THE

London Philatelist

THE JOURNAL OF

THE PHILATELIC SOCIETY, LONDON.

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

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

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VOL. I.] MARCH, 1892. [No. 3.

STAMP FRAUDS.

THE conviction of Benjamin, Sarpy, and Jeffryes at the Old Bailey on the 14th of this month sets the seal of success upon the efforts of the Society recently incorporated with the main object of putting an end to the shameless and ever-increasing production of forgeries. After a patient and exhaustive hearing of the case, extending over three days, in which every argument, *pro* or *con*, that an array of learned council could suggest, the jury, without a moment's hesitation, declared these three rogues guilty—a verdict that will find no cavil at the hands of any well-wisher to our pursuit. It is fortunate for the prisoners—as the Recorder of London, Sir Charles Hall, Q.C., pointed out in a most able and exhaustive summing up which grasped alike the philatelic and legal points of the case—that by a technical difficulty as to the true definition of forgery, the prisoners escaped a far longer period of incarceration. After a very intricate argument it was held that a stamp is not an "instrument" or "document" capable of being "forged," inasmuch as it is in no sense a writing. Fortunately, there were other counts in the indictment sufficient for the purpose, and it is to be hoped that with the condign punishment of the ring-leaders this infamous traffic will be practically put an end to. The case of Assmus, sentenced a short time since to the severe sentence of three years, was of a similar nature, but doubtless through having tampered with the British stamp by forging the V.R., etc., he reaped a heavier penalty than the other three scoundrels. Jeffryes, to our thinking, is the worst and the most dangerous of the whole gang, as he most skilfully produced forgeries that have been widely dispersed all over Europe through the agency of the late

denizens of the grimy little den in Cullum Street. "Sydney View Villa" will languish without its semitic proprietor for the next few months, nor will the Ancient Order of Buffaloes mourn the absence of the wily "Sharpy," as the learned Counsel persistently dubbed him. There are one or two other rogues who may expect to share a like fate unless they reform, and it is significant that they were seen at the Old Bailey as spectators interested to a degree that their transference to a less cheerful part of the Court would in no degree lessen. The Philatelic Protection Association has amply vindicated its title, and should command the ungrudging and liberal support of all those who are engaged in the trade; nor should the co-operation and sympathy of collectors, to whom they have rendered a signal service, be withheld. We sincerely trust that these sentences may act as a deterrent to others, and that after such a heavy campaign the Society may be allowed time to recuperate alike its energies and funds; it can well afford to rest upon its laurels for a while! May we tender, as sincere well-wishers to all its members, a word of caution to hint that after such a crusade the enemy will be on the watch, for obvious reasons, to trip up any member of the Association who may be unwary or careless enough to dispose of a doubtful stamp, and that therefore it behoves one and all, in defence of individual and collective honour, to leave no loophole for an attack. The allied dealers may rest assured that the surer the basis of philately the more secure will be their *métier*, and that a continuation of the wise policy inaugurated by the Philatelic Protection Association will meet with the hearty approval of all classes alike.

New Issues and Unchronicled Varieties.

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

ADHESIVES.

Afghanistan.—The 1 shahi of the 1872-3 issue hitherto known only in black, has been discovered printed in violet, as we learn from sundry esteemed contemporaries. If this is the precursor of others, a hitherto simple issue may rival those of other years.

1 shahi 1872-3 (1290), *violet.*

Argentine Republic.—In addition to the previously altered 1 c., we gather from the *Monthly Journal* that the ¼ c. and 6 c. have also been modified as to type, the former on a bluish paper, having the inscription larger, and the latter with re-cut lettering and a more rounded oval.

¼ c, green on bluish; *type re-cut.*
6 c., grey-blue „

Barbados.—A correspondent writes from this island somewhat enigmatically :—

"Barbados, January 30th, 1892.

"I may mention that Barbados is at present considering a new die for a proposed new issue, and as it originates with the Imperial Government, I have no doubt the other islands are similarly engaged."

British Bechuanaland.—Messrs. Whitfield King & Co. send us the current English stamps surcharged with the name of the colony in two lines of block capitals.

1d., lilac, current Great Britain, surcharged British Bechuanaland.
2d., green and rose, „ „ „
4d., green and brown, „ „ „
6d., violet-brown on red, „ „ „

The *Monthly Journal* notes the following :—

1d (Cape type), wmk., cabled anchor, *with double surcharge*, British Bechuanaland.

British Guiana.—Messrs. Ridpath & Co. send a pair of specimens of the 4 c., lilac surcharged series, which seem to show variations of the figure, *i.e.*, one being about $3\frac{1}{2}$ mm. high and more pointed than the other, which is 3 mm. in height.

Bulgaria.—We illustrate to right the provisional last noticed.



Cuba.—The juvenile Royal head has now appeared in the following colours, for good and sufficient reasons, as we hear.

½ m., de peso,	dark violet.	1 c., de peso,	grey-green.
1 m., „	„	2 c., „	brown.
3 m., „	„	2½ c., „	salmon.
4 m., „	„	20 c., „	ultramarine.
8 m., „	„		

Curaçao.—The *Postiljon* notes the issue of the following varieties similar in type to the same class of stamp issued by the mother country; perf. $12\frac{1}{2}$.

2½ c.,	black and green.	20 c.,	black and green.
5 c.,	„	25 c.,	„
10 c.,	„	30 c.,	„
12½ c.,	„	40 c.,	„
15 c.,	„	50 c.,	„

Cyprus.—The *American Journal of Philately* has seen an undoubted specimen of the 1886 provisional with C.C. instead of C.A. & Crown.

½d., black surcharge on ½ piastre green (1886), *wmk., C.C. & Crown*, perf. 14.



Ecuador.—Types of the new issues with and without "official."



Falkland Islands.—The 1d. value is now issued, says the *Timbre Poste*, in a brownish orange.

1d. *brownish orange*, wmk. C.A. & Cr., perf. $14\frac{1}{2}$.

Great Britain.—We hear that the £1 green, surcharged "I. R. Official," is to be issued shortly.

Grenada.—We illustrate a variety not generally noted, namely, the 2s. fiscal stamp surcharged "Postage and Revenue" and "1d." over the words "two shillings."



1d, black surcharge on 2s., yellow and green.

Messrs. Ridpath have seen the recent provisional 1d. on 8d. with surcharge inverted, showing, therefore, that the overprinting "1d. Postage and Revenue" was not always put on *tête bêche* to follow the method of printing the sheets.

1d. on 8d. brown, black surcharge, *inverted.*

Guatemala.—Messrs. Ridpath & Co. have submitted to us a specimen of the current 10 c. set, which is clearly engraved instead of lithographed as heretofore. As the lower values have been already noted thus it seems probable that the remaining stamps of the issue will follow ere long.

10 c. vermilion, *engraved.*

Holkar.—Messrs. Ridpath & Co. send us a new set—inclusive of the half-anna of the current type in a new shade, the former slate-violet now being converted to a dull brown with a suspicion only of the first-named colour, the remaining values being of similar type, paper, and perforation to that now current.

¼-anna, current type, yellow.
½ „ „ „ *dull violet-brown.*
1 „ „ „ dark green.
2 „ „ „ vermilion.

Major Adam Smith has enclosed specimens, and, as will be noted, chonicles a new variety of provisional, which with bated breath he says was used between the change from the "mauve" to the "puce" half anna. It seems from Major Smith's description to be possibly a reprint of the previously existing provisional of 1889. We shall doubtless ere long receive specimens for illustration, and meanwhile record—

½ anna, circular type of 1889, black on pink, *provisional.*

Hong Kong.—Messrs. Clarke & Co. have sent us specimens of the 1 D. on 96c., brown on red, with and without the equivalent Chinese surcharge at the upper portion of the left-hand label. The *Philatelic Journal of Great Britain* mentions a 20 c. under similar conditions.

20 c. on 30 c., black on green *without Chinese surcharge.*
1 D. on 96 c., brown on red „ „ „

India.—From the letter forwarded to us from the Indian General Post Office it will be noted that the surcharge of 2½ annas, described in our January number *was printed on the 4 annas 6 pies pale green*, and not on the 4 annas olive green, as we were informed, a mistake that can easily be made by distributors as well as collectors of stamps, having regard to their close resemblance. The 1 rupee, which we illustrate with the new 2½ annas, kindly sent by our correspondent, has little beyond its colours in its favour.





Labuan.—The provisional 6 c., described in our January issue, has been shown to us by Mr. V. Roberts with the overprint inverted. There are other varieties evidently separately struck, as the *Monthly Journal* notes a double surcharge and the like inverted—all doubtless required *by collectors!*

6 c. on 8 c., violet-black, *surcharge inverted.*
„ „ „ *double surcharge.*
„ „ „ „ „ *inverted.*

Mauritius.—Two of the varieties chronicled in the various journals a short time since, have been chronicled by the *Monthly Journal* with the overprint repeated.

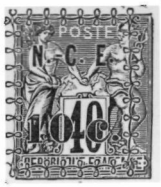
2 c, on 4 c., carmine *double surcharge.*
2 c., „ 38 c., lilac „

Mexico.—We illustrate the variety of this rare issue chronicled a short time since in the Philatelic Press.



New South Wales.—Messrs. Callf & Co. have made a discovery to which we shall allude next month.

New Caledonia.—From Messrs. Whitfield King & Co. we have specimens of the last new thing in this country—only two varieties with (*bien entendu*) both inverted surcharges as well. We trust these are not the *avant-couriers* of another callow brood. The 40c. of the previous issue imperf., and the like value of the current set have been operated upon by super-imposing in black block capitals "N.—C. E." and "10 c." in large numerals within a looped rectangular frame of the same dimensions as the stamp. We illustrate both types.





10 c. black surcharge on 40 c. (1877 issue), red on straw.
„ „ „ „ „ surcharge inverted.
„ „ „ current issue, red on yellow.
„ „ „ „ „ surcharge inverted.

New Zealand.—We are glad now to note that the correspondent of M. Moens, who so calmly contradicted the existence of the 1d. brown, watermark N.Z., that was examined by several "old philatelic hands" in London, is now satisfied that the stamp that he saw was not the one in question. He should have been sure of this before attempting to contemptuously dismiss it. The current set have appeared perf. 10.

1d., rose, wk. N.Z. and Star, perf. 10.
2d., violet, „ „
3d., yellow, „ „
1s., brownish-red, „ „

Nicaragua.—We append illustrations of Mr. Seebeck's *chef d'œuvre.*









Obock.—As briefly announced in our last issue, this enterprising and widely-known (!) French colony has entered into philatelic competition with its sister possessions, and produced a modest array of 10 varieties as a start. The issue consists of the current French colonial stamps, with a curved surcharge in bluish-black thick capitals "OBOCK." The letters are badly formed and so close, that with the exception of the initial they all impinge on each other.

1 c., black on blue.
2 c., brown on buff.
4 c., violet on grey.
5 c., green on greenish.
10 c., black on violet.
15 c., blue on grey.
25 c., black on pink.
35 c., black on yellow.
75 c., carmine on pink.
1 fc., brown on buff.

Persia.—We note that the new issue has been found with two gauges of perforation, of which we hope later to give a list.

Porto Rico.—In addition to the values given by us in our last two numbers, we note the following varieties from Messrs. Whitfield King & Co., except the 1 m. and the 1 c. and 3 c. (*American Journal of Philately*).

½ m. de peso,	*olive-green.*	8 m. de peso,	*yellow-green.*
1 m. „	*bright violet.*	1 c. „	*red-brown.*
2 m. „	*brown-violet.*	3 c. „	*red.*
4 m. „	*blue.*	20 c. „	*mauve.*
6 m. „	*rose.*	80 c. „	*orange.*

We note that one of the varieties previously chronicled by us on the faith of a contemporary varies from this list.



Réunion.—We illustrate the second type of the figure 2, that we alluded to in our last issue.



St. Lucia.—Messrs. Whitfield King & Co. inform us that the following numbers of the surcharges mentioned in our last number have been issued—the penny value being that described in our January issue, and of which we give an illustration. "One penny" surcharged on 4d., 6,700; "One halfpenny" surcharged on 3d., 4,300; "½d." surcharged on 6d. (half), 9,600.

½d., black surcharge, in words on 3d. lilac and green, current type Wk. CA, perf. 14.
½d. „ „ in numerals „ 6d. „ blue, vertical half, „ „

St. Thomas and Prince Island.—Messrs. Whitfield King & Co., write, "We send you novelties as follows:—1. St. Thomé and Principe, 5 reis on 10 reis, *double surcharge*, without accent on é of "reis." 2. St. Thomé and Principe, double surcharge, with the accent. 3. *Principe only*. Provisional stamp issued in August or September last (we are not sure of the date) in Principe, for use for *one mail only*. The day before making up the mail for Lisbon, it was found that 50 reis stamps were run out of stock, and as there was no time to send to Sao Thomé for a fresh supply, these provisionals were authorised by a special Government decree for this one mail only. The total number issued was *180 only*. Of these, 80 were affixed to letters despatched by that particular mail." This variety is the 40 reis with the large framed inscription, "Rs. 50," printed diagonally and inverted.

5 reis, 1889 issue, *double* black surcharge on 10 c., green.
5 reis „ „ „ „ „ with accent to reis.
50 reis, *black surcharge* on 40 r. brown, current issue (for Prince Island only).

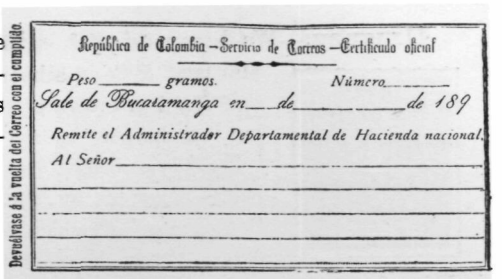
Samoa.—Messrs. Whitfield King & Co. have sent us a specimen of a new issue having a portrait of King Malietoa, a well-favoured monarch, especially nasally, as we hope to show by an early illustration.

2½d. pink, new design, wmk. N Z and truncated star, perf. 12½.

Sarawak.—From Messrs. Whitfield King & Co. we have the current 3 cents, with the overprinted words "One Cent" in small thick lower case type extending nearly across the stamp and directly over the label.

1 c. *black surcharge* in words, on 3 c. dull lilac and blue, current issue.

Santander (Colombia.)—The accompanying illustration of this recently issued official fortunately obviates the necessity of any lengthened description.



Cubierta (official) without value, black on white.

Sirmoor.—Messrs. Whitfield King & Co. send us a strip of 10 stamps of the 3 pies, extending to the whole width of the sheet, showing the surcharge "On S.S.S" in a very irregular manner, probably due to hand stamping—the whole row being struck together and not parallel to the stamps; some have the "On" at the top and others at the base, while to the same cause others rejoice in an extra "S." They also send the like stamp with the overprint "upside down."

3 pies, orange on S.S.S., black, *surcharge inverted.*

Sokotra.—The announcement of an issue of stamps for this little-known island, which is under British protection, has been going the round, and as we hear of no doubts being expressed as to their authenticity we proceed to notice them with a slight trepidation.

Half anna, black surcharge on 1d. carmine of Cyprus.
One anna, „ „ 2d. blue „ „



Straits Settlements.—We append representations of the two provisionals described by us last month.



Surinam.—The stamps noticed in our January issue under the heading of Dutch Indies belong to *this* particular portion of the Colonies of the Netherlands, and were inadvertently so classified by us.

Tasmania.—Mr. Bassett Hull sends us specimens of the permanent "De la Rue" type for the Postal Union values, resembling the Leeward Islands in their designs, which we shall illustrate shortly. The cartouch with the value is the only portion of the 5d. in the brown color.

2½d., dull reddish mauve, wmk. TAS, diagonally, perf. 14.
5d., pale blue and brown, „ „ „

Turkey.—It will be remembered that a new issue of stamps was generally foreshadowed a short time since: this has now occurred. Mr. Pearce writes:—"These stamps were officially issued on the 13th of this month (1st March old style), which date was the commencement of the Turkish financial year. Any copies of the stamps seen before that date were obtained by favour. There are five values of postage stamps, viz: 10 paras, 20 paras, 1 piastre, 2 piastres, and 5 piastres. (Stamps of the values of 5 paras and 25 piastres are no longer issued). Of the unpaid letter stamps there are 3 values, all printed in black:—values, 20 paras, 1 piastre, and 2 piastres. Designs the same as the postage stamps of same values." We describe the colors from the specimens kindly submitted by our correspondent. The several designs are very intricate, and as we shall probably be enabled to illustrate them shortly we will not inflict an elaborate description upon our readers.

10 paras, dull green.
20 „ rose.
1 piastre, grey.
2 piastres, bistre.
5 „ dull lilac.

UNPAID LETTER STAMPS.
20 paras, black.
1 piastre, „
2 piastres, „

Uruguay.—We have received from Messrs. Stafford Smith & Co. and Messrs. Maitland & Co. specimens of the 1 c. green and the 7 c. brown of the types now in use, but surcharged in red lower case letters "Provisorio 1892," the value of the latter being lowered by the surcharge "Cinco Centesimos," of which the first word only is different from the remainder of the surcharge in being denoted by capitals. The *Philatelist* notes that there is a variety of the 5 c. having a larger thick "e" in centesimos, and that a specimen with Previsorio occurs in both values. We annex illustrations.





1 c., green, current issue, red surcharge.
5 c., brown, „ „ „ „ on 7 cents.

Zululand.—Messrs. Whitfield King & Co. write:—"When the stock of 1d. on Natal revenue is exhausted the 1d. English will be issued surcharged as before. Next month new stamps value 9d., 1s., and 5s., will be issued, and the 5d. will follow later on."

ENVELOPES, WRAPPERS, &c.

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

Argentine.—A new variety of the current bands is noted by the *Timbre Poste*.

½ c., brown on white, 243×157 mm., *thin transparent paper*.
½ c., „ „ chamois, 231×162 „ „ „ „

Brazil.—We illustrate the envelope described last month.



Ecuador.—We give illustrations of the wrappers and envelopes described last month.





New South Wales.—We have received from Mr. D. A. Vindin an apparently unchronicled variety of the 6d. official envelope—centennial type. On the top it has "On Her Majesty's Service" in large Gothic type; to the left "Registered Letter," in thick Roman capitals, and is addressed "The Cashier, Department of Public Instruction, Sydney;" in the lower left hand corner, in small script, is "Public School Savings Bank Returns, Public School, 189 ." The shape is that of the ordinary

foolscap sized envelope, and the paper white laid with the usual crossed lines in the colour of the stamp.

Official Registered Envelope, 6d., carmine, *stamp to right.*

Nicaragua.—We illustrate the new issue of envelopes.





Queensland.—From the *Monthly Journal* we glean that a new wrapper has been issued here on manilla paper with an impression of the ½d. adhesive, and a coloured instruction extending to five and a half lines.

Wrapper, ½d., green, on *whitish brown manilla paper*, 128×297 mm.

Salvador.—Accompanying will be found the illustrations of the "novelties in this department."





POST AND LETTER CARDS.

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

Bolivia.—A new card has been issued here with the arms and nine stars, says the *Timbre Poste.*

1 centavo, blue on pale blue.

Curaçao.—The head of the young Queen appears now on the following cards:—

5 cents, carmine on buff.
5+5 „ „ „

Ecuador.—Illustrations of these and the Nicaragua cards are held over for want of space until next month.

Finland.—A new issue of this local post has been received, which we illustrate. Type of stamp and inscription have both been changed. Size (when folded) 124×70 mm. —*Timbre Poste.*

10 penni blue on white, stamp blue, bistre and gold.

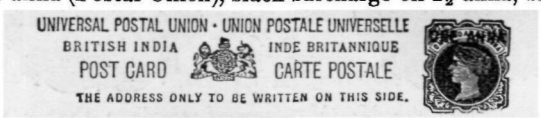


Holland.—The reply card of the new type has been seen.

5+5 cent. blue, new type.

India.—The reply card similar to that chronicled in the January number of the *London Philatelist* is issued, for a specimen of which we are indebted to the gentleman whose letter appears in another column. The usual bilingual instructions are in smaller block type than on the single card, the first half having the directions for the reply in the lower left angle, and the second with the words "Reply—Réponse" in capitals. The card is of a paler shade, and the colour of the impression somewhat brighter. We illustrate the single card.

Reply card 1+1 anna (Postal Union), black surcharge on 1½ anna, blue on pale buff.



Jamaica.—From Messrs. Whitfield King & Co. we receive the Jamaica card in a larger and, we may add, sensible size—140 × 89 mm. May this good example extend to this country also without further loss of time! There is no border to this card which still bears our old friend—the blue 1d. head with the netted corners of pious "pine-apple" memory! The inscriptions are changed, "Post Card" being in large capitals, the instruction line in smaller block capitals, the words "Union Postale Universelle" being added in similar type, and the name of the colony in French and English in large Roman capitals.

1d. Postal Union Card, *size 140×99 mm.; no frame.*

Montenegro.—From specimens sent to us by Messrs. Whitfield King & Co., we note that the current set has appeared in a new guise. Our correspondents write:—"Note in the reply cards a curious error; the inscription "La carte ci-jointe," &c., is on the wrong half of the card. Among our parcel we also found two very curious errors, one of which we enclose. It consists of the 2 novcics reply card with the stamp omitted on one half. In these two specimens the stamp is omitted from the reply half in one, and from the original half in the other." The inscriptions and arms are not changed in type, but are now printed in black, the stamp is in yellow for the 2, and green for the 3 n, and the fancy borders have disappeared.

2 novcics,	current	type,	*yellow*	and	*black*	on	buff.
2+2	„	„	„	„	„	„	„
3	„	„	*green*	„	„	„	„
3+3	„	„	„	„	„	„	„

ERRORS.

2+2 *yellow* and *black* on buff *without stamp* on 1st half.
2+2 „ „ „ „ „ „ „ on reply half.

Orange Free State.—The *American Journal of Philately* recently described as provisional which we herewith illustrate.



½d. black surcharge on 1d. orange.

Turkey.—Mr. Pearce announces a new card of similar type and colour to the adhesive of the same value elsewhere described.

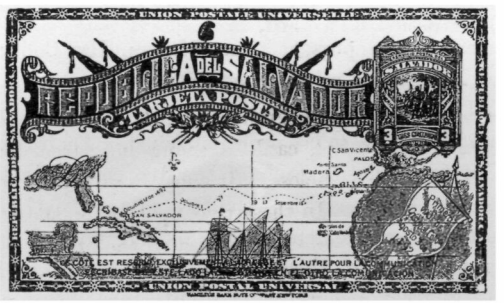
20 paras, new type.

Roumania.—The current 5 bani card has been slightly changed, says our Belgian contemporary, the words "carta postale" are now 52 mm. long, instead of 48½ mm. as previous.

5 bani, *altered inscription*, black on rose.

Salvador.—We faintly endeavour to portray these gorgeous productions. (Puzzle for the postman to find the address !)





Sokotra.—A card is credited to this island in addition to the stamps described elsewhere.

½ anna, black surch. on 1 piastre carmine of Cyprus.

Switzerland.—We hear from various sources that new cards are to be issued shortly for the 5 and 10 centimes, both single and reply cards.

Tonga.—A rather remarkable letter card is stated to have been issued for the benefit of the Tongese. According to the *Ill. Brief. Jour.*, we gather that it is made of a kind of thick paper of a novel shape, and that the stamp is on the reverse side, the design of this consisting of a very large oval, inscribed, "Postage one penny, Tonga," containing the Tongan arms. On the front side of the card is the two-lined inscription, "Tongan envelope letter," and in the lower left angle, "this envelope is intended for use within the kingdom only, and must not contain any enclosure."

Letter card, one penny, bright red (arms carmine-red) on pale buff paper.

The Type-set Stamps of Tolima.

By F. de COPPET, with an Introduction by E. D. BACON.

A Paper Read Before the Philatelic Society, London, March 11th, 1892.

THE first issued stamps of Tolima have from the earliest days of collecting presented insuperable difficulties of classification to Philatelists. The reasons for this lie: *first*, in the fact that these stamps were type-set, and consequently there are as many varieties as there were stamps on the sheet; *secondly*, that more than one setting up of the types took place; and, *thirdly*, the stamps, if we except those last printed on white paper, have been so rare that it was well nigh impossible to get together sufficient specimens to make up the different sheets.

Mons. Moens has more than once written upon the subject, and in an article in the *Timbre-Poste* for February, 1875, gave the result of the investigations he made at that time. Later on, in the number of that journal for July, 1886, he describes certain specimens which he looks upon as reprints, and others which he classes as altogether "bogus" stamps. In 1887, he again endeavoured to reconstruct the original sheets, but from lack of the necessary number of varieties was unable to complete his task.

Coming still nearer to the present time, Messrs. Hy. Collin & Hy. L. Calman, in their *Catalogue for Advanced Collectors*, now in course of publication by the Scott Stamp & Coin Co., Ltd., of New York, present by far the most complete account of the issue of these stamps that has so far been published. Their text is illustrated with two different plates of ten varieties each of the five cents, the four varieties of the ten cents, and a number of counterfeits of the two values they have met with. Great praise is due to these two gentlemen for the skilful method in which they have worked out the arrangement of these complicated stamps. In fact, the whole *Catalogue* shows signs of great accuracy and ability throughout, and any collector to whom it may be unknown, cannot fail, if he becomes a subscriber to the work, to find it a most interesting and valuable addition to his Philatelic library.

Notwithstanding the careful compilation of Messrs. Collin & Calman, it seems certain from the following paper, that these gentlemen have not succeeded in unravelling the complete history of these stamps; and, further, in view of the fresh facts brought to light, that some of the deductions they made must now be considerably modified.

Mr. F. de Coppet, the Vice-President of the Philatelic Society, New York, who is also a member of this Society, has spared neither time nor money in his endeavour to solve the history of these type-set stamps. He was able to render some assistance to Messrs. Collin & Calman, when they were preparing their *Catalogue*, but since the publication of their list, he has been fortunate enough to come across many additional copies and parts of sheets showing new varieties. This gentleman now possesses what I believe to be the most perfect collection of these stamps ever got together, and by constant study of his specimens for sometime past, it will be seen he is able to throw considerable new light upon the different printings, with the result, that if (?) he does not give their entire history, he at any rate places before collectors a more detailed and accurate account than has yet appeared.

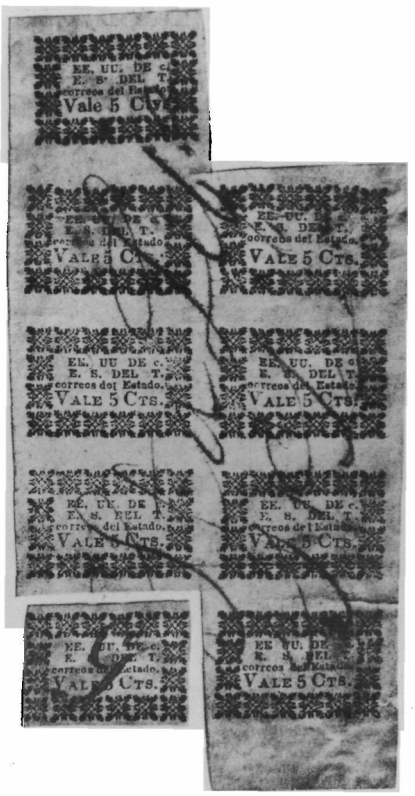


Plate I.



Plate I: altered.



Plate II.



A.



B.

My friend, who is always willing and delighted to impart any knowledge he has acquired to other collectors, consented, in reply to a request I made him, to furnish me with an account of his researches. He was also good enough to send me photographs of certain specimens in his collection, from which the illustrations it is proposed to present with the March number of the Society's Journal have been prepared.

Mr. de Coppet's letter was of such an interesting nature, and contained such valuable information, that I at once asked his permission to publish it in the LONDON PHILATELIST. With his habitual kindness, he readily granted my request, and I am sure every collector of these stamps will thank him for so doing. Added to which, all philatelists cannot but feel they owe a debt of gratitude to this gentleman, not only for the time and trouble he has ungrudgingly spent over the arrangement of this difficult series, but also for the very lucid and clever manner in which he has worked out the solution of one of the most difficult problems presented by our science.

The letter of Mr. de Coppet, I have referred to, reads as follows :—

"In accordance with your request I will endeavour to give you the result of my researches concerning the first-issue stamps of Tolima.

I was, at first, very much discouraged, owing to the difficulty I had in obtaining a sufficient number of specimens, particularly in pairs, or larger blocks.

I was about giving up in despair, when I purchased from Messrs. Pemberton, Wilson & Co. an uncut sheet of *Plate II.* (ten varieties), and I knew I could depend upon their being genuine, coming to me from the source they did.

I had seen, by Mons. Moens' *Catalogue*, that two different issues of these stamps existed, and as my sheet gave me all the types of one issue, I consequently concluded that all the other types I would find must inevitably belong to the other issue.

I had not pro ceeded far, however, before I accumulated more than ten varieties all different from those existing on my entire sheet. For some time I was at loss to explain this circumstance in any other way than that some of my specimens were forgeries. How was I to determine which were genuine and which not?

Again I was on the point of abandoning my researches, when I purchased a strip of five unsevered specimens, constituting the right hand half of a sheet (*Plate I. altered*) in which all the types differed from my uncut sheet, but I possessed them all in single specimens. Soon after, I succeeded in acquiring another strip of four unsevered varieties (*Plate I. altered*), and as one of the types of each strip corresponded with an unsevered horizontal pair in my collection, it was proof to me that the two strips of four and five stamps constituted another sheet, all but one variety.

I was about concluding that my other specimens were bogies, but still lacking one variety to complete my second sheet, I was unable to determine which of the various stamps I still had was the genuine one.

In studying this question, it suddenly occurred to me, that the irregular setting up of this last sheet, especially of the right hand half of it, was the result of an accident by which the types had become loosened.

This gave me a new clue to work upon, and I immediately wrote to all my correspondents, to send me everything they had in these issues.

By finding types, undoubtedly the same as those on my sheet, but in which the letters had not slipped out of place, as they had in my specimens, my opinion that my sheet was printed from a broken plate was confirmed. The next step, of course, was to endeavour to compose a sheet of all the ten varieties, out of stamps that were in perfect condition, and where the printing was regular and uniform.

Fortunately I had not destroyed my supposed bogies, and I soon recognised that they were the same types as the others, only that the letters had not slipped. Types numbers four and ten I was unable to find, and although I had specimens corresponding very closely to type number four, there was always the difference that the word "correos" was spelt with a small "c," whilst in my strip it read "Corres," and was spelt with a capital "C."

Not long since I purchased of the Scott Stamp & Coin Co., Ltd., of New York, a block of eight stamps (*Plate I.*), the types of which corresponded exactly with the setting up I had made as I supposed it should exist. This block consisted of types numbers one, two, three, four, five, six, eight, and above type number one there was type number nine of presumably a second impression of the same plate. In this block type four has the word "correos" spelt with a small "c." You will notice that the second letter "o" of "correos" in type four is missing in *Plate I. altered*, and it is the lack of this letter which probably caused the slipping of the other letters. I surmise, therefore, that to remedy this evil, the printer, not noticing that a letter was missing, attempted to tighten them by extracting the small "c" of "correos" and inserting instead a capital "C." This block of eight stamps shows by the margin that it came at the bottom of the sheet of paper upon which the stamps were printed in several multiples of ten types each. I account for the fact that types nine and ten are missing at the bottom of this sheet to there not being enough paper left to print them upon, concluding the printer noticing this, covered these two varieties to prevent printing them in part. It appears to me that this explanation is more reasonable than to suppose that in *Plate I.* types nine and ten of *Plate I. altered* were placed as types one and two. It will be noticed that the margin between types nine and one on this sheet is wider than that between the other stamps, added to which we find in *Plate I. altered* that the whole five types at the left hand side of the sheet, which I have in an unsevered strip, correspond to those of *Plate I.*

In my opinion the sheet illustrated as *Plate I.* was the first to appear, as it is by far the most clearly printed and most correct.

Plate I. altered came next, the only change in it being in type four, as above described, and the slipping of letters, especially in types eight and ten.

Plate II., I think, came later, because it was found impossible to prevent *Plate I. altered* from dropping to pieces.

Finally, finding a necessity for stamps of a value of ten centavos, the last four types of *Plate II.* were made to read ten instead of five centavos.

The more distinctive points of these plates are as follows:—

PLATE I.

Is by far the most clearly printed, and the letter "c" of the first line, is in each stamp a small "c."

PLATE I. ALTERED

Is similar to Plate I., except that type four has "Corres" instead of "correos," and in types four, eight, and ten many of the letters have slipped from their original positions.

PLATE II.

The distinctive feature of this plate is that the final letter "C" of the first line is a capital, except in type seven, where it is a small letter. This type is the same in all the plates.

PLATE II. ALTERED

Is the same as *Plate II.*, but the last four types have the value changed to ten centavos.

I have added two further illustrations, A & B, to show what curious efforts were made to re-establish type four of *Plate I. altered.*

By *illustration* A, you will see that the left side of the frame has bulged out, consequently loosening the letters, and to tighten them an extra "c" has been inserted in the first line. The capital "T" of the second line is to be found inverted in the fourth line, and another "T" to replace it has been inserted. This variety is in a strip of three stamps *se tenant*, and is undoubtedly genuine as proved by the other stamps. You will notice that in the illustration of type four, *Plate I. altered*, a second "c" was inserted in the first line, but fell to the second line, whilst in *illustration* B, this second "c" also exists, but is *chevanchant* in the first line.

The distinctive features of the various types of these plates are:—

PLATE I.

Type 1. The "T" in the second line is above the "ta" in "Estado."

Type 2. The periods at the end of the first and second lines, are above the "d" of "Estado."

Type 3. The "l" of "del" in the third line is inverted.

Type 4. The "c" in the first line is above the level of the other letters.

Type 5. The period after "S" in the second line is above the "s" in "correos."

Type 6. There is a space between the "e" and "l" of "del," in the third line.

Type 7. The word "Estado" is misspelt "Eetado."

Type 8. The "S" of the second line is directly under the first "U" of the first line.

Type 9. The period after "S" of the second line is in a line with the top of that letter.

Type 10. I have still to find.

The stamps of this plate are found upon horizontally laid greyish-blue paper.

PLATE I. ALTERED.

Types 1, 2, 3, 5, 6, 7, and 9, are identical with *Plate I.*

Type 4. The word "correos" is spelt "Corres," and with a capital "C," but the other differences vary according to the state of shifting of the type at the time the stamps were struck off. (See for instance *illustrations* A and B.)

Type 8. The "d" of "Estado" is below, and the "o" above the level of the other letters. The last word of the fourth line has the "S" above the other letters.

Type 10. The "T" of the second line, and "do" of "Estado" of the third line, are above the level of the other letters, but the "a" of "Estado," and "v" of "Ctvs" of the fourth line, are below the level of their respective lines.

The stamps are found printed upon:—

Blue vertically laid paper.

Blue vertically laid *bâtonné* paper.

Blue *quadrillé* paper.

PLATE II.

Type 1. The "do" of "Estado" are slightly above the level of the other letters.

Type 2. The "os" of "correos" are slightly below the other letters.

Type 3. The "l" of "del" in the third line is inverted.

Type 4. The word "Correos" has a capital "C."

Type 5. The periods at the end of the four lines are one above the other.

Type 6. There is a space between the "e" and "l" of "del," in the third line.

Type 7. Is the only one of this plate having a small "c" at the end of the first line. This type is identical with number 7 of *Plate I.*

Type 8. Has no period after "Estado," and the "t" of this word is directly under the "L" of "DEL," in the second line.

Type 9. "del," in the third line, is misspelt "dec."

Type 10. The first two letters of the second line are "L.L." instead of "E.S."

This plate is found printed upon :—

Blue wove paper.

Blue *quadrillé* paper.

Blue vertically laid and wide horizontally *bâtonné* paper.

Blue vertically ribbed paper (similar to the ½ penny Canada, ribbed).

Buff fine horizontally laid *bâtonné* paper.

In my experience, this is the only plate found upon buff paper. The stamp is said to exist on buff wove, but I have never seen a specimen on this variety of paper.

PLATE II. ALTERED.

Types 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, and 6 are identical with *Plate II.*, except that in some of the types the letters are slightly further apart, which appears to be due to the frames having bulged out.

Types 7, 8, 9, and 10 are also the same as those on *Plate II.*, except that the numeral "5" is replaced by "10," and the letters and frames are sometimes more spread out as mentioned for types 1 to 6. In type 7 the "1" of "del" in the third line has dropped, giving it the appearance of being inverted.

These stamps are found upon :—

White wove paper.

White wove, blue *bâtonné* paper.

I have found, however, that the blue *bâtonné* lines wash out, and I strongly suspect these two papers are one and the same. This remark applies equally to the Official Cubiertas of the United States of Columbia, the blue lines of which also wash out.

I fear that in the multiplicity of details in the above enumeration of the varieties of plates and types of this issue of stamps, I may have failed to make them clear. I enclose photographs of them numbered to correspond with the descriptions I have given, and I hope that my effort may prove of interest to you and your friends.

I remain,

Yours sincerely,

(Signed) F. DE COPPET."

It will be seen on comparing the foregoing letter with Messrs. Collin's & Calman's *Catalogue*, that Mr. de Coppet proves that these stamps were printed from practically four instead of three different plates, and that he differs from those gentlemen in the order the plates were used. Their number one is his *Plate II.;* their "first alteration" is his *Plate II. altered;* and their "second alteration" becomes his *Plate I. altered;* while Mr. de Coppet's *Plate I.*, which it is only fair to state has been found since the publication of Messrs. Collin's and Calman's *Catalogue*, is not mentioned by them.

Mr. de Coppet differs from Mons. Moens, by showing that all the plates contained ten types each, instead of either four or six, and he does not believe in the latter's theory that some of these stamps have been reprinted. There are, of course, numerous forgeries and bogus varieties, but he considers the sheets of ten varieties on blue vertically laid and wide horizontally *bâtonné* paper, that turned up a few years since, and which correspond to his *Plate II.*, are genuine remainders.

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 51.*)

ON the 1st December, 1831, the one penny newspaper wrapper was issued, and the notice appeared in *The Gazette* of December 2nd of that year.

Stamped Newspaper Wrappers.

On and after the 1st December, Newspaper Wrappers impressed with a postage stamp of the value of One Penny can be obtained on application at any Post Office in the Colony.

These wrappers are made of strong paper and are gummed at the end ready for use, and are sold in parcels of 120. The price of a parcel, including the value of the stamps, is 10s. 8d., but smaller numbers can be obtained on payment of the following rates:—

1.	1¼d.	5.	5½d.
2.	2¼d.	6.	6½d.
3.	3¼d.	7.	7½d.
4.	4¼d.	8.	8½d.

Uncut sheets of these Wrappers can be obtained by newspaper proprietors and others who desire to print the addresses, at any Post Office, by giving a few days' notice. They are sold only in quarter reams of 120 sheets, each sheet containing 14 Wrappers, and the price per quarter ream is £7 5s. 3d.

(Signed) G. W. Aitchison,
Postmaster-General.

General Post Office,
30th November, 1881.

I have found no mention in *The Gazette* of the issue of the halfpenny wrapper, or registration envelopes, both of which appeared for the first time in 1882.

The one penny brown card of Messrs. De la Rue & Co.'s design was issued on 1st July, 1882, as we learn from the subjoined notice in *The Gazette* of that date.

Government Notice.

Colonial Secretary's Office,
Cape of Good Hope,
1st July, 1882.

His Excellency the Governor, with the advice of the Executive Council, has been pleased to make the regulations contained in the Schedule hereto, under the provisions of the fourth section of the "Post Office Act, 1882."

(Signed) Thomas C. Scanlen,
Colonial Secretary.

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POST CARDS.

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2. Official Post Cards impressed with a penny stamp (adhesive stamps not being accepted in payment of the postage), may be posted in the Colony, including Basutoland & the Transkeian Territories, for transmission to any Post Offices within the same, with letters printed or written on the back.

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

5. No card, other than one of those issued by the Government, will pass under a penny stamp, if it bear on it a communication of the nature of a letter.

The following are the prices at which Post Cards may be obtained at Post Offices in the Colony:—

THIN POST CARDS.

1.	...	...	...	1¼d.	4.	...	...	...	4½d.
2.	...	...	...	2¼d.	5.	...	...	...	5½d.
3.	...	...	...	3¼d.	6.	...	...	...	6½d.

£1 1s. 8d. per parcel of 240.

STOUT POST CARDS.

1.	...	...	...	1¼d.	4.	...	...	...	4¾d.
2.	...	...	...	2½d.	5.	...	...	...	6d.
3.	...	...	...	3½d.	6.	...	...	...	7d.

£1 3s. 4d. per parcel of 240.

Uncut sheets of stout cards, of a size suitable for the printing press, so as to allow of advertisements, &c., being printed on them, can be obtained at any Post Office by giving a few days' notice. They are sold only in quarter-reams of 120 sheets, each sheet containing 42 Cards, and the price is £24 10s. per quarter-ream.

The *thin* post cards are those printed in the Colony, which were first issued on Saturday, March 1st, 1878; the *stout* cards are those of Messrs. De la Rue & Co.'s make.

At the same date as the above notice (1st July, 1882), the half ounce inland letter rate was reduced from three pence to two pence, and, as I have previously mentioned, the rate for inland newspapers was lowered from one penny to one half-penny.

On the 16th June, 1885, a notice appeared in *The Gazette* making it compulsory to prepay the charges on Inland telegrams with postage stamps, from July 1st of that year.

Re PAYMENT OF TELEGRAMS BY POSTAGE STAMPS.

General Post Office,
Cape Town, 15th June, 1885.

ON and after the 1st of July next, the charges on all ordinary inland telegrams

despatched from Postal Telegraph Offices in the Cape Colony must be prepaid in Cape Colonial postage stamps.

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

I have found no reference to the issue of the halfpenny postcard in *The Gazette*. This card was manufactured by Messrs. De la Rue & Co., and seems to have first come into use early in the year 1889. It is for circulation between Post Offices of the Cape Colony, Basutoland, and the Transkeian Territories, and is sold in packets of twelve for eight pence, or at the rate of three farthings each.

The thin and stout one penny cards are now employed for transmission between the Colony and Post Offices in the Orange Free State, British Bechuanaland, South African Republic, and Natal.

A three-halfpenny postcard of Messrs. De la Rue & Co.'s make, for correspondence between the Colony and the United Kingdom, made its appearance on the 1st May, 1890. The notice of the issue is found in *The Gazette* of April 22nd of that year.

POSTAL NOTICE.

IT is hereby notified for general information that on and after the 1st May next, Foreign Post Cards impressed with a three-halfpenny stamp, available for transmission between any Post Office in the Cape Colony and any Post Office in the United Kingdom, will be obtainable on demand at any Money Order Office in the Cape Colony, at the following prices:—

1.	-	1¾d.	4.	-	6¾d.	7.	-	11¾d.	10.	-	1s. 4¾d.
2.	-	3½d.	5.	-	8½d.	8.	-	1s. 1½d.	11.	-	1s. 6½d.
3.	-	5d.	6.	-	10d.	9.	-	1s. 3d.	12.	-	1s. 8d.

These Cards will be subject to the same rules and regulations in regard to transmission as inland postcards.

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

General Post Office, Cape Town,
21st April, 1890.

The last notice I have found is the following, taken from *The Gazette* of December 23rd, 1890. It gives the reason for the issue of the provisional two pence halfpenny adhesive.

REDUCTION OF OCEAN POSTAGE.

FROM and after the 1st January next the rates of postage to and from the United Kingdom and the Cape Colony will be 2½d. the half ounce or fraction thereof.

The charge on letters posted in the Colony for the Continent of Europe will be three pence the half ounce or fraction thereof.

Tables of reduced rates for other places served through the United Kingdom will be published shortly.

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

General Post Office,
Cape Town, 18th December, 1890.

In conclusion, I thank you for the careful attention you have given me this evening. A paper filled to a certain extent with *Gazette* notices cannot, I am sure,

be a very entertaining one to listen to. At the same time, we must remember these somewhat dry official statements are most valuable for the dates and other particulars contained in them.

APPENDIX.

List of Postage Stamps forwarded by Messrs. Perkins Bacon & Co. to the Cape of Good Hope.

1853.			
May 9.	50,000	1d.	red.
,,	100,000	4d.	blue.
June 16.	5,000	1d.	red.
,,	10,000	4d.	blue.
July 25.	5,000	1d.	red.
,,	10,000	4d.	blue.
Sept. 16.	5,000	1d.	red.
,,	10,000	4d.	blue.
Nov. 5.	100,000	1d.	red.
,,	200,000	4d.	blue.
Dec. 31.	5,000	1d.	red.
,,	10,000	4d.	blue.
1854.			
June 28.	200,000	1d.	red.
,,	100,000	4d.	blue.
Aug. 28.	50,000	1d.	red.
,,	25,000	4d.	blue.
Oct. 31.	50,000	1d.	red.
,,	25,000	4d.	blue.
Nov. 25.	50,000	1d.	red.
,,	25,000	4d.	blue.
Dec. 28.	50,000	1d.	red.
,,	25,000	4d.	blue.
1855.			
Feb. 26.	100,000	1d.	red.
,,	50,000	4d.	blue.
Mar. 27.	50,000	1d.	red.
,,	25,000	4d.	blue.
April 24.	50,000	1d.	red.
,,	25,000	4d.	blue.
May 29.	50,000	1d.	red.
,,	25,000	4d.	blue.
1855.			
June 30.	50,000	1d.	red.
,,	25,000	4d.	blue.
July 25.	50,000	1d.	red.
,,	25,000	4d.	blue.
Aug. 25.	50,000	1d.	red.
,,	25,000	4d.	blue.
Sept. 20.	500,000	1d.	red.
,,	250,000	4d.	blue.
1856.			
May 3.	400,000	4d.	blue.
Sept. 12.	500,000	4d.	blue.
Nov. 17.	500,000	1d.	red.
,,	500,000	4d.	blue.
1857.			
June 16.	500,000	4d.	blue.
Dec. 16.	400,000	6d.	violet.
,,	200,000	1s.	green.
1858.			
Jan. 20.	500,000	1d.	red.
,,	500,000	4d.	blue.
Feb. 6.	400,000	6d.	violet.
,,	100,000	1s.	green.
,, 17.	500,000	1d.	red.
,,	500,000	4d.	blue.
1860.			
May 1.	1,200,000	1d.	red.
,,	1,440,000	4d.	blue.
1861.			
April 1.	360,000	1d.	red.
,,	360,000	4d.	blue.
,, 29.	720,000	1d.	red.
,,	720,000	4d.	blue.
May 8.	600,000	1d.	red.
,,	600,000	4d.	blue.
1862.			
April 1.	120,000	6d.	lilac.*
,,	80,160	1s.	green.*

* Stock printed, and left on hand, before the plates were handed over to the Crown Agents for the Colonies on January 28th, 1862.

Half Hours with the Australian Stamps

By M. P. CASTLE.
(Vice-President of the Philatelic Society, London.)

MANY and various have been the contributions to Philatelic literature of recent years on the subject of "Australians," and it may seem presumption on my part to imagine that any remarks of mine may be either characterised by novelty or renewed interest. At the same time, those who have closely studied the multifarious Oceanic issues will readily concede that their variety is so infinite that the conscientious observer can hardly ever fail to find indices of the explanation of some obscure point, or else suggestion as to some fresh field of exploration. There is a natural human tendency to consider one's own flock as the most comely, and a twenty years' acquaintance with, and collection of, Australian stamps has borne upon my mind—prejudiced in their favour—the conviction that long after I have passed away there will remain points on which information would still be desirable.

Foremost among the Australian stamps—and deservedly so—rank the "Sydney views," to adopt their universal cognomen. Again, perhaps, guided by my love for old friends, I feel sturdily inclined to maintain that for interest, variety, and collectable qualities the first issue of the New South Wales stamps takes the place of honour among all the issues of the world. Until the publication of the London Society's work, some years since, the problem of the order of the plates had remained unsolved, despite the arduous examinations of a generation of Philatelists. Stimulated, however, by the splendid results of the sustained labours of the English collectors, those of Australia hastened to correct the points on which the former erred, and to supplement them with such an additional amount of information as to clear up most of the knotty points. There is still something we should like to know as to the twopenny value, but for the present moment I propose to touch on the threepenny. Those collectors who have essayed the compilation of the 25 varieties of type will readily bear me out that, by reason of the dark colour of the paper, the relatively faint hue of the impression, the comparative regularity of the design, and the frequency of heavy disfiguring postmarks, these stamps present more difficulties in discovering and placing the types than almost any other Australian stamp. The perforated registered issue of the same country and the first fourpence of Tasmania being, in my humble judgment, the only two that are more difficult. I have recently been engaged in arranging and typing a large collection of New South Wales for a friend, amongst which were over 100 specimens of this value, and being desirous of reducing the tedious labour as far as possible, I made a preliminary examination of the plate, noting certain differences in the salient characteristics of the engraving, *e.g.*, the engine-turned or wavy-lined background surrounding the vignette, the lattice work in the vertical columns to right and left of the inscription, the vignette and the trilobed ornament at the base of the central circle. I was by this means enabled to find certain constant variations which enabled me the more quickly to ascertain the place of some of the stamps, and in view of the difficulty of typing these stamps I venture to submit my notes in the hope that they may serve to lighten the labours of fellow-workers in the same field.

Before giving this I think I should mention a discovery of some little moment which requires to be known to collectors in order to rectify a mistake. In the Philatelic Society's work on Oceania, page 31, a list of the stamps *se tenant* is given

in order to prove as far as possible the relative position of each stamp as given in the autotype illustrations. With three exceptions all the stamps were found in pairs or blocks, the three single specimens being "No. 24 in the bottom row in Dr. Le Grand's collection, 25 in the right bottom corner of the same collection," and No. 5 "which is unaccounted for, not having been met in a pair or a block, but as there is only one space left, it is of course correctly placed." In May, 1888, it was stated, in a paper on New South Wales by Mr. W. B. Thornhill, that No. 24 in the plate was incorrectly placed, it being No. 5, and *vice-versa*. By one of the pairs that I had to examine I found that the one being No. 4 was correct, and that the other, No. 5, did not tally with the 5 on the Society's plate. I eventually placed it, No. 5, as No. 25 on the plate, 25 thus becoming 24. Curiously enough the same discovery has recently been made by Mr. A. W. Chambers, who showed at the last meeting of the Philatelic Society a pair also showing the error, thus conclusively proving that the unfortunate *ci-devant* No. 5 on the plate must be changed again, and that Mr. Thornhill was only partially correct—*i.e.*, right in placing the 24 as 5, but wrong in replacing the latter, which is 25, on the Oceania plate *as printed;* therefore—

No. 5 becomes No. 25.
No. 25 „ No. 24.
No. 24 „ No. 5.

I hardly think that the Society's list fully embraces all the shades or varieties of paper, and I add a list which will be found somewhat fuller—the variety on blue laid paper, which is exceedingly rare, is mentioned elsewhere in the book, but has escaped being chronicled in the reference list. The "ribbed" varieties are not strongly marked; the colours of all of these stamps are of an indefinite character and hard to define.

Soft yellowish wove paper: green, olive green, yellow-green, myrtle-green, shades.
„ „ ribbed paper: yellow-green.
Hard bluish paper, varying also to grey and brownish, wove: yellow-green, green, emerald-green shades.
Soft bluish to grey wove paper: green, emerald-green.
Close-ribbed bluish paper: 3d. green.
Horizontally "laid" grey to yellowish paper: yellow-green, emerald-green shades
„ „ bluish paper: green.

Of the foregoing the myrtle-green is a quite distinctive colour, much darker than any of the others, and is rarely met with. The old handbooks formerly chronicled marvellous brown and pink combinations, in most cases the result of oxidation or exposure, none of which have run the gauntlet of modern criticism. I have also a specimen of the Victoria postmark—a butterfly or gridiron with numerals 15 above, and a V below, which had apparently not been seen by the compilers of Oceania. The subject of these postmarks is, however, one that I may touch upon at a future date, and I will merely remark in conclusion, that considering the 3d. value was continuously current for nearly three years, the extreme rarity of unused specimens is remarkable.

I now append a list or more of less distinctive marks, premising that in each case there are doubtless others that would equally well serve as guides, but I have thought it better to rely rather upon one or two striking variations than confuse by reference to a number of points. By comparing the descriptions with the stamps I think

their points will be readily seen. The changes in the positions of the three stamps on this plate should be remembered. It is curious that the strokes in the left corner rectangle containing the star should be found deficient in four stamps each directly over the other, Nos. 7, 12, 17, 22, and it would apparently suggest that the engraver added these, and perhaps other details after the plate was in its main features finished.

	Engine-Turned Background.	Vertical Lattice at Sides	Various Points.
1	Faint space top right under G of Postage.		
2			
3			
4	Slight faint patch under A of Postage.	3 loops at right facing NOV. do not touch the circle to right anywhere.	
5	... ...	... ...	Tri-lobed ornament semi-circular in shape.
6			
7	... ...	... ...	Upper and lower rectangles in corner at left have 3 strokes only pointing to the star.
8			
9	Slight faint space to left of U in AUST.		
10	... ...	2 loops at lower right and 3 at upper left of circle do not touch it.	2nd E of THREE is of peculiar shape.
11	... ...	Loops to right of SIGILLUM slope upwards.	
12	Bottom half, lower right angle *has white space.*	*Top left loop wide.*	Corner rectangles as No. 7.
13			
14	Top half, under "o" and upper right faint by SIGI.		
15			
16	... ...	3 loops to right opposite NOV do not touch the circle	
17	... ...	Does not touch centre of circle to right.	Corner rectangles as in No. 7.
18	... ...	... ...	*No "whip" or sceptre.*
19	White triangular space to left of CAMB.	... ...	do. do.
20	Does not quite touch top and bottom halves at right.	Right hand centre loops irregular, faint patch *lower left corner.*	
21	... ...	Does not touch circle at left or right	
22	... ...	Does not quite touch left and right of circle.	Upper left corner rectangle wants stroke as in No 7.
23	Faint white space *(following circle)* lower left under CAMB and over AUsT.	*4 loops upper left do not touch* circle to right anywhere	
24	... ...	Does not approach circle at right.	
25	... ...	White patches to right in centre of stamp and lower right angle.	

A Visit to a Native Indian Post Office.

MAJOR ADAM SMITH, C.V.R, writes under date Neemuch, 18th February, 1892: - Being at Mhow on the 7th February, I decided upon driving on to Indore, the capital of the Maharaja Holkar. After breakfasting at the Dak Bungalow I drove through the Residency Bazaar into the City of Indore, and so great was the crass ignorance of the people that no one could refer me to the Post Office. I inquired for the "Dak-Khana," "Tappal Office" (the native names for Post Office), and mentioned all the other names I could think of, but without avail. At last, after driving about for more than an hour I turned back and went for the Palace, and to my joy, on inquiry there, I was referred to a small place in the square itself, just opposite the Palace gate. Thither I went, but I found the place closed, and on further inquiry I ascertained that it would not be open until 4 p.m. As I could not wait I sent salaams to the Post-Master and word that a "Burra Sahib" wanted him; this had the desired effect, and after some conversation I succeeded in getting him to open the office. A wretched hovel it was, containing a table with a pigeon-hole box with nine apertures, a form, a bottle of ink and pen, and a few stamps and ink pad for obliteration purposes. Great was my joy, however, on finding that he had the previous day received from the Indore Treasury five rupees in value of a new issue of one anna, and five rupees value of two annas, and that none of these had been sold. I need not say that I annexed the lot, and promptly affixed one of each to a cover addressed to myself, went outside, posted the two covers, and received them in due course. The Postmaster informed me that the quarter-anna would be ready on Tuesday, the 9th February. I paid him £5 for a supply, and on the 11th February, 1892, received them at Mhow. I therefore became the proud possessor of the first issues of the new quarter-anna, one anna, and two anna Holkar State stamps. No others, not even a post-card, will be issued. The half-anna remains the same. I give below a translation of the words on the stamps.

¼ Anna.—On top "Pav anna," on left side "Holkar Shai Dâk Hashil" on the foot of the stamp, and on the right side will be found the English interpretation, viz., "quarter-anna" and "Holkar State Postage." The characters are the Mahratta.

½ Anna.—On top "Urdha anna," on left side "Holkar Shahi Dâk Hashil," and at foot "Half anna," and on right side "Holkar State Postage."

1 Anna.—On top "Ek anna," and at foot "One anna," the left and right side inscriptions being the same as on the ¼ and ½ anna stamps.

2 Annas.—On top "Dona annay," at foot "Two Annas." The left and right side inscriptions being the same as on the other three stamps. The perforations and colours I leave for others to enter. Though the characters are Mahratta the language is Hindee.

I also obtained a few provisionals from the Indore Treasury, which had been issued in the interregnum between the running out of the "Mauve" first issue half-anna and the receipt of the "Puce" half-anna stamps. As few were so issued the stamp should become rare, but I am doubtful of the morality of the Treasury officers, and fear that others may be issued if made worth their while, their manufacture being so easy.

½ Anna Provisional.—A circular steel stamp impression in black on pink paper. In the centre "Urdha anna" (half-anna), on top "Holkar Sircar" (Holkar State), and at foot "Dâk Karkhana" (Postal Department). Characters and language as stated above.

P.S.—I am writing to catch the mail.

Neemuch, 18th February, 1892.

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 Tenth Meeting of the Season 1891-92 was held at the Salisbury Hotel, Fleet-street, on Friday, the 26th February, 1892, at 7.30 p.m., and was attended by the following members, viz.: The Vice-President (in the chair), and Messrs. E. D. Bacon, Hastings, E. Wright, C. N. Biggs, C. Geldard, A. W. Chambers, T. Maycock, R. Pearce, A. B. Creeke, E. J. Nankivell, R. Meyer, W. T. Wilson, and J. A. Tilleard. The minutes of the last meeting having been read and confirmed, Mr. W. T. Beckton, proposed by Mr. Vernon Roberts, and seconded by the Vice-President; Mr. W. Thorne, and Mr. J. Oakley Hobby, both proposed by Major Evans, and seconded by Mr. Bacon; Mr. J. H. Chapman, proposed by Mr. Gibb, and seconded by the Assistant Secretary; and Dr. A. G. Paterson, proposed by the Assistant Secretary, and seconded by the Secretary, were duly elected members of the Society. The balloting for a sixth candidate, whose name was on the list for election, was postponed for consideration at a subsequent meeting. The question of the revision of the Society's Statutes, in pursuance of the notice given at the last meeting, was also postponed in the absence of the Secretary. The Vice-President read a letter from the Editor of *The Monthly Journal* (Stanley Gibbons, Limited), requesting permission to insert in that journal the reports of the Society's meetings as published by the Society, and stating that it was desired to include the reports in the number for the month following their publication in the Society's Journal. After some discussion it was resolved, upon the motion of the Assistant Secretary, seconded by Mr. Bacon, that the "request be complied with, upon the understanding that all notices of the Society's meetings are inserted as 'Copied from THE LONDON PHILATELIST, the Monthly Journal of the Philatelic Society, London.'" The Treasurer reported the receipt of a letter from Mr. Stearns, resigning his membership as he had given up collecting, and the resignation was directed to be accepted with regret. The remaining business of the evening consisted of the revision of the reference list of the stamps of Ceylon, which was further proceeded with and adjourned.

The Eleventh Meeting of the Season was held at the Salisbury Hotel on Friday, the 11th March, at 7.30 p.m. The chair was occupied by the Vice-President, and

there were also present, the Earl of Kingston and Messrs. E. D. Bacon, C. N. Biggs, A. A. Davis, F. Ransom, T. Maycock, T. Wickham-Jones, W. T. Willett, J. H. Redman, R. Pearce, E. J. Nankivell, A. B. Creeke, Vernon Roberts, F. Street, R. Meyer, J. A. Tilleard, and D. Garth (members), and Mr. G. T. Napier (visitor). The minutes of the last meeting having been read and confirmed, the Vice-President congratulated the Secretary on his recovery from his recent illness, and expressed the satisfaction of the members in seeing Mr. Garth again in his place after his long enforced absence. The Secretary read a letter from the Comptroller to H.R.H. Prince George of Wales, acknowledging the receipt of copy of the Society's recent work on the Stamps of the West Indies. The letter, which was directed to be entered on the minutes, was in the following terms:—

Marlborough House, Pall Mall, S.W.
7th March, 1892.

Dear Sir,—His Royal Highness Prince George of Wales desires me to convey to your Society, his thanks for the very kind present of your Catalogue of Postage Stamps, which it affords him great pleasure to accept.

Faithfully yours,
F. DE WINTON,
Major-General,
Comptroller and Treasurer.

Douglas Garth, Esq.

A letter was also read from Mr. Holman, of Chicago, adverting in complimentary terms to the Society's new Journal, and asking if it could be arranged that the numbers, as they appear, should be sent to the Chicago Society. It was determined that Mr. Holman's request should be complied with, and that the decision in regard to any similar applications from other societies should be left to the Editor and the members associated with him in the management of the Journal. Mr. Bacon read a letter from Mr. Blest forwarding a copy of the 9d. (imperforate) stamp of the first issue of Ceylon, in the scarce brown shade, for examination by the members in settling the reference list of the stamps of that country. Mr. Bacon was directed to acknowledge the communication with the thanks of the Society. Signor Pio Fabri, of Rome, proposed by Mr. Gibbons, and seconded by Major Evans, Mr. G. A. Meyer, of Port Elizabeth, President of the South African Philatelic Society, proposed by the Secretary and seconded by Mr. Bacon, and Captain W. St. George-Ord, proposed by Mr. Hawkins and seconded by the Secretary, were elected members of the Society, the balloting for a fourth candidate being postponed until the next meeting. In pursuance of notice previously given the Secretary submitted a proof print of a new edition of the Society's Statutes, comprising all the alterations made by resolution since the last edition. The articles were carefully considered, and various amendments necessary in consequence of the alterations already agreed upon were discussed at very considerable length. After these and a few alterations and additions had been resolved upon, the proof as finally settled was duly adopted as the Statutes of the Society, to be printed and circulated amongst the members. Mr. Bacon then read a paper on the first issue of the stamps of Tolima, in which he explained the great difficulty which has always existed in regard to these stamps, owing to the great scarcity of specimens, and to the fact that they were "type set," each stamp on the sheet differing from the others. After adverting to the information on the subject published by M. Moens and by Messrs. Collin and Calman, Mr. Bacon mentioned that Mr. de Coppet, who had long made a special study of these stamps, had been good

enough to place at the disposal of the writer of the paper the result of his researches contained in a letter to Mr. Bacon, which formed the greater part of the paper. Full particulars were given of the arrangement of the stamps in the four plates constructed by Mr. de Coppet, and of the various papers on which the stamps have been printed, and autotype illustrations of the sheets and stamps forwarded by Mr. de Coppet to explain his letter were produced for examination by the members. The letter itself showed the immense labour and pains bestowed upon the subject by the writer, who by his perseverance in the face of apparently insuperable obstacles, and by his accuracy of observation has probably succeeded in almost completely elucidating a subject which has hitherto been regarded as one of the most difficult of those with which collectors have had to contend. Upon the motion of the Vice-President, seconded by the Secretary, a cordial vote of thanks was accorded to Mr. de Coppet for his most valuable contribution, and to Mr. Bacon for his services in so ably arranging and reading a paper, which had been listened to with the greatest interest. Owing to the late hour to which the meeting had extended, no further business was taken.

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.

THE Fifth Meeting of the Season 1891-92 was held at Markwell's Hotel, Brighton, on Monday, February 15th, at 7.45 p.m. Present:—Messrs. J. H. Redman, J. W. Gillespie, S. M. Castle, A. de Worms, P. de Worms, W. H. Rean, H. W. Armitage, A. H. Thomas, R. J. Woodman, M. P. Castle, and W. T. Willett.

The Vice-President took the chair. After the minutes of the previous meeting had been read and confirmed, the Secretary announced the receipt of the *Handbook on Swiss Stamps* from Mr. Otto Pfenniger; bound volumes of last year's *Philatelic Record*, and *Stamp News*, and the *Stamp News Annual for 1892* from Messrs. Theodor Buhl & Co.; and volumes 8 and 9 of the *Stamp Collectors' Magazine* from Mr. W. H. Earl, as donations to the library, which he was directed to acknowledge with the best thanks of the Society. Mr. J. W. Gillespie moved—"That any member of the Society may borrow books from the Library on condition that they be returned within three days, and that any loss or damage shall be made good;" this was seconded by Mr. A. H. Thomas and carried unanimously. The study of "Areas of Collection" was then proceeded with, and adjourned to the next meeting. Mr. A. de Worms exhibited a set of the English 1884 issue, surcharged "specimen" of which the 1½d., 3d., 4d., 5d., 6d., and 5s. were perf. *12*, the rest of the set being perf. 14, as usual.

The Sixth Meeting of the Season (1891-92) was held at Markwell's Hotel, Brighton, on Monday, February 29th, at 7.45 p.m. Present:—Messrs. M. P. Castle, J. H. Redman, A. H. Thomas, R. J. Thrupp, A. D. Worms, H. Stafford Smith, P. de

Worms, J. W. Gillespie, H. W. Armitage, and W. T. Willett, members, and W. H. Cruttwell and H J. Gillespie, visitors The President in the chair. The minutes of the previous meeting having been read and confirmed, the Secretary's attention was called to the fact that in the report of the adjourned meeting of January 18th, published in THE LONDON PHILATELIST the date was misprinted January 1st. The study of "Areas of Collection" was proceeded with, and adjourned to the next meeting. The practicability of forming an exchange circuit among members was considered, and after some discussion, Mr. A. de Worms moved—"That it is desirable to form an exchange circuit among members of this Society, and that the committee be asked to draw up a scheme, and report thereon to the Society within one month;" this was seconded by Mr. J. W. Gillespie and carried unanimously. The rest of the evening was spent in looking over Mr H J. Gillespie's collection; the British Colonies were well represented, and included fine specimens of the early issues of Ceylon, Mauritius and Natal; the British North America were especially fine, there being nearly complete sets of all the pence issues, unused, in the different shades; there were also several good Europeans and Australians.

MANCHESTER PHILATELIC SOCIETY.

President: VERNON ROBERTS. *Hon. Sec. and Treasurer:* W. DORNING BECKTON.
Vice-President: W. DORNING BECKTON. *Assistant Hon. Sec.:* D. PIXTON.

THE Tenth Meeting of the Session was held at the Mitre Hotel, Manchester, on February 12th, 1892, the President in the chair.

There were seventeen members present and one visitor, Mr. Giwelb.

The minutes of the last meeting were read and confirmed.

Mr. W. E. Farrer was elected a member of the Society.

A vote of thanks was passed to Messrs. Theodor Buhl & Co. for their handsome gift of books to the Society.

The President, in addressing the meeting, referred to two gentlemen who were present, one, a collector, a member of the Society, who had brought his collection for the inspection of the members, and the other, Mr. Giwelb, the well-known London dealer. Mr. Flohr's collection was especially noticeable owing to the fine specimens of Mexico it contained, including nearly all the varieties of the Guadalajara stamps taken off original letters during the time he was in Mexico, and several surcharged Mexican stamps hitherto unchronicled.

Mr. Giwelb had brought a selection of rarities to show the members, and it was decided to devote the remainder of the evening to the examination of these stamps, many of which were of a most interesting nature. It was, therefore, decided to postpone the continuation of the paper on the English stamps until the next meeting.

Amongst the rarities exhibited by Mr. Giwelb was noticed a Cape of Good Hope wood block, 4d., light blue, with the head of Britannia missing.

The President showed a fine specimen of the St. Helena, 6d., carmine, imperf., and and the Vice-President the recently discovered provisional Victoria, 4d., 1861 issue, surcharged 1d., and a Mexico, 1888 issue, 2 c., carmine, pair, imperf.

DUDLEY PIXTON, *Assist. Hon. Sec.*

Correspondence.

THE NEW INDIAN STAMPS.

To the Editor of the LONDON PHILATELIST.

DEAR SIR,—In the first number of the LONDON PHILATELIST, which has reached me by to-day's mail, I notice a wrong description of the 2½ annas Indian overprint, which I hasten to correct. The overprint was on the 4½ annas pale green, and not on the 4 annas olive green. I enclose herewith for the Society a specimen of each of the three stamps referred to under "New Issues and Unchronicled Varieties." I also send you a specimen of each of the foreign post cards, single and reply, which have been overprinted in India, with the new value of "one anna," the reduced rate of postage. These post cards came into use on 1st January, also the new 2½ annas stamps. The new rupee stamp is to issue when present stock of grey 1 rupee is exhausted. I am, dear Sir,

Yours truly,

E. V. MORGAN.

Office of the Director General
of the Post Office,
Calcutta, Feb. 17th, 1882.

THE LAUREATED REPRINTS.

To the Editor of the LONDON PHILATELIST.

DEAR SIR,—I think it proper to assure you of the appreciation on the part of the "Collectors" in our district, of your "*pluck*," firmness, and, we trust, *determined* resolution, to get at the bottom of the great "Van Dyck" Fraud.

I have urged upon the dealers just what you say,—"how did that man get hold of those plates, how did he produce those sheets?" *Who* was behind him? What "official" aided and hoped to "share"?

I trust that these are questions which you will never cease to urge upon the Sydney Authorities.

I say "hoped" to share, for I quite believe the astute-the "Old Master"—"Van Dyck," having worked the "Official," would evade all *financial* returns. What could they do? He could, at any time, "round" upon them!

It was his system not to "share" much. "The State"? "*C'est moi*"! was Van Dyck's motto.

Yours faithfully,

Birmingham, E. SHORTHOUSE.
March 4th, 1892.

[Our correspondent made a visit to Australia some five years since in search of stamps, and states, *inter alia*, that he heard a rumour of a sheet of the 8d., but that Van Dyck, whom he met, never mentioned these stamps. We regret that space will not allow us to give in full his interesting and characteristic letter.—ED.]

GREAT BRITAIN ISSUE, APRIL, 1884.

To the Editor of the LONDON PHILATELIST.

DEAR SIR,—I notice in your columns of the February number a letter from Mr. A. De Worms. It may interest him to learn through your columns that Lord Kingston has several of the values mentioned by him, perf. 12, marked "specimen." I forget what the values are, but Lord Kingston may probably mention the stamps to you himself. In case he does not the fact is such.

Yours truly,

Castle Cosey, W. B. THORNHILL.
Castle Bellingham, Ireland,
March 4th, 1892.

THE PHILATELIC PROTECTION ASSOCIATION.

To the Editor of the LONDON PHILATELIST.

THE Association hereby warns Philatelists against the following new forgeries which have been brought under their notice:—

JAPAN:

1 sen, brown; no syllabic character, and "branches crossed."
4 sen, rose; syllabic character, 1.
30 sen, grey; no syllabic character.

INDIA:

First issue, 4 annas, with head inverted, the red portion of the stamp being forged.

NOVA SCOTIA:

6d. green, 1st issue. A dangerous forgery.

NEW SOUTH WALES, VICTORIA, AND BRITISH GUIANA:

Various early issues, poor copies of unperforated stamps—are cut close and falsely perforated.

MAURITIUS:

6d. green (Gibbons Type 1410), value altered to 1s. green, but with C & C. C watermark.

BORNEO:

1863. 8 cents black and brown (Gibbons type 1631), with forged surcharge.

Your truly,

CHARLES J. PHILLIPS,
8, Gower Street, *Hon. Secretary.*
London, W.C.,
24th February, 1892.

Occasional Notes.

THE traditional storm in a tea cup is apparently eclipsed by the whirlwind as to a roulette that has arisen on the Continent. A *brôchure*, extending to no less than 34 closely printed pages, has been sent to us by the Frankfort-upon-Maine Philatelic Society, in which the illegitimacy of the roulettes as to a 3 s. gr., black on pink Brunswick is established. We have never heard of such a stamp since we first collected Europeans, so long ago, alas, as 1866, nor as to the matter of that have we an unlimited belief in the conventionally rouletted 1 s. gr., black on yellow of the same issue. The gentleman who sold the stamp to the aggrieved collector, eventually received the Prodigal Child home again, and all should have ended happily. But it is apparent that neither the Society nor the vendor are now animated by pleasant feelings towards each other. Our sympathies are entirely with the Frankfort Society in this case.

* * *

WE hear that Mr. D. A. Vindin's visit to this country has terminated, and have an interesting letter from him which is withheld, owing to pressure on our space, until the April number. Mr. Dawson A. Vindin has been combining business with pleasure by visiting us, and we are glad to express our concurrence in the good impression he has created in our Philatelic circles, commercial and amateur. We are credibly informed that not the least portion of the advantages accruing to his trip will be the experience gained by contact with "stamps and men" in the old country. His explanations as to his personal share in the Laureate bubble bear every appearance of frankness, and we are confident he will depart for Sydney, firm in the conviction that it is the wish of both Antipodean and British collectors to solve the mystery of the Laureated reprints by united and amicable co-operation.

* * *

M. J. GOUTIER, of Paris, has brought out an album in separate *feuilletons*, for the benefit of fiscal collectors, but of course it would equally suit those who take postals. The separate parts, divided politico-geographically, *i.e.*, by countries and their respective colonies, will appear at short periods, while the description, being on the right-hand page, and the stamp on the left, will always allow the introduction of fresh leaves without deranging the order of those already mounted. The first "number"—Portugal and Colonies—is well turned out, and for both classes of collectors this plan is worthy of consideration, as it admits of additions and amalgamations, while cover cases could be used as binders. A collector would hardly trust his treasures near the paste and scissors of a bookbinder.

* * *

THE International Philatelic Society of Dresden publish a very voluminous report—extending to over 100 pp. quarto—of their Society and its doings for the past year. Admirably and clearly arranged are all the details of the organisation of the Society and its several branches, showing that its membership is a thing to be desired by the collectors of the Fatherland. It is, however, perhaps a little disappointing to think that with its 1,433 members in 1891 the Dresden Society has, during the past year, achieved no greater philatelic work than its own history.

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WE are compelled to ask the indulgence of very many correspondents who have written to us with suggestions for the future and congratulation on the present aspect of THE LONDON PHILATELIST, and we trust they will, without personal replies, feel assured that in both respects their communications are thoroughly appreciated. It is evident, from the letters received from abroad, that our readers beyond our own shores are very numerous, and if they will but use our columns to disseminate their philatelic information, Journal and readers will all be the gainers. *Apropos* of criticism, a respected contemporary, the *Deutsche Briefmarken Zeitung*, practically the organ of the Berlin Philatelic Club, after a very kindly notice, hints that two philatelic articles in each number is not overwhelming. With a modesty that should always pervade the Editorial mind, we can but suggest that on the average this number would not leave us far behind most of our contemporaries.

OUR good critic also suggests that the minutes of the London and Provincial Societies does not afford *him* interesting reading. In the great majority of Continental Philatelic papers the doings of the stamp collectors at their meetings occupy no inconsiderable portion of the space, and these minutes, so ably written, are of great interest to our absent members. One of the foremost objects sought by the London Philatelic Society in founding this Journal was to promote and extend the intercourse of its members with each other, and to provide a regular means of communication for all alike. With this view it is of primary importance that whatever takes place at the meetings should be conveyed to those absent, and it will be the end and aim of the Committee of the London Society to faithfully portray this each month by their published minutes.

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MR. DOUGLAS GARTH, who has been the victim of an unusually severe attack of influenza, has, to the great gratification of his friends, resumed his wonted habits, and might have been seen recently both at the Philatelic Society's Meeting and the "Stamp Law Courts."

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ON the 11th, 12th and 14th of this month, at the Central Criminal Court, before the Recorder, George K. Jeffryes, G. Benjamin, and S. H. Sarpy were indicted for forging and uttering stamps; also with conspiracy to defraud divers persons of their moneys.—Mr. C. Mathews and Mr. Muir prosecuted; Mr. Willis, Mr. Purcell, and Mr. Jones defended. —The circumstances under which the charge was preferred against Defendants have been reported. Benjamin and Sarpy, who for many years had been engaged as dealers and collectors in the stamp trade, occupied premises in Cullum-street. Jeffryes, who was an engraver by profession, resided at Bow. The allegations against the Defendants were that for a considerable period they had been concerned in a systematic course of manufacturing fictitious stamps, and that there was an agreement between them to utter them, and in this way defraud the public. The prosecution was at the instance of the Philatelic Protection Association. Jeffryes manufactured stamps at his premises at Bow, and sold them to Sarpy and Benjamin. The stamps trafficked in were those of the Sandwich Islands, Queensland, Baden, Victoria, Grenada, &c., and the fraud complained of was the addition of certain fictitious marks by the Defendants, which, if genuine, would greatly enhance the value of the stamps, and which induced the collectors to purchase. Evidence was adduced showing that in one instance 6s. 6d. was given for a stamp by a collector, the original of which was worth £1, and in other cases it was proved that particular stamps realised from £8 to £20. Throughout the whole of their transactions the Defendants appear to have acted in an open manner, nor was there concealment as to the nature of their business. They absolutely denied an intention to defraud; on the contrary, they asserted that there was a *bóna fide* trading in fictitious stamps, the originals being too expensive for collectors to purchase. When the police visited the premises which were occupied by the Defendants and searched them, they discovered an enormous collection of stamps of all kinds, which included forgeries and genuine stamps, besides a number of impressions lithographed, and acids and other paraphernalia for producing the stamps, "surcharging" them, and adding other postal marks.—Jeffryes admitted that many years ago he did work for Sarpy and Benjamin. —Mr. Jones, on his behalf, argued that there was absolutely no evidence connecting him with fraud in these transactions.—Several Witnesses were called to testify to the previous good reputation which the Defendants had enjoyed.—The Jury having found the Prisoners Guilty, the Recorder sentenced Benjamin and Jeffryes to six, and Sarpy to four months' imprisonment, with hard labour.—(*Standard.*)

The Philatelic Market.

There has been a distinctly drooping tendency in the auctions during the past month. The stamps submitted have been of a lower quality, and the prices and attendances have both, in Stock Exchange parlance, been undergoing the process, unconsciously perhaps, known as *bearing*.

Collectors and the trade having all felt, lately, that the auctioneer's hammer has been rapped too often, a breathing time will help to accumulate a better variety and lend bidders courage to offer better prices. To the absence from the sales of some of the principal dealers, is no doubt attributable, in part, the recent depression. The next *really fine* sale, however, will bring both classes again into healthy competition. For the reasons we have given, the sale by Messrs. Cheveley, Wilson & Co., on the 17th and 18th February, does not present any features of interest. An authenticated specimen of the provisional 9 pies on 8 pies India changed ownership at £6, as did the 3d. Transvaal with red surcharge on the reverse side, at five guineas. A brilliant Connell was reasonably disposed of for £21, and a pair of Barbadoes 1d. on 5s. showed an upward tendency at £4 10s. A Victorian beaded oval 4d., rouletted, on a portion of the letter, was sold decidedly cheaply at £6 6s., and a number of Cape wood blocks found buyers at prices averaging about 26s. each. The Sydneys, which were numerous and weak, drooped somewhat. There is a good chance for those who wish to "plate" now, as medium *averaged* specimens which look best typed together, seem negotiable at reasonable prices. Two collections sold for £40 and £50 respectively, the remaining lots not calling for especial comment.

An innovation has been introduced by Mr. Wm. Hadlow in the catalogues of his last sale, which he states was by far the most successful one he had held, being the "record" for the number of lots sold in one day, as well as for the attendance, over 60 people being present at one time. The actual number of lots sold in the sale was 419, realising £435, and the rate of selling averaged 84 lots per hour. The Great Britain 3d., Plate 3, and the 4d., Watermark small Garter, at £8 10s. and £9 respectively, were the most noteworthy stamps.

This innovation consists of a column, after the number of stamps in the lot, with the heading "Condition," and beneath abbreviations of the following:—

V. F.—Very fine.
B. C.—Brilliant copy.
S. D.—Slightly damaged.
M. F.—Mostly fine.
S. N.—Slightly nicked.
S. R.—Slightly rubbed.
S. D.—Slightly damaged.

The auctioneer is to be credited with a laudable endeavour to correct a glaring defect, that has often called forth our disapproval—*i.e*, the insufficient and frequently incorrect description of stamps as lotted. If a stamp is sold for its margin, *e.g.*, Ceylon octagonal imperf., why should not the outside measurements of the stamp be given? It is the superfluous paper in the shape of margin that is dear in collectors' eyes and pockets! A better graduated scale as to condition could, however, be found, and we suggest:—

M. (Mint state); or P. (Perfect).
V. F. (Very fine).
A. (Average); or M. (Medium).
P. (Poor).

These definitions, either together or singly could apply to lots containing numbers of stamps, while damage could and should be noted in the description of the stamps.

Messrs. Stanley Gibbons & Co., Limited, have recently received from a collector abroad an exceptionally numerous and comprehensive lot of English Colonials for disposal, the quantities of British North Americans being as abnormal as their quality. It may perhaps be called an accumulation rather than a collection, and must certainly form an invaluable stock to any firm with a large *clientèle*.

The Scott Stamp and Coin Co. have sent us a priced catalogue of their auction of the 4th and 5th February, from which we learn that this sale of the collection of Mr. H. Determan realised about £550 for 1,026 lots, The Teutonic stamps were apparently and naturally the best selections, the used Bergedorf and Bremen being notable among a large quantity of good ordinary stamps. We commend the sending to us of priced catalogues, without which notices of auctions in this column are but dry bones.