

THE

British Guiana Philatelist.

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JULY, 1931.

No. 101

BRITISH GUIANA CENTENARY COMMEMORATIVES.

[BY THE EDITOR.]

AFTER a lapse of eighteen years and without offence to her modesty, British Guiana, leaving cautiously alone any questions of exigency, is seen to blossom forth with an artistic and beautiful, if not handsome, line-engraved set of five stamps issued in honour of the Centenary of the union of the three counties, of Demerary, Essequibo and Berbice.

The thought of the desirability to recall to one's mind such a noteworthy event in the Colony's history by a special issue of stamps must reflect creditably upon the Hon. A. R. F. Webber, F.R.G.S., etc., who, it will be remembered, at the annual session of the Legislative Council on the 5th November last year was responsible for the suggestion.

In the following month designs were called for and subsequently sent on to London, it is understood, for final selection. The matter thereafter remained for whatever reason, absolutely quiet until the following notice was issued by the Postmaster General on the 21st June :—

B.G. CENTENARY STAMPS.

ISSUE ON SALE FROM JULY 21.

FIVE DENOMINATIONS PRINTED.

Postmasters and other Post Office issuing officers of the British Guiana Post Office are being advised that the Department is about to issue to them five special British Guiana Centenary Postage and Revenue stamps. The stamps are to be placed on sale at all Post Offices on the 21st July, 1931, and will remain on sale until the supply, which is limited to one print only, is exhausted. As the 21st July, 1931, is a Public holiday, special arrangements will be made at the General Post Office, Georgetown, for the sale of the Centenary Stamps and also for the registration of letters from 7 a.m. to 10 a.m. No stamps can, under any circumstances, be issued before the morning of the 21st July, 1931. The issue is being permitted to be sold in London to dealers by the Crown Agents on and from the same date.

The printing of the following denominations and numbers of stamps has been arranged :—

(Continued on page 3).

The British Guiana Philatelist,

INCORPORATING

The British Guiana Philatelic Journal.

Subscription Rates Prepaid.

Per annum 1/-
Singly 7d.

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supply you with B.G.P.

Edited by WALTER A. HUSBANDS.



MOTTO:

Aut Optimum Aut Nihil.

JULY, 1931.

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P.O. Box, 292.

Georgetown, Demerara, British Guiana.

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" ... 8/- " "
Per inch... 2/6 " "

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Contract Ads. for no less
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Local Rates on application
from Advt. Manager, V.P.S.

P.O. Box 292,

Georgetown,
British Guiana.

FOREWORD.

IN producing this number, it is needless to say how proud we are to make our appearance again, realising as we do, both from our own honest and faithful deductions as well as the indications of our friends in other parts of the Globe that our efforts have been readily appreciated in the past. But inasmuch as this had been so, lack of support in the advertisement columns must portray before one's eyes the anxious strain that must add seriously to the labours of those responsible for its production. However, duty calls, for by the incorporation of the British Guiana Philatelic Journal with this paper, we feel our presence even more needed and will be heralded by all our supporters and friends in the universe. We shall appear January and July as a half-yearly.

Subscription to Journal only. Oversea or Local 1/- per annum.

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

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

Letters of enquiry must contain return postage.

All remittances must be by Postal or Money Order payable to Victory Philatelic Society. Stamps not accepted.

MSS. and anything of Philatelic interest must be sent in not later than 15th of month of date of issue, and marked "Editorial" in top left hand corner.

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

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

Georgetown, Demerara,
British Guiana.

EDITORIAL NOTES.

It is learnt that a few kindred spirits of the cult of philately have been responsible for the formation of a stamp section in the Y.M.C.A. quite recently. One is glad to note this particularly because Mr. Russell Rickford, our Honorary Assistant Secretary, is associated with it. Let us all hope it has come to stay.

The usual annual convention of the American Philatelic Society will take place at Memphis, Tennessee, from September 14 to September 19 this year.

In British Guiana that fascinating branch—*aerophilately*—is having its fair complement of adherents and one is looking forward to the formation in the very near future of some club or union whereby the adepts of this phase of collecting may be better informed of proposed flights and new routes.

One cent.—420,000, printed in sheets of 120 stamps, 200 sheets in each packet, numbered 1 to 200.

Two cents.—5,000,000, printed in sheets of 120 stamps, 200 sheets in each packet, numbered 1 to 200.

Four cents.—600,000, printed in sheets of 120 stamps, 200 sheets in each packet, numbered 1 to 200.

Six cents.—240,000, printed in sheets of 120 stamps, 200 sheets in each packet, numbered 1 to 200.

One dollar.—24,000, printed in sheets of 120 stamps, 200 sheets in each packet, numbered 1 to 200.

During the sale of the new Centenary Stamps of the 1, 2, 4 and 6 cent denominations, the present stamps of these denominations will be withdrawn from sale except in the case of these stamps in booklets form, the sale of the present stamp booklets being continued.

The dollar stamps will be similar in design to the approved design for the four cent stamps showing a view of the Kaieteur Falls. Other details of the designs and colours of the stamps are not yet available, but will be made known as soon as possible. Any application for the new Centenary stamps which may be made by post, should be addressed to the Postmaster General, Georgetown, British Guiana, and the remittance to cover cost should include an amount sufficient to cover return postages and registration fee, and should be made only by means of Postal Orders or Money Orders. Cash, Notes or Cheques should not be remitted.

The following subsequent notice describing the stamps was given us on the 8th July:—
BRITISH GUIANA CENTENARY POSTAGE AND REVENUE STAMPS.

DESCRIPTION:—

1 cent.—Vignette showing view "Ploughing a Rice Field" with border surmounted with name of Colony and three counties, *i.e.*, Essequibo, Demerara and Berbice, and the years 1831 and 1931. Duty tablets and words "Postage and Revenue" at the base. Single colour stamp printed in green on white C. A. script watermarked paper in sheets of 120 stamps by direct plate process.

2 cent.—Vignette depicting "Indian shooting fish" with border surmounted with a portrait of H.M. King George V., name of Colony and the years 1831 and 1931. Duty tablets and words "Postage and Revenue" at the base. Single colour stamp printed in brown as above.

4 cent.—Vignette showing view "Kaieteur Falls" with border same as 2 cent duty, with 4 cent duty tablets, etc., at the base. Single colour printed in red as above.

6 cent.—Vignette showing view "Public Buildings," Georgetown, with border same as 1 cent duty, the words British Guiana being in oval frame with 6 cent duty tablets, etc., at the base. Single colour stamp printed in blue as above.

\$1.—Design same as 4 cent duty with \$1 duty tablets, etc., at the base. Single colour stamp printed in mauve as above.

Size of Stamp.— $1\frac{1}{16}'' \times 1\frac{5}{16}''$ including perforations.

Further enquiries elicited that the one cent and six cents were of oblong shape while the two cents, four cents and one dollar were upright. Printed by Messrs. Waterlow and Sons, Limited, and without any control numbers while the perforation measured 14. The two cents were also printed in sheets of 60 as well as 120. The stamps are line-engraved.

The quantity retained by the Crown Agents for sale to dealers are as follows:—

One cent	...	...	24,000	copies.
Two cents	...	...	18,000	"
Four cents	...	...	15,000	"
Six cents	...	...	12,000	"
One Dollar	...	...	4,000	"

Apparently the vignettes, in each case, were taken from the British Guiana Handbook but as to the person responsible for the border or frame line, one can only surmise.

Accordingly these stamps were placed on sale on the 21st July—a public holiday—special arrangements having been made by the Postmaster General for the franking of letters posted on day of issue with a special cachet.

AIR MAIL NOTES AND NEWS.

(Special Mail).

GRAF ZEPPELIN.

ITINERARY OF VOYAGE.

The German airship "Graf Zeppelin" will start from Friedrichshafen, Germany, on her first voyage to the Arctic Ocean and the North Pole region on or about July 15th, 1931. The first stop on this voyage will be at Berlin for the purpose of replenishing the fuel supply. The second stop will be at Leningrad for the same reason. The airship will then proceed North to the coast of Northern Siberia, then on over the Arctic Ocean to Franz Josephs Land and Nicholas II. Land. From Franz Josephs Land the ship will cruise over the Arctic Ocean toward the Polar Region, possibly as far as the North Pole. It is planned during this cruise for the ship to get in contact with and to meet the Wilkins-Ellsworth expedition aboard the submarine "Nautilus." The "Nautilus" is scheduled to sail from Spitzbergen on or about July 12th.

It is furthermore planned to meet a Russian expedition of scientists aboard an icebreaker of the Russian Government, which will be operating in the Arctic Ocean during the months of July and August.

By arrangement with the German Post Office Department, the airship "Graf Zeppelin" will carry mail on this trip. It is planned, if contact with the "Nautilus" and the Russian icebreaker is established, to transfer mail from the airship to the submarine and the icebreaker, which mail will then be carried back by the submarine and icebreaker.

The Russian Government established last year on Franz Josephs Land a meteorological observation camp, which is also an authorized post office. This is the northernmost post office in the world, only about 500 miles from the North Pole. The "Graf Zeppelin" will carry on board amongst others, a Russian scientist, who will be let off the "Graf Zeppelin" at Franz Josephs Land to join the meteorological station there. Another member of that station will be taken aboard the "Graf Zeppelin" in exchange at that point. At the same time mail will be delivered. This mail will receive a Russian cachet in the Franz Josephs Land post office and will be returned by means of dog sleds and icebreakers some time later during the summer.

In order to enable American philatelists to take advantage of this special service and to dispatch letters and postcards by the "Graf Zeppelin" on this trip this office will collect such mail under the conditions set forth below and attend to its proper dispatch by the "Graf Zeppelin." A guarantee for the proper return to the sender and/or addressee of the mail so received by us and dispatched by the airship is expressly excluded. Covers and postcards received at this office, properly addressed and marked, will be sent to our agents or offices in Friedrichshafen and/or Berlin, Germany, by registered mail, there to receive proper German air mail postage stamps. The mail will then be placed into the hands of the German postal authorities and, after making the trip, be returned to the addressee by ordinary mail.

The rates per letter at which mail will be carried are as set forth below. A surcharge of 10c. for each letter and 5c. for each postal card will be assessed on the rates as set forth, to cover the cost of handling, assorting and numbering the mail, forwarding it by registered mail to Germany, affixing the stamps in Germany and delivering it to the German postal authorities.

Friedrichshafen via Arctic to	
Friedrichshafen, Roundtrip ...	\$1 10
Berlin via Arctic to Berlin Round-	
trip ...	1 10
Berlin via Arctic to Friedrich-	
shafen, Roundtrip ...	1 10
Friedrichshafen, drop mail to sub-	
marine "Nautilus" ...	2 10
Berlin drop mail to submarine	
"Nautilus" ...	2 10
Friedrichshafen drop mail to Franz	
Josephs Land ...	1 10
Berlin drop mail to Franz Josephs	
Land ...	1 10
Friedrichshafen drop mail to Rus-	
sian icebreaker ...	1 10
Berlin drop mail to Russian ice-	
breaker ...	1 10

ALL POSTAL CARDS AT HALF RATE.

Special cachets for this first Arctic voyage will be used on the mail carried.

This office has made arrangements with the consent of the U.S. Postal Authorities to collect, list and number letters and postal cards which are addressed to be dispatched via "Graf Zeppelin"; from ports of call in Germany to forward them to Germany and to affix German stamps prior to dispatch via airship. The flight will start on or after July 15th. All letters and postal cards that are to be dispatched via "Graf Zeppelin"

from either Friedrichshafen or Berlin and to bear German postal stamps, must be marked: via "Graf Zeppelin" From (place of departure) to (place of destination or ship to which mail is to be dropped). They should carry a proper mailing address in the U.S. or elsewhere.

All letters and postcards for mailing at Friedrichshafen or Berlin should be sent to the undersigned office under cover, enclosing certified cheque or money order to the amount of the applicable rates. This office will then assort, list and number letters and cards, and despatch them to their agents or offices at Friedrichshafen or Berlin.

These arrangements have been made as a matter of convenience to collectors, and the dispatch by the airship "Graf Zeppelin" is not guaranteed. Mail to be dispatched via "Graf Zeppelin" with German stamps at Friedrichshafen or Berlin should be mailed to reach this office not later than Friday, July 3rd, at 12 noon.

It is expressly understood that the senders of mail will have no claim originating from or based on the use of this service.

Luftschiffbau Zeppelin, G.M.B.H.

F. W. VON MEISTER,
Special U.S. Representative,
578, Madison Ave.,
New York, N.Y.

Curacao to British Guiana.—On the 13th May last a first flight despatch from Curacao was received at Georgetown containing 21 letters made up of 9 registered and 12 ordinary articles. No special cachet was applied at Curacao but all the letters were dated on the 7th May, and in all events show proof of hasty preparation. Mail was backstamped "Air Mail G.P.O. BRITISH GUIANA 13 MAY 1931" with usual circular date stamp. The Service which was operated by the Pan American Airways, Inc., was discontinued at the end of June.

Salvador, C.A., to British Guiana.—From Salvador, Central America, there was received at Georgetown on the 15th inst. a first flight air mail comprising about 30 pieces. The entire mail bear special cachet thus:—

PRIMER CORRED AEREO
EL SALVADOR A
GUAYANA INGLESA
10 DE JULIO DE 1931
SAN SALVADOR. C.A.

and is backstamped "Air Mail G.P.O. BRITISH GUIANA. 15 Jy. 31."

Paris-New York via Georgetown.—In aid of and under the auspices of the Red Cross Mission of France, a special flight is scheduled to take off on the 1st of August next by way of Dakar, Natal, Parnahyba, Macapa, Cayenne, Georgetown, Caracas, Panama, Vera Cruz, Miami and thence to New York. A special stamp is likely to be issued and the cost of despatch per letter which must not exceed 8 gr. is 25 francs plus the registration fee. Collectors desiring their envelopes to be autographed will pay an extra fee of 50 francs per letter, which fee will be credited to the Mission. The mail will be limited and no one person may despatch more than 10 letters. Further no mail will be taken in course of the route for intermediate stops but only for the return point and all such mail accepted must not exceed 1 kilo. per port.

Colombia.—Our Colombian correspondent reports that the Scadia Air Mail service has by a recent decree been declared a part of the Government service and will be under the direct control of the Government of the Colombian Republic.

Santos—Montevideo.—Our correspondent at San Juan informs that F.A.M. 10, operated by the Pan American Airways, Inc. 'planes is likely to be completed from Santos to Montevideo on or about August 12.

THE DO-X.

A rather glum and lurid sky have overhung the DO-X on her recent big hop and one now wonders what has become of the mail, some of which taken on the initial stages have been held up nearly seven months. Mr. Manoel Fernandes of this City, a V.P.S. member, is in receipt of a DO-X cover which is believed to be the only one addressed to this port from Portugal. Posted and obliterated at Lisbon on the 28th January, 1931, and carrying the DO-X cancellation of the 30th January, 1931, along with special diamond-shaped Europe-South America cachet as well as square cachet in German with a map and plane flying over, this cover was flown for months until the DO-X's mishap at Brasil where it was backstamped, 22. 4. 31. It seems as if the idea of sending on the mails was later conceived as this cover was then mis-sent by steamer to Bermuda on the 7th July, 1931, and finally reached Georgetown on the 23rd July, 1931.

SOME BRITISH GUIANA RARITIES.



The familiarly known "Patimus" issue of British Guiana, 1852. Unique 1c. Magenta. Superb horizontal strip of four with margin from sheet on original cover. Owned by the late A. D. Ferguson, now had by Frank Godden, Ltd.



The first discovered pair of 2c. rose of 1850 unearthed and purchased in 1888 by Mr. E. C. Luard from a resident of the Mahaica district. This pair changed hands with Pemberton, Wilson & Co., who subsequently sold it to Baron Von Ferrari in 1889 for the sum of £175. It finally fetched £1,410 at the second Ferrari sale in Paris in October, 1921.

BRITISH GUIANA

CHECK LIST OF AIR MAIL FIRST
FLIGHTS.

FROM SEPTEMBER, 1929, TO FEBRUARY, 1931.

By W. A. HUSBANDS,

made possible and brought more up to date by information kindly released by Mr. F. Birkitt, Postmaster General, from the Official Records of his department.

(All rights reserved).

Origin.	Destination.	Date Despatched.	Quantity Flown.
British Guiana to Paramaribo,			
"	Suriname	...23. 9.29	... 376
"	Trinidad	...25. 9.29	... 446
"	St. Lucia	...25. 9.29	... 97
"	Antigua	...25. 9.29	... 78
"	San Juan, P.R.	...25. 9.29	... 544
"	St. Thomas, V.I.	25. 9.29	... 32
"	Cuba	...25. 9.29	... —
"	Haiti	.. 25. 9.29	... 04
"	San Domingo,		
"	Dom. Rep.	...25. 9.29	... 08
"	Miami, U.S.A.	...25. 9.29	.. 1,034
	BRAZIL:—		
"	Bahia	...12. 3.30	... 04
"	Pernambuco	...12. 3.30	... 11
"	Rio de Janeiro	12. 3.30	... 88
"	Argentine	...12. 3.30	... 44
"	Uruguay	...12. 3.30	... 31
	VENEZUELA:—		
"	Caracas	...12. 5.30	... 09
"	Bahamas	... 2. 4.30	... —
"	British Honduras	2. 4.30	... 06
"	Canal Zone	... 2. 4.30	... —
"	Costa Rica	... 2. 4.30	... 06
"	Panama	... 2. 4.30	... —
"	Mexico	.. 2. 4.30	...None
"	Jamaica	...19.12.30	... 103
"	French Guiana	...31.12.30	... 106
"	Curacao	... 6. 2.31	... 51
	VENEZUELA:—		
"	La Guaira	... 6. 2.31	... 04
"	Maturin	... 6. 2.31	... 07
"	Nicaragua	... 6. 2.31	... 30
"	Rep. of Honduras	6. 2.31	... 29
"	Salvador, C.A.	... 6. 2.31	... 29
"	Guatemala	... 6. 2.31	... 29
"	Columbia	... 6. 2.31	... 33
"	Ecuador	.. 6. 2.31	... 36
"	Peru	... 6. 2.31	... 28
"	Chile	... 6. 2.31	... 28
"	Mexico	... 6. 2.31	... 03

In compiling the above, care has been taken to list only occasions on which mail was officially sent off by the British Guiana post office and not mere despatches for linking on a first flight from another point like British Guiana to Grenada via Trinidad when a first took place between Trinidad and Grenada on the occasion of an excursion flight. "Firsts" by particular companies to points already covered are also excluded from the above list.

In a few instances, quantities have been found to be less by reason of inclusion of in-transit mails.

It is hoped to be able to prepare at some future date in book form a complete history of the air mail in British Guiana from 1921 or earlier with a statistical record of all first flight mail received at and despatched from Georgetown, giving wherever possible full descriptions of cachets or other special markings and dates.

A VICTORY'S MEETING.

The usual meeting for the month of June took place at the President's residence in Mundy Street when members were treated to some small but very interesting exhibits provided by Messrs. C. D'Ornellas and W. A. Husbands.

Among those present were Messrs. A. H. July (President in the Chair), R. A. Savory, C. D. D'Ornellas, R. H. Cendrecourt, Jno. Byer, L. V. Vaughan, O. Camacho (Hony. Treasurer), W. A. Husbands (Hony. Secretary) and Russell Rickford (Hony. Asst. Secretary).

The usual business for the evening having been carried through, a good deal of discussion took place on the proposed issue of Centenary Postage and Revenue stamps of the Colony and it was decided to make certain recommendations to the Postmaster General with regard to the placing on sale, etc., of same.

The question of resuscitating the Society's Journal then engaged the attention of the meeting for some considerable time and resulted in a unanimous finding that it was an absolute necessity and a fillip to the Society. It was consequently agreed to re-start publication as a half-yearly with the issue of July 31.

Messrs. D'Ornellas and Husbands then opened up their exhibits, the former displaying a very fine collection of Turks and Caicos Islands and Trinidad, while the latter exhibited a magnificent and nicely arranged collection of first flight air mail covers and mint air stamps containing a number of very rare covers, a feature of which were those autographed by famous pilots.

A hearty vote of thanks was accorded the exhibitors after which the meeting rose with the usual courtesies.

ADVANTAGES OFFERED TO PROSPECTIVE MEMBERS OF THE VICTORY PHILATELIC SOCIETY.

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

Oversea Members - - 4/- per annum.

Local Members may have particulars on application to the

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

MOPHILA.

THE INTERNATIONAL EXHIBITION OF MODERN PHILATELY AT HAMBURG.

Information and several copies have just reached us of the provisional programme of one of Europe's greatest international philatelic exhibitions organised by the Association of Philatelic Journalists in Hamburg with the support of the International Federation of Philately and the Union of German Philatelic Societies.

The exhibition which is to take place from 22nd to 30th August seems assured of success and those responsible for the arrangements have endeavoured to make the name "Hamburg" live long in the memories of visitors by the many excursions and tours to various places in and around Hamburg.

Among the many attractions on the programme apart from the Philatelic aspect are : (a) A great public free fête on Sunday evening, August 23, with dancing tombola, cabaret, etc., in the Uhlenhorster Fährhaus ; (b) Visit to the Reimtsma Cigarette works on Tuesday, August 25 ; (c) Gala performance at a local theatre same night ; (d) Visit to the Piano manufacturing works of Messrs. Steinway and Sons. (e) Garden Fête in Hagenbech's Animal Park on Thursday, August 27, and a steamer trip to Blankenese on August 28.

WHAT ARE THE BEST STAMPS ?

We are constantly having to tell collectors what are the best stamps to go in for. We never mind helping them even though everybody wants to know what are the best stamps to buy as an investment and because the money element is always predominant, it gets a little wearying. It has, of course, been present always, but in the dear old days of long ago we remember that pleasure from stamps did count for something. It does still, but it is now the aim to get rich by stamps. Of course everybody now recommends the purchase of air stamps, and events have proved they are extremely good and full of promise. The world of stamps seems to have changed completely in, say, the last ten years. A decade ago, we'd have said—"Collect what stamps you fancy, and provided you are a capable philatelist, and make a serious study of your stamps, you need not worry about future finance, for the chances are you will realize a satisfactory profit." Even now there are times when we feel this advice holds good.—W.E.P.

NEW ISSUES, NOTES, AND DISCOVERIES.

Australia.—Our correspondent at Melbourne informs that a new pictorial set of stamps is in preparation and will include several animals and birds common to Australia.

Abyssinia is to have a set of 7 air stamps to be issued in August.

Brazil.—In commemoration of the recent revolution a series of fourteen values showing portraits of the various statesmen responsible for the change of Government, were issued, several copies of which have been sent us by various correspondents.

British Guiana.—In honour of the union of the three counties Demerary, Essequibo and Berbice, a centenary commemorative set of five values were issued on the 21st July. The values are 1c., 2c., 4c., 6c., and a \$1. These are fully described elsewhere in this issue.

Curacao.—The 3c. green numeral type which recently had been provisionally surcharged 2½c. in small red figures were made invalid for postage on May 15 last. 100,000 were surcharged.

Jamaica.—It is learnt that a new design for the 2½d. and 6d. stamps has been approved and new stamps likely to appear soon.

New Zealand.—Our old friend Mr.

Henderson informs that new pictorial stamps for this Dominion will appear late in 1931. The set will comprise 15 values from $\frac{1}{4}$ d. to 3/-.

Suriname.—For the occasion of the DO-X the giant seaplane which is expected at Paramaribo around the middle of August, it is understood the complete set of present air mail stamps will be overprinted with the word DO-X and probably the date, month and year.

TOPICS OF THE TIMES.

Society Meetings.—The ever-increasing problem of making Society meetings of interest to those who take the trouble of attending is one of the greatest importance to the advancement of the hobby. Sitting perhaps in a stuffy atmosphere to listen to a number of reports and statements and a horde of other business, to say the least of a few dry as dust letters that must be found in every one's correspondence surely detract from any meeting and rather kill interest. This stereotyped form of conducting general business before Displays and papers may be regarded as somewhat primeval. Improved methods are needed and the sooner general business is confined to special general and committee meetings, the better.

Stamp Designs.—With but few exceptions, the stamps of the British Colonies are far from being attractive or interesting from a propaganda point of view and on the other hand lack distinctiveness and originality. This, doubtless, has been due to the rather conservative policy of most colonial governments in keeping behind the screen much too much of what would do more good than harm. More over stamp designing is a distinct art, most studied and only of real interest to those who, by their intimate knowledge of the thousands of postal emissions of the world, are in a position to appreciate it, yet in soliciting the advice of these folks there has been a blind wilfulness, which, to say the least, has been responsible for not a few of the outstanding atrocities that are to be found in colonial stamp designs.

Removing Stamps from Letters.—Much to one's disgust the illicit practice of removing stamps from letters continue without any redress to the owners. Times over and again stamps are removed from letters arriving in this colony and especially those having for their origin Latin American countries and because of the fact that it is hard to tell at which

point the offence was perpetrated the matter veritably falls to the ground. Recently a registered air mail letter sent from Georgetown to a certain Latin American country did not find its addressee in consequence of which it was returned within an officially postmarked envelope—a most irregular manner—to the sender and lo and behold, part of the postage paid was removed. Why the letter was not returned through the R.L.O. at Georgetown seems more than queer.

Silly Fellows.—Inasmuch as one cares not to interfere with bridge party gatherings and the rest of them, one cannot but throw down the gauntlet to the class of young men of the present age, who because of their inability to make good in certain fields indulge in sneering condemnations of large classes and sections of their fellow beings; this sort of talk sounds big, but is in fact puerile. Dispute it, if you may. "Honour all men" is one of the many texts of combined sanctity and sapience. A good man will as much as possible strive to be shaken out of himself, and learn to study the excellences of persons and parties to whom he is naturally opposed. Life is too short to foster unreasonable hatreds and prejudices. Anyone can fly in the air and things too.

The following culled from the "Philatelic Trader" is printed for general information:—

RECORD STAMP FRAUD.

NEGRO WITH FORTY-ONE ALIASES.

The American Stamp Dealers' Association (Victor W. Rotnem, General Secretary, 22, Exchange Place, New York City) announces that through its services the most extensive fraud operation yet known to the stamp world has been solved. As a result of careful collection of evidence on behalf of its investigation department, the organisation was able to turn over to the Post Office Department an almost complete case against J. Franklin Johnson.

The following statement was circulated to the American newspapers:—

"Alleged to have swindled collectors of rare stamps valued at thousands of dollars, J. Franklin Johnson, negro, said to have operated under forty-one aliases, is under arrest here pending removal to Baltimore.

"According to the postal inspectors who made the arrest, Johnson swindled some of the leading philatelists in the nation. In his

room was found a sack containing hundreds of stamps, many of them valuable. He was held in \$2,500 bail for the Federal Grand Jury to-day.

"Johnson's system was so successful that for five years he escaped arrest until he was trapped by a registered letter, the authorities said.

"Johnson, it is said, established mailing addresses in the large cities using an alias for each place. He advertised in American stamp collectors' publications that he paid the highest prices for valuable stamps and referred collectors to one or more of his aliases, it is said.

"When references were sought the letters were forwarded to Johnson, who would write a favourable reference for himself and send the letter to the city to which the inquiry had been sent. There it was mailed to the inquiring collector, who, as a rule, promptly sent the stamps to Johnson. That was the last the collector heard of Johnson, who, upon receiving the stamps, sold them, sometimes for high prices, the authorities asserted."

CHECK OVER THESE NAMES.

Johnson operated principally under the following aliases:—

Dearborn Credit Co., 2067, Broadway, New York City.

Mr. P. Dexter, 1611, Great Northern Building, Chicago, Ill.

Lee M. Greene, 623, Sewell Street, Baltimore, Md.

Lee M. Greene, 530, Burgundy Street, Baltimore, Md.

Donald Greer, Philadelphia.

Maurice Holman, 1228, Park Row Building, New York City.

M. Holman, c/o Great Northern Railway, Chicago, Ill.

Hamilton Stamp Co., 530, Burgundy Street, Baltimore, Md.

Mr. J. W. Johnson, 623, Sewell Street, Baltimore, Md.

Mr. F. Johnson, Baltimore Stamp Co., 623, Sewell St., Baltimore, Md.

Kenwood Moore Co., 2067, Broadway, New York City.

Mark Co., 917, Independence Trust Building, Providence, R.I.

Luther McNeal, 623, Sewell Street, Baltimore, Md.

Luther McNeal, 2065, Broadway, New York City.

Paramount Philatelic Co., Philadelphia.

Plymouth Stamp Co., 463, Cyrus Place Bronx, N.Y.

Plymouth Stamp Mart, 403, West Biddle Street, Baltimore, Md.

Plymouth Stamp Mart, 530, Burgundy Street, Baltimore, Md.

Plymouth Co., 623, Sewell Street, Baltimore, Md.

S. S. Ridgley, Philadelphia.

Arthur Tolliver, 917, Independence Trust Building, Providence, R.I.

Arthur Tolliver, 1611, Great Northern Building, Chicago, Ill.

Wabash Stamp Co., 1611, Great Northern Building, Chicago, Ill.

Investigation continues on the above matters.

Any dealer or collector who has been victimised by this party is requested to write the General Secretary at the above address, furnishing details as to the merchandise involved and mentioning "The Philatelic Trader." The organisation will co-operate with the Post Office Department, in whose hands the recovered merchandise is in safe keeping. Persons who have suffered loss will please appreciate that the Government has to take certain safeguards regarding the identification of this merchandise, as a result of which, considerable red tape is necessary. It will probably be fully a year before the Government will be able to release the merchandise to parties who have been victimised. The procedure will be quickened and simplified if all collectors and dealers will turn over their data to this office.

Among the names Mr. Johnson used as aliases, was Stephen S. Ridgely, 3121, Brighton Street, Baltimore, Md. Mr. Ridgely is, of course, entirely innocent in this matter. His name was used by Mr. Johnson as part of the scheme.

STOP PRESS.

As the result of information acquired from the P.M.G., Georgetown, we learn that P.O. sales of stamps for the month of July, 1931, were \$4,000 in excess of the corresponding month of the previous year. This is obviously due to sale of Centenary stamps.