

BRITISH

GUIANA.

Official Organ
OF THE
Victory Philatelic Society.

6d.

Motto :—*Aut Optimum Aut Nihil.*

❖ The ❖
**British Guiana
Philatelist.**

EDITED BY W. A. HUSBANDS.

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THE

British Guiana Philatelist.

VOL. 1.

OCTOBER, 1925.

No. 2.

THE 1888-89 ISSUE OF BRITISH GUIANA.

THE "Stamp Duties Management Ordinance, No. 4 of 1888," having enacted a number of additional duties for revenue purposes payable by means of stamps and to come into force from the 1st of October of the said year, a notice appeared in the "Official Gazette" for the 22nd of September, 1888, authorizing the use of postage stamps for revenue purposes. Previous to the passing of the Ordinance, the Crown Agents had informed the Government of British Guiana that the contractors were absolutely unable to prepare a new series of combined postage and revenue stamps in so short a space of time and required at least four months to do so. The Commissioners therefore met and decided that it was an absolute necessity to have a provisional issue to cope with the Ordinance so passed. Special printings were therefore made from the Postage Stamp Plates then existing in doubly fugitive inks without expressions of value and the required values added in the form of an overprint with the words "INLAND REVENUE" in two lines of sans-serif capitals at the top and bottom of the stamp. The entire engraving and printing was done by Messrs. De La Rue & Co. (contractors to the Government). They were all of the same design and included values from one cent to five dollars. The overprint and denomination were in black. All the cent values were printed in a dull purple while, the dollar values were in green. This provisional issue was quickly despatched and arrived in the colony towards the end of September, but was never put on sale until the 5th of October of the same year. A few months after the Postal Commission met and decided that the 2c. stamp should be withdrawn and at least one-half of the stock be overprinted with the figure 2 in red so as to obviate the fraudulent conversion of the 2c. into 72c. which they had detected. It was therefore withdrawn, surcharged and re-issued on the 5th July, 1889.

There are dangerous forgeries existing of the 72c. which are very hard to detect without the aid of a millimetre gauge and the most scrupulous inspection. There are also many minor varieties such as the large "2" in red broken, without a tail and so on but all inverted overprints and double overprints never existed officially; being of private manufacture. In 1889, however, the combined postage and revenue key-plate series came to hand and were put on sale in September of the same year which necessitated the withdrawal of the Inland Revenue provisional issues. The Government, however, did not fail to make use of the stamps on hand and in the following year, 1890, surcharged locally all the dollar values with the words "one cent" in red.

THE British Guiana Philatelist.

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Edited by WALTER A. HUSBANDS.

MOTTO:
Aut Optimum Aut Nihil.

OCTOBER, 1925.

All oversea communications to W. A. HUSBANDS, 24, George Street, Georgetown, Demerara, British Guiana, Local communications to respective Managers as under.

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FOREWORD.

With so many letters of congratulations from our brother philatelists, all over the Globe, we are inspired to pursue our work with the same enthusiasm with which we started and to strive to obtain that mark of excellence which is always pleasing to readers, without associating in our minds the slightest signs of bafflement or defeat. It is our determination to make this magazine interesting and for this reason we desire our readers to criticise us quite freely whenever necessary. *Aller Anfang ist schwer*,—all beginnings are difficult, as the German proverb says; and the more excellent the task the greater the difficulty. Difficult things are, however, the only things worth doing and they are done by a determined will and a strong hand;

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 preceding date of issue. Rejected MSS. will not be returned.

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

All Editorial letters to W. HUSBANDS, 24, George Street, Georgetown, Demerara, British Guiana.

All local Advertisements to P. WATSON, Church and Queen Streets, Georgetown, Demerara.

All other business communications regarding Subscriptions, etc., to R. A. SAVORY, 224, New Market Street, Georgetown, Demerara.

EDITORIAL NOTES.

Not many years ago Stamps (Postage) were classed with coins, seals, and post-cards. Now they rank with Government securities. The others are under the shade of the bush.

The sale of unused postage stamps to stamp collectors represent a substantial part of the colonial revenue. Should we not be specially catered for? And for many other reasons doesn't British Guiana need a

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Letters of enquiry must contain return postage.

change of design? We are rather patriotic; only twice have we issued stamps not bearing the coat-of-arms of the colony and that was in 1850 and 1898.

Do you like our magazine?—then help us boost it.

Send us your Subscription or your Advertisement.

Send us five friends' subscription and get yours free.

Twenty years ago collectors hunted around and collected single specimens; now they have got to buy specialised collections or consult the dealer or the Auction Room. This is evident proof that the cult has now a larger band of disciples than twenty years ago.

V. P. S. MEETING.

MONTH OF JULY.

The members of the Victory Philatelic Society were given an exceptional display of single specimens and two complete collections when they assembled at St. George's School Hall on Friday, 10th July, at 8.30 p.m. In the absence of the President, Mr. A. H. July, Mr. P. Watson occupied the chair and among others present were Messrs. R. A. Savory, E. W. Savory, P. A. Driffield, F. Gomes, B. S. Knights, O. Comacho with W. Husbands, Hony. Secretary, and Mr. G. S. Johnson (Engineer—Commander).

After the usual business the Chairman called upon Mr. Johnson for his display who after making a few preliminary remarks of his 15 years in the navy, his travels, and the sources from which he had obtained some of his gems, passed around sheet after sheet of a most magnificent array of single specimens which included many rare Sydney Views, Nova Scotia's, Cape of Good Hope Triangulars and superb blocks of 6 and 8 of most of the 5/- Capes, rare Bahamas, Victoria 1st issues, Virgin Islands, Trinidad Britannia types, Naples rare $\frac{1}{2}$ tornese blue lightly cancelled, Tasmania (Vandiemens) and many other superb items. In addition to the above two practically complete collections of Mesopotamia and Persia were opened up to the eyes of a large number of members and aroused considerable attention. These contained a number of superb unlisted errors mint and used which the owner was lucky to lay hand on during his stay in the said Colonies during the war, when he was able to visit the post-offices quite frequently.

A hearty vote of thanks was proposed by the Chairman, seconded by Mr. R. A. Savory, and carried unanimously to the exhibitor for his much appreciated display.

BRITISH GUIANA AIR SERVICE.

MAJOR HEMMING REPORTS RESULT OF SURVEY.

The following is the copy of a letter from the Aircraft Operating Company, Limited, London, to Colonial Secretary, dated 23rd July, 1924, which has been released to us for publication.

On Behalf of the West Indian Aerial Transport Co., Ltd.

SIR.—I returned from my expedition up the Mazaruni River on the afternoon of the 19th instant, having made a complete survey of the river as far as the Kurafaru Falls some 250 miles up the river from Georgetown. From the point of view of acquiring data for landing sites, and sub-bases on the river, the survey was a success, towards which Mr. A. J. Cheong, the surveyor lent by the Government, largely contributed. As the result of this expedition, Mr. Cheong was able to add considerable information to the map of the upper reaches of the river, and a map is now being prepared by him based on this information. On behalf of the interests I represent I wish to record my appreciation of the Government's action, in permitting me the use of Mr. Cheong's valuable services.

I wish to record the fact that the survey was carried out when the river was high, although it fell some four feet on the return journey. This prevented my seeing the rocks and sandbanks that might menace my flying operations in the dry season. I feel confident that the sites I have selected will be suitable in the dry season, as Manoel A. Pequeno, the captain of the boat chartered by me from Messrs. Evan Wong and Son, was able to describe the conditions of each site selected as they would exist in the dry season. My experience of the way in which the boat was handled and the comparatively short time in which the journey was completed, gave me confidence in the information supplied by the captain. In certain cases on the return journey, I was able to see rocks that had been covered on the up journey, but of which the captain had given me the position. The arrangements made by Messrs. Evan Wong & Son were excellent.

FEASIBILITY OF SERVICE.

I do not propose at this juncture to touch on the feasibility of the air service from the financial point of view, as this matter must be left until my report has been considered by my Directors in England, and to a large extent the financial condition of the service will be affected by the insurance rates, and these rates cannot be established until that portion of my report dealing with the matter has been considered by the Insurance Group.

Leaving out the financial consideration for the present I can definitely state that, in my opinion, an air service can be safely operated on the Georgetown Bartica-Kurafaru route, provided certain necessary precautions are taken, and certain facilities are given by the Government, particularly in relation to wireless and weather reports.

POLICY FOR DEVELOPMENT.

In the hope that my views under this heading will not be considered as a presumption on my part, seeing that they touch on the policy of the Government, I strongly recommend that the Government keep control of any flying operations carried out within the colony. My reasons for saying this are as follows :—

(a) The undeveloped state of the interior, the tropical conditions, the lack of sufficient data as to actual flying conditions necessitate an experimental service at the start.

(b) The varying conditions in the different rivers require in each case a suitable survey, before passengers should be allowed to be carried.

(c) The lack of detail on the existing maps, especially in relation to islands in the rivers, will probably necessitate aerial maps being made of the routes.

(d) It is doubtful if those interested in the diamond industry on the Mazaruni would be able to provide sufficient loads at the start to warrant a daily service up the river. An intermittent service becomes expensive unless machines can be used in other directions. I think that an air service so organised that it can fly up the Mazaruni, or other suitable rivers, or connect with say Berbice and Morawhanna, and with Trinidad, and also carry out photographic surveys from the air, will be of more immediate value to the colony, rather than a service solely confined to a single route. Such a service would be of value to the

Government for administration purposes, for mails and for survey and forestry work. It would benefit the business man by putting him within an hour or so of the interior by air. It would enable certain pork-knockers to travel between the diamond fields and Georgetown quickly. It would provide valuable facilities for the carriage of certain freight, and finally it should encourage the development of the interior, and the investment of money in the colony, as it will provide the financier and mining engineer with an efficient and quick means of getting into the country and of carrying out surveys, etc.

Such a service can only be organised on a sound policy of regular development on experience gained. This means locking up capital at the start of operations, with the knowledge that it will not bear interest unless either a Government subsidy is provided, or some means of protection given that will enable those who carry out the experimental work, to reap the benefits that are bound to accrue to a successful air service, operating in an undeveloped country like British Guiana, which has such obvious possibilities.

(To be continued).

ST. KITTS-NEVIS TERCENTENARIES, 1923.

HARRY E. HUBER.

The sale of the St. Kitts-Nevis Tercenary stamps, issued January 2nd, 1923, ceased on December 31st, 1923, in accordance with section 5 of the Order in Council made 15th December, 1922, viz. :—

"On and after the first day of January, 1923, and until the 31st day of December, 1923, special stamps of the design and denomination set out herein may be used in the Presidency of St. Christopher and Nevis, concurrently with the uniform stamps now in use throughout the colony of the Leeward Islands."

In all, 211,704 of these stamps (£3,953 13s. 0½d.) were sold locally and 66,947 (£2,648 11s. 4½d.) by the Crown Agents in London, a total of 278,651 stamps (£6,602 4s. 5d.). The official return of the stamps

sold (locally and by the Crown Agents) follows:—

½d.	44,865	£	93	9	4½
1d.	77,302		322	1	10
1½d.	17,954		112	4	3
2d.	76,181		634	16	10
2½d.	11,937		124	6	10½
3d.	15,467		193	6	9
6d.	10,648		266	4	0
1s.	8,680		434	0	0
2s.	4,901		490	2	0
2/6	4,089		511	2	6
5s.	3,068		767	0	0
10s.	1,811		905	10	0
£1	1,748		1,748	0	0
278,651		£	6,602	4	5

The remainders with a face value slightly in excess of £11,000 were burned on March 7, 1924, just as were those of the 1903 series subsequent to the issue on May 15, 1920, of the double medallion series. Approximately, £2,270 was taken as "normal stamp sales for the year," and the balance £4,331 earmarked for the Warner Park account.

In addressing the Legislative Council of the United Presidency of St. Christopher and Nevis on February 14, 1924, the Administrator, Major J. A. Burdon, C.M.G., dwelt at length upon the very unsatisfactory condition of the Presidency, and the many adverse conditions during 1923, which had contributed to it. "In St. Kitts, the sugar crop (on which the finances of the Government so largely depend) was less than half of what we should normally have a right to expect; in Nevis, there was acute distress for a time, and in Anguilla, starvation nearly approaching famine conditions." And further, "the amount estimated from the sale of our Tercentenary stamps was very far from realised."

There is one greatly desired improvement for which I deeply regret being unable to recommend expenditure at present; the tangible commemoration of our Tercentenary by the provision of a Warner Park. I believe that an open park and recreation ground on the lines of the Victoria Park at Antigua could be provided and maintained without great expense, and that such a park would be an inestimable boon to the inhabitants, and especially to the sport of the island. I should esteem it a great honour to be associated with marking in this way the name

of my greatest predecessor. The issue of Tercentenary stamps was approved with this step in view, and the £4,331, which has accrued therefrom (after allowing for the normal revenue from the sale of stamps) should be considered earmarked for this purpose, to be devoted when prosperous times return. But with the present poverty of the Government and the still worse outlook, I cannot justify to my conscience the proposal to spend money on what is after all luxury even though a justifiable and greatly desired luxury. (To other minds, this is considered not so much a luxury, but a sanitary necessity).

BARBADOS.

HARRY E. HUBER.

On April 1st, 1920, the 1d. War Tax on letters to the British Empire, and the U.S.A., in effect since October 15, 1917, was removed, but in 1921 the Empire letter rate was raised to 2d. and in the following year, this was made applicable to U.S.A. letters. The inland letter rate remained at 1d.

Advantage was not taken by Barbados of the postal increases permitted by the seventh Congress of the U.P.U. held at Madrid, in November, 1920, and the foreign post cards and letter rates remain unchanged at 1d. and 2½d. respectively, which accounts for red and blue being retained as the colors of these values. The registration fee also remains at 2d.

Coincident with the issue of the unified Postage and Revenue series on April 1st, 1925, the 1d. letter rate to the British Empire and the U.S.A. was restored, which action it is expected will result in a loss to the Post Office of between £1,500 and £2,000 in the next year.

POST OFFICE NOTICE.

"From and after the 1st day of April next, the postage on letters from Barbados for the United Kingdom, all British Possessions, and the United States of America, including Porto Rico, Hawaii, Alaska, St. Thomas and the United States Virgin Islands, will be at the rate of one penny per ounce or fraction of an ounce.

H. H. HEATH,
"Colonial Postmaster."

"Colonial Post Office,
10th March, 1925."

The numbers of letters and post cards dis-

patched abroad in recent years are shown in the following tabulation :—

	United Kingdom & British Empire.	U.S.A.	Foreign.
<i>Letters—</i>			
1920 ...	399,741	259,833	55,644
1921 ...	371,203	247,512	83,761
1922 ...	320,093	241,338	51,366
1923 ...	312,045	285,196	61,348
<i>Post Cards—</i>			
1920 ...	18,284	24,259	4,253
1921 ...	14,245	10,553	2,083
1922 ...	13,619	9,717	2,104
1923 ...	13,385	16,567	1,238

To produce the large quantity requisitioned of the 1d. Postage and Revenue series, (almost 2 million copies), probably necessitated the manufacture of more than one plate. The writer has a block of this value with plate number 1 in the left margin (inside the double marginal line), opposite the fourth horizontal row. All values of this series are printed in sheets of 80 stamps (10 horizontal by 8 vertical), undivided.

The perforation is very badly centered on many stamps of this, and the small Seal series of 1921, which undesirable feature is found also in the current stamps of Bermuda, Cayman Islands, St. Vincent, and the Turks and Caicos Islands, all of which are produced from single working line engraved plates.

Following the issue of the Postage & Revenue stamps on 1st April, 1925, the remainders of the obsolete series in stock were burned. These comprised the $\frac{1}{2}$ d. and $2\frac{1}{2}$ d. of the large Seal series (1916), the 3s. Victory (1920), and all values of the small Seal series 1921, excepting the 1s. which had previously exhausted.

Between April 1st and June 22nd, 1916, large quantities of all values (except $\frac{1}{2}$ d. and $\frac{1}{4}$ d.) of the King's head and Seal series of 1912 postage stamps, were overprinted locally "REVENUE" (the $2\frac{1}{2}$ d. was additionally surcharged "One Penny"), pending receipt of definite fiscal stamps from London. These latter were issued June 22nd, 1916, and in addition to the lower values, included the high duties of 5s. 10s. £1. and £5. With the exception of the 1d. all were embossed from stock dies, and overprinted in black across the center "BARBADOS."

The 1d. oddly enough was printed from the key and duty plates of the 1d. King's head and Seal Postage stamp of the 1912 series, in double fugitive lilac (instead of red), on chalk surfaced paper, watermarked multiple

Crown and CA (since 1921, on script CA), and overprinted in black caps across the center "REVENUE." The stamps were as before in sheets of 120, 2 panes of 60 each, with a single marginal line surrounding each pane, and the keyplate number 1 twice in the upper and lower margins, over and under the 2nd and 5th stamps of the left and right panes.

Their use to produce the 1d. fiscal stamp explains the existence of these plates in 1917, for manufacturing the 1d. red War Tax stamps, issued October 10, 1917. It had been expected that the 1d. of the large Seal series (June, 1916) would be overprinted WAR TAX, but as the Postal Surtax Act, 1917, provided (in section 4) that the money raised by this surtax (in force from October 15, 1917, to March 31st, 1920), should be credited to a special war account, it was desired that the stamp be easily and quickly distinguishable from the 1d. postage stamp; since the two could not be used interchangeably. It was only after March 31st, 1920, that the 1d. War Tax stamp was sanctioned for ordinary postal use.

THE "MAYFAIR" FIND.

At present there is a world-wide excitement over the discovery of a chest full of unsuspected rarities of old stamps. The find is one which is probably the largest in the history of philately and one which has made London prominent in a big stamp find. This is the story of the discovery.

About sixty-one years ago when stamp collecting was in its infancy, a young man thought it best to purchase his stamps from the Colonial postmasters rather than worry his friends and thus he acquired such present-day gems that many a collector is yearning for, amongst them being sheets of Ceylon, Grenada, Queensland, British Columbia, and others; a detailed list is given below. Quite recently a titled lady, who prefers to remain anonymous, was searching in an attic of a mansion and discovered this treasure-trove. Mr. Harmer, the Bond Street expert and auctioneer, was subsequently called in and at a glance declared the find to be worth about £10,000. There can be no doubt, however, that this find will eclipse all previous records for a single day's sale and will probably reach the £15,000 mark. This proves that Mr. Harmer is to the fore with his sales.

Those interested in this big find and desiring to cable bids to Mr. Harmer may make appli-

cation to the Secretary of the Victory Philatelic Society for Illustrated Auction Catalogues which will be willingly sent. Sale takes place towards the end of October. See the advertisement on the back page of this issue.

The find comprises :—

BRITISH COLUMBIA : 1861, perf. 14, 2½d. red-dish rose, complete sheet of 240 with margins (four panes of sixty); and part sheet of 118 with margins.

CEYLON : 1858, ½d. imperf. on white glazed paper, complete sheet of 120 with full margins; and another sheet, from which two stamps have been removed (118).

GRENADA : 1861, no. wmk., 1d. green, six complete sheets of 120, each with full margins; and a broken sheet of 96.

NATAL : 1863, thick paper, no. wmk., perf. 13, 1d. lake, four blocks of fifteen, two blocks of twelve, three blocks of nine; 1864, wmk. CC, perf. 12½, 6d. lilac, mint block of seven.

QUEENSLAND : 1862-63-67 (?), thick paper, no. wmk., 1d. orange-vermilion, part sheet of ninety-two, perf. 12½ square by pin perf. 12; and an almost complete sheet of 229, mixed perms.

Thick paper, no. wmk., 2d. blue, square perf. 12½ by pin perf. 13, part sheet of 106 with margins and showing twelve vertical pairs imperf. between; also a corner block of sixteen with margins; 3d. brown, perf. 12½ by 13, block of forty-nine with margins; 6d. yellow-green, perf. 12½ by 13, block of twenty-two.

WESTERN AUSTRALIA : 1854, 4d. blue, corner block of twelve with margins, showing two marked Transfer varieties, S.G. g and i; 1861, clean cut 14-16 2d. blue; block of forty-nine; 6d. purple-brown, block of seven; 1864 no. wmk., perf. 13, 1d. carmine-rose, corner block of eighty with margins.

IONIAN ISLANDS : (½d.) orange, complete sheet of 120; and block of fifty-nine. (1d.) blue, two complete sheets of 120, and broken sheets of 119, 100 and 96. (2d.) carmine, eight complete sheets of 120, and broken sheets of 117 and 114.

THURN AND TAXIS (Northern District) : 1859-60, ½ sgr. pale red, block of 104; 2 sgr. rose, block of thirty-five; 1862-64, ½ sgr. blue-green, block of sixty-five; ½ sgr. orange, block of ninety; 1 sgr. roset block of forty.

HAMBURG : 1859, first issue complete, in brilliant mint condition, mostly with marginal numbers.

BERGEDORF, LUBECK : Various strips.

FINLAND : 1860, tooth 1½ mm., 5 kop. blue, block of three; 10 kop. deep rose, strip of three; various reprints of first issue.

SWEDEN : 1858, 5 öre green, vertical pair; 9 öre lilac, vertical strip of six; 12 öre blue, vertical strip of ten; 24 öre orange, vertical strip of five and pair; 30 öre brown, vertical strip of eight; 50 öre carmine, vertical strip of six pair and single; 1862, 3 öre brown, block of ten.

AUSTRIAN ITALY : 1863, perf. 14, 3 soldi, two pairs; 10 soldi, pair; 15 soldi, pair and single.

Bermuda.—From the Philatelic Magazine, we learn that Mr. R. Roberts reports new shades in the ship design of this Colony in the following values ½d. deep yellowish green; 2½d. deep olive.

British Guiana.—Mr. R. A. Savory sends us for inspection a 2 cent orange of 1876 with inverted watermark. We also chronicle the 6 cents grey black and ultramarine of 1905-7 and 2 cents blue-purple current with inverted watermark.

Stamps in Booklets.—On 15th August there appeared a notice in the "Official Gazette" preceding the sale of British Guiana Postage Stamps in Booklets and on the 24th inst., booklets which contained twelve 1c. stamps and eighteen 2 cents stamps on script paper were put on sale at every Post Office. The booklet opens from left to right. There is nothing worthy of mention, save they are both on thicker paper and the 1 cent in a distinctly deeper shade. Most of the stamps are badly centred and the perforations all badly cut. They are sold at 49 cents each booklet.

Falkland Islands.—The 6d. value with script watermark has been sent out to this colony by the Crown Agents for the first time.

Gibraltar.—The 2/6, 5/-, 10/- and £5 values on Script are now on order.

Newfoundland.—The 12c. deep blue (Ptarmigan) of 1897, one of the series of the Commemorative issue of 400th anniversary of the discovery of Newfoundland by Jean Cabot and 60th year of Queen Victoria's reign) has been discovered with TWELVE for TWELVE. In the 1c, blue green of 1897—1901 the Bar from A in Newfoundland is missing, and in the Coronation issue of 1911 the 3c. (Prince of Wales design) brown-red is discovered with PRINCE for PRINCE.

St. Kitts-Nevis.—The 1½d. Script in red is now on order.

Trinidad.—The 1/- black on green on Script paper is on order. Postage Due Stamps of this Colony are now no longer allowed to be sold to the public.

Wallis and Futuna Islands.—From the Australian Stamp Journal we cull the fol-

NEW ISSUES AND DISCOVERIES.

Antigua.—The 3d. purple on yellow on Script paper of this Colony has been sent us for inspection.

lowing new surcharges :—On 1920 Issue.—65 cents on 40 cents carmine on green ; 85 cents on 75 cents olive.

[Pressure on our space impedes further chronicles—Ed.]

N.B.—Correspondents are requested to give early information of new issues stating whenever possible the date of issue, design, paper, printers, etc., etc.

Communications to the Editor.

EVENTS AND PERSONALIA

Schoolboy's Exhibition.—London is to have another Exhibition from the 2nd to the 8th of January next in the Horticultural Hall, Vincent Square, Westminster, a place that should live long in the minds of the seniors who were privileged to visit the same during May 14th to 26th, 1923. 'Tis true 'an opportunity once lost can never be regained.' This time the Exhibition has been organised by the Schoolboys' Exhibition Organisation Committee and will be confined to boys and girls under 18 years of age.

Serious Accident.—We regret to mention that our treasurer, Mr. Orlando Camacho, is still a patient in the Colonial Hospital as a result of a collision with a cart whilst riding his motor cycle in which he broke his hip (pelvis bone) and sustained several bruises. He is progressing slowly and it is hoped that he will be able to leave hospital by the time this issue is off the press. The accident occurred on 2nd August, en route from the East Coast.

Mr. A. D. Ferguson, F.R.P.S.L.—We learn with enthusiasm that Mr. Ferguson has been placed on the Roll of Distinguished Philatelists, and was called upon to sign the Roll at the Cambridge Congress. We feel that Mr. Ferguson's honour is also the Colony's honour as he was born at Georgetown. We tender him our heartiest congratulations.

Canadian Philatelic Exhibition.—The third Canadian Philatelic Exhibition organised by the St. Lawrence Stamp Collectors and under the distinguished patronage of The Governor-General of Canada (Lord Byng of Vimy), the Lieutenant-Governor of Quebec, the Postmaster General, the Prime Minister of Quebec and the Mayor of Montreal will take place from the 5th to the 9th of October this year at La Salle Dorée, Mount Royal Hotel, Montreal. The Hon.

orary Secretary is Mr. T. M. Barrington, 616 Victoria Avenue, Westmount, Quebec, Canada.

OBITUARY.

Sir Frederic Mitchell Hodgson.—The death of Sir Frederic Mitchell Hodgson, K.C.M.G., late Governor of British Guiana, which occurred at 21 Rosary Gardens, South Kensington, on the 5th August last in his 74th year was subject matter for great discussion amongst his many friends. Sir Frederic was a general collector and a very prominent and notable philatelist. He was appointed Postmaster General of British Guiana, 1882-88 prior to his Governorship. He was Patron of the British Guiana Philatelic Society during his residue and will be well remembered by the members of that Society. At the time of his death he was an honorary member of the British Guiana Philatelic Society.—To our colleagues we tender our deep sympathy.

Mr. George Husbands.—The death occurred at 24, George Street, Georgetown, on the 20th September of Mr. George Husbands, senior clerk to Mr. McLean Ogle, barrister-at-law, and father of our Hon. Secretary, Mr. W. Husbands. The deceased, through his congenial and clement disposition, had a wide circle of friends who have greatly regretted his death. He was engaged in the legal circle for 34 years. In his boyhood days he was interested in Stamp-collecting but subsequently gave it up. The deceased was 51 years of age. His funeral was largely attended, the interment taking place at St. Sidwell's cemetery. He leaves a wife and five children to mourn his loss. We tender our deep sympathy to his relatives.

TOPICS OF THE TIMES.

S. G. Catalogue.—The work on Stanley Gibbons 1926 Catalogue is now in preparation and it is understood both volumes will be ready in October. A general and extensive revision has been reported and a vast alteration in prices. Part I and II can now be had bound in one volume or separately as desired. A special interleaved edition to facilitate the writing up of notes and price alterations has been a new feature and ought to be assured of success.

Penny Postage A Necessity.—War has indeed deprived us of one of our greatest pleasures—penny postage. It was then our

bounden duty and like true Britishers we were cheerful to bear the impost. Now that it is seven years since the great war has been brought to a close, we think it is high time that penny postage be restored. Many British Colonies have already returned to penny postage, even little Barbados is again to the front of the other West Indian Colonies, Jamaica being 1½d. and to say nothing of the foreign Colonies on account of the rates of exchanges which is sometimes only a fraction of a penny. In a country like British Guiana which has got the material and needs development, we urge the necessity for a reduction. The present high rates, even on printed matter, is seriously stifling and handicapping the trade of the country. The majority of letter-writers write and post under an absolute necessity, and some of our local firms have vowed to make as little use of the postal services as possible and employ boys to distribute their circulars and accounts paying but a few shillings per week for what would cost them sometimes £1 at the rate of one cent for every circular or account. When will the policy of pleasing the public most be strictly adhered to?

Abandon Registered.—One way to convince the P. O. Department that its present registration is outrageous is to use the private insurance coupon. You can save 10c. on each letter and get the same protection. There's not a country that charges as much as the U. S.—A. C. Roessler's *Airplane Stamp News*.

THE BEGINNERS OWN PAGE.

We are endeavouring to assist the Junior collectors by reproducing from the Stamp Lover the first of a series of lessons issued some years ago in the interests of beginners by the New England Stamp Company of Boston, U.S.A.

LESSON NO. 1.—(Contd.)

Stamp Tongs.—Never handle stamps, especially uncanceled specimens, with the fingers. The beauty of a stamp lies in its appearance, and a soiled specimen is never attractive. Always use a pair of Stamp Tongs. After you have once become accustomed to using them you will never be without them.

Hinges.—When mounting stamps in your Album always use a peelable hinge. To mount a stamp correctly, attach one quarter inch of one end of the hinge to the stamp; then turn the hinge back so that the fold will

come exactly even with the edge of the stamp, and in the case of a perforated stamp have the fold even with the outer edge of the perforation. This enables you to turn the stamp over for examination without injury. When mounting a long vertical stamp, as for example, some of the U.S. Revenues, always hinge them on the left side and attach the hinge lengthwise. They lay closer to the page and are not so apt to flap when turning the leaves.

Watermark Detector.—Acquire the habit of examining your stamps. Learn to look for watermarks. A good many times the watermark determines the date of issue. In some stamps the watermark is easily detected by holding it against a black surface, but in most cases you have to resort to other methods. Procure a small, shallow glass, the bottom of which has been coated with black enamel, lay your stamp in it face down, and by wetting it freely with refined benzine, the watermark will show itself in dark lines.

Perforation gauge and Millimetre scale.—Other things to watch out for are perforations and dimensions of surcharges, dies, etc., all of which will help you to properly classify your stamps, and aid in detecting counterfeits.

A perforation gauge and millimetre scale is an inexpensive article, and should always be at hand.

Magnifying Glass.—There are numbers of minor differences, secret marks, etc., that a good student of Philately wants to know the detection of which is very trying to the eyes, and is made easy by frequent use of a good glass! Spare your eyesight and know your stamps.

Guide Books For The Beginner.—The following are useful books the beginner in Stamp Collecting should read. Some may be borrowed from the nearest lending Library (regrettably these books are not to be had from Libraries in this Colony—Editor) but it is a good plan to buy some of them for keeps. To have a good guide-book at hand will prove useful, so we give the published price of each book.

"The New A.B.C. of Stamp Collecting" by Fred J. Melville. Price 2/6 (Post Free 2/9).

"Postage Stamp Collecting" by R. P. Croom Johnson. Price 1/6 (Post Free 1/9).

"Stamp Collecting for Pleasure and Profit" by D. B. Armstrong. Price 2/- (Post Free 2/3)

To be had from all leading Booksellers in England and U.S.A.

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