THE COLLECTORS CLUB

PHILATELIST

Volume 40, No. 6

November, 1961

CONTENTS

EDITORIALS 261

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR 263

AFGHANISTAN (Frank E. Patterson III) 265
Its 20th Century Postal Issues (Part I)

UNITED STATES (Mortimer L. Neinken) 283
1c. 1857. Unique Plate 4 Full Pane

SUEZ CANAL COMPANY (Jean Boulad d'Humieres) 289
Its 1868 Postage Stamps

COLLECTORS CLUB 294
1961 Officers, Governors and Trustees

VENEZUELA (James Negus and Peter Holcombe) . 295
The "Rivodo" Find of Early Covers

BOOK REVIEWS 303

THE CLUBHOUSE 308
Meeting Report and New Members

UNCOMMON USE OF COMMON STAMPS 311
Cover Mailed After The Franco-Prussian War

The Collectors Club Philatelist is published bi-monthly (Jan., Mar., May, July, Sept., Nov.) by the Collectors Club, Inc. 22 East 35 Street, New York 16, N. Y. Second-class mail privileges authorized at New York, N. Y.

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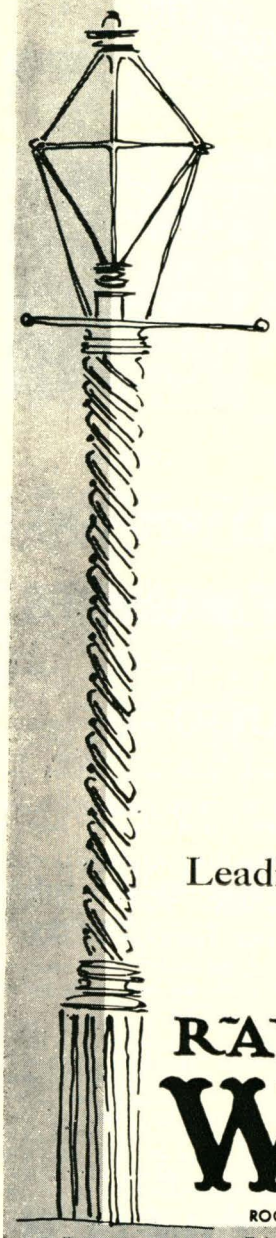
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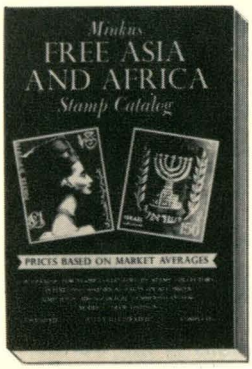
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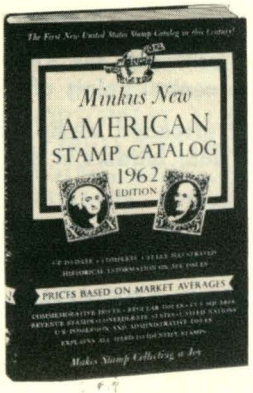
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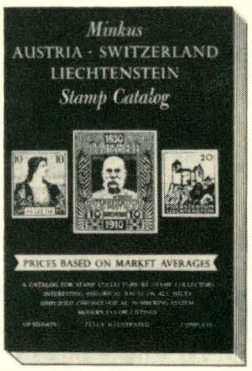
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Editorials

Wall Street And Nassau Street

There are two famous streets nearby in downtown New York City, both having symbolic names. Wall Street denotes finance, stocks and bonds to all hearing this name. Nassau Street, although far less famous, signifies stamp collecting and dealing.

Wall Street is having troubles. Led by the head of the New York Stock Exchange, people are being warned against buying stocks without any knowledge of what they are purchasing. New issues of securities seem to be the main problem. A company offers its shares to the public for the first time. Many rush to buy simply because it is new and on the false notion than any new stock quickly goes up in price.

Although to a much lesser degree, new issues of stamps are being gobbled up by many who have not the slightest notion of philately. They were told and read that if one had bought every United States stamp for the last 50 years, as it was issued, they would be rich today. That is all that is needed to be said. Thousands all over this country flock to the post offices to buy a full sheet of every United States stamp as it is placed on sale. They are told — put them away and in a few years time, one's retirement or his children's college education will be paid for by stamps. What bunk!

Wall Street's largest stock brokers, Merrill, Lynch, Pierce Fenner & Smith, Inc. ran advertisements in many newspapers this year. If one substitues the word "stamps" for "stocks," this advertisement would read as follows:

A Matter of Some Concern

We are concerned about the number of people who have been buying stamps in recent months for what we believe are the wrong reasons—wrong at least for them. These are the people, mainly unsophisticated about philately and often victimized by the tips and rumors that flood the market today, who have been buying stamps in the hope of making a big, quick profit. In a word these people are speculating imprudently.

Some ask — why does an active philatelist care if a number of unsophisticated people are speculating with sheets of new U. S. stamps? How can this possibly affect your collection? The answer is that one meets a growing

number of these inexperienced speculators, who have learned the tragic and hard way. When they tried to sell their U. S. sheets, they were astounded to learn that there is no demand for them, so that their speculation for future profit must be sold at a loss. Disillusioned and bitter at having been misled, these people then condemn stamp collecting as a racket. They retain this feeling of ill-will forever and never fail to express their distain for philately whenever the word is mentioned. Stamp collecting generally makes friends. It is this wanton speculation in new issues that makes enemies of philately. This, then, concerns every active stamp collector or dealer.

Stamp Collectors In The United States

About ten years ago, a daily newspaper reported an estimate that there were *ten-million* stamp collectors in this country. This seemed greatly exaggerated to us, and was so challenged at that time in an editorial. But it had no effect.

A few years later, one read that the number of stamp collectors in the United States had increased to *fifteen-million* (15,000,000). Once again this column challenged such a figure as highly inflated and inaccurate. It was asked upon what basis this figure of 15,000,000 was estimated? Nothing was ever disclosed to satisfy this curiosity.

Then a year or so ago, a U. S. P. O. Department Press Release mentioned a figure of *twenty-million,* (20,000,000) stamp collectors in this country as if this were taken from an actual census. This estimate since then has been repeated often in many of the lay and stamp papers. Once again no one ever gave the slightest indication for the basis for this. One may expect this exaggeration soon to grow to twenty-five million, and perhaps every few years another five million will be added, judging by past practices.

As to an estimate of the number of stamp collectors in this country, every one would like to know a reasonably accurate amount. If the figure of fifteen million was challenged as grossly exaggerated, by how much? Are there one million, two or five million collectors in the United States? Any tangible indication should be publicized. Recently one was encountered.

Some time was spent with Mr. T. Clements, Head of the United Nations Postal Administration. During the course of conversation, there were interruptions from dissatisfied collectors, who had not been able to purchase U. N Souvenir Sheet issued in October 1960. The common complaint directed against the United Nations Postal Administration was that the issue was only one million Souvenir Sheets in view of the "fact" that there are 10,000,000 collectors in this country *(sic.)* This was repeated many times by various complainers.

In a conscientious attempt to placate his critics, the Head of the United Nations Postal Administration openly stated just how many people order every new UN stamp — *approximately one hundred thousand (100,000).*

Most all will agree that UN stamps are currently very popular. Certainly many more do collect United States stamps, but no one will dispute the high popularity of UN issues in this country.

Consequently, if one thinks that there are ten U. S. to every UN collector, then a fair estimate of the number of stamp collectors in the United States would be *one million.* If some believe this estimate too conservative, then let's assume there are twenty-five U. S. for every UN stamp collector. Thus, the number of collectors in this country could be calculated as *2,500,000,* no more.

This offers an indication of how greatly exaggerated the number of col-

lectors has been. A conservative estimate would be between one and two million, a far cry from a figure of twenty-millions.

Some may try to refute our estimate by citing, for example, the first-day cover sales of U. S. stamps. Some issues' sales have run in the million bracket. The individual sales, however, are not broken down. When a U. S. commemorative stamp is issued for industries like petroleum, chemicals or motors, one must know that the companies interested mail out hundreds of thousands of first-day covers for publicity purposes. With practically every new U. S. stamp, there is some group, association or industry vitally interested in the subject. They buy and use enormous quantities of these new U. S. stamps. Such non-philatelic orders may outstrip those from collectors. Thus, one can question the first-day cover sales of new U. S. stamps as being an accurate barometer for stamp collectors census.

One might inquire; why spend time arguing whether there actually are two or twenty million stamp collectors in the United States? The answer is that so-called "organized philately" is directly concerned. Frequently stamp collectors are called frugal, introverts and selfish in that they do not buy stamp books or catalogs, join their local stamp club or subscribe to a stamp weekly. If one accepts the estimate of twenty millions, then castigation of stamp collectors as "small people" is justified. All of us therefore, can be concerned why philatelic literature receives so little support. But if one agrees that the figure of one million stamp collectors in the United States as far more accurate, then the sales of catalogs, attendance at stamp shows, stamp club membership and all similar activities reveal a generally good support percentagewise.

The real problem is that once an exaggerated estimate becomes public knowledge, a later but far more accurate estimate seems to be forgotten or ignored.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

De La Rue Stamp Production

Mr. Nathan Hals, in his article on the De La Rue Masterplate Method of Stamp Production in the July issue, quotes as his references three contributions to Gibbons Stamp Monthly which appeared in that magazine in April, May and June 1953. There is, however, a more recent and important source for information on this subject: Mr. John Easton's De La Rue History of British and Foreign Postage Stamps, published in 1958, which except for a few minor points, explains very clearly the methods used by this famous firm. A memorandum written by De La Rue to B. Bartlett, the Inspector to the Crown Agents, on December 4th, 1896, which appears on pp. 586-7, is particularly useful.

According to this memorandum, two methods for copperplate printing were employed by De La Rue. The first was the method invented by Perkins, Bacon, whose patents had long since expired, and which was now available to all printers. The second is clearly explained as "being to roll in an original plate of 60 set (more or less as the case may be) with the duty left blank. In this case lead impressions are taken from the original plate, under hydraulic pressure, and electrotype copper plates are grown from the leads." This is the method described in my booklet on the Bermuda Ship Type, and is the only one which satisfactorily accounts for the fresh entries and retouches common to all values.

There is no mention in the De La Rue History of the second method des-

cribed by the Editor of Gibbons Stamp Monthly in the May 1953 issue, in spite of the fact that this information is stated to have been supplied by De La Rue. According to this process, the required number of lead moulds were taken from the original blank duty die and clamped in a chase, from which copper electrotype plates were grown, thereby eliminating the use of a steel masterplate. Mr. J. R. W. Purves, commenting on this process in the June 1953 issue, suggested that fresh entries, or rather, varieties which appear to be fresh entries, could be caused by "bounce or movement in the die or mould or both." However, it is obvious that the embossed lines in lead of a misplaced impression will be completely flattened out by the flat surface of the die making a second and corrected impression. In fact, I have proved this to my entire satisfaction by experimenting with making lead moulds under pressure of a steel stationary monogram die!

As for the question of "steel surfacing," Mr. Hals is correct in saying that this is a misnomer for "iron surfacing." Several methods of iron surfacing are explained in Chapter XV of the original (1916) edition of Postage Stamps in the Making by Fred J. Melville. The new edition of this book, rewritten by Mr. John Easton, only describes the process very briefly.

In the De La Rue History Mr. Easton states that the chief point that is still not clear in the De La Rue masterplate method is whether the duty was added to the electro printing plates by punches or pantograph. It seems probable to me that both methods were used. In the case of the Bermuda Ship Type I have revised my opinion on this point since writing my booklet. I now believe that a pantograph was used in all cases except the 1d. Plate III, on which the figure of the value is misplaced slightly on a number of subjects. Such a lack of alignment strongly suggests that hand punches were used, for variations of this kind would not be possible with a pantograph.

M. H. Ludington
Silver Spring, Md.

A Solution of the New Issue Problem?

Your editorial in the July, 1961 issue is, in my opinion, long overdue. If the conservative and intelligent philatelic forces representing collectors do not take a strong stand against the flood of unnecessary "collector's" issues, who will do it?

I have a suggestion that may prove of some value. Would it be possible to list the number of stamps issued each year, by country, with the population of each country alongside the number of stamps?

By number of stamps I mean number of each value and type issued. For example, if a country issued a series consisting of four stamps of 1c, 2c, 5c and 10c, and each value was printed in quantities of 100,000, then the quantity issued for this country would be 400,000. The table might look like this:

Year	*Country*	*No. of Stamps*	*Total Face Val.*	*Quantity Issued*	*Population*
1960	U. S.	35	$1.75	70,000,000	180,000,000

In this way you would be putting the spotlight on those countries that continuously issue large numbers of unnecessary stamps. While I do not know of any accepted ratio between population and quantities of stamps needed to fill the postal requirements, it could well be that a quick look down the list would show up many countries that are continually out-of-line.

Samuel Dalsimer
Neponsit, N. Y.

Those, seeking a new collecting field well might consider . . .

AFGHANISTAN

Its Twentieth Century Postal Issues

By FRANK E. PATTERSON III

Foreword

Up to 1946, after some twenty years of general and specialized collecting, the author had only five specimens of Afghan stamps in his albums. Furthermore, his main interest being airmails, he had little expectation of adding to this number. In the summer of that year, however, he accepted an appointment to Afghanistan and spent the next three and a half years as the Royal City Planning Architect-Engineer with the Afghan Ministry of Public Works. As a government employee, he worked with and lived among the Afghan peoples, absorbing much of the culture, customs, history and background of their nation. His professional activities led to an acquaintance with many of the leading officials including two successive Postmasters General for whom he designed post offices. It is not surprising, then, that his broadening interest and appreciation of things Afghan should include the assembly of a representative collection of the postal issues.

The original intention was to collect, insofar as possible, a copy of each catalogue-listed stamp. This proved more difficult than anticipated, for in addition to a scarcity of material, at that time catalogue listings upon which to base the collection were decidedly confusing. Reference to Scott, Gibbons and Yvert in 1947 showed a marked lack of agreement in items listed, conflicting data on dates of issue and discrepencies of general information. In addition, the author soon developed local evidence at variance with all the catalogues and found many unlisted postal items. Comparative study of the three catalogues did reveal a fair degree of uniformity for the coverage of the 19th century issues, due probably to general reliance on the excellent "POSTAGE STAMPS OF AFGHANISTAN" by Masson and Jones published by the Philatelic Society of India in 1908. This is a very comprehensive volume and covers the early issues quite thoroughly, although some revisions are now indicated in the light of later information and study.

Intrigued and challenged by the problems presented in the 20th century issues of Afghanistan, the writer made his first excursion into really serious philatelic research. His initial purpose, in addition to personal satisfaction, was to develop a sound basis on which to build a reference collection of the stamps issued after 1900, which could be used in providing accurate data for a possible thorough revision of catalogue listings. During the development of such a collection, which is still in progress, parallel efforts have been made to accumulate associated background material. Because the records of the Post Office were scattered or destroyed during the 1929 revolution, documentation of the earlier issues is dependent mainly on newspaper items, philatelic articles of varying accuracy, old "New Issue" reports and, most authoritatively, on

evidence provided by the stamps and covers themselves. The writer was fortunate in acquiring a relatively complete correspondence file of an import-export firm in Peshawar (Pakistan) containing approximately 900 commercial letters from Afghanistan covering the period 1909 to 1939. This has proved invaluable in dating the appearance of the various issues, postmarks and rate changes. In addition, he now has some 10,000 mint and used Afghan stamps in his own albums and has examined some additional thousands.

As research progressed, it became apparent that a great amount of material was being accumulated that was too specialized for use in a general catalogue. Yet to retain all of the comprehensive information in one's private files seemed to be an unfortunate type of philatelic hoarding, and it was concluded that the results of these studies should be made available to other interested collectors. The writer therefore began to collate the material into presentable form and gradually revised and edited it until it was in condition to publish. This monograph is the result and includes most of the work accomplished to date. It is not claimed to be complete and final. Recurring questions or "probablys" in the text evidence some of the remaining unknowns. These also indicate opportunities for further study and research by other students and collectors of Afghan postal issues. Assistance in the improvement and enlargement of the present reference work is invited.

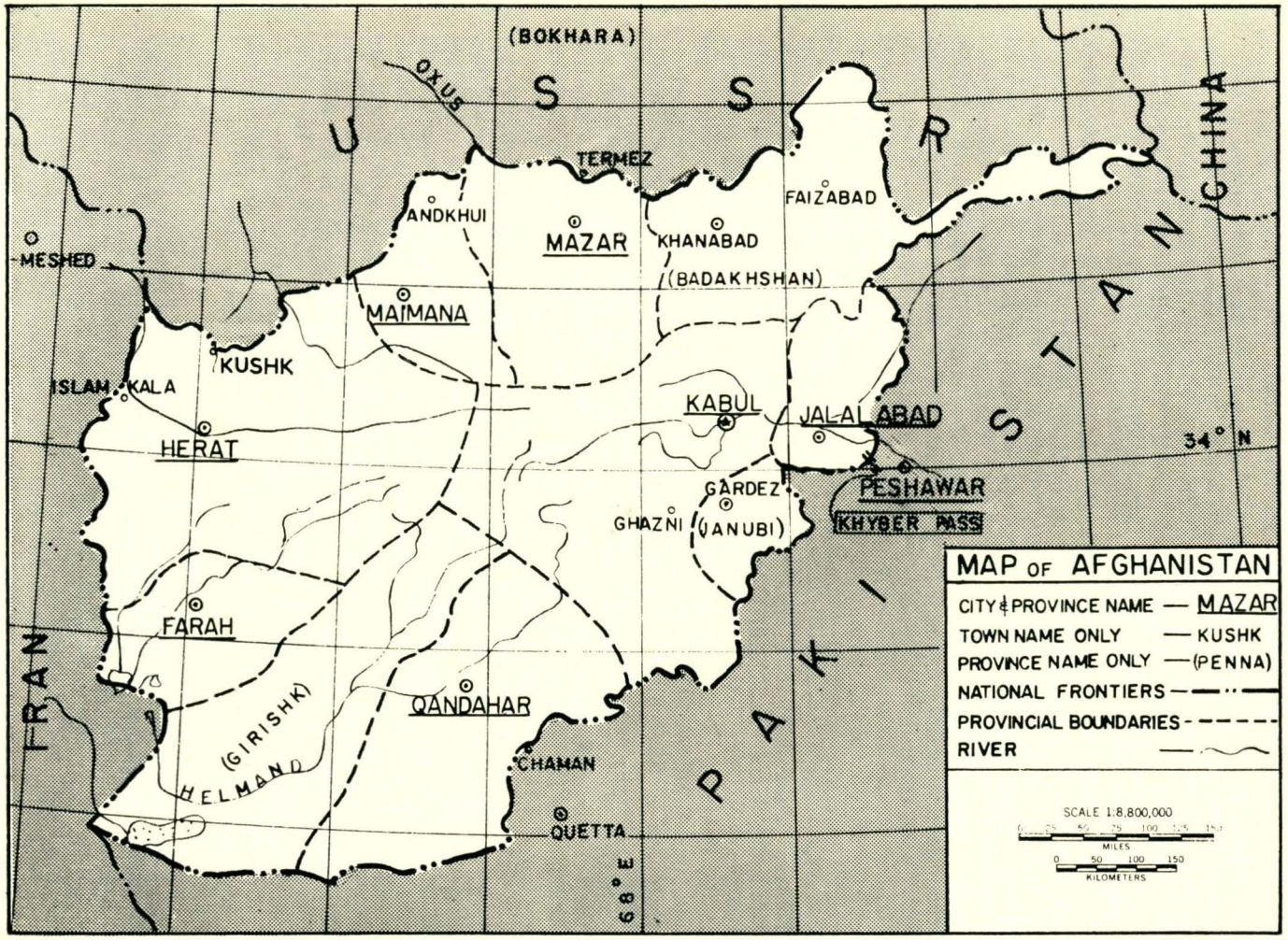
It must be confessed that it has been extremely difficult to even partially limit this documentation to brief descriptions and concisely stated data. There is so much of collateral interest to be found in the backgrounds of the various issues, in the history or romance of the scenes depicted and in the changing character of the country as told by the stamps. It is hoped that the material presented here will not only satisfy the serious philatelist but will also serve to provide a deeper interest in and an understanding of the small but vital country that produced these postal issues.

The author welcomes this opportunity to acknowledge with gratitude the assistance received from Winthrop S. Boggs, New Jersey; Theodore Light, Chicago; and Major Adrian E. Hopkins, Editor—Postal History Society *Bulletin,* Bath, England. These friends have generously provided both pertinent material and knowledge. Their enthusiastic encouragement has been equally valuable.

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WANT LIST

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Map of Afghanistan

CHAPTER I

A Brief Description Of The Country And People

Afghanistan is located in central Asia, south of the Amu Darya or Oxus River. It is bounded on the east and south by Pakistan, on the west by Iran and on the north by Russia. The Wakhan corridor extends northeast to China, following the ancient overland trade route. The country contains approximately 250,000 square miles and the population is estimated at between 12 and 14 millions.

Geographically and climatically, Afghanistan is a land of extremes. The northern portions consist of fertile plains along the Oxus River, separated from the rest of the country by the rugged Hindu Kush ranges of the western Himalayas. These mountains rise to elevations exceeding 22,000 feet, interspersed with lower plateaus and narrow valleys. Permanent ice exists on the higher peaks. Toward the south and southwest, the mountains recede into foothills which finally merge into desolate plains and gravel deserts extending into the Seistan desert and the Iranian frontier. Most of the mountains are barren. Natural forests exist mainly in the northeastern sections. The river valleys contain rich farmland. Rainfall is generally seasonal and varies between regions. National agriculture depends to a great extent on irrigation.

The nation is divided politically into ten major provinces (1953): Kabul; Eastern (Jalalabad); Southern (Janubi); Qandahar; Girishk; Farah; Herat; Maimana; Mazar, and Badakhshan. Some of these are further divided into sub-provinces with secondary capitals. Kabul, the national capital, is located in the Province of that name but has its own autonomous district boundaries and local administration. Each province is under the control of a governor appointed by the central government. The present form of the government is a constitutional monarchy. The constitution provides for a national parliament consisting of an appointed upper house and an elected representative lower house. The administration is headed by a Prime Minister and the executive functions of the government are carried on by the Royal Cabinet of Ministers appointed by him with the Royal concurrence.

Ethnically, the population is not truly homogeneous. The various tribal groups of Afghans and Pashtouns predominate, the balance consisting of Hazaras, Herati, Turkomen, Kafirs and minor racial strains. Islam is the established state religion and Afghanistan is one of the most orthodox of the Moslem nations. The majority of the people are Sunni Moslems of the Hanfi School.

Farsi (Persian) and Pashtou are the principal languages spoken and are both official. Farsi is basically an ancient Indo-european language and is used and understood by most of the people. Pashtou (or Pachtou) is an eastern-Iranian tongue. Both are written in modified Arabic characters. In recent years, greater importance has been placed by the government on the official use of Pashtou, as can be noted by its increased appearance on postal issues since 1948.

Historical Background

Afghanistan has been the scene of many diverse cultures and regimes, and its history antedates Alexander's conquests by many centuries. The geographic position, astride the main ancient trade routes of Central Asia, has exposed it to all of the invasions, ideological as well as military, to which this section of the world has been subjected. The Greek phalanx trod Afghanistan's plains and established the Kingdom of Bactria. The White Huns, Scythians, Indians, Arabs and Persians have occupied the country in turn. The hordes of Genghiz Khan poured through the high passes over the "Roof of the World" to devastate and destroy its culture. Conversely, the Afghans have retaliated and under

Mahmoud of Ghazni raided south of the Indus at will. This prepared the way for later Kabul rulers to establish the fabulous Moghul dynasty that controlled India for centuries.

The present kingdom can be dated from 1747, when General Ahmed Shah overthrew Persian control and founded the Durrani dynasty by establishing himself, with the assent of his fellow chieftains, as the Amir of Kabul. A stalk of wheat was used in the Coronation ceremony at Qandahar and this symbol of Afghan royalty is still found in the wreath of the national emblem and on various stamps. The size of the kingdom has varied considerably under Ahmed Shah's successors; at one time or another it has included Peshawar, Kashmir, Scinde and Baluchistan within its borders. Accession to the throne was the cause of many internecine wars with resulting periods of anarchy. As it grew in power, the British East India Company involved itself in Afghanistan's internal affairs. It set the later British policy of regarding the "Amirate of Kabul" as a necessary undeveloped buffer state between India and Russia. This interference resulted in two Anglo-Afghan wars in 1842 and 1878. The latter conflict caused the expulsion of Amir Sher Ali Khan, under whom the first Afghan postage stamps were issued in 1871.

Abdur Rahman Khan, of the Mohammedzai branch, became the 11th Amir of "Kabul and its Dependencies" on 22 July 1880 (Shah'ban, 1297 - lunar) and unified the country under a firm central government. During his reign the boundaries of the kingdom were established generally as they exist today. The British recognized the strength of this ruler and accorded him full royal honors and support, but continued to exercise complete control over all phases of the nation's foreign policies and relations.

About 1890, the name of the country was finally standardized as the "Kingdom of Afghanistan" and a national coat-of-arms was adopted.

The 20th century opened with Abdur Rahman Khan still on the throne. He died in mid-1901 and was succeeded without incident by his eldest son, Amir Habibullah Khan. Habibullah guided the country along the same lines established by his father for the gradual improvement of the kingdom and maintained sympathetic neutrality during the first World War.

On February 19, 1919, while in camp near the winter capital of Jalalabad, Habibullah was assassinated. Both his eldest son and legitimate heir, Sirdar Inayatullah Khan and the Amir's younger brother, Sirdar Nasrullah Khan, immediately declared themselves king. However, Habibullah's third son, popular Sirdar Amanullah Khan, was at that time the acting Governor of Kabul and in control of the central garrison. Upon hearing of his father's death he appealed to the royal troops for support, had himself proclaimed Amir by the army and was accepted as such by the people. Immediately following his coronation on February 26th, one of his first acts was to issue a royal proclamation in which, among other things, Amanullah declared the Kingdom of Afghanistan to be free and independent internally and externally. This date is the official Afghan Independence Day.

As national feeling had developed in Afghanistan, termination of British control of the country's foreign affairs and the achievement of complete sovereignty had become a common goal. Amanullah's declaration was therefore well received. Unsympathetic reactions from the British Government of India to this step, coupled with internal unrest and increasing border incidents, brought on the unnecessary 3rd Afghan War in May, 1919. The conflict ended with a truce signed on August 24th, 1919 and Afghanistan entered into full nationhood.

Amanullah's reign started auspiciously and he initiated a large-scale program of development and modernization. His ideas were progressive but many

were uneconomic for the condition of the nation at that time and heavier taxes resulted. The Amir also attempted to "Westernize" the habits and customs of the people and to separate the church from the state, but pushed these actions too rapidly. A serious revolt in the southeast occurred in 1924 and was quelled with great difficulty. Unrest continued as unpopular laws accumulated and finally open rebellion broke out again in late 1928. An opposition leader appeared in the person of a Turkoman bandit called Bache Saqao (the "son of the water carrier") who united the rebels and attacked Kabul itself in late December, 1928. Under pressure, Amanullah abdicated on January 14, 1929 in favor of his elder brother, Sidar Inayatullah Khan, and retired to Qandahar, leaving the new Amir who was besieged in the old royal palace, to abdicate in turn after a rule of three days. On January 17th, Bache Saqao proclaimed himself king, assuming the name of Habibullah Ghazi.

Operating from Kabul, the Bache gradually succeeded in temporarily subduring most of the country but he was never absolute master of all of it. His lawless followers oppressed the people, economic activity ceased, food became scarce and the attendant reign of terror caused continuous sporadic uprisings. Meanwhile, in late March 1929, Marshall Moh'd Nadir Shah, a prince of the royal line, returned from his previous diplomatic post in France and gave leadership to the struggle against the bandit usurper. After bitter fighting, the Bache was defeated and Kabul was freed in October. The royal Marshal, as liberator, was acclaimed king by the grateful citizens and accepted the nomination to the throne on October 16, 1929. He was officially crowned the following year.

By superhuman effort, Nadir Shah, with the able support of his royal brothers, revived the kingdom, restored credit, established internal security and rebuilt the government along more constitutional and popular lines. He convened a new representative Parliament in July, 1931 and inaugurated many reforms for the progress of the country. In November, 1933 he was assassinated at Kabul and was greatly mourned by his people. His eldest son, born in 1914, ascended the throne as King Moh'd Zahir Shah and is the present ruler.

During the following twenty some years under Zahir Shah, with his royal uncles, Sirdar Hashim Khan and Marshal Shah Mahmoud Khan Ghazi as successive Prime Ministers, Afghanistan made tremendous strides. This progress has continued. The present Prime Minister (1957) who assumed office in September, 1953, is H. R. H. General Moh'd Daoud Khan. The country has a strong financial position, a comprehensive highway system, increasing numbers of public schools, an expanding industrial base, a balanced agriculture, growing urban centers and complete self-confidence. It was admitted to the United Nations in 1946.

Postal System

Prior to the 1920 issue of Amir Amanullah Khan, all Afghan postage stamps carried the inscription "Dak Khana" in their designs. These words have been loosely and inadequately translated as "Post Office." Their actual meaning is closer to "Courier Post Service" and more appropriately describe the postal system during the first quarter of the 20th century. The bulk of the mails was carried by a relay of dak-wallas or post couriers, and to this day the Afghan Post Office Department employs couriers to reach some of the more isolated mountain or desert vastnesses of the interior.

Foreign mail service practices, initiated under Amir Abdur Rahman during the last decade of the 19th century, were continued under his successor. All mail destined for abroad was collected as Kabul and carried by post-runner relay to Peshawar, British India, where an Afghan treaty post office was maintained. Each relay averaged about five miles and the runners, trotting between

exchange points, covered the 160 odd miles in less than three days. The letters were carried in a sealed pouch which was limited to a reasonable weight, and a manifest was inclosed. This was done to circumvent a previous practice among the runners of throwing away many of the letters in the mountains to lighten their burdens. ("Under the Absolute Amir"—Martin).

Upon receipt of the pouches in Peshawar, the Afghan post office sorted the mail, often removing the stamps, and retained the Peshawar addressed mail for local distribution. Since Afghanistan did not belong to the Universal Postal Union and its stamps did not have international validity, mail bound for other parts of India or abroad was franked with the necessary Indian stamps and then placed in the Indian post office for forwarding. Reversing the process, local Kabul-bound mail was accepted directly at the Afghan Peshawar post office. Other incoming mail, upon transfer of the pouches from the Indian postal system, was despatched to Kabul either with Afghan stamps affixed or with postage due notations, depending upon whether or not the ultimate recipient had a postal charge account with the Afghan postmaster. Parcels, packages and bulk mail were allowed to accumulate until of sufficient quantity to warrant the use of a pack train. Other international transfer offices were later opened but the general pattern remained the same until 1925, when most of the overseas mail was despatched from Kabul through Peshawar.

Beginning January 1st of that year, all outbound mail arriving at Afghan Torkhum or New Chaman was there backstamped and then turned over directly to the Indian border officials. The bags were deposited in the railhead post offices at Landi Khana or Chaman where they were again opened and postage due notations made on all items not bearing Indian as well as Afghan stamps. Mail addressed within India was duly forwarded, as was prepaid foreign mail. Overseas letters not franked with Indian stamps were delivered to the Afghan post office in Peshawar for further processing and reconsignment to the Indian postal system. Incoming mails were similarly handled. The Afghan frontier post offices opened the pouches and cancelled all affixed Afghan stamps or backstamped those letters not bearing any. At Kabul, postage stamps were added to the latter and these were cancelled with a long oval killer to indicate postage due status. These practices ceased in April, 1928, when Afghanistan became a member of the Universal Postal Union.

Internal mail service in 1900 was rather limited and not too rapid. Deliveries depended on animal or human transport which followed the old caravan trails over the high passes, along the narrow river valleys and across the hot dusty plains. Courier stations were established on the principal routes between the major cities and were spaced about one day's caravan travel apart. Often a royal serai and garden formed a part of such a roadside hostel to provide suitable rest and lodgings for the Amir and his retinue when travelling about the kingdom. This latter facility was made available for the use of other important personages and the rare foreign visitor.

Improved roads, the keys to faster communications, developed slowly during the first two decades. Few bridges existed and travel was contiually interrupted during the rainy seasons by high waters or flash floods. Amir Amanullah Khan, who had a passion for automobiles, sponsored a major road and bridge building program during the Twenties, under the direction of European engineers. The first highways to be improved connected Kabul with Qandahar and Herat, as well as the two main mail and trade routes to British India. A highway was started from Kabul north towards Afghan Turkestan and Kataghan. It was carried up past ancient Bamian but was finally abandoned at the high Ak Robat pass in the incredibly rough western Himalayas. Some attention was given to the secondary roads and mail distribution was broadened accordingly.

Internal unrest during the latter part of Amanullah's reign, followed by revolution, stopped road construction and plans for motorizing transport. Hence, among other things, King Nadir Shah inherited a deteriorating and uncompleted road network. Realizing the importance of a comprehensive communications system to a stable government, he began rehabilitation of the highways and entrusted the Army with the completion of the basic program, including the strategic motor road to the north. Under great difficulties, this rerouted highway was carved out along the east branch of the Bamian river, blasted through the wild Darrah-i-Shikari gorge (pictured on the 75 poul stamp of 1934) and carried down the narrow valley of the swift Kunduz river to where it widens at Pul-i-Khumri. Here the road branched, the left route going northwest to Tashkurghan via the "Needle's Eye" and on to Mazar, Balkh and Maimana where it connected with a road to Herat. The eastern branch proceeded to Baghlan, Kunduz, Khanabad and Faizabad. This made all major urban centers of the country accessible by motor car and mail bus.

Under King Zahir Shah, the national highway system has been extended and further improved. The Kabul-Peshawar route was shortened by driving a road through the picturesque Kabul river gorges west of Jalalabad and widening the caravan trail over the spectacular 10,000 feet high Lataband pass to accommodate motor traffic. This latter route may be replaced by a still shorter road from Sirobi through the Tangi Gharu gorge of the Kabul river. A direct highway from Kabul to Herat, across the mountainous Hazarajat, has been under consideration for some time. This route, incidently, was used during the dry-season months in the mid-Twenties when horse relays carried the post through in 12 days. Present mail bus time via Qandahar is 5 days. Other highway alignments and reroutings are being studied. The existing regional road system is kept open all year round by the Public Roads Administration to permit the mails to go through on schedule.

In conjunction with the progressive development of the highway network, the government encouraged the use of lorries to replace animal transport. The posts became increasingly motorized and regular mail bus service has operated on established schedules since 1936. All equipment is maintained in good condition and is periodically replaced by newer models. The drivers of the mail lorries are the best in the country.

The regional transportation of travellers and their baggage is also the responsibility of the Post Office Department. In recognition of this function, the mail buses stop each evening at designated towns where government hotels are located which provide accommodations for through passengers at reasonable rates. As of 1953, express non-passenger mail sevice had not been introduced.

Air transportation has been slow in developing. Airfields exist at the more important cities, but except for those at Kabul, Qandahar and Herat, have been primarily used by the military. Early attempts at passenger service were not financially successful. The German Lufthansa flew into the country on occasions during the Thirties. A Russian company in 1938 gave fortnightly service between Kabul and Moscow, via Mazar and Tashkent. The next attempt was in 1949, when Iranian Airlines inaugurated a bi-weekly schedule on October 7 between Kabul and Teheran, via Herat and Meshed. The service was abandoned in less than six months but it is understood some airmail was carried. Two airlines began flying into Qandahar in 1953 and since then many other international lines have added Afghanistan to their flight routes and have been carrying mail. Internal air service as such did not exist until the national Air Aryana line was started in 1955.

The facilities of the Afghan postal system have been expanded tremendously over the past fifty years. Early records are not available but the writer has

found cancellations from the following nine post offices on the engraved stamps of the 1907-08 issues; Kabul, Jalalabad, Peshawar, Qandahar, Ferah, Herat, Kushk, Maimana and Mazar. It is doubtful if more than double that number then existed. As of June, 1937, the UPU reported the system to be comprised of 38 post offices and about 200 minor branch and local offices of all categories. By 1950, 241 post offices had become of sufficient importance to be listed in the worldwide post office registry of the Universal Postal Union.

Foreign Post Offices

The offices of three foreign postal services have operated in Afghanistan for various periods during the 20th century, those of the Khanate of Bokhara, British India and the British Army. The Bokhara Agency in Mazar Province, established in the latter part of the 19th century, had a status somewhat similar to that of the Afghan postal agency in Peshawar, British India. The Agency acted as a transfer point for the considerable commercial mail to and from Bokhara and the other trans-Oxus khanates. These latter countries had been rather forcibly reduced to the status of "protectorates" by the Imperial Russian Government during the 70's and 80's but Bokhara retained a limited independence and the Agency was not regarded as a Russian office. The Agency used Afghan stamps and was provided with Afghan postal markings suitably inscribed. The closing date is not known to the writer but appears to have been early in 1922 when the post-war Bokhara Republic officially joined the U.S.S.R.

In early 1903, the Seistan Arbitration Commission was set up at the request of both interested nations to survey and monument the then vague Afghan-Iranian frontier from Baluchistan west to beyond the Helmand river. The Survey of India Office supplied the technical field staff with a supporting escort from the British army. A permanent base, officially designated "Camp No. 4," was located near Nasirabad, Afghanistan, and was maintained until the survey operations were completed in June, 1905. To emphasize the neutral position of the Commission, a special branch of the Indian Post Office was installed at the camp to handle the mail. This was transported by fast camel relay, via Robat and Nushki, some 650 miles to Quetta before being redirected. Incoming mail was similarly handled. (*India's Stamp Journal*—Jan/57). The office used only British India stamps and these were cancelled with a plain circular postmark simply inscribed "CAMP P. O. NO. 4" and the date.

The last foreign post offices operated for a limited time in 1919 and were the result of the 3rd Anglo-Afghan war. British troops attacked from the Khyber Pass and advanced toward Jalalabad, while Afghan forces under Marshal Moh'd Nadir Khan invaded India and invested Thal. According to British War Office records, one Base Post Office and fifteen Field Post Offices were established when hostilities started. Jal Cooper's *India Used Abroad* lists three Field Post Offices, numbers 148, 170 and 432, known to have been established in Afghanistan. However, to date, the writer has been unable to ascertain how many others might have been operational in Afghan territory or where any were located. Indian postage stamps were used together with standard FPO cancellations.

Money, Weights and Calendars

Money

In 1900 the basic Afghan monetary unit was the Kabuli rupee, with its many coinage divisions: 1 rupee = 2 q'ran = 3 abasi = 3 tanga = 6 sanar = 12 shahi 60 paisa. There were two kinds of rupees; the common rupee of raw silver and the rupee sterling of refined silver. There was no paper currency. The common rupee was worth about 22c U. S. The rupee sterling was equivalent to the English shilling or 24c U. S. and commanded a premium of 10%,

being equal therefore to 66 paisa. It is interesting to note that the Afghan use of the word "rupee" refers only to their own money. Indian coins of the same name were and are known in Kabul as "kaldar."

About 1920 the coinage units were simplified: 1 common rupee = 2 q'ran = 3 tanga = 60 paisa. The final monetary change took place in mid-1926, when the decimal system was adopted. The rupee sterling of 66 paisa became the afghani of 100 poul. For some years a 20 afghani gold piece, known as an "amani," and a 10 afghani or "half amani" were minted. The amani was equal in value to the British sovereign. The afghani is the present currency unit of the country, but the old terms of rupee and q'ran are still used in the market place.

The exchange value of the afghani has gradually dropped over the years. In 1939 the afghani was worth 9.1c U. S.; in 1945 the exchange rate was 7.7c U. S. In 1949, along with many other currencies, the afghani was revalued and is now (1961) officially established at 6c U. S.

Weights

The metric system has been the official standard of weights and measures for Afghanistan since 1925, but many local units are still in general use. Postal regulations now specify permissable mailings of the various classifications in grams or kilos and set the applicable rates. However, the early stamp issues of the 20th century carry not only the indication of value in their designs but also state the weight limits. The weight terms so used are pao (rhymes with cow), khurd and misqal. 1 pao = 4 khurd = 96 misqal. The pao is still the most common unit utilized in local trade.

These weights were not nationally standardized and the variations between those locally acceptable in the individual regions were sometimes sizable. Any relation between Afghan weights and those of old British India is purely coincidental. The weights specified on the postage stamps refer to those of the Kabul standard. The Kabuli pao weighs 15.68 oz. or practically 1 pound avoirdupois. The Khurd is nearly 4 oz. or ¼ pound in weight. The mishqal is equivalent to 1/6 oz. or 5 grams.

Calendar Time

Three systems of time reckoning are in current use: the Islamic solar year, the Islamic lunar year and the western solar year. The calendars and newspapers show all three dates for each day. For example, the 9th of Saratan, 1332, is also the 19th of Shawahl, 1372, and the 1st of July, 1953. Both Islamic calendars date from the flight of the prophet Mohammad from Mecca to Medina in 622 A. D., known as the year of the Hegira. The months of each calendar are listed and identified in the section on POSTAL MARKINGS.

The Islamic solar year of 365 days is equivalent to that of the West. It contains twelve months varying in length from 29 to 32 days, and an extra day is inserted every fourth year. The year begins on March 21st or 22nd, Gregorian calendar, depending upon the juxtaposition of the leap years. The Afghan solar months are named after the signs of the ancient Zodiac, beginning with Hamal (Aries — the Ram). This solar calendar is the one in most common use.

The Islamic lunar calendar year contains twelve months of alternating 29 and 30 days' duration, with a total duration of 354 days. An intercalary day is inserted approximately every 33 months. Thirty-three lunar years equal thirty-two solar years. The lunar calendar is now used solely for observing religious holidays and Ramazan, the month of fasting.

The Gregorian calendar is concurrently employed in commerce, news reporting and international relations.

The Islamic solar calendar was introduced into Afghanistan about 1916 but only the lunar calendar was regularly employed until 1920. Amir Amanullah encouraged the use of the solar calendar and the change-over began in September, 1920 with the advent of lunar year 1339. Hence, postmarks of this period are occasionally found dated 1299 (solar) instead of 1339. The solar calendar appears to have been officially adopted beginning with New Year's Day (1st of Hamal), 1300 A. H., which coincided with March 21st, 1921 A. D. Expanding international outlooks led to increased familiarity with the Gregorian calendar and its acceptance for supplementary dating. Both solar calendars were discarded by the revolutionary regime during 1929 but were reestablished with the restoration of the legitimate monarchy in 1930.

Text Notes and Abreviations

Insofar as possible, the philatelic data presented for each issue have been arranged in a uniform pattern, namely, background, date of use, design description, designer, sheet size, printing method, paper, perforation, and color, followed by a detailed listing of the varieties personally known to the writer unless otherwise referenced. The date of use is based on official records, reliable reports or postmark evidence unless followed by (?). Catalogue references indicate listed varieties not yet seen by the writer. The key to the identification of postmark dates is given in the section on POSTAL MARKINGS. The design description includes a transliteration of the Arabic script followed by a translation of the same in parenthesis. The principles recommended in *The Transliteration of Arabic and Persian* (Special publ. #78, Board of Geographical Names, U. S. D. I., Wash. 11/46) served for guidance. The translation is based on Kabul word usage and may not always conform to that of standard Persian.

Most designs carry a basic inscription signifying their postal status. For convenience, the original inscription, transliteration and translation of each of the major types are presented separately on one of the following pages and are only referred to by letter in the design description. Sheet sizes are usually followed by numbers which give the arrangement of the stamps in the sheet. The first figure indicates the number of stamps across and the second gives those down. Perforations on locally produced stamps gauge either 11 or 11¾+. The 11 gauge is made by European line machines and the holes are medium size, evenly spaced and generally clean-cut. The 11 gauge used after 1953 varies slightly from that used previously. The commoner 11¾ perforation comes from line machines of Kabul manufacture. The holes are poorly spaced and irregularly aligned, vary in size from medium to pinpoint and range from clean-cut to blind-impression. Actually, the gauge itself is not standard and may change from 11⅝ to 11⅞ in the same line, which accounts for conflicting catalogue listings of 11½ and 12 perforation. This very irregularity is difficult to imitate and provides a control check in detecting counterfeit stamps. *Stanley Gibbons Color Guide* has been used in describing many of the stamp colors subject, of course, to personal opinion.

For those who may be interested in pronunciation, the approximate Farsi and Pashtou sound equivalents are here suggested. The following vowels and dipthongs rhyme with the attached English word: e/pay, i/bee, u/but, ai/eye, ao/cow, ei/rain and ou/you. The letter "a" rhymes with either lah or cat, generally the former. "Q" is pronounced as a gutteral "k." "Kh" resembles a harsh gutteral "h" and sounds like a clearing of the throat. Other letters have the same tonal qualities used in English.

Many statements are referenced to various philatelic or general sources for authority. When not fully identified in the text, their initials and issue dates

when applicable are shown in parentheses. The initials and corresponding names are given below:

A	— "Afghanistan" (Kabul quarterly)
EWS	— Ewens' Weekly Stamp News
GSM	— Gibbons' Stamp Monthly
L	— Luff Collection (Philatelic Foundation, N. Y.)
LC	— Lowndes' Collection (R. P. S. London)
PSA	— POSTAGE STAMPS OF AFGHANISTAN (Masson & Jones - Delhi, 1908)
PJGB	— Philatelic Journal of Great Britain
PJI	— Philatelic Journal of India
S	— "Stamps" Magazine
SC	— Scott Catalogue
SGC	— Stanley Gibbons Catalogue
SGM	— Stanley Gibbons Monthly
SMJ	— Scott's Monthly Journal
UPU	— Universal Postal Union Bulletin
YT	— Yvert & Tellier Catalogue

Basic Postal Inscriptions

The following inscriptions are the standard ones found on the majority of the 20th Century Afghan stamps. It should be noted that Arabic script is read from right to left.

'A'

د اکخانه د ولت خداداد افغانستان

Afghanistan Khudadad Daulat – Dak-khana
(Courier Post Service - Divinely Appointed Government of Afghan'n)

'B'

پوسته د ولت علیة مستقلة افغانستان

Afghanistan Mustaqilat Aliyat Daulat Posteh
(Postage - Supreme and Independent Government of Afghanistan)

'C'

پوسته د ولت علیة افغانستان

Afghanistan Aliyat Daulat Posteh
(Postage - Supreme Government of Afghanistan)

'D'

پست د ولت افغانستان

Afghanistan Daulat Post
(Postage - Government of Afghanistan)

'E'

پست دولت شاهی افغانستان

Afghanistan Shahi Daulat Post
(Postage - Royal Government of Afghanistan)

'F'

پست افغان

Afghan Post
(Afghan Postage)

'G'

پست افغانستان

Afghanistan Post
(Afghanistan Postage)

'H'

د افغان پست

Post Afghan deh
(Afghan Postage)

'I'

د افغانستان پست

Post Afghanistan deh
(Afghanistan Postage)

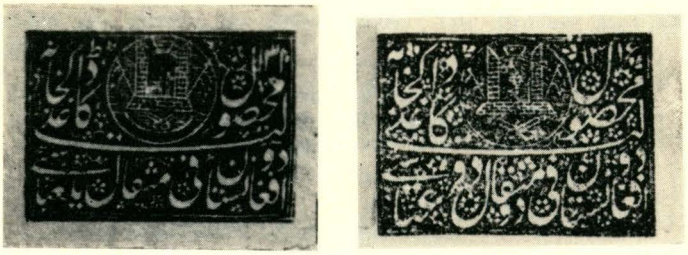
CHAPTER II

The Regular Postal Issues

a. *ISSUES OF HABIBULLAH KHAN (1901-1919)*

1900-1907 Resumé

The large 1 and 2 abasi stamps of the 1893 and 1899 tissue-paper issues, (Figs. 1 and 2), were still in use at the beginning of the Twentieth Century. When the ruling Amir, Abdur Rahman Khan, died in September 1901, and was succeeded by his son, Amir Habibullah Khan, no immediate change of stamps was forthcoming and the same issues continued in service. In 1904 an



Figs. 1-2

extract from the *Daily Telegraph* (London) of March 21 reported: "The stock of postage stamps in Afghanistan being exhausted, the Amir proposes to introduce a new issue that will be prepared on the lines of the stamps used in Europe. In default of the stamps, a postal seal (Fig. 3) is now being placed on letters." However, no new stamps materialized and additional printings were made of the old Abdur Rahman issues.



Fig. 3

Two years later the *Times* (London) of March 6, 1906, in reporting on Afghan affairs said that "Up to the present, the Amir's postmaster at Peshawar (India) has been in the habit of removing Kabul stamps affixed on letters coming from Afghanistan and selling these used stamps at high prices to philatelists. A new order has now been issued declaring that no stamps are to be affixed to letters, which will be marked with a four-cornered handstamp (Fig. 3) showing that the letter has paid postage. The traffic in adhesive stamps by the Amir's officials will consequently cease." It is not known if this order was general or only applied to mail going abroad. In any case, the stamps were again in limited use later in 1906 and probably in the beginning of 1907. Obsolete remainders of the 1899, 1893 and 1891 issues were finally sold off by the Post Office in 1912.

It is quite probable that some colors and shades of these series were issued under Amir Habibullah but firm evidence is not now available. Pending further research and clarification, these stamps have not been included in this monograph.

1907 Definitive Issue

The "New issue of postage stamps prepared along European lines," as proposed by Amir Habibullah in 1904, made its debut early in 1907. The

series was probably released on the first day of 1325, A. H. (14 February) for the writer has a specimen postmarked at Kabul in Safar, 1325 (March, 1907). The long-awaited set consisted of the abasi, 2 abasi and rupee values, continuing two of the same denominations then in use. The appearance and size of the new definitives, as promised, did show a radical departure from the previous large exotic stamps and a turn toward the Western postal standards of the period. (Figs. 4, 5, 6).

The principal and central feature of the designs is the national coat-of-arms surmounted by the royal head-dress (a fur koula) and was apparently an adaptation of the crowned arms used on European stamps. The Afghan arms consists of a stylized minaretted mosque, flanked by religious banners, within a wreath of wheat tops, and is symbolic of the integrity of the nation as a "Defender of the Faith of Islam." The frames of the several denominations

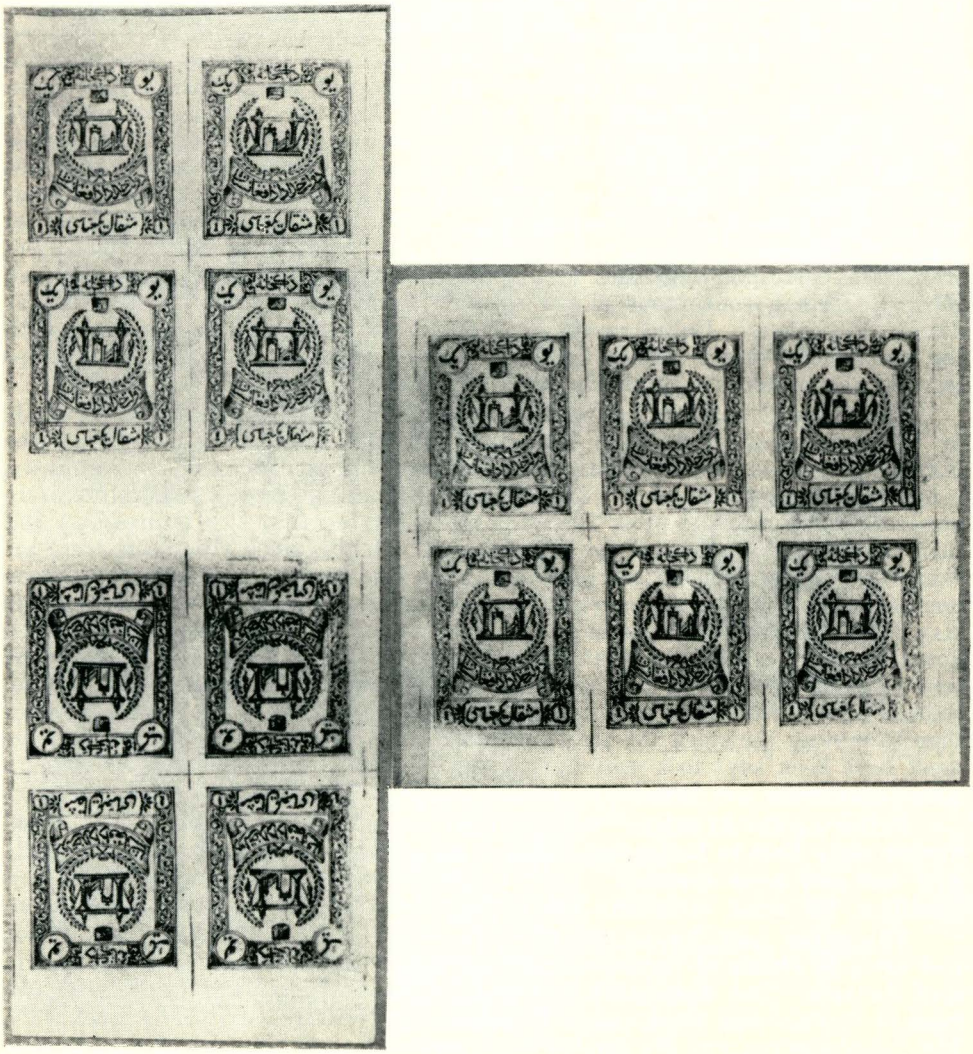


Fig.4

are quite individual but the basic inscription and value indications are similarly located on each. The words "Dak Khana" (Courier Post Service) appear at the top center and "Daolat khuda dad Afghanistan" (Divinely appointed Government of Afghanistan) is inscribed in the lower central panels or ribbons. The bottom panel of the lowest value reads "Misqal yek abasi" (misqal - one abasi). The circle on the middle value contains the words "doh misqal doh abasi" (two misqal - two abasi). The 1 rupee simply states "yek rupiyah" at the bottom. The designs were prepared and probably engraved by Mahmoud Masi (Sami?), of Turkish origin (PSA) who had previously designed the large 10 rupee blue "Royal Petition" documentary tax stamp.

The stamps were recess printed from small engraved plates reported to be of copper (PSA). The plates of the lower two values contained six subjects (Fig. 4, 5) and the rupee plate contained four (Fig. 6). The subjects were individually engraved between spacer lines and each position can be plated. In mid-1908 a second plate was made for the 1 abasi. It was used to supplement the first plate which was wearing irregularly and probably could not be released for recutting. The Plate II positions exhibit many of the same characteristics found in those of Plate I and were probably engraved over an offset impression taken from the original plate. The engraving, however, was deeper and more uniform in line, so the Plate II stamps have a crisper and more solid appearance in comparison with Type I. The wreath is much heavier, and most of the leaves touch strengthened central stem. For additional identification, check the lower left corner of the inner double-lined frame. Plate I stamps have the vertical frame lines continuing down across the horizontal lines to the left bottom numeral. The corresponding lines in the Plate II types just about intersect each other to form a continuous closed corner. There are numerous other minor design differences. Dated specimens from Plate II indicate usage along with the commoner Plate I stamps from September, 1908 on. All Plate II stamps seen by the writer are in shades of emerald green. (Fig. 7).

The 1 and 2 abasi values were issued in small upright sheets of 18, made up of three panes of 6 (3x2) separated by gutters of varying widths. The initial rupee sheets were similar in format but consisted of only 12 stamps arranged in three panes of 4 (2x2). In the printing process the sheets were apparently fed into the press from the front for the first two impressions and then the sheet was reversed for the last one. Hence, since the sheets were arranged vertically, the bottom pane is always tete beche. The gutters between normal panes of all values average 15mm while that separating tete beche panes may exceed 25mm. Occasionally the pane impressions overlap. It has been noted on most sheets seen that the tete beche pane does not match the color tone or shade of the two normals. This would indicate that the printing procedure was to run off a quantity of sheets with the top two panes only and then to reverse the stack for the final impression. Printer's waste in this issue must have been kept to a minimum, judging from the relative frequency with which specimens are found printed on the back.

Following the 12 subject vertical sheet releases, the rupee value was issued during early 1908 in horizontal sheets of 16 consisting of four panes of 4 (2x2) with one end pane inverted. Late printings had all panes normal. In this condition, the color variations noted above occur between the alternate panes.

The paper used for all printings was new stock of English manufacture and came in sheets of approximately 16"x22" with the maker's watermark in each quarter. The watermark is 125mm x 42mm overall and consists of two rows of double-lined block capitals reading HOWARD & JONES - LONDON. The paper was cut into the smaller issue sheets of about 72mm x 210mm in size. Most of these included some portions of the watermark and the letters occur

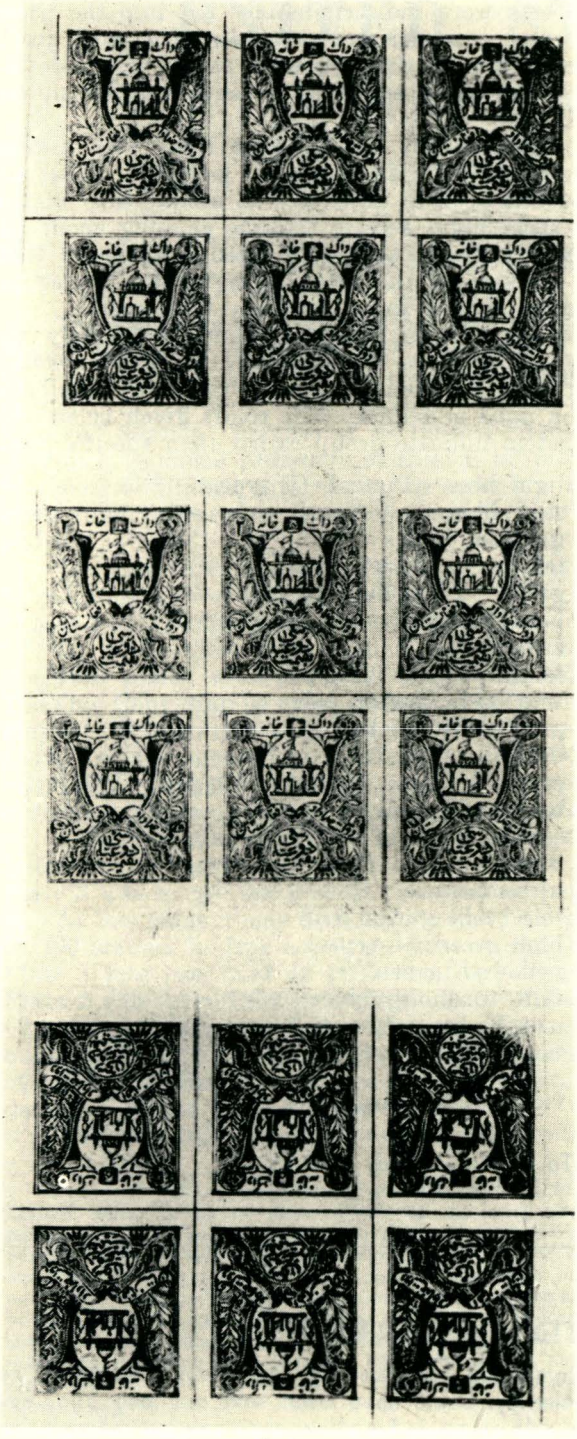


Fig.5



Fig. 6

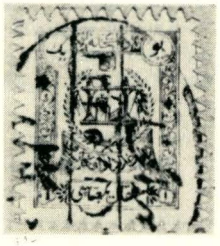


Fig. 6A

(Photos by Boutrelle)

on many of the stamps. The sheets were indiscriminately fed into the press and the watermark is found normal, inverted and reversed. The stock itself was an ungummed thinnish to medium hard off-white wove paper, with a definite mesh, but it usually appears bluish in the engraved issues due to incomplete wiping of the plates.

This series was issued imperforate and, for the first time, with a thin colorless gum which was rather evenly hand-applied after printing. That all sheets were gummed before release is open to question. A unique copy of the Plate II abasi is known with a short blunt serrate roulette gauging about 12. This specimen is tied on cover with a Kabul postmark dated 9 Ramadan 1326 (4 Oct. 1908) and a Peshawar marking of the 17th. Whether the rouletting was official or private is not known, but it was apparently little used.

These engraved stamps come in a wide range of color, particularly the Plate I abasi and rupee denominations from the earlier printings. It would appear that the printers mixed whatever basic inks were currently available and attempted no standardization until mid-1908. The colors given below, except for the emerald, are intended to indicate group rather than specific hues.

201*	Fig. 4	1 abasi	light blue - Plate I (6 types)
		a	steel blue
		b	greenish blue
		c	tete beche gutter pair
202	Fig. 4	1 abasi	green - Plate I (6 types)
		a	bluish green
		b	olive green
		c	emerald green (1908)
		d	tete beche gutter pair
		e	printed on back
		f	dble print on back
203	Fig. 7	1 abasi	emerald green - Plate II (6 types) (1908)
		a	tete beche pair
		b	serrate roulette 12
204	Fig. 5	2 abasi	medium blue (6 types)
		a	ultramarine
		b	tete beche gutter pair
205	Fig. 6	1 rupee	blue green (4 types)
		a	yellowish green
		b	dull turquoise blue
		c	tete beche gutter pair-vert.
		d	tete beche gutter pair-horiz.

*Scott's Standard Postage Stamp Catalogue Numbers.

(To Be Continued)

PHILATELIC LITERATURE

Over the years, The Collectors Club has published numerous Handbooks relating to almost every field of philately. Some have been sold out long ago, now only being obtainable at an auction sale at prices far above their original selling price.

See page VI in the front of this number for the recently published books.

UNITED STATES

THE ONE CENT STAMP OF 1857

The Unique Full Pane From Plate 4

By MORTIMER L. NEINKEN

The history of this outstanding item is excellently told in the "Ashbrook Special Service*" in Issue No. 18, September 1, 1952, pages 120 to 123. These lines are written to bring the story up-to-date and to make the information available to the many who have not had the opportunity to read Ashbrook's "Special Service" because of its limited circulation. It is not our purpose to go into a technical philatelic discussion of The One Cent Stamp of 1851-1857, but some additional information is necessary to explain The Ashbrook article more fully. Therefore, the following few introductory paragraphs have been added.

The first three plates of The One Cent Stamp of the 1851 issue were transferred from a three-relief transfer roll. These are known respectively as Plates 1, 2 and 3. Stamps from the early condition of Plate 1 first appeared on July 1, 1851, while those from Plate 1 late (the altered and reconditioned state of this first plate) were available in June of 1852. This plate furnished all of The One Cent Stamps until December 1855, when Plate 2 went to press.** In May of 1856, stamps were printed from Plate 3. The plates for each of the above and the subsequent ones consisted of 200 subjects usually divided vertically by a centerline. After the sheets were printed, they were cut along this centerline into two panes of a hundred stamps for distribution to the post offices.

Until the summer of 1857, all of these stamps were issued imperforate. Subsequently, perforated stamps were issued from Plate 1 late and Plate 2. Plate 3 was in use but a short time and no perforated stamps are known from it. At this point it may be noted that two complete imperforate One Cent panes of 100 stamps in fine condition exist to this day. One is a right pane from Plate 1 late (an 1854 or 1855 printing) and the other is a right pane from Plate 2 (an early 1856 printing). Both of these have the imprint of Toppan, Carpenter, Casilear and Co., the engraving and printing firm, and the plate numbers 1 and 2 respectively. The largest piece known from Plate 3 is a block of eight. Incidentally, stamps from this plate are very scarce, being the most desirable of the Type II One Cent Stamps.

Early in 1857, a new plate was made and without doubt this was laid out

*The Ashbrook Special Service was inaugurated by the late Stanley B. Ashbrook for a limited, select group of philatelists who were especially interested in early United States postal history. The first one appeared on June 1, 1951, known as Issue No. 1. This Special Service appeared regularly, each month until Issue 81 in December, 1957. The January 1958 issue was in preparation at the time Mr. Ashbrook became ill and unfortunately this compendium of information terminated with Mr. Ashbrook's death in 1958. It included discussions on all items of interest to the serious collectors of United States Stamps from the 1847 through the 1870 issues. Hundreds of covers and stamps were illustrated with full explanations of markings, cancellations and rates. Also fraudulent covers and fake stamps, which appeared from time to time in these early United States issues were described in detail. Less than thirty complete sets of this service are now known, and undoubtedly in time, it will become a scarce collector's item.

**Earliest known date of use is December 5, 1855.

to make room for perforations between stamps, so that stamps could be separated without the use of scissors. This plate had the same imprint as its predecessors and the number 4. A six-relief transfer roll was used for this plate. The stamps were first issued imperforate, with the earliest known use on April 8, 1857. Perforated stamps from this plate are known used on July 26th, 1857. In the fall of 1857, perforated stamps were printed from the Type V plates, and about this time Plates 1 late, 2 and 4 were permanently retired. With the completion of this introduction, the story from the "Ashbrook Special Service" is now quoted:

"THE U. S. ONE CENT 1857 — PLATE 4"

"Back in the early days of the study of the plates of the grand old One Cent stamp we did not know of the existence of the imperforate Plate No. 3, and inasmuch as we had never seen an actual plate number from Plate 4 we thought that Plate 4 was Plate 3, and that a Plate 4 was the first of the Type V plates. By 'we' I refer to Dr. Carroll Chase, Ernest Jacobs, Alvin Good, Wm. Stevenson and myself who were possibly the most prominent in the middle and late nineteens, who were engaged in the study of the types and plates of the One Cent. Later Ernie Jacobs discovered an 'imprint' that proved to be from the unknown Plate 3 and established the fact that the plate we had been referring to as *Plate 3* was actually *Plate 4*. I don't recall the year of that important discovery but it was probably in the summer of 1919.

"While perforated stamps were issued in 1857, from Plates One (Late), Two, and Four, so far as we are aware none were issued from Plate 3, which evidently was made up entirely of Type II stamps. I mention this because in the famous Worthington Sale, by J. C. Morgenthau & Co., held on August 21, 22 and 23, 1917, Lot #122 was described as follows:

'*1857 Issue — #122 — unused* — 1c Blue Plate 3, sheet of 100 (left pane), the bottom row Type I (#40), in its complete state, the ninth row Type I, with part of the scrolls removed, and in the other rows, numerous copies of this interesting type, the rest of this sheet being Type II (#41). The sheet is full o. g. and in very fine condition and is especially valuable as it was from this sheet that the experts were enabled to reconstruct Plate 3 of the imperf issue.' (unquote)

"The author of the above was wrong as this sheet was never used to make a reconstruction by any of the students abovenamed. It did furnish the first evidence that a six relief transfer roll was used. One more point is worthy of mention. In those days any stamp with traces of the full bottom design was classed as Type I.

"I have before me the catalogue of the Worthington Sale, that I used at that time — some 35 years ago — I note that I bid the very modest sum of $204.60 for this sheet, which was purchased by John Kleeman of the old Nassau Stamp Company at $1,100.00. I never saw this sheet at that time, or before; and not until the spring of 1942, I never had any photograph of it prior to 1942, and I made a complete reconstruction of the left pane without any reference to it, thru the aid of pairs, strips and a few blocks. Although I fully intended to mention this rare and unique sheet in my two-volume study of the One Cent 1851-57 (1938), I somehow or other overlooked doing so. Perhaps the reason was as follows —

"I have no record of what disposition John Kleeman made of the sheet but in the nineteen twenties I learned that the sheet had passed into the possession of Col. E. H. R. Green, the son of the famed Hetty Green. I had commenced



work on the reconstruction of Plate 4 and was very anxious to locate the owner of the 'Worthington sheet.' I wrote Col. Green and explained I was making a study of the One Cent plates and would he kindly loan the sheet to me so that I could photograph it. If so, I would furnish bond in any sum for its safe return, etc. I never received any reply and several years later in the late nineteen twenties it was reported in the philatelic press that the Colonel's yacht had sunk at his private dock and on board were parts of his valuable stamp collection, all of which were ruined. Further, among the items destroyed was a valuable sheet of 100 of the One Cent 1857. I assumed that this was the 'Worthington sheet' from the left pane of Plate 4, and after that report I never had any further word of the sheet until after Green's death, as I will later explain.

"My second booklet on the One Cent 1851-1857 was published by the Scott Stamp and Coin Company in 1926, and was entitled, '*THE TYPES AND PLATES OF THE U.S. ONE CENT 1851-1857.*' In the chapter on Plate 4, I stated, quote: 'The writer has seen a marvelous block of 28 of the perforate from the right pane, same being 4 vertical by 7 horizontal. This belongs to a very prominent Eastern collector, and I have heard of a complete unused entire left pane in another Eastern collection, but have never been able to persuade the owner to permit me to even view it.' (unquote)

"What about the early history of this remarkable unique sheet of 100 stamps? Way back about 1911-1912, perhaps earlier, Dr. Chase started a card index record of unusual items of 19th Century stamps and covers, and in 1947 he presented this entire record to me. Filed under the One Cent 1857, one of his cards lists and describes this One Cent sheet as coming from a plate he thought was Plate 3. I quote in part as follows: 'July 17, 1913 — Worthington shows a complete left pane unused o. g. of 100 — 1c 1857. Full margins at top, bottom and right. The left sheet margin is torn off as nothing of the imprint or plate number shows. White gum. Beautiful clear impression. Deep blue shade. Purchased Dec. 17, 1911 from New England Stamp Company (Boston) . . . . 15L3 shows 2 horizontal lines on Franklin's head as the upper line reaches to the stamp on each side of 15L3. For transfer roll relief varieties see card as marked . . . . etc.' (unquote)

"Wm. L. Stevenson, in an article in the *COLLECTORS' CLUB JOURNAL** for November 1913 (Vol. 4 — No. 4) also mentioned the sheet, quote: 'The Worthington collection contains a sheet of 100 which shows all the varieties that have been noted . . . . It is perforated, shows the pane line at right, the top and the bottom margins, but the left margin with imprint and plate number is gone. I have carefully examined this sheet. The bottom row shows the full bottoms and variously short tops. The top row shows the full tops and variously short bottoms.' (unquote)

"Stevenson was not interested in plating and never did any to my knowledge but he did study the Worthington sheet very carefully and he arrived at the correct solution that the plate had been entered with a six-relief transfer roll. It will be noted that this was the year 1913.

"I was not a subscriber to the *COLLECTORS' CLUB JOURNAL* at that time and I never read the Stevenson articles until long after my two-volume book was published in 1938.

"In the late nineteen thirties (as I recall) Colonel Green passed away and the Executor of his Estate, a New York Trust Company, selected the late Walter S. Scott to arrange for the disposal of the Green philatelic holdings.

*This Club's publication before The *COLLECTORS CLUB PHILATELIST* started in 1922.

I was more than delighted to receive a letter from Mr. Scott advising me that he had found in the Green collection the Worthington One Cent Plate 4 sheet and he very kindly made the necessary arrangements with the Trust Company to loan it to me to photograph. As near as I can recall, this was late in 1941 or early in 1942.

*Photograph No. 54,** is one of a number of photographs that I made of the sheet at that time.''

THE 1944 SALE OF THE WORTHINGTON SHEET

''The One Cent sheet came up in a Green Sale by Harmer, Rooke & Co., on November 13, 1944 and was described as follows, quote:

'*Lot 25* — (unused 1c Blue, complete sheet of 100. Plate IV, left pane (no sheet margin at left). Top row Type II, bottom row Type IA, (this row alone catalogues $5000.00), other eight rows are Types IC, II and IIA. Stamp #39 defective, sheet slightly reinforced. On the whole the condition is fine, with full gum, bright color. A truly amazing sheet and one of the very finest of all existing pieces of this ever-popular stamp** (40B-41-42-42B).' (unquote)

''The sale price was $3,750.00 and the buyer was Y. Souren of New York City, N. Y. According to information furnished to me, Souren in later years sold the sheet to one of his clients whom we will call 'Mr. X.,' at an undisclosed price, and the story goes that the buyer later changed his mind about retaining the sheet and left it together with a sheet of the dollar Omaha with Souren to be sold, neglecting to obtain a receipt for either piece. The story is to the effect that Souren sold the 1c sheet for $11,000.00 and the Omaha sheet for $6,000.00 to one of his clients whom we will refer to as 'Mr. Y.' Mr. 'X' claims that after the disposal of the two sheets that no settlement was made with him. Soon afterwards, Souren was taken ill, and later died. Mr. 'X' made a demand upon the Souren Estate, according to information furnished me, but the Executors denied any knowledge of any ownership in the two items by Mr. 'X,' who has either entered suit or will enter suit against the Souren Estate in the near future. The attorneys for the plaintiff, Mr. 'X,' managed to locate the present owner of the two sheets and he stated, so I was informed, that he had purchased the two sheets at the prices mentioned above from Y. Souren.

''My deposition was taken recently regarding my knowledge of the One Cent sheet, and if in my opinion, it is unique. Naturally the attorneys for Mr. 'X' were pleased to obtain a copy of the enclosed photograph, No. 54.

''The above information was placed at my disposal by the attorneys of Mr. 'X.' It will be interesting to note the final outcome of this case.

''According to the Chase records, Worthington purchased the sheet from the New England Stamp Co. of Boston, on Dec. 17, 1911, but I have no record of any previous owner. It has been suggested that it migh have come from the Fred Ayer Collection.

''It seems almost unbelievable that this sheet would have survived intact to the present day, a period covering 95 years. It is undoubtedly unique, hence is probably the rarest and most valuable One Cent 1851-1857 piece in existence, certainly the most valuable according to S. U. S. quotations.

*Now in the possession of The Philatelic Foundation, New York, N. Y.

**1962 Scott Catalogue numbers are 19-20-21-22, respectively. (*M. L. N.*)

"I have a suspicion that when this sheet was originally found, it was accompanied by another *partial sheet* from the same left pane of Plate 4. I have no idea how large this second piece was but a few of the stamps comprising it, were torn and creased. This 'piece' was broken up and sold, and I managed to locate and rejoin pairs and singles to make an irregular block of 16. When I had the 'Worthington sheet' in my hands for photographing in early 1942, it is my recollection that the color was very similar to the irregular unused o. g. rejoined block, the same white gum, and perforations that were also similar."

In an attempt to bring the story of this exceptional and rare item up-to-date, the writer adds now other information that has come to his attention. He seriously began the study of The One Cent 1851-1857 in 1941 and is deeply indebted to the late Stanley B. Ashbrook for his patient efforts in advancing these studies. The writer closely followed such retail offerings as were made by dealers as well as auctions of the more important and lesser One Cent items. The first knowledge of the existence of this Plate 4 pane was in the Harmer, Rooke & Co. auction catalogue, for the November 13, 1944, Col. Green sale. The author was the underbidder to Mr. Souren and stopped at $3500, for two reasons. First — when Mr. Souren was interested in purchasing a lot at an auction sale, he simply would not stop until he acquired it, regardless of price. Second — $3500 was all the writer could afford at that time.

The author had no personal knowledge of the controversy between Mr. Souren and Mr. "X," nor his estate. But some time later there was a rumor that a settlement had been made and the pane had been returned to the attorneys of Mr. "X." The writer had been unable to learn the facts, but subsequently did hear that the pane was sold to another collector.

The next time the author saw this great rarity was in July 1957 in Philadelphia at the Centennial Exhibition of the U. S. 1851-60 Unit. This pane together with a complete pane of the rare 13-Cent 1909 blue paper were loaned to the exhibition by the well-known New Orleans dealers, Roger and Raymond Weill in the care of the late Mr. Morris Fortgang to be shown along with his exhibition with respective captions "The Most Valuable U. S. 19th Century Sheet" and "The Most Valuable U. S. 20th Century Sheet." The Weills would not divulge to the writer how the Plate 4 pane came in their possession, but they stated that it could be bought for $25,000. Although many prominent and wealthy U. S. collectors were in Philadelphia at that time, no sale was consummated and the sheet remained in the possession of Raymond H. Weill Co., New Orleans, La.

Two years later, a birthday party for Mr. Elliott Perry was sponsored by Mr. Fortgang and other friends of Mr. Perry at a New York hotel. Present among others, were Mr. Raymond Weill and a prominent Eastern collector of early U. S. stamps. A cocktail part preceded the dinner, and the conviviality at the bar and elsewhere was quite evident. However, it was noted that despite the general hilarity, Mr. Raymond Weill and the well-known Eastern collector were huddled in a corner at a small table engaged in protracted and serious conversation. The subject of this conference can only be surmised, but during the dinner word spread that the unique pane of the U. S. One Cent 1857 Plate 4 had a new owner. This was confirmed a few days later. The great rarity is now in a well-known Eastern collection together with the only known One Cent imperforate pane from Plates 1 late and 2.

In case of change of address, please notify Secretary, The Collectors Club, 22 East 35 Street, New York 16, N. Y.

THE SUEZ CANAL COMPANY

Its Postage Stamps of 1868

By JEAN BOULAD d'HUMIERES*

That part of Africa between the Mediterranean and Red Seas, where the famous Suez Canal is located, for many years has been involved in international political affairs. As late as 1956, world attention was again focused on the Suez Canal as a result of its nationalization by Egypt under Nasser.

But almost 100 years earlier, in 1868 when the Suez Canal was starting, the Company doing the construction work issued its own postage stamps for an essential postal service. These private stamps seem to be little known to the collectors in the United States of America, and thus this article is written for the information of the readers of the COLLECTORS CLUB PHILATELIST.

Historical Background

In 1859 when Ferdinand de Lesseps began working on the future Suez Canal across the desert, that portion of Egypt, where the work was being done, was completely uninhabited. There was only one small harbor at Suez at the southern end of this territory on the Red Sea. This tiny settlement can be ranked as no more than a small village. But as the work progressed from both

*Fellow, Royal Philatelic Society, London and Corresponding Member of the Académie de Philatélie, Paris, France.

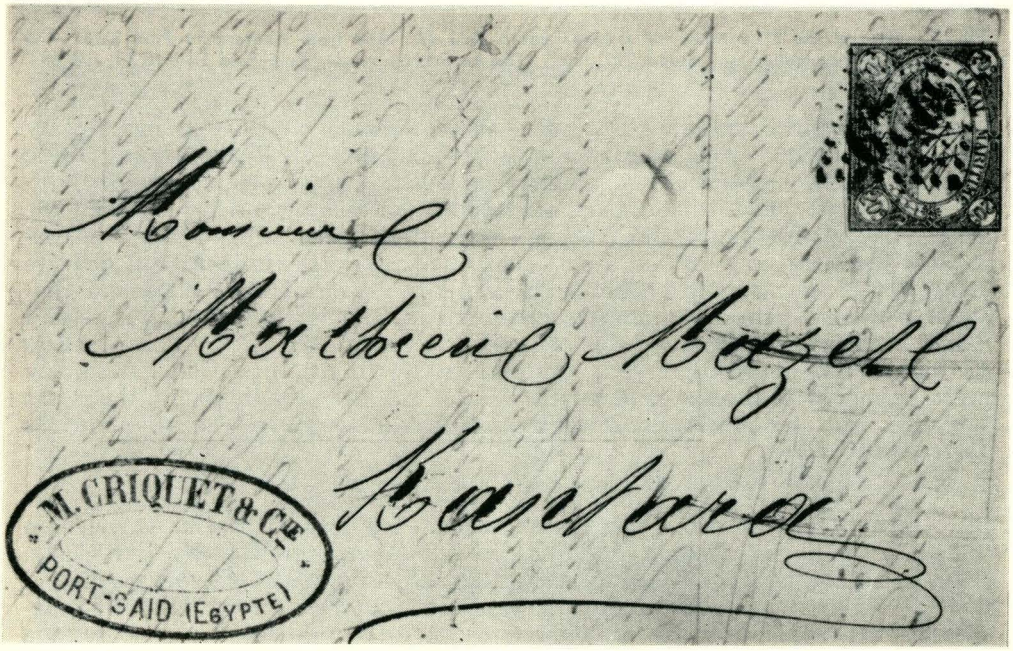


Fig. 1. Cover from Port Said to Kantara dated July 28, 1868 franked with a single copy of the 20 centimes. The cancellation in black with a dotted lozenge design is "5129."

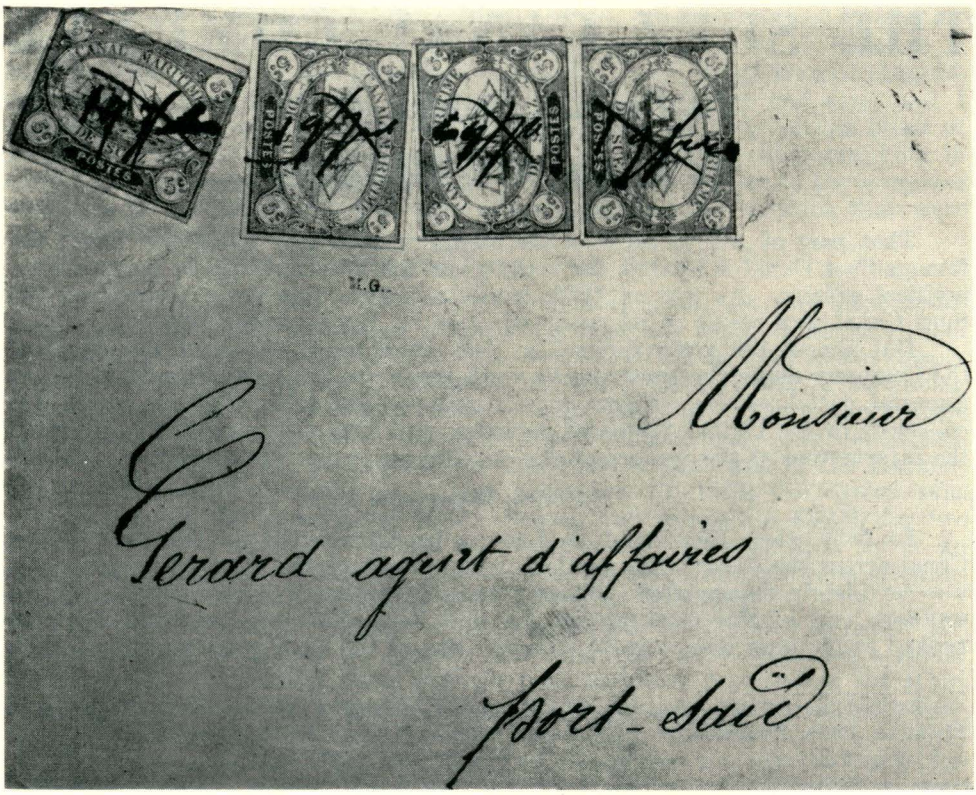


Fig. 2. Four of the 5 centimes on a cover dated July 19, 1868 from Kantara to Port Said. The stamps are pen-cancelled and dated "19 Juil." The backstamp reads "Port-Said Egypte 19 Juil 68."

the Mediterranean and Red Sea ends, those working on this project quickly grew in numbers. This construction staff consisted of European engineers, technicians and clerks and many native laborers.

As a consequence of the increased numbers of technicians and workers, the mail — both from Egypt and from overseas — also grew in volume. Thus, by 1860 it was necessary for the Suez Canal Company to institute its own private mail service that operated chiefly between the various labor camps and construction sites. Also, merchants to take care of the needs of the engineers and laborers, established trading posts near the aforementioned sites. These traders as well as all connected directly or indirectly with the Suez Canal Company were permitted to use the mail service free of charge. Furthermore, there was no other mail service available at the time in these parts. These conditions lasted until 1868.

Stamps and Cancellations

Obviously as the work progressed and more personnel became engaged in the Suez Canal construction work, the volume of mail grew to be very heavy. Thus in 1868 Gustave Riche, Postmaster of the Suez Canal Company, suggested that all users of the Company's mail service should now pay for it. His suggestion was approved. He was instructed to order special adhesive postage stamps and postal markings from Paris, France. As for the postal tariffs and regulations, it was decided to follow those used by France.

Messres. Chézaud Ainé & Tavernier, printers and lithographers of 3 Rue des Capucins Saint-Jacques, Paris, France, were given the contract to print the Suez Canal Company stamps. They were produced by lithography in sheets of 120. Thus, it is possible to plate each stamp individually because one finds a

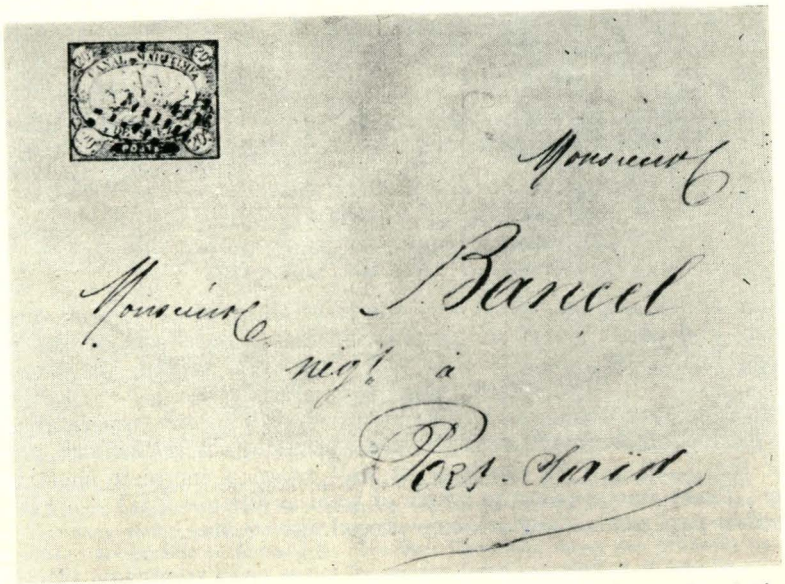


Fig. 3. Cover dated July 23, 1868 with a single 20 centimes from Ismailia to Port Said. The cancellation in blue is a rectangle with 48 elongated dots.

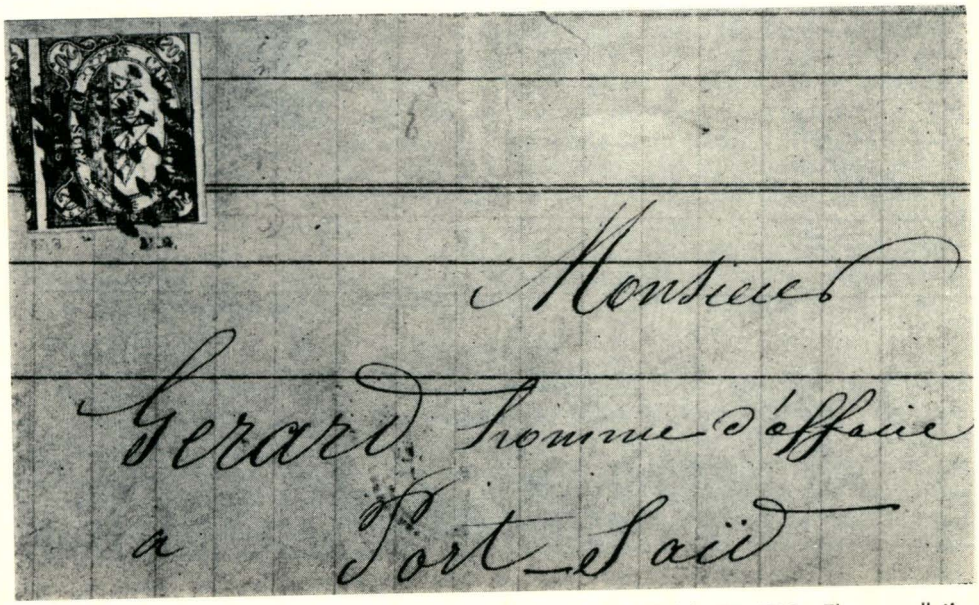


Fig. 4. The 20 centimes on a cover from Suez to Port Said dated July 25, 1868. The cancellation in blue is a circular one made up by large dots. The backstamp reads "Port-Said Egypte 26 Juil 68."

characteristic on one copy different from the other. But it is not the writer's intention to describe each of the 120 positions in this article.

Four denominations were put on sale in Egypt around July 8, 1868 and the following amount of each were sold:

1 centime black	6,020
5 centimes green	31,236
20 centimes blue	105,644
40 centimes red	10,863

For the philatelist, who seeks stamps in good condition for his collection, one can sum up the degree of scracity of these four denominations as follows:

1 centime	very scarce
40 centimes	scarce
5 centimes	not easily obtainable
20 centimes	not scarce

As for multiple pieces, only one complete sheet of the 5 and 40 centimes are known, and about thirty of the 20 centimes. No sheets of the 1 centime are known, just a few blocks of four and six as well as nine pairs or strips of three.

There is an interesting variety to note. A part of the papermaker's name, Lacroix Frères of Angoulême, is found appearing in a vertical position on copies of the 5, 20 and 40 centimes as well as on a complete sheet of the 20 centimes. This name appears in whole or part as this: — "LA + - F." Copies showing this papermaker's mark are exceedingly scarce.

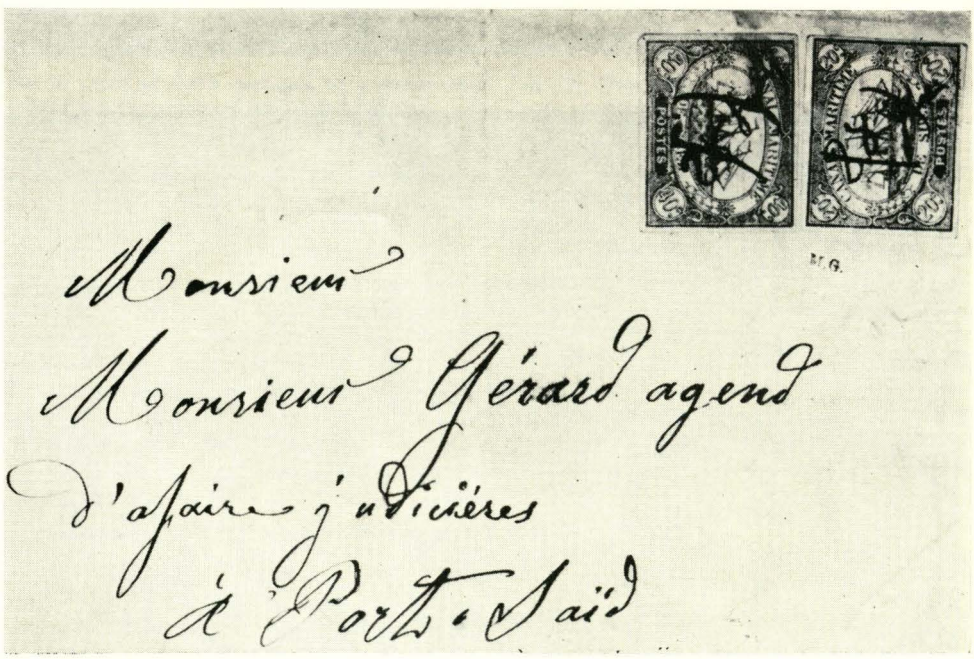


Fig. 5. A 20 and 40 centimes on a triple rate cover from Kantara to Port Said on July 28, 1868. The pen-cancelled mark reads "28."

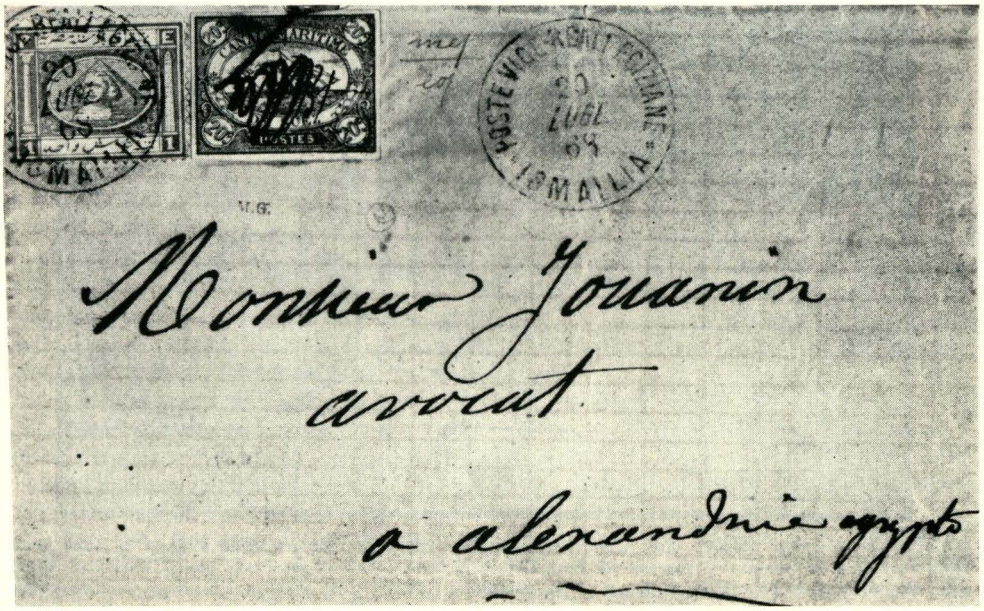


Fig. 6. This is the only cover known with the 40 centimes stamp. Combination Franking. Suez Canal Company and Egypt. From Port Said to Alexandria via Ismailia dated July 20, 1868, the 20 centimes Suez Canal Company stamp paid the rate from Port Said to Ismailia. The 1 piastre Egypt stamp carried the cover from Ismailia to Alexandria. The Suez Canal Co. stamp was probably pen-cancelled at Port Said, while the Egyptian stamp carries the regular dated cancellation of Ismailia.

A Short-lived Existence

The issuance of these Suez Canal Company stamps caused the Egyptian Postal Administration to speed up the opening of its own post offices to replace those of the Suez Canal Company. Therefore on August 16, 1868 the postage stamps of the Suez Canal Company were taken off sale and were replaced by the Egyptian stamps issued in 1867. Thus the life of the Company stamps was very short-lived, lasting only 35 days from July 8th to August 16, 1868. Unused remainder copies later came on the philatelic market. But with such a short period of use, one can understand why used copies and especially covers are so very scarce. Up to now only four to six used copies of the 1, 5 and 40 centimes respectively are known, while used copies of the 20 centimes are far more available. As for covers, a total of only *fifteen* entires and four fronts of covers of all four denominations have been recorded up to the present time. Seven of these are illustrated in this article.

Cancellations

Special dated postmarking devices were ordered from the firm of Messrs. Virey Frères, engravers, 142 Rue de Rennes, Paris, France. They were to be used for cancelling the stamps. Unfortunately these devices did not reach Egypt in time to be used for the Company's postage stamps. Therefore, on August 16, 1868, some of these postmarks were turned over to the Egyptian Postal Administration for use pending the arrival of the regular Egyptian postal cancelling devices. Therefore, the use of these Suez Canal Company cancellations on Egyptian stamps is not easy to find. Four — Raz-El-Ech, Kil. 34, Chantier VI and Kil. 83 — are known. Because of their scarcity, fraudulent postmarks have been made and circulated among philatelists.

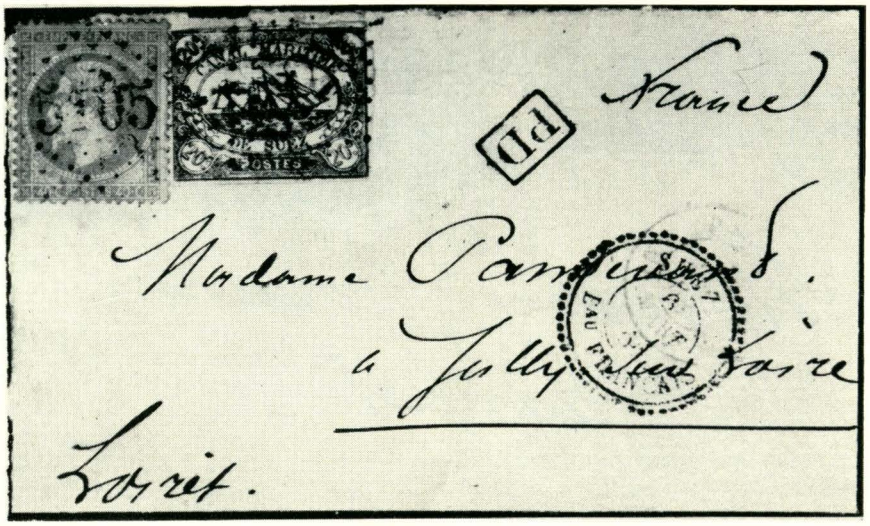
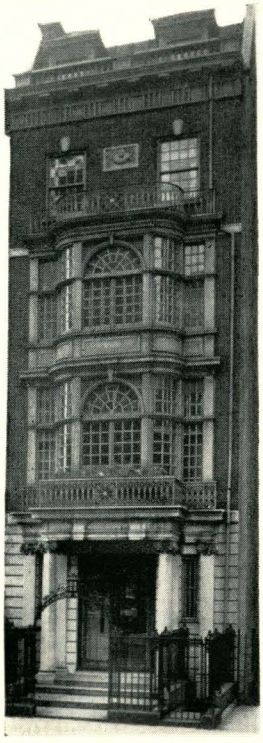


Fig. 7. Combination cover. Suez Cancel Co. and France. This cover dated August 5, 1868 went from Port Said to France via the French Post Office in Suez. The 20 centimes Suez Canal Co. stamp paid the rate from Port Said to Suez. It is cancelled "5129" with a dotted lozenge marking. The 40 centimes French Empire stamp that carried this cover from Suez to France was cancelled at the French P. O. in Suez with the numerals, "5105."

(Continued on page 302)



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VENEZUELA

The "Rivodo" Find of Early Covers

By JAMES NEGUS and PETER HOLCOMBE

An important find of early Venezuelan covers has taken place which amplifies the recorded data for the period 1859 to 1888. The writers were able to inspect this find while it was in the offices of a London dealer in late 1960, and offer the following notes as a supplement to the standard handbook on this subject.

This handbook is Lt. Gen. C. W. Wickersham's *The Early Stamps of Venezuela,* which was published by the Collectors Club in 1958. The present notes should be read in conjunction with General Wickersham's book: new "earliest dates of cancellation," for example, mean earlier in relation to ones recorded in that book.

The find consists of correspondence addressed to the Caracas firm of "Sres. B. Rivodo & Ca." It appears that this firm was known originally as "Sres. Kreutzer" and "Sres. Kreutzer and Rivodo," judging by the addresses on some of the covers. All the correspondence is in the form of folded sheets of writing paper in the style of those days, rather than of letters enclosed in envelopes.

The First Issue — 1859

Although there is good reason to believe that the First Issue appeared on January 1, 1859, concrete evidence of use before April 26 has hitherto been rather insubstantial. In the Rivodo correspondence there were fifteen covers pre-dating April 26 (*see* Fig. 1):

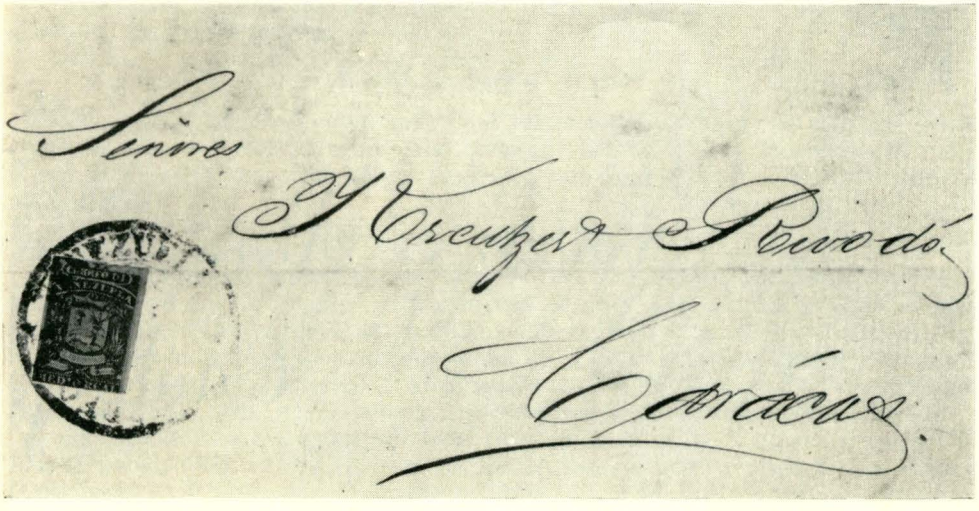


Fig. 1.

½ real, fine impression: Jan. 3, 7, 15, 20; Feb. 4, 23 (two), 26, March 1, 3, 12; April 9, 14 (two), 23, 1859.

Dr. Hernandez Ron's researches that issue took place on January 1, 1859 are therefore substantially confirmed. The Hall and Fulcher date of May 9, 1859 for the 1 real, fine impression, is also put back to March 29, 1859 by the Rivodo find.

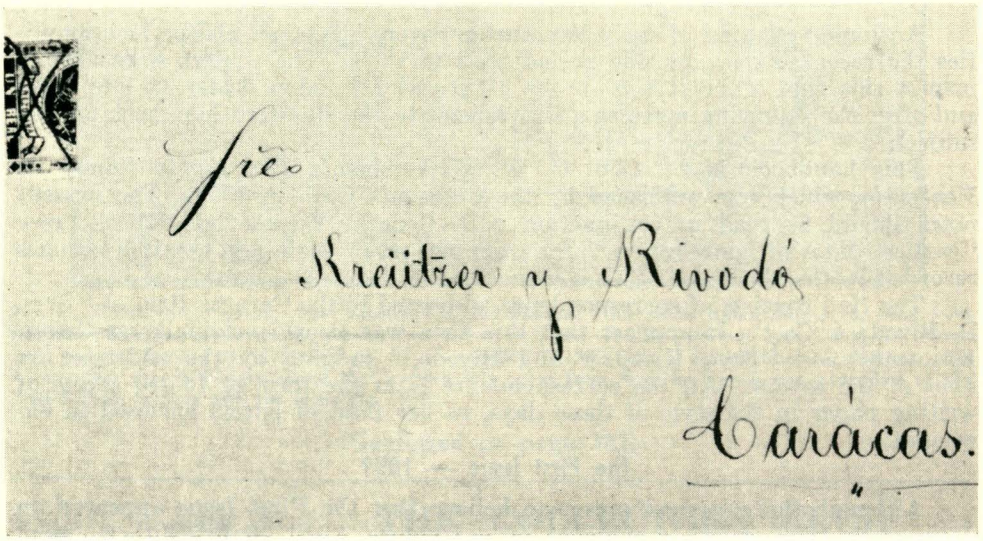


Fig. 2.

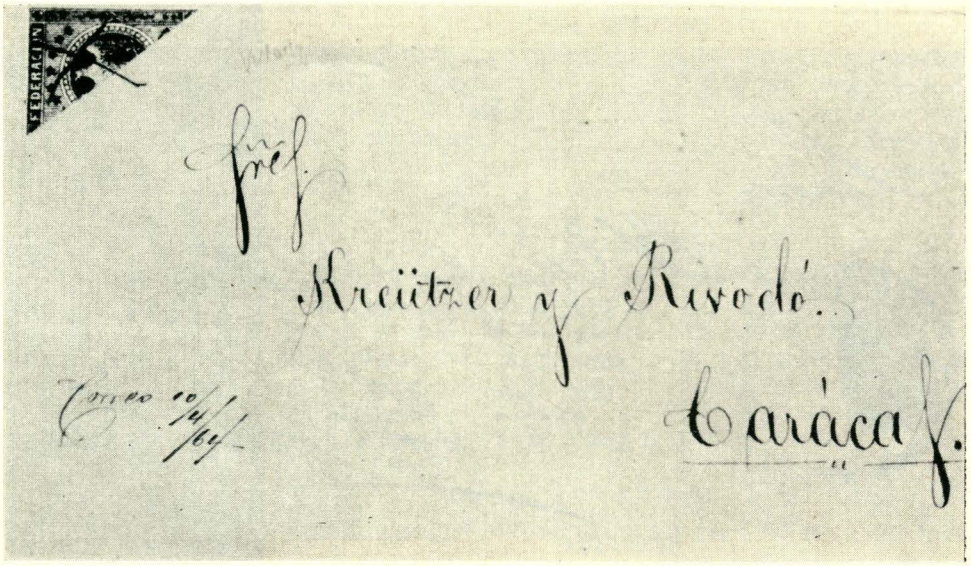


Fig. 3.

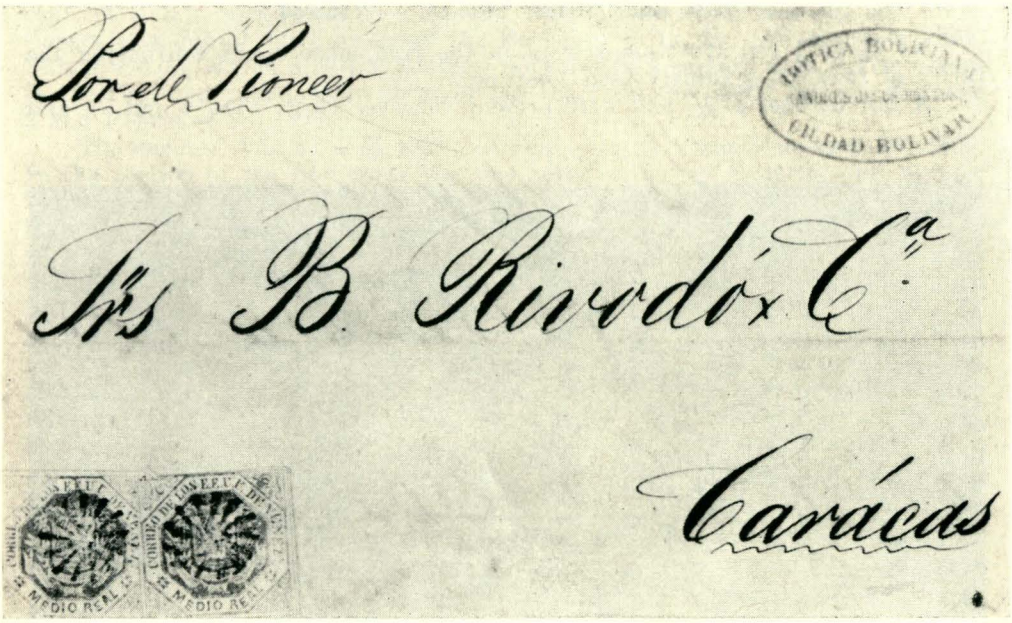


Fig. 4.

In the ½ real coarse impression, the earliest date for the yellow stamp can now be put at October 18, 1859, as opposed to the November 30, 1859, hitherto recorded. Two further covers with ½ real yellow, bearing on this, were dated November 18 and November 23, 1859. The ½ real orange, coarse impression, can only be moved back a few days. A cover dated May 11, 1861 compares with the former earliest date of May 14, 1861.

The Rivodo find throws no light on the 2 reales, fine and coarse impressions, or the 1 real, coarse impression.

Third Issue (Arms) — 1862

The rarity of used copies of these low-denomination Arms stamps finds confirmation in their entire absence from the Rivodo find. Wickersham comments in his book that such values as ¼, ½, and 1c. made their use on ordinary mail unlikely.

Fourth Issue (Eagle) — 1863-65

The find contained many covers with the ½ real but less than 3% were perfect four-margined copies. This is the penalty for the narrowness of the sheet setting. The earliest date of November 1863 is made more precise by covers dated November 14 and November 21, 1863; the latest date of January 1865 is considerably extended, with markings in September, November, and December 1865. One cover bore a pen-cancelled strip of four of the ½ real.

As for the 1 real, a small number of covers were in the find, mostly bearing fair to poor copies. Confirmation of the legitimate use of bisects was found: three covers with the 1 real bisected diagonally and horizontally at Victoria (on April 9, April 10, and December 19, 1864). (*See* Figs. 2 and 3). All three covers were pen-cancelled.

Fifth Issue (Square Stamps) — 1866-68

No ½ or 1 centavo stamps were in the find, once again confirming the rarity of these in genuinely used condition.

A fair number of ½ real were present, however (e. g., Figs. 4 and 5), and

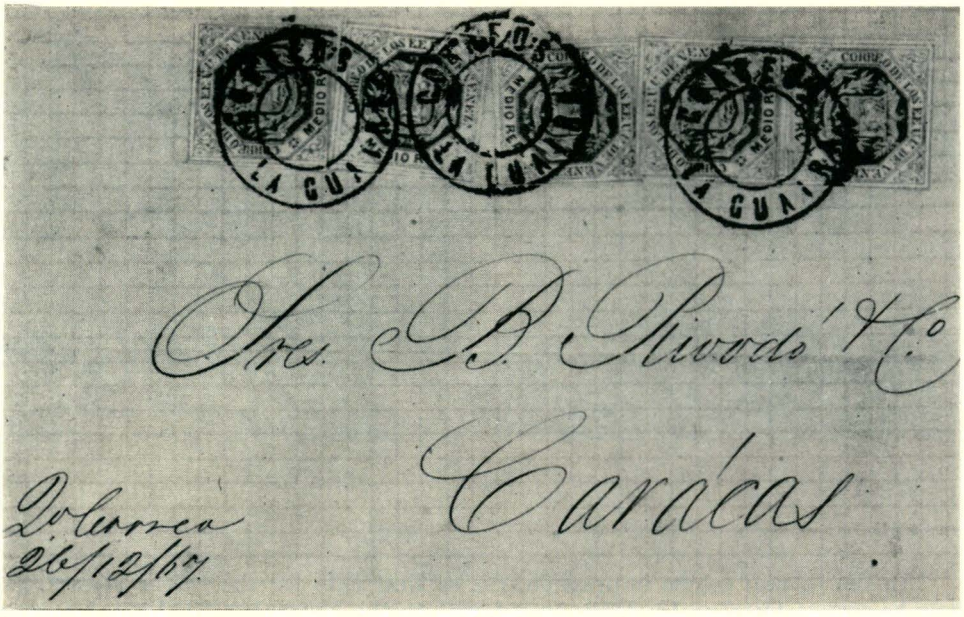


Fig. 5.

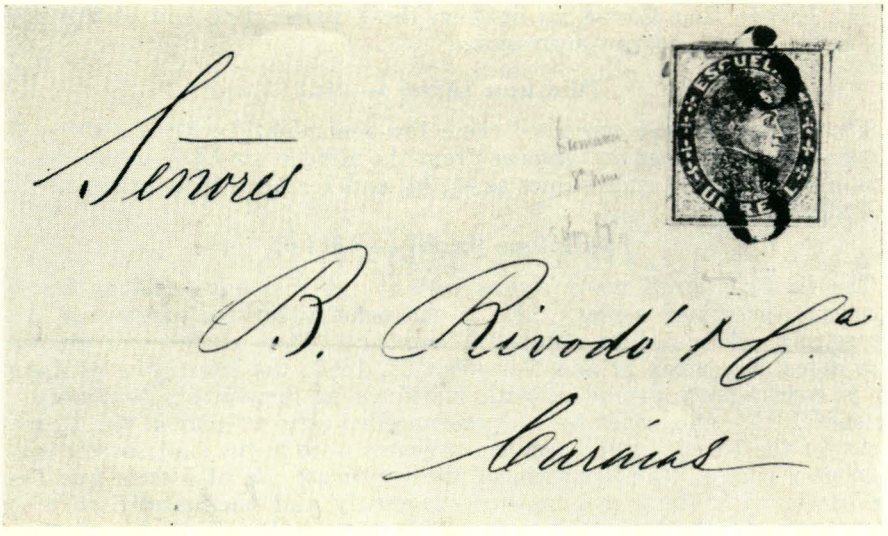


Fig. 6.

confirm Hall's (and Moens's) statement that the issue date was January 1866. Covers were found dated January 12; February 8, 12, 28; and March 6, 1866. This last date, March 6, is the same as Wickersham's earliest date. Two covers in the find had rather later dates of use than thought usual before: January 3 and February 28, 1871.

The earliest date of a ½ real "official forgery" was February 28, 1866. In this section of the find there was one cover with five forgeries and another bearing three originals and two forgeries. Forgeries were also found in combination with French postage. The authors are not clear whether "official forgeries" means what it says, or whether the term refers to a new plate setting.

The 1 real vermilion (which was a favorite of General Wickersham) is seen from the find to pre-date the hitherto earliest date of April 24, 1867 by over a year. Covers were present dated February 20; April 7; June 23; August 1 (two), 1866; and January 21, 1867. A late use of a very early impression was noted — April 23, 1870. Seven examples of the 1 real bisected add to Wickersham's two covers. The Rivodo items are dated August 13, 22, 30; September 3, 13, 1866; February 8 and July 3, 1868. All are from La Guaira.

The 2 reales is absent from the find, confirming the estimation of its rarity in used condition.

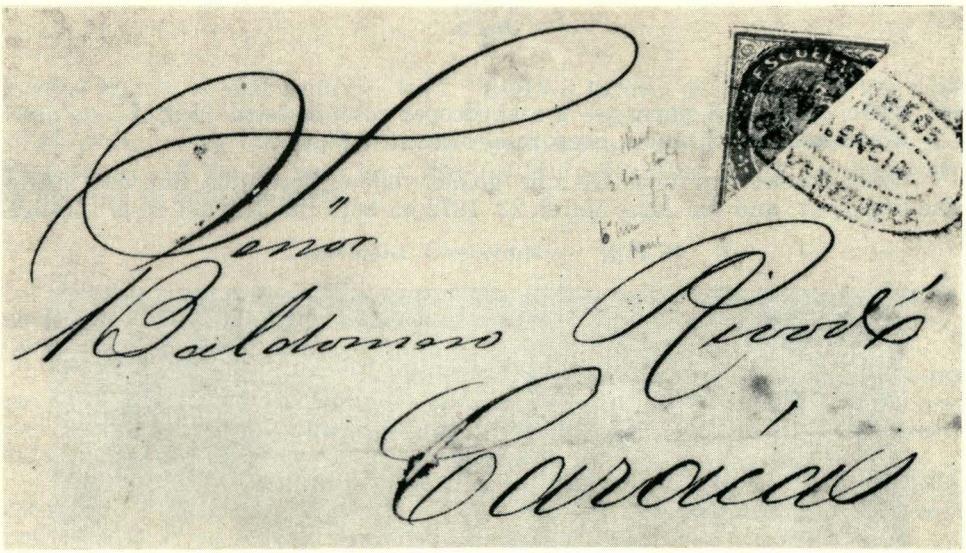


Fig. 7.

First Escuelas — 1871-76

The main contribution to the study of these complicated issues (Fig. 6) made by the Rivodo find — apart from confirming genuine postal usage — is in the matter of bisects. Covers are present from the following:

Second issue — 1 real, pale red, bisected horizontally; 1r. dull red, bisected diagonally.

Fourth issue — 1 real, bright rose, bisected.

Fifth issue — 1 real, rose, bisected. Used March 22, 1873; cf. hitherto earliest date of November 1874.

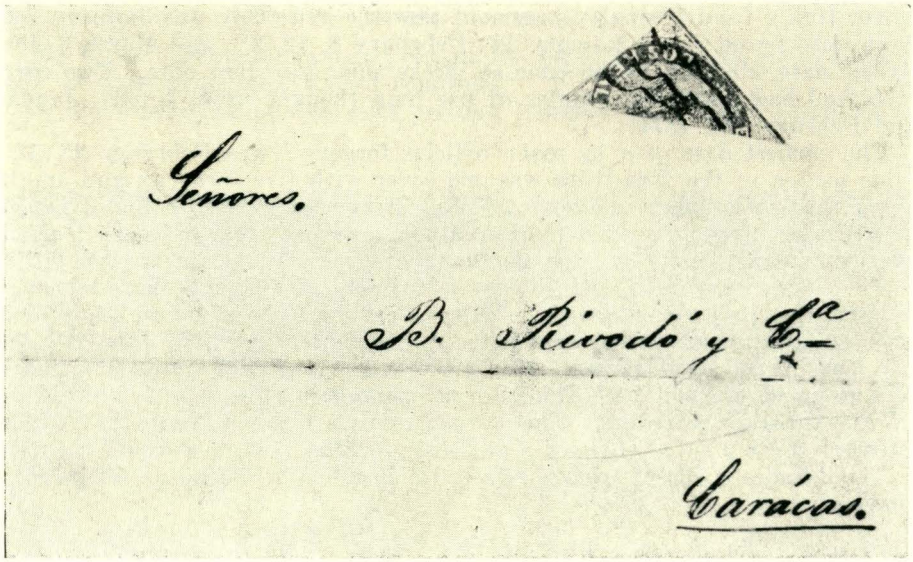


Fig. 8.

Sixth issue (laid paper) — 1 real, deeper rose, bisected (Fig. 7).
Eight issue — 2 reales, deep rose, bisected (Fig. 8).

Other noteworthy items are a 5c. golden-yellow, first issue, but with single-line overprint; and the dates March 23, 1872 on both the 5c. first issue (orange-

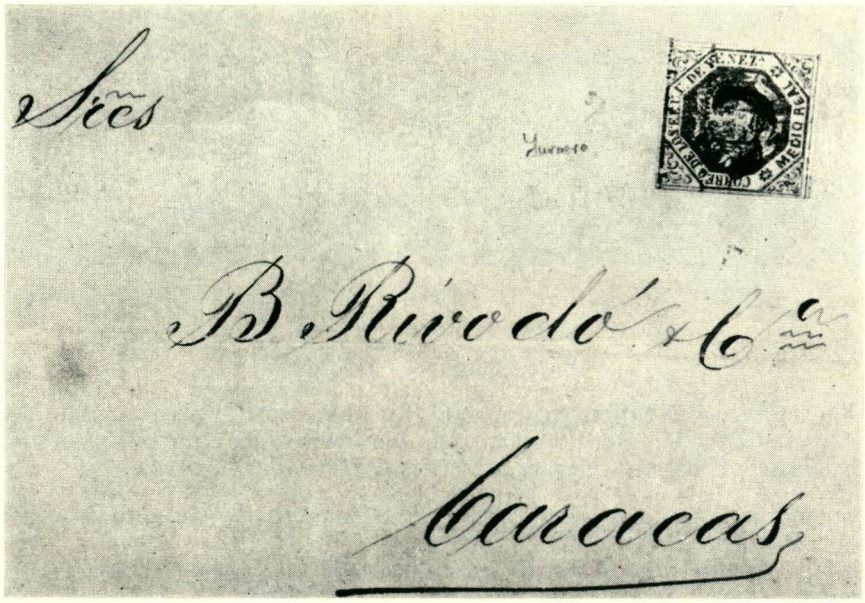


Fig. 9.

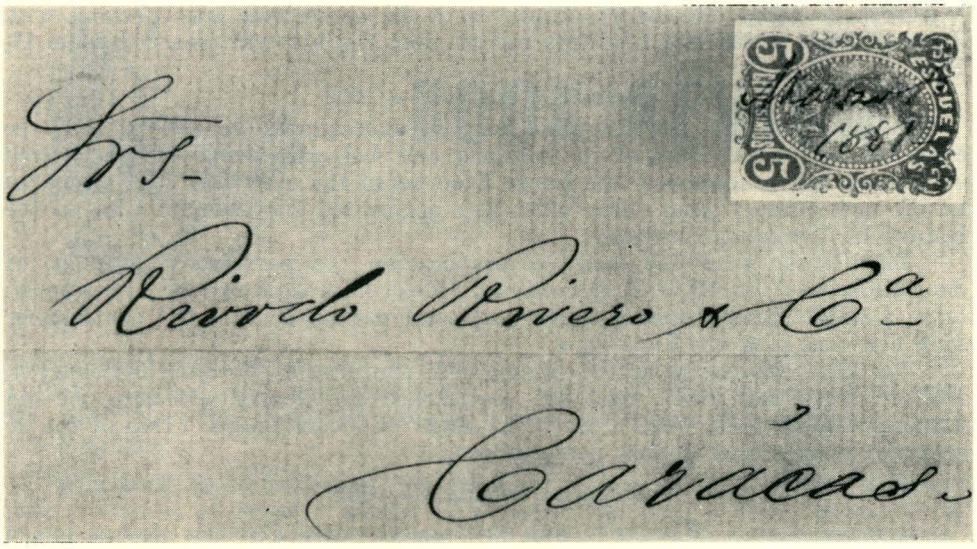


Fig. 10.

brown) and 5c. second issue (yellow). Light is thrown on the date of the third issue also, hitherto in doubt: a 5c. (yellow) is found dated February 27, 1872 — cf. earliest date October 1872. In the laid-paper sixth issue there occurs a strip of five of the 2c. used as a seal for the cover; one stamp has been torn in opening it, unfortunately.

Contrasena Overprints — 1873-77

Notable among the 1873 overprints ("Estampillas de Correo — Contrasena") are five of the 1 real bisected on covers. All are pen-cancelled "Coselo;" the earliest date is February 14, 1874.

The 1874 overprints ("Contrasena — Estampillas de Correo") are represented in the find by the ½ and 1 real, both normal and inverted. In the normal overprints, the ½ real is found dated May 14, 1875; the 1 real appears dated in 1874 — January 12, February 5, and May 4.

The ½ real with inverted overprint is shown in one example dated 1873, used from Fumero, December 17, 1873 (Fig. 9). The earliest date for the 1 real with inverted overprint is May 30, 1874.

The 1875 issue ("Contrasena — Estampilla de Correos;" larger letters) is seen in the ½ real, normal and inverted overprints, and the 1 real, normal overprint of 1876 is the two lines of wording reversed, namely "Contrasena" above and "Estampillas de correo" below. Furthermore, one of the ½ real inverted overprints was found to read "Estampillas de Correo Contrasena" above and "Contrasena" below. Wickersham notes other varieties of overprint.

Large Escuelas — 1879

Wickersham comments on the rarity of the Large Escuelas without the overprint. The Rivodo correspondence disclosed a 5 centesimos, deep orange, on cover in this state, pen-cancelled La Pascua, March 1, 1881 (Fig. 10).

Of the normal, overprinted, stamps quantities of the 5 centesimos were present, but the earliest date (La Guaira, June 11, 1879) does not pre-date

Wickersham (May 26, 1879). However, a 10 centesimos was present with June 13, 1879 which is a few days earlier than the hitherto recorded June 17, 1879.

Perforated Escuelas — 1880

Wickersham does not deal with this (or subsequent) issues. In 1880 the currency had been changed to centimos and bolivares from the short-lived centesimos and venezolanos; the Large Escuelas of the preceding year appeared in the new curency and were (officially) perforated for the first time in the history of Venezuelan stamps.

The Rivodo find had many covers bearing the perforated Escuelas, of denominations 5, 10, 25, and 50 centimos. Most make up a rate of 25 centimos: often a single stamp (most common), or combinations such as 5x5 centimos or 2x10 centimos plus one 5 centimos.

The dates for covers bearing a single 25 centimos range from February 4, 1881 to April 18, 1884. Most are postmarked La Guaira, although the old numeral cancellations "¾," "2," "3," and "6" were found. Two of the 25 centimos stamps had double perforations.

Engraved Escuelas — 1882

The main point of interest with the recess-printed Escuelas stamps issued in 1882 was that pen-cancellation continued to predominate in the Rivodo covers. There five times as many pen-cancels as postmarks. Five covers were also seen bearing the numeral cancellation "3"; Wickersham points out that such numerals were weight and rate indicators from pre-stamp days whose use was virtually extinct by 1880. Their appearance on the 1882 issue can thus be regarded as late use.

Lithographed Escuelas — 1887

An interesting division was apparent in Rivodo covers bearing stamps of this issue. All the perforated stamps were pen-cancelled but the rouletted ones were all postmarked (earliest date February 15, 1888).

Cancellations

The opportunity was taken of recording the many cancellations and pen-markings found on the Rivodo correspondence. It is hoped to work these notes up for publication in this magazine at an early date.

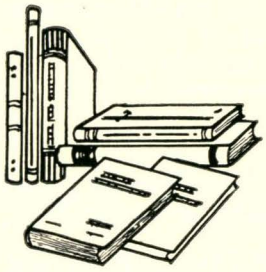
SUEZ CANAL (Continued from page 294)

Counterfeits

By now, one can see that outside of the 20 centimes, these Suez Canal Company postage stamps are scarce. Thus, the obvious has happened to "make the philatelist happy." As early as 1872, counterfeited stamps began appearing, and their production has tempted many a tricky counterfeiter. At present, there are as many as a dozen different kinds of counterfeit stamps known. Counterfeit cancellations also are known. Many of them may be found either on genuine or counterfeit stamps. Furthermore, some covers have been faked.

Conclusion

It is hoped that this little study may cast some further light on these interesting stamps that had such a short life. Although they are historical, the writer regrets that so few collectors bother to interest themselves in them. Thus, it is also hoped that this article may stimulate some in the United States of America to commence a collection of these stamps.



BOOK REVIEWS

Zwölf Berühmte Briefmarken by Dr. Julius Kaufmann. Published by the Author. Printed and distributed by H. Sutorius, Koln-Nippes, Merheimer Str. 243. No price indicated. Paper bound, 173 pages plus 8 plates. German language.

This book could be called the German version of L. N. & M. Williams book, "Stamps of Fame," which, as a matter of fact, is freely referred to. The author has put in a lot of research in official archives for his information, and all sources are specifically referred to as they apply to the text. Although primarily written for the noncollector or layman, it will also prove of interest to the serious collector.

The first part of the book, fifty pages, is devoted to a discussion of the relative merits of three claimants to the honor of being the inventors of the postage stamp. On March 3, 1823 a Lt. Curry Gabriel Treffenberg laid before the Swedish Parliament a proposal that the Post Office issue stamped paper for the enclosure of mail matter. This would effect the prepayment of mail matter and obviate the tedious and cumbersome way of forwarding unpaid mail and collecting the postal fees on delivery. The proposition was not acted upon by the Parliament and the idea fell through. Next is discussed a Laurenz Koschier, who, employed in the accounting department of the Austrian Government, early in 1836 proposed to the Royal Department of Commerce of the Austrian Government the introduction of labels properly imprinted with various values corresponding to the then existing postal rates to be affixed to mail matter delivered to the post offices for forwarding, thus prepaying the postal charges and eliminating much of the complicated accounting methods required in handling the mail. It was primarily an internal reform, but which would show a great saving to the government in the performing of this service. The idea was turned down by the Government. Finally the claim of the adherents of Sir Rowland Hill are discussed. After Hill's introduction of his Postal Reform was a reality, Koschier claimed that the postage stamp introduced by Hill was his idea which he had explained to a British business man and who in turn had given the idea to Rowland Hill. There the matter rests. The author seems to favor Koschier's claim.

Various chapters follow each of which deal with a famous stamp or group of stamps. Here we come to some very entertaining reading. The author supplies historical, statistical and romantic material, all properly documented, and well told. The stamps or groups of stamps described are the following;

The Mauritius Post Office of 1847
The British Guiana 1 cent of 1856
The Swiss Cantonal Stamps
The Baden 9 Kreuzer green error
The Saxony 3 Pfennig red

The Red Mercury of Austria
The Cape of Good Hope Triangulars
The Hawaiian Missionaries
The Swedish 3 Skilling banco yellow error
The Newfoundland Air Mails
The United States Postmasters

Of the eight plates in the book, five are devoted to the rarities described. The illustrations are well reproduced and quite a number are taken from the Harmer catalogue of the Caspary sale.

There are but two obvious errors in the book. The Penny Black was not printed on black paper, but in black ink on white paper, and the Swedish error 3 skilling banco was not printed on yellow paper but with yellow ink on white paper. Otherwise this is a book to be recommended to both the non-collector and the collector of stamps. *(Hans G. Zervas.)*

Greyhounds of the Sea, the Story of the American Clipper Ship, by Carl C. Cutler. Copyright 1930. Copyright assigned to and re-issued by United States Naval Academy, 1960. Illustrated. 592pp. Price $12.50.

In Greyhounds of the Sea, the Story of the American Clipper Ships, Mr. Cutler presents a wealth of material gathered from libraries, historical societies, government bureaus and private persons. He traces the development of shipbuilding in this country from Colonial days to the 1850's, the era of the magnificent clippers. With many photographs of models of ships he shows the changes of design which made the great speed of the clippers possible. He stresses the importance of the character of the men who captained these ships. No brilliance of design or daring in rigging could alone have earned the clippers their reputation. It took men of determination and skill, men undaunted by the terrible storms around Cape Horn and other disasters met at sea, to drive the ships to win sailing records never broken to this day.

The valuable appendices form one fourth of the book. In Appendix I there are three useful lists: "A selected list of fast sailing vessels built in the United States from 1782 to 1849;" "One hundred transatlantic packet ships of the early period;" "The later clippers and reputed clippers, 1850 to 1860;" all three with names of captains, measurements of ships, place and date of construction and owners. In other appendices one finds: "Some record and near-record sailing ship passages;" a "List of 139 voyages made by ships reported American in the China-to-England trade between 1850 to 1860;" and a list of California voyages 1848 to 1860 with dates of departure and arrival.

Many readers will find Mr. Cutler's narrative fascinating and enjoy his illustrations, eight of them in color; but the student, using the narrative for background, will revel in the lists of ships and voyages and may profitably use Mr. Cutler's sources given in his *Acknowledgments, Notes and References* and *Bibliography* as a guide for his own research. *(Pamela Taylor)*

Queens of the Western Ocean, the Story of America's Mail and Passenger Sailing Lines, by Carl C. Cutler. United States Naval Institute. 1961. Illustrated. 672 pp. Price $12.50.

For many years before the western hemisphere was colonized, the name given the North Atlantic was "Western Ocean." This term has continued

in use among the sea-faring fraternity. The "Queens" of the Western Ocean were, of course, the beautiful sailing ships.

Mr. Cutler, who has been called "dean of American maritime historians," tells the story of the rise of the American merchant marine, of the development of the sailing lines in the first half of the nineteenth century, of the efforts of the sailing ships to compete with steamships and of the final defeat of sail by steam shortly after mid-century. The Black Ball Line, its announcement appearing in the "Commercial Advertiser" and other New York papers October 24, 1817, was the first of the famous lines, and lasted the longest, surviving to 1881. Mr. Cutler has assembled an amazing amount of material on the beginnings and growth of the numerous shipping lines, both transatlantic and coastal. Besides the text replete with the names of early ship owners and captains, names of ships, their cargoes and destinations, his full treatment of the sailing lines and early steam lines, he has included in this book several useful lists.

Appendix I lists over 60 transatlantic sailing lines with names of agents, dates of existence, ship names, tonnage, masters (usually only the first) and additional interesting information under "Remarks." Of the more than 500 coastal lines, he lists over half with "upwards of 5000 coastal packets" in the second appendix. There are other important lists including fast packet passages, an extremely important "Index to Ship's Names" and finally a general index.

An outstanding feature of the book is the excellent reproductions of pictures of ships and ship captains.

There are faults in the index, and I deplore the lack of a glossary. References to mail service are casual and occasional. But there is great value to the postal history student in the lucid text and in the comprehensive lists of ships and shipping lines.

This is a monumental and magnificent work. *(Pamela Taylor)*

First Issue of Czechoslovakia "The Hradcany" by John Velek for the Czechoslovak Philatelic Society, published by Fritz Billig, 168-39 Highland Ave., Jamaica 32, N. Y., as one of Billig's Specialized Catalogues. Price $3.00.

John Velek, a thorough student of the first issue of Czechoslovakia, has compiled a fine catalogue which will prove of great value to the collectors of that country.

For the sake of brevity it is essential to devise a simplified method of classification. Velek has divided the varieties into categories giving each a letter from "a" to "r." Values of the items are designated according to a point system. This reviewer finds it quite satisfactory.

It is gratifying to note that the author recognizes two subtypes of Type V.

Due to lack of space the author has not given details as to the various color trials. Also it is believed that he should have explained in parentheses on the introductory page that "Vzorec" means "Specimen," which would have eliminated the necessity of first calling it "Specimen" with "Vzorec" in parentheses and subsequently "Vzorec" alone, throughout the text.

Finally, the currency designation of "Heller" is Austrian in German. This is used in English publications by the Czechoslovaks also, instead of the correct term of Haler, Halere or Haleru. Quite recently we informed the authorities in Czechoslovakia that no other country tries to translate its currency into another language and that to avoid confusion it would be wise for them to use Koruna instead of crown.

This book represents an enormous amount of work and is well presented

with numerous illustrations. The many varieties described will be very useful to Czechoslovak philatelists. *(Wm. Reiner-Deutsch)*

Rogers "Europa" Postmark and Postage Stamp Catalogue. Edited by Jacques H. Rogers. Published in Switzerland, Strohwiesstrasse 11, Horgen (Zurich). 384 pages with illustrations. Price $7.50. H. L. Lindquist Publications, Inc., 153 Waverly Place, New York 14, N. Y.

This volume is a comprehensive catalogue of postmarks and stamps having to do with the modern "*Europa*" topic. Of special note is its multi-linguistic arrangement, the text is given in French, German, Italian and English. The catalogue is arranged alphabetically according to countries. It is divided into two sections, the first dealing with the special postmarks having to do with "*Europa,*" and the second giving a listing of the stamps which the editor believes should be a part of the topic.

The book is extremely well executed. The illustrations are very clear. The printing on coated stock is well done.

For the topical collector, especially one interested in "*Europa,*" this could prove to be a very useful book. The philatelist and stamp collector can pass this one by, unless they are interested in the types of cancellations used by the various European countries for commemorative purposes. *(H. D. S. H.)*

Scott's 1962 Standard Postage Stamp Catalogue. Vol. II. Published by Scott Publications, Inc., a division of Esquire, Inc., 488 Madison Avenue, New York 22, N. Y. 1,476 pages. Price $8.00.

A total of 2,291 new issues in 1960-61 has made the new edition of Scott's Volume II the largest yet, having 63 more pages than the previous one. The Scott organization gave assurance that each statistic released by them is an accurate count. Thus, this new volume has a total of 52,636 added new listings and price changes. (If one doubts the accuracy of this, an interesting hobby would be to spend time to check this figure.)

Europe led the parade of the most price changes, the majority being increases. The recent growing popularity of certain topical groups such as sports, Europa and UN have added their influence to increasing prices.

About twenty-three countries have undergone revisions by new listings or deletions, mostly all the former.

Scott began in 1867 and this marks the 94th year of publication, certainly a most enviable philatelic achievement.

Scott's 1962 Standard Postage Stamp Catalogue. Vol. I. Price $6.00.

Both stamp collectors and dealers wish to have the annual editions of the general stamp catalogs appear early in September, when they consider that the new stamp season opens after a summer siesta. Scott has disappointed for some years in this respect by appearing late. The new management has worked to meet the requested deadline and both Vol. I and Vol. II of the new Scott appeared early in September and late in August, respectively. This should cause cheers from all over the country.

Information released by Scott Publications, Inc. about this 1962 volume on the American countries and the British Commonwealth states that there are more than 22,250 price changes and many new listings.

Stanley Gibbons' 1962 Postage Stamp Catalogue, Part Three (Foreign Countries, America, Asia and Africa). 1050 pages. Available in the U. S. A. from Jacob Habib, 154 Nassau Street, New York 38, N. Y. Price $4.50.

Gibbons is considered as one of the world's three great general stamp catalogs. The new edition does much to maintain this high reputation. Although many look to Gibbons chiefly for its British listings, still the U. S. specialist will find a foreign listing of United States stamps of great interest. Comparing this British accomplishment with one of our own catalogs always is interesting. Gibbons announces that the 1861 "Premieres Gravures" have been restored to a catalog listing. This has caused some raised eyebrows among keen U. S. philatelists, because many consider that these are not issued stamps but essays.

No doubt many members will be pleased to note in connection with a revision of the first Liberia issue the mention of the name, C. W. Wickersham, a Collectors Club Past President, who has contributed many articles on Liberian and other philately to this magazine.

Minkus American Stamp Catalogue, 1962 Edition. Published by Minkus Publications, 116 West 32nd Street, New York 1, N. Y. Price $3.00.

Time does fly. It seems as if only yesterday that a new U. S. stamp catalog appeared on the market. But with the appearance of the 1962 of the Minkus American, it was surprising to read this concern's press release that this new catalog is eight years old.

The big feature in this latest number is the conscientious attempt made to keep pace with the increments in stamp prices. The expensive 24c air mail invert of 1918 moves from $7,500 up to $11,500, which actually is only $1000 more than the most recent realization in public sale in New York City. The same is true with the popular U. S. items such as blocks of four of the dollar Columbians and plate number blocks of the Norse-American and Graf Zeppelins.

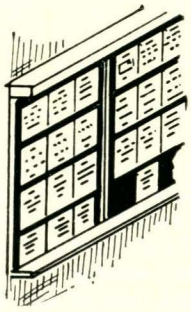
Zumstein 1962 Europe Catalogue. Published by Zumstein & Co., propr. Hertsch & Co., Berne Switzerland. 1550 pages. Price $6 postpaid.

This popular specialized catalog from Switzerland solely on European stamps again made an early appearance just as the summer season ended. This catalog, as with all the others commented upon above, stresses in its release that upward price changes are the dominant feature in this new edition. The stress, however, has been placed upon the newer stamps, while the classic and 19th century issues have undergone slight but not spectacular price increases. Consequently, the new Zumstein will tickle the topicalist and the new issue enthusiast, while the collector of the philatelically ancient might feel disappointed.

This marks the 45th edition of this Swiss book, which is a great achievement for a specialized rather than a general catalog.

Harris First 1962 U. S. and B. N. A. Catalog, published by H. E. Harris & Co., Boston 17, Mass. 160 pp. paper cover. Price 35c.

(Continued on page 310)



THE CLUBHOUSE

The Meeting of June 7, 1961

Russia's Romanoff Issues

The display and lecture on this evening, the last one before the summer recess, was given by *Dr. Gregory Salisbury* of Philadelphia, Pa. He came up from Philadelphia especially to present his collection of the Romanoff Tercentenary Issue of Imperial Russia.

Dr. Salisbury's showing and talk was an outstanding example of what can be done with one particular issue or group of stamps when handled by a dedicated and expert philatelist. Dr. Salisbury is also an interesting and lively speaker, so that the presentation was a fitting close to a successful season.

The Romanoff Tercentenary stamps were placed on sale officially on the 2nd of January (Old Style), 1913. The display showed a wide range of essays and proofs of all denominations. The designs were prepared by the foremost artists of the Empire. The best engravers prepared the dies. The plates for the typographed stamps were prepared in Austria. It was said that the issue cost five hundred thousand gold rubles. The designs of the stamps as issued were as follows:

1 k. Brown orange	Peter I (The great
2 k. Yellow green	Alexander II
3 k. Rose red	Alexander III
4 k. Dull red	Peter I
7 k. Brown	Nicholas II
10 k. Deep blue	Nicholas II
14 k. Blue green	Katherine II (The Great)
15 k. Yellow brown	Nicholas I
20 k. Olive green	Alexander I
25 k. Red violet	Alexei Mikhailovich
35 k. Grey violet and dark green	Paul I
50 k. Brown and slate	Elizabeth Petrovna
70 k. Yellow green and brown	Mikhail Feodorovich

All of the Kopeck denominations were printed by typography.

1 R. Deep green	The Kremlin
2 R. Red brown	The Winter Palace
3 R. Dark violet	Romanoff Castle
5 R. Black brown	Nicholas II

The ruble values were line engraved.

The display showed each of the denominations in considerable detail. The

stamps were represented in mint condition, used both off and on cover. Some of the covers were of great interest, showing usages of pre-issue dates, as well as some well into the revolutionary period, even by the communist government.

The cancellations were highly specialized, showing use in all parts of Russia, as well as in the Russian post offices abroad. Some of the latter are of extreme rarity. There was also a section of the collection devoted to a study of the camouflage cancellations used during World War I. These consisted of killers in various designs, but without a indication of the town of origin on them. It was interesting to note that in many cases the evelopes bore large corner cards which identified not only the sender, but also the town of origin. From these indications Dr. Salisbury has built a very thorough study of the use of these killers.

Besides the basic stamps, the collection contained all of the known overprints and surcharges upon the Romanoff stamps. These were used in the Offices in the Levant, Offices in China, Ukrainia, Armenia, Batum, Far Eastern Republic, and by the Refugee post of Gen. Baron Peter Wrangel in Turkey, Serbia, Montenegro, and Tunis. The basic stamps were also surcharged with new values during World War I when the postal rates were increased for domestic and foreign letters.

During the Great War, small coinage practically disappeared from Russia. To meet this shortage, the 1, 2, 3, 10, 15 and 20 kopeck Romanoff stamps were printed on cardboard with an inscription on the back stating that they were to be used as small money. These stamps were not supposed to have been used for postage. The collection showed several examples of their postal use on and off cover.

In addition to the legitimate and authorized overprints, the display was strong in the unauthorized or bogus overprints of the 1917 Revolutionary period. "The Phrygian Cap and Crossed Swords" with the inscription "Liberty, Equality, Fraternity" as well as the Manefesto of Abdication of Nicholas II and of Grand Duke Michael overprints, made by Trachtenberg in Petrograd, were shown both unused, and on cover cancelled-by-favor. Among some of the other bogus items were the nonexistant Ukraine trident overprints and overprints from Armenia.

All in all, there was such a wealth of interesting philatelic studies compressed into this one lecture that any one of them alone could have served as a topic for an hour's talk. The members present received a real treat from one of our best philatelic students. To adequately describe this display would take much more space than is allotted to the report of the meetings. Rather than dwell at length upon any one section your reporter has tried to give a survey, touching only upon the general topics. *(H. D. S. H.)*

At the Board of Governors Meetings held in June and September, 1961, the following new members were elected:

4803 Miss Katharine Matthies, Seymour, Conn. Collects Patriotic Covers, United States and British stamps.
4804 Robert A. Chaplin, M. D., Toronto, Canada. Collects British North America.
4805 Robert A. Paliafito, Milwaukee, Wisc. Collects 19th Century United States, Vatican, Italy and States.
4806 Frank L. Skillern, Dallas, Tex. Collects United States.
4807 Joseph M. Arnstein, Tuckahoe, N. Y.
4808 Thomas L. Ray, M. D., Knoxville, Tenn. Collects Confederate States.
4809 Mrs. Alvin R. Kantor, Glencoe, Ill. Collects United States.

4810 Herbert Morton, Glencoe, Ill. Collects United States.
4811 Herbert C. Anderson, Chicago, Ill. Collects United States Airmail, Confederate States.
4812 Sir Percival David, Bart., London, England. Collects China, Foreign Post Offices in China.
4813 Harold D. Weiler, Harrison, N. Y. Collects Papua, Air Mail.
4814 Curt F. Stetson, New York, N. Y. Collects Hong Kong Treaty Ports, India used in Burma, British North Borneo.
4815 Victor B. Levit, San Francisco, Calif. Collects United States.
4816 Erich E. Brusig, Slingerlands, N. Y. Collects Air Letter Sheets of the World.
4817 James Alston Clapp, Jr., M. D., Houston, Tex. Collects British America, United States, Scandinavia, Finland.
4818 Gary P. Malamut, Margate, N. J. Collects United States.
4819 Gale J. Raymond, Houston, Tex. Collects Bahamas, Bhutan, Mongolia, Br. Honduras.
4820 Francis E. Welch, Arlington, Va. Collects Vatican.
4821 Robert J. Devaux, Toronto, Canada. Collects St. Lucia.
4822 Basil C. Pearce, Oakland, Calif. Collects Postal Markings to and from California.
4823 James Owen Scott, Baytown, Tex. Collects United States and Confederate States.

MEETINGS FOR NOVEMBER AND DECEMBER 1961

November 15th — *Western Covers*—Dr. A. Jay Hertz
December 6th — *Scandinavia*—Lauson H. Stone
December 20th — *Open House*—Board of Governors

BOOKS (Continued from page 307)

Regarding the make-up and format of this inexpensive, commercial pricelist, there is little to be added to the previous comments in this magazine about this Harris production. Here again the stress has been put upon upward price revisions on the more popular U. S. and B. N. A. items. This is an elaborate pricelist sold at a price that all interested can afford.

The Library Committee reports the following acquisitions:

Transcript and Photos "Robert Morris, Postmaster of New York" by W. S. Boggs. Gift of the Publications Committee.

Mosden Israel Catalogue, The Holy Land & Judaica edited by E. H. Moshi, Louis S. Schulman, Leon Walters. Publisher, Moswal Publishing Co. Gift of Mrs. Arthur Orpin.

The International Collector, San Francisco; Vol. I-V, 1887-9 published by The International Collector. Gift of Mrs. Arthur Orpin.

The Jefferson Davis Postage Stamp Issues of the Confederacy by George N. Malpass. Publisher, Society of Philatelic Americans. Gift of the publisher.

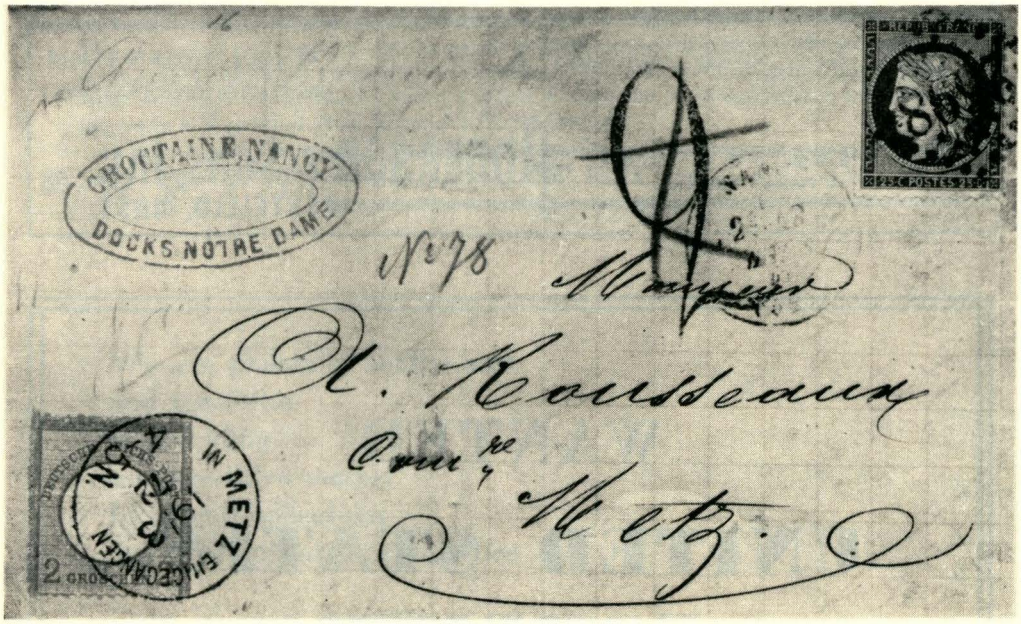
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FRANCO-PRUSSIAN WAR

Postal Regulations After Its Conclusion



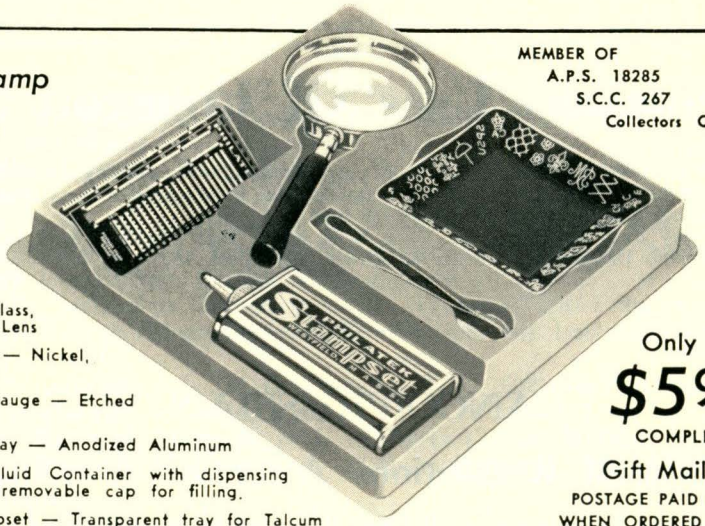
As of February 1871, after the Franco-Prussian war ended, mail going in both directions between France and the German occupied or annexed provinces had to be paid half with the stamps of France and the other half with German or German Occupation stamps such as those of Alsace-Lorraine. This unusual postal regulation brought back into use French stamps, even in areas that had been lost to Germany by the Peace Treaty of 1871.

The interesting cover shown here was mailed from Nancy, France to Metz then located in annexed Lorraine. The stamp of France (Scott 58) is cancelled with a large lozenge marking with No. 2598. The German stamp in the lower left corner (Scott 5) was hit with the special arrival cancellation of Metz dated March 19, 1872.

This dual postage stamp regulation ceased on May 15, 1872. *(Dr. Fred C. Brock, Burbank, Calif.)*

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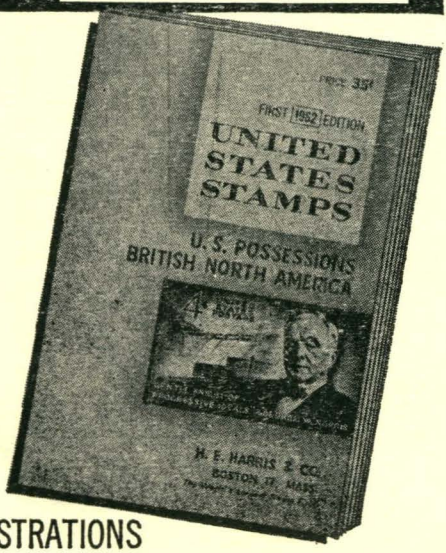
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