

THE London Philatelist:

THE MONTHLY JOURNAL OF
THE ROYAL PHILATELIC SOCIETY, LONDON.

VOL. XVII.

SEPTEMBER, 1908.

No. 201.

The Emblems Issue of Victoria.



THE series of stamps issued for Victoria between the years 1857-63 and generally designated as the "Emblems" issues, from the fact that each angle of the design is occupied with the representation of an implement typical of the colony, is one of great interest and variety. The appearance of these stamps with a portrait of Queen Victoria (of high artistic merit), with a rich background and with inscriptions duly subordinated, presents a well-balanced and effective design that, when printed in bright colours, contrasts favourably with a large majority of our colonial issues. The credit of this design is due to Messrs. Calvert Brothers, of Melbourne, who were the engravers of the stamp, which was subsequently printed from electrotypes taken from the engraving. The first printings were made on the Perkins Bacon paper with the Large Star watermark, followed by others on paper without watermark, with laid lines, and with words or numerals of value. Many of the three values—1d., 2d., and 4d.—were used to a very large extent, and even now—half a century after their issue—may fortunately be said to be quite common stamps. There are, however, some varieties that are of considerable rarity, and one or two of extreme scarcity. The greatest drawback to these stamps is the redundancy of the postmark, generally consisting of heavy bars surrounding a large numeral, which frequently disfigures the design almost beyond recognition. The patient collector can, however, ultimately secure sets that are not spoilt by the obliterations, and will find in this issue a wealth of varieties of all kinds that render it one of the most interesting of the Australian stamps. In unused condition, especially of the twentieth-century standard, the "Emblems" will be found a very difficult quest. Many of the varieties are of extreme rarity, and in some cases are practically unknown, the only variety that is at all common being the first-issued one penny with the Star watermark, of which in bygone days a considerable number in pale green were to the fore.

Our attention has been drawn to the stamps by some notes hereon in Stanley Gibbons' weekly journal of 5 September, written by Mr. C. J.

Phillips. The energetic head of that firm is not only a keen man of business, but is fortunately an able Philatelist whose scientific labours on difficult philatelic problems are widely recognized; hence any article emanating from his pen is likely to be widely read and adopted in other journals. As we do not think he is quite correct in all his deductions, we venture to submit our own experience on the stamps of this issue, in the hope that between us we may evolve the true state of affairs. Mr. Phillips writes as follows:—

"I have recently purchased an old and extensive correspondence, consisting of many thousand letters addressed to this country and mostly franked with stamps of Victoria and New South Wales, the dates being from 1852 to 1863 inclusive.

"I will note first the Victoria 'Emblems' issue, of which there were a good many hundreds in the correspondence.

"Roughly speaking, the following is about the percentage of these stamps:—

Cat. No.	<i>1d., green.</i>		Cat. Price.
48	Wmk. Star., imperf.	35 p.c.	7 6
54	No wmk. "	6 "	6 0
57	" rouletted	6 "	25 0
61-2	" perf. 12	47 "	8 0
70	Laid "	2 "	22 6
72	Wmk. value "	4 "	5 0
<hr/>			
100			

"From these figures it looks as if Nos. 48 and 61 are priced too high and Nos. 54 and 72 too low, but, as I stated before, a local correspondence (say from Melbourne) might give quite a different percentage.

Cat. No.	<i>2d., lilac.</i>		Cat. Price.
55	No wmk., imperf.	54 p.c.	4 0
68	Laid hor., roul.	32 "	3 6
69	" * "	14 "	4 0
<hr/>			
100			

"The Catalogue prices are not far out; perhaps Nos. 68 and 69 should be priced a little higher.

Cat. No.	<i>4d., rose.</i>		Cat. Price.
49	Wmk. Star., imperf., verml.	15½ p.c.	3 6
50	" " rose	23 "	1 6
52	" roul.	½ "	40 0
60	No wmk. "	8 "	5 0
64	" perf. 12	13 "	1 6
65	Laid vert., imperf.	2 "	20 0
67	" roul.	23 "	1 6
71	Laid hor., perf. 12	15 "	1 9
<hr/>			
100			

* This is presumably laid vertically.—ED.

"The Catalogue prices seem to very well represent the relative rarity. Nos. 50, 64, and 71 might be quoted a little higher. I note that in many hundreds there was not a single copy of No. 56, the 4d. no wmk., imperf., which is catalogued at 40s., and must be well worth that price."

The experience gained by an examination, as stated by Mr. Phillips, of some hundreds of specimens should be corroborated before being accepted as conclusive, and we have therefore referred to some notes on these stamps that we made some five years ago. At that period we were enabled to examine and select from a very large accumulation of these stamps. They constituted the results of a systematic search for several years throughout the colonies of Victoria and New South Wales in both private and official circles, and the total number of specimens of this Emblem issue thus secured must have exceeded 7000. It is possible that they might have been picked over, as they were held by a well-informed dealer, but almost every variety of this issue was represented in about the anticipated proportion, and the bulk may be fairly held to represent an average representation of the several varieties as gathered from a lengthened correspondence.

Taken generally, it was found that the fourpenny was immeasurably commoner than the other two values. The rose shades, watermark Star, and the deep rose, perforated, on unwatermarked and horizontally laid paper, were found in such profusion as to indicate that they are undoubtedly sufficiently highly priced in modern catalogues. The one penny varieties, taken as a whole, were fewer than the twopenny, and are certainly as a whole better worth their quoted prices. The twopenny on wove paper, imperforate, and on horizontally laid paper were both largely represented, but the watermarked varieties, notably those with the single-lined figures, were very much scarcer than is indicated by modern quotations.

Turning now to Mr. Phillips's figures, as to which he has divided 100 per cent by the relative proportions of each of the varieties found by him. The percentage quoted by him as to the penny is absolutely misleading, and we should place the several varieties in the following order of rarity:—

1. No watermark, rouletted.
2. Laid, perforated.
3. Wove, perforated.
4. Watermark numeral of value.
5. Watermark of value in words.
6. Watermark Star.
7. No watermark, imperforate.

In the twopennies Mr. Phillips only found three varieties, two of which we have referred to as being common, the third, on vertically laid paper, being about three times as scarce as that on horizontally laid. The watermarked varieties, as we have before stated, are far rarer than those quoted, notably with the thin figure "2"; and the variety with no watermark, rouletted, was only found in about half a dozen copies in all the thousands examined by us. As to the fourpenny value, we have already referred to the three commonest varieties. Of the remaining ones quoted by Mr. Phillips, that on

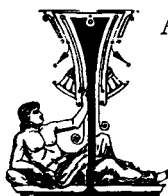
wove paper, rouletted, was found by us to be scarcer than imagined, and the same stamp unperforated was only found in two or three examples.* The vertically laid paper, imperforate, is fairly scarce, but at least four times as common as the last-named. In a word, the lowest-quoted fourpennies in the catalogue are commoner than their price indicates, and the highest-priced ones are worth more.

Among the rarer varieties of the "Emblems," the 1d., watermark Star, perf. 12, stands easily first, followed by the same stamp rouletted and—a long way after—by the fourpenny, likewise rouletted. The twopenny no watermark has recently been found *perçé en scie* in an unused block apparently emanating from an official source; but time is required to substantiate its philatelic importance. We gladly join issue with Mr. Phillips in calling attention to a fine old issue of stamps which will well merit the attention of collectors.

Notes on the Perkins Bacon Issues of the Cape of Good Hope.

BY M. P. CASTLE, HON. VICE-PRESIDENT.

A PAPER READ BEFORE THE ROYAL PHILATELIC SOCIETY, LONDON, ON 19 DECEMBER, 1907.



AM afraid that, like Canning's knife-grinder, I must proclaim that "Story I have none to tell!" and that the few remarks I have made in arranging my Perkins Bacon issues of the Cape of Good Hope can hardly be accorded the title of "Paper," as given in the programme of the Royal Society's labours of this session.

In extenuation of my shortcomings I may, however, plead two excuses. (1) The engraved issues of the Cape have been of a remarkably simple nature, presenting no philatelic variations except those of shade arising from the varying printings and the change of printers. For this reason, doubtless, as pointed out by Mr. E. D. Bacon in *Volume I of British Africa*, there has always been a remarkable absence in the philatelic journals of any articles dealing with these stamps. In the Society's work practically all the information that was to be gleaned was given, and I am therefore, even more than my predecessors, unable to evolve further information on this subject. (2) The one striking exception to the regularity of the Cape issues is that of the issue of the provisional or woodblock series, and these I have already dealt with in a paper read before the Royal Society last season. (See *London Philatelist*, Vol. XVI, pp. 160–86.) I may here say that in this issue I have found a few fresh points of interest arising, and as there may be Fellows and members here to-night who were not present when I read that paper, I have included in this display the provisional issue.

The tenor of the foregoing remarks seems rather of a disparaging nature, from a philatelic point of view, of these Perkins Bacon Cape stamps, as

* Mr. Phillips did not find one of these.—ED.

presenting no great field for study, but I think, despite this drawback, I shall voice the feelings of every collector when I say that this beautiful and unique issue of stamps has rendered incalculable service to Philately. From the first day when the Cape triangular stamps appeared they have served as an inducement to collect stamps, and if I were asked to name the most popular stamp in the world—from the most youthful collector upwards—I should name “the fourpenny blue triangular Cape.” This stamp, which has always been common, has been sold in stamp circles by scores of thousands this last half-century, and, despite this, to-day sells better and at higher prices than ever. I think, therefore, we may look upon it as the best recruiting sergeant that has ever enrolled for the noble army of stamp collectors. With regard to the whole issue, I venture to think the gratitude of Philately is due to Messrs. Perkins Bacon and Co. for their unique and beautiful handiwork. The issue as early as 1853 of a design so entirely differing from any precedents is certainly curious, and I cannot find any reference to the origin of the triangular design. It can hardly be likely that Mr. Humphreys, or even Messrs. Perkins Bacon, took the initiative in adopting a design so widely departing from hitherto accepted methods. It may hence be that some suggestion emanated from the colony, and this is an obscure point of philatelic history that it is desirable to clear up. We can but hope that when our Vice-President displays his Capes, he will, *more suo*, show us the original sketch, and all the essays and proofs that have been developed therefrom.

ISSUE I. 1853.

According to *British Africa*, this issue on the blued paper was in use, as regards the 1d., for about four years, while the 4d. was only in use for about half that period. According to the appendix in the Society's book, which gives the dates of the despatch of the several quantities of sheets to the Cape by Messrs. Perkins Bacon and Co., and assuming that the dates of issue of the 1d. and 4d. on white paper are correctly given as 1857 and 1855 respectively, the number of specimens sent out on this blued paper were—

1d.	.	.	1,970,000
4d.	.	.	440,000

This should make the 1d. four times as common as the 4d.; but this is not the case. It is, however, probable that many more of the 4d. than of the 1d. came to this country in the franking of letters.

The colours of these two stamps do not really vary. The heaviness of the ink, however, frequently produces shades, while the partial or entire blueing of the paper materially varies the appearance of the colour. The term brick-red accurately describes the 1d., while that of dark blue would be applicable to the 4d., the general tone of these latter stamps being less bright than those that succeeded them in 1855 on the white paper.

It will be noted that in the colour of the pigments employed and in the subsequent blueing of the paper these two stamps closely approximate to the then current 1d. and 2d. of Great Britain; and I think a comparison of dated specimens of the latter with the Capes would be of considerable interest. The varieties of the Great Britain bleuté 1d. stamp with the silvery-blue

outline to the head, and that of the ivoried appearance on the reverse side, occur equally with the Capes, as do all the complete and partial blueings. Hence I think the comparison of the two synchronic issues would help to fix the priority of the various printings as despatched by Messrs. Perkins Bacon and Co.

A very large proportion of these 1d. stamps in brick-red became bleuté, and I have found unused specimens thereof (that do not show the blue paper) exceedingly difficult to obtain. With the 4d. it is of course difficult to differentiate, though, as I have said, I consider the darker (and less bright) blue are those of the 1853 issue. Both the 1d. and 4d. on *really* blued paper are quite rare unused—hardly to be wondered at, as they have been out of use for half a century! The quotations of the catalogues hereon are quite misleading. Either of these stamps is several times rarer than any unused 1s. The 4d. is far the better stamp of the two, and I can recollect that it was a much-sought stamp thirty years since; nor do I ever recollect seeing a pair of either value in fine unused condition except in the Tapling Collection, which contains two pairs of the 1d. and one of the 4d., and a block of four of the former in Mr. H. J. Duveen's collection.

ISSUE II. 1855-8.

The dates of this issue, as given in *British Africa*, as before mentioned, are—

1d., 1857.
4d., 1855.
6d., 1858, 18 February.
1s. " "

I presume that the two first dates were quoted on good authority, but Messrs. Perkins Bacon's accounts would probably show no record of the change of colour of stamps or of paper. It would, however, be of interest to confirm the dates of the issue of the 1d. and 4d. on white paper, as indeed of the subsequent changes of tone or shade, by comparison with dated copies. I have arranged this issue as follows in my own collection in the possible order of their appearance:—

1d., dull red.
" brighter red.
" deep red.
" rose-red.
4d., blue to dark blue.
" paler blue.
" bright blue.
" grey-blue (?).
6d., dull lilac.
" slate-lilac.
" slate-bleuté.
1s., yellow-green shades.
" blue-green shades.

The 1d., dull red, are woolly impressions, the other shades being sharply printed; the difference is clearly visible in the background, which is com-

posed of intersecting fine lines, visible in the latter case, but not in the former. The 4d. shades are all clearly printed, except for an occasional case of heavy-inked impressions. The pale blue is to my mind a distinct shade with a slight milky tinge, and is much scarcer than the others. I have also a couple of specimens of the 4d., medium blue, with brown gum. The 6d., dull lilac, stamps are all clearly printed, the earliest issued being of a dark shade, but those in slate-lilac are occasionally a little "woolly." *British Africa*, Part I, does not include this stamp on bleuté paper (which is scarce unused), but it is now catalogued and generally accepted. It is not blued heavily nor all over, the central figure showing clearly white on the reverse side. With regard to the 1s., both shades of which are well printed and vary in tone, the Society's book places the 1s., dark green, first, while Messrs. Stanley Gibbons place the yellow-green in that position. I am inclined to believe the latter is correct, I admit principally for the reason that the unused sheets found during the past year were in the dark green colour, and may have been an unsold remainder. I do not remember to have seen a pair of the yellow-green unused, and until late years pairs of the dark green and of the subsequent emerald were equally rare. The Tapling Collection has a pair of emerald-green unused, which was in earlier days deservedly held as a considerable as also of the later and woolly impressions of Messrs. De La Rue and Co. of rarity. Of recent years some sheets have been found of both the last named, the 1d., 4d., and 6d.

As quoted in the Appendix, p. 40, of *British Africa*, on the basis of the deliveries to the Cape of sheets by Messrs. Perkins Bacon and Co., the following would be the actual quantities of each stamp :—

1d.	.	.	3,880,000
4d.	.	.	6,470,000
6d.	.	.	920,000
1s.	.	.	380,160

ISSUE III. 1863-4.

This issue is, of course, that printed by Messrs. De La Rue and Co. from the preceding Perkins Bacon dies on the unemployed Anchor watermark paper handed over to them, as detailed in *British Africa*, Part I (p. 40), where it is shown that 10,918 sheets were thus used by Messrs. De La Rue and Co. The number of stamps printed therefrom works out as follows :—

1d.	.	.	1,223,040
4d.	.	.	1,263,840
6d.	.	.	95,550
1s.	.	.	37,920

The quantities of 6d. and 1s. are remarkably small, and it is to be wondered at that these two stamps are not more scarce than is the case to-day. It is true that the 1s. used is far and away the rarest of all the used shilling values—and until the recent finds was hardly ever seen in fine unused state, pairs thus being unknown. It may be of service if I here tabulate,

side by side, the total quantities of all the triangular engraved Cape stamps as I have worked them out from the list of sheets sent out :—

PERKINS BACON & Co.		DE LA RUE & Co.
1d.		
Blued	1,970,000	
White	3,880,000	
	<hr/> 5,850,000	1,223,040
4d.		
Blued	440,000	
White	6,470,000	
	<hr/> 6,910,000	1,263,840
6d.		
	920,000	95,520
1s.		
	380,160	37,920

This gives the proportionate quantities of the issues by the two firms approximately as under :—

1d.,	5	Perkins Bacon	to	1	De La Rue.
4d.,	5½	"	"	"	"
6d.,	10	"	"	"	"
1s.,	10	"	"	"	"

The De La Rue issues, however, were in use ten years after the earliest Perkins Bacon, and at this period, 1863-4, interest was already awakened in postage-stamp collecting, and the stamps were doubtless imported by the leading firms, such as J. B. Moens, Young and Stockall, Pemberton, Stanley Gibbons, Alfred Smith, and others.

The recent finds have also, perforce, materially modified the relative rarity of the two issues in unused condition, but prior to this the De La Rue 1d., 4d., and 1s. in normal shades were distinctly rarer than the corresponding values in the Perkins Bacon series. The 6d. of the latter firm in decent condition—the colour being very volatile—has always been as rare as the 6d. De La Rue. But at the present day all four De La Rue values, though quoted higher in the catalogues, are not so rare as the corresponding issues of Perkins Bacon and Co.

The colours employed by Messrs. De La Rue and Co. are as a rule at once bright and remarkably even in tone, nor do the Cape issues form any striking departure therefrom, but there is a point with regard to these impressions that will, I think, be found of interest. The shades mentioned in *British Africa* and adopted in modern catalogues are :—

1d.,	carmine, red-brown, slight shades.
4d.,	violet-blue
6d.,	bright mauve
1s.,	emerald-green

In arranging my own collection I have made the following classification :—

1d., carmine,	woolly impression, shades.
„ red-brown,	sharp „ „
4d., violet-blue	„ „ „
„ slate-blue,	woolly „ „
6d., bright mauve,	sharp „ „
„ „	woolly „ „
1s., emerald-green,	sharp „ „
„ paler	woolly impression, shades.

(*To be continued.*)

The Stamps of Spain and Cuba, April, 1855, to February, 1860.

By E. W. WETHERELL, F.R.P.S.L.

FROM NOTES READ BEFORE THE ROYAL PHILATELIC SOCIETY, LONDON, ON 6 FEBRUARY, 1908.

(*Continued from page 191.*)

MARGINAL INSCRIPTIONS.



CEPT for the common 4 cuartos value I have not been able to obtain blocks showing the margin, but the inscriptions over the 4 cuartos stamps are interesting.

In the case of the lattice watermark and early no watermark stamps, the inscription reads "sellos de cuarto cuartos" in capital letters. In the case of the later stamps (in panes of 100), the inscription is "100 sellos de la Peninsula de 4 cuartos," in ordinary letters. This inscription occurs at the top of *each* pane, and there is no other inscription in colour, but in the top right-hand corner is the number of the sheet in black figures.

ERROR.

There is only one error in this series. It occurs in the case of the 1 real with watermark loops. By accident one of the clichés of the 2 reales value was included in the first setting. This was noticed and taken out (the clichés being movable).

CLICHÉS ORIGINALLY DEFECTIVE.

The really bad clichés are few in number. The most marked (but not noticed by the authorities apparently, as it is found in all printings from 1855-9) is in the 1 real value. The defects are: an upward curve of the top outer line of frame in the middle; a general smash-up of the "E" and "O" of "CORREOS," and a large flaw under the "R" and "E" of that word. I have two specimens with the loops and six with no watermark, and in the case of large blocks it exists in two different relative positions, and as we

know of the setting containing the error, it is clear that there were at least three settings of this value.

The $\frac{1}{2}$ real plata of Cuba shows an originally defective cliché in the left vertical row (fifth stamp down). The defect consists of a semicircular indentation in the left frame about two-thirds of the way down.

In the 4 cuartos of Spain the top left-hand corner is defective, a thin slice having been cut off diagonally. This variety goes through all the printings.

There may, of course, be many other perfectly constant varieties, but the majority of the well-marked flaws did not appear until 1856, and are not due to clichés imperfect originally.

ALIGNMENT.

The movable clichés were probably wedged together in a frame. The alignment is very faulty, due probably to imperfect or irregular "squaring up" of the clichés before insertion in the frame. The variation in alignment is a great help in "plating."

RETOUCHES AND ALTERATIONS.

A most important retouch occurs in the $\frac{1}{2}$ real plata of Cuba, and certain alterations to the clichés of the 4 cuartos of Spain occur; these will be considered when these values are described in detail.

FORGERIES.

The forgeries made to deceive the Post Office are so numerous and so good in many cases that it will be well to take each one separately after the value of which it is a counterfeit.

CLEANED STAMPS.

Attempts have been made to remove the penmarks and bars from some of the remainders, but fortunately the handiwork of the faker can be detected in all cases.

FAKES.

Moens says: "Il n'y a donc pas de 2 reales vert, nuance du 1 real parue plus tard. Il n'y a pas non plus de 2 reales, vert, colour du 2 cuartos, annoncé par le *Philatelic Record*: ce timbre est un 2 reales falsifié." This refers to the 1855 issue. Of the 1856 set he says: "Il n'existe pas de 2 reales, vert, synalé par le *Philatelic Record*: c'est le timbre ordinaire falsifié comme celui de 1855, même valeur."

CURIOSITIES.

There are a few more stamps of this series which require mention. The first is classed by Moens under "Essais," but I believe it was really an error not put into circulation; it consists of the 2 cuartos, yellow-green, with the 2 cuartos in deep green printed on the back. I possess a strip of four which has been cancelled back and front by a single horizontal ink line.

In addition to this Moens notes the 1 real double impression and the 1 real printed on both sides. These I have not seen; I should think they must be "printer's waste."

Moens also mentions the 4 cuartos in brown-lilac. He says that possibly one of the 4 cuartos clichés got into the plate of the 2 reales, but I think it is more likely to be a chemical changeling. The same author mentions that the 4 cuartos stamp received trial perforations, but was not issued.

OBLITERATIONS.

(a) **Spain.**

There are only two types of postmarks on the first two series: (1) Six bars in an oval frame; (2) seven bars without the frame. Occasionally, however, some specimens may be met with which were used after the no-watermark issue appeared, and these bear cancellation marks of the period. On the no-watermark series I find the above two postmarks on early printings replaced in 1858 by a double circle with date in centre, and name of town between the two circles. In January, 1859, a smaller type of the double circle came in and continued to the end (February, 1860), but early in 1860 another type was in concurrent use, namely, a small circle containing the post-office number surrounded by a large circle, the space between divided by four radial lines, and the office number repeated in each of the four spaces. The first three types occur in black (usual), deep blue, greenish blue, and I have one specimen of the first type in red (extremely rare), on the 4 cuartos, watermark Loops.

(b) **Cuba.**

The usual postmark consists of a large oval with two series of three lines crossing one another diagonally, with a star at each point of intersection; this is a unique postmark; it is usually impressed in black, but I have a few specimens in brown, purple, greenish blue, and one ($\frac{1}{2}$ real plata) with this type in bright red (extremely rare). A series of seven bars, of larger size than the Spanish type, was in use as late as 1861. I have also a large single circle containing name and date in black (1860), and a large double circle in purple (rare). The small double circle of the Spanish type is dated 1862—black or purple. I have a single specimen with four lines crossing one another to form a star, and finally horizontal capital letters.



Royal Philatelic Society, London.

PROGRAMME OF MEETINGS, PAPERS, AND DISPLAYS FOR THE SEASON 1908-9.

1908. Thursdays.		SUBJECT.
Oct. 22.	The Earl of Crawford (<i>Vice-President</i>)	Display of "South Australia," and the Departmental Stamps.
Nov. 5.	<i>Lent by</i> Messrs. Stanley Gibbons, Ltd.	Display of a collection of Fiji.
Nov. 19.	Mr. T. Wickham Jones .	Paper on some of the recent issues of Switzerland, with Display and Lantern Enlargements.
Dec. 3.	Mr. M. P. Castle (<i>Hon.</i> <i>Vice-President</i>)	Notes on the lithographed issue of Trinidad, with Display.
Dec. 17.	Mr. R. Reid	Display of British and British Colo- nial Stamps.
1909.		
Jan. 7.	Mr. R. B. Yardley	Display of the Earlier Embossed Stamps of Portugal, with Notes.
Jan. 21	Display by Members : "Twelve Inter- esting Stamps."
Feb. 4.	Mr. H. Grey	Display of Victoria, with Notes.
Feb. 18.	Mr. E. J. Nankivell	Paper on the Waterlow Series of New Zealand, with Display.
Mar. 4.	Mr. H. R. Oldfield	Display of a portion of the Society's Collection.
Mar. 18.	H. R. H. The President	Display of Grenada, with Notes.
April 1.	Mr. H. J. Duveen	Display of the United States of America, with Notes.
April 22.	Messrs. L. W. Fulcher and F. J. Peplow	Studies in Plating the Stamps of Japan.
May 6.	Mr. T. W. Hall	Paper on the 1864-7 issues of the Argentine Republic.
May 20.	Mr. M. P. Castle (<i>Hon.</i> <i>Vice-President</i>)	Notes on the Stamps of Mauritius, with Display.
June 3	Annual General Meeting.

All the meetings will commence punctually at 6 p.m.

By the kind invitation of the Earl of Crawford, Vice-President, the first meeting will be held at 2 Cavendish Square; all the other meetings will take place at 4 Southampton Row.

At the meeting on January 21 it is hoped that members will bring a few stamps, not exceeding twelve each, which they consider of special interest, with short explanatory notes. Other objects of philatelic interest may also be brought.



Occasional Notes.

THE ROYAL PHILATELIC SOCIETY, LONDON.

THE Expert Committee of the Royal Philatelic Society, London, will meet on the following dates to examine stamps :—

SEASON 1908-9.

1908.	1909.
October 22.	March 18.
November 19.	April 22.
December 17.	May 20.
1909.	June 17.
January 21.	July 15.
February 18.	

TRINIDAD LITHOGRAPH STAMPS WANTED.

MR. M. P. CASTLE is engaged upon some researches in connection with the lithographed stamps of Trinidad—issues of 1852 to 1860—and is desirous of seeing dated copies of these stamps in any colour. He would be much indebted to any reader of this journal either for the loan of such or for a list thereof quoting the exact colour of the stamp, the state of wear of the die, and the name of posting town and full date. Any information, which will be gratefully acknowledged, should be sent to Mr. Castle, Aylesbury, Furze Hill, Brighton.

RECENT ADDITIONS TO THE LEINSTER COLLECTION OF POSTAGE STAMPS IN THE SCIENCE AND ART MUSEUM, DUBLIN.

THE Leinster Collection of postage stamps has just received some important additions in the presentation by the Government of Spain of a collection numbering nearly five hundred pieces of the recent issues of the stamps of Spain and of the Spanish colonies, and secondly, in the presentation by Mr. William Thompson, of Bishop Auckland, of the original steel plate from which the early issues of the 6d. stamps of Antigua, and the copper plate from which the first issues (all values) of the stamps of Dominica were printed.

On 31 November, 1890, the stamps of Antigua, Dominica, Montserrat, St. Christopher, and the Virgin Islands were superseded by a general issue under the title of the Leeward Islands, and soon afterwards the Government sold off the remainders of the separate issues, which were purchased by Mr. Thompson. Together with the stamps he also got the two above-mentioned plates, and although they were defaced by cutting diagonal lines across each stamp, he was required to enter into a bond that they would never again be used for printing.

The existence of these plates having been brought under the notice of

Mr. W. R. Lane Joynt by Mr. W. Hadlow, the former secured from Mr. Thompson, early in the present year, the promise of them as a gift to the Leinster Collection, provided that the Treasury would agree to vacate his bond. Colonel Plunkett, C.B., the then Director of the Museum, was able to arrange this with the Treasury, and the plates were duly handed over to the Museum.

The steel plate of the 6d. Antigua measures about thirteen inches square, and contains ten horizontal rows of twelve stamps. There is no plate number on it. It was produced and printed from by Messrs. Perkins Bacon on unwatermarked paper in 1862, and a second printing was made by the same firm in 1863 on paper watermarked with the well-known small six-rayed Star. The contract for the printing of the stamps was then given to Messrs. De La Rue and Co., and an issue took place in 1873 on paper watermarked Crown and CC, and another in 1885 on paper watermarked Crown and C A.

Specimens of most of these printings are arranged round the plate in the frame which contains it.

In boldness, clearness, and beauty of design, excellence of workmanship, and brilliancy of colouring, the stamps produced by this plate have rarely been excelled.

The plate of Dominica measures about 12 by 6½ inches. It has the plate number "1" over each second end stamp in the top and under the corresponding stamp in the bottom row. The value label is blank, thus permitting it to be printed from in different colours, the values being subsequently printed by a second set of plates. This copper plate was engraved by Messrs. De La Rue and Co., and the stamps were produced by surface printing. A block of four proof impressions in black, taken prior to the defacement of the plate and showing the blank label, is exhibited beside the plate.

The two plates are framed and fixed to the side of Case No. 6 of the Leinster Collection.

The Museum is to be congratulated on acquiring two such interesting souvenirs of the early stamps of the West Indian Islands, and Mr. Thompson's generosity in presenting them will be appreciated not only by those philatelists who will have the opportunity of studying them, but by the general body of stamp collectors.

THE QUEBEC COMMEMORATION STAMPS.

THE Quebec Tercentenary Commemoration issue of postage stamps is being eagerly sought after," according to the information forwarded to the London papers from Canada. "The stamps are stored in the vaults of the American Bank Note Company, and are bought and drawn upon as required. From the morning of the day they were first put on sale there have been upwards of 5000 separate sets disposed of to collectors and those anxious to obtain a souvenir of the great event. In the selling of single stamps, the ½ c. and 15 c. were the most popular varieties purchased, but this was due, it was explained, to the fact that there are no stamps of

these denominations in the ordinary issue. The 2 c. and 1 c. varieties have, of course, been largely used, but still the demand has not been nearly so great as was at first expected. The 1 c. prints were bought wholesale, many purchasing entire sheets of one hundred for preservation. Besides letters from all over the Dominion from collectors requesting that sets be forwarded to them, the postmaster of Ottawa office had numerous communications from philatelists abroad, who, though only asking for a complete set, enclosed sums which would have supplied them with half a dozen. Remittances of 10s. from the Old Country were frequent. As soon as the cost of the set and postage was deducted the balance was returned to the senders. Over 29,000,000 stamps were sold, the proceeds amounting to some £147,250."

We can, however, hardly credit these figures !

THE COLLECTION OF THE ROYAL PHILATELIC SOCIETY.

WE are desired by the Committee entrusted with the formation of the Society's stamp collection to call the attention of members to the fact, as announced in the programme of the ensuing season, that there will be an exhibit of the collection, so far as it is mounted, at the meeting of the Royal Philatelic Society on 4 March. Contributions to the collection will be heartily welcomed by the Committee, and should be sent to H. R. Oldfield, Esq., the Hon. Sec. of the Committee, at 13 Walbrook. London, E.C.

AN AMERICAN VISITOR.

WE are informed that Mr. A. W. Batchelder, the manager of the New England Stamp Company, of Boston, U.S., will be shortly arriving in this country on a visit to his friends. Mr. Batchelder has been here on several previous occasions, and is well known to most of the leading collectors and dealers, and he may rest assured of "having a good time." The New England Stamp Company is one of the very first concerns in America, and during the last fifteen years has been instrumental in disposing of many of the largest collections in the States—amongst them, such well-known ones as the Ayer, Thorne, Todd, Olney, and Nash collections.

THE NEW MEETING-PLACE OF THE JUNIOR PHILATELIC SOCIETY.

WE publish with pleasure the following announcement of the Junior Philatelic Society :—

"The Junior Philatelic Society has taken unto itself a new meeting-place. Since Exeter Hall was closed the Society was not altogether satisfied with the new quarters selected; so a change has been made, and one which should prove extremely popular with all members. The new meeting-place is quite palatial—literally so, for it is the room believed to have been used by Henry Prince of Wales, the eldest son of King James I. The room is full of historic associations, and enjoys the possession of a unique enriched Jacobean ceiling,

oak panelling, antique bay windows overhanging Fleet Street, and the façade has been restored to the original condition in which it appeared to the denizens of Fleet Street in 1612. The address of the new meeting-place is 17 Fleet Street, and its precise position may be noted by its being immediately opposite the Fleet Street end of Chancery Lane, and extending over the Inner Temple Gateway. Its ancient exterior is readily noticeable to the passer-by. The opening meeting of the new season will be held here on Saturday, October 3, and subsequent meetings on the first and third Saturdays in each month from October to May. Visitors are always welcome at J.P.S. meetings, and any collectors who are visiting London at the time of a meeting should not fail to look in on this up-to-date Society in its old-world meeting-place."

THE POSTAGE STAMP FRAUD IN RUSSIA.

THE particulars following with regard to the wholesale cleaning of stamps in Russia, referred to in our last issue, have appeared in the *Daily Telegraph*:—

"Nearly three-quarters of a million sterling has been stolen in the past three years from the Russian Post Office Department by a gang of swindlers, headed by a post office official of Moscow. Over a score of arrests have been made in and about Moscow and in Warsaw. The Moscow official advertised for used stamps, and bought them in millions, both in Russia and in Germany. These were sent to Warsaw, where the postmarks were cleaned off, and the stamps, made up in packets of thousands, returned to Moscow. They were sold mostly in small shops that make a business in Russia of keeping a stock of postage stamps to save the public the endless delays involved in a visit to a Russian post office. Numbers were also disposed of at the Moscow head post office by the official interested, who offered them to impatient customers tired of waiting their turn in the *queue*.

"The *modus operandi* of the Warsaw Jews accused of cleaning used stamps is simple in the extreme. It is said that nothing more is needed to remove the Russian postmarks than to soak the stamps for a time in petroleum, after which they are dried, and only an expert eye can detect the fraud. It is believed the frauds extend much beyond what has yet been discovered, as large quantities of bill stamps have also been found to be clever forgeries. These stamps are not susceptible to the cleaning process, as the usual way of defacing them, at any rate in large offices, is with a perforating machine."

THE FORTHCOMING MANCHESTER PHILATELIC EXHIBITION.

THE arrangements for this Exhibition, to be held under the auspices of the Junior Philatelic Society of Manchester, are rapidly taking form. The Town Hall of Hulme has been secured for the purposes of the Exhibition, which will be held on 18, 19, and 20 February next, and an influential Hon. Committee, already including over seventy names of influence in philatelic circles, has been enrolled.

We have pleasure in inserting the following communication from the

Hon. Secretary, and in cordially wishing all success to the enterprising philatelists of Manchester in their undertaking:—

“The so-called ‘off season’ has been anything but a quiet time with Manchester philatelists, and if anything, more work has been done on behalf of our hobby than is sometimes effected during the winter. It is, however, gratifying to know that these efforts have borne excellent fruit, and the projected Exhibition at the Hulme Town Hall is now practically an assured success. The building that has been engaged is a commodious one, situated almost in the centre of the town, and has a floor area of about 7000 square feet. Its uses have been mapped out, as can be seen by the plan we reproduce herewith, and there is ample room to show a fairly representative lot of stamps. It is intended to make the Exhibition attractive to both large and small collectors, and the Executive hope to show some collections that have as yet never been exhibited. The display will be non-competitive, but a suitable souvenir is being prepared for exhibitors as a memento of the occasion. In the large Exhibition Hall room has been found for fourteen stalls for dealers. A well-known professional orchestra has been engaged to enliven matters with music, and a large room has been set aside for refreshments, which will be provided by a well-known firm of caterers. Admission will be entirely free, and tickets will be obtainable either from the Secretary or from the various stamp dealers in Great Britain.

“The amount of support promised is indeed encouraging, and on the prospectus, which is shortly to appear, will be found the names of nearly all the leading philatelists in the world, who have signified their goodwill towards the scheme. In addition to these individuals, a large number of societies have already intimated their intention to send delegates to the first Philatelic Congress in Great Britain, and it is not at all unlikely that this part of the venture may before the finish become the most important one. It is simply, we gather, owing to the fact that their session has not yet started that more adhesions to the Congress are not to hand. The replies so far to hand are most encouraging and exceed the most sanguine anticipations, and it looks now as if a congress in England will in the near future be an accomplished fact. W. Dorning Beckton, Esq., and G. F. H. Gibson, Esq., are identifying themselves with this section, and Mr. Beckton has provisionally consented to act as Chairman. A large room admirably suited for the purpose has been set aside on the floor above the Exhibition, and the railway companies have been approached with a view of running excursions for the delegates. Arrangements, too, are being made to allow special rates for visitors at some of the leading hotels.

“The offices of the Exhibition are at

9 ALBERT SQUARE, MANCHESTER,

and it is requested that all communications be sent there addressed on:—

“*General and Financial Matters.*—J. R. M. Albrecht, Exhibition Offices, 9 Albert Square, Manchester.

“*Congress Matters.*—J. J. Darlow, Exhibition Offices, 9 Albert Square, Manchester.

“*Exhibits.*—D. A. Berry, Exhibition Offices, 9 Albert Square, Manchester.

"*Advertising and Publicity*.—Geo. White, Exhibition Offices, 9 Albert Square, Manchester.

"Will correspondents desiring a reply kindly enclose a stamped and addressed envelope, as the Exhibition expenses are likely to be very great?

"It is proposed to accept donations from societies and such philatelists as may be generously inclined, and subscriptions will be duly acknowledged by the Hon. Exhibition Secretary and Treasurer, Mr. J. R. M. Albrecht, as above."

Reviews.

THE STAMPS OF AFGHANISTAN.*



N the opinion of many leading Philatelists the stamps of Afghanistan constitute the most interesting and philatelically important of all the absolutely Oriental issues. From the earliest days their crude, primitive, but vigorous design attracted the favourable attention of collectors, as the palpable variations of type and extreme shades of colour clearly held out a promise of philatelic reconstructive work of the highest interest and importance.

It is almost a generation since the date when the leading students of stamps in England and France began to devote considerable attention to the intricacies of these stamps, and commenced the building up of the types in the several issues. Several large collections or accumulations were subsequently sent to this country through the medium of our countrymen in the East, by the aid of which a fair degree of completeness was aimed at, as instances of which may be cited the Tapling Collection, and that of the late Mr. Gilbert Harrison.

A large amount of information had also been accumulated by Mr. Harrison and others, and had not the (then) London Philatelic Society been otherwise fully occupied by other publications, the production of a work on these interesting stamps would probably have been undertaken by it.

The issue of this work by the Philatelic Society of India (being Vol. IX of these series), under the able authorship of Sir David P. Masson and Mr. B. Gordon Jones, will therefore afford great satisfaction to Philatelists alike in this country and in India, as issued under such favourable auspices the last word on the stamps of Afghanistan may be confidently anticipated to have been spoken. Sir David Masson has shown himself such an accomplished student of the Oriental stamps, notably in the case of those of Cashmere, with his great discovery of the bogus "first issue," that we were quite prepared to find the issues of Afghanistan treated with a fullness and a knowledge that could only be acquired by a consummate acquaintance with the languages and countries of the Orient. This expectation is

* *The Postage Stamps of Afghanistan*. By Sir David P. Masson and B. Gordon Jones. Published for the Philatelic Society of India: Higinbotham & Co., Mount Road, Madras; W. T. Wilson, 292 Birchfield Road, Birmingham.

fully borne out by the work under consideration, which, although not of great bulk, will be found to contain the fullest information on every point in the history of the stamps of Afghanistan.

The issues are divided up in historical sequence under the respective rulers—e.g. the “Sher Ali” series, 1288–95, the “Abdur Rahman” circular series, 1298, the 1309 small oblong issue, the 1310–16 large oblong issue, and the 1907–8 engraved issue. The main interest lies naturally with the first group, which embraces ten issues—many being exceedingly rare—and is accompanied by nineteen sheets of autotype illustrations showing the complete and reconstructed plates of all the varieties of these issues. The philatelic labour and research involved in the completion of this task are of enormous extent. Such work will be absolutely invaluable to the present and future collector, and the authors have laid us under an obligation that is almost impossible to appreciate at its full value. The descriptions of the several plates, with the delineations and translations of the Afghan characters, will be found of great interest and importance, and indeed may it be said that owing to the commendable efforts of Sir David Masson and Mr. B. Gordon Jones the early issues of Afghanistan are no longer a sealed book to the collector. These issues, in fact, are of the greatest interest and variety, and we can conceive no more pleasurable philatelic task than the formation of a collection of the early issues of Afghanistan—either with or without the building up of the complete plates—the former task no longer strictly necessary for complete scientific collection, thanks to the labours of the authors of this volume. The succeeding issues are of less importance, although the Abdur Rahman series of 1288 include no less than two hundred and thirty listed varieties, owing to the employment of so many varieties of paper and pigments of colour. The advent of an engraved series in 1907–8 points to a termination of all the numerous varieties of type, so that the future student of these stamps will at least know the end of his “troubles.”

The only suggestion of an improvement is perhaps the advisability in a future edition of inserting illustrations of each type of issue in the text of the early issues, as has been done in those subsequently, thus avoiding too frequent recurrence to the separate autotype plates, though by judicious binding up this inconvenience can be much mitigated. For the rest, we have nothing but praise and welcome for this splendid philatelic work, on the production of which we heartily congratulate the Philatelic Society of India, the authors, Sir David Masson and Mr. B. Gordon Jones, and the whole philatelic world.

HINTS ON STAMP COLLECTING.*

This is the third edition of a useful little manual issued for the especial benefit of the beginner or little-advanced student of postage stamps. To this class the work will be found of interest and assistance, notably in the chapters entitled “Watermarks,” with illustrations of practically every type, “An A B C of Philately,” with a useful list of remainders and commemorative sets and reprints, and “Stamps that Puzzle Collectors,” copiously

* *Hints on Stamp Collecting*. Third Edition. By T. H. Hinton. E. Nister, 26 St. Bride Street, E.C.

illustrated with all the designs that are calculated to obfuscate the philatelic aspirant. A new chapter has been added to the present edition, entitled "Some Points of Interest to the Collector," but with apparently erroneous headlines on every page of "An A B C of Philately." In this chapter will be found an epitome of national and private collections, which contains some slight inaccuracies; to wit, the late Mr. Tapling's name is spelt incorrectly, the Berlin National Collection is stated to be the finest extant, and in the list of leading collectors some of the very first names do not appear, and others are of doubtful first rank. "The world's rarest stamps" are also dealt with in this chapter, but here, also, there are errors in the price paid for the 2d. Post Office, and in describing the Cape red error as "2d.," nor is the list at all inclusive. There are other interesting points in this chapter which add materially to the use of the book, and it is one we can cordially recommend. Mr. Hinton's work is of educational value in the instruction of the uninitiated in Philately.

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 Royal 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: MR. A. CHURCHILL EMERSON, 4 SOUTHAMPTON ROW, HOLBORN, W.C.

BRITISH EMPIRE.

BAHAMAS.—We read in the *Stamp Collectors' Fortnightly* that the 1s. stamp has made its appearance in a new shade of the central colour, which is now grey instead of grey-black.

Adhesive.

1s., grey and carmine.

BRITISH SOLOMON ISLANDS.—Messrs. Whitfield King and Co. write: "We have received a letter from this place stating that advice had been received of the despatch from London of the stamps of the new issue, and they were expected to arrive within the course of a few weeks, accordingly they may be expected here by an early mail. Our correspondent states that at the time of his writing the $\frac{1}{2}$ d., 1d., and 2d. stamps of the first issue were sold out, and that immediately the new stamps arrived all that remained in stock of the first issue would be burnt."

CEYLON.—*Mekeel's Weekly* lists a new 2 c. card with a blank space for the communication on the front side.

It is the same size and colour as the last 2 c., and carries the same stamp.

The headline "Post Card" is now 45 mm. long in place of 40 mm. and in heavier type. The Arms between the first and second headlines are smaller. In place of the phrase "The address only," etc. we now have "Address here" as the second headline, followed by a third and a fourth in native characters.

Post Card.

2 c., olive-yellow on white.

MALAY STATES.—The *Philatelic Adviser* chronicles a new Registration envelope.

Registration Envelope.

10 cents, ultramarine.

QUEENSLAND.—The *Australian Phila-*

telist announces a change of colour in the 2½d., Q and Crown, stamp.

Adhesive.

2½d., dull purple on blue; Q and Crown; perf. 12½, comb machine.

STRAITS SETTLEMENTS.—A new 10 c. stamp is chronicled in *Ewen's Weekly Stamp News*.

Adhesive

10 c., lilac on yellow; multiple, ordinary.

TASMANIA.—The 6d., *lake*, pictorial, on Crown and A paper, perf. 12½, is reported in the *Australian Philatelist*.

Adhesive.

6d., lake; Crown and A; perf. 12½.

TONGA.—The following is taken from *Ewen's Weekly Stamp News*: "We are indebted to Messrs. Bridger and Kay for another valuable and interesting watermark discovery. The two papers in the current Tonga pictorial stamps—thick and thin—are well known, but we do not remember having seen it mentioned before that the watermark is different. Messrs. Bridger and Kay, however, point out that in the thick-paper issue the turtles' heads point the same way, whilst in the thin-paper issue the turtles' heads point alternately up and down. They have found the following varieties:—

(i.) Wmk. Turtles' heads pointing same way. Thick paper.

½d. to 5s., all values.

(ii.) Wmk. Turtles' heads pointing alternately up and down. Thin paper.

½d., 1d., 2d., 2½d.

Is the difference in the positions produced by turning the paper sideways? In any case, the papers are different and merit cataloguing; the shades are also slightly different, especially in the 2½d."

TRANSVAAL.—Mr. J. E. Joselin has shown us a used copy of the current 1d. carmine stamp watermarked *Cabled Anchor* like the Cape of Good Hope stamps.

It is apparently postmarked Johannesburg, but the date does not appear, having fallen on the cover from which the stamp has been removed.

Probably a sheet only was printed by mistake.

It is a very interesting and rare variety.

Adhesive.

1d., carmine; wmkd. *Cabled Anchor*.

EUROPE.

GREECE.—Dr. Socolis calls attention in *Gibbons Weekly* to the fact, that there exist two distinct types of the 5 lepta "Mercury" stamp of the 1901 issue. In Type 1 there is a white space between the two exterior vertical lines of the frame enclosing the word "ΕΛΛΑΣ" (Greece) on both sides of the stamp. In Type 2 this space is filled in with short horizontal lines.

SWITZERLAND.—The new 30 c. stamp has appeared, and Mr. W. T. Wilson has sent us a copy.

TURKEY.—*Gibbons Weekly* reports the discovery of three more varieties of perforations in the 1905 issue.

Adhesives.

10 par., green; perf. 13½.

10 pias., dull orange; perf. 13½.

10 par., green; perf. 12 and 13½ compound.

WURTEMBERG.—A provisional post card is reported in *Ewen's Weekly Stamp News*.

Official Post Card.

3 pf., brown, on 2 f., grey card, the latter stamp having three heavy bars across it, the 3 pf. stamp being printed to the left of it.

AMERICA.

BRAZIL.—The 10 reis of the 1897 issue has been found by *Gibbons Weekly* having the compound perforations as follows:—

Adhesive.

10 r., blue and carmine; perf. 11, 11½, and 12½ to 14.

PANAMA.—Three values of the 1906 set have been found with inverted centres, and *Gibbons Weekly* lists the following:—

Adhesives.

½ c., carmine, etc.; centre inverted.

2 c., " and black "

5 c., blue and black "

PARAGUAY.—We have received from Messrs. Whitfield King and Co. as novelties the 1 centavo, greenish blue, dated 1904, surcharged

Habilitado En

5
CENTAVOS

and the 1 peso Official, orange with black centre, overprinted

Habilitado

the bar cancelling the word "Official."

Provisionals.

5 centavos, greenish blue; surcharged as above.

1 peso, orange and black " "

OTHER COUNTRIES.

CHINA.—We read in *Ewen's Weekly Stamp News* that a new post card has appeared having a rectangular instead of sideways oval stamp.

Post Card.

1 c., green (single and reply).

DANISH WEST INDIES.—Messrs. Whitfield King and Co. have sent us four values of a new set bearing a portrait of King Frederick VIII in a circle formed of laurel leaves with a small crown above the head.

The inscription reads "DANSK. VESTINDIEN."

Figures of value in each bottom corner with "BIT" between, and post horns in each top corner.

Adhesives.

5 bit, green; wmk. Crown; perf. 13.
10 ,, carmine ,,
20 ,, green, blue centre; wmk. Crown; perf. 13.
25 ,, blue ,,

NEW HEBRIDES.—*Ewen's Weekly Stamp News* reports that a set of stamps has appeared here, consisting of the 5, 10, 25, 50 c., and 1 fr. of the 1905 set of New Caledonia,

surcharged NOUVELLES-HÉBRIDES. The surcharge is in blue on the 10 c. and in red on the other values. On the 1 fr. it is in one line and on the other values in two.

RIO DE ORO.—The following new provisional is chronicled in *Ewen's Weekly Stamp News*.

Adhesive.

10 c. in red on 50 c., brown-violet, of 1907.

The surcharge reads "1908—10—cents" in three lines.

Another provisional is chronicled in *Ewen's Weekly Stamp News*.

Adhesive.

Overprinted "Habilitado para 15 cents" in oval.

15 c. on 75 c., red-brown, of 1907.

SPANISH WEST AFRICA.—Messrs. Whitfield King and Co. write: "A correspondent informs us that the separate issues for Elobey, Spanish Guinea, and Rio de Oro are to be suppressed, and that a new set is to be issued for Fernando Po, which will be available for all the Spanish Possessions in West Africa."

Philatelic Societies' Meetings.

The Philatelic Society of Victoria.

THE annual meeting of the above Society was held on July 23, at 128 Russell Street, at 8 p.m.

Mr. Chester, the President, occupied the chair, and there was a good attendance of members.

The minutes of last annual meeting were read and confirmed.

The retiring President addressed the meeting at some length, and Mr. Kelson read the annual report. It was proposed and seconded that same be received, and after some discussion the report was adopted.

It was also proposed, seconded, and carried that the balance sheet be adopted.

The next business, the election of officers for the ensuing year, being proceeded with, resulted as follows: President, Mr. A. G. Kelson; Vice-President, Mr. C. H. Edmondson; Hon. Secretary, Treasurer, and Exchange Superintendent, Mr. W. Brettschneider; Librarian, Mr. S. O. Smith; Committee, Messrs. Williamson, Glazbrook, Longmore, and the Rev. — Lane.

After a vote of thanks to the retiring officers the meeting closed, and the ordinary general meeting for July was held.

W. BRETTSCHNEIDER, *Hon. Secretary*.

ANNUAL REPORT FOR THE YEAR 1907-8.

Your Committee, in following the established practice, has much pleasure in presenting to you the Sixteenth Annual Report and Balance Sheet.

During the year eight new members were elected, seven resigned, and one we lost through death. The number on the roll is now seventy—thirty-six ordinary, thirty-three corresponding, and one honorary.

The Junior Branch, which started so satisfactorily, has not kept up the promise it gave at first, and has now practically ceased to exist, a few remaining members joining the Senior Society.

The credit balance of the Society now stands at £25 9s. 11d.

Twelve ordinary general meetings were held during the year, the attendances at which were very satisfactory—although your

Committee would be pleased to see some of the new members taking a more active interest in the meetings.

Five committee meetings were held during the year, the attendance at which was as follows—Mr. Chester, 4; Mr. J. Williams, 4; Mr. Kelson, 4; Mr. Edmondson, 4; Mr. Jackson, 4; Mr. Lane, 2; and the Secretary, 5.

Eleven exchange books to the value of £1864 were circulated—being an average of £169 per book, and thirteen books to the value of £2060 were returned, from which stamps to the value of £439 were sold—or an average of about £33 10s. per book.

Your Society has also entered into exchanging another book with the South Australian Society; but this is still in circulation.

On account of the credit balance going back every year, your Committee thought fit to recommend to increase the commission on all sales from 5 to 10 per cent.—half of which goes to the Exchange Superintendent, and the other half to the Society—the Society paying all postages on returned sheets, however.

The thanks of the Society are due to Messrs. F. Hagen, Limited, of Sydney, and Pemberton & Co., of London, for contributions of periodicals to the Library.

The compilation of the Society's catalogue of the stamps of Victoria has been unavoidably postponed through the departure of Mr. Rundell and Mr. Jackson, and the untimely death of Mr. Horwood, the Society losing thereby a very conscientious and painstaking member.

A list of the numbers of Victorian stamps still required to complete the reference collection will be sent to each member, and your Committee trusts that required contributions will be forthcoming.

In conclusion, your Committee trusts that the Society will prosper in the future as it has done in the past.

W. BRETTSCHEIDER, *Hon. Sec.*

L. A. CHESTER, *President.*

RECEIPTS.		£	s.	d.
To Cash from 1907	29	5	3	
„ Debts on Exchange Books, 1907	2	6	4	
	31	11	7	
„ Subscriptions—Seniors	26	8	9	
„ „ Juniors		14	0	
„ Sale of Exchange Sheets	1	3	6	
„ Commission on Exchange Books	22	3	9	
	£82	1	7	
EXPENDITURE.		£	s.	d.
By Rent	12	0	0	
„ Commission to Exchange Superintendent	22	3	9	
„ Subscriptions to Journals (Hagen)	7	1	0	
„ „ „ (Stanley Gibbons)		5	0	

By Fire Insurance	5	8	
„ Printing and Stationery—			
Norman Bros.	9	6	
Arbuckle	1	3	
Petersen	5	9	0
„ Binding (Green and Fargher)	2	7	10
„ Catalogues (Gibbons)		6	0
„ „ (Senf)		6	0
„ Sundries		4	6
„ Bank Charge		10	0
„ Postages		5	2
Cash at Bank	14	17	8
Cash in hand	1	2	11
	16	0	7
„ owing to Exchange Branch		9	9
	£82	1	7

LIABILITIES.

Capital Balance, being Surplus of Assets over Liabilities	85	9	11
	£85	9	11

ASSETS.

By Cash in hand	16	0	7
„ owing to Exchange Branch	9	9	4
„ Furniture	10	0	0
„ Books in Library	50	0	0
	£85	9	11

Audited and found correct.

(Signed) C. W. ELLIS, F.I.A.V.,
Hon. Auditor.

(Signed) W. BRETTSCHEIDER,
Hon. Treasurer.

MELBOURNE, 8 July, 1908.

THE ordinary general monthly meeting of the above Society was held on July 23, at 128 Russell Street, Melbourne, the newly elected President, Mr. A. G. Kelson, being in the chair, and with the same members present as at the annual meeting.

The minutes of the last ordinary meeting being read and confirmed, the following gentlemen were balloted for and elected members of the Society: Messrs. J. Smith, J. S. Mackay, W. E. Appleby, Rev. A. Gilloson, Dr. F. P. Lucas, and Jelitschka.

Miss E. West, of Sydney, was proposed for election at the next meeting.

The recommendation of the Committee to increase the commission to be charged on all stamps sold in the Exchange Books from 5 to 10 per cent. raised a heated discussion; but after the President explained that it was necessary to keep up the prompt settlements of Exchange Books as they became due, it was finally agreed to and carried—this commission to begin with Book 183 (in August).

Balloting for positions in Book 182 was the last business for the evening, and a general discussion concluded the meeting.

W. BRETTSCHEIDER, *Hon. Secretary.*

Manchester Philatelic Society.

ESTABLISHED 1891.

Session 1908-9.*President*—W. DORNING BECKTON.*Vice-Presidents*—J. H. ABBOTT. G. B. DUERST.
W. GRUNEWALD.*Hon. Treasurer*—C. H. COOTE, Holly Bank,
Ashton-on-Mersey, Manchester.*Hon. Librarian*—J. R. M. ALBRECHT.*Hon. Secretary*—G. FRED. H. GIBSON,
Fairfield, Crumpsall, Manchester.*Hon. Asst. Secretary and Comptroller*—
J. STELFOX GEE.*Committee*—

J. K. KING. W. W. MUNN. J. H. TAYLOR.

The Meetings are held at the Rooms of the Manchester Geographical Society, 16 S. Mary's Parsonage, on Friday evenings, at 7.30.

1908.

- Oct. 2. Paper: "The Type-set Provisionals of British Guiana." W. D. Beckton.
9. Paper: "The Making of a Stamp (Methods of Papermaking)." J. Stelfox Gee.
16. Display with Notes: Bavaria. J. C. North.
17. Demonstration of Papermaking and Printing—Municipal School of Technology, 2.30 p.m.
23. Paper: "The Making of a Stamp Materials used in Papermaking)." J. H. Abbott.
30. Display with Notes: Italian States on Entires. A. P. Walker (Birmingham Philatelic Society).

- Nov. 6. Paper: "The Making of a Stamp (Varieties of Paper)." J. K. King.
13. Display with Notes: Western Australia. W. W. Munn.
20. Paper: "The Making of a Stamp (Watermarks)." J. H. Taylor.
27. Display of Artistic Stamps (limited to six by each member).
Five minutes with Interesting Stamps. G. F. H. Gibson, I. J. Bernstein.
- Dec. 4. Paper: "The Making of a Stamp (Engraving and Surface Printing)." C. H. Coote.
11. Display with Notes: Surface Printed Stamps of Great Britain, 1855-84. W. M. Gray (Vice-President Bradford Philatelic Society).

1909.

- Jan. 15. Paper: "Fin'and." E. Philpott-Crowther (President Cardiff Philatelic Society).
22. Paper: "The Making of a Stamp (Lithography)." W. W. Munn.
29. Paper: "Baden." G. B. Duerst.
- Feb. 5. Paper: "The Making of a Stamp (Gumming)." J. R. M. Albrecht.
12. Display with Notes: Brazil. W. D. Beckton.
- 19, 20, 21. J. P. S. Exhibition and Congress, Hulme Town Hall.
26. Display with Notes: United States, 1847-96. W. E. Whitnall (Liverpool Philatelic Society).
- Mar. 5. Paper: "The Making of a Stamp (Rouletting and Perforating)." D. Ostara.
12. Display with Notes: Liberia. J. H. Abbott.
19. Paper: "The Making of a Stamp (Arrangement into Sheets)." I. J. Bernstein.
26. Display with Notes: Gwalior. J. S. Higgins, jun.

Members are particularly requested to bring to each meeting their stamps of the country under discussion.

