. sec., and that gentleman had consented to act. It therefore only remained for the meeting to sanction the appointment of Mr. D. Pixton as assistant hon. sec., and this was done.

The President then brought under the notice of the meeting the monthly Journal about to be published under the supervision of the London Philatelic Society, and strongly urged the members to subscribe to the same. Many members thereupon signified their intention of doing so.

The President then read the continuation of his paper on the English Stamps, dealing with the 2½d. and 3d. An animated discussion took place on that portion of the paper dealing with the 3d., it being pointed out that the only specimen at present known of, plate 3, perf., formerly belonged to a Manchester collector, and was now in the British Museum.

The remainder of the evening was spent in the inspection of novelties, the most interesting being a pair of Great Britain 1d. on Dickenson paper, and two varieties

of the Archer roulette, formerly belonging to Sir Rowland Hill, which were shown by the President.

The ninth meeting of the session was held on Friday, 29th January, 1892, at the *Mitre Hotel*, the President in the chair, there being 14 members and one guest present.

The minutes of the last meeting was read and confirmed.

The Hon. Sec. read a letter he had received conveying the thanks of their Royal Highnesses the Prince and Princess of Wales to the members of the Manchester Philatelic Society for the expressions of sympathy contained in the resolution of condolence passed at the last meeting of the Society.

The President announced the receipt of the first part of the new monthly Journal of the London Philatelic Society, which he showed to the meeting.

Mr. Duerst then read a paper on the Stamps of Geneva, including the so-called Vaud, Neuchatel, and Winterthur, which he maintained were really Geneva stamps.

The President proposed a vote of thanks to Mr. Duerst for his paper, which was duly accorded.

The rest of the evening was spent in the exhibition of novelties, the President showing a pair of 5s. Queensland, imperf. horizontally, being the pair he showed at the December meeting of the London Philatelic Society, and the Vice-President showed a Porto Rico, 1881, 1 mil de peso, blue, error in colour.

DUDLEY PIXTON, Assist. Hon. Sec.

### 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.



MEETING of the members was called for Monday, the 1st January. Messrs. M. P. Castle, J. H. Redman, A. de Worms, H. Stafford Smith, J. W. Gillespie, R. J. Woodman, H. W. Armitage, and W. T. Willett attended. On the suggestion of the President, and following the example of the London Society, in view of the national calamity sustained in the death of H.R.H. the Duke of Clarence, the meeting was at once adjourned.

The fourth meeting of the season (1891-92) was held at Markwell's Hotel, Brighton, on Monday, the 1st February, at 7.45 p.m. In the absence of the President, the Vice-President took the chair. Present:—Messrs. J. H. Redman, J. W. Gillespie, H. W. Armitage, S. M. Castle, A. de Worms, W. H. Rean, R. J. Woodman, H. Stafford Smith, and W. T. Willett. The minutes of the previous meeting having been read and confirmed, the Secretary read a letter from Mr. Wm. Brown, of Salisbury, offering to publish the minutes of the Society in his journal; as the Society had already completed their arrangements, they were unable to accept Mr. Brown's offer. The subject for study, "Areas of Collection," was proceeded with, and adjourned. Mr. Stafford Smith exhibited specimens of the current Victoria 1d., printed on rose paper, also the current Porto Rico 8 cents, printed in the new colour, pale brown.

## Correspondence.

### REPRINTS OF THE STAMPS OF VICTORIA.

We are indebted to Mr. W. R. Joynt, of Dublin, for permission to print the following letter received by him from Mr. Wm. Bond, of the Government Printing Office at Melbourne.

"Government Printing Office,  
Melbourne, Nov. 16th, 1891.

"DEAR SIR,—In reply to yours of Aug. 29, I have to inform you that sets of obsolete stamps, marked 'reprint,' may be obtained for the sum of £1 per set on application to the Comptroller of Stamps, General Post Office, Melbourne. It is not intended, I believe, to sell the obsolete stamps without being marked 'reprint,' but only to supply them to a few high State officials of other countries who take an interest in stamps, in exchange for sets of their own. You will be pleased to learn that we have been unable to reprint the 5s. blue on yellow, as the original steel punch has been altered for printing in two colours, blue and red on white paper, which we have reprinted.

"The reprints of the early issues of stamps, viz., those prior to 1868, will be readily distinguished from originals, as the V over crown watermark has been used for all the reprints.

"We have been unable to reprint the emblem series, the 2d. mauve of Jan., 1870, the 6d. and 2s. 'postage' 'stamp' at sides, the 6d. black, small headed oval and '6d.' at sides, the 'Too Late' and 'Registered' stamps; also the surcharged duty stamps and the ½d. red surcharge on green 1s. (June /73) have not been reprinted. Only the orange 3d., laureated head, the 8d. orange on white, and 10d. slate on white have been produced, the other colours of same types not being reprinted.

"In concluding, I must apologise for not answering your letter sooner, but I have been away from the office taking holidays, and was therefore unable to do so.

"I shall be happy, at any future time, to give you any further information you may wish for regarding Victorian stamps.

"I have honour to be, Sir,

"Yours truly,

"(Signed) Wm. BOND.

"W. R. Joynt, Esq."

*To the Editor of the LONDON PHILATELIST.*

DEAR SIR,—Allow me to congratulate you on the splendid start you have made with the "LONDON PHILATELIST;" along with all the other publications of the Society it ranks alone, superior to comparisons.

I cannot understand the frame of mind of the persons who originated the idea that the members of the Society did not receive enough for their money. Speaking for myself, I do not usually expect 25s. to the £, but I have found that this is what being a member means. The members especially, and the Philatelic world generally, cannot estimate too highly the value of the London Society.

With regard to Philatelic matters, I should like to know if any of your readers can throw any light on the Virgin Island 1d. green, p. 14. ☞ This stamp has long been known, of course, &c. but for years it has not been catalogued, and now you can get it anywhere for 4s. or 5s.; where have the numbers come from so suddenly? Are they remainders? for it is a stamp that is hardly ever seen used.

At some time in the future I hope to have your permission to say something about perforations.

Yours faithfully,

8, Rushcroft,  
Baildon, Nr. Shipley,  
Yorkshire.  
Feb. 5th, 1892.

O. FIRTH.

*To the Editor of the LONDON PHILATELIST.*

DEAR SIR,—For the last five or six years I have had a complete set of Great Britain issue April, 1884, surcharged "specimen." On looking through these the other day I found that the 1½d., 2d., 4d., 5d., 6d., and 5s. were perf. 12; all the other values having the ordinary perf. 14. I am at a loss to understand this peculiarity, and think that possibly some of your correspondents may be able to throw a light on the subject.

The entire set I know to be absolutely genuine in every respect.

Yours obediently,

A. DE WORMS.

Brighton, Feb. 16, 1892.

## Occasional Notes.

AT a recent meeting of the London Philatelic Society two very interesting stamps were sent for the inspection of members by Messrs. Stanley Gibbons & Co. The one—the two-pence blue “diademed” issue of New South Wales, with watermark thick double-lined numeral 1, has, with the exception of the specimen in the Vice-President’s collection, hitherto been unknown on both sides of the world. The other—the error in the colour of the 1d. bistre, of Western Australia (wmk. C.C. & Cr. perf. 12½) is almost an equal *rara avis*, no specimen having been shown to the London Society since 4th December, 1869, when the then secretary showed this stamp and comment was made as to “the carelessness with which the dies of some stamps were inserted in the frames.” These two specimens were a *trouvaille* in the same collection, and are certainly two of the very rarest varieties of the stamps of Oceana.

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A SUGGESTION has been made by a well-meaning postal reformer to the Postmaster-General that in lieu of black bordered envelopes to denote the intensity of our woes there should be envelopes with black bordered penny stamps. There would be also then necessary, grey bordered for half-mourning, silver for weddings, and—say—green for lunatics. The Postmaster-General most curiously did not agree to the suggestion!

\* \* \*

THE following questions were put in the House of Commons on 15th February:—The Sale of Stamps: Sir J. Fergusson, in answer to Mr. H. Heaton, said it was not known if the Post-offices of British Colonies kept for sale stamps of the United Kingdom. It was not thought advisable to purchase and keep for sale in British Post-offices stamps of India and the Colonies, and the Post Office did all in its power to discourage remittances by postage stamps in letters, because of the temptation thus placed in the way of the sorters and postmen. Mr. H. Heaton also asked the Postmaster-General whether he intended to permit the public to use their own postcards (with a halfpenny stamp attached to each), provided that such postcards in size and in every other respect conformed to the regulations; and whether the cost of postage stamps (to the Government) amounts to only £16 per million, whereas postcards cost them £334 per million, Sir J. Fergusson: The matter is under consideration. The post-cards cost £283 per million to manufacture.

ACCORDING to a paragraph that has gone the rounds, that indefatigable and versatile advocate of the cheap postage—Mr. Henniker Heaton, M.P.—has lately conceived the idea of a guarantee by himself and friends against any loss incurred by the Government in the introduction of Penny Postage between all the speakers of the Anglo-Saxon tongue. As may be imagined, the authorities could hardly link themselves to such “State aid,” but it is clear that Universal Penny Postage, within the foregoing limits, is “in the air,” and if Mr. Goschen’s estimate of the loss is only £75,000 per annum, it is palpable that with the natural increment of correspondence, any financial arguments against its adoption are likely to disappear.

\* \* \*

THE publisher of the *Philatelic Journal of Great Britain* has sent us the first volume of that journal for the past year, which in its neat binding presents an interesting volume. There are several features that will find acceptance at the hands of philatelists, such as the epitome of auction prices, the index of special studies in the leading papers, and the articles upon the leading stamp dealers, which are accompanied by excellent illustrations of the heads of the firm who have been interviewed. The difficulty will probably be where to leave off on this subject! It is, perhaps, hard to find the philatelic point in a few of the articles, but the volume as a whole is a good one, and fairly entitles the publisher to claim for it a high place among the journals devoted to stamp collecting in this country.

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### THE ALLEGED FORGERY OF STAMPS.

ON 22nd January, at the Thames Police Court, Alfred Benjamin, 29, a stamp dealer of 46, Oval-road, Lambeth; Julian Hippolite Sarpy, 32, a stamp dealer, of the same address; and George Kirke Jeffreys, 24, a clerk, of 80, Grove-road, Bow, surrendered to their bails, before Mr. Dickinson, to further answer a charge of conspiring and confederating by means of false pretences and subtle devices to cheat and defraud divers persons.

Mr. Muir, instructed by Messrs. Wilson & Wallis (of Bow-street), prosecuted, Mr. Purcell represented Benjamin and Sarpy, Mr. C. E. Jones appeared for Jeffreys, and Detective-Sergeants White and Cumner were present on behalf of the Commissioners of Police. The Post Office and Inland Revenue were also represented.

Evidence has already been given showing

that the accused men had extensively dealt in forged stamps.

Hugo Griebert, a stamp dealer, of 135, Fenchurch-street, stated that he had known Benjamin and Sarpy for about eight months. Their shop was next door to the one he occupied, and he had done business with them on several occasions. He did not remember seeing in their shop a notice guaranteeing stamps as genuine. He had not seen any printing-machine or dies in their shop. Witness had purchased stamps as genuine ones from them, and on two occasions they turned out not to be genuine. In May last he purchased two Sydney-view 1d. stamps, and gave £2 for them. He sold them again, and witness afterwards found out they were forgeries. He returned the money and got the stamps back. Witness spoke to Benjamin about them, and told him they were forgeries. He also asked for the money to be returned. Benjamin said he did not know at the time that they were forgeries, and gave witness the value of the money he had paid. He afterwards bought three Baden 18kr. stamps of Benjamin for 15s., and later on discovered they were not genuine. Witness then returned them to Benjamin. That prisoner said he bought them as genuine, and returned the value. The stamps in Sarpy and Benjamin's window were all genuine. He could not remember if he had seen any stamps in the shop that were not genuine.

By Mr. Purcell: He had received ten Sydney-views from Sarpy, but did not remember if the price was to be £1 10s. He did not tell Sarpy he could get good prices for them in the "good old Fatherland." Witness had never dealt in jewellery, but had exchanged jewellery for stamps. He did not remember if the jewellery was like the stamps—"faked." He gave four rings for £8 worth of Borneo stamps, which had, like the hall-mark on the rings, "faked" post marks. Witness had exchanged those stamps for reprinted stamps. Witness was frequently in Benjamin and Sarpy's shop, and used to buy about £10 worth of stamps there a week. He asked these two prisoners to surcharge some old Portuguese, Madeira, and Azores stamps. Witness did not know if he stood by while these stamps were surcharged, but the surcharging was done while he waited. The price of an old Portuguese stamp without the surcharge would be 9d., and with it 1s. 6d. He remembered taking 100 Orange Free stamps to them, and they had not a postmark on them. He asked them to clean and postmark the stamps, and gave 30s. for them. He knew a preparation sold in Paris that was used for removing ink marks.

Percy May Bright, a stationer and bookseller, The Arcade, Bournemouth, stated that on the 23rd November last he called at the shop of Benjamin and Sarpy. He saw Benjamin, and purchased some stamps from him. Amongst them was one purporting to be a 12kr. Bavarian perforated stamp, and he paid 6s. 6d. for it. That would be cheap for a genuine stamp, but was not the price of a forged one. The next day he found the stamp was forged. The colour and perforation were different to that of a genuine stamp. He afterwards communicated with the Philatelic Protection Association. In their window he also saw a stamp called "The Rare V.R. Stamp." That was the old British black stamp. The one he saw was not a genuine one. The price of a genuine stamp of that sort would be £7 10s. or £8. He did not see the notice produced.

By Mr. Purcell: He did not buy "notorious fakes," and Benjamin did not tell him he only guaranteed those stamps which had his name on the back. He afterwards called at the shop and bought some more stamps. On that occasion he did not mention the 12kr. stamps. He believed the association had issued a circular warning the members against Benjamin and Sarpy. There were "faked" stamps of more than 45 countries.

James M'Kenzie, a clerk at 3, Fenchurch-avenue, City, said he had been a stamp collector for 16 years, and had known Benjamin and Sarpy for about three years. He had heard them mention Jeffreys' name in connection with forgeries. They told him he had made the St. Vincent surcharge forgery. Witness was a contributor to several philatelic papers, and as such had made inquiries about the forgery of stamps. He had acquired information with regard to forgeries from Benjamin and Sarpy, and had purchased forged stamps from them as forgeries. About a year ago Sarpy showed him a piece of paper with a star watermark on it. Witness knew that stamps were printed on paper watermarked in that way. Sarpy showed him a forged 9d. Ceylon stamp, and said it was to be sold in France. He had seen Sarpy post mark fiscal stamps. He had purchased a sheet of forged blue Victoria stamps from Sarpy, and afterwards passed that on to Mr. Buhl to be used by the Philatelic Society. He had seen a great number of forged stamps in Benjamin and Sarpy's possession. The railway ticket produced had a postmark and perforation on it. These were done by Benjamin at his shop. Witness had a good collection of West Indian stamps, and they

told him he had better get rid of it, as they were all to be forged.

By Mr. Purcell: He had bought, sold, and exchanged stamps with Benjamin and Sarpy. He recollected Mr. Phillips sending him a Grenada stamp, with the surcharge reversed, but that was not guaranteed as genuine, although witness inferred it was not so. Witness ascertained from the postmaster of Grenada that no such stamp had been issued. Benjamin and Sarpy had told him they had manufactured stamps which Mr. Phillips bought, and they used to boast of the excellence of their "fakes." Witness was called "Nevis" by the dealers. He knew that Mr. Phillips, before he became secretary of the Association, had traded at Birmingham.

Mr. Dickinson again remanded the prisoners on bail.

At the further hearing of the case the following additional evidence was given:—

Mr. Sireax, who was for many years a stamp collector, stated that during the years 1884 and 1885 he purchased large quantities of stamps from Benjamin. He had his collection examined, and found that a number of these were of doubtful genuineness. He insisted on Benjamin taking the stamps back, which he did, and repaid the witness.

Charles James Phillips, manager to Stanley Gibbons and Co., foreign stamp dealers, and secretary to the Philatelic Protection Association, said he had examined a number of stamps belonging to the prisoners. Nearly every stamp was forged in some respect, either as to the stamp itself, the surcharge, or the postmark.—An invoice of a perforating press, made for Benjamin, was produced, and also one for two perforators, as well as letters, asking for the return of money paid for forged stamps. A letter was then produced which was found at Cullum-street, in which the following passage occurred: "The Sireax affair is bad. I had to pay £6, and cannot put down here what I had to do." In another letter a correspondent said, "I have a lot of new customers, including another mug like our old friend England."—A letter was shown to the witness which ran as follows: "I think the New Zealand is faked, but, if you like, I will sell it at a high price and divide with you." He acknowledged that the letter was his, but he had no recollection of it, and said he thought it had been altered.

The case was adjourned until February 5th, when

Mr. Muir asked for the committal of the prisoners on a charge of conspiracy to defraud, and for a conspiracy with intent to obtain

money by false pretences. He should ask the committal of Benjamin and Sarpy obtaining money by false pretences from Mr. Bright. He should also ask that the prisoners be committed for actual forgery a common law. He held that a stamp was a document or instrument.

Mr. Dickinson remarked that the case seemed to turn on the point whether a stamp was a document, or sign, or token.

After considerable discussion, Mr. Dickinson said, after some doubt, he had come to the conclusion that there was evidence to commit the prisoners on the first two charges, and also against Sarpy and Benjamin for obtaining money by false pretences. He was not able to say whether a stamp was a written instrument or document, and there was so much doubt on the matter that he thought the opinion of a superior court should be taken. The prisoners would also be committed for trial on the charge of common law forgery.

The prisoners were admitted to bail.

\* \* \*

THE ASSMUS PROSECUTION.—The final hearing of this case after committal took place on 8th February, when Mr. C. F. Gill prosecuted. Assmus conducted his own defence.—The frauds alleged against the prisoner extended over some months, and they were perpetrated by negotiating a series of spurious foreign and English stamps to dealers and others in various parts of the metropolis and provinces. Many of the stamps, if genuine, would realise in the market sums ranging up to £8 each. The sum of £4 15s. was obtained by Assmus from a gentleman named Giwelb, £7 10s. from Mr. Reya, and £5 from Mr. P. M. Bright, in respect of stamps. When the apartments of the accused, at 12, Church-street, Islington, were searched, the police found 4,900 stamps, of which 800 were forgeries. There were also dies, paints, and acids, which it was suggested had been used to perpetrate the forgeries.—In his defence, the prisoner urged that he purchased the stamps, and disposed of them innocently to the prosecutors.—The jury found the prisoner guilty, and he was sentenced to three years' penal servitude. *O si sic omnia!*

\* \* \*

In a short leader on the foregoing case the *Evening Standard* says, among other observations of a speculative and certainly not profound nature:—"There must be a considerable number of people who gain a livelihood by counterfeiting stamps, as many, perhaps, as live by the manufacture of choice specimens of the old masters. It is natural that it should be so. Where a thing is valued, not for its

intrinsic worth, or for its beauty, or, indeed, for any quality whatever save its rarity, it is but in accordance with human nature that men should endeavour to supply the want; and they may urge in defence that they add to the sum of human happiness, for a forged stamp affords, until spotted by an expert, just as much delight and pride to its possessor as if it was the genuine article he believes it to be." So would a forged signature to a cheque, until the inevitable discovery! Fortunately the law does not admit the above special pleading as any mitigation of swindling, *pace* Assmus' three years' incarceration.

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So numerous have been the trials in connection with stamps, that Philatelic Police Intelligence may well be contemplated as a permanent heading in our journals. There is, however, reasonable hope that the convictions we note will not "encourage the others," and that as the result a *quasi*-philatelic forgery millennium may supervene. The robbery of the Indian stamps were recently fully noted in the various papers devoted to stamp collecting, and the *finale* will be gleaned from the following account:—

Alfred George Ashton, forty-one, a stevedore; George Henry Humphreys, thirty-seven,

late a bank manager; and James Francis Clarke, forty-one, who were convicted last sessions of stealing large quantities of Indian stamps, the property of the Government, were brought up at the Old Bailey on 10th February, for sentence. Mr. C. F. Gill said the prosecution had been undertaken at the instance of the India Office, as the court were told the stamps used in India were sent out from this country for distribution. The robbery took place at the London Docks. Ashton, who worked in the hold of the *Astrea* when the stamps were stolen, had given no information whatever as to the stamps, although he had made statements which turned out to be untrue. Clarke adhered to his story that he had received the stamps from India. Humphreys he had known for years as connected with a very bad gang of swindlers, several of whom had been convicted. Mr. Dixon Hartland, M.P., was called to speak for Humphreys, whom he had known since he was a boy. He said Humphreys at one time was in charge of one of the branches of their bank. The Common Serjeant sentenced Ashton to seven years' penal servitude, and the other two prisoners to eighteen months' hard labour each.

## The Philatelic Market.

The fashion for the disposal of Philatelic accumulations through the medium of the auctioneer's *rostrum* seems to be spreading, for we hear of sales of this nature in Berlin, Dresden, and other places on the Continent.

Mr. D. A. Vindin, of Sydney, has brought to England the collection of Mr. H. Bulloch of Sydney, and we understand it has found a purchaser at a large sum. It is especially rich in Sydney views, the plates of which are nearly complete, and comprise many brilliant specimens, the laureateds also being a strong lot. As in most of the Australian collections, however, the other colonies are far inferior, but in all are to be found some choice varieties. It seems regrettable that the Australian Philatelists should so rapidly, one after the other, break up their collections, but as the old adage expresses it, "What is one man's loss is another's gain," hence the Philatelists of this country are well content to absorb the finest stamps of their Antipodean friends. They will be wanted in Australia again early next century. *Qui vivra verra.*

The system inaugurated by Mr. A. R. Rogers,

of New York, being what may perhaps be called the silent auction, seems to have found favour, as we notify by the catalogues received for the sales on the 1st of this month and the 5th of next, that there is a marked increase, both in the number and quality of the lots submitted, while the appearance of the said catalogues is of a highly ornate, not to say gorgeous character, and as a possible incentive to purchasers is adorned with a portrait of the founder of the system. We may add for the information of the uninitiated that this system consists of the publication of the lots with the reserve price stated, the highest bid by letter before the date of sale receiving the lot, priority being given, when equal bids are received, to the first comer.

"One thousand five hundred pounds for a collection of foreign stamps seems almost like a romance, yet that is what the 484 lots belonging to a prominent philatelist resident in Hong Kong actually realised at an auction in London recently." The leading London daily that pens the foregoing would be still more astonished if a *really* first-class collection came

to the hammer. There is not much "romance" about Tokenhouse Yard, and the twaddle talked by anti-philatelic cynics about "fictitious" and "imaginary" values has been rudely dispelled by the inexorable logic of facts as to the value of good stamps.

Amalgamation is the order of the day in many lines of commerce, and it has found followers in philatelic circles in America as well as in this country, as will be noted by the following announcement:—"The Bogert & Durbin Company. Incorporated 1891. Capital, 75,000 dols. New York and Philadelphia. President, E. B. Hanes; vice-president, F. W. Hunter; treasurer, R. R. Bogert; secretary, A. E. Tuttle; board of directors, E. B. Hanes, R. R. Bogert, F. W. Hunter, A. E. Tuttle, J. Rechert, H. E. Deats, G. H. Watson. This company having purchased the business of R. R. Bogert & Co., of New York, and Durbin & Hanes, of Philadelphia, is prepared to offer to collectors the advantage of the combined stock of two of the largest and best known houses in the trade." We can testify, from a personal knowledge extending over many years to the soundness of both the incorporated firms, and take the opportunity to wish success to the new venture. The late Mr. L. W. Durbin, as the publisher of Dr. Horner's well known works on the United States envelopes, was widely known as he was respected by collectors in England, and his death was a sad surprise to many of his old correspondents.

Messrs. Thomas Bull & Co.'s sale of the 23rd January, was a limited one in point of the number of lots offered. We are glad to note that the auctioneers are satisfied now to sell 200 lots at a sitting (geographically arranged), so that the wearied collector is no longer wont to wait while 300 lots of no interest to him are being dispersed, before the apple of his eye is dangled before him. The following are the most notable varieties:—Cape of Good Hope, wood block error, 4d. red, £30; which shows a continued rise in price. Natal, 3d., blue wmk. star, imperf., unused, £7 5s. A very fine copy, used, of the same stamp, £14 5s. This stamp is certainly rare postmarked, as we have only hitherto seen it unused like the 2½d. British Columbia. Newfoundland, 1s. vermilion, brilliant colour, unused, £9. Buenos Ayres, 5 pesos orange, £6 15s.

The thirtieth sale of this firm, held on the 5th and 6th of this month, as will be seen by the list of the noteworthy stamps, was of far more interest, and, we understand, was well attended by collectors. The rarer stamps were the proceeds of a choice collection, and and it will be noticed that the prices are pro-

portionately good. The advisability of securing fine specimens has been repeatedly emphasised by the results of the dispersal of a well-chosen collection. France, 1849, 1fr. orange, fine, £5 10s. Great Britain, 1840, 1d. black, V.R., fine, £8. Spain, 1851 2 reales, red, unused, fine, £12 10s. Switzerland, Geneva, 5c., 56 green, fine, £14 10s. Switzerland, Vaud, 4c., a brilliant copy, £8 10. (Both these specimens were fine, but in our opinion the prices of the two lots should be reversed, judging by the respective rarity of these two stamps.) Switzerland, Federal issue, 5 centimes black and red, brilliant unused copy, £5. Tuscany, 1850, 60 crazie red, £7 15s. (a stiff price). Two Sicilies, Naples, ½ tornese blue arms, unused, £14 (a poor specimen with no margins. Ceylons, wmk. Star, imperf., 8d. brown-£7 10s. (shews a marked rise). India, 8a. green and lilac, unused, £6 15s. Mauritius, envelope stamps 1s. yellow, cut square, £8 10s. Confederate States, Athens, 5c. brown, used, £14 15s. Mobile, 2c. black, used, £6 15s. New Brunswick, 1s. violet, fine, £6 5s. Newfoundland, orange issue, 1s., £6 12s. 6d. Nova Scotia, 1s. violet (brilliant), £7 10s. United States, St. Louis, 5c. fine, £12 5s. United States, St. Louis, 10c., £8 5s. Newspaper stamps, complete set from 1c. to 60 dollars, £16. British Guiana, 1862, border of grapes, 2c. yellow, £8; ditto, type I., 4c. blue, £8 10s.; ditto, type II., £7 5s.; ditto, type III., £7 10s.

Messrs. Cheveley, Wilson & Co.'s twenty-fifth sale on the 29th and 30th of last month was well attended, and embraced some fairly good stamps, although necessarily somewhat of an anti-climax after the "Hong Kong" sale. A large number of Sydneys, forming the collection of a late member of the London Philatelic Society, were dispersed. The average prices attained for the penny values being 28s., for the twopenny 16s., and the threepenny 18s. 6d. Many of them were, however, poor specimens, and there were deservedly wide fluctuations of price. The Trinidads were also a good lot, including some of the "native dies." Newfoundland, 1s. carmine-vermilion, £6 5s. Queensland, pair of 2d. imperf., 1 slightly damaged, £9 15s. Great Britain, 1d. black, watermark large crown, imperf., supposed to have been printed for one of the members of the Royal Family, £8. The 3d., 6d., and 1s., small letters in angles with hair lines, &c. imperf. and unused, fetched respectively £10, £6, £12. Spain, 1851, 2 reales fine used, £11. It seems curious to note by context that this stamp fetches but little more unused, though it is far rarer in the former condition.