The Collectors Club

Philatelist

A Magazine devoted to Philatelic Study & Research

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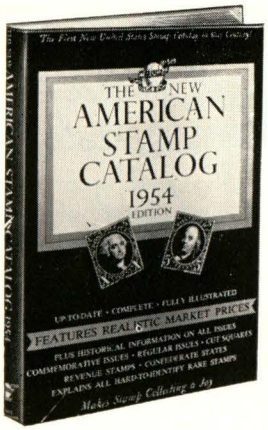


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NEW YORK 38, N. Y.
CORTLANDT 7-6070

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And fill in those blank spaces.

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Sidney F. Barrett

The Collectors Club Philatelist

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May 1954 **Vol. XXXIII, No. 3**

Editorials

Infallibility

Those few in philately who indulge in scholarship, come face to face with one fact, assuming that they really are students of postage stamps. The true scholar is awed about the terrific amount of knowledge to be ferreted out. He knows that there is far more to philately than the great majority realize. Cognizant of the vastness in the unknown field of knowledge before him and fearing that he might not have the ability, the time, or the resources to solve all of the many complexities, the true philatelic scholar cannot help but feel humble and small.

Even after a student of stamps has delved closely into a specific field and perhaps learned as much as any other, he will never believe that he knows all the answers. If he shares his knowledge, best done in writing, the scholar will strive for perfection. But he knows that the result has fallen far short of his goal. His book or treatise never is the last word in his estimation.

Anyone who holds a different attitude towards philatelic study, clothing himself with conceited notions, is not a scholar, no matter how vehement and dramatic his pretentions.

These rudimentary facts about scholarship have been expressed because the great majority in our ranks seem to endow the small group of students with a mantle of infallibility. As one commences and then progresses with the study of stamps, he hears himself called from all sides "The great authority" and "The big expert". These are unfortunate and unjust titles, because they regard a human as being free from mistakes. It is like saying: "He wrote a book, so he knows all the answers". Without further elaboration, such a wrong notion does damage.

The majority first place a person on a pedestal much against his wishes. Then they come to do the learned man homage exaggerating his knowledge beyond reason. Finally comes the crash, when the learned man either truthfully says that he does not know or, worse yet, makes a mistake. This results in almost a frantic dance of glee celebrating that the mighty have fallen. The hysteria becomes so widespread that those in philately go around braying that there are no experts—nobody knows nothing!

Who is hurt? The scholar? Heavens, no, because he had always protested against the myth of infallibility. The majority without realization have undermined the very foundation of philately. Stamp collecting leads as a hobby because of its orderly classification. Most every item, that we collect, is listed and priced in a catalog. Order and clarity is there even though some may be blinded to it. If there is confusion in philately, it is because of errors in our classification system. The student, above all others, will and can rectify this.

Take a specific instance. An important basis for America's leading stamp catalog was the "Luff Reference Collection", started by the late Mr. John N. Luff, when he was responsible for the Scott catalog. His stamps, notes and clippings were expanded by his

successors. Anyone familiar with this reference work would not deny the right to have Mr. Luff called a great student of stamps. He examined every item listed in his catalog carefully, weeding out or deciding against those items which he deemed unsuitable for our hobby. Was he letter perfect? By no means! Actually Mr. Luff committed many mistakes. But it was his work, along with that of his predecessors and successors that laid the keystone for collecting postage stamps in this country.

Just pause for a moment and think what stamp collecting would be without a catalog. One can collect many things, old flour bags, trade cards, theatre programs; the list contains hundreds of collectible items. But are they cataloged and priced? No! Then the weakness of stamp collecting lies in the inaccuracies in our catalogs. The strength of philately is in our correct knowledge supplied to us by a small circle of scholars.

It is a popular pastime to cheer for the underdog, to see the champion lose his crown. It may be popular to jeer the experts and the authorities. That implies clearly that ignorance is rampant in philately because "nobody knows nothing." This attitude may be popular but it is not doing you or me any good. It is weakening the very props upon which the structure of stamp collecting has been and is continuing to be built.

The tribute, as we see it, to philatelic scholarship lies in the fact that, the few who pursue it, do so paying little or no heed to the braying of the masses. But it would be helpful if the ranks would cease placing an aura of infallibility around its scholars. As with so much in life, a middle ground is best. That would require that we do not overrate our scholars nor underrate them. Our experts are the best sources of knowledge, but let's not be captious about their mistakes. Look at the complete Balance Sheet, both the Assets and Liabilities! (*H. M. G.*)

Beauty Is But . . .

If one could ascertain what is the most popular philatelic topic discussed and commented upon in print these days, the answer well could be "the beauty of the stamp". You cannot seem to escape hearing its mention, or pick up a stamp paper from any part of the world without reading praise or criticism about the designs on the newly-issued stamps. It seems as if the appreciation of art is now an important requisite to stamp collecting. Hasn't the whole thing gotten a bit out of hand?

First of all, no one can be dogmatic (although far too many are) about a pleasing or unattractive stamp. *It is all a matter of individual taste and style.* What appeals to one is disliked by another. Surely some stamps will attract more admirers than others, but then what? Some men fall in love with and marry Ubangi women, would you?

The fundamental point concerns the question of just how important is the attractiveness of a design on a stamp for its stature in philately. Our view is that it is ever so inconsequential. Most of our rarer, more desirable and coveted stamps are far from pieces of beauty. In fact, philately's great rarities, with ever so few exceptions, are pretty turgid examples of the graphic arts.

This eye-appeal can be well illustrated by personal experience. When friends who have not the slightest interest in stamp collecting visit our house, sometimes out of polite curiosity they will ask to view some albums. If we oblige by bringing out a few albums, they will commence to look and comment. If we point out a scarce item, they will ask its monetary value, which we usually manage to sidestep gracefully. But they seem to become bored with the monotony of viewing stamps on page after page by the time they have reached half-way through the album. Then we come to some pages with very modern stamps printed in all sorts of colors. Suddenly the visitor sits up with a start and says, "Now these are pretty. I like them". As a matter of fact these stamps are quite common, and can be purchased with no trouble from most stamp dealers. So eye appeal is not philatelic appeal.

An incident of more than a decade ago that happened right here at 22 East 35th Street, New York City, is recalled. This illustrates philately and a stamp's beauty so graphically. The meeting night was one of those question and answer sessions, wherein the panelists chosen were some of the most prominent philatelists in this country. The

(Continued on Page 158)

PHILIPPINES

The 1944-45 Provisional Victory Issue

By IDUS L. MURPHREE

For a stamp collector there is no experience like that of walking blindly into an unknown, new provisional issue of postage stamps, which subsequently becomes very desirable philatelic property. These Philippine provisionals were released only nineteen days after the first American troops hit the Leyte beachhead and just two weeks after a major naval engagement ("The Battle of Surigao Strait") was fought in defense of the landings on Leyte. With what ceremonies, if any, the first day of this issue was attended is unknown, but there was drama and fanfare enough to usher in this emergency issue of postage stamps. Kamikazes were still burning the skies and the island of Leyte, the first in the re-conquest of the Philippines, was hardly secure when this provisional Victory issue had its first day of sale on November 8, 1944. (Fig. 1) Philippine guerillas had long harrassed the invaders of their islands, and, during the new battles now begun, fought alongside the American forces. It was highly appropriate that VICTORY should have been inscribed on pre-war stamps that carried the double-inscription "Philippine Islands—United States of America."

With a re-born Philippine civilian government, but no stamps with which to revive the postal system, a provisional, emergency issue could be the only answer. Major General Basilio J. Valdes, who was both Chief of Staff of the Philippine Army and Secretary of National Defense and Communications, gave the authorization. And so the VICTORY handstamps were born. They were a motley group of postage stamps and postal paper, many of them weathered and stained, but they all carried the same inscription: VICTORY. This was the mark that was later to distinguish the regular issue prepared in the United States, but in contrast to the machine overprint in black ink, the

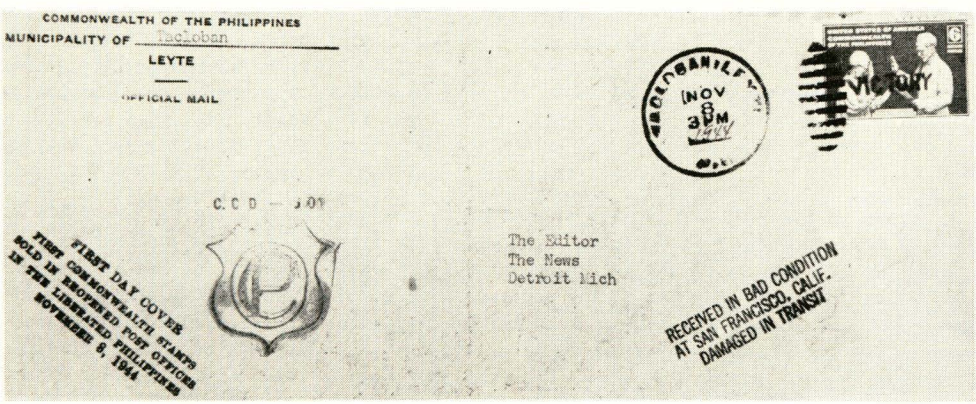


Fig. 1 A First Day Cover, November 8, 1944 from U. S. Public Relations Officer at Tacloban to the Editor; The News, Detroit, Michigan. *(Courtesy Mr. Theodore Sheldon). Photo by Boutrelle*

provisionals carried a handstamp in purple with the word VICTORY in crude lettering. Post offices in the liberated province of Leyte, including those at Tacloban, Dulag, Abuyog, Palo, Tolosa and Tanauan used these stamps until the regular overprints were placed on sale January 19, 1945. The use of the provisionals on official mail from Ahahawan, Capoodan, Libagon, Maripipi, Maasin are known, but I have seen no postmarks from these towns between November 8, 1944 to January 19, 1945.

A machine overprint was out of the question for the provisionals, even should a press have been available, since the only stamps on hand were the pre-war issues in broken, uneven quantities, many not in full sheets. With such short supplies, every stamp was needed. Yet some distinguishing mark was necessary, as long as the bulk of pre-war stamps was still in enemy hands in the other Japanese-occupied parts of the Islands. So it was these pre-war stamps which were to receive the overprint. The only way to apply the Victory overprint was with a rubber handstamp individually stamped upon each stamp. No work of the printer's art, a rubber stamp was improvised just as it might have been put together from a boy's printing outfit. Actually, in order to meet the emergency, it had been handcarved in rubber by an amateur craftsman in the provincial capital, Tacloban.

The stamps, to which the handstamped VICTORY was applied, had been scraped together (Manila and Luzon were still in enemy territory) largely from remnant stocks in recaptured post offices. They consisted of stamps that had either been left unmolested in post office safes or hidden away from the Japanese during the occupation. As the post offices along the coast of Leyte fell into American hands, the available stocks of stamps were sent back to Tacloban for handstamping. Whenever enough stamps had been accumulated in Tacloban to make the hand-stamping practical, the overprint was applied. This procedure accounts both for the four different dates of issue and the motley group of stamps that were marked VICTORY. The four dates of issue were:

November 8, 1944
December 3, 1944
December 14, 1944
December 28, 1944

The stamps were so few in number and inadequate for the anticipated postal service that their sale at first had to be prohibited for philatelic purposes. Mr. William Meyerson obtained a copy of the following order, which we secured through the courtesy of Mr. Richard E. Samek.

COMMONWEALTH OF THE PHILIPPINES
DEPARTMENT OF NATIONAL DEFENSE AND COMMUNICATIONS

TACLOBAN, LEYTE

November 6, 1944

The Acting Post-Office Inspector
Tacloban, Leyte

Sir:

In connection with the postage stamps which you have taken from the post-office of Palo, Leyte, amounting to $360.90 (Commonwealth Stamps), you are directed to surcharge the said stamps on the face thereof with the word "Victory" in the presence of the Acting Provincial Auditor or his representative and the Acting Postmaster of Tacloban. The said stamps will only be available for civilian use in accordance with the recommendation of Major Lambert of the U. S. Army. Sale should only be made to civilians presenting letters for mail between Tacloban and Palo or vice versa. United States Armed Forces shall not be allowed to purchase such stamps until an adequate supply is obtained from the United States pursuant to Major Lambert's recommendation.

Respectfully,

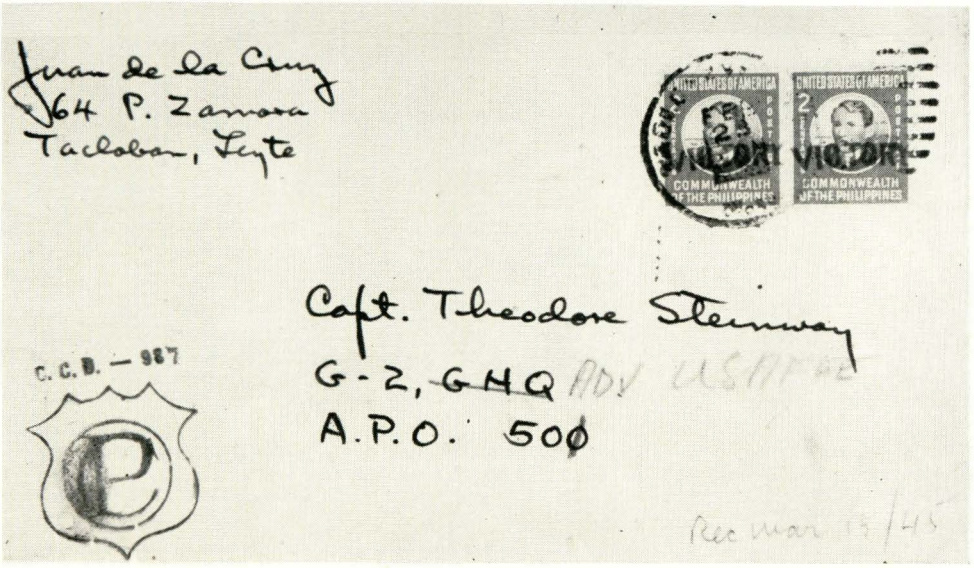


Fig. 2 Cover showing official use after January 19, 1945. This cover was postmarked February 25, 1945. It has an added interest because it was mailed to the son of Theodore E. Steinway, the well-known philatelist. The younger Steinway was then in the Armed Forces and he sent this cover on to his father.

Photo by Boutrelle

BASILIO J. VALDES
Major General P. A., Chief of Staff
Secretary of National Defense
and Communications

One witness reported that originally, in order to get one of the stamps, the purchaser had to have his addressed envelope in his hand, buy and affix the adhesive stamp as well as mail the letter in a postal employee's presence. When more adequate supplies had been accumulated, collectors were allowed to buy one set each, and toward the end of their period of use, some blocks were sold.

Official ("O. B.") stamps in this issue were never available for sale to the public. Some collectors secured them by trading the regular handstamped stamps to government offices for mint copies of the "O. B.'s." One alert sergeant, who later came to the Islands, secured used copies and covers with the "O. B." stamps by several ingenious methods. Being a member of the Collectors Club, Mr. Sol Whitman has consented to the disclosure of one method of acquisition. By cultivating a "friendship" with some of the local postmasters, he was allowed to rummage through the wastepaper baskets in the post offices. Therein he frequently found mail with the "O. B." provisionals which had been used on envelopes relating to the post offices' business and administrative instructions. It is known that Mr. Whitman accumulated quite a number of "O. B.'s" which he brought back to the States after the War and subsequently sold or traded off many of them.

Also he found the regular issues because their use was permitted on official mail after the sale had ceased on January 19, 1945. (Fig. 2).

With painstaking bureaucratic efficiency, the stamps and their value were recorded in the Provincial Auditor's Office before being sent to the post office for handstamping. Then they were returned to the Auditor's office for a second tabulation before being placed on sale. As for the actual application of the handstamp, each stamp was not only individually handstamped by the Postmaster of Tacloban but subsequently checked by the Acting Postal Inspector. It is to this

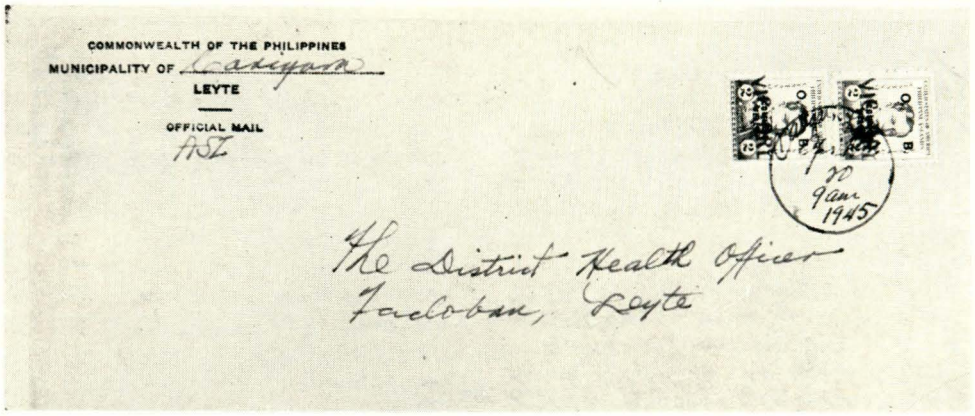


Photo by Boutrelle

Fig. 3 Cover franked with the O. B. (Official Stamps), a pair of O38 with a circular manuscript cancellation in ink reading "Carigara/Apr 20/ 9 AM/1945."
(Courtesy Mr. Theodore Sheldon).

systematic procedure that collectors are indebted for the Philippine Bureau of Posts' official listing of "kinds, denominations, and quantity of pre-war stamps hand-surcharged 'Victory' at Tacloban, Leyte". (The list is appended to this article, and I am grateful to Willard C. Jackson for furnishing it.)

With the release of the regular issue with the printed "Victory" overprint on January 19, 1945, the provisionals were withdrawn from sale. The remainders were issued to authorized government offices on the island of Leyte in lieu of "O. B." stamps, which were no longer available. They were used on official mail after January 19, 1945 (Figs. 2 & 3), until the supply was exhausted.

Although some have supposed that there were two, *only one handstamp was made and used.* The rubber handstamp deteriorated rapidly, giving rise to several varieties. Most of the provisionals bear a VICTORY overprint which has lost its earlier clean impression and straight horizontal line (Fig. 4); in fact, no stamps except those issued on the first day (November 8) exist without signs of heavy wear. According to B. Cunanan, the Acting Postal Inspector of Leyte, *the rubber handstamps actually broke in two. This break occurred before the handstamping had been completed for the first day of issue. Then the handstamp was crudely repaired with a straight pin.* The two pieces were not exactly realigned, so that "VIC" slopes downward to the left and "TORY" slopes downward to the right (Fig. 5); and, in addition, there is a slight separation between the "C" and the "T". Because the head of the pin rested on the vertical bar of the "T", either depress-



Fig. 4 The Type I overprint, the so-called solid "T". This is the scarcer type because the rubberstamp broke so quickly.

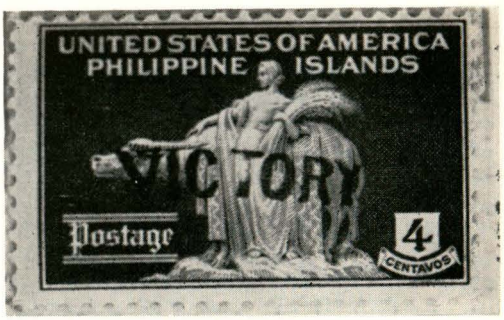


Fig. 5 The Type II overprint, the broken "T".

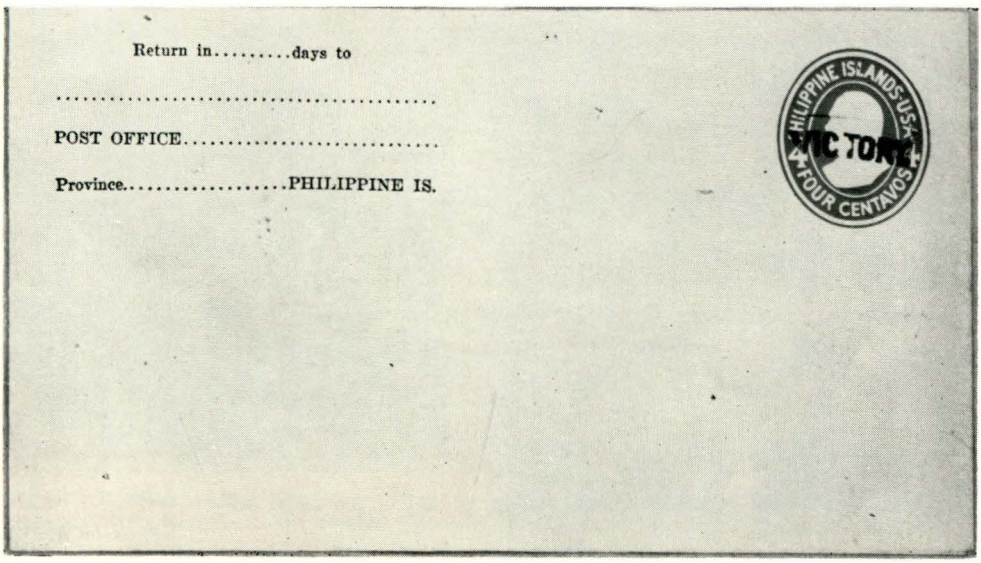


Photo by Boutrelle

Fig. 6 One of the rare McKinley envelopes (U44) overprinted VICTORY, only 32 are known. *(Courtesy Mr. Theodore Sheldon).*

ing it or breaking off a small piece, a portion of the "T" did not print. Hence this accounts for the frequently referred to "broken T". By far the larger number of provisionals are with this "broken T" variety, while the first completely clear and perfect overprint are the scarcer. This is one of those instances where the ordinarily normal philatelic condition is reversed, because the "variety" exists in far greater quantity than the undamaged original handstamp. Since there was only one handstamp for the task, such deterioration is understandable.

The handstamped VICTORY was applied to a variety of issues, all of pre-war vintage and some surprisingly out-of-date. They were the random gathering from remote and rural post offices where stamps of older issues would more readily accumulate. For instance, included were stamps of the regular 1935 issue (the series without the "Commonwealth"), two of the Commonwealth Anniversary series of 1936, and the anachronism of them all, the 4-centavo McKinley envelope of 1908. (Fig. 6) (Of this latter, only thirty-two envelopes were handstamped.) Inspection of the stamps bearing the handstamp would leave no doubt that an emergency existed. The envelopes are invariably sealed; many of the stamps are stained or discolored, without gum, or stuck so fast to the wax paper used to protect them in the hot, humid climate that stamp and wax paper had become one. I own one bizarre copy which I purchased at the Tacloban post office that, besides being stained and without gum, is straight-edged and slightly torn. There is not much in the appearance of these stamps to recommend them aesthetically. (Fig. 7) Their condition, in general, is such as would make a collector accustomed to fine copies reject them. But even in their wretched condition, these stamps symbolize the drama of a country overrun, dominated by a foreign power, and then, three years later, becoming a new battleground in the reconquest of the Pacific.

The writer stumbled unknowingly upon this Philippine provisional VICTORY issue at the post office in Tacloban sometime in December, 1944. The battleship unit, to which he was attached, had supported the landings there in October, patrolled offshore, and blocked the entrance to Leyte Gulf from the south by lying across Surigao Strait. His unit later anchored off Tacloban, waiting to join forces with the Luzon invasion fleet. Someone had to go ashore to pick up some





Photo by Boutrelle

Fig. 7 Two examples of the condition of some of the stamps overprinted. The block of four on the left had been eaten away in the center by some insect. The single copy of the right is covered with stains.

(Courtesy The Philatelic Foundation).

"intelligence" charts from the Army before sailing. So the writer was sent, along with a guard of his own choosing, a buddy from the ship's signal gang. Had there been any distress, he would have been a marvel at spelling out our danger in semaphore; but the writer had the charity not to inquire if his buddy could shoot the pistol he so manfully carried. We were anchored far out, and there was a good wind. The trip in by small boat was long, wet, and uncomfortable. After picking up the charts, we had time to wander about the town and wade through its ankle-high, sometimes knee-high mud. It was the north-eastern monsoon season, and the rains had been torrential. Wading through the streets, we saw the large church with its school; the inevitable vegetable, fish, and fruit markets; and the offices of the city officials. The post office was located in a moderately-sized wooden frame building. Since there were other stamp collectors aboard our ship, we thought that this was our one chance to get them some Philippine stamps. Neither of us had the vaguest idea as to what stamps were being used; we were not even sure if a postal system was again in operation. With no notion of what was on hand, the writer blandly walked into the post office and asked for one sheet of every value available. (In retrospect it now seems fantastic that I might have had the money to pay for what I might have been requesting. Apparently stamp collectors do not shake the habits formed under different circumstances or I would not have made so presumptious a request.) As now recalled, the conversation with the mail clerk went something like the following:

I: "I would like to buy some stamps".

The clerk (who spoke adequate English): "What kind?"

I: "A sheet of everything you have!"

There was a long silence. A look of amazement came over his face, then one of hurtful consternation.

The clerk, almost snorting and a little pained said: "No! It is impossible. We do not have enough for postage!"

His curiosity was still not aroused, and feeling like an idiot, the writer caught a picture of himself as the blundering Ameri-



Fig. 8 A cover mailed January 1, 1945 by the author shortly after he had purchased his stamps. It is franked with twelve different stamps most of them having the VICTORY handstamp applied to issues of years before.

can in a strange land, a person who had thoughtlessly asked for what could not be given. He then told the clerk to let him have a set of any stamps that could be spared. He then generously gave us two, one for me and one for my friend, saying that there was a rule prohibiting more than one set to a single buyer. As he handed them out, we saw that the set was an old issue *but that there was something more on each stamp.* They carried the word VICTORY. Later study disclosed, of course, that these each were with the handstamp overprint, the scarce provisional issue. Upon further inquiry, the clerk told the writer that these were a make-shift issue to be used only until the regular Victory issue arrived from the United States. He was not sure when it would be delivered. The supply of the provisional stamps was short even in the capital, Tacloban. According to this clerk's account, some of the stamps that were now handstamped VICTORY had been stored away in trunks and books that had actually been buried during the occupation. (Fig. 8)

(At a later time, in the fall of 1945, I walked into the office of the Mayor of Tacloban and introduced myself. When I left, he reached into a drawer and gave me a few stamps. One of them was a 50-cent Documentary Revenue stamp that carried a handstamped VICTORY, but an imprint obviously different from any VICTORY on the postage issues—so different that it could not be construed as a facsimile. (Fig. 9). It remains a mystery. The Mayor did not recall its origin, and, as far as I know, no others have turned up. Yet bona fide handstamps are not ordinarily made for and used on one stamp alone.)

There was a great stamp session aboard the ship when we got back that night. Now plans brewed for a new type of an invasion of Tacloban (a philatelic assault), should the opportunity present itself. It did! About five of us, all stamp collectors, came ashore the next day and descended on the post office to get sets of this intriguing new issue. We had meanwhile spread the word by sema-



Fig. 9 The mystery Revenue stamp given to the author by the Mayor of Tacloban.
Photo by Boutrelle

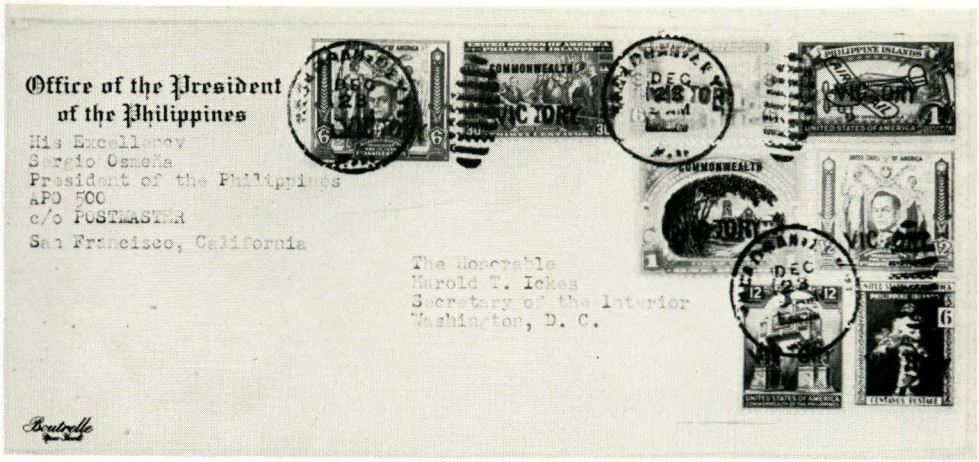


Fig. 10 A historical cover mailed from the President of the Philippines to the then Secretary of Interior, Harold T. Ickes, on December 23, 1944. It is now in the collection of Mr. Richard E. Samek who kindly loaned it for illustration.

Photo by Boutrelle

phore to friends on neighboring ships, because this was too good to keep to ourselves. But the distressed Postmaster of Tacloban, with a stock of stamps that he did not deem sufficient for postage requirements, obviously did not share our enthusiasm. He meticulously but unhappily doled out to each of us one set only of all *values* then on hand, sets which no longer included all the varieties. There were, however, in addition to many of the postage stamps, all the postage dues and most the envelopes and post cards were still available. His attitude was one of friendly cooperation, stern practicality, and wry amusement. Above all, he was primarily concerned to serve his official function as dispenser of stamps to the citizens of the city. He was the Postmaster, not a Philatelic Agent.

Later on, the five of us examined the stamps purchased and compared them. We discovered that, although all of us had stamps of the same denominations, not one of us had all the same stamps by any means. This was a major breach of stamp collector's etiquette, but it was undoubtedly done in all innocence. To the post office a 6-centavo stamp was a 6-centavo stamp, but none of this philatelic foolishness about whether it was a Malacañan Palace, a Commonwealth Anniversary, or with or without the "Commonwealth" issue. That was about the way our purchases ran. Each of us bought a set consisting of six or seven denominations. One would have the 12-centavo on a different basic stamp, either Scott No. 410, 454 or 460. We did not have the heart to remonstrate with the Postmaster, and it probably would have done no good to ask for all issues. Under the circumstances, we were grateful for anything we were sold. It seems fairly certain that one of us was sold a copy of the very scarce 12-centavo Triumphal Arch (Scott's No. 476). (Fig. 14) The writer only hopes that, when this lucky one got back home, he did not give it to the boy next door as a war memento.

In the Bureau of Posts' official listing (appended), there is no breakdown of varieties within such groupings as "6-centavo, Woman in Balintawak" and "16-centavo, Magellan's Landing". This list shows only the larger categories of the basic stamp overprinted without further varieties and distinctions which are so important to the philatelist. But philatelists are fortunate because one in our ranks, who also was on the scene, realized the great future potential of this provisional VICTORY issue. William S. Meyerson, who was in a position at the time to make observations, kept a close record of the stamps that had been handstamped, and compiled a breakdown by Scott catalog numbers. His detailed list is increasingly recognized as the most reliable detailed record of the provisional VICTORY issue. It con-

forms, of course, to the less specific and broader categories of the official listing, but has the great virtue of being prepared by one with a philatelist's eye. In the few instances in which Mr. Meyerson was unable to make observations, no breakdown was attempted. He writes: "I have no breakdown on Scott Nos. O38 and O39; my records merely show an authentic total 13,228 for both varieties. Nor have I the breakdown on O42 and O43, other than the authentic total of 71 for both. I have no data, official or otherwise, on the post cards." With Mr. Meyerson's kind consent, his list is published, following that of the Philippine Bureau of Posts.

Ten years later, it is most interesting to look back upon this issue. The stamps, now being in Scott, are in the most part priced. The exceptions are the few very rare stamps which remain unpriced because they sell so seldom. In fact, even the bulk of the stamps are priced in italics, indicating infrequent sales due to their scarcity.

Each successive year since the writer came across the VICTORY provisionals back in 1944, the stamps seem to grow in philatelic stature. World War II saw a number of emergency issues from all over the globe. However in comparison, none seems so glamorous or fascinating as this Philippine issue. For instance, many of the other "War" issues seem to have some philatelic or speculative flavor to them. Not so with these VICTORY provisional issues. Philatelic sale was frowned upon and, as demonstrated in this article, actually discouraged. Every stamp was needed for a revived postal service of the liberated Philippine Islands. Also they should serve always as a reminder of one of our great victorious campaigns, fulfilling the promise of General Douglas MacArthur, who when leaving the Islands shortly after our entrance in the War after the Japanese were conquering the Philippines, vowed that "I shall return". This we did with him in 1944 and a few philatelically minded in our armed forces, like myself, chanced upon the provisional VICTORY stamps of the Philippines. A double conquest!!

Republic of the Philippines
DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS AND COMMUNICATIONS
BUREAU OF POSTS
Manila

KINDS DENOMINATIONS AND QUANTITY OF PRE-WAR STAMPS
HAND-SURCHARGED "VICTORY" AT TACLOBAN, LEYTE

REGULAR ISSUE

Quantity	Denomination and Kind
24,441	2-centavo, Rizal green
807	4-centavo, Woman with carabao
270	6-centavo, Woman in Balintawak
1,643	8-centavo, Pearl Fishing
808	10-centavo, Fort Santiago
822	16-centavo, Magellan's Landing
1,401	20-centavo, Juan de la Cruz
448	30-centavo, Blood Compact
21	1-peso, Barasoain Church
738	20-centavo, Special delivery
7	2-centavo, Stamp books
474	2-centavo, Postal cards
5,302	2-centavo, envelope #5
1,128	2-centavo, envelope #5 (Money Order)
64	2-centavo, envelope #8
411	4-centavo, envelope #5
306	4-centavo, Postage due
390	6-centavo, Postage due
378	8-centavo, Postage due
405	10-centavo, Postage due
423	12-centavo, Postage due
425	16-centavo, Postage due
374	20-centavo, Postage due



Fig. 13 Two copies of the Postage Due stamps (J18) used on a piece.
(Courtesy Mr. Theodore Sheldon).
Photo by Boutrelle

O. B. STAMPS

13,228	2-centavo, Rizal green
2,634	4-centavo, Woman with carabao
665	10-centavo, Fort Santiago
71	20-centavo, Juan de la Cruz

COMMEMORATIVE STAMPS.

682	6-centavo, Pres. Quezon Taking Oath
235	6-centavo, Triumphal Arch
141	6-centavo, Malacanan Palace
442	12-centavo, Pres. Quezon Taking Oath
36	12-centavo, Triumphal Arch

AIR MAIL

122	4-centavo, Manila Post Office



Fig. 11 A very fine example of one of the air mail stamps, of which only 122 exist.
(Courtesy Mr. Richard E. Samek).
Photo by Boutrelle

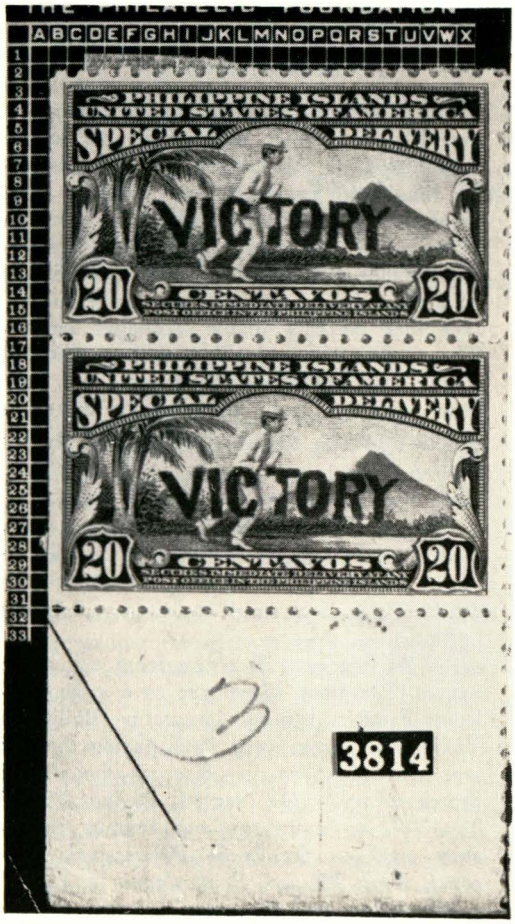


Fig. 12 A pair of the Special Delivery stamp (E8).

(Courtesy The Philatelic Foundation)



Fig. 14 Two of the scarcer stamps: Scott 466, the 6c brown, only 64 known; and Scott 476, the 12c bright blue, only 36 exist. Both copies have wax paper on the back, the usual condition of these rarities.

(Courtesy Mr. Theodore Sheldon). Photo by Boutrelle

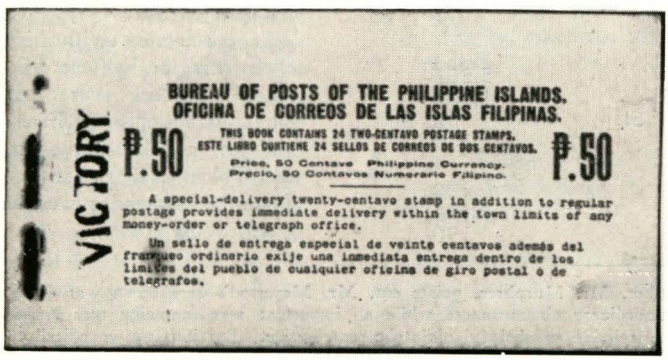


Fig. 15 The cover of a booklet containing 24 two-centavo postage stamps struck with the VICTORY handstamp. Only 7 booklets were overprinted.

(Courtesy The Philatelic Foundation).

W. S. Meyerson's Breakdown According to Scott Catalog Number*

Cat. #	Number Issued
463 (28 panes of 6)	168
463B	41
464	24,400
465	807
466 (Fig. 14)	64
467	332
468	206
469	235
470	141
471	350
472	1,643
(2 copies without handstamp)	
473	450
474	358
475	221
476 (Fig. 14)	36
477	221
478	122
479	200
480	500
481	1,401
482	248
483	200
484	21
C13 (Fig. 11)	122
E8 (Fig. 12)	300
E9	438
J16	306
J17	390
J18 (Fig. 13)	378
J19	405
J20	423
J21	425
J22	374
038, 039	13,228
O40	2,634
O41	665
O42, O43	71
U43	5,302
U43-MOB	1,128
U44 (Fig. 6)	32
U45	379
UX20**	190
UX21	94
UX22	190

Acknowledgements

(It is a pleasure to acknowledge the help that has generously been given me in the preparation of this article. I owe particular thanks to James Bolles, Ezra D. Cole, Henry M. Goodkind, Willard C. Jackson, William S. Meyerson, Theodore Sheldon, and Arnold H. Warren. They have drawn on a close familiarity with this issue as well as guided me to valuable secondary sources. The faults of the article that remain, of course, are my own responsibility. I have been reminded again, in gathering materials for this article, of the fraternity of philatelists.)

IDUS L. MURPHREE is an Assistant Professor of Philosophy and Social Science at Ohio University in Athens, Ohio. This marks his first attempt at being a philatelic author.

As the reader will notice from the above article, Professor Murphree as a stamp collector came across this interesting Philippine VICTORY provisional issue during the last war when he was an officer in the United States Navy. He served during World War II on many of our famous battleships, such as the *Idaho, Mississippi, Missouri, New Mexico, Pennsylvania* and *Wisconsin*. He was a junior member of the staff of the Commander Battleship Division Three and Flag Lieutenant. Most of his service was in the Pacific, but briefly he saw service as an aide to the Commander of the Atlantic Fleet.

In connection with his personal wartime experience, he has specialized in some of the issues of those years. Besides the Philippines, he collects the Free French overprints, and has a collection of material relating to the Tokyo Bay region at the time that the Japanese surrender was being signed on the *U. S. S. Missouri.*

* As the author, Mr. Murphree, points out, Mr. Meyerson's breakdown was done to the best of his ability under extraordinary circumstances while an important war campaign was being fought. His list, therefore, is both a reliable and helpful philatelic contribution. But it is not an official compilation and may be subject to error in some instances as to quantity. *(Editor)*

** The breakdown of the Post Cards has been supplied by Mr. Sidney F. Barrett. Nos. UX20-22 were grouped together on Mr. Meyerson's list.

MEXICO

The First Issue 1856 - 1861

By CALVERT STIER

Introduction

" . . . Mexico, taken as a whole, is a most satisfying country for any enterprising collector, and offers a greater variety of philatelic features than any other single country." P. L. Pemberton, writing in "Philatelic Journal of Great Britain", August, 1937.

The first issues from any of the early stamp issuing countries have been described, investigated, studied and discussed ever since the 1860's. Mexico is no exception, but generally it has been in regard to the classification and degree of rarity of the unique system of district name overprints. Mr. S. Chapman's great work, "Mexico, 1856-1868" published by THE COLLECTORS CLUB in 1926, almost wholly was devoted to statistics of the shipments to the various postal districts. The book of DeSmeth and Fayolle, published in France in 1935, is more comprehensive, but now is quite difficult to obtain. There is little in American or British publications about the printing plates of the first issue, or in regard to the interesting Civil War period from 1858 to 1860 during which stampless covers and fractions of the 4 and 8 reales stamps were used.

It is not known with certainty the number of plates, their composition or the name of the engraver. In Mr. Charles J. Phillips' little catalog of 1917 he states, "The dies from which these plates were made were all engraved by Senor Villegas". This is the earliest reference to the engraver that I can find, but where he got his information I am at loss to know because, as with so many philatelic writers, he did not document his source. Apparently others have copied Phillips so that I have always assumed it is correct. Aguirre's second edition, 1918 (in English) states, "Portrait of Hidalgo, engraved by Villegas and printed on wove paper of various thickness". His sixth edition, 1937, also in English, says, "the dies were made by the engraver *A.* Villegas, who was chief of the Government Printing Office". De Smeth and Fayolle, 1935, state, "Engraved on steel by Villegas, director of the Government Printing Office".

Apparently it is agreed that one, Sr. Villegas, engraved the dies for the first issue of stamps. Mr. S. Chapman, an English gentleman who had gone to reside in Mexico in the early 1890's, was given permission to copy from the Official Post Office records. He lists on page 2 of his book a few details from the General Stamp Account, as follows:

1856

July 30, Recd. from Engraver *A.* Villegas, (varying amounts of all values then follows)

Dec. 30, Recd. from Engraver *A.* Villegas, (varying amounts for all but the four reales)

1857

Jan. 31, Received from Engraver *V.* Villegas, (amounts for the one, two and four reales).

The remainder of his writing gives the amounts received from the printer plus various returns from the Districts. Mr. Chapman was copying from official records so the question arises: Were there *two* engravers of the plates? Are A. and V. Villegas one and the same; or is it similar to the Charles

and Frederick Heath affair as occurred with Great Britain's Penny Black stamps? At any rate, this is Senor Villegas' only claim to fame because nowhere else is he mentioned again in the preparation of any other of Mexico's postal emissions.

The decree authorizing the issue of postage stamps was dated February 21, 1856, by the President Don Ignacio Comonfort. Several months were spent in engraving the plates. Mr. Chapman's records show that the first supplies went to the head office at Mexico City on August 1st but to none of the other offices until the end of that month.

The late G. Gilbert said the plates had been made of copper;* DeSmeth says "The plates were copper, only 3 mm. thick and consequently too soft. The stamps were printed on old presses." Aguirre states, "we must bear in mind that the plates were made of brass, not of steel, as generally believed". This last is taken from his English edition but I believe the translator meant copper rather than brass, since he goes on to say, "—the softness and flexibility of brass (copper?) explains the wear of the plates and the difficulty for the press operators to produce an uniform type of impression". Mr. Chapman was unable to unearth any official document detailing the number of the plates made for the different denominations, nor of their size, so that what is known today has been obtained through patient study of the stamps themselves. In this connection most of the credit must go to the work of early British philatelists.

It is now known that the first plates for all five values, ½, 1, 2, 4 and 8 reales, were of 60 subjects (10 x 6). Subsequently larger plates were made for the 1 and 2 reales. Taking up the values individually, it should commence with the:

Medio Real.

Printed in medium to dark blue, generally on a rather hard wove paper, unwatermarked, the printings delivered to the General Post Office were:

1856, July 30, from Engraver A. Villegas	835,320 (13,922 sheets)
1856, Dec. 30, from Engraver A. Villegas	146,700 (2,445 sheets)
1861, Feb. 5, selected from sheets and strips in stock, previously rejected, by order of P. M.	5,200 (86 2/3 sheets)
1861, Mar. 20, ditto	44 (part of 1 sheet)
Total printed and issued	987,264 stamps.

To Mr. W. T. Wilson, pioneer Birmingham dealer and philatelic student, should go the credit for first working out the plates of the First Issue. In an article in the "Philatelic Journal of India", May, 1913, referring to the ½ real, he states: "I know of two plates. One I have entire but with very small margins. This I tentatively number III. Another which I had reconstructed and proved, I number IV, as it is probably the last plate because it was only used for printing the 1861 black on orange brown, and was in a much worn state. From the material accumulated, I had partly reconstructed a third plate which may be No. I, and, in addition, I had strips, blocks and pairs which do not belong to I, III or IV so that there must be at least one more plate".

Mr. Wilson was correct in the conclusion drawn except for his last sentence, because his plate IV was actually either plate I or II of the 1856 issue which he had not at that time succeeded in reconstructing.

DeSmeth and Fayolle, being the latest work covering the plates of the first issues, *should* represent the correct basis for our present day knowledge of the subject. But the fact that it contains some obvious mistakes and discrepancies is one of the reasons for these present notes. Through the kindness of The Collectors Club's Librarian, Mrs. Bradford, she translated that part of DeSmeth and Fayolle which discusses the plates. Regarding the Medio Real, I quote:

"Three plates of 60 subjects in 10 rows of 6 each. Plates I and II, examples of which are much more widely spaced from top to bottom than those of Plate III, were not framed and produced stamps whose printing

* COLLECTORS CLUB PHILATELIST Vol. XXI No. 1, Page 1.



Fig. 1. Pair of the ½r. Wide Spacing showing the frame line cutting the left stamp.



Fig. 2. Pair of the ½r. Plate II, positions 1 and 2.

is regular, although there are some double impressions on Plate I. Both of these plates have given about 835,320 specimens which were released July 30, 1856.

"Plate III which is completely framed by a band (a line) and whose specimens are closer vertically, was set up rather carelessly; as a consequence of this negligence or awkwardness in the printing of the clichés, a large number of the specimens show double imprints either above or below in the ornamentation, or in the printing.

"Plate III is probably the one which has furnished the printing of 146,700 specimens released Dec. 30, 1856. It was the last printing of the blue medio real, because from 1857 on its use had become almost nil because of the increased letter rate decreed Dec. 20, 1856.

"Plates I, II and III served concurrently in 1861 for printings of the Medio Real, black on fawn".

This is quite explicit so presumably DeSmeth and Fayolle had large blocks or sheets available, of which there are a number in existence today. The authors state only Plate III had a frame line. But this is evidently an error as certainly one other plate started life with a frame line, and I am reasonably sure that the remaining plate had a frame added very early in its existence. Charles J. Phillips in his catalog said that Plate I had no line, Plate II a thin line and Plate III a heavy line all around. I have marginal pairs, widely spaced, which could not be from Plate III yet have frame lines, one (Fig. 1) from the left side of the sheet, 9th row, shows the frame line cutting into the design. I believe this comes from Plate II. Another pair is shown (Fig. 2) in the dark blue shade, soft wove paper, which I secured from the Wilson stock and was marked I, positions 1 and 2. This just shows a frame line at the edge of the paper some 2 mm. away. In the Chapman Sale in 1930 there was listed a full sheet of 60, Puebla district, as being Plate II (with frame). Mr. Chapman also had a full sheet of the narrow setting, Plate III. Mr. Eduardo Aguirre had a half sheet of 30, Morelia district, indicated as coming from Plate I. This was without evidences of a frame line.

All three plates are now known to have been used for printing the Medio Real of 1861. The very worn impressions appear to come mostly from Plate III. All three plates seem to be singularly free from flaws, the only defects being in the doubling of the impression at top or bottom.

It will be noted that there were no printings of the Medio Real, in blue, after 1856 because the new rates practically made this value obsolete. In the Decree of February 21st, 1856 the following rates were set up:

(Translation)

First Tariff

which includes from one to 30 leagues.

Franked Correspondence.

One-quarter ounce, but not over one-half ounce	½ real
Of one-half ounce	1 real
Of three-quarters ounce	1½ reales
Of one ounce	2 reales

etc.

Second Tariff
which includes from 30 leagues upwards.
Franked Correspondence.

One-quarter ounce but not over one-half ounce	1 real
One-half ounce	1½ reales
Three-quarters ounce	2 reales
The ounce	3 reales
One ounce and one-quarter	3½ reales
One ounce and one-half	4½ reales

etc.

The expenses of the postal service, in such an unsettled and primitive country as Mexico in the mid-19th century, created too great a loss under this tariff so that a new decree was made on December 15, 1856 raising the rates and lowering the distance involved in the First Tariff to only 16 leagues, about 45 miles.

(Translation)

First Tariff.
which includes from one to 16 leagues.

For one-quarter ounce	1 real
For one-half ounce	2 reales
For three-quarter of an ounce	3 reales
For one ounce	4 reales

etc.

Second Tariff.
which includes from 16 leagues upward.

For one-quarter ounce	2 reales
For one-half ounce	3 reales
For three quarters of an ounce	4 reales
For one ounce	5 reales

etc.

Thus it will be seen that the original demand for stamps had been mostly for ½ and 1 real, while the change of rates created the greater use for the 1 and 2 reales eliminating the need for any of the medio real stamps at all.

The stamps in blue from Plate III would be practically non-existent today were it not for the fact that the authorities decided in 1861 to use up the printing of December 1856 on hand, by sending them out in large quantities to districts to use in pairs and strips or blocks for the 1 and 2 reales while awaiting the issue of the new set in April. In all 214,918 of the Medio Real were sent out in the first three and one-half months of 1861 accounting for a large proportion of the pairs or larger pieces commonly found for this denomination.

Un Real.

Two plates were originally made, both of 60 impressions, 10 x 6 widely spaced. With the increased demand in 1857 two more plates were made, each of 200 impressions, 20 x 10, but much closer together. These, with a similar 2 reales, are always termed the "Narrow Spaced" stamps, whereas all those in the plates of 60 are referred to as the "Wide Spaced" stamps.

For a long time it was unknown as to just how many plates were used for the 1 real but I believe it is now reasonably well proven that there were four. Due to the pale orange yellow color, Mr. Wilson had considerable trouble in plating this stamp. He indicated the existence of two plates of 60 each, but thought there was only one plate of 200. Mr. Phillips in his catalog of 1917 was in doubt also, and I quote from his book, page 12:

"1 Real. 1856. Plate I. Printed in sheets of sixty stamps arranged in ten rows of six. The stamps are very wide apart, both horizontally and vertically, and single specimens may be found with superb margins. The stamps are much out of alignment and are irregularly placed on the plate. Further study may show us there are several plates of these wide spaced stamps with outer line round the plate, and one without any line.

"1856. Plate II. This appears to have been in a sheet of 200, arranged in ten rows of twenty stamps. The stamps are placed much closer together, varying from almost touching to 3 mm. apart. Thick outer line round the whole sheet."

Aguirre echoes Wilson in assigning two plates of 60, and one of the large size of 200 with the thick frame line.

DeSmeth and Fayolle are the only authority I can find for definitely stating four plates, *two of 60 each,* widely spaced (a thick frame line for one, a very thin line for the other)



Fig. 4. The 1r. Plate IV, examples showing the right side of the stamp unprinted.

and *two of 200 each,* narrow spaced, each with a frame line. Apparently this was based on the Chapman collection which contained a block of 102 from what we shall call Plate III, together with blocks of 60, 30, 11 and 15, which had to come from a fourth Plate because they were all of the narrow setting yet did not tally with the large block of 102. This latter piece from Plate III shows the variety, position 55, of the part impression of the 4 reales upon the face of Hidalgo.

There have been several explanations for this unusual variety which is priced at £12 in Gibbons'. Mr. P. L. Pemberton thought it arose through the printing of the 1 real on a discarded plate of 4 reales from which one of the old impressions was not completely burnished. He evidenced the use of an old plate of the 10 centavo of 1874 for the 25 centavo. Mr. S. Chapman had a more ingenious explanation which he embodied in a letter to Mr. Pemberton in commenting on the theory of the re-use of an old plate. This was published in "the Philatelic Journal of Great Britain", No. 561, page 168, from which we quote:

"The old theory (viz. Pemberton's) is untenable, because this impression of the 4r. on the 1r. occurs on a plate of 200 stamps, whereas the 4r. was only printed on a plate for 60. I had a good sized block in my collection which included this particular stamp unused, (this was the block of 102 referred to above) and I feel satisfied that the peculiarity arose simply through an accident. When I was in the old Post Office (in Mexico) they used to have a substantial sort of table running alongside a wall for a good many feet, and I can imagine something similar in 1856. Let us assume that the plate of 200 of the 1 real was left on the table, and with the intention of printing some more 4r., the die was resting on it. A labourer comes in with two or three reams of paper which he would be carrying on his back. He moves up to the table and dumps them down on top of the die and plate. This gives just sufficient rock as the paper would be raised by the thickness of the die, but would fall over when clear of it, so that the pressure not being even would not cause the whole design of the 4r. to be pressed into the brass plate. After conferring with a man accustomed to handling metal, as well as with philatelists, I have no doubt in my own mind this is the *simple* explanation."

With which I agree.* I have a used pair

* Some other students of Mexico or early methods used for printing stamps who have discussed and studied this variety do not share Mr. Stier's agreement with the Chapman theory that he has quoted as the explanation or accounting for this variety. *(The Editor)*

in my collection, one stamp showing the part impression of the 4r. but the pale color does not lend itself to photography so that it cannot be reproduced here. This plate III is not supposed to have been used for the 1861 issue since no copy of this variety has been found in that printing.

The two plates of 60 impressions furnished printings in the amount of 646,130 stamps, issued July 30 and December 30, 1856. The two plates of 200 impressions supplied the balance of the printings of the yellow stamps, in all, 645,600 stamps. Plate IV only was used for the 1861 printings, a total of 1,013,-600 stamps, which near the end was giving extremely worn impressions.

There are two important flaws on these large plates. On Plate III, position unknown, is a horizontal crack half way up the left side of the stamp extending from the edge into the inner oval. On Plate IV, from the second down to the seventh vertical row of the right side of the plate, the stamps are only partly printed so that about one-fourth of the engraving on most of these does not show. Some interesting examples are shown from both the 1856 and 1861 printings (Fig. 4).

Dos Reales.

There are said to have been only two plates of this denomination. One is Plate I, consisting of 60 stamps, (10 x 6) widely spaced and framed by a thin line. The printing was generally good. This plate served only for the first issue of 285,780 specimens, July 30, 1856. Besides the wide spacing, the shades are entirely different from those of the second or narrow spaced plate. Gibbons calls the colors, emerald green, sap-green, green; this last is quite a dark green. For the second plate, the common shade is a medium green with a yellow tint to a pale yellow green. There is also a rather scarce shade of dark blue green but it is not nearly as rare as the Scott price of $5.00 indicates.

Plate II consisted of 190 subjects, (10 x 19). The stamps are set closer, both horizontally and vertically. The first copies from this large plate came from the printing on December 30, 1856. This plate was also used for printing the 1861 and 1867 issues.



Fig. 3. Copies of the 2r. 1861 showing double bottom ornaments. Plate II, position 185.

It was not until Mr. Chapman's discoveries in the Post Office Records that this plate was proved to be of 190 rather than of 200 as was the plate of the 1 real. In "the London Philatelist" of December, 1911, Chapman first published his discoveries. In a display and paper before the Royal Philatelic Society he said:

"It may be assumed that some accident happened to the plate of the 2 r . . . and that a piece was cut off. The remittance to Mexico, January 3rd, 1857 consisted of 3000 of this value, but a week after, viz. on January 10th, the number invoiced was 1900, and from this date all remittances were multiples of 190. Further, the only printing in 1867, which was done in August of that year, amounted to 81,320—428 sheets of 190, and each printing in 1868, down to the last in June of that year—9310—49 sheets—confirm the 190 multiple. I submit specimens of stamps showing a flaw which was apparently getting worse, and would shortly have required either more cutting away or a new plate."

The flaw to which Mr. Chapman referred is now known as the "large crack" on the plate, position number 189. Shown is a similar series (Fig. 5) the first four copies are in the green color of 1856; the second four are black or grey-black of 1861-67 issue.

There are numerous other flaws and cracks on this Plate, one of which is quite pronounced, being the doubling of the bottom ornaments (Fig. 3) This was position 185, which apparently had been corrected because it is quite scarce. There is also a sharp horizontal crack half way up the side very similar to that mentioned for the 1r.



Fig. 5. The 2r. green, the large crack on the plate extending upward from the bottom. Bottom Row: The same on the 2r. black on pink of 1861.

In all the handbooks and literature which discuss the plates of the first issue, I can find no mention of the possibility of more than two plates of the 2 reales, the denomination used in the largest amount. Yet I am almost sure that there was a third plate, probably of the large size, and intended for use in the 1861 issue. As Mr. Chapman has pointed out, the large plate printing for the 2 r. green was rapidly wearing out.

The evidence in favor of this third plate is as follows.

In December, 1893, Mr. E. F. Cottilla, of St. Louis, Mo. offered to a well-known firm in London (Stanley Gibbons, I believe it was) three original plates of 1856, two of 1 real, and one of 2 reales. He stated: "the plates are of steel, and their dimensions 20 x 10", that is to say, 200 stamps on each plate. Unfortunately the firm did not accept the offer. This information is quoted from Chapman but it has been published by others from time to time. Mr. Chapman continued, "It will be noted that Cottilla says 200 stamps on each plate, and failing any better suggestion, may I put forward a theory that in view of the continued deterioation of the 190 plate the authorities may have had a new plate made, but that it was never used, and that this is the plate that went to St. Louis".

It is true that all printings of the 2 r. after 1856 and through the 1861 issue are in multiples of 190, yet it is curious that in sending out consignments on April 18-19, 1861, to fifty-one of the Principal Districts, none of the shipments were in groups of 190 stamps! It is also true that the shipments are not divisible by 200 either. But of the 51 sendings, 43 are divisible by 60 which might indicate the temporary use of Plate I, wide setting of 60.

It seems impossible to reconstruct entirely either the Plate I or II due to the great scarcity of strips and blocks. Of Plate I, I believe the largest piece known is a vertical strip of 5, on cover, once in the Lagerloef collection. With Plate II we are more fortunate. There are several blocks of 6 in the green printing, and I have a block of 7 used on cover. (Fig. 6). In the 1861 printing Mr. Odfjell had a possibly unique block of 90, right nine vertical rows from top to bottom of the sheet.

It may be remarked here, that if this Plate II was the only one used from 1857 on, it gave in excess of 12,955 sheets, the last ones being in an extremely worn state.

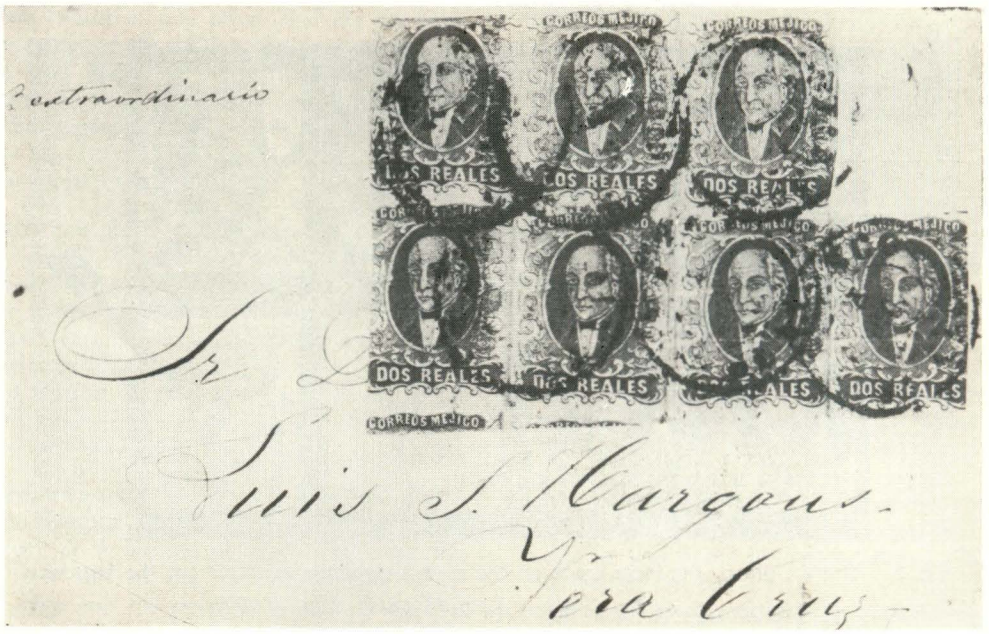


Fig. 6. Block of 7 of the 2r. Plate II on cover.

Cuatro Reales.

This was printed from two plates, both of 60 subjects (10 x 6). The first is set very wide apart being framed by a thin line all around. The transfer from the die was not too successful, there being quite a few double impressions on part of the design. The second plate is also of 60 but is much more narrowly spaced vertically, and there is no frame line to the sheet. The late Mr. W. T. Wilson did a remarkable job in reconstructing Plate I. We quote from his remarks in the "Philatelic Journal of India", May, 1913:

"There was only one plate wide printed, which I had reconstructed wanting only 3 or 4 stamps. (!) In addition to the carmine red (1856), the black on yellow and rose on yellow (1861), and some of the 1867 Provisional, red on yellow and rose on blue, were printed from this Plate. The reprints also were made from it."

As to be seen later, I believe Mr. Wilson meant that only the reprints of the 4r carmine were made from this plate. To continue, regarding the Plate II, "—used for— the 4r. black on yellow, red on yellow, (1861-64), the red on yellow, rose on blue, (1867-68). Stamps from this Plate are singularly rare in black on yellow. Very few can have been used. A small remainder without overprint were found—very few indeed with overprint, unused. This plate must have disappeared. So far I have never seen a reprint from it. Common as the 4r. reprints are, all I have examined are from Plate I."

If no reprints of the 4r. had shown up by 1913, they must have appeared on the philatelic scene very shortly thereafter because Mr. Hausburg writing in "Gibbons Monthly Journal" of June, 1914, was able to illustrate the complete sheet from Plate II in the reprints in the 1861 colors. They bore faked cancellations and overprints. Perhaps Mr. Wilson was mistaken, for the great majority of the very common reprints of the 4r. 1856 and of the 4r. 1861, both colors, found today are from this Plate II. Illustrated is a block of 6 from the top right corner of the sheet, black on yellow paper, which shows the careful work and even settings from this plate. (Fig. 7).



Fig. 7. Reprint of the 4r. black on yellow from Plate II, upper right corner of the sheet.

Plate I of the 4 r. was the only one used for the 1856 issue so that any stamps in the vermilion shades, that can be identified as from Plate II, must of necessity be the reprints. Many forged District names exist on the original stamps.

Ocho Reales.

For a long time it was believed that there were two plates of 60 each, both wide setting, one printing the 1856 issue and the other that of 1861. Now it is established that there was only the one plate for both issues. The apparent differences being that the very poor printings found in the Second Issue, especially the green on brown, are due to the poor quality of paper used which did not take the impression well. This plate is surrounded by a thin frame line set very close to the stamps, in fact it cuts into the design of stamps in positions 18 and 49. There is a complete sheet of the 8 r. violet, Victoria overprint, illustrated in DeSmeth and Fayolle. This was once in the fine collection of Mr. Odfjell and was shown by him at the 1950 London Exhibition. This 8 reales stamp is quite rare for nearly all of the Districts. Despite the wide margins between the horizontal rows, many copies are found closely trimmed.

A second plate of the 8 r. was prepared, but apparently never used for issued stamps. This plate also contained 60 entries, but unlike Plate I, there was no frame line in the margins of the plate and the impressions were spaced closer together vertically. This plate corresponds in appearance to Plate II of the 4 r. The great majority of reprints of the 8 r. were prepared from this second plate.

The following is a summary of the printings from the various plates for the 1856, 1861 and Provisional Issue of 1867:

1856

½ real, blue, Plates I, II (60)	835,320
½ real, blue, Plate III (60)	146,700
1 real, yellow, Plates I, II (60)	646,130
1 real, yellow, Plates III, IV (200)	645,600
2 real, green, Plate I (60)	285,780
2 real, green, Plate II (190)	1,299,600
4 real, carmine, Plate I (60)	167,160
8 real, Plate I (60)	100,440

1861

½ real, black on buff, Plates I, II, III	200,220
1 real, black on green, Plate IV	1,013,600
2 real, black on pink, Plate II	995,600
4 real, black on yellow, rose on yellow, Plates I, II	110,880
8 real, black on red brown green on red brown, Plate I	75,480

1867

½ real, black on grey, wmkd. Plate II	15,000
1 real, blue on grey, wmkd. Plate IV	26,200
2 real, green on grey, wmkd. Plate II	81,320
2 real, black on pink, Plate II, at least	93,220
4 real, pink on grey, wmkd. Plates I, II	13,470
4 real, rose on yellow, Plate I, II	30,887
4 real, red on white (1868) Plate I? about	5,800

(To be continued.)

Another Hawaiian Mystery

WELLS FARGO AND COMPANY EXPRESS - HONOLULU

By W. SCOTT POLLAND, M.D.

The purpose of this paper is to call attention to the paucity of philatelic material existent while the Wells Fargo and Company Express operated in Hawaii before 1883. Philatelic books and articles on Hawaii or on Western Franks give very little data about the activities of this Company at a much earlier period, that is in the 1850's. The recent finding of a stampless cover from this period and some companion items, (Figures 1 and 1A), led to some research upon this subject which has resulted in the following information:

1. The First Period 1853-1862

In 1853 there were at least three express companies operating in Hawaii or doing business through local firms or agents:

1. Wells Fargo and Company
2. Adams and Company
3. Gregory and Company

Lewis and Company was the first to represent Wells Fargo and Company. They failed after a few months. In the Honolulu newspaper "Weekly Argus", under date of

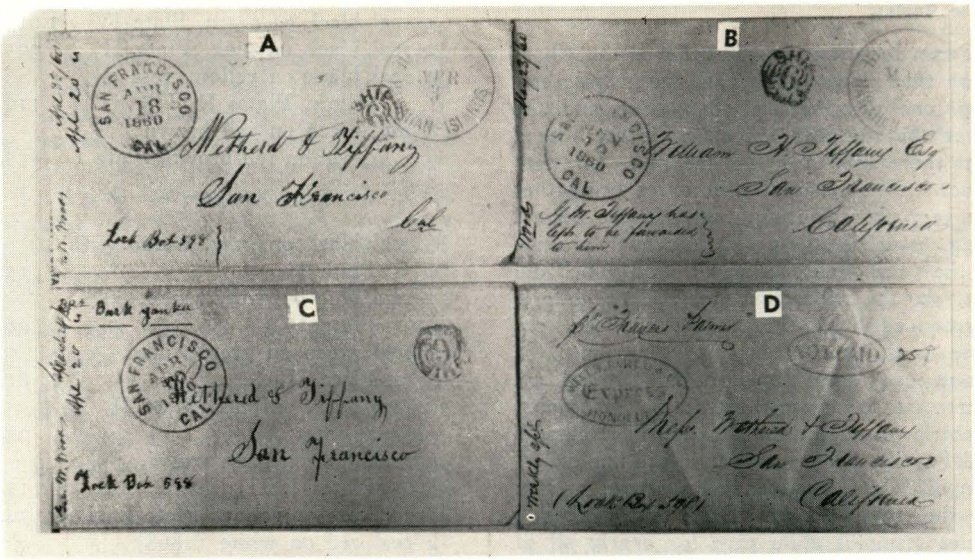


Figure 1. Wells Fargo marks are in blue (D). This cover was apparently carried outside the mail, although addressed to Lock Box 598. Covers A, B and C went through the United States Post Office. Covers A and B went through the Hawaiian Post Office as well.

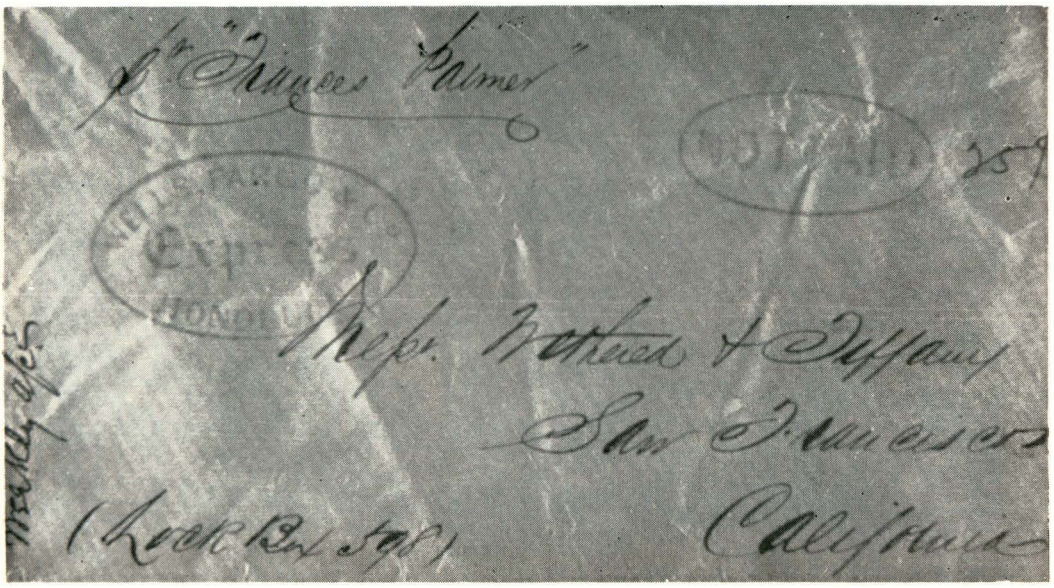


Figure 1A. Enlargement of Wells Fargo cover.

April 21, 1853, the following acknowledgements were made:

"We are under obligation to Lewis and Company of Wells Fargo and Company for late Atlantic Papers; also Mr. Everet of Adams and Company Express".

Later in 1853, Lewis and Company was succeeded by Mitchell and Fales, ship chandlers. Like their predecessor, they had a short duration. A picture of their premises showing the name of Wells Fargo and Company appears on a lithographic plate, one of a series of views of Honolulu done in 1853 by the artist, Paul Emmert, (See Figures 2 and 3.) Their building was located at the corner of Nuuanic and Marine streets, opposite the head of Merchant street. (The story of Paul Emmert and his sketches of Honolulu, which Burgess drew on stone, and which were afterwards lithographed in San Francisco was told by Mr. Warren Goodale, "Papers of the Hawaiian Historical Society", Number 10, Honolulu in 1853". Mr. Goodale, who arrived in the Islands in 1847, had been Collector-General of Customs of Honolulu in 1853.)

On July 2, 1856 an advertisement appears in "the Commercial Advertiser" of Honolulu, which shows that the Company was then represented by R. Coady and Company, (See Figures No. 4 and No. 5). This states, "Letters for San Franciso, in Governmental Envelopes, will hereafter be taken at 12½ cents each, and will be delivered in any part of the city ahead of the mail".

Coady held the agency until his death in 1858. In 1861-1862 A. J. Cartwright became the agent as evidenced by advertisements in "The Polynesian", a weekly newspaper.

From 1862 until August 11, 1883 no further mention of Wells Fargo appears in the Hawaiian newspaper consulted. Apparently the Company had decided to abandon their business in this area. One could speculate as to reasons for this, but it is only necessary to remember that this was the period when Wells Fargo was making monumental progress in Western United States so that business to far-distant Hawaii was of lesser concern to them. There was a greater challenge and a larger return from the gold fields of California, Nevada, Idaho, etc. than in the commerce to these islands.

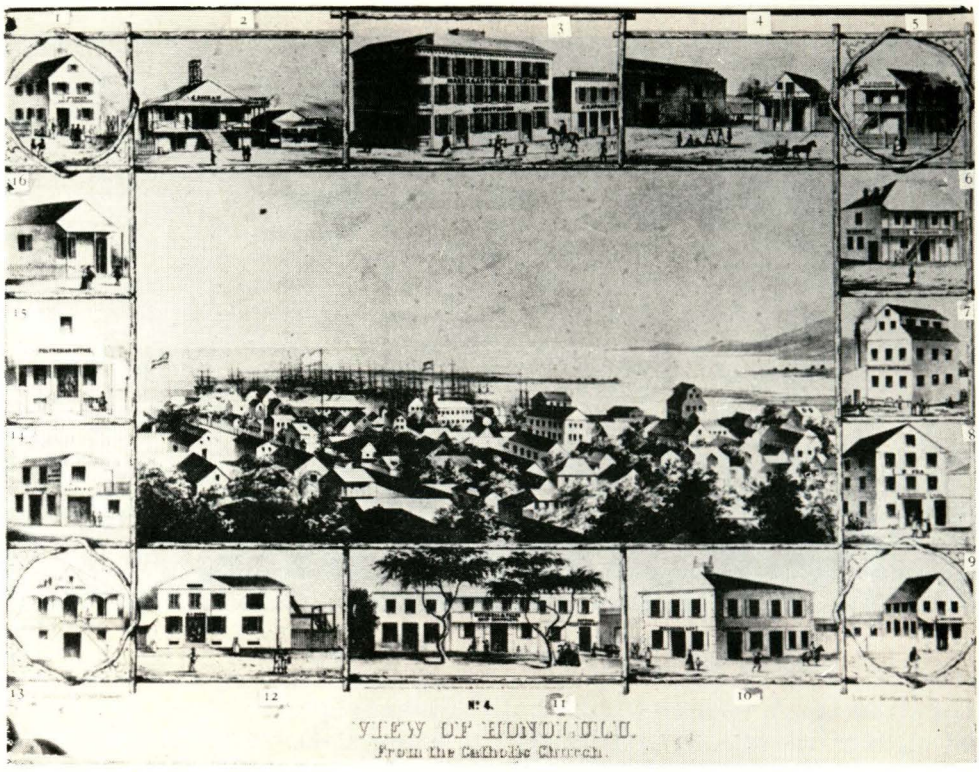


Figure 2. Lithograph of Honolulu from painting done by Paul Emmert in 1853. Plate No. 4.

1. T. Spencer, shipchandler
2. Rice and Company
3. Makee and Anthons
4. C. B. Brewer and Company
5. D. N. Flitner
6. J. C. Spalding
7. Honolulu Iron Works
8. Henry Sea and R. Coady and Company
9. Von Holt and Heuck
10. Melchers and Company
11. Mitchell and Fales and Company
    Express Wells Fargo and Company
12. B. F. Snow
13. Porter and Ogden
14. Allen and Company
15. Polynesian Office
16. Hawaiian Steam Navigation Co.

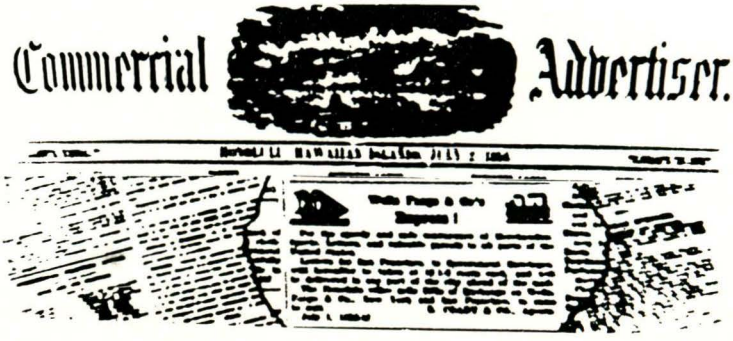


Figure 4. Commercial Advertiser, July 2, 1856

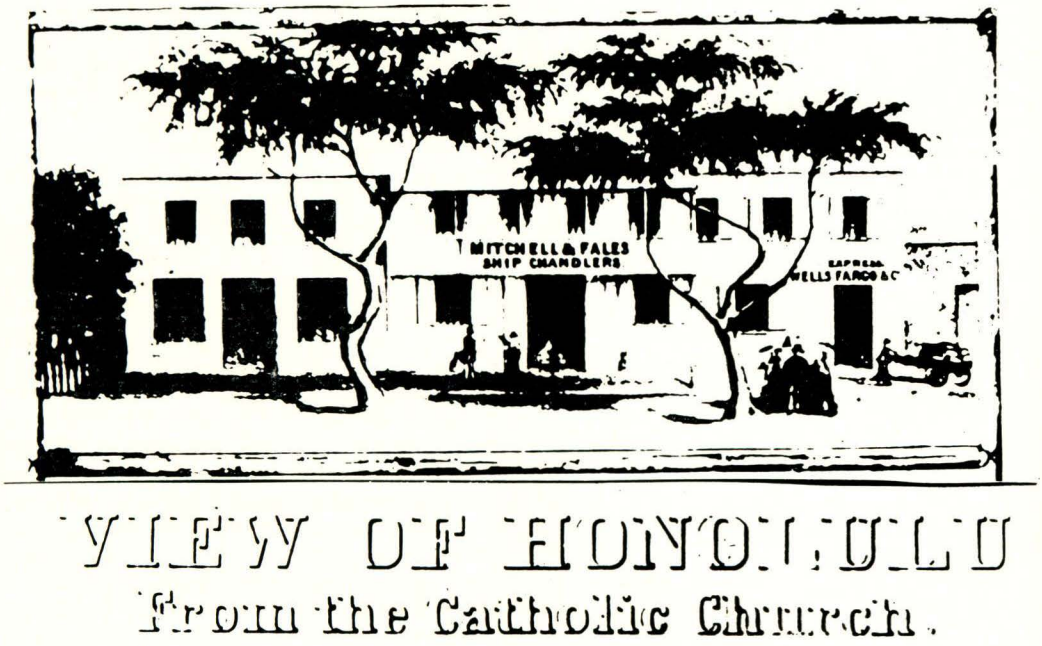


Figure 3. Enlargement from Figure #2 showing office of Mitchell and Fales, ship chandlers. To the right is their office of Wells Fargo and Company in 1853.

2. The Second Period — 1883- ?

On August 11, 1883, on page three of "the Pacific Commercial Advertiser" of Honolulu appears the following article:

"Wells Fargo and Company have determined to open a branch establishment. For this purpose, Mr. A. Andrews arrived by the Mariposa on July first, 1883. The business of the company is to forward and deliver goods to all parts of the world, sending them from here by the Oceanic Steamer's line of steamers. A messenger will be on each boat from the coast, etc."

"Letters sent by their agency will be dropped into a boat immediately upon the arrival of each steamer and be brought on shore and delivered before those that come by mail can reach the post office, etc."

Mr. Andrews called upon Mr. Whitney to inquire if any objection would be raised by him or the Government to the Express Company carrying letters between Honolulu and San Francisco or return. The Postmaster replied that as far as he could now learn that no objection would be made, provided the law which required five or ten cents to be prepaid on letters for each half ounce in weight, and two cents for each two

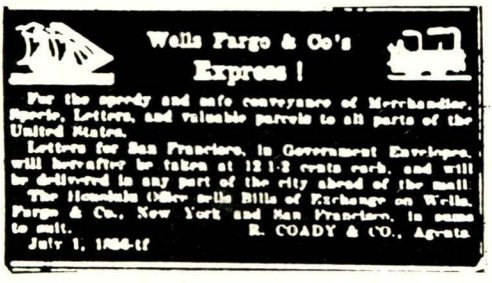


Figure 5. Advertisement by R. Coady and Company concerning Wells Fargo and Company.

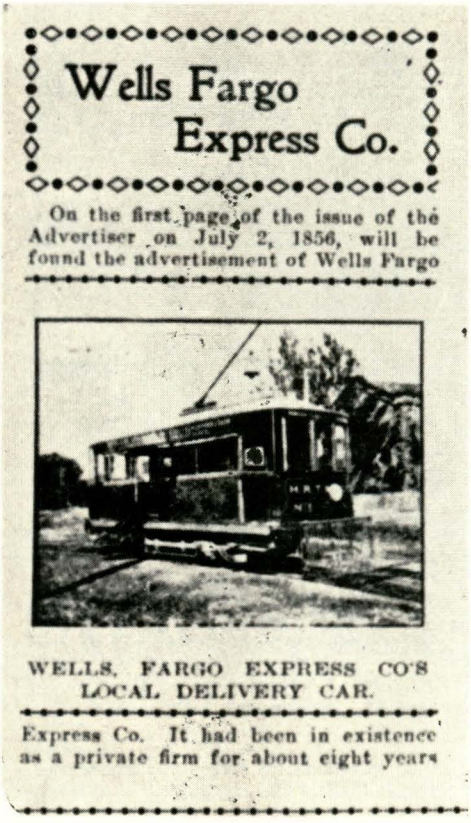


Figure 6. Photograph from the Pacific Commercial Advertiser, Honolulu, July 2, 1906. This car was used to deliver packages wherever the car runs.

ounces in newspapers is complied with, and all other regulations followed. As the statute says, "It shall be unlawful for any individual to convey any letters from port to port, meaning thereby a regular business and for profit; it is probable that the letters brought by the Express Company and addressed to other places than Honolulu will be required to go through the Hawaiian mails, will require Hawaiian stamps, namely, two cents for each half ounce. Envelopes with Hawaiian stamps will soon be issued by the Post Office Department and will be furnished the company, on which will be placed the well known mark of W. F. & Co."

In 1885, the Minister of Interior, the Kingdom of Hawaii, gave notice that G. W. MacFarlane was authorized to act as Wells Fargo of San Francisco agent, and was responsible for legal process in that country. In 1887, Wells Fargo and Company was doing business under the name, Wells Fargo and Company of Hawaii, apparently a branch in its own right, separate and distinct from Wells Fargo and Company of San Francisco.

On July 2, 1906, "the Pacific Commercial Advertiser" published its fiftieth anniversary number. On page 8 there is a photograph of the Wells Fargo and Company special delivery trolley car, which operated over the tracks of the Honolulu Transit Company, (See Figure No. 6). Exactly when Wells Fargo and Company stopped its mail transportation in Hawaii has not been found out, but its several successors have continued the express business which is now conducted by the Railway Express Agency.

My deep appreciation and thanks go to the personnel of the Wells Fargo Museum at the Wells Fargo Bank in San Francisco, for the use of their material upon this subject; and to Ezra Cole of Nyack, New York for his excellent advice and suggestions for the use of the subject material.

W. SCOTT POLLAND, M.D., of Ross, California, is prominent in California Medical circles. He was the former President of the Marin County Medical Association, a past Governor of the California Heart Association and at present is a Governor of The Stanford University Medical Alumni Association and a member of the American Medical Association.

Dr. Polland has been a stamp collector for about 40 years. His special interests are Early U. S. and Western Americana. He has been affiliated with many stamp societies both national and regional. This is his first attempt at philatelic writing. Besides philately, Dr. Polland raises camellias to gain respite from his heavy medical schedule.

EARLY AMERICAN PERFORATING MACHINES AND PERFORATIONS

1857 - 1867

By WINTHROP S. BOGGS

(Continued from Page 80)

The Stamps Perforated by American Machines — 1857-67

Having discussed the construction and mechanism of the early perforating machines used in the United States, now we come to the *second part of our study, which is an examination of the stamps perforated by these machines from 1857 to 1867 inclusive.*

As we have seen, Toppan, Carpenter & Co., imported the first rotary perforating machine from Bemrose & Sons of Derby, England, for use on United States stamps. The perforating of these stamps began late in 1856 if not sooner, as the 3c was issued in February 1857, followed by the 1c in July of that year. These stamps are of particular interest for three reasons, as they are:

1. the first stamps regularly issued perforated in America.
2. the only ones having a 15 gauge perforation.
3. the only ones perforated by a Bemrose machine in its original state[18].

In 1858, Toppan, Carpenter & Co. along with eight other bank note companies, merged to form the American Bank Note Co. As we have noted, a new machine gauging "11¾" (11.60) was made to perforate sheets of 100 (10 x 10) of the stamps of Canada, for which Rawdon, Wright, Hatch & Edson held the contract.

Our next step therefore is to study the perforations of the stamps made by the American Bank Note Company to 1867 inclusive. Below we list in chronological order the countries and stamps which were produced by them as follows:[19]

1858 Canada
½ p rose #11
3 p red #11
6 p brown violet #13

1859 Canada
1 c rose #14
2 c rose #20
5 c vermilion #15
10 c black brown #16
10 c red lilac #17
12½ c green #18
17 c blue #19

1860 New Brunswick
1 c red lilac #6
2 c orange #7
5 c (Connell) #5
5 c green #8
10 c vermilion #9
12½ c blue #10
17 c black #11

(18) It is interesting to note that in 1891 Bemrose & Sons, Ltd. were printers of the Railway Letter Fee stamps for the following railways: Brecon & Merthyr, Cheshire Lines, East & West Junction, Midland, Somerset & Dorset, South Eastern & Chatham, Taff Vale, and West Lancashire. The stamps were perforated 10 or 11. In all probability Bemrose used rotary perforators. British students may be able to determine this point definitely. These stamps went out of use in 1941. See "Railway Letter Stamps of Great Britain" in "The Encyclopaedia of British Empire Postage Stamps, Volume I, Great Britain and the Empire in Europe", Second Edition, 1952, published by Robson Lowe, Ltd., London, England. Also "The Railway Letter Stamps of Great Britain 1891-41", by A. J. Ecclestone and Sydney R. Turner, Part I, 1946; Part II, 1949; Part III, 1953. Privately printed.

(19) All catalogue numbers are from the Standard Postage Stamp Catalogue, Vol. I, 1954 Edition, Scott Publications, New York.

1860 Nova Scotia
1 c black #8
2 c lilac #9
5 c blue #10
8½ c green #11
10 c vermilion #12
12½ c black #13

1862 Nicaragua
2 c blue #1
5 c black #2

1863 Costa Rica
½ r blue #1
2 r scarlet #2
4 r green #3
1 p orange #4

1864 Mexico
1 r red #14
2 r blue #15
4 r brown #16
1 p black #17

1865 Newfoundland
2 c green #24
5 c brown #25
5 c black #26
10 c black #27
12 c red brown #28
13 c orange #30
24 c blue #31

1866 Brazil
10 r vermilion #53
20 r red lilac #54
50 r blue #56
80 r slate violet #57
100 r green #58
200 r black #59
500 r orange #60

1866 Peru
5 c green #16
10 c vermilion #17
20 c brown #18

1867 Argentine
5 c vermilion #18
10 c green #21
15 c blue #19

1867 Chile
1 c orange #15
2 c black #16
5 c red #17
10 c blue #18
20 c green #19

1867 Salvador
½ r blue #1
1 r red #2
2 r green #3
4 r bistre #4

A total of 61 stamps.

In our studies we found evidence that a third perforating machine was introduced, sometime during 1863. The existence of two machines, one gauging 11¾ (11.60) and the other 12 (11.85) had been proved by students of the 1859 issue of Canada[20]. However, the existence of a third machine hitherto has been unsuspected. As mentioned in the first portion, the *Instanta Gauge*[15] is used to measure these small differences in perforation. According to this gauge the three mechines perforate slightly different gauges as follows:

Introduced November 1858	11.60[21]
Introduced late 1861 or early 1862	11.85
Introduced late 1862 or early 1863	11.95

Thus there are nine possible perforation varieties obtainable from these three machines, as they were used together during the years 1863, 1864, and 1865.

The introduction of the second machine is definitely indicated by a letter to the Canadian P. O. Department as follows.[22]

March 28, '62

Dear Sir,

We have received your favor of 24th inst. We have now in course of preparation a large quantity of Five Cent Stamps, from which we shall send you a supply on Wednesday next, 2d April.

The demand for stamps from your Department, and the Departments in Nova Scotia and New Brunswick, has been, of late, so much greater than usual, that we have deemed it necessary to increase our facilities for producing them. The consequent changes in our machinery have caused delays on your recent orders, which will not occur when our new arrangements are completed.

Very Respectfully.

(Sgd.) F. W. EDMONDS, *Secy.*
W. R. BLISS

Wm. White, Esq. Sec.
P. O. Dept. Quebec.

(20) Notably Sen. James A. Calder, whose studies have been confirmed by later students. See "London Philatelist", Vol. 48, 1939, p. 58ff.

(21) See "Postage Stamps and Postal History of Canada", by Winthrop S. Boggs, Chambers 1945, Vol. I, p. 170, Vol. II, Appendix H 72.

(22) Op. cit. Appendix H, No. 103.

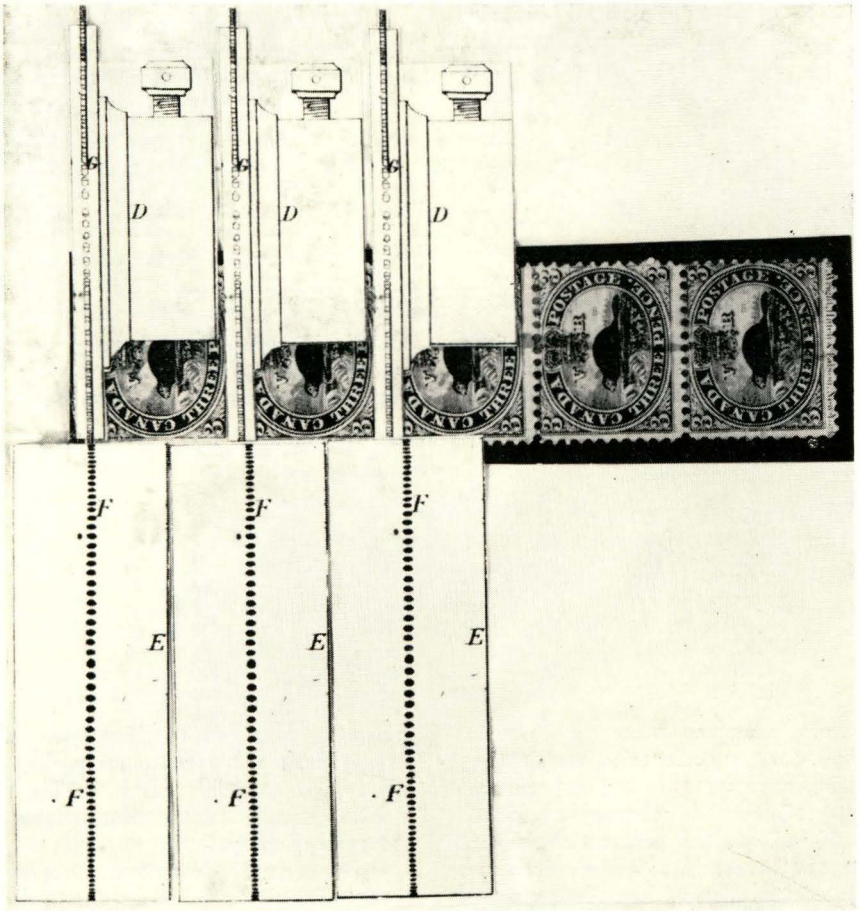


Fig. 16. This "reconstruction" of a rotary perforator modeled after the Bemrose machine shows that in the case of the 1859 issue of Canada the wheels of the perforator were as close together on the shaft as was possible, and in fact the counterpart wheels at least must have been somewhat narrower by about 10% or more than on the original Bemrose machine.

It was during the examination of the stamps of Nova Scotia, including many covers that we became aware of the third machine and its approximate date of introduction. This caused us to examine a quantity of the 1859 issue of Canada. The results were as follows:

1859 Canada Perforations

Perforations	Denominations.					
	1c	2c	5c	10c	12½c	17c
11.60 x 11.60	x		x	x*	x	x
11.60 x 11.85	x		x			
11.60 x 11.95			x			
11.85 x 11.85	x	x	x	x	x	x
11.85 x 11.60	x				x	x
11.85 x 11.95			x	x	x	x
11.95 x 11.95	x	x	x	x	x	
11.95 x 11.60	x	x		x	x	
11.95 x 11.85	x	x		x	x	x

* The 10c black brown is perf. 11.60x11.60 only.

In 1860 the first new decimal currency stamps of Nova Scotia and New Brunswick were issued. The first deliveries were perforated 11.60 x 11.60. All were printed in sheets of 100 (10 x 10).

Donald A. King in his "The Stamps of Nova Scotia"([23]) gives the following helpful table of deliveries:

	1c	2c	5c	8½c	10c	12½c
1860 (May 29)	250,000	—	750,000	—	500,000	200,000
(Oct. 6)	—	—	—	200,000	—	—
1862	400,000	—	1,000,000	400,000	500,000	400,000
1863	—	1,000,000	—	—	—	—
1864	500,000	—	1,200,000	—	—	—
1866	—	—	1,000,000	—	—	—
	1,150,000	1,000,000	3,950,000	600,000	1,000,000	600,000

The letter quoted above reflects the 1862 order for 2,700,000 stamps. By eliminating the last two zeros we obtain the number of sheets in any of the above given quantities.

We tabulate the results of our checking the perforations of the Nova Scotia stamps:

1860 - 67 Nova Scotia Perforations

Perforations	Denominations					
	1c	2c	5c	8½c	10c	12½c
11.60 x 11.60	x		x	x	x	x
11.60 x 11.85						
11.60 x 11.95	x		x			
11.85 x 11.85	x	x	x	x	x	x
11.85 x 11.60	x	x	x			
11.85 x 11.95		x	x			
11.95 x 11.95			x			
11.95 x 11.60	x	x	x			
11.95 x 11.85	x	x	x			

The covers examined were of help in showing how early a perforation was in use. The most important was the 12½c perforated 11.85 x 11.85 dated February 20, 1862, which would indicate this perforation was in use in late 1861 or early 1862. Further the 2c was placed on sale in May 1863, yet the 11.95 perforation occurs on this stamp, thus showing that this machine was introduced sometime late in 1862 or early 1863. Further study will probably result in the more accurate dating of the introduction of the 11.95 perforator.

In the case of New Brunswick, Mr. King's article([24]) gives us only the quantities of the first delivery.

1c	2c	5c (Connell) *	5c (Green)	10c	21½c	17c
200,000	500,000	500,000	200,000	400,000	100,000	

Once again by dropping the last two zeros we get the quantity of sheets.

The 2c was not issued until May 1863, and in this instance we must rely on our examination of the stamps to determine the perforations.

1860-67 New Brunswick Perforations

Perforations	Denominations.						
	1c	2c	5c (Connell) *	5c (Greene)	10c	21½c	17c
11.60 x 11.60	x		x	x	x	x	x
11.60 x 11.85	x			x			
11.60 x 11.95							
11.85 x 11.85							
11.85 x 11.60		x			x		
11.85 x 11.95							
11.95 x 11.95							
11.95 x 11.60					x		
11.95 x 11.85				x			

* The 5c (Connell) is perf. 11.60x11.60 only.

(23) "Stanley Gibbons Monthly Journal" Vol. V, 1894, p. 44.

(24) "Stanley Gibbons Monthly Journal" Vol. V., 1894, p. 136.

Turning now to *Nicaragua,* the 1862 issue was authorized by a decree of September 9, 1862, the order for printing given to the American Bank Note Company, and the stamps appeared in December. We quote from "The Stamps of Nicaragua" by Joseph B. Leavy([25]):

"These stamps have been erroneously catalogued as being perforated 11½. The American Bank Note Company never used any perforating machines except those that perforated 12. The perforations of a good many of the stamps will be found to measure 11¾, due undoubtedly to a contracting of the paper"*.

"*Having measured the perforations of strips of the 2c of 1862, and the 1c of 1871, I agree there is no appreciable difference in gauge. On the earlier stamps I find 59 holes in a space of 100 mm. and on the later 59½ holes in the same space! I doubt however, whether any contraction of the paper would take place after the sheets were perforated, as they must have been thoroughly dried previous to that operation. Ed. G. S. W."

Mr. Leavy and Maj. E. B. Evans were on the verge of discovering the difference between the 11.60 and 11.85 perforations, but the shrinkage fallacy stood in the way. We shall have more to say on this later.

Again we tabulate the results of our study:

1862 — Nicaragua Perforations

	2c (1862)	5c (1862)	10c (1869)	25c (1869)	1c (1871)
11.60 x 11.60	x	x			
11.60 x 11.85					
11.60 x 11.95					
11.85 x 11.85	x	x	x	x	x
11.85 x 11.60					
11.85 x 11.95	x				x
11.95 x 11.95		x	x	x	
11.95 x 11.60					
11.95 x 11.85			x		x

Theoretically compounds of the 11.60 machine do not exist, as this machine was retired prior to the second printings of the 2c and 5c, and the issue of the 1c, 10c and 25c. Thus the first issue of Nicaragua can be told by the perforations—always being 11.60 x 11.60.

Costa Rica is the next country to consider. Its first stamps appeared early in 1863.

In 1949, Mr. R. J. Mechin and Sr. Alex A. Cohen contributed a most important article on this issue to the COLLECTORS CLUB PHILATELIST([26]).

In the second portion of this article([27]), there appears an important chronology and table concerning the production and delivery of these stamps. We quote:—

"October 11, 1862—Order entered in record book for engraving plates for ½ and 2 reals stamps and printing 2500 impressions of each denomination, perforating and gumming".

"January 17, 1863—Bill to Costa Rica Post Office Department for engraving plates for ½ and 2 reals stamps and printing 2500 impressions of each denomination and tin and wood box".

September 30, 1863—Order entered in record book for engraving plates for 4 reales and 1 peso stamps, and printing 200 sheets of 4 reals, and 100 sheets of 1 peso".

"October 8, 1863—Letter from Secretary of The American Bank Note Company to Luis Molina, Legation of Costa Rica, Washington, D. C., notifying of stamps ready for shipment. (4 reals and 1 peso).

"September 1865—Order entered in record book for printing 5000 impressions of ½ real and 2 reals each. 500 impressions of 4 reals and 250 impressions of 1 peso".

Let us now construct a table as follows:

([25]) "Gibbons Stamp Weekly" Vol. X, 1909, July 3, p. 6.

([26]) Costa Rica, First Postage Stamps of 1863, COLLECTORS CLUB PHILATELIST, Vol. XXVII, 1948, No. 2, 3, 4.

([27]) COLLECTORS CLUB PHILATELIST, Vol. XXVII, July 1948, pp. 25/27.

Order of	Shipped	½ r	2 r	4 r	1 p
Oct. 11, 1862	Feb. 7, 1863	250,000	250,000	—	—
Sept. 30, 1863	Nov. 3, 1863	—	—	20,000	10,000
Sept. 1865	Oct. 14, 1865	200,000	200,000	50,000	25,000
Sept. 1865	Nov. 20, 1865	300,000	300,000	—	—
		750,000	750,000	70,000	35,000

Except for the ½ real there were no further printings of these stamps.

In examining a number of the stamps of this issue we found the following:—

1863 Costa Rica Perforations

	½r	2r	4r	1p
11.60 x 11.60	x	x		x
11.60 x 11.85				x
11.60 x 11.95				
11.85 x 11.85	x		x	x
11.85 x 11.60				
11.85 x 11.95			x	
11.95 x 11.95	x		x	
11.95 x 11.60				
11.95 x 11.85		x		

Thus it can be seen that the first printings of the ½r and 2r can be distinguished by the perforation 11.60 x 11.60.

A similar situation exists in the 1864 issue of Mexico, and the 1865 issue of Newfoundland. The orders for these stamps were no doubt in the hands of the Bank Note Company late 1863, and the middle of 1865 respectively.

The perforations we found on the stamps we examined of these issues were as follows:

1864 Mexico Perforations

Perforation	1r	2r	4r	1p
11.60 x 11.60				
11.60 x 11.85				
11.60 x 11.95				
11.85 x 11.85				
11.85 x 11.60				
11.85 x 11.95				x
11.95 x 11.95	x	x	x	x
11.95 x 11.60	x	x		x
11.95 x 11.85	x		x	

There were two printings, first in 1863, and again in 1867. The stamps having an 11.60 perforation are from the first printing. The others may be from the first printing but most likely they are from the later 1867 supply.

Sometime in 1865 the 11.60 machine was apparently discarded, or fitted with wheels which make it impossible to distinguish from the 11.85 or 11.95 machines. Consequently the later stamps will be found in only four varieties of perforation, viz:—

11.85 x 11.85
11.85 x 11.95
11.95 x 11.95
11.95 x 11.85

1865 Newfoundland Perforations

Perforations	Denominations. 2c	5c brown	5c black	10c black	12c red brn.	13c	24c
11.60 x 11.60							
11.60 x 11.85					x		
11.60 x 11.95							
11.85 x 11.85	x		x	x	x	x	x
11.85 x 11.60							
11.85 x 11.95							
11.95 x 11.95	x						
11.95 x 11.60							
11.95 x 11.85				x	x		

Brazil, July 1, 1866 (28)

	10r	20r	50r	80r	100r	200r	500r
11.85 x 11.85		x		x	x		
11.85 x 11.95		x					
11.95 x 11.95		x		x			
11.95 x 11.85					x		

Peru 1866

	5c	10c	20c
11.85 x 11.85	x	x	x
11.85 x 11.95	x		
11.95 x 11.95		x	

Argentine (29) **1867**

	5c	10c	15c
11.85 x 11.85		x	x
11.85 x 11.95			x

(28) The first order was entered in February 1866, and shipped April 27, 1866. See Brazil, Dom Pedro Issues, by Dr. Clarence W. Hennan, "American Philatelist" Vol. 45, March 1932, p. 270.

(29) Although issued in 1867-68, the actual manufacture took place in March 1867. See "Stanley Gibbons Monthly Journal" Vol. XX, 1912, p. 95/6, 236/7.

1867 Chile Perforations

Perforations	Denominations.				
	1c	2c	5c	10c	20c
11.85 x 11.85	x	x	x	x	
11.85 x 11.95			x	x	x
11.95 x 11.95	x	x	x		x
11.95 x 11.85		x	x		x

Salvador, June, 1867 (30)

	½r	1r	2r	4r
11.85 x 11.85	x		x	x
11.85 x 11.95	x	x	x	x
11.95 x 11.95	x	x	x	x
11.95 x 11.85	x			

Having examined the work of the American Bank Note Co., we now turn to that of its vigorous competitor, the National Bank Note Co., incorporated in November 1859. Although during the 1861-67 period it printed stamps for only two countries, namely the United States and Hawaii, the quantity of stamps printed was in excess of that of the American Bank Note Co., amounting to about 2,000,000 sheets of 200 stamps annually. We list herewith the stamps made by this company:

United States 1861-67

We list these according to Scott and Gibbons Type numbers, as these designs exist in a number of varieties all with the same perforations.

1c	Scott Type	A24a,A24	Gibbons Type	12
2c	Scott Type	A32	Gibbons Type	19
3c	Scott Type	A25a,A25	Gibbons Type	12
5c	Scott Type	A26a,A26	Gibbons Type	13
10c	Scott Type	A27a,A27	Gibbons Type	14
12c	Scott Type	A28a,A28	Gibbons Type	15
15c	Scott Type	A33	Gibbons Type	20
24c	Scott Type	A29	Gibbons Type	16
30c	Scott Type	A30	Gibbons Type	17
90c	Scott Type	A31a,A31	Gibbons Type	18

Hawaii 1864

2c vermilion #31
5c blue #32

In this instance, although we have checked a large number of stamps perforated by this company, we have found two slightly different gauges of perforation, namely, 11.85 and 11.95. There is no doubt that the volume of stamps produced by the National Bank Note Company required several machines in the perforating section. Furthermore the existence of the same perforation gauges that occur on the second and third American Bank Note Co.'s machines points to a common outside manufacturer. We might also point out that the National Bank Note Company machines either functioned extremely well or their operators were more skilled, as we find the perforating to be more clean cut and precise.

1861-67 - United States Perforations

	11.85	11.85 x 11.95	11.95	11.95 x 11.85
1c	x		x	x
2c	x	x		
3c	x	x	x	x
5c	x	x		
10c	x	x	x	x
12c	x	x		
15c	x	x		
24c	x	x	x	
30c	x	x		x
90c	x	x	x	x

1864-66 - Hawaii Perforations

	11.85	11.85 x 11.95	11.95	11.95 x 11.85
2c	x			x
5c		x	x	

As our readers may recall when discussing Nicaragua, the paper shrinkage fallacy stood in the way of early recognition of the two varieties of perforation on those stamps. Therefore, because some of our readers may question the classifying of such slight differences of perforation gauge as one-tenth or two-tenths, but believing that paper shrinkage is the reason for these differences, we point out the following considerations:

1st. If these variations are due to paper shrinkage, why do we not find all gradations of intermediate perforations such as 11.65, 11.70, 11.75, 11.80, 11.90 or 12.00 or such compounds as 11.60 x 11.75, etc.? We have only found 11.60, 11.85, or 11.95 perforations on the American Bank Note Company's work, and 11.85 or 11.95 on the National Bank Note Co.'s.

2nd. Line-engraved stamps during the period under consideration were always printed on damp paper, on hand presses with inks that in themselves were somewhat liquid. When the wet sheet removed from the press was dried, it shrank to a greater or lesser degree. After being dried, it was again wetted to some extent by the gum-

(30) See Joseph B. Leavy, Stamps of Salvador, "Stanley Gibbons Monthly Journal", (Vol. XVIII, p. 62).

ming process, and dried the second time, perhaps again shrinking slightly more.

Thus it can be seen that the sheets were pre-shrunk before they went to the perforating machines. Later wettings by collectors would have little effect. There is a limit to which shrinking occurs; if that were not so, the stamp would eventually disappear. Stamps are known to disappear but not from shrinkage. Any one can think of other stamps to illustrate this point. The 10d Canada for instance is known with wide or narrow impressions due to shrinkage, but we have never had one shrink measurably after we soaked it.

Furthermore, these stamps were printed on a paper made of cotton and/or linen rags. To apply an everyday analogy, our cotton or linen garments shrink the first time they are washed, and to a slight extent the second time, but successive later washings apparently have no noticeable effect, a circumstance which is perhaps fortunate for all concerned.

Now to summarize our study of the perforations of the American Bank Note Company, from 1858 to 1867 inclusive. We conclude that:

1. The first machine that the company used, began operations November 23rd 1858, on 1000 sheets of Canada ½p, which were shipped two days later. The perforations of this machine gauge 11.60.

2. Late in 1861 or by January 1862 a *second* machine was introduced, the perforations from this machine gauging 11.85.

3. About a year later a *third* machine was introduced, the perforations of which gauge 11.95.

4. Sometime in 1865 the first machine either was discarded or equipped with new wheels gauging 11.85 or 11.95, for the 11.60 perforation does not appear to occur after 1865.

5. The 11.85 machine was reserved for the British Provinces until late 1863, as the first Nicaragua and Costa Rica stamps do not appear with 11.60 compounds.

From these conclusions we make the following observations:

1. The first printing of *New Brunswick* 1860 are perforated 11.60 x 11.60. Therefore *genuine Connell stamps only occur with this perforation.*

2. The first printing of *Nova Scotia* 1860 are perforated 11.60 x 11.60.

3. The 1862 printings of the 2c and 5c of the first issue of *Nicaragua* are perforated 11.60 x 11.60.

4. The first printings of *Costa Rica* 1863 ½R and 2R are perforated 11.60 x 11.60.

5. Any stamps of the 1864 issue of *Mexico* perforated 11.60 either vertically or horizontally or the 1865 issue of Newfoundland are from the first printings.

6. The stamps of *Argentina, Brazil, Chile, Peru* and *Salvador* not being made until 1865 or later are perforated only 11.85, 11.95 and compounds of these.

Varieties of Perforating

We have now finished two portions of our study. There remains the third which has to do with the *varieties of perforating* as distinguished from the varieties of perforation. The first variety of perforating is imperforate horizontally or vertically as the case may be. We note those listed in English language catalogues:

United States

Imperforate Horizontally	1857	1c — Type V	— 24c [19]
		3c — Type I	— 25b
		3c — Type II	— #26c
	1861	1c —	— 63d
		3c —	— #65d
		5c —	— #67d
		10c —	— #68b
	1867	3c — 9 x 13 grill	— #94c
Imperforate Vertically	1857	3c — Type I	— #25a
		3c — Type II	— #26b
	1873	3c —	— #158h

(The S. G. Catalogue also lists 1862 — 2c #146e — Var. of Scott's #63)

Canada				
	Imperforate Horizontally	1859	12½c —	— #18c
New Brunswick				
	Imperforate Vertically	1860	1c	— #6b
Nova Scotia				
	Imperforate Vertically	1860	1c	— #8c
Nicaragua				
	Imperforate Vertically	1869	— 10c	— #6a
Costa Rica				
	Imperforate Horizontally	1863	**½r**	— 3a
			2r	— 4a
	Imperforate Vertically		½r	— 3b
			2r	— 4a
Brazil				
	Imperforate Vertically	1866	200R	— 59a

The explanation of these varieties is simple enough. The sheet was only passed through the machine in one direction, and by error or carelessness failed to be put through in the other direction.

The next variety is that of *horizontal or vertical pairs Imperforate between.* We list those appearing in the catalogues:—

United States

Horizontal pairs imperforate between

1857 —	1c — Type III A Plate IV	— 22b (19)
	3c — Type II	— 26d
	12c — Black	— #36b
1873 —	3c —	— #158i
	10c —	— #161d

In Canada there is only one such variety, namely the 1882, ½c black No. 34b—*which only occurs in horizontal pairs.* Observe that no vertical pairs imperforate between are listed. Also that only the United States and Canadian stamps exist with this variety.(31). Before offering an explanation of this variety, we call attention to certain facts about the sheet make-up and the construction of the perforating machine.

It was the usual practice to first perforate the sheets vertically, but not to divide the panes during that operation.

The sheets of 200 or 300 already perforated vertically—*but imperforate between the panes* were then perforated horizontally. Now the gutter between the panes was not perforated on any work of the National, Continental, or American Bank Note Companies. Toppan, Carpenter & Co. did not perforate the gutters on sheets from the plates for imperforate stamps. These were:

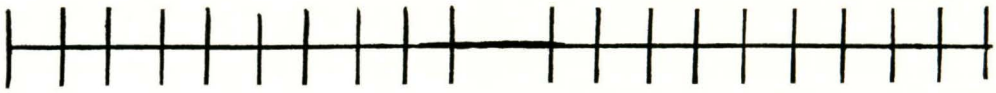
1c — Pl 1 to IV, and possibly V
3c — Pl 1 to IX
5c — Pl 1
10c — Pl 1
12c — Pl 1

The later Toppan, Carpenter & Co. plates made for perforated stamps did not have the panes separated by so wide a gutter, so that the sheets from these plates could be and were sometimes perforated down the gutter.

Let us now refer to the perforating machine. In order to perforate a sheet of twenty stamps wide, there would have to be twenty-one perforating wheels. These would perforate completely a sheet vertically. However, as pointed out earlier, the vast majority of sheets were *not* perforated down the division between the panes—hence our left or right straight edges on the United

(31) The Stanley Gibbons Catalogue lists several other varieties, but we do not think that the description in this catalogue is precise enough between imperforate horizontally or vertically, and imperforate between. Compare Nova Scotia Scott No. 8c with S. G. No. 18a. We have seen a block of Scott No. 8c, and suggest that S. G. No. 18a is the same variety, not an imperforate between pair. It is also difficult to be certain whether New Brunswick S. G. No. 12a is imperforate vertically or an imperforate between pairs but we are inclined to believe the first.

States stamps from 1857 to 1889. The panes were not cut apart until after all the perforating was completed. Therefore, the shaft with the perforating wheels had twenty such wheels, arranged in two groups of ten separated by a space of two stamps, thus:



The Explanation:

According to Fig. 1, item C, and the description, page 3, lines 24 to 30—"The paper or other material to be perforated or ornamented,—is laid upon the fixed bed or table A, which is supported by brackets cast on the side standards B, B, of the Machine, *and is fitted with a movable gauge C, against the edge of which the sheet is placed,* and pushed forward until it comes in contact with the punching or perforating rollers D, E, when it is carried forward and perforated."

From this description, it can be seen that if the movable gauge C was shifted too far to left or right, the sheet would be perforated too far to left or right; but where the shift was equal to one vertical row of stamps, the dividing line between the panes would be perforated and another vertical row between the stamps would be imperforate. When the sheets were properly stacked and cut apart, one pane of one sheet would have a vertical column of ten horizontal pairs imperforate between.

From this it can be seen why part perforate pairs only occur in horizontal pairs, and only on stamps printed in two panes of 10 x 10 + 10 x 10. The American Bank Note Company's perforators were for sheets of 100 (10 x 10), while the perforators of Toppan, Carpenter & Co., The National Bank Note Co. were for sheets of 200 stamps. There are no straight edges on the sheets of 100, whereas on the sheets of 200 or more they are usual.

The next varieties for consideration are:

Double and Wild Perforations

Aside from the part perforate varieties, there are double and wild perforations. The double perforations are comparatively common. They occur on stamps which were handfed sheet by sheet through the perforating machines—particularly the manually operated machines.

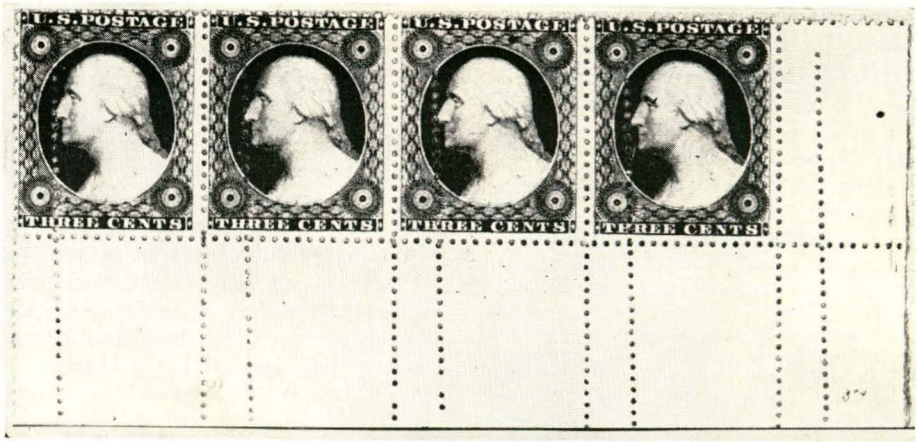


Fig. 17. Double vertical perforations for about ⅔ to ¾ of each stamp. The operator probably started to feed the sheet into the machine from the bottom. Finding it was not aligned correctly, the machine was reversed and the sheet again inserted correctly.

Our illustrations show two examples of double perforations on the U. S. 3c 1857 (Figs. 17 & 18). It will be seen that the double perforation terminates abruptly. We believe these varieties are due to the sheet being fed incorrectly into the perforator, and upon discovery of the error the operator reversed the machine, and the sheet was withdrawn. It was then refed correctly, a portion of the sheet thus being doubly perforated. In our observations, double perforations are much more frequent paralleling the long side rather than the short side of a stamp. Thus the format of the sheets and the stamps contribute to the occurrence of double perforations. See also Figs. 19 & 20.

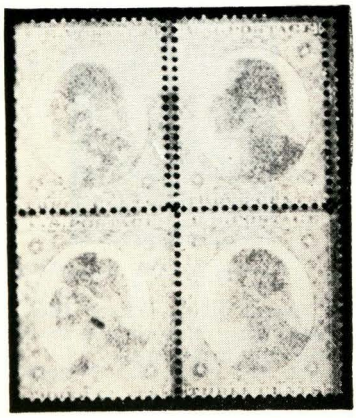


Photo Boutrelle

Fig. 18. Reverse of a block of four 3c 1857, showing another example of double vertical perforations ending abruptly.

Wild Perforations:

Wild perforations are of minor interest. A frequent cause is the corner of a sheet being folded over or a crease being in a sheet during the perforating operation. When the fold is opened out, the resultant perforation would be diagonal or a right angle, or even zig-zag depending on the folds.

Blind Perforations from Manually Operated Machines

Blind perforations occur when the punches and the counterparts were worn. The result is that the discs of perforation were only partially punched out, the pins pushing the discs aside instead of shearing them, as a result discs still adhere in the holes after the perforating is completed. Sometimes a perforating pin would drop out. Each pin was individually set in the wheel for easy replacement.

We would point out, however, that the oblique thrust occurring between the wheels on a rotary perforator are more likely to cause wear than the direct vertical thrust of a stroke perforator. Blind perforations still occur on modern rotary perforators, whereas the modern stroke perforators produce extraordinarily uniform results.

Compound Perforations

As far as rotary machines are concerned, the existence of compound perforation on a stamp is evidence that two machines did the perforating. For instance, the 1859 issue of Canada occurs perforated 11.60 x 11.85,



Photo Boutrelle

Fig. 19. A 12c 1861 showing double vertical perforation at left. If the left margin were torn off there is no doubt that many "experts" would tell you that the stamp was "re-perforated", although opinions would vary as to which was the re-perforated side.

11.85 x 11.60, 11.60 x 11.95, 11.95 x 11.60, 11.85 x 11.95, and 11.95 x 11.85. The 11.85 perforation first appears in 1862, and indicates that the American Bank Note Co. had a new machine which was set to perforate the sheets one way, while the old 11.60 machines was set to perforate the sheets the other way. Up to 1862 one machine was undoubtedly enough to do all the perforating required. By 1862, however, the company was perforating the stamps of New Brunswick, Nova Scotia and Nicaragua. In 1863 Costa Rica and Mexico were added. This



Courtesy of The Philatelic Foundation

Fig. 20. Nova Scotia 8½c, 1860, double vertical perforation on each side extending almost all the way to the top.

increased volume of stamp orders necessitated an additional machine, rather than the process of adjusting the one machine to perforating the sheets one way, and then adjusting it again to perforate the other way.

The possibility of the machine having some of the wheels and counterparts of a different gauge than others—say three wheels perforating 11.60 and eight perforating 11.85 cannot be completely ruled out. In order however, to prove such a condition, it would be necessary to produce multiple pieces showing one line perforated 11.60 while the next parallel line was perforated 11.85 or 11.95. Thus a stamp perforated 11.60 x 11.85 x 11.85 x 11.85, or 11.85 x 11.60 x 11.85 x 11.85 would be evidence that the same machine had wheels of both gauges on it.

Our conclusions from the third part of our study are:—

1. That imperforate horizontally or vertically varieties are due to omitting to put the sheet through the perforating machine in one direction.

2. That the imperforate between varieties are due to misplacing of a sheet consisting of two panes too far to the right or left during perforating, thus leaving one row imperforate instead of the gutter between the panes.

3. That said part perforates can only occur on sheets printed in two panes and only on sheets arranged 20 x 10, or 10 x 20.

4. That blind perforations are more likely to occur on rotary perforators than stroke perforators, owing to more rapid wear of the pins and holes due to oblique thrust.

5. That compound perforations are indicative of two perforating machines, for wheels of different gauges on the same machine would result in complex perforations, not compound.

General Conclusion

We have now come to the conclusion of our study, which is by no means final in any sense of the term. It is our hope that students of any or all of these stamps will pursue their studies in an effort to date more precisely the introduction of the various perforations, inserting in the tables such varieties as we have not noted, and failing to find them endeavor to explain why they do not occur.

We must, however, warn collectors to use great care in gauging these perforations. Be certain that the stamps are properly placed when using the *Instanta* gauge. The gauge should be read both by the perforation tips and the base of the semicircular curves of each hole. Both readings should agree. Further great care should be taken to get non-parallax readings, otherwise there are likely to be "new discoveries" that are more fiction than fact.

Acknowledgements

Needless to say we are greatly indebted for the loan of material, access to various collections and several philatelic organizations and philatelists' help.

First and foremost the *Luff Reference Collection* of *the Philatelic Foundation* has been invaluable. The following firms of stamp dealers were also most cooperative: Willis F. Cheney, Sylvester Colby, Inc., Vahan Mozian, Inc., Mercury Stamp Co., Inc., Robert A. Siegel, and Stanley Gibbons, Inc. Among collectors we must particularly acknowledge the help received from Mr. John K. Bash, Mr. John J. Britt and Mrs. John D. Dale.

The New York Public Library, and the great philatelic libraries of our own *Collectors Club* and *The Philatelic Foundation* were also freely drawn upon.

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VENEZUELA

The First Issue

By EBERT E. BOYLAN

Philatelists of Venezuela* are very interested in and most grateful to General C. W. Wickersham for the articles in THE COLLECTORS CLUB PHILATELIST on the stamps of Venezuela, which combine his careful analysis of meager data previously published with his own thorough studies.

Referring specifically to the article in the May, 1953 number (Vol. XXXII, No. 3) on the First Issue, Fine Impression, there are a few bits of information available in Venezuela which may add to the general knowledge without in any discrediting the excellence of General Wickersham's work.

Reyes Saldivia in his pioneer catalog published in 1915 states that the First Issue was printed by *Lessman & Laue*. Hall & Fulcher, perhaps through a misprint, changed the name of the firm to Lessman and Lane. General Wickersham followed their incorrect spelling. It is known in Caracas that Lessman & Laue were the most important printers in the city during the 1850's and perhaps the only firm capable of printing stamps. The Decree of the President of Venezuela General Julian Castro dated June 28, 1858, creating the first stamps and prescribing their use, does not specify the name of the printers. A search of the government archives may divulge this information and perhaps determine how many stamps of each denomination had been printed. The Decree refers to engraved steel plates saying that "while these are being prepared the Treasurer of Caracas will furnish lithographed stamps", which Reyes Saldivia apparently interpreted to mean that there was first an issue of lithographed (Coarse Impression) stamps, and afterwards an issue or issues of engraved (Fine Impression) stamps. But General Wickersham has shown from his study of dated postmarks that the Fine Impression stamps were used before the others.

Since some of the Fine Impression stamps are a little blurred and some of the Coarse Impression stamps are quite clear, the easiest method of differentiation is the vertical dividing line or lines usual on the Coarse Impression, but some of the Coarse Impression do not show these lines, and there are faint traces of dividing lines on some of the Fine Impression stamps, particularly to be seen in blocks.

As regards the dates of use of the Fine Impression, the following additional information may be noted:

½ real 1859; February 26 (cover Puerto Cabello to Caracas) Covers are reported dated January 30, 1859 from Merida and February 3, 1859 from La Victoria to Caracas, this last from the collection of Mr. Philip H. Ward, Jr. of Philadelphia.

1 real 1862; September; September 19 (cover confirming General Wickersham's information).

2 reales 1859; February 23 (cover Caracas to Marseille)

1864; August 25 (cover with bisect La Grita to Maracaibo).

Cancellations: In addition to the numeral cancellations listed in the article the following have been noted:

Black: ¼; 1½; 3¾; 4½.

The Caracas Oval with Loops cancellation is known in green. This oval, usually in black or in shades of red, was probably used from August to December, 1859.

The Valencia straight-line cancellation has not been reported on the Fine Impression stamps.

* Mr. Boylan is from Caracas, Venezuela.

Among other town cancellations the following have been noted:

GRITA and GRITA FRANCA; CORO FRANCA; MERIDA and MERIDA FRANCA; GUANARE; NUTRIAS; TRUJILLO (red). Some of these may be on Coarse Impression types.

Types of cancellation not noted by General Wickersham, some on Fine and some on Coarse Impression issues include: small circle with rays; two small superimposed circles; rectangle of 18 oblongs; cog wheel; four concentric circles, and CERTIFICADO (?). All of these are in black. In only a few cases can the town be identified with relation to these cancellations.

Mention should also be made of the cancellation of San Antonio del Tachira, consisting of the crude representation of a bird perched on a leafy branch.

General Wickersham has not referred to the several crude falsifications of the First Issue, varying in dimensions and often with false types of cancellation, particularly with dots in rectangles or circles, or a coarse CORREOS CARACAS in concentric circles without month or day. There are also Fournier falsifications, somewhat better executed, but often with a Caracas cancellation with the year included in the date, which it is believed never existed. False Caracas and La Guayra cancellations have been noted with the bottoms of the letters C and G square.

Such an excellent article as that under discussion opens the field for further studies, which it is hoped may be advanced by the above notes.

Notes on Mr. Boylan's Article

by

C. W. Wickersham

Mr. Boylan's article is of great interest to students of the early stamps of Venezuela. It throws light on several of the questions which have troubled the writer and others in trying to ascertain the facts affecting these issues. The corrections which he makes are all duly noted.

His early dates on the ½ Real, 1859, Fine Impression, are of special interest, as they support the statement of the correspondent of Moens that this stamp was issued in January, 1859. The date of August 25, 1864 on the bi-sect of the 2 Reales which Mr. Boylan records, is also of interest, as this is a late use of the stamp.

The cancellations he describes increase our knowledge, and I am happy to supplement his information by adding that in the writer's collection there are stamps of the Fine Impression with the Valencia straight-line cancellation as follows:

1 Real, June 25, 1861 (on cover); February, 1861.
2 Reales, 1861.

In the first mentioned, the cancellation is on the cover, without touching the stamp, which is cancelled with a numeral 5 cancellation.

It is gratifying that Mr. Boylan has undertaken to increase our knowledge and has so well understood our effort to open this fascinating field for further studies.

EDITORIAL

(Continued from Page 118.)

audience asked the questions and one panelist in rotation would reply. This question was asked of the late Alfred F. Lichtenstein:—"What do you consider the most beautiful stamp ever issued?" We still can see the expression on Mr. Lichtenstein's face, and only wish that a photographer had been present to record his pained look for posterity. Mr. Lichtenstein closed his eyes, shook his head, and finally after a long pause threw up his hands in despair. He never could utter one word in reply. But his every gesture, his whole demeanor screamed as if this great collector had replied with amazement: "Who, in the name of common sense, ever collected a stamp for its beauty!"

Our sympathy goes out to the designer, printer and security makers of stamps. They are under continual pressure to please everyone. It just cannot be done. We all might as well make up our minds that we shall have to live with this popular attitude towards stamp designs, so we extend regrets to all those who take the importance of beauty in stamp designs so seriously. They should realize that beauty is but skin deep, and what is beautiful to you does not attract me. (*H. M. G.*)

THE CLUBHOUSE

Meeting of December 16, 1953

Comparative Philately

To many members, the prior announcement of the topic for this meeting remained a mystery. Innumerable members inquired: "What is comparative philately"?

Mr. Paul P. Lindenberg answered the question for those who had attended the above meeting. He attempted to demonstrate a fact of philatelic scholarship of which only a few were aware. "Comparative philately", as expounded by Mr. Lindenberg, signifies that the philatelist interested in the study of a certain group or issue of stamps often must go beyond the confines of his own specialty. For instance, one printing firm will produce stamps for a group of countries. Therefore, if the student will delve deeper into the technique of one specific printer, he will find many marked similarities in the work and stamps that said printer produced for many countries.

Furthermore, Mr. Lindenberg stressed that a printing company used machines and other manufacturing processes which might not have necessarily been a product of the very country in which the stamps were printed. Rather, these machines may have been imported from other countries.

Therefore, it was not unusual to find ranges of stamp issues from non-related countries similar in paper, perforations, printing, plate-layout, guide marks and other features, if these stamps were produced by the same printer.

Mr. Lindenberg then demonstrated "comparative philately" by using:

(1) De La Rue & Co.'s printing for Great Britain and Colonies, the first issue of Italy, Siam, Belgium, Confederate States of America, Egypt, Sudan, Ecuador, and the very recent United Nations issues.

(2) Printings by Bradbury, Wilkinson & Co. Ltd. of certain issues from British Colonies and Turkey.

(3) The German State Printing Works (Reichsdruckerei) for Germany, German Colonies, Dominican Republic, Yemen and Colombia's Scadta Co. airmail stamps. The printing machines used in Germany were manufactured by the Goebel Machine Factory, which also supplied printing machines for stamp production to Japan, Italy, Denmark, Switzerland, Union of South Africa, Austria and Argentina.

(4) Waterlow and Sons, Ltd. who have printed stamps for some of the British Colonies, Labuan, North Borneo, Belgian Congo, Siam and Guatemala.

Specifically, the speaker showed that in studying the plate layout and perforations on the issues of Labuan between 1895 and 1925, he was unable to account for certain characteristics and could find no source material for its explanation. He was, however, able to find the answer by studying those issues of Guatemala which had been printed by the same firm of Waterlow & Sons, Ltd.

Following Mr. Lindenburg's exposition of his ideas of "comparative philately", a question and answer period followed. For instance, one suggested that this topic might better have been called "relative" rather than "comparative" philately. The usual lengthy debate on the question of terminology followed, the majority seeming to agree that "comparative" is the better definition.

The meeting was somewhat different from the usual type conducted in that the exhibit of stamps was secondary. Many who attended seemed to derived much benefit from this type of meeting, and our program director, *Mr. Haverbeck,* is to be commended for attempting to introduce certain novelties in order to have the annual program as varied and diversified as possible. (*H. M. G.*)

Meeting of January 6, 1954

Canada, 1868-70 Issue

The first meeting of the year 1954 was a display of one of the collections owned by The Collectors Club, the famous *Charles Lathrop Pack Collection of Canada, Large*

Cents Issue of 1868-70. This is a magnificent lot of these beautiful stamps. They were comprehensively discussed by *Mr. Winthrop S. Boggs,* whose familiarity with them is well known.

Mr. Boggs opened his remarks by pointing out that the Large Cents Issue was the first from the newly formed Dominion of Canada. Also he remarked that the printers were the British American Bank Note Co., a group that was incorporated especially to seek the security printing of the new Dominion

Turning to the stamps themselves, Mr. Boggs said that they had been produced from unhardened steel plates. Only one plate was used for each value except the 3c and 6c which had two plates each. So perfectly were the plates made that aside from one re-entry discernible on the 2c, there were no other plate varieties of any significance.

The display began with a showing of unused pieces, chief of which were the 1c red in a block of 10 (5 x 2), the 2c in a block of 16 (4 x 4), and the 5c in a block of 6 (2 x 3). The speaker also noted that the 1c yellow was not known to him or the late Mr. Alfred F. Lichtenstein to exist in a block. The 1c and 3c laid papers, and numerous examples of the 1c to 15c on the block watermark paper, all unused were also shown.

Turning to the used examples, the outstanding portion was a showing of the reconstructed watermark *E & G Bothwell Clutha Mills* in all denominations from the 1c to 15c inclusive. These were further illustrated by blueprints of each of the stamps clearly showing the watermark. The rare script watermark was represented by two copies of the 15c in the usual gray shade.

The distinguishing of stamps from either of the two plates of the 6c was explained. In the first plate the position dot is at the extreme lower left corner, while on the second plate, the dot is below the "S" of "Six". There is as yet no certain way of separating the 3c plates except by the imprint, and then only two words of the inscription differ. Since imprint copies are so scarce, however, this method is practically useless.

Several general remarks were made by the speaker which we believe would interest our readers. In commenting on two plates for the 3c and 6c, he noted that the quantity issued was no criteria for the number of plates needed. There is no doubt that one plate could have printed all the 3c and 6c stamps. The volume of stamps required at a given time is also a factor. A large quantity of these two values was needed in a comparatively short time. In remarking about the change of color of the 1c from red to yellow in order to avoid confusion with the 3c, attention was called to the necessity, in studying the stamps of the 19th and early 20th centuries, to project oneself back into the conditions of those times. Thus in the 60's and 70's of the last century, candlelight and oil lamps were still usual in all but the large city offices, where even the gas lights were not very satisfactory when distinguishing colors. Such factors also must be considered when trying to arrive at conclusions on any aspect of the stamps and postal history of those times.

The various cancellations were shown in profusion. Beginning with the four ring numerals carried over from the Provincial administration, followed by the two ring numerals introduced by the Dominion Administration, the collection has a fine range both as to numbers represented and the denominations as well. The fancy cancels of Toronto, Hamilton and other cities were also on display.

In covers there was a notable lot, including combinations of large and small "Queens" which are scarce. Among the bisects it was interesting to observe that they are almost exclusively from the Maritime Provinces, a habit carried over from provincial times, especially from the 1851 issues which in those provinces were designed and permitted to be bisected or even quartered for the proportionate rate.

A number of essays and proofs were also shown. (*M. G. O'R.*)

Meeting of January 20, 1954

Aero-Philately

The New York Chapter of Aero Philatelists, a study group making its headquarters at Collectors Club, was privileged to take over the evening of January 20th at the regular semi-monthly meeting of the

Club. With Mr. Jules L. Wacht, President of Aero Philatelists, acting as program director, a very lengthy show got under way with two frames of Spanish airmails from Mr. Oscar R. Lichtenstein's collection. Mr. Lichtenstein's showing included many unlisted varieties and errors. The stamps were explained by Mr. Sidney F. Barrett.

Dr. R. Hasbrouck Shrady showed two frames of various material listed in Sanabria as semi-official stamps. Included were the Varig Company issues of Brazil, the private airline issues from Canada and various issues from Poland and France. Outstanding was Dr. Shrady's copy of one of the three existing specimens of Canada No. 534 (Sanabria). It is generally conceded that Dr. Shrady's is the finest of the existing three.

The exceptionally fine U. S. collection of Mrs. Ethel McCoy was represented by two frames of stamps including a tete-beche pair of the 1877 Buffalo Balloon stamp unused as well as a single. Other fine pieces, some believed possibly unique, proved beyond doubt that Mrs. McCoy's block of the 24-cent invert (which, incidentally, she did not show) reposes in distinguished company. Mr. John J. Britt spoke on this exhibit.

Mr. Henry Kraemer, specialist in the airmail issues of Venezuela, showed marvelously complete pages of the very difficult lithographed issues of 1937, which research published in "The Aero Philatelist News" has explained. Many very fine covers with first air mail issues of 1930 were also displayed. These stamps posed many problems which Mr. Kraemer and others helped solve.

Mr. Jacob S. Glaser showed a frame of commercial mail franked with all values of Colombia's lengthy and brand new air set.

Mr. Bernard Fink, showing some of his magnificent research into the genuine and fraudulent cancellations in connection with various Italian Graf Zeppelin flights and their companionate issues, revealed that much of his various articles which appeared in 1950 in "Aero Philatelists' News" had been followed three years later by an Italian stamp magazine. Mr. Fink also showed the scarce covers of the Paraguay Zeppelin issues. Because of their scarceness, genuine covers had to be carefully studied in order to detect the many fraudulent cancellations that appear on purportedly used stamps of this issue now being widely marketed.

Mr. Richard Samek's display included a frame of the so-called "RF overprints." These were provisional stamps, the United States (C25) 6c. air stamp overprinted "RF" for use by the French Navy and French North African installations in the Mediterranean during the last year. Much of the research done on these issues indicates beyond any doubt both the authenticity and necessity for these issues, since those using them had severed relations with the Vichy Government and, therefore, had no postal paper of their own. Thus they had to use the U. S. Armed Forces postal service. Mr. Samek also showed a frame of the quite rare Philippine Island stamps with the hand-stamped "Victory" overprints. For example, of the 4c air, of which 122 stamps were overprinted, three were on display, two of these on cover. (See Pages 119 to 129.)

Mr. Sam Rodvien's exceptional display of the first two issues of Salvador showed brilliantly representative material. Mr. Rodvien pointed out the many misalignments of type and the original admixture of type fonts, a study of which provides valuable evidence in determining forgeries of this overprint. The forgers ignored the variations in the original settings. Mr. Rodvien expressed the opinion that despite the hurry to have the stamps ready in time for Pan American Airways' inaugural service, January 1, 1930, the overprinting was surprisingly good. A second printing became almost immediately necessary because of the sell-out of the first printing.

Ira Seebacher showed a frame of the Venezuela baseball set, of esoteric interest among 20th century issues in that several values have stamps in certain sheet positions that show the guide lines used for putting down the plate. The unremoved lines do not occur on the sheet borders or margins but dead center on certain settings of the

stamps themselves and always in the stamp's self-color. Thus, some of the many errors of this issue may be found, as well, with the unremoved guide lines.

Offbeat material was shown by Mr. Wildey Rickerson including what he termed such "controversial" items as the "Sacos" of Colombia, the Honduras "Lempiras", British Air Ferry Service labels and Nicaragua's "Valedos".

Mr. Maurice Tripet's multi-prize winning study of the provisional overprints of the 1919-20 Swiss Airs, replete with large scale drawings of no fewer than 19 different counterfeits that exist of this overprint, richly deserved the attention it attracted.

Mr. Wacht's showing of the comparatively recent Air Letters attempted to display a cross-section of this rapidly growing field of philately. He included the first and until recently unappreciated Colombia Scadta Air Letters of 1920, one of the imprinted etiquettes used for emergency airmail franking in Mozambique, airmail stationery of the Basque Republic (a Spanish Civil War by-product), specimen stationery from Cyprus, printer's waste from Mexico showing double prints of the recent issues and stationery from Pakistan handstamped on that of India immediately following the creation of Pakistan.

The evening concluded with Mr. Henry M. Goodkind's display of six of the research problems he has tackled over the years. Notable was the catholicity of his tastes for he showed an article by him together with its accompanying corroborative material from one country of each of the six continents. These included the Amelia Earhart stamp from Mexico; the scarce 3 and 6 peso provisionals of Chile, 1928; Bulgaria's first air mail issue; the second airmail issue of Madagascar, a set of supplementary values which appeared in 1941; the exceptionally scarce 1920 Cilicia air mails, into the study of which hundreds of hours have gone with the final solution still awaiting the appearance of certain corroborating material; and the reason for the high denominations from New Guinea. (*Ira Seebacher*)

Meeting of February 3, 1954

Canal Zone

On this evening *Lt. Col. James T. DeVoss* of the U. S. Army, presented a program on the stamps of the Canal Zone, limiting his display to the early overprints. The presentation was illuminated *by the use of slides in color* of the items of particular interest in his framed display. Slides of other major variations on the overprints on the United States issues were also shown. The detection of counterfeit overprints and overprint varieties, by the use of photographic magnifications was discussed, and again illustrated by color slides.

The evening thus was a fine blending of two hobbies—philately and photography, using the latter for the enhancement of the former. Special permission of the U. S. Treasury Department had been obtained for the making and showing of the colored slides. The members were most grateful for this concession, since the show was clearly displayed in its details by means of the slides. Lt. Col. DeVoss's comments on the subject matter of each slide were both entertaining and erudite.

The items on display included covers of the first issue, one carrying a full set of the three values, used on July 5, 1904. The variations of the 1904 overprints were most complete. To list a few of the more prominent: 1c green double overprint; the 8 cents provisional without the surcharged value; a beautiful pair of the same provisional with the double "Panama" reading up.

The 1906 issue of Panama overprinted for the Canal Zone was also complete, in a most extensive coverage of the rarities, not only of the overprints but also the basal stamps.

The major item in this group was the 2 centesimos scarlet and black, with the head inverted and the overprint reading up. The 2c showing was specially complete, containing, among others, pairs of the imperforate-between variety, both normal and with double overprint. The other values, imperforate-between, were also displayed and discussed.

In the 1907 issue the 5 centesimos frame with the 2 centesimos head was exhibited. This magnificent item is the "copy of record". Among others of this issue were: the 2 cen-

tesimos inverted head in a beautiful mint block; the 5 centimos in a pair, one without the overprint; and the elusive booklet panes of the 1 and 2 centimos values.

The major varieties of the 1914 provisional issue were displayed. By the use of slides, the genuine characteristics were explained and evaluated.

The ever-popular "Zone-Zone" varieties up to 1925 issue were similarly treated; and the 3 cent, 5 cent, 12 cent and 15 cent values so overprinted were exhibited. Several of the other gems were also shown in the colored slides.

The discussions on the identification of counterfeit and fraudulent overprinting varieties were most interesting—the color slides illustration made these discussions most graphic. The meeting ended with this grouping, leaving the members of the audience with the universal feeling of having enjoyed one of the best programs in years.

Malcolm G. O'Reilly

Meeting of February 17, 1954

Dealer-Member Exhibits

For the second meeting in February, the dealers who are members of the Club were called on to provide the showings. Mr. *Sidney F. Barrett,* acting as master of ceremonies and organizer, brought forward nine exhibits, which made a full, but not too long evening of great interest.

Herman Herst, Jr. who came from Shrub Oak, N. Y. specially for the occasion, opened with the Ballons Montés of the Siege of Paris, 1870-71. Instead of the usual showing of a long series, much alike, he presented covers from the first and the last Paris siege balloons actually carried out on them. That of the first was from a "ballon non monté", that is, without aeronaut on it, the Neptune, Sept. 23, 1870; and from the last, the General Cambronne, Jan. 28, 1871. This was followed by an actual microfilm of letters, flown in by pigeon; attempted return letters for which there was no service; and a piece of one of the actual balloons. His talk gave the really significant points of this service and other attempts, admirably condensed.

Alex Juliard, who came up from Narberth, Pa., did not explain his showing in detail. However, his frame included some very lovely multiple pieces of United States stamps, especially a block of 12 of the 90c 1879 used on a heavy registered packet and showing appropriate postmarking.

Carl Pelander, introduced as showing "topical or fraternal philately" explained in considerable detail two frames of covers with Masonic and allied cancellations, mostly of the period 1855 to 1870. These well-mounted pages needed little explanation, as they were more than merely objects of philatelic beauty. The rare Masonic corks of Island Pond, Vt., New York, N. Y. (5 types, all rare), and others of greater familiarity, all appeared. The pre-Shrine fez cork of Philadelphia, corner cards of lodges, Masonic publications, Masonic insurance companies, and the Royal Arch Council, also figured.

Fred W. Kessler dared to tread into President John J. Britt's reservation by exhibiting Air Mail Essays and Proofs. Starting with the color trials of the Austrian early 5 gr, and its inflation 10,000 kroner precursor, he went on through artists' drawings for the first Bolivia type, the Curtis Aviation Co. labels used in making the first semi-official air stamps of Colombia, Hesshaimer's rejected designs for Colombian air mails as original artist's drawings. Among items too numerous to list were Bradbury Wilkinson & Co.'s unaccepted Mozambique Co. essays, progressive proofs of the making of the Roosevelt issue of Honduras, and all stages from vignette to stamp on the first air issue of Bolivia.

George B. Sloane exhibited selected pages from an extensive collection of the Hale Independent Mail Route stamps of 1844, almost all on covers. This system, operating over the whole area between Boston and New York and a little to the north thereof, at rates about a third of government postal charges at that date, was represented by covers, some few of them stampless, from no less than 14 offices. A letter from Paris, France sent on via Hale's service from a Boston "Care of address" reached postally, was a feature. The identity of the "Great Eastern Mail" with Hale's service was defi-

nitely shown. Only one cover showed the red Hale stamp, which provided house delivery service.

Connecting private mails, turning the letter over to Hale's for further carriage appeared on several covers, and those carried beyond Hale's area similarly, as by Jerome & Co into Maine. The Letter Express bisect of 10c for 5c charge, earliest bisect in North America, second only to British 2d blue bisected in 1840 or 1841, closed the exhibit.

After the usual 9 p. m. intermission with refreshments, the showing was resumed.

Edwin Mueller exhibited 60-odd covers, all addressed to his native city, Vienna, Austria, all stamped and all previous to 1875. He made mention that commercial covers are few to Vienna because it was not a business center, though larger than New York at the same period. The covers fell into these four groups: (1) From countries of the German-Austrian Postal Union, with domestic rate for over 20 miles valid to anywhere in the Union; (2) From those of the Italian-Austrian Postal Union, similarly paid at top domestic rate, as from Parma, Papal States and Modena; (3) from other lands in Europe. These are mostly at special treaty rates, which were changed downward as time went on. A striking item was the only known copy franked to Vienna direct with Hamburg stamps and postmarks, instead of being, as normally, sent from the Prussian post office abroad in Hamburg. (4) From outside Europe: these are rare. Egypt and United States were least scarce; one was shown from the Azores. A Ballon Monté of the Paris siege, to Vienna, closed the showing.

Clarence W. Brazer exhibited the essays and proofs for the first United States postal cards, starting with the 1861 formula cards for affixed adhesives, which were legalized that year (the Lipman card). His remarks as to the American origin of the postal card idea were extensive and should be brought into print, amplified further. The many essays by the National Bank Note Co., and their technical difficulties, the 25 color trials, and other items were adequately explained.

Prescott H. Thorp exhibited Mrs. Thorp's Corner Cards on U. S. stamped envelopes. Explaining first the genesis of the stamped envelope in the arrangement for allowing private mail carriage beyond the postal points reached in California, via "Western Frank" express service, he went on to show 16 corner cards, some pictorial, on Nesbitt envelopes. These are all very hard to find. Campaign covers, with pictures of Blaine, and other political figures were among the unusual items.

He then showed the modern Air Mail envelopes, from proofs on, substantially complete. The comments he made about the various revaluings, the special air mail envelopes for the troops in Europe, etc. were wittily but entirely accurately worded.

Sidney F. Barrett wound up the evening with what he called his "Accumulation of Absolute Depravity". Stamps that could be clipped to make alleged imperforates, stamps with centers exchanged between values to make pseudo-bicolors, philatelic bisect covers of stamps not allowed to be so used, opened the showing. But then he went on to the Y. M. C. A. service of supplying deficit postage in Newark, Baltimore, Philadelphia, Detroit and elsewhere, with covers showing their "We ask you to repay" stickers. The envelopes of stamps and an encased stamp, used for currency during our Civil War, followed. The Leeds patent anti-stamp-reuse envelope figured next, both wrongly and correctly used. Stampless mailing during the San Francisco fire of 1906, Spanish-American War returned covers, and misused mail (revenues, dues, and special delivery stamps used successfully for regular postage) closed the exhibit and the evening.

It was a fine meeting night. Every exhibitor, although active as a commercial dealer, displayed fascinating philately, knowing the subject. Conspicuously absent was even one intimation as to price or monetary value. A large audience sat attentively while all of the above dealers unconsciously showed that each enjoys collecting, even 'tho stamps had become their means of livelihood.

Malcolm G. O'Reilly

Meeting of March 3, 1954

Corrientes

If you will look in the "Scott Standard Catalogue" listed at the end of Argentine

Republic, you will find *eight* stamps under a sub-heading "Corrientes" at the very end of this country. To indicate how terse and perhaps inadequate this catalog treatment is, *Mr. Louis Stitch filled every frame with stamps and covers from Corrientes* for the exhibit of this evening.

It was a night of very mature philately. Mr. Stitch has devoted over 30 years to an intense, intelligent pursuit and study of these stamps. He attempted to tell of the results of this work within less than two hours. No one present, lacking his great fund of knowledge on these issues, could adequately report Mr. Stitch's scholarship in these columns. Nor could anyone use present catalogs or previous research such as in the "Kohl Handbuch" for even a reasonably accurate, reporting. The description of the stamps and proper presentation of the philatelic knowledge will have to await a future date. Mr. Stitch has unselfishly promised to make his knowledge available in the proper manner by an illustrated article in the COLLECTORS CLUB PHILATELIST.

Rather then, this report of *Corrientes* night will treat two interesting sidelights resultant from Mr. Stitch's exhibit.

1. The first manifestation was the not-so-obvious inter-relationship of many specialties within general philately. The stamps of Corrientes represent a small group from a remote South American Province in Argentina of very limited interest. No doubt many bypassed the meeting of March 3rd for this very reason. Obviously they said to themselves—what possible interest can I have in this showing?

The fallacy of such thought was brought out during this evening. The collector of *France and French Colonies* would have found out why the design on the Corrientes' stamps parallels so closely the first French issues. The specialist of *India and Indian States* would have seen ever so many similarities relating to the printing, paper and use of those early Asiatic stamps with those from Corrientes, a land thousands of miles removed. The *British Colonial* philatelist would have been made aware of the many kindred problems with the early British Guiana and Corrientes stamps. Why even one of our keenest students of the *early United States* Private Posts was amazed to find Corrientes' stamps offering many of the same problems relating to the U. S. Locals.

2. The other matter of general interest was the mounting of the material shown. Mr. Stitch has a cultivated artistic taste. His style of mounting, in our opinion, represents about as *perfect* a method as ever seen. Every page is "neat but not gaudy". So many collectors today are struggling with the problem of mounting and displaying stamps and covers. They are baffled about the amount of art work to be included on a page. They have not solved the question of proper balance between philately, write-up and art work. These many pages of Corrientes would have been the model for them to study. We would like to advise that the Stitch influence become more widespread. An exact copy certainly will be too demanding upon most collectors. Yet if anyone will try to follow this, but still fall far short of Mr. Stitch's achievement, he will have improved his own pages appreciably.

Those in attendance followed the speaker carefully, and with interest. All seemed unanimous in the opinion that Mr. Stitch's knowledge of Corrientes should be permanently recorded. It is most pleasing therefore to be able to announce now that Mr. Stitch will do this very thing in this magazine. (*H. M. G.*)

At the Board of Governors meetings held February 24th and March 31st, 1954, the following new members were elected:

No.

4203 Carl Rene Mangold, Montreal, Canada. Collects Early Swiss and Canada.

4204 Harry A. Eisenstein, Chicago, Ill. Collects General.

4205 John C. A. Kelly, Frazeysburg, Ohio. Collects Foreign.

4206 Albert H. Klein, Vineland, N. J. Collects Greenland.

4207 Louis Klein, Ventnor, N. J. Collects Roman States on Cover.

4208 Samuel Dalsimer, Neponsit, N. Y. Collects Haiti.

4209 James E. Gillis, Jr., Evanston, Ill. Collects Austria, China, Romania and Russia.

4210 Wm. B. Stitt, New York. Collects Bermuda, Jamaica and B. W. I.

4211 Edward Goldsmith, Baltimore, Md. Collects Spanish Antilles.
4212 Wm. A. Ide, Scranton, Pa. Collects U. S., Philippines and Latin America.
4213 Chas. H. Garlanger, Benton Harbor, Mich. Collects 19th Century.
4214 Ransom R. Franklin, Whitney Point, N. Y. Collects General and U. S. including Revenues.
4215 Albert H. Ward, Ottawa, Ont., Canada. Collects Canada.
4216 C. Gustave A. Papa, Oaklyn, N. J. Collects Italy and Colonies, General.

The Library Committee reports the acquisition of the following:

"Dansk Luftpost-Katalog" by Dan Emmerich. Gift of E. Hildes-Heim.
*"Catalogue des Varietes de France" by Wanos & Belleville, Gift of S. G. Rich.
"Catalogue Illustre de Timbres Fiscaux de Grande Bretagne, Irlande, Ecosse" by Gilbert & Koehler.
"Air Mails of British Isles" by H. Stanley Redgrove.
"A Further Note on the Adhesive Stamps of Great Britain" by Lt. Col. A. S. Bates.
"19th Century U. S. Fancy Cancellations" by H. Herst & M. Zareski.
"Catalogue des Timbres d'Egypte 1948" by S. Albani & Y. Zeitoun.
"The Bechuanalands. A Brief History of the Countries & Postal Services to 1895" by A. J. Jurgens.
"United States Cut Squares Lithographed Plates" (Reproductions) by Albert Frisch.
"Vanderhoof Memorial Book" by R. W. Larsen. Gift of Author.
"Billig's Handbooks Volumes VII, X, XI, XIII, XV, XVIII, XX.
*"Postage Stamps of Armenia—Pt. I" by S. D. Tchilinghirian & P. T. Ashford". Gift of S. D. Tchilinghirian.
"Les Post Offices de L'Ile Maurice" by A. Brun. Gift of E. Mueller.
"Rapid Cancelling Machines—Manufacturers & Impressions" by K. F. & M. V. Olson. Gift of S. Whitman.
"New South Wales Philatelic Annual 1950" by Philatelic Society of New South Wales. Gift of S. Whitman.
"Norona's General Catalogue of United States Postmarks 1946". Revised Edition by Harry M. Konwiser. Gift of S. Whitman.
"A. P. O. (Army Post Office) Cover Catalog" by John H. Engels. Gift of S. Whitman.
*"United States Postage Stamps" by Sol Glass. Gift of Author.
"Festschrift zum 50 Jaehrigen Bestehen des Berliner Ganzsachen-Sammler-Vereins." Gift of H. Herst, Jr.
*"A Catalogue of Cylinder Flaws on King George VI Great Britain Commemoratives" by Crabtree Press Ltd.
*"Perkins Bacon Records" in two Volumes by Percy de Worms. Gift of The Royal Philatelic Society, London.
"The Half Lengths of Victoria" by J. R. W. Purves.
"Mexicana" a periodical published in Elmhurst, Ill. Gift of James H. Beal.
"Pan American Philatelist" by Pan American Union.

To Edwin Mueller, a habitual benefactor of the Club Library, we are indebted for three de Luxe volumes:

"Die Magie des Kupferstichs" by Alfred Cossman.
"Die Kupferstecher der Cossmanschule 1950" by the Austrian Government Printery.
"Alfred Cossmann. Ein Wiener Kuenstlerliben" by the Austrian Government Printery.

To George F. Miller, a recent member, the Club is indebted for a rare volume, Morocco leather bound:

"The Stamps of Switzerland" by A. Mirabaud & A. de Reuterskidd.

* Reviewed in this number.

SCHEDULED MEETINGS

May 19th

"Baden", to be presented by Herbert Bloch.

June 2nd

The Baltimore Philatelic Society will present The Program.

SUMMER RECESS

TRAVANCORE-COCHIN

Its Postage Stamps and Postal History

By FRANK M. COWEN AND J. DEVASYA

(Continued From Page 104)

3. The "U. S. T. C." and "T.-C." Overprints

We have been unable to uncover the full story of the 1 anna Cochin "Anchal and Revenue" stamps overprinted with "U. S. T. C." or "T.-C." in black roman letters. In view of the facts presented below, the authors are inclined to classify some of these adhesives as having been primarily issued for revenue purposes. "The Cochin Anchal Guide" (1945), still used by Cochin Anchal Offices in 1949, listed the following Anchal stamps as being available at all Anchal Offices in the State: 2 pies, 3 pies, 4 pies, 6 pies, 9 pies, 1 anna 3 pies, 1 anna 9 pies, 2 annas, 2¼ annas, 3 annas, 3 annas 4 pies, 6 annas 8 pies, and 10 annas. In addition 6 pies and 6p + 6p, single and double cards, and 9 pies envelopes were on sale. In the period of 1945-1949 *there was no Anchal rate requiring a 1 anna stamp.* Section 9 (iii) of the same guide states: "Anchal Masters are also authorized to sell *1 anna Revenue Stamps, used exclusively for the Revenue purposes* [italics ours], for which they are allowed 2½ per cent discount." Since the only 1 anna revenue stamp available in Cochin Anchal Offices in 1945 was the Maharaja Kerala Varma (Raja IV) 1 anna orange inscribed "Anchal and Revenue", the above statement evidently refers to this stamp. It would seem odd that the Anchal Master would be permitted to sell the stamp for postal usage because he would thereby collect a 2½% fee from the sale in addition to his salary as a government Anchal official, something he did not receive from the sale of Anchal stamps.

In 1948 the Maharaja Rama Varma IV (Raja V, Type 2) 1 anna orange inscribed "Anchal and Revenue" made its belated appearance. It was this stamp that received the "U. S. T. C." overprint, roman letters in black (Fig. 30, A), listed by Scott. At about the same time the Maharaja Rama Varma V (Raja VI) 1 anna orange adhesive of 1948 was similarly overprinted (Fig. 30, C). Contrary to previous practice this value was inscribed "Revenue" only and is definitely a fiscal stamp. Both of the above stamps were overprinted in full sheets from the same form which consisted of 48 (8 x 6) repetitions of the letters "U. S. T. C." (= United State of Travancore and Cochin) appearing at the top of each stamp. One error has been detected in this form, a stamp from the top row of the sheet showing a missing stop after "S" (Fig. 30, B. C). This error is, of course, known on both the Raja V (Type 2) and Raja VI stamps. The former was printed on Cochin Arms paper, perforated 13 on a single line guillotine machine, and generally found ungummed. The latter, on the same paper, was perforated 11 (guillotine) and lightly gummed. The overprinting operation was probably done at Ernakulam.

The Government Notification of February 23, 1950 (see Chapter III, Part 1.), which acknowledged the change in name of the new State and authorized the overprints "T.-C." or "Travancore-Cochin" on certain classes of stamps and stamp papers,

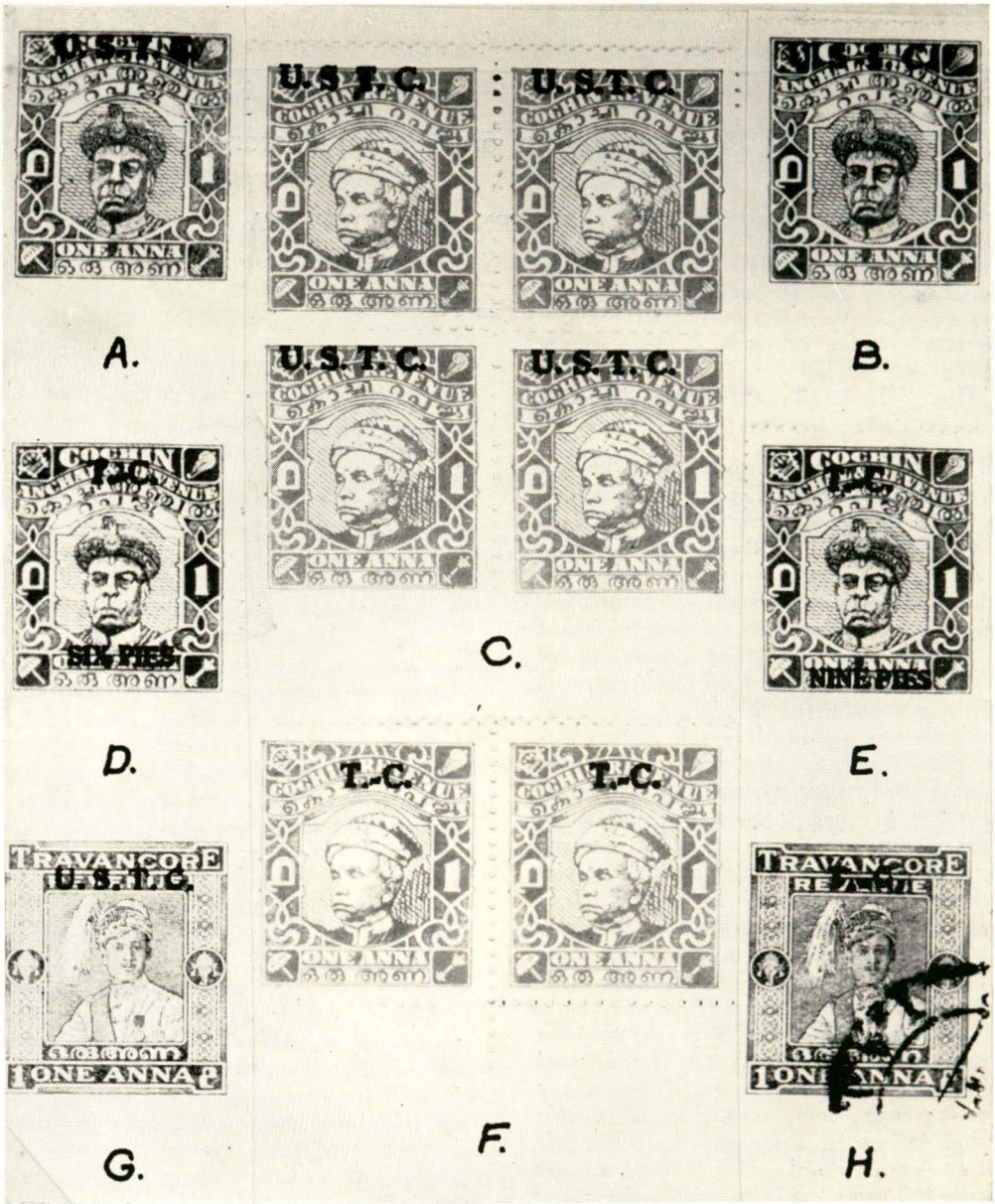


Figure 30. The "U. S. T. C." and "T.-C." Overprints on Cochin Revenue, Anchal and Revenue Stamps and Travancore Revenue Stamps. Note Missing Stop after "S" on the upper left stamp of the top middle block and the top right single.

resulted in the overprint "T.-C.", black roman letters, being applied to the Raja VI 1 anna orange "Revenue" stamp (Fig. 30, F). This stamp, printed on Cochin Arms paper, perforated 11 (guillotine) and lightly gummed, is listed by Scott but should be deleted as it is definitely a fiscal stamp. Scott also lists the Raja V (Type 2) 1 anna orange "Anchal and Revenue" issue with this overprint alone. We have been unable to locate copies nor have various individuals contacted by us seen such a stamp.

Sometime during this same period the Raja V (Type 2) 1 anna orange "Anchal and Revenue" stamps, perforated 13 (guillotine), watermarked Cochin Arms, and ungummed, appeared with the two line overprints in black, "T.-C." at the top of the stamp in roman letters and "SIX PIES" or "NINE PIES" below the portrait in smaller serif letters (Fig. 30, D, E). The "NINE PIES" portion of the overprint corresponds to the one line overprint (Form C VIII) seen on this same 1 anna stamp and described in Part 2 of this chapter. It is apparent that the "T.-C." overprint was applied separately from plates of one form of 48 (8 x 6) subjects to both these stamps already overprinted "SIX PIES" and "NINE PIES" respectively. The same form was presumably used for the Raja VI fiscal stamp described in the above paragraph. The 6 pies on 1 anna has not been seen by us without the "T.-C." overprint, although it has been reported to Messrs. Harry Burgess and Company that such a stamp exists. Printing errors are in our hands with a missing stop after "T" 6 pies on 1 anna and 9 pies on 1 anna and the hyphen missing between "T." and "C," 6 pies on 1 anna. The overprinting was probably carried out by the State Press at Ernakulam.

Although we believe that the 1 anna "Anchal and Revenue", Raja V (Type 2), stamp overprinted "U. S. T. C." was primarily issued for fiscal purposes, we are classifying the 6 pies/1 anna and 9 pies/1 anna with "T.-C." as Anchal stamps since we would presume that they are similar to the 9 pies/1 anna (Part 2 of this chapter) which was recognized by Anchal employees as a postage stamp. Reasons, other than those already mentioned, for listing the Raja V (Type 2) "U. S. T. C." (and "T.-C." if it exists) 1 anna as an Anchal and fiscal stamp issued primarily for the latter purpose are as follows:

(1) The Raja I issue of Cochin included a 1 anna "Anchal" stamp at a time when a postal rate existed for it. A 1 anna carmine revenue stamp, differing somewhat in design and watermarked with one large conch shell stamp instead of an umbrella, was in use concurrently.

(2) The Raja II, III (both lithographed and recess printed), and IV issues included 1 anna orange "Anchal and Revenue" stamps even though a 1 anna Anchal rate did not exist during at least the latter portion of this period. Presumably the Raja II issue was accepted for both purposes as was also the Raja III issue for a time. We have seen examples with both Anchal and revenue cancellations. However, in the 1939-44 period, Raja III 1 anna stamps (both recess and lithographed) were converted to other values or Anchal stamps exclusively by the overprint "ANCHAL" indicating a change in policy. We believe this policy continued down to the present day but will admit that supporting evidence from official documents is lacking.[22] (on page 72A)

Getting back to our story, the current Travancore 1 anna carmine revenue stamps were overprinted "U. S. T. C." or "T.-C.", presumably at Trivandrum, in black serif letters smaller than the Cochin overprints of a similar nature (Fig. 30, G, H). Unlike the Anchal adhesives of Travancore which were expressed in the local currency of cash and chuckrams, the revenue stamps were in Indian currency prior to the amalgamation of 1949. Examples have been seen with Anchal cancellations (Fig. 30, H) but this was an unauthorized usage and probably was due

22 Just recently we have been fortunate in uncovering additional documents related to these issues. It now appears that all of the so-called postal-fiscal stamps discussed in this section, including the "T-C" on 1 anna Cochin Raja V (Type 2) with the additional overprints, "SIX PIES" and "NINE PIES", were considered to be revenue stamps by the Travancore-Cochin Government. It would also appear that these same six and nine pies overprinted stamps were issued with the "U. S. T. C." overprint although their existence has not been reported to date. When further evidence is in we shall discuss this problem in a separate paper.

to the confusion existing in both the public and Anchal employees' minds after the new State was proclaimed. These fiscal stamps were printed from Nasik-prepared typographic plates on the "120 shell paper" previously described. They were gummed and perforated with the Travancore Stamp Manufactory guillotine machines. The number of subjects per sheet is unknown. No errors of the overprint have been reported.

Check List

"U. S. T. C." and "T.-C." Overprints on
Cochin and Travancore Postal-fiscal and
Fiscal Stamps, 1949-1950
Primarily for Postal Use (1950)

Thick light cream wove paper

Perforated 13 Ungummed Wmk. Cochin Arms

No.
1 "T.-C." on 6 pies on 1 anna Cochin Raja V (Type 2), orange, "Anchal and Revenue"
a. Stop after "T" missing
b. Hyphen between "T" and "C" missing
2 "T.-C." on 9 pies on 1 anna Cochin Raja V (Type 2), orange, "Anchal and Revenue"
a. Stop after "T" missing

Fiscal and Postal Use (1949)

Thick light cream wove paper

Perforated 11 Gummed Wmk. Cochin Arms

3 "U. S. T. C." on 1 anna Cochin Raja V (Type 2), orange, "Anchal and Revenue"
a. Stop after "S" missing

Note: Scott's 1953 catalogue lists this same 1 anna Cochin stamp with the "T.-C." overprint. We have been unable to confirm this listing.

Fiscal Use Only (1949-1950)

Thick light cream wove paper

Perforated 11 Gummed Wmk. Cochin Arms

F1 "U. S. T. C." on 1 anna Cochin Raja VI fiscal stamp, orange, "Revenue"
a. Stop after "S" missing
F2 "T.-C." on 1 anna Cochin Raja VI fiscal stamp, orange, "Revenue"

Note: This stamp is listed by Scott (1953) as a postage stamp but should be deleted.

Thin white wove paper

Perforated 11, 12, 12½? Gummed Wmk. Conch Shell

F3 "U. S. T. C." on 1 anna Travancore Raja Bala Rama Varma fiscal stamp, carmine, "Revenue"
F4 "T.-C." on 1 anna Travancore Raja Bala Rama Varma fiscal stamp, carmine, "Revenue"

(To Be Continued.)

BOOK REVIEWS

Perkins Bacon Records. Vol. I—XXVIII +526 pp. Vol. 2 VIII+336 pp. plus Index. Extracted with Commentary by the late Percy De Worms. Edited by John Easton and Arnold Strange. Foreword by Sir John Wilson. Published 1953 by Royal Philatelic Society, London. Price £6/6/0.

These two volumes, with their total of 895 pages plus 32 plates in addition, form the most remarkable storehouse of philatelic information, hitherto not available or only in fragments, that has come into the open in many years. For the student of each and every issue produced by Perkins, Bacon & Co., whether for Chile or Sarawak, for Nova Scotia or Cape of Good Hope, Victoria or Liberia, there is something new and valuable in this work. Indeed, in so many cases that a mere list of them would create an overly wordy and dull review, the new information thus made accessible, settles questions upon which guesswork and controversy have long reigned supreme.

A veritable flood of information is thus poured into philately, swamping out many a supposedly established landmark. This is an advantage, since time-honored errors can now be eliminated permanently. Probably several decades will elapse before the wide scope of new facts in this work shall have been fully absorbed and placed within the study of stamps.

These volumes are not, and do not claim to be—in fact specifically disavow any such claim—a reprint of each and every record of the firm of Perkins, Bacon & Co. They are the material which bears on stamps and stamp making, selected from the complete records, which filled a mere 50 packing cases. The late Percy de Worms did the long task of selecting this material, as well as that of writing the commentaries where needed.

The decisions as to which invoices, letters, reports, excerpts from record books of all sort, should be included, would appear to have been made with that mature understanding which was required. For example, Mr. de Worms did not merely take the printing records; for each order he also included the delivery record. No fault attaches to his having kept each group of records separate, instead of trying to assemble all information on one country in one place. In fact, this arrangement serves admirably to bring matters mentioned on only a few countries, but applying to stamps produced for many, to the attention of the user of the books.

The material is arranged in sections, with the fundamental contracts and the documents bearing on them, assembled country by country. Then follow sections which give estimates, engraving and hardening records, lists of stamps invoiced (that is, actually shipped), and invoices for plant and material. An adequate index makes use of the material thus distributed, sufficiently convenient for all needs.

Material before 1848, covering the production of the first classic stamps of the United Kingdom, has been omitted from the book, because this has been fully reported in Sir Edward Bacon's work, *The Line-Engraved Stamps of Great Britain.* Thus the present volumes start with the first inquiry on stamp making by Mauritius in 1848. They extend to 1898, with full coverage. Avowedly, no attempt was made to handle any material after 1900 except such inquiries as referred to 19th Century stamps.

Until these volumes appeared, we did not know that this firm had produced the Liberian 3-cent red and green of 1897. Nor did we know that the Lianos Post stamps, for the service in Istanbul, Turkey, were made by Perkins Bacon & Co. in 1865. Nor was it known that the lathe-work for the stamped envelopes of Great Britain was done by this house. These major surprises are typical of the many new, unsuspected facts, which these two volumes set definitely before us. The "minor" surprises, when assimilated into philatelic thinking, may turn out to be equally significant. So numerous are they that we dare not take space to cite even one example.

Mr. John Easton, in an able introduction, gives the history of Perkins, Bacon & Co. Your reviewers, or students interested in some of the more recondite problems of

stamp engraving, might consider that some points of significance were omitted in this history. Such minor gaps, and minor inaccuracies that may show up, affect neither the usefulness nor the reliability of this work. No doubt discovery of such gaps will prod those noticing them into publishing articles filling our lacuna in information. Thus, the relation of the Perkins Bacon firm to the various American engraving houses of early days, and the American engravers involved, are not touched on in this correspondence nor needed in any commentary thereon. We hope that articles on these matters, not blaming Mr. de Worms and his editors for the absence of mention thereof, will appear.

The editors who worked on Mr. de Worms' manuscript, a decade or so after he died, would appear to have changed nothing beyond correcting manuscript errors, and to have eliminated nothing. This was a very wise decision. Their own few annotations are both useful and informative. The high accuracy of all statements would indicate that both Mr. de Worms and the editors searched carefully to forestall publishing mistakes.

Answers to some matters of controversy are found in these volumes. Of immediate interest is that as to whether a case-hardened plate could be softened, re-entered or retouched where needed, and again case-hardened. At several points it is stated that such a procedure was carried out. But this does not imply that any other firm could, or actually did, do likewise. Nothing in these published records indicates anything as to varying degrees of case-hardening for dies, transfer rolls, and plates; yet it seems evident that the same degree of hardness and same depth of hardening was not sought in all situations. (In these books, the term used is "hardening" instead of the more precise modern one, "case hardening".)

Likewise, the question of how many impressions could be had from a steel plate is settled, for at least those made by this house. Perkins, Bacon & Co. definitely state, on numerous occasions, that 100,000 impressions could be had from a plate which they made. One plate is reported in this book as having produced 376,000 sheets of stamps for Great Britain.

For some of us, extra interest will attach to the applications shown of the various background patterns on an American-made transfer roll, used in constructing dies for many stamps. Likewise, such plates as show experimentation with several of these patterns, will be of special appeal. At this point it might be well to call to the attention of users of the book that the terminology used by this grand old house is not that today current in North America. What we call a "die" is a *flat die* in Perkins Bacon & Co.'s records and correspondence; what we call a "transfer roll" is a *roller die*. Likewise, the term *hardening* is used for all grades, degrees and kinds of case-hardening. The user who does not heed this semantic difference may easily go astray.

This firm did lithography, as shown on Costa Rican and Liberian stamps. Their letter-press printing (for which the French term "typography" persists in philatelic use) would seem never to have included production of any stamps.

Compared to other contemporary firms as well as those of our own days, Perkins Bacon seem to have been much less secretive about technical matters. No such detailed information on their processes has thus far been unearthed in correspondence from other houses, whether in England, Canada or the United States. We do not know the reasons for this lack of secretiveness; but we are grateful indeed that the inhibitions against telling the facts were absent.

The correspondence is not only of direct philatelic interest. It is a repository of the methods, conditions and even detail usages, of doing business, which obtained in early Victorian England. As such, it may well merit use by historians outside the philatelic field. The role of Britain as the supplier of manufactured articles to the rest of the world, before industrialization had spread further afield, is quite strikingly exemplified —as is the coming of competition from other countries in the later period. Such features as the administrative arrangements lagging behind technical skill, so that delays in delivering orders occurred because the "front office" did not plan adequately, make interesting reading. Corporate growth in modern industry has provided many a parallel as well as many an example of avoiding this particular bit of immaturity.

From this survey of the content of the two volumes, there is clearly indicated to the stamp student the possibilities of help which they can render him. No qualifications are needed. Any errors which may be present have escaped us. We have been told that detail mistakes exist in some statements about the history of the firm. These do not affect any strictly philatelic matter. Likewise, should any user cavil at omission of any aspect of some stamp or issue which interests him, he may be sure that nothing bearing on that aspect was found in the whole 50 boxes of records by Mr. de Worms.

The format and typesetting comply with the criteria for ease of reading, set up in 1940 on the basis of ample experiment by Patterson & Tinker. The presswork is done with all needed care and something more. The illustrations, like the text pages, reflect the completely competent workmanship of the printers, Robert MacLehose & Co. Ltd., of Glasgow, and the loving care which Mr. Easton and Mr. Strange gave to this project.

The index, as previously mentioned, is adequate. Because it deals with such technical matters, and because of the terminology of the engraving craft in Victorian England, it might present some difficulty to a user not well informed on line engraving and siderography. But that condition cannot be avoided in an index to a work dealing with matters so technical as those here involved.

Such are the features of this new basal work in philately. From now onward, anyone attempting a thorough study of, or monograph on any stamps included within these records, simply will not have even approached the subject unless he uses the information therein given. We trust that the cultural lag in the use of this information will be far shorter than it has been in so many cases of publications bringing new knowledge into our field. *W. S. B. and S. G. R.*

United States Postage Stamps 1945-1952 by Sol Glass. Published by the Bureau Issues Association, Inc., West Somerville, Mass. 280 pp. indexed. Cloth bound. Price $5.00.

This attractive book covers a range of 79 commemorative and 11 air mail stamps. Its purpose is to continue the background material on 20th century issues where Johl's books ceased. This work is most generous with illustrations, at least one being found on each of its almost 300 pages. Each stamp is described in a similar manner. These are 1) Reason for Issue or Event Commemorated; 2) Source of the design; 3) Rejected and unused designs; 4) First Day Sale Ceremonies; 5) Statistical Data and 6) Plate Record.

This book is tailored for popular consumption for which purpose the reader will receive an almost perfect fit. Yet the philatelist (the student of stamps, if you will) will find many things lacking. This reviewer believes that the omission of desired philatelic information was due mainly to an oversight on the part of the author. Mr. Glass is knowledgeable about the more recent commemorative stamps of the United States. Beside he knows the inside and insiders in Washington, D. C. about as well as any philatelist. He evidences this knowledge in his disclosures in regard to the printing of the 1947 Cipex Souvenir Sheet and on pages 225-26 about the electric eye markings used to perforate the 1952 International Red Cross stamp.

But the author unfortunately assumes that all know that the 1945-52 U. S. issues were printed on our modern high speed presses. Therefore he omits all references to printing methods, gum, paper and perforations. Most philatelists are curious, so they would like to know that stamps produced by the Bureau of Engraving and Printing in 1950 or 1951, for instance, were done in the exact same manner as those in 1947 or before then.

Now what about the plates? How many impressions can our modern plates produce? This book discloses that certain stamps like the 6-cent air mail had plate runs well over 1,000,000 impressions while the average output for the commemoratives was about 100,000 per plate. Is a plate ever retouched in these times? When is it scrapped? Furthermore, in this book's plate data, one notices that certain plates often were not used. Why? Only in a few instances is an explanation offered.

Was the gum used in 1950 the exact same as that of a decade before? Is the Bureau

using the same paper? Have any changes or improvements been made in the electric eye perforating process currently used?

Nor is the book complete. This is due to the fact that at the time of publication some of the commemoratives from the 1952 Mount Rushmore Memorial stamp were still on sale. Thus it was impossible to supply the printing and plate data on those issues. After all, Mr. Glass's work had as its goal "the book of record" on United States' stamps from 1945 through 1952.

This reviewer would like to inject one observation which has no bearing on the quality of this book. It sells for $5.00—considerably more than the current philatelic value of all the stamps. Thus we wonder if collectors will pay more for a book than for the stamps themselves. Should the sales of this work, therefore, prove successful, it will demonstrate, in our opinion, that collectors have a keen interest in philatelic literature.

It is to be regretted that this beautifully produced book cannot be called satisfying to the philatelist because of the above cited omissions. On the other hand, the written record of all United States stamps is most essential. Mr. Glass is to be strongly commended for his efforts and services to stamp collecting even if he has failed to inform some of us completely. (*H. M. G.*)

United States Commemorative Issues 1943-1952 by William W. Wylie. Published by Van Dahl, Albany, Oregon. 68 pp. Paper bound. Price $1.00.

Quite co-incidentally, within a short span of a few months, two books were published on almost the same stamps. The book of Mr. Glass's is reviewed above. It starts two years later (1945) than Mr. Wylie's. The Glass book sells for $5.00, while Wylie's book costs $1.00. The price differential is obviously due to style. Wylie's booklet has no illustrations, is paper bound and a far less costly production.

Ignoring these style differences, how do the contents compare? Mr. Glass's book is far more detailed. Taking one stamp at random, the 1948 Swedish Pioneers, one finds Mr. Glass's text covering close to 2½ pages with one illustration, while Wylie treats this stamp with 25 lines. Wylie titles his book "Essential Information" and offers simply that. Glass writes far more in detail including the Presidential Order for the stamp, the origin and study of the design and First Day Sale Ceremonies, all of which are not mentioned in the paper bound booklet. But is all of this information essential to the stamp collector? Our own personal opinion is that it need not be so extended in a philatelic work as in the more expensive book.

However, we found Glass far more detailed about the statistical data, which has great philatelic significance. For instance, Wylie, as Glass, only indicates the original printing order of 75 million of the 1948 Swedish Pioneers. Glass, not Wylie, shows that only 64,198,150 were issued.

Wylie, known to us personally as one of the most intelligent, and conscientious American stamp paper editors, was unfortunate in the selection of his title. He carelessly called his booklet "Commemorative Issues", but included seven stamps that are not. These are regular air mail issues. This slip has no bearing upon the contents.

So here is a collector's choice, something rarely available to him with philatelic literature. If one is interested in the very recent United States stamps for further background material, he can choose between spending one dollar for a 68-page unillustrated booklet or expending five times the amount for a 280-page de luxe book, richly illustrated with far more details, no doubt of interest to many although this reviewer considers some parts extraneous. (*H. M. G.*)

The West-End Philatelist, Golden Jubilee No. Mar.-Apr. 1954. Edited by Arnold M. Strange, F.R.P.S.L. Publishers David Field, Ltd., London, England. Price 2/ this copy.

A Golden Jubilee for any philatelic publication in the world is not only a milestone but an exception. Fifty years ago, back in March 1904, the British stamp dealing house of D. Field began "a monthly magazine for all interested in stamp-collecting". Without intending to place the American dealers in a less favorable light, it must be noted how many fine philatelic publications have and are still being produced by the commercial element in Britain and Europe. "The West-

End Philatelist" has maintained a good publication for 50 years. To mark the event, a special number was issued which should be noted in this magazine.

Little more need be said than just citing the titles of the articles and the leading philatelists who authored them. Of the rarest co-incidence, the editor of the first number of 50 years ago leads off. Mr. Bertram W. H. Poole, now a resident of California, writes a short resumé of the beginning years from March 1904-1911. Mr. Poole is still going strong, hardly a month passing without his familiar by-line appearing in some American stamp journal. It is most remarkable that Mr. Poole could greet in person the magazine he started before many, who now read this, were born.

Sir John Wilson writes on "There were Wonderful Giants of Old". M. Beaumont, President of The Royal Philatelic Society, London has four pages on "20th Century Stamps of Great Britain". John Easton, well-known student of stamp designs and a professional publisher, describes "Fifty Years of Stamp Design". And, who was chosen to write on Australia's fifty years of philately? You guessed it, none other than J. R. W. Purves. Mr. J. Schmidt-Anderson handles Scandinavian Philately; Jal Cooper, that of India; Harold G. D. Gisburn, "50 Years of Powered Flight"; and the ubiquitous Williams brothers, "Fifty Years of Philatelic Literature"; not to omit R. Courtney Cade's paper on "Fifty Years of British Colonial Stamps". Each of these are good popular reading; not deep philately which all of these philatelists have shown they can produce. These are stimulating writings demonstrating that "the long hairs do not always compose five hour-long operas".

Most of all of the above can be fairly called British. There is one article on "Fifty Years of United States Postage Stamps" that we desire to stress in this review. The author is Winthrop S. Boggs. It would be embarrassing to praise this work at the expense of the other learned contributors or because of the author's active association with this magazine. Yet a disservice would be done to the American collector if the article were not called to his attention. Collecting U. S. commemorative stamps is a pleasant, easy task. Going into our regular issues with the watermarks, perforations, flat plate or rotary press printing, coils and papers, presents a most complex problem to all but the most experienced specialist. Most of our popular literature is about the Commemorative issues, actually the simple stamps. Outside of an expensive book, little guidance is written about the baffling regular postage issues. Boggs approaches these in a most straight-forward, common sense manner. He does not pontificate, nor does he display with bombast his knowledge about these stamps. Instead he instructs, he simplifies, he guides us to better understand the how, why and reason for a scarce flat plate perf. 10, one cent green stamp. All that we can advise is "American stamp papers, please copy!"

The "Golden Jubilee" number of the "West-End Philatelist" should not become another of the many forgotten pieces of philatelic literature. We commend all who had anything to do with it and recommend it to all, the less mature collector as well as the high-powered philatelist. (*H. M. G.*)

The Designing of Postage Stamps by W. F. Goude. Publication of the Netherlands Posts, Telegraph and Telephone, The Hague 1953. Printed by the Netherlands Government Printery, Fluwelen Burgwal 18, The Hague, Holland. Price fl 4.75.

As the fourth in a series of publications by the P. T. T. this important work from the hand of Mr. W. F. Gouwe, former aesthetic advisor to the Postal Department of the Netherlands Government, is of great interest to philatelists. If anyone is qualified to write such a book, it certainly is Mr. Gouwe, who, until January 1, 1952, had such a tremendous influence on the design and the general appearance of the Netherlands postage stamps.

Mr. Gouwe has arranged his work in such a way that the chapters follow each other in logical sequence. Starting with the beginning, which could be called the "idea" of the stamp, he builds up his story step by step through the design to the final appearance of the stamp. Special emphasis is placed on the limitations the artist has to contend with in the designing of such a small "work of

art" as a stamp and the necessity of very close cooperation and understanding of each others difficulties between the artist, the engraver and the man who finally produces the plates for the printing of the stamps. The author points out the desirability of an advisor well versed in the most detailed operations needed to produce stamps of the highest quality, both artistically and technically.

Next to the pictorial design, the author considers of the greatest importance the proper design of letters and numerals. And he points out that in this aspect many difficulties have to be overcome. Just how important he does consider this point might perhaps be learned from what he writes on page 28—"And therefore it is our wish that every philatelist would not confine himself to the 'value' determined by a perforation variety, by a misprint or by a first day cancellation, but would expend time and effort in the study of the graphic value, the aesthetic quality, the postage stamp *art,* would get to know the work of our typographers and study the history and the development of the art of printing". Mr. Gouwe tells his story with a knowledge and a love of his subject that has seldom, if ever, been equaled.

Unfortunately for us in the United States, the book is written in Dutch, a most difficult language for the uninitiated; yet it is most worthwhile for the American philatelist. Some 47 pages of illustrations, done so beautifully as to equal proofs or essays, speak a language universally understood.

Johannes de Kruyf

Catalogue des Variétés de France 1900-1949, by Leonard Wanos and E. de Belleville. Paris, 1949, 2nd Edition, 228 pp. Office Philatelique de Paris, 37-38 Galerie Montpensier. 525 francs, paper.

When this volume appeared, it seemed to be "just another catalog." However, the four years of use of it by various students in this country has shown that it is something very much more, something exceedingly useful. However belated, a review may even now thus be of service.

It is a listing, with illustrations but no annotations or detail descriptions, with no interpretations as to origin, of all the known varieties, major and minor, found on French stamps from the Type Blanc of 1900 to the stamps current in early 1949. Sometimes up to 50 varieties comprising paper, print, missing letters, double perforations, such as for the 10c green 1922 Sower, are given.

Color-naming is by no means consistent through the book; nor, for that matter are either the terminology or the choice of varieties to report. The latter limitation may be caused by failure of collectors to chronicle varieties known to them, in the stamp journals. The American user will find the glossary at the start inadequate. For example, "piquage a cheval", listed for at least half the stamps covered, is not given. Yet it would be hard for most of us to discover from any French dictionary that this means "perforations across center of stamp design".

Despite any and all defects, nothing yet produced on 20th Century French Stamps has so wide a field of usefulness for the collector. It is the necessary work for those who do not wish to miss any variety. It brings to 20th Century France the same interest and respect with which France varieties before 1876, or those of U. S. stamps in the Bank Note period, are considered. The collector of French 20th Century issues who tries to get along without it is just hobbling himself.

S. G. R.

The Postage Stamps of Armenia, Part I, The Framed Monograms, by S. D. Tchilinghirian and P. T. Ashford. Published in 1953 by The British Society of Russian Philately, 20, Bayham Rd., Knowle, Bristol, 4, England. 62 pages including 4 pages of maps and plates and 3 pages of tables. Price 7/6d.

There are countries whose stamps have not been generally collected because of the fact that there is little or no knowledge about the country or the stamps. One such country has been Armenia. Now there is no longer an excuse for neglecting the stamps of Armenia because a comprehensive and authoritative book on these stamps is in the process of production. The first section of this work has been published. It is the type of book which when read would cause a serious philatelist to say to himself, "I wish I could have written this".

We have been privileged to count one of the authors, Mr. S. D. Tchilinghirian, among our friends for several years. We do not know of anyone more fitted through background or philatelic knowledge to undertake this work. He is the best student of Armenian philately in our estimation. His philatelic knowledge is most broad and his writings in the past have covered many other fields. We know Mr. Ashford only through correspondence, but there is a quality in his work which has been most pleasing. This is an open mind and the willingness to listen to other opinions without stubbornness. This is a requisite for scholarship, especially in philately. This team of Tchilinghirian and Ashford therefore has brought out a thorough and accurate study of these little known stamps from the shortlived independent governments of Armenia.

The book begins with an historical introduction to the past and present history of Armenia. This historical background has never before been made available to philatelists. Then the study goes deeply into the method of applying the overprints and into the cancellations which were applied during the period of their use. For the first time, illustrations have been supplied of the genuine types of the "framed Zed" monograms and criteria have been given for the measurements of these overprints which make it possible for the student to know the counterfeits from the genuine. The cancellations and townmarks are also illustrated in their genuine form together with examples of the fake markings for comparison.

As no work of man is perfect neither is this book. But we can find no major points of criticism. There are some minor points which could be cited, but they are too slight to affect the usefulness of the volume. They are mostly in arrangement of the material and an occasional lack of clarity in the text. This arises probably from the great familiarity of the authors with the material. Many authors forget that their readers are not as familiar with the subject as they are. The tendency is to pass over some points lightly which are self-evident to them but not to the reader, particularly if he is not as familiar with the subject as they are.

The printing and format of this volume show a vast improvement over previous works published by the British Society of Russian Philately. The use of slick paper and letterpress printing make this volume much more presentable than the multigraph process used previously. We know the problem of cost control which they faced. In this they are not alone, because publishing costs are bane of every philatelic student who wishes to make his knowledge available to others. The use of 8-point type makes the reading a bit difficult in the longer passages. But fortunately, these are few and do not detract from the usefulness of the volume.

We heartily recommend this volume to the serious student of Russian philately. We also recommend it to anyone who wishes to begin a study of Armenian stamps. It is basic for this purpose. As an example of what we consider good philatelic writing it is outstanding.

H. D. S. H.

A Catalogue of Cylinder Flaws of King George VI Great Britain Commemoratives. 1954 (Second Edition). Crabtree Press, Brighton, England, 20 pp., paper 4s 6d.

This little book, illustrating and listing the minor varieties in these rotogravure issues, is a sound job of philatelic scholarship within its avowed limitations. Taken in connection with Sellmansberger's article in THE COLLECTORS CLUB PHILATELIST of July 1951, it gives us a reasonably complete picture of what is now known of these varieties. In itself it does not list these for all the issues included in its intended scope, but has omitted almost all that Sellmansberger covered. In the one case of overlap of content, one of the previously reported varieties is omitted.

Illustrations of the varieties are particularly well done.

A summary of listings, with prices reported (apparently actual market report, not a "price-setting" opinion) winds up the book. It is too bad that the author does not give his name anywhere.

S. G. R.

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The following are selected at random from my February Bulletin, which offers 34 small collections, all of prime quality, with no cheap or damaged stamps or fakes included in catalogue values.

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