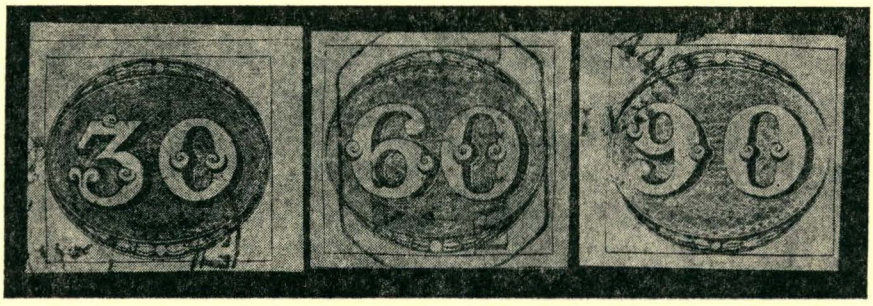


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PHILATELIST

Volume 41 Number 1
January 1962



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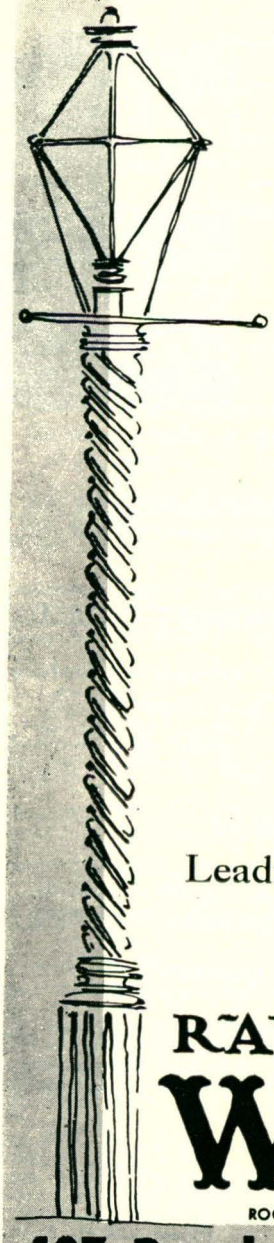
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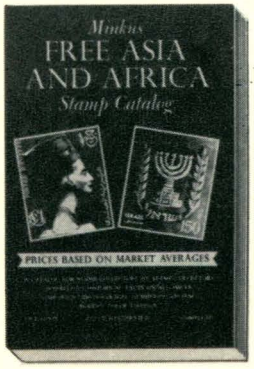
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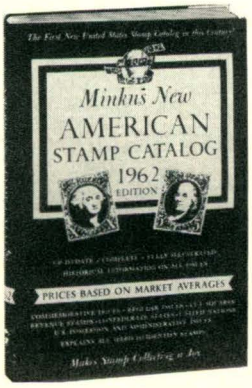
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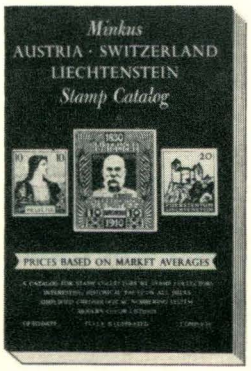
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The Collectors Club PHILATELIST

Volume 41 Number 1
January 1962

Editorials

Banish The Bin Room

Having served for the fourth time as a judge at an international philatelic exhibition, where besides material in the frames, hundreds of albums had to be examined to decide the awards, it seems timely, based upon our personal experiences, to re-appraise this matter. Each time, the judges inspected every album entered in competition, although it has been reported that some international juries in the past did not do this. Regardless of whether such allegations are true or not, this basic question needs an answer, namely — to what extent do albums influence the judging?

The idea behind placing album material in bin rooms for the international judges arises because the demand from exhibitors for frames cannot be met. Thus, many fear that they may be penalized with a lower award, because the needed exhibition space had to be curtailed, and they enter albums so that the judges are better able to see the scope of the entire collection.

The entry of albums in exhibitions creates a number of additional difficulties for all concerned — the exhibitors, the exhibition committee and the judges. Each should be analyzed individually.

The exhibitor has to do much more work at home to prepare albums for competition. Furthermore, he is obliged to pay more, not only for additional entry fees for his albums, but also with extra costs for the transportation of albums to and from the exhibition. In case an exhibitor is competing in a foreign country, such costs can be considerable, to say nothing of obtaining the necessary custom entrance and exit permits.

The exhibition itself must rent more space to provide for bin rooms to store the albums. Also arrangements must be made for the proper assistance to care for and handle the albums. Provisions must be made for help to bring the albums to the judges and return them to their proper place in the bin room. Finally after the exhibition has closed, the albums must be carefully re-wrapped for return delivery to the exhibitor. All of this requires the expenditure of much money and time.

As for the judges, it has been our experience that never is sufficient time allotted in order to perform these duties as conscientiously as necessary. Examining and then discussing with others the material in several hundred frames is a difficult enough task. Always the judges are being reminded that their decisions of the awards are wanted as speedily as possible. Add to this extra burdens of viewing albums, one may now understand why judges examine albums with reluctance.

Now for the question! According to our own experience that covers a span of making hundreds of awards, only once — to repeat — only once, did the albums that came from a bin room change an award. This was solely due to an unfortunate mistake where a hardworking volunteer misread the exhibitor's instructions by mixing up the material for the frames with that in the albums. Through an error, the pages with the stamps for the frames were

placed in the bin room, while the album material was put in the frames. Consequently, when the judges saw the frame material that was mistakenly stored in the bin room, the original award was changed. But outside of this one instance, it cannot be recalled when an award, that had been tentatively reached, was changed after the album material had been viewed.

Very few philatelic exhibitors realize that an excellent representation of a fine collection can be shown in a few frames. Most incorrectly believe that justice to a collection in competition can be done only with a vast showing. But it is practically impossible to convince most exhibitors of the truth of this situation. Time and again, one dissatisfied philatelist thinks he received an award lower than a certain competitor, because the latter was allowed more frames. The fact is that quality, not quantity, was the deciding factor.

Furthermore, when an exhibitor, for example, has 4 frames and 4 albums in the bin room in an international exhibition, his best always is in the frames. The album material is supplementary and secondary.

Thus, for all practical purposes and also for the best interests of the exhibitors, the judges and exhibition itself, this custom of entering albums in philatelic exhibitions should cease.

Our New Look

The experienced and talented hand of Franc Ritter has been busy for almost a year in the interest of this magazine. The first 1962 number of the COLLECTORS CLUB PHILATELIST, now in your hands, evidences the results of Mr. Ritter's ideas and work. As a leading commercial art director and an authority on printed layout, he has sought to have this magazine's appearance in line with the most modern practices, while the printed pages are laid out to make its readability as easy as possible.

Another factor for the members and subscriber's convenience has been taken into consideration. Since this magazine of record is retained by many for their library in annual bound volumes, the advertisements are placed only in the front and the back of the magazine, so that those wishing to bind the six annual numbers may remove the advertising matter, if they wish, in order that the bound volume is not too bulky.

No United States

The COLLECTORS CLUB PHILATELIST medal given annually for the best article started in 1949. A total of fifteen medals (one year's award was to co-authors) have been awarded. A review of both the prize-winning subjects and the individual recipients reveal that not one article on United States was selected by the independently appointed Awards Committee.

The Orient with seven out of the fourteen annual awards led the field with India in 1955, 1956 and 1959, China in 1949 and 1953, Australia (Victoria) in 1957 and the Maldive Islands also in 1957. South America with Venezuela in 1951, Colombia in 1952 and Corrientes 1958 tied with Europe — France and Colonies, South Bulgaria in 1960 and Austria in 1961 — for the runner-up position. The best article in 1954 was from Africa, French Morocco.

Four of the fifteen medal-winning authors were overseas members, from Great Britain, Australia, India and South America. The rest were by philatelists in the United States.

Since this magazine is recognized internationally as the leading American periodical on philately, this period from 1949 to 1961 may show that our best students were not concentrating on United States stamps. Certainly from 1922 to 1949, a number of the COLLECTORS CLUB PHILATELIST'S best articles were on the United States.

Letters To The Editor

Too Many New Issues

In the COLLECTORS CLUB PHILATELIST issue of November 1961, the editorial "Wall St. and Nassau St." and also the letter "a Solution to the New Issue Problem" were certainly timely and both are somewhat related.

At the same time it is largely the collectors who are at fault. They speculate in hopes of a fast profit. Certainly very few dealers recommend to their customers the purchase of recent mint sheets of U. S. stamps printed in editions of 5 to 120 million. The buyers of quantities of these sheets are largely confined to non-real collectors.

There are certainly far too many new issues. Previously collectors studied and gathered stamps issued by various governments. Today many countries study the collectors interests and issue stamps they believe will have a large sales appeal. The topical collector receives the greatest exploitation.

The solution is extremely simple and may be divided into 2 catagories. 1. excessive issues with emphasis on souvenir sheets and high denominations will soon be curtailed if collectors stop buying them and further the dealers societies, if sufficiently serious, could designate issues members would supply on request but would only sell them and not buy them. 2. limited and cornered issues — the dealer and collectors societies could designate if the issue was in this category in which case the dealers might go on record they would supply the stamps at the market price but their interest in purchasing them for stock would be limited to face value, and if the catalogs so noted these issues in the above manner this practice would soon come to an end.

L. F. Livingston
Baltimore, Md.

Block That Phoney Statistic

Friends asked me if I read the article about the U. S. stamps on page 33 of the November 17, 1961 issue of LIFE Magazine, which I guess caused lots of comment among stamp people.

Along with this issue of LIFE, my copy of the COLLECTORS CLUB PHILATELIST also came in the mails, and so I was able to read both magazines within a short time.

It looks to me as if the editors of both these magazines put their heads together, because on page 6 in LIFE was an editorial, "Block That Phoney Statistic," while on page 262 of the COLLECTORS CLUB PHILATELIST editor Goodkind did this very thing with his editorial, "Stamp Collectors in the United States." So, cheers from many philatelists for blocking that phoney statistic on the number of stamp collectors in the U. S. A.

Hugo Count
Philadelphia, Pa.

Tolima - 1886

By C. W. Wickersham

Introduction

For many years before 1886 the states of Colombia enjoyed many of the attributes of sovereignty, including that of issuing their own stamps for prepayment of mail. In fact, many of the mail routes were those of the separate states, either feeding into or supplemental to the national routes, or used for the mails on state routes only.

The first stamps of Tolima, the typeset stamps of 1870, bore the inscription "E. S. Del. T.," the abbreviation for the sovereign state of Tolima. In the next issue, a new inscription read "E. E. U. U. de Colombia — E. S. (or Estados S.) Del. Tolima," each prefaced by "Correos Del Estado," this emphasized the sovereignty of the state, while admitting partnership with Antioquia, Bolivar, Cundinamarca and other states joined in federation as the United States of Colombia from 1862 on. Similar legends are found in the subsequent issues to and including 1886, the year when the present Republic of Colombia was inaugurated, and the states became departments of the Republic with fewer independent, sovereign rights.

Thereafter the states, now departments, continued to issue their own stamps until 1904 or 1905, and in one case until 1907,[1] changing the inscription to use the word "Departmento" (department) instead of "sovereign

1. *Santander.* The Panama map stamps are not considered in this description.



Fig. 1. Enlargement of the 5c brown; long wings; four flagstaffs.



Fig. 2. Enlargement of the 5c brown; long wings; two flagstaffs.

state.'' One reason for these late issues may have been due to the peculiar geography of the country, which is explained by a glance at the map.

It is with the last Tolima issue with its sovereign state inscription that this article deals, and the excuse, if any is needed, is the somewhat confused cataloging in standard works on this issue of 1886, which includes several varieties of printing and separation, as well as errors, tete-beche pairs, tinted-papers and at least one transfer on the wrong stone. All stamps were produced by lithography, and many are found both perforated and imperforate.

The giant vulture known as the condor *(Vultur gryphus)* has an attained wing spread of twelve feet. This great bird, the largest flying bird in the world, is found in the Andes Mountain chain from Colombia and Venezuela to Patagonia.[2] It is portrayed on every Tolima stamp issued after the 1870 typesets. It is particularly prominent on the 1886 issues, which we now proceed to discuss and list.

The Two Printings

In the first place, we must distinguish between the stamps where the condor's wings are long, and those where the wings are short, a distinction long recognized by collectors and the publishers of catalogs.

A. *Condor with long wings.* Here we must distinguish between two different printings. In one, there are four flagstaffs jutting from the flags, two on each side of the central display.

In the other printing the upper flagstaffs are omitted; hence only two flagstaffs, one on each side.

1. *Long wings — four flagstaffs. White paper.* This printing consisted of four denominations, namely 5c brown (and shades), 10c blue, 50c green and

2. "Living Birds of the World," by E. Thomas Gilliard, p. 100. Doubleday & Company, 1958. Mr. Gilliard is Associate Curator of Birds, American Museum of Natural History.

1p vermilion. All are known imperforate, and a horizontal pair of the 50c imperforate between, has been recorded.[3]

The stamps were lithographed, and where perforated, gauged 10½ or 11. The size of the sheets is not definitely known to the writer, but is believed to be 100 (10x10) for the 5c and 10c, and 50(10x5) for the 50c and 1p.[4] Blocks of fifty of the 5c, 10c and 1p are in the author's collection (the 10c block missing one stamp — the last). The 1p may well be the full sheet. Hall says that the stamps were issued in January 1886.

The shades of the 5c vary from brown through yellow brown to orange brown; those of the one peso from a paler vermilion to a deep vermilion. All denominations are found cancelled as well as unused. Cancelling by manuscript was still common, and thus are found on stamps of this printing from Ibague (the capital), Mariquita, Honda and other towns, although handstamps or other cancelling devices were in use at Ibague (on a strip of the 1p) and were already in use at Honda, Neira, Espinal, Ambalema, Chaparral, Natagaima and other post offices in Tolima.

Apparently the imperforate stamps were used sometimes for postage. At least there are five singles of the 50c imperforate in the writer's collection,

The principal differences in design of the four stamps may be noted here, as they bear on the question of the later settings. In the 5c the corner numerals are set in a double lined oval tablet and the connecting label is curved; in the 10c the ovals open into the curved label; whereas in the 50c the numerals are enclosed in a rectangle and the label is straight. In the 1p the tablets are oval and the label straight.

3. Scott's Standard Postage Stamp Catalog 1959, Vol. I, p. 632.
4. Cf. an article by T. W. Hall in "Stanley Gibbons Monthly Journal," May 31, 1905 (p. 231)

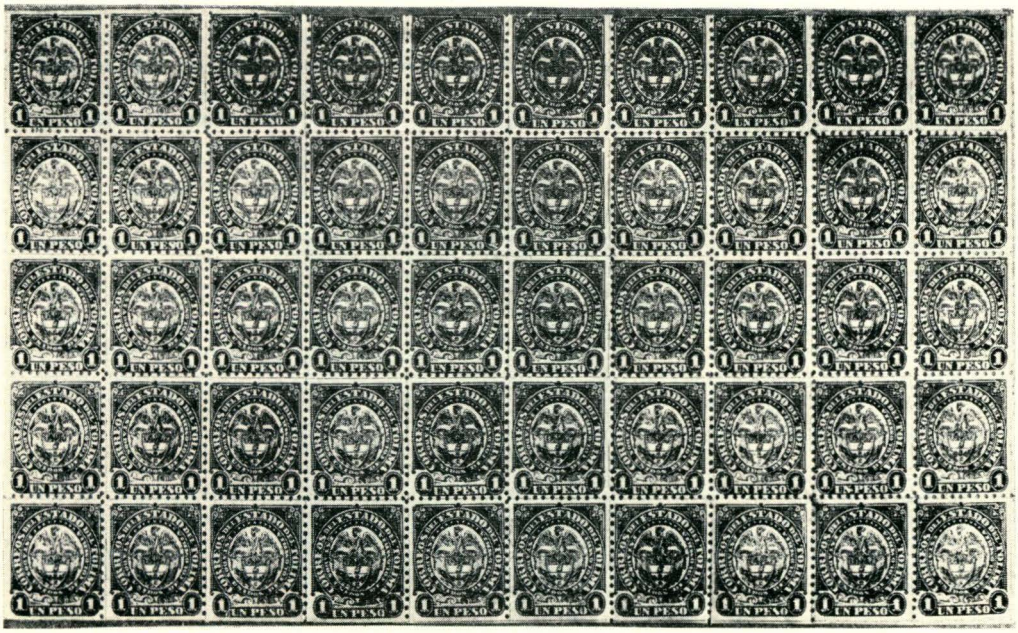


Fig. 3. Block of 50 of the 1p. vermilion, Perf. 10½ (Possibly the full sheet).

all with manuscript cancellations. These include the towns of Colombia, Aipe, Mariquita (2) and Villavieja. Hall had the 5c and 1p imperforate, and all four denominations are listed imperforate in standard catalogs.



Fig. 4. 50c; long wings; four staffs, imperforate with Mariquita manuscript cancellation.

2. *The Lilac Tinted paper.* All four denominations are found on lilac tinted paper. These are not always easy to distinguish from the stamps on white paper because the designs are the same. The colors of those in the author's collection, however, are stronger than the latter. The 5c is an orange brown, the 10c a deep blue and the 50c a deep green. Both of the last two stamps are in a deeper color than any of the fifty-five 10c or the fifteen 50c on white paper in the collection, with one exception, a 50c deep green. The three 1 peso stamps are slightly brighter than the average twelve white paper stamps in the collection, but are scarcely, if at all, brighter than the fifty stamps in the sheet on that paper. The printing is not so well done and gives a somewhat blurred impression to the stamps.[5] It is possible that the ten copies on lilac tinted paper in the writer's collection are selected copies and perhaps, therefore, deeper or brighter in color than average.[6]

There is little doubt that these stamps were postally used. All four denominations are so catalogued in Scott's. There are two copies of the 5c and one of the 10c with manuscript cancellations in the writer's possession, including Garzon and Coyaima. Hall says that they were issued in April, 1886.[4]

3. *Long wings; only two flagstaffs.* Now we come to one of the most interesting printings of these stamps. They are catalogued by Scott as imperforate, and are listed *after* the short wing printings. Gibbons does not list them.[7] The following denominations *perforated* have been seen, namely the 2½c, dull orange; the 5c brown and yellow brown; the 10c blue (4); the 2p. reddish violet (2) and the 5p. yellow (2). These are all unused. The 5c and 10c used should be added — both perforated and the 2p. imperforated.

The perforation on the two-flagstaff stamps usually gauges 12, but with variations. The author owns the 5c, 10c and 5p. perforated 12½, while other copies of these values are perforated 12. In several cases the perforation is rough and slightly irregular.

5. Scott describes the 50c white paper as deep green and the same denomination on the lilac tinted paper as green. I would reverse these descriptions. Stanley-Gibbons refers to the blurred impression for stamps on the tinted paper.

6. They include 3 of the 5c, 2 each of the 10c and 50c and 3 of the 1 peso. They are undoubtedly rare.

7. At least that is my understanding of the listing. Incidentally, the "Stanley Gibbons Postage Stamp Catalog, Part III, p. 270" has been corrected, the description of an eagle to a condor.



Fig. 5. 2½c, 5c, 10c, 2p and 5p; long wings; only two flagstaffs; perforated.

The long wing condors with only two flagstaffs imperforate include the 1c black, 2½c dull orange, 5c brown (shades), 10c blue, 2p. reddish violet and 5p. yellow. The 5c shades range from a very pale yellowish brown, to a pale brown, brown, deep brown and orange brown.

There is an error of printing of the 5c, namely a transfer of the 10c in the 5c stone. Apparently this occurred at least once in the sheet.



Fig. 6. Long wings; two staffs; imperforate 5c pair showing transfer of the 10c in the stone.

In the case of the 2 pesos there are two errors. With one the white numerals in the bottom corners are omitted leaving the colored background. In the other error both numerals and colors are omitted, leaving a white blank within the numerals frames.



Fig. 7. Block of four of the 2p. violet imperforate; long wings; two flagstaffs; showing both errors.

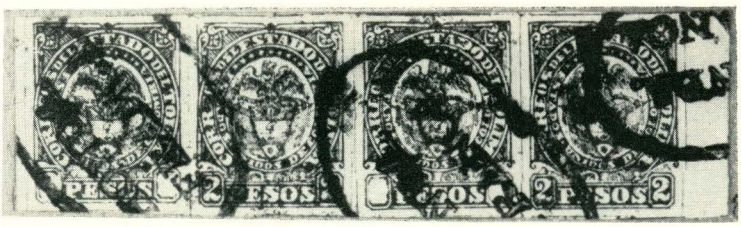


Fig. 8. Strip of four of the 2p. violet; imperforate; long wings; two flagstaffs; with Honda cancellation.

That at least some of these stamps were actually used is shown by the copies of the perforated 5c and 10c already mentioned as well as by a horizontal strip of four of the 2p. imperforate in the writer's collection cancelled with the Honda black handstamp. Incidentally, two of the stamps in this used strip show the second error mentioned above.[8]

Varieties of the 5p. orange are catalogued. In one case the bottom label is inverted; in another there is a transfer of the 2p. in the stone; and finally a tete-beche pair has been recorded. None of these has been seen by the writer.

There is no doubt that the two-flagstaff stamps were printed from stones different than the earlier long wing issue or the short wings. Besides the obvious lack of the two upper flagstaffs, there are various minor differences in design from corresponding denominations.

Despite of the fact that Hall records a genuinely used pair of the 2p. (which incidentally included the error, a variety he obviously could not find in a full sheet of the 2p. with *short wings)*, and says that some examples may have been genuinely (but deceivingly) used, he incorrectly concluded that the two-flagstaff stamps were forgeries or essays.[9]

Apparently Hall did not know of the perforated stamps of this printing, nor of any used copies, except the pair of the 2p. His doubts probably explain the note in Scott's to the effect that the authenticity of these stamps was doubted; but Scott's note goes on to say that good authorities believe them to be genuinely issued and that cancelled copies exist in various collections. The writer fully agrees.[10]

B. *Short wings; four flagstaffs.* Here is a printing of twelve denominations, four more than those of all the long wings combined. The condor's wings barely, or do not quite touch the upper flagstaffs, and there are some other differences in the designs. The new denominations are the 2c rose lilac, 20c lemon, 25c black and the 10p. lilac rose. The stamps are perforated 12, but several are known imperforate, including the 5c, 10c, 1p. and 10p. and probably the 2½c, although the latter is not listed imperforate. Another non-listed item is the horizontal pair of the 2p. imperforate between.

Scott lists a horizontal pair of the 50c green imperforate between, but this has not been seen by the writer. It is referred to by Hall, who also stated that the 25c black existed in pairs imperforate between. [11]

Two denominations are known in tete-beche pairs, the 20c lemon and the 2p. violet. The writer possesses a block of four of the 2p. violet, the right vertical pair being tete-beche.

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8. Scott lists all the errors as if they were one, but does not give a catalog value.
9. "S. G. Monthly Journal," May 31, 1905, pp. 232, 233.
10. "Scott Standard Postage Stamp Catalogue," 1958, Vol. I, p. 624.

In addition the 2c is known in black, although not listed in Scott or Stanley Gibbons. This may be an essay or a proof.

There are a variety of shades of several of these stamps. The 1c includes dark gray, pale gray and a brownish gray. The rose lilac of the 2c is found in both pale and a stronger color. The 5c runs much the same as in the long wings except for the orange brown, while the 10c comes in both blue and bright blue. The 2p. shades are violet or cold (dull) violet.

From all that can be learned only a few of the short wing denominations were extensively used. Cancelled copies of most of them are rare. The commonest appear to be the 5c and the 50c. The 1p. is not so common, but neither is it rare. The writer owns three copies of the 10p., two bearing the Neiva handstamp cancel in an oval frame, and the third apparently imperforate with part of a black handstamp.

What the size of the sheets may have been for all the denominations is not definitely known to the writer. A block of twenty(4x5) of the 25c black, perforated 12, has been examined with full sheet margins on both sides, and narrow ones (or what may be sheet margins) on top and bottom, but it is not entirely clear whether this is the full sheet or pane, (although it is believed to be). Even if it is a full sheet of twenty, this by itself does not prove the size of the sheets of the other denominations of this issue. Hall

11. id. p. 232.



Fig. 9. Pair of the 2p.; short wings; four staffs; imperforate between.



Fig. 10. Tete-beche pair of the 20c lemon.



Fig. 11. Block of four of the 2p. violet (short wings) showing a vertical pair tete-beche.

stated flatly that all were lithographed in sheets of twenty, but he does not appear to have had the sheets.[12]

Listing

As a result of all the foregoing the writer would list the 1886 stamps as follows:

1886

Lithographed

A. (1) Condor with long wings — four flagstaffs.
Perf. 10½, 11. White paper.
Denominations: 5c brown; 10c blue; 50c green; 1p. vermilion.
Varieties: imperf. (all); shades of the 5c and 1p. as above described; horizontal pair of the 50c imperf. between.

(2) Same: All four denominations on lilac tinted paper. Perf. 10½, and 11. Stronger or deeper colors. Blurred impressions.

(3) Condor with long wings — only two flagstaffs. Imperforate or perf. 12, 12½ or 12x11. (Sometimes rough and uneven).
Denominations: 1c black; 2½c dull orange (flesh); 5c brown; 10c blue; 2p. reddish violet and 5p. pale orange.

(All with 2 flagstaffs only are catalogued by Scott's as imperforate, but all except the 1c perforated have been examined by the writer and all but the 1c imperforate. The 5c and 10c used perforated 12½ and 12 respectively are in the writer's collection).

Varieties: 5c (shades as described): transfer of the 10c in the 5c stone; 2p. error, numerals omitted in both bottom corners leaving the colored back-

12. p. 232.

ground; same but background white; 5p. tete-beche pair; 5p. bottom label inverted; transfer of the 2p. in the 5p. stone.

B. Condor with short wings; four flagstaffs; changed designs perf. 12.

Denominations: 1c gray (shades); 2c rose lilac (shades); 2½c dull orange; 5c brown (shades); 10c blue (shades); 20c lemon; 25c black; 50c green; 1p. vermilion; 2p. violet (and cold violet); 5p. orange; 10p. lilac rose.

Varieties: 2½c (probably); 5c; 10c; 1p., 10p., imperforate; 20c tete-beche pair; 50c horizontal pair imperforate between; 2p. tete-beche pair; 2p. horizontal pair imperforate between.

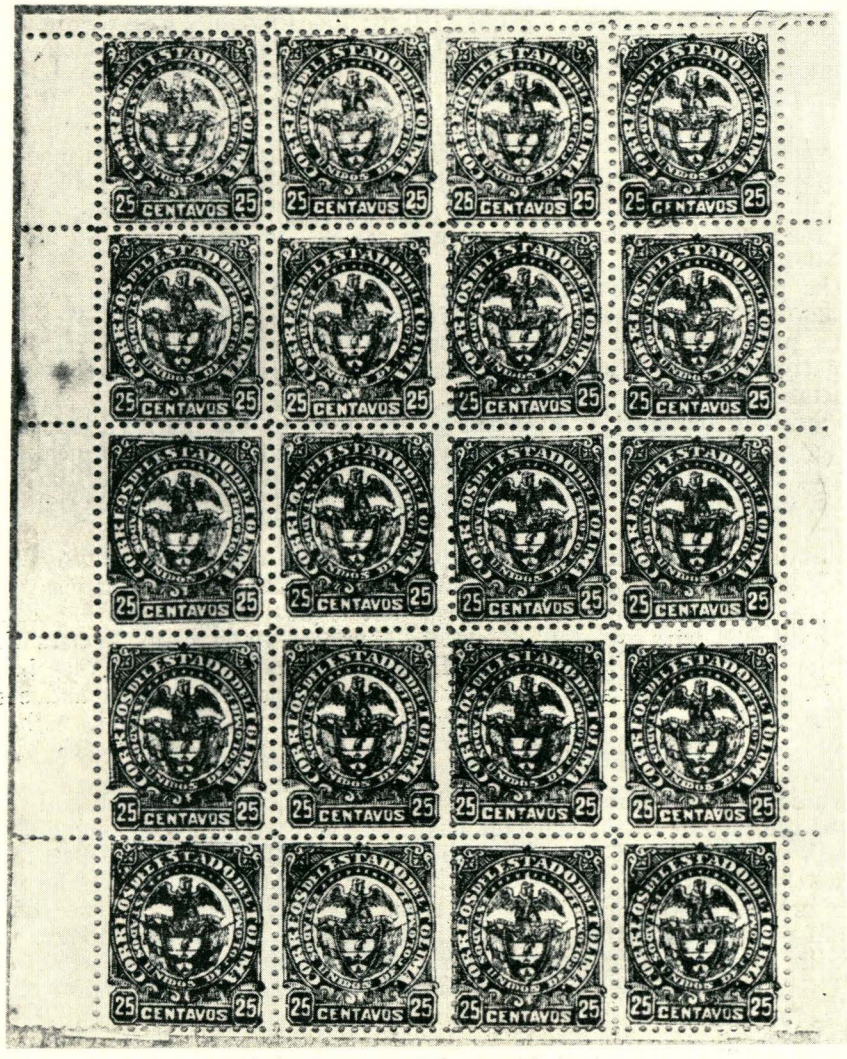


Fig. 12. Block of twenty of the 25c black; short wings.

(Continued on page 26)

The Clubhouse

Meeting of October 4, 1961

Dealers' Night

If one will check back on the titles of some of the classic books of English literature, he will find that very frequently they had sub-titles as well as titles. Thus, Vanity Fair, A Novel without a Hero; The Pilgrim's Progress, From this World To That Which Is To Come; Don Juan, A Satiric Epic of Modern Life, to mention only a few. So, on the night of October 4, 1961, the sub-title for this meeting could be: "The Pros will speak on the pros and cons of various subjects philatelic with audience participation!" The moderator and planner for the evening was *Mr. Bernard D. Harmer;* it is a tribute to his moderating influence that the topics were aptly chosen, that there were as many pros as cons and that the meeting furnished a forum where the collecting fraternity itself was given a chance to "put its own oar in" to steady the boat rocked by the dealers.

The first topic debated was, *"Is there room for two general catalogs in one country?"* Argument for the affirmative was presented by Mr. Jacques Minkus, publisher of the second catalog. In this situation, the approach to the affirmative viewpoint was patently obvious. Indeed, Mr. Minkus stated he was astonished that the subject was even debatable in the first place. His thesis was that the entry of a second general catalog into the field afforded the collector a choice not previously open to him. So, the fine old American tradition of competition was best served with two catalogs instead of one. Also, he said, collectors have already made the decision, buying and enjoying both catalogs.

Winthrop S. Boggs then took up the cudgels for the negative side. He felt it was as impracticable to have two general catalogs just as it was to have two telephone books. He believed also that it was awkward for the collector to have to deal with two sets of catalog numbers while many dealers find it necessary to renumber their stock. Historically, he pointed out that in England, France and Germany where more than one general catalog had been in use, the Gibbons, Yvert and Tellier, and Michel catalogs had, with time, achieved a single catalog status for all practical purposes in each of their respective countries.

Audience viewpoints, expressed by Messrs. Holman, Reggel and Thorp, stressed the benefit to the collector based on the competition among publishers for each one's share of the purchasing market. Mr. Edwin Mueller brought an entirely fresh viewpoint to the fore. For competitive purposes he wanted to see two catalogs. His stand, however, was there should be two different kinds of catalogs since there are two different kinds of collectors today. Thus, he would have a catalog for the classic or philatelic type of collector. There would also be a catalog for those who collected according to theme — the topicalists, the Europa collectors, and the New Issue enthusiasts.

The second topic for debate was: *"Has the increased selling of stamps by auction houses been harmful for philately?"* Mr. William Salomon of Dumont Stamp Company carried the ball for the pros. He felt there were too many

auctions on the same day, so that dealers found it virtually impossible to attend all such auctions to buy items for their customers or for stock. Also, the collector was being frustrated in his search for the missing items in his collection for the same reason. Mr. Salomon would have each auction house run only two or three auctions a year. Beyond that, today's dealers are being put into a position where they cannot accumulate a stock where the collector can come and browse for his needs. Also, auction descriptions are not uniform; he thought that fewer auctions might help to standardize these descriptions.

Ernest A. Kehr, stamp editor for the New York Herald-Tribune, spoke for the negative on this weighty problem. He told us that the old-time dealers had stocks that were almost 90% complete. Few dealers today, as a matter of fact, carry any real stock. Thus the collector is forced to rely on the auction houses for the material he needs. Only in auctions, is it possible to acquire his wants at reasonable prices. Also, auctions have done much to stabilize prices. This stability furnishes a cue to catalog editors in their pricing since the auction is a medium where the law of supply and demand prevails, realistic prices being the result. But most important, auctions have put stamps on the front pages of the newspapers, something unheard of when the bulk of stamp dealing was at retail. Publicity in the non-philatelic press is good for philately.

Messrs. Seebacher, Karl Jaeger of Columbus, Ohio and Zweifach each put forward brief but pithy comments with Mr. Jaeger on the side of the pros, while Messrs. Seebacher and Zweifach were against the question. Mr. Seebacher's comment is especially worthy of note. His point was that the auction provided a common market like the stock exchanges. Thus, the auction provides liquidity for sale of stamps which, perhaps, could not be sold any other way to offer this.

The third topic for discussion was: "*Should expert committees be held liable for opinions expressed?*" The negative, represented by Mr. Herbert J. Bloch, got their licks in first, reversing the procedure adopted for the previous two debates. His point was that giving an opinion is merely rendering a service. Thus, where a contract provision limits the liability, the parties cannot go beyond said provision, unless there is wilful misrepresentation. His Friedl Expert Committee accepts no liability, the work of its members being performed to the best of their knowledge. The sender, in submitting his material, agrees to these terms. Likewise, the Expert Committee of the Philatelic Foundation takes every care in rendering its opinion, but neither the Committee nor the Foundation accepts any liability for the opinion. There is a method whereby liability could be accepted and imposed. This would be to insure the opinion for a percentage of the value but only up to the value of the item. Mr. Bloch concluded by stating that there are nice collectors and dealers as well as collectors and dealers, who are stinkers. In his opinion, the stinkers would impose such a hardship that expert committees would have to give up.

The pros were represented by Ezra D. Cole. His main point was that a certificate received from an expert should be a guaranteed expression of worth, backed by money damages. Otherwise, it had no value. There were, he felt, too many expert committees and experts whose operations were nothing more-or-less than a racket. Also, he stated that in many cases the fee involved had influenced opinions. Thus, a larger fee was charged when an item was declared genuine and a lesser fee when fraudulent or doubtful. He stated that in many cases the photographs, art work and fancy titles on some certificates made them collectible as pieces of paper, but their worth ended there. Mr. Cole also believed, as had the previous speaker, that a form of insurance could be worked out with concomitant higher fees which would make the experts and

expert committees liable for their opinions. If the opinion of the certificate was backed with money damages, it would have real meaning, create confidence, make the experts very careful of the opinions expressed and help to stabilize values of stamps, especially of rarities and valuable surcharged varieties.

There were many speakers from the floor on this topic. Mr. Bloch stated that frequently the question of condition was more important than the genuineness in the mind of the one issuing a certificate. Mr. Haverbeck wondered, since no liability existed for any personal opinion, why should more liability be attached to the opinion of an expert committee? Mr. Mueller brought out that a physician was liable only for malpractice, not for an honest opinion that could be wrong. This should apply in the case of the opinions of expert committees. In his experience, although there was a clause in his own committee's contract whereby the opinion could be insured for a percentage of the value of the stamp, no one, to his knowledge, ever took advantage of it. Mr. Goodkind, as his contribution, expressed amazement that any reputable expert committee would shade its opinion according to the size of the fee involved, as Mr. Cole had stated. His long experience with expert committee work had never disclosed one instance where the amount of the fee influenced the opinion.

The writer cannot remember a meeting in recent years which generated as much thought-provoking discussion as this one. As a matter of fact, there were so many speakers that it was necessary to eliminate the fourth topic: "Should stamp dealers be bonded?" In our opinion, this meeting, marking one of the many new departures prepared for us this year by the program director served a very worthwhile purpose, the airing of the many problems that are important to the welfare of philately in general. Perhaps the points discussed may stimulate followup editorials in future issues of the COLLECTORS CLUB PHILATELIST.

(*Philip Silver*)

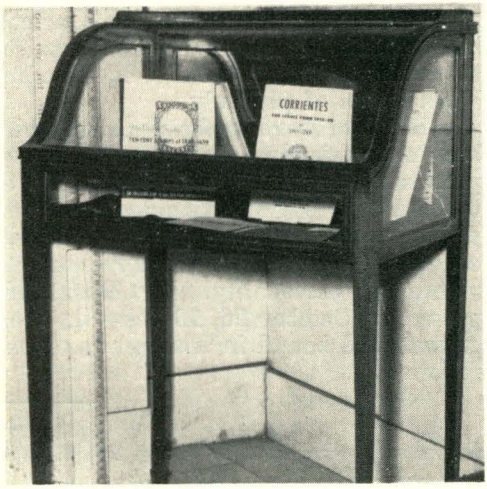
Meeting of October 18, 1961

Louis Stich Memorial

The meeting of October 18, 1961 had been announced on the program as *Louis Stich Memorial Night*. The members met that night to pay homage to a man who had given of himself fully for the welfare of the club he loved. It was an evening of memories and nostalgia conducted with a simple dignity that was characteristic of the man himself. For, Louis Stich was one of those warm human beings who touched the lives of his friends and acquaintances with his charm and friendliness, and left them better men for it. The writer cannot claim a close personal relationship with him. His acquaintance with Louis Stich dates from the time when Louis had already reached the zenith of his devotion and usefulness to the Club. The writer remembers him mostly as a charming and gracious dinner companion whose conversation was authoritative without being pedantic, lively and interesting whether the topic was art, travel or the wines of Europe.

Parts of the Corrientes collection of Mr. Stich and some of his original art work for this magazine and The Theodore E. Steinway Memorial Fund handbooks had been fittingly placed in the wall frames — incidentally, the latter also being the creation of Louis Stich.

President George Burghard opened the meeting with a few words of introduction. The president's earnest words set the mood for the balance of the



The antique inlaid walnut glass cabinet now installed in the lobby of the clubhouse for the display of the Theodore E. Steinway Memorial Fund publications, which was dedicated on October 18, 1961 in the memory of our late Vice-President, Louis Stich. (Photo by Boutrelle)

evening to be echoed in the address of the Master of Ceremonies, Mr. John J. Britt and each of the speakers he introduced. Mr. Britt recalled especially when Louis was vice president, sitting at the left hand of the president at meetings and as a most entertaining program director. Louis had a knack of introducing the program speaker given to few men. His manner was courtly. When Louis had finished introducing the speaker for the evening, the man was as much at ease as it is possible for any speaker to be.

The first speaker was Mr. Henry M. Goodkind, Editor of the COLLECTORS CLUB PHILATELIST. Mr. Goodkind spoke about his relationship with Louis Stich, the author. English was not Louis' mother tongue. Thus, when he prepared a manuscript for publication, the usual editorial problems were multiplied. In the case of the Corrientes study, a punch line was needed; why collect the homliest stamps in the world? As Mr. Goodkind put it, in the rephrasing and editing of the manuscript, he felt there was developed a common bond of mutual respect between the author and the editor. After many days of painstaking work, the final manuscript was ready for the printer. In the process, the editor found a kinship with a man who displayed patience and forbearance in a difficult task; they worked as a team. After publication of the article, four weeks passed before any comment was received about it. The first letter came from abroad criticizing one minor mistake in the many printed pages concerning the currency of Corrientes. After that, came a deluge of congratulatory letters. The rest is philatelic history. Louis Stich was awarded the Collectors Club medal for the best article to appear in the COLLECTORS CLUB PHILATELIST that year. The Corrientes book that put the serial article in one place was also one of the first to be published by the Theodore E. Steinway Memorial Fund. Concluding, Mr. Goodkind stated, "The written word lives. The Corrientes book is Louis Stich's greatest memorial."

Past President H. D. S. Haverbeck was to have been the next speaker; however, he was confined at home after a serious bout with pneumonia. So, the next speaker was Vice President Malcolm G. O'Reilly whose talk was devoted to Louis Stich, The Man. Here again, for those who knew him, it was easy enough to reminisce about the qualities that endeared him to so many of his fellow members. He was an extremely gracious person. Louis made each member feel as if he were an intimate friend. He thoroughly enjoyed his

stamps and was, at the same time, a true philatelist. Yet, he was also honest in his evaluations and very sensitive to the boorishness of many in the collecting brotherhood. Mr. O'Reilly, in sum, felt that Louis' greatest heritage was as a *gentleman* of philately.

Mr. Burghard spoke next, not without some emotional strain. They had been close friends. Frequently, they would indulge in reminiscences of things past, sometimes in the Austrian dialect of German which Mr. Burghard had learned as a boy vacationing in Marienbad. Here, Louis had grown up as a young man and they spent hours recalling the tennis courts, the spas and the countryside. Mr. Burghard remembered Louis Stich as a contagious and invigorating personality. Mr. Burghard next read the text of the resolution passed on October 26, 1960 by the Board of Governors, a copy of which, engrossed and bound in leather, was then presented to Mrs. Stich. This read as follows:

Resolution passed at the October 26, 1960 Meeting of The Board of Governors of The Collectors Club, New York.

Whereas, LOUIS STICH departed this life on September 29th, 1960 after many years of devotion to philately; and
Whereas, Louis Stich was a dedicated member, Governor, and Officer of The Collectors Club, gracing each association with the gentlemanly charm of benevolent tolerance so expressive of his great charity towards his fellow man; and
Whereas, Louis Stich gave to philately the benefaction of his inherent artistic talents affording many philatelists a truly aesthetic appreciation of the hobby; and
Whereas, we, his friends and fellow collectors regret his untimely passing and desire to express our appreciation of his devoted service to philately and our deep gratitude for having shared his friendship;
Now, Therefore, Be It And It Hereby Is Resolved - that the members of The Collectors Club do hereby record their deep regret on the sad occasion of the death of LOUIS STICH, their deep appreciation of the many services rendered by him to The Collectors Club and their sense of great personal grief at the loss of an esteemed associate and friend; and be it,
Further Resolved, that the members extend their sympathy to the family of LOUIS STICH on this occasion of their great loss and direct that a copy of these remarks and resolution be conveyed to Mrs. Louis Stich together with our condolences.

Concluding the roll of speakers, Mr. Britt related that a decision had been made by the Board of Governors to memorialize Louis Stich in a fashion that would keep his memory fresh for many years to come. Mr. Britt then unveiled a handsome, inlaid walnut, cabinet. This will stand in the entrance foyer and will be used to display the handbooks of the Steinway Memorial Publications Fund. (See illustration.)

The members then stood for a moment of silence in Louis' memory. Next, Mrs. Stich expressed her thanks to the members of the club on behalf of herself, her two daughters and sons-in-law who were also present at this moving, memorial evening. (*Philip Silver*)

In case of change of address, please notify Secretary, The Collectors Club, 22 East 35 Street, New York 16, N. Y.

Meeting of November 1, 1961

Hartford, Connecticut Locals

Never have we openly disagreed with the thoughts or sentiments expressed by a speaker. So, this will be a first. Mr. *Francis E. Stern* of Hartford, Conn., the speaker on the night of November 1, 1961, wrote in his prepared notes, "We meet for a most *inauspicious* occasion." Here, one must register a emphatic vote of protest. We feel the meeting was most auspicious. But, most of all, it was extremely interesting because of the subject matter — the Hartford, Connecticut local stamps — and the speaker himself. Mr. Stern read from prepared notes, which normally does not keep an audience interested. However, this was overcome by the application of a round measure of good, old-fashioned humor, some of which the speaker poked at himself. If there could be volunteered one word of advice for Mr. Stern it would be to speak extemporaneously. The writer suspects that our member from Hartford is a fine public speaker.

Let no one gather from these opening remarks that Mr. Stern was not extremely knowledgeable on the subject of the Hartford Locals. On the contrary, his fund of knowledge about these stamps, based on a forty-year study of them, was more than adequate.

This specialist was not born in Hartford, but he has lived there for well over forty years. Shortly after he came to live in that city, he attended a philatelic meeting and heard about these Hartford Locals for the first time. It must have been love at first sight because, from one year later when he saw his first copy of that adhesive until the present time, he has spent over forty years in an extremely exciting paper chase. According to his records, there were about 100 printed of the yellow stamps and much lesser number of the pinks. After viewing his exhibit, one surmises he has managed to garner better than 50% of the quantities originally printed.

The Hartford Locals were prepared by two gentlemen from that city, Messrs. Parsons and Fuller. Parsons owned a book business in Hartford, while Fuller was the terminal agent for Thompson and Company, an express line located in Springfield, Massachusetts. They conceived the idea of operating an express letter route at rates less than those charged by the government. At that time, the government half-ounce letter rate was 6¼ cents and the ounce rate was 12½ cents. Parsons and Fuller issued their yellow and pink stamps, selling the yellows at twenty for a dollar, while the pinks were sold at the rate of ten for a dollar. Thus, their competitive rates were five cents and ten cents for the half-ounce and one ounce letter rates, respectively.

The service was started some time during 1844. However, the Reduced Postage Act was passed by Congress in March, 1845 to become effective July 1, 1845. Thus, the independent carriers could operate legally until June 30, 1845. In Mr. Stern's collection is a cover dated June 30, 1845, so, in Hartford at least, the law was respected.

There is a fascinating story to tell about these Hartford Locals and Mr. Stern told it in great detail. Since, however, this has been written by him, it will be the subject of an article in a forthcoming number of the COLLECTORS CLUB PHILATELIST. Consequently, this short report must suffice. There were many questions asked by the members at the end of the meeting, evidence of the interest Mr. Stern aroused in his listeners. To his credit, Mr. Stern acquitted himself admirably in the question and answer session, as well.

(*Philip Silver*)

1962 MEETINGS

January 3rd	— *Haiti*—F. Burton Sellers and Samuel Dalsimer
January 10th	— *ANNUAL MEETING*
January 17th	— *U.S. Freaks, Errors, Oddities and Varieties*—Clyde Jennings, Jr.
February 7th	— *A postal Historian Collects the U.S. Classics*—John David Baker
February 21st	— *Colombia & States, The Classic Issues*—Lt. Gen. C. W. Wickersham
March 7th	— *Newfoundland*—Daniel C. Meyerson
March 21st	— *United States Post Office Department and Bureau of Engraving and Printing*
April 4th	— *Aero Philatelists, "Early Pioneer Flights"*—Ira Seebacher and Albert Philip Cohen
April 18th	— *ANNUAL COMPETITION*
May 2nd	— *Postal History Society of the Americas*—Harry S. Heymans
May 16th	— *Switzerland, Covers from 1458*—Mrs. Edith M. Faulstich — *Stamps from 1843*—Mrs. Sophie Buser
June 6th	— *British Honduras and Bermuda*—Sir Henry J. Tucker
	SUMMER RECESS
September 19th	— *The First Twenty Years of United States Stamps, 1847-1867*—Mortimer L. Neinken
October 3rd	— *ANNIVERSARY PROGRAM*
October 17th	— *The Spanish Civil War, Philatelically*—Robert L. Graham, Jr.
November 7th	— *Ridiculous and Sublime*—Mrs. Louise Boyd Dale
November 21st	— *Topical Collectors Night*—Allen H. Seed, Jr.
December 5th	— *Tales of the South Pacific*—Nathan Hals
December 19th	— *Board Of Governors—Open House*

PHILATELIC LITERATURE

Over the years, The Collectors Club has published numerous Handbooks relating to almost every field of philately. Some have been sold out long ago, now only being obtainable at an auction sale at prices far above their original selling price.

See the back page of this number for the recently published books.

Bolivia

The Golden Sun Gate Stamps

By Philip V. Mattes

Among the most unusual of all stamp issues—both in their design and in their history—are those put into circulation by the government of Bolivia on December 17, 1960.

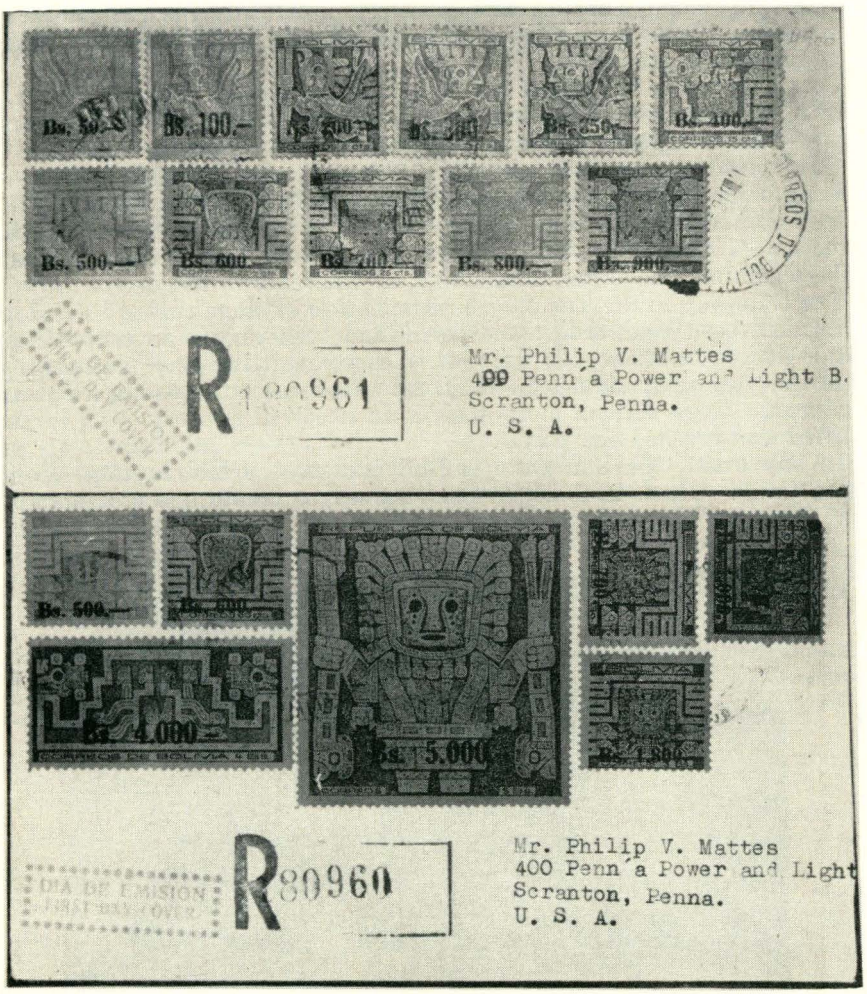


Fig. 1. First Day covers. Sun-Gate stamps with overprinted values. Issued at La Paz, Dec. 17, 1960. Backstamped at Scranton, Pa., Dec. 22, 1960.

The illustration of the first day covers will give a general but inadequate idea of their appearance (Fig. 1). These were sent by registered mail from La Paz and were backstamped at Scranton, Pennsylvania on December 22, 1960. It has been reported that only three complete sets on first day covers were serviced by the postal authorities, who were much too busy handling clamorous crowds of customers at the time.

Thirty-five years before, in 1925, the Bolivian Government, in a burst of national pride, celebrated its one hundred years of independence from the colonial rule of Spain. The mud streets of La Paz were paved with asphalt, monuments and public buildings were erected or spruced up, an exposition was held and the entire community put its best foot forward. Not least of the activities was the issuance of a Centenary of Independence set of postage stamps with novel and artistic designs that were well received throughout the world.

Evidently intended as a follow-up to the Centenary set, a project was started in that same year to commemorate philatelically the prehistoric glories of the region. These stamps were to be of coloring and design so unique as to attract immediate attention.

Centuries before the rise of the Incas, another race of Indians had advanced so far in the arts of civilization that they erected a great city on the High Plateau — the Altiplano — near Lake Titicaca — at an altitude of some 13,000 feet. Its present name is Tiahuanacu.

Long before Pizarro's conquering Spaniards had reached the scene, the city had been obliterated by a rival Indian race. The job was as complete as Rome's destruction of Carthage. The only remains were a few vestiges of the great temple, which may have been spared out of deference to the deity.

The Gate-way to the Temple was a huge slab of stone through which a door opening had been cut. Above the portal had been carved an ornate figure of the Sun God. On either side were many carved squares, each with its separate winged deity or religious design (Fig. 2). How the ancients carved these patterns into the stone without metal tools is an unsolved mystery. An earthquake has tilted and cracked the portal.

In any event, the Sun Gate is Bolivia's most prized heritage from prehistoric times. Thus, in 1925 it was resolved to create a set of stamps that



Fig. 2. Bolivia's Sun Gate. The portal at the entrance to the great pre-historic temple that once stood at Tiahuanacu, Bolivia.

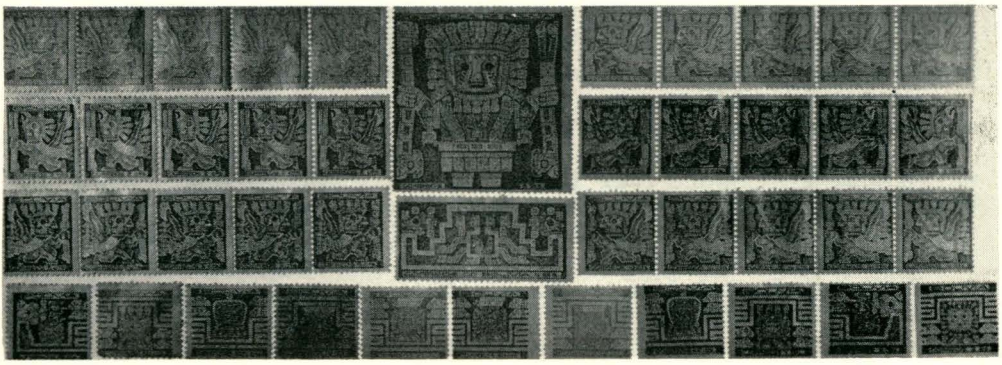


Fig. 3. The Sun Gate issue without surcharge. The six lowest denominations are arranged in strips of five—three strips on either side of the central figure—to reproduce the pattern of the original carvings.

would reproduce the ancient designs in the same relative sizes as the originals.

The highest denomination was a huge stamp approximately 2¼x2⅛ inches square with the image of the Sun God. The next highest represented the base on which the deity stood, its size 2⅛x1 inch. Seventeen other designs, each 1 inch square, made up a total of nineteen values of the set (Fig. 3).

To make the set all the more spectacular orders were given that they were to be printed in various colors on paper that had been coated with gilded metallic ink.

The Bolivian Government gave the order to a German firm, who proceeded to do the work. Sheets of white paper were gilded, except at the outer edges, and the stamp designs were then printed over the gilt, in red, green, blue or brown.

In due course the stamps were shipped to La Paz. It was evidently expected that they would be put into service promptly. But there was a delay.

Fortunately or unfortunately, word came that there had been a "leak" or breach of faith somewhere along the line. Sun Gate stamps were being offered for sale in Europe before they had been issued in their home country. The culprits, in their eagerness, had "jumped the gun." Such stamps could be used to defraud the mails—a scheme from which Bolivia had suffered once before.

The Government's reaction was prompt. The stamps were not released for postal use. Some old stamps then on hand were overprinted and a new coat of arms set, in traditional design, was ordered from Waterlow & Sons, of England.

Whatever regrets for the golden stamps there may have been among the postal authorities probably was tempered by the discovery that the denominations, as printed, were almost illegible except in a strong light. It would have been nearly impossible for the postal clerks to determine, with any speed, whether mail carried sufficient postage.

Presumably the balance of the printers' bill was never paid and they had to content themselves with marketing a few sets still on hand. Since the issue could only be classified as "essays," the demand was not brisk. However, unlike most essays, some catalogs did acknowledge their existence, although not their philatelic standing, by illustrating them with a note that they had been ordered but not issued.

A whole generation went by while these bundles of stamps gathered dust in the government vaults in La Paz, undisturbed by war or revolutions that repeatedly overturned governments with violence and death.

It was not until 1960, after a lapse of thirty-five years, that house-cleaning chores brought these old bundles to the world's attention.

They have now been taken out, surcharged with new values and put to use to carry the mails in and from Bolivia. The surcharges themselves tell a tale of the inflation that utterly destroys a nation's savings. A number of the Sun Gate stamps have been surcharged up to 10,000 times their original value. Thus the 1 centavo is now 100 bolivianos. The 5 Bs. (the big Sun God himself) is now 5,000 Bs. Back in 1916 the United States stamps of 1c green, 2c red, 5c blue (or their foreign equivalents) represented the international color scheme for domestic and foreign letter rates. The boliviano was near enough to par with the dollar so that Bolivia's pictorial set of that year in its 1, 2 and 5 centavos values followed this arrangement of denominations and colors. In less than fifty years the boliviano has deteriorated to a small fraction of our one cent.

This is the schedule of the surcharges:

Original Value		*Surcharged Value*	
½	Cto.	50	Bs.
1	Cto.	100	Bs.
2	Cts.	200	Bs.
3	Cts.	None	
5	Cts.	300	Bs.
10	Cts.	350	Bs.
15	Cts.	400	Bs.
20	Cts.	500	Bs.
22½	Cts.	600	Bs.
25	Cts.	700	Bs.
30	Cts.	800	Bs.
40	Cts.	900	Bs.
50	Cts.	500	Bs.
60	Cts.	600	Bs.
1	B.	700	Bs.
2	Bs.	1,000	Bs.
3	Bs.	1,800	Bs.
4	Bs.	4,000	Bs.
5	Bs.	5,000	Bs.

One more item may be noted. The newly issued surcharged set consists of eighteen instead of nineteen denominations. The bundle of 3 Cts. was found to contain only a few sheets, totaling 1500 stamps — toofew to bother with — and so these were not surcharged. The 4 Bs. (surcharged 4,000 Bs.) was also in short supply. Only 6,000 copies of this value were found but they were surcharged and issued. Therefore, while the other denominations were numerous enough, only 6,000 complete sets could be issued and these were doled out one set to a customer. Presumably there will be no restrictions on the number and use of the lower denominations made available to the public, until supplies are exhausted.

But in order to get a copy of the 4,000 Bs. and thus complete what may well prove to be the most interesting of all Bolivian sets of stamps, collectors of Latin American issues may well have to make a golden offering at the Gateway of the Sun God.

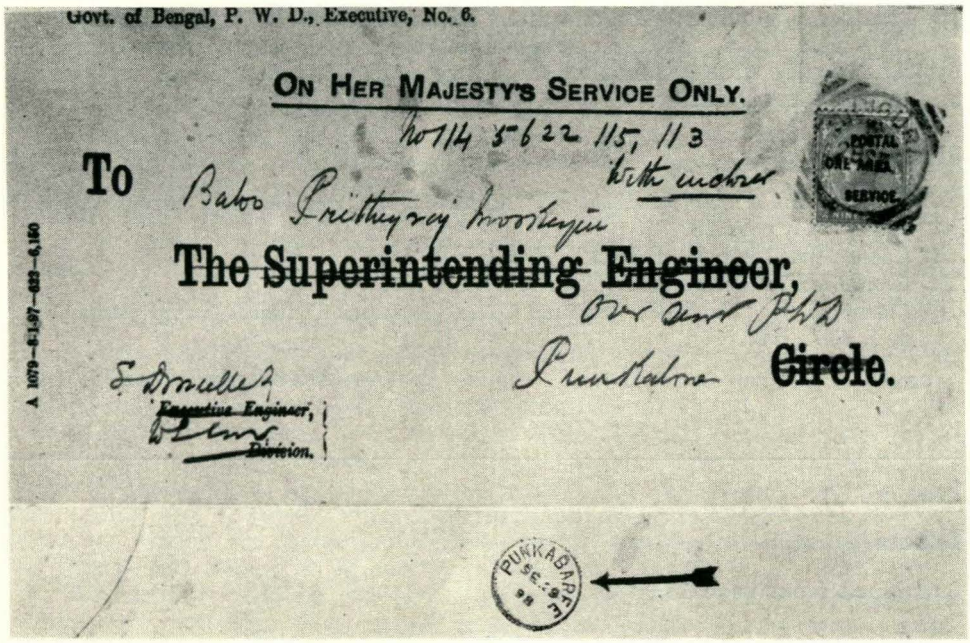
Uncommon Use Of Common Stamps

What our readers wish to see is a properly used cover having a common stamp that catalogs for $10 or less. But on cover this item's value is many times the standard catalog price for the stamp off cover, either unused or used.

You may own such material. Then it is hoped that you will send it to The Editor, Collectors Club Philatelist, 22 East 35 Street, New York 16, N. Y.

British India

1882-87 Nine Pies Intended for Postal Service Used as a Service Stamp.



In 1895, (March), British Indian postage stamps of several denominations were surcharged "POSTAL SERVICE" in Calcutta, to be used as revenue stamps to indicate customs dues to be collected by the post offices on foreign inward parcels, brought to India by mail steamer. They were not available to the public and were not to be used as postage stamps. The practice continued until 1903. Two provisional stamps were also produced during this time, with the additional surcharge "ONE ANNA." One of these was the very common nine pies rose, (Scott No. 37).[1]

According to Cooper, examples of "Postal Service" stamps are sometimes encountered on cover, and many collectors doubt their authenticity. It is a matter of official record in the Indian Post Office Archives of the time, however, that the Siliguri Subtreasury in Northern Bengal issued a sheet of Scott No. 37 so surcharged, by mistake, as *Service* postage stamps on September 8, 1898. There were 240 stamps in this sheet, and a further number of eleven stamps were also issued 14 days later. It is known that altogether 151 of these stamps were actually postally used on civilian letters before the mistake was noted.[2]

The cover illustrated shows the use of one of these stamps tied to the cover by one variety of the "squared circle" cancellations [3] of the time, reading *Siliguri W 29 98* addressed on a Service envelope of the Bengal Public Works Department (P. W. D.) addressed to "Baboo Pritheyraj Moorkenjin (?) Overseer PWD, Punkaburee." The backstamp (shown at the bottom of the illustration with an arrow) indicates that it was delivered the same day, SE 29, 98.

Siliguri is a town in Northern Bengal 30 miles SSE from Darjeerling located on a narrow guage railway. Punkaburee is located on the same railway only a few miles southward [4] which makes the delivery time the same day entirely feasible and is within the time period that the stamps were mistakenly used. The internal letter rate for the period permitted up to 1½ Tolas (approximately 3/5 ounces) for one anna irrespective of the distance travelled.

The data so recorded, and shown on the cover, would seem to indicate clearly not only an uncommon use of a very common Indian stamp, but possibly an authentic cover rarity.

References:

1. Crofton, C. S. F. and Corfield, W. "Adhesive Fiscal and Telegraph Stamps of British India, 1905, page 38.
2. Cooper, Jal, "Stamps of India" Chapter XV, page 173.
3. Cram-Modern Series Pocket Map, 379 India.
4. Danby, G. C. "The Indian 'Squared Circle' Cancellation" India's Stamp Journal, Nos. 4, 5, 6, 7. 1960.

(—Grosvenor W. Bissell, M. D.)

Tolima

(continued from page 13)

The dates of issue are given by Hall as January, 1886, for the long-wing stamps with four flagstaffs on white paper; and April, 1886, for the short wings. These dates are also listed in Gibbons. The date of issue of the long-wing stamps with only *two* flagstaffs is unknown to the writer, but it seems at least possible, because of the perforations, that it was nearer April than January of that year.

The importance of this study is in the corrected listing of the long wing stamps with only two flagstaffs, as well as the listings of the varieties, some of which are not found in the catalogs. It is hoped that it will be of value to students of these interesting stamps.

Book Reviews

Sloane's Column published by the Bureau Issues Association, Inc., 38 Gray Street, Arlington, Mass. under the auspices of the Hugh M. Southgate Memorial Publication Fund. 467 pp. (8x10"), clothbound. Illustrated. Price $5.95.

George B. Sloane for over 25 years wrote a weekly column for "Stamps," the H. L. Lindquist weekly stamp paper, and probably set a record that may never by broken. The Sloane column never missed one week from its outset in 1932 until the columnist's death in July 1958. One would hazard a guess that over 95% of Sloane's writings were on United States and its Possessions. There is a little on B. N. A., but practically nothing on other foreign issues.

George T. Turner, Associate Curator of the Division of Philately and Postal History, Smithsonian Institution, Washington, D. C., has taken all of Sloane's 1350 weekly columns and arranged them alphabetically in dictionary fashion. There is no index, but the user should have no trouble locating a particular reference. Locals, perhaps Sloane's favorite and most knowledgeable field, are found alphabetically under "L", and, then each Post is presented also in alphabetical order, similar to the "Scott U. S. Catalogue." For instance, a post such as New York City's Boyd's is presented in the chronological order of their original appearance. The first starts on page 161 with an October 13, 1934 report and continues on to all of page 162 with the last writing from the June 29, 1957 column. There are nine separate references to Boyd's Post.

George B. Sloane was a longtime Nassau Street, New York City stamp dealer and appraiser. He was very well-known in stamp circles, and had been a member of the Collectors Club for many years. Some of our most interesting meeting nights such as The Bureau of Engraving and Printing and the late Alfred H. Caspary's showings, which were not easy to arrange because of this collector's aversion to publicity, were due to Mr. Sloane. Also some of the great American collections, including that of President Franklin D. Roosevelt, were appraised for the estates by George Sloane.

In the course of his very active commercial career with stamps spanning many years, George Sloane handled many U. S. items and amassed a profound fund of knowledge about them. Previously, mention had been made of his great interest in the U. S. Locals. As an active dealer, he also handled many of the complicated U. S. postage stamps of the 20th century. This reviewer considered Sloane's knowledge of a difficult issue as 1909 Bluish papers about the tops. This is only one instance. One of the most puzzling U. S. stamps is the 1861 3c pink. Among the leading authorities in the correct identification of this scarce item was George B. Sloane.

This weekly columnist did two exceptional things for which philately can be eternally grateful. First of all, Sloane was different from most dealers, whose entire working days are devoted to business. George recorded his knowledge and was very conscientious about it. In his eyes, his weekly column was all-important. Having his wide fund of knowledge in permanent print is a great asset. So many other experienced stamp dealers, who had great philatelic knowledge, never wrote a word, so that with their deaths, their knowledge became permanently lost.

George B. Sloane also kept up his own reference collection. It consisted of stamps, covers, many photographs and clippings of older articles in stamp periodicals. His U. S. Local reference collection was outstanding. This helped him write so much valuable information on the non-governmental United States

posts, as now seen in this volume.

The Sloane book, however, will be handled best only by discriminating philatelic students. Under the great pressure of producing a weekly column, Sloane could not do the required research as, for example, one does writing for the COLLECTORS CLUB PHILATELIST. Understandably and with no sense of captious criticism, it should be pointed out that everything in Sloane's many columns is not correct. For instance, as a student of the U. S. 24c air mail invert of 1918, this reviewer could cite a few mistakes by Sloane on this stamp.

Consequently, this book should not be taken as 100% authoritative. This reviewer can picture many stamp editors and writers, who will consult this great book for information, and perhaps copy one of Sloane's mistakes. One realizes that once an error appears in print, it tends to be repeated and perpetuated.

On the other hand, philately has a number of the so-called "eager beaver" students, who relish knocking down the achievements of some of the greatest philatelic writers. A newer student may consult this Sloane book on a certain issue of his specific interest, and perhaps may find one misstatement. Actually, this particular column could be fairly judged 95% accurate, offering most helpful information. The new student will pounce upon the one error, and gleefully state that the "great" Sloane made a mistake. His zealousness, after this discovery, will cause him to become captious by wrongly concluding that because of one inaccuracy, Sloane's deep fund of knowledge in his book can be questioned. This never should be allowed to happen.

Enough credit and appreciation cannot be extended to the B. I. A., George T. Turner, who intelligently performed the compilation, Harry Lindquist for his permission to make all the Sloane columns available and to B. I. A. officers as Sol Glass, who had the foresight and ambition to make this valuable publication possible. This reviewer knows that the Sloane book will be in his personal library, and more important, will be consulted often. It is hard to see how any U. S. stamp collector, whose interest goes beyond just filling album spaces, will not do the same. Having all of Sloane's writings in one place marks a great philatelic service. All, who were responsible for this achievement, have rendered an outstanding service to those interested in collecting United States.

(*H. M. G.*)

Danmarks Forste Frimaerke (Denmark's First Postage Stamp) by J. Schmidt-Andersen. Published by Kobenhavns Philatelist Klub (Copenhagen's Philatelic Club). Regular Edition $3.25 postpaid De Luxe Edition $6.50 postpaid.

Both Scott and Minkus list the 4 RBS Danish stamp as #2, with the 2 RBS as #1, but strict adherence to chronology would entitle the 4 RBS to first place, inasmuch as it was issued on April 1, 1851 with the 2 RBS following on April 29th of the same year. Danish catalogs list these two stamps in their correct sequence.

Schmidt-Andersen's latest monograph on the 4 RBS is a follow-up on his two previous ones on the same stamp, published in 1949 and 1952 respectively. The present book, as he says in the Foreword, is now the total result of fifteen years of research and study, and throughout the book he mentions mistakes or misconceptions which he now corrects. He admits that the task is not yet completed, because the stamps were printed in double sheets of two hundred from four plates, and it has been impossible so far to describe and picture every one produced. But he has examined thousands of 4 RBS stamps, and in this book he has gone into great detail in describing and picturing all the known re-

touches, defects and other varieties. Both text and illustration speak graphically of the immense amount of painstaking labor which has gone into this book.

Speaking of illustrations, only a few philatelic books have equalled this one. The first Danish stamps' size, as most collectors know, were only nineteen millimeters square — about three-quarters of an inch. The cuts in this book are from photographs enlarged to three and a half inches, making even very small details easily seen. There are one hundred twenty-one plates, but many of these will have the necessary portions of from two to four stamps, all enlarged to the scale mentioned.

To aid the non-Danish collector, each plate is captioned, not only in Danish, but also in English. In addition to this, Chapter XXXX is an "Epitome in English" which takes up many pages, and while this is not a complete translation of the entire book, it does contain much information of great help. Mr. Schmidt-Andersen's description of how the plates were made is exceedingly interesting, and his deductions explain logically how and why so many varieties have occurred in this stamp.

For a book of this quality and authoritative content, the price is remarkably modest. It is well-bound in stiff boards, the paper is of high quality and the illustrations are superb. The jacket reproduces a part sheet of the stamps enlarged to about twice normal, printed in one of the many shades of brown used in making the actual stamps.

For any philatelic library this book would be a valuable addition; for the serious collector or student of Danish stamps it is a book which he should not be without. (*Paul Carlton*)

Handbook of Austria and Lombardy-Venetia Cancellations, 1850-1864 Issues by Edwin Mueller. 468 pages, over 1100 illustrations. Published by Heinrich Geitner, Ges. m. b. H., Vienna, Austria. Price: $35.00.

Once again, philately is indebted to Edwin Mueller, for producing as outstanding a work as this handbook, which, following the appearance of the fourteenth instalment, is now completed.

The amount of knowledge and research evident in this work, both as regards postal history, geography and history, is nothing short of amazing.

The book is actually divided into four main parts. The first, containing a review of both the historical and postal developments of the Austrian Empire during the period covered by the book, makes most interesting reading. This is enhanced through a number of revealing illustrations of covers, showing various uses of postmarks. A map of the Austrian Empire is also included.

The second part, containing the picture plates, clearly illustrates every type of cancellation used on the first five issues of Austria, the contemporary issues of Lombardy-Venetia and the Austrian offices in the Levant.

The third and main part, consisting of 220 pages, contains the actual listings of all cancellations known on Austria's 1850-1864 issues, from the more than 3,000 post offices in the Austrian Empire (including Hungary) and the Principality of Liechtenstein. This is followed by a similar listing covering Lombardy-Venetia and the Austrian offices in the Turkish Empire. The comprehensive listing also includes the postmarks of military, railroad and ship post offices among others.

The system used by Mr. Mueller in his listing was familiar to this writer from some of the author's previous works. While differing from other catalogs, it should prove no problem, once the reader familiarizes himself with the explanations contained in the introduction.

The work concludes with a supplement together with some interesting sta-

tistical data. The latter contains facts about the number and distribution of post offices, their openings and closings and the number of letters mailed in each one.

The book's value is further enhanced by an easily understood pricing system based on points, giving for the first time in recent years the chance to correctly evaluate the various Austrian postmarks. This should be a great help in making this fascinating field of philately more popular. Interest in this book should be even more widespread due to the fact that it is bi-lingual (English and German).

Not only the Austrian specialist, but the student of postal history as well, will find this book, which will most certainly become the standard work in its field, an invaluable addition to his philatelic library. (*Thomas G. Klein*)

Handbook of the Postage Stamps of the Empire of Ethiopia and her Postal System, Part I, by Ivan Adler and Erik Sundberg. Printed by David Broberg, Stockholm, Sweden, 1961. Available from N. R. Handley, Sanga bar, Headcorn Road, Staplehurst, Tonbridge, Kent, England. 49pp. Price $1.25.

This handbook, written and published in Sweden but printed in English, is the first of a two part study which promises to fill the substantial gap now existing in philatelic literature concerning Ethiopia. Part one traces the development of the post and describes in chronological order the stamps issued up to 1960. Part two, which is to be published next year, is advertised as a specialist catalogue listing all known errors and varieties. This is quite a task considering the tremendous number of overprints and inks used by the Ethiopian postal authorities.

After a brief resumé of Ethiopian history, the handbook starts with the first postal system in Ethiopia, the field posts accompanying the Napier expedition in 1867 and 1868, and outlines the events leading up to the formation of an independent Ethiopian postal service in 1894. The rest of the handbook is devoted almost exclusively to a careful description of each issue of postage stamps including the background of the issue, the translation of inscriptions, the printers and printing format, and the quantities produced, whenever possible, as well as the standard information found in the general world-wide catalogues. Unfortunately, few postal records survived the Italian invasion of 1936, and so the details of the issues before 1936 are relatively scanty. Nevertheless, there is much valuable data presented here which is not easily available elsewhere.

In general, the authors have done an excellent job in gathering material and separating the truth from the fantasies. However, as may be inevitable in a work of this kind, a small number of inaccuracies appear, particularly in the section devoted to the first airmail issue of 1929. In the first place, the colon at the end of the bottom line of the overprint of this issue is, in fact, present on both Type I and Type II overprints, not on Type I alone. In addition, the Type II overprint is known in various colors and positions on the flight covers of December, 1929, and so all of the Type II overprints could not have been printed years after 1929 as stated in the handbook. Luckily, there seem to be very few such slips.

The handbook is clearly and concisely written, so that the reader familiar with Ethiopian stamps can follow along easily. The absence of illustrations of each issue could create difficulties for the general collector, but reference to a standard catalogue would overcome this problem.

A complete evaluation of the contribution of the handbook must await, of course, the arrival of Part two, but it can be stated that more information on Ethiopian philately is presented here than in any other English language publication on the subject. (*Norman S. Hubbard*)

Kessler's Catalogue of Aerograms (2 Volumes), F. W. Kessler, editor with a Board of Editors. Published by Aerogram Catalogue Publishing Co. Inc., 500 Fifth Avenue, New York 36, N. Y. Looseleaf 608 pages (9x6"), Thousands of illustrations, Vinyl covers with ring-binding. Price $6.00.

It is worth waiting for! Some years ago, F. W. Kessler, the longtime New York air mail dealer, informed a number of aero-philatelists that he would publish a catalog on air letter sheets or aerograms. This work finally appeared on November 1, 1961. It is advised that everyone, whether he has an interest in aero-philately or not, take a quick look at this new production to see for himself an example of an outstanding catalog devoted to a specialty within a specialty.

These two volumes are so excellently produced that one can ask, with absolutely no intent to insult the aerogram enthusiasts, whether this specialty warrants such an attractive, comprehensive and lengthy publication. Air letter sheet collecting is a relatively new field. Aerograms were known for many years, but it was an aftermath of World War II that saw a number of countries and their colonies issue these light-weight folded letters on very thin paper for economical air post use. They proved popular, so that now aerograms are widely used all over the world. However, a number of prominent countries still have not issued aerograms. In Europe, France, Switzerland and U. S. S. R. have not, while the larger South American countries, such as Brazil and Chile, have not as yet introduced them for the public's convenience.

How are these aerograms collected? The answer is found in the 28-page introduction of the Kessler catalog. The preference for them is in unused condition, as clean and prestine as possible. Since the message always remains a part of the stationery, it is difficult to collect commercially used pieces. Recipients of aerograms usually will not part with them, because of the message, as with an envelope from which the contents can be removed. Thus, the desirable cancelled aerogram is the philatelic one, usually unaddressed with a first-day cancellation. This creates a situation exactly the reverse of traditional stamp collecting.

In order to offer some idea of the pattern of this aerogram catalog, a look at the 10 pages in Vol. 1 devoted to the United States may serve as a good example. Incidentally, the editors did not have the time to list the recent 11-cent aerogram issued on June 16, 1961 for the 1-cent rate increase effective on July 1, 1961. In United States, there are 7 major numbers with 21 illustrations. Our first air letter sheet, issued in 1947, with listing Number 1 is then subdivided into 8 classes, which, in turn, have 7 minor varieties. No. 1 is priced 90-cents unused and 50-cents used. But two minor varieties on double paper are priced at $100 and $150, while a variety with inverted die cutting is put at $225. The best known variety, however, is No. 2, the one with a chocolate brown instead of red lozenges border, being priced at $175, unused and used. Thus, one sees how very detailed this catalog is.

A look at a foreign country as Spain in Vol. 2 is also interesting. This covers 27 pages, 4 of them on trial printings and one on a semi-official aerogram. Within the 22 pages of the Spanish aerograms proper, there are 93 major numbers with hundreds of minor varieties. For instance, Spain No. 34, issued in 1952, has 12 minor listings, quite a breakdown!

In this reviewer's opinion, the best feature within this catalog is the pains taken to serve the user's convenience. It is looseleaf to permit the easy insertion of supplementary pages. Although not indexed, the two volumes are in alphabetical order, except for the United States and the United Nations, that have been placed at the beginning. The clear instructions, illustrations and definitions in the introduction take the user by the hand and tell him how to

use the catalog. An elaborate "Fold-out" illustrated table for the British aerograms represents a brilliant idea. Certainly, the specialty of aerogram collecting must benefit greatly from the introduction of this lavish work. In conclusion, this reviewer can only sigh as he wishes — would that air mail stamps had a catalog as this! (*H. M. G.*)

Notes: Albany's Oldest Postmark, 1773-1790 by W. L. L. Peltz, The American Historical Company, Inc., New York, 1961; 49pp., 16 ill.

This little book compiled by the late W. L. L. Peltz is composed of a series of short notes on various aspects of Albany, N. Y. postal history. A random sampling of the subtitles of the various subjects treated will indicate the nature of these notes: "Sir William Johnson's Papers", "The Congresses-Provincial and Continental", "Chronology of New York State", "The Mail Carriages New York - Albany" and others. The most valuable is the second to last, "The Covers, Tabulated." This list is an important permanent record of the available material. It is regrettable that Mr. Peltz did not expand some of these notes to leave us a more detailed record of his great knowledge.

A study of this most appealing character should be made from the material in the John Hay Library of Brown University in Providence, R. I. to which he left his remarkable special delivery collection. He was apparently an extraordinary practical joker and the tale of the hoax he perpetrated at the expense of the local philatelic society is one that would provoke smiles if the correspondence in the collection at Providence could be published.

(*G. Philip Grabfield*)

The Types and Varieties of the United States Ten Cent Issues of 1855-1859 by Edward Hesly and Alfred Diamond, published by the Society of Philatelic Americans, 12 pages. Paper cover. Price 50c postpaid.

Clear drawings of the types and varieties of our 1855-59 Ten Cent stamp by Mr. Edward Hesly and the well-written text by Mr. Alfred Diamond offer an excellent opportunity to collectors of the early stamps of the United States to identify the various types and major varieties with comparative ease. This booklet does not attempt to go beyond the elemental identification of the types, but the descriptions of the various parts of the designs are so thorough and generally accurate that it should be part of everyone's reference library.

There are two minor criticisms. The photographs of the actual stamps, apparently printed by offset or rephotographed from a previous publication, should have been clearer for the user's convenience. The drawings of the various recut positions might have been identified by their respective numbers in the plate, and also with an explanation that anyone, purchasing a recut position, should submit it first for expert opinion. (*Mortimer L. Neinken*)

The Library Committee reports the following acquisitions:

Booklets on Commemorative Stamps, 1961 published by the Government of India. Gift of Mr. D. Mehta.

How to Arrange and Write-Up A Stamp Collection by Stanley Phillips and C. P. Rang. Publisher, Stanley Gibbons Ltd. Gift of the publisher.

Centenary Issues, Commemorating First Postage Issues of the World 1940-1960 by Marian Carne Zinsmeister. Publisher, Society of Philatelic Americans. Gift of the publisher.

Railroad Time Tables. Gift of Mr. W. S. Boggs.

The Pageant of Civilization, World Romance and Adventure as Told by Postage Stamps by F. B. Warren. Publisher, The Century Co. Gift of Mr. W. S. Boggs.

Comparative Values of Ghost Towns, The Elusive Stamps of Precanceldom compiled and published by Harrington Adams. Gift of the publisher.

The N. S. W. Philatelic Annual 1960 edited by Romney Gibbons. Publisher, Philatelic Society of New South Wales. Gift of the publisher.

The Types & Varieties of the United States 10c Issues of 1855-59 by Edward Hesly and Alfred Diamond. Publisher, Society of Philatelic Americans. Gift of the publisher.

Balloons to Jets, 1855-1955, A Century of Aeronautics In Illinois by Howard L. Scamehorn. Publisher, Henry Regnery Co. Gift of Mr. Walter Feeney.

The Silent Investigators, The Great Untold Story of the U. S. Postal Inspection Service by John N. Makris. Publisher, E. P. Dutton & Co., Inc. Gift of Mr. Walter Feeney.

U. S. Designers & Engravers compiled by Sol Altmann. Manuscript. Gift of Mr. Sol Altmann.

Catalogo Landmans Dei Francobolli D'Europa; Italia Colonie, S. Marino, Vaticano; Delli, Asia, Africa, America, Oceania 1946 edition. Gift of Mr. Walter Toscanini.

Michel Briefmarken Katalog Europa, 1935 edition. Gift of Mr. Walter Toscanini.

Catalogue de Timbres-Poste 1940 and 1947 editions. Gift of Mr. Walter Toscanini.

Catalogo Sassone dei Francobolli d'Italia e delle Serie d'Europa 1946 edition. Gift of Mr. Walter Toscanini.

Le Serie di Europa E Dell' Impero Italiano, Con l Prezzi Aggiornati, and Supplemento by Raybaudi Massilia. Publisher Studio Classico, Roma, Italy. Gift of Mr. Walter Toscanini.

Catalogo Raybaudi Dei Francobolli E Serie Di Europa 1945 and 1946 editions. Gift of Mr. Walter Toscanini.

Billig's Handbook on Postmarks, Vol. 4, Lombardy-Venetia, author and publisher, Fritz Billig. Gift of the author.

Billig's Specialized Catalogues, Vol. 10, The First Issue of Czechoslovakia "The Hradcany" by John Velek. Publisher, Fritz Billig. Gift of the publisher.

Year Book of the Philatelic Specialists Society of Canada compiled by John H. M. Young. Published by the Philatelic Specialists Society of Canada. Gift of Mr. J. H. M. Young.

Handbuch der Entwertungen von Osterreich und Lombardei-Venetian, Section 14, by Edwin Mueller. Publisher, Mercury Stamp Co. Gift of the author.

Specialise Berck edited and published by Ed. Berck. Gift of the publisher.

Ryukyu Island Album Pages compiled and published by Joseph V. Bush. Gift of the publisher.

1961 Supplement, Supreme and Master Global Stamp Albums compiled and published by Minkus Publications, Inc. Gift of the publisher.

Scott Standard Postage Stamp Catalogues. Gift of Miss Jean Fraser.

Muller-Katalog 1962, Schweiz/Liechtenstein published by Marken-Muller AG, Basel. Gift of the publisher.

Stanley Gibbons Postage Stamp Catalogue 1962, Part I, Part III published by Stanley Gibbons Ltd. Gift of the publisher.

Briefmarken-Katalog 1962 - Europa published by Zumstein & Cie., Bern. Gift of the publisher.

World-Wide Postage Stamp Catalog 1962, Vol. 1 and 2, *American Stamp Catalog* published by Minkus Publications. Gift of the publisher.

The Stamps of Ethiopia edited by Ivan Adler, assisted by Erik Sundberg. Publisher, Ethiopian Collectors Club, Tonbridge, Kent, Great Britain. Gift of the Society.

Billig's Specialized Catalogues, Vol. 10, First Issue of Czechoslovakia "The Hradcany" by John Velek. Publisher, Fritz Billig. Gift of Dr. Reiner-Deutsch.

The "Pakke Post" Period of the Postal History of Greenland, 1905-1937 by J. Alfred Birch. Publisher, The Postal History Society of Great Britain. Gift of the publisher.

Palestine, The First Local Overprints by David Dorfman and H. J. Posner. Publisher, The British Association of Palestine-Israel Philatelists. Gift of Mr. Leon Walters.

Exhibition catalog of CAMPEX 1953. Gift of Mr. Ellery Denison.

West Indies Federation Journal, Vol. 1, Nos. 1, 2, 3, plus Specialized Study on *Jamaican Cancellations* published by the West Indies Federation Study Group. Gift of Mr. A. N. Johnson.

Der Sammler-Dienst journals. Gift of Mr. Harry Holman.

Auction Catalogs. Gift of F. A. Helmholz.

Queens of the Western Ocean by Carl C. Cutler. Publisher, U. S. Naval Institute. Gift of Mr. Sol Altmann.

Greyhounds of the Sea by Carl C. Cutler. Publisher, U. S. Naval Institute. Gift of Mr. Sol Altmann.

Thurn und Taxis 350 Jahre Post by Fritz Sebastian. Publisher, Bruno Wilkens Verlag, Hannover. Gift of Mr. H. N. Friedlaender.

Alt-Deutschland unter der Lupe, Heft VII and IX published by Reflexionen Uber Philatelie. Gift of Mr. H. N. Friedlaender.

Announcement of Awards 1960 London Exhibition. Gift of Mr. Ezra D. Cole.

Obliterations et Timbre-Poste "Europa" edited and published by Jacques H. Rogers. Gift of the publisher.

The Kiwi, New Zealand Society of Great Britain Vol. 1, #1, Vol. 1, #4 - Vol. 8, #2, Vol. 9, #9, #10. Published by the New Zealand Society of Great Britain. Gift of the Society.

Journal of Chinese Philately Vol. 5, #1 - Vol. 8, #6. Published by the China Philatelic Society of London.

London International Stamp Exhibition 1950 Catalogue. Gift of Messrs. L. N. and M. Williams.

United States Stamps, U. S. Possessions, British North America. First 1962 Edition. Published by H. E. Harris & Co., Boston, Mass. Courtesy of the publisher.

Zumstein Spezial Katalog Schweiz-Liechtenstein 1962. Zumstein & Cie., Bern, Switzerland. Courtesy of the publisher.

Scott's Standard Postage Stamp Catalogue, Vol. I, 1953. Scott Publications, Inc., New York, N. Y. Gift of Miss Jean Fraser.

Bulletin Philatelique du Midi, Vol. 21, Nos. 228-231. Gift of Mr. Frederick Joseph.

Speciale Catalogus 1962 van de Postzegels van Nederland en Overzeese Rijksdelen. Nederlandsche Vereeniging van Postzegelhandelaren, 's-Gravenhage, Netherlands. Gift of Mr. Johannes de Kruyf.

Jaarverslag Nederlands Postmuseum 1960. Nederlandse Postmuseum, 's-Gravenhage, Netherlands. Courtesy of the publisher.

Notes, Albany's Oldest Post-Mark, 1773-1790, compiled by W. L. L. Peltz. Publication of The American Historical Co., Inc., New York, N. Y. Gift of the author's family.

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Afghanistan

Its Twentieth Century Postal Issues — Part 2 —

By Frank E. Patterson III

(*Continued From Page 282, Vol. 40*)

1907 Trial Issue

About two months after the introduction of the engraved stamps, an attempt was made to provide a suitable separation for them. This trial took the form of an all-around rough zigzag roulette, gauging approximately 10 with a tooth depth averaging 1.5mm (Fig. 6a). The experiment proved unsatisfactory, for the coarse rouletting must have so weakened the paper that the sheets would not stand routine office handling, and the method was abandoned. The dozen or so legibly postmark-dated copies of the rouletted stamps seen by the writer were used in either Kabul or Qandahar during only the lunar months of Rabi I and Rabi II, 1325 (mid-April through late May, 1907). Granted that the evidence is limited, this still indicates a very short period of issue and explains the scarcity of these rouletted varieties.

206	Fig. 4	1 abasi	steel blue, Plate I (6 types)
207	Fig. 4	1 abasi	green, Plate I (6 types)
		a	bluish green
		b	olive green
		c	dbl print on back
208	Fig. 5	2 abasi	medium blue (6 types)
209	Fig. 6	1 rupee	blue green (4 types) (SC)

1908 Re-issue

The final transition to European stamp standards was accomplished when the rupee denomination was issued perforated about June, 1908 (PSA). The two lower values appeared in similar condition shortly thereafter. The sheets were perforated on a single-line hand operated machine of local manufacture with an irregular gauge measuring approximately 11¾. The operation was inexpertly done and the centering is poor. The vertically arranged sheets were generally left imperforate on the four margins except for those of the rupee value which were often perforated at the top and bottom, and most of the stamps have one or two straight edges. The horizontal rupee sheets were usually perforated all around except in the bottom margin. Color variations continued.

It must not be inferred from the above that all stamps of this series issued after June were perforated. On the contrary, over 75% of the engraved stamps found with cancellations dated from Rabi 1, 1326 thru 1328 (mid-1908 through 1910) are imperforate. The majority of these imperforates are the local single rate 1 abasi values from both plates. One can but conclude that the printing office was not equipped to perforate wholesale quantities of small sheets and concentrated its efforts on the two higher values which had a more limited demand. Based on postmark evidence, the perforated Plate I abasi appears to have been in issue less than three months and is a relatively difficult item to

find. The Plate II abasi may exist perforated but it has not yet been seen by the writer in this condition.

210	Fig. 4	1 abasi	dull green - Plate I (6 types)
		a	yellowish green
		b	vert pair imperf btwn
		c	tete beche gutter pair
211	Fig. 5	2 abasi	blue (6 types)
		a	ultramarine
		b	tete beche gutter pair
212	Fig. 6	1 rupee	blue green (4 types)
		a	dull yellowish green
		b	dull turquoise blue
		c	vert pair imperf btwn
		d	horiz pair imperf btwn (SGM 7/26)
		e	tete beche gutter pair - vert. (LC)
		f	tete beche gutter pair - horiz.

1909 Definitive Issue

At the beginning of the Islamic lunar year of 1327 (January 23) a new set composed of the same three current values was introduced. The writer's earliest dated example was postmarked at Qandahar on 4 Muharram, 1327 (January 27, 1909). The previous engraved issues were not demonetized and remained valid until at least 1915. It is possible that the printers continued to use the 1907 plates along with the new plates during the first several months.

The designs of the 1909 adhesives are uninspired adaptations of those of the previous series. The central feature, common to all denominations, is the National Seal consisting of the coat-of-arms inside an eight-pointed star-rayed frame. The basic inscription and legends on the two lower values appear in the same relative positions as before. On the highest value, basic inscription "A" extends across the top and the bottom legend reads "beh qimat yek rupiyah" (value one rupee). All values can be plated by means of minor cliche variations and constant position flaws. The designer is unknown.

The stamps were issued in sheets of 50 (10x5), typographed on H & J watermarked and other wove papers, with an 11¾ perforation. The hand-applied gum is thin, yellowish and somewhat streaky. The 1 and 2 abasi values were issued in imperforate condition during the summer of 1910 probably due to a breakdown of the perforating equipment. Pairs and blocks of the 2 abasi variety are relatively common but multiples of the 1 abasi are scarce. Double or triple rate covers seen bear two or three single imperforate 1 abasi stamps instead of a pair or strip, suggesting that the original imperforate sheets were cut up before the stock was released to the postal clerks. Imperforate copies of both denominations are also found on covers cancelled in 1912 and again in 1915.

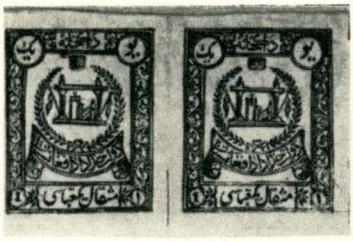


Fig. 7



Fig. 8



Fig. 9



Fig. 10

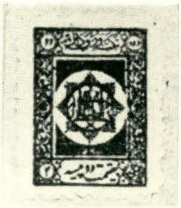


Fig. 10A

213	Fig. 8	1 abasi	ultramarine
		a	dull blue
		b	imperf pair
		c	horiz pair imperf btwn
		d	vert pair imperf btwn
		e	printed on back
214	Fig. 9	2 abasi	green
		a	dark green
		b	imperf pair
		c	horiz pair imperf btwn (SC)
215	Fig. 10	1 rupee	lilac brown
		a	dark purple brown
		b	dull red brown

1913 Supplementary Value

The variety of postal services available to the public was augmented in 1909 by the provision of plain, locally produced, stamped postcards. To supplement these the Post Office introduced pictorial postcards in 1913 and sold them for one sanar. These cards were officially produced but had no postage imprint, thereby necessitating the printing of special adhesives of the appropriate value for franking them. The resulting stamps were limited to such usage and were not acceptable for postage on letters. The actual date of issue has not been determined but dated specimens suggest it was during the latter part of the year. (Fig. 203).

The design of this supplementary postcard value is similar, though smaller, to those of the regular 1909 series with the National Seal in the center. The legend at the top reads "Tiket waraq dak" (postal card stamps). The inscription at the bottom states "Beh qimat doh paisa" (value two paisa). The name of the country does not appear anywhere in the design.

The stamps were initially issued in sheets of 50 (5x10), typographed on the H & J watermarked wove paper and perforated 11¾. At a later date (1916-17?), the plate was divided and the stamps were printed and issued in sheets of 25 (5x5). They are found on various whitish or toned wove and on soft medium toned laid papers. The small sheets seen by the writer have the same setting as that of the upper half of the large sheet, but printings from the lower half of the original plate may exist. Various hand-applied gums were used during the life of this series.

216	Fig. 10A	2 paisa	bistre brown
		a	drab
		b	— pair imperf btwn
		c	laid paper

1916 Definitive Issue

For reasons unknown, the 1909 designs were issued in new colors during the fall of 1916. The earliest usage noted by the writer is a cover cancelled 15 Safar, 1335 (11 December). The series was probably released on the first day of lunar 1335 (October 28, 1916). The stamps were produced from the same plates in sheets of 50 (10x5) and line perforated 11¾. The previous standard H & J paper was apparently no longer available and the stamps were typographed on various thin hard toned, medium white wove, wove batonne and medium soft pseudo-laid papers. Several kinds of yellowish and brownish gums were used.

These definitives were produced during the general wartime shortages of all imported items. Early printings were fairly uniform in color but the unavoidable use of limited ink supplies from different origins introduced many shades and finally resulted in color substitutions in the late printings. The latter are distinctive enough to be considered as major re-issues although not so intended officially. The abasi is the best example of this color evolution.

217	Fig. 8	1 abasi	tile red
		a	light crimson
		b	rose red
		c	imperf pair
218	Fig. 9	2 abasi	yellow
		a	golden yellow
		b	lemon yellow
		c	horiz pair imperf betwn
219	Fig. 10	1 rupee	bright bistre
		a	buff yellow

1918-19 Color Re-issues

As noted above, late printings of the previous issue began to appear in colors quite different from those originally adopted. The 1 abasi was first noted in rose shades in mid-1918 but no exact dates can be established for any of these re-issues. The stamps are found on thin hard, medium and thickish soft wove papers. A heavy brownish gum that drew the paper was often used and has caused the face of the stamps to be covered with fine wrinkled lines.

220	Fig. 8	1 abasi	carmine rose
		a	light rose
		b	imperf pair
221	Fig. 9	2 abasi	bistre
		a	yellow bistre
222	Fig. 10	1 rupee	yellow olive
		a	olive

ISSUES OF AMANULLAH KHAN (1919-1929)

1920 Commemorative Issue

The first distinctive issue of the new regime was released in mid-summer 1920 and consisted of a series of oversize stamps measuring approximately 39mmx47mm. These seem to have been available for less than two months and were used concurrently with the regular definitives. Cancelled copies seen of the initial issue bear dates during Muharram, 1339 (September-October 1920). The two lower values and probably the 30 paisa were again

placed in use during a similar but longer period in 1921. Cancellations on the second release show either the lunar months of Zou'l hejjah, 1339, through Rabi I, 1340, or the solar months of Mizan and Aqrab, 1300 (mid-August to November, 1921). The two "zero" dots of the year 1300 indica are normally missing from the cancellation. The postmarks also reveal that over 90% of the stamps were used from Kabul. Based on the above evidence, the writer is of the opinion that this series commemorated the signing of the armistice that ended the War of Independence. The event took place at Rawalpindi on 24 August 1919. The stamps were probably issued on the first and second anniversary dates in conjunction with appropriate ceremonies held at Kabul.

This special series was comprised of three denominations of similar design with the values expressed in paisa. The central feature, supported by a laurel wreath, is the Royal Star of a national order instituted by Amanullah. The name of this order has not been verified. The inscribed crescent in the center of the Star contains the words "Nishan-i-jesaraht shukran-i-millat bah husouri padshahi ghazi ghazuli istiqlal Afghani alahazrat Amanullah Khan" (Decoration of Valor — with the gratitude of the nation — in the presence of that very royal warrior and victorious champion of Afghan independence, His Majesty Amanuullah Khan). Basic inscription "C" appears in the scroll at the bottom. The appropriate value is written in Farsi and Pashtou in the upper left and right corners respectively. The value is repeated in the top cartouche, together with the permitted weight. This legend on the lowest denomination reads "Fee misqal dah paiso" (per misqal ten paisa). Those on the other values read "Doh misqal bist paisa" (two misqal twenty paisa) and "Seh misqal seer paisa" (three misqal thirty paisa). Ghulam Moh'd Khan was the designer.

The stamps were printed from plates composed of only two cliches and those of the 10 paisa plate varied enough to produce what may be considered as two types. The Type I cliche, position #1 on the plate, is 2mm shorter than that of Type II because of top frame trimming. Hence the upper left scroll ornaments touch the top of the design while those of Type II do not. Impressions showing white-outlined or colorless lettering are from the re-issue

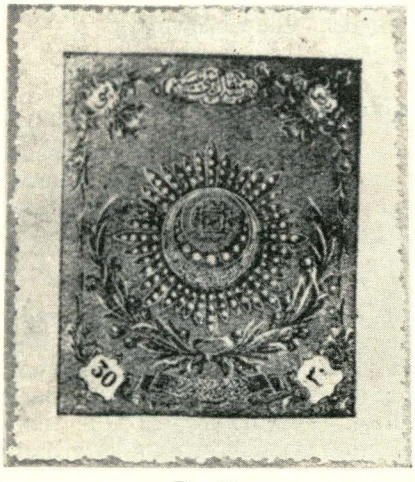


Fig. 11

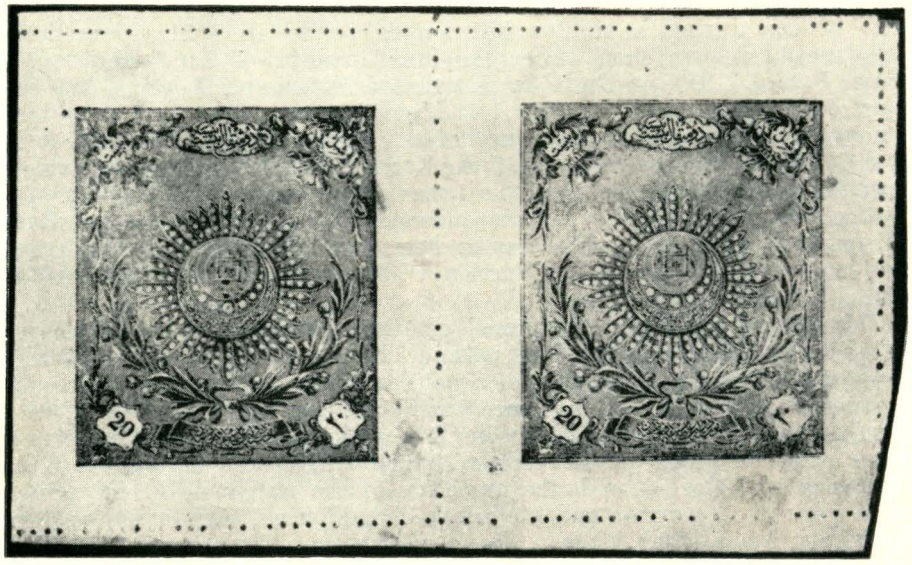


Fig. 11A

printings and were caused by overinking or poor presswork. The differences between the cliches of the other values are negligible.

The stamps were issued in miniature sheets of 2 (2x1), (Fig. 11A) typographed on medium dense white wove, thin hard local toned wove, and soft medium pseudo-laid paper, some of which have manufacturers' watermarks. Most of the 1921 releases were on the thin hard wove paper. The stamps were perforated 11¾ all around but examples are found with one side imperforate.

223	Fig. 11	10 paisa	rose - Type I
		a	Type II
		b	carmine rose
224	Fig. 11	10 paisa	dull red - Type I
		a	Type II
225	Fig. 11	20 paisa	lilac brown
226	Fig. 11	30 paisa	bluish green

1921 "Royal Star" Definitive Issue

The "Royal Star" design of the previous commemorative set was adopted for a permanent series of the same three values issued in the spring of 1921. The exact day of release has not yet been documented but the writer has a cover backstamped on April 18. If precedent was followed, the stamps were issued on 1 Hamal, 1300 (March 21), the first New Years day after the switch to the solar calendar.

For these definitive stamps the design was reduced with minor modifications to an average overall size of 22½ x 28¼mm. Individual positions vary slightly from these dimensions. In making the reductions, it was necessary to proportionately enlarge and respace the script and numerals to maintain nominal legibility. On the lower value this change is most noticeable in the number 10, wherein the two numerals are not parallel and the figure 1 is considerably longer than the 0. Further, the lettering in the top center cartouche has been adjusted and the top left word appears to end in a

"u." The cartouche legend of the 20 paisa has been similarly revised. In addition to the "u" ending noted, the lower instead of the upper inscription line begins on the right with two comma-shaped letters. These details are given because new slightly larger redrawn dies were later made for both values and the above characteristics identify those stamps of Type I.

Copies of the 10 paisa are found with a blue control (?) mark printed on the back. The mark consists of a small star-rayed National Seal similar to that used as the central design of the 1909 official stamps, but without the inscribed crescent. The inner circle thereof measures 15mm in diameter. The purpose of such imprints is unknown. They have also been reported on the 30 paisa value (GSM-3/28) and may exist on the 20. Dated cancels indicate usage during the spring of 1923.

The stamps were issued in sheets of 16 (4x4), line perforated 11¾. Position #13 in the 30 paisa sheet was inverted, but the plate was never corrected. Soft white European wove paper was used for the initial printings, but this was soon replaced by a thin hard local toned wove paper suggestive of parchment. This paper has an uneven thickness and varies in shade from off-white to pale tan. Examples are known on other papers including wove batonne, ribbed wove and a thickish soft fine-line pseudo-laid. The sheets were handgummed, often carelessly, and various light and dark gums were used. The method of reproduction was typography, but due to very poor press work there are extreme variations in the impressions of these stamps. This is particularly noticeable in the printings of the 10 paisa, some of which resemble engravings in their sharpness, while in others the design is almost indistinguishable. The design background of the majority of this issue is uniformly screened but a fair percentage of the stamps are found with it vertically lined or even solid.

227	Fig. 12	10 paisa	rose - Type I
		a	pink
		b	salmon rose
		c	carmine
		d	blue imprint on back
		e	marone (error) (GSM - 3/28)
228	Fig. 12	10 paisa	red - Type I
229	Fig. 12	20 paisa	lilac brown - Type I
		a	light red lilac
		b	marone
		c	dull reddish brown
230	Fig. 12	30 paisa	blue green
		a	tete beche pair
		b	green
		c	as b, tete beche pair

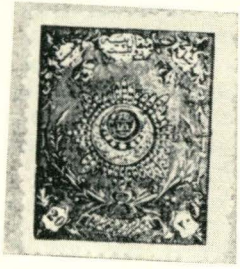


Fig. 12



Fig. 12A

1922-25 First Re-issues

To replace or supplement the originals, several new plates for the lower two values of the "Royal Star" series were made from time to time. In the process the designs were redrawn, resulting in the production of the 10 paisa Type II and the 20 paisa Types Ia and II. No new plate was prepared for the 30 paisa. All the re-issues were typographed on the thin hard local toned wove paper and perforated 11¾. Other papers such as medium and thickish white wove were occasionally used.

The 10 paisa Type II re-issue was the first to appear, with copies postmarked as early as June, 1922. The stamps were issued in sheets of 20 (4x5) with the positions in very poor alignment. This condition was corrected when a second and larger plate was prepared, probably in mid-1924, from which the stamps were printed in sheets of 25 (5x5). The Type I plate seems to have been retired at that time. The Type II stamps can be recognized by the following characteristics: the overall size averages 23¼mm x 29mm; the number 10 has equal height numerals but is decidedly off center in its frame; the top left word in the cartouche ends in a "d." The blue National Seal control (?) mark described previously is found on these stamps also. In addition, sheets are known with large overall control (?) imprints on the reverse in black. Two types have been reported. The commoner, which appeared on about 1% of the sheets during its period of use, consists of a large National Seal above a broad inscribed ribbon with a block inscription below. The Seal is nearly the same size and design as that featured on the 1909 official stamps. The lower block inscription is reported to read "Office of Public Works" (PJ1 1/27 & GSM 3/28). The writer has not yet been able to assemble all portions of this

imprint and can neither verify the above nor give a translation of the ribbon. The second similar black imprint, found on the 20 subject sheets, has the words "Beh qimat dah paisa" (price ten paisa) in a panel. The ribbon lettering reads "For the strengthening of the religious ties of the State and Church." The lower block inscription reads: "From the Religious Committee of the Holy Islamic Council, His Majesty the strength of the Nation and the Sons of the Nobility." (Fig. 12A). No information is available as to the purpose of any of these imprints although they may have been intended as propaganda to counteract anti-religious accusations leveled at Amir Amanullah during the time of the Khost rebellion. Judging from the few cancelled specimens seen by the writer, the black imprints were in use at least from September through November, 1924.

The 20 paisa re-issue did not appear until the end of 1925. The stamps were printed from a new plate containing 25 subjects (5x5) of which eight were Type Ia and seventeen were Type II. This resulted from two different redrawn dies being used to make up the plate. Positions 6, 9, 15, 16, 18, 23, 24 and 25 are Type Ia. (PJGB 10/29). Both types measure approximately 23½mm x 29½mm and their execution is somewhat coarse. The 20 paisa Type Ia differs from Type I only in minor details and is most easily identified by its larger size and generally lighter appearance. The Type II shows extensive redrawing, particularly in the lettering. The two comma-shaped letters have been relocated to the top line of the cartouche inscription and the left word in the same line now has a "d" shaped ending. It is interesting to note that "bist," the Farsi word for twenty in the upper left corner, has been misspelled. Three dots instead of one are under the right end of the word, changing the first letter from a B to a P, which completely alters the meaning. This error was never corrected. However, it must have come to the attention of the authorities for these stamps saw only limited usage and were gradually superseded by further printings from the Type I plate about the beginning of 1927.

The 30 paisa re-issues were printed from the original plate without change, except for the color, and were issued in sheets of 16 (4x4). Sheets have been reported with one of the black imprints on the back. (PJI 1/27). The date of release is not known.

231	Fig. 12	10 paisa	rose - Type II
		a	carmine rose
		b	red rose
		c	blue imprint on back
		d	black imprint on back
232	Fig. 12	10 paisa	dull red - Type II
		a	pale red
		b	laid paper
233	Fig. 12	20 paisa	lilac brown - Type Ia
		a	dull red brown
234	Fig. 12	20 paisa	lilac brown - Type II
		a	dull red brown
		b	se tenant w/Type Ia
235	Fig. 12	30 paisa	yellow green
		a	tete beche pair

1923 Kabul Interurban Issue

One of the most important of the many new projects started by Amanullah Khan was the development of a modern open capital and government center to replace the ancient congested city of Kabul. This community, called Nao-i-



Fig. 13

Kabul or "New Kabul," was laid out in the large, fertile Chardeh valley southwest of the old city, on the other side of a low mountain range. From old Kabul to Darul Aman (now Darul Funun), the center of the new city and site of a large Parliament House, related public buildings and a royal palace, is a distance of approximately eight miles via the Sher Darwahza pass. To connect the two places, a street railway was built and served to transport both passengers and building material. In anticipation of heavy communications demands between the old and new centers, plans were made for direct postal service via the railway and a special stamp was prepared by the Post Office for release early in 1923.

The actual need for this service never fully materialized. Construction difficulties, financial problems and the reluctance of the people to move out of the walled Kabul delayed the expected realization of the new city, and the 1928-9 revolution stopped the work entirely. No used copies of this value have been seen by the writer and it is unlikely that the stamps were ever in general demand. Their use was probably limited to experimental mail runs in the absence of any sizable permanent suburban population. Quantities issued must have been small.

The design is very plain, consisting of an oval National Seal over a large inscribed ribbon within a simple double-lined frame. The legend reads "Posteh Shahri Kabuli fee paket 2 paisa" (Kabul City Postage - per letter 2 paisa). The designer is unknown. The stamps were issued in sheets of 4 (2x2), typographed on medium off-white wove paper and perforated 11¾ between, with imperforate margins. The sheets had a border at the top only. It is reported that they were also issued in booklets. The stamps are known perforated all round.

236 Fig. 13 2 paisa black

1924-26 Supplementary Values

Several stamps of higher denomination were added to the Royal Star series beginning in 1924. Whatever the need may have been for these values, of 5 q'ran and 5 rupee respectively, they are as scarce today as is information concerning them. Opinions differ between catalogues on the actual issue dates and research is hampered by a dearth of clearly cancelled specimens. These stamps are generally listed as parcel post items but with this classification the writer cannot agree. All other parcel post issues from 1909 to 1929 consistantly bear the legend "Parcel Stamp" and any deviation from established practice is seriously questioned. Undoubtedly their major use was probably on parcel mailings but the writer contends that they were not intended to be limited to such a category.

The design of these higher values repeats very closely, in elongated form, that of the lower denominations. In the upper left corner and top cartouche the value is written in Farsi. In the upper right it appears in Pashtou. No mention is made of weight. Basic inscription "C" is again found in the bottom scroll. Ghulam Moh'd Khan was probably the designer.

There are two types of each value. In Type I the opposing lower corner scroll ornaments are connected by a curved center bar. In Type II the bar is straight. The 5 rupee was issued in block sheets of 4, with the top pair of stamps being Type I and the bottom pair being Type II. The initial issue sheets had four normal margins and the stamps were perforated all around. The writer has never seen a sheet of the 5 q'ran denomination but presumes it was of similar setting and format.

The later re-issue of the 5 rupee was printed from the original plate but the majority of the sheets have a border on the left side only and resemble booklet panes. The same two design types are found in the 5 q'ran stamps. The writer has never seen a sheet of this value but he presumes it also consisted of a block of 4 with a similar setting, perforated all around. Both denominations were typographed on thin to medium hard local white or toned paper, perforated 11¾ on two, three or four sides.

245	Fig. 14A	5 q'ran	dull blue - Type I (1926 ?)
		a	Type II
		b	vert pair se-tenant
246	Fig. 14B	5 rupee	dull reddish purple - Type I
		a	Type II
		b	vert pair se-tenant
247	Fig. 14B	5 rupee	bright violet - Type I (1925 ?)
		a	Type II
		b	vert pair se-tenant



Fig. 14A Fig. 14B

1925 Mazar Provisional Issue

Afghan Turkestan is situated north of the rugged, high Hindu Kush ranges of the western Himalayas. Mazar-i-Sherif, the provincial capital, was a hard two weeks' caravan trip from Kabul in 1925. During the late spring of that year the stamp stocks of Mazar and the few other post offices of the

Province became low and were finally exhausted. This was not an isolated situation, although the cause is not known, for covers originating at Kabul, Jalalabad and elsewhere from April through July, 1925, are regularly encountered without stamps. These bear normal postal markings but are endorsed "postage paid" in various colored inks and often have the additional written notation "no stamps available." After continued postponement of promised new stock delivery, the Provincial Postmaster at Mazar finally authorized the issuance and use of obsolete fiscal stamps for postage during the last of August. This was apparently done with the approval of the Postmaster General, for letters franked with these stamps addressed to and backstamped at Kabul show no postage due markings of any sort.

The need for these provisionals was only expected to last for a week or so, but it was found necessary to use them intermittently for more than five months. Heavy snows came early to the mountains and blocked the upper caravan passes before adequate inventories of regular stamps were built up in Mazar. The mails continued to go through, being carried by post runners when weather permitted. However, only small quantities of stamps, insufficient to fully restock the post offices, could be brought back up from Kabul with the mail at any one time. Whenever these meagre supplies were used up, the provisionals were again employed. The earliest usage noted by the writer is a pair on cover backstamped September 1st at Peshawar; the latest seen cleared through Landi Khana on January 6, 1926.

The fiscals used for postal provisionals were the demonetized 1 shahi dull vermilion and 1 shahi bistre brown receipt tax stamps of 1909 and 1917 respectively. These were sold at face value, 1 shahi being equal to 5 paisa, and covers normally carry two stamps to pay the 10 paisa internal single letter rate. No other revenues, whether similar to the above or not, were ever employed for postal purposes. The brown value was released first and, as remainder stock became depleted, the older vermilion was also put into service. The design is identical for both stamps and resembles in general the 1909-17 postage types. In the top border is written "tiket reseed" (receipt stamp). The two panels under the central National Seal indicate the original tax rate and read from right to left "Min 1 ala 100 - yek shahi" (from 1 to 100 - one shahi). At the bottom appears the familiar "Daolat aliyah khudadad Afghanistan." The designer is unknown.

The stamps were issued in sheets of 50 (10x5), typographed on thinnish hard and medium soft wove papers and perforated 11¾. Postally-used off-cover specimens are normally found with the special round Mazar cancels (SPM - 11) containing the National Seal in top center. Small ornately inscribed oval or octagonal obliterations or pen marks indicate fiscal usage during an earlier period.

249	Fig. 15	1 shahi	bistre brown
		a	bistre
250	Fig. 15	1 shahi	dull vermilion

1927 Second Re-issue

In March, 1927, a French expert was engaged to supervise the reorganization of the Post Office establishment. Probably it was he who recommended modernization of the stamp perforating equipment, for new machines, single line 11 guage, manually operated units, were procured during the year. They were delivered to the Government Printer in time for use in perforating some of the last printings of the 1921 series before these were superseded by the subsequent "new currency" issue. The only cancelled copies seen were used in September or October and are relatively scarce. The stamps were

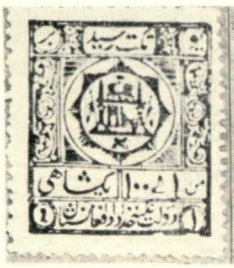


Fig. 15



Fig. 16



Fig. 17



Fig. 18

issued in sheets of 25 (5x5), typographed on thin hard local wove paper and perforated 11.

254 Fig. 12 10 paisa rose Type II

1927-28 Definitive Issue

In 1926 the present decimal monetary system was introduced and a new series of stamps was accordingly prepared with the values expressed in puls, pouls or pols. (The word rhymes with tool). With the expectation of early election into the Universal Postal Union, the stamps were designed to conform with the then current recommendations of that organization and for the first time contain wording in a non-Arabic alphabet. Afghanistan was admitted to the Union in the spring of 1928 and this issue became valid for international franking, effective April 1st of that year, after six months of limited internal use.

The designs of all values feature the familiar National Seal as a central motif, surrounded by various ornamental frames. The legend in the crescent of the seal reads "Nishan daolat aliyat Afghanistan" (Seal of the Supreme Government of Afghanistan). Basic inscription "C" is uniform to the series. On the 30 poul, however, the inscription is incomplete for the word "posteh" is missing. This is found instead in the ribbon legend under the Seal which states "Tiket posteh see poul" (postage stamp of thirty poul). The designer is unknown. He was reported to have been a Japanese and the character of the work suggests non-Afghan origin. It was also rumored that the dies for the 15 and 30 poul values were made in Calcutta, India (PJI 2/28).

The stamps were typographed on pregummed medium hard white diamond-mesh wove paper and were released either perforated 11x11, part-perforated 11 or imperforate. Two plates of different sizes were used in printing each of the 10, 15, 30 and 60 poul denominations, but only one plate each for the other three values. The 10 poul was initially produced and issued in sheets of 12 (3x4), with position #6 tete beche, but a larger plate was soon made utilizing clichés from the defective one and all later releases were in sheets of 20 (4x5). The 15 poul was issued in sheets of 9 (3x3) and of 18 (6x3); the 30 poul in sheets of 6 (3x2) and of 16 (4x4); the 60 poul in sheets of 8 (2x4), with the lower block of 4 tete beche, and in sheets of 12 (3x4). It should be noted that the smaller 60 poul sheet is found with a horizontal shift of up to 5mm in the vertical alignment of the upper and lower blocks. The blocks are identical and the individual positions have the same recognizable flaws. This suggests that either the sheet was printed from a plate of 4 subjects in two operations or, more probably, from a plate consisting of two 4 subject half-plates clamped together. The remaining values of 25, 40 and 50 poul were each printed in

sheets of 20 (5x4). Position #17 in the 40 poul sheet was tete beche, but the plate was never corrected during its five years of use.

Multiples of the 10, 15, 30 and 60 poul values can usually be indentified as coming from either the small or large sheets by the spacing between the stamps. The following table gives the average spacing measurements for comparison. A dash indicates similar spacing on both sheet layouts.

	Small sheet		Large sheet	
	vert	horiz	vert	horiz
10 poul	6mm	—	6.5mm	—
15 poul	4.5mm	—	5.5 to 6.5mm	—
30 poul	5.5mm	5.7mm	6.5mm	7 to 8mm
60 poul	—	5.4mm	—	5.6 to 7mm

An unexpected shortage of current postal stock necessitated the early initial sale of a portion of this series at Qandahar during the first week of October, 1927 (PJI 2/28). Only the 15, 30 and 60 poul denominations were released and these were in the small format sheets in imperforate condition. The three values were those in most common use on mail to British India and carry the inscription "Afghan Postage" in English. The same group of stamps was placed on sale at Kabul on 29 October and a combined total of approximately 1000 imperforate miniature sheets were so issued (PJI 6/28). Additional imperforate sheets of these three values, including those in the large format, were released in quantity through 1928.

255 Fig. 16 15 poul rosine
256 Fig. 17 30 poul prussian green
257 Fig. 18 60 poul bright blue
a tete beche pair

In early November, the same three denominations appeared perforated 11x11 or 11x imperforate on one or two sides, and the balance of the series followed. Normal practise seems to have been to perforate the margins of all the large format sheets but to leave those of the small sheets unperforated. However, all values are found with one or more sides imperforate. Specimens are known perforated 11¾ or compound with 11. These are rare. It will be noted that the last four values issued are inscribed "Postes Afghanes" in French, probably in anticipation of approaching international usage. Some colors come in many shades.

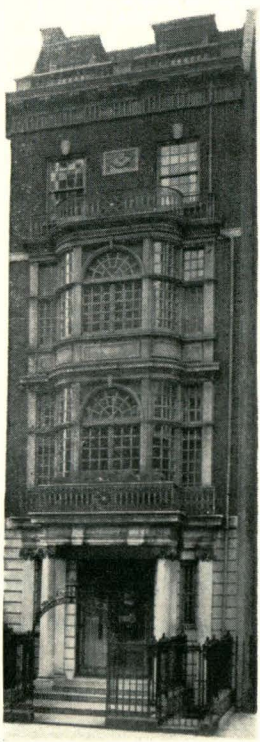
258 Fig. 19 10 poul dull green
a tete beche pair
b horiz pair imperf btwn
c vert pair imperf btwn
d perf 11x11¾
e perf 11¾



Fig. 19 Fig. 20 Fig. 21 Fig. 22

259	Fig. 16	15 poul	rosine
		a	perf 11¾
		b	horiz pair imperf btwn
260	Fig. 20	25 poul	carmine
261	Fig. 17	30 poul	prussian green
		a	vert pair imperf btwn (SGC)
		b	horiz pair imperf btwn
		c	printed on back
262	Fig. 21	40 poul	ultramarine
		a	tete beche pair
		b	imperf pair
		c	as b, tete beche
		d	horiz pair imperf btwn (SGC)
		e	as d, tete beche
		f	vert pair imperf btwn (8/28)
263	Fig. 22	50 poul	carmine red
264	Fig. 18	60 poul	bright blue
		a	tete beche pair
		b	vert pair imperf btwn

(To Be Continued)



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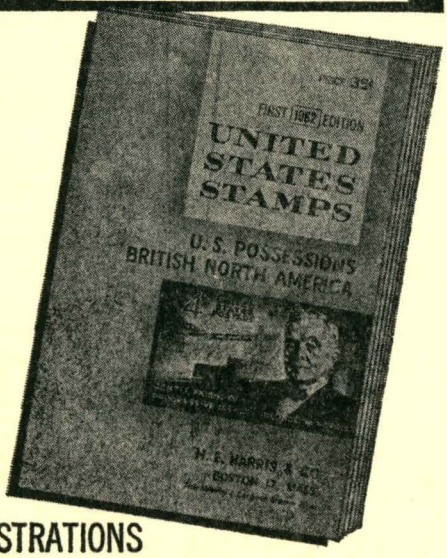
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