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COLLECTORS CLUB PHILATELIST

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COLLECTORS CLUB PHILATELIST

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Vol. XXV. JULY, 1946 No. 3

Collectors Club: Its Beginning, 1896

Compiled by ARTHUR W. DEAS

At the end of the year 1895 there was in existence in New York City and surrounding area, three large philatelic organizations and so far as may be determined over twenty-five smaller local organizations with possibly over a couple thousand stamp collectors of varying degrees of efforts and attainment and more or less affiliated with philatelic organizations.

There was at the same time over a hundred dealers engaged in the buying and sale of stamps; some devoted all their time to handling stamps and derived their main income from that business, many were what might be described as "vest pocket" dealers, having some other means of livelihood.

There were also many other collectors and dealers of far outlying areas who considered New York as a sort of headquarters for stamp collecting, as they had every right and reason to do. By every means of determining the stamp game—buying, selling, collecting or writing about it—the business was certainly booming and on the ever increasing upward bounds.

The before mentioned three philatelic organizations were

The National Philatelic Society
The Staten Island Philatelic Society
The Brooklyn Philatelic Society

and a number of men, as may be seen later, were members of two and maybe all three of the organizations.

BUT NEW YORK had no Organization that could be identified particularly as a New York Club or organization.

It was therefore natural in the early part of the year 1896 wherever philatelists would meet in their places of business, at luncheon times or at evening gatherings, that the subject of many discussions would be the formation of a NEW YORK organization. The discussions finally aroused such a degree of interest that it was confidently predicted by many that it would be very easy in a short time to get a couple of hundred members to form a philatelic body commensurate with the dignity, importance and prestige of the great State and City of NEW YORK. The advocates of the suggestion had no idea of whether their organization should be a club or a society, whether it should be only philatelic or should include social and semi-political features or whether it should include other hobbies and sports or not, but they emphatically did want a NEW YORK organization. Then as well as in later periods they did not want

the dealers to be too prominent in the management of the Club and so when they came to name the new organization they gave it the name of THE COLLECTORS CLUB.

About that period of time Joseph W. Scott used to publish a series of weekly letters in which he gave a lot of current news and made comments on whatever subject came to his mind. There are but a few complete sets of these letters in existence and one is in the Collectors Club library and from time to time excerpts from these letters will be used to describe the then-existing conditions.

Excerpt of letter of May 20, 1896

> "News. The Philatelic Society, New York, held their regular monthly meeting Monday evening last, and considered the subject of new quarters. It was proposed to rent a private residence in some central locality in the city and turn it into a regular Philatelic Club House, devoting the double parlors to auctions and large meetings; the second floor front, for regular meetings of the Society; the back room for a general parlor and reception room; while the upper floors could be furnished as bed rooms for the benefit of out-of-town members desirous of spending a few days in the city; while the basement floor could be fitted up as a billiard room. It is thought that these conveniences would make it a very attractive resort for both city and country members. A committee, consisting of Messrs. Herrick, Andreini and your correspondent, was appointed to see what could be done in this line. I shall be very pleased to hear from any interested in the matter. To carry out the scheme it will be necessary to raise at least $2,000."

Excerpt of letter of June 5, 1896

> "The Club-House idea of The Philatelic Society appears to meet with general favor and will probably soon be an accomplished fact. I shall be very glad to get the opinion of out-of-town members concerning the movement. I shall also be pleased to propose any gentleman getting this letter who is not already a member, and those already connected with the Society will benefit the Society, themselves and their philatelic friends by inducing them to join. Members are necessary to the welfare of any organization but this society has never endeavored to secure quantity at the expense of quality and there can be no doubt but that the Philatelic Society contains the cream of the stamp collectors of the United States, and membership in it is the best guarantee that could be given of the standing of the collector."

Excerpt of letter of June 24, 1896

> "The club project was taken up at the meeting and received the enthusiastic approval of the members, every gentleman present subscribing for stock in the organization. The committee having the details in charge were confirmed in their positions and given power to add to their number at discretion."

Accordingly a number of those most interested in the idea agreed to canvass their associates and friends in the city and surrounding area as to reactions to the suggested organization, and the responses were so unanimously in favor and approval that an informal committee was selected to progress the idea and they issued the following circular:—

Excerpts of letter of June 24, 1896

> "The club project is well under way and blanks for subscription to the hundred shares of stock have been sent to all prominent collectors. The rule of one man one share, one share one vote has been adopted. It is to be hoped that the full amount necessary will be subscribed by the end of the week. Of course this new house does not conflict with any of the established societies or with the circuit of The Philatelic Society, which, by the way, I should like to see more fully participated in. It seems a pity to have two thousand dollars' worth of rare and desirable stamps travel hundreds of miles for one man to see; more time is occupied in travelling than taken up by the members in examining the stamps."

The first cloud appeared on the horizon of the efforts. The response to the circular of June 24th was very discouraging, for it quickly became apparent that many collectors were in favor of the idea but not to the extent of going to

much expense. The response to the circular was less than seventy applicants and the conviction was forced upon all concerned that the early estimates of possibilities were somewhat extravagant and possibly influenced more by enthusiasm and desires than by more sober judgement.

The summer season coming on, it was natural that progress of the idea should suffer the usual summer temporary stagnation. In fact, then as now, devotees of the hobby were willing to pay fantastic and unwarranted prices for supposedly unique or allegedly rare specimens, brought out by profit seeking exploitors. When they later learned how little their supposedly wonderful stamps were really worth, they pocketed their losses without complaint. But when it came to paying out good money in sizable amounts for simply the general development and broadening of the hobby, many failed to see any advantages to be gained by such expenditures and lost interest in the formation of the club.

This state of affairs is evinced in the following excerpt of letter of July 11, 1896

> "Subscriptions to the New York Philatelic Club project are coming in slowly from the country. There are certainly hundreds of collectors to whom $25 is a very trifling matter, and if asked personally would sign a blank at once, yet, apparently, they pay no attention to circulars. As this is a matter mostly concerning themselves and will prove a very desirable investment for anyone having five thousand dollars worth of stamps, it is not likely any personal application will be made; New York City has responded promptly and fully but it is desirable that the organization should be truly national."

Excerpt of letter of July 18, 1896

> "The fate of the New York Stamp Club will probably be decided next week. It is really enough to make an American blush to see what difficulty the committee have experienced in securing 100 gentlemen to pledge $25, while in England such men as Messrs. Castle, Phillips and Peckitt immediately subscribed $500 each to aid an exhibition of stamps in London. I have no doubt but that a small number of gentlemen in this country would have subscribed liberally but the committee decided to make the project popular, the advantages will be enjoyed by large numbers, and although, perhaps, with less frequency, the benefits will be largely with out-of-town members. I trust the remaining twenty-five per cent will be applied for immdiately by out-of-town amateurs."

In the middle of Aug. 1896 it was decided, to further circularize the collectors, and on Aug. 22/96 the following circular was out to those who had not been heard from.

Excerpt of letter of Aug. 29, 1896

> "The New York Club project has one week more of grace. The Committee issued a circular to subscribers a week ago reporting what they had done, and stating that if the Club was to be established it must be by the individual efforts of the subscribers. It is not a question of money; if that were the only difficulty the Committee would willingly subscribe the lacking amount amongst themselves, but they recognize that to be a success it is essential that there be one hundred charter members to start with. At the dawn of civilization, many thousands of years ago, it was clearly seen that strength consisted in union, and however weak the individual fraction, if united in sufficient numbers, anything could be accomplished. The Club will undoubtedly be a pleasant place for New Yorkers but the real benefits will rest with the dwellers in far off cities who will thus procure a house in New York at small expense, and when, in the usual order of things, their collection comes to the auction room, the difference in money value between having their collection sold among strangers, or in their city house where they are known and appreciated, can not be measured by a $25 output. The French 'noblesse oblige' can be applied with equal truth and force to the wealthy owner's princely collections."

The response to the circular of Aug. 26, 1896 was so gratifying that the following comments were published.

Excerpt of letter of Sept. 5, 1896

> "The New York Club is now in a fair way to become an established fact. The last circular of the committee has had the effect of putting collectors on

their mettle and the new list will show many well-known names in their proper place on the roll. Of course the list still remains open and will up to the organization. Three names are conspicuous by their absence but their New York friends still hope they will be found on the list before the book closes, after which admission can only be by elections and even that cannot make them owners of a founder's share."

Excerpt of letter of Sept. 12, 1896

"The stock of the New York Club has all been subscribed, so now incorporation, organization, ratification, realization of the members and disintegration of the committee."

The subscription & application list having been completed, it meant that the Committee of Arrangement with a subscribed fund in hand could proceed with the rest of the plan, and by a very fortunate opportunity were able to secure a lease on the premises of No. 351 Fourth Ave. & signed a rental agreement under date of Sept. 26, 1896.

Excerpt of letter of Sept. 26/1896

"The most interesting item of news is that the Collector's Club has secured a home, a lease having been taken at No. 351 Fourth Avenue, east side, near Twenty-fifth street. The house is commodious and splendidly situated, only one block from Madison Square Park and convenient to many places of amusement, hotels, etc., with lines of cars to all parts of the city. A meeting of the stockholders has been called for October 5, to adopt by-laws and elect directors for the coming year. Officers will probably be elected at the same meeting so that subscriptions can be called in and the home furnished at the earliest possible moment."

All preliminary arrangements of the organization of the club having been taken care of and a house obtained for occupancy, a meeting of the member stockholders was called for Monday, Oct. 5th, 1896. A ballot bearing the names of resident and non-resident stockholders, to a total of ninety-one (91), was prepared for use of the member stockholders in balloting for the election of Directors. No copy of the call for the meeting appears to be in existence but a reproduction of the ballot is given below:—

It may be observed that the Ballot not only lists the real founders of the Club but also evidences their other philatelic affiliations and that the Committee of Arrangements was given the honor position at the top of the list, thereby practically ensuring their election as Directors. It will also be noted that many of the names of this list became in after years leaders and prominent in philatelic circles of the city, state and country.

It is not quite certain at this time how many members attended the meeting of Oct. 5th 1896, held at the Club house, 351 Fourth Ave. However it has been learned from several sources that considerably less than half of the stockholders attended. The following were elected Directors, listed in order of number of votes received:

John W. Scott
Jose M. Andreini
William Herrick
John N. Luff
Charles Gregory
Hiram E. Deats
Henry L. Coleman
Francis E. P. Lynde
Frederick A. Nast

However the matter of electing the Directors, together with other necessary details took up so much time that the members forgot to divide the Directors into year classes. Therefore at the request of several Directors a special meeting

of the Board of Directors was called for Wednesday, Oct. 7th, 1896, when the Directors were voted into the following classes.

To serve for one year	for two years	for three years
Calman	Deats	Herrick
Gregory	Lynde	Luff
Scott	Nast	Andreini

There is no evidence at present available to show the exact date the officers were named or elected (at the meetings of Oct. 5th or Oct. 7th, or even some time in December 1896).

It seems more or less likely, they might have been elected at the meeting of the Board of Directors, on Oct. 7th because Herrick and Andreini were elected to three year terms, while Gregory and Scott were elected to two year terms, all of which somewhat insured a continuity of the principal officers for three years.

However at whatever time the officers may have been actually elected, the Board of Governors, the officers, and the various committee Chairmen and members are shown by the copy of the first page of the first year book published right after the end of 1896, printed below:

THE COLLECTORS CLUB

351 FOURTH AVE., NEW YORK

Board of Governors

WILLIAM HERRICK, President
CHARLES GREGORY, Vice President
JOHN W. SCOTT, Treasurer - - 40 John Street.
J. M. ANDREINI, Secretary - - 29 W. 75th Street
HENRY L. CALMAN JOHN N. LUFF
HIRAM E. DEATS F. E. P. LYNDE
FREDERICK A. NAST

Committees

Executive
H. E. DEATS, Chairman
H. L. CALMAN J. N. T. LEVICK

House
F. E. P. LYNDE, Chairman
H. E. DEATS ALBERT PERRIN
JOHN N. LUFF WALTER S. SCOTT

Amusements
JOHN N. LUFF, Chairman
J. B. BREVOORT P. F. BRUNER
J. OAKLEY HOBBY C. L. MOREAU

Auditing
F. A. NAST, Chairman
HENRY CLOTZ ALVAH DAVISON

Literary
H. E. DEATS, Chairman
JOS. J. CASEY JOS. S. RICH

Membership
CHAS. GREGORY, Chairman
R. R. BOGERT H. CLOTZ
H. COLLIN H. N. TERRETT

Furnishing
J. W. SCOTT, Chairman
R. R. BOGERT H. L. CALMAN

the life of the clubs is shown by the following details of

Excerpt of letter of Oct. 10, 1896

"Club news, always interesting, has been conveyed to you in the shape of a bill for subscriptions, that is, those of you who joined as stockholders. Now

there is a chance for the others to come in as regular members; the entrance fee and yearly dues are quite small for non-resident. It is expected that the house will be fully furnished and ready for the use of members by the end of the week."

Excerpt of letter of Oct. 17, 1896

"Monday evening, Oct. 14, 1896, The Philatelic Club meets in its new quarters in the club house, 351 Fourth Avenue, New York; the Wednesday following the first auction sale will be held in the large hall of the building, and it is expected that the club proper will be formally opened on the Saturday of the same week. The first of these events will be duly chronicled in the M. P., the second, it is hoped, has already received your attention, either by marking up your catalogue preparatory to a visit to the auction rooms to inspect the valuables or by sending your bid to some agent for the same purpose; while the third event will undoubtedly be celebrated with such vim and enthusiasm that rumors of it will certainly reach your ears should circumstances prevent your personal attendance."

Excerpt of letter of Oct. 24, 1896

"The Collectors Club will be formally opened on Wednesday evening next, Oct. 24, 1896, a notice to that effect having been sent out by the Secretary. Refreshments will be served and members are requested to bring their friends. It is expected that every notable stamp collector in New York City and vicinity will be present and several members from a distance have signified their intention to attend."

Excerpt of letter of Oct. 30, 1896

"by the way there was nothing of the churchyard about the opening of the Club. The collectors turned out in their might, some came in and looked around, others remained all evening, and others nearly all morning too, anyway there was no fun in remaining after daylight. The gathering was representative, collectors big and little; dealers, old and young and by the way, several hundred dollars changed hands in a quiet way to mutual advantage of buyers and sellers, but that was not what they were there for, they came to get acquainted and they did it with a vengeance; the handshaking must have left some tired muscles, and the talking, well, they were heard. The music alcove was neglected, but the billiard room made up for it. The supper was excellent in every detail and was enjoyed by all. The liquids were good stayers for they outlasted the guests and the way they were drunk should prove a good augury of the prosperity of the club, they commenced with beer and finished with Pommeroy Sec. The club commences with one hundred members and should finish with a thousand; but the number is limited to two hundred, and at the rate applicants for membership are coming in the limit will soon be reached. Ten per week will soon fill the list. It would be useless to name the city members who were there but a list of those who travelled far to be at the opening would not be out of place. I noticed, among others, Batchelder and Brown, of Boston, Townsend, of Washington, Deats, of Flemington, Rice, of Trenton, Brown, of Keyport, Needham, of Hamilton, Canada, etc."

Excerpt of letter of Nov. 21, 1896

"Monday night there will be a lecture on stamps and things, illustrated by stereopticon views, at The Collectors Club. Members are privileged to introduce a friend. It will doubtless be a very enjoyable affair, as Mr. Luff is in charge. It is on a dull night, when there is nothing going on in the Assembly room, and then the boys go down to the billiard room and play, or up to the library and talk stamps."

Excerpt of letter of Nov. 28, 1896

"The entertainment given by the Collectors Club was a very enjoyable affair; Mr. Luff the lecturer, and Mr. Rich the artist, are entitled to much praise for their very creditable performance. I refrain from any review as the lecture will be given at length in the papers which by the way are likely to be late next month."

Eventually the Board of Governors and the new offices got into operation, and decided to become incorporated and so on Dec. 4, '96 the Board of Governors became the applicants for the incorporation of the Club under the chapter #47 of General Laws passed May 8, 1895 and severally signed the application. The matter was taken before Justice Roger A. Pryor of the Supreme Court of the State of New York who affirmed and consented to it on Dec. 11, 1896. The certificate of incorporation was filed with the Secretary of State on Dec. 14, 1896 and endorsed, filed and recorded in the city and county of New York on Dec. 15, 1896.

In the Matter of the Incorporation

of

THE COLLECTORS CLUB.

(A Membership Corporation.)

I, the undersigned, a Justice of the Supreme Court of the State of New York, do hereby consent to and approve the Incorporation above mentioned and the filing of the within certificate of incorporation and allow the same accordingly.

Dated, New York, December 11, 1896.

Roger A. Pryor, J. S. C.

Charles G. Stevenson,
Attorney for Incorporators,
3 Broad street, New York City.

In the Matter of the Incorporation of The Collectors Club.

In pursuance of an Act of the Legislature of the State of New York entitled "An Act relating to membership corporations, constituting chapter forty-seven of the general laws" passed May 8, 1895.

We, whose names are hereunto subscribed, all being of full age, and all citizens of the United States, and a majority of whom are citizens of and reside within the State of New York, desiring to associate ourselves for the purpose hereinafter mentioned, do hereby certify:

That we have associated ourselves to form a corporation for the purpose of maintaining reading and assembly rooms, promoting social intercourse among our members, and encouraging by all proper means the best interests of Philately in the United States, and for other lawful literary, social and historical purposes.

That the name or title by which such corporation or club shall be known in law is,

THE COLLECTORS CLUB;

That the particular business and objects of such club are:

The maintenance of reading and assembly rooms; the promotion of social intercourse among its members; the encouragement of the best interests of Philately by mutual improvement in, and the dissemination of literary and historical knowledge relating thereto by all proper means, and for other lawful literary, social and historical purposes.

That the territory in which the operations of said club are to be principally conducted is the City and County of New York.

That the time for holding the annual meeting of said club shall be the second Wednesday in December.

That the number of directors to manage the said club shall be nine.

That the following are the names and places of residence of the directors of such club until its first annual meeting, viz:

Name	Place of Residence
Jose M. Andreini,	29 W. 75th St., N. Y. City.
John W. Scott,	119 W. 129th St., N. Y. City.
Charles Gregory,	5 Montague Terrace, Brooklyn, N. Y.
John N. Luff,	118 E. 23rd St., N. Y. City.
William Herrick,	473 W. 22nd St., N. Y. City.
Fred. A. Nast,	86 Keap St., Brooklyn, N. Y.
Henry L. Calman,	7 W. 75th St., N. Y. City.
Hiram E. Deats,	Flemington, New Jersey.
Francis E. P. Lynde,	325 W. 87th St., N. Y. City.

That the city in which the principal office of said club is to be located is the City of New York, and the principal place of transacting the business of said club shall be at No. 351 Fourth Avenue, in the City, County and State of New York.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, we have hereunto set our hands and seals this 4th day of December, A. D. 1896.

J. M. Andreini.	[Seal]	Frederick A. Nast.	[Seal]
J. W. Scott.	[Seal]	Henry L. Calman.	[Seal]
Chas. Gregory.	[Seal]	H. E. Deats.	[Seal]
John N. Luff.	[Seal]	Francis E. P. Lynde.	[Seal]
William Herrick.	[Seal]		

State of New York,
City and County of } ss.
New York.

On the 4th day of December, A. D. 1896, before me personally came Jose M. Andreini, John W. Scott, Charles Gregory, John N. Luff and William Herrick, to me known to be five of the individuals described in, and who executed the foregoing instrument and severally acknowledged that they executed the same.

[Signed] Charles G. Stevenson,
Notary Public,
New York County.

City and County of
New York. } ss.
State of New York,

On the 4th day of December, 1896, before me personally came Frederick A. Nast, Henry L. Calman, Hiram E. Deats and Francis E. P. Lynde, to me known to be four of the individuals described in and who executed the foregoing certificate and severally acknowledged that they executed the same.

Charles G. Stevenson,
Notary Public,
New York County.

State of New York,
Office of the } ss.
Secretary of State.

I have compared the preceding with the original Certificate of Incorporation of

THE COLLECTORS CLUB

filed and recorded in this office on the 14th day of December, 1896, and do hereby certify that the same is a correct transcript therefrom and of the whole of said original.

Witness my hand and Seal of Office of the Secretary of State, at the City of Albany, this 14th day of December, 1896.

Andrew Davidson,
Deputy Secretary of State.

(L. S.)

No. 177.
State of New York,
City and County of } ss.
New York.

I, Henry D. Purroy, Clerk of the said City and County, and Clerk of the Supreme Court of said State for said County, Do Certify, That I have compared the preceding with the original Certificate of Incorporation of

THE COLLECTORS CLUB

on file in my office, and that the same is a correct transcript therefrom and of the whole of such original. Endorsed, Filed and Recorded Dec. 15, 1896, 10h. 55m.

In Witness Whereof, I have hereunto subscribed my name and affixed my official seal, this 16th day of Dec., 1896.

Henry D. Purroy,
Clerk.

Excerpt from letter dated December 19, 1896.

"On Monday evening there will be a meeting of The Collectors Club and some interesting collections will be shown. It is also the night for the annual election and it is hoped that there will be a large number of members present who will use their combined wisdom in selecting the best men to hold office for the coming year. The question of the commemorative banquet will also come up and perhaps the date can be fixed to suit all interested. The Club has issued cards for an entertainment to be given the following Monday (the 28th) when the members will have a jolly time between eating, drinking, music, singing and other attractions. The stock certificates could not be completed in time but will be sent out next week together with the Constitution, By-Laws and list of stockholders. The membership list will be published as soon as complete, which, at the present rate of accession, will not be a great while."

Excerpt from letter dated January 9, 1897.

"The Constitution of The Collectors Club, which also contains some other useful information, was posted to all members last night. It will give them an opportunity to learn who are associated with them in the enterprise and also to show them their duties and privileges. The list of names is a notable one, including the flower of the stamp collecting fraternity and representing men in every walk of life, from clerks to multi-millionaires; nor are these men the representatives of any particular locality, but embrace the entire country from Maine to California. The proportion of city and out-of-town members is also well preserved, being at the rate of one outside to two New York stockholders. It was thought best not to include the subscribers in the first edition, but to issue a supplementary edition when the latter amount to one hundred. The short transcript of the Treasurer's report, which is sent out with the book, is certainly a most satisfactory showing and should be the means of adding many new members. There is nothing so successful as success."

A copy of the Constitution follows:—

CONSTITUTION

Sec. 1.
It shall be the duty of every member of the Club to make himself familiar with the laws and rules, and ignorance thereof shall not be an excuse for breach or neglect of the same.

Sec. 2.
The name of the Club shall be The Collectors Club.

Sec. 3.
The object of the Club shall be to maintain a reading and assembly room, to promote social intercourse among its members, to encourage by all proper means the best interests of philately and kindred subjects in the United States, and for other lawful purposes.

Sec. 4.
The membership of the Club shall be limited to three hundred, and shall be divided into two classes: (1) founders, who shall be stockholders, and (2) subscribers.

Sec. 5.
The number of founders shall be limited to one hundred, and each founder shall be entitled to but one vote irrespective of the number of shares of stock that may be held by him.

Sec. 6.
The number of subscribers shall be limited to two hundred.

Sec. 7.
Nine members, of whom at least six shall be stockholders, shall constitute the Board of Governors and shall be elected by ballot. They shall immediately divide themselves, by lot, into three classes of three members each, the terms of office of which shall be respectively one, two and three years. Thereafter, at each annual meeting, three members shall be elected by ballot as Governors to replace the outgoing class, and their term of office shall be for three years. Vacancies in the other classes shall also be filled at such meeting, by ballot, without previous nomination. The Board of Governors shall, as soon as may be after each annual meeting, elect, by ballot, from their number, a President, Vice-President, Treasurer and Secretary, who shall hold office until the next annual meeting, and until their successors are elected, and shall have qualified.

Sec. 8.
No nomination for the office of Governor shall be made before the day of election.

Sec. 9.
No member shall vote for more than nine different candidates, and the nine candidates obtaining the largest number of votes shall be declared elected as Governors.

Sec. 10.
No cumulative voting or voting by proxy shall be permitted at any election.

Sec. 11.
The capital stock of the Club shall be the sum of two thousand five hundred dollars, with privilege to increase, and shall be at present divided into one hundred shares of twenty-five dollars each, represented by a certificate which shall be signed by the President and Treasurer or Secretary, and bear the corporate seal of the club.

Sec. 12.
This stock shall be deemed personal property and may be transferred. In case any member desires to transfer his stock, such stock must be first offered to the Board of Governors in writing, at twenty-five dollars per share. If not accepted by the Board of Governors such stock may be transferred to any person eligible to membership in the Club, but such transfer shall not be operative until such assignee has been regularly elected a member of the Club.

Sec. 13.
The certificates of stock issued by the Club may receive an annual interest of not exceeding 6 per cent. per annum, subject to the following conditions: If at the expiration of the year and the closing of the accounts, and the full payment of all the obligations of the Club, and a sum having first been set aside equal to 50 per cent. of the estimated expenses of the ensuing year, there shall remain a balance adequate to such payment of interest.

Sec. 14.
The Board of Governors shall manage and control all the affairs, property and effects of the Club; it shall enforce the preservation of order and obedience to the rules of the Club. It shall meet at least once in each month for the transaction of business, and three of its members shall constitute a quorum. In case of a vacancy occurring in the Board of Governors the remaining members thereof shall appoint a member of the Club to act as Governor until the next annual meeting.

Sec. 15.
Should such appointments at any time exceed three in number, the Board of Governors shall call a special election to fill all the vacancies.

Sec. 16.
The President shall preside at all meetings of the Board of Governors, and at all meetings of the Club.

Sec. 17.
The Vice-President shall, in the absence of the President, act in his place and perform all the duties of his office.

Sec. 18.
The Treasurer shall keep the accounts and have charge of all funds of the Club; he shall collect all moneys due to the Club and make all payments and render his accounts at the annual meeting, or when called for by the Board of Governors. On approval and auditing of such account, the same shall be closed at the end of the fiscal year, but shall be open to the inspection of any of the stockholders. The Treasurer must furnish a bond in the sum of $2,000.

Sec. 19.
The Secretary shall keep a record of all the meetings of the Board of Governors and of the meetings of the Club; he shall conduct its correspondence; give written notice of all meetings to each stockholder and subscriber; and keep a list of the names and addresses of all stockholders, and subscribers.

Sec. 20.
The annual meeting of the Club shall be held on the second Wednesday in December of each year, at 8 o'clock, p. m., for the election of Governors, and for the transaction of general business. It shall be the duty of the Governors to call a special meeting of the Club upon the written request of twenty-five stockholders.

Sec. 21.
Members shall be elected by the Board of Governors by ballot.

Sec. 22.
Every candidate for admission must be proposed by a member of the Club and seconded by another; his name and address, with the name of his proposer and seconder, shall be posted on the bulletin board of the Club at least thirty days before the balloting for such candidate. Two black balls shall exclude a candidate. On the election of a member he shall be notified thereof in writing, and of the amount due by him for his initiation fee and dues, and unless said amounts are paid within thirty days thereafter, he shall be deemed to have declined membership and his name shall be erased from the list of members.

Sec. 23.
On application of a member, cards of invitation, signed by the Secretary, may be issued by the Board of Governors to non-resident philatelists visiting New York. A member may introduce a friend to the club for one day by registering his name in the Visitors' Book to be kept for that purpose.

Sec. 24.
Non-members who are residents of New York City, or within a radius of 30 miles from the city, may be introduced to the Club, as visitors, once a year only.

Sec. 25.
Subscribers shall be entitled to the same privileges and bound by the same laws and rules of the Club as stockholders, except as it is hereinbefore provided.

Sec. 26.
Alterations in the Constitution or By-Laws may be made at the annual meeting of the Club by a vote of two-thirds of the members present, provided written notice of such proposed alteration shall have been posted on the bulletin of the club at least thirty days preceding said meeting, and a similar notice be mailed to each member.

Sec. 27.
The Board of Governors shall have power to interpret this Constitution.

BY-LAWS

Sec. 1.
Each stockholder shall hold at least one share of stock.

Sec. 2.
Each subscriber shall pay ten dollars initiation fee and five dollars annual dues.

Sec. 3.
The annual dues of stockholders shall be five dollars.

Sec. 4.
All dues shall be payable on the first day of October in each year. If not paid in sixty days after receiving notice of default (such notice to be forwarded on Nov. 1st, through the mail, by the Secretary), the Board of Governors may erase the name of the defaulting member from the list of members.

Sec. 5.
No betting of any kind shall be allowed within the Club House, nor any game which the Board of Governors shall prohibit, nor shall any games of any description whatever be allowed on the premises on Sunday.

Sec. 6.
No member shall take away from the Club any book, pamphlet, newspaper or other article, the property of the Club.

Sec. 7.
But two consecutive games of billiards, or other games shall be played by the same parties, if other members are waiting to play.

Sec. 8.
All bills shall be payable on the first Monday of each month, and no member shall allow a charge against him to exceed ten dollars. Should a member refuse or neglect to pay his account on written notice of the amount due, he shall cease to have any further credit at the Club until such arrears be paid up. If he should remain in arrears sixty days after receiving notice of default, the Board of Governors may erase his name from the list of members.

Sec. 9.
Any member infringing the rules of the Club, or conducting himself in a manner unbecoming a gentleman, shall be subject to censure by the Board of Governors, and if need be, a suspension or expulsion on the vote of a majority of the Board of Governors. A special meeting of the Club may be called to consider the circumstances involving the suspension or expulsion, and if such meeting, by a two-thirds vote, approve the action of the Board of Governors, such expulsion shall be confirmed and form a final decision with reference to such member.

Sec. 10.
The Board of Governors is empowered to act as Trustee for the share or shares of stock belonging to any stockholder who may have been expelled from the club.

They shall have power to dispose of such stock and deduct from the proceeds of its sale any amount that may be due by such stockholder.

Sec. 11.
The by-laws of the Club, or such of them as the Board of Governors may designate, shall be printed, framed and put up in the Club house.

Sec. 12.
All suggestions connected with the service and management of the Club House, or any complaints, shall be made in writing to the House Committee.

Sec. 13.
Any member introducing, or procuring a card for a visitor, shall be responsible for any bills incurred by the gentleman.

Sec. 14.
The Board of Governors shall appoint from their number and from the list of members the various standing committees who shall serve for one year; such as
An Executive and Financial Committee,
House Committee,
Committee on Amusements,
Auditing Committee,
and for such other purposes as they may deem necessary.

Sec. 15.
No fees or gratuities shall be given by any member to any servant or person employed by the Club.

Sec. 16.
Order of Business at the Annual Meeting.
1. Calling of the Roll.
2. Reading of the Minutes of the last Meeting.
3. Treasurer's Report.
4. Secretary's Report.
5. Reports of Standing Committees.
6. General Business.
7. Election of Governors.

HOUSE RULES

1. Club house open daily from 10 a. m. until 12 p. m., but may be closed at 11 p. m. if there be no members present.

2. The Board of Governors rule that the Club House, outside of Society rooms, is exclusively for use of Club members or those holding cards of invitation.

3. Boisterous or improper language must not be indulged in on the Club premises.

4. Supplies from restaurant or bar shall be served only upon written order of a member.

5. Refreshments of any kind will not be served in the Assembly room on auction nights.

6. No member shall take from the Club house any article belonging to the Club, or take from the Library or Reading room any book, pamphlet or newspaper, or mutilate or deface the same.

7. Members are requested to make written suggestions to House Committee of any matter in the administration of the Club house seeming to need correction, and deposit same in House Committee box.

8. Members are not permitted to send servants of the house on errands or give money or gratuities to any employee.

RESIDENT STOCKHOLDERS

Ackerman, E. R., P. O. Box 449.
Albrecht, R. F., 90 Nassau street.
Allen, Dr. Paul, 10 E. 36th street.
Andreini, J. M., 29 W. 75th street.
Berlepsch, M. C., Nathalie avenue, Kingsbridge.

Bishop, C. F., 13 Madison avenue
Bogert, R. R., 160 Nassau street.
Bruner, P. F., 27 W. 58th street.
Calman, G. B., 299 Pearl street.
Calman, H. L., 18 E. 23rd street.
Casey, Joseph J., 26 E. 129th street.
Castle, W. A., 41 Park Row.
Clotz, Henry, 81 Maiden Lane.
Collin, Henry, 18 E. 23rd street.
Corwin, Chas. B., 19 Whitehall street.
Crittenton, G. W. D., 208 West End avenue.
Davis, A. D., 204 W. 82nd street.
Davison, Alvah, 401 Broadway.
Dieschbourg, N., 83 Nassau street.
Dionian, J. S., 20 E. 120th street.
Douglas, John F., 24 Broad street.
Drew, Chas. DeWitt, 214 W. 24th street.
Duveen, H. J., 302 Fifth avenue.
Eberhardt, G., 1120 E. 165th street.
George, J. W., 170 William street.
Gregory, Charles, 30 Broad street.
Gregory, W. F., 71 Nassau street.
Gremmel, Henry, 85 Nassau street.
Hartshorne, Edw. C., 9 W. 51st street.
Herrick, William, 473 W. 22nd street.
Hobby, J. Oakley, 112 Washington street.
Holland, Alex., 40 Grace Court, Brooklyn.
Hunter, F. W., 75 Nassau street.
Jones, Gilbert E., 222 Madison avenue.
Kirtland, A. M., 45 So. 9th avenue, Mt. Vernon.
Knudson, William, 106 E. 23rd street.
Krassa, A., 81 Nassau street.
Krebs, Jacques, 78 Nassau street.
Lawrence, Henry C., 166 W. 88th street.
Leavy, Jos. B., 141 W. 72nd street.
Lesher, Raymond, 502 Broadway.
Levick, J. N. T., 54 William street.
Luff, John N., 18 E. 23rd street.
Lynde, F. E. P., 325 W. 87th street.
Merry, H. C., 155th street and Boulevard.
Meyenberg, Max, 111 W. 84th street.
Moreau, C. L., 122 W. 48th street.
Morgenthau, J. C., 87 Nassau street.
Murray, W. J., 147 E. 125th street.
Nast, F. A., care of Harper & Bros., Franklin Sq.
Parker, E. T., 73 Nassau street.
Perozo, F. A., 56 Pine street.
Perrin, Albert, 122 E. 23rd street.
Quigley, R. W., 931 Boulevard, Astoria, N. Y.
Rich, Jos. S., 489 Manhattan avenue.
Rogers, A. R., Am. Tract Society Building.
Scott, J. W., 40 John street.
Scott, W. S., 87 Nassau street.
Seebeck, N. F., 90 Gold street.
Terrett, H. N., Woodside, N. Y.
Thorne, Wm., 32 Liberty street.
Tuttle, G. R., 9 Pine street.
Watson, Geo. H., 80 Broadway.
Wells, E. G., 115 Fulton street.
Williams, O. H., 35 E. 17th street.
Williamson, S. T. S., 30 Broad street.

NON-RESIDENT STOCKHOLDERS

Ayer, F. W., Bangor, Me.
Bartels, J. M., 439 9th street, Washington, D. C.
Batchelder, A. W., 265 Washington street, Boston, Mass.
Benjamin, David, Shanghai, China.
Boynton, G. E., 926 Cathedral street, Baltimore, Md.
Brevoort, John B., Johnsonburg, Pa.
Brown, F. P., 277 Washington street, Boston, Mass.
Brown, Richard R., Keyport, N. J.

Conant, F. O., 139 Park street, Portland, Me.
Crocker, Henry J., 508 California street, San Francisco, Cal.
Curtis, W. T., Box 2774, Boston, Mass.
Deats, H. E., Flemington, N. J.
Dunkhorst, H. F., 1005 7th street, N. W., Washington, D. C.
Green, Wm. Lawrence, 475 B'way, Albany, N. Y.
Harbeck, Chas. T., Islip, N. Y.
Hubbard, L. L., Houghton, Mich.
Kilbon, John Luther, 1 Somerset street, Boston, Mass.
Mekeel, C. H., Station C., St. Louis, Mo.
Mekeel, I. A., Station C., St. Louis, Mo.
Morgan, W. F., Lynn, Mass.
Moser, Wm., Rowayton, Conn.
Olney, F. F., Box 667, Providence, R. I.
Painter, J. V., Cleveland, O.
Peck, T. G., Haverstraw, N. Y.
Pitman, F. H., 235 Washington street, Boston, Mass.
Rice, J. D., 12 N. Broad street, Trenton, N. J.
Rothfuchs, C. F., 359 1-2 Pennsylvania Ave., Washington, D. C
Sanderson, Howard K., 646 Western avenue, Lynn, Mass.
Sweet, F. G., 853 Harlem avenue, Baltimore, Md.
Tuttle, A. E., 722 Chestnut street, Phila., Pa.
Weed, E. F., Rowayton, Conn.
Withee, N. H., 230 So. 9th street, La Crosse, Wis.
Woodward, H. E., 40 Bromfield street, Boston, Mass.
Worthington, G. H., Cleveland, O.

DIRECTORY

First Floor.—Office and Assembly Room.

Second Floor.—Library.
Room of The Philatelic Society, front.
Room of National Philatelic Society, rear.

Third Floor.—Guest Chambers.

Basement.—Billiard Room.

Admittance by Membership Card.

Notices of coming events and applications for membership will be found posted on the bulletin boards.

For special information inquire of the House Committee.

Sleeping rooms at the Club house can be obtained at $1 per night on timely application to the House Committee.

The Treasurer has been authorized by the Board of Governors to register engagements for the use of the Assembly room. For terms and dates apply at 40 John street.

Exchange of club courtesies has been arranged with the Philatelic Club and Exchange, Ld., 40 Jermyn St., London, and members intending to visit London should take their tickets in order to enjoy the benefit of the courtesies of the London Club.

The General Issues of Postage-Due Stamps of the French Colonies, 1884-1928

(Scott Nos. J1-J22)*

By ROBERT G. STONE, Arlington, Va.

(A Contribution from the France and Colonies Group)

These ornately-designed little stamps seem to be regarded generally as hardly more than cheap space-fillers, monotonous and devoid of interest or beauty. Even the "specialist" in France and Colonies tends to ignore them. Probably they are victims of the general unpopularity of postage-due stamps as a class. In these inflationary times when the prices of favorites are rising out of this world, some attention to the ugly ducklings of philately may give us a new lease of collecting life. In this case there is no lack of published information about the stamps. The standard handbooks carry most of the story: Yvert and Tellier's catalogue of France and Colonies specialized, Kohl's "Briefmarken Handbuch," Marconnet's classic book on French stamps, Locard's "Les Emissions Génerales des Colonies" and Doé's "Les Chiffres-Taxe de France," etc. It isn't too dull; in fact, there's a lot more to it than we might surmise.

We note to begin with that the design was identical with concurrent postage dues of France. But the first French set of this type appeared in 1882, two years before that of the Colonies, and all the French dues in this design are perforated, whereas all the colonials are imperforate. For each denomination of the colonials there was a French due stamp of the same denomination and of similar color, except for the 60 centime of 1894. (However, the opposite is not true, for some French dues were issued without any counterpart among the colonials.)

So much we can discover in Scott's catalogue. The really interesting facts for the collector pertain to matters of usage and to the secondary varieties not listed by Scott. These varieties are found mainly in matters of color and paper. Such are to be expected in stamps that were in use for many years (as these were) and therefore subjected to many printings. There are also *millésimes*—the abbreviated printing year numbers printed in the vertical gutter margins between panes of the sheet—which occur on all printings of the dues from 1891 on. In France pairs or singles with margins containing millesimes are much sought for by specialists, just as plate number blocks of U. S. stamps are popular here. Finally, specimens, reprints and forgeries are to be reckoned with.

From time to time the individual colonies overprinted stocks of general colonial dues on hand with the name of the colony, and in some cases converted them at the same time to postage or parcel-post stamps, and/or surcharged them to change the denominations. Large quantities of the dues were treated in this way, but after 1905 only dues of France were overprinted for any of the colonies because the overprinting was thereafter always done in Paris where stocks of the colonial dues were no longer kept. Oddly enough some of the colonies were still using the general issues of the dues as late as 1928, while other colonies had their own due stamps even before the first general issues appeared! It is alleged that remainders of colonial dues can still be found today in some colonial post offices, thirty to fifty years after the last printings were made.

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* Read by invitation, at the September 18, 1946, meeting of the Collectors Club. The author kindly acknowledges helpful suggestions from S. G. Rich, Dr. A. J. C. Vaurie and George Weiler, who read the manuscript in preliminary stages.—**R. G. S.**

The dues stamps of 1884 and 1893 were all printed by typograph in sheets of 300 subjects, made up of two half-sheets of 150 arranged in panes of 25 (5 x 5). The panes are grouped 2 x 3 per half-sheet and separated by gutters. The post offices customarily cut the sheets in half before selling them.

THE 1884 ISSUE (THE BLACKS AND BROWNS)

In this the first issue of the general colonial dues as given in most catalogues, all the centime denominations were printed in black, and all the franc values in brown, whereas the 1882 dues of France were entirely in black. However, the franc values for France also appeared in brown in March and May 1884, at approximately the same time that the colonies got theirs. The reason for this change in color was to avoid confusion between the 1c. and 1fr, the 2c. and 2fr, and the 5c. and 5fr. The decision to print the franc dues of both France and Colonies in brown was made sometime in 1883. It came too late to prevent something of a mixup in the colonial post offices; franc values in black had already been prepared for the colonies, and *apparently* sent out to them in late 1883 *after* the printing of brown francs was ordered or even underway! The black francs were recalled before they could be used; thus theoretically, they were never issued.

However, in 1885 Morconnet and others reported in the French philatelic press that they had found a few black francs *used* from remote places in the colonies—whether before or after the browns arrived there, the writer cannot say. In view of this usage some authorities argue for giving the black francs the status of issued stamps. But the manner in which mint supplies of these adhesives were launched on the market in 1885, and again in 1887 and 1891, puts them in a very suspicious light. Indeed, the 1885 issue could be from the original printing intended for the colonies. Informed students, however, are inclined to think it is more likely from imperforate remainders of the black francs of France (1882)—note in this connection, Scott's France Nos. J23a, J24a, and J25a! The 1887 and 1891 (thin paper) issues of black francs are simply official reprints. All these black francs are now rather rare.

The first printings of the regular 1884 issue reached the colonies in March and April of that year. The centimes denominations come on various kinds of paper, depending on the year of printing and perhaps partly on climatic effects:—

yellowish (1884-5), pure white (1892), thick greyish (1c, 2c and 3c only), yellowish grey, etc.

The greyish papers are generally the scarcest. The franc values show much greater uniformity in all respects. From 1890 on one can find some of the sheets with colored bands along the gutters and margins. Millesimes began with the 1891 printings, although only the black francs were printed during 1891. The various millesimes on this issue were as follows:

"1" (for 1891): on the black francs only
"2" (for 1892): on all but the 60c and the 2fr brown
"8" (for 1898): on the 1, 2, 3, 4, 20 and 40c.

Thus the 2fr brown had no millesime at all. There is also a variety, called in French *sans millésime*, i.e., with millesime missing from margins which should have it. Sheets of all but the 6c (and of course, the 2fr) show this abnormality, which is worth many times the normal (—beware of forgeries). Sans millésimes are collected in blocks of four containing the upper margin of the pane and the middle gutter margin of the half-sheet. The existence of millesimes "8" on the 1884 stamps may raise a question in the collector's mind, since the catalogues give the impression that the 1893 issue entirely superseded the blacks and browns. Actually, the 1893 issue provided no new colors for the 1884 denominations of 1, 2, 3, 4, 20 and 40c, and when we study the cancellations we find that these black denominations continued in general use for many years after 1893. A

continued demand may have resulted in the 1898 printings of them with the millesime "8." However, a large part of this printing of millesime "8" was issued without gum and it would perhaps be more accurate to call such stamps from it "proofs from unfinished or imprimatur sheets"—a mere technicality, to be sure.

Double impressions can be found on some of the black dues. A peculiar error is constant in the entire plate of the 30 centimes: the grave accent over the "A" of "A PERCEVOIR" is missing! This error, incidentally, is repeated on the 30c of the 1893 issue, since the same plate or master die was used without making any correction.

Forgeries of the dues are abundant, according to Serrane. Some are easy to detect by comparison of the papers, sizes and details of design, and of methods of reproduction (photogravure or lithographed instead of typographed). There are dangerous fakes of the black francs and millesime varieties. Forged cancels on the fakes mostly read with one of a certain few dates and postoffices, such as:—

DAKAR 11 JUIL 92 SENEGAL
CONCENTRA 2° 24 OCT 92 COCHINCHINE
NOUVELLE CALEDONIE 2° 3 SEPT 92 NOUMEA
MYTHO 2° 16 AUG 92 COCHINCHINE

Further details on identification of the forgeries are given in an appendix hereto.

In December 1910 the post office at Libreville in French Congo (Gabon) used some diagonal bisects of the 4c black due stamp because the supply of 2c dues was exhausted. The covers were handstamped in two lines:

TAXE AVEC MOITIE
DE 4c FAUTE DE 2c.

Indo China created a curious type of specimen stamp during the 1880's. On the bulletin board of each post office in the colony a placard was posted, on which was mounted a copy of each denomination of stamp then available, with each stamp handstamped diagonally *Spécimen.* The 1 to 4c postage dues were not included, however, possibly because they were not then being regularly stocked. These specimen copies are worth about 3 times normal price.

THE 1893 ISSUE (IN COLORS)

In September 1893 a new set of colonial dues in the same design and again imperforate, but in various new colors, was issued. The denominations were 5, 10, 15, 30, 50 and 60c, to which were added a 1fr in 1903 and a 20c in the middle of 1906. Excepting the 50c, which was a new value, these denominations supplanted corresponding ones in the 1884 issue. The 1, 2, 3, 4, 20 and 40c black and the 1, 2 and 5fr brown of the 1884 series were not superseded by nor included in the 1893 set but continued in use along with the new vari-colored values. There is no evidence that the remaining 1884 values were reprinted after 1898, though stocks of some of them apparently lasted in certain offices for nearly 30 years!

The millesimes and contemporary records show that printings of the colored dues were made in 1893, 1894, 1896, 1898, 1903, 1904, 1905, 1906, 1907 and 1908. No one denomination was printed in every one of these years, however, as the demand varied greatly. The collector can sometimes tell whether millesimes "3," "4" and "8" are from 1893 or 1903, 1894 or 1904, etc., by the shade of the coloring and the toning and thickness of the paper. Very interesting series of more or less distinct shades can be identified for each value. Some of the printings differ so strikingly in shade that the catalogues list them as separate major or sub-varieties; for example, Scott's J16a, J20a, J21a, and J22a. Un-

fortunately, cataloguers use very different terms to describe the colors on this issue; we quote those of Locard, since he lists the most shades:—

5c: dull blue on yellowish (1893, 1896), blue on white (1903), blue on yellowish (1903), pale blue on yellowish (1907); thin transparent paper (1893), thick white or yellow paper (1903), pure opaque white paper with very clear impressions (1903), very thick yellow paper (1907).
10c: very deep brown on white (1893), red brown on yellow, black brown on chamois, pale grey brown (1903), brown on white, brown on straw.
15c: yellow green on yellowish (1893), May green on white (1903), May green on tinted (1904).
20c: olive green on white (1906), olive green on yellowish (1907).
30c: rose on white (1893), carmine on white (1896), dull rose with sharp millesime (1894), carmine on yellow (1898), carmine rose with defective millesimes (1904).
50c: violet grey, violet, brown violet.
60c: violet brown (1893), brown on yellow (1898), yellowish brown (1903), violet brown on chamois.
1Fr: rose on yellow (1903), lilac on cream (1908, very rare).
1Fr: brown lilac on straw (1905), brown lilac on yellow (1908).

The millesimes are tabulated herewith:

5c	10c	15c	20c	30c
3 1893	3 1893	3 1893		3 1893
				4 1894
6 1896(scarce)	6 1896(rare)	6 1896(rare)		6 1896
				8 1898(rare)
3 1903	3 1903	3 1903		
	4 1904	4 1904		4 1904
	5 1905			
			6 1906	
7 1907	7 1907		7 1907	
			8 1908(rare)	8 1908(?)

50c	60c	1Fr Rose	1Fr Brown Lilac
3 1893	3 1893(rare)		
8 1898(rare)	8 1898(rare)		
	3 1903	3 1903	
4 1904(rare)			
5 1905(rare)			5 1905
8 1908(?)	8 1908(?)	8 1908(very rare)	8 1908(rare)

Some authorities claim millesime "8" on the 30, 50 and 60c is partly a 1908 printing, others list them all as of 1898. The 1908 1Fr rose is always found ungummed because it is only a proof, as are many copies of the millesime "8's" of 30, 50, and 60c and 1Fr brown lilac. The latter are also probably the 1908 printings, which do not seem to have been made for postal purposes. Some of them were cancelled by favor, however. The rare millesimes have been expertly forged.

Four values of the 1893-1903 colonial dues have been altered by forgers to imitate the following very rare varieties of French dues:—

the 5c dull blue imperforate, millesime "3",
the 30c red imperforate, millesime "4",
the 60c brown on yellow perforated (unissued),
the 1fr rose perforated.

A great rarity of French colonies was created at Tahiti in June 1923 by diagonal bisecting of the 1fr brown lilac to make provisional 50c dues.

We have already mentioned the constantly missing grave accent on the 30c, an error carried over from the 1884 issue.

USAGE AND CANCELLATIONS

The colonial dues were used in so many countries and for so many years that probably several thousand different cancellations can be found on them. Used copies are easy to obtain. Of course, the majority of the cancels are from a few of the larger post offices, but with a little searching among ordinary lots many scarce postmarks turn up. It is particularly interesting to watch for year dates of the cancels during the periods when the colony in question also had due stamps of its own.

Black dues found wide use in nearly all those colonies in existence prior to 1894. The chief exception was in Guadeloupe. There the blacks were little used because that colony had large quantities of its own dues available from 1884 to about 1892.

The special issue of overprinted dues (mostly the blacks) which appeared in certain colonies during the 1890's, were speculative in nature. They were made in relatively small quantities that were soon sold out to philatelists. As a result the general issues of dues actually met most of the postal needs in those colonies during those years.

The extent of use of the colored dues varied greatly from colony to colony. Many colonies,especially those in Africa, began issuing dues of their own during the period 1905-08, while some important colonies such as Martinique, Oceania, Guiana, and Congo (Gabon, etc.) did not get theirs until after 1925! No explanation of this inconsistent development is at hand, though we suspect that the matter was left to the whims of the individual colonial governments rather than to Paris. The colored dues are notably scarce used in Madagascar proper, because French dues were issued there from 1892 until 1896, when the colony began putting out its own due stamps.

Unfortunately, collecting postage-due stamps on original, and especially on non-philatelic, covers is very discouraging. We have to reckon also with the fact that a large proportion of the apparently used specimens of dues (off cover) were cancelled to order in sheets for dealers, who could not otherwise meet the demand for "used" copies. Gummed copies with neat centered cancels most likely originated this way. Some of this philatelic cancelling on French colonial dues was done at small remote post offices. This fact explains why cancels of places like "D'zaoudzi, Mayotte," etc., show up so often. Some dealers have even cancelled copies with forged or phantom devices; these can be spotted by close comparison with the genuine cancels or by the ink and smudgy or nonsensical inscriptions in the presence of full gum, etc.

Provisional use of postage-due stamps for prepayment of postage was apparently authorized by the postmaster at Pointe de Galets, Reunion, during the brief period January 1 to 21, 1901; we have seen two covers posted there in that period, each with the 5c and 15c dues of 1893 to make up the proper rate for an intra-colonial letter, and the postmaster's authorization written across the face.

Taken as a set, the colored dues form a very interesting field for specialization on the part of collectors of limited means, since the stamps are relatively cheap and plentiful, attractive in colors and shades, and subject to a great variety of cancellations which are easy to read. (For lists of cancels and postoffices see: Langlois and Bourselet, "Les Oblitérations des Bureaux de Postes de Colonies Françaises," Amiens, 1927; 2nd ed. of African sect. 1937.) By contrast, the blacks and browns of 1884 are funereal in appearance; and it is often very hard to read the cancels on black stamps.

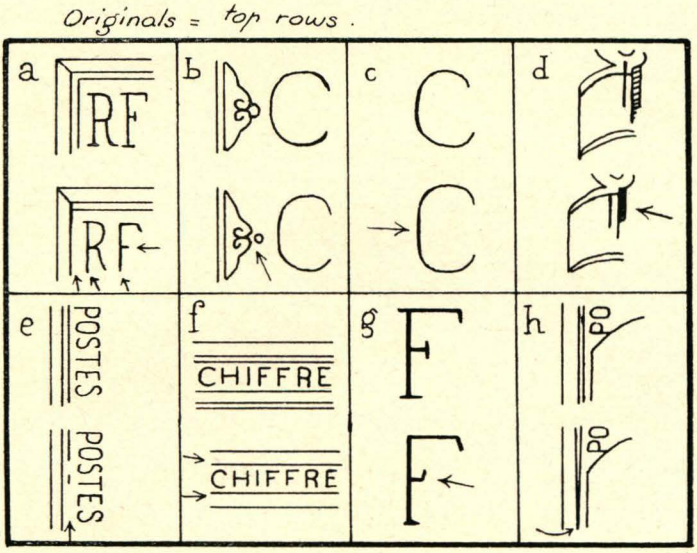
We append two tables for reference: a list of colonies giving *theoretical* periods of use, if any, of the general colonial dues in each case, and a list of colonies which overprinted or surcharged the dues for any purpose.

LIST I

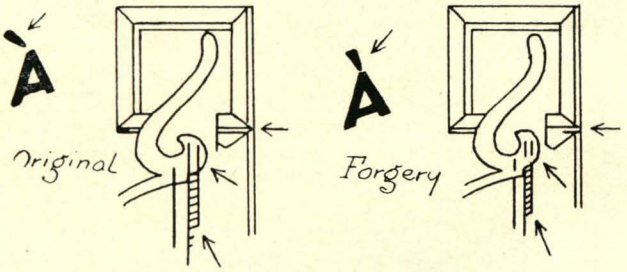
Theoretical Periods of Use of General Issues of French Colonial Postage Due Stamps in Each Colony. *(Note:* actual periods of use were often somewhat longer.)

Algeria: Not used (French dues used until Algerian dues were issued in 1926).
Anjouan: 1892-1908.
Annam (and Tonkin): 1884-1908.
Benin: 1889-1906 (from 1894 the colony was part of Dahomey; overprinted dues used in 1894).
Cambodia: 1884-1908.
Cameroons: 1915-1925.
Chad: 1903-1928 (from 1905 to 1921 Chad was considered part of Ubangi-Shari colony).
China, French Indo-Chinese offices in: 1898-1908 (French consular p.o.'s used French dues).
Cochin China: 1884-1908.
Congo (French): 1884-1888; 1891-1928 (from 1888-1891 Congo was part of Gabon).
Dahomey: 1894-1906 (see Benin).
Diego Suarez: 1884-1896 (Diego Suarez dues used concurrently 1891-96).
Djibouti: 1888-1915 (from 1902 considered part of Somali Coast colony). (See Obock).
French Guinea: 1888-1905 (prior to 1891 known as Rivières du Sud).
French Guiana: 1884-1925.
French India: 1884-1923 (-1928?).
French Oceania: 1884-1926.
French Soudan: 1890-1906 (from 1900-1902 as Haut Sénégal et Moyen Niger, from 1902 to 1904 as Senegambia and Niger, from 1904-1920 as Haut Sénégal et Niger).
Gabon: 1884-1928 (see Congo).
Grand Commoro: 1897-1908.
Guadeloupe: 1884-1905 (1884-1892 used concurrently with Guadeloupe dues of 1884; 1903-04 overprinted dues little used).
Indo China: 1884-1908 (1904-05 used concurrently with Indo China dues).
Inini: Not used (Fr. Guiana dues used).
Ivory Coast: 1884-1906 (prior to 1893 known as Etablissements de Côte d'Or).
Madagascar: 1884-1896 (from 1892 to 1896 French dues also used, except in Diego Suarez).
Martinique: 1884-1927 (overprinted dues prepared in 1887 but not officially issued).
Mauretania: 1884-1906 (Senegal dues of 1903 also used).
Mayotte: 1884-1908.
Middle Congo: 1907-1928 (parts of M. C. formerly in Gabon used general dues from 1884 on).
Moheli: 1902-1908.
Morocco: Not used (French dues used prior to 1896).
New Caledonia: 1884-1906 (briefly in 1903 an overprinted set concurrently used).
New Hebrides: Not used (New Caledonia dues may have been used 1907-25).
Niger: Not used (prior to 1921 Upper Senegal and Niger dues used).
Nossi Be: 1884-1896 (surcharged dues used concurrently 1891-1893).
Obock: 1884-1915 (as part of Somali Coast from 1902; overprinted dues used 1892-94).
Reunion: 1884-1907 (from 1889 for some years Reunion dues used concurrently).
Sainte Marie de Madagascar: 1884(?)-1896 (Madagascar dues available 1896 on).
Saint Pierre and Miquelon: 1884-1925 (1892 overprinted set used concurrently a few years).
Senegal: 1884-1906 (in 1903 a few surcharged dues were used concurrently).
Senegambia and Niger: 1902-1904 (actually 1906). (See French Soudan).
Somali Coast: 1888-1915 (from 1884 to 1902 known as Obock and Djibouti, which see).
Tahiti: 1884-1926 (from 1892 as part of French Oceania; overprinted dues used in 1893 also).
Togo: none used (from 1916-21 Dahomey dues used).
Tonkin: (See Annam and Tonkin; Indo China).
Tunis: Not used (French dues used until 1901).
Ubangi-Shari: 1903-1928 (from 1905 to 1921 Chad was included).
Upper Senegal and Niger: 1904-1906 (formerly French Soudan, etc., which see).
Upper Volta: Not used (formerly part of Upper Senegal and Niger).
Wallis and Futuna: Not used (New Caledonia dues used until 1920).

1884-1906 POSTAGE DUES. There are several crude and ancient forgeries, but there are besides two sets of Fournier forgeries. Fournier I: the complete set of values, lithographed,



see diagram(arrows) for signs b, d, f, h. Fournier II: photogravure, see signs a, b, c, d, e. Two more modern forgeries photolithographed are more dangerous: the first one can be identified by signs b, f, g. The second one is for the high values, 1, 2 and 5 francs (brown for the colonies, black for France). This is the most dangerous of all the forgeries and it can



best be told by the shading of the scroll which is not as sharp in the forgeries and which has small differences (see diagram). Also on the 2 and 5 fr.of the forgeries the slant of the accent on the "A" varies.

The 60c brown, 1 fr. rose,and 1 fr. carmine are also forged. The forgeries can be identified by the illustration.

The forged cancellations are especially common on all the postage dues, and there exist also forged millesimes.

LIST II

Definitive French Colonial Issues Created by Overprinting or Surcharging of General Colonial Issues of Postage Dues

A. Overprinted only with name of colony, for use as postage dues:
   Benin 1894
   Madagascar 1896
   New Caledonia 1903
   Obock 1892
   Saint Pierre and Miquelon 1892
   Tahiti 1893

B. Overprinted with name of colony and surcharged with new values, or merely surcharged with new values, for postage-due use:
   Guadeloupe 1903
   Indo China 1904-05
   Martinique 1887 (not officially issued, but some cancelled by favor)
   Senegal 1903

C. Overprinted with name of colony and surcharged with new values, for use as postage stamps:
   (French) Congo 1892
   Gabon 1889
   Martinique 1891-92
   Saint Pierre and Miquelon 1892 (not surcharged)

D. Overprinted with name of Colony and surcharged with new values, for use as parcel-post stamps:
   Ivory Coast 1903-05
   Martinique 1903

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Mexico

Some Notes on the Half Real, "Eagle" Issue

By Calvert Stier

Possibly the most interesting series of stamps issued by our neighbor to the South is the so-called "Eagles" issue of 1864-66. This was the first set of the Mexican Empire of Maximilian. The French Army had entered Mexico City on the 7th of June, 1863 and President Juarez had left for San Luis Potosi. A Junta offered the Imperial Crown to Maximilian of Austria (brother to the Emperor Franz Joseph) and he accepted it. He, however, did not sail for Mexico until the next year and then with the Empress Carlotta arrived at Vera Cruz on May 28, 1864 and twelve days later entered the Capital, Mexico City.

Previous to Maximilian's arrival the newly formed Monarchial Government had ordered new postage stamps for the country to replace the Republican issues which featured the head of the patriot Hidalgo. These stamps were ordered by a Decree of April 8, 1864 and provided for a set of five values to feature the Imperial Eagle, the national emblem of Mexico. The date fixed for their use was the 15th of May, although shipments were made to many important offices on the 8th so that they in turn could get stamps to their sub-offices by the fifteenth. Mexico City received its first consignment on the 14th and began using them the next day.

The stamps were line engraved and printed from plates of 100 stamps, ten rows of ten. There were possibly several plates of the 1 and 2 reales, but for the half real, which is the subject of these notes, there was probably only the one plate, although it was several times retouched and cleaned up. Impressions at first were clear and distinct but the plate wore badly and that fact together with an unhappy choice of color produced very poorly printed stamps in later months so that by 1866 many half real stamps were just greyish blobs of ink.

The system of distribution of stamps was the same as that used by the Republic for the 1856 and 1861 issues. Briefly it is this: the stamps were received from the printers at the Post Office Department at Mexico City and were in turn consigned to any one of some 48 postal districts where, upon receiving, the head office of that district applied his name by a handstamp upon each stamp in the sheet, generally vertically at one side. This overprinting of the district name made the stamps valid for postal use. Thus the first shipment of stamps was sent to Guanajuato and they bear the overprint "Guanajuato," the second went to Guadalajara, the third to Lagos, etc. etc.

By an extension of this system, beginning on the 7th of July, 1864, the stamps were sent out showing the consignment number (invoice) and date which was applied at the head office. For three months the figures were large and irregularly impressed but beginning in September of 1864 they were smaller and clearly printed on the stamps.

Thus, the Eagles issue is usually divided into five sections by collectors, viz:

I. **With District Name only, used from May to July 7th, 1864.**
II. **With Name and Consignment number and date in large figures, used from July 8th to Sept. 19, 1864.**
III. **With Name and Consignment number and date in small figures, used from Sep. 20, 1864 to the end of the year.**
IV. **Same as III, but the date is 1865.**
V. **Same as III, but the date is 1866, used from the beginning of that year until July 30, 1866.**

The color decided upon for the half real value was brown but it was shortly changed to a clear dark purple, then to a red violet, followed by various shades of violet and lilac until it turned into grey early in the year 1866.

We know from the official records that the first printing of the ½ real stamps was of 15,300 stamps which was delivered to the post office department on May 8th, 1864, and the officials immediately began invoicing these, together with the values of 1, 2, and 4 reales, to various principal offices. This entire printing was in the brown color and from proof which I shall present, it is the only printing in this color.

Between May 8th and July 7th, or for the entire period of the first group, with district name only, these stamps in this color were used; in all, 14,081 were sent out. This left a balance on hand of 1219 as of July 7th when the second period starts.

Starting with invoice number 118 to Guanajuato, the invoice or consignment number was shown on the stamps as well as the district name. These numbers were in large figures and comprise group 2. The balance of the brown stamps were issued as follows:

July 7	Guanajuato	No. 118	total,	100
	Queretaro	129		100
	Jalapa	132		100
	Morelia	141		100
	Mexico	119, 138, 144		720

This used up the brown stamps with the exception of 99 stamps. The stamps on these invoices total 1120 and we know that there were 1219 carried over from the previous invoices. We also know that the next invoice to carry ½ real stamps after number 144 listed above was 148 (Guanajuato) and all copies found from this invoice are in a clear dark purple color from a new printing. Now the 99 stamps remaining, being a full sheet minus only one corner copy, were undoubtedly sent to Puebla on August 26 on consignment 158 as this number shows a total of just 99 half real stamps sent! Unfortunately, no copy from this consignment has as yet turned up but I am convinced that should one be found it would be in the brown color.

The second printing received by the post office was of 7200 stamps, delivered to August 31st. This printing comprised stamps in two shades of purple. The first, and probably smaller group of perhaps two or three thousand stamps was in a clear deep color, more purplish than violet with little red in it. The first consignment number 148 is in this color. The second group was in a brighter shade which I choose to call red violet, the red being the predominant tint, and this shade was in evidence for all the rest of the stamps issued in 1864. Number 155 to S. L. Potosi is a good example of this color. The impressions in the both shades are clear and distinct and seem to be well done, the lines of the engraving stand out well and the stamps do not present a worn appearance so characteristic of the next two printings following.

This printing of 7200 stamps was supplied for the rest of the invoices bearing large number and date and for the first of the next group bearing the small number and date, known as group 3. Invoice 192 on Oct. *10* to Mexico was the last supplied from this second printing.

The third printing was of 5900 stamps supplied on Oct. 30th. It was in the red violet shade but the impressions generally were not so clear though still far better than those of the printings of 1865. These stamps were supplied to invoices 208 through 239, the latter being consigned Dec. 28, 1864.

At the end of the year the fourth printing of 11,200 was delivered, all in a paler shade of red violet, fairly clear impression. The balance of group 3 stamps were from this, being consignments as follows:

Dec. 30	Puebla	number 240,	1000
	Queretaro	241,	1000
	Vera Cruz	242,	2000
	Guadalajara	243,	1500
	Zacatecas	244,	1000

This would leave 4700 stamps carried over into the next year from this printing (the only one on hand) but the official reports give 4699, a discrepancy of one stamp. But there was four loose stamps on hand from printing 3 and I think that as soon as the fourth printing was received one stamp was cut from a sheet and this one stamp and the four loose ones in the stamp box were then despatched on invoice 231 to the French Post as this consignment shows five ½ real stamps sent. I think this is the correct explanation since the very first invoice carrying ½ real stamps in 1865 is to Mexico for 399 stamps—this mutilated sheet plus two complete ones.

The balance of this fourth printing was sent out in January 1865 in five invoices, Durango, number 13, getting 2000 stamps.

Printing number 5 was delivered to the officials between the 1st and 16th of February and was for 11,900 stamps. The plate has been touched up a bit and most certainly cleaned, though signs of wear are very evident in the majority of the stamps. The color is a bright red violet and is easily distinguishable from the previous batch, or, for that matter, from any that follow. The stamps were sent on invoices 22 to 61, the last going to Tula on April 11th. All are of course in group 4, with date 1865.

Printing number 6 was of 7300 stamps delivered April, 1865 and shipped out on invoices 62 to 90, the last on June 1st. The color is plain violet with very little reddish in it. It more approaches printing 2 in shade than the previous one. Colima on invoice 80 is frequently found and is a good example of the color of this printing.

The 7th printing comprised 17,000 stamps and was all delivered to the head office by June 30, 1865. It is an entirely new shade: I term it lilac. In this the reddish tint is completely lacking, it tending more to a brown lilac than a red lilac. This lilac color was used for the printings for the rest of the year.

The 8th printing was of 8100 stamps delivered August, 1865, also in the lilac color, and the 9th delivered in October was of 8600 stamps in a clear bright lilac. It seems evident that for this 9th printing the plates were again cleaned and care taken to get good impressions. Unfortunately stamps were not issued entirely from one printing before another was received, it being the custom, at least during the summer and fall months of 1865 to place the new printings on top of what was left of the old and stamps invoiced out in a haphazard manner. Thus we find invoice 134 exactly the same as 108 and patently from printing number 7, and 143 the same as 169 evidently from printing number 9, whereas numbers 139 and 155 seem to be from number 8.

From the evidence of consignment numbers known it seems that all the stamps from printings 7, 8, and 9 were used up by the time invoice 196 was sent out on Nov. 28th to Vera Cruz. The 10th printing was of 12,500 copies delivered between Dec. 1st and 29th and was in a brownish lilac shade, mostly very worn impressions and dull colors. Many of the stamps on the plate were now so worn as to have parts of the design entirely blurred. Furthermore, the plate had become bent on one side and near the bottom so that in many impressions the stamp is very imperfectly printed.

At the end of 1865 there were only 400 of the ½ real stamps on hand at the post office department, consignments having kept pace pretty well with printings. It is entirely possible that these 400 were not sent out, for we know of a good many remainders in violet and lilac colors apparently from 1865 printings. In fact, there are certainly a good many more remainders without the consignment number in violet and lilac colors than 400: I shall take that point up later.

The first printing in 1866 (No. 11), under date of January 12th, was for 13,000 stamps, and I believe all were in the grey color. The grey is fairly bright and clear although the plate shows great signs of wear, but the im-

pressions had not deteriorated into the drab blotches of color of the last printing of March, 1866.

The late Charles J. Phillips listed consignment number 10 to Durango as being the first to show the grey color but the evidence of copies on hand does not bear this out. Consignment number 6 to Vera Cruz and number 8 to Jalapa are both in grey.

The 12th printing delivered by Jan. 31st was for 9000 copies and is very similar to the previous one. It was sent out in seven consignments and was gone by February 23rd. The 13th printing was of 9400 copies and is very poor in color compared to the previous two. It is more what our English friends call "drab" than grey and it is such a washed out shade that the stamps are practically unrecognizable. Colima No. 44 and Guadalajara No. 51 are good examples of this printing.

The last printing was in March of 1866 and was for 27,500 copies. The color is grey again but the plate is so badly worn that the stamps are very poorly printed. Most of the consignments were of small amounts and went to Mexico District, the few to outlying cities being returned in whole or in part upon receiving the new Maximilian stamps. The stamps were not all shipped out, there being 6600 of the half real Eagles on hand when the Maximilians came into use.

A Tabulation of the Printings of the Half Real "Eagles" Issue, 1864-66

Ptg.	Date	Quantity	Group	Color
1	May 8, '64	15,300	I, II	brown
2	August, '64	7,200	II, III	purple, red violet
3	Oct. 30, '64	5,900	III	red violet
4	Dec. 31, '64	11,200	III, IV	pale red violet
5	Feb. 1865	11,900	IV	bright violet
6	April, 1865	7,300	IV	violet
7	June, 1865	17,000	IV	lilac
8	August, 1865	8,100	IV	lilac
9	Oct. 1865	8,600	IV	bright lilac
10	Dec. 1865	12,500	IV	brown lilac
11	Jan. 12, '66	13,000	V	grey
12	Jan. 31, '66	9,000	V	grey
13	Feb. 1866	9,400	V	drab
14	March 1866	27,500	V	grey

A Tabulation of the Postal Districts Receiving the Half Real "Eagles" Issue, 1864-66

Group I. With the District name only. Issued between May 15 and July 7, 1864. The following districts received stamps:

Chalco	585*	Pachuca	501
Cordova	101	Puebla	1000
Cuernavaca	501*	Queretaro	1091
Guadalajara	1000	S. L. Potosi	1200
Guanajuato	500	Tampico	100
Jalapa	300	Toluca	500
Lagos	200	Tulancingo	500
Maravatio	200	Vera Cruz	1600
Merida	500	Yguala	1
Mexico	1700*	Zacatecas	1000
Orizava	501		

* Of the totals given, Chalco returned at the end of the issue 249 copies unsold and Cuernavaca returned 453 copies, making a total of these two districts of stamps sold of 337 and 48 respectively. 1700 were sent to the Mexico City office but 412 were sent to private parties, merchants, ambassadors and officials so that only 1288 were sold through the post office. No copies have ever been found from the districts of Cuernavaca, Jalapa, Lagos, Pachuca or Yguala.

Group II. With District Name and with the Invoice Number in Large Figures, issued between July 8 and Sept. 19, 1864

District	Color	Consignments	Total
Durango	red violet	156	500
Guanajuato	brown	118	100
Guanajuato	purple	148	500
Isla del Carmen	purple	164	100
Jalapa	brown	132	100
Mexico	brown	119, 138, 144	720
Mexico	red violet	163, 165, 173	893
Monterrey	red violet	175	500
Morelia	brown	141	100
Puebla	brown?	158	99
Puebla	red violet	179	100
Queretaro	brown	129	100
S. L. Potosi	red violet	155	500
Toluca	?	137	8
Zacatecas	purple	166	500

Group III. With Number and Date in Small Figures, issued between Sept. 20 and Dec. 31, 1864

District	Color	Consignments	Total
Campeche	red violet	222	500
Cordova	red violet	208	1000
Guadalajara	red violet	243	1500
Jalapa	red violet	185	1000
Mazatlan	red violet	236	200
Merida	red violet	227	1000
Mexico	red violet	192, 209, 234, 239	1595
Morelia	red violet	186, 220	1300
Puebla	red violet	240	1000
Queretaro	red violet	241	1000
Saltillo	red violet	181	500
S. L. Potosi	red violet	189	1000
Tampico	red violet	218	500
Vera Cruz	red violet (pale)	242	2000
Victoria	red violet	221	500
Zacatecas	red violet	244	1000

Group IV. With Number and Date in Small Figures, issued between Jan. 1 and Dec. 31, 1865

District	Color	Consignments	Total
Campeche	lilac	164, 181	400
Chihuahua	lilac	169	1000
	Practically all of the stamps to this district were left on hand at the post office. They were fairly common unused, without name.		
Colima	violet	80	1000
Cordova	lilac	189	2000
	At the end of the issue 878 of these were returned leaving 1122 sold at the P. O.		
Durango	red violet	13	2000
Guadalajara	red violet	24, 55	2000
Guadalajara	lilac	131, 155, 211	3000
Guanajuato	red violet	7, 58	2000
Guanajuato	lilac	130, 215	3000
Guaymas	lilac	116	1000
Huejutla	violet?	98	100
Isla del Carmen	red violet	32	500
Lagos	lilac	168	500
Maravatio	violet, lilac	81, 192	1000
Matamoros	lilac	135	1000
Mazatlan	lilac	191	500

Merida	red violet	29	2000
Merida	lilac	134, 202	3000

Despite the large number sent to this district (5000) stamps are very rare.

Mexico	red violet	3, 9, 16, 23, 30, 36, 45, 49, 52, 60, 65, 69, 71, 76, 77, 82, 85, 90, 97, 105	5644
Mexico	lilac	118, 120, 127, 133, 142, 147, 150, 157, 162, 166, 171, 177, 187, 193, 198, 210, 213	7894
Monterrey	red violet	63	1000
Morelia	violet, lilac	84, 143	2000
Oaxaca	red violet	40	1000
Oaxaca	lilac	108	2500
Orizava	lilac	107	2000
Pachuca	lilac	124	1000

This was the last consignment of ½ real stamps Pachuca received (none in 1866) and at the end of the issue 966 were returned to the head office: presumably only 34 were sold.

Puebla	lilac	115, 216	4500
Queretaro	violet	86	1000
Queretaro	lilac	129, 149	1500
Saltillo	violet, lilac	27, 173	1000
S. L. Potosi	red violet	10, 41	2500
S. L. Potosi	lilac	139, 208	3000
Tacubaya	lilac	117	2000

At the end of the issue 802 of these were returned.

Tampico	red violet	62	1000
Toluca	brown lilac	203	1000

At the end of the issue 530 of these were returned.

Tula	?	61	100

76 were returned: no copy is known.

Vera Cruz	violet, lilac	89, 178, 196	900
Victoria	?	33	32
Zacatecas	violet, lilac	59, 148	2000

Group V. With number and date in small figures. Issued between Jan. 1 and July 30, 1866. Color is always grey, varying impressions

District	Consignments	Sent	Returned	Sold
Acapulco	115	500		?
Campeche	30	2000	782	1218
Colima	44, 122	3000	840	2160
Durango	10, 67	2000	1794	206
Guadalajara	20, 51	5000	2882	2118
Guaymas	61	500	500	?
Isla del Carmen	84	200		?
Ixtlahuaca	29	1000	982	18
Jalapa	8, 23, 69	4000	2292	1708
Mazatlan	62	500		500
Merida	18	4000	3511	489
Mexico	1, 7, 17, 19, 27, 31, 35, 40, 52, 55, 56, 59, 68, 72, 78, 86, 87, 89, 93, 100, 105, 108, 114, 117, 126, 127	11,400	608	10,791

Many of these invoices received very few stamps, generally between 200 and 400 stamps, with a maximum of 800 stamps per consignment. All are thus very scarce.

Monterrey	43	2000	1668	332
Morelia	16	1000		1000?
Oaxaca	42	2000		2000?
Puebla	53	5000	2980	2020
S. L. Potosi	57	2000	1013	987
Saltillo	34	1000		1000?

Tlalpujahua	106	300 (only known unused).		
Tulancingo	99	100	6	94
Vera Cruz	6	2000	600	1400
Yguala	13	200	180	20
Zacatecas	5, 24	3000	?	?

REMAINDERS, WITHOUT OVERPRINT

The most perplexing problem in regard to the issue of the Medio Real stamps seems to be relative to the remainders. If the figures of the Post Office Department are correct we know that there were but 6,600 of the half real stamps on hand in August 1866 when the new Maximilian series was introduced. We also know from the addition of the total printed and issued that on Dec. 31st, *1865* there was but 400 stamps on hand. If these 400 were not sent out in 1866 they are the only ones that could be in the red violet color as used early in 1865, yet the red violet stamps are today the most common of all the ½r. remainders without the name and consignment numbers. I have never seen in print any explanation of where these red violet stamps could have come from—the following seems to be the most logical.

In 1892 when the Mexican officials wished to have on display at the Columbian Exposition, Chicago (and for their own archives) samples of all Mexican stamps issued to that date, there could not be found the plates for the 1 and 2 reales Eagles stamps. Plates for these values were made in imitation of the originals and numerous sheets printed therefrom. Presumably the half real plate was in existence and, also presumably, printings were made from it in a red violet color. These would of course be without any district name or consignment number and would account for the "remainder" copies known today.

The half real brown from the first printing is also known without any overprint: these are all from two small lots returned at the end of issue by the districts of Chalco and Cuernavaca, a total of 702 stamps.

Argentine Forged Cancel

To the Editor, The Collectors Club Philatelist.

Sir:

You may like to be placed on your guard against a new forgery which has appeared here in Argentina. It consists of the postmark "MERCEDES," in a double-lined tray, the outer line being thicker, the letters being thickish plain sans-serif capitals. The tray is octagonal, roughly 25 mm. x 10 mm.

The mark is being used to produce "bisects" of 10c. stamps on covers or pieces which otherwise would be stampless. This can be done with Argentine stamps of the 1858, 1862 and 1864 issues. The mark is being struck in varying shades, bluish chiefly: I have not seen black yet. I fear it may be used for "piece" work.

The mark is easily distinguished by the left-hand bottom part of the tray being twisted inwards, as a defective litho transfer is.

The inventor is possessed of a fair amount of philatelic knowledge, which is really why I am writing to you, as these forgeries are cleverly made and dangerous. I am aware there is a barrier, officially, to their being imported into the U. K., but these things have a way of sneaking round, through or under such barriers.

CHARLES JEWELL

Controversial Subjects

By E. F. Hurt (A. P. S., B. P. A.)

HANDSTRUCK STAMPS

There is no doubt that the collection of handstruck stamps is of as much importance and interest as the collection of adhesives as they have as much bearing on the postal usages and postal history of any country as the latter. There is also no doubt that the collection of these handstruck franks is growing as a cult.

But we must be quite sure that we know what we mean when we speak of a "Handstruck Stamp" because, due to the rather ambiguous meaning of the word "stamp," abuses and misconceptions are already rearing their ugly heads.

The word "stamp" broadly speaking means anything which is impressed as well as anything in the nature of a die or design, made of metal or other substance, by which an impression can be made. Philatelists, however, have come to regard "stamp" primarily as a designation of a piece of adhesive paper which indicates postage paid or to be paid, thus using the term in a relatively restricted sense. The more modern philatelist taking the term "stamp" to apply to any indication of postage paid or to be paid includes under this same heading other such indications than those which are adhesive. This is correct and even the old school of "stamp collectors" cannot logically object to the wider use of the word, since do they not refer to the "stamps" on embossed stationery or on postcards?

I am not going to dictate to anyone what he should or should not collect. That is a matter of taste and personal choice is the essence of democracy and individualism but I am going to quarrel violently with the pig-headed philatelist who says that we must not collect anything but adhesives because he would be the first to accept for his collection a copy of the Bermuda Postmaster which, while it comes within the wider definition of "stamp" which I have described, since it is an indication of postage paid, is really a "handstruck stamp" since it was impressed from a metal "stamp" by hand, being only an impression of a place date stamp of origin adapted for another purpose.

But if we accept the definition—as far as philatelists are concerned—that stamps are indications of "Postage Paid" or "To be Paid" ("Due," if you like) then we shall find that we are already rapidly running off the rails, either by confusion of thought, or more likely by wishful thinking, if not from malice aforethought.

I make this remark because I have recently seen some listings of what are described as the "Handstruck stamps" of certain countries which include a preponderance of marks which were not only never intended to indicate either postage paid or to be paid but of which single examples can be found equally frequently and impartially on pre-paid and unpaid letters. They are in fact nothing more or less than either "date stamps," indications of the place of origin or service directional marks.

As the term "Postal Markings" can conceivably include anything from a date stamp, a transit mark or an obliterator to a paid mark or parliamentary frank it is obvious that we must have some better terms to indicate the various sub-divisions of such marks. I suggest that if we keep to "stamps" as applying to indications of postage paid or to pay we cannot then go wrong as we can always subdivide further into "Adhesive Postage" stamps, "Adhesive Postage Dues," "Handstruck Paid Stamps," "Handstruck Unpaid Stamps" and "Free Stamps."

In this way we shall not teach the coming philatelists of the future any misconceptions and we shall not confuse stamps with dated markings or obliterations; nor shall we clutter up our collections of postal rates with our collections of postal usages, which latter are illustrated by such things as date stamps and cancellations. And so we shall progress instead, as seems likely, retrogress.

New Lights on the Early Issues of Switzerland

By Edwin Muller

After the advent of the Nazis in Germany, Dr. Herbert Munk, famous editor of the Kohl Handbook, left his native country and took up residence in Switzerland. He resigned from the editorship of the Kohl Handbook and this monumental work remained suspended as all efforts by some German philatelists, to continue and conclude it, proved futile and ended in failure. It could be expected that an active philatelic mind such as Dr. Munk's would not remain idle for long and that he would soon devote his time again to philatelic research. This expectation has been fulfilled and the object of the following paragraphs is to report about his activities in the years since 1938.

Due to the war, the publication of his research work in the "Schweizer Briefmarken-Zeitung," the philatelic magazine published by the Federation of Swiss Stamps Clubs, remained almost unnoticed in this country. The publication of the result of his studies in three books of altogether 175 pages * (a concluding fourth one will follow soon), seems reason enough to devote some space in this magazine to a brief resumé of his principal new discoveries and the conclusions resulting therefrom.

It is not surprising that Dr. Munk has chosen the stamps of Switzerland as the field for his new research work. Not only must the availability of large collections and accumulations of these stamps in the country of origin and the possibility of getting official information from the files and the material of the Swiss General Post Office have been an inducement, but also the desire to serve philately of a country which generously gave him a new home and the opportunity for peaceful philatelic work.

The main objects of Dr. Munk's studies were the Swiss 5 and 10 Rappen stamps, used from 1850 to 1854, the so-called "Rayon I" and "Rayon II" (Scott No. 20 to No. 24). These interesting stamps were studied previously by many philatelists, but no comprehensive monograph had been written. The original stones of both values (one for each), contained 40 types (in five horizontal rows of 8), each differing in many details because the 40 designs were drawn singly on the original stones. Dr. Munk proves that for the 5 Rappen, nine different printing stones were used; for the 10 Rappen, seven, always at least two simultaneously (except in the very beginning).

These printing stones were obtained from the original stones by the usual lithographic transfer method. The printing stones usually contained 160 stamps in 4 panes of 40, each pane being a transfer of the original stone. It seems that 4 printing stones contained only 80 stamps, in two panes of 40, one above the other, namely the first three stones of the 5 Rappen and the first stone of the 10 Rappen. Of the 5 Rappen, the first two stones were only used for the tri-colored stamps (Scott No. 20 and No. 22), while from the last five stones only bi-colored stamps (Scott No. 23D and No. 24) were printed. Two plates (the third and the fourth), served for both kinds of stamps.

The 40 types of the original stones were, of course, reproduced on each pane of the printing stones and can be identified there quite easily. Due to transfer flaws, retouches, small defects and wear of the original stones, which

* DR. HERBERT MUNK: "Schweiz. Neue Wege zur Erforschung der eidgenössischen Ausgaben 1850 ff. im Kreuzmuster" (1941), "Suisse, Etude sur les premières émissions fédérales de 1850/51" (1942) and "Schweiz-Suisse. Die Drucksteine der beiden Rayons I. Les planches des deux Rayons I" (1944), published by the Federation of Swiss Stamp Clubs.

were reflected in the printing stones, Dr. Munk was able to identify more than 800 of the 1040 positions in the 7 plates of the 10 Rappen, a great achievement in the plating of this stamp.

Helpful for the identification of the different printing stones was the fact that the first horizontal row of the original stones of both values was about 2mm longer than the last row. The position of the panes to each other, the width of the gutters, the lithographic markers on them and other small details, were also used to distinguish the various printing stones. There is still plenty of work open for specialists of Swiss stamps, as no printing stone has been plated in its entirety. Only about 75% of the positions have been identified. Dr. Munk's work is an excellent guide not only for the plating of the stamps in question, but his methods will also bear fruit in the plating of other lithographed stamps.

The identification of the various printing stones enabled Dr. Munk to find a solution to the question of the framed crosses, which has puzzled many specialists of these stamps. Many theories have been published, but none seems to have been entirely satisfactory. Dr. Munk proves (in our opinion conclusively), that on the original stones of both values, all 40 stamps had fully framed crosses and that originally on all printing stones, all stamps also had fully framed crosses, which were removed only later. He proves also that for the 10 Rappen and for the bi-colored 5 Rappen, no regular printings with fully framed crosses were made and that such stamps originate from a few sheets which were printed from printing stones before the crosses were removed and issued with the regular printings without crosses.

Removal of the crosses, which seem primarily to have been only lithographic markers and not parts of the design, was not made very carefully. For example, of the 800 identified positions of the 10 Rappen, about 25% have been found with more or less large, but constant traces of crosses in various positions of all seven printing stones. In contrast to this, genuine full crosses are only known from three stones of the 5 Rappen (two of the tri-colored and one of the bi-colored) and from one stone of the 10 Rappen.

Dr. Munk's important discovery that the stamps with fully framed crosses came from first printings, printed from the printing stones before removal of the frames was over-looked in a few positions, has been entirely and convincfully framed crosses have never been found in multiples with stamps without frames or with traces of frames, but that multiples of the stamps with fully framed crosses are known.

The most interesting part of Dr. Munk's discovery is therefore the fact that there is no connection between the stamps with fully framed crosses and the stamps with traces of frame, even though the traces are so large that they have an "almost full" frame. The stamps with really fully framed crosses come from early printings in full sheets, while the stamps with traces of frame, large or small, come from scattered positions from all stones.

The theory previously advanced by some experts that the rarities of the stamps with fully framed crosses come from stones on which the removal of the frames was overplooked in a few positions, has been entirely and convincingly disproved by Dr. Munk. There are copies from the same position of the same stone known, of which the early printing has fully framed cross, while later printings have traces of the frame only—from the large so-called "three-quarter" or "almost full" frames to very small traces—or no frame at all.

It is also remarkable, that one printing stone (the third one) of the 5 Rappen, first printed tri-colored stamps with fully framed crosses, then such stamps with or without traces of frame and finally bi-colored stamps, also with or without traces of frame. The rarities with fully framed cross (10 Rappen and bi-colored 5 Rappen) were extensively faked by using stamps with large traces of crosses and painting in the missing parts.

Such fakes can now be detected easily because only certain stones and printings which can be plated come with genuine fully framed crosses. Due to their origin from the original stone, the same position in each pane always had the same cross and an expert can therefore quite easily judge their genuineness. A number of cherished rarities with framed crosses have now been proven to be forgeries, while others, previously condemned by experts, have been recognized as genuine.

The great rarity of the bi-colored 5 Rappen (Scott No. 23D), of which Dr. Munk knows only about a dozen genuine copies with fully framed cross, is now a well established fact. Several copies have changed hands in the last years in Switzerland for prices between 10,000 and 15,000 Swiss francs, about ten times the now obsolete Scott catalogue price. It will be necessary for the collector to have all copies of the rare 10 Rappen and the bi-colored 5 Rappen with fully framed crosses re-examined, as Dr. Munk's new discovery makes certificates of earlier years valueless, while it now enables the expert to give a founded and concrete opinion.

By his work about the early Swiss stamps, Dr. Munk has again given proof of his rare ability to evaluate philatelic facts and to arrive sometimes at surprising conclusions which put our knowledge of certain stamps on an entirely new basis. It is a shame, and one of the little crimes of the Nazis, that Dr. Munk was prevented from continuing and concluding his work on the Kohl Handbook, which has given the philatelic world immeasurable new impulses and has influenced a whole generation of collectors. However, it is hoped that his latest monograph will not be the last gift which he will be able to make to the world of stamps.

Post Office Agency Sales

Receipts from the sale of postage stamps at the Philatelic Agency in Washington, D. C., for the fiscal year ended June 30, 1946, were the greatest for any like period in the history of that Agency.

According to figures made public today by the Post Office Department total receipts for the fiscal year mentioned were $3,020,692.36, as compared with $2,489,406.50 for the previous fiscal year, or an increase of $531,285.86. The fiscal year 1944-45 had broken all records in total receipts at the Agency prior to the one ended June 30 of this year.

Total orders for stamps reaching the Agency for the fiscal year just ended amounted to 165,815, of which number 119.119 were received by mail and 46,696 through windows at the Agency itself. This shows an increase in orders received at the Agency for the last fiscal year over the previous year of 37,259.

On July 1, 1945, all postage stamps on sale at the Agency in Washington were removed from sale with the exception of the commemoratives and the migratory bird hunting stamps. Beginning today the series of air mail stamps, ten in number, become available to collectors and others interested at the Agency. They are the 16c red and blue of the issue of 1936, the 20c green and 50c carmine of 1937, the 6c red, 10c purple, 15c brown, 20c green, 30c blue and 50c orange of 1941 and the 8c green of 1944. It is announced that the 20c green and 50c carmine of 1937 can neither be supplied in well-centered condition nor plate number positions.

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The Philatelic Adviser and five supplements. By R. C. Alcock. Gift of R. C. Alcock.

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Description Generale des Timbres-Poste de L'Emission de Bordeaux. By Paul Dillemann. Purchased.

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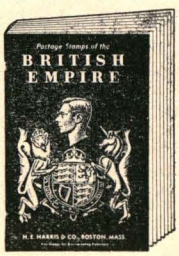
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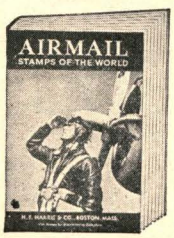
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343	1908-09	1c Green	2.00	3.00	3.25	5.50	12.00	13.00	.....
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344	1908-09	Star Plate	.....	*7.00	.....	.....	*28.00	.....	.....
345	1908-09	3c Violet	12.00	20.00	20.00	50.00	.....	80.00	.....
346	1908-09	4c Brown	12.00	20.00	20.00	50.00	80.00	80.00	.....
346	1908-09	Star Plate	.....	*25.00	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
347	1908-09	5c Blue	24.00	40.00	40.00	80.00	160.00	160.00	.....
368	1909	2c Lincoln	12.00	20.00	.....	42.00	80.00	.....	.....
371	1909	2c Alaska	19.00	30.00	30.00	42.00	120.00	120.00	.....
373	1909	2c Hudson Fulton	12.00	20 00	20.00	42.00	.....	80.00	.....
383	1910	1c Green	.80	4.00	3.00	6.00	16.00	12.00	.....
384	1910	2c Carmine	10.00	18.50	.....	42.00	.....	74.00	.....
384	1910	"A" & Plate ♯	.....	"A" 25.00	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
408	1912	1c Green	.60	1.00	1.00	4.00	4.00	4.00	.....
408	1912	"A" & Plate ♯	.....	"A" 2.75	.....	.....	"A" 11.00	.....	.....
409	1912	2c Carmine	.80	3.00	2.25	7.50	12.00	9.00	.....
409	1912	"A" & Plate ♯	.....	"A" 6.00	.....	.....	"A" 24.00	.....	.....
409	1912	Bureau, A & ♯	.....	"B & A" 3.00	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
481	1917	1c Green	.48	.90	1.15	4.50	3.60	4.60	.....
482	1917	2c Carmine	.76	1.85	1.85	7.00	7.40	7.40	8.00
483	1917I	3c Purple	3.60	6.00	6.00	22.00	24.00	24.00	24.00
483A	1917II	3c Purple	3.20	6.00	6.00	26.50	24.00	24.00	.....
531	1921	1c Green	6.00	11.00	11.00	27.50	44.00	44.00	44.00
532	1921VA	2c Carmine	5.00	10.00	10.00	25.00	40.50	40.50	42.50
532A	1921V	2c Carmine	20.00	37.50	.....	125.00	150.00	150.00	.....
532B	1921VI	2c Carmine	9.00	18.50	18.50	80.00	75.00	75.00	.....
532C	1921IV	2c Carmine	7.20	15.00	.....	30.00	60.00	60.00	60.00
535	1921	3c Purple	6.00	10.00	.....	27.50	.....	36.00	.....
575	1923-25	1c Green	3.00	7.50	7.50	18.50	30.00	30.00	30.00
576	1923-25	1½c Brown	.70	2.00	2.00	8.50	8.00	8.00	.....
577	1923-25	2c Carmine	.76	2.50	2.50	5.00	10.00	10.00	.....
577	1923-25	Star Plate	*1.00	*5.00	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
612	1923-25	2c Harding	6.00	15.00	.....	45.00	.....	50.00	60.00
631	1926	1½c Brown (Rotary)	2.00	.....	.....	17.50	.....	20.00	.....
631	Block—Horizontal Gutter $5.00; Vertical Gutter $5.00; No Gum Breaker Bars $5.00.								

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Special Offer:

1) **Nr. 1—8 Silombra Airstamp Cat. Black surch. mint (issued: 1000) . . net $ 50.00**
(Scott Nr. 2NC1—2NC8)
a) the same set in block of four, mint . . . . . net $220.00
b) the same set used on cover . . . . . net $ 90.00
c) the same set with error: inverted "1" (number ninety-six in the sheet—**only 8** existing—) mint . . . . . net $350.00

2) **Nr. 10—17 Silombra Airstamp Cat. black surch. mint (issued: 1100) net $ 40.00**
(Scott Nr. 2NC10—2NC17 and Sanabria 202-209 = $55.00)
a) the same set in block of four, mint . . . . . net $180.00
b) the same set used on cover . . . . . net $ 70.00
c) the same set with error: "L" instead of i (number thirteen and eighty-two in the sheet, **only 22** existing) mint . . . . . net $125.00

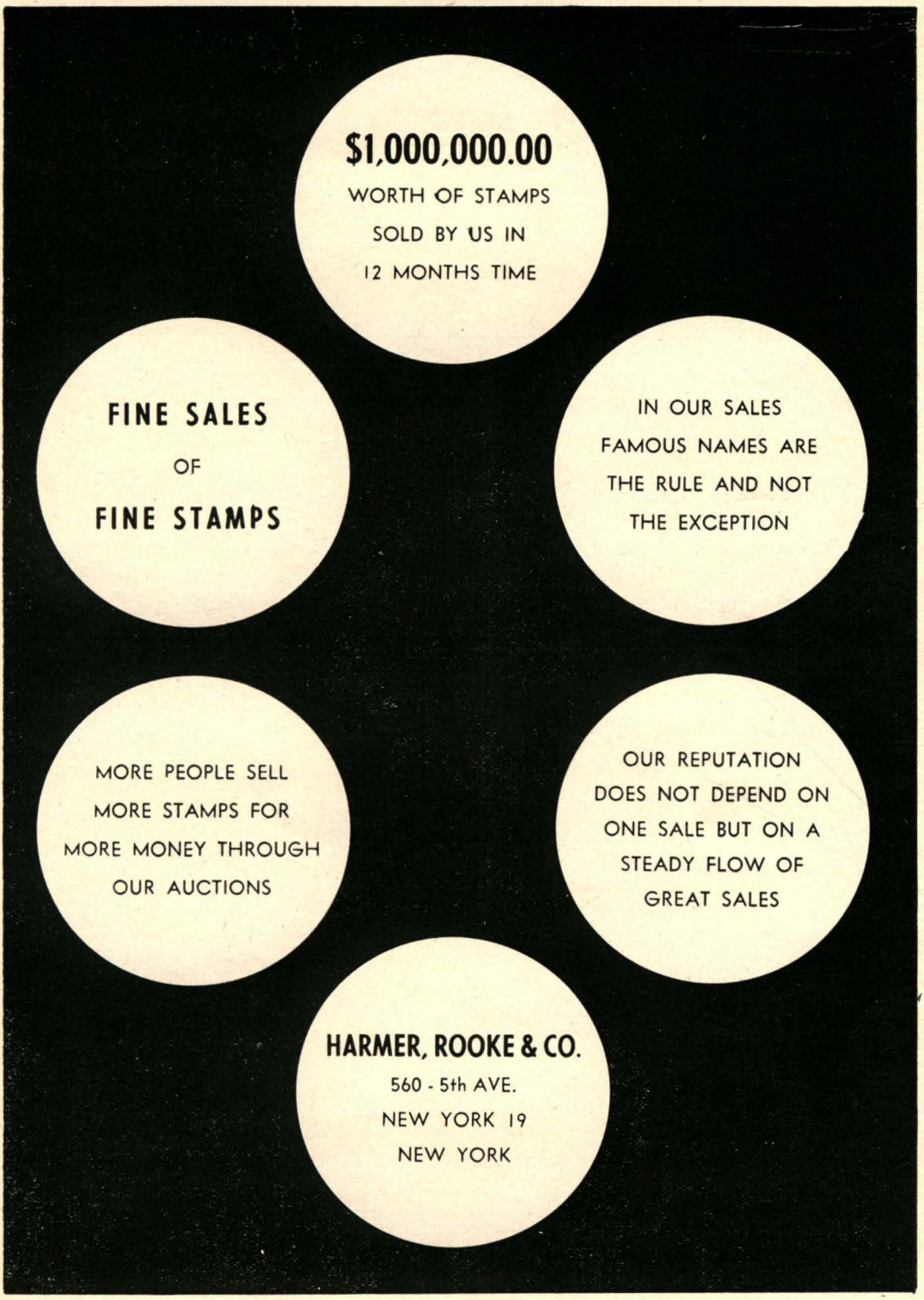
3) **Nr. 18—25 Silombra Airstamp Cat. red surch. mint (issued: 500) . . net $ 90.00**
(Scott Nr. 2NC10—2NC17 and Sanabria 210-217 = $125.00)
a) the same set in block of four, mint . . . . . net $500.00
b) the same set used on cover . . . . . net $150.00
c) the same set with error: "L" instead of i (numbers thirteen and eighty-two in the sheet, **only 10** existing) mint . . . . . net $400.00

4) **Nr. 26—29 Silombra Airstamp Cat. black surch. mint (issued: 400) . . net $100.00**
(Scott Nr. 2NB5—2NB8)
a) the same set in block of four, mint . . . . . net $550.00
b) the same set used on cover . . . . . net $175.00
c) the same set with error: "Mont**O**negro" (number eleven in the sheet, **only 16** existing) mint . . . . . net $300.00
d) the 10 Dinar-value with **inverted** overprint **(only 20** existing— whole pane—) mint and very rare, see foto above . . . . . net $300.00

5) **Nr. 30—33 Silombra Airstamp Cat. red surch. mint (issued: 200) . . net $250.00**
(Scott Nr. 2NB5—2NB8)
a) the same set in block of four, mint RR . . . . . net $1500.00
(this is the only known block-set, perhaps **unique**)
b) the same set used on cover . . . . . net $ 350.00
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SPECIAL ISSUE

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