

PHILATELIST



Volume 36, No. 5

September, 1957

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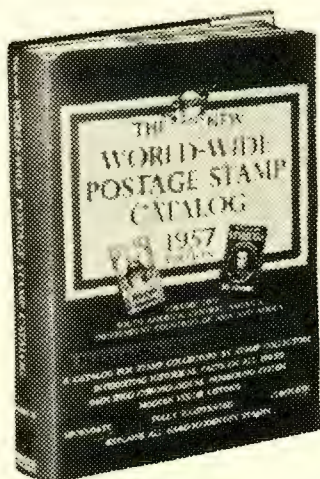
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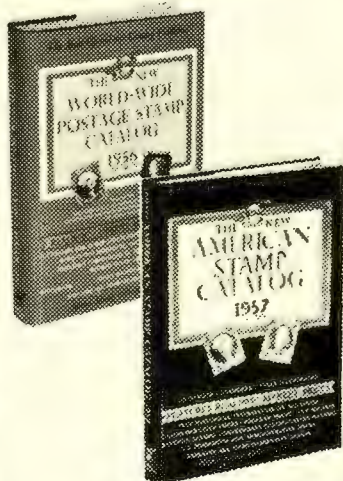
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THE COLLECTORS CLUB

PHILATELIST

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Editorials

The Wide, Wide Field of Philatelic Literature

The written word for stamp collectors receives a great amount of comment in the stamp mediums. A large percentage of this is critical and unfavorable. Nevertheless, each year sees the output of philatelic publications increasing, not decreasing. Thus despite growing complaints, one sees an increased demand for stamp publications.

Criticism can prove useful by achieving not only an increase in the quantity but the quality of stamp writings. However, most of the criticism read cannot be classed as basically constructive because it is too capacious and too clothed with petty fault finding. The commentators on philatelic writing fail to properly understand and evaluate the vast range of publications available. One cannot lump together everything printed about philately as a unit and then proceed to draw up a few superficial generalizations.

The field of philatelic literature is enormous. It ranges from one extreme with gossipy news reporting to high-class scholarly journals and very elaborate books. Starting with stamp newspapers, one is offered a great diversification from which to choose. All these news mediums attempt to report news about philately and those associated

with it. This ranges from pure gossip to the straight reporting of an important event.

Each editor and publisher evaluates what is newsworthy differently. For instance, one newspaper will report a complete coverage of the first day of sale of a new U. S. stamp. Another will note this with a short account of a few lines. Furthermore, the accuracy of reporting varies greatly. Many stamp newspapers are at a great disadvantage, because they cannot afford to assign reporters as the regular daily newspapers do. Nor do stamp papers have a wire service. Thus most reports come second-hand with some inaccuracies as a consequence.

A great American newspaper editor once said that it is much easier to express an opinion than report an event. Each reporter has his individual likes and dislikes. The tendency to color or to favor is universal. This writer has witnessed and reported certain philatelic events that another saw and reported almost entirely differently. Our interest was almost entirely philatelic. The other saw this same event totally from the commercial side.

Although many find fault with the reporting of stamp news, one must pay tribute to stamp collecting because there is such a wide selection. Obviously out of the many stamp newspapers, not a single one will appeal to everybody. But each one, whether one rates it as good or bad, must in some way add to the welfare of our hobby.

At the other extreme is the scholarly philatelic magazine that ranks with the respected educational, medical or scientific journals. With all due modesty, this magazine is a good example. This is a medium for the permanent recording of philatelic knowledge. Most of the contents are devoted to philatelic research, study and postal history. Seldom is there any stamp news. Personalities are kept to a bare minimum. These learned journals are an expensive production.

So there are the two extremes. (Omitted in this discussion are books.) One can subscribe to a stamp newspaper that for as little as one dollar will supply news weekly or to an elaborate scholarly journal that will cost \$10 for six issues annually.

Obviously, there are other publications that fall between these two extremes. In our opinion, these face an extremely difficult challenge because they strive "to cover the field" from the beginner to the mature philatelist.

These try to offer something for everyone. Therefore, it seems obvious that a publication of this type can never give complete satisfaction, because the neophyte wants this, the advanced collector that, while each specialist looks solely for his limited interest. But yet this type of publication has existed for years. Their circulation shows growth, not diminution. One may criticize these with some justification, but from a broader viewpoint such magazines do render a worthy service to philately, and must be recognized for that.

It has been our experience that the reporter of philatelic news goes astray when he enters into the field of philatelic scholarship. There are so few exceptions that this statement is considered factual. However, that the scholarly philatelic writer often has proven to be a most competent reporter is substantiated by the number of philatelic authorities who write for stamp newspapers.

Those associated with stamp collecting have the right to voice criticisms. This is healthy. But they tend to generalize and not to appreciate the great, constant output of philatelic literature. The choice is vast. According to one's taste, philately has almost a complete line of reading matter to offer. Those, who tend to criticize, must not forget this.

This editorial wishes to repeat some sound advice voiced by one of the great philatelic personalities in the world at present. Sir John Wilson, Keeper of Great Britain's Royal Collection, had the following to say in a recent interview:

"I naturally wanted to know more about the stamps, started forming a library, which is now very extensive, and studied printing methods. I read everything I could find and have done so ever since. There is nothing like it for a learner, but there must be two aptitudes. First one must be able to select, that is to say judge whether what one reads is sound or not, and forget it if it is not sound, and secondly one must have the power to remember what one has read if it is sound. Without undue boasting I can admit to a very good memory and I can generally not only recollect a passage which I have mastered but find the reference again if I want to. My memory for literature is therefore partly an index also."

It is our opinion that those deriving the most benefit from philately follow Sir John Wilson's example. They read practically everything written about stamps. Much of it is of passing interest, being forgotten. But a great deal read has a permanent value. If one does not have a keen memory, then he must set up a practical working library, where he can refer to sound, past writings handily.

A good philatelist will do a lot of reading. But he must learn to exercise the art of discernment. Philately needs not only to develop better writers, but *better readers*. Too many today take anything printed as true. They must learn to evaluate. If they do, they will remain contented with philately for the rest of their years. Otherwise, their minds will remain confused, leading to a basic attitude of discontentment.

Philatelic Pride and Prejudice

As one gains experience in philately both through handling of stamp collections as well as meeting many people who are well-versed in our hobby, he takes on a broad conception of the entire field. It is true that present economic circumstances forces the great ma-

jority to specialize within a more limited field of philately. The specialist can fail to gain a broad view, and through his intense interest unintentionally confine his philatelic outlook to a very narrow range.

Obviously stamp collecting is a possessive pursuit, in which each one takes a great pride. This, however, can grow into an unbalance, where one's pride in his own collection almost blinds him to everything else. How often do we hear or read a specialist extolling his own limited interest as the best and finest branch of all philately! This is no disinterested opinion or an unbiased viewpoint. Also he confines his reading solely to his own specialty.

Philately has many specialties, but no two are alike. Some encompass a vast field, others a relatively smaller one. In other words, a specialist in a wide field has a far greater challenge than one in a narrow one. The matter of enjoyment of the pursuit of a hobby is irrelevant. Every field offers this. Also rarity and elusiveness of material exists in every specialty, but in some its proportion is far smaller than in others.

Consequently, those with a broad concept of philately know how to measure the relative scope of each field of specialization. Some collections can be comprehensively formed (notice the word "completeness" is deliberately avoided) within a few years' time, while others take years. Those, who unbiasedly weigh these facts, are accused of having a prejudice against a certain specialty that is of the more limited type. This is not the case. A specialist's pride often becomes so intense that anyone, not sharing his same enthusiasm, is accused of being prejudiced against the other's specialty. Smarting under this misconception, those in this specialty group vow to have their interest shine as one of the greatest fields in philately. This engenders the following result.

A specialty society becomes a pressure group. It constantly seeks publicity believing that wide press notices prove its importance. It asks that the status of the specialty be measured by numbers, never thinking that so many may collect the field because it is relatively easy. The followers acquire an inferiority complex, accusing others of motives and prejudices that do not exist.

Because one may correctly view one manner of collecting far more difficult than another, this does not mean a feeling of disdain for the easier specialty. All stamp collecting is fascinating. There is no argument here. But all philatelic specialties are not the same.

Thus when there is an international exhibition that garners about the finest in philately from all over the world, those called upon to judge usually are the type of collector who have this broad viewpoint of philately. They know what is difficult in a philatelic sense and that which is comparatively easy. Exercising intellectual honesty, selections are made—but not in a prejudicial sense. It is our opinion that if most of our intense specialists did not exaggerate their pride in their collections, they would be happier philatelists by not accusing others of prejudice. To substantiate this belief, a collector with several specialties is a good illustration to use. Generally he has one type of collection for fun, another for historical interest, but a third that is his lifelong favorite because it offers him the greatest philatelic challenges.

If you believe that your own favorite specialty is not fully appreciated, in that the general opinion holds it to be of a relatively lesser stature, stop to reason if this actually may be true. Each specialty is just one branch on the tree of philately. Some branches are small, others very big. Never lose sight of the entire tree of philately, and stamp collecting will afford you immeasurable enjoyment even 'tho your main interest may be in a smaller branch. You will remain happy with it until you try to exaggerate its importance in the general field of philately.

Opportunity of a Lifetime

The following is extracted from a recent advertisement that ran in some of the stamp papers:

"One of the great philatelic rarities! . . . Cachet cover with . . . 50 cents each. Supply limited. Rush your order."

Who says that you have to be rich to collect rare stamps or covers?

A PERMANENT HANDBOOK FUND

Created in The Name of Theodore E. Steinway

In the worlds of Music and Philately, the name of THEODORE E. STEINWAY, has ever been synonymous with the finest in both fields of endeavor. His death at the age of 73, on April 8th, 1957, created a void in American Philately which may never again be filled. This dedicated philatelist had well earned the title of "Elder Statesman". His many services rendered on behalf of THE COLLECTORS CLUB are legion and he will be sorely missed from our councils.

At a meeting of the Board of Governors of THE COLLECTORS CLUB, regularly convened on April 24th, Lt. Gen. Cornelius W. Wickersham, President and Chairman of the Board presiding, the Board was asked to stand in silent tribute to the memory of this great man. Many of us present on this solemn occasion could only think of how much THE COLLECTORS CLUB was indebted to the late THEODORE E. STEINWAY. Perhaps, this was uppermost in our minds when the following resolution was duly proposed, seconded and unanimously passed;

WHEREAS, THEODORE E. STEINWAY, departed this life on April 8th, 1957 after many years of devotion to philately; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Steinway was for many years a Governor of THE COLLECTORS CLUB and has served as its President, bringing to the Club his high qualities of leadership, business ability and love of stamps; and

WHEREAS, the Board of Governors deplores the passing of their former President and friend and desires to express their deep appreciation for his great services to philately as well as to the Club and their profound sense of personal loss of a great philatelic personage and the first recipient of the *Alfred F. Lichtenstein Memorial Award*,

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT AND IT HEREBY IS

RESOLVED, that the Board of Governors of THE COLLECTORS CLUB does hereby record its deep regret on the sad occasion of the decease of THEODORE E. STEINWAY, one of the great philatelists, its expression of appreciation for the long services rendered by him to THE COLLECTORS CLUB, and its sense of personal loss for one who is known

throughout the world, and a highly esteemed former associate and fellow worker; and be it

FURTHER RESOLVED, that this Board extend its sympathy to the members of the family of THEODORE E. STEINWAY on the occasion of their grievous loss and directs that a copy of these recitals and resolutions be conveyed to Mrs. Theodore E. Steinway, together with our profound condolences.

It was then moved that the above resolution be struck in the form of an engrossed plaque and signed by all members of the Board of Governors and to be presented to Mrs. THEODORE E. STEINWAY; FURTHER, that a copy of said plaque be made and hung on the wall of the Board of Governors Room. The motion was duly seconded and carried.

However, the Board felt that this alone was not sufficient tribute for one whose attainments merited further consideration at the hands of THE COLLECTORS CLUB. The suggestion was made that we give some thought to the creation of a permanent testimonial worthy of this great philatelist's memory. It was agreed by all present that the memory of THEODORE E. STEINWAY must not be allowed to vanish from the philatelic scene and that some means be found to perpetuate his memory.

Knowing of Theodore's great interest in philatelic literature, the Board in making its decision to honor him, deemed it most appropriate to foster a memorial in his name along these lines.

And so, at the regular meeting of the Board of Governors, on June 26th, 1957, President Wickersham presiding, a recommendation was placed before the Board by the Executive Committee to the effect that there be established a permanent publications capital fund to meet the expenses of publishing future handbooks and literature; said fund to be a memorial in THEODORE E. STEINWAY'S name. It was then properly moved that this newly created memorial

(Continued On Page 226)

UNITED STATES

Certified Mail

By EDWARD B. MURPHY

Certified Mail Service—the first new major postal service in the United States since airmail was established in May 1918—was inaugurated on June 6, 1955 at Washington, D. C. To coincide with the change, the Post Office Department issued a new Certified Mail Stamp. The service was extended to all post offices within the United States as of June 7, 1955; it was further extended to the Possessions of the United States effective November 1, 1955.

The establishment of this service was the result of long research, and of many studies by Records Engineering, Inc., consultants to the Post Office Department. This corporation recommended the service as a means of improving the security of valuable items remaining within the registry service, while at

the same time reducing the cost of its administration.

The details of the proposed change in Registered Mail Service were first released on February 15, 1955 by the Post Office Department Information Service. It was pointed out this new service would reduce mailing costs, at the same time speeding delivery on at least 25 million letters a year, formerly sent by the 30 cent minimum registry fee.

The announcement further stated it was contemplated that a charge of 15 cents* would be made for giving the patron a certi-

* On July 1, 1957, the U. S. Post Office Department increased this to 20 cents, along with other raises for most all special services. This no doubt will cause a new stamp, although up to the time this is written no announcement has been made.



Fig. 1. Post Office Department's "Flyer" advertising Certified Mail.

cate of mailing and for having the letter-carrier take a delivery receipt from the addressee. This was half the cost of the minimum fee of 30 cents for registered mail at that time.

The announcement also stated that the proposed new service would not become effective until the patrons of the mails had an opportunity, during the following 30 days, to make comments and suggestions to the Post Office Department upon the proposed service. For many years business firms and individuals had used the minimum fee registry service for the sole purpose of securing documentary evidence of delivery of pieces of mail matter. Therefore, the response to the "Certified" service idea was overwhelmingly in favor of adopting this new system.

Postmaster General Summerfield announced on April 27, 1955 that Certified Mail would go into effect on or about June 1, 1955. At the same time he announced that a special 15 cent "Certified Mail" stamp would be issued, although ordinary stamps or meters could be used to pay the fee. Again, on May 3, 1955, the Postmaster General made the announcement that certified mail would be inaugurated at Washington, D. C., on June 6. At the same time he announced that the 15 cent Certified Mail Stamp would be placed on sale to coincide therewith.

With the announcement by the Post Office Department and the issuance of the stamp, there arose many complaints by the unknowing public. It was the mistaken opinion of many that the postal authorities were devising another scheme to issue just another new stamp. Anyone, who would have taken the time and effort to analyze the new service, could arrive at only one conclusion. Analysis of the service shows that the basic purpose of the new function was an economy move, whereby the Department could eliminate a large amount of paper work and still give faster service to its patrons. Further study shows that political groups or stamp collectors had very little or nothing to do with either the establishment of the facility or with the issuance of the stamp to pay the certification fee. The new stamp did an excellent job in advertising and drawing attention of the general public to the innovation.

The Post Office Department Order Number 55893, May 12, 1955, established the

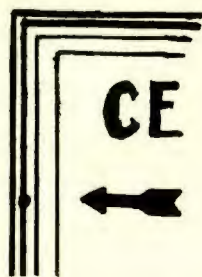


Fig. 2. Sketch showing the location of the Position Dot.

certified mail service for articles having no intrinsic value when sent as first-class mail, effective June 6, 1955, at Washington, D. C. and June 7, 1955, at all other post offices. For a fee of 15 cents in addition to postage the sender may be furnished a receipt at time of mailing and a delivery receipt must be obtained and filed at post office of address. Upon payment of 7 cents more the sender may be furnished a return receipt showing to whom and when the article was delivered. For an additional fee of 31 cents a return receipt shall be furnished the sender showing to whom, when and the address where delivered. Upon payment of an extra fee of 20 cents, delivery may be restricted to the addressee. Provision was also made to charge a fee of 10 cents, when sender requested proof of delivery subsequent to time of mailing.

The same order discontinued the minimum 30 cent registry fee, effective June 6, 1955, at Washington, D. C. and June 7, 1955 at all other post offices.

The Certified Mail Stamp was designed by Charles R. Chickering (the postman's head) and Victor S. McCloskey, Jr. (balance of the design). They made the original composite drawing from a real-life model. Robert S. Bancroft, a career letter carrier of the Washington, D. C. Post Office, was selected to be the model. Actually, two designs were prepared by the Bureau of Engraving and Printing, and submitted to the Post Office Department for approval.

Postmaster General Arthur E. Summerfield approved and accepted the design used on March 25, 1955. This is arranged vertically with a single picture-frame effect; it portrays a uniform letter carrier on a light

U. S. CERTIFIED MAIL

graduated background. The wording "Certified Mail" in Dark Face Gothic, is displayed across the top of the stamp, and "U. S. Postage 15c" across the bottom in White Face Gothic. (see Fig. 1). The rejected design was the same as the accepted design except the background was very dark.

Two engravers did the engraving of the "Smiling Postman" stamp: Mr. Arthur W. Dintaman, the portrait and frame, and Mr. Robert J. Jones, the lettering and numerals. The die proof was approved on April 21, 1955 by Charles R. Hook, Jr.

Records of the Post Office Department re-

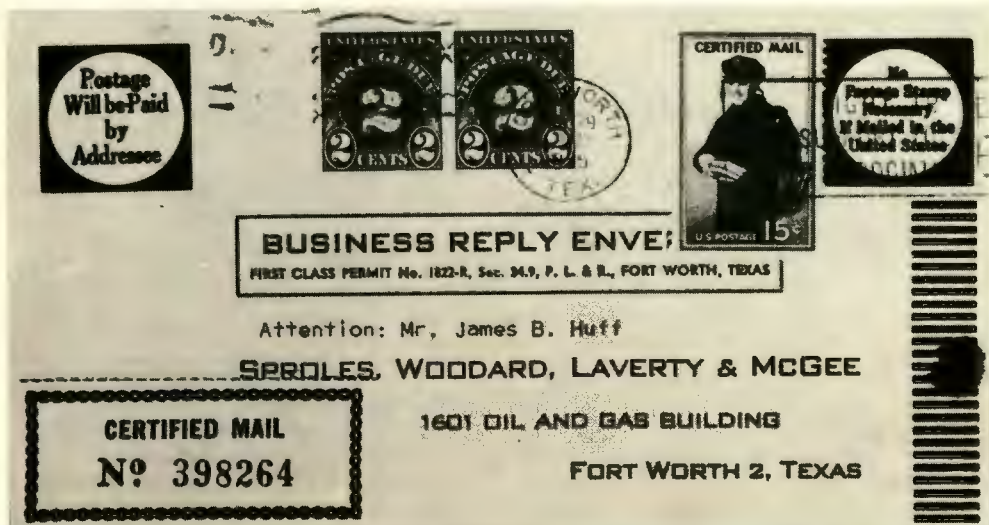


Fig. 3. Business reply envelope, which shows the 4c in Postage Due stamps affixed at the post office of delivery.

(Photos by Boutrelle)



Fig. 4. As to the postal services, this cover seems to have everything.



Fig. 5. The Postal Regulations require that all Certified Mail must have a return Corner Card. However, this requirement has been difficult to control.

veal that the original printing request, February 14, 1955, called for 75,000,000 stamps to be printed, to provide a basic supply for all post offices. Some time during April plate numbers 25179-80-81-82 were assigned to the 200 subject plates for printing the stamp. However, not until May 12, 1955 were plates 25179-80 sent to press. The first deliveries were made sometime in May to New York, N. Y., Boston, Mass., and Philadelphia, Pa.

The Certified Mail Stamp has been available in most offices for the certification fee; but many small offices have not carried a supply of them. The primary reason is the fact that postal regulations allow the payment of the fee and postage by ordinary postage stamps, meter indicia, or permit imprints. Yes, even precancelled stamps have been seen paying both the fee and postage. Such franking is authorized under certain conditions.

Because postal regulations do not require the use of the Certified Mail Stamp and its use has been very limited, the Post Office Department may discontinue it. If you will recall, the 10c Registration Stamp, which the Post Office Department issued in 1911, saw such limited use that it was discontinued after about two years. As we presume that the issue of the Certified Mail Stamp was conceived primarily to advertise the new service, its life span may well be very short.

The stamp itself offers little for philatelic study or specialization. Up to the start of 1957, no variations, no flaws on the plates, no accidents of printing had shown up. Evidently there had been only the one run produced before issue.

Plate number pieces in all four positions, for plates 25179 and 25180 are the only reported items to extend the collection. No color shades have been announced; but Mr. S. G. Rich tells me he can distinguish a definitely darker red than normal on one or two copies.

As this is a rotary-press product, slight variations in perforation gauge can be found. But thus far no missing perfs, even of one hole, have been reported. However, we learn also that practically every copy has the long sides showing a very scant 11-gauge perf, actually a 10.90 rather than a good 11. "The Bureau Issues Association" sources assure us that substantially all rotary perf. 11's are really 10.90, however.

Naturally, the normal plate arrangement for a double-size stamp is followed; four panes of 50 each, with plate number above or below the usual stamp on each pane.

The position-dot is very deftly hidden, but has been discovered. (Fig. 2) Measure down $4\frac{1}{2}$ mm. from northwest corner of stamp; second frame line covers it at this point. Remnants of layout lines sometime

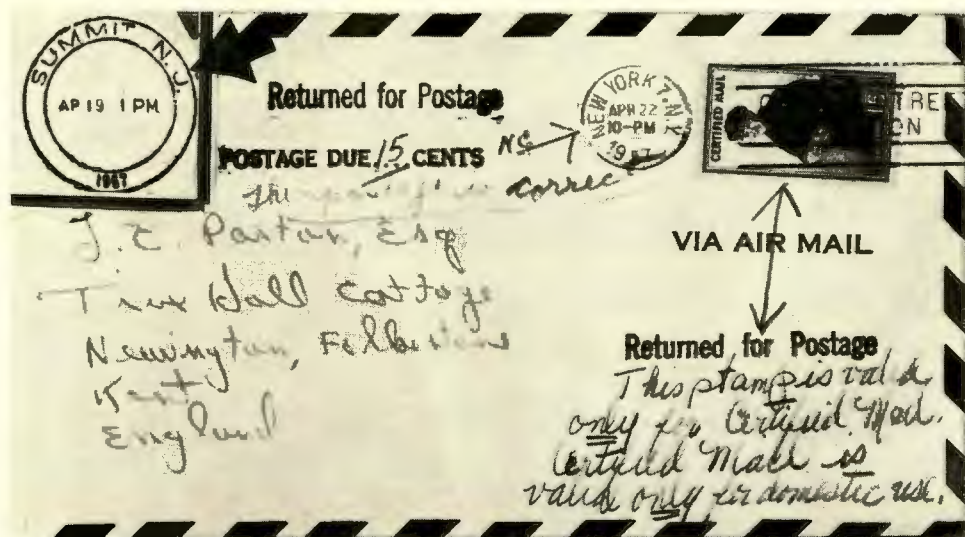


Fig. 6. A cover originally posted from Summit, N. J. where the 15c Certified Mail stamp was to prepay the 15c air mail rate to Europe. The letter was returned for postage to New York, N. Y. because printed address on the envelope used so specified. The man in charge of the mail room in this New York City office noted in pencil "This postage is correct." However, the New York Wall Street Station returned it with the notation in the lower right corner. "This stamp is valid **only** for Certified Mail. Certified Mail is valid **only** for domestic use." The Summit, N. J. Apr. 19, 1957 cancel is shown in the upper left inset with the arrow.

give an impression of there being three dots on the three outermost of the four forming the frame, at this point. Examination of sufficient copies will convince any student that only the second line, next to the outermost one, has a constant protrusion here, one edge of the position dot.

The collector is perforce bound to concentrate on covers showing usages. The first day cover is the obvious one. Combination with the regular 3-cent sheet, coil and booklet pane stamps then current, and those commemoratives in stock at various offices when the Certified Mail Stamp was issued furnishes some pleasing covers. Probably the most bizarre combination is on a business reply envelope without stamps, sent due which shows the 4 cents in due stamps affixed at office of delivery. Several legitimate uses like this are known. (Fig. 3)

Cancellations run strictly normal and ordinary. Occasionally the rubber double oval for parcel post or registration has been used, struck in magenta in contrast to the otherwise universal black, apparently sometimes by mistake and at other times by complaisance to please a philatelic patron. Up to

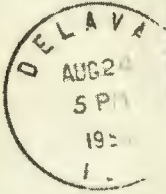
March 1, 1957, I have seen only four copies precancelled. They are all type U-13's and from Fort Worth, Texas. Of course, it is not legitimate to precancel the stamp, but it seems to have been done as a favor for some stamp-minded user. It is just a question of time before the stamp turns up as a "perfin".

However, the special forms used for the certified mail service provide an extension of any study of this stamp and service, although it is not strictly philatelic.

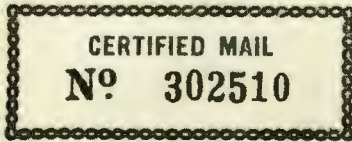
Certified Mail is accepted on any mailable matter of no declared value, on which postage at the first class rate has been paid. The piece may be sent by air mail on payment of the required postage. Return receipt service may be requested only at the time of mailing. Special Delivery and restricted delivery to addressee only are available on payment of the prescribed fees. (Fig. 4 and Fig. 7)

Mailing requirements by the postal authorities state that all certified mail must have a return corner card. However, this requirement has been difficult to control because of certain mailing procedures. Thus, a piece of certified mail may be deposited in mail drops in post offices, street letter boxes,

TAZEWELL COUNTY NATIONAL BANK
DELAVER, Tazewell Co., ILL.



SPECIAL DELIVERY



Mr. Vernon A. Forrester
Trust Department
Fort Worth National Bank
800 Main Street
Fort Worth 2, Texas

Fig. 7. Certified Mail stamps used incorrectly for the Special Delivery rate. In the lower right corner is the Post Office's handwritten notation, "Not valid for Special Delivery."

railway and highway offices, providing one follows the directions as to mailing. In this case, corner cards are not put on in some cases. (Fig. 5)

Now let us look into the system of delivering certified mail. For delivery by a carrier it is taken out on the first trip after it is received, unless the addressee has requested the postmaster to hold his mail at the post office, or the addressee has a post office box, or uses general delivery. When certified mail is addressed for a box, the postal employee normally places in the box a notice of arrival form. (Post Office Department Form 3870, June 1955). The patron must then present the notice at some designated place to receive his mail. In some instances, certified mail is placed directly into the addressee's box which is contrary to regulations. When firms or other patrons customarily receive an average of three or more certified articles for delivery, they can sign Post Office Department Form 3888. Otherwise, the mail will be delivered to the addressee or his authorized representative after the delivery receipt is obtained by the postal employee. In fact, these delivery rules are the same for certified mail or registered mail.

The original distribution of the Notice of

Arrival of Certified Mail was very slow and irregular. The supply of forms at many post offices were soon exhausted. This in turn, caused most post offices to improvise forms. Some offices made mimeograph copies of the original form. Others, used the Registered Mail Receipt Form. To make the form applicable they would simply delete the word Registered and insert the word Certified.

In the event that the carrier cannot deliver the certified letter for any reason, he will leave a notice of arrival. He will return the letter to the post office where it will be held for the addressee. If the letter is not called for or its re-delivery requested, it will be returned to the sender at the expiration of the period stated in corner card; or after 15 days, if no period is stated.

Rural carriers will deliver certified mail to the addressee's residence providing it is not over one-half mile from the route and the road is passable. Otherwise, a notice is left in the addressee's box, so that he can either meet the carrier at the box on the carrier's next trip, or call at the post office for the mail. Star route carriers may deliver certified mail only when the addressee has

(Continued on Page 239)

GOLD COAST

The First Victoria Design

By BERTRAM W. H. POOLE

The first design used for the stamps of the Gold Coast—which, by the way, remained in use for almost a quarter of a century without change—though strictly utilitarian in character is not unpleasing. One might almost consider it the culmination of an experiment. It started in 1867 with the 32c. and 96 cents stamps of the Straits Settlements; continued on a large scale in Sierra Leone, where all the different stamps—with the exception of the 6d.—issued between 1872 and 1896 were of this design; and finally the manufacturers arrived at the Gold Coast variation.

Although there are minor differences, the portrait is basically the same for all three designs. It owes its origin to the skill of that master craftsman in the art of engraving dies for the typographic process, Jean Ferdinand Joubert de la Fuente, more generally known as Jean Joubert. This artist engraved many Victorian portraits for De La Rue, and he was forever experimenting with various forms of diadems to adorn the Royal features. This particular diadem shows a diamond-studded band surmounted by a pattern of projecting roses interspersed with two thistles and a shamrock. This was probably one of the last of the Joubert portraits and it was considered so satisfactory that, I think I am correct in stating, it was more widely used than any of his other conceptions. The original design had practically no outline to the profile, but from time to time the chin and eyes were touched up while a strong line was drawn down the front of the throat. Some of the later changes and developments were probably made by other artists using the Joubert original as a base.

But while the portrait portion of the design is always basically the same, the borders



Fig. 1. (Photos by Boutrelle)

around it vary considerably. In the case of the two Straits Settlements stamps the letters are tall, a little heavy, and have distinct serifs, while in each of the four corners, within small squares, are small ornate crosses. For the Sierra Leone stamps the letters are rather lighter, shorter and also with serifs though, in the bottom label, the letters denoting the value are small, plain block capitals. In each of the four corners is a small square containing conventional ornamentation. A somewhat radical change was made in the case of the Gold Coast design. First the little corner ornaments were entirely eliminated and the lettering—good plain block capitals—is the same in all four border tablets. Then an octagonal band of color, dotted with 69 small pearls, was placed around the portrait while the small spaces between the four shorter sides of the octagon and the borders were filled with small trifoliate ornaments. The end result is a much better balanced design. (See Fig. 1)

It will be noted that on the Straits Settlements version of this design the Queen's hair extends to the extreme right, and consequently eliminates some of the background parallel lines. In the Sierra Leone design the hair does not touch the frame so the ends of several parallel lines of the background may be seen. In the case of the Gold Coast de-

sign, with its additional border of pearls, the hair not only touches the border but has also been somewhat compressed.

As a result of the experiments with this design De La Rue probably generated the idea of "general" or "universal" plates which became such an important factor in postage stamp manufacture for many decades later. It was found that the use of a single key-plate for many denominations was quite satisfactory for Sierra Leone and the Gold Coast. So the next step was the development of a design, without name or value, which could be adapted to the stamp needs of any colony. This, of course, would cut the costs of production to a minimum. The obvious economy of such a system had a wide appeal to the smaller and less affluent colonies. So, in 1879, the design with so-called "large" portrait of Queen Victoria was evolved and immediately put into use in the production of a few stamps for Antigua and Nevis. The use of this single head-plate was gradually extended and adopted by Cyprus, Grenada, St. Lucia and others (see Fig. 2) Indeed, it would undoubtedly have been even more widely used had the design shown such legends as "postage" or "postage and revenue" which many colonies insisted upon. The length of the names of most colonies made this an impossibility from a practical point of view as the lettering would have to be much too small. Thus after a time this design was jettisoned in favor of one showing a much smaller portrait, which gave plenty of room for these wanted legends in the side panels. It will be noted that the portrait used for this first type of "general" plates is like that on the Gold Coast stamps with exactly the same diadem so that it is obviously a continuation of the same theme.

Of course, this Joubert portrait with its distinctive diadem was used for the stamps of many other colonies—such as Gibraltar, Ceylon, Dominica, Mauritius, St. Christopher and others—with circular or other shaped frames. Although some touching-up may be seen here and there, the basic design is unchanged. The only instances I can recall where the entire design closely resembles that of the Gold Coast stamps occurs in the Ceylon 64c. of 1877 and the Mauritius 17c of 1880. And the same general type of design, with portrait on a plain rectangle of

close parallel lines, was used in connection with other Joubert diadems. Indeed in the case of Hong Kong it was considered so satisfactory that it was used for all the Queen Victoria stamps of that colony. (Fig. 3) In its general aspects, it was resuscitated for the King George VI stamps and is again to be seen in the current Queen Elizabeth II series. There is no gainsaying the fact that it is a beautifully balanced design and thoroughly pleasing in every way.

The First Issue

From all accounts postal arrangements in the Gold Coast colony were somewhat chaotic prior to the appearance of its own postage stamps. Unlike some of the other small colonies—those of the West Indies, for instance—the Gold Coast post office was never under the jurisdiction of the Postmaster General in London, so British stamps were never supplied for use there. Apparently mail was handled on a "cash-in-advance" basis and the missives were then marked "paid" in some manner, either by means of a handstamp or, more frequently, in manuscript. At periodic intervals the mail was forwarded to Freetown, Sierra Leone, for transportation.

This system was so troublesome that eventually it became obvious the colony would have to work out its own solution of postal matters. It was apparent that if the system was to function efficiently, postage stamps would be a necessity especially if prepayment was to work simply. So the Crown Agents in London were contacted, but by whom or on whose authority has never been disclosed so far as I can ascertain. The Crown Agents turned the order over to Thomas De La Rue and Company who were, at that period, handling numerous orders for that government agency. For want of more precise information it may be inferred that the choice of a suitable design was left to the judgment of the manufacturers.

The design, as already described, is a simple one. Around the Royal portrait is a frame of four uncolored tablets enclosed within a single border line. The inscriptions are all in colored sans-serif capitals of the same font and read as follows:—"POST-AGE" at the top; "GOLD" reading upwards at the left; "COAST" reading downwards



Fig. 2.

at right; and the value in words at the bottom.

Three denominations were ordered—1d., 4d., and 6d.—and these are all exactly alike except for the value under the portrait. One head-plate served for all three denominations. This consisted of 120 stamps arranged in two panes of sixty (ten horizontal rows of six) placed side by side. The panes were separated by a narrow strip of plain margin. In the top and bottom margins the plate number shows above and below the second and eleventh stamps respectively. The plate number consists of a large uncolored numeral "1" on a circle of solid color enclosed within a ring. The appearance of the plate is shown in the sketch (Fig. 4).

There was a separate duty-plate for each of the three denominations. These were small plates of sixty impressions (10 x 6) so that they only completed one pane at a time. Therefore each sheet had to go to press three times before it was completely printed. As a consequence it sometimes happens that the color of the main portion of the stamp varies to some extent from the color of the letters of value. These duty-plates have no plate number or other marking which shows on the printed sheets, so that it is not possible to state whether or not more than one duty-plate was used for any individual value during the long life of this design.

May I mention, parenthetically, that this seems to be the case with all similar productions emanating from the De La Rue printing establishment when this same typographic process was used. The head-plates or key-plates are always numbered consecutively, and these numerals are plainly shown on the printed sheets. On the other hand, no markings are ever shown that definitely identify any of the duty-plates. Some low denomination stamps in issue for many years, and printed in the millions, used in conjunction with two or three different head-plates, prob-



Fig. 3.

ably needed more than one duty-plate, but how to identify them is the problem. The only cases where this can be definitely proved is where there is some more or less obvious difference. The two variations in the length of the words "ONE SHILLING" in the 1sh. orange stamp of the first issue for Lagos is a case in point. Another instance may be found in the round and oval "O's" shown in the Trinidad one penny stamp of 1896. An intensive study of the De La Rue duty-plates might be quite rewarding.

According to Gibbons catalogue, these three stamps were placed in circulation in July 1875. All were printed on the well-known "Crown over C" paper supplied to the printers by the Crown Agents at that period. The perforation gauges $12\frac{1}{2}$ being the work of a single line machine. There seems to be no information as to the quantities printed and shipped to the Gold Coast, but there was probably only one supply and, judging by present scarcity, this was not a very large one.

July, 1875

Wmk. Crown C. C. Perf. $12\frac{1}{2}$

1d. blue	plate 1
4d. magenta	plate 1
6d. orange	plate 1
0	0

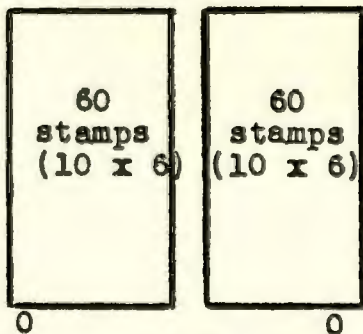


Fig. 4.

The Second Issue

Some time late in 1875 a new consignment of the 6d. was shipped to the Gold Coast followed in 1876 by new supplies of the 1d. and 4d. These were on the Crown CC paper, as before, but were perforated 14 instead of 12½. The exact dates of issues are not known. But many years ago the earliest dates known for each were recorded as follows:—

1d. blue September 28th 1876
4d. magenta August 13th 1876
6d. orange January 5th 1876

So far as I know, in the nearly half century which has elapsed since these were mentioned no earlier dates have been recorded.

These three stamps were among the first to be perforated by the new single-line machine with 14 gauge which De La Rue had purchased during the period 1874-76. Later supplies were perforated by a comb-machine, also gauging 14. Though it is not possible to identify between the work of these two machines in the case of single stamps, they can easily be determined with the aid of blocks.

Late in 1879 or early in 1880 two new denominations—½d. and 2d.—were added to the series. I can find no official notice mentioning these two stamps. However, in the "Philatelic Record" for February 1880 it is stated "a ½d. adhesive is now in circulation of the same type, watermark, and perforation as the other three values" and in the following month (March) the same journal recorded the receipt of the 2d. green. The design of these two values is exactly the same as the older ones for the same head-plate (No. 1) was used in their manufacture. New duty-plates were, of course, necessary, which were 60-set like the others. Scott gives the color of this new halfpenny stamp as "bistre", whereas Gibbons insists it should be "olive-yellow".

1876-80

Wmk. Crown CC. Perf. 14

½d. olive-yellow	plate 1
1d. blue	plate 1
2d. green	plate 1
4d. magenta	plate 1
6d. orange	plate 1

A mysterious Provisional

In the "Philatelic Record" for June 1883 we quote:

"We have received a specimen of the Fourpence surcharged '1d' in black, about all of which we can say at present is, that it was picked up in the 'City'. As we have had occasion to remark in connection with other provisionals, this *may* be genuine; but we should not be surprised to learn that it was the production of one of those ingenious boys who do so much to destroy the reputation of the innocent quarter in which it was found".

However, a few months later (October) the same journal had this to say regarding the new discovery:

"In June last we spoke somewhat disrespectfully of the Fourpence surcharge 1d. in black, the authority of which seemed to us very doubtful. Respecting this stamp Mr. W. Clifford writes us as follows: 'I have just received a reply to the enquiries I addressed to one of the officials, who says Fourpenny stamps surcharged 1d. in printing were issued here by authority for a very short time: but now they do not exist; their issue has been abolished. You may depend on the correctness of this information.'"

Unfortunately we are not told the name of the "authority" who sponsored this provisional. So, in spite of this official blessing, and the inference that at least a few hundreds of the provisional had been made, no more turned up, while doubts as to its authenticity grew stronger and stronger as time progressed. Indeed doubts of its existence as a properly issued stamp led to its deletion from the Gibbons catalogue in 1898. On noticing this unchivalrous treatment of a variety he firmly believed in that well-known philatelist, Mr. E. D. Bacon—later, curator of the King's collection—wrote a letter to the editor of the "Monthly Journal" in which he stated:—"I well remember purchasing for a few pence a used specimen of the stamp in 1883, at a well-known shop which used at that time to exist in Seething Lane, London, where numbers of Gold Coast stamps were received for sale from time to time. The specimen in question is now in the 'Tapling Collection', and about the time I secured it other copies were to be had. What has be-

come of these I am unable to say, but besides the one in the British Museum, the owner of a well-known Parisian collection once told me that he possesses a specimen, so that it is still possible to locate two of these provisional stamps."

The Parisian collection referred to was, of course, the famous one formed by M. Ferrari. What became of his copy of the rare Gold Coast stamp is not known. The French catalogue did not list this variety so when the Ferrari collection was sold at auction it was apparently not recognized by the lot makers. There is a possibility that it was included in one of the remainder lots; but, at any rate, its present whereabouts is unknown.

Consequently the stamp in the Tapling collection in the British Museum is the only one definitely known to exist. No illustration of this fabulous rarity has ever appeared in a stamp catalogue or publication. But in the feature story in "Life" magazine for May 3, 1954 this copy was illustrated in color with other famous rarities with a valuation of \$10,000. placed on it. However, the picture is anything but clear, and as the rather heavy cancellation covers most of the surcharge it is impossible to determine just exactly what the overprint looks like.

May, 1883

Wmk. Crown CC. Perf. 14

1d. on 4d. magenta

The Third Issue

Some time in 1883 small supplies of the ½d. olive-yellow and 1d. blue printed on the newly introduced paper watermarked with a crown over the letters "CA" (for Crown Agents) instead of "CC" were despatched to the colony. Little seems to be known about these two stamps as new issue chroniclers of the period were often remiss in recording changes of watermark. Indeed they do not seem to have been listed anywhere until "Le Timbre Poste" mentioned them in July 1886 on the authority of one of their correspondents. The supplies must have been quite small, especially of the one penny, judging by present day standards. Gibbons gives the date of issue as January 1883 for the ½d. and May of the same year for the 1d. If this is correct then the shipment of the ½d.

must have left London late in 1882. Both stamps were printed from the original head-plate number "1" and presumably the same duty-plates as before were used for the insertion of the values.

1883

Wmk. Crown CA. Perf. 14.

½d. olive-yellow	plate 1
1d. blue	plate 1

The Fourth Issue

Although Gold Coast joined the Universal Postal Union in January 1879, it was not until 1884 that the postal authorities decided to adopt the Postal Union colors of green and red for the ½d. and 1d. denominations respectively. These were issued in August, while at the same time the color of the 2d. was changed from green to grey to avoid confusion with the new ½d. These were all, of course, printed on the newly introduced Crown CA paper. The 4d. on this paper did not appear until March 1885. Its color is better described as mauve rather than the magenta of previous issues. The 6d. was the laggard of the group comprising the original denominations for it did not appear until January 1889. Its color was unchanged.

In the meantime changes in postal rates and developments in the postal system made new values of 2½d., 3d., 1sh. and 2sh. necessary, so supplies of these were ordered from London. While some of these were being prepared a new head-plate was brought into use. This new plate not only has the numerals "2" in the margins, but around each of the two panes there is a continuous "jubilee" line. The purpose of this line was, I believe, to correct any undue pressure on the edges of the plate. It is so-called from the fact that it was first used in connection with some British stamps printed in 1887—the Jubilee year of the reign of Her Majesty Queen Victoria.

According to the Royal Philatelic Society's book "Africa: Part II", the one and two shillings stamps were issued in 1888 but, curiously enough, the earliest mention I can find of them in any philatelic periodical is July 1889 when they were recorded in the "Philatelic Record". These two stamps were printed in violet and brown respectively. They are only known printed from plate 2.

In September 1889 a 3d. printed in olive appeared, but the 2½d., which one would imagine was rather urgently needed for international mail, was not placed on sale until March 1891. This denomination marks a new departure because it was printed in two colors—but for the main portion of the design and orange for the value.

The new head-plate was probably made in 1888 for the 1sh. and 2sh., said to have been issued in that year, are only known printed from plate 2. All the other denominations were printed from it with the exception of the 4d. which is only known from plate 1. But the original plate was certainly not discarded when the new one was brought into use, because the first supplies of the 2½d., which did not appear until 1891, were printed from it. Possibly, for a time at least, both plates were in use concurrently. Speaking generally stamps printed from plate 2 are a trifle brighter in tint than those printed from plate 1. Stamps having a piece of the margin attached can be identified with absolute certainty. Those from plate 1 have the margin plain, while those from plate 2 show a portion of the colored jubilee line. Evidently the old duty-plates were used for the ½d., 1d., 2d., 4d., and 6d., while new ones had to be made for the others. These, like the others, were only large enough to print one pane of sixty stamps at a time.

Gibbons catalogue lists the 2d. grey with value entirely omitted, and Robson Lowe adds the halfpenny in the same condition. The latter authority also records the 3d. with some of the letters of the value malformed. It would be interesting to know in which duty-plate these occur.

1884-91

Wmk. Crown CA. Perf. 14

½d. green	Plates 1.2.
1d. carmine	Plates 1.2.
2d. grey	Plates 1.2.
2½d. blue and orange	Plates 1.2.
3d. olive	Plates 1.2.
4d. mauve	Plate 1
6d. orange	Plates 1.2.
1sh. violet	Plate 2.
2sh. brown	Plate 2.

The 1889 Provisional

Early in 1889 there was a dearth of one penny stamps in the Gold Coast, so for a short time two pence stamps were allowed to be bisected to permit each half to be used for the one penny postage rate. In March a number of the then currently six pence stamps were surcharged locally "ONE PENNY." in two lines with black Roman capitals, the original value being obliterated by a continuous black bar about 1½mm. wide. The word "ONE" is 5½mm. long while "PENNY.", including the period, measures 10 mm. And, by the way, the photograph in the Scott catalogue is not quite accurate for it does not show the period.

There are two types or varieties of this surcharge differing in the width of the space between the bottom of the letters and the bar below. In one, generally considered the normal type, this space measures 7 mm. while in the other it is 8 mm. Gibbons says:—"In some sheets specimens may be found with the bar and 'Penny' spaced 8 mm., the normal spacing being 7½ mm." Unfortunately I can find no information anywhere regarding the setting of the type and consequent arrangement of the top varieties. Probably if the facilities of the local printing office were on a par with those found in similar establishments in other of the smaller colonies a form of thirty (enough to overprint half a pane at once) would be about all that could be managed. However, this is only my conjecture. The footnote in Gibbons infers that the wider type only occurred in some sheets which could, of course, mean that there was more than one setting of the type.

The philatelists of that period, who might have been able to supply definite information on these points, devoted their efforts, instead, to trying to prove or disprove that the surcharged stamps were only used at Accra, the capital. It all started when the "American Journal of Philately" for September, 1889, published the following extract from a letter written by the Postmaster of Cape Coast Castle viz:—"We are out of 1d. postage stamps, consequently the local printer here was ordered to print the surcharged stamps. It is only allowed by the authorities to sell them at Accra Post-office, and only to applicants posting one penny correspondence, and the stamps are to be affixed on the

article or correspondence by the stamp seller. I am not supplied with them. As soon as supplies of 1d. stamps are received from the Crown Agents for the Colonies, London, no more of the stamps will be used. You will observe that only correspondence from Accra bears the surcharged stamps." From this letter it would appear that the actual surcharging was performed at an office in Cape Coast Castle and that, at first at any rate, they were only in use at the Accra post office and were affixed by postal employees.

Mr. Gilbert Lockyer, a well-known philatelist of the time, started to accumulate copies of this provisional for purposes of study. He found specimens bearing cancellations of some twenty other towns of the Gold Coast as well as Accra. Most of these were used between the months of August and October. Mr. Lockyer wrote a short article for the "Monthly Journal" of January, 1892, recording his findings. He concluded: "These facts seem to point to something more than a temporary dearth of 1d. stamps at the Accra Post-office. If the Postmaster at Cape Coast was right, the use of this provisional must have been considerably extended beyond the original intention." An editorial comment followed this short article suggesting the possibility of some of the stamps examined by Mr. Lockyer having forged surcharges. To this comment Mr. Lockyer replied (February) with a few somewhat caustic remarks viz:—"I can only attribute the note which you attached to my short article of last month to an abnormal development of the detective faculties, occasioned by too severe a course of Dr. Assmus, aggravated by influenza. Although I will not solemnly affirm that all the surcharges on the stamps recently seen by me are good, they did not pass me without some examination, and I firmly believe everyone of them to be genuine." Mr. Lockyer added that he had examined some 200 stamps in all, and that his only purpose in doing so was to try and prove that the provisional had a wide circulation throughout the entire colony. More correspondence followed. Then Mr. Lockyer did what he probably should have done in the first instance, that is, contacted the Postmaster of Accra. This official replied "These stamps were first issued in March, 1889, and their use confined to the town of Accra only. In July of the same year their use was ex-

tended to a few of the out-districts of the Colony, with instructions to use them only upon correspondence posted in the Colony." Thus satisfactory official proof was furnished to prove beyond question that this 1d. on 6d. stamp was quite widely distributed throughout the Gold Coast. Regulations regarding the sale of these stamps must have been eased at some time or other for today unused copies are, roughly, only about twice the value of used ones. By the way, the Scott catalogue is in error in giving "1887" as the date of issue. This is evidently a typographical error that has been carried through numerous editions.

March 1889

Wmk. Crown CA. Perf. 14

1d in black on 6d. orange plate 1 (?)

The Bi-sected Provisionals

During the early years of the use of postage stamps the citizens of the Gold Coast indulged somewhat freely in the reprehensible habit of cutting stamps into two or more portions, and then using these pieces for the prepayment of postage. In other words what we term "bi-sects" were anything but uncommon. But as mail from that part of the globe was rather light comparatively, few of these mutilated stamps have survived. As a result most of them are scarce.

The first of these "splits" to be recorded was a half of the one penny blue of the first series (Crown CC Perf. 12½). This was mentioned in the "Monthly Journal" for February 1901 as follows:—"Mr. Phillips has seen an envelope addressed to the City Auditor's Office, Boston, in 1876, franked with a 6d. orange and one and a half one penny blue, making up a 7½d. rate." The question immediately arose as to whether or not this was a correct postal rate. A little research proved that this rate was indeed a proper one and as there were no half penny stamps available in 1876 this bi-sect seems to have been necessary.

During the period 1882-84 it was a common occurrence for certain denominations to run out of stock in some post offices and then, as a temporary expedient, other values were cut into halves or quarters and used in this manner. The "Philatelic Record" for January 1883 mentions the "One penny cut in

half obliquely; each half doing duty as a Halfpenny stamp". A year later, in January 1884 the same journal recorded the two pence cut into halves and the four pence quartered as follows:—"We must try and overcome the repugnance with which stamps used piecemeal inspire us, and chronicle some unhealthy varieties emanating from this unhealthy region. That the specimens we have seen were honestly and innocently used we have no more doubt than that they will turn up and be rung the changes upon *ad nauseam*. There seems to have been a temporary dearth of One Penny stamps, to meet which the Twopence has been cut in halves obliquely, and the Fourpence cut in four triangles, thus, 'X', the fractions in either case being used as Provisional One Penny stamps." These two varieties were, seemingly, used in quite a number of towns, but the earlier half-penny is only known used from Quittah. Later in the same year (1884) more of these quartered 4d. stamps were in use and, occasionally, halves of this same denomination were used for two pence. The six pence is also known bi-sected, so that the halves could be used for 3d. Horror of horrors! Robson Lowe states that "the Sixpence was also cut into six pieces so that each could do duty as a penny stamp."

Just prior to the issue of the 1d. on 6d. provisional in 1889 a few of this same 6d. orange stamp were cut into halves so that the pieces could be used for three pence stamps. These bi-sects were, I believe, used only at Appam. Early in this same year (1889) there was a shortage of one penny stamps in several of the Gold Coast post offices, so a quantity of the 2d. were cut into halves to help out. Apart from these two instances there was only occasional mutilation during the life of the stamps on the Crown CA paper. The one penny is recorded as being cut into two portions for use as half penny stamps and later some of the 2d. were quartered for the same purpose.

None of this bi-section was officially authorized, though these portions of stamps seem to have passed through the mails unchallenged. The system was a thoroughly obnoxious one because it was wide open to abuse. For instance, portions of stamps which had already done postal service would quite easily have been pressed into service again.

1875

Wmk. Crown CC. Perf. 12½

Half of 1d. blue used as ½d.

1882-84

Wmk. Crown CC. Perf. 14

Half of 1d. blue used as ½d.

Quarter of 2d. green used as ½d.

Half of 2d. green used as 1d.

Quarter of 4d. magenta used as 1d.

Half of 4d. magenta used as 2d.

Half of 6d. orange used as 3d.

One-sixth of 6d. orange used as 1d.

1884-91

Wmk. Crown CA. Perf. 14

Half of 1d. carmine used as ½d.

Quarter of 2d. grey used as ½d.

Half of 2d. grey used as 1d.

Half of 6d. orange used as 3d.

Cancellations

The first cancellations supplied to the Gold Coast colony from London are an intriguing mystery. The colony's postal administration was never under the jurisdiction of the Postmaster General, but yet the three chief towns—Accra, Cape Coast Castle and Quittah—were supplied with cancellers, which obviously belong to the English provincial series of the period. These obliterators consisted of a number with three thick parallel lines of different lengths above and below, and two thinner lines at each side, the whole device being upright oval in shape. The two numbers "554" and "556", apportioned to Accra and Cape Coast Castle respectively, were, prior to 1860, the office numbers of two small villages in Staffordshire named Etruria and Shelton. (Fig. 6) These numbers were withdrawn in 1860 together with those of all other small communities in England, which had no Money Order facilities. These numbers were vacant until 1874 when they were allotted to the two Gold Coast towns; though why and on whose authority does not seem to be known. The canceller numbered "B27" sent for use in Chittah is also one of the same English series though many of these were used in offices abroad. This particu-



Fig. 6.

lar one does not seem to have been in use until awarded to Chittah.

Used in conjunction with these "killers" were small circular date stamps showing name of a town and date in two lines. These were struck on the face of the envelope. They were rarer used as cancellers in the three towns named, but in other places these "daters" were the only cancelling devices available. There are several minor types of these, but they can, roughly, be divided into two groups one of which shows name of town only while the other also shows the name of the Colony.

An obliterator of a form which, I believe, was never used anywhere else at any time is oblong oval in shape and shows at top "POST OFFICE"; across the center "GOLD COAST"; and, at the bottom, the name Elmina or Sekondi. The inscriptions are all in uncolored letters on a solid ground of black, and, according to Robson Lowe, this postmark was only used in the two towns named during the period 1876 and 1886. This unusual cancellation is fairly scarce nowadays.

Another scarce Gold Coast cancellation is octagonal in shape with the four corner lines



Fig. 7.

much shorter than the others. It was, apparently, only used at Elmina and shows the name of that town, with "PAID" below, in sloping capitals, while the date is in a straight line at the bottom.

Most of the cancellations of the Gold Coast may be found in red or blue as well as the normal black, and there are, in addition, many special types that turn up on occasion. Some of the more interesting of these are the several types of "PAQUEBOT" and other styles of ship-letter marks such as "PAID - LIVERPOOL - BR. PACKET"; "LIVERPOOL - SHIP"; "SOUTHAMPTON - SHIP - LETTER", (Fig. 7). Sometimes, too, letters were mailed on German steamers so that stamps may be found marked "DEUTSCHE SEE POST-LINIE-HAMBURG-ESTAFRIKA". Altogether the postal markings of the Victorian era make a fascinating study.

Postal Stationery

An interesting addition to a collection of Gold Coast stamps of this design are the few postal stationery items bearing exactly the same Queen Victoria portrait. First to appear was a 1½d. post card in brown which was issued in 1880 shortly after the Colony had joined the Universal Postal Union. A few years later (about 1891) ½d. and 1d. postal cards and a 1d. reply card appeared in this same design. They were printed in the proper Postal Union colors of green for the ½d. and carmine for the two 1d. items. All four items bear the same legends viz: UNION POSTALE UNIVERSELLE—

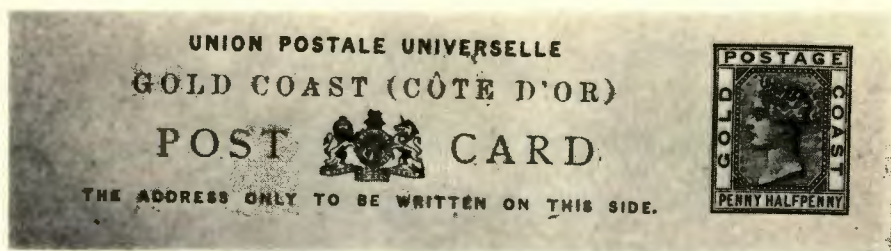


Fig. 8. The upper portion of the post card.

GOLD COAST (COTE D'OR)—POST CARD with the Royal Arms between the words—"THE ADDRESS ONLY TO BE WRITTEN ON THIS SIDE", in different styles of capital letters. (Fig. 8) In 1899 a one penny envelope was issued with the stamp

of exactly the same design and printed in carmine. These five pieces add interest to a collection. Through the courtesy of Higgins and Gage Inc., the Pasadena postal stationery specialists, I am able to list the "pioneer"—the One Penny Halfpenny card.

STEINWAY MEMORIAL FUND

(Continued From Page 210)

fund be named the THEODORE E. STEINWAY MEMORIAL PUBLICATIONS FUND. Motion was duly seconded and carried. It was further moved that the fund be a revolving fund and that the necessary funds for the memorial be democratically raised from among the entire membership of THE COLLECTORS CLUB on a voluntary basis.

In explaining the reasons and purposes for this newly established fund, the Executive Committee commented as follows;

Inasmuch as we are very much concerned with the recent passing on of some of our greatest philatelists, taking with them their specialized knowledge of various phases of Philately and recognizing that this loss may be irreplaceable, it should be our duty to take the necessary steps in future to insure for philatelic posterity, in writing, such original research and knowledge. The avowed purpose of the Fund shall be to encourage new authors, solicit original philatelic material and to publish any worthwhile opus consistent with the editorial policy of THE COLLECTORS CLUB, in the form of hand-

books. It is further agreed that the literary functioning of this newly created THEODORE E. STEINWAY MEMORIAL PUBLICATIONS FUND be placed under the joint jurisdiction of *The Editorial Board* and *Publications Committee*, whose duty it shall be to have all submitted manuscripts correctly edited and eventually published. Thus, THE COLLECTORS CLUB shall become the repository of much of the available philatelic knowledge. It is further felt that THE COLLECTORS CLUB in establishing this new "Publications Fund" will continue to justify its status as an educational, literary and scientific institution.

Above all else, however, the decision by the Board of Governors in honoring the memory of the incomparable THEODORE E. STEINWAY, who did so much to maintain the prestige of THE COLLECTORS CLUB, honors itself by immortalizing forevermore the name of THEODORE E. STEINWAY, by the creation of the THEODORE E. STEINWAY PUBLICATIONS MEMORIAL FUND for a most worthy purpose—the publication of handbooks in the best tradition of philatelic scholarship. So no longer should first-class philatelic writings remain unpublished, because of a lack of necessary financial support.

(John J. Britt)

CORRIENTES

The Issues from 1856-1880

(Continued from Page 188)

By LOUIS STICH

POSTAL MARKINGS AND CANCELLATIONS

Philatelists, who collect only full, dated, clear and clean cancellations like the "socked on the nose" type, will be in for disappointments when it comes to assembling Corrientes postal markings. The vast majority of the stamps of Corrientes have been pen-cancelled. It is strange that so few die-type cancellations are to be found, when one considers that post-marking devices saw about seventeen years of use, whereas the period of stamp use prior to the appearance of cancelling devices was only about seven years.

There were no cancelling devices in use from 1856 through 1863 to the best of our knowledge. A die-type device was introduced in 1860—the control stamper of Corrientes. But it was used only between 1860 and 1865 for control purposes. After 1865 it was used for the first time to cancel stamps. The first cancelling device was employed in 1863. This is a 16 parallel line rectangular one. Although it has been stated before, it might be well to repeat that this cancellation appears on the Un Real stamp issued in 1856, but that these stamps so cancelled are not considered as having been used during the normal life of the first issue. Every so often someone refers to the use of this postmark on the first issue of Corrientes thus implying that it saw use prior to 1863, which is not so.

In order to make the cancellations of Corrientes easier to understand, we illustrate them in actual size by dividing them into two groups:

- 1.) *Capital*—used in the city of Corrientes proper. (Pages 229-30)
- 2.) *Provincial*—used outside the city of Corrientes. (Pages 231-35)

There is little doubt that other cancellations exist, but the overall great scarcity of cancelled copies makes further information difficult to obtain.

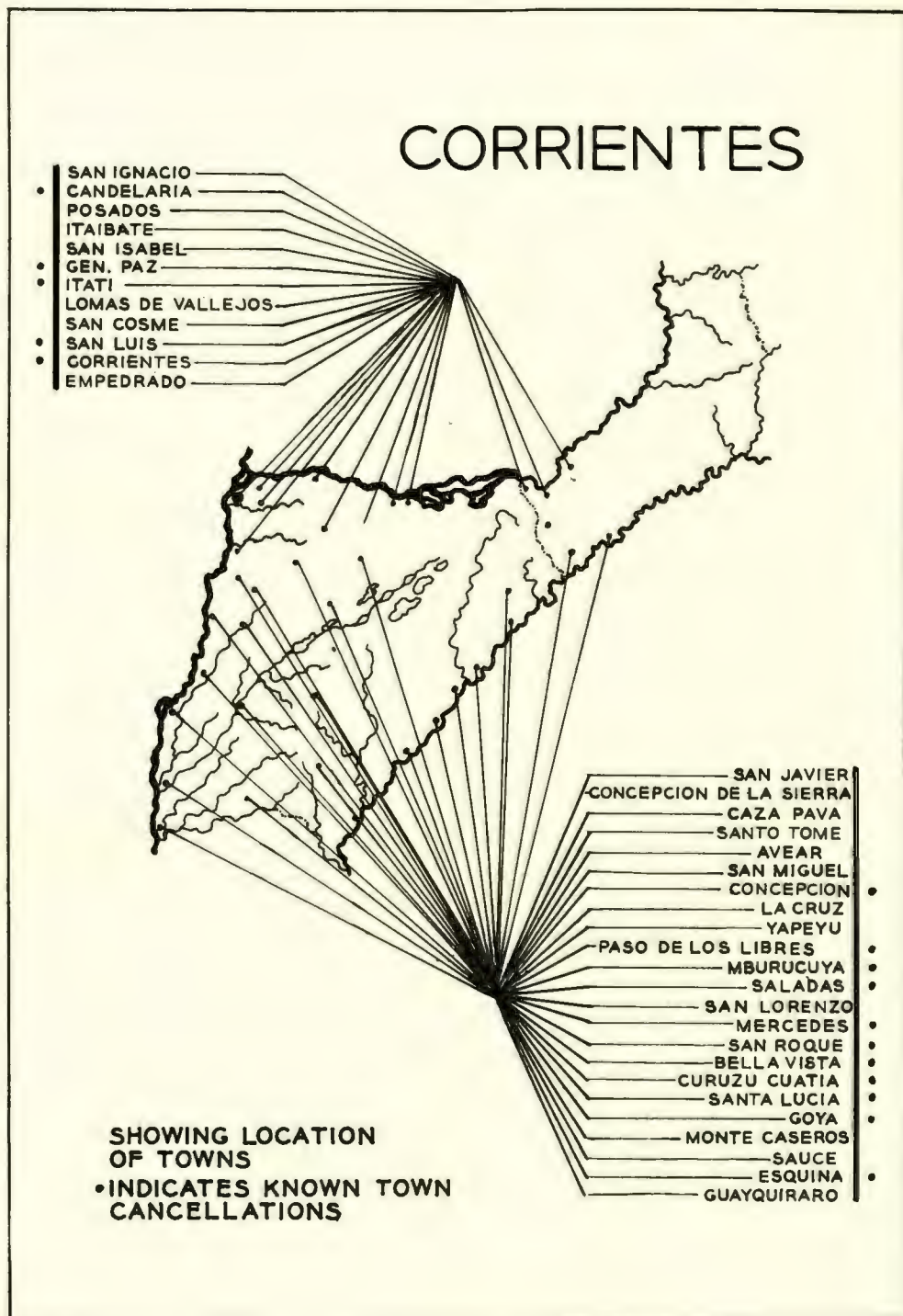
No pre-stamp cancellations are included in this article because they bear no practical relation to the markings used on the stamps of Corrientes.

Concerning the postmarks used during the war of the Triple Alliance between Argentine, Brazil, Uruguay against Paraguay from 1865 to 1870, the mail of the Argentine Armed Forces was granted the free franking privilege. Covers mailed from Corrientes during this period simply show the control postmark "Correo de Corrientes" dated in circle.

REPRINTS

The story as to how and why there are reprints of the stamps of Corrientes has been known for many years. It is reported that after the final issue of 1880 had been completed being replaced by the use of Argentine stamps in the Province, it was decided to honor the accomplishments of Governor Pujul, who more than anyone else had been responsible for stamps in Corrientes. Therefore in appreciation of his services, his estate was presented with the original plate from which the last stamps had been printed.

Through some means this plate later managed to come into private hands. Furthermore, it is alleged that after Corrientes ceased using its own stamps, several sheets of the 1860 blue 3 centavos fuerte of the second printing group were found in the archives of the Province. It seems that around the end of 1880 some of these remainder sheets also fell into the hands of private individuals. Thus there were two different sources available for the use of the reprinters.



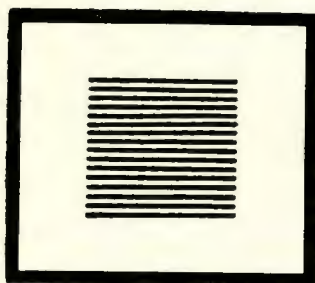
CAPITAL CANCELLATIONS OF CORRIENTES



1860
1865

MEASURES 26 1/4 MM IN DIAMETER.
FIRST USED AS CONTROL STAMPER.
USED AS REGULAR CANCELLATION.

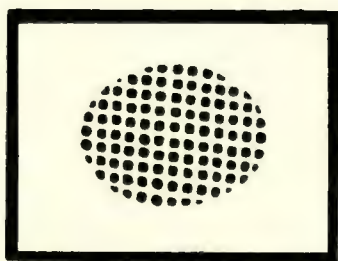
BLACK



1863

A RECTANGLE OF 16 PARALLEL
LINES.

BLACK



1864

OVAL FORMED BY DOTS.

BLACK



1865

CORRIENTES FORMING ARCH. FIRST
USED ON DARK GREEN ISSUE.

BLACK
BLUE



1866

FIRST APPEARANCE ON YELLOW
ISSUE..

BLUE



1868

ELLIPSE FORMED BY 9 PARAL-
LEL BARS.

BLACK

CAPITAL CANCELLATIONS OF CORRIENTES



1870

MEASURES 21 MM IN DIAMETER. SOMETIMES THE MONTH APPEARS INVERTED.

BLACK



1874

MEASURES 15 X 15 MM CONSISTING OF 4 PARALLEL BARS. APPEARS ON THE ROSE LILAC ISSUE.

BLACK



1875

DOUBLE RECTANGLE VARIOUS SIZES. (THIS CANCELLATION WAS SELDOM USED.

BLACK



1876

MEASURES 26 MM IN DIAMETER

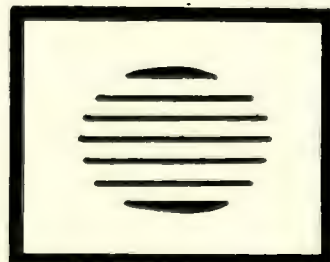
BLACK



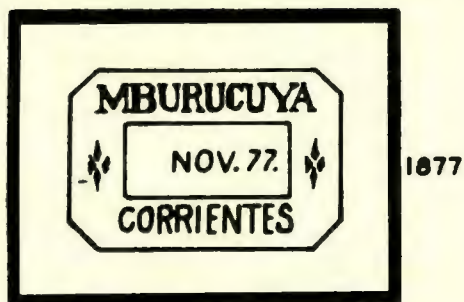
UNKNOWN

"CERTIFICADO" IN DOUBLE LINED CURVED BAND

BLACK



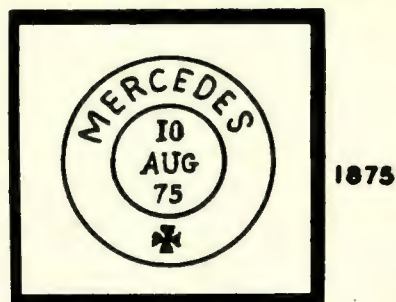
PROVINCIAL CANCELLATION OF CORRIENTES



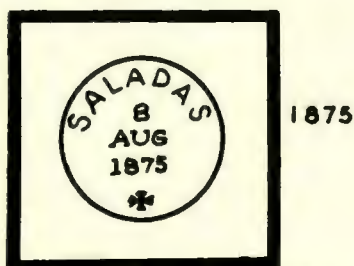
MBURUCUYA

DOUBLE RECTANGLE.

BLUE



DOUBLE CIRCLE MEASURES
28 1/2 MM, APPEARS ON 3 CTS.
SALMON ISSUE.



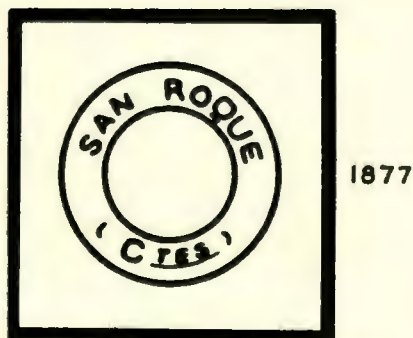
CIRCLE MEASURES 20 1/2 MM.
IN DIAMETER. (THIS ILLUSTRATION
REPRESENTS A DRAWING
AND THEREFORE MIGHT SLIGHTLY
VARY WITH THE ACTUAL
CANCELLATION.)

BLACK



DOUBLE RECTANGLE

BLUE



DOUBLE CIRCLE MEASURES
28 1/2 MM IN DIAMETER.

BLACK



DOUBLE RECTANGLE

BLACK
BLUE

PROVINCIAL CANCELLATION OF CORRIENTES



1870

MEASURES 20 1/2 MM IN DIAMETER, APPEARS ON YELLOW ISSUE.

BLACK



1875

DOUBLE RECTANGLE, APPEARS ON GRAY PURPLE ISSUE.

BLACK

BLUE



1877

DOUBLE OVAL, APPEARS ON 3 CTS. LILAC ISSUE.

BLACK



1877

DOUBLE RECTANGLE, APPEARS ON 3 CTS. LILAC ISSUE.



1874

MEASURES 20 1/2 MM IN DIAMETER WITHOUT YEAR DATE. HAVE EXAMPLE ON 3 CTS. MAROON OF 1877.

BLACK

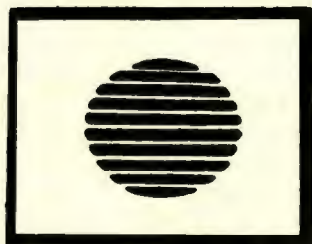


1874

MEASURES 20 1/2 MM IN DIAMETER MONTH FIRST AND DATE AFTER. ON THE 3 CTS. MAROON, 1877.

BLACK

PROVINCIAL CANCELLATION OF CORRIENTES

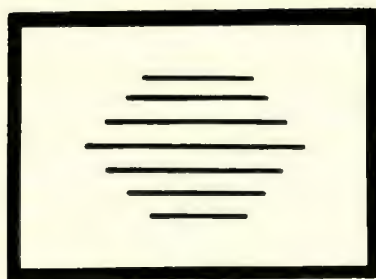


?

GOYA

10 PARALLEL BARS FORMING AN OVAL, APPEARS ON YELLOW ISSUE.

BLACK



?

7 PARALLEL LINES FORMING A DIAMOND SHAPE, APPEARS ON 3 CTS. LILAC ROSE ISSUE OF 1874. THE ORIGIN OF THIS CANCELLATION IS SO NOT KNOWN.

BLACK



1875

MEASURES 20 1/2 MM DIAMETER

BLACK



1865

GOYA

"FRANCA" APPEARS ON GREEN ISSUE

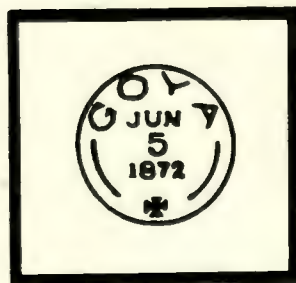
BLACK



1874

SEVEN HORIZONTAL BARS FORMING OVAL, ON 3 CTS. FUERTE, BLUE OF 1860 ISSUE TEMPORARY USE IN 1870, FROM SAN ROQUE TO GOYA.

BLACK



1872

MEASURES 20 1/2 MM IN DIAMETER APPEARS ON YELLOW ISSUE OF 1872. IT HAD BEEN REPORTED THAT THIS CANCELLATION WAS SEEN ON COVER WITH THE 1871 DARK BLUE ISSUE, DATED JUNE 5, 1872.

BLACK

PROVINCIAL CANCELLATION OF CORRIENTES

ADMON. DE CORREOS DE MERCEDES

THIS CANCELLATION IS IN EXISTANCE BUT THE WRITER HAS NO INFORMATION AS TO SHAPE OR COLOR AND DATE OF APPEARANCE.



1878

DOUBLE RECTANGLE, ON 3 CTS. LILAC ROSE OF 1877 ISSUE.

BLACK
BLUE



1877

"RECEPTORIA DE MERCEDES" SINGLE OVAL. BLUE



1874

ITATI IN OVAL, APPEARS ON 3 CTS. LILAC ROSE OF 1874 ISSUE.

BLACK

PASO DE LOS LIBRES 1866

OVAL

BLUE

PASO DE LOS LIBRES 1878

IN DOUBLE OVAL WITH DATE, THE WRITER HAS ONLY SEEN ONE CANCELLATION WHICH WAS INCOMPLETE SO THAT A FULL ILLUSTRATION IS NOT YET POSSIBLE.



1874

STRAIGHT-LINE TWON CANCELLATION APPEARS ON 3 CTS. LILAC ROSE ISSUE OF 1874.

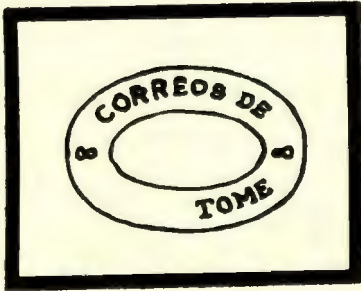
BLACK

PROVINCIAL CANCELLATION OF CORRIENTES



DOUBLE CIRCLE. MEASURES 28½ MM IN DIAMETER. APPEARS ON 1876 LATE USE OF THE 2 CTS. BLUE GREEN.

BLACK



‘CORREOS DE SANTO TOMÉ’
DOUBLE OVAL. APPEARS ON 3 CTS. 1877 LILAC. OF THE 1877 ISSUE.

BLACK

Reprints were printed from the original plate that had been presented to Governor Pujul's estate. But the reprinters failed to take into account the philatelic student. The final issue of 1880 had the clichés so arranged on the plate that they form what we call the fourth setting. The reprints are from the same setting.

Then the paper used for the reprints, although a close match to that used by the government's printer, differs in that it has a grayish cast. Thus it is not difficult to recognize all the reprints that come in complete panes or full sheets. The reprints show the layout of the second printing group arranged according to our fourth setting, whereas the 1860 issue plus its re-use in 1870 are laid out according to the second printing group, second setting. It should however be mentioned that, although all other genuine issues of Corrientes with the exception of the above-mentioned, were always printed in sheets of 32 stamps and in various printing groups, the reprints show only 24 stamps in the sheet.

The producers of the reprints possessed as a sample only one sheet of the 1860 issue, and, therefore, were not familiar with all the other printing groups. When it comes to single copies, the best key for determining reprints is the grayish type of paper, so different from that used for the genuine issues.

In an effort to make the deception with the reprints more convincing, somehow or other a genuine cancelling device fell into these private individuals' hands. When the stamps of Corrientes were ordered demonetized, all remaining sheets were cancelled in the margin, also on the back of each pane, with the date "Corrientes March 31, 1879". Sometimes, a demonetized sheet was so cancelled only once, but often three times. The reprinters got ahold of a similar cancelling device but the date read "Corrientes September 23, 1879". Thus when one finds a sheet cancelled in the margin once or more with the "September 23, 1879" date, he most likely has a sheet of the reprints, although a few genuine sheets of the 1860 issue have been

found with the same date "September 23, 1879", which most probably was also applied by the reprinters. In such a case, the setting would be the determining factor,

which would be the second setting.

The following is a list of all the stamps known to us that have been reprinted.

List of Reprints

Issue	Color of Paper
1860	Gray blue
1864	Gray yellow green
1865	Gray blue green
1867	Straw yellow
1871	Grayish dark blue
1874-1880	Purple, gray purple, bright purple and maroon

COUNTERFEITS

Most all of the stamps of Corrientes have been counterfeited. These are imitations, not made from the original plates like the reprints. Two examples are noteworthy. One is very similar to the genuine type 1, but it has certain distinguishing marks which enable an easy recognition. The counterfeits show a curved line running down along the nostril. Also there is a central pearl at the bottom of the circle surrounding the head. Its position on the counterfeit is much higher than on the genuine. This counterfeit was made for all issues of Corrientes, and comes in a great variety of colors and shades. One example of a counterfeit is shown in Fig. 104.

A second counterfeit was made to resemble type 3. The author has seen only one example printed on light green paper, but more are said to exist, but we do not know their colors. The identifying features on this counterfeit is seen in the leaves in the hair which are very much larger than in the original. Also the chin on this counterfeit is

much more pointed than on the genuine. This counterfeit is shown as Fig. 105.

REVENUE STAMPS

The matter of Revenue Stamps for official purposes is far from clarified. Some past writers on the stamps of Corrientes refer to Revenue Stamps. The author owns a few copies that possibly may show fiscal rather than postal use. But he has examined or seen very little of this type of matter. In fact, he has come across so little that he has doubts whether Corrientes ever had used stamps for revenue purposes.

One reading the previous writers will not find much data to substantiate their beliefs that Revenue Stamps were used in Corrientes. Perhaps they were. But this cannot be accepted as factual until much more conclusive evidence is forthcoming. Unfortunately the author does not possess this, so he would appreciate hearing from anyone, who believes he has accurate knowledge about these mysterious Revenue Stamps.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

I wish to acknowledge the great technical cooperation received from my very good friend *Mr. John F. Rider*, who with his great experience and abilities as a professional publisher and editor, has advised me.

Also I wish to express my appreciation and thanks for much editorial help and cooperation received from another good friend, none other than the very capable Editor of *THE COLLECTORS CLUB PHILATELIST*, *Mr. Henry M. Goodkind*.

—The End—



Fig. 104

Fig. 105

Examples of Counterfeits

(All Photos by L. W. Giles)

APPENDIX

Laws and Decrees for the Postal Service of the Province Of Corrientes
(Translated from the original Spanish)

The Governor and Captain General of the Province,

Taking into consideration the great benefits which will come to the population and to the whole State from an reliable and efficient communication among its inhabitants, has decided and decreed:

- Article 1. A weekly postal service will be established throughout the Province.
- Article 2. Its departure from the General Post Office of this City will be at 11 AM. every Tuesday.
- Article 3. The Mail sent by this Postal service is for the moment free from carrying postage.
- Article 4. Throughout the Province all the necessary arrangements will be made for the regularity of the service and the universal success of this decree, also that this decree reaches those whose interests it affects.
- Article 5. To be published in the legal form.

Corrientes, April 23, 1853

Pujol
Gregorio Valdez

The Governor and Captain General of the Province:

The delay and irregularity in the delivery of mail in the interior of the Province caused by the ill effects of the decree of April 23, 1853 has come to the personal attention of the Governor, and therefore he has decided to change the regulations on the basis of past experience, establishing as follows;

- Article 1. All the mail of the Province carried by Agents shall be brought to and collected in the Town-hall of San Rouge Wednesday of each week. It will leave from there the following day, Thursday, at 7 A. M.
- Article 2. In order that the exchange of mail may take place at the proper time: The mail carriers will leave the Capital, to Esquina, to Restauracion and Caa-Cati every Monday, on Tuesdays from Yaguarete-Cora; and from Bella Vista every Wednesday.
- Article 3. The mail from Emprdrado will brought to the Capital; That of San Antonio, Itati and Mburucuya will be assembled in Saladas, having been brought there by the Agent of Caati. From Saladas the Agent will return to the Capital. The agent of Esquina will take the mail of Sauce, and on his journey collect that of Goya and of Santa Lucia. The Agent of Restauracion will pick up the mail of La Cruz and of Santo Tome, and on his way through Mercedes the mail of that place too, and also of Curuzu-Cuati. The Agent of Yaguarete-Cora will also carry the mail from San Miguel.
- Article 4. The mails of the departments of the North, San Luis, San Cosme, Lomas de Itati, which are destined for the interior will be brought to the General Post Office of the Capital by an Agent who will leave Itati every Saturday, picking up on his way through San Cosme the mails of its various departments and that of San Luis, and on his way through Lomas, the mail of its departments.
- Article 5. The officials and justices of those places for which specific days for the sending of mail from their departments have not been determined, will proceed to make arrangements with the officials or justices to whom they have to send the mail. The object here is that the agents are not delayed, that is to say, that they manage to leave the mail they have carried and receive the mail brought in by the other agents. From this ruling the agent of Caa-Cati is excused.
- Article 6. As a general rule, the time of departure of the mail, both from the major post offices and also from the places whose days of departure are not herein specified, will be 10 A. M.
- Article 7. Published and transmitted to all interested parties.

Goya, July 26, 1854.

Pujol

Laws Establishing the Charge for Conveyance of Letters of the Provincial Post.

From the President of the Honourable Assembly
Session Chamber, Corrientes, February 18, 1856

To the Governor and Captain General of the Province.

I have the honour to transmit to your Excellency the law which the Assembly passed at the meeting of the 16th instant:—The Honourable Permanent Assembly, considering that the Treasury of the Province is not in a condition to provide for the expenses of Courier who starts from this Capital each week with mail for the interior of the Province, and that the maintenance of this regular means of communication is public interest, making use of the Power with which it is invested, authorizes the following:—

Article 1

A charge is imposed for the carriage of letters by Provincial Post;

Article 2

The Executive Power is authorized to arrange the tariff for this charge;

Article 3

The above is to be communicated to the Executive Power for that purpose. Having carried out the instructions given me by the Honourable Assembly. I have the honour to salute your Excellency, etc, etc.

Jose M. Rolon

J. J. Poisson

(Secretary)

Corrientes, February 20, 1856.

Decree Fixing the Tax or Charge on Letters

In virtue of the authority given to the Executive power by Article 2 of the law passed by the Honourable Assembly on the 16th instant, for fixing the tax to be collected by the Treasury of the Province for the conveyance of letters by the provincial mail, which starts from the Capital every week for all the provincial districts, it is arranged and decreed:—

Article 1

From the date of publication on this present decree the Post Office of this Capital and the Justice of the Peace of the country districts will collect for each letter—

Single letter 1 Real M. C.

Double letter 2 Real M. C.

Triple letter 3 Real M. C. and so on, except in the case of printed matter, the carriage of which is free of charge;

Article 2

Packets which exceed 1 ounce in weight will be charged under the regulations on this point, in accordance with the postal tariff of the Capital;

Article 3

To be communicated and published in the usual form.

Corrientes, February 29th, 1856

Pujol

Wenceslao Dias Colodrero

The Governor of the Province:

By virtue of the authority given to the Executive power by article 2 of the law passed by the Honourable Permanent Assembly of February 16, 1856 regulating the tariff which is to be collected for the Treasury of the Province for the Postal service furnished by the Postal Administration of the Province, established and decreed:

Article 1

From the publication of this decree the Postal Administration of the Capital and the Justice of the Peace in the Provincial Districts will charge 3 centavos for each normal letter.

Article 2

Those regulations which are contrary to the present decree are hereby nullified.

Article 3

Distributed and published in the usual manner.

Corrientes, February 8, 1860

Rolon

L. Torrent — J. L. Garrido

The Governor of the Province:

By virtue of the authority conferred by the law of February 18, 1856 to establish the rates for the Postal Service of the Province, and considering the present schedule adequate to the expenses which the proper maintenance of the Postal Service for the best public service demands, establishes and decrees:

Article 1

After the first of next January in the Capital, and after the publication of this decree, in the provinces, the Administration of the Provincial Post will conform to the following schedule of rates for letters circulating throughout the interior:

For ordinary letters whose weight does not exceed 4 adarmes:—5 centavos. For double weight letters of 8 adarmes:—10 centavos, with the tariff charge to be increased on this basis. For the registration of a letter a charge of 20 centavos in addition to the regular postage which shall be determined according to weight. Daily newspapers are to be carried by the mail free of charge, whatever the weight might be.

Article 2

The stamp is to be placed in a proper manner in advance on the letter, those sold by the Postal Authority. Failing this; and in the case of insufficient postage; and the use of a stamp already cancelled, such letters will not be forwarded.

Article 3

Postal Officials will in such cases, make public the addresses of letters not sent for the above reasons, and shall keep them on file pending notification of the interested parties.

Article 4

Communicated to those concerned with recommendation for exact compliance, published, and entered in the Public Register.

Corrientes, December 26, 1863

Lagrana

Juan Jose Camelino

Law adjusting the Postal Rate from 5 Centavos to 2 Centavos

Article 1

Charges for letters and other correspondence, which is carried by the Post Offices throughout the Province, will conform to the following Postal Rates:

Ordinary letters whose weight does not exceed 4 adarmes: 2 silver centavos or its equivalent Letters which weigh from 4 to 8 adarmes: 4 centavos—and so on at this rate of increase.

Article 2

Registered letters and those already stamped in accordance with the previous tariff will pay an additional sum of 25 silver coins or its equivalent for the stamps of registration, regardless of weight.

Article 3

Books, pamphlets, engravings, lithographs and all kinds of printed matter will pay postage of 5 centavos the pound, with the exception of newspapers and periodicals which are carried free of charge.

Article 4

The franking of letters, books and others is mandatory and should be done properly, also the stamps should be cancelled. If this requirement is not met, as in the case of insufficient postage, the item will not be sent. And immediately a list of the items detained will be published for the benefit of the interested parties.

Article 5

Letters sent from one Post Office to another will pay, in addition to the regular postage, 12 centavos for every league carried. This will be paid to the Post Office of origin.

Article 6

All regulations contrary to the present law are to be cancelled.

Article 7

Distributed and posted in the usual form.

Chamber of Sessions, Corrientes, February 24, 1864

Manuel A. Ferre

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U. S. CERTIFIED MAIL

(Continued From Page 216)

authorized the postmaster in writing to give the mail to the carrier. The carrier will be required to sign for the mail and the responsibility of the postal service ends on his so doing.

This new service is basically much the same as the well known Registered Mail Service. It serves in all the same instances, except in sending articles of declared value on which indemnity is wanted in case of loss. Thus, when documentary evidence of delivery is desirable or necessary, this less expensive and faster procedure of certified mailing proves most satisfactory. Of course, it is new. It is the first new service since Air Mail. There will be many who have always

used Registered Mail. So they cannot think that any new method can take its place for their purpose, just as there were many who believed that airplanes would never take the place of trains, or automobiles replace horses. However, like the automobiles and the airplanes, this new service is here to stay. Gradually more and more people will discover why it was instituted. It was not designed to out-mode Registered Mail, but to facilitate and speed up mail which needs documentary evidence of delivery but on which the valuation-indemnity service does not apply.

Changing conditions, passage of time or other factors tend to make a service obsolete. The Post Office Department has shown progress with this new development. What will be the next step forward? Only time will give us the answer.

THE CLUBHOUSE

Meeting of May 1, 1957

Topical Philately (Sports)

Ira Seebacher's lecture was upon the subject of topical collecting. He attempted to show that a collection based upon some particular topic, theme or subject is not necessarily a form of excrescence on the philatelic body but can be an arbitrary selection of certain material to be collected and studied along lines that withstand even the most carping philatelic strictures.

In selecting any group of stamps to collect, immediately we compromise with the purest and most conventional form of collecting which is, of course, to collect one of everything. To be in any manner more selective is to specialize. To specialize is to compromise. For example, if we collect the stamps of the classic period, we cut across quite logical geographical lines. One might ask of the classicist, why collect the wholly unrelated stamps of Great Britain and Russia? Or perhaps we collect along geographic and political lines, seeking all the material of the United States and its possessions. Then we have cut across chronological divisions which the classicists observe. Still again, perhaps we collect air mail stamps of the world or revenues, or imperfs or dues. These are collections that cut across not only the logical geographic and chronological divisions but ethnic and political as well. All forms of specialization then are restricted, a departure from the purely conventional, yet gain, in time, a degree of respectability in direct relation to the quality and quantity of work done in the field by their practitioners. Time brings respectability and acceptance.

In the field of topical collecting, I am the first to admit that the respectability has been withheld by the general body of philately largely because there has been neither a quality nor quantity of work done, nor is this form of specialization even one of such age as to acquire the patina sometimes dubiously accorded the venerable.

Still there are collectors who brave popular

disapproval and decide to collect stamps relating to a certain topic. They may have any number of varying reasons. Sufficient to say they have arbitrarily picked a specialty group. Having done so, it is perfectly within their abilities to make such a collection as philatelically scientific—or unscientific—as they wish. After all, they do have a group of stamps with which to work. If they decide to study them intensively, they not only can do so but they may. There are no rules to say to them "nay."

Yet in international circles (and in the United States as well), the topical collector is still a pariah, regarded at best as a freak or novice and, at worst, a pest. If we are to accept as a norm, some of the topical collections that have been prominently publicized, then truly there is very little one can say in defense of topical collecting as a science.

Even the late Theodore E. Steinway's famed music collection could hardly be categorized as a philatelic study though no one questioned Mr. Steinway's standing as a philatelic scholar. It was just that he, himself, never took seriously this facet of his collecting tastes. Another widely publicized collection is that of His Eminence, Cardinal Spellman. Unfortunately this interesting and eye-catching undertaking has equally little pretention to be termed a collection along philatelic lines. So I cannot blame those who have been misguided in their judgment upon topical collecting as based upon the efforts of some of the better known philatelic names.

If, however, it will be conceded that the topicalist has a certain group of material to collect, no matter how arbitrary the selection may be, I shall endeavor, in turn, to show that topical collecting is a far greater challenge than most people believe. I shall attempt to show not only that it can and often does embrace every geographic division, every chronological, ethnic and political one, but crosses just about every section of philately that exists. In other words, a topical collection can be a limited general collection

demanding the most catholic acquisitiveness. It can represent, in its highest form, a truer cross-section of all philately than any other now recognized specialization group.

A slight digression is usually practiced at this point. It is here, if the speaker so intends, that some form of definition of the terms to be used should be made. I will not attempt, however, to define what a topical collection is. An evening could be spent in such semantic acrobatics with no one in the end convinced that any other in the room was correct. It might be better to mention a few things that a topical collection is not. Because I have to demonstrate with pages from my own collection, I hope to be excused if all the examples that I tender to prove various points, are made concerning the rather narrower field of sports philately. I need hardly point out that what applies to my own restricted topic equally concerns all others.

My own collection is NOT a collection of stamps alone. It is, as the frames will reveal, a rather marvelously insane melange of seemingly unrelated material. Nor does closer inspection necessarily reveal the key to any discernible pattern. But the pattern is there. The beginning frames are of stamps: all the ways to collect just the adhesive issues are shown—mint, used, blocks, position blocks, inscription blocks, sheets and so forth. Next are frames showing many of the steps that left behind their philatelic imprint in the making of these stamps: essays, proofs, color trials, original drawings, specimens and the like. With the printing of these various issues of the world, errors and varieties occurred. The next frames show some of these errors relating to and resulting from the printing, perforation, overprinting and the like. Then comes the usage. Covers are shown, covers bearing definitive issues, commemoratives, semi-postals, locals, air mails, postal tax issues and others. Included, too, are such related branches as meter markings, stampless covers, corner cards, caricatures, patriotics, private and government cachets, private and government cancellations, ad infinitum. One can include booklets, favor sheets, maximum cards, postal cards and, of course, a veritable cascade of postal stationery running the gamut from privately printed post cards with embossed government stamps of the 80's through to the most elaborate folders and booklets of stationery of the pres-

ent day. None of these adjuncts to a collection are within the purely narrow collecting tastes of the adhesive stamp collector but remember that these many facets are in addition to, and not exclusive of, the adhesives. Thus, this collection embraces more, not less, than the usual run-of-the-mill stamp collections.

This flood of material is due to a change that has taken place in the very purpose of the postage stamp itself. Originally, a postage stamp was just what the name implied: it was usually, though not always, an adhesive whose purpose was to identify that mail whose carriage had been pre-paid.

Only an ostrich would deny that, today, the Governments of the world, with no single exception that comes to mind, have at least two, often three, reasons for issuing postage stamps. The primary purpose, of course, is still for the prepayment of mail. But if that still remained the only reason for the issuance of adhesive stamps, then how explain the constant change in designs, the sometimes too bountiful rain of new stamps? Why not, instead, stay with a good design year after year, decade after decade? One might argue because there is a constant change in governmental heads. Rulers and presidents come and go, hence new issues. This is not so. In the Americas, only Canada and the United States still use the familiar portrait stamp as the type of design for their definitives. The other countries occasionally have a portrait stamp but their definitives, where they have definitive issues, are not the conventional portrait designs of the 19th century. This is similarly true for most of the European countries too, Belgium, Luxembourg, Great Britain and Sweden being a few of the exceptions that come to mind. In other words, as a definitive, the portrait stamp has all but come to grief.

What then are these latter day reasons for issuing stamps? The most important of these secondary reasons is that a stamp is a powerful form of propaganda. The word "propaganda" is not used in any narrow sense conveying a distasteful type of publicity. Instead, we use it in the broad sense to say the nations of the world can bring various messages to the rest of the world through their stamps. People all over the world collect stamps. Even more who do not collect, at least examine those stamps

they receive—foreign and domestic. A stamp can and, very often, has told a story whether it be an "Atoms for Peace" program or to convey the joys of skiing in Lebanon. Naturally, the international message is more grave, more important than the mere political plugging of America's poultry industry. But after all, these messages are not always for international consumption though most undoubtedly are.

Because, in this world game of publicity, the stamp is so powerful a weapon, it is vitally important to every government to bend its every effort to change its stamps often, bring many messages to many people for many purposes and to combine these messages in a package of charm, skill and artfulness. Is it, then, any wonder that some of us, therefore, are interested in the reason for the appearance of these stamps and in the reason certain designs were used. If, in seeking this information, we do NOT substitute this knowledge for philatelic knowledge but, instead, acquire it in addition to our philatelic knowledge, have we not gone a step farther in scientific research? Surely one must not be penalized for learning more than one might be reasonably demanded to know about his stamps. So just as it seems logical to know who designed a stamp, how it was printed, what rate it paid and all the additional postal lore, so it is equally logical to know why it was issued and what its design was intended to convey to others.

The third reason stamps are issued aside from their use as prepayment of mail and springboards for propaganda is that they are a source of revenue derived purely from non-users of the stamps. Why dismiss or minimize the fact many countries deliberately issue stamps which will find their way into collections in mint condition and thus never call upon the issuing governments to fulfill their implied obligation to the purchasers of these stamps? To ignore such basely issued stamps is not realistic.

While one may regret this avowedly mercenary motive, it is a reason nonetheless. Whatever the evils of such issues, the results include, too, some highly attractive stamps, particularly from such stamp factories as Monaco, Liechtenstein, San Marino and others. Laugh, if you will, that these countries have flooded the market with, just as an example, stamps commemorating the Olympic

Games without ever having sent so much as a single athlete to any of the Games. Yet there is still a benefit deriving from such issues: because they are selling beauty and artistry, these small countries have stepped up the entire world's standards of craftsmanship in production. The stamp factories have barefacedly gone out to compete for the sale of their merchandise and in doing so have made it necessary for others to compete on a higher and more qualitative productive plane. Can they be damned for that, no matter how crassly commercial their basic motive? To dismiss these issues entirely would be to admit living in the greatest artistic void imaginable.

One other and far more subtle effect has resulted from the issues flooding from the "stamp factories." These hand-tailored issues are limited, short-lived and very often high in face value. They are often exceedingly difficult to procure genuinely used. Moreover, the pattern they have set now exists even for the issues of many other philatelically purer countries so that the collecting of many modern issues on covers has become a paper chase far too exacting for the man merely with money to spend. One simply cannot, by the sheer weight of a fat bankroll alone, command covers, commercial or philatelic, from every nook and cranny of the globe. In a sense then, with the stepped up appearance of many issues by many countries, the chase becomes more exciting, more equitable for all since the man with the unlimited cash reserves is chopped somewhat to size by the poor but indefatigable searcher-outer. This is as philately should be. This comes nearest to providing the long-sought-for common denominator between Mr. Moneybags and Mr. Church Mouse. There can never be a true equality nor is it entirely obvious or desirable that such a true equality is even desirable. But within certain limits, this equalizing tendency is beneficial, permitting all to participate on more or less even terms in our hobby.

But here I find myself getting beyond the practical and into the philosophical which was not the intention. I have, therefore, formed my collection of material relating to sports and recreation because it appealed to me as a very broad philatelic undertaking. It had, too, the added attraction of being somewhat allied to my vocation, that of a sports col-

umnist in America's newspapers. Had I been a doctor, perhaps my collection would have had to do with medicine and nursing. The material I have shown is from more than 50 different countries. In fact, few countries have failed to issue at least one stamp falling into my topic. And few sports have been neglected in the philatelic sports parade. No era of philately has been skipped. My earliest cover is a British Mulready caricature mailed in 1840 to the Isle of Man and showing various hunting scenes. I have cancellations from the mid 80's, stationery and cards from almost the Dawn Age of this type of material. My pursuits carry me down the pleasant paths of postal history, of geopolitics, international history and economics, of man's pursuit of recreation as well as of knowledge and I live, perhaps in the fond delusion, that my efforts meet the most exacting philatelic tastes. If, alternatively, my net results are not what I fondly hope, then the conclusion to be drawn is not that topical collecting cannot be broad enough to meet these exacting conditions but that I, personally, have failed. It is, you see, entirely within the scope of topical philately to win a position of respect in the parent body of philately. It remains only for the most of us to give a little time and understanding to what the others of us are undertaking.

The showing in the frames was broken down into seven categories: 1: Unused Stamps, 2: Stamps on cover, 3: Varieties and errors, 4: Proofs, essays, specimens, original drawings, 4: Stationery, 5: Cancellations, 6: Miscellany and 7: Covers.

The unused stamps included singles, inscription and plate blocks, miniature and souvenir sheets and full sheets of issues where special inscriptions in the margin makes it desirable, if not mandatory, to collect the entire sheet. Colombia's 1935 sports set, some of the 1896 Greek Olympics with the monetary-change overprints in panes and sheets showing the settings of the overprints, the tab positions on various of the Czech Sokol issues, etc., were featured.

The sports stamps on cover included the Albanian 1946 Balkan Games on a registered card, a flown first day cover of the scarce Aegean Island 1934 Soccer set, the large size 1935 Russian diamond-shaped set on cover as well as many of the early sports issues of Greece showing multiple usage of the 1896

and 1906 Olympic sets.

Included among the varieties and errors shown, an attempt was made to show varieties involving the printing, the paper and the perforating. Printing varieties included omitted, double and inverted surcharge, double frame, missing vignette, wrong type fonts and unremoved guide lines. The usual missing, double and unintentional compound perfs were shown. A few paper varieties were exhibited as well, namely the thick and thin papers used in printing the Czechoslovakia Olympic Congress and Sokol sets of 1925 and 1926 respectively. These, incidentally occur on paper whose watermark may be found in four positions on both the so-called thick and thin papers.

The varieties and errors occurring on sports stamps are many. A few random ones from this showing included the various part perfs and imperfs of the Canada Bluenose, the second Austrian Ski set imperf, the imperfs and inverted surcharges on the Belgium Olympic sets and others.

Mr. Seebacher displayed many proofs, essays and specimens of sports issues and showed an imperf plate pair of the Czechoslovakia Sokol stamp of 1938 wrongly attributed to Heinz, engraver of the ultimate issue but actually the plate proofs of the repeated effort of Seitzinger, the original engraver to work on this issue. Shown also were proofs of the De Coubertain stamps of Haiti, the Canada Bluenose, American Bank Note proofs of Ecuador's 1939 sports set, specimen proof stamps of Colombia's Manizales set of 1937, original drawings by Karl Bauer for the Austrian 1946 "Austria Preis" set, vignette and frame proofs of the French 1924 Olympic set, presentation issues from King Farouk's collection with proof markings in Arabic on the reverse side and the Uruguay 1924 set in full sheets on the yellow paper, properly categorized as essays made for presentation purposes.

Stationery forms a tremendous part of this sports collection but limited space prohibited the showing of more than one frame. Cards and aeropostal stationery, privately printed additions to government stationery, booklets, specimen imprints, commemorative and view cards, locals, folders and semi-officials are but a few of the broad sub-divisions of this large area of sports philately that were displayed.

Similarly the cancellations shown were but

a minute fraction of the available material which embraces slogan, special first-day, special event, hotel and private markings as well as government special event and propaganda cachets.

The catch-all division included such splinter avenues of exploration as U. S. and foreign meters, foreign, U. S. and state revenues, forged stamps and covers, Pioneer aviation, maximum, TCV and post cards, freaks, decrees and circulars by various governments concerning sports issues and any so many others.

In the final cover division, of note was a Fore's Hunting cover hand-colored and addressed to the Isle of Jersey (1840), an Oxford University cover of the same period depicting various sports scenes, a mailed fifth-round cover of the Lincoln-Davis set which in 1862 went through the lines from New Orleans to New Hampshire, particularly desirable in that it is franked on the picture side and is on the scarce yellow paper; corner cards of the 50's and 60's, splits on cover, locals and corner cards of official sports organizations such as various National Olympic committees, to mention but a few.

Meeting of May 15, 1957

United States 19th Century Competition

Seven exhibitors had filled all the wall frames, when President C. W. Wickersham called the meeting to order at 8 p. m.

The President, before opening the meeting proper, announced that the *Alfred F. Lichtenstein Memorial Award for 1957* had been bestowed upon *Harry L. Lindquist*, past president of this club, by the unanimous vote of the Board of Governors, and would be formally presented early in the autumn season.

The President then proceeded to appoint as judges for the evening Messrs. H. D. S. Haverbeck, W. S. Boggs and Charles Brooks. Whereupon he turned the meeting over to Program Chairman Louis Stich. Mr. Stich introduced the exhibitors, whose showings are reported in the order in which they were described by their owners. All material was exhibited for competition in the frames.

Ethel Harper, showing for the first time

"in propria persona" presented three frames of *United States up to the 30c., value used on covers from 1847-1860*. Usages and rates formed the point of emphasis, each item shown having specific interest. Among the material, were the following of special interest:

1847 5c. with straight line "PHILADA. RAIL ROAD" in red. Pair, on cover to Canada, which also illustrated, by manuscript markings, the division of the postal charges.

1847 10c. used from *Quebec, Canada to Detroit, U. S. A.*, the Canadian "Crowned Circle" paid handstruck stamp, being cancelled by the U. S. red grid.

Single used from *Eastport, Maine to Hamilton, Canada*, via Queens-town U. S., and lake steamer, bear-handstruck "SHIP 2" in red. These two covers, were possibly the star pieces of the show.

1851 1c. used as a *Local*, with "U. S. EXPRESS MAIL N. Y." and as a *Carrier* with "PAID" "U. S. MAIL CITY DELIVERY".

1851 10c. type I, with a beautiful impression of "STEILACOOM CITY WT" (Washington Territorial)

A pair, used with 1c. on 3c. embossed envelope addressed to *Buckingham Palace, London*. (24c. rate)

1857 1c. type V, strip of 3, on a Valentine. A pair used with 3c. on 10c. star die embossed envelope, making the 15c. rate from California to Canada West (August 1861).

1857 5c. the four major shades, type I, each in a strip of 3, on covers to Europe, two showing the worn plate.

Edwin Mayer, presenting three frames of *Postal History*, announced that he was taking the word "stamp" in the announcement of the evening to mean "handstamp" as well as an affixed or imprinted prepayment.

His first frame featured Transatlantic Ship Covers with ship name handstamped on them. These were supplemented by two "Mail Route" handstamped covers.

The second frame included six covers on which the postmarks were stencilled, not produced by ordinary handstamping. Two of

these were from Sherwood Corners, N. Y.—with a third one showing the half stencil used after office name was shortened to Sherwood. Further in this frame were 12 pages, 24 covers, of railroad handstamps, including an 1838 cover with the earliest postmark showing name of railroad.

The final frame includes, inter alia, a dozen covers of the Newport, R. I. ovals, mostly in red; plus three handstamped Postmaster Franks.

Stephen G. Rich exhibited Bank Note Issues 1870 to 1879 in three frames, mostly material which had been in the recent International at Bombay, India. Loose stamps and covers were intermingled, according to the logic of the story of these issues. Covers of the 7-cent Bank Note issues were the conspicuous feature, Mr. Rich explaining the difficulty of finding the 7c 1870 grilled and the 7c 1873 Continental alone on cover instead of in combination for higher rates.

Relative frequency of large and small grills on the 1870 issue; the usages for which the 6 cent stamp specifically served, similar usage problems for the 15c both before 1875 and under U. P. U. rates after that date; and the identification of the 30c and 90c 1873, were high points in the showing and remarks.

Mr. Howard Lehman inquired of Mr. Rich as to the cause of the 10c 1879 occurring both with and without the "secret mark." Mr. Rich, after stating that "secret mark" was a misnomer for the etched charges involved, because they were not kept secret but just unnoticed, gave an explanation based upon the plate-maintenance processes then used and the probable retention of the transfer roll for the 10c 1870 in the plate-making material in use in 1879-1881.

Max S. Bass showed one frame of covers from 1842 to 1870. Among the choice, interesting items included were: (by stamps on each):

1842 City Despatch carrier second issue.

1844 Pomeroy independent mail route.

Two covers of the 1845 New York 5c postmaster stamp.

5c St. Louis Bear.

Several 1847 covers, including pairs.

The first U. S. postal card, with affixed stamp.

The first War Stamps: pair 1c 1861 and

single 5c litho. Confederate States.

A fine hand-painted cover with its ornamental hand-painted contents.

Morris Fortgang, exhibiting three frames of the 1c 1851, explained the causes of the eight types of the imperforate 1c stamp. The explanation is based on the size of the complete Type I design which measures slightly more than 1 inch from top to bottom, longer than the designs of any of the other stamps of this series. The plates which Toppan Carpenter, Casilear & Co., used, were some four or five millimeters too short to take the 10 vertical entries. To meet this situation which was discovered after the first three vertical entries were made on the steel plate, the reliefs were trimmed at top and bottom; in addition, short transferring, burnishing and erasure were resorted to. Thus, the full complete Type I design that was approved by the Postmaster General appears on only one position, (7RIE) on the first plate and on none of the other imperforate plates.

Plate I Early, which Mr. Fortgang exhibited in reconstruction, showed four types, Types I, IB, II and IIIA. Plate I Late, a reconstruction of which was also shown, revealed two types, Types II and IV. Plate II, also reconstructed, showed two types, Types II and III. Plate 4 showed no less than 5 types, Types IA, IC, II, III and IIIA. In order to make up for the space lost in showing the full top ornaments in the top horizontal row and the full bottom ornaments in the bottom horizontal row, the designs in the body of the plate were literally mutilated, causing the numerous types on this plate.

There being no space for the manufacturer's imprint at top or bottom of the steel plate, it was omitted entirely, on Plate I Early but when the later plates were made it was discovered that it was possible to enter the imprint at sides.

Mrs. Rose Reiner exhibited three frames of the 1869 issue. A fine array of interesting, unusual cancellation on loose copies and covers formed the bulk of this showing. The covers include several of the scarce 1 cent, drop letter use; several local letters at 2 cents, with a single stamp; strip of 3 of the 2 cent for 6c rate, Texas to Nova Scotia; and combination uses with the previous and subsequent issues.

A used block of 9 of the 3c 1869 was another striking piece.

Mrs. Rae Ehrenberg showed three frames of the U. S. 19th Century Postal Cards. In explaining these, she first pointed to the triple way in which such cards are collected: mint, unused (imprinted on either side but never used), and used. On the reply cards, the separate halves appear in each way as well as when still together, giving 9 possible pieces for each card.

Suggested by P. M. G. Creswell in 1870, postal cards were authorized in 1872, when the Liberty Head card appeared, on water-marked stock. The various types and later the various sizes such as the large Grant card and small blue Grant "Ladies' Card" of 1891, all received due mention.

Turning over the chair to Secretary Malcolm G. O'Reilly, Mr. Haverbeck, then presiding, joined the other judges in their deliberations. While they were at work, a discussion of various features of exhibits took place. Messrs. Seebacher, Mayer, Rich, Lehman and Neinken took part. Several questions which arose in the main showing, but which had been deferred to avoid loss of time, were thus treated.

Returning, Mr. Haverbeck announced the awards:

First: *Ethel Harper*, early issues on cover
Second: *Morris Fortgang*, 1c. 1851
Third: *Edwin Mayer*, Postal History

Whereupon, after some comments upon the strong and interesting features of the four non-winning exhibits, Mr. Haverbeck, presenting the certificates of award to the winners, at 9:45 adjourned the meeting.

Meeting of June 5, 1957

The Stamps of Israel

The exhibitor and speaker had been scheduled as *Mr. Rudolph Sonneborn*. His exhibit covered every issue of the new country of Israel from the first of 1948 to the very latest 1957 stamp. All were shown in full mint sheets, along with some philatelic first day covers, mounted upon album pages with a most admirable artistic presentation. Along with the colorful historic designs on the stamps themselves, many—before and

after the lecture—enjoyed studying the stamps, along with the attractive presentation in the frames.

Due to an important business conference out of New York, Mr. Sonnenborn could not speak personally on his exhibit. In his place, he delegated *Mr. Gottlieb Hammer*, Executive Director, The Jewish Agency for Palestine, New York.

Mr. and Mrs. Hammer were guests of the Board of Governors of The Collectors Club at dinner, preceding the meeting. By the time that the program was opened by President C. W. Wickersham, a large audience gathered, which included many ladies and gentlemen, who are actively associated with Israeli affairs in New York. Besides many distinguished guests, a large number of members attended the final meeting of the 1957 Program, which recessed over the summer months until September.

Now follows a complete report of Mr. Hammer's remarks, which he had written in advance and so kindly turned over to this journal for publication.

The story of Israel's Postage system might properly begin with an account of the Postal Service prevailing in Jerusalem 100 years ago.

At that time, Palestine was a part of the Turkish Empire. Strangely enough, however, there were four different postal systems operating out of Jerusalem—the Turkish, Austrian, French and Russian. The competition among these four national postal systems for Holy Land business was fierce. In 1896 the Turkish Government authorized the opening of a new branch Post Office in the Jewish Quarter of Jerusalem. A Jew by the name of Eliahu Honig was placed in charge; a cancellation in Arabic, French and Hebrew was designed for use out of this Post Office. The Jews, of course, were very proud of this recognition and business boomed.

In 1917, when the British invaded the Holy Land and drove out the Turks, still another type of postal service was added. Egyptian postage stamps with an overprint of the initials "EEF" ('Egyptian Expeditionary Force') served as the recognized postage unit until the Mandatory Regime reorganized the service as a Palestinian Postal System in 1922.

Of course, by this time all the extra-territorial arrangements were terminated.

Any account of the postal history of the Holy Land would be incomplete without mention of the Jewish National Fund and its many interesting issues of stamps. These issues not only served the purpose of raising funds for the Jewish National Fund all over the world, but in times of emergency also served as the postal medium of the country.

The United Nations passed the famous Partition Resolution on November 29, 1947. The next day guerrilla warfare broke out in Palestine. Within a short period of time the British Mandatory power announced its withdrawal and set the date of such withdrawal for the 15th May, 1948.

In preparation for withdrawal, the British Mandatory Government began to withdraw in stages from various Governmental services, the Post Office included. Stocks of stamps were destroyed. Mail delivery throughout the country became an irregular and chaotic matter. The guerrilla war continued and to add to the woes of a sorely pressed people, transportation and communication facilities to the Holy Land were all but completely disrupted. This, of course, affected the delivery of mail from overseas—both airmail and surface mail. The U. S. Post Office returned all mail to senders marked "Undeliverable/Service Suspended". At this point I would like to tell you about the part we—that is, some of my associates and myself,—played in the alleviation of this problem.

We were most eager to re-establish mail communications between the Jews throughout the world and Palestine. We studied the matter most intensively and within a few days came up with the answer. We invoked a little known and practically never-used U. S. postal regulation, which permits anyone to engage in postal affairs provided the requisite amount of United States postage is affixed to the letter and cancelled. The private carrier may then charge whatever the traffic will bear for his own services.

We formed the company called Palestine Emergency Deliveries, Inc. I convened a press conference, explained what we were doing, and the next day we were in business. It was a short-lived affair, only three or four weeks, but in that period of time we handled 26,000 pieces of mail. We would send it by air freight to Paris, where the Jewish Agency office would then put it on a

chartered plane carrying needed supplies to Palestine. In Palestine, the Jewish postal employees saw to it that the letters were delivered.

Palestine Emergency Deliveries, Inc. did not issue any postage stamps per se—it simply used a cancellation stamp bearing the name of the company with a date inserted inside the rubber stamp. This was used to cancel the U. S. postage and also indicate receipt of payment for our services. The charge was the equivalent of the amount of U. S. postage on the letter. It was a profitable venture. When terminated it gave way to a newly established postal service of the State of Israel. My one regret is that I did not have the foresight or the time to secure such a "cover" for my own collection, although it was my project. Today these envelopes bearing the cancellation of Palestine Emergency Deliveries, Inc. are truly collectors' pieces.

All of this that I have related up to this point is by way of introduction to the real story of Israel stamps. It must be borne in mind that the State of Israel was proclaimed on May 14, 1948. The first postage stamps were issued on May 16—two days later.

The Jewish authorities in Palestine had known for five months that they would be taking over responsibility for Government services. It would have been difficult enough had they simply been confronted with the problem of working out the multitude of technical details attendant to the establishment of an orderly Government. But to do this in the face of an hostile occupying power, and while engaged in fighting a war with five hostile Arab States—this was really something to conjure with.

The first stamps that were issued on May 16th were designed to meet the needs—the immediate needs of the population. They were issued in all convenient denominations, ranging from 3 mils up to 1,000 mils. Since these stamps were designed and prepared before the State of Israel was proclaimed (and even before the name of the State was known or decided upon), these stamps bear the inscription "Doar Ivri", which translated from the Hebrew means simply "Hebrew Postage".

But what is most interesting about these first stamps is the design itself. These stamps depict ancient Jewish coins of about

the time of the Second Temple and the era of one of the bravest figures in Jewish history—BAR KOCHBA. The time is about the Year 132-135 A. D. or more than 1800 years ago.

Bar Kochba was a young man, who led the Jewish forces in a revolt against Roman persecution in an attempt to re-establish the Holy Sanctuary after the destruction of the Second Temple. His military feats in leading a small band of brave but determined men against the overwhelming might of the Roman Empire has served to inspire Jews of every generation. The fact that Bar Kochba went down to ultimate defeat was unimportant. What is significant is his courage and devotion to faith, which has served as a shining example to countless generations in need of inspiration and reaffirmation.

It is, therefore, quite natural that a Jewish community, besieged and troubled and without knowing what the final outcome for their struggle of independence would be, should go back into antiquity for the design of their first stamps.

Jews in Israel are sentimental people, constantly living in a modern age, striving for the improvements which science and technology can bring to the everyday life of a progressive people and yet constantly referring back to a rich and ancient heritage for guidance and for inspiration.

The Israel Philatelic Services has been most conservative in the operation of its Post Office. New stamps have been issued in conformity with an already established pattern designed to encourage and strengthen the ties between Israel and the other members of the International community of Nations. It has carefully avoided any tendency to over-issue or to cheapen its own market. Stamps have been designed and issued, not only with an eye to the collector's interest, but to the sentimental interest of Jews throughout the world. But first and foremost these stamps have been issued for "home consumption" not only in the utilitarian but in the spiritual sense as well.

Israel stamps, as I have said, follow a particular pattern; stamps are issued regularly upon the occasion of the High Holy Days. They are issued to commemorate current events of national interest, and stamps are issued to call attention to Biblical events and places.

The first set of Festival Stamps were issued in September, 1948. They bear the inscription, as do all successive Festival issues "Moadim Lesimcha"—Joyous Festivals. It is interesting to note that the first Festival issue shows a "flying scroll" copied from pottery marks from the time of the Kings of Judea. You must remember the date—September, 1948—when the new State, barely four months old and deeply involved in a war for survival, could also think in terms of symbols from the past on which to draw for courage and inspiration to face the future.

The next stamp issue was in February 1949—the Jerusalem stamp. Here again, one must recall the circumstances at that time. The Holy City under siege and bombardment, its population barely existing on starvation rations, its water supply all but cut and here is the stamp showing the Tower of David in the walls of the Old City, while in the forefront are the several roads leading to the City in the ancient tradition of Jews "going up" to Jerusalem, not only in the physical sense but in the spiritual sense as well.

The next stamp issued in March 1949 is the Flag Stamp. The affairs of the New State were beginning to look up a bit and it found expression in the issuance of this stamp—the National Flag.

In May 1949 the first National Stamp Exhibition was held in Tel Aviv. To commemorate the occasion, a souvenir sheet of four stamps was issued. This sheet was on sale only for six days—the duration of the stamp exhibit.

The next stamp issued commemorated the 70th anniversary of the founding of one of the first colonies—Petach Tikvah—and that was the first year's output.

The second year was ushered in with a new series of festival stamps—three in number. These stamps bore the inscription "Joyous Festival" and also included two symbols—one, the seven branch candelabra, emblem of the State, and two, the insignia of each of the armed forces—either the air force, navy or the army.

This was followed by the first regular issue of Coin stamps with a refined design of the coin, as well as new issue of postage due stamps which are not too well known abroad.

In March 1950, a stamp was issued on the

occasion of Israel's entrance into the Universal Postal Union. A very colorful stamp—it shows a running stag, the insignia of the Israel Post Office, in a gallop over a revolving globe.

The next stamp is one of some significance. It was issued on the Second Anniversary of the State of Israel—April 23, 1950. Two stamps stressing the theme of the ingathering of the exiles show, on the one hand, the so-called illegal immigration ships which brought refugees to Israel's shores before her independence, and the second, immigrants arriving in freedom and in security with a figure of a stalwart worker in the foreground dominating the scene.

The next stamp issued was that on the 25th Anniversary of the Hebrew University.

The first airmail stamps were issued in June of 1950. A series of six stamps, all with illustrations of birds. These motifs were copied from ancient Jewish art of the period following the destruction of the Second Temple.

The next stamp issued in August, 1950, was on the occasion of the High Holy Days. These are one of the few sets of stamps which were designed by a non-Israeli. They were designed by the late Arthur Szyk of New Canaan, Connecticut, the well known illustrator and painter, whose distinctive style is easily recognized in the design of these stamps.

I could go on and give you a detailed description of each stamp that was issued but I feel that in doing so I would not only be going beyond the absorptive limits of my audience, but depriving collectors of the joy of discovery in doing their own searching.

I could not conclude my remarks this evening, however, without making a number of incidental observations that might be of interest to you.

Israel stamps continue to be issued in the patterns set by the Postal authorities in the first years. Today, there is strong competition among local designers for the privilege of having their designs accepted for reproduction. Not only are Israelis proud of their stamps but of the men who have produced them. Foremost among them is Willie W. Wind, a young man then living in Tel Aviv, who competed in the United Nations contest and was awarded first prize in 1952. The stamp was just issued on May 27, 1957 at

the United Nations and appeared as a 4c air mail postage stamp and postal card. Among the 26 competing artists, three Israelis have won.

A second bit of information I want to share with you is the fact that the Israel Postal Service will be releasing very shortly a series of four stamps illustrated by drawings of ships. The first is a copy taken from a wall drawing found in a cave at Beth Shearim in the vicinity of Haifa. This shows a Jewish sailing vessel of about 100 A. D.—a common type of sailing ship which plied the Mediterranean, Red and Indian Oceans. The second is a reproduction of a sailing vessel "NIRIT" built about 1910 and was used during the Israel War of Independence for transportation of Jewish Refugees to Israel. The third stamp shows the freighter SHOMRON, just two years old and the largest and fastest of her class in the Israel Merchant Marine. The last is the 10,000 ton cargo passenger ship ZION which plies regularly between New York and Haifa. I know you will forgive me this reference to stamps still unissued when I tell you that my interest in Israel's Merchant Marine is more than nominal. In fact, it is with pardonable pride that I mention the SHOMRON and the ZION for, in addition to my other responsibilities, I am also President of the American Israeli Shipping Company.

And now in conclusion I should like to make reference to Mr. Sonneborn's collection—something which I might have done at the beginning of my remarks, but which I reserve for the last.

Rudolf Sonneborn, as some of you may know, is a New York industrialist and philanthropist who has been deeply interested in Palestine and Israel ever since his first visit to the Holy Land as a young man in 1919.

Mr. Sonneborn is a collector, not a philatelist as you know the term. Mr. Sonneborn collects "firsts". He likes to have souvenirs of his activities in all fields of endeavour and it is against this background that he thought it would be a wonderful idea to have a complete collection of the first five years of Israel stamps. With the assistance of Mrs. Helene Blumkin of the Jewish Agency Stamp Department, Mr. Louis Stich, governor of your Club, who advised on the assembling and presentation of the stamps, and Mr. James MacDonald who designed

and executed the most attractive binders, Mr. Sonneborn has indeed rendered a great service to all who are interested in stamps. I am most grateful to him for having asked me to fill in for him this evening. For me this has been both a privilege and a pleasure.

Following Mr. Hammer, the Program Director called upon the well-known New York stamp dealer, *Jacques Minkus*, to describe TABIL, the International Philatelic Exhibition to be held in Tel Aviv next September. Mr. Minkus will attend as the U. S. Philatelic Representative. He also spoke briefly upon the spectacular commercial rise in the value of Israel stamps, stating that in his many years of stamp dealing, he never experienced a demand as there currently is for Israeli stamps.

After a few questions were put to Mr. Hammer, the meeting closed in a most exciting manner. It has been publicized that due to the spectacular rise in the first issues of Israel, counterfeits have been manufactured and are trying to be distributed. Consequently, many have been seeking the services of the *Expert Committee of The Philatelic Foundation* for assurance that their stamps are genuine. In order to assist this body of philatelic authorities, our member, *Mr. Martin Taub*, presented to *The Philatelic Foundation* a complete collection of Israel stamps 1948-57, each well annotated and beautifully mounted on colorful album pages. Miss Ethel Harper, on behalf of the Chairman of The Philatelic Foundation, accepted this wonderful gift to philately expressing the deep gratitude on behalf of all the trustees to John J. Britt, whom Mr. Taub had delegated to make the donation for him.

Certificates of Appreciation were presented both to Mr. Rudolph Sonnenborn and Mr. Gottlieb Hammer, as the large audience rose with applause, for their appreciation for a most stimulating evening, and what they had learned about a newcomer into world philately.

Meeting Room Air Conditioned

This Club has received a very practical and most needed gift during the summer of 1957. *Ralph S. Von Kohorn* presented us with a large air conditioning unit that has been installed in the ground floor Meeting Room.

Those, who have attended the Club's meeting in the past, particularly in the warmer months, will appreciate this gift, because the Meeting Room often became uncomfortably hot, smoke-filled and plagued with unpleasant odors from nearby restaurant's kitchens when the windows had to be opened. It will be a great comfort now to have our Exhibition Hall fully air conditioned and free from the past discomforts.

The Library Committee reports the acquisition of the following:

A Personal Narrative of the First Aerial Voyage Half Around the World—From London to Australia by Aeroplane by Sir Ross Smith. The National Geographic Magazine, Vol. 39, No. 3. Gift of Mr. William H. Knemeyer.

German Philatelic Review, Vol. 3, No. 4. Gift of Mr. Curtis B. James.

Two Interesting Early French Covers by Cyril F. dos Passos. Reprint from the S. P. A. Journal. Gift of the author.

The Alleged Secret Marks on the 15c Webster by Cyril F. dos Passos. Reprint from the S. P. A. Journal. Gift of the author.

An Apparently Unrecorded Variety of the 10 Cent Blue-Green Reprint of the 1857-60 Issue by Cyril F. dos Passos. Reprint from The Essay-Proof Journal. Presented by the author.

A Problem Concerning the 10c 1861 Type II United States Postage Stamp by Cyril F. dos Passos. Reprint from The American Philatelist. Gift of the author.

Covers, Vol. 1, No. 1-6; Vol. 2, No. 4; Vol. 3, No. 1, No. 5; Vol. 4, No. 6; Vol. 5, No. 1, No. 2, No. 5; Vol. 6, No. 2; Vol. 7, No. 1; Vol. 8, No. 4. Gift of Mr. Stephen G. Rich.

United Nations, Ten Philatelic Years 1945-1955 by Marian Carne Zinsmeister.

Publication of The Society of Philatelic Americans. Gift of Mr. S. G. Rich.

The Postmarks of British New Guinea and Papua to 1942 by Hamilton Croaker. Published by The Hawthorne Press, Melbourne, Australia.

- Collect Some Confederate Stamps Before 1861*, 1957 Revision, by Raynor Hubbell, Griffin, Georgia.
- Catalog of the Imperforate Classic Postal Stamps of Europe* by Edwin Mueller. Published by Heinrich Geitner Ges. m. b. h., Wien, Austria. Gift of the author.
- The Gunesch-Coda Standard Catalog of United States Bureau Issue Precancels*, 4th Edition. Publisher, Richard J. Coda, Sr., Newark, N. J.
- The United States Postage Stamps of the Twentieth Century*, Volumes I, II, III and IV, by Max G. Johl and Beverly S. King. Publication of H. L. Lindquist, New York. Gift of the family of Major Thomas Phillips.
- The United States Commemorative Stamps of the Twentieth Century*, Volumes I and II, by Max G. Johl. Published by H. L. Lindquist, New York. Gift of the family of Major Thomas Phillips.
- The Nineteenth Century Postage Stamps of the United States*. Volumes I and II, by Lester G. Brookman. Publisher, H. L. Lindquist, New York. Gift of the family of Major Thomas Phillips.
- Hawaii, Its Stamps and Postal History* by Henry A. Meyer, Rear Adm. Frederic R. Harris and others. Published by The Philatelic Foundation, New York. Presented by the family of Major Thomas Phillips.
- American Philatelic Dictionary and Colonial and Revolutionary Posts* by Harry M. Konwiser. Publisher, Jacques Minkus, New York. Gift of the family of Major Thomas Phillips.
- Fancy Cancellations on 19th Century United States Postage Stamps* by Michel Zareski and Herman Herst, Jr. Publisher, Herman Herst, Jr., Shrub Oak, N. Y. Presented by the family of Major Thomas Phillips.
- Collectors Club Report of Annual Meeting of 1902*. Gift of Mr. Winthrop S. Boggs.
- The Collectors Club Exhibitions 1916-17*. Gift of Mr. Winthrop S. Boggs.
- Neues Handbuch der Briefmarkenkunde*, Reihe B, Lieferung 1, Deutsches Reich AB 1926, edited by Hellmuth Kricheldorf. Arbeitsgemeinschaft "Neues Handbuch der Briefmarkenkunde e. V.", Frankfurt a.M., Germany. (German)
- Etude des Timbres-Poste et Obliterations de la Sarre 1945-1955* by Paul Staedel. Published by the author, Illkirch-Graffenstaden (Bas-Rhin). (French).
- Ships on Stamps* by H. F. Rayl. Publication of the American Topical Association, Milwaukee, Wisconsin.
- Perforation Centennial Book*, edited by David Lidman. Publication of The 3c 1851-57 Unit of The American Philatelic Society. Gift of Mr. Morris Fortgang.
- Solnik's New Israel Catalogue 1954*. Published by Westmore Stamp Co., Montreal, Canada.
- Addenda to the "Supplement to the Catalogue of the Philatelic Library of the Earl of Crawford, K. T." by Sir Edward D. Bacon, K. C. V. O. Publication of The Royal Philatelic Society, London, London, England. Gift of Mr. Louis K. Robbins.
- Maryland Historical Magazine, Vol. 52, No. 2. Maryland Historical Society, Baltimore, Maryland. Gift of Mr. Michael Miller.
- The Island of Herm and its Local Stamps*, Third Edition, by William Newport. Published by Channel Islands Specialists' Society, London, England.
- Nachtrag 1957 zum Sonderkatalog Ukraine 1918/20* by Dr. Seichter, Soltau. Ukraine - Philatelisten - Verband e. V., Hamburg-Duvenstedt, Germany. (German)
- United States Domestic Postage Rates 1789-1956*. Publication of the Post Office Department, Washington, D. C. Gift of Mr. Sol Whitman.
- Stanley Gibbons' Postage Stamp Catalogue, 1958*, Part III. Stanley Gibbons Ltd., London, England. Gift of the Publisher.
- Philatelic Journals. Gift of Aero Philatelists.
- Origins of the First Two Issues of Postage Stamps of Venezuela*, manuscript translation by Agnes Burlingame. ("Origenes de las dos Primeras Emisiones de las Estampillas de Correo de Venezuela" by Dr. Santiago Hernandez Ron.) Gift of Miss Burlingame and H. M. Goodkind.

- 300 *Jaar Postmerken van Nederland 1570-1870* by P. C. Korteweg. Publisher, J. K. Rietdijk N. V., 's-Gravenhage, Netherlands. (Dutch)
- 300 *Jaar Postmerken van Nederland 1570-1870* by P. C. Korteweg. Publisher, J. K. Rietdijk N. V., 's-Gravenhage, Netherlands. (Dutch) Leather Bound Edition.
- Neuer Ganzsachen-Katalog*, 2 Lieferung, Europa Deutschland, edited by Walter Beckhaus. Berliner Ganzsachen-Sammler-Vereins, Berlin, Germany. (German)
- United Nations Stamps of the World* by Fred F. Breidenbach and Edgar H. B. Parkin. Publication of American Topical Association, Milwaukee, Wisconsin.
- In response to the Want List in THE COLLECTORS CLUB PHILATELIST, Mr. Stanley Hodziewich, Curator of the United States Post Office Department, presented the following bound copies to the Library:
- United States Official Postal Guide*, Nos. 1-4, Oct. 1874-Sept. 1875.
- United States Official Postal Guide*, Nos. 5-8, Oct. 1875-Sept. 1876.
- United States Official Postal Guide*, Nos. 9-12, Oct. 1876-Sept. 1877.
- United States Official Postal Guide*, Nos. 13-16, Oct. 1877-Sept. 1878.
- United States Official Postal Guide*, No. 20, July 1879.
- United States Official Postal Guide*, July 1886-June 1887.
- United States Official Postal Guide*, January 1887.
- United States Official Postal Guide*, January 1896.
- United States Official Postal Guide*, July, 1915.
- United States Official Postal Guide*, July 1917.
- United States Official Postal Guide*, July 1931.
- United States Official Postal Guide*, July 1932.
- United States Official Postal Guide*, July 1933-June 1934.
- United States Official Postal Guide*, July 1934 and Supplements.
- United States Official Postal Guide*, July 1935 and Supplements.
- United States Official Postal Guide*, July 1936 and Supplements.
- E. T. Parker's Priced-List 1902*. Bethlehem, Penna. Gift of the Staten Island Philatelic Society.
- W. Sellschopp & Co.'s Price List of Postage and Revenue Stamps 1902*, San Francisco, Calif. Gift of the Staten Island Philatelic Society.
- The Postage Stamps of Great Britain*, Part Four, by K. M. Beaumont and J. B. M. Stanton. Publication of The Royal Philatelic Society, London, London, England.
- The New South Wales Philatelic Annual 1956*. Published by The Philatelic Society of New South Wales, Sydney, Australia.
- Israel Palestine Philatelist*, Vols. 1, 2 and Supplements. Gift of Mr. Leslie L. Blake.
- Israel Palestine Philatelist*, Vols. 3 to 7. Gift of Mr. Martin Taub.
- The Holy Land & Middle East Philatelic Magazine*, Vol. 1, Nos. 1-3. Gift of Mr. Martin Taub.
- Stamp Collector's Handbook* by Samuel Grossman. Publisher, Longacre Publishing Co., New York.
- Canada Basic Catalogue*. Compiled and published by K. Bileski, Winnipeg, Canada.
- Italian Colonies Price List*. Edited and published by Pierson Ostrow, Burlington, Vermont.
- The Postal Cancellations of London 1840-1890* by H. C. Westley. Publisher, H. F. Johnson, London, England.
- British Line Engraved Stamps Repaired Impressions*, by H. Osborne, M.D. Publication of H. F. Johnson, London, England.
- British Line Engraved Stamps Twopence Blue Studies of Plates 1 to 15*, by H. Osborne, M.D. Published by H. F. Johnson, London, England.
- Catalog of Revenue Stamps of the Allied Military Government in Europe 1945-1954* by Harry Cass and Joseph Bush. Published by Joseph Bush, Chula Vista, Calif.
- Catalog of Ryukyu Islands under U. S. Civil Administration* by Harry Cass and Joseph Bush. Publisher, Joseph Bush, Chula Vista, Calif.

- Rotary International on Stamps.* Edited by Daniel F. Lincoln. Published by American Topical Association, Milwaukee, Wisconsin.
- Ilustrowany Katalog Znaczkow Polskich 1860-1956.* Biuro Wydawnicze "Ruch", Warsaw, Poland. Gift of Mr. Vladislav Kolakowski and Mr. Henry Kraemer. (Polish)
- Covers*, Vol. 8, No. 2. Gift of Mr. Stephen G. Rich.
- Precancel Forum*, Vol. 6, No. 8; Vol. 13, Nos. 3, 4, 11; Vol. 14, No. 9; Vol. 15, No. 4. Gift of Mr. Stephen G. Rich.
- Cahiers Philateliques*, No. 1. Gift of Mr. Stephen G. Rich.
- The Line-Engraved Twopence Postage Stamps of Great Britain* by C. F. Dendy Marshall. Harris Publications, Ltd., London, England.
- Set of photographs of complete reconstruction sheets of Twopenny plates I to VI. Published by Robson Lowe, Ltd., London, England.
- British Line Engraved Stamps Repaired Impressions* by H. Osborne, M.D. Publication of H. F. Johnson, London, Eng.
- How the Adhesive Postage Stamp was Born* by Leah Chalmers. Published by P. S. King & Son, Ltd., London, England.
- Haste, Post, Haste* by George Walker. Publisher, George G. Harrap & Co., Ltd., London, England.
- The Government Dockwra, 1683-1794* by J. K. Sidebottom. Reprint from The Bulletin of the Postal History Society.
- The Inception of Penny Postage and Evolution to the Adhesive Postage Stamp.* Edited and published by L. O. Trivett, Nottingham, England.
- The Post Office at Nottingham.* Edited and published by Arthur William Gane Hall, Nottingham, England.
- The Numeral Obliterations and Instructional Marks of the Channel Islands* by William Newport and John Simpson. Published by the Channel Islands Specialists' Society, London, England.
- Istorija Postanskih Maraka Srbije* by E. Derocco. Izdanje Jugoslovenskog Filatelickog Savez, Belgrade, Yugoslavia. Gift of Mr. R. Rasic.
- Kolar's Catalogue No. 1*, Second Edition. Y. H. Kolar, Givataim, Israel. Gift of Mr. Martin Taub.
- Kolar's Catalogue No. 1*, Third Edition. Y. H. Kolar, Givataim, Israel. Gift of Mr. Martin Taub.
- Simon's Special Israel Catalogue*, Second Edition, 1951. Isidor Simon, Tel-Aviv, Israel. Presented by Mr. Martin Taub.
- Simon's Special Israel Catalogue*, Third Edition, 1952. Isidor Simon, Tel-Aviv, Israel. Gift of Mr. Martin Taub.
- Simon's Special Israel Catalogue*, Fifth Edition, 1954. Isidor Simon, Tel-Aviv, Israel. Gift of Mr. Martin Taub.
- Simon's Special Israel Catalogue*, Sixth Edition, 1955. Isidor Simon, Tel-Aviv, Israel. Gift of Mr. Martin Taub.
- Simon's Special Israel Catalogue*, Seventh Edition, 1956. Isidor Simon, Tel-Aviv, Israel. Gift of Mr. Martin Taub.
- Simon's Special Israel Catalogue*, Eighth Edition, 1957. Isidor Simon, Tel-Aviv, Israel. Gift of Mr. Martin Taub.
- Philatelic Literature. Gift of The Aero Philatelists.
- Album pages from *Postage Stamp Album*, edited and published by J. B. Moens, Brussels, Belgium. 1864. Gift of Mr. Alan R. Fernald.
- Album pages from *Album fur Briefmarken*. Verlag des Literarischen Museum, Leipzig, Germany. 1868. Gift of Mr. Alan R. Fernald.
- Philatelic Journals. Gift of Mr. George T. Turner.
- The American Revenuer*, Vol. 3, No. 11. Gift of Mr. Charles H. Hermann.
- British Postage Stamp Design* by John Easton. Published by Faber and Faber Limited, London, England. Gift of Mr. Bernard Aronstein.
- Early Colorado Mails.* Edited and published by Emerson N. Barker, Denver, Colorado. Gift of Mr. Edward B. Murphy.

At the Board of Governors meeting held in June, 1957, the following new members were elected:

- 4493 Nassim Korgi, Bogota, Colombia. Collects General.
- 4494 P. W. Lampertine, Charleston, W. Va. Collects Afghanistan, Saudi Arabia, Great Britain and Colonies.

(Continued On Page 257)

BOOK REVIEWS

Catalog of the Imperforate Classic Postal Stamps of Europe and Contemporary Postal Envelopes, Letter Sheets and Wrappers by Edwin Mueller. Henrich Geitner Ges. m. b. H., Vienna, Austria, publisher. 1st edition, 1958. 151 pp., plus 15 pp. Introduction and Index. Cloth bound. Price \$6.50 post free from Mercury Stamp Co., 522 5th Avenue, New York 36, N. Y.

The world of philately is fortunate in having as a background of knowledge and reference a number of constructive catalogues published yearly on a national basis. In their respective countries, the Scott, Gibbons, Yvert, Zumstein and Michel catalogues supply valuable information on stamps that have been issued and their values.

However, only specialized catalogues can go beyond the basic value of the single stamp in unused and used condition. A number of such have been issued. The collectors of air mails, United States, Canada, and several European countries have been fortunate in having available information and prices that go considerably beyond the standard general catalogues.

But still missing from all these specialized catalogues were the varying value of condition, particularly applying to the classic issues; and from many the value of rare postmarks, multiples of varying sizes, "on cover" and so on.

Edwin Mueller in his latest "Catalog of the Imperforate Classic Postal Stamps of Europe" has set out to fill this gap. He has done a most excellent job. Mr. Mueller is a recognized expert, with a background of philatelic activity on both sides of the Atlantic, a member of the Friedl Expert Committee, a prolific author, an active dealer and auctioneer.

This particular volume is restricted to the imperforate classic stamps of Europe and the contemporary postal envelopes, letter sheets and wrappers. In the preface Mr. Mueller writes "Perhaps some day we shall be able to issue another catalog covering the classic stamps of the other countries of the world." We can only hope that philatelists everywhere

will support this publication sufficiently to insure that he follows it with catalogs of other continents.

Mr. Mueller has endeavored with great success and accuracy to solve the problem of appraising the value of an item that requires premiums possibly on several counts and discounts on others. The value of a cut-into strip of three of a stamp on a cover with a rare postmark can be discovered in this catalog. But emphasis must be placed on the word "can." Our cataloger has defeated the problem, but has he also "defeated" the user of his catalog?

Mr. Mueller on numerous occasions advises that the reading of the Introduction is essential to full appreciation and understanding of the catalog. The Introduction consists of nine pages, of which the sections directly associated with explanations applying to premiums and discounts cover four.

However, "the brave deserve the fair-price" and for those with a desire to find out the value of a "complicated" item, the catalog will supply the answer, and invariably an accurate one if the ability and the patience of the reader is sufficient. A statement such as "All premiums and discounts listed for the varieties refer to the Basic Prices. When more than one premium or discount applies, each should be applied separately to the basic prices; they should not be applied to prices which already include premiums or discounts. Condition discounts should be given effect to after all premiums or discounts have been applied to the price", seems bewildering at first, but straightens out as one applies it to a particular item.

Let us take a basic stamp cataloguing used \$8 in superb condition. This particular copy has a major re-entry (=x4) and a blue cancellation (=x15).

The re-entry represents \$32 catalog; the blue cancellation \$120. This particular stamp, therefore catalogues \$152.

Alternatively, if we had two superb copies, one of which had a major re-entry and the other a blue cancellation, they together would also catalogue \$152. Would these two stamps each with one premium

point equal one stamp with two premium points? Very probably.

Elsewhere one reads in the Introduction:

"If a multiple consists of stamps in varying condition, the discount should be computed for single stamps according to their condition and the total of the discounts deducted from the price of the multiple."

For instance, in the "Caspary" German States sale there was a Baden, Scott 2a, used block of four, frame line touched in two places. A block of four superb catalogues \$450. The two cut-into copies, which catalogue \$4.50 each, require a discount of 90%, making a total discount of \$8.10 to be subtracted from \$450. This used block, therefore, catalogues \$441.90, whereas a block with margins all round would catalogue \$450, and yet be probably worth several times as much as the poorer block.

Here it would seem that a more realistic figure would be obtained for the Caspary block taking the discount for the stamps that are not very fine on the proportion of the block of four price. The result would then be:

2 stamps at proportion of $\frac{1}{4}$ each	
of \$450	= \$225.00
2 stamps, at proportion of $\frac{1}{4}$ each	
of 90% discount of \$450	= 22.50
	\$247.50

A check of a number of Caspary realizations against Mueller catalogue prices showed with what accuracy prices, premiums, and discounts have been considered.

The following items all adjusted appropriately, and the realizations show a close comparison:

BADEN—Scott 1a, used strip of three—Mueller \$188, realized \$220

BAVARIA—Scott 1, o. g., Mueller \$75, realized \$60

— Scott 1, o. g., sheet margin at left—Mueller \$105, realized \$85

— Scott 1, on piece with black postmark—Mueller \$110, realized \$125

— Scott 1, strip of 3 on surface—Mueller \$515, realized \$1100 (This strip had sheet margin at right, too small to warrant an official premium but nevertheless of importance to the realization.)

However, some low priced items in multiples seem to fall short of market value if your reviewer's calculations are accurate. For example:

BAVARIA 1850-58 9 br. yellow green, strip of 5 on cover, superb; based on 3 times used strip of three price of \$5	= \$15
Cover price of a single	\$ 1
	\$16

This realized \$75 in the Caspary sale.

18 Kr. yellow, strip of 5 on cover, superb, catalogues \$295 in Mueller. Fetched \$500.

1862 3 Kr. rose, top left corner pair, used. Stamp catalogues 10c. corner premium = x60	= \$6.00
Pair Price	.40
	\$6.40

This piece realized \$52.50.

By and large, however, Mr. Mueller has stuck his neck out farther than any other cataloguer has ever dared and, bearing in mind that he has instigated a new practice in cataloguing, he has published pricings which are basically accurate, realistic, and of immeasurable value to all collectors and dealers whose interests include European classics.

This reviewer can only hope that sufficient success will be attained by this first volume to insure the future publication of further catalogues covering the rest of the world of classics in this manner.

(Bernard D. Harmer)

United Nations. Ten Philatelic Years 1945-1955 by Marian Carne Zinsmeister. Published by the S. P. A. as Handbook No. 9. 44 pp., illustrated and indexed. Paper bound. Price \$1 from S. G. Rich, P. O. Box B, Verona, N. J.

United Nations Stamps of the World by Fred F. Breidenbach and Edgar H. B. Parkin. Published by the American Topical Association as Handbook No. 20. 36 pp., illustrated and indexed. Paper bound. Price \$1 from Ennis C. Cleveland, American Topical Association, 5104 W. Wisconsin Ave., Apt. 3, Milwaukee 8, Wisc.

The Printing of United Nations Postage Stamps, a 6-page release issued July 30, 1957 by the United Nations Postal Administration, United Nations, N. Y.

Since the above three were received within a short time of each other, they all can be reviewed together. The first two are booklets selling for a dollar. Anyone conversant with the activities and membership of the A. T. A. or the S. P. A. knows that both of these stamp societies cater mostly to the stamp collector rather than the more mature philatelist. Consequently both books should prove popular.

United Nations stamps for collectors fall into two distinct categories. One covers the stamps issued by the U. N. itself. The other encompasses those issues of sovereign nations honoring this International Organization in some way. To avoid confusion, this distinction must be made clear. In our opinion, it is unfortunate that neither of these booklets stresses this sufficiently. In fact, the Zinsmeister booklet leaves off the U. N. stamps in the middle of page 14 and follows with issues of countries honoring the United Nations without any break or heading.

Both booklets, however, must be admired because they represent great effort done to prove useful to the interested collector. The A. T. A. booklet is almost exclusively a checklist. But it is a very long one showing what a vast field one can collect by choosing the U. N. as his topic. Mrs. Zinsmeister's booklet lists far fewer issues, but her data on each one is much more detailed and interesting. Her notes following each issue offer much information not generally known, thus adding greatly to her publication.

Curiously, both booklets offer a short resumé of the U. N. organization and/or charter. Here again the Zinsmeister work is more detailed. But in this reviewer's opinion, since the theme is stamp collecting, a much more useful addition would have been excerpts from the Postal Agreement between the United Nations and the U. S. Post Office Department. After all, postal use is an essential part of stamp collecting.

Although both works are the product of the same printery, the illustrations in the A. T. A. booklet registered far better than those in the S. P. A. handbook. This is of consequence, because the type of collector, who

will use these, must be aided in stamp identification. However, the Zinsmeister booklet evidences more careful editing, avoiding inverted cuts and offering better layout than the former.

Oddly enough about the same time that these two booklets were received, the United Nations Postal Administration, United Nations, N. Y. sent out a 6-page mimeographed release dated 30 July 1957 and called *The Printing of the United Nations Postage Stamps*. If this is still available, we advise our readers to request a copy. There seems to be no charge, so a request with an enclosed self-addressed stamped envelope might be all that is necessary. In our opinion, this Release contains the most meaty data yet written on United Nations stamps. Since mature philatelists are keenly interested in the production and printing of postal paper, here is the information intelligently presented. As a matter of fact, this reviewer read this Release carefully, because it fully described various modern printing processes universally used that can add to philatelic information for many stamps besides those of the United Nations.

It would strike this reviewer that any future works on U. N. stamps, even if beamed for the space-filling topical collector, should contain some reference to the information set forth in this United Nations Postal Administration July 30, 1957 Release. Of course, the U. N. commemoratives of other nations are not dealt with. But the United Nations itself has issued since 1953 enough stamps and postal stationery, along with various cancellations (both the A. T. A. and S. P. A. booklets hardly touch upon this) to warrant that future books and magazine articles on U. N. issues contain this essential philatelic information. (H. M. G.)

The Postal History Journal (Vol. I, No. 1), official organ of The Postal History Society of The Americas. Edith M. Faulstich, Editor. Available from E. Mayer, 10 East 40 Street, New York 16, N. Y. Price \$1.00.

As a rule, regular periodicals are not reviewed in THE COLLECTORS CLUB PHILATELIST. However, an exception is being made for a very practical reason. Postal History has

grown enormously in America. At first, it faced opposition from certain puritanical thinking philatelists, who with the best of intentions thought that there was no place in philately for Postal History. Events proved them wrong, because more and more mature philatelists were attracted to Postal History.

The difficulty still remains as to the exact boundaries to the field of Postal History. Where does it begin? Where does it end? When does it overlap philately, and what is a common sense relationship between both fields?

An American publication on Postal History can offer an accepted understanding, which still is lacking. After several attempts in the past that unfortunately could not be maintained, a new reactivated Postal History Society in this country has produced its first publication. It is attractive, well edited and profusely illustrated. As an initial effort, it warrants praise. *THE COLLECTORS CLUB PHILATELIST* not only welcomes it, but hopes for a successful future.

This reviewer, however, must level some criticism at this new publication. The articles evidence that a clear understanding of what is Postal History still has not evolved. A few articles seem more philatelic than postal history. This new journal should set the policy and adhere strictly to the rule that only articles on Postal History will be published. Also, some of America's best postal historians were not contributors.

Despite any criticism, there is not the slightest intention but to applaud and encourage the first effort. This reviewer knows how hard *Mr. Edwin Mayer* has worked to get this project under way. The editor too has faced innumerable problems. They are to be congratulated on the results. An active Postal History Society in America will benefit everyone connected with philately. It is hoped that enough collectors will support Postal History to insure a regular scheduled publication like this first effort. Yes, without it, philately will be somewhat poorer. (*H. M. G.*)

THE CLUBHOUSE

(Continued From Page 253)

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United States 20th Century Stamps—Competition by members.

October 2nd

C. W. Wickersham display.

October 16th

Cuba—Dr. B. Cruz Planas.

November 6th

Air Mails of Italy and Colonies—Henry M. Goodkind.

November 20th

Surcharges and Expertization—Herbert Bloch.

December 4th

Research, one stamp, one issue, or Postal marking—Competitive display by members.

December 18th

"Aden"—Albert H. Higgins.

Correction

In the July number of this magazine (Vol. XXXVI, No. 4), two illustrations were transposed in the L. L. Shenfield article on "the Confederate States of America". Fig. 1 on page 161 should have been Fig. 3 on Page 163 and vice versa.

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