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COLLECTORS CLUB PHILATELIST

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Vol. XIX. APRIL, 1940. No. 2.

Tibet

By Theodore M. Newman.

(Continued from Vol. XIX, page 39.)

The Origin of the First Tibetan Postage Issue

When the English took possession of Lhasa in August, 1904, the Dalai Lama fled and sought refuge in Urga, the capitol of Mongolia. On his return to Tibet in 1909 he stopped at Pekin to see the Empress Dowager of China and begged her to allow him to correspond directly with her instead of having to go through her viceroys at Lhasa. She sent him back to Tibet without saying "yes" or "no" to his request, promising that she would write of her decision, but died that year without answering. Her silence angered the Dalai Lama and he refused to send his annual tribute to Pekin. China then sent a punitive force which compelled the Dalai Lama again to leave Lhasa; this time going to Darjeeling, India. At the outbreak of the Chinese Revolution in 1911, the Tibetans ejected the Chinese troops from Lhasa, and again gave the Dalai Lama free access to the city. He returned in 1912, after thirty months of exile as a guest of the British. It was then that he issued his first stamps.

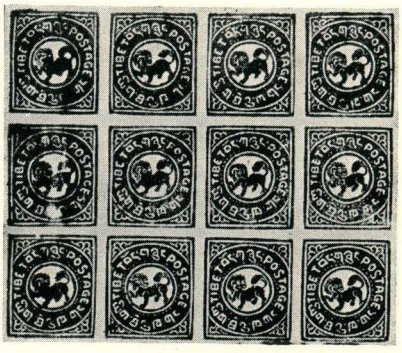
It may have been from contact with civilization, or the necessity of replacing the Chinese Postal System with a national one, that the year 1912 saw the origin in Tibet of a real postal system.



The Dalai Lama Proof

Before the Dalai Lama accepted the design submitted to him for postal use, he ordered trial copies or proofs to be printed. These stamps were the One Kahang (1/6 Trangka) value but in the color of the One Chekye (½ Trangka).

They are bright purple, imperforated, and printed on strong, ivory-white, unglazed paper. The impression is from a wood-block carving and the printing was done by hand. One sheet of these stamps was exhibited in London for a while before it was broken up. Today as far as can be determined, there are but three single copies of this sheet in existence in addition to one full sheet which has not been broken. These proofs are truly great rarities and deserve an equal ranking with the other great rarities of the philatelic world.



Full Sheet of the First Tibetan Issue.

The First Tibetan Issue

Imperforated **Ungummed** **Unwatermarked**

The stamp measures approximately 19½x22½ mm., and the general design is the same for all values. The central figure is the White Lion, emblem of life and death, (probably, in error, the designer actually made the "White" Lion in color) on a circular white background which measures approximately 9½ mm. across.

This white circle is ringed with a circle of color and a white circle, the two together measuring about 1 mm. Surrounding these two small circles is a large band of color measuring approximately 4 mm. in width. On the left side of this large band appears the English word "Tibet", on the right side the English word "Postage". At the top and bottom of this band are Tibetan characters of the Bong dialect, which, by the way, is the dialect of the priests. The English equivalent of the top inscription is: Bod-g-shun, meaning Tibetan Govt. The lower inscription is divided into two parts by a character closely resembling the English letter Z written in longhand. Including this character and all characters to the left of it, the translation is as follows: Yig-th-Hu, meaning Letter Postage. The characters to the right of the Z are for the denomination of the stamp and naturally change with each value. The frame and spandrel ornamentations were evidently copied from the Edwardian one anna stamp of India.

All Tibetan stamps are printed in sheets of twelve stamps (3 rows of 4) on native paper, known as "thready" in the paper trade, and ranges from pelure through all grades to very heavy. There are six families in Tibet who are responsible for the manufacture of paper and each family makes it according to the family formula which has been handed down through the ages. These families have no machines for this work—it is all done by hand, which consequently produces small variations in the thickness of that particular family's paper.

The paper pulp comes from the bark of trees which is pulled off, ground up and mixed with a liquid until a mash is formed. This mash is then poured through a wire screen into a frame about four feet square, where it is left to dry. It is then pressed out into sheets.

From the above it may be seen why classification of these papers philatelically except for the rather broad classifications of pelure, thin, medium, thick and heavy, is an impossible task.

For the same reasons the color of the paper varies and may be broadly classified as yellow, yellow-gray and gray.

Shades

The colors of this issue run surprisingly true for native work—there are few variations and no color errors. Naturally there are impressions ranging from light to dark, caused by the printer either smearing the wood blocks or neglecting it, but in most instances it will be found on examination that the same color ink was used. This is especially noticeable on sheets where several shades are present because of uneven distribution of ink and not, as some may think, because of different color ink. Therefore, the terms, light and dark, will not be used in listing colors. Below is a list of the true colors and shades of the first issue.

1/6 Trangka* (I Kakang)—Green.
⅓ Trangka (I Karmanga)—Blue, Steel blue, Ultramarine.
½ Trangka (I Chekye)—Lilac, Red lilac, Reddish purple.
⅔ Trangka (I Shokan)—Carmine, Brown red, Lake, Brownish lake, Scarlet (rare).
1 Trangka—Vermilion, Scarlet vermilion.



The Error "POTSAGE" On Cover.

Errors

The major error of this issue appears on the ⅔ Trangka and consits of the word postage being spelled "Potsage". This error occurs on the two center stamps of the sheet (Nos. 6 & 7), and to my knowledge, has never been corrected.

*(The word trangka is pronounced tangka, or tanka.)

Authorities:
1. Tibetan Grammar—H. A. Jäschke.
2. Grammar of Colloquial Tibetan—Bell.
3. Grammar of the Tibetan Language—Hannah.
4. Tibetan-English Dictionary—Jäschke.
5. English Tibetan Dictionary—Dousamdup.
6. Tsarong Shape—Tibet.

After consulting the table below and doing a little multiplying one will find that there are only 400 errors in the world today providing every stamp printed is still in existence.

A less frequent error is a double print which so far has been seen on the ½, ⅔, and 1 Trangka. It is quite possible that it may be found on the other values.

A List of the Total Number of Sheets Printed:

1/6 Trangka	400
⅓ Trangka	350
½ Trangka	300
⅔ Trangka	200
1 Trangka	200

The Mystery Issues of Tibet

Recently there appeared on the philatelic market two sets of Tibetan stamps, which, with minor variations, closely followed the general design of the First Tibetan Issue, and were for unknown reasons called the Mystery Issues of Tibet. After no little research on the matter, I concluded they were forgeries. To reassure myself I sent both sets to a friend of mine, who is one of the highest dignitaries of Tibet, and an indisputable authority on the postage stamps of that country. In his letter dated September 28, 1939, he says in reference to these stamps—"Received letter dated 11th August with those cheated stamps, which I am returning back to you".

Some of these forgeries are so dangerous that they are fooling many of the biggest dealers on the continent today. For this reason I believe it worthwhile to take a little space in this article for a brief description of both sets so that they may be differentiated from the genuine First Tibetan Issue.



1/3 Tranka Blue.



½ Tranka Violet.



2/3 Tranka Carmine.

The First Mystery Issue

1. The workmanship is poor—characters and figures are indistinct.
2. The height of the stamp measures approximately 23½ mm., as compared with the genuine stamp which is approximately 22½ mm. This is only a guide however as there are variations in both forged and genuine copies.
3. In the circle containing the English and Tibetan inscriptions, the Tibetan characters at the top of the circle are larger than those of the genuine and almost touch the top border of the circle. In all instances it will be found that they are slightly different from the original.
4. There is no "Potsage" error in this issue.
5. The Tibetan characters at the bottom of the circle are smaller and somewhat altered from the genuine. Most noticeable of these alterations is the character resembling the English letter Z written in longhand. In the genuine, or First Tibetan Issue, the character slants—i. e., it appears to have been written by a person writing backhand. In this issue it is perpindicular to the circumference. Explaining it another way—a radius drawn from the center of the stamp would pass through its long axis.

6. The English word "Tibet" is wider spaced than in the First Issue. I measured this word from the lateral top serifs of the two T's of the word and found that in this issue the measurement between was 9 mm., while on the genuine First Issue the measurement is between 8-8½ mm. On the ½ Trangka of this false issue I found the measurement to be 7-7½ mm.

The only error I have seen on these spurious stamps is a tete-beche of the ½ Trangka.

The shades of these stamps are as follows:—

1/6 Trangka—Green, Yellow-green, Apple green, Olive green, Bistre.
⅓ Trangka—Blue, Ultramarine, Steel blue.
½ Trangka—Bright violet, Violet, Purple.
⅔ Trangka—Brick red, Rose, Brown red.
1 Trangka—Vermilion, Red.

Although all the above measurements were made from a large selection they must not be taken too literally. Remember, these stamps, as well as the genuine, were not made by machinery and each die happens to be different from the other; therefore a stamp does not have to conform in every respect to the above classification to be catalogued as a forgery. I would rely most heavily on the stamp's general appearance, and the differences in the color, paper and Tibetan characters as described above.



1/6 Tranka Green.



1/3 Tranka Blue.



½ Tranka Violet.

The Second Mystery Issue

The second mystery issue of Tibet is much easier to distinguish from the genuine than the first mystery issue and therefore their description will take up less space. These forgeries may immediately be detected because of:—

1. The Tibetan characters in the top and bottom circles of the stamps are for the most part entirely different from the genuine copy.
2. The paper is not native made paper and is rather stiff laid paper and white in color.

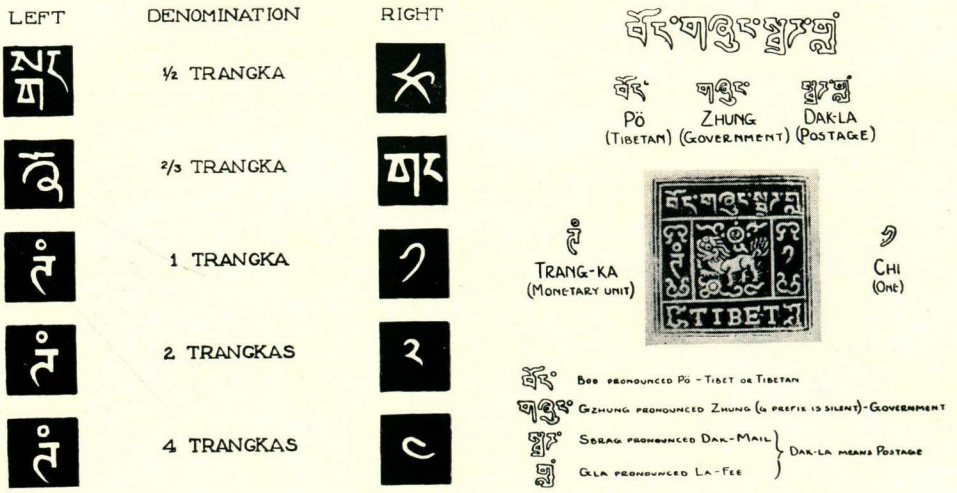
There are the usual variations of color and workmanship but I believe it unnecessary to go into these phases as the above data is sufficient to differentiate copies at a glance.

The Second Tibetan Issue

Imperforated, Perforated 11 **Ungummed** **Unwatermarked**

In 1932 the Tibetan Government decided to issue a new set of stamps; but why a new set was issued, I don't know. The values of all stamps were raised, and it is my belief that they were anticipating joining the International Postal Union.

The stamps of this issue measure approximately 24x24 mm., and the general design is the same for all values. The central figure is the White Lion, emblem of life and death, on a colored background which measures 12x12½ mm. Above and below this square is a rectangle which runs across the whole width of the stamp. In the upper rectangle are Tibetan characters which when translated read:—Po-Zhung dak-la—Tibetan Government Postage, Fee. In the lower rectangle is the English word Tibet. Lateral to the central square and joining the overhanging ends of the top and bottom rectangles are two small rectangles, containing Tibetan characters. In the left rectangle, or the rectangle the Lion is facing, the Tibetan character reads Tam which means Trangka. In the right rectangle the Tibetan character has to do with the value and is naturally changed on each stamp.

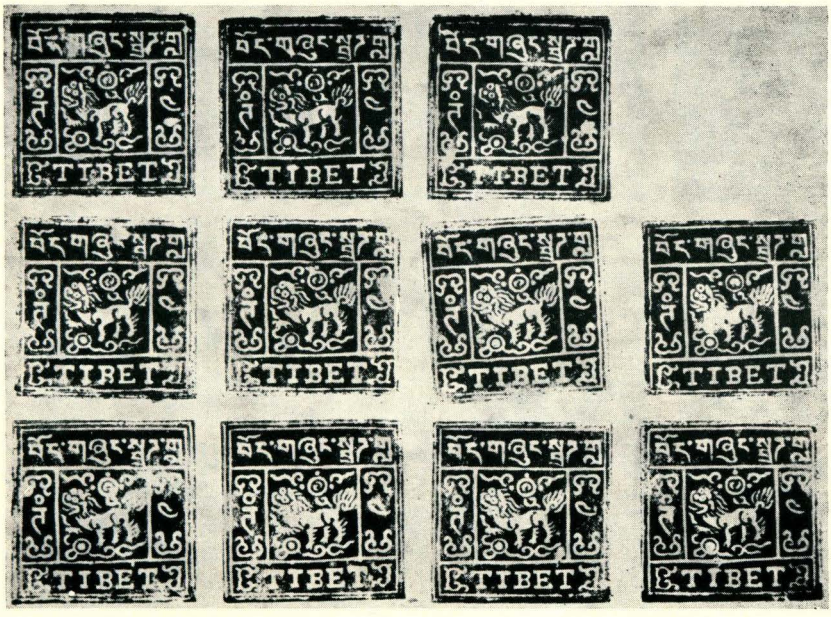


All stamps of this issue also are printed in sheets of twelve (3 rows of 4) on native paper, known as "thready" in the paper trade, and as explained before, range from thin through all grades to very heavy. I have not seen any stamps of this issue printed on pelure paper. All stamps are officially imperforated except the four trangka, which appears imperforated and perforated. All values of this issue are perforated but not by official decree. The postmaster at Lhasa has a hand perforating device consisting of a wooden handle holding a steel wheel with many spikes—much the same as a dressmaker uses when doing pattern work—and it is entirely up to his whims and fancies at the moment whether the stamps are or are not perforated.

Shades

The workmanship on this issue is far superior to that of the First Tibetan Issue, as far as printing is concerned. I have examined many sheets and in all instances the distribution of ink is just about perfect. The shades of the various denominations are listed below:

½ Trangka—Orange, Orange-yellow, Yellow, Lemon-yellow.
⅔ Trangka—Blue, Dark blue.
1 Trangka—Lake, Rose, Rose carmine, Carmine.
2 Trangkas—Vermilion, Scarlet vermilion.
4 Trangkas—Green, Emerald green, Olive green, Myrtle.

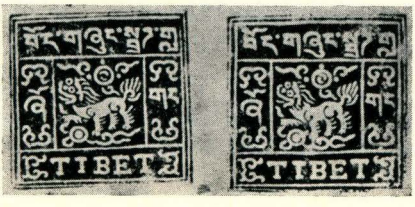


The Twist "Error" Also Appears on a Second Sheet.

Errors

To date I have seen one major error and one minor error. The major error occurs in the four trangka denomination and consists of stamp number four being omitted from the sheet.

The minor error consists of a very noticeable counter clockwise twist of stamp number seven in the ⅔ trangka sheet. I have seen this repeatedly in the last six months but have not observed it on earlier sheets.



Proofs

I have in my possession a sheet of two stamps of the ⅔ trangka value which in my opinion were struck off as proofs.

The Lithographed Issue of 1938

For want of a better name I have given this issue the above title. The name isn't really important in this instance, because this set is as much a forgery as the Mystery Issues were.

It is inconceivable how philatelists could be made to believe that Tibet had taken up the Lithographing process, which is a modern method of printing, when their whole outlook on life shrieks "stand pat conservativism"—to put it mildly. Collectors must realize the Tibetan cares not whether he works ten minutes or ten days on a particular task, as time has no meaning for him in the sense that it has for the western world. Collectors must also realize that there is not enough



Lithographed Issue of 1938.

demand for Tibetan stamps to make it necessary for them to install even the simplest machine printing presses.

Stamps are now being made from wood blocks, and while I dislike to prophesy, I believe it safe to say that they will still be printing stamps from wood blocks many, many years from now.

This Lithographed set (for of course it actually was lithographed—but not in Tibet) is essentially a duplicate of the 1932 Issue.

A collector will have no difficulty in differentiating between this issue and that of 1932 if the following data is studied. To begin with one must be able to recognize lithography from typography. This can be done readily from the actual stamp, but not by pictures of them, as you will find from those accompanying this article. These pictures will be used mostly for other differentiations listed below. Consequently I have included a few brief remarks on this particular part of printing.



Paper Used for Genuine Stamps.



Paper Used for Counterfeits.

Lithography is a method of printing wherein the design is drawn by hand or transferred from an original engraving to the surface of a lithographic stone, in greasy ink. The stone is wet with an acid fluid which causes it to repel the printing ink except on the greasy lines of the design. A fine lithographic print closely resembles an engraving, but the lines are not raised on the face or depressed on the back. There is usually a duller appearance in the lithograph than in the engraving. So much for the lithographic difference.

The next great difference is not a result of the lithographic process as one might think, but in the differences of writing Tibetan characters. There are several forms of Tibetan script, and one—the book and print script—is called "dbu can" (with heads) because the characters show thicknesses in the upper parts and taper below. The Italic script form is called "dbu med" (without heads), but this of course is not used on stamps. The script form "dbu can" is found on the genuine issues although their detection may often warrant some perseverance on your part. A good illustration of the "dbu can" form of printing may be seen in the Chinese Overprinted set. Look at the lowest line which is printed in Tibetan.

All this sums up to the fact that the counterfeiter tried to imitate this issue, but paid little or no attention to the way the Tibetans formed their characters, and actually printed these stamps in "dbu med" when it should have been "dbu can".

The Counterfeits were made in Sikkim, India. They are printed on machine made, horizontally or vertically laid paper, with a semi-gloss, and come both perforated and imperforated. Some of the shades are herewith listed:—

½ Trangka—Brown orange, Pale yellow.
Trangka—Navy blue, Prussian blue.
1 Trangka—Carmine.
2 Trangkas—Red, Vermilion.
4 Trangkas—Emerald green, Light emerald green.

Below are listed a few errors of the One Shokang of this set. Errors of the other values are very similar.

#1. Right arm of the first T in Tibet is bent down.
#2. Middle prong of the letter E is missing.
#2. Top of letter B is damaged.
#2, 3, 5, 9, 11. Word Tibet spelled TTbet.
#7. White dot between E and T of Tibet.
#8, 12. No dot in top panel between last two characters. (This is a mark which ordinarily separates Tibetan syllables).

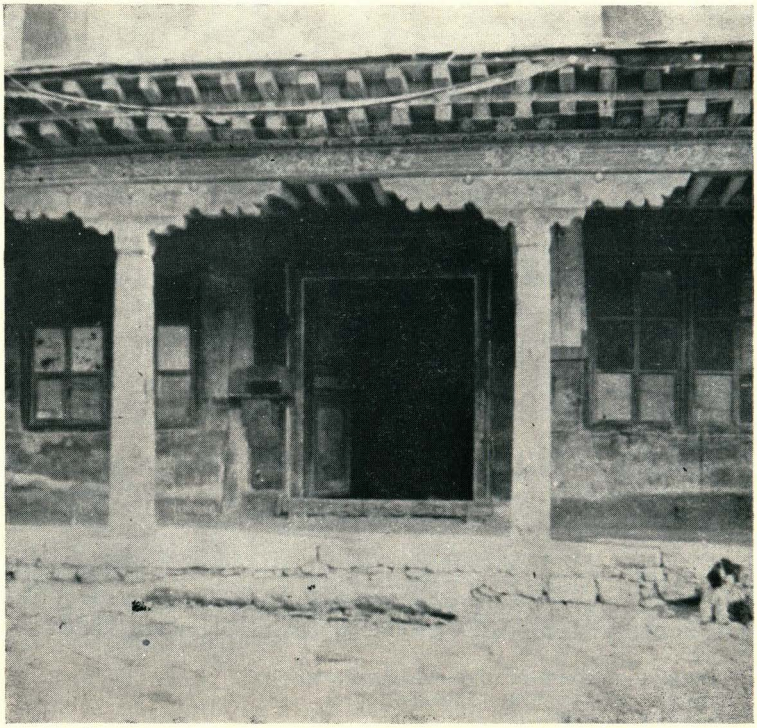
The Post Office at Lhasa

By this time the reader is probably wondering just where the genuine stamps are made. They are manufactured in the post office at Lhasa, which by the way, is quaint enough to merit a description.

This post office is in a two story stone building, which in itself is odd enough as there are few buildings in Lhasa over one story. Actually it is the remains of the old Tengye-ling monastery which was partially destroyed in the Chinese war of 1912.

I am indebted to Mr. Theo. S. Bernard for the following description of the P. O. at Lhasa. Mr. Bernard was in Tibet from May to Oct. 1937, and resided at Lhasa for three months.

Access to it is gained by a flight of stairs, at the top of which one turns down a small hall to find two rooms, one of which is the telegraph office, the other the stamp room and post office. On entering the post office room one finds two men sitting cross-legged on a bench with a high back beautifully decorated by Tibetan artists. In front of them is a table on which rests a metal box measuring 2x3



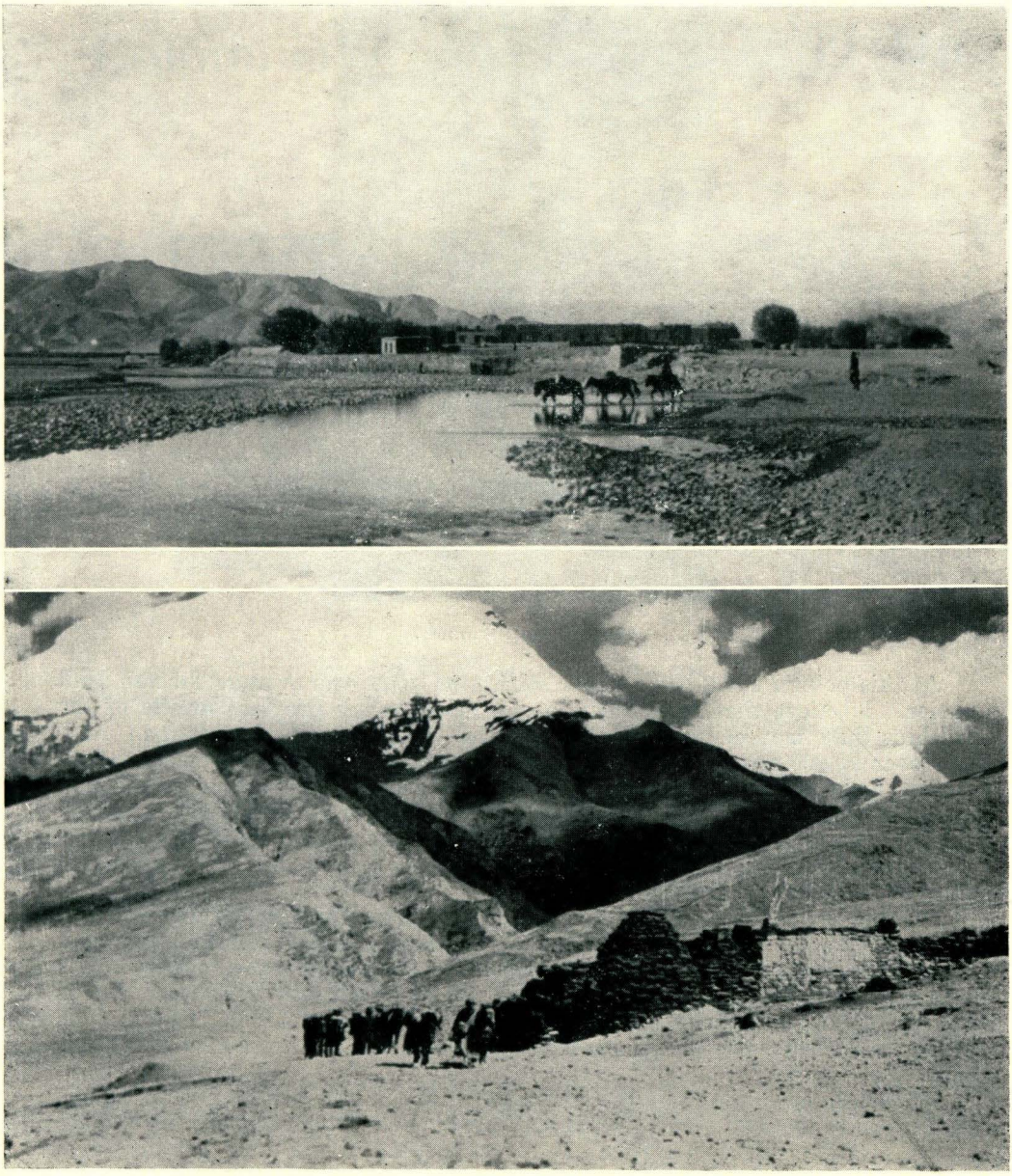
Post Office at Lhasa. Post Boxes Shown at Left.

feet. This is a vault box and contains the complete stock of stamps on hand, together with the cancelling device. When people present letters to be posted the fee is paid but the stamp may or may not be affixed. The Tibetan Government is not a systematic body and if the postal clerk does not wish to affix a stamp to the letter, no stamp is affixed. While the clerk is not particular about affixing a stamp to a letter, he always makes sure that the postal fee is collected and that the letter is cancelled. (It may be interesting to know that the postal clerk speaks English and was trained for his job at Kalimfong.) When stamps are wanted the vault box is opened and they are affixed and cancelled immediately. There is never a great supply of stamps on hand—never more than a dozen sheets of each value at the most. Close by on the table is a block of black stone measuring twelve inches square and six inches thick. In the bottom of this block are inserted the wood-block type corresponding to the value of the stamp to be printed. All other post offices of Tibet are supplied with stamps from this main office at Lhasa.

Postal Systems in Tibet

Tibet does not belong to the International Postal Union, consequently her stamps are not honored outside of the country. When one mails a letter to outside of Tibet he has to pay for the Tibetan postage which takes the letter to the border, and also for the foreign postage which carries the letter to its destination. The mail is routed to Gyantse where the English government affixes Indian stamps to show that the correct postage has been paid and also to satisfy the demands of the International Postal Union.

In a recent letter received from Lhasa, I am authoritatively informed that there are at present two distinct mail services in Tibet, British and Tibetan:



Top—**British Mail "Stage" Leaving Gyantse Agency.**

Bottom—**Mail Carriers Hut at Foot of Karola.**

"The British Service runs ponies and mules from Gantok to Gyantse in fifteen stages, twice a week.

The Tibetans run their own service from Lhasa to Gyantse to Yatung and also to Shigatse by 'runners', who do about five miles each. There are about thirty stages between Lhasa and Gyantse.

The Lhasa Post Office being open right throughout the year the mail goes out daily."



Tibetan Mail Runner.

At this point I should like to say something about the average Tibetan Mail Courier. I believe that some mention was made in the previous article of the hardships these men endure to carry the mail through to its destination. Altitudes over 20,000 feet, raging blizzards, sandstorms and both extremes of temperature make their life anything but easy—at least to the western mind. According to their code of living this is all taken in their stride without a second thought. One must have a full understanding of their religious beliefs to fully appreciate why this is so. Unfortunately I cannot digress here to amplify this point.

The picture taken of a Tibetan Mail runner shows him on his way between Lhasa and Gyantse. His all important prayer wheel, with bells on the upper end, is carried over his shoulder to keep away the evil spirits on the journey. His clothing is all hand made and of Yak wool, which is not only very warm but is wind proof, and has much hand embroidery from head to foot. The mail is carried in a woolen bag on his back and the ends are tied in a knot across his chest.

At certain intervals along the trail are rest houses which were put up for the convenience of the mail courier years ago. These houses not only provide a place to sleep at night and shelter from the severe storms for the man, but they give equal protection to travellers and their animals as well. All these houses have a small hole in the roof to permit the escape of smoke from yak-dung fires.

Letters from Lhasa to the western part of China go through the Tibetan towns of Medogongkar and Chiamdo, over Gya-Lam, the great China Road running from Lhasa to Batang, and so to Pekin. No wheels have ever passed over this road.

It might be well for the Tibetan collector to know that there is actually very little mail leaving the country. Genuinely used Tibetan covers are really scarce, and a lot of the so-called Tibetan covers are covers that have been made up expressly for collectors. Mail in the country is still largely dependent on private runners and this naturally makes genuinely used Intra-Tibetan covers scarce, too.

(To be continued.)

Colombia—The 25c of 1869 On Pink Paper

By JOHN N. MYER.



Genuine.



Counterfeit.

The Postal Law of April 29, 1865 provided in Art. 69[1] that

> "The correspondence which emanates from any point of the Colombian Union for any foreign country with which there exist no postal conventions shall pay, besides the postage stated in the preceding articles, a surcharge, according to the following rates:
>
> For each letter whose weight does not exceed fifteen grams, twenty-five centavos:
>
> For each letter or package in excess of fifteen grams, but not exceeding thirty, fifty centavos:
>
> For each letter or package in excess of thirty grams, but not exceeding sixty, one peso:
>
> For each letter or package in excess of sixty grams but not exceeding ninety, one peso fifty centavos:
>
> For letter or package in excess of ninety grams, but not exceeding one hundred twenty, two pesos:
>
> For each thirty grams in excess of one hundred twenty (counting the fractions less than thirty grams as thirty grams in full), fifty centavos".

For the collection of the surcharge ("sobreporte") or additional fee on mail to foreign countries with which Colombia had no postal convention, there were issued in 1865 three stamps: 25c black on blue paper, 50c black on yellow paper, and 1p black on rose paper (Scott Nos. J1-3). These are incorrectly catalogued as "postage due stamps" and erroneously dated 1866. It is certain that they were issued during 1865 for Moens chronicled them in December of that year.

The contract for the 1868 issue was executed on August 18, 1868 with Demetrio Paredes and Daniel Ayala[2] but this contract does not include any "sobreporte" stamps. On November 27, 1869 a new contract marked "provisional contract" was executed with Demetrio Paredes alone[3] for the continuation of the printing of the same stamps listed in the 1868 contract, but the 1869 contract has the following additional item:

1 **Diario Oficial** No. 316, May 3, 1865.

2 **Diario Oficial** No. 1313, p. 1933.

3 **Diario Oficial** No. 1761, p. 1359.

> "Also there shall be lithographed stamps of the value of one peso, fifty, and twenty-five centavos, for 'sobre-porte', if such be needed, and in such colors and sizes as shall be specified".

On March 29, 1870 a new contract was executed with Paredes, to run for two years,[4] and this contract makes the same provision for "sobre-porte" stamps as the previous one.

Obviously "sobre-porte" stamps of only the twenty-five centavo denomination were needed as none of the other values authorized were issued. The twenty-five centavo stamp is listed by Scott as printed in black on blue paper (No. 63); but it also exists on pink paper.

In Fig. I there is illustrated a copy of the "sobre?porte" stamp on pink paper. This stamp has an interesting history. The writer obtained it two years ago at the sale of the collection of the late Dr. Lucius L. Hubbard. Dr. Hubbard obtained it at the De Coppet sale in 1893. It is listed in the catalogue of that sale as lot No. 2227, with the following description:

> "This stamp was purchased years ago of Pemberton, Wilson & Co, and is like the black on blue, but differs materially from those which have appeared of late, which are retouched (or frauds?) on an entirely different colored paper".

The writer has recently shown[5] that the "reprints" of the issue of 1868 made during the latter part of 1889 were not printed from the genuine but from counterfeit dies. The counterfeit of the 25c "sobre-porte" exists on pink paper (Fig. II) and this is undoubtedly the variety referred to in the De Coppet sale catalogue as "retouched (or frauds?) on an entirely different colored paper". The counterfeit in Fig. II is on a much darker pink paper than the stamp in Fig. I.

The counterfeit is readily distinguished from the genuine stamp as follows:

> 1. In the genuine stamp the upstroke of the "2" of the large "25" joins the downstroke whereas in the counterfeit it does not.
> 2. In the genuine stamp there are only diagonal lines on the Isthmus of Panama in the shield whereas in the counterfeit there are both diagonal and horizontal lines.
> 3. The heads of the condors differ materially. In the genuine the condor's beak is open whereas in the counterfeit it is closed. In the genuine the two sides of the wreath descending from the condor's beak are separated whereas in the counterfeit they touch.

Moens, in the sixth edition of his catalogue (1884), listed a 25c stamp on pink paper, with catalogue No. 221. He, however, appended a note that he doubted its legitimacy. Whether he saw the genuine or the counterfeit we shall probably never know. As has been demonstrated in the writer's article on these counterfeits mentioned above, the counterfeit dies were not made for the "reprinting" of 1889 but were probably made about 1876 when the country was flooded with counterfeits.

The stamp in Fig. 1 was unquestionably printed from the same die as the stamps on blue paper. The cancellation, which cannot be clearly distinguished in the illustration, is "SAN-JIL." in an oval, a cancellation which the writer has found on several stamps of the series of 1868.

It has been shown above that the contracts with Paredes left the matter of color to be specified later, and it is quite possible that the printing under the contract of November 27, 1869 was on pink paper and that under the contract of March 29, 1870 on blue paper. The fact that the former contract ran for only four months may perhaps explain why the stamp on pink paper is a rarity.

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4 **Diario Oficial** No. 1865, pp. 340-41.

5 "Alleged Reprints of Colombia," **The American Philatelist,** beginning vol. 51, no. 4, January, 1938 and still in progress.

Stamp Machines and Coiled Stamps

By GEORGE P. HOWARD.

(Continued from Vol. XIX, page 31.)

THE THEXTON ELECTRIC ENVELOPE SEALER COMPANY

Patent #751639; an Envelope Sealing Machine; Joseph J. Schermack and Joseph L. Harrington, assignors to the Thexton Electric Envelope Sealer Company of Chicago, Illinois. Application filed December 29, 1903.(1)

The twenty-five claims of this patent describe an electrically operated machine for the moistening, folding and pressing of envelope flaps. It was not the first machine of the Thexton Company, but it is of interest because of the name of Schermack. The Thexton Company, 229 North Peoria Street, Chicago, established a very successful business in making machines for sealing envelopes. As late as 1913 a branch office at 150 Nassau Street was listed in the New York City Directory. They might well have become the outstanding mailing machine company in the country, but they let the opportunity slip through their hands.

In 1902 Mr. Schermack entered into a contract with the Thexton Company for the production of a mailing machine which he was then developing. By 1905 the machine was ready for production, but the Thexton Company took no steps to this end. The following year Mr. Schermack found other backing and took his machine to Detroit. Had the Thexton Company been more foresighted, we might today be collecting Thexton perforations instead of Schermack perforations.

THE DETROIT MAILING MACHINE COMPANY

Under this name a company was formed to manufacture and market Schermack's mailing machine. Benjamin S. Warren of Detroit was President of the new company and James H. Drake of Chicago, Vice-President and Treasurer, while Joseph J. Schermack and his brother Alfred were in charge of the production of the machines. One of the first acts in forming the new company was the application for a patent on the "Envelope Sealing and Stamping Machine". This application was filed in the name of Mr. Schermack on January 11, 1906, assigning the patent rights to the Detroit Mailing Machine Company.(2) The fifty-three claims of the patent covered the envelope sealing mechanism and the means for separating and applying the stamps. The testing and experimenting carried on during 1906 led to certain corrections and improvements which were covered by a second patent—application filed January 14, 1907.(3) This patent was also taken out in the name of the inventor, assigning the rights to the Detroit Company.

In the actual testing of this machine, coils were made by stripping perforated sheets of stamps and using a portion of the margin to paste the strips together. The amount of handling which the stamps received in coiling made the fine 12-gauge perforation even weaker and the coil strip exceedingly brittle. To understand the problem which the inventor faced, one must understand a little of the working of the machine. The Schermack machine was electrically operated and worked somewhat like an electric post office canceller in which the envelopes travel from left to right across the back of the machine. The stamp must meet the envelope in the correct position to be applied and must travel with

(1) U. S. Patent Office Gazette, February 9, 1904.

(2) Patent #961465, granted June 14, 1910.

(3) Patent #1146902, granted July 20, 1915.

the envelope, as the stamp would not stay in place if affixed while the envelope was moving but the stamp standing still. Feeding fingers must pick up the perforations to designate the point at which the moving stamp is to be severed. This means that the motion of the coil strip is halted momentarily while the severed stamp continues to move with its envelope. The resultant jerky motion of the coil strip when the machine ran at full speed was too much for the fine 12-gauge perforation. Every time the coil strip broke several envelopes would feed through the machine without stamps and the counter which kept track of the number of pieces mailed would then have to be reset when the same pieces were run through again.

To reduce the tension as much as possible the coils were wound gum-side out. As the stamps unrolled, clock-wise, from the back of the coil, they were then in the correct position to pass in a straight line through the feeding mechanism. This one point is of great importance. As the Schermack machines were made to use coils wound gum-side out they could not use Bureau coils, even after the Bureau perforation was reduced to 8½-gauge which would stand the tension of machine use. Consequently we have privately perforated coils for use in Schermack machines years after all other machines had adopted Bureau coils.

No matter how the 12-gauge perforation was fed through the machine, it could not "stand the gaff" and the Detroit Mailing Machine Company made no progress until they got imperforate sheets. It may be assumed that the imperforate stamps were first tried as imperforate coils. The following excerpt from an early article gives Mr. Schermack's objections to imperforate coils, and would lead to the belief that he must have tried them.(4)

> A perforation of some kind has been found absolutely essential in order to insure accuracy in feeding. You no doubt know that the extreme variation in the size of a sheet of four hundred stamps as they are printed is as much as five-sixteenths of an inch. This on a length of twenty stamps would of course make one sixty-fourth of an inch in each stamp. Thus you can readily see how impossible it would be to feed an unperforated strip with any degree of accuracy, for after feeding but a few stamps they would cut into the design, no matter how positive a mechanical feed was used. So that while a perforation of some kind was needed the stamp must still be strong enough to handle. This led us to adopt in the first place a system of round-hole perforations in the center of the strip.

At the time of their first experimental private perforation the Detroit Mailing Machine Company was located in a two-story wooden, frame building at 346 Holden Avenue, Detroit. Offices were on the second floor, while in the shop on the ground floor the machines were assembled, most of the parts having been made outside. As they had no equipment for perforating, Mr. Alfred Schermack took the imperforate sheets to the Rose Printing Company in Detroit. There, in October 1907, he and other members of the Mailing Machine Company worked with members of the Rose Company to evolve a suitable coil perforation. Later perforating was done at the plant of the Mailing Machine Company.

First Schermack Experimental Perforations

As the feeding fingers of the Schermack machine were spaced for the Bureau 12-gauge perforation, it was natural that the first coils should have the same perforation. The trouble experienced with the coils made from perforated sheets had been caused by the weakness of the paper due to the number of perforations. So on the first Schermack coils only six or seven holes were punched in the middle of each strip, the unperforated margin above and below the holes giving strength to the coil strip. This perforating was done by the sheet, the coil strips then being cut from the sheet, pasted together and rolled.

The six and seven-hole perforations did not always assure accurate feeding

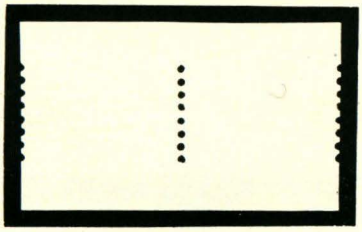
(4) Extracts from letters of J. J. Schermack to C. H. Mekeel; Philatelic Journal of America, December 15, 1909.

for the following reason. There were four feeding-fingers on the Schermack machine, spaced 6¼ mm apart. On a 12-gauge perforation if two of these fingers passed over the unperforated spaces between holes, the other two fingers were bound to fall in the perforation holes. With only six or seven holes of a 12-gauge perforation in the middle of the coil strip only two of the fingers passed over the perforated portion. If the perforation were off-center to the top or bottom of the strip, only one finger passed over the perforated portion, and this one finger might pass between two holes. Adding one more hole to this perforation made the perforated space the same as the spacing of three of the feeding fingers (12½ mm) so that no matter how far up or down the perforation was off-center at least two of the fingers crossed the perforated space, one of which would contact a hole. Therefore later perforations had eight holes instead of seven or six.

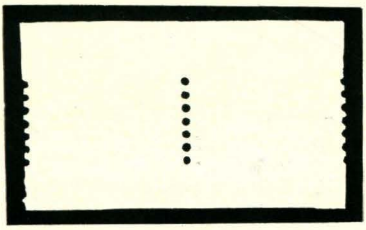
There was practically no philatelic recognition of this perforation while it was in current commercial use. When a philatelic demand arose, after the perforation had been abandoned, there were only a few unused remainders on hand. Imperforate sheets were obligingly run through the same perforator, which then had eight pins in each group. Consequently philatelists have always known the Schermack Type I as an eight-hole perforation. However, we have Mr. Schermack's word that the types with fewer holes were the first.(5)

> The first ones used were of regulation size, same as the government perforation, consisting, however, of only six or seven holes in the middle between the stamps, leaving an unperforated margin above and below to strengthen the strip.

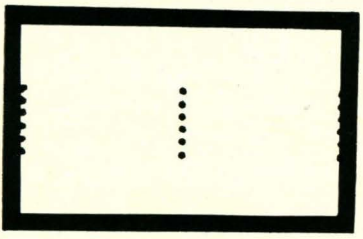
The only commercial covers seen by this author have all come from the same source, the Murphy Chair Company of Detroit. The stamps on these covers have the seven-hole perforation up to late December 1907, and the eight-hole perforation at the very end of December. There were four other concerns using the Schermack experimental perforations in late 1907. One in particular, the Rogers Van Leyen Company, was a sort of laboratory testing-ground for the Schermack machine and used several of their early coils. Covers of this company should show the six-hole perforation as well as the seven and eight-hole perforations.



Type I — 8 holes



Type Ia — 7 holes



Type Ib — 6 holes

(5) Philatelic Journal of America, December 15, 1909.

The illustrations of Schermack Type I coil stamps are from photostats of the reverse of actual coil pairs. The 8-hole pair is the common Type I, coming either from unused remainders or sheets perforated by the Schermack Company by request. Blocks exist of the 1c, 2c carmine and 2c lake of the 1902-03 Issue and the 2c Lincoln. Other items with this perforation are the 5c 1902 and the 1c, 2c and 3c of the 1908-09 Issue, although the author has never seen the last two. Only the 1c and 2c carmine of the 1902-03 Issue were in current use in the fall of 1907, which places the other six stamps in the "request" classification. It will be noticed that the holes are not evenly round, not all the same size, and not exactly spaced:—a somewhat "ratty-looking" perforation. This is correct for Schermack Type I, and it is wise to beware of any perforation that is too exact.

The seven-hole pair is from a strip of twenty-five purchased from the Murphy Chair Company of Detroit in December 1907. As in the eight-hole perforation the holes are of irregular shape and size. There is no doubt about this being from a genuine coil commercially used at the time. Mr. Howard Elliott of Winchendon, Massachusetts, noticed a cover which came in from the Murphy Chair Company, having a 2c stamp with only seven perforation holes on each side. He wrote to the Murphy Company and obtained a strip of twenty-five of the stamps. They told him that these stamps were used in a mailing machine called the "Schermack Envelope Sealer and Stamper", and were supplied by the mailing machine company. Mr. Elliott notified the editor of Mekeel's Weekly Stamp News and mention was made of this perforation in the issue of January 11, 1908. At that time the hyphen-hole perforation was being introduced, so it is doubtful if many collectors had an opportunity to acquire pairs of the seven-hole perforation. It exists on the 1c and 2c carmine of the 1902-03 Issue.

There is another type of seven-hole perforation, and a six-hole perforation, to be found on the 1c, 2c carmine and 2c lake of the 1902-03 Issue, and on the 2c Lincoln. On this type the perforation holes are regularly shaped and of the same size. The four stamps mentioned have identical perforations, both in the seven and six-hole types, and must have been made when the 2c Lincoln stamp was current,—over a year after the last actual use of Type I. If they were reproduced by the Schermack Company, it was on a new perforator made especially for the purpose, and a much better machine than the original one. The enlarged illustrations will show the irregularities in the size and shape of the holes of the



Genuine **Reproduction?**

1907 perforation as compared with the "too perfect" 1909 perforation. Another difference is noticeable at the top and bottom edges of the coil. The genuine pair shows a "roughness" of the paper where the coil strip was cut, while the "reproduction" has very clean-cut edges. Of eight pairs examined, all show

parallel coil edges and no evidence of having been "scissor-cut", evidently having been made by someone who had access to coil-stripping machinery. This, and the fact that the reproductions are *almost* perfect, leads to the belief that some employee of the company "rejuvinated" the abandoned perforator and produced coil strips to simulate the rare Schermack experimental perforations.

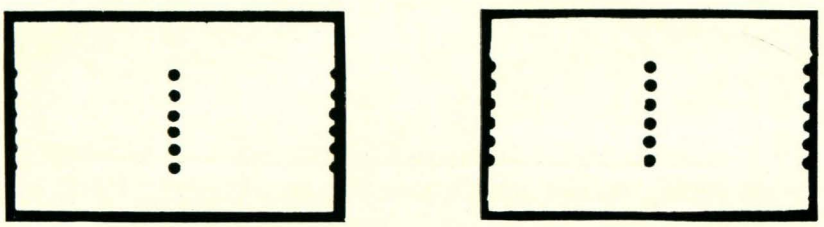
"Blind" perforations are not uncommon on Schermack Type I coils. In the words of Mr. Schermack:—(6)

> The variation in the number of perforations in the first stamps perforated was due to some of the center sections of the special punch backing strip being a trifle smaller in size than the others, which prevented one or two less of the punches acting at a certain point.

This none-too-clear explanation accounts for the pairs which show a perforation of 3 holes over 4, or 4 holes over 3, looking very much like the Farwell perforation of 1911. In the author's collection a seven-hole Schermack on cover shows 5 holes over 1 on the right-hand side. These skipped or blind perforations do not create the six or seven-hole perforation types discussed above.

Second Schermack Experimental Perforation

The reason for this second type was purely mechanical. The feeding fingers of the mailing machine, which slid over the face of a stamp until one or more entered perforation holes, had to be smaller than the holes they were to enter. As the hole of a 12-gauge perforation is only 1 mm in diameter, the fingers had to be quite fine. If they were too sharp they would pierce the paper of the stamp and cause mis-feeding. On the other hand, if they wore down from use they would be too large to enter the perforation holes. Since the perforation was being privately made for the special requirements of the machine, there was no reason to retain the fine 12-gauge perforation. With larger holes the feeding fingers could be made more blunt and the machine would work better. So the large-hole type was introduced.



Genuine **Reproduction?**

Type II — 6 larger holes.

In perforating this type the imperforate sheets were first stripped and joined to form imperforate sidewise coils. These were then run through the punch machine which applied one perforation at a time. The centering between the top and bottom of the strip was naturally much more regular than in Type I which was perforated by the sheet and stripped afterwards. The holes and the spaces between being larger, there was a chance that the feeding fingers would cross the unperforated spaces, since the fingers were still spaced for the 12-gauge perforation. This was avoided by the irregular spacing of the holes, which today makes a very good check as to the genuineness of an item. The holes themselves measure 1.55mm in diameter. The three upper holes appear to be grouped together with a spacing of 1.2mm between holes. The three lower holes form a

(6) Mekeel's News and Trade Circular, No. 26.

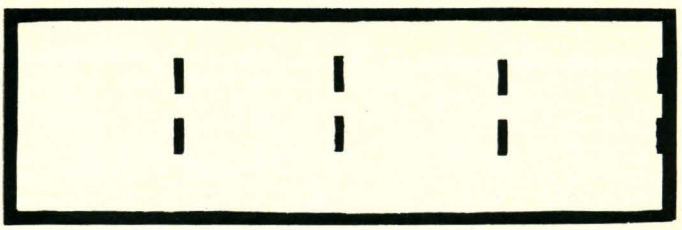
second group spaced 0.8mm apart. The two groups almost meet in the center of the stamp, the middle space being only 0.55mm.

As in the case of Type I, there is a second and "too perfect" variety of the Type II perforation, having perforation holes of the correct size, but *evenly* spaced. Such a perforation can be found on items as late as the 2c Lincoln and 2c 1908-09. They may have been made by someone using a new and "corrected" perforating die in the Type II perforator, but even so they are, in my opinion, fraudulent reproductions.

The Type II perforation was made into coils for commercial use on the 1c and 2c carmine of the 1902-03 Issue. It was also applied by "request" to these same stamps and to the 2c lake and 5c of the 1902-03 Issue, the 2c Lincoln, and the 1c, 2c, 3c, 4c and 5c of the 1908-09 Issue, the latter being very scarce.

Adopted Schermack Perforation

In the latter part of 1907 five Detroit concerns used Schermack experimental coils of the one-cent and two-cent (carmine) denomination.(7) The successful operation of the mailing machine under working conditions proved that the answer to the stamp problem had been found. A coil strip would have sufficient strength for rapid machine use if at least half of its width were unbroken by perforations. The perforations, which were used only to catch the feeding fingers, should be large enough to admit the easy entry of blunt feeding fingers. However, if the perforations consisted of a number of holes there was always a chance that the feeding fingers would slip across the space between two holes, but if two or three holes were run together as a slot there would be no such chance. Putting this reasoning into practice an employee of the mailing machine company, Mr. Grover Cleveland, made the first tool for the "hyphen-hole" perforation in January 1908. This perforation was in continuous use for twenty years.



Type III — "hyphen-hole".

In this perforation the slots are 1.25mm wide by 4.75mm high, and are separated by a space of 3.25mm. The first perforating machine was similar to that used for Type II. Imperforate sheets were trimmed of the top, bottom and right side margins, then cut into strips and pasted together in a long ribbon. The ribbon of stamps was run through the perforating machine which worked on the principle of a sewing-machine, punching the holes and rolling the coil. In winding, the strip passed through a counter which indicated the number of stamps in a coil. The coils, containing 3000 stamps, were sold to users at fifty cents over face value.

THE SCHERMACK MAILING MACHINE COMPANY

Perhaps it was because the name "Detroit" was too local; perhaps because the mailing machine was already known as the "Schermack Envelope Sealer and Stamper"; whatever the reason, in 1908 the Detroit Mailing Machine Company

(7) Rogers & Van Leyen Co.; D. M. Ferry & Co.; Michigan State Telephone Co.; Murphy Chair Co.; Park, Davis & Co.

changed its name to the Schermack Mailing Machine Company. A period of expansion began at the same time. The machine was successfully operating with the new "hyphen-hole" stamps, and several were sold to Detroit concerns. A branch office was opened at 171 Lasalle Street, Chicago, with James H. Drake, Vice-President and Treasurer, in charge. In this locality the machine met with even more popularity than in Detroit.

The increased sale of Schermack machines brought an increased demand for the special stamps to use in them. The early 1908 method of perforating by the coil was soon abandoned for a more rapid process, described as follows by a former General Manager of the company:(8)

In preparing "hyphen-hole" stamps the sheets of stamps were obtained from Washington gummed but not perforated. One hundred and fifty sheets were stuck together in a long belt form and then run through a machine which did the perforating clear across the strip which was twenty stamps wide, the sheets being 20x20 stamps as they came from the flat bed printing presses then used. These large 400 (subject) sheets were pasted together and run through machines for perforating and one row clear across was perforated at each operation, the coiling and stripping being done after the perforating, but on the same machine. The charge for the coiled stamps was approximately 16⅔c per M.

These stamp coiling machines were at that time in operation in Detroit and Chicago, as there were quite a few Mailometers in use there. Later one was operated in New York City and still later extended to some other cities. It was necessary that the perforating and coiling be done in each city as the Post Office rule prohibits preparing stamps in one city and sending them to another for use. That would deprive the local Postmaster of having credit for his stamp sales.

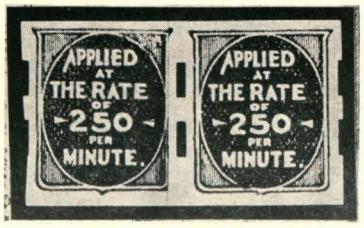
This regulation considerably hampered the expansion of the Schermack Company. In fact the production of coils was a task which had been forced upon the company in order to make their machines marketable. But from the first they had felt that it was really the Post Office Department that should supply stamps in coiled form. Years before the first Bureau experimental coils appeared Mr. Schermack had requested this form of stamp issue.(9)

Back in 1906, the beginning of making and producing the mailing machine, we endeavored to have the Post Office Department supply stamps in rolls. They advised us to "create a demand and we will supply it."

With this state of affairs, we were obliged to prepare stamps in roll form for the many customers we created over a period of several years, to whom we supplied stamps with Schermack No. 3 perforation, having had to devise semi-automatic machines for the preparation of these stamps, which were furnished in rolls of 3000 at an extra cost of 50c per roll. This extra cost per roll enabled us to make a slight profit in furnishing the stamps to all users.

After creating a reasonable demand for the roll form of stamps in this way, the Department at Washington finally decided to check into the matter seriously. This step resulted in their reproducing the semi-automatic stamp-preparing machines for converting the sheet form into rolls.

The Department adopted these machines early in 1909, and then began to place on the market auto-wound rolls of stamps with round hole perforations, which at that time were of the ordinary spacing, similar to the stamps in sheets. However, they were too weak to be used in our mailing machine. We, therefore, continued to supply our privately prepared rolls having the Schermack No. 3 perforation.



Demonstration Stamps of the Schermack Company.

(8) Letter to the author from W. F. Schweiger, who was General Manager of the Schermack (Mailometer) Company in 1909 and 1910.

(9) Letter to the author from J. J. Schermack, inventor of the mailing machine.

In addition to perforating the government stamps, the Schermack Company also made dummy stamps of their own, which were used in demonstrating the machine to prospective users. These stamps were printed in red and were shield-shaped like the 2c stamp then in current use. They were used throughout 1908 and part of 1909.

Also in 1908 the company put out a small, four-page, descriptive pamphlet containing a brief sales talk and a picture of the machine. As this small folder contained a good explanation of the working of the machine, it is perhaps of sufficient interest to quote in full:

The Schermack Envelope Sealer and Stamper.

Ever since the introduction of the typewriter and the resulting increase in correspondence, inventive genius has made unsuccessful attempts to produce a practical device for stamping and sealing mail rapidly. It has remained for the Schermack Envelope Sealer and Stamper to be the first machine to meet these requirements.

Users of this device consider it almost human from the marvelous manner with which it applies postage stamps and seals and counts mail; fully 10,000 pieces per hour can be handled by any office boy or girl after a little practice, as no particular skill is required to operate it. The machine is designed to handle all sizes of business envelopes, from six inches to twelve inches in length, the limit in height being five inches.

The Schermack Envelope Sealer and Stamper is comparatively simple in construction, consisting chiefly of a series of rolls driven by an electric motor attached to an ordinary incandescent lamp fixture or by a crank in one hand of the operator. The envelopes in bunches are simply held against an automatic feed which separates them, permitting but one envelope at a time to pass its flap over a metal disk which revolves in water. This is the beginning of the sealing operation. As the envelope advances the stamps are fed forward, cut off, moistened, and rolled upon the passing envelopes. Coincident with the stamping, but by a separate operation, the envelope flaps are sealed by another series of rolls. The letters then emerge and are stacked in the rear.

The Schermack Envelope Sealer and Stamper not only seals envelopes faster, but it seals them better. If you will inspect a batch of mail that has been run through the machine, you will notice that each flap has been pulled down tight so that it is folded exactly at the crease, and that the point of each flap is stuck firmly to the body of the envelope. This is done every time, so that when the mail has passed through the machine it has a uniform appearance. The moistening device is so constructed that the amount of water passing under each flap can be regulated to a nicety. The result is that no two envelopes are stuck together due to superfluous water; each one is in perfect condition for the post office.

Coincident with the sealing of an envelope the stamp is applied. It must be understood fully to appreciate the value of the device, that it both seals and stamps in one operation, and here is where it proves itself a time and labor saver and therefore a money maker. Each envelope is handled but once and is then ready for the postoffice. The stamps are applied in exactly the same position on every envelope. As the machine does its work accurately, no mail is returned by the postoffice each day on account of stamps being omitted.

A counter has been attached which is mechanically operated and by means of this an accurate record of your stamp account can be kept. The stamps are locked up in a glass case and the machine is arranged so that the stamp mechanism can be thrown out of operation by simply moving a lever. It can only be made to apply stamps again by unlocking the case. This places the stamps under the control of one man and should prevent their misuse. Those who continue to lose stamps, though they maintain an elaborate checking system, will appreciate this point, for it is impossible for anyone not in possession of the key to remove stamps from the machine.

The speed of the Schermack Envelope Sealer and Stamper may be conservatively estimated at 10,000 per hour, and this speed can be attained by any operator with a few days' practice.

The stamps used are put up in a continuous ribbon form wound upon a reel, each reel containing 3,000 stamps. These stamps are specially perforated and put up by us, so that they will work perfectly in the machine. Until the post office department supplies them in this form, they will be furnished by us at a slight additional cost.

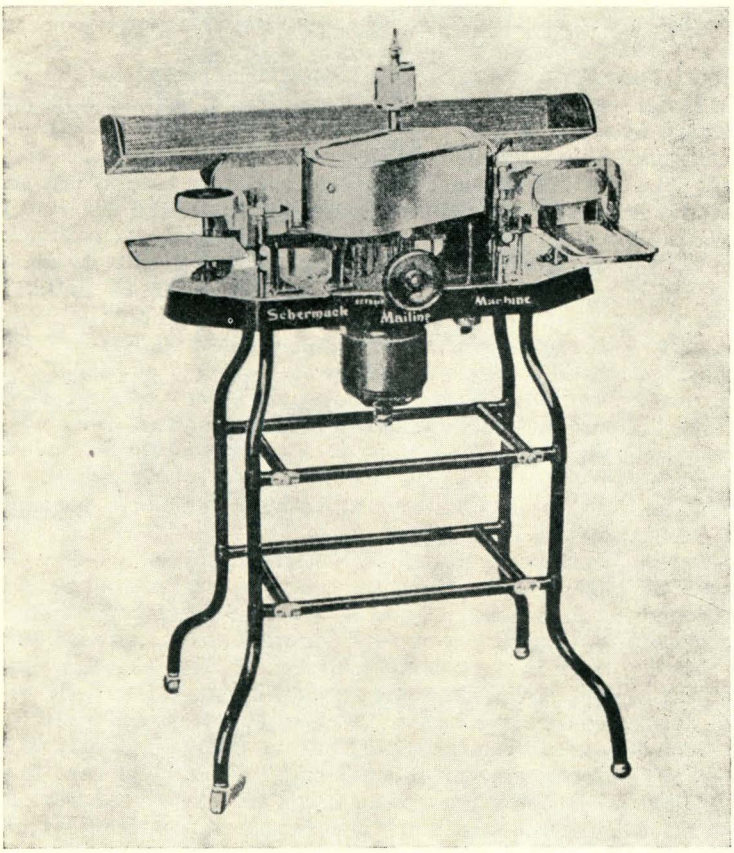
Many business houses have sought to lessen the difficulty of applying stamps by the use of Government stamped envelopes. By doing this however, they forego any advertising on the envelopes, except their return card, and pay for size 6¾ inch fifty cents per thousand more than the price at which the same quality of envelope can be bought upon the market. A proportional saving can be made on the other sizes.

It will be seen from the foregoing that the machine will show a great saving, not only from the labor but also in stamps and envelopes. Moreover, the work it does is very much better than can be done by any other method. Its value in the mailing room will be apparent to every business man, and especially to those who have had difficulty in systematizing that department.

The Schermack Sealer and Stamper is made in but one size and form. The price is $350.00 f.o.b. Detroit.

Address all communications to

The Schermack Mailing Machine Co.
Tower Court
Detroit, Mich.



The Schermack Envelope Sealer and Stamper.

Picture taken from the four-page advertising booklet.

Hyphen-hole Stamps of the Schermack Company

In early 1908 the Schermack Mailing Machine Company was preparing coils of the 1c and 2c carmine of the 1902-03 Issue. On May 27th they received and perforated the 25 sheets of the 4c Grant, the story of which has been given in an earlier chapter. While this is not the scarcest private coil, it has reached a catalogue price which is more than equal to all the other private perforations together. Since there are no copies of the 4c 1902 imperforate, the demand for the 4c Schermack comes not only from collectors of private coils, but from all collectors of United States imperforate stamps, as it is the only form in which the

stamp can be shown. Its price, therefore, is based more on its rarity in comparison to imperforate stamps than in comparison to other privately perforated coils. On May 30, 1908, the 5c 1902 stamp was issued in imperforate form for certain vending machine companies. Of the 800-odd copies to reach Detroit a few were perforated by the Schermack Company, but not for commercial use.([10])

Two sheets of the 5c 1902 series, imperforated, were divided between members of the local Philatelic Society of Detroit, most of them receiving a block of twenty-five. Some of these blocks were cut up and it is probable that some of them were put through a Schermack perforating machine with other stamps for a regular customer of that company.

This theory is advanced by a well-informed person who assures us that this cannot be done now as the company positively refuses to do anything of the kind, but he advances that theory for the existence of this variety.

The total quantity perforated must have been very small. Moreover, all three types of Schermack perforations were applied to the small quantity, making each type very scarce.

The next imperforate stamp to reach Detroit or Chicago was the 2c 1903 in lake shades. These, with Schermack perforations, were used as late as July 1909, in Chicago, and August 1909, in Detroit. In early 1909 the Schermack Company was perforating between two and three million stamps a month, so the lake shades are by far the commonest. As the supply of 1902-03 stamps became used up they were replaced with the 1c and 2c of the 1908-09 Issue.

One other stamp was perforated by the Schermack Mailing Machine Company, the 2c 1903 scarlet or scarlet-vermilion. These stamps had not been sold through the Detroit or Chicago post offices and so were not commercially coiled by the Schermack Company. The Baltimore post office had some 30,000 on hand after the International Vending Company of that city switched to Bureau coils. These were bought by a large New York stamp firm and several sheets were sent to the Schermack Company and perforated in Type III by request. This stamp is generally found in unused condition and many of the coil strips show that they have been cut by scissors from large blocks.

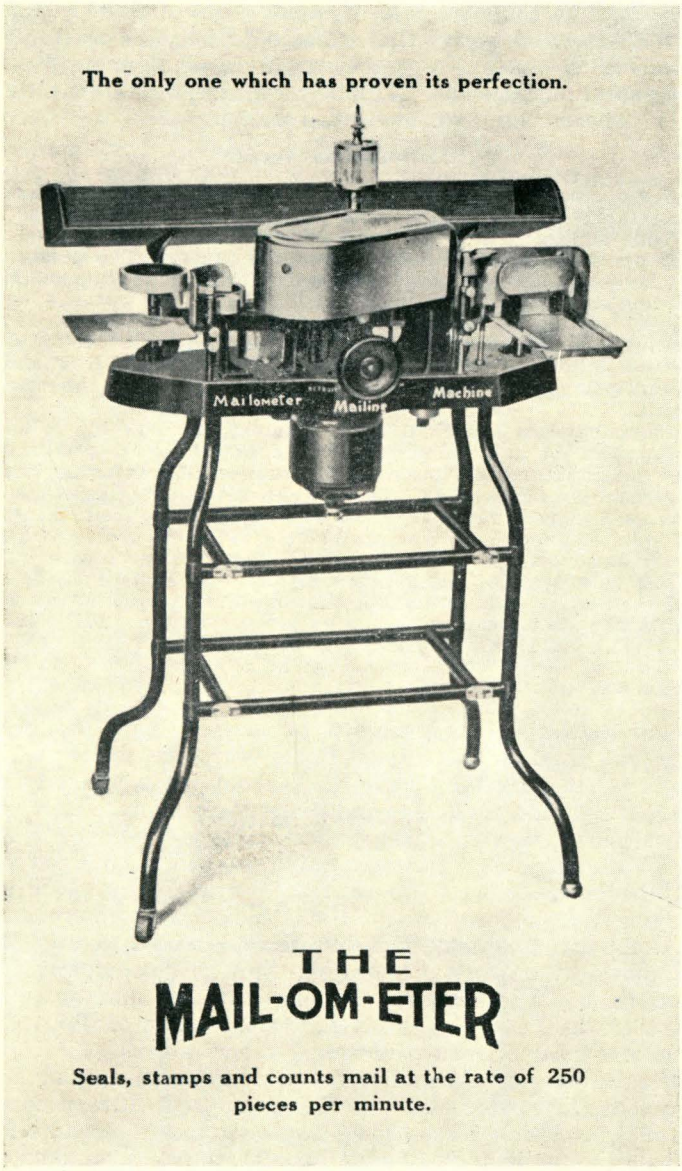
As has been mentioned before, the Schermack Company charged 50c over face for a coil of 3000 stamps. With the company perforating 3,000,000 stamps a month this meant an income of $500.00 a month from perforating. It is not surprising, therefore, that they took little interest in the coil experiments of the Bureau. But in 1909 the company acquired a new General Manager, Mr. William F. Schweiger, later President of the Multipost Company of Rochester, New York. He realized that the sales of Schermack machines would be restricted to cities where they could establish perforating plants, but that if the Bureau would produce their coils the machines could be sold anywhere in the United States. He also insisted on certain mechanical changes which were necessary to perfect the machine commercially. Mr. Schermack objected to the changes in his machine and in the policies of the company, finally withdrawing from the company. He then devoted all his interests to the Schermack Vending Machine Company, which will be discussed later.

THE MAILOMETER COMPANY

The "Mail-om-eter"

This is, of course, the same Schermack Mailing Machine Company, with the same officers and offices, operating under a new name. The name of both the machine and the company was originally spelled "MAIL-OM-ETER", but in later years,—probably when they began to manufacture a postage meter machine,—was changed to "MAIL-O-METER". A new advertising booklet was put out in July 1909, with a picture of the machine on the front page. As can be

(10) Philatelic Journal of America, December 15, 1909, page 45.



Picture from advertising booklet of July 1909.

seen from the illustration, the only difference between this and the Schermack machine was in the name. The reading matter of the booklet was about the same as in the Schermack pamphlet, but expanded to eight pages. The last page was devoted to a listing of "a few of the many satisfied users", of which there were 16 Detroit and 48 Chicago concerns listed. Among the latter it is interesting to note the J. V. Farwell Company, which two years later began to perforate and coil their own stamps for use in their Mailometer machine.

A three-page folder of early 1910 pictures and describes three machines:— the *Mail-om-eter Combined Machine,* the *Mail-om-eter Sealer,* and the *Mail-om-eter Junior.* The first was, of course, the combined Sealer and Stamper, selling at $350.00. The "Sealer" was the same machine without the stamp-affixing

mechanism, selling at $150.00. The "Junior" was a new, small, hand affixer using *Bureau Coils* which meant that it could be sold and used anywhere in the United States. This machine was the invention of Bennett D. Straight, who applied for a patent on December 27, 1909, assigning the rights to the Mailometer Company.(11) The machine was described as follows:—

"Mail-om-eter Junior".

The Junior operates the same as a hand numbering machine, and just as quickly. A light pressure on the handle feeds the stamp, severs, moistens and affixes it, at the same time adding it into the counter. The stamps are locked in the device. If removed by operating it will be shown on the counter. The device can be locked so as to make it inoperative. No knife to get dull or mis-cut stamps. No gear wheels to require oil and cause the liklyhood of getting it into the water, preventing stamps from sticking, or getting on stamps and spoiling them. When not in operation, the stamps are away from the water and cannot be affected by it. If the device is upset, water will not be spilled. Stamps are detached from the coil BEFORE being moistened, consequently no injury is done to stamps remaining in the machine,—a very important point.

The machine handles PERFORATED stamps, thus making it possible for the machine to recognize the individual stamp and detach it at the perforation (the point designated by the government), avoiding destruction of stamps by improper cutting or tearing. A machine cannot SEE where to cut, it must FEEL; it cannot feel printing, hence the need of perforations. If no perforations are used, the stamps must be handled as a strip of paper. Stamps are printed by a wet process which shrinks the paper unevenly and causes a variation in the stamps; therefore a machine feeding them accurately as a strip of paper must, by the very fact of its accuracy and the inaccuracy of the stamps, miscut them. Mail-om-eters overcome this by using PERFORATED STAMPS and treating each stamp individually. THIS IS IMPOSSIBLE WITH A MACHINE TRYING TO HANDLE UNPERFORATED STAMPS.

Stamps for this device can be obtained at any postoffice. Ask for perforated stamps, coiled sidewise.

This small machine was developed to compete with the Simplex Stamp Affixer which had been on the market for a year, and which used Bureau imperforate coils:—hence all the "bally-hoo" about the superiority of perforated stamps. Mr. Straight's machine originally used imperforate coils too, as his first patent application of July 26, 1909,(12) describes a "means for advancing imperforate strip of stamps". Finding this impractical, a later patent application of October 9th(13) describes a "means for advancing a perforated strip by fingers engaging the perforations". Both these patents were assigned to the Mailometer Company, but later in 1910 when Mr. Straight and Mr. Schweiger left the Mailometer Company to form the Multipost Company they took this machine with them. The Mailometer Company immediately adopted another small machine of the hand-plunger type, the invention of John C. Strnad.(14) This machine also used Bureau perforated, sidewise coils.

While the Mailometer Company was developing this small machine which used Bureau coils, they were also experimenting with Bureau coils in the electrically operated machine. Over $20,000 was spent on a machine for the special purpose of handling coils with 12-gauge perforations. Less than 100 stamps a minute was top speed for this machine, while the machine using "hyphen-hole" coils could attain a speed of 250 stamps a minute. To compete economically with hand labor a machine had to handle not less than 10,000 stamps an hour, so the experimental machine was abandoned. The only course apparent to the mailing machine company was to get the Bureau to adopt a form of coil perforation having fewer holes.

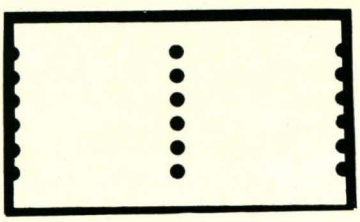
The Coil Problem

While operating as the Schermack Company the officials of the company had *not* been extremely desirous of having the Post Office provide coil stamps suitable

(11) Patent #1203932, granted November 7, 1916.
(12) Patent #1072054, granted September 2, 1913.
(13) Patent #1072055, granted September 2, 1913.
(14) Application filed October 20, 1910; patent granted June 1, 1915; #1141666.

for machine use, preferring to continue to prepare them at a profit. After Mr. Schweiger joined the company he influenced certain members of the Board of Directors to attempt to persuade the Post Office Department to provide suitable coils. On June 16, 1909, Mr. Davis, the Vice-President and Treasurer, with two other representatives of the company met a committee of the Post Office Department in Washington.([15]) They informed the Department relative to the quantity of postage stamps then being used through their machines in the cities of Detroit and Chicago (3,000,000 per month), and the insistent and ever-increasing demand being made by their clients to abolish the premium they were obliged to charge for specially prepared coiled stamps. On the grounds that the Department had said in 1906, "create the demand and we will supply it", they now felt justified in requesting the special perforation and coil form required for their machines. Such a request was purely selfish as the coils would be adaptable to only the Schermack machine and would not be usable in any hand stamp-affixer or vending machine. The Department received many such requests and quite naturally could not grant them.

After re-organizing as the Mailometer Company the General Manager, W. F. Schweiger, took personal charge of the coil problem. On July 21, 1909, he visited the Bureau of Engraving and Printing where he conferred with the Director, Mr. J. E. Ralph, his assistant Mr. Ferguson, and the chief mechanic Mr. R. B. Stickney. A study of the methods used by the Bureau in preparing stamps showed that the "hyphen-hole" perforation could not be made on the machines then operated in the Bureau without extensive changes and a very considerable expenditure. Mr. Schweiger observed, however, that a round-hole perforation, larger than the standard 12-gauge, could easily be made by a slight increase in the size and spacing of the pins used in the machines doing the perforating. This was admitted, and he concluded from his conference with Messrs. Ralph and Stickney that if Mailometer machines could be so arranged as to handle round-hole perforations, it would be only a question of a very short time when the Bureau could furnish such stamps. The factory was immediately ordered to so change the machines as to handle round perforations. Desiring to keep the edge or margin of the coil strip smooth, the new perforator was designed to punch six large holes in the center of each horizontal row of stamps.



Mail-om-eter Type I — 6 large holes.

The holes of this perforation measure just under 2mm in diameter (1.95mm), while the spaces between holes average 1.2mm, giving an over-all measurement of 17.7mm for the six holes. Coils of the 1c and 2c 1908-09 Issue with this perforation were supplied experimentally to a few concerns in Detroit in August 1909. Outside of Detroit the only known use of these experimental coils was by Marshall Field & Company of Chicago, also in August 1909. Covers showing the August 1909 usage are worth many times the catalogue price, which listing is intended for covers from St. Louis where the perforation was in current use on the same stamps throughout 1910.

(15) These and other facts relating to the development of Mailometer perforations known as Types I and II have been taken from correspondence between the General Manager of the mailing machine company and the Third Assistant Postmaster General.

Coils of blank, gummed paper, perforated with Mail-om-eter Type I, were made for testing purposes, and samples were sent to other companies with the following circular:([16])

Regarding Reeled Stamps at Present Provided by the Post Office.

These stamps are not adaptable to our machine or to any machine doing rapid work. The perforations in the Government stamps cut the paper so completely as to weaken the strip, causing same to frequently break apart, thus making it necessary to be continually re-threading the machine. When the stamps break apart, the envelopes continue to pass through the machine and, as they go through without stamps, must be put through another time, thus causing extra work and destroying the record of count. Also, the perforations are so very small as to make it necessary to provide extremely fine needle-point feeding fingers on the machine or they will not enter the perforations. These fingers being so small, they have a very sharp end and in a short time wear down and fail to do their work. If they are kept sharp enough to operate in the small perforations, they frequently dig into the stamps and cause improper feeding and cutting of same. For these reasons the present perforated stamps furnished by the Government cannot be used in a machine.

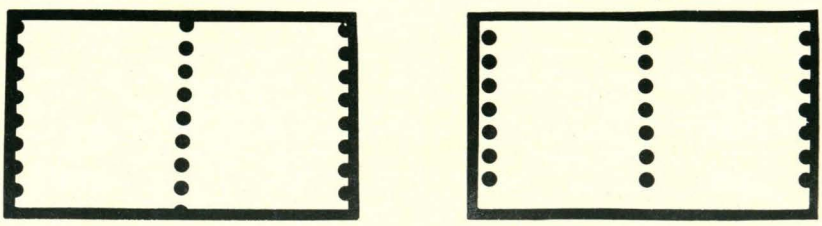
The unperforated stamps are also impractical as the machine, being blind, cannot see the print and therefore cannot tell where to cut between the stamps. It must have some sort of perforation in order to feel the point at which the stamp is to be severed. Without perforations it is necessary to feed the stamps through by rollers or jaws. In either case the feed will vary to such a degree as to cause frequent destruction of stamps, as, in dry weather, the gum on the stamps is smooth and they will slip, while in humid or damp weather the gum becomes tacky and causes a different feed from when dry. This, and several other reasons, makes it absolutely impossible to use the present stamps furnished by the Government.

We enclose herewith sample of the stamp which we desire adopted, and which is the only practical stamp for all machines.

The Mail-om-eter Company,
Detroit, Michigan.

On August 13, 1909, the General Manager again visited Washington, taking with him samples of the six-hole coil which he submitted to Mr. Ralph of the Bureau. He was informed that to prepare stamps with such perforations would compel extensive changes in the machines operating in the Bureau, as it would be necessary to have spaced pins accurately located in the perforating wheels in order to skip the horizontal margins. Also intermittent movement of the machines would be necessary to permit the operators to locate the sheets of stamps properly. Such changes would retard the operators in their work, thus causing loss of time and extra cost of labor. Mr. Ralph stated, however, that such a perforation could be furnished if the holes were continuous, i. e.—extending clear across the stamp, irrespective of rough edges which such a perforation might create on the coil strip.

The Detroit factory was therefore ordered to put aside the Type I perforating dies and to try a similar perforation running completely across the sheet from top to bottom. When the sheet was then stripped and coiled, eight of the



8-hole **7-hole**

Mail-om-eter Type II — 8 large holes.

(16) United States Stamps, E. B. Power, 1909.

holes appeared in the width of one coil strip. In the size and spacing of the holes, Type II is so nearly identical to Type I that no distinction can be made. The 7-hole pair illustrated here is a variety which is at times offered as an "error —unlisted—extremely rare". While this statement is absolutely true, the collector should know that the variety is unlisted because it is not deemed worthy of listing. Imperforate blocks of several values were run through the Type II perforator by "request", but without the permission of the Mailometer Company. As a block has practically no bottom margin, it might be placed so near the bottom of the perforating die that the first hole would not begin at the edge of the block and consequently less than eight holes would appear in the bottom coil strip. Of course every attempt was made to perforate these blocks correctly, so the variety is scarce. Attention is drawn to it here so that one may make his own decision as to what such an "error" is worth.

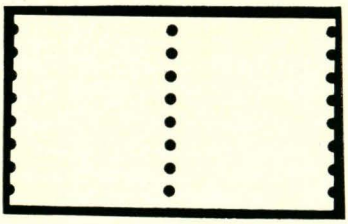
A very suspicious Type II perforation has been noted, not on any of the common items, but only on certain of the scarcer "request" items. The perforation holes of this variety are not cleanly cut and the vertical alignment of the holes is irregular, one hole being noticeably to the left. If this perforation was made on the original perforator after the pins had worn and been knocked out of alignment, it is most remarkable that several rare items should happen to show the same irregular perforation. It would mean that of the twenty rows of stamps which could be perforated in one operation, all these *different* items happened to come from the *same* point in the perforator, showing a constant irregularity.

To use the Type II perforation it was necessary to make certain changes in the interior of the affixing machine so that the rough edges of the coil strip would not catch on any part of the mechanism. A few of these specially constructed machines were sold in Detroit, and supplied with Type II coils of the 1c and 2c Issue of 1908-09. Since the affixers already in use could not handle these coils, the total distribution was very small and commercially used covers are very scarce.

Having proved that coils with the enlarged continuous perforation could be used in Mail-om-eters, the General Manager returned to Washington (September 15, 1909) with samples of these coils. He then learned from Mr. Travers and Mr. Fitch of the Post Office Department that they did not wish to adopt this perforation for fear of being accused of adopting a special perforation for the Mailometer Company. To make various kinds of peculiar perforations to meet similar requests would be a physical and practical impossibility. Mr. Schweiger then explained that the special perforation of his company, and the one they preferred to use, was two rectangular slots. But in order to enable users of their machines to obtain stamps at the regular price, and to enable the Bureau to furnish these stamps without the expense of new machinery, they had gone to considerable expense in changing their own machines. Also, in adopting the enlarged round-hole perforation, the Department would be adopting a perforation which had evolved from suggestions of the Bureau, it being the only form which could be prepared on their machinery without extensive changes and which contained the necessary qualifications to meet the requirements of machine use, i. e.—sufficient strength of paper to avoid breaking apart and sufficiently large openings to assure accurate feeding. The result of this conference was that "the matter would have immediate attention."

However, another visit on October 25th and further correspondence up to the end of 1909 did not alter the original decision of the Post Office Department. Requests were coming in for various odd perforations and the Department did not wish to be accused of favoring any one company. Moreover they had discovered that the large hole perforation was only suitable in a machine which cut the stamps, and was not suitable in vending machines where the stamps were torn off the coil. Yet the Department realized from the many complaints received that the Bureau 12-gauge coils were unsatisfactory because of the

weak perforation. This fact was brought to their attention vividly when the Bureau began to use semi-automatic machines for winding coils and found that they could not even be wound without breaking. The Department then became more interested in finding a larger perforation and the Mailometer Company again submitted one, (sometime after May 1910), their third experimental.



Mail-om-eter Type III — 8 smaller holes.

This is approximately a 6½-gauge perforation. The centers of the holes are spaced exactly 3mm apart, each hole measuring 1.4mm in diameter while the spaces between holes measure 1.6mm. The 1c and 2c stamps of the 1908-09 Issue, with this perforation, have been reported on commercial covers correctly used from Detroit. These were probably used in the same machines made for the Type II coils. This perforation was abandoned when the Bureau adopted a finer 8½-gauge perforation in November 1910. The Mailometer Company then must have reverted to the Type II perforation for the special machines in use in Detroit. The 1c stamp of the 1911 Issue was noticed on a cover of E. B. Cadwell & Co., Detroit brokers, in the summer of 1911.([17]) A collector secured a strip of 25, and the local philatelic society bought 50 copies from this concern. A cover of the Michigan State Telephone Co. with a 2c stamp of the 1911 Issue, cancelled in Detroit May 29, 1911, is in the collection of Dr. Cheney of Southborough, Massachusetts. The commercial use of the Type II perforation on stamps with single-lined watermark is, therefore, unquestionably established.

Although it has never before been mentioned, the Type II perforation on the two 1911 stamps is different from the Type II perforation on the 1908-09 stamps. The hole of the later perforation measures only 1.8mm in diameter while the spaces between holes measure almost 1.4mm. The difference in size is quite obvious without any measurements if a pair of the 1908-09 stamps is placed over a pair of the 1911 stamps. This makes a very easy method of checking stamps on cover and obviates the necessity of removing a stamp to check the issue by watermarking.

In addition to the stamps previously mentioned, Type II and Type III perforations were applied by request to the 3c, 4c and 5c of the 1908-09 Issue, and to the three Commemorative stamps of 1909. The 2c 1903 shield stamp in carmine and scarlet-vermilion shades will also be found with all four Mail-om-eter perforations, while the 2c lake exists with Type I perforation only. Covers in the author's collection show this same stamp with Schermack Type III perforation used from Detroit as late as August 1909. As this was the month of the first experiments with Mail-om-eter Type I, it may be that the 2c lake was so perforated for commercial use. However, the only cover reported is of philatelic origin, so unless a commercial cover turns up the 2c lake with Mail-om-eter Type I perforation must be considered as a request item. While not at all common, it exists in larger quantities than either of the other shades with any of the four types of perforation.

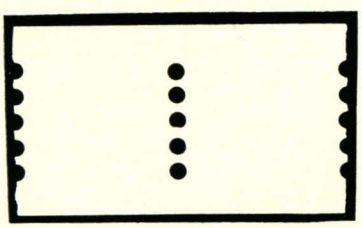
(17) Reported in the September number of the Philatelic Journal of America, Vol. XXIII, page 74.

The St. Louis Perforations

The Type IV Mail-om-eter perforation, which has already been mentioned, was not an experimental. In fact the Type I perforation, which was abandoned after a few week's experimental use in Detroit, later became an adopted perforation and was the forerunner of Type IV. Had the Bureau adopted any large hole perforation suitable for use in Mail-om-eters, Type I would be a scarce experimental and Type IV would never have existed. The company had taken several orders for mailing machines from large New York publishing houses. At the same time an insistent demand for machines came from the St. Louis district. Owing to the difficulty of stamp supply these orders were held up during 1909 while awaiting the action of the Post Office Department in regard to supplying coils with large holes which could be used in Mail-om-eters. When it became apparent that no such coils would be issued, a Schermack Type III perforator was sent to New York and a branch office was opened at 61 Park Row. Here Schermack Type III coils were made for years to supply cities on the eastern seaboard. This gave the Mailometer Company three perforating plants, Detroit, Chicago and New York, all using Schermack Type III perforation. To supply users in St. Louis it was necessary to send the stamps to Chicago for perforating and coiling. The inconvenience, expense, delay and resultant complaints led to the Mailometer Company sending the abandoned Type I perforating machine to its agent in St. Louis for use in supplying this territory with coils.

The branch office at St. Louis was opened in 1910 at 210 Chestnut Street, Mr. H. E. Pasmezoghe in charge. Mr. Pasmezoghe was also in the tent and awning business, and the Type I perforator was installed in a loft of the tent and awning factory.([18]) The 1c and 2c Type I coils of the 1908-09 Issue, which had had a short experimental use in Detroit the year before, now became the common stamps with private perforation used in St. Louis. The three 1909 Commemoratives and the 3c, 4c and 5c stamps of the 1908-09 Issue were also perforated in Type I at the request of various collectors and dealers. Later certain Mail-om-eter users ordered the three higher values of the 1908-09 Issue for machine use, so these three stamps may be removed from the "request" classification.

Before the supply of 1c and 2c 1908-09 stamps was exhausted in St. Louis, a new set of dies was made for the perforator:—or perhaps a new perforating machine was made. At any rate, the 1c and 2c stamps began to appear with a perforation of five large holes. This perforation, called Type IV, gradually re-



Mail-om-eter Type IV — 5 large holes.

placed Type I, becoming the common perforation of the St. Louis branch. The holes of this perforation are larger than Type I, measuring 2.2mm in diameter, while the spaces between holes average 1.1mm. On the 1c and 2c stamps of the 1908-09 Issue Type I is more common than Type IV, while on the same stamps of the 1911 Issue Type IV is more common than Type I. The three higher values of

(18) Philatelic Journal of America, Vol. XXII, March, 1912.

the 1908-09 Issue, which were used concurrently with the 1c and 2c stamps of the 1911 Issue and also of the 1912 Issue, were also perforated in Type IV. Among the request items perforated with five large holes will be found the 2c 1903 previously mentioned and the three 1909 Commemoratives.

In the March, 1912, number of the Philatelic Journal of America there is an illustration of the Mail-om-eter Type IV perforation, with the following significant remark:

> This has five holes instead of six and has entirely supplanted Type I perforation in this city (St. Louis).

Since the 1c and 2c imperforates of the 1912 Series were issued in March and February respectively, this article must have been written *before* any of the new stamps reached St. Louis. Hence it is assumed that the Type I perforation on these two stamps falls in the request classification. Additional evidence is brought to bear by the fact that most unused pairs show scissor-cut edges, and no commercial covers of the period have been reported. Type IV on the 1c and 2c stamps of 1912 is common and was in use for several years. The pale "War" shades of the 2c stamp, which appeared in 1915, are so much scarcer than the carmine shades in Type IV that they really should have a separate catalogue listing. Their scarcity is due not only to the fact that they were in use for only a year, but also because many Mail-om-eter users were then adopting Bureau perf. 10 coils, which were re-wound to bring the gum-side out. A few users in St. Louis were supplied with Type IV coils up through 1917, giving us the 2c 1916 and the 3c Die I 1917 with this perforation, both of which are scarce.

Hyphen-hole Stamps of the Mailometer Company

This completes the so-called Mail-om-eter types of perforation. As we have seen, three were experimental uses in Detroit, while one of these and a fourth type were regularly used in the St. Louis branch office. Meanwhile the Detroit, Chicago and New York offices were perforating Schermack Type III stamps by the millions. As a dummy stamp for advertising and demonstrating purposes



Demonstration Stamps of the Mailometer Company.

the Mailometer Company abandoned the red stamps formerly used by Mr. Schermack, and put out a new stamp, printed in brown. These dummy stamps may be found imperforate or with Mail-om-eter perforations. Types I and II have been noted, Type III may exist, and without doubt Type IV does. None, however, is as common as the Schermack Type III perforation used by the three large offices. Small pieces of these dummy stamps have been found pasted under coil stamps, showing that they were sometimes used as coil ends. The usual coil end, however, was a plain, white, gummed paper, perforated for two or three spaces beyond the last stamp. Such a coil end will be found pasted under the *left* side of the last stamp in the coil. This is just the reverse of all other paste-ups in the coil, as it was the left margin of one sheet which was pasted under the *right* edge of the next in joining the sheets.

Of the Schermack Type III stamps perforated by the Mailometer Company, only two are classified as request or philatelic items:—the two large-sized 1909

Commemoratives. Neither the Alaska-Yukon nor the Hudson-Fulton stamps could be used in Mail-om-eters because of their extreme width. But all other imperforate stamps beginning with the 1c 1908-09 were regularly coiled with this perforation. As certain imperforate issues came from plates of different types, showing different spacings, the Mailometer coils of those issues will show similar variations. In some cases the same stamp from one type of plate is scarcer than from the other type. A discussion of such items will be simplified if the stamps are taken up by issues.

The 1908-09 Plates

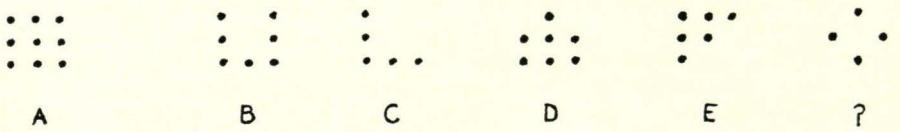
The first plates used for the 1908-09 Issue had a uniform spacing of 2¼mm between stamps, and were marked with a Bureau Imprint known as Type V. Later plates of the 1c, 2c and 4c imperforate stamps were marked with a "Star" in front of the plate number, and had both 2mm and 3mm spacings. Paste-ups showing plate numbers can be checked to prove which type of plate they were from, but such items do not show up in a collection because the number is invisible on a mounted pair, being on the under margin. A nice item to find is a paste-up strip showing narrow spacing between the stamps of the pairs on each side of the paste-up, which proves visually that the stamps came from a plate with Type V Bureau Imprint. A strip showing both 2mm and 3mm spacing will then show the "Star" plate source. Both these items can be found on the 1c and 2c stamps with Mail-om-Meter Type I and Type IV perforations, although items from "old type" plates are scarce. Mail-om-eter Type II and Type III coils in these values appear to have come only from "Star" plates, as does also the 4c value in all four Mail-om-eter types. The 3c and 5c values were all from "old type" plates with narrow spacings. With Schermack Type III perforation, items from "old type" plates are as common as those from "Star" plates on the 1c, 2c and 4c values. The 3c value exists with full 3mm spacing, showing that at least one order of 10,000 stamps was filled from sheets printed from the four "Star" plates of this stamp. Unfortunately no imperforate sheets from this printing reached the hands of collectors. As most of these 3c Schermack coils were used, and consequently applied as singles by the machines, the 3mm pair is very rare. The common spacing on the 3c Schermack Type III is 2¼mm from "old type" plates, as are all the 5c value.

Of the two types of plates used in printing the 1908-09 Issue, the "Star" plate sheets were more suitable for use by the Mailometer Company as they could apply their large perforations more rapidly to stamps with wide spacings between. The St. Louis branch insisted on "Star" plates, and refused to take the 1c and 2c sheets with narrow spacings which had been sent to the St. Louis Post Office for their use. Consequently Mail-om-eter Types I and IV on these stamps are scarce in strips which show the "old type" plate source. They probably exist in Type IV only as request items, made from sheets bought by local collectors or dealers and brought in for perforation. This supposition cannot be checked because singles on cover, even though mis-cut and showing narrow spacing, do not prove whether they were from a narrow-spaced sheet, or the narrow spacings of the center rows of a "Star" sheet. The important point in this minor detail is that a large quantity of 1c and 2c narrow-spaced sheets remained on hand in the St. Louis Post Office, appearing years later in perforated sheet form (Scott's No. 519).

Perforated Company Control Marks

A large percentage of the first Schermack stamps used from New York (1910) show perforated control marks. Perforated initials have been, and still are, used by many large concerns to prevent misappropriation of stamps. The increase in the use of precancels, permissible even on First-Class matter since

August 1924, has largely done away with this form of safe-guarding stamps. But in 1909-10 it was a popular form of stamp protection and many concerns thought they should continue to use it even though the stamps were to be locked in the mailing machine. The difficulty was that if the initials were perforated before the stamps were put in the machine, the feeding fingers of the Mail-om-eter might enter the control marks instead of the perforations they were supposed to pick up. To get around this the Mailometer Company inserted in the machine a small unit to punch control marks, working in conjunction with the feeding mechanism.[19]) Fancy initials were not possible with this device, which could



Control marks made by Mail-om-eters.

punch only nine holes in a square,—three holes each on three lines. The centers of these holes are 3.2mm apart; the diameter of the holes ¾mm. In the illustration, "A" shows the nine holes which could be punched. By omitting certain of the pins a considerable number of distinctive control marks could be made. Each company buying one of these machines received a different set-up:—"B" was used by the Iron Age; "C" by the Osborne Company (Art Calenders); "D" by Cosmopolitan Magazine; "E" by the Hill Publishing Company. Various other designs have been found on stamps off cover, only one of which is shown. As the Mail-om-eter is probably the only machine which punched a control mark as it applied the stamp, such items are particularly interesting in a collection of Schermack stamps. Other types of perforated initials can be found on Schermack stamps, but if they do not fit the 9-hole die illustrated they were not made by the affixing machine. As the coils were locked in the mailing machine there was little practical need for these control marks and they were soon given up.

The 1911 Plates

In January 1911 the 1c and 2c "Star" plate stamps appeared on paper with single-lined watermark. These were used for Schermack Type III coils by the Detroit, Chicago and New York perforating plants. Detroit also used this type sheet for Mail-om-eter Type II coils, and St. Louis for Mail-om-eter Types I and IV. Both private coils and Bureau coils made from these "Star" plate sheets were raising havoc with stamp machines which advanced the coil strip a "predetermined distance". With varied spacings between the stamps the distance between rows of perforations also varied and it was impossible to "predetermine" the width of a stamp. The Bureau naturally received many complaints and requests for stamps with uniform spacings. In Mail-om-eters the feeding fingers advanced further than the width of any one stamp, and then slid back until they picked up a perforation:—therefore they could handle varied spacings without any difficulty. But with their large perforation they wanted all stamps to be spaced as on the outer rows of a "Star" sheet, so the Mailometer Company added its request to the many others.

As an experiment the Bureau laid down new plates for the 1c and 2c stamps, having a uniform spacing of 2¾mm between vertical rows. These plates were

(19) Patent application filed October 9, 1909, by Bennett D. Straight assigning rights to the Mailometer Company of Detroit, Mich.—"mechanism for feeding a strip of stamps, and an engaging device to place an indented identification mark upon each stamp." Patent granted February 9, 1915, #1127543.

marked with an "A" in place of a "Star", and were at first intended solely for imperforate sheets and Bureau coils. To show coil stamps made from these sheets the specialist will have to find a line strip with wide spacing between the stamps of the pairs on each side of the line. Such items may be found with Schermack Type III and Mail-om-eter Type IV perforations. The uniform wide spacings were particularly suitable for the large round-hole perforation of the St. Louis branch and they now refused to take any more "Star" sheets. For the second time the St. Louis Post Office was left with a supply of imperforate sheets, this time with single-lined watermark and varied spacings.

Perforated Sheet Remainders

The two stocks of imperforate sheets not accepted by the St. Louis branch of the Mailometer Company were eventually issued in New York and Washington. The interesting story connected with these stamps will be told more completely in a chapter on the United States Automatic Vending Company. Briefly be it said here, this New York vending company could not use stamps from "Star" plates because of the wide spacings. Before the "old type" plates went out of existence the Bureau made up a large supply of 1c and 2c imperforate sheets with uniform narrow spacings for the U. S. Auto-Vending Company. The stock sent to St. Louis was perhaps taken from this supply by mistake. At any rate it was transferred to New York and the stamps which might have been used in St. Louis with Mail-om-eter perforations appeared in New York with U. S. Auto-Vending perforations. After the vending company went out of business there remained in the New York Post Office several hundred sheets of the 2c denomination. These were returned to the Bureau in 1917, perforated on the new 11-gauge machines, and distributed in panes of 100 to post offices in New York City.

The stock of narrow-spaced 1c stamps, which had accompanied the 2c stamps when first transferred to New York, became exhausted in August 1912. To keep the vending company supplied the Department took the 1c 1911 "Star" sheets which the Mailometer Company had left in the St. Louis Post Office. From these sheets the eight center vertical rows with narrow spacings were cut out and sent to the New York Post Office, later appearing as vertical coils with U. S. Auto-Vending Type I perforation. The remainders of the sheets, two sections of 6x20 stamps of each sheet, were returned to the Bureau for perforating. No distinctive stamp (such as the 2c above,—Scott's No. 519) was produced by this perforating of private coil waste because the Bureau was still using the 12-gauge perforation. The 6x20 sections were cut along the horizontal guide line when perforated, making panes of 6x10 stamps, all 3mm spacing. Some were spoiled in perforating and were redeemed by the Department, leaving about 6450 panes of 60 stamps each which were sold through the Washington Post Office in September and October 1912. These stamps can be identified only when in complete panes of 60 and are quite scarce, it being estimated that between three and four dozen panes are all that exist today. This 1c stamp, perf. 12, single-lined watermark, in panes of 60 is the companion stamp to the 2c perf. 11, double-lined watermark, and both should be in any specialized collection of privately perforated coils, just as perforated coil waste is an important part of any specialized collection of Bureau coils.

(To be continued.)

A Historical Catalog of U. S. Stamp Essays and Proofs

By Clarence W. Brazer

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(Continued from Vol. XVIII, No. 1, page 49.)

ADDENDA & ERRATA

Vol. XVII, No. 4, page 279—between 7th and 8th lines from bottom of page—under *Henry Earle* insert:—

He was Secretary and Treasurer of the *British American Bank Note Co.*

At the end of Henry Earle's Biography add:—

Henry Earle's "Scrap Book" which has passed thru my hands, is endorsed on the fly leaf "Henry Earle, from his father, Oct. 2, 1879" (probably his son) and contained 81 die proofs of bank note vignettes mostly with imprint of "British American Bank Note Co.—Montreal & Ottawa"; 41 bank note proofs of the Bank of Canada from 1870 to 1879 and some other Canadian, German and Greek banknotes; 49 Canadian Revenue proofs; 38 Canadian Postage die proofs of the 1868 and 1872 issues, 2 Canada Postcard proofs of similar design, the Canada Officially Sealed proof, Prince Edward Island 1870 4½p die trial color lake, and 3 engraved cards of the B. A. B. N. Co.

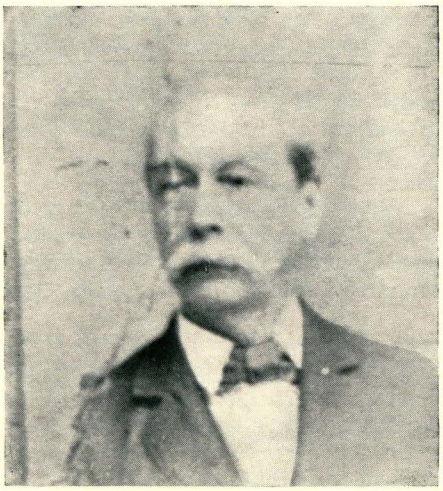
An accompanying Album contained 183 die proofs of bank note vignettes by Toppan, Carpenter & Co.; Rawdon, Wright, Hatch & Edson; American Bank Note Co., etc.; 4 proofs of bank notes, 102 proofs of Canada, Manitoba, Ottawa, Ontario and Quebec Revenue Stamps; and 19 proofs of landscape engravings by Sir Charles Heath (2), James Smillie (5), Bartlett (12), one by T. Macklin dated Jan. 18, 1873 and one by P. J. Louthdour dated Nov. 30, 1795.

Page 292—6th paragraph, under *George H. Danforth* change "Engraver" to *"Siderographer"* and insert dates (1830?-1880?), omit "and probably went" and substitute "but did not go" and add:—

"In October, 1859 he was one of the founders and a trustee, subscribing to 136 shares of a total of 1200 shares, of the *National Bank Note Co.* (at the old offices of Danforth, Perkins & Co.), No. 1 Wall St., New York, where he was in charge of the Transfer Department. He later acquired a large block of the stock of the company from other original holders, prior to the division of enormous profits as more fully explained hereinafter under the National Bank Note Co. He probably remained actively with the N. B. N. Co. until about 1876 when he is no longer listed at that address in the City Directory. After 1867 he is listed only as a Trustee, but before that as 'Engraver.' Upon consolidation of the National with the American Bank Note Co. in 1878 he resided at Madison, N. J. and still held 800 shares of N. B. N. Co. stock, as well as 800 shares of their competitor, the Continental Bank Note Co. He then became a Trustee of the *American Bank Note Co.*

Nicholas D. Danforth, Engraver, (?- ?) was listed in the New York City Directory with Danforth, Wright & Co. in 1857, but does not appear thereafter.

Rawson Packard—Script Engraver—(1825?-1890?). He first appears in the New York City Directory in 1847 and at various business addresses until 1852 when he joined *Danforth, Bald & Co.* at No. 1 Wall St. He probably in 1858 went with the Danforth firm into the *American Bank Note Co.* and was still engraving there about 1890.



RAWSON PACKARD

Page 293, after *David R. Harrison* insert *Script Engraver.*
Also insert the following photo:



CHARLES HARRISON

The following changes should be made in Vol. XVIII, No. 1—Page 30, at the bottom add:—

Banknotes of the Congressional Bank of Washington, D. C., $2.00, $3.00, $5.00 have both imprints, *"American Bank Note Co."* and *"Jocelyn, Draper, Welsh & Co."* These were engraved prior to Dec. 1, 1856, which is the manuscript date seen on one of them.

Page 34—second paragraph omit the first and second lines and insert:—

Samuel Stiles (4)—Bank Note Engraver—(1796-1861), born at East Windsor, Conn. July 15, 1796 and died in N. Y. C. April 3, 1861. He was the son of Asabel and Tryphena (Chapin) Stiles and served his apprenticeship as an engraver with Abner Reed, one of the earliest bank note engravers in this country (1771-1866), at East Windsor and in 1821 became a partner in *Reed & Stiles.* In 1824 he removed to Utica, N. Y. and formed a partnership in the banknote and general engraving business with Vistus Balch, also a pupil of

Abner Reed. In 1828 he removed to New York as a Bank Note Engraver at 4 Wall St. He married June, 1825, Charlotte Spohia Reed, the daughter of his old preceptor Abner Reed.

Omit last sentence and substitute:—

Samuel Stiles was in 1859 one of the founders and Treasurer of the *National Bank Note Co.* until he died on April 3d, 1861.

Page 36, at bottom add:—

A similar but later circular dated Jan. 1854, shows the U. S. Capitol in a perspective drawing with the House and Senate wings added, as seen from the east side, instead of a direct elevation of the older building.

Page 39—7th line change "7500" to read "5200" and in 8th line change "three" to read "two."

Page 40—under *George Whitfield Hatch*,—3d line change *1857* to *1866.*

Page 44—*George T. Jones,* add at end of his paragraph:—

On July 22, 1868 he submitted a low bid from Washington, D. C. for the new contract for Postage Stamps, but the Expert Committee decided that his two color and three color sensitive ink essays submitted with his proposal, "are not, in an artistic point of view, equal to others which the board has before them." He did not then have a building or equipment, though high government officials of the Treasury and other departments wrote endorsing him.

At end of paragraph of *James R. Rice* add:—In 1876 he was engraving portraits there with J. Earle.

W. W. Rice—Portrait Engraver—(1820?-1860?), of Scotch Plains, N. J., was an excellent line engraver of portraits and subject plates. He was with the firm of *Rawdon, Wright, Hatch & Co.* in 1846; and was engraving over his own name as late as 1860.(4)

Page 45—under *Peter Hall*—4th line omit "later" and insert "in 1878"; 5th line omit "in a supervisory capacity" and insert "as Superintendent of the Engraving Dviision."

Omit "eventually" and substitute: In 1880 and 1881 at 34 Liberty St.

Page 47—add to end of 3d paragraph—

A gray lined surface printed envelope has been seen with the 28mm circular corner card of the "*American Bank Note Co., New York,*" surrounding their trademark of an eagleshead with seven stars, which has the colorless imprint under it in small type "Gavit & Co." The postmark on this cover is dated



ALFRED JONES

Photo by courtesy of Thomas F. Morris.

"New York, Jan. 23, 1860" tying a 1857 3c stamp. Apparently these new Gavit firms did a different class of work and were not in competition with the A. B. N. Co. who favored them with stationery printing.

Page 48—2nd paragraph—10th line—insert:—From 1852 to 1857 he had his own business at 34 Liberty St.

In 1857 with Charles Edmonds and Wm. C. Smillie he formed the short-life firm of *"Edmonds, Jones, and Smillie."*

Omit the last sentence in this paragraph and insert:—From 1872 to 1878 he engraved portraits for the National Bank Note Co. but in 1878 again returned to his old office at 34 Liberty St. for a short time. He shortly thereafter joined the *American Bank Note Co.,* at 142 Broadway, N. Y., for whom he engraved until his death in 1900.

THE NATIONAL BANK NOTE CO.

As previously written, seven of the best bank note engraving firms were formed into the American Bank Note Co. on May 1st, 1858. After the amalgamation of the New York offices of these firms at the old Merchants Exchange on Wall St., N. Y. in 1859 some of the engravers and other employees on the former firms severed their connections. This very likely may have been due to unsatisfactory adjustment of working and living conditions at a new center, as well as to an excess of talented men in certain departments. The new (American) firm was so entrenched among the bankers and others using engraving that it was then considered by their competitors a monopoly that small independent engravers could not successfully compete with, and these conditions eventually led to the formation of the *National Bank Note Co.* about October 31st, 1859, in the former offices of Danforth, Wright & Co. at No. 1 Wall St. (corner of Broadway), New York.

While Mosely I. Danforth, Edward J. Danforth and Henry Perkins (see page 292) took the dies, machinery and firm effects of *Danforth, Perkins & Co.* and their illustrious predecessors into the *American Bank Note Co.*—the others George H. Danforth, Samuel Stiles, Fitch Shepard, William D. Nichols and James Macdonough of the old firm, with Lloyd Glover formerly agent for Danforth, Wright & Co. of Boston, and three bankers—Robert S. Oakley, James T. Soutter and John H. Van Antwerp, formed the *National Bank Note Co.*

The illustration of the original announcement of the formation of this company is worded as follows:—

THE NATIONAL BANK NOTE COMPANY

No. 1 Wall Street, Corner of Broadway.

New York, November, 1859.

This Company has been incorporated by law, and is prepared, with an ample capital, new and superior designs, materials and machinery, embracing all the modern improvements and discoveries for the prevention of counterfeits and alterations, to execute orders for plates and printing, in the highest style of the art, for BANK NOTES, DRAFTS, CERTIFICATES OF STOCK and of DEPOSIT, STATE and RAILROAD BONDS, and all forms of mercantile and official papers, under the most vigilant and reliable superintendence: ample security is provided for the safe custody of plates left with the Company.

New and important safeguards against fraudulent coupons, devised by, and peculiar to this Company, are specially recommended.

Government issues of every description, and orders in foreign languages, will receive strict attention. Particular care will be taken to furnish bank-note paper of the very best quality.

THE NATIONAL BANK NOTE COMPANY comprises among its associates artists of acknowledged ability, who have been from fifteen to thirty years in the oldest established firms of Bank Note Engravers in this country. The Company, in soliciting patronage, feels justified in giving assurances that orders intrusted to it, will be faithfully and promptly filled.

TRUSTEES.

ROBERT S. OAKLEY, (Cashier American Exchange Bank, N. Y.)
JAMES T. SOUTTER, (President Bank of the Republic, N. Y.)
SAMUEL STILES,
FITCH SHEPARD, (Late with
WILLIAM D. NICHOLS, Danforth, Wright & Co.
JAMES MACDONOUGH, and their predecessors)
GEORGE H. DANFORTH,
LLOYD GLOVER, (Formerly Agent of Danforth, Wright & Co., Boston)
JOHN H. VAN ANTWERP, Cashier New York State Bank, Albany.

R. S. OAKLEY,
President.
J. T. SOUTTER,
Vice-President.
SAMUEL STILES,
Treasurer.
J. MACDONOUGH,
Secretary.

The capital stock of the new company was $60,000.00 divided into shares of $50.00 each. The 1200 shares were taken by the nine original trustees and others as follows:

Robert S. Oakley, President,	100	shares
James T. Soutter, Vice-President,	50	"
Samuel Stiles, Treasurer,	100	"
James Macdonough, Sec'y & Designer,	136	"
William D. Nichols, Engraving & Printing Dep't.,	136	"
George H. Danforth, Transfer Dep't.,	136	"
Fitch Shepard, Travelling Agent,	136	"
Lloyd Glover, Travelling Agent,	136	"
John H. Van Antwerp, Banker of Albany,	50	"
Seven practical engravers,	136	"
Three or four outside friends,	84	"
Total	1200	"

Each of the trustees took charge of and superintended a department, receiving a salary, and devoted themselves "with great zeal and assiduity" to the upbuilding of the Company, which secured the services of seven practical engravers who became subscribers to the stock in small amounts.

Augustus D. Shepard was brought into the Company as Treasurer after the death of Samuel Stiles on April 3rd, 1861, and acquired most of Stiles stock and also five other shares from five remaining trustees.

Robert S. Oakley, the first President, was also Cashier of the American Exchange Bank at 128 Broadway until the spring of 1860 after which he devoted his time to the National Bank Note Co. until he died on January 16, 1862. Lloyd Glover died suddenly on August 2, 1862, while away from his home in Brooklyn on a trip to Illinois. James T. Soutter, President of the Bank of the Republic at No. 2 Wall St., left the United States in 1861 and transferred his stock to his son-in-law. Fitch Shepard was with Danforth, Wright & Co. and after the founding of the National Bank Note Co. served as a travelling agent until he was elected President in 1863.

As the dies and effects of Danforth, Perkins & Co. and their predecessors, were taken into the American Bank Note Co., the new National Bank Note Co. had therefore to design and engrave a new stock of dies from which proofs were furnished their travelling agents to show prospective banker customers. The "seven practical engravers" in addition to those in the firm probably included the great James Smillie, Joseph Ives Pease, William E. Marshall, George W. Thurber, Joseph P. Ourdan, and Cyrus Durand. Joseph I. Pease had engraved the portraits on the 1851 issue of postage stamps for Toppan, Carpenter, Casilear & Co. and James Smillie from the same offices was the best picture engraver

THE NATIONAL BANK NOTE COMPANY,

No. 1 WALL STREET, CORNER OF BROADWAY.

NEW-YORK, NOVEMBER, 1859.

This Company has been incorporated by law, and is prepared, with an ample capital, new and superior designs, materials and machinery, embracing all the modern improvements and discoveries for the prevention of counterfeits and alterations, to execute orders for plates and printing, in the highest style of the art, for BANK NOTES, DRAFTS, CERTIFICATES OF STOCK and of DEPOSIT, STATE and RAILROAD BONDS, and all forms of mercantile and official papers, under the most vigilant and reliable superintendence: ample security is provided for the safe custody of plates left with the Company.

New and important safeguards against fraudulent coupons, devised by, and peculiar to this Company, are specially recommended.

Government issues of every description, and orders in foreign languages, will receive strict attention. Particular care will be taken to furnish bank-note paper of the very best quality.

The National Bank Note Company comprises among its associates artists of acknowledged ability, who have been from fifteen to thirty years in the oldest established firms of Bank Note Engravers in this country. The Company, in soliciting patronage, feels justified in giving assurances that orders intrusted to it, will be faithfully and promptly filled.

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WILLIAM D NICHOLS,
JAMES MACDONOUGH,
GEORGE H. DANFORTH, } (*Late with Danforth, Wright & Co., and their predecessors.*)
LLOYD GLOVER, (*Formerly Agent of Danforth, Wright & Co., Boston.*)
JOHN H. VAN ANTWERP, *Cashier New-York State Bank, Albany.*

R. S. OAKLEY,
President.

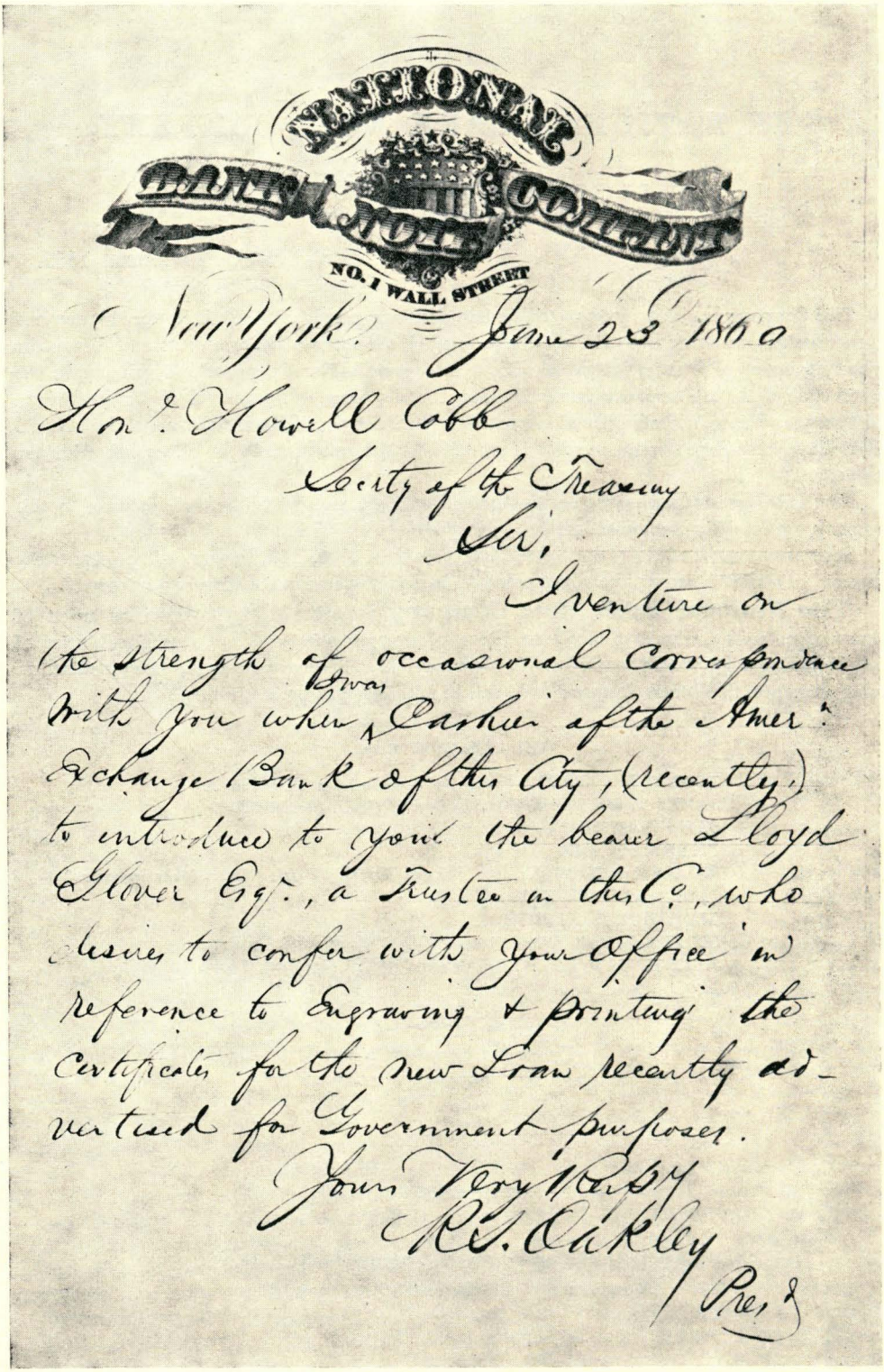
J. T. SOUTTER,
Vice-President.

SAMUEL STILES,
Treasurer.

J. MACDONOUGH,
Secretary.

Announcement of Formation of National Bank Note Co.

By courtesy of Stanley B. Ashbrook.


NATIONAL BANK NOTE COMPANY
NO. 1 WALL STREET

New York June 23 1860

Hon. Howell Cobb
Secty of the Treasury
Sir,

I venture on the strength of occasional Correspondence with you when Cashier of the Amer. Exchange Bank of this City, (recently) to introduce to you the bearer Lloyd Glover Esq., a Trustee in this Co., who desires to confer with your Office in reference to Engraving & Printing the Certificates for the new Loan recently advertised for Government purposes.

Yours Very Respy
R. S. Oakley
Pres.

Letter to Secretary of U. S. Treasury, From R. S. Oakley, President of N. B. N. Co.

By courtesy of Stanley B. Ashbrook.

of his time. William E. Marshall was a portrait painter and engraver who had few equals and Cyrus Durand was the best master of the geometric lathe. William D. Nichols was an excellent letter engraver, and George W. Thurber an exceptionally capable engraver of ornamental designs and lettering. James Macdonough was an able artist and designer. The N. B. N. Co. was therefore wonderfully equipped to execute the miniature engravings for postage stamps as well as for bank notes.

The models and engravings of those in the firm and their employees were quietly shown thru reference letters from the banker members to other bankers throughout the country, so as not to arouse their powerful competitor, which they understood also had stockholders among the presidents of banks. Tracy Edson was then agent for the American Bank Note Co. in New Orleans and Albert E. Goodall, who later became president of the American, was then (1860) a travelling agent much feared by the National. Many of the States then had laws for the making of bank notes, that favored the processes owned by the A. B. N. Co. and it was necessary to get laws passed by the various legislatures to permit banks to have their bank notes made by the N. B. N. Co. Public appreciation increased for the new N. B. N. Co. and on Mar. 10, 1860, a large order was received which was completed on May 1st, 1860.

On June 28th, 1860, an order was received from the Bank of Savannah, Georgia, for 4000 impressions from a full plate of small notes. In March of that year James Macdonough wrote that the N. B. N. Co. had improved the Cycloid machine to produce work never before made and that they then had taken the lead from the A. B. N. Co. which he said had gone to the trouble and expense to prove they could do as good work as the N. B. N. Co. bank notes for the American Exchange Bank of N. Y. Preparation for the War required many engraved Government Loan Certificates as shown by the accompanying illustration of a letter, soliciting the engraving, addressed to the Secretary of the Treasury.

On August 15th, 1861, the N. B. N. Co. contract was executed with the U. S. Post Office Department to furnish all U. S. postage stamps until Aug. 15, 1867, as will be more fully described hereinafter under the chapter on that issue of stamps. Charles F. Steel was manager of the U. S. Postage Stamp Dep't and I have seen a copy of a letter to him dated Sept. 12, 1861, from J. Macdonough, Secretary, giving him instructions.

The postage stamp contract became so steady by August, 1862, that all the employees of the U. S. Postage Stamp Dep't were offered annual contracts as shown by the following letter to Charles F. Steel.

"Office of the National Bank Note Co.(A)

New York, August 8th, 1862.

In consequence of the continued increase of our business, this Company feeling that they can now safely guarantee permanent employment to their desirable employees it was, Resolved, by the Executive Committee of the Board of Trustees, that engagements for the term of one year should be offered, these engagements to be renewed at the expiration of the first year, at the option of both parties.

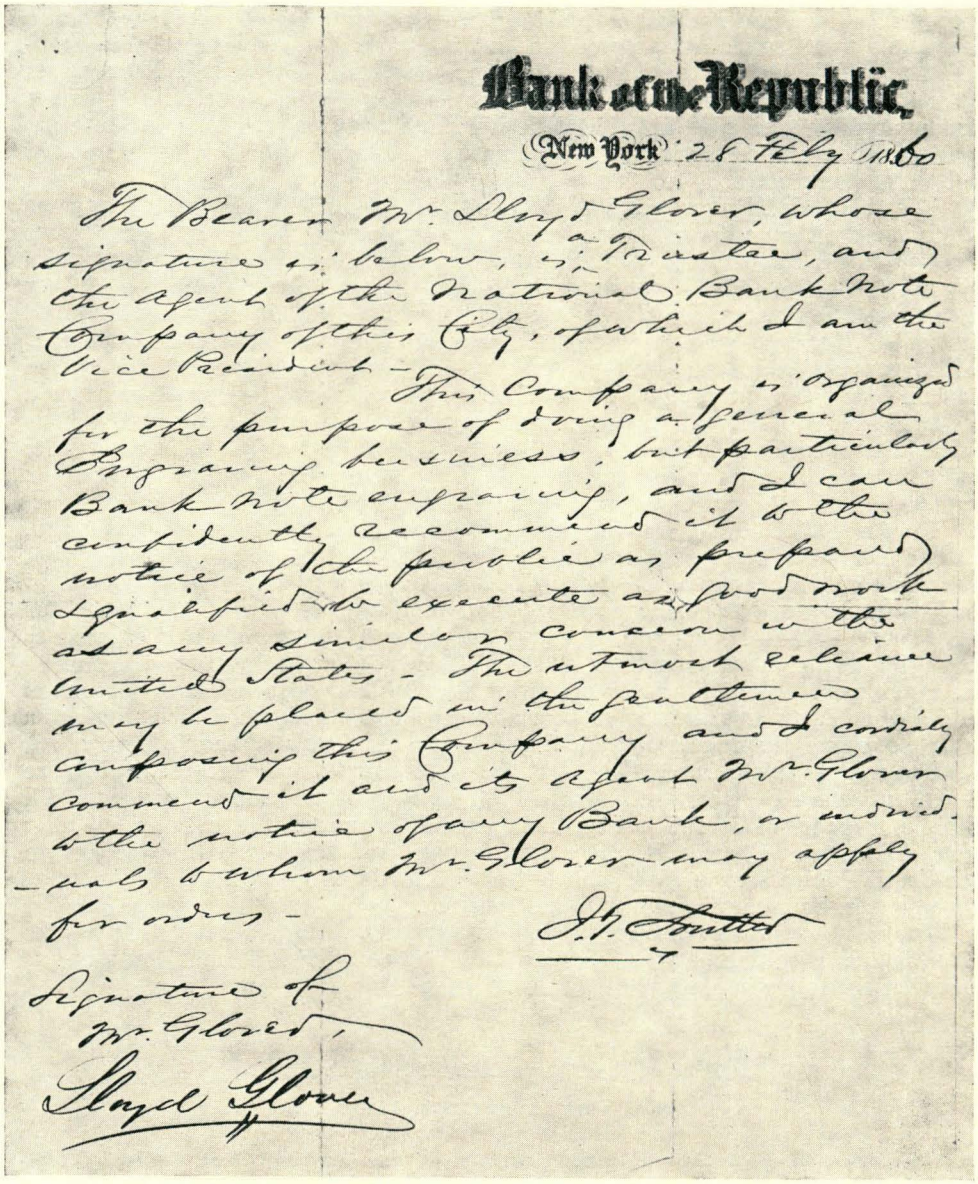
Mr. Steel is therefore authorized to cause written agreements to be entered into with all desirable persons in his Dep't, guaranteeing employment for the term of one year from the 1st day of August, 1862, at the present rate of compensation now received by them.

These contracts in duplicate shall be signed by Mr. C. F. Steel on the part of the Company, and by the employee, and witnessed by the Secretary of the Company, one copy to be given to the employee and the other retained by the Company.

By the order of the Executive Committee.

J. Macdonough, Secretary of the Board of Trustees."

(A) By courtesy of the Nassau Stamp Co.



Bank of the Republic,

New York 28 July 1860

The Bearer Mr. Lloyd Glover, whose signature is below, is a Trustee, and the Agent of the National Bank Note Company of this City, of which I am the Vice President. This Company is organized for the purpose of doing a general Engraving business, but particularly Bank Note engraving, and I can confidently recommend it to the notice of the public as prepared & qualified to execute as good work as any similar concern in the United States. The utmost reliance may be placed in the statements emposing this Company and I cordially commend it and its Agent Mr. Glover to the notice of any Bank, or individuals to whom Mr. Glover may apply for orders.

D. T. Foulke

Signature of Mr. Glover,

Lloyd Glover

Identification Letter of Lloyd Glover, Agent for N. B. N. Co.

By courtesy of Stanley B. Ashbrook.

On Jan. 31st, 1863, the annual statement of the National Bank Note Co. showed a surplus of $197,184.63 and from Jan. 1st to June 30, 1863, the profits were $288,327.47 or 310% which was distributed in May and June, 1863 in two dividend payments. This was largely due to having the Postage Stamp Contract and a resulting profitable order received in the latter part of July, 1862, from Secretary Chase of the U. S. Treasury Dep't. for one set of plates for the faces of 5c, 10c, 25c and 50c Postage Currency notes, on which the 5c and 10c postage stamps previously engraved by the N. B. N. Co. were reproduced in the brown and green colors of the stamps. The first engraved essays for these notes were

inscribed "Postage Stamps" as the notes were to replace the growing use of encased postage stamps as money, patented by J. Gault in 1862. The American Bank Note Co. at first engraved and printed the backs. Later the work was taken over by the newly formed Bureau of Engraving & Printing of the U. S. Treasury Dep't. Scotts U. S. Catalog states that these notes were issued from August 21, 1862 to May 27, 1863. In the first four months of 1863, 4,774,284 impressions or 89,785,024 notes were delivered by the N. B. N. Co. No agreement was made as to price until a bill was rendered for work executed to Oct. 31, 1862. These were the first notes issued by the U. S. Treasury.

After the death of Lloyd Glover his 136 shares in the N. B. N. Co. were acquired on December 20, 1862 by George H. Danforth for $60.00 per share five months before the 310% dividend was declared. Thirteen months later (July, 1864) another dividend of 200% was paid. G. H. Danforth had also obtained 100 shares of the former president R. S. Oakley and all the shares of the engravers except about 36 owned by one engraver, so that prior to the 310% dividend, G. H. Danforth held 467 shares which amounted to nearly 39% of the 1200 shares existing.

In addition to the engraving offices at No. 1 Wall St. the N. B. N. Co. also had at one time offices at No. 53 Broadway where the Letter Press, Printing, Label, Tag, Ticket and Machinery Department was located. This was probably where the postage stamps were produced as the work was not done at No. 1 Wall St. In 1866 additional offices were opened at No. 9 Nassau St. and from 1870 to 1875 the engraving and printing departments were on the upper (6th) floor of Cooper Union for the Advancement of Science and Art at Fourth Ave. & Astor Place.

The first President of the N. B. N. Co. was Robert S. Oakley until his death on Jan. 16, 1862, when he was succeeded by Fitch Shepard from 1863 to 1870 and after 1871 by John Van Antwerp until the consolidation of December 27, 1878. James T. Soutter was the original Vice-President until he left the U. S. in 1861. John H. Van Antwerp was Vice-President until elected President in 1871. When the postage stamp contract was extended on Feb. 1, 1873, Timothy H. Porter, Vice-President, signed the contract. James Macdonough served as Vice-President. from 1876 to 1878. Samuel Stiles, the first Treasurer, died on April 3d, 1861 and was succeeded by Augustus D. Shepard who continued in this office, except during an basence in 1867. During that time for a short time about Nov. 1867, Albon Man, a lawyer, was Treasurer, but prior to April, 1870 and thereafter Augustus D. Shepard resumed the Treasurership until the consolidation in 1878. James Macdonough remained Secretary until 1876 when he was succeeded by a long time clerk, John E. Currier who served in that office until the consolidation in 1878.

It is reported that the *Lowell Engraving Co.* of Boston was either purchased or amalgamated with the National Bank Note Co.

By June 1st, 1864 the company signed a three year agreement (which would expire ten weeks before the end of their current P. O. D. contract) with Charles F. Steel, Manager of the U. S. Postage Stamp Dep't, at a salary of $2,500.00 per year, as shown by the following agreement.

Agreement. (A)

This indenture made the sixth day of June in the year of our Lord one thousand and eight hundred and sixty four between **Charles F. Steel** of the city of Brooklyn, County of Kings and State of New York, party of the first part and the **National Bank Note Company** of the City and County and State of New York party of the second part.

Witnesseth, that in consideration of the sum of one dollar to him in hand paid by the party of the second part, the receipt whereof is hereby acknowledged, and of the promise of the said party of the second part herein contained, the said party of the first part hath bound and by these Presents does voluntarily bind himself unto the said National Bank Note Company, its successors and assigns to render them his full and hearty services in the Postage Stamp Department and as employee

in their business for the term of three years from the first of June, 1864 during eight hours for each and every day of said term, excepting only Sundays and public holidays, during all of which time the said Charles F. Steel shall serve the said party of the second part faithfully and diligently, its secrets keep and its lawful commands in connection with its business of engraving, printing etc., obey. And the said party of the first part does further agree and promise that he will not during the time herein limited, render any service to any other than the party of the second part, in respect to, or in and about postage stamps, or any other part of the business carried on by the party of the second part without the direction of the said National Bank Note Company.

And the said party of the second part agrees and promises to pay to the said party of the first part, Compensation for his services at and after the rate of Twenty five hundred Dollars per annum for each day during the whole of the time he shall well and truly perform his agreement herein; said sum to be paid in weekly payments. And the right of terminating this Agreement, and to discharge the said party of the first part, is reserved to the said party of the second part upon his failure well and truly to render such service according to the intent of this Indenture.

And for the performance of all and singular the covenants aforesaid, the said parties bind themselves each unto the other firmly by these Presents.

In Witness Whereof, the parties aforesaid have hereunto set their hands and seals, the day and year first above written.

Signed, Sealed and delivered in presence of

F. Shepard
Pres't. N. B. N. Co. (Seal)
Cha's F. Steel (Seal)

The first N. B. N. Co. postage stamp contract expired on August 15, 1867 but was extended to Feb. 1st, 1869. The N. B. N. Co. on December 9, 1867 purchased the patent of Charles F. Steele dated Oct. 22, 1867 for grilling postage stamps. Despite lower bids, the beauty and quality of their essays for the 1869 issue was responsible for their obtaining the new four year contract from the Post Office Department for which proposals were received on July 22, 1868. The contract which was signed December 12, 1868 was to commence on Feb. 1, 1869 and to expire Feb. 1, 1873 but was extended to April 1, 1873. They bid for and submitted essays for the envelope postage stamp contract in 1869 but were not successful. The National Bank Note Co. in 1872, designed and engraved the dies and prepared the plates for the first U. S. Postal Cards which were printed by the *Morgan Envelope Co.* and issued on May 12, 1873. They, however, had the contract for U. S. Revenue stamps beginning August 31, 1875 and also engraved many private proprietary revenue stamps under the Commissioner of Internal Revenue of the Treasury Department until consolidation with the American Bank Note Co. on December 27th, 1878. The American Bank Note Co. assumed this contract until October, 1880.

On December 27, 1878, the National Bank Note Co., the Continental Bank Note Co., and the American Bank Note Co. entered into a consolidation agreement to last for 50 years under the name of the American Bank Note Co. with a new capital stock of $100,000. Among the shareholders of the *National Bank Note Co.* at that time were the following, including those practical engravers still active in the Company:—

775	James Macdonough of Inwood, N. Y.
2000	E. J. Macdonough of Inwood, N. Y.
1660	Wm. D. Nichols of New York City.
800	George H. Danforth of Madison, N. J.
150	Anna R. Ronaldson by D. S. Ronaldson, Att'y.
100	George W. Thurber of New York City.
100	Alfred Jones of Yonkers, N. Y.
50	Christian Rost of New York City.
150	J. C. Lindsley of Newark, N. J.
100	F. A. Osborne of Newark, N. J.
50	R. A. Perrine of Brooklyn, N. Y.
600	Henry H. Reardon of 78 Broadway, N. Y. C.
310	Jonas O. Molander of N. Y. C.

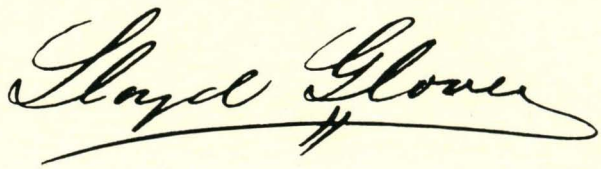


The Art Department of the National Bank Note Co.

Photo by courtesy of Thomas F. Morris.

Reading, left to right, standing—James Macdonough and Alfred Jones.
Seated—Mr. Berry, Thomas J. Gleason, Christian Rost and Marcus W. Baldwin.

Thus ended the brilliant career of nearly twenty years of the National Bank Note Co. In addition to Joseph I. Pease, Cyrus Durand, Samuel Stiles, George H. Danforth, and Alfred Jones whose biographies have been previously given, the practical designers and engravers for this company were the following:



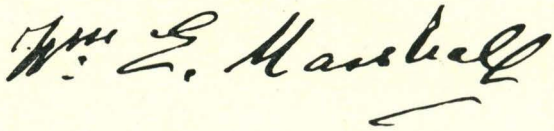
Lloyd Glover—Bank Note Engraver—(1825-1862), was born in DeRuyter, Madison Co., N. Y. in July, 1825; he died while absent from his Brooklyn home on a trip to Illinois on August 2, 1862. He was the son of Daniel Glover, and the brother of D. Lloyd Glover and DeWitt Clinton Glover, also engravers. Lloyd Glover was taught to engrave by a Boston master and for several years he was the head of the New England branch of *Danforth, Wright & Co. of N. Y.* He finally abandoned engraving for commercial pursuits and was the New England agent of D. W. & Co. and then a director in the American Guano Co., residing at Lynn, Mass. He is said to have been a man of decided literary and artistic attainments. (4)

He was one of the 1859 founders and first trustees of the *National Bank Note Co.* of which he held 136 shares. He travelled as agent for the Company and secured many orders until his death in 1862.



William D. Nichols,—Letter Engraver—(1835?-1879?) He was a letter engraver for Danforth, Wright & Co. in 1858 and one of the founders and trustees of the National Bank Note Co. in 1859 to which he subscribed for 136 shares of stock. He superintended the engraving department later located in Cooper Union. From 1865 to 1869 he is listed as an "artist" and in 1874 as "printer No. 1 Wall St." in the New York City Directories. His address from 1875 to 1877 was changed to his home after which has name disappears. In 1878 he held 1660 shares of stock in the National Bank Note Co. and resided in New York City.

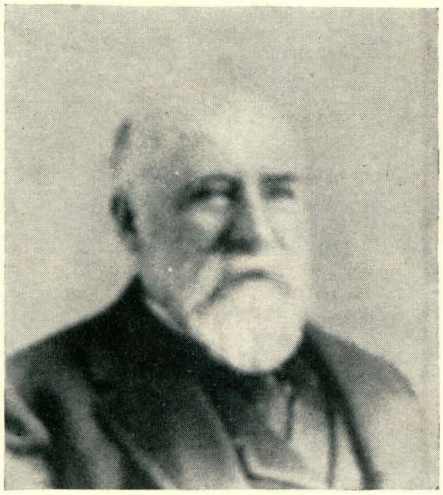
Among the U. S. postage stamps on which he engraved the frame and lettering are the 1861 3c, 30c and 90 cents stamps and the 1863 2 cents.



William Edgar Marshall, Portrait Engraver & Painter (1837-1903?) was born in New York City on June 30, 1837 and began bank-note engraving with *Danforth, Wright & Co.* for whom he executed a series of vignettes that attracted attention. Upon the founding of the *National Bank Note Co.* in 1859 he became one of their portrait engravers. In the winter of 1860 he went to Boston to engrave the head of Washington from Stuart's painting in the Athenaeum and later engraved this head for the 1861 10 cents and 12 cents postage stamps produced by the National Bank Note Co. In 1864 he went abroad to study art in Paris for about two years and exhibited in the Salons of 1865-66. When he heard of the assassination of President Lincoln he immediately returned

to this country in 1865 to engrave his portrait after his own painting of a head and bust of the late President. He later painted and engraved large line plates of General Grant (1868), James G. Blaine, H. W. Longfellow, and (1861) James Fenimore Cooper.(6). In 1883 he is listed in the Business Directory as a Bank Note Engraver at 711 Broadway.

Among the U. S. postage stamps for which he engraved the portraits are the 1861—5, 10, 12, and 24 cents stamps, and probably the 1866, 15 cents Lincoln.



J. Macdonough

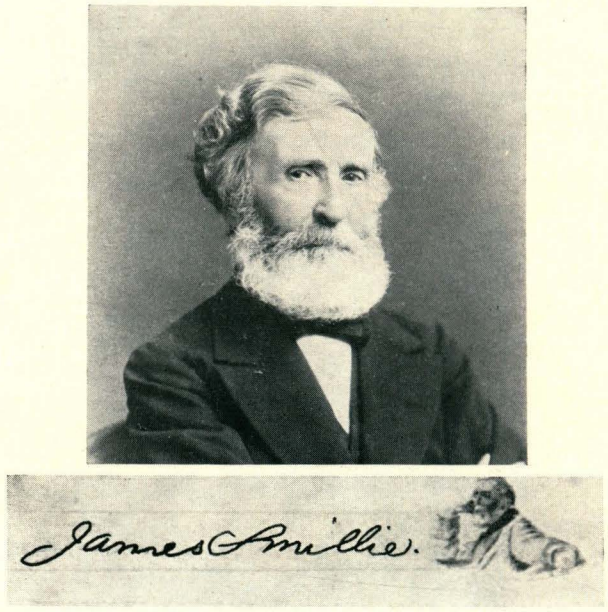
National Bank Note Co. and American

JAMES MACDONOUGH

James Macdonough—Artist & Designer—(1820?-1903), was born about 1820 and died in New York on January 6, 1903. He entered bank note engraving work in 1846 and in 1857 was an artist with *Danforth, Wright & Co.* of New York. In 1859 he was one of the founders and trustees of the *National Bank Note Co.* of which he was elected the first Secretary. He held that executive position and had charge of the model designing and engraving department until he became Vice-President in 1876. Upon consolidation with the *American Bank Note Co.* on December 27, 1878, he was elected Vice-President and was President of that company from 1887 until his death in 1903.

At the founding of the National Bank Note Co. he subscribed to 136 shares of the 1200 shares of stock (original issue) and by 1878 he personally held 775 shares while E. J. Macdonough who lived with him at Inwood, New York City, also held 2000 shares.

James Macdonough conducted most of the correspondence for the National Bank Note Co. and his designs for postage stamps were highly appreciated by the U. S. Post Office Department. To him are attributed the designs of all the U. S. Postage stamps and N. B. N. Co. essays from 1861 to 1869, including the first postal card issued in 1873, the large 1865 Newspaper stamps and green Registered stamp. He probably supervised the designs for the 1875 issue of U. S. Revenue stamps as well as many Private Proprietary Stamps from 1875 to 1883.



JAMES SMILLIE
Photo by courtesy of Thomas F. Morris.

James Smillie—Landscape & Historical Engraver, (1807-1885), was born in Edinburgh, Scotland on November 23, 1807, and died in Poughkeepsie, N. Y. on December 4, 1885. He was the elder brother of William Cumming Smillie (see Vol. XVII No. 2, page 99), son of a silversmith and was first apprenticed at the age of twelve to James Johnston, a silver engraver in Edinburgh. After the death of Johnston he received instruction in picture engraving from Edward Mitchell. In 1820 he came in the brig Neptune with his family to Quebec, Canada, where his father and elder brother established themselves in business as jewelers and James worked for them for some time as a general engraver. In 1827, under the patronage of Lord Dalhousie, he was sent to London and to Edinburgh for instruction in engraving, where he studied for eight months before returning to Quebec. After odd jobs there he had an opportunity to visit New York in connection with the publication of a Quebec guide for travellers, which was financially unsuccessful and he returned home.

In 1829 he returned to New York to engrave on copper in the studio of Robert W. Weir his landscape painting of the "Convent Gate." Asher B. Durand, the artist and engraver, saw his work in Weir's studio that winter and requested him to engrave some of his paintings. He located in an attic room without heat in an old house on Spring Street and completed this first work for Durand in two weeks. In trepidation he asked if thirty dollars was too much but Durand paid him forty dollars and asked if he would undertake another plate of the same series. His hankering for home became intolerable whereupon he bought new boots and other necessities and started by sleigh via Albany and after suffering three days from cold and fatigue arrived in Quebec.

In May of 1831 James Smillie again returned to New York to engrave until 1836 landscape views about New York City for the *New York Mirror* after paintings by Robert Weir. In 1832 he was made an Associate of the National Academy, and in 1851 a full Academician. His great love for the Hudson River Valley influenced his decision to live at Rondout Creek, near Kingston during the late 1830s and he made many trips to New York by boat, stagecoach, and sleigh.

(B) I am also indebted to Thomas F. Morris for much of the information incorporated in this Biography.

About 1836 he located with his brother William at *Draper, Toppan, Longacre & Co.* and their successors at 1 Wall St. and 111 Broadway, New York, until Toppan, Carpenter & Co. moved into the American Bank Note Co. in 1859. In 1861 James Smillie went under contract with the *National Bank Note Co.* where he stayed until 1864, but he was released to engrave his famous "Rocky Mountain" picture after Breistadt. About this time his engravings have imprint of Smillie & Hinshelwood and Winter & Smillie, 52 Wall St. He returned to the N. B. N. Co., later engraving the vignettes for the 1869—12 cents, 15 cents and 24 cents stamps, and the 30 cents Burgoyne essay. In Feb. 1860 he engraved a bank note vignette two by four inches of the S. S. Adriatic after a drawing by Parsons. This he later reduced for the 1869—12 cents stamp. It was also used on the Peru 1874 Postage Due Stamps. He later formed a connection with the *American Bank Note Co.* until his death in 1885. His last vignette die of a Family of Lions was completed by his son James David Smillie, Nov. 6, 1885. He engraved many beautiful vignettes. Some of these were designed by his son James D. Smillie.



Last Engraving by James Smillie—With His Portrait.
(By courtesy of Howard Lederer.)

James Smillie was in my opinion the best miniature pictorial engraver of all times, and he is conceded the best landscape line engraver of America. His work was distinguished by minute detail, delicacy and great softness. It was a combination of line engraving and acid etching, which gently separated the distant planes in the picture, thus producing great depth and distance. His etching was so ably and subtly executed that it is not generally noticed. The vignette of the 1869—24 cents stamp is after Trumbull's painting, the "Signing of the Declaration of Independence" first and best engraved by James Smillie's patron, A. B. Durand. On this stamp vignette only 3/8 of an inch high by 13/16 of an inch wide Smillie engraved all the forty-two persons, and with the aid of a magnifying glass one may even recognize on the proofs, the six principal figures, though the engraved head of each is smaller than the head of a pin. This same skill is also evident on the 1869 30 cents essay depicting Trumbull's "Surrender of General Burgoyne" as may be better appreciated by comparison with the coarser engraving without depth, of the same subject on the Burgoyne Campaign 2 cents stamp engraved in 1927.(B)

(This series of articles to be continued.)

Pedigree of Rare Stamps

By CHARLES J. PHILLIPS.

(Continued from Vol. XIX, page 49.)

Mr. Phillips informs us that in the Oct. '39 issue the illustrations were not correctly arranged. The one over No. 5 should be over No. 23 and the one over No. 23 should be over No. 6.

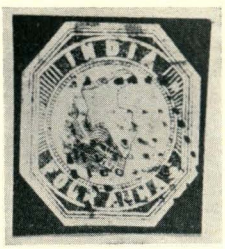
INDIA

October 1854, 4 Annas, Head Inverted

I am indebted for some of the following details to the work on "The Four Annas Lithographed Stamps of India 1854-55," by D. R. Martin and E. A. Smythies.

All Genuine "Head Inverted Are Die 1.

1. H. M. King George V. Cut to shape, on a portion of a letter sheet, tied by a diamond of dots. This is from the collection of the late L. R. H. Hausburg.



2. T. K. Tapling collection in the British Museum. 3 copies. Cut to shape, even margin all round, postmark a diamond of dots.

3 and 4. Two cut to shape copies on a letter sheet, obliterated with the Bombay postmark. On the back of the letter sheet is "Bombay SE. 12. 1855 (?)."

5. *Government of India Collection in Delhi.* Cut to shape on part of original letter, with the Bombay postmark.



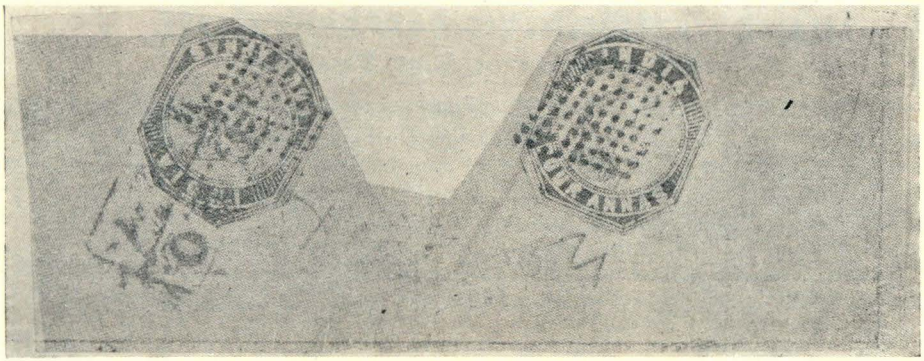
6. *C. L. Desai collection* (Bombay). A very rare cut-square copy.

7. *E. A. Smythies collection.* From the collection of the Earl of Crawford.

8. *Mr. Cama's collection.* Cut to shape, fair margins.

In November 1899 I bought a large correspondence from a gentleman in Southampton, consisting of a number of letters from India between 1850 and 1860. Many of these were franked with the bicolored 4 anna of 1854, most of them cut to shape.

Among these I found the two illustrated below with the inverted head. The postmark over the left hand stamp is G. P. O. in a double compartment frame.



A pencil date on the letters is Dec. 1854.

I sold one of these stamps to Henry J. Duveen and when I dispersed this collection about 1925 it was purchased by Col. E. H. R. Green.

About 1928 I think the other copy was in the collection of Mr. Henry Gibson of Philadelphia and was later on sold by Mr. Philip H. Ward in London.

In 1907 when I purchased the *Breitfus* collection (from St. Petersburg, Russia) I noted therein a 4 annas cut to shape, which he secured in the Theo. Notthaft collection.

I have no recollection as to whom this was sold, but it may be the one from the Earl of Crawford's collection listed at No. 7.

The collection of *William Thorne* of New York was bought by The New England Stamp Co. of Boston about November 1899 and contained a specimen of the 4 annas, inverted. I do not know where this is now.

In 1897 I had the rarities of the *F. W. Ayer* collection (Bangor, Me.) and in this there was a 4 annas, inverted. I do not know where it is now.

In the collection of *George Worthington* sold at auction in New York in January, 1918 there was a specimen of the India 4 annas, inverted, with the outer line cut away at bottom. This sold for $255.00. It is quite likely this is the specimen from the William Thorne collection.

L. L. R. Hausburg collection shown at the Berlin Exhibition of 1904 was a specimen cut to shape and on the original wrapper. After Mr. Hausburg's death a large portion of his collection of Indian stamps, including this 4 annas, was purchased by King George V and this stamp is still in the Royal collection.

Ferrary Collection—5th Sale, Nov. 1922. Cut to shape, canc. thin bars, $290.00, sold with a second stamp, no head, the 4a. defective, $170.00, canc. diamond of dots.

11th Sale, Nov. 1924. Cut square, canc. of diamond of dots, sold without guarantee for $70.00, probably faked.

Sir John Wilson, Bart, has a specimen cut to shape.

C. F. Heyerman collection—This collection, consisting only of stamps with inverted centers or frames, was purchased by the Economist Stamp Co. and sold to Col. E. H. R. Green. Mr. Edward Stern tells me it contained a specimen of this error.

A. B. l'Argentiere collection sold at auction by J. C. Morgenthau, June-Oct. 1922. 4 annas, lightly cancelled, cut octagonally.

FAKES

Some clever fakes are known, using genuine stamps.

1st. With the real head faded out, and a false inverted head substituted.

2nd. The head genuine, and the frame forged.

These frames are of a peculiar orange shade.

ARGENTINE REPUBLIC

1862, 15 Centavos, Blue, Tete-Beche

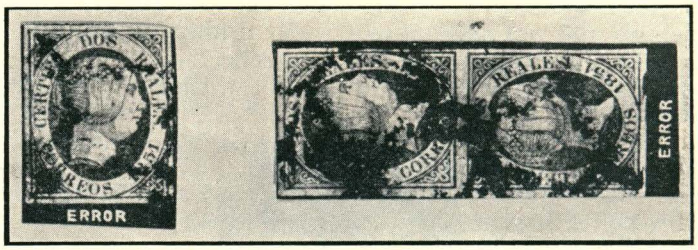
As far as I know only one of these tete-beche is known. This is in a block of seven and was in the famous collection of Don José Marco del Pont of Buenos Ayres. I bought this block twenty years ago, and sold it to Mr. Alfred Lichtenstein of New York, in whose collection it still remains.

These 15c. stamps were printed in sheets of seventy stamps arranged in ten rows of seven. The first stamp in the second row was inverted.

There were 387 sheets of this stamp printed but the error is so extremely rare that I feel sure it was discovered and corrected or we should know of more than this one.

When I was in Buenos Ayres in 1909-10 I saw almost every great collection of early Argentine and no one except Marco del Pont had this rarity.

SPAIN



1851, 2 Reales, Blue, Error in the Color of the 6 Reales

From the earliest days of Philately, controversy has raged as to the question whether this variety—blue in lieu of red—of the 2 reales of 1851 was an essay or an error of color.

In 1899 Castle has a note in the *London Philateist* as follows: "It now appears that it has been found attached to the 6 reales, blue, the pair having been cut from a block of fourteen stamps. It is the property of a Barcelona dealer."

This unique pair, and also a single used copy was in the Ferrary collection and was sold in the Fifth Sale, November, 1922, for 130,000 francs—with surtax and at the exchange of that time—$10,369.00.

This was bought by Mr. Arthur Hind.

The single copy was sold in the Eighth Sale in November 1923 and was also purchased by Arthur Hind, $6090.00.

I sold the Hind collection (except the U. S.) to Mr. H. R. Harmer and these two rare errors were sold in the Ninth Hind sale in March 1936.

The 2 reales x 6 reales sold for $11,000.

The single used 2 reales sold for $4750.

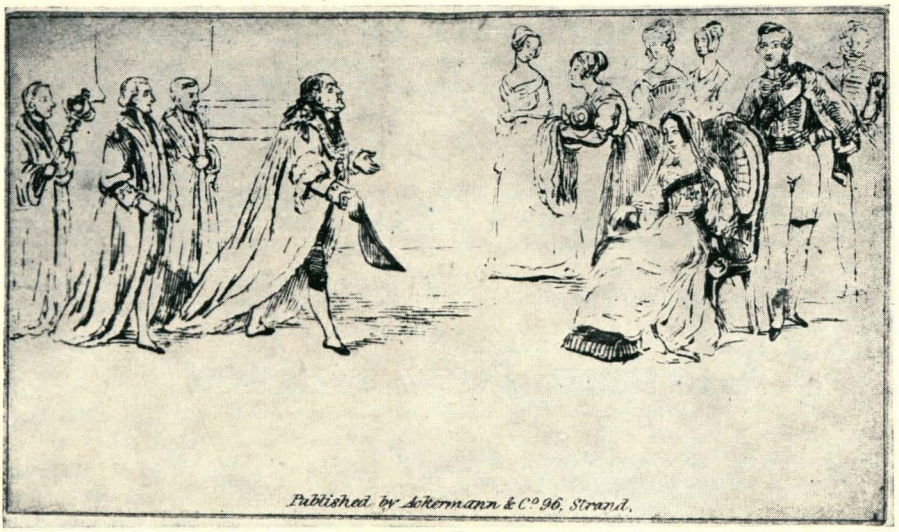
The buyer for the pair 2 reales plus 6 reales was Johan Ramberg.

I only know of one other copy of this error. It is in the Tapling collection in the British Museum and is unused.

(To be continued.)

A Mulready Caricature Find

By H. E. Radasch, M. D.



UPON his return from California last fall the writer had the good fortune to find in his accumulated mail a Mulready Caricature submitted to him for his inspection and purchase. A first glance showed it to be something unusual and upon closer scrutiny it turned out to be a hitherto unreported and undescribed Ackermann caricature No. 4. As the Ackermanns had not been copied nor reprinted and after careful examination there seemed to be no doubt as to its genuineness, the writer decided that it was worthy of being reported and described.

Before doing so, however, in order to be sure that it was genuine and because he was not conversant with the humors and politics of that day (as only an Englishman would be) he decided to consult an English authority and therefore submitted the envelope to Mr. J. Stelfox Gee, of Manchester, England, noted English collector of Mulreadies.

Quoting from Mr. Gee's letter he states—"The subject is undoubtedly the reception, by Queen Victoria and the Prince Consort, of the Lord Mayor of London who, accompanied by what I take to be the Recorder of the City of London and another official (with the Mace-bearer) has waited upon the birth of the Prince of Wales, later King Edward VII.

The envelope must be very scarce. Although I have been on the lookout for these things for over 30 years, I have never seen or heard of this additional Ackermann".

The writer is deeply indebted to Mr. Gee for his interpretation. It would seem that this is the only known copy of the Ackermann No. 4 as no mention or description of it occurs in the literature. Major Evans makes no mention thereof and there is no copy in the British Museum or he would have described it.

In addition to the above might be added—To the right of the Queen stand three ladies in waiting and the nurse holding the young Prince. Back of the Queen stands the Prince Consort and behind him one of his Gentlemen.

The scene is in reality no caricature but the depiction of an important political event of that day.

The envelope measures 3 7/16 inches (138 mm.) by 3⅛ inches (80 mm.) and the design measures 5⅜ inches (135 mm.) by 3 1/16 inches (78 mm.). Inside of the design along the middle of the bottom one notes, in italics, "Published by Ackermann & Co 96, Strand". As there is no mention of artist or lithographer they are apparently little known. The "No. 4" is on the lower back flap near its top or point, and right side up.

TRANSLATIONS FROM KOHL'S HANDBOOK

By Dr. Herbert Munk

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German New Guinea

By Dr. Herbert Munk
Translation by Temple Clayton, *B. Chem.*

(Continued from Vol. XIX, page 71.)

1888 (Middle of February, ff.) Postage stamps of the German Empire, Nos. 39-42, 44 (Pfennig values of the issue of 1880, with the value expressed in 'pfennig' without 'e', see figure), and No. 37 (2 mark stamp in horizontal numeral type, cf. Kohl's Handbook vol. 1, pp. 891, 896).(7)





No. 39	3 pf.	green	60.—
40	5 pf.	lilac, violet	28.—
41	10 pf.	rose	22.—
42	20 pf.	ultramarine blue	9.—
44	50 pf.	a. reseda, gray olive green	12.—
		b. dark bronze green	9.—
		var. right point lacking	—.—
37	2 marks	a. dull rose lilac	25.—
		b. brown lilac-purple, dark lilac-carmine	4.—

Nos. 39, 40-42, 44 appeared at the several postal institutions according to their respective times of opening (see above).

According to the opinions of most specialists, the 3 pfennig stamp was not sent to the colony officially. However, it has been established from reliable information (examination of documents) that No. 39 was actually sent to German New Guinea during its currency and hence the question is only whether the stamps were actually placed on sale in the colony. A block of four and a single are not incontrovertible evidence of official usage although they came from a letter which was actually carried but which may have been of philatelic origin.

(7) These prices are in German marks of 1928. They should be considered as relative only.

These stamps might have been sent from Germany privately for this purpose. On page 36 of Germania Berichte for 1909 the occurrence of No. 39 with the cancellation of Finschhafen was noted, but nothing further was said as to the method and manner of use. The following case is essentially different:

In the Illustrierte Zeitschrift für Kolonial-Markenkunde *1911,* page 167, a cover was noted which was sent by a member of a German Missionary Society in Finschhafen on Dec. 23, 1890 to an apothecary in Samarang, Java. The cover contained a printed New Year's card and was franked with two green 3 pf. stamps. As we saw previously, the New Guinea Company had inaugurated a steamship service to Java about 1889 to 1891, so that both personal and "corresponding" acquaintanceships could be developed easily between Java and New Guinea. Furthermore, the back of the cover shows the correct receiving cancellation of Soerabaja, the terminus of the steamship line. At the least, the profession of the sender makes a philatelic franking with 3 pf. stamps, specially imported from Germany, of little probability. Still more important, however, is the manner and method in which this franking with two 3 pf. stamps for a 5 pf. fee (foreign printed matter) happened. We have established this by an examination of the letter (courtesy Collector Müller—Hannover). As we have already demonstrated for German Levant (see Kohl's Handbook, Vol. 2 pp. 52, 53), in the case of the provisionals of the issue of 1880 the payment of a 5 pf. fee by means of a pair of 3 pf. stamps is always rather suspicious per se. In this case, however, the cover was apparently first franked with one 3 pf. stamp. As may still be perceived, it must have been stuck on some sort of colored telegraph-form or border, etc. previously, (perhaps on a prepaid return order form, or possibly on printed matter sent to the mission station which escaped obliteration by being placed directly on a boat). The missionary must have been informed of the insufficiency of a 3 pf. fee for printed matter to Java (because foreign) only on presentation of the cover with the New Year's card and only after cancellation of the (first) 3 pf. stamp. A second 3 pf. stamp of slightly different shade was stuck on then, perhaps by the official himself, but so carelessly that a corner of the second stamp was pasted over a part of the obliteration of the first, where it is still observable on the letter. (The numerals 23.12 are inverted in both cancellations). It seems to us, therefore, rather improbable that this second 3 pf. stamp shouldn't have come directly from the stocks of the Postal Agency at Finschhafen. Moreover, this chance sending of a printed New Year's card, which would have required only 3 pf. in the colony, is also significant, since it furnishes a typical circumstance in which even the lowest value cauld have been required in fairly early days in spite of the conditions in the colony described above.

The 5 pf. postage rate also had very little use at first. Until May 1, 1899 it was the rate only for printed matter to Germany, and for local postcards. The latter, however, occur legitimately used (cf. Die Post, 1897, page 98). On the other hand the 5 pf. stamps of the issue of 1880, which were issued in at least two different shades, one bright and one dull, were often forced upon the public in place of higher values to conserve supplies of the 10 and 20 pf. stamps. Consequently used blocks of four and eight occur frequently, especially on letters of the New Guinea Company.

Probably without exception the 10 and 20 pf. stamps themselves are from the later issues with pronounced "varnish-colors" (i.e. ground in varnish—Trans.). Apparently the 25 pf. value was sent to the colony officially but never brought into use there. The 50 pf. value occurs in two, quite characteristic color varieties. The first is gray olive-green to reseda green. To this belong the unique transition colors which we have listed together as Germany No. 44c. They differ from the earlier gray-green and green-gray tints (a, b) essentially in a yellowish tinted and from the later bronze to black green (d, e, f) values in that they lack the admixture of black. Their peculiarity of varying greatly in color in one and the same issue is brought out still more by the action of the tropical climate and occasionally they are found in a strong reseda-green tint which they

hardly ever show in the motherland itself. We have often found reseda-green (a) and bronze-green (b) stamps (the latter usually being rather dark) legitimately used together on letters of the New Guinea Company in 1889 and 1890. The 2 mark stamp, No. 37, in the first (dull) color is scarce and is known almost exclusively with the cancellation of Finschhafen which fact is likely due to the early restriction of money-order service (introduced Jan. 1, 1891) to that town. A parcel post service had been introduced as early as May, 1889, but it was only extended to the interior of the colony in 1892. Accordingly, No. 37a with an obliteration other than "Finschhafen" (e.g. Stephansort, etc.) commands a premium. No. 44 var. was only recently found with the Finschhafen cancellation.

According to official information, the use of the issue of 1880 in the Pacific is said to have ceased at the latest at the end of 1891. Even so, its postal validity had lasted almost a year longer than in Germany. In fact, the remaining supplies were probably exhausted in part up to July, 1892 (see above). Numerous examples of this exist from both large and small postal institutions. On the other hand the 50 pf. stamps of the following series were brought into use at the latest, at least in Finschafen, in early June, 1890 (see below). So parts of the Imperial issues of 1880 and 1889 were employed simultaneously in the colony for over two years. Different stamps of both issues may, therefore, occur legitimately used together in this period on money-letters, parcel-cards, etc. We find, for example, 50 pf. stamps of the 1889 issue in brown red color on parcel-card clippings from Finschhafen in early June, 1890 doing franking duty together with 10 and 20 pf. stamps of the 1880 issue; a money-letter clipping, likewise from Finschhafen, but in 1891, was also franked with strips of five of the 10 pf. stamps of the issues of 1880 and 1889 and hence with the same denominations of different issues. In contrast to that, other postal agencies placed the stamps of the second provisional issue on sale only in the middle of 1891, and in some cases, not until 1892. Thus, we have already noted previously that the office at Friedrich-Wilhelmshafen, opened March 1, 1892, was first supplied with stamps of the issue of 1889 as well, in May of the same year (cf. Die Post, *1902,* 16). The sale of the first provisional issue was apparently stopped finally only in July, 1892. However, Starke mentions their complete acceptance even as late as the end of 1892, i.e. from Herbertshöh (Die Post, *1901,* 196; ibid. *1902,* 16), and their occasional tolerance even as late as the end of 1895 (ibid. *1897,* 98).

1890 (No. 50a in the beginning of June, the other values perhaps only at the beginning of Oct. ff.) Postage Stamps of the Imperial German Post No. 45-50 in numeral and eagle type (types 9, 10) (see vol. 1, 903 ff.).(8)

No. 45	3 pf. brown	7.—
46	5 pf. green	3.—
47	10 pf. rose, red, carmine	2.50
	Var. POS∓	—.—
48	20 pf. dull blue, blue	1.75
49	25 pf. orange	35.—
50	50 pf. a. brown red ("FD 2.6.90")	18.—
	b. chocolate brown	4.—

The earliest date of use of the issue has been given previously as the beginning of October, 1890. We have been shown, however, a large use of No. 50a on an official article as early as June 2, 1890, as well as a vertical pair, dated Aug., 1890, both from Finschhafen. (See above on the use and issuance of No. 45 ff. from other postal establishments at a very much later date). It may be shown that all values were sent to the colony officially, and even the 25 pf. seems to have been required for use on postal money-orders although genuinely used copies of it are quite scarce and the 3 and 25 pf. stamps were probably not issued to all the postal agencies. The office opened at Berlinhafen (see above) on May 22,

(8) Because there are many references to earlier parts of the German text not yet translated, references where no source is given are to Kohl's Handbook.—Trans.

1898 was the last postal agency to be opened, to which provisional stamps ("forerunners") were issued. This office received only the 3 pf. stamp without overprint, all the other values being those with overprint type A 1. We have already noted above that 3 pf. stamps, often pasted on nice little bits of paper, were provided with the cancellations of different postal agencies for the trade. On the other hand, No. 45 was also required after May 1, 1889 for the simple printed matter rate to Germany. Because of the inconsequential use of overprinted stamps of 3 and 25 pf. (the last for registered postcards), both values were most likely first sent to German New Guinea in the spring of 1899 and only brought into use after July, 1899.

The plate variety, No. 47 var. whose gradual appearance in position 7 of the plate has been described in Vol. 1, page 906, has appeared recently with the cancellation of Herbertshöh of Aug. 2, 1895 (cf. Phil. Ber., Jan., 1926).

At first, the 50 pf. stamps had the reddish color of 50a. Although rather bright shades, to a true copper-red, exist of it, and its early use in the colony also indicates that the supply was composed in part of stamps of the first issue, we have observed, as was the case for China, the difference between the true copper-red and the more brown red shades due to the influence of the tropical climate. The later, chocolate-brown color also shows various tints as the result of action by the gum. (Similarly the apparently Prussian blue, 20 pf. stamp is attributable solely to the subsequent changing of the color.) (cf. Vol. 2, page 93).

Although the following, overprinted 5, 10, 20, and 50 pf. stamps were already placed on sale at Herbertshöh in the middle of Feb., 1898, the other postal agencies still employed, in some cases for months, the corresponding values of the unoverprinted issue (see below). Even after April, 1900, the use of unoverprinted remainders occurred at Herbertshöhe. This clarifies the existence of legitimately used pieces (Mitläufer, see above) with the cancellation "HERBERTSHÖHE" which was first employed in April, 1900. It is mentioned only as a curiosity that, in its earlier days, the postal agency at Berlinhafen, which received overprinted 5, 10, 20, and 50 pf. stamps, at its very opening on May 22, 1898, returned items franked with the unoverprinted stamps as being invalid. The second provisional issue actually lost its validity, simultaneously with the following overprinted issue, on Sept. 30, 1901.

In Jan., 1897, after the Imperial Postal Service had decided to introduce special issues for the several German colonies, in accordance with their advice it charged the Imperial Printing Office with the preparation of suitable proposals. These were prepared by overprinting the name of the colony on stamps of types 9 and 10 just as the then current stamps of German East Africa were prepared by an overprint with values in rupees. These first trial printings were prepared by the Imperial Printing Office in the following manner: two panes each of 3, 5, 10, 20, 25 and 50 pf. stamps were provided with the overprints "Deutsch-Neu-Guinea," "Deutsch-Südwest-Afrika," "Marschall-Inseln," "Togo" and "Kamerun" in such a manner that each horizontal row of ten consisted of two rows of five with the above-named overprints in that sequence. In these trial printings of strips of five, the overprint was at an angle of 45°, in contrast to the stamps of German New Guinea issued later in which the overprint was more nearly vertical (an angle of 56°). A part of each of these 20 rows of five of each of the six values (in which stamps with the overprints of German New Guinea and German Southwest Africa occur in horizontal, se-tenant pairs) reached the trade and public through use by the Imperial Postal Museum for trade and purchase. (Price of strips of five of this type: —.—)

According to Germania Berichte III, pp. 97, 98, first 8 and later 2 more panes of each of the 6 values were provided with each of the 5 colonial overprints for the UPU at Berne as early as February and March of 1897. This gives a total of 1000 copies of each of the overprints of the five colonies in all. On these so-called Berne issues, the overprint was already placed at an angle of 50° as in the finally issued printings. Of the first 800 copies, 760 were sent to Berne, while

the remaining 40 copies were again employed for trade and other purposes by the Imperial Postal Museum. The execution of the overprinting on them was heavy (see below on thick and thin overprints), the color of the original stamps was gray-brown for the 3 pf., red for the 10 pf. and dull-orange for the 25 pf. These Berne trial printings reached the public in Berlin as well as in Berne and some were then sent to German New Guinea during 1897 before the issue had yet reached the colony officially. Some were there pasted on letters and cancelled, so that stamps of the overprinted series as finally issued occur with genuine colonial cancellations as early as Nov., 1897, although the 3 and 25 pf. values were first generally issued in German New Guinea in July, 1899.

It should be mentioned for completeness sake that so-called "trial-printings" of various values were prepared which had the overprints of German New Guinea, German Southwest Africa, Samoa, Marshall Islands, Carolines, German East Africa (with value added), Togo, Cameroons, China and the Marianas in blocks of 2 by 5 stamps. In contrast to the real trial printings of 1897, the overprints of these are steep, and the stamps overprinted "Deutsch-Neu-Guinea" are in vertical, se-tenant pairs with those overprinted "Deutsch-Ostafrika", and in horizontal, se-tenant pairs with those overprinted "Deutsch-Südwestafrika." According to the second report of an investigating commission (Deutsche Briefmarken Zeitung, 1907, page 81), these overprints must have resulted because of an investigation of the appearance of counterfeit overprints.

1898 (Middle of Feb. and later. (No. 2, 3, 4, 6), about July, 1899 (No. 1, 5)). Postage stamps of the Imperial Post Nos. 45-49, 50c (see above) with steep, black overprint in type A 1. of the colony of issue (angle of overprint 56°). Overprint heavy or fine (also called thick or thin—Trans.)



1.	3 pf.	a. bright brown, bright reddish brown	—.50	—.80
		b. bright yellow brown	1.00	—.90
		c. brown, dark brown	—.20	—.60
2.	5 pf.	green, deep green	—.25	—.40
3.	10 pf.	rose, rose-carmine	—.45	—.50
4.	20 pf.	blue, deep blue, dark blue	—.60	—.80
5.	25 pf.	a. reddish orange	2.00	3.50
		var. overprint inverted	—.—	
		b. yellow-orange, dull orange	2.20	3.50
6.	50 pf.	chocolate brown, dull chocolate brown	2.50	4.50

The 5, 10, 20, and probably also the 50 pf. values were first placed on sale at Herbertshŏh (only written Herbertshöhe—with final 'e'—after the beginning of 1900) in the middle of February, 1898. They were available in Berlinhafen when that postal agency was opened on May 22 (see above) and at Friedrich-Wilhelmshafen in July. Starke states (Die Post 1902, page 15) that at first, in June, only overprinted 5, 10, and 25 pf. stamps were in use at Stephansort. On the basis of the reasons given above, the overprinted 3 and 25 pf. stamps were probably sent to the colony only in the spring of 1899, and were placed in use there from about July. Stamps with cancellations earlier than the above times of issuance are from the issue for Berne sent to the colony by Philatelists and caused to be cancelled (on this practice, see above).

Several printings of the overprints on each value may be distinguished by differences in the panes of the original stamps (border imprint III A or III B, left or right hand panes, erect or horizontal line perforations, etc.) by different shales and particularly by differences between thick and thin overprints. The

occurence of small, individual irregularities of overprint on Nos. 45 ff., is evidence against this, contrary to the issue of 1898 of German China (Vol. 2, page 87), because these small varieties in the form of overprint occur on the same plate position in thick and thin overprints. In the others the difference between thick and thin overprint (Type A 1) of German New Guinea is usually quite striking. According to Friedemann, the first printings of the four values issued in February had thick overprints, although No. 1 only occurs thus in color (c).

Of No. 5 a, var. there exists a mint sheet which never reached the colony or passed through a post office, but was transferred to the Imperial Postal Museum by the Printing Office as waste. The former apparently employed individual copies for exchange or as gifts to the public and trade.

The issue became invalid on Sept. 30, 1901. According to Ohrt's "Neudruckwerk," Vol. II, page 261D, the following quantities of remainders were returned to Germany from the colony:

No. 1 3,900	No. 3 33,300	No. 5 23,400
No. 2 22,400	No. 4 41,600	No. 6 39,400

All the remainders of No. 1 had the usual color (c). Except for a small residue for the Imperial Postal Museum, the remainders were sold to a Berlin dealer.

1901 (January, as early as 12/17/1900 at the opening of the Colonial window in Berlin, see below). Types 1 and 2. Definitive issue in the so-called Yacht-type (The "Hohenzollern" under full steam). Inscription DEUTSCH-NEU-GUINEA. Pfennig values typographed in one or two colors on white or colored paper respectively and perf. 14:14¼. Mark values engraved in one or two colors, perforated 26:17 holes.





7.	3 pf. brown	—.10	—.35
8.	5 pf. green	—.70	—.45
9.	10 pf. rose-carmine	—.70	—.30
10.	20 pf. ultramarine	—.15	—.80
11.	25 pf. red-orange and black on yellow	—.20	4.00
12.	30 pf. red-orange and black on lake	—.20	1.75
13.	40 pf. carmine and black	—.30	2.00
14.	50 pf. purple-violet and black on lake	—.35	3.25
15.	80 pf. carmine and black on rose	—.55	3.75
16.	1 Mk. carmine-red	1.00	10.00
17.	2 Mk. dark blue	2.00	15.00
18.	3 Mk. violet-black	3.00	22.00
19.	5 Mk. black and carmine	30.00	60.00

According to Germania Berichte for Feb. 15, 1901, the first printings of typographed stamps for all the colonies in the yacht-type were prepared simultaneously in August and September, 1900. The one-colored values (3, 5, 10, and 20 pf.) were prepared in that order in August and the bi-colors followed in September in the order 25, 30, 40, 50, and 80 pf. The first official issuance occurred at the opening of the Colonial window on Dec. 17, 1900 (compare statements concerning other colonies).

The manner of preparation of plates and arrangements of the panes is discussed in Kohl's Handbook Vol. I, pages 913 and 919. The typographed stamps were perforated in sheets of two post office panes—the latter of 10x10 stamps. On the top margin the value of each row is given, the other margins being protected by border lines. In addition, the marginal imprint "Deutsch-Neu-Guinea" occurs once each under positions 2-4 and 7-9. On the mono-colored stamps, this marginal imprint is in the color of the stamp, on the bicolored stamps it is in black (the color of the vignette). The border lines are in type III C (Vol. I, page 913) or III B (Vol. I, page 905) on the mono-colored stamps, but on the bicolored values it is apparently always in type III A (Vol. I, page 905). It is striking that we have never found a control number (cf. Vol. I, pp. 904, 913) on either the right or left margins of a pane of the stamps with border lines type III C. It can safely be concluded that the plates of the mono-colored values consisted of 2x2 sheets of one hundred since the relationship of panes under one another can be shown by vertical lines in the space between. The numeral 128 appears in the color of the framework on the left margin of the left post office panes of the bi-colored stamps. This appears also on all the bi-colored, unwatermarked stamps of this type, of all the colonies, but its significance has not yet been determined. Panes cut from the middle of the breadth of the paper show halves of the control overprint (Vol. I, page 901), usually or always in violet, on the right and left margins respectively. The perforations are partly horizontal and partly vertical line perforations. All post office panes, including those with marginal markings of type III B, can probably be established as the right or left halves of perforation-panes of 2x100.

The engraved (Mark values) are printed in sheets of five horizontal rows of four as were all engraved stamps from the Imperial Printing Office until 1920. As we have only found panes on which either the right-hand margin or both were perforated, at least the plates of the mono-colored stamps must have consisted of two such groups of twenty. As was the case for the contemporaneous issues of the Imperial Post, the perforation-panes of 2x20 were perforated from left to right by a horizontally placed comb-perforator (see Vol. I, page 920). Other than the guide lines, register marks and control numbers described in Vol. I, pages 919, 932, and 933, there were no marginal markings on the borders of the panes. The paper of No. 19 is often strongly tinted by the red, vignette-color probably because of the tropical climate since we haven't noted this in panes of the 5 Mark stamp from the Berlin philatelic window in spite of the inferior pigment. Because these were printed in two operations, one finds slight displacements of the black frame with respect to the vignette.

This issue was valid until the German postal institutions were captured in Sept., 1914 (see the preliminary remarks). Several lots of used stamps from parcel-cards, etc., were auctioned by the Imperial Postal Department as early as Dec., 1910. A large parcel of all values, including the highest, was sold to a German in Milan about Nov., 1923 and from him reached the trade through Switzerland. About a quarter of the unused remainders were officially auctioned off in May, 1922 (cf. Phil. Ber., page 2282). Later, in the official auction of Oct. 20, 1922, the sale of assorted values (among which were 3, 5, 10 pf. and 5 mark stamps of the later, watermarked issue) took place. In view of the circumstance that these official sales took place during the inflation period, it is understandable that several values are sold today below face value.

The so-called *Kieta Provisional.* On Feb. 8, 1908, the administrator of the postal agency at Kieta (one, Ewest, by name) overprinted the '5's on a number of 5 pf. stamps (No. 8) with '3' by means of numerals taken from the stamp-box. This was done at the instigation of some one connected with the warship "Planet" which was then standing off Kieta. According to official information of April 20, 1910, the postal agent, who was not himself a specialist in postal affairs and considered these duties as of secondary importance, upon being called upon for an explanation stated that he had overprinted only five previously can-

celled stamps with '3' at the special request of the gentleman connected with the *Planet* without being clear as to the magnitude of this trifling. According to Friedmann's authority (Phil. Ber., Vols. II, III in many places), the affiliate of the *Planet* is said to have purchased the five stamps in mint condition for face value of 15 (5x3) pf. at the post office after Ewest himself had previously created a lack of 3 pf. stamps by causing the buying up of the supplies of 3 pf. stamps in Kieta. If a later version is correct, Ewest may have overprinted and cancelled a considerable quantity of 5 pf. stamps of this sort, but later destroyed the greater part of them because of anxiety as to the consequences. A final clarification of the circumstances has not followed. The settlement of the question as to whether this was merely philatelic or (more hopefully) an entirely misdirected effort appears to us to be quite insignificant philatelically (one of these "provisionals" was in the Ferrari collection).

All the following issues were never on sale in the colony itself. Die varieties of the respective stamps which were first prepared in 1918 and 1919 were made exclusively for exchange and for philatelic sales in Berlin,—at the philatelic window up to June 28, 1919. For that reason, all the following issues, since they were not necessary, are given in italics.

1914 Type 3—Yacht type as previously but inscription changed (DEUTSCH-NEUGUINEA: without second hyphen). Paper watermarked lozenges. No. 22 perforated 26:17 holes (perforation No. 1), later with the so-called "war-perforation" 25:18 holes (perforation No. 2).



20.	*5 pf.*	*a. yellowish green, green (1914)*	*—.05*
		b. bright green, dark green (K) (1919)	*—.03*
21.	*10 pf.*	*a. rose carmine with metallic lustre (1914)*	*—.10*
		b. rose-carmine (bright or dark), lustreless (K) (1919)	*—.08*
22.	*5 Mark*	*greenish black and red or rose Perf. No. 1*	*6.00*
		Perf. No. 2	*5.25*

In the first half of 1914, a supply of No. 20a, 21a, and 22 perf. No. 1 was sent to the colony where it arrived at the end of July. However, the stamps were never placed in use, but after war had broken out and before the landing of Australian troops, the entire supply was destroyed (see above). Accordingly these stamps were only issued officially at the philatelic window in Berlin. The later printings (b and the 5 Mk. perf. No. 2) were, on the contrary, prepared only for sale at Berlin in the same fashion as the corresponding issues for German China and German Morocco (q. v.).

These latter (the printings for collectors) differ from the carefully printed pre-war issue (a) on smooth glazed paper partly in the rougher paper and partly in the worse job of printing. This latter may be described not so much as being smeared as being porous and uneven just where the lines of the watermark appear. This may be due in part to the rougher, poorer paper and to inferior pigments and in part, no doubt, also to insufficient preparation as can be noted in the border-lines. Many variations in the green of No. 20 appear among the pre-war printings (H 1349.14) and because of this, differentiation of the varieties

(a) and (b) wholly on the basis of shade is difficult. On the contrary, the greenish, metallic cast of the pre-war printings (H 1350.14) of No. 21 (which is also noticeable on contemporaneous carmine stamps of German East and South West Africa, etc.) offers a very general distinction from the carmine of post-war issues (b) which is always lusterless and often even outright dull. The imprint of the name of the colony which appears twice on the bottom margin of sheets of the previous issues is lacking entirely on the later printing.

The vignettes of the 5 Mark stamp (No. 22, perf. No. 1) appear not only in deep carmine, but more often in rose, while in the later printings (those prepared for philatelic sale) with 'war-perforations' (Perf. No. 2, cf. Vol. I, page 959) the vignettes are more or less definitely rose. In contrast to the engraved stamps No. 16, ff. (q. v.) the panes of No. 22 are perforated at times through the right, at times through the left hand and at other times through both margins so that the corresponding sheets must have been perforated partly from left to right and partly from right to left. This explains why the so-called "thick corner teeth" appear on both the right and left corners of the stamps.

1919 Type 1. Old inspection (DEUTSCH-NEU-GUINEA with second hyphen), but on paper watermarked lozenges (see above).

23. 3 pf. golden-brown (H5474.18), dark dull brown —.03

In the first half of 1919, 3 pf. stamps with the *old* form of the name of the colony were placed on sale at the Berlin philatelic window. These were brought up in a few days by speculators (Phil. Ber., page 1915). Nominally these purported to be an issue prepared previously, which could no longer be placed in use due to the condition of the war. In fact, however, the three control numbers known at present were current in the years 1918 and 1919, so that if these really were older remnants, at least the principal lot must have been prepared subsequently and exclusively for philatelic purposes. Moreover, from any viewpoint, all the panes which we have examined to date show characteristics typical of the so-called "war-stamps."

In the summer of 1924, the firm of Zumstein, Berne, acquired a collection of German colonial stamps in which there were 20, 25, 30, 40, 50, 80 pf. and 1 Mk. stamps of German New Guinea in type 1 but with lozenge watermark. In his turn the collector had obtained these from a deceased German resident of Luzerne who had formerly been connected with the government. A query from the firm in Berne to the Imperial Postal Ministry ascertained that stamps of this type had been prepared in small quantities many years before as trial printings, and that a foreign official department had received a few of these. The residue at hand was being preserved as official, unsalable collection-pieces. (Berner Briefmarken Zeitung, 1925, No. 2). The firm of Zumstein has very kindly informed us that these items belong with the stamps of the old, three-part inscription, type 1, a fact not previously noted in the literature.

After the closing of the Berlin philatelic window, considerable remainders of stamps (No. 20-23; see also remarks after No. 19) were auctioned officially in May, 1922 and to a lesser extent in Oct., 1922 (see also final remarks after No. 19).

After the outbreak of the World War the headquarters of government was moved inland to Toma. For its reinforcement, and for the defense of the wireless telegraph station at Bitapaka, a special "defense brigade" was formed of civilians capable of military duty. This was in addition to the expeditionary troop. Special field-postcards were prepared for use by those associated with either force; their correspondence being exempt from postal duty. The usual inscription "Pastkarte" on these cards was changed by means of a rubber hand stamp in violet to read "FELD Post Karte nur für die Wehrabteilung und für die Expeditionstruppe." (The inscription in three lines, reads: "Field-postcard

only for the defense brigade and the expeditionary troops.'') This three-line imprint is missing on field-postcards issued after August 12 as it was lost when the Rabaul post office was seized by Australian forces landed on that day.

In addition to the above, additional inscriptions on the front were: ''Absender'' (sender) and below that ''Dienstgrad'' (rank). Field-postcards prepared thus were also supplied with the postal-service stamp of either Rabaul (in violet) or of Herbertshöhe (in black) in the upper left. Cancellation of the cards was effected by the usual cancellor of Rabaul or Herbertshöhe on the imprinted stamp in the upper right. Field-postcards exist, however, without cancellation which were sent directly from Toma or Bitapaka to the coast at a favorable opportunity. The rather few examples of field-postcards which really reached German were brought to the Netherlands Indies from Rabaul (Sept. 9, 1914) by the small motor cutter *Kalili.* The German post carried by the *Kalili* was censored. It included also the last German civilian mails.

At the time of the landing of Australian troops in Rabaul (9/11/14) and Herbertshöhe, the stamps of German New Guinea were destroyed in due time (the supplies of the new stamps No. 20-20 first received in July being completely destroyed, see above). The small quantities of Nos. 7-19 found at Rabaul and also another parcel which fell into the Australians' hands at Kaewieng were overprinted by them with the letters G. R. I. and English values and issued at Rabaul as stamps of the Anglo-Australian Military Administration on October 17 and (those found at Kaewieng) on Dec. 16. Likewise on Dec. 16, and also only in the former colony of German New Guinea, German stamps of the Marshall Islands with the same G. R. I.-overprint were issued in Rabaul. The Australians had captured great quantities of these on the phosphate-island Nauru (previously part of the German Marshall Islands). For a short time during 1914-15, this island was under the Military Administration of German New Guinea, later see under Nauru. The German registration labels of Rabaul, Herbertshöhe, Friedrich-Wilhelmshafen, Kaewieng, Manus and Kieta were also overprinted with G. R. I. and the value 3d. These were used largely on registered letters from the troops (1d. postage plus 2d. registration fee).

Until May ,1921, German New Guinea remained under the Anglo-Australian Military Administration and was called ''New Britain'' by extension of the name of a large island, although stamps of the Australian Federation especially overprinted ''N. W. Pacific Islands'' were issued subsequent to Jan., 1915. This latter overprint is readily explained in that it was originally intended to combine German New Guinea with the Marshall, Marianna and Caroline Islands under one colonial administration and in fact the English and Australians never applied the name ''North West Pacific Islands'' to the former German New Guinea. The stamps with this overprint remained in use in New Britain as Great Britain had received a provisional mandate over former German New Guinea from the League of Nations and because the earlier military administration had been replaced by an Australian civil administration in May, 1921. At about this same time the name ''New Britain'' was changed to ''Territory of New Guinea.'' The latter first appeared on the engraved stamps issued in 1925. The stamps of the Anglo-Australian Military and the Civil Administrations are listed under the country name New Guinea. (The comment in Vol. I, page 134 under Australia must therefore be changed).

The Collectors Club Philatelist

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FRIENDS OF THE LIBRARY

The development of our library and its proper care in the future has been uppermost in the minds of many of our members and numerous suggestions have been offered as to the best way to accomplish this.

The best way seemed to be to follow a plan that has been used by other libraries; an organization to be known as the *Friends of the Library.* The purpose of such an association would be to develop a library-consciousness among our members, and to see that its development and care is maintained as long as Philately lasts. W. L. L. Peltz, Mrs. Ethel B. Stewart, Farrars H. Tows with W. R. McCoy as secretary and H. E. Lobdell as chairman constitute a temporary committee of Sponsors to effect a permanent organization of the *Friends of the Library.* The plan is to have a sponsoring committee of some twenty members throughout the country to advise the members in their respective localities as to the library needs and how they can best help.

There are some 100,000 pieces of Philatelic material now on the library shelves, adequately housed, and after nearly three years of volunteer service, carefully indexed. Lists of books, magazine and pamphlets that are needed to fill in vacancies are being prepared. It is illogical to expect that this volunteer service can be depended upon always, and provision must be made not to allow this great service to Philately to lapse.

The Sponsoring Committee plans to complete the great work started by Wm. R. Ricketts of providing an index of all articles appearing in Philatelic magazines since their inception. Once done and with means provided for its being kept up to date, this index will be an outstanding achievement and an enduring memorial to Mr. Rickets, who has always been a great friend of the library.

It also hopes to gather within the library much museum material relating to Postal History. This idea of course is not new; but various plans hitherto broached for such a museum have come to naught for lack of proper housing. Now our facilities are adequate to take care of such material permanently.

The preliminaries have been discussed with many of our members who have visited the library and the plan has met with general approbation. Already donations have been made and more have been promised. Thus success seems assured, and upon presentation to the Board of Directors it again received unanimous approval.

The Sponsoring Committee now bespeaks your voluntary cooperation and cordially invites you to become enrolled as a member of the *Friends of the Collectors Club Library.*

CENTENARY EXHIBITION—MAY 6TH TO 12TH

The Committee in charge of the Centenary Exhibition to be held at the *Collectors Club,* May 6th to 12th, is much gratified at the many offers of coop-

eration received from all over the country and is pleased to state that there is every prospect that the Exhibition will be worthy of the *Collectors Club* and of the occasion. Further cooperation, both by subscriptions to defray the necessary expense, and by the loan of choice material, is needed and every member of the Club is invited to participate in this—the Centenary of the World's First Postage Stamp.

At least one copy, either unused, used, or both, of every regular postage stamp issued in the world up to December 31, 1869 is to be on exhibition, and in many instances, multiple items or covers will take the place of single copies or supplement them. As far as the cooperation received makes it possible to do so, the finest known single, blocks or covers in existence will be on view in the Centenary Exhibition. Members of the Club who have even one particularly choice item, and especially in the stamps of any foreign country, are invited to make it available to the Committee so that the philatelic material in the Centenary Exhibition may be truly a "galaxy of stars."

Book Reviews

by

CHARLES J. PHILLIPS AND HENRY WOOD SALISBURY

Send all books to be reviewed to the Editor Collectors Club Philatelist, 22 E. 35th St., New York City.

Please mention sale price. It is of interest to our Readers.

1940 SPECIALIZED CATALOG OF THE STAMPS OF BELGIUM AND THE BELGIAN CONGO. Willy Balasse, Brussels, Price 60 frs. in French.

This highly specialized catalog of 542 pages profusely illustrated is a source of invaluable information to all specialists and collectors of Belgium. Based on the catalog by the same author issued in 1935, this new edition has been completely revised, corrected and augmented with the help and assistance of such well known Belgian philatelists as Col. Jeon de Four, Robert Delapierre, Paul de Smeth and numerous others. For completeness of data and philatelic information this catalog undoubtedly ranks with any other ever issued for any country.

Each issue of stamps is treated separately in great detail, all varieties and curiosities are illustrated by photographic enlargements and diagrams, and the prices quoted are not only for mint and cancelled single copies, but also for pairs, strips of three, strips of four and blocks of four. All proofs, essays and trial issues are given as well as drawings of all watermarks and cancellations. The names of all post offices are listed with the cancellations in use at each one. It is not only a catalog but a reference work which combines not only the usual price list but also the tremendous amount of research and new discoveries by Belgian Philatelists. A treat and a "must" for all those interested in the stamps of Belgian.

Catalogue of the Postage Stamps of Canada and British North America. 6th Edition, 1940. Issued by A. H. Vincent, Montreal, P. Q. Price 35c. 72 pages with covers.

The latest edition of this catalogue which lists the various issues of Canada and the various preconfederation Provinces.

There is also included the sixth edition of the Catalogue of REVENUE STAMPS of British North America. This section was compiled with the cooperation of Mr. Fred Jarrett and should be of great assistance and value to those collecting revenue issues.

HERE COMES THE MAIL. By Robert Disraeli. 118 pages. Price $1.25. Published by Little, Brown & Co., Boston, Mass.

The title of the first chapter "What Happens When You Mail a Letter" is really a good description of this book.

Profusely illustrated, it describes the working of the Postal Service from the collection at the street corner or Rural Free Delivery box through to the delivery by carrier to your home.

There are chapters covering how stamps are printed, the Philatelic Agency, and also the various services of the Postal Service such as Registry, Parcel Post, Money Orders, Classes of mail matter, Railway Mail Service, etc., etc.

While no stamps are described other than to give values of our current issues, the book should be of interest and value to all who collect our stamps. The illustrations are extremely interesting.

MULLER KATALOG SCHWEIZ/LIECHTENSTEIN 1940. Published by Ernst Muller, AG, Basel, Switz. Price 50 Rappen. 120 pages.

A specialized catalogue of the postage stamps of Switzerland and Liechtenstein. Printed in the German Language. Fully illustrated.

The prices quoted are in Swiss Francs. The publishers adopted a new system of numbering the various issues in their last catalogue and this system seems to have proved satisfactory since it has been continued in the 1940 edition.

FINLAND—Carl Pelander, Hugh Clark and Harry Lindquist have united forces in the publishing of the Pelander's book on Finland. The entire proceeds are to go to the aid of that small country in its struggle for freedom.

The minimum price is One Dollar, the maximum any amount you care to pay.

The C. C. P. heartily endorses this movement and hopes that every member of The Collectors Club will purchase a copy of this worthwhile book.

UNITED STATES STAMP CATALOGUE. 18th Edition 1940. Published by Scott Publications, Inc., New York, N. Y. 454 pages. Price $3.00. Edited by Hugh M. Clark.

The 1940 edition of our old favorite—the S. U. S.—contains many changes and new features, invaluable not only to one who specializes in the issues of our own country, but to the general collector as well. Among the most important changes in this edition are:

The Post Office Seals—This section has been completely revised with new cuts and new listings added.

Private Perforations have been thoroughly revised.

The Entire Envelopes have been included with oversized cuts illustrating the various types, dies etc.

The Revenue section has been revised and renumbered.

Plate Number Blocks have been added in the section devoted to Proofs.

The entire system of numbering has been changed to correspond to that used in the Standard Catalogue.

The book is printed on high type paper which adds materially to the clearness of the numerous cuts.

KATALOG V, OVER HANS LAGERLOFS FRIMARKSDONATIONER TILL POST-MUSEUM 1932-1937. Compiled by Nils Strandell. 186 pages. Price Kr. 3.50.

This is the fifth edition of the catalogue covering the donations which Mr. Hans Lagerlof has made to the Swedish Postal Museum and describes the gifts made between 1932 and 1937. Mr. Strandell is a noted philatelist and his selection by the Swedish Postal Authorities to compile the book was a very happy choice since he has been able to inject into the text many interesting and valuable notes on the various stamps described. This is particularly noticeable in the section devoted to the stamps of Egypt where Mr. Strandell's of the stamps of that country is shown by his notes.

Since 1922 Mr. Lagerlof has made twelve handsome donations to the Museum. Among the numerous scarce and valuable items included in these donations are copies of the 1d. and 2d. "Post Office" Mauritius issues which he included in the gift made in 1926.

The copy in our library was presented to us by Mr. Lagerlof and inscribed by him "To honor the memory of Ralph E. Barry."

FAMOUS AMERICANS. An Album designed for the "Famous American" series of U. S. stamps. Published by Jacques Minkus. Price: $1.00.

In this album there is a separate sheet for each of the "Famous Americans" with a historical sketch written by Franklin R. Bruns, Jr., Stamp Editor for the New York Sun. Also the pages have an illustration fitting the subject, drawn by Edwin N. Homer. A space is provided for a single copy as well as a block of four. A compact and good looking album to house the series.

STAMP COLLECTORS WRITING UP LABELS. Stanley Gibbons Ltd., London. Price 50c per book, postage extra.

These two books, one for blank albums and the other for black leaf books, contain all subheadings, dates, watermarks and perforations together with description of varieties. Printed on gummed paper. Cover all British Empire issued.

LES TIMBRES DE FRANCE ET LEURS VARIETES. 1849 to date—including Northern Africa, Andorra and Monaco. By Andre Saurnet. Published in French by Provins-Editions de la France Philatelique.

M. Saurnet, the well known French philatelist and author of numerous books on the subject, has in his latest work brought up to date his previous book issued in 1932, and added Monaco and Andorra. It is not only a catalogue listing all known varieties, cancellations etc., but also a reference work indispensable to collectors of French stamps.

PARABLES FROM STAMPS. By T. Christie Innes. 160 pages, illustrated. Price 3s/6. Published by Pickering & Inglis, Ltd., Glasgow, Scotland.

In his book, Mr. Innes has taken certain stamps issued by various nations and woven parables around the subjects shown on the stamp.

There is little or no attempt to make the book a philatelic handbook, instead it is more of a book calculated to provoke deeper thinking toward the religious side of our lives.

The book would make a splendid handbook for a leader of a group of young people connected with a Church.

BIBLIOGRAPHY OF THE ISLAND OF GUAM. Prepared with the assistance of the Federal Works Agency, Works Projects Administration. Published by H. W. Wilson Company, New York. Charles F. Reid, Editor.

This bibliography consisting of 102 pages of matter is undoubtedly the most complete ever published on Guam including as it does practically every subject pertaining to the Island from A to Z or from "Aeronautics to Zoology".

From a philatelic point of view, the two chapters on "Postage Stamps" and "Postal Service" are of interest to serious collectors of U. S. Possessions, listing as they do among others, the works of J. Murray Bartels, Beverly S. King, Herman Toaspern and Kent B. Stiles. These names are all familiar to our membership.

SANABRIA'S AIR POST CATALOGUE. 10th Edition, 1940. Published by Nicholas Sanabria, Inc. Price: $2.50 (Deluxe $5.00).

Formerly titled "Standard Catalogue of Air Post Stamps" with this 10th Edition Mr. Sanabria adds his own name to the title.

The new volume closely follows the layout and listings of former years by including all the new issues u pto January. The 1940 edition contains about 60 more pages than heretofore as well as numerous new illustrations. The usual price changes are noted.

Mr. Sanabria and Harry M. Konwiser are to be congratulated on the new edition.

SO YOU'RE COLLECTING STAMPS. By Mannel Hahn. 194 pages. Price: $2.50. Published by Dodd Mead Company, New York.

Mr. Hahn, who is a member of our Club, has written a very interesting and instructive book.

As indicated by the title, it covers the fundamentals of our hobby in a way that holds the interest of the beginner as well as the advanced collector.

As a subtitle, Mr. Hahn calls the book "A Guide for Those who are Beginning a Collection" and that wording describes the book perfectly, although there are articles which even the specialist may well read and heed.

The book is handsomely illustrated, and taking advantage of the recent illustrations law, a number of illustrations of our own stamps are used to cover certain points in the text.

This is a book that should be in all public libraries where the young collector can use it. There is contained within the cover just the sort of pertinent information that will aid and steer along the right paths many of the younger generation who, up to now, have had very little in the way of good solid common sense advice in printed form, to guide them.

Leaders of Junior Groups will find this book a great aid in their work.

CHRISTMAS SEALS OF THE WORLD. 6th Check List. 1940. Issued by Ben L. Morris, Bellaire, Ohio. Price 10c.

Lists. but does not illustrate, the Christmas Seals of the World. U. S. issues 1907 to date are priced. Minor varieties are listed. Lists seals of all foreign countries issuing Tuberculosis and Red Cross seals as well as National seals of Canada and Charity seals of America and Canada.

LES CACHETS DES BUREAUX AMBULANTS DE FRANCE. By M. Langlois and V. Bourselet. 67 pages. Price F 28. Published (in French) by Bibliotheque des Annales de Philatelie, Paris.

A very complete history and listing of the Railroad Cancellations of France from 1838 to 1938 with numerous illustrations.

This book includes chapters on the different lines used, the listing of the railroad post offices and the various cancellations used, such as those for mobilization, essays, railroad stations, etc.

A very handy reference book for collectors of French cancellations.

CANADIAN STAMPS. By Patrick Hamilton. Price $1.00. Published by Stamp Collecting, Ltd., London.

A very comprehensive reference work profusely illustrated taking in all the stamps of Canada from the "Pence" issues to the "Royal Visit" commemoratives.

This work gives in great detail the history, description, printing methods, dies, papers etc. and should prove invaluable to beginners and advanced specialists alike.

THE WATERBURY (Conn.) CANCELLATIONS. 1865 to 1890. Postal Markings Handbook #3. Edited by Mannel Hahn. Published by William R. Stewart, Chicago, Ill.

This pamphlet contains a series of compilations of Postal Markings from the files of the magazine, and the principal sources used beside the magazine were the Collectors Club Philatelist and the Waterbury Check List of John W. Hill Cancellations published by the Mattatuck Historical Society.

All known cancellations are illustrated and are insofar as possible, actual size; also each classification has been given a letter; thus "S" for Stars—"G" for Grids—"F" for Faces, etc., etc., making it easy for collectors to check.

The well known "running chicken" cover in the collection of E. S. Knapp is illustrated on the fly leaf.

Additions to the Library

Kobayagawa's Catalogue of Japanese Revenue Stamps. Gift of H. F. Bowker.

Catalogue Descriptif de tous les Timbres Poste Orientaux. By J. T. Antoniabes, 1893. Gift of Jacob S. Glaser.

Catholic Postage Stamps of the World by Chas. J. Reilly. Gift of Rev. John F. O'Hurley.

Hoover Bros. Specialists Guide to Bureau Print Precancels. 1st Edition. Gift of Publishers.

Supplementary Mail Markings By and Gift of Dr. W. L. Babcock.

Printing Postage Stamps by Line Engraving. By James H. Baxter. Gift of American Philatelic Society.

Seal and Flag of the City of New York 1665-1915 by John B. Pine. Gift of Eugene Klein.

Large number of loose magazines. Gift of Jerome S. Miller.

N. Y. SUN Stamp Pages 1935 to 1939. Gift of Franklin D. Bruns.

Katalog V over Hans Lagerlofs Frimarksdonationer till Postmuseum 1932-1937. Gift of Mr. Lagerlof.

Official Circular of Postage Stamp Exhibit at Columbian Exposition Chicago 1893. Gift of A. W. Deas.

Constitution and World's Fair Issues Compiled by N. Y. SUN. Gift of Franklin D. Bruns.

Minimum Essentials of Stamp Collecting by Mrs. Gerald H. Burgess in collaboration with Haughton Sanguinetti. Gift of H. L. Lindquist.

Annual Report of Smithsonian Institution 1938. Gift of Mrs. Manning.

Les Cachets des Bureau Ambulants de France. By M. Langlois and V. Bourselet. Gift of publisher Les Annales de Philatelie—Paris.

Sanabrias Air Post Catalogue, 10th Ed. 1940. Gift of Nicholas Sanabria.

Washington Philatelic Society Bulletin #1 to 48 complete.

National Stamp Conference report 1937.

Synoptic Key to the Catalogued Envelope Stamps of the U. S.

Above 3 items gift of Washington Philatelic Society.

Commemorative Stamps of the World by James H. Lyons. Purchase.

Stamps Magazine. Bound Volume XXIX. Gift of H. L. Lindquist.

Postal Issues of Finland by Carl E. Pelander. Purchase.

Sixth Annual Check List of Christmas Seals of the World. By & Gift of Ben. L. Morris.

So You're Collecting Stamps! By Mannel Hahn. Gift of Dodd, Mead & Co.

U. S. Famous American Series. By Franklin R. Bruns. Gift of J. Minkus.

United States 2c 1893. By H. E. Coulson. Purchase.

Filatelista Adresaro 1930-1933, #1 to 21. Complete & Bound Gift of F. J. Kovarik.

5 cases of Magazines etc., among them many needed to complete our files of certain publications. Gift of J. M. Bartels.

Eight bound volumes of Circulaires Federation Internationale de la Presse Philatelique. Gift of Ing. Giulio Tedeschi, Torino, Italy.

Philatelic Bulletin of Post Office Department, Dominion of New Zealand 1937 Complete; 1938 Complete with 1 exception; 1939 Complete. Gift of Director General of Post Office Department, New Zealand.

Parables from Stamps by T. Christie Innes. Gift of Pickering & Inglis.

Bushnell's Precancel Catalogues (4 different issues) (also binders for Part 2 Hoover 1936 Catalogue). Gift of S. G. Rich.

Reliant Stamp Catalogue—1940. Sections 1 to 6. Gift of publishers, Link House Publications, Ltd. London.

Vol. IV Collectors' Digest; Postmarks of the British Isles by George Brumell; Postal System of the United States and the New York Post Office and other interesting material. Gift of Jerome S. Miller.

A Description of United States Postage Stamps 1847-1939. Issued by Post Office Department. Gift of Ramsey S. Black, Third Asst. P. M. G.

Die Poststempel der Hansastadte. By C. Ott. Gift of J. M. Bartels.

Thurn & Taxis by Moens. Large paper edition. Gift of J. M. Bartels.

New York Postmaster's Provisional Five Cent Black 1845. By O. S. Hart. Gift of J. M. Bartels.

Easy Index of Stamps (Chalmers Pub. Co.) 1929. Gift of J. M. Bartels.

Over 350 issues of periodicals needed for our files. Exchange with Philatelic Club of Los Angeles, Cal.

A number of Handbooks and issues of periodicals. Gift of A. F. Lichtenstein.

The Cancellations of Waterbury (Conn.) 1865-1890. Edited by Mannel Hahn. Postal Markings Handbook #3. Gift of Publisher Wm. R. Stewart.

Photostatic copy of "List of Post-Offices in the United States with the Counties in which they are Situated—1803". Issued under order of Postmaster-General. (The 1st list issued by authority of Postmaster Generals). Gift of Mr. Robert A. Truax.

Bibliography of Guam by Chas. F. Reid. Gift of H. W. Wilson Co.

U. S. 1887 3 Cent Vermilion by Dr. H. A. Davis. Purchase.

Essays, Proofs and Reprints of the First Issues Stamps of British India 1854-55. "Supplements 1, 2, 3" By Sir Edward D. Bacon. Gift of Hugh M. Clark.

Postage Stamps of Jammu & Kashmir—Simplified. By L. E. Dawson & E. A. Smythies. Gift of Philatelic Society of India.

Ten (10) cases of periodicals, Handbooks, Catalogues, etc., etc., containing many issues needed for our shelves. Gift of Hugh M. Clark.

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