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Australian Stamps.



PARAGRAPH has recently appeared in the columns of an esteemed contemporary to the effect that Australian stamps were practically a drug in the market in this country. We must venture to differ from this opinion, and take up the cudgel on behalf of this most interesting group. It cannot be denied that there has been a falling off in the very prominent position held by Australian stamps a few years since, or that, in cricket parlance, their average for the last two years has been reduced. There have been valid and obvious reasons for this decadence of interest, which, however, in our opinion is not only limited, but temporary. The main reasons for the less prominent position now held by Oceanian stamps are not far to seek. We should cite the fact of the bad times in Australia, which have caused so many collectors "out there" to part with their treasures; the cessation of their collection, through various causes, by certain leading collectors in Europe, *e.g.* the late Mr. T. K. Tapling, MM. Caillebotte (to one of whom the same sad prefix must be given), and the present Vice-President of the London Society; the fact that many other collectors have completed their plates; and lastly, the extraordinary and volcanic impetus that has raised the West Indian stamps to be the fashion of the day.

It will be seen that all the above causes are likely to be but transient in their operation. Our ranks are specially refilled, the prosperity of a nation almost invariably reasserts itself, and fashions change even more rapidly. There is therefore no reason for those who collect Australians to-day to anticipate a gloomy future. It was the appearance of the general set of

stamps for the Leeward Islands that started the boom in West Indians. A similar issue for Australia is not beyond the bounds of possibility, and such an apparition, extinguishing all the irregular issues—to use the mildest term—that have of late disfigured Queensland, Tasmania, and New South Wales, would have a like effect upon the far more interesting group of Oceanic stamps.

Our admissions as to any depreciation of esteem for the Australian stamps end here; nor in anything previously written do we mean to imply more than a partial and temporary effect upon certain stamps. On general grounds, we deny that there is anything like a “slump” in Oceanians, an opinion fully borne out by leading dealers at home and abroad. There are, both in this country and abroad, very many collectors who especially affect such countries as South and West Australia, and New South Wales, while the estimation in which Queensland is held has markedly increased. New Zealand well holds its own; the countries that have practically remained stationary during the past two or three years being Tasmania, Victoria, and Fiji. As regards Tasmania, there has been no falling off in prices in the early issues—fine specimens of the first issue being hard to find—but there is reason to believe that the multiplicity of the recent varieties, and of the various unofficial or quasi-official perforations, has tended to keep off new recruits. Victoria is a difficult country, and hence may also suffer from a lack of new adherents; but the Victorian stamps are replete with interest, and to those who are possessed of the true Philatelic ardour there is no happier hunting-ground. The “half-length,” “full-length,” and “emblems” issues are of the highest order of interest and variety, can be obtained at reasonable prices, and well merit an increased following. The standard rarities of this country—the 5s. blue and yellow, the 6d. orange, and the “fine” 2d. of the first issue—steadily increase in price, while medium stamps, as the “Registered,” “Too late,” the “Ninepennies,” and “Tenpennies,” have shown an increase of value that will bear comparison with most other stamps. West Australians had their “boom” three years since, but have maintained their rise. South Australia and Queensland (the former mainly owing to Messrs. Napier & Gordon Smith’s excellent *brochure*) have greatly advanced, both in the value of the stamps and the number of their collectors. The issues of both countries are among the finest that have emanated from Messrs. Perkins & Bacon, and both abound in those *nuances* of perforation, watermark, and paper that enlist the attention and increase the enjoyment of the true Philatelist. In the case of the South Australian Departmentals they have, perhaps, hardly held their own—the rise, both in number of varieties discovered and prices, having been abnormal. They, however, include many very scarce stamps, and afford a very charming field of collection. The remaining country, New South Wales (excepting Fiji, which is *in statu quo*), is the most important of the Australian section, and it is here, perhaps, that the greatest fluctuations of prices have been seen. We allude more especially to the Sydney Views. The cause of this is almost entirely to be ascribed to want of due Philatelic appreciation; to many collectors, in the past, one Sydney View was as good as another, and it has required the latter-day evolution of a finer appreciation of real condition to open their eyes. The large number of collectors who were, and doubtless

still are, plating, also tended to hold the inferior copies at a false level; but now that many of the larger collectors have completed their plates, they have ceased to purchase anything but fine specimens. The joint operation of these two factors has produced the present situation, which really constitutes the only real depreciation in Australians; *i.e.* that poor to medium Sydneys are worth from 25 to 50 per cent. less than they were three years since. On the contrary, choice or "superb" copies from the early impressions have not only held their own, but have, and deservedly, made a substantial advance. It is a curious fact that, while there has always existed a wide difference of estimation as to the state of the plate in the early Mauritius stamps, it is only, as already referred to, quite recently that the same obvious standard has been applied to the Sydneys. The latter had such a transitory existence before re-engraving, and the plates wore so rapidly, that sharp impressions, having escaped the well-known heavy postmark, may be fairly regarded as almost providential. It is an old dictum of the Australian school, that "one never gets two Sydneys exactly alike." Their true value is, therefore, to be accordingly appreciated. In the Laureated issues, and those succeeding them, there have been fewer especially false estimates of condition to rectify, hence the fluctuations have not been so great; but, in the former, the "state of the plate" will always be duly weighed by the wise.

Our previous remarks have referred to used stamps, but, as regards unused specimens, there has been a great and general rise in appreciation, and, as a consequence, in value. There can be no doubt that a collection of Australian stamps (without attempting plating), *unused*, presents a field that is worthy of any collector's ambition. Varied in design, beautiful in their execution, and of infinite gradation as to shades, a fine collection of Oceanian stamps, in "mint condition," not only represents to-day the *acme* of difficulty, but, so long as Philately exists, will always be held in the highest estimation. It is safe to say that not one collector in a thousand has absorbed an accurate knowledge of the true rarity of many of the Australian stamps in unused condition, several of which are not known to exist. To the many votaries of Oceanian Philately we say, therefore, that a passing rage for any other particular group will in no wise affect the true and due estimation of Australian stamps, and that they are as charming to collect, and "as safe to hold," as the issue of any other country under the sun.



The General Unappropriated Colonial Plate.

A PAPER READ BEFORE THE PHILATELIC SOCIETY, LONDON, ON DECEMBER 13TH, 1895.

BY GORDON SMITH.*



THE attention of a great number of collectors at the present day is largely occupied with the postal adhesive stamps of the West Indian possessions of Great Britain. This is not confined to the stamps produced by Messrs. Perkins, Bacon & Co.—stamps which rank among the handsomest ever made—but is extended to the later stamps, which were produced by Messrs. De La Rue & Co., and which, whatever their merits in the eyes of the collector—and speculator—can hardly claim to be described as possessing much beauty.

The stamps manufactured by this firm may be divided into three classes, each of which marks a period of economic, rather than artistic, progress. We have: *First*, stamps printed from plates appropriated to a particular colony and to a particular value, such as the first issues of British Columbia and Vancouver Island, Jamaica, Sierra Leone (6d.), Ceylon ("cents" issues), Straits Settlements, &c., and notably, of course, those of the United Kingdom. *Secondly*, stamps printed from plates appropriated to a particular colony, but not to a particular value—this being inserted by a second printing—such as the stamps of Lagos, Dominica, Tobago, St. Christopher, Gibraltar, &c. And *thirdly*, stamps printed from plates unappropriated to any particular colony, or to any particular value. Of this class there are three varieties of plate, (1) where it is unappropriated to any particular service, (2) where it is appropriated to "Postage" only, and (3) where it is appropriated to "Postage and Revenue." These last two are quite modern, and have always appeared in two colours.

It is, however, of the first only of these plates that I wish to speak now. I call it "The General Unappropriated Colonial Plate," as the best description I can give; for, in addition to the fact that the design included neither the name nor the value, it has been extensively used for stamps of fiscal as well as postal nature.

The design of the plate is probably one of the best known, as it has served for a greater number of different stamps than any other, and has received as much (not unmerited) opprobrium for the poverty of design and general appearance as any other postage stamp made under every advantage that science and skill can supply.

* The subject of these two Dies has been previously dealt with by M. Grignard, and, to a certain extent, in this Journal also (see Vol. iv., August, 1896, pp. 211, 212). Mr. Gordon Smith, as will be seen, has made a more extended examination of the question, which result was given in a paper read at the close of last year before the London Society. We regret that, owing to abnormal demands on our space, this interesting paper should not have appeared earlier, but we can recommend it as being the most careful and accurate account of these interesting Die-varieties that has hitherto appeared.—E.D.

It consists of a diademed head of the Queen to the left, on a horizontally-lined background, octagonal in shape, surrounded by an octagonal frame, an uncoloured space lying between the background and the frame. The horizontal and vertical sides of the frame are produced both ways to form a square, and in the triangles thus formed are similar and similarly-situated triangles of colour, in which are trilobed uncoloured ornaments. Extending along each vertical side of the square is a row of sixteen diamond-shaped spaces on a ground of colour; above and below are rectangles for the name and value respectively; and the whole is enclosed in a rectangular frame.

Commonplace though this design may be, it possesses interest due to a cause hitherto, until quite recently, unsuspected by Philatelists. About eight months ago my attention was directed, by Mr. W. H. Phillips, to a difference in the general appearance of two sheets of the 30 paras Cyprus, a difference which seemed hardly to be accounted for by assigning them to distinct printings. A reference to the plate number in the margin of the pane (which, as most collectors are aware, is indicated by an uncoloured numeral, within a circular disc of solid colour), showed that plates 1 and 2 were apparently identical, but that plate 3 certainly differed from both.

I have since then made a careful examination of many stamps of this design, including those of Antigua, Montserrat, Nevis, St. Lucia, Turks Islands, Virgin Islands, Cyprus and Natal, with the following results:

I cannot detect any difference between plates 1 and 2. These I call Die I. Plate 3 is so different in many respects from its predecessors, that it has been, in my opinion, made either from Die I. re-engraved, or perhaps from an entirely new die. This I have called Die II.

The chief points of difference are:

DIE I.

(1) The 7th and 8th lines of the background, counting from the top, converge as they meet the top of the head, and the lines in front of the eye are not quite straight and parallel.

(2) The uncoloured space in the coil of hair, just above the pendent curl, is, *roughly speaking*,

triangular.

(3) The line of colour in front of the throat stops at the 6th line of shading on the neck.

(4) The number of lines traversing the eyelids are 4.

(5) There are dots in the centres of the bosses of the thistles in the diadem, and the uncoloured facet of the middle jewel.

(6) The solid colour beneath the neck merges into the lower line of the background in front.

DIE II.

These irregularities have disappeared.

oblong, with a line of colour partially dividing it at the left end.

8th line.

are 3.

No dots.

The solid colour stops abruptly against the *two* lowest lines in front.

The orifice of the ear, which in both is rather like a capital script *D*, is narrower in Die II. The front ornament on the diadem is differently shaped and differently placed, with respect to the angle of the octagon, in each die.

These differences will enable anyone to distinguish between the two dies, and with a very little practice (1), (2), (3) and (6) can be seen with the unaided eye.

These are the most salient, but every part of the head shows innumerable minor variations. The lines of the background also are thinner in Die II. With regard to the remainder of the design, I think, perhaps, there may be slight differences in the shape of the trilobed ornament in the corners of the square, but otherwise the frame portions of the two dies seem to be identical.

It will now be of further interest to state how these dies are distributed among the numerous stamps which have been formed from them.

All stamps, printed on paper watermarked Crown and CC, are from Die I., but both are found on the Crown and CA paper.

As the Postal Consolidation of the Leeward Islands group took place before Die II. came into use, it follows that all the values of this design of Antigua, Montserrat, Nevis, and Virgin Islands are from Die I.

Of the other stamps, I have found the following with

DIE I. only.

Turks Islands. 2½d. brown, 4d. grey.

St. Lucia. 1d. rose, 6d. lilac, 1s. brown, and 6d. lilac and blue.

NOTE.—*The plate from which the Grenada stamps are printed is also from Die I.*

DIES I. AND II.

Turks Islands. ½d. green.

St. Lucia. ½d. green, 1d. lilac, 3d. lilac and green, 4d. brown, 1s. lilac and red.

Cyprus. 30 paras, ½, 1, 2, 4, 6, and 12 piastres.

Natal. 2d. olive-green.

DIE II. only.

Turks Islands. 2½d. blue.

St. Lucia. 5s. lilac and yellow, 10s. lilac and black.

Cyprus. 9, 18 and 45 piastres.

This list is necessarily imperfect, but I have indicated fourteen stamps which may be found of both types; the only addition, as far as I can see, that may possibly be found is the *St. Lucia* 6d., lilac and blue, which will doubtlessly appear as soon as the edition of the old Die is exhausted. Considering, therefore, the number of stamps which bear this design, collectors need not be frightened at the list of varieties which they should add to their collections.

In conclusion, I think it only fair to say that M. Grignard, who announced his discovery of some of these differences in *La Revue Philatelique* last summer, seems to have been a simultaneous discoverer, and must, therefore, be allowed to share in the honour.

Notes on the Cape Stamps.

COMPILED FROM THE OFFICIAL AND OTHER RECORDS AT
CAPE TOWN.

By CAPT. NORRIS-NEWMAN.

(1894).

PREFACE.



IN putting together these few notes on the various postal issues of the Cape Colony, the author lays claim to very little originality; as, in the first place, most of the vexed points had been discussed and so far satisfactorily disposed of by Mr. E. D. Bacon previously; and, in the second, no proper records had been kept in or of the Postal Department of the Cape until the commencement of responsible government in 1872, since which time very little of interest to the Philatelist has occurred here: whilst even since that date, and indeed up to very recently, all correspondence, orders, accounts, and other records were kept so mixed up with other matters, and distributed here and there between three different departments—the Colonial Office, the Treasury, and the Post Office—that it is almost impossible to find them at all, or to arrange anything like chronological order out of the existing chaos. For years past it had been a favoured plan of the author's to take the first opportunity of a long holiday out of a busy life, and devote it to the necessary researches at Cape Town for obtaining the materials for a complete history of the Cape postal issues; but, so far, this has been impossible, and the few notes now put before the Society, with the author's apology for their incompleteness and discursiveness, are only the hurried results of a fortnight's chance visit to Cape Town in December, 1893, when ordered up to Matabeleland. During this short time, however, the writer was much aided by the courtesy and assistance of the Colonial Secretary, the Assistant Treasurer-General, the Postmaster-General, and, specially, by the latter's private secretary, Mr. G. H. Andersson, who, being somewhat of a collector himself, took a very great and intelligent interest in the whole subject, and assisted in every way possible with the limited time and means at his command. The author has also to thank Messrs. S. D. Bairstow, Hirst, Knight, Moorby, Meyer, Raphael, and other South African Philatelists, for answers to many questions on points of interest and dispute with regard to the various issues, as well as for valuable information and hints on others.

POSTMASTERS.

From the date of Great Britain finally becoming possessor of the Colony of the Cape of Good Hope, in 1811, up to the present time, there have been

six Postmasters-General, the holder of the office being a permanent official, neither a member of the Ministry—since responsible government—not removable except for misconduct; and the names, and dates of appointment and relinquishment, are as follow:

M. Gal	.	from 1811 to 1815.	Resigned.
Robert Crozier	.	„ 1815 to 1851.	„
J. A. Le Sueur	.	„ 1851 to 1867.	„
Charles Piers	.	„ 1867 to 1873.	„
G. W. Aitchison	.	„ 1873 to 1892.	Died.
Somerset R. Ffrench	.	„ 1892.	The present P.M.G.

NUMBER OF OFFICES.

Up to the end of last year, the total number of Cape offices was 728, including Basutoland and British Bechuanaland; but to these must now be added a few new ones, and all the offices throughout Mashonaland and Matabeleland (the provinces of Rhodesia), numbering about 20 in all; as, although “The Chartered Company”—or, as it should be termed, “The British South Africa Company”—have their own stamps (used for postal and revenue purposes alike), yet the management of their postal and telegraphic services is entirely under the control of the Cape Colony Postmaster-General; the rates, however, being fixed by the B.S.A. Company's authorities on an independent basis, as they are not yet under the U.P.U.

DEFACING STAMPS.

Since the first establishment of a postal service, in 1853, there have been a large number of different kinds of defacing or obliterating stamps in use throughout the Cape. The earliest was a triangle containing from eighteen to twenty lines of varying breadth across it, leaving a square space in the centre. This was followed by a similar one, but with the letters C G H in the three corners (Cape Town and Port Elizabeth using these until very recently), and nearly all the triangular stamps—steel engraved, wood blocks, and those reprints postally used—will be found to be defaced with either one or the other, few having a date stamp on them except those which are found penmarked—the only one I have in my whole collection being a 1d. red of the first issue, Perkins-Bacon type, dated Aug. 2, 1861, Port Elizabeth. Most of the stamps of the first issue, triangular and rectangular, double frame-lines, found penmarked, have been generally used for revenue, bank cheques, drafts, papers, and similar purposes, but few being found penmarked for postal use, on original envelopes, having passed through the post. Late in the fifties, or early in the sixties, a large upright oval was introduced, with from twelve to eighteen bars (thin) across it horizontally, with a centre square, in which the numbers of the different offices began to appear—from 1 up to how many, is not now known. And this, again, was followed by a similarly-shaped one, but with nine to twelve much thicker bars and numbers; and both of these are found in use simultaneously. From that date until Mr. Aitchison's time, several other kinds of defacing stamps were

used indiscriminately, always with blackish ink, turning to brown with age and exposure.

Since that time, the common pattern of date stamp, with name of office and changeable dates, with the later obliterating oval of bars, with number of office in centre, has been in use. One thousand of each of these were ordered, and nearly nine hundred issued up to date. Both of these may be found on recent and current stamps, being used for obliterating purposes equally.

A special long oval is also in use for registration letters.

FIRST ISSUE.

Adhesives.

1st Sept., 1853, as per Government Notice, Aug. 18th, 1853.

Engraved on steel by Humphreys, for, and printed by, Messrs. Perkins, Bacon & Co., on thickish white wove paper, strongly gummed, and paper much blued on many issues, presumably by action of gum. Watermark a small anchor, found in various positions—sometimes double on the same stamp, but more often very indistinct. Imperforate, but several found rouletted unofficially; many having, however, passed through the post.

1d., brick-red; several shades. For newspapers until 15th Sept., 1860, when they were used for Cape Town local delivery; and on the 23rd April, 1861, for Port Elizabeth also.

4d., blue; light to dark, some quite black from oxidation. For $\frac{1}{2}$ oz. letters within the Colony. 240 specimens on each sheet, in fifteen rows, horizontal, of sixteen stamps, arranged in eight pairs. Proofs in black on cardboard, and unwater-marked paper, both from individual dies, and whole plates are known of both values.

SECOND ISSUE.

19th Feb., 1858, as per Government Notice dated 18th Feb., 1858. Same as above.

Values.

6d., lilac; light and dark shades. For $\frac{1}{2}$ oz. letter to Great Britain.

1s., green; light to dark, and yellow to deep. $\frac{1}{2}$ oz. letter to foreign countries.

Unsevered pairs, strips, and blocks of all are known, but are not common.

The size of the sheets of all the above was about $10\frac{1}{2} \times 4\frac{1}{4}$ inches, the space between each stamp being about $\frac{1}{8}$ inch, with $\frac{3}{8}$ inch between each pair, and $\frac{1}{4}$ inch between each row, with a half-inch margin all round.

Total number of each kind supplied by Messrs. Perkins, Bacon & Co., as follows:

Numbers of above.

1d., from May 9th, 1853, to May 8th, 1861 . 23,625 sheets = 5,670,000 stamps.

4d. " " . 29,850 " = 7,164,000 "

6d., from Dec. 16th, 1857, to April 1st, 1862 . 3,833 " = 919,920 "

1s. " " . 1,584 " = 380,160 "

The plates were then handed over by Perkins, Bacon & Co. to the Crown Agents, and by them to Messrs. De La Rue & Co., on January 18th, 1862.

DE LA RUE ISSUES.

The following are the numbers and details of the stamps printed and supplied from the same plates by Messrs. De La Rue & Co.

FROM ENGLAND. DISTRIBUTED IN CAPE.

Jan. 31st, 1863	...	June, 1863	...	398 sheets	= 95,520 stamps	6d., bt. mauve.
"	...	"	...	158	" = 38,120	" 1s., emerald-green.
Apr. 17th, 1863	...	Sept., 1863	...	195	" = 46,800	" 4d., bt. violet-blue.
Dec. 2nd, 1863	...	April, 1864	...	2056	" = 493,440	" 1d., deep red.
"	...	"	...	2004	" = 480,960	" 4d., violet-blue.
Apr. 13th, 1864	...	Sept., 1864	...	3040	" = 729,600	" 1d., brownish red.
"	...	"	...	3067	" = 736,080	" 4d., violet-blue.

All these issues were printed on thinner wove paper, glazed surface, with different kind and quality of gum, and in clearer colours and more distinct impressions; although there is nothing to show either that new plates were used at any time, or even the old plates retouched, as there is no mention of any change being made by De La Rue, or such an item in any accounts. Proofs are known of all the above in black.

The plates were destroyed in England, in the presence of the Crown Agents, on the 7th, 8th, and 10th July, 1865.

During 1863 Messrs. De La Rue received orders to prepare designs for a rectangular stamp, of the more ordinary size and shape; and, after much correspondence, the now well-known design of a female figure—*Hope*—sitting on an anchor, with a ram at one side, and a grape-vine at the other—significant of the Cape industries—was adopted, and has remained in use up to last year (1894)—nearly thirty years.

In 1863 the $\frac{1}{2}$ oz. rate to Great Britain by mail packet was raised to 1s., and by private ship to 4d.; and in 1864 the 1d. rate came in force in other colonial towns; and was gradually extended, until in 1889 it became the universal inland rate for $\frac{1}{2}$ oz. in the Colony and its dependencies.

FOURTH ISSUE.

Provisional.

The supplies of 1d. and 4d. triangular stamps beginning to run short in January, 1861, arrangements were made with Messrs. Saul Solomon & Co., the then Government printers, to issue a temporary supply, which was done during April, 1861, after a long correspondence and some difficulty. The original design was copied and engraved on wood—two separate engravings of the 1d. and 4d.—by the late Mr. Charles Bell, the Surveyor-General of the Cape Colony; and these were reproduced by some electrotype or stereotype process separately, until sixty-four blocks of each were done. These were then cemented on wood, in four horizontal rows, of eight pairs in each row; but the dies were so unevenly arranged and put together on the wood, that the spaces between the stamp-pairs and rows vary from one-sixteenth to three-sixteenths of an inch, irregularly throughout; the total length and breadth of the sheets being $10\frac{1}{4} \times 4$, with a margin

all round of nearly three-quarters of an inch. Owing, doubtless, to carelessness in cementing the reproduced dies together, one error crept into each block, viz., a 1d. red die with the 4d. blue plate and *vice versa*; the exact position of each being as follows, as shown by the sheet of reprints now in the possession of the Cape Treasury, Department of Distributor of Stamps. (There are two puzzles here, however; the first being why two blank spaces should appear in the 1d. sheets, and only one in the 4d.; as, on looking over carefully each sheet of all that are left of the latter, I could find no trace of the die with a broken or repaired corner, such as undoubtedly existed in the original, as per specimens met with in different collections.)

Of this first provisional issue the records show that 385 sheets—twenty over=24,660—of the 1d. were issued by the Government to the public; and of the 4d., 200 sheets—forty over=12,840; but there is nothing to show what quantity was printed by Saul Solomon & Co., or actually delivered by them to the authorities.

It is hardly probable that they would have delivered anything but complete sheets; so that the likelihood is that a complete sheet or more, and the missing portions of the others, were acquired as specimens by officials previous to their issue to the public.

The paper used was a very ordinary white laid of average quality; well gummed, with no wmk. or perforations. There is no record in the office of any more than one printing, as they were all delivered on the same day; but the difference in colour and shade shows distinctly that the printers must have used separate lots of ink, and may have made two or more printings of the issue. Neither is there anything to show whether the error of change of dies was found out during the printings or afterwards, as it was only after their reproduction for reprinting purposes in 1884 that the dies were removed—two from the 1d. and one from the 4d.—and the blocks afterwards put away; they are still kept locked up in the vaults under three keys, in the possession of the Under Colonial Secretary, the Auditor-General, and the Treasurer-General, all of whom must be present to get them out. There is nothing to show absolutely when these dies were removed from the block, or what has become of them; but the Assistant-Treasurer assured me that to the best of his knowledge they were only removed previous to the reprinting, and subsequently destroyed.

This provisional issue was entirely sold out about Sept., 1861; and no sheets, or even single specimens, were left in the possession of the Post Office officials or Department, the Postmaster-General having none for insertion in the official collection! From information I obtained from a late foreman in the litho. printing department of the late firm of Saul Solomon and Co., it is certain that no strict official check was particularly kept upon the printing of this first provisional, as the firm priced all the paper and materials themselves; and he remembers several sheets being destroyed, as being defective, during the printings, for he says they were not all printed off on the one day.*

* The last sheets of the wood blocks that were known to be in circulation were found by a friend of mine, a Mr. H—, who took over the Graaff Riet Office Stamps in 1878; and who, not

Before proceeding in proper order with the next issues, *i.e.* the first rectangular series, it may be as well for me here to give what information I obtained with reference to the official reprints of the above "wood block" provincial issue.

REPRINT OF PROVINCIAL ISSUES.

Owing to the requests of many other Postal Departments throughout the world for specimens of all the Cape stamps for reference, and for their official collections, the authorities decided in 1883 to have the wood block plates reprinted from—the steel plates being destroyed—and therefore sent them, in charge of a clerk from the Treasury, to the same printers, Messrs. Saul Solomon & Co. No special check was, however, placed upon the issue, and only 195 sheets of each were said to have been given to the clerk by S. S. & Co., and by him handed over to the Postal authorities; but it does seem somewhat extraordinary that such an uneven number of sheets should have been struck off. The paper would have been cut most probably in reams, and one would imagine that either the Government ordered, say, 200 of each, or that half a ream—240 sheets—of each would have been struck off from each plate. The paper used was a common white wove paper, generally used for newspaper work; as was also the gum, which is much affected by climatic changes. Of the 195 sheets of each value in the possession of the Government originally, the 1d. stamps would equal 12,090, being 62 to a sheet, less two removed dies; and the 4d., 12,285, 63 to a sheet, with only one die removed. The stamps were then issued cut—three of each value—to all the other exchanging stamp-issuing countries in the U.P.U., number not exactly known, but said to be 175, with the addition of the following specimens, issued extra either by order of the Government or of the Post Office officials, *viz.*:

	1d.	4d.
British South Africa Company	3	3
British East Africa Company	2	2
British Central Africa	1	1
Official Cape Collection	1	1
Book on History Cape Stamps	1	1
By Mr. Aitchison to a Friend in England in 1888	2	2
By Mr. Aitchison to Dr. Todd, Librarian of Canadian Parliament in 1884	2	2
To the young Queen of the Netherlands	1	1
To the Chicago Exhibition, 1893	1	1
To the Imperial Institute, 1893	1	1
Sold to Mr. W. M. Farmer	1	1
Found in the possession of a Mr. W——, given to him by Mr. H——	7	9
Making a total of	23 1d.	25 4d. so issued.

knowing their value, issued some of them—from one sheet of each—to the public, along with other current issues, keeping only a few for himself as curiosities, until the Postmaster of Port Elizabeth, himself a Philatelist, happened to see a letter, with one on, coming through the office; and enquiry was then made, resulting in the return of what was left to the Head Office at Cape Town, where, however, all trace of them is lost.

And, in the present day, the Treasury holds the balance, in the charge of M. Cloeti, Distributor of Stamps, through whose courtesy I inspected the whole of the two parcels, in which are left of the

1d. . . 185 sheets, and part of a sheet (51), less 6 pairs cut
out on last row, including vacant error space. = 11,521 stamps.

4d. . . 186 sheets, and 6 stamps of last row of another
sheet . . . = 11,724

Making a total of 569 1d., used as follows	{	195 sheets,	12,090
		in hand,	11,521
			<hr/> 569

Making a total of 561 4d., used as follows	{	195 sheets,	12,285
		in hand,	11,724
			<hr/> 561

When, if we take the 175 countries at 3 each = 525 of 1d., and 525 of 4d.

And add thereto the number of each subse-
quently given out, viz.

	23	25
	<hr/> 548	<hr/> 550

we still leave from 10 to 20 of each unaccounted for.

But, as I have nearly a whole sheet of each in my possession, which Mr. G. H. Andersson gave me, and I know of others who have also small portions of sheets, and dozens of the stamps were sent through the post during the time of issue by some Post Office men and Cape Town collectors, singly or in unsevered pairs—of which I have several on portions of the original envelopes, and they are good to-day to frank letters, there never having been any proclamation against them on withdrawing the old wood blocks from circulation—there must have been a leakage somewhere; and I am fully persuaded that 200 of these 240 sheets of each were printed, and that the five or more sheets of each were taken during or after the printing, or else were abstracted before being handed over to the Treasury authorities. In Cape Town to-day, both in official and Philatelic circles, these facts are well known; and, therefore, great care is now taken by the authorities not to allow any more of the balance of 185–6 sheets of each to get into the hands of anyone. It is a singular fact, in connection with all these stamps, that none of the specimens issued to foreign Governments were marked “Specimen,” “Reprint,” or surcharged in any way for protection, as is usually done by other exchanging countries with all their stamps, especially of those of value exceeding 1s.; so that although, through misappropriation of the samples sent to other Governments, a few single, double, or even unsevered strips of three might probably get into the hands of dealers or collectors, yet this alone would not account for the number of undoubtedly genuine reprint stamps, in large strips or blocks, which I have met in collections.

I applied for a sheet of each variety for your Society, and suggested that they should be surcharged individually, at my expense, “Specimen” or “Reprint,” and framed; but, no! the authorities now are rather irritated about the previous leakages, and will part with no more. *Eheu fugaces!*

FIFTH ISSUE

Rectangular.

In January, 1864, appeared the first rectangular stamps, made by De La Rue, on thinnish white wove paper, thickly gummed, perforated 14, and watermarked Crown and C C, with double-line outer frame, in three shades of colour, viz. :—1s. light green, 1s green, and 1s. dark green. The stamps were engraved on steel, in four panes of six vertical rows of ten stamps each = 240 on a sheet ; and the same plates of 1s. are in use to-day. The watermark was changed in 1885 to the Foul Anchor, but there never were any printed on the Cr. and C A wmk. paper, as the stock in hand of the Cr. and C C at the date of the latter change was sufficient to last up to the date when all the stamps were changed to wmk. of Foul Anchor.

There are no details in the office to show what number of sheets and stamps of this value have been supplied by De La Rue from 1864 to now.

In July, 1865, the 1d., rose, with shades same as above, came out, and was used until 1871, when the double outer line was done away with, and new plates engraved with single-line frame. In use until 1894.

In August, 1865, the 4d., blue, with shades same as above, was issued, and in use until 1877, when the double-frame outer line was done away with, and new plate with single line substituted.

In July, 1865, the 6d., lilac, with shades as above, was also issued ; and in 1877 was followed by the 6d., mauve, with shades, with Cr. and C C, perf. 14, with double-frame outer line. Still in use to this day, the wmk. alone being changed to Cr. and C A in August, 1882, and to the Foul Anchor in 1885. The paper of all these issues became thicker, less highly glazed, and with less and better gum, during the later issues.

SURCHARGED ISSUE.

Nov., 1868 ; the supply of 4d. stamps having run short, the Governor, by notice in the *Gazette* on 16th Nov., 1868, stated that he had authorized the conversion of a redundant lot of 6d., lilac, to 4d., by obliterating the words "Postage Sixpence" by a double line, and printing across the body of the band the words "Fourpence" in red ink. (This redundancy of 6d. was owing to the fact that, from the end of 1863, the $\frac{1}{2}$ oz. rate to England by mail packet had been raised to 1s., and so fewer of the 6d. were used.)

The surcharging work was done hurriedly, and with poor type, by S. Solomon & Co., locally ; but there is no record in the Post Office to show how many sheets were surcharged ; but, from the plentifulness of the stamp, several hundred sheets must have been so treated.

There are no known errors in the issue, but only defective lettering from the poor type. Two distinct printings, however, took place, as the distance between the lettering, surcharge, and the obliterating bars is quite different, and the colour distinct in two varieties

SIXTH ISSUE.

Single-line Frame. 1d., 5s.

In March, 1872, the 1d., rose-red, with shades, on white wove paper, wmk. Cr. and C C., perf. 14, came out, with single outer line and frame, wmk. being altered to Cr. and C A in August, 1882, and to the Foul Anchor in 1886. These plates have been in use up to 1894.

In August, 1871, the 5s., orange to orange-yellow, was introduced by Government Notice, 21st August, 1871; with paper, perf., and wmk. as above. Wmk. changed to Cr. and C A in August, 1883, and to Foul Anchor in 1887; and the same plates are all in use up to now.

No record kept of how many printings, or sheets, or stamps of either, supplied to date.

SURCHARGED ISSUE.

In June, 1874, the supply of 1d. running short, a lot of 6d. were surcharged in red capitals and bar, locally, by Saul Solomon & Co. One hundred sheets were done, equalling 24,000 stamps. There were no errors in printing, but portions of surcharge differ on various sheets.

SEVENTH ISSUE.

½d.

In June, 1876, a lot of ½d., black, as above, were received at the Cape, wmk Cr. and C C, although no colonial ½d. rate had as yet been established. Most of these were, however, sent to Kimberley, for use in the Province of Griqualand West, surcharged with large and small G's—different varieties of type—in red and black, for district newspapers, but the number is not known; so that the stock was nearly all used up when the Cape Inland Newspaper Rate of ½d. came in operation, 1st July, 1882, and a provisional issue had therefore to be provided.

SURCHARGED ISSUE.

In April, 1877, the stock of 1d. again running short, a lot of 1s., Cr. and C C, were surcharged in black, with capitals and a bar, by Saul Solomon & Co. One hundred sheets were so overprinted, and there are no errors or differences in printing known.

EIGHTH ISSUE.

4d., dark blue. Single-line.

May, 1877. The new plate with single outer line was made for the 4d. value, dark blue, wmk. Cr. and C C, paper perf. as above. It arrived in the Colony about May, and was distributed from 1st June, 1877. There is no record of numbers of sheets of stamps.

SURCHARGED ISSUE.

Nov. 1st, 1879, the new 3d. rate for the Colony came in force; and as the stamps ordered from England for the purpose had not arrived, 250 sheets of

the 4d., single frame, Cr. and C C, were surcharged in red by Saul Solomon & Co., in capitals, with broad obliterating bar below.

There are two errors known, which occurred on each sheet—THE.EE. and PENCB quite distinct—and two slight varieties of type and spacing.

SURCHARGED ISSUE.

In March, 1880, arrived a lot of 3d. provisional stamps from England, when De La Rue had not furnished the proper plate. There were impressions in violet-rose (two shades) taken from the 4d. plate, single-line frame, with Cr. and C C wmk., perf. 14; surcharge in black (stereotyped) capitals across the bottom of the stamp; and some of these sheets were again surcharged in the Colony, by S. Solomon & Co., with the figure 3, to make them more distinct. But the number that arrived from England, or were so surcharged by S. Solomon & Co., is unknown.

Several specimens of the 4d., violet-rose, unsurcharged, are also known, but not postally used; they are probably proofs, or colour specimens.

There are no errors or overprints known of this provisional issue.

NINTH ISSUE.

Its Surcharge.

On 1st July, 1880, the supply of the new sheets of 3d., violet-rose, on white paper, perf. 14, wmk. Cr. and C C, arrived from De La Rue; but as the colour somewhat resembled the then shade of 1d., the authorities, before issuing any to the public, had them all surcharged locally by Saul Solomon & Co. with the figure 3, ten varieties of which occur on the same sheet; but as no one here in South Africa—so far as is known—has a complete sheet of the four panes, it is impossible to tell how many occur of each in the whole sheet. The three-line figure is, however, much the scarcest; and the short figure, though catalogued inverted, is not known officially so.

In 1881 the shade was changed to a deep red-brown, and wmk. changed in August, 1882, to Cr. and C A, which supply has lasted beyond the time when all the other values were altered to the Foul Anchor; and a stock is still on hand, there having been no 3d. rate since Oct. 1882, when the inland charge was reduced to 2d.

TENTH ISSUE.

In October, 1882, the colonial inland $\frac{1}{2}$ oz. rate was lowered to 2d.; and a large number of sheets of the new stamps, 2d., bistre, with shades, single frame, on white wove paper, perf. 14, and wmk. Cr. and C A, were received from England (De La Rue) and issued at once. The wmk. was altered in 1885 to Foul Anchor; and no more were printed after 1889, when the colonial rate became 1d., over fifteen years' supply—1,000,000 sheets—being in hand; a large portion of these being later on utilized, and surcharged ONE PENNY.

In 1891 another large supply of the 3d., red-brown, wmk. Foul Anchor, was received from De La Rue.

SURCHARGED ISSUE.

In August, 1882, when the $\frac{1}{2}$ d. rate for certain newspapers came into vogue, there were very few of the old halfpenny Cr. and C C issue of 1876 in stock; and as the impressions from the new plates had not yet arrived from England, recourse was again had to surcharging locally; and 500 sheets of 3d., red-brown, different shades, wmk. Cr. and C A, were overprinted "One Halfpenny," in two lines in black, by Saul Solomon & Co.; a few sheets of the old 3d., Cr. and C C, being also surcharged at the same time, but how many is not known.

There were no errors, and any varieties were simply caused by want of ink, or careless placing of the sheets for surcharging, whereby the overprint did not occur in the same place on all the sheets.

SURCHARGED ISSUE.

On the 23rd April, 1891, the reduced rate of $2\frac{1}{2}$ d. to Great Britain came into force; and as again the English plates were not ready, the Government printer in London, De La Rue, sent out 12,660 sheets of the 3d., red-brown, of 1891, in two batches, about one month's interval between each, which had been surcharged, in large black figures at the bottom, with $2\frac{1}{2}$ d. There are no errors known; but a slight difference in a few stamps in the 1 and d. may be found, so that this surcharge may have been done by type and not stereotyped.

ELEVENTH ISSUE.

The new stamp of $2\frac{1}{2}$ d. supply was received in January, 1892, and issued to the public on the 1st February. The colour, greyish green, was not considered an improvement; but the issue marked a new De La Ruean departure, inasmuch as these were the first specimens of the new process of surface-printing, in single fugitive ink. The paper, perforation, and wmk. Foul Anchor, were exactly the same in all other issues of this date.

There had been two printings up to 31st December, 1893, equalling 7250 sheets of 1,740,000 stamps.

SURCHARGED ISSUE.

The supply of 1d. stamps again running short, and the 1d. plates in England beginning to wear out, steps were taken to utilize the enormous supply in hand of the 2d., bistre; and the Government printers in Cape Town, W. A. Richards & Sons, were called upon to overprint 10,000 sheets = 2,400,000 stamps (hardly two months' supply) with ONE PENNY in black capitals, and an obliterating bar across the lower label. There was only one printing of these, and there are no errors; although in every sheet, in the left-hand top pane, one stamp is found without the stop after "Penny." The surcharge of these late issues was found to dry up and crinkle very much, and has therefore been altered—for the better.

LATEST ISSUE.

1d. New Type.

In Nov. 1893, six samples of the new designs of the 1d. were sent out to the Postmaster-General, and approved of, one only of these stamps being given to the Governor; and the new issue was given out to the public during 1894, as the sheets from the old plates were used up. Both 1d. stamps of the old and new design are (1894) still in use throughout the Cape, the old stock not being entirely used up yet.

Before continuing and giving a few details as to the post cards, envelopes, and wrappers, I should like to mention that I made special enquiries with regard to the use of fiscal stamps for postal purposes, and also that of the 1d., cut in halves, for newspapers or circulars, and often found in collections. It appears that, although never officially authorized, before the railways were completed and connected throughout the Colony, from 1885-89, several up-country towns occasionally ran short of certain values, and recourse was then had by local postmasters to such devices to convenience the public. These practices have since been forbidden; and although they might be affixed to letters, obliterated, and passed through the post, the letter would be charged forward as an unpaid one. In fact, I may mention that I have on several occasions received letters with Cape revenues, etc., attached; and been asked to post them to the collector for his collection! Needless to say, I have not done so.

GRIQUALAND WEST STAMPS.

From records in the Post Office, it does not appear what quantities of stamps were surcharged for the use of Griqualand West as a separate province, from 1876 to 1881; but it is recorded that the following numbers were returned from Kimberley to the G.P.O., and afterwards issued as required, *pari passu* with the ordinary Cape stamps, for use in the various offices throughout the Colony—thus accounting for the large number of them postally used during recent years, from 1881 to 1890, postmarked from different colonial towns.

$\frac{1}{2}$ d., overprinted G in red	.	127,000	sent back from Kimberley, 19th July, 1881.
1d., " G in red and black	.	303,603	" "
4d., overprinted G W in black and red, and G in black, red, and violet.	.	196,560	" "
" " G in black	.	79,200	" "
1s., " G in black and red	.	124,320	" "
5s., " G in red	.	7,590	" "

I also made special enquiries *re* official knowledge of the penmarked 1d. in red on 4d., for use in Kimberley, but nothing was known of it, and I have never yet met with one with a postmark on it, showing either the town, date, or defacing number of Post Office on it.

BRITISH BECHUANALAND.

The following Cape stamps have been overprinted for use in British Bechuanaland during 1886-7: $\frac{1}{2}$ d., red surch., red and black surch.; 1d., 2d., 3d., 4d., 6d., 1s., black surch., Foul Anchor wmk.; and 4d., red surch., ditto; and again in 1889, the $\frac{1}{2}$ d., Foul Anchor, was surcharged in green with varieties. In 1893-4, the current 1d. and 2d. were both again surcharged vertically, the first one reading upwards from the bottom on the left-hand side in two

lines, British
Bechuanaland And the latter, much the scarcer, downwards from the top

of the right-hand side, British
Bechuanaland Several errors and omissions in both.

Together with post cards, wrappers, and registered envelopes.
Record of quantities not available.

MILITARY TELEGRAPHS.

There is no record to show the number of 6d. and 1s. Cape surcharged in two lines, in black capitals, for the use of the Warren Expedition into Bechuanaland; but a military friend tells me that 50 sheets of each were so done in Cape Town for the Imperial authorities. At any rate, two distinct shades of the former are to be found, one wmk. Cr. and C C, the other with the Foul Anchor, and the 1s. always Cr. and C C. These stamps are not plentiful, and most of them have certainly been destroyed with the telegraph forms.

FIRST POST CARD.

1d., red.

On March 1st, 1878, post cards were first introduced.

1d., red, $4\frac{7}{8} \times 2\frac{1}{8}$, on buff thin cardboard.

Printed locally by Messrs. Saul Solomon & Co., by lithography.

Several cards were printed in black, as proofs, and some got mixed with the others, and were sold in the packets to the public; and are therefore known postally used.

These cards were for town delivery and suburbs only, or to places between which there were two posts a day; if sent further, they had to have additional stamps affixed. There is no record of how many were issued, but they were in use up to 1884, when the last was sold out.

SECOND POST CARD.

1*d.*

1st July, 1882. 1*d.*, colour red-brown, on thick white card. Oval stamp, $4\frac{1}{8} \times 2\frac{1}{8}$, or 171×74 mil.

Printed by De La Rue, singly and in quarter reams of 120 sheets, 42 cards to each sheet.

There have been nine printings up to date = 7,242,720 cards, being several years' supply.

These were for intercolonial use—Orange Free State, British Bechuanaland, Basutoland, Transkie, S.A. Republic, Natal. The card rate was reduced to $\frac{1}{2}$ *d.* in 1889, for the Cape only.

1000 of these cards were overprinted and supplied to the British South Africa Company on 15th Oct., 1892.

396 of these cards were overprinted and supplied to the British South Africa Company in January, 1893.

THIRD POST CARD.

 $\frac{1}{2}$ *d.*

1st January, 1889, a reduction of inland rate was made to $\frac{1}{2}$ *d.*, and a card issued.

Light brown, square stamp, on white thick cardboard. Printed by De La Rue, singly and in quarter reams, in four printings = 777,120; but, owing to the colour being too much like that of the 1*d.* card of 1882, it was changed to green on the 29th Sept., 1891, and these latter are still in use. Of these there have been up to date four printings = 5,811,840 cards.

These cards circulated over all the Colony and its dependencies; and in September, 1892, to the Orange Free State also.

FOURTH POST CARD.

1 $\frac{1}{2}$ *d.*

1st May, 1890. 1 $\frac{1}{2}$ *d.* card, grey-green on light buff, thin card, with square stamp, and inscriptions in English and French; was printed by De La Rue, for circulation between the Cape and Great Britain, abroad only with an extra 1*d.* stamp.

There were four printings = 679,800, and it was withdrawn on 1st January, 1892; and used thereafter only for foreign countries from 1st Sept., 1892, under agreement with U.P.U.

Of these cards,

3000 were overprinted and supplied for use in British Bechuanaland, Nov., 1892.

1000 " " " " British South Africa Co., 15th Oct., 1892.

396 " " " " " " Jan., 1893.

NOTE.—The first printing of these cards = 246,840, was sent out from England in June, 1884, in readiness for the Cape coming under the Postal Union; but negotiations falling through, they were kept until 1890, as above.

FIFTH POST CARD.

 $1d. \times 1d.$

1st July, 1892, a reply-paid post card of 1d., in brown on thick buff, 140×89 , was issued, printed by De La Rue—one printing only = 48,720—for use to Great Britain only. From the 1st Sept., 1892, it was also allowed to be sent to foreign countries, provided an extra stamp of $\frac{1}{2}d.$ was attached to each half.

Of these cards,

1200 were overprinted and supplied to British Bechuanaland, 5th Oct., 1892.

1000 " " British South Africa Company, 15th Oct., 1892.

396 " " " " Jan., 1893.

SIXTH POST CARD.

 $\frac{1}{2}d. \times \frac{1}{2}d.$

April, 1893. Reply-paid inland card issued, $\frac{1}{2}d. \times \frac{1}{2}d.$, brown on buff, thick card; for use in South Africa only. Printed by De La Rue, in two printings of 48,000 each = 96,000. The $1\frac{1}{2}d. \times 1\frac{1}{2}d.$ were under order when I left Cape Town.

EMBOSSSED ENVELOPES.

1st June, 1892, 1d., oval, on white thick laid paper, in two sizes, made by De La Rue, was issued.

Size A, $4\frac{3}{4} \times 3\frac{11}{16}$. Total printed to 1894, 254,720.

" B, $5\frac{13}{16} \times 3\frac{9}{16}$ " " 216,000.

And the $\frac{1}{2}d.$ and $2\frac{1}{2}d.$ have come out this year.

REGISTERED LETTER ENVELOPES.

Up to 1881 the fee for registration had always been 8d., repayable by ordinary stamps; but on the 15th July, 1881, the fee was reduced to 4d., and Messrs. Mc Corquodale & Co. supplied the first lot of registered envelopes with 4d., blue, embossed stamps on the flap, in five sizes. This envelope was on thick white linen-faced wove, and bore their imprint on the inside, where the flap covered the back part of the envelopes. Supplied as follows:

Size F, $5\frac{1}{4} \times 3\frac{1}{4}$	.	.	.	.	= 21,552.
" G, $6 \times 3\frac{3}{4}$	.	.	.	.	= 21,120.
" H, 8×5	.	.	.	.	= 5,016.
" I, 10×7	.	.	.	.	= 5,352.
" K, $11\frac{1}{2} \times 6$	.	.	.	.	= 10,632.

Since 1882 the supplies have come from De La Rue as above, in number, to 1894:

Size F, $5\frac{1}{4} \times 3\frac{1}{4}$	.	.	.	.	= 60,402.
" G, $6 \times 3\frac{3}{4}$	.	.	.	.	= 60,216.
" H, 8×5	.	.	.	.	= 12,196.
" I, 10×7	.	.	.	.	= 3,912.
" K, $11\frac{1}{2} \times 6$	.	.	.	.	= 7,752.

A supply of each of the latter was sent to British Bechuanaland, number not recorded, surcharged in two lines, small letters, ^{BRITISH} BECHUANALAND; and also other similar ones for use in the northern Protectorate, surcharged in two straight lines, in large capitals, BECHUANALAND PROTECTORATE. These latter are decidedly rare.

WRAPPERS.

Dec. 1st, 1881. $\frac{1}{2}$ d., grey-green on buff, 12×5 , with inscription and gummed flap; made by De La Rue, singly, in cut sheets, and quarter reams of uncut; and ungummed bands of 120 sheets, of 14 wrappers on each.

Nov., 1892. $\frac{1}{2}$ d., colour changed to dark green; similar paper and details.

Nov., 1892. 1d., red-brown on buff, 12×5 ; De La Rue; similar paper and details.

11th Aug., 1892. Issue of book wrappers, 15×7 ; parcel of 167 sheets, of 10 wrappers on each.

4th October, 1892. $1\frac{1}{2}$ d., grey on thin whitish paper, 15×7 . De La Rue. Sold in quarter reams of 120 sheets, of 10 wrappers each.

Some of each of the above were surcharged for use in British Bechuanaland, 1886-1893, but no numbers recorded.

In concluding these notes, I should just like to add that, whilst searching the records, I found that a valuable and extensive report on the Cape stamps generally, especially with regard to fixed and fugitive colours, was prepared by Messrs. De La Rue in 1883, and on the 1st May that year presented to both Cape Houses of Parliament.

In 1890, a Mr. A. A. Brodziak, from Queensland, arrived at the Cape, and offered to pay £2000 for the first year, £3000 the second, and £4000 the third year, in advance, for the privilege and sole right of printing on and using advertisements on the backs of all sheets of postage stamps.

Messrs. Booty & Hunter also offered similar terms for the right of advertising anything they liked upon the telegraph forms and envelopes. Neither of these two offers commended itself to the Government, and they were both refused.

In 1891-92 a long correspondence appears to have taken place between the Government and certain parties, with regard to certain stamps, used and unused, bought by a Mr. Wells from a Mr. Henry, and sold by Wells to collectors and others, which were acknowledged to be some of the genuine reprints, but had evidently been stolen; although the Government utterly failed to prove their ownership, or how the stamps had got out of their possession, as, according to the records, only about twenty of each kind were missing!

In 1893 another long correspondence took place between H.E. the Governor of the Cape, H.B.M.'s agent at Pretoria, the Cape P.M.G., and the Transvaal P.M.G., as to the genuineness and legality as a postal issue of certain envelopes, stamped with 6d. stamp of the old Z.A. Republic style;

and from the reports of the P.M.G. of the Transvaal, together with enclosed reports from Mr. Fred Jeppe, the late P.M.G. under the first Boer Government, and Mr. Emil Tamsen, a leading Transvaal collector and dealer, it would appear that the Transvaal Government now entirely repudiates the aforesaid envelopes as being either genuine or current; and states that they are envelopes illegally made, and sold by the printers in Germany of the Transvaal first issue, from the original—or copies of the original—die; sold without authority as originals, but differing, in many details only observable to advanced collectors, from the two only authorised issues made by P. Davis & Sons, of Natal, of 2000 in Feb., 1872, from the 6d. die, and 5000 in Dec., 1873, from the 3d. die altered to 6d.

CHAS. L. NORRIS NEWMAN.

BULUWAYO, February, 1895.

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London Philatelic Exhibition, 1897.



MEETING of the General Committee was held at the Rooms of the Philatelic Society, London—Effingham House, Arundel Street, Strand, W.C.—on Thursday, the 24th inst., at three p.m., in order to appoint the Executive Committee to carry out the work of the Exhibition, and discuss the general arrangements.

The following gentlemen were present: Messrs. M. P. Castle, J. A. Tilleard, C. J. Phillips, R. Pearce, E. J. Nankivell, H. Hilckes, W. Morley, J. H. Thompson, R. Ehrenbach, Gordon Smith, E. S. Gibbons, W. D. Beckton, A. H. Harrison, S. E. Gwyer, W. T. Willett, M. Giwelb, W. H. Peckitt, E. D. Bacon, W. B. Avery, F. R. Ginn, E. B. Evans, and W. Hadlow.

The following gentlemen were elected as the

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE.

AVERY, W. B.	EVANS, E. B.	JONES, T. WICKHAM.	PHILLIPS, C. J.
BACON, E. D.	GIWELB, M.	MAYCOCK, E.	PIERCE, J. A.
BECKTON, W. D.	GWYER, S. E.	NANKIVELL, E. J.	SMITH, GORDON.
CASTLE, M. P.	HADLOW, W.	OLDFIELD, H. R.	TILLEARD, J. A.
EHRENBACH, R.	HYNES, G. J.	PECKITT, W. H.	WILSON, W. T.

Subjoined we give the full list of the General Committee, from whom the Executive Committee have been elected.

GENERAL COMMITTEE.

BACON, E. D.	EHRENBACH, R.	JONES, T. WICKHAM.	PEARCE, R.
BIGGS, C. N.	EVANS, Major E. B.	MAYCOCK, T.	TILLEARD, J. A.
CASTLE, M. P.	GARTH, D.	OLDFIELD, H. R.	

(Members of the Council of the Philatelic Society, London.)

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BRADFORD PHILATELIC SOCIETY.

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BRIGHTON PHILATELIC SOCIETY.

Baron A. DE WORMS, *Hon. Sec.*

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W. DORNING BECKTON, *President*.A. H. HARRISON, *Hon. Sec.*

OXFORD PHILATELIC SOCIETY.

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SMITH, GORDON.

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THOMPSON, T. H.

USHER, Rev. W. N.

VANSITTART, Capt. R. A.

VINER, Dr. C. W.

WILLETT, W. T.

WILSON, A. H.

WINCH, H.

WRIGHT, HASTINGS E.

Occasional Notes.

THE COMING SEASON.

INDICATIONS are not wanting that this winter will be a very busy one in Philatelic circles. The word "season" is well-nigh out of date in stamp collecting nowadays, as there is apparently no cessation of activity. Messrs. Hilcke's Summary, elsewhere referred to, is dated "Season 1895-6: September 1st, 1895, to July 31st, 1896." This leaves but the month of August for dormant Philately, and even this holiday month has this year been invaded by two or three auctions. Beyond this, as it is travelling-time for a large portion of the world, our visitors from abroad give the leading dealers as much pleasant occupation in the summer as the indigenous collector does in the

winter. The Scott Stamp and Coin Co., in heralding their next catalogue, clearly foreshadow a greater demand than ever for the issues of United States; and from recent Continental experience we are in a position to know the future rush after the better Europeans—including Scandinavians. Our insular pride—in this case fully justified—does not admit the possibility of any decreased Philatelic attention to our Colonial issues; while there is a distinct revival in the interest taken in the better South American countries and the Transvaal. Beyond all this, the London Exhibition of 1897 now looms out distinctly; and it is, therefore, safe to predict that the ensuing season will not only be innocent of the prophesied depression, but will be the most prosperous in the records of Philately.

THE CONVENTION OF THE AMERICAN PHILATELIC ASSOCIATION.

THE Eleventh Annual Convention of this important body of American Philatelists was held at Minnetonka Beach, on August 11th, and following days. The occasion was rendered memorable through the resignation of the Presidency by Mr. J. K. Tiffany, which, as explained in his feeling and kindly valedictory letter, was attributable to his physician's orders. Mr. Tiffany has been so long and honourably connected with Philately that, on both sides of the Atlantic, the wish will be re-echoed that he may be spared for many years of quiet enjoyment. Mr. C. W. Kissinger having withdrawn his candidature for the post of Secretary, there was, practically, no competition for the various officerships for the ensuing year, which were filled as follows:

President	...	...	HON. F. F. OLNEY
Vice-Presidents	...	...	Mr. W. C. VANDERLIP
"	...	...	" G. L. TOPPAN
"	...	...	" J. L. KILBON
Treasurer	...	...	" N. W. CHANDLER
Secretary	...	...	" J. F. BEARD
Assistant Secretary	...	...	" H. B. PHILLIPS
International Secretary	...	...	" E. DOEBLIN
Superintendent of Sales, etc.	...	...	" G. D. MEKEEL

A most excellent range of names, and well calculated to enhance the prestige of the A.P.A. Mr. Olney is a gentleman of the highest position, and a worthy successor to the Presidential chair; and all three Vice-Presidents bear names that are well known and respected in Europe and America, as conscientious students and consistent collectors. The social function of the Convention, in which the Minneapolis Philatelists played a leading rôle, resulted to the general satisfaction of the numerous members present.

A FORGED GENEVA ENVELOPE.

THOSE who have read our report of the Geneva Exhibition, in last month's issue, will have noted the rarity of these envelopes in used condition. With the exception of the large size, unused, all three varieties—

"Ladies," "Medium," and "Square"—are, in fact, of a marked degree of rarity, either unused or postmarked. It was, therefore, with impatience that we anticipated lately the arrival of a specimen noted as in "superb condition." Alas! for the vanity of human aspirations; a momentary glance sufficed to denote a rank forgery. The "envelope" proved to be of the smallest size, as described, but was evidently "hand-made," as the pencil-lines along the flaps clearly denoted! It was, moreover, beautifully postmarked with the Geneva town obliteration, "5 Juni, 48," etc., and the "stamp" bore the well-known red obliteration of a cross surrounded by ornaments, known to Swiss experts as Type I. of the Geneva Cantonal Postmarks. The curious feature, however, of this forgery, which thus revealed its nature in an instant, is that the stamp is *engraved* in a bright yellow-green! Needless to say, the design and lettering vary materially from the real thing; but as the general appearance, coupled with a most imposing red seal, is well calculated to deceive the unwary, we deem it advisable to give this note of warning to the Philatelic world. As the manufacturers have gone to the trouble of making dies for stamp and postmarks, they are hardly likely to rest content without issuing a quantity; and, moreover, as this forgery is apparently of recent origin, there will doubtless be more to follow.

Philatelic Note.

NOTE.—The co-operation of Philatelists is invited in order to make this column of a varied and interesting nature.

SOUTH AUSTRALIA.—Mr. Geo. Blockey writes us: "I have discovered a copy of the small 2d., orange-red, perf. $11\frac{1}{2}$, Wmk. Cr. SA close, with dated postmark, Oct. 4th, 1869. The following is a complete list of the varieties rare and otherwise of perforation of the 2d. orange, close SA, all of which I have had in my own collection."

2D., ORANGE, WMK. SA, CLOSE.

Dates when in use or issued.

1876-93 .	perf. 10
Aug. 1877	} " $11\frac{1}{2}$
and	
Mar. 1880	
"	" $11\frac{1}{2} \times 12\frac{1}{2}$
Mar. 1880	" $11\frac{1}{2} \times 11\frac{1}{2} \times 11\frac{1}{2} \times 10$
Oct. 1878	" $10 \times 12\frac{1}{2}$
"	" $10 \times 11\frac{1}{2}$

Dates when in use or issued.

Oct. 1878	perf. $10 \times 10 \times 10 \times 11\frac{1}{2}$, or $10 \times 10 \times 11\frac{1}{2} \times 10$
"	" $10 \times 10 \times 10 \times 12\frac{1}{2}$, or $10 \times 10 \times 12\frac{1}{2} \times 10$
Mar. 1880	" $11\frac{1}{2} \times 10$
"	" $11\frac{1}{2} \times 10 \times 10 \times 10$, or $10 \times 11\frac{1}{2} \times 10 \times 10$
April 1, 1893	" 15
July 1, 1893	" 13



THE
Society for the Suppression of Speculative Stamps.

CIRCULAR NO. 6.

391, STRAND, LONDON, W.C., 29th August, 1896.



THE Society, in conjunction with the Special Committee appointed by the London Philatelic Society, having taken into consideration the stamps mentioned below, are of opinion that they are not worth the attention of Philatelists, and appeal to all collectors and dealers to discountenance collecting or dealing in the same.

25. URUGUAY.—From the *Monte Video Times*, of July 14th, and also from an official circular received from the Direccion-General of Posts and Telegraphs, we learn that it was proposed to issue a set of stamps to commemorate the inauguration of the statue of Don Joaquin Suarez. The set consists of the following values :

- 1 centesimo (portrait of Suarez), black and violet.
- 5 „ (statue of Suarez) „ and sky-blue.
- 10 „ (the Suarez monument), black and carmine.

This set was to be concurrent with the regular issue, from the 18th July to the 25th August.

The following extract from the newspaper above named expresses very pertinently what business people think of such an issue :

“ After August 26th they will no longer be valid for postal purposes, but may be changed for similar values of the current emission until September 30th. This issue will not affect the present emission, which remains valid, and may be used concurrently. This is all very well, but instead of attending to these ‘celebration’ emissions—which have been so grossly abused by many countries of late years that they have lost all value with genuine stamp collectors, and are shunned by the more respectable dealers—we think it would be far better if the Post-office endeavoured to supply the present painful deficiency of post cards, stamped envelopes and wrappers, the want of which is a serious detriment to commerce. As we said recently, it is a monstrous thing that a note or acknowledgment of two or three lines cannot be sent abroad except in a letter costing 10 cents., instead of on a post card of 2 or 3 cents. It is some two years now that we have been without post cards, and the Post-office is seriously to blame, besides being a loser, for not paying more attention to the ordinary wants of the public.”

26. VENEZUELA.—A commemoration set has lately been issued, consisting of the following values: 5 c., 10 c., 25 c., 50 c., and 1 bolivar, but we have at present no further information concerning them.

GORDON SMITH,

Sec. S. S. S. S.

HERBERT R. OLDFIELD,

Hon. Secretary to Special Committee, London Philatelic Society.

New Issues.

NOTES OF NEW, AND VARIATIONS OF CURRENT, ISSUES.

(Varieties of Obsolete Stamps, and Discoveries, will be found under "Philatelic Notes.")

We do not profess to chronicle everything, but, with the kind help of correspondents, are desirous that all the important novelties may be included. Speculative stamps—i.e. those not really required for postal purposes—will be considered on their merits, and jubilee issues will not be chronicled.

Members of the London Philatelic Society, and other readers generally, are invited to co-operate with us in making the columns as interesting as possible. Our foreign readers can especially help us in this direction, by sending copies of any official documents relative to changes in the current issues, or early intimation of any new issue, accompanied, when possible, by a specimen; such information will be duly credited to the correspondent, and, if desired, the specimen promptly returned. Address: EDITOR "LONDON PHILATELIST," EFFINGHAM HOUSE, ARUNDEL STREET, STRAND, LONDON, W.C.

BRITISH EMPIRE.

BRITISH CENTRAL AFRICA.—In reference to the double surcharge of the one penny on 2d., chronicled last month, Messrs. Whitfield King & Co. send us a further explanation for its existence, as follows:

"100 sheets of 60 2d. stamps were sent to the Government printing office at Blantyre, to be surcharged. After printing this one sheet twice over, it was sent in to the P. M. G., who did not consider the overprinting could be done properly in B. C. A., so he recalled them and sent the remaining 99 sheets to the P. M. G. of the Cape of Good Hope, where they were properly surcharged. This will explain the difference in type. Only one sheet of 60 stamps was, therefore, locally surcharged, and that twice."

CHAMBA.—We have come across a very curious variety in the surcharge on the 1½ as., brown, Indian adhesive, chronicled on page 155. The word "STATE," of "Chamba State," is spelt thus, "STATF"; it must not be supposed that the variety is constituted by broken letters, the second and two last letters of the word being clear abbreviations.

Adhesive. 1½ as., brown, black surcharge, error.

CYPRUS.—The two piastres in two colours is now in use, and Messrs. Whitfield King & Co. send a copy for our inspection. (Colours on page 52.)

It may be of interest to place on record the exact numbers of the now obsolete Cyprus stamps which have been issued since they superseded the English over-

printed stamps, and up to their being superseded by the new bicoloured series. Messrs. Whitfield King & Co. send us the following list, furnished from official sources; the numbers include both CC and CA watermarks, no separate official account having been kept:

½ piastre, green	3,039,840
30 paras, mauve	187,920
1 piastre, rose	424,800
2 piastres, blue	983,700
4 " olive-green	90,000
6 " slate	54,000
12 " Venetian red	19,000

FIJI.—The one penny adhesive is to hand from Messrs. Whitfield King & Co., printed in red-lilac in place of black, perf. 11.

Adhesive. 1d., red-lilac.

GREAT BRITAIN.—We have to thank that indefatigable and patriotic expert in English stamps, Mr. H. L'Estrange Ewen, for copies of the "Army Official" surcharge, issued on September 1st. There are three values—½d., 1d., and 2½d.

The overprint on the latter is in thicker type, and the words are 9¼ mm. apart, instead of 12 mm.

*Adhesives. ½d., vermilion, black surcharge
1d., lilac
2½d., purple on blue " "*

GRENADA.—On the authority of the P. M. G. of Grenada, the *A. J. of Ph.* announces that the ½d. adhesive of the new type has not yet been issued. We must, therefore, withdraw our chronicle.

INDIA.—*The Philatelic World* has seen a new surcharge, evidently created to use up the remaining stock of the 9 pies stamps. This value has been surcharged "Postal

Service" and "One Anna," in block letters, between the two words of the first surcharge.

SERVICE.

Adhesive. One anna on 9 pies, black surch. on carmine.

JHIND.—This State is receiving the full complement of current Indian adhesives surcharged "Jhind State." Messrs. Whitfield King & Co. have received the 2, 3, and 5 rupees, and the 1 rupee Service stamp.

Adhesives. 2 rupees, brown and carmine; black surch.
3 " green and brown "
5 " violet and blue "
Service. 1 rupee, green and carmine "

JOHORE.—*Mekeel's Weekly* receives direct communication from Shanghai that a complete new issue, with profile of the new Sultan, is to be issued this month. This news amply confirms the speculative nature of the recent "Kemahkotaan" surcharges.

NEW SOUTH WALES.—*The Australian Philatelist* says: "Owing to Fiji having agreed to accept letter cards at the inter-colonial rate of 1½d., an alteration has been made in the inscription on the back of the N.S.W. letter card, which has been effected by obliterating the word 'and' after 'Tasmania,' and all the words after 'Australia' in the third and fourth lines, and adding the words, 'and Fiji.' The alterations are made in red ink."

Letter Card.

1½d., red on drab (pink inside); altered inscription.

QUEENSLAND.—*The Australian Philatelist* comes to our help in our trouble with the "Secret Mark" paper (see p. 129): "If the stamps are held to the light, at such an angle that the glazed surface is fully displayed, the 'mark' of a Crown over the letter Q can be easily seen. [? ED.] It has the appearance of a depression in the glazing of the surface, and, we believe, it is produced by impressing a die on the paper when in course of manufacture. When we were in Queensland, in 1892, an inventor was trying to get some new patent paper accepted for use in printing postage stamps. He claimed that forgery was impossible if his patent were adopted. Perhaps the 'Secret Mark' is one of his patents. It is certainly difficult to decipher the mark upon used specimens, especially if they have been immersed in water; but, as no other *unwatermarked* paper was used for the current type without the addition of the *burelé* band, there should be no difficulty in deciding that a stamp without watermark or band is a 'Secret Mark' variety."

SEYCHELLES.—The following Government Gazette comes to hand from Messrs. Whitfield King & Co.:

"SEYCHELLES GOVERNMENT
GAZETTE.

No. 35. VOL. XX. No. 35.

"EXTRAORDINARY.

PUBLISHED BY AUTHORITY. MONDAY, JULY 13, 1896.

"GOVERNMENT NOTICE
No. 65, of 1896.

"It is hereby notified for public information that in virtue of Art. 1 of Ord. 5 of 1890, His Honour, the Administrator in Executive Council has been pleased to alter the present rates of postage from Seychelles to the countries of the Postal Union.

"For Letters

	Rs. c.
not exceeding 15 grammes	0 18
Exceeding 15 grammes, but not exceeding 30 grammes	0 36
With 18 c. for each additional 15 grammes or fraction of 15 grammes.	

"For Post Cards

to countries of the Postal Union	Rs. c.
(single cards)	0 08
" " (reply cards)	0 16

"For Commercial Papers, Newspapers, Books,
Printed Papers, Patterns, &c.

	Rs. c.
For 50 grammes	0 04
With a proviso of a minimum for a packet of commercial papers of	0 18
and for patterns or samples	0 08

"The new rate will come into operation on and from the 1st August, 1896.

"The following values now existing will be abolished from that date:

c.	c.	c.	c.
13	15	45	48 & 96.

* "Pending the arrival of new stamps, 18 c. and 36 c., overprints will be supplied; and 18 c. overprint envelopes.

"By order,

"GEO. GEMMELL,
"Government Clerk.

"GOVERNMENT OFFICE, SEYCHELLES,
13th July, 1896."

* The 45 c. has been utilised to supply these, and this value is said to be now obsolete. (ED. L. P.)

SOUTH AUSTRALIA.—Again we have to thank Mr. Geo. Blockey for early news of new emissions: "Since my last letter the following have appeared:

Adhesives. ½d., brown; perf. 13.
Service. 4d., bright violet; surcharge 'O.S.'"

STRAITS SETTLEMENTS.—*Native States.*—There appear to be two new values to chronicle, in the Tiger type, 15 c. and 25 c. *Mekeel's Weekly* mentions the latter as quite new, and at present peculiar to Selangor, but the *Australian Philatelist* has this same value for Negri Sembilan, with the addition of 15 c. and 50 c., all with centre in green.

Is this a change of colour in the 50 c.? as this value has already been chronicled with centre *lilac*.

PERAK.—Messrs. Whitfield King & Co. send us the dollar values which were issued on July 23rd last (we chronicled these, evidently in error, on page 20). The stamps are decidedly handsome, and a peculiarity that we have not noticed before is that they are on C C paper.

Adhesives. \$1, pale green and green.
\$2 " " and carmine.
\$3 " " and blue.

Negri Sembilan,

Adhesives. 15 c., green and mauve.
25 c. " and carmine.
50 c. " and black.

Selangor.

Adhesive. 25 c., green and carmine.

TRINIDAD.—At last we have a set of the long-talked-of new issue, from Messrs. Whitfield King & Co., and, from our standpoint, the design is as appropriate as the whole series is neat, altogether forming a desirable, as well as genuine, addition to a collection. As we hope to illustrate, we will only say that the familiar figure of Britannia occupies an octagonal frame, with "Trinidad" above, and value in words beneath. The higher values are of a larger size, measuring 39 mm. by 22 mm., wmk. Cr. CA, perf. 14.

Adhesives. ½d., lilac and green.
1d. " and carmine.
2½d. " and blue.
4d. " and orange.
5d. " and violet.
6d. " and black.
1s., green and brown.
5s. " and ochre.
10s. " and blue.
£1 " and carmine.

VICTORIA.—Various papers report a change in the colour of the 2d. Letter Card, *vermilion* in place of rose.

Letter Card. 2d., vermilion, on *grey-blue*.

ZANZIBAR.—Messrs. Whitfield King & Co. have received a letter from this Island franked with a 2 annas, blue, Indian, surcharged "Zanzibar," in black, and "2½" in red.

We notice that *Mekeel's Weekly* casts some doubt on the ½ and 1 anna British East African adhesives, borrowed and surcharged. In our July number we chronicled these for the first time, our announcement being credited to us by one other contemporary *only*, although all the English papers have freely chronicled these surcharges.

Adhesive. 2½, in red, on 2 annas, blue; black surcharge.

EUROPE.

ITALY.—We have to thank Mr. Jos. Cortese for a specimen of the new 10 c. adhesive.

The 1 c. and 2 c. adhesives have also been seen by the *M. J.*, and are illustrated by the *I. B. J.*; these supersede the familiar large numeral types issued 33 years ago, and which, for period of existence, are verily typical examples of Philatelic longevity!

In our July issue we chronicled a 20 c. Unpaid Letter stamp. Our correspondent, who sent us the news direct, writes to apologise for his mistake in serving up stale news, the stamp having been issued in 1892-94.

Adhesives. 1 c., brown.
2 c., red.
10 c., carmine.

AMERICA.

COLOMBIA.—*Santander*.—For some unaccountable reason the colour of the current 5 centavos has been changed from brown to *yellow-green*.

Adhesive. 5 c., yellow-green.

ECUADOR.—*Mekeel's Weekly* has received a 5 c. provisional made by surcharging the 10 c. revenue stamp of 1887-88 "1896—Correos—5 cts.," and a paraph, the whole being hand-stamped in dull black.

Adhesive. 5 c. on 10 c., orange; black surcharge.

MEXICO.—The current set is now appearing pin-perforated, and in addition to this the *A. J. of Ph.* mentions a new watermark—"R.M." interlaced on each stamp—which is to take the place of the letters "CORREOS E U M," one letter of which is found on each stamp in a row. So far, only the 1 and 2 c. stamps have appeared with the new watermark.

Adhesives. 1 c., green; pin-perforation.
2 c., carmine " "
3 c., brown " "
4 c., vermilion " "
5 c., blue " "
10 c., rose lilac " "
12 c., olive " "
15 c., blue-green " "
1 peso, brown " "
1 c., green; wmk. "R.M." "
2 c., carmine " "

PARAGUAY.—Messrs. Whitfield King & Co. point out to us that the 1 c. adhesive, chronicled last month, was peculiar in that the word "CENTAVOS," which existed on the previous stamp, has been rectified to "CENTAVO."

The *Monthly Journal* has received the following stationery, with stamps of the types of the current adhesives of corresponding values.

Envelopes. 5 c., mauve on cream-laid, 148×82 mm.
10 c., blue " " "
Post Cards. 2 c., green on white, 136×78 mm.
2×2 c., " " (reply).
4 c., red " "
4×4 c., " " (reply).
Letter Card. 2 c., green " 148×85 mm.

OTHER COUNTRIES.

FERNANDO PO.—A dearth of 2 and 5 c. adhesives necessitated a 5 c. provisional; and we have copies of this, and also five new values in the current "baby" type, from Messrs. Whitfield King & Co.

Adhesives. ½ de centavo, slate.
6 c. de peso, dull lilac.
12½ " brown.
20 " grey-blue.
25 " dull lake.

Provisional. 5 c. on 10 c., blue; surch. on lake-brown.

TRANSVAAL.—The *Philatelic Record* contradicts the issue of the 5s. in two colours.

Philatelic Societies' Meetings.

MANCHESTER PHILATELIC SOCIETY.

SESSION 1896-7.

President—W. DORNING BECKTON.

Vice-Presidents—J. H. ABBOTT, F. BARRATT.

Hon. Treasurer—G. B. DUERST.

Hon. Librarian—W. W. MUNN.

Hon. Secretary—A. H. HARRISON.

Assist. Hon. Secretary—C. H. COOTE.

Committee—W. GRUNEWALD, E. PETRI, R. H. W. WHAPHAM.

The meetings are held weekly at the Grand Hotel, Manchester, on Friday evenings at 7.30.

SYLLABUS.

1896.			
Sep. 25.	OPENING MEETING, 7 p.m.	Dec. 4.	Greece. Part II. W. D. BECKTON.
	Lantern Exhibition.	" 11.	" Discussion.
	Part I. Secret Marks: the Stamps of Hamburg.	" 18.	ANNUAL DINNER, 7 p.m.
	Part II. Dangerous Forgeries.	1897.	
Oct. 2.	Exhibition of stamps acquired during the recess.	Jan. 8.	Norway . A. H. HARRISON.
" 9.	"Philatelic Exhibition," a paper. W. D. BECKTON.	" 15.	" Discussion thereon.
" 16.	Discussion on the proposed London Exhibition.	" 22.	" Part II. A. H. HARRISON.
" 23.	Austria: Lombardy-Venetia G. B. DUERST.	" 29.	" Discussion.
" 30.	Discussion and Revision of above.	Feb. 5.	Lantern Exhibition. J. H. ABBOTT.
Nov. 6.	Exhibition of Countries.	" 12.	
" 13.		" 19.	Sweden . R. H. W. WHAPHAM.
" 20.	Greece . W. D. BECKTON.	" 26.	" Discussion thereon.
" 27.	" Discussion thereon to settle Reference List.	Mar. 5.	Russia, An article on. D. OSTARA.
		" 12.	Exhibition of Countries.
		" 19.	Hayti . J. H. ABBOTT.
		" 26.	" Discussion thereon.
		April 2.	Two Sicilies . E. PETRI.
		" 9.	" Discussion thereon.
		" 14.	Finland . G. B. DUERST.
		" 23.	" Discussion thereon.
		" 30.	" W. W. MUNN.

Correspondence.

COMMUNICATIONS.—*All communications on Philatelic matters should be addressed to the Editor of THE LONDON PHILATELIST, Kingston Lodge, Richmond Place, Brighton.*

ADVERTISEMENTS *should be sent to* MR. H. M. GOOCH (Advertising Department), Effingham House, Arundel Street, London, W.C.

SUBSCRIPTIONS.—*THE LONDON PHILATELIST will be sent, post free in Great Britain or the countries of the Postal Union, to any subscriber, on receipt of 6s. (\$1.50). Subscribers' remittances should be sent to* MR. H. M. GOOCH, EFFINGHAM HOUSE, ARUNDEL STREET, STRAND, LONDON, W.C.

DUTCH INDIAN ENVELOPES.

DEAR SIR,—There has been much written about the 2nd type of surcharge 15 cent. on the 25 cent. Dutch India envelope, King's head, and general opinion seems to be that the unused type of surcharge was never issued. I can most emphatically prove that it was issued, and enclose you a specimen bought by myself at the Dutch Post Office here. I gave the envelope to my friend, Mr. Hassuer, with request to forward it on, registered, to my then address in Lougkat. You will see that the necessary 20 cents. for inland postage and registration are duly represented, and each of the stamps (including the surcharge) has the stamp of the Medan Post Office, 108. I bought some seven or eight other copies, which I have disposed of one way and another.

Sarawak of the 1892, 1 cent. on 3 cents., black and yellow, I have a block of four which I purchased from Stanley Gibbons & Co., originating from your own collection.* I do not see any mention of the variety. The two top stamps are from the top row, and are imperforated horizontally. The two stamps below them are imperforated at the top. Numbers 1 and 2 are imperforated horizontally; Numbers 3 and 4 imperforated at the top.

Hoping these memos. of mine may be of some little use,

I am, dear Sir,

Yours faithfully,

G. FRASER MELBOURNE.

MEDAN, DELI, SUMATRA,
25th July, 1896.

* Our correspondent's memory is at fault. This variety is described in Vol. III. of the *London Philatelist*, p. 69.—ED.

