

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.]

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[No. 4.

PHILATELY—AMATEUR AND PROFESSIONAL.



THE large amount of space recently occupied in Stamp literature by the very extended accounts of the Philatelic fraud cases, although not pleading guilty to any extent ourselves in this matter, causes us considerable compunction in again alluding to a matter connected with the recent prosecutions. Our contemporary, *Stanley Gibbons' Monthly Journal*, in a leader last month, says: "One of the principal of the objects with which the Philatelic Society of London was formed nearly a quarter of a century ago, was the putting down of the trade in forgeries. Others of its objects that Society has carried out, and is carrying out most efficiently and thoroughly, but in that particular direction it has done little or nothing." We freely acknowledge the friendly tone of the article, nor would it be likely that the Editor would be actuated by any other ambition

than to play the rôle of the candid friend, but we must differ from his definition of the objects of the London Society. Article 1 states as follows:—"The Society is termed the Philatelic Society, London, and was constituted to encourage and promote—(1) The study of postage and telegraph stamps, stamped envelopes, newspaper and other bands, and cards, their history, engraving, printing, and other details; (2) The detection and prevention of forgeries and frauds; (3) The preparation and publication of papers and works bearing on these subjects, and the undertaking of all such matters as may incidentally promote the above objects, and contribute to the increase of the science and practice of Philately." It will be seen that clause 2 is the only one that lends any claim to the remark of

Major Evans, but the detection and prevention of forgeries by the efforts of a Society of Amateurs, is very different from the indictment for conspiracy at common law *et hoc genus omne* at the Court of the Old Bailey. It is obvious that the fulfilment of clauses 1 and 3, which our good friend so readily concedes, and in which he himself has taken an important share must very materially aid in the attaining of clause 2. By the issue of their works, by the papers read before the Society, by specimens examined and reported on through various members, by the large knowledge, influence, and experience of its many members, the London Philatelic Society, during the past 22 years, has not, in our humble judgment, "in this particular direction done little or nothing," but it has played a most important part, and fully borne its share in the steps necessary "to detect and prevent forgeries of postage stamps."

In this country it is the common custom of all trades to associate themselves for the purposes of Trade defence. The organisation, labour, and the expenses of defending any large and powerful trade, are almost invariably borne upon relatively few shoulders, however numerous may be its members; nor, writing from an intimate knowledge of this subject, can we call to mind any instance in which an exception has been found to this practice. On reflection there is nothing unusual in this custom; those who have "a large stake in the hedge" must be prepared to spend loyally their time and money in their own self-defence. The energetic and brilliantly successful results of the labour of the Philatelic Protection Society have already received our warmest commendation, and while not wishing to retract one iota in this respect, we feel it is only due to the members of that Society, and to collectors generally, in urging that this Trade Society must follow the general custom in paying for the defence of its own livelihood. To those dealers who have not yet contemplated this aspect of the case we would commend the consideration of the relative pecuniary interests in stamps, of the trader and customer. Let any firm make an approximate assessment of the amount invested in postage stamps as an *amusement* by the average of their customers, and comparing this with the amount of the capital in their *business*, they will readily see the point of our argument. The recent existence of so many forgeries constituted a serious drawback to the pursuit of Philately, but assuming that this defect might thin the ranks of its votaries, it is however, far from being on a par with the results produced by a desuetude of collecting generally, on a large and valuable stock, forming perhaps the whole of a dealer's livelihood. We should much regret if the preceding remarks were taken to evince any want of sympathy with the circular recently issued by the Philatelic Society inviting subscribers to share in defraying the expenses of the prosecutions before-mentioned, amounting to several hundred pounds. On the contrary, the appeal deserves the warm support of collectors, and though we have previously shown that they are less interested we have not intimated that they are less numerous, or that they were exempt from all participation in defraying their share *pro rata* in the costs of war.

Every collector must realise that he is interested a little in stamps, and in the like ratio should give of his goods to those who have benefited both their own and his interest in these recent actions. We sincerely trust, therefore, a most cordial response will be elicited by the appeal of the Protection Association, and we shall have much pleasure in receiving and announcing any subscriptions to this end in our columns. A guinea or two will hardly be missed by most collectors whose philatelic gems are of moment, and a general participation would be of far greater significance, as to the good fellowship that should exist between the two branches of the pursuit, than the donation by a few wealthy collectors of amounts as large as the aggregate contributed by the dealers themselves. The moral effect of the subscription given by collectors will lie more with the names of members of the donors than with the amount donated. We trust that the most salutary effect in the moral aspect of the stamp world will have been produced by the recent case, and that it may be long before any efforts of the Philatelic Protection Association are again required for a like purpose.

## 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.

**Austria.**—Messrs. Ridpath & Co. send us a number of specimens of the current issue with various perms.: there are doubtless others which correspondents will perhaps kindly inform us of, but meanwhile we give the list.

Perforated,	9½,	15, 20,	30, 50, kr.	
"	10½,	1, 2, 3, 5, 10, 12,	" " 24,	" " 1 g, 2 g.
"	11½,	" " " " " " " " " "	" " " "	" "
"	12½,	" " " " " " " " " "	" " " "	" "

The question of a fresh currency assimilating to the decimal system seems rapidly coming to the front in this country, hence it may not be long ere these stamps are superseded.

**Barbados.**—A variety that has not yet been met with was shown at the meeting of the London Society on the 8th April, by Mr. F. de Coppet.

1s. black (1861) no w'mk., *imperfurate vertically*.

**British Bechuanaland.**—Mr. W. Morley has sent us a specimen of the Cape type, with watermark C.A. and Crown, that has not previously been seen by us, the overprint being of the normal type. In addition to the 1d. value noted in our last impression, the *Monthly Journal* chronicles the halfpenny with the green surcharge repeated—there being 10 thus on the sheet.

½d. green, *double surcharge* in black, watermark cabled anchor, perf. 14.

4d. blue, Cape type, surcharged in black, *wmk.*, C.A. & Cr., perf. 14.

We illustrate the new issues described in the February number of this journal.



**British East Africa.**—The *Timbre Poste* announces the substitution of a fresh colour for the low value formerly printed in yellow, and, as a provisional, that “half anna” has been overprinted on the 3 annas.

$\frac{1}{2}$  anna, black on yellow.

$\frac{1}{2}$  anna, black surcharge on 3 annas vermilion.

**Belgium.**—From the same source we gather that the 1 c. yellow-green has been seen in a collection with the word “centime” omitted—whether an error, or an unfinished stamp—or postmarked—is not stated; we presume the latest stamp of this colour is meant. Our informant contradicts the statement recently made as to the suppression of the 2 francs, and the re-appearance of the 5 francs.

1 (centime), yellow-green with centime omitted.

**Bolivar.**—Errors in the date of those supremely uninteresting stamps, issued each year for no conceivable purpose with the year of birth thereon recorded, have also been found, states the same good authority, on the 1886 issue; in addition to a specimen with 1886, one has now been discovered with 1380, thus, as our contemporary playfully put it, ante-dating the discovery of stamps by 460 years!

**Canada.**—Mr. L. Gibb writes as below from Montreal, under date of March 9th, enclosing a specimen used on the letter, but with the obliteration on the stamp only, and also portions of sheets gummed and unsevered, but neatly postmarked with horizontal wavy lines.—“Some time back I received the enclosed stamp paying the postage on an open envelope containing a circular from Toronto; it has not been moved from its original place, and one could see it had not been obliterated on the envelope. After some little trouble I found the P.O. would, upon receiving whole sheets of stamps, cancel them, and then hand them back to any known firm to be placed on letters in quantity, these letters are then taken to a private part of the office in bulk, and are allowed to pass through the post without further marking. The only thing I can see they gain by this is saving themselves the trouble of post-marking each letter, and I think they lay themselves open to being taken in, for stamps marked thus would do duty any amount of times should one care to collect them from old circulars.” We readily agree with our correspondent as to the obvious risk of this proceeding.

**Curaçao.**—In our January number we chronicled on good authority the 50 c. of the current set overprinted 25 c. (like the 30 c.). Messrs. Whitfield King shortly after expressed their doubts as to its authenticity and we hear from them now that they can get no tidings of this supposed surcharge from any of their correspondents in the country itself. It seems probable that it is of the “Sokotra” order, and hence collectors should be on their guard.

**Great Britain.**—Discoveries in our country’s stamps, after the exhaustive manner in which they have been written on by many authors, notably by the President of the London Society—Mr. Philbrick, and Mr. Westoby, are hardly to be expected, but we have received from Mr. Hastings Wright two specimens which are apparently new lights upon our limited philatelic horizon. The stamps in question are the 4d. carmine of 1855, with the small garter watermark, but on almost white paper, of the surfaced or safety quality, hitherto known only in a bluish colour as regards this particular stamp. In the *Stamps of Great Britain*, pp. 110 to 113, the successive use of the several papers is dealt with at length. The change from bluish to white paper, caused by the abandonment of a chemical ingredient in its manufacture, took place about a

year later than the issue of the first 4d., while the "medium garter" watermark was in use. The appearance, therefore, of these stamps with the first paper and second watermark seems as yet unaccountable, unless the learned authors of "Great Britain" are wrong, and that the white safety paper had been prepared and even put in use before the change of watermarks. One of the two stamps submitted is slightly less white than the other, we can scarcely call either bluish, and the colour of the impressions are fairly fresh, but the postmarks have a washed look, and it is within the realms of possibility that before coming into Mr. Wright's possession some previous owner, in his natural hatred of heavy postmarks, may have, in trying to destroy their existence, at the same time blanched the stamp by some acid solution. We only suggest this as a possibility—the stamps *certes* are fresh to us, and we hope some learned correspondent may elucidate the mystery.

The actual date of issue of the £1 with the official surcharge, alluded to in our last, was, we understand, March 9.

£1 green, black surcharge, I.R. Official, wmk. 3 Crowns, perf. 14.

**Grenada.**—In addition to the Barbados, mentioned elsewhere, Mr. F. de Coppet exhibited an extremely interesting stamp, the 6d. without watermark, orange-vermilion on laid paper. This will seem a veritable *lusus naturæ*, but after a careful examination at the hands of many members, nothing could be urged against it. The *vergeures* are horizontal and fairly wide apart, and it therefore comes under the category of the rare and unexplained stamps of a similar nature, *e.g.*, the 1s. Nevis, and the 4d. octagonal Tasmania.

6d., orange-vermilion, perf. 15, *horizontally laid paper*.

Messrs. Maitland & Co. call our attention as under to the fact that the sheet of the 2½d. surcharge on the 8d. contains 2 minor varieties—5 rows of 6 each, and write:—

"Referring to the Grenada prov. 2½d. on 8d. black and ochre, we have just observed that there exists on a sheet of same, a variety of the figure 2 in the ½. We enclose a sheet of these stamps from which it will be seen that in the first five rows the 2 appears with a broad tail and narrow head, and in the lower five rows has a 2 with a curled head, thicker lines, and the tail sloping upwards and close to the body of the figure."

**Guadeloupe.**—From the *Timbre Poste* we have the exciting information, of errors of surcharge as follows:—

30 c., bistre (Hd. of Liberty), black surcharge, GUADELOUPE GUADELONPE, GUADELOUEP.

4 c., violet on blue, (current type), " " " "

**Holland.**—Another value has to be added to the current set with the young Queen's portrait.

7½ c., reddish brown, new type.

**Liberia.**—On the eve of publication Mr. H. L. Hayman kindly sends us some stamps that for beauty of design and excellence of engraving are, in our judgment, the most handsome set it has ever been our fortune to chronicle. We must defer a fuller description of the 8 designs until our next issue, meanwhile note:—

1 c., vermilion,	new design, perf. 15.	16 c., lilac,	new design, perf. 15.
2 c., blue	" "	24 c., olive green on yellow	" "
4 c., green and black	" "	32 c., grey-blue	" "
6 c., bluish green	" "	1 dollar, blue and black	" "
8 c., brown and black	" "	2 " brown on yellow	" "
12 c., maroon	" "	5 " black and red	" "

**Malta.**—The 5s., wmk. C.A. & Cr., noted by us on the excellent authority of the *Timbre Poste* is not yet to be had at Malta, as Mr. Homewood informs us that a stock of these just purchased by him in the island had the old watermark.

The paper with the watermark CORROSEUM (Postage United States of Mexico), has come into pretty general use. We note following varieties from various sources, adding, on the authority of the *Phil. Jour. of America*, that two values have paper vertically laid, and that on some of the 1884 issue the paper has been found laid horizontally.

	3 cent, green, (1884 issue), horizontally laid paper.	
10	" " " " " "	
20	" " " " " "	
3	" vermilion, with watermark corroseum.	
4	" " " " " "	
5	" blue, " " "	
6	" vermilion, " " "	
20	" " " " " "	
25	" " " " " "	
5	" blue, " " "	paper laid vertically.
10	" vermilion, " " "	" "

**Nossi-be.**—Amidst the chameleonic changes of the French Colonial postage system (?) the editorial mind is apt to become unhinged, and it is difficult to avoid either twice chronicling a stamp or omitting one altogether—neither fortunately being from a philatelic aspect of much import. We received, however, some three weeks since, two stamps from Messrs. Clarke & Co., that, despite a vigorous search, we have been unable to discover as having been already quoted. Doubtless, our incompetency to unravel the skein of French Colonial surcharges will be promptly set forth by some good-natured critic; but, nevertheless, with due trepidation, we will set forth these delectable varieties. In the December number of the *Timbre Poste* four varieties are chronicled with doubting faith as to their necessity; the surcharges consisted of "Nossi-bé" in thick lower case above; "a percevoir" in small capitals below and large numerals in the centre, a line separating them from the first-named words. The stamps surcharged were of the current type, 5 on 20 c. red on green, 10 on 15 c. blue, 15 on 10 c. black on violet, and 25 c. on 5 c. green on greyish. The two stamps that we have seen are similar in type to the foregoing, but are as follows:—

0.10 c., black surcharge (current type), on 5 c., green on greyish.

0.15 c., " " " 20 c., red on yellow.

With the stamps above cited, all of the values were in stock, hence there could have been no reason for their issue—but the *exploitation* of the Philatelic community.

**Norway.**—The colour of the 1 ore has now taken unto itself a deeper shade.

1 öre, current set, dark brown.

**New South Wales.**—From our remarks elsewhere it will be noted that we have an "unchronicled variety."

2d. blue, 1856 issue, unperf., watermark thick double lined numeral 8.

**Obock.**—The staid demeanour befitting the *gérant* of a quasi-scientific journal will not allow us to express our sentiments on these ever recurring surcharges, but the name of this country, with a liquid or sibilant pronunciation of the last letters, is indicative of our sentiments. We illustrate the stamps described in March, and have to chronicle that the same surcharge has been applied to the unpaid letter stamps.

5 c. unpaid letter stamp, black surcharge, Obock in curve.

10	"	"	"	"
30	"	"	"	"
60	"	"	"	"

To fill up the cup of bliss, we note, on the authority of the *Timbre Poste*, that the demand for the low values has necessitated recourse to provisionals! The word "Obook" is overprinted horizontally in thick letters, and the original value *biffé* with numeral.

- 1 c., red surcharge (current type) on 25 c., rose.  
 2 c., " " " " 15 c., blue.  
 4 c., black " " " 15 c., "



**Portuguese Indies.**—It appears that Herr von Ferrary is possessed (*inter alia!*) of two interesting stamps, according to the same contemporary.



For those unacquainted with the intricate issues of this country, we may briefly explain that the first issue in 1871, consisting of six values, has the background formed by 32 vertical lines with the word "Reis" in thin Roman capitals; in May, 1876, two values, the 10 reis, black, and 20 red, were re-issued in a modification of the original type, the lines in the background being increased to 34, the "V" of *Serviço* being barred, the paper of a bluish tinge, the perforation  $12\frac{1}{2}$ , and a star above the value (added in June, 1877). These two stamps have now been found over-printed  $1\frac{1}{2}$  and 6 in black, similarly to those issued (with a 4 reis) in October, 1883. We illustrate the type.

- $1\frac{1}{2}$  reis, black surcharge, on type of 1877, black.  
 6 " " " " green.

**Portugal.**—A new issue will, we hear, be put in circulation at an early date, consisting of 16 values from  $2\frac{1}{2}$  to 1,000 reis.

**Roumania.**—Another of the new unpaid letter stamps has been issued, says the *Ill. Brief. Journal*.

50 bani, green.

**Russia.**—The 14 kopecks has been found *mirabile dictu*, with the central design of the eagle and post horns embossed in white on carmine, *inverted*. This is a curious find, chronicled on the faith of the *Timbre Poste*. From the same source we take the following locals, some of which were unavoidably crowded out of our last issue.

14 kop., blue and red, with centre inverted.

**ARDATOF (NĪJNĪJ NOVGOROD).** A slight change has taken place in the stamps of 1884. In the 3 kop the corner numerals are lengthened, and the word T P K is followed by a full stop; in the 5 kop there is only a slight difference in the letters of the lower inscription; the perforation is no longer 13 but  $11\frac{1}{2}$ .

- 3 kopecks, green.  
 5 " red.

**CHERSON (CHERSON).**—The stamp illustrated herewith has been used since January 1st, 1891. The frame, crown, and centre of the eagle are gold, and the remainder blue. Engraved and printed on white paper, perf.  $11\frac{1}{2}$ .

10 kopecks blue and gold.



**GLASOFF (VIATKA).**—Similar to the oblong stamp of Jan. 1st, 1888, a 3 kopecks has been issued. The first-named has also been modified as to the numerals.

- 3 kop. green, yellow and black.  
 2 " " " " " modified type.

GRIAZOWETZ (WOLOGDA).—Of the type of May 1st, 1891, are now found—

- 4 kop., red-brown on pelure paper.
- 4 „ yellow.
- 4 „ blue.
- 4 „ green.
- 4 „ rose.
- 4 „ brick



IRBIT (PERM).—This stamp is now printed on thin *satiné* paper with a slight alteration in the type and printing.

In the second line the characters are farther apart, while in the third they are close together, and the word *novta* nearly touches both sides. The previous ten varieties have become twenty.

2 kopecks, black and rose on white thick paper.

KOLOMNA (Moscow).—We illustrate a new type that has appeared, lithographed in colour on white paper, and perforated  $11\frac{1}{2}$ , the different values occurring in the same sheet.

- 1 kopeck, blue.
- 2 „ „
- 3 „ „
- 1 „ red.
- 3 „ „



KOUSNETZ (SARATOFF).—A new stamp has been issued here of the accompanying design, it is printed on white paper, perf.  $13\frac{1}{2}$ .

5 kopecks, blue and rose.

MORSCHANSK (TAMBOFF).—A new type has been issued having the arms in an oval, with the inscription of the preceding issues. Printed on white paper, perf. 12.

5 kopecks, blue and brown.



OCHANSK (PERM).—The 10 kopecks blue has been replaced since the 1st of January by the stamp here illustrated, reserved for registered letters. Engraved and printed on white paper, perf.  $11\frac{1}{2}$ .

5 kopecks, black, red and gold.

OURJOURM (VIATKA).—We illustrate a new issue (29th November, 1891) lithographed in colour on white paper, and perf. 13.

- 2 kopecks, dark blue.
- 3 „ bluish green.



OSSA (PERM).—The 1890 stamp has changed its colour, but the green horizontal lines remain.

2 kopecks, red and green.



PERM (PERM).—This imposing looking label has been recently presented to an impatient population, lithographed in colour on white paper and perforated  $11\frac{1}{2}$ .

5 kopecks, carmine.



RIASK (RIAZAN).—A new issue of stamps is represented by these two types. The first recalls that of 1887, except that it has an exterior line, and the central "k" is larger, whereas in the 2nd type this figure is smaller. Printed in black on coloured paper.

3 kopecks, bright rose. (2 types).



SAPOЖOK (RIAZAN).—There is another new issue of the type of our engraving, rendered still more acceptable by the fact of there being three varieties of each. The perforation is 13, and as usual they are lithographs.

5 kopecks, red and green, 3 varieties.  
10 " green and yellow, "



SOLIKAMSK (PERM).—The stamp whose illustration is appended appeared on the 1st January last, is perforated  $11\frac{1}{2}$ , and lithographed.

2 kopecks, yellow, orange-yellow.

TICHVIN (NOVGOROD).—We give an illustration of the 1891 type of this district. The arms are printed in red, the inscriptions in black, the upper portion in blue, the background in red and blue, and the border in gold and silver, on white paper, perf.  $11\frac{1}{2}$ . *Voila tout!*

5 kopecks, black, blue, red, gold and silver.



ZOLOTONOSKA (POLTAVA).—The current 2 kopecks has been overprinted.

3 kopecks, surcharged in black, on 2 kop. green and yellow.



St. Lucia.—We illustrate the provisional described last month, which, as will be seen, furnishes another instance of the baleful practice of bisecting stamps. This method of supplying a postal want may have its economical side, but it certainly does not find favour in the eyes of Philatelists.



**St. Thomas and Prince Island.**—We annex an illustration of the provisional 50 on 40 reis noted in our issue for March.

**Salvador.**—We illustrate the latest productions of the Controller of new issues for this country, described in our February number. These precious articles will not have deteriorated by the keeping. We know, in fact, many Philatelists who exist comfortably without them!



**Shanghai.**—A new issue of unpaid letter stamps appeared in January, as shown by our illustration, consisting of the words in Gothic type, "Postage Due" over-printed on the current stamps. As with the ordinary stamps mentioned in the February LONDON PHILATELIST, watermark and perforation both present difficulties.



UNPAID LETTER STAMP.

2 c., brown,	black surcharge on current type, wmk.,	Chinese characters,	perf. 12.
10 c., black,	"	"	perf. 15.
20 c., lilac,	"	"	"
5 c., rose,	"	no wmk.,	"
15 c., blue,	"	"	"



**Straits Settlements.**—The 6 cents has now received the surcharge recently put upon the 8 c., as shown by our illustration; the ways of the Straits in surcharges seem crooked!

1 c., black surcharge on 6 c. lilac, wmk., C.A. & Cr., perf. 14.

Mr. Maycock has sent us a specimen of a new stamp, viz., 25 c. of the Seychelles type, cartouche with value and name of country being in the second named colour.

25 c., dull purple and green, wmk., C.A. & Cr., perf. 14.

**Sarawak.**—Illustrated herewith will be found the provisional described in our last issue. We have heard of a small variety in the overprint, but should like ocular demonstration of the fact.



**Sokotra.**—Having in vain waited a month for some contradiction of this rather unlikely issue, we inserted in our last issue a notice of them "with all reserves." There seems, however, to be no confirmation of these issues, and their bogus origin is likely to be established.

**Turkey.**—We give illustrations of four of the new issue chronicled last month.



M. Roussin has, according to our Brussels contemporary, received specimens on letters of the 2 para yellow diagonally severed and surcharged as above, for temporary use as 1 piastre at Bagdad.

1 piastre, black surcharge on diagonally cut half of 2 piastres, 1890 issue, yellow.

**Uruguay.**—Messrs. Maitland & Co. send us a specimen of the latest provisional—the current 20 c. orange, surcharged in black similarly to those described by us last month, with Un—Centésimo—Provisorio, 1892, in four horizontal lines. Illustration annexed.

1 c., black surcharge on 20 c. orange (current type).



## ENVELOPES, WRAPPERS, &c.

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

**Austria.**—The Pneumatic envelope of 1890 has been subjected to certain modifications, having an addition of two lines of instructions, while the inscription on the *patte* has been omitted.

Pneumatic envelope. 15 kr. violet-rose on rose.

**Bermuda.**—A new Registration envelope has been issued here, we learn from the *Ill. Brief Journal*, of the normal type with stamp on the flap, and linen-lined envelope: dimensions, 133×83 mm.

Registration envelope, 2d., blue.

**Bahamas.**—We now illustrate the red surcharge envelopes noted in our January issue, with six lines.



**British South Africa.**—We append an illustration of the new Registration envelope announced by us in our January number. There are two sizes,  $151 \times 97$  and  $227 \times 10$  mm., and of the usual linen-lined paper.

2 pence, blue on white.



**Liberia.**—Messrs. Whitfield King & Co. send us a set of three Registration envelopes of similar design to those long known, with the transverse oval, but being each printed in a different colour, although in all three the instructions (inclusive of a large "R" within an oval), and crossed lines, are in a deep blue. They are of the usual character as to paper, and are the production of Messrs. McCorquodale & Co., whose name appears beneath the flap.

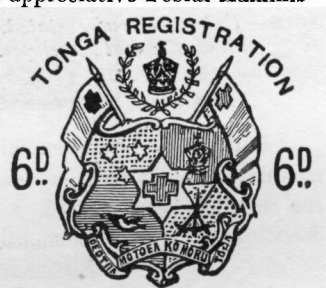
10 c., *dark blue*, size F.  
 10 c., *dull red-lilac*, " G.  
 10 c., *blue-green*, " H<sup>2</sup>.

**Queensland.**—We hear of a wrapper and envelopes in more than one variety of size and paper, with the type of the current stamp impressed, probably like their Tasmanian predecessors, of unofficial origin and stamped to order.

**New South Wales.**—We receive from Messrs. Whitfield King & Co. a wrapper, with the provisional halfpenny surcharged on one penny green stamp impressed thereon. The paper is pale buff, and laid vertically, the size being  $287 \times 115$  mm.

$\frac{1}{2}$ d., black on green (current type), on pale buff laid paper.

**Tonga.**—The imperative demands of the Tongese public for the safe transmission of their valuables per post has evolved from an appreciative Postal Administration a Registered envelope, bearing the gorgeous design herewith represented. Do the natives register their glass beads and bits of cloth, or are these the relics of cannibalistic ancestors that require a 6d. fee for their safe transmission from one gentle native to another? The annals of Tonga have yet to be written, so our editorial ignorance may perhaps be condoned. The stamp, as shown, is on the *patte* of the envelope, which is of the usual linen-lined nature, with an "R" to the left, a rectangle for the stamp to the right, and the word "Tonga Registered," intervening, on the face, the size being  $153 \times 97$  mm.



6d., red on bluish-white paper.

## POST AND LETTER CARDS.

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

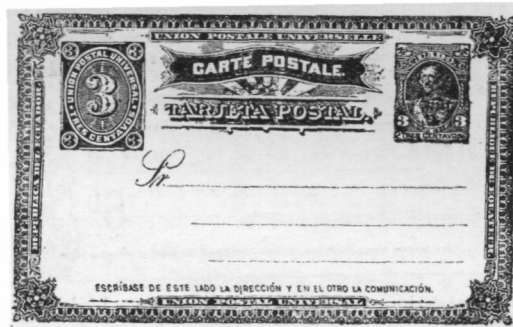
**Austria.**—Pneumatic cards and letter cards, similar in design to those of 1890, have been issued, the principal differences being additions of a two-lined instruction on the letter card, and some supplementary words to the previously existing inscription on the card (*Timbre Poste*).

Pneumatic card, 10 kr., blue on pale blue.  
 " " 10+10 kr., blue on pale blue.  
 " letter card, 15 kr., rose-violet on rose.

**Dutch Indies.**—We have from Messrs. Whitfield King & Co. a new card of the numeral and concentric circle type, with the usual bilingual inscription and instructions, with five dotted lines for the address, and the arms on the left hand.

7½ c., rose on pale rose (on face of card only).

**Ecuador.**—We give the illustrations (unavoidably crowded out) of the new Seebeck issue chronicled by us in February.



**Great Britain.**—The new penny Postal Union cards, single and double, have been issued. The design is the exact reproduction, except as to value, of the now withdrawn 3d. card, bearing the full length portrait of Her Majesty in a fancy frame, and the inscriptions are those of the preceding card of the like denomination. The card itself is rather paler than before and more surfaced, while in the specimen that we have before us the single card seems somewhat deeper in colour than its companion.

Postal Union card, 1d., vermillion on pale buff.

" " 1d.+1d. " "

**Hong Kong.**—A new reply card has been issued (*Ill. Brief Journal*) differing from the single card in the inscriptions, by the omission of the border, and in the colour.

3+3 cents, brown on buff.

**Hungary.**—The oval type of the envelopes has now been placed on the letter card, the inscriptions being in blue. We hope to illustrate it shortly.

Letter card, 31 kreuzers, brown and blue.

**India.**—The *Monthly Journal* notes two varieties of the current quarter-anna card, the arms upon which differentiate at several points, the same applying in a more noticeable degree to the service card, the later variety of which has the inscription altered thus: "To— The Postmaster of . . . ." in three lines, and is in pale buff *vice* white.

$\frac{1}{4}$  anna brown on buff, *Arms, &c., altered.*

Service card, green on *pale buff*, *Arms and inscription altered.*

**Italy.**—The new design has been applied to the letter card.

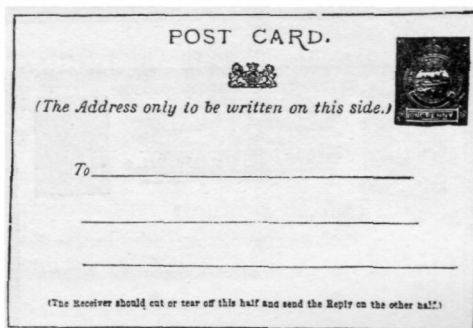
5 c., green on grey.

**Montenegro.**—We illustrate the cards that we described last month.

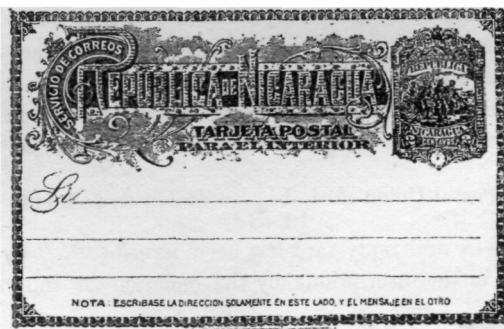


**New South Wales.**—We illustrate a new reply card that has apparently been recently issued.

Reply card, 1d.+1d, lilac on chamois.



**Nicaragua.**—Illustrations herewith of these highly ornate cards (see February), their appearance having been delayed owing to pressure on our space.





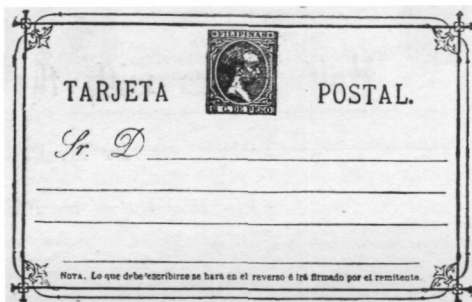
**Porto Rico.**—Messrs. Whitfield King & Co. send us the new card of the baby-king type, printed in blue on buff, flanked as usually “Tarjeta-Postal,” left and right, and with the usual inscriptions and dotted lines.

3 c., de peso, blue on buff.

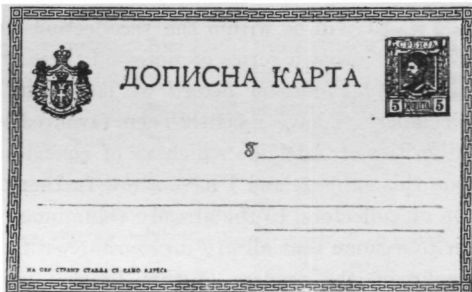
**Philippines.**—We illustrate the new cards that are the complement of the recently issued adhesives—the cards vary in shade.

2 c., de peso, violet-brown on buff.

5 c., „ orange „



**Servia.**—A new card of the accompanying design has been issued (1st March) varying from its predecessor in the facts that the inscription now measures  $66\frac{1}{2} \times 5$  mm., that the dotted address lines commence with a letter in the centre of the card, that the instructions are in the lower left angle, and that the Greek border is differently set up. The reply card has the impressions on the 1st and 3rd sides.



5 paras, green on buff.

5+5 paras, green on buff.

**Seychelles.**—Reply cards are in existence for this colony, resembling in all respects the single cards except as to the inscriptions.

4+4 cents, carmine on buff.

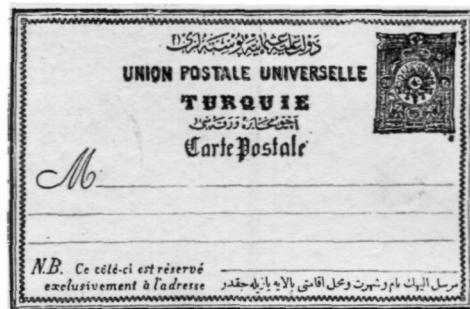
8+8 „ brown „

**Tonga.**—The letter cards briefly described in our last issue, will be found here portrayed, their size, when unfolded, being  $201 \times 204$  mm.



**Turkey.**—The corollary of the new stamp issue, in the guise of cards, is now *en évidence*, as will be seen by the accompanying “cut.” It will be seen that, with the exception of the stamp, there is no variation from the last issue.

20 paras, red on white.  
20+20     ”     ”



## Half Hours with the Australian Stamps.

By M. P. CASTLE.

(Vice-President of the Philatelic Society, London.)

### THE OFFICIAL STAMPS OF SOUTH AUSTRALIA.

**I**T will be within the recollection of many of those who read this Journal that a series of notes on these interesting stamps was published in the *Philatelic Record* of last year, commencing in July and finishing in December. I have recently been favoured with a communication from the postal authorities of Adelaide which is of considerable interest in shedding further light upon this subject, and I have a few further additions to make, through the co-operation of collectors, to the already voluminous list of varieties. It is, however, hardly fair to assume that all are *au courant* with the contents of the *Record*, and for the benefit of the readers of this Journal who have neither transferred nor divided their allegiance in Philatelic journalism, I judge it advisable to very briefly recapitulate the present state of knowledge on this subject.

The fact that, beyond a brief and necessarily incomplete reference to them in the London Philatelic Society's work of Oceania, nothing had been written on these stamps, induced me to endeavour as far as possible with the limited means at hand to “bring them into line.” Having argued in favour of their collectable qualifications I suggested that the issue of these stamps began early in 1868 and continued until late in 1874, about which period the generic surcharge “O.S.” superseded the letters used to denote particular departments (with one or two exceptions, notably P.S. Principal Secretary) which were intermittently met with and, doubtless, concurrently used. After stating the difficulties experienced in attempting anything like a uniform classification, I accepted an arbitrary system *faute de mieux* of classifying the stamps according to their perforations, dividing them into the following groups. I have since made a calculation of the several varieties chronicled under each heading, which I append.

		ORIGINAL LIST.			ADDED. (See p 115).			
A. Rouletted	...	Red	Surcharge	...	111	}	5	229 ... 9 ... 246
		Black	"	...	73		3	
		Blue	"	...	45			
B. Roul. & Perf.	...	Red	"	...	4	}	45 ... 7 ... 52	
		Black	"	...	39			
		Blue	"	...	2			
C. Perf. 11½...	...	Red	"	...	17	}	65 ... 6 ... 71	
		Black	"	...	47			
		Blue	"	...	1			
D. Perf. 10 ...	...	Black	"	...	110	}	110 ... 4 ... 114	
E. Compound	...	Red	"	...	11			
		Black	"	...	90		102 ... 5 ... 107	
		Blue	"	...	1			
				TOTAL	...		<u>551</u>	<u>590</u>

It will of course be evident that this is perhaps but an outline of the total probable varieties that exist, and that the 590 variations may ultimately be doubled. It is to be noted that the rouletted stamps alone constitute two-fifths of the aggregate, and this tends to show that a more general use was contemplated than subsequently appears to have been the case. As regards these rouletted varieties, I have many of the stamps in an *unused* condition *only*, and we have yet to learn if all the varieties actually prepared ever got beyond that stage of their existence by being used for franking purposes. Lieut. Napier has drawn up an excellent chart or table of the various varieties, its value being somewhat detracted from by its somewhat unwieldy size and typographical execution, but the idea is good, being capable of further future development, and I am much indebted to Mr. Napier throughout all my investigations for his valuable co-operation.

In answer to a communication of mine asking for such information as the Adelaide postal authorities could give either personally or through their published reports, I received the accompanying courteous reply to my letter from Mr. Charles Todd, C.M.S., the Postmaster-General of South Australia :—

Post Office and Telegraph Department,  
General Post Office, Adelaide.

SIR,—I have the honour to return your list of "On Service" stamps corrected. None of these stamps have been reprinted; they were obsolete in the year 1868,\* and all Government stamps from that date were printed "O.S."

It is impossible to purchase a complete set of stamps of the Colony including official stamps, but we hope soon to be able to sell specimen sets of ordinary stamps, both obsolete and current, at a charge of 20s. a set.

I regret to say that the report of the Post Office Department to which you refer is out of print, and I am therefore unable to send you a copy.

I have the honour to be, Sir,  
Your obedient Servant,  
CHARLES TODD,

*Postmaster-General and Supt. of Telegraphs.*

M. P. Castle, Esq.,  
*Vice-President London Philatelic Society,*  
Richmond Place,  
Brighton, England.

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\* This date, as I have previously shown, is incorrect.—M.P.C.

A.	Architect.
A.G.	Attorney General.
A.O.	Audit Office.
B.D.	Barrack Department.
B.G.	Botanical Gardens.
B.M.	<i>Bench</i> of Magistrates. (Board.)
C.	Customs.
C.D.	Convict Department.
C.L.	Crown Lands.
C.O.	Commissariat Officer.
C.S.	<i>Chief</i> Secretary. (Colonial.)
C.Sgm.	Colonial Surgeon.
C.P.	Commissioner of Police.
C.T.	(?) (?)
D.B.	Destitute Board.
D.R.	Deed <i>Registration</i> . (Registry.)
E.	Engineer.
E.B.	Education Board.
G.P.	Government Printer.
G.S.	Government <i>Storekeeper</i> . (Survey.)
G.T.	Goolwa Tramway.
G.F.	<i>Gold Fields</i> .
H.	<i>Hospital</i> . (?)
H.A.	House of Assembly.
H.G.	<i>Hospital, Gambier</i> ton. (?)
I.A.	Immigration Agent.
I.E.	(?) (?)
I.S.	Inspector of Sheep.
L.A.	Lunatic Asylum.
L.C.	Legislative Council.
L.L.	Legislative Library.
L.T.	Land <i>Titles</i> . (Tenures.)
M.	<i>Medical</i> . (Militia.)
M.B.	Marine Board.
M.R.	<i>Manager of Railways</i> . (Marine Registry) (?)
M.R.G.	<i>Main Roads</i> , Gambier Town. (Manager Railway.)
N.T.	<i>Northern Territory</i> . (?)
O.	(?) (Ordnance) ( <i>Never issued</i> .)
O.A.	Official Assignee.
O.S.	On Service.
P.	Police.
P.A.	Protector of Aborigines.
P.O.	Post Office.
P.S.	<i>Private</i> Secretary. (Principal.)
P.W.	Public Works.
R.B.	Road Board.
R.G.	Registrar General of Births, &c.
S.	Sheriff.
S.C.	Supreme Court.

- S.G. *Surveyor* General. (Solicitor.)
- S.M. Stipendiary Magistrate.
- S.P. Superintendent of Prisons.
- S.T. Superintendent of Telegraph.
- T. Treasury.
- T.R. *Titles Registry* (?)
- V. *Volunteers*.
- V.A. *Valuator*. (Volunteer Artillery.)
- V.N. *Vaccination*.
- W. Waterworks.

In explanation of the foregoing list, I should say that the "letters" I supplied were those contained in Oceania, with such modifications, or additions, as had been noted to date, and that the alterations made therein, *printed in italics*, are those supplied by Mr. Todd, and are substituted for the previously assumed definition which follow within brackets. The initials, "C. T.," was chronicled on the faith of a specimen in Lieut. Napier's collection, of whose authenticity he seemed well assured, but in view of official ignorance of its existence further corroboration is to be desired. G. F. has now a somewhat different designation from that with which it was christened, and its limited use—only the 2d. having been met with—seems borne out by its existence in the Gold Fields, which would necessarily be of a temporary nature. The letter "O," which I included as having been one of the Oceania list with considerable misgiving, does not exist, and doubtless was first chronicled from the omission of one of the letters in the surcharges in which it occurs in conjunction with another alphabetical comrade. Other missing designations are supplied or substituted, and I am glad to think, that through this valuable information, we are now on firm ground as regards the correct meanings of the several official letters.

I am indebted to several correspondents for their contribution to the following list of addenda to the surcharges already enumerated by me previously. Mr. Wm. Thorne, of New York, has sent a list (with the specimens) of previously unchronicled varieties, of which, even now, some 16 were un-noted, and in his interesting letter we gather that he devotes considerable attention to his collection of these officials, having some 280 in number. Mr. Willett, Lieut. Napier, who sends many additions, and Messrs. Ridpath have also helped me to swell the list. The 1s. brown (M), perf. 12½, and rouletted is a somewhat unusual gauge, but I have carefully examined it. The variety of P.O. is quite distinct and novel to me, being the antithesis of the LL and others, printed quite close together, and without any periods. The letters in the former are necessarily more spaced, and the overprint has hence quite an abnormal appearance. The colour of the R.G is yellow without any trace of orange. The use of the old block type on so recent an issued stamp as the surcharged 2½d. shows a concurrent use of this and the new fancy-shaped thin capitals. These varieties, with the old surcharge on the stamps of the now current type, had, I believe, but a short use, and will probably eventually become "difficult" stamps.

A.—Rouletted, Surcharge in—

<i>Red.</i>	<i>Black.</i>	<i>Blue.</i>
A.O., 6d. blue.	C.L., 2d. orange (Type II.), Cr. & S.A.	A.G., 2d. orange (Type II.), S.A. & Cr.
E.B., 6d. blue.	E.B., 2d. orange (Type II.), Cr. & S.A.	P.O., 2d. orange (Type II.), S.A. & Cr.
M., 1s. brown.	G.P., 1d. green.	T., 1d. green.

<i>Red</i>	<i>Black</i>
P.O., 6d blue (with two stops between letters and none after).	G.P., 2d. orange (Type II.), Cr. & S.A.
T., 1d. green.	I.S., 2d. orange (Type II) Cr. & S.A.
	L.A., 2d. orange (Type II) Cr. & S.A.
	L.A., 2s. carmine.
	O.A., 2d. orange (Type II), Cr. & S.A.
	S.T., 2d. orange (Type II.), Cr. & S.A.
	BLACK SURCHARGES.
	B.—Rouletted and perf 11½
	C., 4d slate
	C.D., 1s brown.
	M., 6d blue
	M., 1s. brown (12½ and rouletted).
	M.R., 6d blue.
	P.S., 1d green.
C., 4d. slate	C.—Perforated 11½.
	A.G., 1d. green.
	C.S., 4d. slate
	C Sgn., 6d. blue.
	G.T., 4d slate
	M.B., 4d. ,
	M.R., 2s carmine.
	P.S., 2s. carmine.
	D.—Perforated 10.
	B.G., 6d blue
	H.A., 1d. green.
	P.S., 1d. ,
	R.G., 2d. <i>yellow</i> (Type II.), Cr. & S.A.
	E—Compound perforation.
	A.O., 6d. blue (11½ × 12½).
	B.G., 1d. green (10 × 11½).
	C.S., 6d ultramarine (?) (10 × 11½).
	D.B., 4d. slate.
	E., 6d blue.
	O.S., 1st Type of Surcharge in black.
	4d. <i>lilac</i> , Type I., perf. 11½, surcharge inverted.
	4d. <i>lilac</i> , Type II, ,, 10
	2½d. brown on green, perf. 10.
	2½d ,, ,, ,, 10 × 12½.

I should be glad if collectors and dealers who read these notes would kindly examine their lettered South Australian, and help me to complete the list by sending any varieties that may have hitherto escaped notice, for it is only by this method that anything approaching a full list can be finally attained.

#### NEW SOUTH WALES. 1856 ISSUE (DIADEMED HEAD.)

The marvellous vitality—if I may use the expression—in the stamps of the Australian Colonies has frequently been demonstrated by philatelic writers, while it is but a few weeks since I ventured to prophesy that there would always be discoveries in the lifetime of the present generation. No more complete exemplification of this could be afforded than the recent discovery of Mr. Geo. Callf, briefly foreshadowed in the last number of the LONDON PHILATELIST. The stamp in question is the 2d. blue imperf. of the 1856 issue, with diademed head, having a

watermark of the double-lined numeral 8 instead of that of its face value. This stamp has undergone a most critical examination by several well-known experts, who have fully satisfied themselves as to its authenticity, a result I can entirely confirm from my own study of it. The watermark is irregularly placed in the right lower corner, looking at the reverse of the stamp; this being only natural when the size of the 8d. stamp is remembered, it having been evidently printed from a sheet of the watermarked paper intended for this value. The comparatively common error "5" on the same stamp will frequently be found, showing perhaps only a very small portion of the numeral at the top, bottom, or side of the stamp, and from the same cause, viz., that the distance intervening between each watermark was calculated for the large square stamp of the 5d. denomination. It is also to be noted that even on the 1d., 2d., and 3d., with the normal watermarks, these are found somewhat *écarté*, doubtless due to their preparation in the first instance to receive the somewhat larger Laureate issue. It may be of interest, too, to mention that the latest accession to the rarities of New South Wales has already found its way, at a figure commensurate with its scarcity, into the collection of a well-known amateur.

Those of my readers who may care to study this issue, will find a few remarks in the *Philatelic Record* of May, 1890, detailing the discovery, *inter alia*, of this same stamp with the double-lined watermark "1." This stamp, which was originally "discovered" by Mr. J. A. Tilleard in 1888, has been diligently sought for during the past years, and it is not a little curious that a second copy should have "turned up" almost at the same moment as Mr. Callf's *trouvaille*, Messrs. Stanley Gibbons, Limited, having recently acquired a copy in a small collection, I was enabled to examine this also, and consider that it is of a different shade from Mr. Tilleard's (which is now in my own collection). This would indicate that more than one printing took place—or perhaps that one sheet was inadvertently mixed with those containing the normal figures on more than one occasion. The sheets of the 5 and 8, as I have previously suggested, were, however, far larger, and I am somewhat curious to ascertain how they could have been so used for the smaller sized stamp, without attracting notice, unless they were previously trimmed by some one ignorant of their proper purpose. I fully admit that the suggestion of their being "errors" is open to refutation, but seeing that these stamps have been existent for 36 years, the extraordinary scarcity of the examples alluded to throws the onus of proof on those who hold contrary views.

It may be worth while to briefly recapitulate the list of abnormal watermarks in this issue.

1856. DIADEMED HEAD OF QUEEN, IMPERF.

2d., blue, watermark, thick double lined numeral	<b>1</b>
2d., " " " " "	<b>5</b>
2d., " " " " "	<b>8</b>
3d., green, " " " " "	<b>2</b>

Adding to these the 2d. perforated, with the partially retouched die (*Philatelic Record*, vol. 12, p. 94), and the fact of the rarity of the 3d. imperf. in an unused state, with, may I prophesy, the possibility of an error being found on the 1d., and I think it will be cheerfully conceded that the 1st issue of New South Wales will in most albums be complete long before the 3rd! However, we must all wait and watch our opportunity. "Hope springs eternal in the human breast."

## Reviews.

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### M. BARBARIN'S PRICE CATALOGUE.\*



THE second portion of this work has at length appeared. The first half was reviewed in the *Philatelic Magazines* in August last, and it may be remembered that the former issue consisted of 160 pages quarto, appropriately illustrated. Some idea of the magnitude of the task undertaken may be gleaned from the fact that no less than 33,000 prices are quoted for the stamps in their several varieties, used and unused, and it will be readily accepted as the veriest truism that many inaccuracies *must* present themselves among such a vast array. The greatest general, however, is he who makes fewest mistakes, and if M. Barbarin has not earned his claim to the historical field-marshal's *bâton*, he has, at least, shown himself a capable leader of Philatelic battalions! There are many of the countries that are, taken as a whole, a very fair reflex of the current market value, but it is obvious that no one man can represent the kaleidoscopic changes of postage stamps in one capital alone, not to mention over the remainder of the globe. Nor had he this gift would it avail much without that of prophecy, as in stamps the values of to-day serve but *pour rire* to-morrow. We therefore fail to see any very practical utility in issuing such a catalogue, for it cannot remain a standard, and we are inclined to think that the principal value—we do not say interest, as few things are more interesting in collectors' eyes than price-records—will consist in the concise and legibly printed descriptive lists of the stamps themselves. These are materially aided by the copious illustrations, numbering 2,800, which are pleasingly interspersed with the text, thus, to a great extent obviating the tiresome reference to numbers that is necessary with the types at the end of the book. We are sorry that M. Moëns has not adopted this plan in his *Magnum opus*.

The review of the first half of the work having been probably set before our readers, we will only touch upon the points of interest that present themselves in the present portion, and having regard to our previous remarks, we trust M. Barbarin will not consider our criticism of too caustic a nature. The book commences with a portion of Guiana (British), after which we come to Hawaii, finding a record of prices that will slightly alarm the unfortunate, and shall we say misguided collector who essays to be complete in everything. The 2 c. of the first issue is priced at £140, the 5 c. at £100, the 13 c. at £60, and the 2nd 13 c., with the "dice box," at £72, unused, and at about two-thirds of these prices used. As there are minor varieties of type it is evident that to have them all complete, used and unused, the collector must be a Vanderbilt! We note that the 5 c. and 13 c. of the 2nd issue on thick paper are quoted postmarked at £16 and £20 respectively. Really used, these are as scarce as the first issue, but there are postmarks and postmarks! In Portuguese Indies, we read in the 1st issue that the 300, 600, and 900 reis are quoted at about 30s. to £3 each used or unused. We have never seen the 600 thus, but all three are of the greatest rarity; the only copy we ever possessed—a 90r.—was sold several years since to the late Mr. Tapling for £20. The wearisome surcharges on the 1881 issue seem to have gone to alarming prices, *pace* our author. The enumeration of some 20 varieties of the first issue of

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\* Nouveau Catalogue Complet de Timbres Poste, par J. Barbarin, Paris, 2, Rue Menars.

Cashmere, used and unused, in the aggregate of about £28 will probably make the mouths water of Major Evans and other Asiatic collectors who really understand these stamps. Two shades of the Indian 4 annas with inverted head are quoted, used about £15 each, and unused at half as much again. We fancy we have lately seen a used copy cut round on offer at a price decidedly in advance of this! The 6 c. red surcharge on the 16 c. blue of Labuan is priced at £6; as elsewhere recorded, it sold recently in London for £16!

The prices given of the earliest Lombardy stamps clearly show that M. Barbarin has never tried to get them unused. We recommend him to do so for a year or two, when he will probably alter his present ideas. We learn that the Post Office Mauritius are purchasable objects at £200 each used, and £240 unused—when met with. The Chiapas stamps (in Mexico) are represented solely by the 2 reales, while *en revanche* Nossi-bé can be obtained complete for £16, and this knowledge will no doubt cause a rush for them. That the author's acquaintance with the scarcer varieties of the English Colonials is, to say the least, shadowy, is to be gathered from the prices affixed to the Natal 1s. with circular *red* surcharge—£8 used, £12 unused. We wonder who has it in the latter condition, and how many copies are known even used. We have only heard of three, so M. Barbarin's copies are not dear.

The New South Wales list is, on the whole, a good one, revealing few startling quotations, but why were the "hill unshaded" among the "prominent varieties" of the 1d. Sydney Plate II., and the 3d. on laid paper—white and blue—omitted? In the 1856 issue the 2d. watermark II is omitted, but we fancy the present selling price of this, as of its newly-discovered *confrère*, is ascertainable. The 2d. of the 1866, arched rectangle type, watermarked with a double lined numeral 3, is also quoted used and unused, though as the stamp does not exist (in our opinion) the prices quoted are deficient somewhat in interest. The new Republic stamps which we think are generally held here as ineffable trash, occupy two pages and range from 4s. each to £3. The utility of pricing every variety of the unofficial perforations of New Zealand, used and unused, is as evident as the prices are amusing. The Peruvian list is comprehensive, and must have given the author no little trouble, while the illustrations of the surcharges for the several towns or districts such as Piura, Yca, &c., will be of service. The 50 reis Donna Maria, Portugal, unused, is quoted incorrectly higher than the 100—the latter with the *old brown* gum uncanceled being a veritable *rara avis*. The first issue of Roumania is a fair reflex of the current market values, but in the 1858 issue on *blue* paper M. Barbarin is egregiously in error—the 40 paras being common, the 80 rare, and the 5 almost *introuvable*. We do not think it will be generally conceded that the St. Helena 6d., without surcharge, was "never issued," but it was probably not intentionally so printed. The Swiss list is one of the best in the book, though the 4 c. Vaud uncanceled is somewhat undervalued. As may be expected in the stamps of Tasmania and Victoria, there are many errors of a more or less amusing nature, inevitable among such a tangled skein of "infinite variety." The stamps of Wurtemberg are fairly financed, but although M. Barbarin quotes the 18 kr. (1859), perf. 13, on *thick* paper, we shall not conquer our incredulity until we have seen the animal in question. A table of the various watermarks and a list of errata and corrections of the first portion complete the book. Despite the inaccuracies we have printed *cum multis aliis*, the book has an interest that will make it a welcome addition to the library, and in thousands of cases the valuations of M. Barbarin will, without doubt, form a basis for guidance to purchaser and vendor.

As we have previously stated it is obviously impossible to produce such a work as shall meet all the exigencies of the situation, and the author has done his best, and with a fair measure of success, to meet them. The volume has been issued less with a pretension to a Philatelic than a pecuniary hand-book, and we have, therefore, practically confined our remarks to the latter aspect, though it will serve both purposes, and perhaps the former the better of the two. We note that a supplement to contain the errata, corrections and alterations will be issued later on, hence we may fairly anticipate quite a bulky addition at the end of the current year. The typography, paper, illustrations, and general appearance of the book are excellent, and the author may be congratulated on the termination of his arduous task, and on the conviction that, we feel assured, he must have arrived at—"not to do it again!"

## 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 Twelfth Meeting of the Season 1891-92 was held at the Salisbury Hotel, Fleet-street, on Friday, the 25th March, 1892, at 7.30 p.m. The Vice-President was in the chair, and was supported by Messrs. E. D. Bacon, C. J. Daun, C. Neville, C. N. Biggs, T. Maycock, Hastings E. Wright, J. H. Redman, R. Pearce, E. J. Nankivell, A. B. Creeke, R. Meyer, J. A. Tilleard, and R. Garth (members), and Mr. H. Grey (visitor). After the minutes of the last meeting had been read and confirmed, the Secretary read a letter from Messrs. Theodor Buhl & Co., requesting permission to copy, in the *Philatelic Record*, the published reports of the Society's meetings, and it was resolved that the permission should be granted, upon the understanding that all notices of the meetings should be inserted as "copied from the LONDON PHILATELIST, the monthly Journal of the Philatelic Society, London." A letter from Mr. Skipwith, the Secretary of the Leeds Philatelic Society, proposing the affiliation of that Society with the London Society, was read, and was referred to the Committee for consideration. The Secretary also read a letter from Mr. G. F. Hynes (a member of the Society), who stated that he had a letter in his possession, in his official capacity of Postmaster-General of Punjab, the record sheets of the 4 annas stamp of the first issue of India, of the first and last printings. With the letter, which contained other interesting information,

Mr. Hynes forwarded tracings of the sheets of stamps referred to, and his communication was directed to be acknowledged with the thanks of the Society. Mr. G. F. Napier, proposed by Major Evans, and seconded by Mr. Bacon; Mr. Carl Lindenberg, of Berlin, proposed by Dr. Kalckhoff, and seconded by the Vice-President; Mr. W. W. Blest, proposed by the Secretary, and seconded by Mr. Street; Mr. J. A. Nix, proposed by Mr. Redman, and seconded by the Vice-President; Mr. Martin Wears, proposed by Mr. Anderson, and seconded by the Secretary; and Mr. W. Beckwith, proposed by Mr. Firth, and seconded by the Assistant-Secretary, were duly elected members of the Society. Mr. Creeke produced for the inspection of the members present, an unused copy of the recently issued £1 stamp of Great Britain (in the new colour), surcharged "I.R. Official," and a very interesting block of proofs of the lithographed 2d. stamp of Victoria (Queen on throne), forwarded by Stanley Gibbons, Limited, was also shown. The further revision of the reference list of the stamps of Ceylon was adjourned to the next meeting, and the Vice-President impressed upon the members present, the necessity for bringing their collections of the stamps of this country, in order to enable the meeting to successfully deal with the subject of the numerous surcharges which now remain to be considered. On the motion of the Secretary, seconded by Mr. Bacon, it was resolved, "That this Society sincerely appreciates the efforts of the Philatelic Protection Association in prosecuting certain dealers for frauds in connection with stamps, and tenders its congratulations to the Association on the successful result of the action so taken in the interests of true Philately."

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The Thirteenth Meeting of the Season was held at the Salisbury Hotel, on Friday, the 8th April, 1892, at 7.30 p.m., and was attended by the Vice-President and the following members, viz.:—Messrs. E. D. Bacon, W. Silk, C. J. Daun, C. N. Biggs, T. Maycock, W. T. Willett, Hastings E. Wright, G. B. T. Nicholl, J. A. Nix, R. Pearce, E. J. Nankivell, A. B. Creeke, R. Meyer, W. W. Blest, J. A. Tilleard, and D. Garth. Two visitors, Messrs. J. A. Skertchly, and E. W. Reeves, were also present. The chair was taken by the Vice-President, and the minutes of the last meeting were read and confirmed. A letter from Mr. Gibb, sending a specimen of the 1 cent. stamp of Canada, which had apparently been obliterated before being placed on the envelope, was read. Mr. Gibb stated that on receipt of the letter bearing the stamp in question he had made inquiries in regard to it, and had ascertained that the Post Office officials would cancel whole sheets of stamps for any known firm, to be used on letters without any further marking. With the letter, Mr. Gibb forwarded, for the inspection of the members, half-sheets of two values of the stamps cancelled in the manner described. In reference to the letter from Mr. Hynes, read at the last meeting, the Secretary stated that he had made inquiries as to sheets of the 4 annas stamp of the first issue of India, supposed to be at the India Office, and that he had ascertained that the sheets were not now to be found there. Mr. Bacon read a letter from Mr. de Coppet sending a pair of the one shilling (black) stamps of Barbados, imperforate vertically, and also the 6d. orange-vermilion stamp of Grenada printed on laid paper. Neither of these varieties appears to have been hitherto chronicled. Mr. Henry Grey, proposed by the Treasurer, and seconded by Mr. Bacon; Mr. Edgar L. Waterlow, proposed by Mr. Geldard, and seconded by Dr. Keynes; and Major W. White, proposed by the Earl of Kingston, and seconded by Mr. Bacon, were elected members of the Society. In accordance with the Society's statutes, the

Treasurer presented his annual balance sheet, and Mr. A. W. Chambers and Mr. R. Pearce were appointed to audit the accounts and report thereon to the Annual General Meeting in May. Some discussion ensued in reference to the Society's reference lists of stamps, and it was resolved, upon the motion of Mr. Nankivell, seconded by Mr. Wright, "That it be referred to the Committee to consider the best mode of further facilitating the revision of the Society's lists."

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### BRIGHTON AND SUSSEX PHILATELIC SOCIETY.

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*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.

**T**HE Seventh Meeting of the Season (1891-92) was held at Markwell's Hotel, Brighton, on Monday, March 14th, at 7.45 p.m. Present:—Messrs. J. H. Redman, A. de Worms, R. J. Woodman, R. J. Thrupp, P. de Worms, J. W. Gillespie, M. P. Castle, and W. T. Willett. The Vice-President in the chair. The list of "Areas of Collection" was revised and completed, and it was decided to send it for publication in the *London Philatelist*, *Philatelic Record*, and *Monthly Journal*.

The Eighth Meeting of the Season (1891-92) was held at Markwell's Hotel, Brighton, on Monday, March 28th, at 7.45 p.m. The President in the chair. Present: Messrs. M. P. Castle, Rev. E. H. Rogers, J. H. Redman, A. de Worms, A. H. Thomas, R. J. Woodman, P. de Worms, R. J. Thrupp, H. Stafford Smith, and W. T. Willett, and one visitor. The minutes of the previous meeting having been read and confirmed, the revised list of "Areas of Collection," with an introduction written by the President, was read and approved. The business of the evening consisted in drawing up a set of rules for a stamp exchange circuit amongst members of the Society. Mr. R. J. Thrupp having consented to act as Hon. Sec. of the circuit, was duly appointed, and instructed to have the rules printed and to forward copies to members of the Society.

#### AREAS OF COLLECTION.

COMPILED BY THE

*Brighton and Sussex Philatelic Society.*

The preparation of the accompanying list of adhesive stamps was undertaken by the Brighton and Sussex Philatelic Society for the following reasons. To acquaint its members by discussion and reference with the several stamp issuing countries and their relative philatelic importance; to induce members to consider better what countries they should collect with a reasonable hope of completeness; to form a basis of survey for the Society as to what reference lists it should draw up at a future date, and to correct the misleading lists of countries already existing.

It will be seen that the three divisions consist of the British Empire, the various European countries and their possessions, and the remaining countries not coming under the two first heads. The significance of these groups *as a whole* is primarily philatelic—geographical being subordinated to political considerations. In grouping the subdivisions the relative propinquity of countries has been considered where feasible.

It is obvious that such a list can only be tentative, and that each collector will follow his bent, but as it is possible that the list may suggest some ideas as to the limits of collecting or the future arrangement of albums, it has been decided to present it—for what it is worth—to the Philatelic world.

#### A.—THE BRITISH EMPIRE.

1. Great Britain and European Possessions.
2. British Columbia and Vancouver Island, Canada.
3. New Brunswick, Newfoundland, Nova Scotia, Prince Edward Island.
4. British Guiana, British Honduras.
5. Bahamas, Bermuda, Falkland Islands, Jamaica, Turks' Islands, Leeward Islands :—Antigua, Dominica, Montserrat, Nevis, St. Christopher, Virgin Islands.
6. Windward Islands :—Barbadoes, Grenada, St. Lucia, St. Vincent, Tobago, Trinidad.
7. British India and Native States.
8. Ceylon, Strait Settlements, Hong Kong.
9. Mauritius, Seychelles.
10. Transvaal, Swaziland.
11. Cape of Good Hope, Natal, Griqualaud, British Bechuanaland, Zululand, British East, South, and Central African Companies.
12. Gambia, Gold Coast, Lagos, Sierra Leone, St. Helena.
13. New South Wales.
14. New Zealand.
15. Queensland.
16. South Australia.
17. Tasmania.
18. Victoria.
19. Western Australia.
20. Fiji Islands, Samoa, Tonga, British North Borneo, Labuan, Sarawak.

#### B.—EUROPE AND COLONIES.

1. France and Colonies, Monaco.
2. Spain and Colonies.
3. Portugal and Colonies.
4. Norway, Sweden, Denmark and Colonies, Iceland.
5. Belgium, Congo, Holland and Colonies, Luxemburg.
6. Germany, (Non-stamp-issuing States), Alsace-Lorraine (so-called), Baden, Bergedorf, Brèmen, Brunswick, Hamburg, Hanover, Lübeck, Mecklenburg-Schwerin, Mecklenburg-Strelitz, Oldenburg, Prussia, Saxony, Schleswig-Holstein.
7. Germany (Stamp-issuing States), Thurn and Taxis, German Confederation and Empire, Bavaria, Wurtemberg.
8. Switzerland.

9. Italy and Component States.
10. Russia (with Locals), Finland, Poland, Levant, Livonia.
11. Austria, Hungary, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Danubian Steam Navigation Co.
12. Bulgaria, Montenegro, Roumelia, Roumania, Servia.
13. Turkey, Greece.

C.—NON-EUROPEAN COUNTRIES OR COLONIES.

1. U.S. of America.
2. U.S. Locals.
3. Confederate States and Locals.
4. Mexico and Locals.
5. Costa Rica, Guanacaste, Guatemala, Honduras, Nicaragua, San Salvador, Haiti, S. Domingo.
6. Republic of Columbia and Component States.
7. Venezuela, La Guaira, Brazil, Uruguay, Paraguay.
8. Bolivia, Ecuador.
9. Chili, Peru, Pacific Steam Navigation Co.
10. Argentine Confederation and Republic, Buenos Ayres, Cordova, Corrientes.
11. Afghanistan.
12. Cashmere.
13. Japan.
14. Bokhara, Persia, China, Shanghai, Corea, Formosa, Siam.
15. Egypt, Suez Canal, Liberia, Boer Republic, Stellaland, Orange Free State.
16. Sandwich Islands.

MANCHESTER PHILATELIC SOCIETY.

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



HE Eleventh Meeting of the Session was held at the Mitre Hotel, on Friday, February 26th, at which there were thirteen members present, the President in the chair.

The minutes of the last meeting were read and confirmed.

Due notice was given of the nomination of a proposed new member of the Society, whose election will take place at the next meeting by ballot.

A vote of thanks was accorded to Messrs. Theodor Buhl & Co. for a further gift of books to the library.

The President read the continuation of his paper on the English Stamps, dealing with the fourpenny stamps.

The remainder of the evening was spent in the exhibition of novelties, the most noticeable being a pair of Great Britain 3d. trefoil, with private mark, plate 2, imperf.; the one penny, black, large crown, unused; and the one penny, stars in corners, imperf., large crown, unused, all shown by the President.

The Twelfth Meeting of the Session was held at the Mitre Hotel, Manchester, on Friday, the 11th of March, the Vice-President in the chair, there being twelve members present at the meeting.

The minutes of the last meeting were read and confirmed.

Mr. Ernest Perrie was duly elected a member of the Society.

The Vice-President read an interesting paper on the Stamps of France, quoting extensively from the various official regulations issued from time to time, and calling attention to the several circumstances which necessitated the issue of individual stamps.

Owing to the lateness of the hour at which the Vice-President concluded the first portion of his paper for the evening, no time was left for discussion; the Vice-President was therefore asked to read the continuation at the next meeting, when the whole paper could be more conveniently discussed.

The Thirteenth Meeting of the Session was held at the Mitre Hotel, on March 25th, 1892, there being twelve members present, the Vice-President in the chair.

The minutes of the last meeting were read and confirmed.

The Vice-President continued his paper on the French Stamps, dealing with the issues from 1870 up to the present date.

A discussion took place upon the advisability of printing the best papers read during the Session for private circulation, the same being adjourned for further consideration. Numerous novelties were exhibited, among them being a strip of three Sarawak, one cent on 3c., containing an error, ceht, shown by Mr. Fildes.

DUDLEY PIXTON, *Assist. Hon. Sec.*

## LEEDS PHILATELIC SOCIETY.

Committee for the Session 1891-92.

*President*: REV. T. S. FLEMING.

*Ex-President*: JOSEPH SCOTT.

*Vice-Presidents*: W. BECKWITH & R. S. WIGIN.      *Treasurer*: J. H. THACKRAH.

*Hon. Secs.*: W. DENISON ROEBUCK, F.L.S., & T. K. SKIPWITH.

*Librarian*: F. J. KIDSON.



ON the 16th January, the Seventh Meeting of the Second Session was held at the Leeds Mechanics' Institute, at 6.30 p.m., the President in the chair. Eight members were present. The minutes of last meeting having been read and confirmed, the Secretaries laid on the table a circular announcing the forthcoming publication of an Official Monthly Journal by the London Philatelic Society, and also Messrs. Stanley Gibbons' Journal for December, presented by the publishers.

Novelties were shown by the President and Messrs. Beckwith, Roebuck, and Skipwith.

Mr. W. Denison Roebuck then proceeded to describe the *Isabelline stamps of Spain* down to and including the 13th issue, as well as some of the forgeries current at the time, many of which are to be found postally used—having successfully escaped detection by the Spanish Post Office Authorities. These forgeries were made with the intention of defrauding the Revenue, and not to impose on unsuspecting collectors.

A vote of thanks was passed to Mr. Roebuck for his paper, which was illustrated by his collection, as well as by Mr. Scott's, kindly lent for the occasion. The other members present also showed their series of these stamps.

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The Eighth Meeting was held on the 6th February. In the absence of the President through illness, Mr. O. Firth was voted to the chair. Seven members were present. The minutes of the last meeting were read and confirmed.

Mr. Skipwith exhibited the first number of the *LONDON PHILATELIST*, and the London Society was warmly congratulated on the issue of such a high class journal which in every respect is worthy of the reputation of the Society, and which will undoubtedly prove of great assistance to collectors who cannot enjoy the advantage of attending its meetings.

Mr. W. Beckwith then described the stamps of New Brunswick and Nova Scotia, illustrating his remarks by his series of these stamps, and the other members present exhibited their collections of these Colonies. A vote of thanks was passed to Mr. Beckwith on the motion of Mr. Thackrah, seconded by the Chairman. The remainder of the evening was spent in the exhibition of novelties, and part of Mr. O. Firth's very fine series of West Indian stamps.

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The Ninth Meeting was held on Saturday, the 20th February, Mr. W. B. Beckwith, Vice-President, being in the chair, in the absence of the President. Seven members were present. Mr. F. J. Kidson, was unanimously appointed to the vacant office of Librarian. The Chairman announced that he had received from Mr. O. Firth his paper upon the stamps of the Virgin Islands, together with his fine collection, accompanied by a letter regretting his (Mr. Firth's) inability to be present and read it in person, owing to a severe cold. It was, however, considered by the members that it was desirable that Mr. Firth should have the opportunity of reading his own paper, and it was accordingly unanimously resolved that the paper be postponed to such future date as might be convenient to him.

The members present then discussed the new Letter Cards and embossed 2½d. envelopes, which were considered to be all that could be desired as regards their design and execution, but excited criticism as regarded the price of the "stationery" and the thinness of the envelopes, and it was suggested that these would be improved by having a reticulated pattern printed on the inside, as is sometimes done by private firms.

The Tenth Meeting of the Session was held in the Society's Room, at the Mechanics' Institute, Leeds, on Saturday evening, 5th March, 1892, Mr. W. Beckwith, senior vice-president, in the chair. Nine members and one visitor were present. The minutes of the last meeting having been read and confirmed, notice was given on behalf of the Committee of a proposal for the admission of junior members. Novelties and other interesting stamps were shown by the President, and Messrs. Beckwith, Firth, Wingate, and Skipwith, including a used set of six values of British South Africa, surcharged "B.C.A." by the President.

The object of the evening was the postponed paper on the stamps of the Virgin Islands, which Mr. O. Firth was now able to read in person. In the course of his detailed account of the various issues, he was able to supplement from his own investigations the London Society's work upon the stamps of the British West Indies, this colony being one of Mr. Firth's specialities. The interest of the paper was considerably enhanced by the exhibition of his very fine collection, and at the close a hearty vote of thanks was passed on the proposition of the President, seconded by Mr. George Wingate.

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The Eleventh Meeting was held on the 19th March, the President in the chair, and nine members and a visitor present.

The minutes of the last meeting were read and confirmed. An addition was made to the Rules whereby young persons under 21 might be admitted as Associates on payment of half the usual subscription (without entrance fee) and without the the power of voting.

Novelties were shown by Messrs. W. Beckwith and Eugene Egly.

Mr. T. Kershaw Skipwith then proceeded to complete his account of the stamps of Tasmania, commencing with the seventh issue (1870-1871), illustrating his remarks by the exhibition of his collection. The other members who showed Tasmanian stamps were Messrs. Beckwith, Wingate, Thackrah, and the President. At the close a vote of thanks was passed on the motion of the Chairman, supported by Messrs. W. Beckwith and F. J. Kidson.

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The Twelfth Meeting was held on the 2nd of April, with nine members present, and the President in the Chair.

The minutes of the last meeting were read and confirmed, after which it was agreed to hold the next meeting on the 30th instead of the 16th April. Mr. W. Beckwith was congratulated on his election to the membership of the Philatelic Society of London. He drew the attention of the meeting to the heavy cost incurred by the Philatelic Protection Society in their recent praiseworthy and successful prosecution of certain notorious forgers and dealers in faked stamps, and all the members present contributed towards the fund. A candidate for membership having been duly proposed and seconded, the meeting proceeded to the examination of the novelties shown by Mr. Beckwith, both the Secretaries, and the President,

including the new British penny international post card, the diminution in the size exciting adverse criticism. Mr. Skipwith drew attention to, and exhibited a variety of perforation ( $10 \times 12\frac{1}{2}$ ) of the  $2\frac{1}{2}$ d. on 4d. South Australia, which had escaped the attention of all the chroniclers except Mr. Gilbert Lockyer.

Mr. John H. Thackrah then described the stamps of the Bahamas, illustrated by his collection and those of Messrs. O. Firth, Skipwith, Wingate, Duffield, Beckwith, and the President. A vote of thanks to Mr. Thackrah was passed on the motion of Mr. Skipwith, seconded by Mr. Roebuck. On the motion of the latter, seconded by Mr. Beckwith, a special vote of thanks to Mr. Firth for his kindness in sending his very nearly complete series of these stamps was also passed.

The Secretaries announced that they had been unable to purchase a copy for the library of the London Society's work on the stamps of British North America, to complete the set of the parent society's publications.

The Secretaries may be addressed at No. 13, Victoria Road, Hyde Park, Leeds.

T. KERSHAW SKIPWITH,  
W. DENISON ROEBUCK, } *Hon. Secretaries.*



## Correspondence.

### GREAT BRITAIN.—THE 10D. DIE.

*To the Editor of the LONDON PHILATELIST.*

DEAR SIR,—I am making some researches into the history of the 10d. Great Britain (embossed type), 1848. Mr. Westoby has kindly told me that after the issue of this stamp had been done away with, and a temporary use of the die in 1863, that impressions were struck on Stock Exchange Telegraph Forms, and in different colours.

I should be grateful if any of our philatelic friends, possessing copies of these stamps, would kindly send them to me for inspection.

Yours faithfully,

KINGSTON.

Kilronan Castle,  
Keadue, Carrick-on-Shannon,  
April 12th, 1892.

### FRENCH COLONIAL STAMPS.

*To the Editor of the LONDON PHILATELIST.*

DEAR SIR,—At the risk of wearying you I must assure you of my admiration for your new journal. It is 25 years since I began collecting, and yet, with the exception of one or two schoolboys, I have never had the pleasure of meeting a philatelist in the flesh. Hitherto collectors like myself, living in the country have been almost wholly in the hands of dealers. Often we are in trouble; we want help, to whom can we turn? Now, Sir, am I right in supposing you will befriend such anxious souls?

Thankful indeed will many a lowly collector be to your excellent Society if, through the medium of your magnificent journal, he can apply for help and guidance in times of difficulty and doubt. Philatelists are beset by dangers, not only from forgeries, which may with due care be detected and avoided. All collectors' hearts must have rejoiced at the result of the recent trials, but much remains to be done. There are such things as reprints and remainders.

I may mention a case in point. A few days ago a friend, who has correspondence with Madagascar, told me certain stamps he had sent me ought to become rare, as the French did not allow them to be long in use. I therefore wrote to a leading dealer for some. He sent me the enclosed set for 2s. 6d.!! What are these stamps? Have they really been through the post? Are they remainders? There ought not under the circumstances to

be many in the market. How comes it, then, to be flooded?

I should be most grateful for your opinion—first on the stamps themselves, and secondly on the above facts.

I enclose my card,

And remain, dear Sir

Yours faithfully,

AN ISOLATED COLLECTOR.

Ashbourne, Derbyshire,

April 17th, 1892.

[P.S.—We insert our correspondent's letter with some reluctance, as we have no desire for any self-praise. Our opinion on the French Colonial stamps in this and preceding numbers has been plainly stated. The remedy lies in the hands of collectors—to ignore them. A valued correspondent writes us as follows:—"These Madagascar stamps are purely a speculative issue, made and post-marked specially for collectors. We have never seen a genuinely used specimen on envelope, though, of course, we don't say such does not exist. Of course, they can't be got in Tamatave at face value. The P.O. officials there took care to buy in nearly the whole issue, at least so we are informed."]

### THE CONNELL STAMP.

*To the Editor of the LONDON PHILATELIST.*

SIR,—In the January number of your handsome journal there is a slight error, which you will pardon me for correcting. At page 21 in your account of the sixth meeting of the season, at the Salisbury Hotel, when referring to the large number of rare stamps shown by Mr. Vernon Roberts, you mention the New Brunswick "O'Connell." Now, whether the writer of this item was an ardent son of the "Emerald Isle," who desired to place in the great Irish agitator's bright crown one more laurel by connecting his name with matters philatelic, I know not, but the word, as you are no doubt aware, is wrongly used. It is "Connell," not "O'Connell," but as the error is one so often seen in print, perhaps I may be pardoned for stating a few facts. Lockyer, in page 145 of "Colonial Stamps," falls into the error, calling the Postmaster of New Brunswick "Mr. O'Connell," and makes a second error in giving the date of the stamp as 1861. This date seems to be given by all authorities, and it is clearly wrong; and Major Evans, in his "Handbook," although he gives Mr. Connell

his right name, writes in error "it is difficult to understand why the design of the 5 cents stamp should ever have been altered from the type with the Queen's head." The 5 cents with the Queen's head was never altered, as the 5 cents "Connell" came first, and the 5 cents Queen's head second. I will try to be brief in explanation. The Honorable Charles Connell, of Woodstock, New Brunswick, was Postmaster-General of New Brunswick at the time of the change in the currency of the Colony from pence to cents in 1860. Early in that year, by a Minute of Council, Mr. Connell was authorised to procure four stamps—viz., 1c., 5c., 10c., 12½c.: remember that the 2c. and 17c. were an after consideration. Mr. Connell procured the 1c. (Locomotive), 10c. (Queen's head), 12½c. (Steamship), and, to immortalize himself, brought forth also the 5c. brown with his own face thereon. The moment the Government found out what he had done they called on him to suppress the 5c. brown and issue a new one with the Queen's head. This Mr. Connell flatly refused to do, and resigned. Mr. Connell's resignation letter bears date May 19th, 1860, the stamp was at once re-called and the Green 5c. with Queen's head issued in its place some short time after. Therefore, the date of the Connell is 1860, as can be proved by a reference to the Royal Gazette of May, 1860. Whether the stamp was actually issued to the public or not seems an open question; I am inclined to the belief that it was, as I have letters in my possession from colleagues of Mr. Connell, still alive, and who were with him in the N. B. Government Station, that it *was* in use, and they would seem to be pretty fair authority. But whether actually in use or not, it is looked on the world over as a peculiarly unique stamp.

I am, your obedient servant,

A. A. BARTLETT.

Charlottetown, P. E. Island,  
March 17th, 1892.

#### PHILATELIC LITERATURE FOR PUBLIC LIBRARIES.

*To the Editor of the LONDON PHILATELIST.*

DEAR SIR,—Although I am not a member of the Philatelic Society of London, I have been a collector of stamps continuously ever since the year 1867, and having just received from your publishers the earlier issues of your splendid magazine, I beg to offer you my most sincere congratulations on its appearance.

I also take the liberty of suggesting that in large centres, such as Birmingham, where no philatelic society exists, a copy of the LONDON PHILATELIST should be periodically forwarded

to the leading local public library. There is a magnificent reference library in this city, to which most of the leading literary, scientific, and other societies send their respective journals. There are also in Birmingham very many small, not exactly wealthy, but none the less enthusiastic, collectors who would, I feel confident, be considerably aided in their philatelic aspirations could they see your magazine regularly at a given place.

The great ones of the philatelic world, as well as all the dealers, owe not a little to the large body of small collectors, who come and go and rise and fall all the year round, for it is the small collector who plays the by no means unimportant part in (to a great extent) making true philately possible, both as a scientific and commercial pursuit.

To my mind the further your magazine goes the more it will be sought after and subscribed for, and nothing but mutual good could result both to your Society and to the small collector were it to become known that the LONDON PHILATELIST could be seen on the tables of some of the large public libraries in the provinces, while at the same time the fascinating pursuit to which so many of us are votaries would, to some extent, be further brought, in a dignified manner, under the notice of the outside public.

Yours truly,

WILMOT CORFIELD.

409, Harborne Road,  
Edgbaston, Birmingham,  
April 6th, 1892.

[This question, with regard to a Metropolitan Library, has already been mooted, and within certain limits is one, in our opinion, worthy of adoption.—ED.]

#### EXHIBITIONS.

*To the Editor of the LONDON PHILATELIST.*

DEAR SIR,—Will you allow me to suggest that the Philatelic Society of London might hold an *annual* two day exhibition of postage stamps. Such annual exhibition might be kept within easily manageable and inexpensive limits by confining it to stamps included in the last issued volume of the Society's catalogue. Let there be payment as before for space and stalls for dealers, and let all, dealers as well as collectors, be limited to showing the same countries. For instance, supposing an exhibition had to be arranged for the autumn it would (on the supposition that the next Catalogue of the Society will be that of British India) be a British Indian Exhibition.

The advantages of an exhibition of a given group would be that it would concentrate

attention within a manageable area, it would lead to more profitable study, and more thoroughness. And as most of the leading dealers now arrange their stock with each country in a book to itself, additional interest would be lent to the exhibition by the opportunities that would be afforded for noting gaps and for filling them.

Again, further interest might be added by an interesting half-hour lecture on the gems of the exhibition, illustrated by lantern slide presentations of photo reproductions of the *points d'appui*.

Yours truly,  
EXHIBITOR

THE NEW SOUTH WALES LAUREATED  
"REPRINTS."

To the Editor of the LONDON PHILATELIST.

DEAR SIR,—The members of the London Society having been good enough to permit me to give a personal explanation of my connection with the above stamps at one of their recent meetings, I venture to trust you will kindly reprint the article—published in my *Philatelic Monthly* for December. The article is subjoined, and was published together with the original paper by Messrs. C. J. Phillips and M. P. Castle. To my statement I have nothing to add, but have omitted several paragraphs dealing with the connection of those interested in the matter in England. Regarding the set of sheets sold by me to Mr. B. P. Rodd, I was misinformed, as he tells me he did not resell but still possesses them. I am visiting Hamburg shortly, and will settle with Mr. Rodd. In conclusion, I may add that I have been more than pleased with the kindness and courtesy I have received from the many collectors and dealers I have met in England, and will carry home to Australia most pleasant memories of my short stay here.

I am yours faithfully,

DAWSON A. VINDIN.

London, March 15th, 1892.

D. A. VINDIN AND THE LAUREATED  
"REPRINTS" OF NEW SOUTH WALES.

(From *Vindin's Philatelic Monthly* for December, 1891.)

Some years ago, in 1884 or 1885, as near as I can remember, I bought from a stranger, who came to my office, a fine unused pair of 8d. "Laureated" New South Wales, which I looked upon as almost priceless gems. My visitor informed me he had also a number of other unused copies, the remainder of the sheets, and also a sheet of 6d. Laureated unused. He did not care to sell them at the

time, but told me he might do so later on, but if I wished to purchase I would have to be prepared to pay handsomely for them. He would not let me know who he was, and further informed me that he was a clerk in a Government office, and if I made inquiries, or discovered his identity, I would never get the stamps. Beyond mentioning the matter to a number of people, one of whom repeated the story, more or less correctly, to Mr. E. Short-house, of Birmingham, who afterwards, when visiting Sydney in 1886, offered me a commission if I would introduce the possessor of the stamps to him, I heard nothing more about them, although I occasionally met the "mysterious" owner. About November, 1887, Mr. Van Dyck one day mentioned that he had a few hundred pounds laying idle, and told me he would halve any profit if I could find him a cheap line of good Australian stamps. Acting by this, I introduced him some days later to the party mentioned above, and left them together, as they appeared to get on very well. This was the last I saw of the man from whom I believe Van Dyck obtained his sheets, or plates, if he *did* get the plates. Van Dyck told me first that he had seen one sheet of each; shortly after that he had seen eight sheets each of the 2d. "star," 6d. and 8d., and also a sheet of the 8d. in blue, and that he had offered a good price and hoped to get them in a few days' time. About a week after he produced 25 sheets (stuck together with ancient-looking gum), and stated that he had bought them for £350. He then took them away, saying he would clean them up, and a few days later the same (or similar) twenty-five sheets were duly brought forth as clean and bright-looking as one could wish for, and I congratulated Van Dyck on the excellence of his cleaning process, as explained by him—namely, steaming, ironing, &c. Van Dyck then handed me seven sets of sheets for sale at £200 per set, the proceeds (£1,400), together with £200 for his own set, or £1,600 in all, to be credited to a special account, the stated cost of £350 being made a first charge against the account. After Van Dyck received this £350 all cash coming in was to be equally divided between us, which, in the event of the stamps being sold at the full price, would have given me £625, although as I offered the stamps with my personal guarantee, this meant a liability of £1,400 (Van Dyck's set, of course, not counting). Is it likely I would have handled these stamps had I known of there being more than the twenty-five sheets in existence? I had a clean reputation and a good business to maintain, therefore, the

supposition that I was aware of the larger quantity is, to my mind, absurd. I was excited over the find, which I considered was the best thing in the stamp line ever unearthed. I *knew* the plates had not been in the possession of the Government for years, and did not think it possible for them to be anywhere else, and taking into account what I have just stated, was I not justified in believing the stamps to be perfectly genuine, and original? I certainly had every reason to believe this was so, and no ground whatever for believing otherwise. The number unearthed did not, to me, appear an impossible quantity, as I was led to believe they were discovered stuck together between the leaves of an old Ledger in a Government office, all of which I *now* know, or believe, to be fiction. I was highly indignant at the suspicion cast upon the stamps in London, and considered myself an injured individual. When Van Dyck left for London in 1888, and took with him the balance of the stamps, I was glad to be done with the whole business, as it had only resulted in expense, annoyance, and disappointment to me. Van Dyck wrote me an everyday letter from Colombo on the way to England, and since then I have had no communication with him whatever, and know nothing beyond what I have heard from London collectors and dealers. I would have spoken out long ago but for two reasons: If I had attempted to praise the stamps, or say anything in their favour, I would have been considered as an interested party, endeavouring to assist the sale of my own goods, which they were not. On the other hand, if I had said anything against them I would have been looked upon as being actuated by feelings of spite or malice against the then holder, and in either case would have received no credit for coming forward, therefore I am not sorry that I am at last able to add my statement to the fund of information concerning Van Dyck and his stamps.

Regarding other statements, I would further add that, although I offered and forwarded a set of sheets to the late Mr. T. K. Tapling, I did not succeed in selling them to him. His set he must therefore have bought from Van Dyck himself.

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Stanley Gibbons, Limited, state "We (S. G., Ltd.) sold a quantity of these stamps in the belief that they were as stated, that is, genuine original remainders, printed from the original plates at the time the genuine stamps were used." Now this is exactly what I (D. A. Vindin) did, and I certainly think any fair-minded person will grant that I had much more reason to believe in their authenticity than had Stanley Gibbons, Limited.

I cannot tell whether these stamps are old Government reprints, or reprints made by Van Dyck from the original plates, although I am inclined to think they are the latter, and therefore it is useless for me to add to the crop of theories already developed.

When I offered the three sheets to Mr. Castle by letter on November 24th, 1887, I had not then seen the sheets, and did not know that there were more than one sheet of each. I found that out later on when the twenty-five sheets appeared on the scene.

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When I stated that the old plates had been chiseled or planed down, I merely repeated what had been told me over and over again by those connected with the Government department at the time, and I had no reason to doubt the tradition.

In conclusion, I believe I am correct in stating that none of the officials in Government printing, or Postal Department have any recollection of the "*Vien*," or "*Laureated*" plates having been in either office within the last twenty-five or thirty years.



## Occasional Notes.

IN reply to inquiries made by an esteemed correspondent, we have ascertained by personal examination that the perforations of the English stamps surcharged "specimen" described by Mr. A. de Worms in our February number gauge 12, though not accurately. They can, however, only be this, as the divergence is more marked when applied to any other perforation. It seems, however, to us that our correspondent, who had carefully taken the gauge at 11, must either be mistaken or have seen another set. In the minutes of the Brighton Society of February 15th the 3d. has, owing to a printer's error, been substituted for the 2d.

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OUR enterprising, if not original, contemporary *Tit-Bits* has recently been occupying some portion of its valuable space with an "original," if somewhat stale, description of philately. It is evidently an *olla-podrida*, and we recognise several old facts with modern faces. There are, however, one or two sentences which call for comment, notably the one in which it says the majority of old-established respectable firms are not above this class of trickery, *i.e.*, making imperforate varieties and other curiosities and thereby converting stamps of a nominal into a high value. This is an assertion that, on behalf of the leading dealers in this country, we can most conscientiously deny. It is amusing also to note that the "Faker" can remove the watermark in the paper upon which stamps are printed, or even substitute another of greater value. We thought that in the recent cases the maxim of ingenuity with intent to defraud had been reached, but there is a deeper depth still. This assumes, however, that the reliability of our contemporary on matters philatelic is beyond question, both assumptions being hard to swallow.

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WE note in the *Metropolitan Philatelist* that Mr. Corwin announces his retirement from the editorial chair of that journal in a leader, nor does our contemporary retire without dealing a few smart raps in various quarters, whether deserved or even called for is entirely beyond our province to pass an opinion on. In his valedictory address he impresses upon his readers that specialism is the thing of the future, and general collecting that of the past, mentioning that he himself

would now confine his attention to the Australian Colonies only, which was ample to employ his aspirations.

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MR. CORWIN withdrew from at least one society across the water, as he says, on account of being "run" by dealers; to paraphrase the old fable, but without specifying which is the wolf and which is the lamb, we have heard of other societies, not so far off, where the amateur and the professional have not always worked too amicably together. We hold, without casting the slightest stone at members of the trade, who in the vast majority of cases are honest and straightforward men of business, that the ideal philatelic society of the future will be one in which the dealer will be entirely absent (except as a guest). As long as philatelic societies (which, like other scientific bodies, should consist of amateurs) are ruled by professionals, so long will friction ensue, by the introduction of rival commercial interests.

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THE Annual Dinner of the London Philatelic Society has been fixed for Friday the 27th of May. There is a good hope of the attendance of the Honorary President, H.R.H. the Duke of Edinburgh, and it is desirable, therefore, that there will be a large attendance. Members can obtain information from the Hon. Sec.

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WE take the following particulars from some remarks that were made at the meeting of the Berlin Club on the 7th March last, respecting the four cent (1860) of British Guiana in the London Society's recently issued work, this being given as existing only with one mm. distance between the words four and cents. Mr. Kost, a member of the former body, has apparently traversed the correctness of the foregoing statement, by submitting a specimen of the four cents with the two mm. space. We have, however, after conferring with some well-known judges of Colonial stamps, to announce our surprise at this discovery and without casting the slightest doubt upon the stamp that has past the judgment of so studious a Society, we should much like to see the specimen referred to. The oversight as regards the omission of the two stamps of Montserrat was noticed by the authors immediately after its publication. It is a testimony to the acuteness of philatelists nowadays that the mistake has been repeatedly pointed out.

No society can lay claim to absolute infallibility in the publication of a work, an opinion that our esteemed Berlin contemporary cannot but share in, seeing that their illustration of a Mauritius stamp in the *Great Handbook* turns out to have been engraved from a forgery.

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ONE or two of our contemporaries seem dissatisfied by the sub-division of our novelty list into three classes, an opinion that we ourselves entirely dissent from. It is a system adopted by several of the leading philatelic journals of the world, and was only finally resolved on after a consultation with many of the leading collectors. In these days, when everyone specialises, it is obviously a convenience not to be compelled to read through a number of descriptions of things not collected. All the indications that we have received approve of this sub-division, and unless there is any marked reaction as to this, any alteration is hardly requisite.

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STEPS are being taken everywhere to put down Philatelic frauds, the United States, we gladly note, now following the example of our own country and others. The arrest of P. R. de Torres, of Barcelona, alias Rosondo Fernandez, of Madrid, Spain, in St. Louis, on a charge of swindling by means of counterfeit stamps, preferred by V. Gurdji, of Galveston has been effected. P. R. de Torres was the name of a dealer in Leghorn, Italy, who, in 1873 published a stamp paper known as *Posta Mondiale*. It is believed that he is the same man, and that his full name is Placido Ramon de Torres although he insists that his name is Rosondo Fernandez. *The Phil. Jour. of America* says that the arrest of the above man is the most important event of the kind ever occurring in this country, because he had in his possession a stock of the most dangerous counterfeits of rare Spanish stamps that had ever been made. With some of these he had already defrauded parties in San Antonio, Galveston, New Orleans, Memphis, and St. Louis, amounting in all to hundreds of dollars. It was his intention to continue through all the principal cities of the United States, and it is hard to estimate the damage he might have done. In dealing with people he displayed but few stamps, usually a complete set of Spain in which all the high-priced stamps were counterfeit, and the cheaper values genuine. The counterfeits were so finely executed that they appeared to good advantage even side by side with the genuine stamps of the lower denominations.

MESSRS. SENF BROS publish in their paper, *The Ill. Brief Journal*, a reproduction of a satisfactory "haul" of old Mauritius stamps, prominent among which is a block of four post-marked specimens of that remarkably ugly but much sought "large fillet" head of Her Gracious Majesty. We do not remember to have ever seen so many copies *se tenant*, and to a collector of the types—and there are only twelve here—it will be a veritable treasure trove. If we may judge, however, from external circumstances the treasure will rather be ransomed than troven!

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AN interesting list of reprints, with appropriate illustrations, is being published by *The Illust. Brief Zeitung*, and should be of service to philatelists in teaching that most useful direction—what to avoid. Every "specialist" should for the same reason include these in his collection.

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MESSRS. STAFFORD SMITH & Co. have sent us a copy of *Panama Star and Herald*, of February 27th, 1892, with the following announcement, which collectors may like to know of:—

"IMPORTANT TO PHILATELISTS.—My attention having been directed to the fact that certain postage stamp dealers in Europe and the United States of America are offering for sale surcharged stamps of the Department of Panama, I hereby warn the public, in my official capacity as National Postmaster for Panama, that although the said stamps are themselves genuine, the alleged surcharge is unauthentic, this Department never having issued same, and they are consequently rendered valueless.—EDUARDO B. GERLEIN, Panama, February 24th, 1892."

A SPECIAL telegraphic code is being compiled for the use of stamp dealers and collectors. Each code word will have its equivalent in three languages—English, French, and German, so that an English collector may be certain that his message will find its correct rendering in the language of the French or German dealer or collector, with whom he may so communicate. Indeed, the use of the telegraph with such an aid will be less costly and far more reliable. The new system will be known as the "Albrecht Code," taking its name from its compiler.

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IT is a notable fact that many of the best South African Stamps fetch higher prices in the land of their nativity than they do with

us. This recognition of value of old postage stamps is noted even by the Church. In the balance-sheet of the English Church at Vryburg, recently received by us, we find amongst the receipts the item "Sale of used Bechuanaland stamps, £2 4s. 6d." A pen-stroked cross to the item conveys the intimation that the development of this source of income might do much towards wiping off the debt on the Church—out of the pockets of

collectors—and yet a cynical outside world fails to appreciate Philately!

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THE Philatelic Society in Paris has not only held a grand banquet, which seems to have given great satisfaction to all concerned, but through the medium of their hon. secretary, has blossomed into poetry. We prosaic islanders can only tender our envious admiration.

## The Philatelic Market.

The accompanying note from a Cape paper shews how quickly news can travel now-a-days, and, in spite of its rapid transmission, it has the merit of avoiding the epithet that is supposed to convey it round the world while truth puts on its boots: "The highest known price ever paid for a Cape of Good Hope stamp (says the *E. P. Herald*) has been obtained by our fellow-townsmen, Mr. S. D. Bairstow. During the fall of last year he submitted a Red Cape Error block triangular postage stamp to a London expert. This error was issued on the same piece of paper with an ordinary type gummed upon the original envelope, and in excellent condition. Such a curiosity was unknown and believed to be unique, but it is possible there are others in existence. A guarantee of genuineness was obtained from the Postmaster-General in Capetown to whom Mr. Bairstow applied. Armed with this certificate, and in spite of assurances detrimental to his purchase, the owner succeeds in selling the stamp for £65, but, as he says, 'if no repetitions occur the stamp is worth any money to the purchaser.'" We saw and examined the specimen in question, which has now passed into the collection of one of the leading Viennese amateurs, but it is neither unknown nor unique. The late Mr. Tapling's collection, as also that of Herr von Ferrary, both have the 1d. and 4d. red *se tenant*.

A fitting companion to the pair of stamps previously mentioned has been shewn to us by a well-known amateur, and, to indulge in a Hibernicism, is even more unique. This is the 1d. and 4d. *blue*, in a pair, which has never yet come across our editorial vision, and is a

veritable gem: we trust it will have been submitted to the admiring gaze of the members of the London Society by the time that this Journal is in the hands of its readers.

Some remarkably fine specimens of the British North American stamps from the collection of a trans-marine amateur formed the staple attraction of Messrs. Thos. Bull & Co.'s sale on the 18th and 19th March. Three specimens of the 1s. New Brunswick, of fair quality, averaged £5 apiece, while a singularly brilliant cold violet Nova Scotian 1s. achieved the record price of £9 10s., and a splendid block of 4 of the 6d. fetched £4. A fine unused perforated 6d. Canada changed ownership at the moderate price of £5, and numerous copies of the lower values of all the North American colonies, mostly in pairs and strips, or on envelopes, were disposed of at prices worthy of their really fine condition. In Europeans a 4 r Zurich realised £6 15s., and a 3 pf Saxony unused, £4. A pair of Ceylon 1s. 9d. imperforates attained the substantial figure of £5 10s., and a fine imperf. 4d. that of £6 15s. Some of the remaining 400 lots hardly attained the prices that might have been anticipated.

Two sales have been held by Messrs. Cheveley, Wilson & Co., on March 11th and 12th and April 9th. Noticeable in the former were two entire sheets of the 2d. Mulready envelopes and wrappers, which were sold for £15 apiece, and a good selection of Oldenburgs, which fashionable articles found ready buyers. A pair of the 2 reales (1853) of Spain sold for £8, and other old Spanish seemed inclined to realise nearer their value than they have of late. Two rare Afghan stamps, the 1 sunar

black of the 1293 issue (with values in tablets) were sold for £6 10s. and £7 10s. respectively, and were good value for the money, but the  $\frac{1}{2}$  and 1 anna of the first Indian issue with "fully guaranteed roulettes," or saw perforation, were, we understand, not disposed of. That little known and rarely met with variety, the 6c red surcharge on the 16c blue of Labuan was knocked down after a brisk competition for £16, while a fine "orange" Buenos Ayres sold at £8. The general average of prices was moderate. The second sale consisted only of 222 lots, and contained but a medium assortment of stamps. A 60 cr Tuscany went very cheaply at £3 5s., and a number of Afghans failed to attain their true value by a long way. It is a pity that so interesting a country should not have more adherents amongst collectors here. A Greek border Mauritius, described *à la* Robins "most magnificent with enormous margin," realised the corresponding figure of £3 12s. 6d., and a fine block of 4 of the 1d. orange-red Victorian first issue, unused, sold cheaply for £5. A Buenos Ayres yellow was knocked down at £8 10s., while far away the best stamp of the day was undoubtedly the Connell, which changed hands at £20.

The attendances at the last two sales of Mr. Hadlow have been numerous, competition brisk, and prices fully maintained. We received the first catalogue of the auction held on the 27th February too late for notice in our last issue, but beyond the stamps then mentioned by us there do not seem to have been any worthy of special comment, if we except a good assemblage of the New Zealand in some of the scarcer varieties. In the sale of the 1st and 2nd of April the English seem, as heretofore, to have occupied a prominent place. The principal stamps sold were a pair of V.R.'s and a group of 4 1d. Ca e wood blocks, which realised £17 and £11 respectively. A number of "English Proofs, Specifications, Models," etc., connected with our postal stationery, although modestly reserved at £200, failed to attract a buyer. A large proportion of the 538 lots were wholesale assortments.

The collection of Mr. Ferdinand Loeb was disposed of at the rostrum by Messrs. Bangs & Co., at New York, on the 25th February. Among the U. S. stamps we note a 24c. of 1869, with the inverted picture, which realised about £14, and we read with a melancholy satisfaction that despite an elaborate representation in type of the several founts, 40 varieties of Costa Ricans, Official and Guanacaste, realised about 6d. each! A Lady McLeod Trinidad was disposed of at slightly over £14, the total of the 653 lots being nearly £400.

The sale of Mr. G. Bilgenroth's stamps by the same firm, on March 30th, does not seem to have many features worth comment. A few fair U. S., a 3 pf. Saxony, one or two Swiss, and a Lady McLeod (realising about £14), seemed the principal attractions; £260 was attained for the 520 lots. We note an improvement in the catalogue, *i.e.*, a wider margin to the left, with dotted lines for prices realised.

The *Bourse* at Hamburg, as also at Berlin, seems quite a recognised and stable element amongst the collectors and dealers of the Fatherland, and judging from the well-written reports in the leading German philatelic journals, appears to yield substantial and satisfactory financial results. We wonder if an experiment of this nature in London would succeed; it certainly seems worth the trying; it would be less monotonous than an auction, and we are inclined to think that, if taken in hand by a small and energetic committee and a suitable *locale* selected, such as the smoking room in a respectable restaurant, it would be successful. We believe there are many amateurs who would attend, and notably at the end of the "season" dealers are prone to "cut their profit" on stock-in-hand with a view to fresh investments.

We hear that the stock of Leeward Islands' stamps submitted to tender by the authorities sold for £5,500, nearly 15 per cent. over face value. The stock is a valuable one, but will require gradual realisation to make a remunerative return on these figures.