

**BRITISH****GUIANA.**

Official Organ  
OF THE  
Victory Philatelic Society.

6d.

Motto:—*Aut Optimum Aut Nihil.*

# ✠ The ✠ British Guiana Philatelist.

EDITED BY W. A. HUSBANDS.

Published by the VICTORY PHILATELIC SOCIETY B.G.

VOL. III. No. 1.]

OCTOBER, 1928.

[PRICE 6d. (2/- PER ANNUM).]

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**GEORG L. SORENSEN.**

*Strindbergsvej 53,*

COPENHAGEN-VALBY,  
DENMARK.

There are hundreds of stamp-collectors  
in **BRITISH GUIANA**

who are not members of any Society  
and do not realize that the

## Victory Philatelic Society

require

their **CO-OPERATION**

for the betterment of the hobby.

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# THE

## British Guiana Philatelist.

Vol. 3.

OCTOBER, 1928.

No. 1.

### A UNIQUE STAMP.

### THE RAREST IN THE WORLD.

### A CRUDE LOOKING SPECIMEN.

[BY THE EDITOR].

THE above and somewhat appropriate distinction applies to the British Guiana one cent rectangular issue of 1856, which from a photographic reproduction\* in actual size and enlargement would require but little comparison to show that it is very different from the illustration given in Stanley Gibbons' catalogue. It is indeed astonishing to note what misleading information with regard to the scarcity of this specimen is sometimes circulated by the lay press when the hobby is so universal that incongruities can seldom pass unnoticed.

It is impossible to deal severally in so short an article with every little incident connected with this once-satisfying single copy, nevertheless, the most salient and entangled points may be clearly annotated.

#### GENUINE POSTAL NEED.

It was early in 1856, to meet an emergency demand brought about by a shortage in the stocks of those of London manufacture and the non-arrival of the regular series from London, that Messrs. Baum and Dallas (who were situated on the present premises of "The Argosy" Company, Limited) printers of the Official—formerly Royal—Gazette were entrusted with the printing of two values of one cent and four cents, the first on magenta paper and the latter on magenta and also on blue paper. The Stamps were of the most primitive description and bears evidence of their hasty preparation to meet an "*ex tempore*" need. They were produced from the ordinary printer's type with the figure of a sailing vessel in the centre, and the motto of the colony in two lines above and below and then bordered by a rectangular frame with the inscription "British Guiana Postage" and the value in words on the outside. As a safeguard against fraud each specimen was initialled by the Postmaster before being sold. Only a solitary copy is known and it has been advocated with a degree of certainty that only one copy was ever sold as the regular series had soon after arrived from London and this value (1 cent) was only for franking newspapers in conformance with the reduced postage rates which were adopted on the first of January, 1852, prior to this date papers were permitted free postage. Further to this, there was a small supply of the one cent vermilion of 1853 in concurrent use, which impeded the sale of the one cent of 1856 as erstwhile Government always tried to dispose of values on hand.

#### STORY OF THE FIND.

It was not until 1873, when Mr. Vernon Vaughan of Georgetown while quite a school-boy, rummaging among some old family papers in an attic in search for specimens, found a quaint and crude looking piece of paper and not being favourably impressed by its appearance sold it for the modest sum of six shillings to another collector in the

\*Unfortunately we are denied the privilege of reproduction on our pages.—Ed. B.G.P.

(Continued on page 3).

# THE British Guiana Philatelist.

## Subscription Rates Prepaid.

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Singly ... 7d.

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supply you with B.G.P.

Edited by WALTER A. HUSBANDS.



**MOTTO:**  
Aut Optimum Aut Nihil.

OCTOBER, 1928

All communications to be addressed to

P.O. Box, 292.

Georgetown, Demerara, British Guiana.

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## FOREWORD.

WE are well aware that our re-appearance will be heralded by all our friends and supporters at home and abroad but this is no reason why we should not tender you our sincere apology for our absence for over a year. As we had said in this column, it would have been a "*Dies Irae*" to suspend publication and indeed it was almost an annihilation to our humanity, when the peculiar opportunity of ignoble defeat in securing the necessary support to maintain the cost of production, brought about by the general depressed state of affairs within the colony, stepped in and 'battled out' our existence. Nevertheless "*post cineres gloria venit*," thus here we are again,—thanks to certain members of the 'Victory,' whose lofty ambitions and inspirations have led them to do the needful whereby the 'B.G.P.', the life of the Society, may be 'resurrected.'

Subscription to Journal only. Oversea or Local ... 2/- per annum.

Oversea Membership in the Victory Philatelic Society which includes the free and regular receipt of Journal... 4/- per annum.

All local particulars re Membership may be had on application to Hony. Secretary, V.P.S., P.O. Box, 292, Georgetown.

Letters of enquiry must contain return postage.

All remittances must be by Postal or

Money Order payable to *Victory Philatelic Society*. Stamps not accepted.

MSS. and anything of Philatelic interest must be sent in not later than end of month preceding date of issue, and marked "Editorial" in top left hand corner.

The Editor does not hold himself responsible for the opinions of his correspondents.

All business communications regarding Subscriptions, etc., to be addressed Hony. General Secretary, P.O. Box 292,

Georgetown, Demerara,  
British Guiana.

## EDITORIAL NOTES.

The Editor will be glad to hear from any Member of the V.P.S. who is willing to undertake the task of preparing an Index to this Journal.

It is a very great pity that one is not afforded the pleasure of eulogising a master or teacher from one or more of our secondary schools for taking an interest in getting up a school stamp society. The "wee" collector of to-day is the philatelist of tomorrow and there is nothing that would add so greatly to the hobby as the getting together of a few kindred spirits of the younger generation and forming a club to add "verve" to their philatelic enthusiasm.

It is learnt that preparations are being made by the Victory P.S. to hold an "Aero-Stamp Night" at an early date.

personnel of Mr. N. R. McKinnon, who also failed to appreciate the importance of his acquisition and some years later disposed of his entire collection to Mr. Thomas Ridpath, an English Dealer, for £120. This was about the year 1878. This Dealer subsequently sold it to Baron Philippé la Renotière von Ferrary for a sum that has never been disclosed and in whose collection it quietly reposed from all human eyes for over forty years.

Baron von Ferrary who was by birth and living a true Austrian had resided in Paris for the greater part of his life and on his death in Switzerland, while on vacation and during the great war, the French Government seized his collection—upwards of 90 albums—by a war sequestration measure and ordered it to be publicly sold towards Germany's reparation payments. The collection had been willed to the Postal Museum of Berlin. A London syndicate offered £250,000 but this was refused on account of war sequestration laws. However on the 7th April, 1922, the "*pièce de resistance*" as it was styled was placed under the hammer and realized the enormous sum of 300,000 francs, the English equivalent, at the time, being £7,343. It might have realized much more had it not been for a misapprehension between Mr. M. Burrus, a wealthy tobacco merchant, and Mr. Hugo Griebert, acting for Mr. Arthur Hind of Utica, N. Y., in which they both claimed the final bid and Mr. Burrus courteously gave way to the latter.

### THE LATE "A.D."

It is with deep regret that we chronicle the death of our very retiring friend Mr. A. D. Ferguson, F.R.P.S.L. who passed away in London last May. His health had been failing for quite a long time before he left the shores of British Guiana, and his death was not unexpected.

Old "A.D.," a collector since school-days, had been associated with the British Guiana Philatelic Society as honorary secretary and had been editor of the B.G.P.J., the organ of the Society, since its inception. Indeed he was the most experienced philatelist in British Guiana, and rendered yeomanry service. Truly he did much to encourage the hobby, and was "*persona grata*" with the postal authorities as a student of and authority on British Guiana Stamps. On many occasions he was delegate to London to represent British Guiana at the Philatelic Congress of Great Britain, and in 1925 was called upon to sign the Roll of distinguished philatelists, to which he was admitted. He was responsible for promoting three philatelic exhibitions in British Guiana and was the holder of gilt, silver and bronze medals for exhibits in British Guiana and New York (1913).

We need not mention the loss that local philately will suffer, and of course the British Guiana Philatelic Society, at whose meetings he was almost "*sine qua non*."

Mr. Ferguson was unmarried, but leaves a sister to whom we tender our heartfelt sympathy.

### "THE JAMAICA PHILATELIST" NO. 2.

The second number of "*The Jamaica Philatelist*" has made its appearance and we heartily congratulate that band of philatelists (Do you call them "Jam-makers"?) for the excellent and handy production, not to say anything of the fine improvement on number one. 'Tis true it is an annual magazine, circulated free of charge however, but is nevertheless a worthy addition to our ranks. Yet what we admire is the fact that most of the articles are from the pen of local writers and this is in itself an achievement which our neighbours may well be proud of, Cheerio, Jamaica! May the "J.P." thrive and may good fellowship exist among those who co-operate to produce it. May it soon be at least a quarterly,

### THE PAGEANT OF CIVILISATION.

BY F. B. WARREN.

Just to hand from Messrs. Whitfield King & Co. comes a small pamphlet describing an astounding book on postage stamps entitled "*The Pageant of Civilisation*" by F. B. Warren. A Demy Octavo volume of 490 pages. More than 1,200 reproductions of stamps including some of the very latest issues. Cloth bound in blue and stamped in gold and made more serviceable by a remarkably complete cross index. We have not seen this book, but the price is 21s. net. Postage 1s. extra from Whitfield King & Co., Ipswich.

## V.P.S. NOTICES.

*Monthly Meetings.*—Will members please note that all monthly meetings of the Society will take place on the first Wednesday in each month and not on the first Friday as hitherto. This comes into force from November, 1928, by resolution passed at the October meeting.

*Library.*—Mr. C. D'Ornellas, our worthy librarian, has completely re-arranged the Library and books may now be borrowed by members on application to him. Donations will be welcome in any form from a pamphlet to a monograph.

*Exchange Branch.—Important Notice.*—In order that the Exchange Sales Packets shall not exceed the allotted time given for circulation, it is proposed to inflict the maximum penalty on all delinquents and to further erase from the list the name of any member who persists in committing the same offence.

*W. A. HUSBANDS,*  
*Honorary General Secretary.*

## WINDWARD ISLANDS COMMEMORATIVE STAMPS.

(By W. A. H.)

The Windward Islands, which comprise St. Lucia, St. Vincent and Grenada, can hardly, if at all, be reproved for the issue of unnecessary or even commemorative stamps. On the other hand they are to be commended, St. Lucia having issued only one commemorative, St. Vincent none and Grenada one.

*St. Lucia.*—On the 16th December in the year 1902, the island of St. Lucia issued a 2d. green and brown, bearing a view of the handsome and famous Piton rocks that are situated as a veritable fort at the entrance to the harbour of Castries. This in honour of the Fourth Centenary of the discovery of the island by Christopher Columbus. To those, who have had the pleasure of visiting the island, will come vivid recollections of its beauty. To the student of history, who delights in the story of battles upon land and sea, St. Lucia will be found one of the most interesting of all the Caribbees. The famous Piton rocks (two) are the chief objects of interest. Superb conical peaks rising sheer from the sea 2,715 and 2,500 feet, they are, and presenting a startling beauty to ships as they pass south of the island.

*St. Vincent.*—This island, undoubtedly small, but a very healthy resort for the tourist, has not issued a single commemorative.

*Grenada.*—To celebrate the 400th anniversary of her discovery by Christopher Columbus, Grenada, on the 15th of August, in the year 1898, placed on sale a large 2½d. stamp which bore a design of the flagship of Columbus nearing the island. It is understood that Lady Maloney, wife of the then Governor, was responsible for the design. Grenada is noted for her large number of streams and mineral springs, the Grand Etang and Lake Antoine, two old craters, being among the most remarkable natural curiosities. Indeed she offers many inducements as a port of call to tourists.

## TOPICS OF THE TIMES.

*Philatelic Exhibitions.*—With no less than six philatelic exhibitions for the year 1928, one may well evince with a degree of certainty that the hobby is becoming ever-increasingly popular. There hardly exists a vestige of doubt that exhibitions are responsible for about seventy-five per cent. of the recruits to philately, consequently the philatelic public owe a debt of gratitude to those who have laboured in the true sense of the word to promote such exhibitions. Up to date four have been held with the Melbourne Exhibition, Australia, to follow on the 29th October to the 3rd November, and the British Stamp Fair in November.

*S. G. 1929.*—With Gibbons 1929 before us, we see nothing to be alarmed over. Sorry, but many collectors will not sit up in amazement as they did sit up when the 1928 edition appeared. With the fluctuation of the market addicted by the fact that demand controls price of supply, it is easy to perceive why the prices of stamps rise and fall and, of course, the reason for the catalogue pricing is obvious. It must however be remembered that the catalogues are the price lists of the various publishers.

*"Consul" Dealers.*—In the "Philatelic Magazine" of recent date, we read where "Roessler's Stamp News" asserted that the U.S.A. State Department warned all Consuls to refuse to buy stamps for collectors or dealers even though a commission was paid. It is understood that for years Consuls have been performing this service, and it has been suggested that this decision is to

protect certain Consuls who are Stamp Dealers first and Government representatives afterwards. A U. S. Consul in Costa Rica has been cited as a case in point. We happen to know that this practice has been a very lucrative business to many high-salaried officials of various positions and it is time they sit on their dignity.

**A Philatelic "Daily."**—A young damsel once remarked that there are but few, if any, who do not at times utter sayings of absolute insensibility. Indeed, we do, for, "*Ira furor brevis est*" and there is not a mortal that does not get angry. That is so far in support of her witty little saying. We know why, but we will go a bit further, there are some who in their endeavour to reach the sublime, in picturing themselves before the mirror of greatness adopt an attitude far short of that of insanity. Imagine a gentleman with a two-figure salary offering to support or rather maintain a "daily" stamp paper and moreover getting frenzied because no one desired the very lucrative positions (who said they were honorary?). In 1895 a daily stamp paper saw the light of morn in the United States, and it had but a brief flowering ere it withered and died.

**A "Money Order" Odium.**—Sitting is undoubtedly a slovenly habit and ought not to be indulged, especially when the wind blows hard into one's face. It makes one forget Geography. Probably this is the reason why a certain P. O. clerk refused to issue a money order under the pretext of not knowing where the Virgin Islands were situated.

## STRIKE METHODS BY POSTAL EMPLOYEES IN SPAIN.

"I was living in Madrid," said Senor P—, "when the last Post Office strike, and it is important to note how calmly though somewhat astutely the Post Office employees struck for wages." "It was a most effective method," he continued, "the Government of Spain was 'hard put to' without any antagonism to the public; letter-carriers continued to deliver their letters as usual, while others refused to affix the cancellation to any letter, thus the stamps were used over and over again. This continued for over three days and consequently the Government lost many thousands of pounds and had to accede to the strikers' request."

## HOW THE SINGLE CROWN C.A. WATERMARK CAME INTO BEING?

BY MADGWICK.

It is well known that the British Possessions are divided into Crown Colonies, Protectorates and Dependencies, so is it known that the Crown Watermark in our stamps denotes the Royal Crown and the letters C.C. denotes "Crown Colony." This watermark had been in use even in the Protectorates, when late in the year 1881, an official enquiry decided that such a watermark was inappropriate as it was inapplicable.

Now the stamps for the Protectorates and Dependencies were supplied through the medium of the Crown Agents, likewise it was thought best that the stamp paper for the Protectorates and Dependencies should carry the Watermark Crown C.A., and this was altered thus in 1882, when even the margin bore the inscription Crown Agents for the Colonies. Whether any controversy would have arisen and probably carried to any unreasonable extent, I would not venture to say, but as 'Backstairs influence' will have it, the change was chiefly to avoid political antagonism.

## ADVANTAGES OFFERED TO PROSPECTIVE MEMBERS OF THE VICTORY PHILATELIC SOCIETY.

1. Monthly Meetings at which Papers are read and Displays given.
2. The free use of Books, Periodicals, etc., in the Society's Library.
3. The Exchange Sales Packet, to which any member may contribute sheets subject to the usual discount of 10% on sales effected.
4. The free receipt of the Society's Official Organ—The British Guiana Philatelist, —which is published quarterly.
5. And various other activities including Society's New Issue Service, Social evenings, etc., that may be afforded from time to time.

Oversea Members - - 4/- per annum.  
Local Members may have particulars on application to the

HONY. SECRETARY,  
P.O. Box 292,  
Georgetown,  
Demerara.

## TURKS AND CAICOS, POSTAGE AND REVENUE, 1928.

BY HARRY E. HUBER.

At a meeting of the Legislative Board of the Turks and Caicos Islands, held in the Council Chamber at Grand Turk, on March 25, 1927, a bill was unanimously passed, providing for the collection of public fees by means of stamps, instead of in cash. His Excellency the Governor of Jamaica, Sir R. E. Stubbs, gave assent to this bill on April 11th, the Large Seal of Jamaica was affixed, and on 7th May it was proclaimed in the Dependency as Ordinance No. 6 of 1927.

Turks and Caicos Islands,  
Ordinance No. 6 of 1927.

I assent.

Signed R. E. Stubbs,

Governor.

(L. S.)

11th April, 1927.

An Ordinance of the Legislative Board of the Turks and Caicos Islands to provide for the collection of public Fees by means of Stamps.

7th May, 1927.

Be it enacted by the Legislative Board of the Turks and Caicos Islands as follows:—

### 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Ordinance may be cited as the Public Fees Collection Ordinance, 1927.

### 2. FEES COLLECTED BY STAMPS.

It shall be lawful for the Commissioner, from time to time, to declare and direct, by Order to be published in the *Gazette*, that from and after the time specified in such Order, all or any of the fees, for the time being, payable in any Court of Justice or Public Department or office connected with the Public Service, or to any Officer thereof respectively, in aid of the General Revenue of the Dependency, shall be collected by means of stamps, and from and after the time specified in any such order or notice, the fees therein mentioned shall be received by such stamps as are equivalent to the amount of fees payable, and not in money.

### 3. STAMPS AFFIXED OR IMPRESSED.

When any fee comprised in any such order or notice is payable in respect of a document, the stamp or stamps equivalent to the amount of the fees shall be affixed or impressed on such document and when such fee is payable otherwise than in respect of a document, the stamp or stamps equivalent to the fee shall be affixed in a book or

otherwise, as may be provided by any Order of the Commissioner.

### 4. CANCELLATION.

It shall be the duty of the officer to whom any such fee is payable to cancel the stamp or stamps which represent such fee, in such manner as may be directed by the Commissioner.

### 5. DIES OR STAMPS.

The Commissioner may take all necessary steps to provide suitable dies or stamps for the purposes of the Ordinance.

### 6. ORDERS.

The Commissioner may make all such orders as may be necessary to give effect to this Ordinance.

### 7. FEES NOT PAYABLE BY PUBLIC OFFICERS ACTING ON BEHALF OF THE PUBLIC SERVICE.

Whenever by any practice, rule, law or ordinance any fee is payable in a Court of Justice, or Public Department, or Office connected with the Public Service, or to any Officer thereof respectively, in aid of the General Revenue of the Dependency, such fee shall not be payable by a public officer, when acting on behalf of the Public Service, and in the discharge of his duty.

Provided, however, that nothing herein contained shall affect the liability of a party other than a Public Officer acting in the discharge of his duty, for the payment of such fees when they constitute or form part of the costs awarded in any legal proceedings, civil or criminal.

Passed the Legislative Board this 25th day of March, 1927.

Signed, CLIF G. DARRELL,

Clerk of the Board.

Signed, H. E. Phillips,

President."

Postage and Revenue stamps therefore became necessary and in their Bulletin of July-September, 1927, the Crown Agents for the Colonies announced that such a series was in preparation, to supersede the Crown type "Postage" stamps issued November 20, 1922.

Until the new stamps were available, those of the small head, King George V. series of 1913, and the Crown series of 1922 were used for the combined duties of postage and revenue, though inscribed only "Postage." The 5d., 6d. and 1/- Crown type stamps exhausted during January, 1928, and subsequent to issue of

the Postage and Revenue series, the remainders of both the 1913 and 1922 series were burned.

The new stamps were received at Grand Turk, via New York, on February 3, 1928, by the Columbus steamer "Solhavn," which brought 13 bags of mail and 55 tons of general cargo. They were not, however, put on sale until Thursday, March 1, 1928, and as a mail was dispatched from Grand Turk on the evening of February 29th, first supplies of the Postage and Revenue stamps did not leave the island until March 18th, when the Royal Netherlands s.s. "Amazone" came up from the south and took on the mail for New York.

The stamps of this series, comprising eleven denominations (the 4d., 5d. and 3/- of the former series were dropped, and two new values, 5/- and 10/-, added) were lines engraved and recess printed by Messrs. Thos. De La Rue and Co., Ltd., London, on multiple Crown and script CA watermarked paper, and comb perforated 14, in sheets of 120, divided into two panes of 60 each (6 x 10) with a margin between, and issued in Post Office sheets of 60. There is no marginal line, inscription, or plate number, although along the lower edge on some denominations (1½d. and 2/-) there is a band of engine turning, the width of the pane. Coloured papers were used for the 2½d. and 5/- (yellow) 2/- green and 10/- (blue).

The design is a re-drawing of that used for the Crown type Postage stamps of 1922, a profile portrait of King George V., facing the left, on an oval medallion. A band conforming to the oval is inscribed "Turks and Caicos Islands" at the top, and "Postage and Revenue" at the bottom. In the upper corners, as before, is the Imperial Crown, placed horizontally, in the lower corners, on colourless rectangles, the denomination in numerals (1d.) and between, the value in words, "One Penny." Small ovals containing the Turks head cacti are inserted just above the figures of value. The inscriptions are colourless.

The design, more overcrowded than that of the Postage series, Crown type, of 1922 is caused by the unnecessary duplication of the Crown, the cactus, the numerals of value, and expressing the denomination in words. The Cayman Islands design is not so burdened and is far more effective.

The design of the ½d. was not changed, and continues in the Melocactus Communis type of July 7, 1909. Printed in black, on

script CA watermarked paper, it was issued October 11, 1926.

March 1, 1928, King George V. Postage and Revenue series.

Line engraved and recess printed by Messrs. Thos. De La Rue and Co., Ltd., London.

Watermarked multiple Crown and script CA.

Perforated comb 14.

½d. green.

1d. brown.

1½d. red.

2d. slate.

2½d. violet on yellow.

3d. blue.

6d. violet.

1/- brown orange.

2/- red on emerald green.

5/- green on yellow.

10/- violet on blue.

## NEW ISSUES AND DISCOVERIES.

By MADGWICK.

**Argentina.**—Two new issues to commemorate the centenary of the signing of the preliminary Peace terms between the Empire of Brazil and the United Provinces of the River Plate made their appearance during the month of August last. The value and colours are 5c. and 12c. red and blue respectively. The former was put on sale on the 27th and the latter on the 29th. Our correspondent informs us that the issue is a limited one and speculators are likely to control the supply in about three weeks.

**British West Indies.**—Rumour has it that most of these islands are discontinuing the use of the 4d. value, and it is understood that Dominica 4d. is entirely exhausted. Already the 5d. values have been discontinued from most islands; but the 5d. value of the Leeward Islands of which so much has been said will hardly reach any high price, for, for some months after the supposed withdrawal, this item could still have been had at Montserrat, and the Virgin Islands,—probably up to time of writing.

**French Colonies.**—Twenty French colonies will be in receipt of the new 1 fr. 10c. in a definite design as the result of a special decree by Minister of Posts writes our Cayenne correspondent.

**Malta.**—Mr. M. Fernandes of this city has just shown us the complete set (17) of new Maltese Stamps from  $\frac{1}{2}$  to 10/- with the overprint "Postage and Revenue" in carmine which he has received direct from Malta.

**United States.**—The new 5c. Air Mail Stamp of this country has been shown us by Mr. Husbands. It is an exceedingly handsome stamp carrying the design of a revolving beacon said to be the one on Sherman Hill in the Rocky Mountains. The Hawaii Sesquicentennial series (2)—2c. and 5c.—have also been shown us by Mr. Husbands.

## HOW PROVISIONAL ISSUES WERE CHECKED ?

(By W.A.H.)

During the year 1925, whilst making an examination of a part of the British Guiana Government Stamp collection, I came across not a few queer-looking items, which I had never seen before and that dear old friend, the late Mr. J. A. Rodway, F.L.S., in his usual blithe and pleasing way, assisted me in compiling a good deal of notes of which we took nearly two hours. But this was not all, certain items were without even a vestige of information beyond the fact that it was sent out from Berne and therefore was authentic. Among the items for which I could get no information was the 5d. dull purple and mauve of Trinidad overprinted with a large 3d. and a line drawn through the old value. Reference to this stamp was made in Vol. I, No. 3, of this Journal. As was stated, the Postmaster General of Trinidad failed to give any information stating that nothing regarding the stamp in question was known in his office, but as subsequently told by Mr. Fred Melville of London, the surcharge was ordered from London in 1899 during the absence on long leave of the then Postmaster General, Mr. J. A. Bulmer, who happened to be in London and succeeded in quashing the issue intimating that he would act up to the orders of the Secretary of State and not surcharge any stamps.

Now the far-reaching effect that most surcharges had and the scandal that surrounded them prior to 1899 is obvious as will be herein seen and it is yet to be wondered the real reason why that issue had been ordered,

because the quashing of the issue by Mr. Bulmer proves that there was no real necessity. Moreover it demonstrates that the request of Lord Ripon, Secretary of State, had been violated as it will be remembered by those "in the know" that that gentleman had caused to be issued in 1893, six years before the abortive 3d. of Trinidad had been ordered, a rather strongly-worded memorandum forbidding the issue of local and provisional issues by means of surcharges or overprints on the regular series and further asserting that if proper care is taken to maintain a supply, there will be no need for surcharges.

In spite of this, certain colonies among which were Cayman Islands and Turks Islands issued surcharges and whether they were penalised for the violation of the Secretary of State's request or not, I am not sufficiently informed as to mention, but that they were called to board is evidenced by the fact that in 1908, an official enquiry was instituted by Lord Crewe, Secretary of State for the Colonies, which resulted in the finding that "the Officer Administering the Government, the Colonial Secretary and the Colonial Postmaster of the various Crown Colonies and the Protectorates should be held collectively and individually responsible for ensuring that an adequate stock of stamps is kept in the Colony or Protectorate, and for ordering a fresh supply as soon as the stock in hand falls below the amount normally required for a period of, say, six months." In consequence of this, provisional issues have been almost discontinued unless in the case of real necessity.

## FORGERIES.

### A LECTURE READ TO THE JUNIOR PHILATELIC SOCIETY, LONDON.

By FLEET PAYMASTER A. R. COWMAN, R.N.

The general view taken of Forgeries is that they are above all things to be feared and shunned; but as a study there are few more interesting branches of Philately.

The study of Forgeries is obviously useful; it automatically brings with it the close study and knowledge of the genuine stamps. It gives one confidence in one's ability to distinguish between a good stamp and a bad one, especially in one's own favourite countries. How often we see in auctioneers'

catalogues the remark added against the description of a stamp for sale "not guaranteed" or "postmark doubtful." And it is noticeable what a shyness in bidding among the auctioneers' audience is caused by such descriptions. Now a knowledge of Forgeries and fakes, and of the methods of their manufacturers, combined with a knowledge of the genuine stamps, must enable the collector to know that these doubts expressed in the auctioneers' catalogues are in a number of cases without foundation. The would-be buyer is able to benefit accordingly. Only the other day it was published how, at one of the Ferrari sales, a Great Britain stamp, which was of such rarity that Gibbons does not price it, but marks it with stars—namely, the 10d. with wmk. emblems—was described in the sale catalogue as "not guaranteed," and consequently those present hesitated to bid for it. The well-known British specialist, Mr. Charles Nissen, however, confident in his own knowledge, obtained for about £2 a stamp probably worth as many hundreds.

The mention of Ferrari recalls the fact that that great collector was surprisingly ignorant of what was good and bad. People who have seen his stamps remark how easily he was imposed on, and it is noticeable how glaring forgeries are sandwiched and interspersed in every direction with the finest rarities. Fakers used to print their own so-called new issues especially for his benefit!

On the other hand, the study of the multifarious ways of forgers and fakers also creates a profound mistrust when buying stamps. Most of us have been "had" in some way or another in the course of our acquisitions, and perhaps the best rule to follow is that unless a stamp is, in your own mind, in every way above suspicion, not only as regards the impression itself, but also the paper, colour, watermark and postmark—do not buy it.

One advantage of the study of Forgeries as a hobby and amusement must not in these times be overlooked—its comparative cheapness. One can get as much joy and fun out of them as out of genuine stamps, in arranging and classifying them, and at a much smaller expense.

There are difficulties in the way of getting them. Many people destroy every forgery as soon as they see it; and dealers certainly do not like selling them unless they know their customer. Some of my own experiences in hunting for forgeries have been

rather curious. I have at times been struck by the probity of some dealers. When I ask one for forgeries, he invariably looks at me sideways. Once a man shouted at me indignantly that he did not sell them; in fact, there was not one forgery in his establishment. I was glad to know this, as it happened that a short time before, that particular man had sent me for sale as genuine a couple of glaring forgeries, and marked at a good price too. However, after seeing that I was more or less harmless, they have in many cases offered me lots or collections of forgeries. Often when one buys a collection of forgeries, one is able to pick out one or two genuine stamps; and just as I have no doubt that in my general stamp collection there are, unknown to myself, some forgeries, so also there is no doubt that in my Forgery collection there are, also unknown to myself, some quite good stamps. Naturally, one would collect Forgeries only as a sideline to one's own stamp collection; and the possession of several different imitations of the same stamp increases the desire of the collector to possess the genuine imitated stamp.

There is no general infallible rule for detecting forgeries. It is said that a collector, after a time, is able to "sense" a forgery; but perhaps his ability to spot one is due to his intimate acquaintance with the characteristics of the genuine, and to the habits of close observation he has as a philatelist acquired. Certainly, however, there are people whose quickness and accuracy in spotting a forgery seems uncanny to a less experienced person. As a rule, apart from incorrectness in small details of the design, the colours lack the fulness and glossiness of the genuine, the method of printing is often different, and the paper is mostly of a cheaper and more porous quality than the genuine. The youthful idea that if a stamp is postmarked, it must be genuine, is of course no test whatever, as the postmarks themselves are often forged, even on an entire envelope; but the study of postmarks is a valuable guide. There is one occasion when it is advisable to tread delicately, like Agag, namely, when invited to point out forgeries in a friend's collection. Remember, what will please him best is to be told he has no bad stamps; at any rate, don't make out you know more about the subject than he does!

As a rule, it is easy enough to spot a forgery when you know that such a one exists, and you know its differences. Other-

wise, it is quite the reverse. For instance, in my collection is a bad current long 5 franc French stamp, which I know is bad by the source from which I obtained it, yet despite the closest scrutiny with a magnifying glass I have been unable to trace any differences between it and the genuine. The same thing was the case, among others, with a 5 franc Monaco which has been for a long time in my stamp collection, but which, alas! I now have good reason to think is a forgery. Some of the British official overprints have been so accurately imitated that detection is practically impossible, even by experts; one result of this has been that people are shy of collecting that class of stamp, and their value has depreciated. In cases where the paper backing has not been removed from a used specimen, the paper may be found to bear an indentation of the overprint, which is then of course obviously spurious.

An interesting form of competition suggests itself, which the Junior Philatelic Society may see fit to act upon one day at one of their meetings. Twenty or thirty stamps would be numbered and displayed under a glass case, one half being genuine and one half forgeries. Those present would then be invited to spot the forgeries, and write down the numbers assigned to them.

British Colonials have been forged to a much less extent than Foreign; this may be on account of their watermark, or to the good and well defined execution of their printing. Sometimes, and in more recent forgeries, the watermark has been imitated by being merely impressed into the paper, as in the early Swiss and Egyptian stamps. Sometimes a small Queen's head De La Rue type Colonial has been taken, and all the colour discharged from the stamp, leaving simply a blank piece of paper water-marked Crown and CC or CA, on which a forged impression of a rare stamp has been printed. The paper, however, which has been so treated is rough and coarse-looking, and not hard to detect.

One must be wary in dealing with newly issued stamps as with any other variety; in some cases Forgeries of new issues and surcharges arrive in England before the genuine stamps themselves. Postally printed envelope stamps and wrappers have been very little forged; for this reason alone, it is a pity that so few people now collect them. One class of Forgery I have never seen, namely, a forged post-card; and though there is no doubt that some

exist, it would be interesting to know if any of my hearers have ever seen one.

The literature dealing with Forgeries is lamentably small. The only book exclusively on the subject is "Album Weeds" which is out of date, being twenty years old, and out of print, and I understand will not be reprinted. It is easy to pick holes in a book after twenty years, and "Album Weeds" no doubt contains many mistakes, but it was the pioneer work of its kind, and even now may be considered an invaluable help to beginners; and its special point is that it enables the reader to distinguish the Forgeries described without his having a genuine copy by his side for comparison. Its author, Mr. Earée, whom I have the honour to know personally, may be regarded as a martyr to Philately, for he has practically lost his eyesight from cataract as the result of the intricate work of dissecting Forgeries. Practically all one reads nowadays on Forgeries is contained in the paragraphs which appear from time to time in the philatelic journals. It would be a great advantage to have some book, written on the lines of "Album Weeds," and bringing it more or less up to date; but there is a prejudice against publishing such descriptions of forged stamps, as they enable the forgers to rectify the mistakes. How often one sees the crucial points described in "Album Weeds" covered by the postmark!

Some Forgeries were made to deceive the Post Office; others, and by far the great majority, to deceive collectors. Naturally, the former are the more interesting, and have a considerable monetary value. Prominent among them are the historic examples of the Great Britain 1/- green, early Spanish, early Hayti, and the German Germania type. Of the Spanish, there was not a single issue between 1852 and 1890 (with one solitary exception, which happened to have been printed in London) which has not had some of its stamps forged to defraud the revenue. Of the Germania I am showing you two copies this evening, which I was fortunate enough to obtain from Mr. de Worms, of the Royal Philatelic Society. They were exceedingly well executed by our British Government during the War, to be used in case of necessity by our airmen, if they landed in enemy territory. Certain values of Austrian and Bavarian stamps were similarly forged. It is not clear, however, why our Government could not have made certain quiet enquiries

for these stamps among the Strand dealers, if they wanted them, instead of undertaking the laborious task of forging them; they would probably have been able to get them. To the best of my knowledge, none of these stamps was actually used postally during the war; such specimens would be of high value, if any now exist.

Forgeries may be divided into eight classes, which I will enumerate; and in doing so, I will briefly refer to the pages taken out of my collection which I am displaying; though it is not my intention this evening to describe the differences characterizing the Forgeries of various countries.

(1) Imitations of the whole design. Most forgeries were lithographed, this being cheaper than the engraving process, and made in Germany. These constitute the majority of those described in "Album Weeds." If there is any doubt as to whether a particular stamp is engraved or lithographed, a good test, without damaging the stamp, is to lay a piece of thin silvered paper over it, and to rub it hard with the finger. When the stamp is engraved, some details of the design will be found on the silvered paper, but when lithographed, it still remains quite flat. The best-known maker of engraved Forgeries is Jeffreys, a clerk in a printer's office, who forged the early New South Wales, New Zealand, and other Colonial stamps. I fancy that like most evil-doers, he came to a bad end. Much more recent is the work of a certain Venturini, presumably an Italian, who has produced some wonderful copies of the early French imperforates, with differences so minute that they would never be spotted unless pointed out. Other engraved Forgeries of Colonials have recently come from Italy, but as a rule they are not good, and are easily detected.

Naturally you will be most interested in the Forgeries of your own country, so I am showing you all my British collection. The most famous examples of Great Britain Forgeries are the shilling green already referred to, and the £1 Edward green. The former is known as the Stock Exchange Forgery from its postmark, and was not discovered till 26 years after it was used—namely, 1898, by Mr. Nissen. It is estimated that the Post Office was defrauded of some thousands of pounds by this forgery. The £1 Edward green was imitated to deceive collectors. I am sorry I have not a copy to

show you, but it was post-marked, and printed probably by a photo-lithographic process. The forger, a London stamp dealer, who got three years' penal servitude for his trouble, offered the stamp at 8/- a copy, but the whole stock was destroyed by the order of the Court, and only very few copies remain. Both in this case and in the Stock Exchange forgery, and also in the case of the Spanish postal forgeries already alluded to, the forgeries are intrinsically more valuable than the genuine; the Stock Exchange one would cost you about 12/6, while a genuine specimen can be got for 2d. or 3d.

The Officials have already been referred to. Though the majority in the display are coarsely done, and would not deceive a beginner, others are very dangerous, such as some of the O. W. Officials. With regard to the Government. Parcels overprint there appear to have been two settings of the genuine, in which the word "Parcels" measures 14 and 15 mm. respectively. I should be very glad of confirmation or otherwise of this.

The sheets of French imperforates are interesting. In the sheet of the 10c. yellow-brown, there are two stamps with error of value 1 fr. instead of 10c. In this sheet, and also in the 1 franc value shown, half the sheet has the Emperor's head and the other half the Ceres head. Similar errors and retouches, such as "Fin" for "Ein" exist in the Lubeck sheets. Many forgeries can be classified in types, and even plated, according to their position and column in the sheet. Thus, each of the Lubeck sheets can be divided into five types, and the same division into types applies, among others, to the British Columbia and Suez Canal stamps.

Of the Cape Triangulars shown, two of the types are engraved, and the others lithographed. On none of the forgeries is the correct number of toes given to the figure of the lady. The wonder is that the printers were able to count her feet.

I cannot resist mentioning a stamp that actually depicts the process of forging, though perhaps not many of you will call it to mind. It is one of the current miserably printed German stamps. I ought to mention, however, that the subject portrayed is a blacksmith's forge, and not a stamp one.

The majority of Forgeries come under the head of the class just dealt with, in

which the whole stamp is forged ; but in addition there are

(2) Partial Forgeries, in which a part of the original die was altered, or forged. This is necessarily a small class, and includes certain forgeries of Alsace, the second type of Argentine, and the square Transvaals. The effect of the last-named has been to make Transvaal one of the most difficult countries, and to destroy its popularity. Certain tests have been published with a view to exposing its forgeries ; but the fact remains that these are too difficult and inconstant for the average collector to follow.

(3) Fakes, in which a genuine stamp has been altered or tampered with, to make it represent another stamp, such as changing its colour chemically, or adding perforations. The penny black, by the insertion of the letters VR in its corners, can be made into a valuable stamp ; *ergo*, why not insert them ? In the Royal Philatelic Society's Forgery Collection is a specimen of this fake so well done that more than one dealer has passed the stamp as genuine. The early Ceylons can be made very valuable simply by cutting off the perforations and adding larger margins ; this has often been done with great skill. There is said to be a French firm in Paris that makes a speciality of this faking of rare stamps.

(4) Genuine stamps with forged overprint on surcharge. These are legion, recently a block of the "Pies Pies" Indian error, and also of the East Africa and Uganda doubly surcharged 4 cents were offered for sale to a dealer, who suspected that in each case one of the two surcharges were forged. This was actually so, and led to the arrest of the would-be vendor, who had stolen the stamps. One often hears of a forged overprint being distinguishable owing to its being printed over the postmark, but practically always it is impossible to see whether the postmark or the overprint was first applied to the stamp.

(5) Genuine stamps with overprint or surcharge removed, to make them represent other stamps. Such a specimen of Tobago is shown to-night, but the effort to remove the surcharge is clumsy. Sometimes the word "Specimen" has been removed. One's thoughts run to the 3d. on 4d. blue South Australian ; but very pertinent ques-

tions would be asked before anyone bought a 4d. blue without surcharge !

(6) Reprints with forged postmark, such as Sardinia, Samoa. These are often hard to detect, especially when attached to the so-called original envelope.

(7) Bogus stamps. These are a big and interesting class, and are elaborately described in Mr. Melville's book "Phantom Philately." The most famous example of this class is the Sedang labels. Not only the labels, but the name of the country itself, were merely an effort of the imagination. The career of their originator was adventurous and enlists our sympathy ; it inspired the plot of one of Guy Boothby's novels. The stamps of the pseudo-French Colony "Anglet," which are being shown to you, are actually drawn by hand. The pricing and remarks about the stamps are also done by hand ; and I have thought the piece sufficiently curious to keep it intact as it is.

Under the heading of Bogus may be counted the over-printing or alteration of stamps, which, so altered, do not exist genuine, such as Cape of Good Hope stamps with other than the Crown and CC watermark which have been overprinted with a G to represent Griqualand ; likewise British Bechuanaland overprinted on the wrong stamps. Similarly, the perforation of stamps which do not exist perforated, such as Confederate States and Sardinia ; and fancy colours may also be called Bogus.

(8) Lastly, Forgeries of Forgeries. Not only have bogus issues been created, but imitations of them have been made. The Guatemala seascape view stamps occur to me ; they were originally produced as finely engraved stamps, and subsequently wretched lithographic imitations were made of them. Similarly, a perforated Hidalgo Mexican stamp was fancifully surcharged with a large  $\frac{1}{2}$  ; this bogus surcharge has been extensively imitated.

In the foregoing classification genuine stamps with forged postmarks, and fiscal cancellations cleaned off, have not been included. There are plenty of them about, but as the design has not been altered, they hardly come under the category of Forgeries ; the same thing applies to Reprints, though they are akin to Forgeries in many respects, and to Essays and Proofs, which form a separate and distinct study. —S. L.

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