

The Collectors Club

PHILATELIST

Volume 46 Number 6
November 1967

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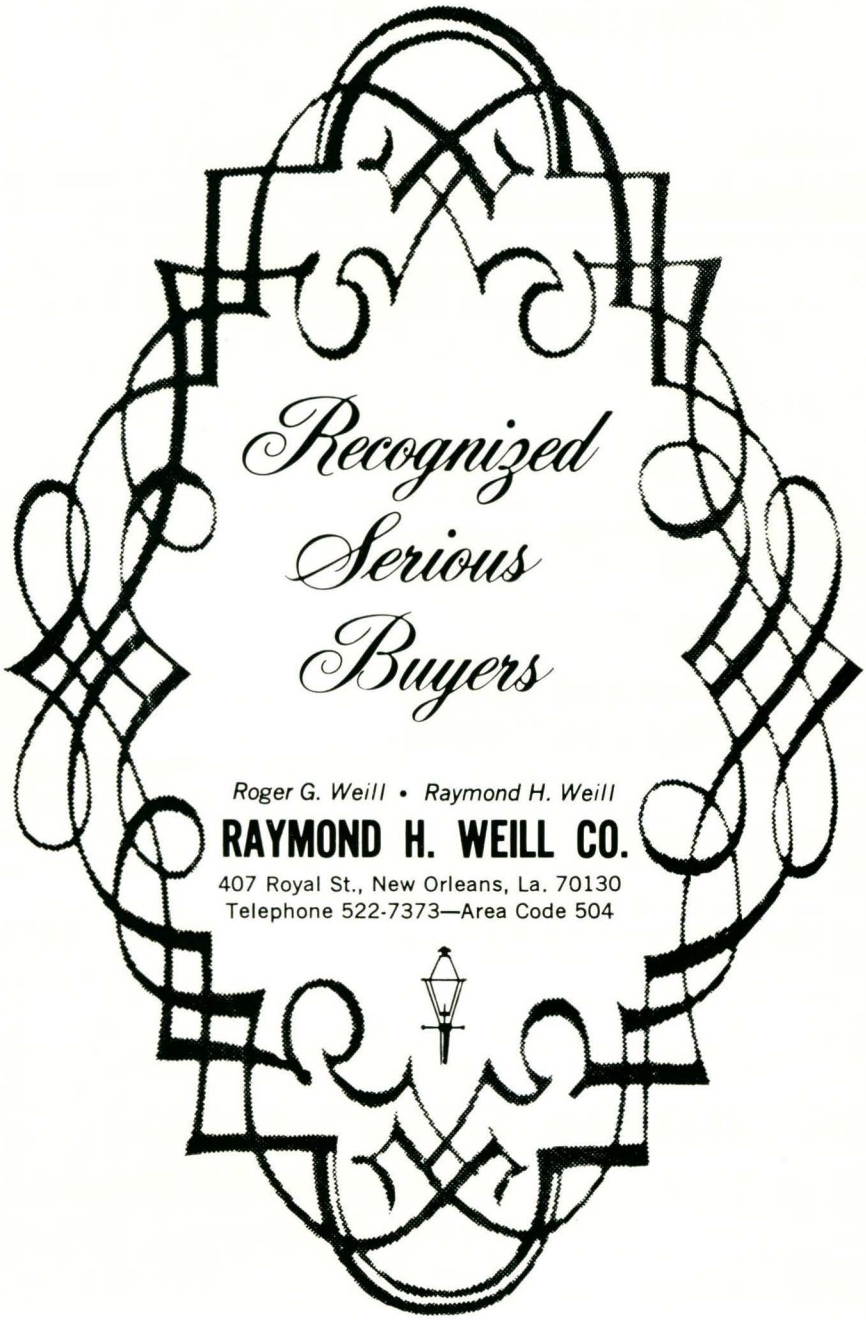
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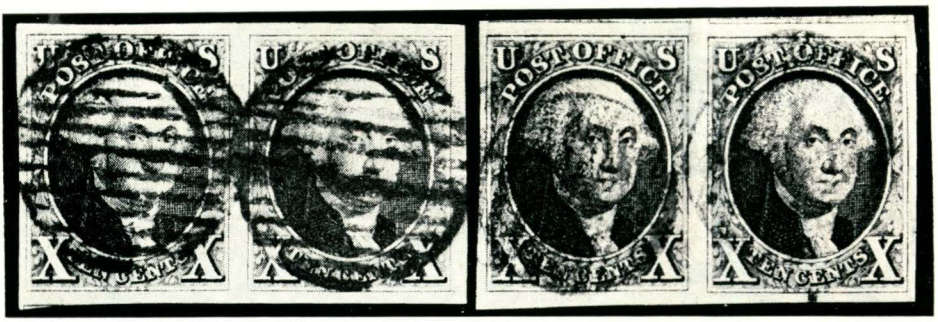
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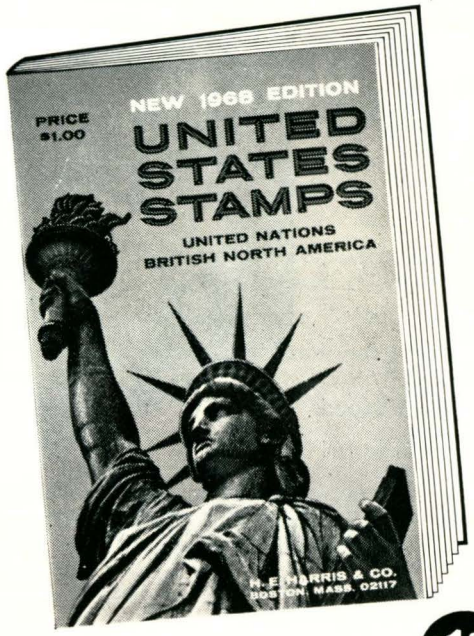
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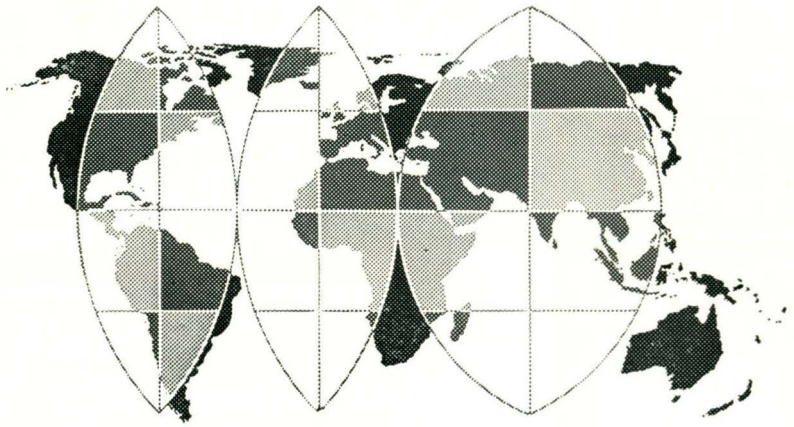
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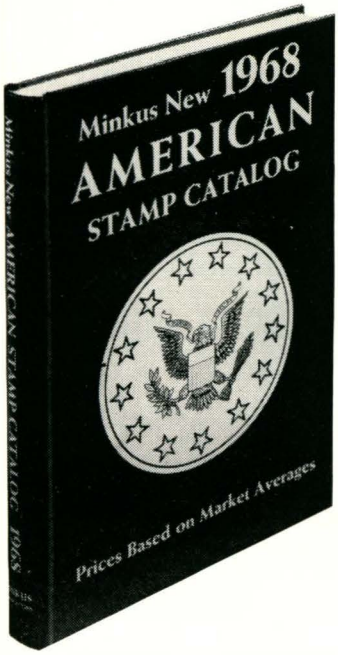
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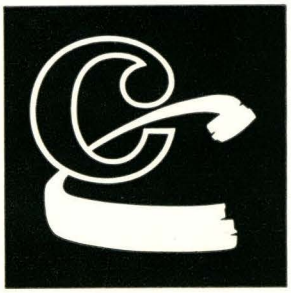


This a typical photographic plate from one of our catalogues (there are nine plates, 60 pages, and 1500 lots in every issue). It illustrates the type of material which appears in our Postal History Auctions. Sales are held monthly — the next take place on 1st December, and 29th December, 1967. A specimen copy of the catalogue is yours for the asking, free and post free. (70c. by airmail to abroad).

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The Collectors Club
PHILATELIST
Volume 46 Number 6
November 1967

Editorials

"Collect What You Want"

Most stamp collectors live in the "free world." Not being under a dictatorship, one of our freedoms is continually applied to philately. You hear it said and read about it all the time. It goes: "No one should tell another what and how to collect stamps. Everyone must collect what he wants."

On its face, this statement is unassailable. The freedom of choice in philately is axiomatic; let no one interfere with it. It is, however, the wide acceptance of this belief that has created one of philately's problems.

Collectors are being given too much latitude. There are too many collecting stamps, who lack the most fundamental knowledge of philately. "Laissez-faire" is an admirable policy, except that it prevents guidance.

One of the largest New York City stamp dealers and public auctioneers, told us recently that he cannot recall a time when he had to decline to purchase or offer to sell in his auction sales as many stamp collections as he is now doing. This dealer stressed the amount of junk with little philatelic value, people in this country are collecting. He sees the evidence of this all the time.

There always were stamp collections ranging from good to bad. But the number of "bad" stamp collections have been growing; the percentage of good ones have not been. One should remember that this trend has developed during the time of the greatest prosperity in the history of America. The reason for the deterioration in the quality of stamp collections is because of a lack of philatelic knowledge. The cause lies in permitting people to collect stamps as they want, rather than trying to give them proper advice and guidance.

The dictum of "collect what you want," however, has been carried to extremes. Take, for example, the popular craze of collecting recent United States stamps in plate number blocks. "Everybody's doin' it." But this does not make it right, because everyone is doing it under a misapprehension.

A small percentage of mature collectors are specializing in U. S. plate number blocks. They own comprehensive collections; they know what they are doing. The masses, however, only collect the most recent, going about it with no intelligent philatelic motive. They put away a plate number block of every U. S. stamp on sale at the post office, because they incorrectly believe these will have a great future value.

The question arises — should the misinformed masses be allowed to collect what they want? No, it would be far better if they were taught that recent plate number blocks do not appreciate in value. In fact, at the time of liquidation, a loss most likely will have to be taken.

These "stamp savers" should be informed that by collecting U. S. plate number blocks, they miss out on the real pleasures derived from stamp collecting. Also, they should be taught that if they are seeking a future profit, the chances of success are much greater with a traditional stamp collection, United States or foreign.

Furthermore, there is a misconception that saving and storing away recent United States stamps in plate number blocks can be done without straining the family budget. The total annual expenditure should be taken into consideration. Then, one will see that a traditional stamp collection could be built with about the same amount of money.

A few years ago we made a good friend through stamp collecting. A neighbor of ours was one of the horde "saving recent U. S. plate number blocks." We advised him against continuing, especially since his primary motive was building up a fund for his son's college education.

Because of our advice, he turned to collecting Austria. He made this choice because his parents had been born in Vienna. He bought an album and also for the first time, a stamp catalogue. He has repeatedly told us that he has spent only a little more on his stamps than when he bought U. S. plate number blocks of each new issue as it was placed on sale at his local post office.

In November, 1966, we met him; he was overjoyed. He had just purchased a 1967 catalogue and was pleasantly surprised to see how many of his stamps had risen in catalogue value. This was totally unexpected.

We, too, were happy; a philatelist had been made out of "a stamp saver." We could have told him when we were getting acquainted — "collect what you want." No, he needed good guidance. He certainly benefited from it.

Furthermore, the son is now eleven; he'll be ready for college within about seven years. There is a good chance that his Austrian stamp collection will help pay for the son's college education. On the other hand, the father is now enjoying collecting stamps so much, that it would not be surprising if, when the son is ready for college, the Austrian collection will not be sold; another method of financing might be sought. This would not happen with new-issue U. S. plate number blocks.

Yes, people should be told how to collect stamps.

Mail Auctions. Act 2

Again, it seems proper to comment critically upon the current prevailing practice of offering stamps for sale with advertisements, using the misnomer, "Mail Auction." Because this deception has continued since the first editorial in our January number, a second one seems warranted.

Previously, it was pointed out that there are public auction sales, as those conducted in New York City by a licensed auctioneer. In contrast, there are Mail Sales. These have no control. They are run on a "caveat emptor" basis, the prices paid being dependent upon the reputation of the seller.

Before us are two advertisements in different stamp papers worded at the beginning substantially as follows:

"Mail Auction. Absolutely No Reserve Bids unless an individual lot is noted MINIMUM BID."

Here's the catch. By a fast count, one sale offered a total of 702 lots, of which 353 (over one half) were noted "Minimum Bid."

This double-talk reminds us of the old joke about the man arrested on a New York City subway station platform for smoking a cigarette. The transit policeman pointed to a large sign over the smoker reading "No Smoking." Turning around to see it, the smoker said: "It does not say 'Positively'."

One must have an auctioneer cry an auction sale with those on the floor bidding. It is impossible to conduct a public auction exclusively by mail. This misleading term should stop being used. Stamp collecting and dealing will be a lot better without "Mail Auctions."

BACK NUMBERS OF THE COLLECTORS CLUB PHILATELIST

There is on hand a comprehensive stock of back numbers of this magazine. Not all, mostly the earlier issues, are available. Furthermore, the supply of others is down to five copies or less.

If interested in back numbers of the magazine, write to — Executive Secretary, 22 East 35 Street, New York, N. Y. 10016 for further information.

Uncommon Use Of Common Stamps

What our readers wish to see is a properly used cover having a common stamp that catalogs for $10 or less. But on cover this item's value is many times the standard catalog price for the stamp off cover, either unused or used.

You may own such material. Then it is hoped that you will send it to The Editor, Collectors Club Philatelist, 22 East 35 Street, New York, N. Y. 10016.

United States

3-Cent 1861 With "P. M." Cancel

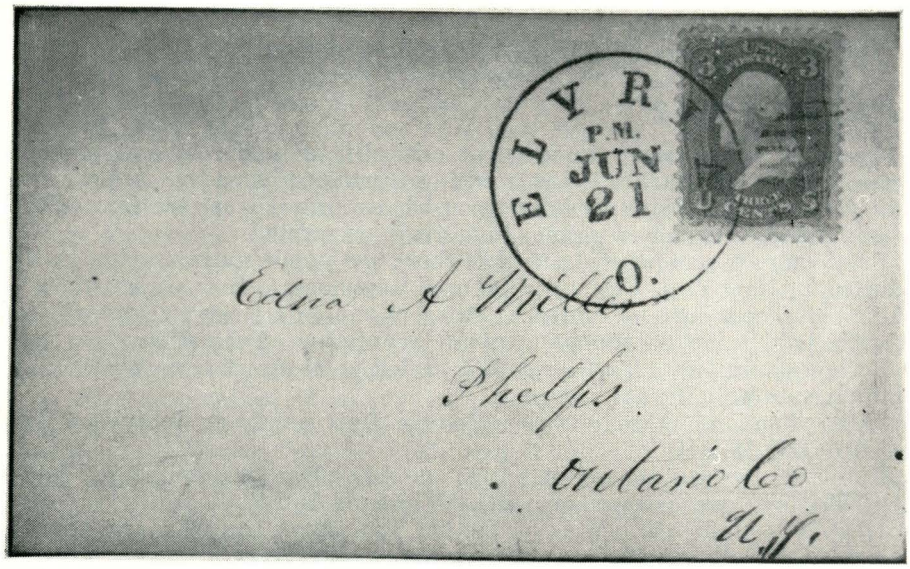


Photo by Boutrelle

The illustrated cover has a very common United States stamp (Scott No. 65) the 3-cent rose of 1861. What makes the use uncommon? The Elyria, Ohio cancellation.

One will not find many cancellations from this time with "P.M." in it, showing that the letter was mailed in the afternoon. This is what makes this an uncommon use.

PHILATELIC BOOKS

See inside Back Cover in this Number for the complete listing of books that are currently available.

Nicaragua

The "Seebeck" Issues

By Albert Quast and Dr. Robert Willer

The late Dr. Robert Willer of Geneva, Switzerland and I long had intended to establish a study group devoted to disseminating knowledge on the fascinating philatelic history of Nicaragua. The following notes were written in the hope that a sufficient number of collectors could be aroused to share their knowledge with others, in order to answer some of the currently puzzling questions in this field. The writer will welcome any correspondence* concerning postage stamps, cancellations, postal history, speculation in Nicaragua's stamps by foreigners — anything pertaining to Nicaraguan philately.

The Seebeck Contract

On May 4, 1889, in Managua, Nicaragua, a contract was signed between the Director General of Posts and Telegraph of Nicaragua and the Hamilton Bank Note Engraving & Printing Co. of New York, N. Y., represented by its General Manager, Nicholas F. Seebeck. On June 22, 1889, the contract was published in "The Official Gazette" as follows:

"1. Mr. Seebeck assumes responsibility for the Hamilton Bank Note Company to furnish the Government of Nicaragua, without any cost to the latter, all stamps needed for franking postal and telegraph correspondence up to a total of two million stamps, also postal cards, stamped envelopes, and wrappers with imprinted postage, up to a total of 225,000 pieces for a period of one to two years.

"2. The Government shall, at its discretion, change the stamps each year or each second year on January 1st and at the same time shall demonetize those of the preceding period. The design shall be the same for all denominations of each issue; they shall only differ in color. With each new issue the design shall be substantially different from the previous ones.

"3. Simultaneously with the signing of the contract, the Government orders from Mr. Seebeck all stamps needed for the year 1890, submitting design, size of issue, color, and quantity of each individual denomination. The Hamilton Bank Note Company has to deliver the complete order not later than November 15, 1889 to a government representative in New York. In the future, the Government will, every year or every second year, order from the Hamilton Bank Note Company in a similar manner a new issue to be delivered not later than November 15 of the respective year.

"4. The stamps shall be steel engraved of artistic workmanship and of best quality.

"5. As compensation for the free delivery of the first issue for 1890, the Government shall surrender to the Hamilton Bank Note Company all stamps, covers and postal cards of the current 1882 issue and any older issues still in supply on December 31, 1889. In the same manner the Government shall deliver to the Hamilton Bank Note Company, each succeeding year or bi-annually, all remaining supplies of the preceding period that have been demonetized according to paragraph 2 of the contract, delivery to be at Managua

*Correspondence should be addressed to: Albert Quast, Brook 1, Hamburg 11, Germany.

in each instance not later than during February of the following year.

"6. The Government permits the Hamilton Bank Note Company to sell to stamp collectors the supplies so obtained from the Government and authorizes the Hamilton Bank Note Company to reissue any denomination when the supply is exhausted in order to be able to satisfy collectors' demand.

"7. The Government can under no condition sell current stamps at more than a 10% discount of face value. Stamps used to frank telegrams shall be destroyed together with the originals. *(Obviously, telegram forms are meant).* Italics are ours.

"8. In case the Hamilton Bank Note Company fails to deliver on time it loses its right to the latest remaining supplies and the Government has the right to cancel the contract.

"9. Should the quantities ordered by the Government and supplied by the Hamilton Bank Note Company not cover the demand, the company is obligated, upon request by the Government, to supply up to one million additional pieces over and above the quantities stipulated in paragraph 1.

"10. This contract is for the period of 10 years."

Condemned By Philatelists

The contract, whose main provisions are outlined above, was preceded a few weeks earlier by similar ones the Hamilton Bank Note Co. had made with the governments of Salvador and Honduras. A similar contract was concluded with Ecuador two years later.

Before writing this exhaustive study, we were hesitant, if there would be sufficient interest, because the "Seebecks" have been for years spurned and detested by philatelists. We wondered if this study would arouse the interest of a sufficient number of serious collectors.

To answer this question it seemed advisable to examine the reasons for collectors' aversion to Seebeck stamps. We realized that the dislike of Seebeck issues has lessened in recent years. As they say: "time heals."

The unpopularity of the Seebeck stamps can be attributed to the following six reasons.

1. In the more conservative era of philately in the early 90's of the 19th century, the issuance of long, new stamp series with high face value annually was considered almost a crime by collectors.

2. The issuance of stamps with face values of up to 10 pesos ($5 U. S.) by Nicaragua and, to some extent, Salvador and Ecuador, was validly criticized. This represented a substantial face value, far exceeding that required for postal needs in these countries.

3. Objections were voiced, because the stamps could be sold by Seebeck at substantial discounts from face value after demonetization.

4. Collectors objected to Seebeck's right to reprint the issue.

5. Eventually, there existed a widespread uncertainty as to which stamps were originals and which were reprints. Even when the differences became known, the difficulty of identifying the reprints increased the unpopularity of even the genuine issues.

6. With the discovery that many stamps had been cancelled to order or bore fraudulent cancellations, the measure of philatelic dislike greatly increased to the point where there was almost a complete boycott against collecting "Seebecks."

Let us now analyze in detail the above mentioned six reasons for the unpopularity of the Seebeck stamps.

It cannot be denied that the annual issue of a long, new set containing values to 10 pesos, equivalent to over $5.00 U. S. 70 to 75 years ago, was an

unusual step. It is believed, however, that today one should not apply the standards of a bygone era. In the last few decades, stamp collectors have become accustomed to the practice that almost all countries of the world, including the ones formerly considered most "conservative" philatelically, flood us with new issues, many semi-postals with high surtaxes.

From time to time voices are raised against these constant raids upon the stamp budgets of collectors. But these objections do not appear to penetrate the veil of bureaucratic indifference. In fact, collectors rush in ever-increasing numbers to garner every new stamp, when it is issued. If one draws a comparison between the number of stamps which Nicaragua had issued annually in Seebeck's time and compare this with the number of stamps issued annually by modern postal administrations, that of Nicaragua of the Seebeck era should be retroactively entered into the golden book of philately.

Economic Necessity

It should not be overlooked that the government of Nicaragua at the time of the contract with the Hamilton Bank Note Company was solely interested in obtaining without cost the stamps needed for their postal and telegraph service. Nicaragua was not a rich country. There was no thought about fleecing collectors.

The stamp collector of that period was in no hurry to add every new issue of Nicaragua to his collection immediately, because he knew that after a year had elapsed he could obtain the stamps at a fraction of their face value. The postal administration of Nicaragua could not, therefore, plan on realizing a profit from sales of stamps over postal counters to collectors.

The comparison with the present, when not only mint special issues but also mint regular issues are being purchased in large quantities to be placed in collections, is obvious. The fact that sale to collectors was not a factor leaves the issue of high peso denominations in a different, much more favorable light than the issuance of the many high denominations and souvenir sheets by present postal administrations. While it must be admitted that the 5 and 10 peso denominations were not urgently required, they were used for regular postal needs, although probably seldom needed.

It is also possible that the high denominations were practical for settling inter-departmental accounts, and that the governmental forms bearing the high denomination stamps were later destroyed. We regret that we do not possess reliable information concerning this usage. It is also possible that for the mailing of parcels and packages, stamps were affixed to the portion of the dispatch, which remained in the possession of the postal service, later to be destroyed, as is customary today in some countries.

Whatever the case may be, the postal service of Nicaragua never made or attempted to make a profit from high postage denominations. Seebeck furnished (when selling supplies to the New York stamp dealer, G. B. Calman) all denominations, including the 10 pesos, at the same price, one or two cents per stamp.

The Seebeck stamps of Nicaragua were issued by the responsible government of Nicaragua and were valid for postage. There is a possibility that the high pesos values were needed, although proof to eliminate the possible stigma of unneeded postal value is lacking. Who has the right to condemn the government of Nicaragua of that period, keeping in mind that today it has almost become a custom in all countries frequently to issue superfluous stamps? Consider, as said before, that the government gained nothing from the annual issues other than saving the cost of production of the stamps. Today postal administrations frequently speculate very successfully on the probability that substantial quantities go into the albums of collectors without the postal

administration having to perform any postal service. After the demonetization of each issue, complete, original sets were sold at retail for 25 cents (U. S.) as long as the supply lasted. Can one justifiably accuse the postal administration of "robbing the pockets of the collectors?"

Right To Reprint

One of the main objections to "Seebecks" was the permission granted to re-issue more stamps. This is an understandable fault from the philatelic angle. We refer, of course, to the right of the Hamilton Bank Note Company (Seebeck) to reprint any demonetized issue if insufficient remainders existed.

Can, however, the incentive to collect originals be changed in the least by the fact that after demonetization, a stamp had been reprinted by either official or private sources? There are stamps from many other countries, of which the originals, in spite of existing reprints and reissues, are very popular. Popularity varies with the difficulty of identification of the originals. The uncertainty with identifying an original or a reprint obviously affects the popularity of a stamp as far as the great mass of collectors is concerned. For the philatelist (or true stamp lover), and particularly the specialized collector, it is this uncertainty that makes the challenge so appealing.

The fact that many originals as well as reprints of the Seebeck stamps exist with postdated cancelled-to-order or even counterfeit cancellations obviously did not contribute to their popularity. The difficulty in determining, which are genuine and which are counterfeit cancellations, causes additional uncertainty. However, the incentive to collect and study Seebeck stamps should not be influenced by these factors.

The Original Printing Plates

Let us now investigate the question of reprints. It seems correct to call at least a part of them re-issues.

A commission of three reputable philatelists in New York City: John N. Luff, John A. Klemann, and P. F. Brunner, visited the offices of the Hamilton Bank Note Company on November 9, 1911, at the request of Mr. Calman, to whom the Hamilton Bank Note Company had transferred the sole distribution of their Nicaraguan postal supplies.

The commission stated in a report to Mr. Calman that all plates, which were found, had been defaced by horizontal and diagonal file strokes. Plates of the Nicaragua and the Honduras issues of 1890-91-92 were not found. The commission, therefore, concluded that the plates of the three Nicaragua issues had already been destroyed at the time of demonetization. They did not, however, rule out the possibility that the plates of the three missing Honduras issues were delivered with the remaining Honduras postal supplies to the buyer, Bogert and Company, a stamp dealer in New York.

In a ceremony conducted December 11, 1951, at the Security Bank Note Company in Philadelphia, all known dies, transfer rolls and clichés used to make stamps for Nicaragua between 1889 and 1899 were destroyed in the presence of diplomatic and government officials of Nicaragua, prominent philatelists, and officials of the Security Bank Note Company. This material had been acquired by the company when it previously absorbed the Hamilton Bank Note Company. The material for making printing surfaces had remained in the vaults without use since at least 1918.

Since the editor of the COLLECTORS CLUB PHILATELLIST was an active participant in this event, I have asked Mr. Henry M. Goodkind to add his report on exactly what happened, because it should go into this record. Now follows Mr. Goodkind's report.

The 1951 Destruction of Nicaragua's Plates, Dies and Rolls

By Henry M. Goodkind

While editing and preparing this manuscript, I noted Mr. Quast's reference to the 1951 destruction of the Hamilton Bank Note Co.'s plates, dies and rolls. Since I had played a significant part in this, I was reminded that a philatelist witnessing this had an opportunity to learn a lot. Some of the philatelic witnesses spoke at length with experts, who produce and print postage stamps. Many questions were asked and all of them were intelligently answered. Not only that, but frequently, an officer of the Security Banknote Co. would graphically demonstrate a point of philatelic significance with a printing plate, a die or roll.

The Background

Some interesting matters led up to this ceremony on December 11, 1951 in Philadelphia, Pa., at the plant of the Security Banknote Co. For many years before this, a few Nicaraguan specialists were concerned and distressed by the



Fig. A. Security Banknote Co., Philadelphia, Pa. December 11, 1951. The man in shirtsleeves at the extreme right is holding the burnishing drill after he had defaced some of the printing plates, dies and rolls. These had been stored in the wooden box just to the left of his drill marked "A9 1894." Before this box near the center of the table is an open "Scott Catalogue" identifying the metal as having had Nicaragua design Scott Type A9 of the 1894 issue.

The defaced metal pieces are being passed around the table for the witnesses' inspection, who then sign the certificates (see Fig. B) that those specific pieces had just been destroyed.

(Seated, left to right) John J. Britt, President, the Collectors Club; the late Kent B. Stiles, "New York Times" stamp editor; Rafael Deshon, Consul-General of Nicaragua; Agustin Vanegas P., Philatelic Agent, Nicaragua; Ernest A. Kehr, stamp editor "New York Herald-Tribune."

(Standing, left to right): Henry M. Goodkind, Trustee, the Philatelic Foundation; unidentified of the Security Banknote Co.; Edward Goldsworthy, Jr., Executive Vice President, Security Banknote Co.; and the late Albert A. Kunze, Philatelic Director, Pan American Union of Washington, D.C.

great amount of counterfeits and reprints of 1928-38 issues of Nicaragua being offered for sale on the stamp market. In an effort to stop this, the late Richard N. Cone wrote several articles describing the genuine and counterfeit air post stamps. Most of them were published starting in 1947 in the "Aero Philatelists' News," of which I was the editor.

Mr. Cone had told me that he had sent copies of his articles to some philatelic friends in Managua, Nicaragua. Later, these articles must have come to the attention of the government of Nicaragua, because in January of 1951 I was visited here at the Collectors Club by the man in charge of the Postal and Philatelic Agency of the Republic of Nicaragua by the name of Senor Agustin Vanegas P.

This Spanish-American gentleman had imposing credentials of identification. He explained that President Anastasio Somoza of Nicaragua was disturbed by reports circulating among stamp collectors that he believed were damaging to the reputation of Nicaragua. He ordered Sr. Vanegas to take all necessary steps to improve Nicaragua's philatelic image.

In attempting to carry out his President's orders, Sr. Vanegas had many ideas which he wished to discuss with me. Subsequently, Nicaragua's Postal Agent made a number of trips to New York City in furtherance of this project. He visited me frequently at 22 East 35 Street. As a result, we became rather friendly.

One of the matters that the officials in Nicaragua believed the most damaging to her philatelic reputation was the "Seebeck issues" in the late 19th century. They thought that the "Seebeck scandal," as many philatelist called it, never had been forgotten. There is some truth to this. All of us have heard and read that the relative unpopularity of Latin American stamps with collectors is due to the prolific "Seebecks."

In an attempt to improve their country's image, Nicaraguan officials decided that the destruction of all existing Hamilton Bank Note Company printing and production material for the "Seebeck" issues would be regarded in philatelic circles as a concrete gesture of a sincere desire to "clean house."

On my part, I told Sr. Vanegas that I thought he was overoptimistic. Nicaragua's 1951 philatelic notoriety was not due to the old 19th century issues, but was a result of counterfeiting and reprintings dating from the 1930's. To destroy these old 19th century plates now was like locking the stable door after the horse was gone. But Sr. Vanegas was insistent. President Somoza had suggested this; he must satisfy him.

Limited New Issues and Souvenir Sheets

During these discussions with Sr. Vanegas about improving Nicaragua's standing among philatelists, I brought up another matter that I considered of more immediate and significant concern than the destruction of old printing plates that had not been used for over 50 years. Its mention may not be entirely relevant to the description of the defacing of the old plates, dies and rolls, but I wish to go into some detail, because it revolves about a problem that is of current and paramount concern to most all stamp collectors.

I pointed out that one of the main reasons why Nicaragua did not have more appeal to collectors was the manner in which so many new stamps were being issued. There were very long series with a limited quantity of high denominations. Furthermore, souvenir sheets, both perforate and imperforate of the same series, were being issued in very small quantities. At times, Nicaragua had resorted to "tie-in" sales. With every purchase of a souvenir sheet, one had to buy 10 postage and 5 air mail sets.

Sr. Vanegas' defense of these limited high denominations and souvenir

sheets was highly revealing; it is something I think that most people worrying about today's flood of new issues may not realize. He said that he never knew just how many stamps to order. If he decreed 100,000 sets, very few were purchased. Consequently, a big stock remained, which either had to be destroyed or later overprinted. Nicaragua was opposed to surcharging because too many mistakes are made, resulting in errors which do not enhance the reputation among philatelists of a country like Nicaragua. Furthermore, this Central American republic is not rich. Some issues of new stamps cost them more money than they could afford. It was imperative, therefore, that all the stamps printed sell.

On the other hand, when only 5,000 high denominations and souvenir sheets were ordered of a new commemorative issue, the stamp wholesalers' orders flowed into his office in Managua. There were only 5,000 stamps to sell but orders were received for 100,000 before the first-day of sale. It was necessary to apportion the orders. This, Sr. Vanegas maintained, was far more equitable and more in the collector's interest than selling on a "first come first served" basis. This latter always resulted in one or two large wholesalers buying up the entire issue.

Often this postal administrator from Nicaragua would tell me that he just did not know how to order stamps. If he stipulated only 5,000 sets, he received orders for 100,000. The next time, to meet this great demand, 100,000 sets were ordered, but only 5,000 sold. To satisfy the needs for commercial mail required about 1,000 of the higher denominations.

There was one question I frequently asked Sr. Vanegas, to which I received no satisfactory reply. "Why issue any souvenir sheets, both perforate and imperforate?"

Locating The Old Plates

Getting back to the December 11, 1951 story, by that time the Hamilton Bank Note Company of Brooklyn, N. Y. long had been out of business. Years before 1951, it had been bought by the Security Bank Note Co. of Philadelphia. Sr. Vanegas contacted the latter. The old Hamilton plates could not be found; Security had no knowledge of them. But Sr. Vanegas was a persistent man. After many months, this persistence paid off. The old Hamilton printing plates, dies and rolls were found in its Brooklyn, N. Y. warehouse, all carefully wrapped and stored. The Philadelphia firm made arrangements to have all the material shipped to their plant.

In the fall of 1951, Sr. Vanegas visited me again. He had orders from President Somoza to stage an impressive ceremony for the destruction of the old Hamilton plates. It was essential that prominent philatelists and stamp journalists be invited, so that the event would receive much publicity. Nicaragua was determined to regain the American stamp collector's goodwill. "Mr. Goodkind," Sr. Vanegas said, "please give me the names of the philatelists my government should invite to our ceremony. It will be at the offices of the Security Banknote Company in Philadelphia. The date has been made for December 11th."

December 11, 1951

Six philatelic witnesses were invited by Nicaragua. Five of them appear on the photograph taken (Figure A). This illustration should be carefully examined, because it shows so much that happened.

The main problem concerned the method of destruction. The Executive Vice President of Security Bank Note Co. explained that usually metal plates, dies and rolls were not destroyed in their office building. They were thrown into a blast furnace.

To proceed with the work in the office building, each piece would have to be individually defaced until all the witnesses agreed it was incapable of being used for any further printing or impression. Such an operation would take anywhere from 2 to 5 minutes. There were 296 pieces of metal to be defaced. This meant many hours of work that had to be witnessed, which would last late into the night. There was no alternative way of destruction.

Look at the right of the Figure A illustration. You see a man in shirt-sleeves holding a long metal drill in his hands. In front of him is a metal clamp. This workman placed the plate, roll or die in this clamp. On the end of his drill was a heavy abrasive. He turned on the electric switch, ran the drill back and forth over the metal in the clamp, and, after a short time, stopped.

The plate or die was removed and passed around the table for inspection, to see that the defacing was complete. You will see a round magnifying glass on the center of the table that some witnesses used to make sure that all of the engraving had been removed.

Each piece had been stored in a wooden box. In Figure A one of these boxes can be seen next to the right hand of the workman with the drill. It is marked in white "A9 1894." This meant that the plate, die and roll in that box were for Scott Type A9 of the 1894 issue of Nicaragua.

A complete inventory of every piece had been prepared by the Security Bank Note Co. Before defacing, the philatelic witnesses checked each piece with the "Scott Standard Postage Stamp Catalogue," which is seen on Figure A lying open on the center of the table.

A Long Ceremony

Logically, the officials of the Security Banknote Co. did not want to impose upon the time of the witnesses and were concerned about the amount of time the entire operation took.

Work began around 11 a.m. There was an hour interruption for luncheon and another for dinner, hosted by the Security Banknote Co. at a hotel near its headquarters.

Check and Double Check

The one matter that impressed the philatelic witnesses most was the care and efficiency with which the entire operation had been planned in advance and then carried out. We philatelists found there was good reason for this.

Sr. Vanegas had told me, before we went to Philadelphia in December, 1951, that many years before, there had been a plate destruction in Nicaragua attested to by witnesses. They arrived at the Managua, Nicaragua printing plant, and examined all the printing plates stacked upon a long table. After the inspection had been completed, the witnesses were taken out to dine, just as we had been.

When the witnesses returned to the printing plant, the plates were gone. They were told that the plates had all been destroyed; the witnesses signed forms attesting to this. But if one consults the "Scott Catalogue" under the 1932 issues, there is a footnote that reprints exist. Sr. Vanegas said some of the plates that were to have been destroyed in Nicaragua were those of these 1932 commemorative issues. Obviously, if the printing plates no longer existed, further printings from them would have been impossible. Sr. Vanegas alleged that the plates were not destroyed during the witnesses's absence from the printery, but removed; shortly thereafter, they were unofficially used to make the reprints to sell to stamp collectors.

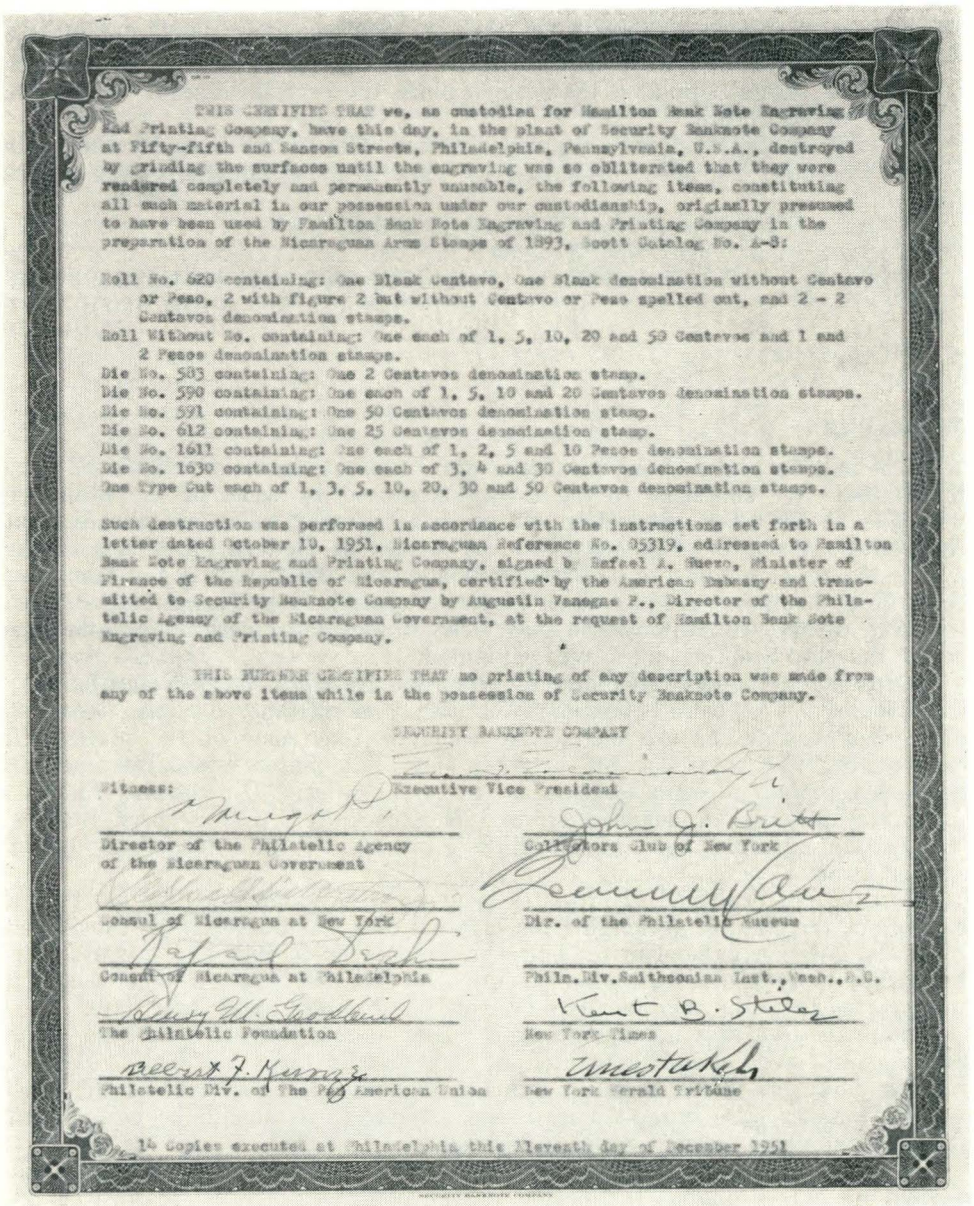
The Nicaraguan and Security Banknote Co. officials took all precautions to make sure that nothing like this would be repeated in 1951.

Furthermore, it was explained to us in 1951 that not only all the printing

plates, but also the dies and rollers had to be defaced. If only the plates were made useless for further use, new ones possibly could be made from the existing dies and rollers.

Poor Condition By 1951

Examination in 1951 of the plates, dies and rolls over a half century old revealed that much of the metal had rusted and corroded while in storage. In



THIS CERTIFIES THAT we, as custodians for Hamilton Bank Note Engraving and Printing Company, have this day, in the plant of Security Banknote Company at Fifty-fifth and Hanson Streets, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, U.S.A., destroyed by grinding the surfaces until the engraving was so obliterated that they were rendered completely and permanently unusable, the following items, constituting all such material in our possession under our custodianship, originally presumed to have been used by Hamilton Bank Note Engraving and Printing Company in the preparation of the Nicaraguan Arms Stamps of 1893, Scott Catalog No. A-3:

Roll No. 620 containing: One Blank Centavo, One Blank denomination without Centavo or Peso, 2 with figure 2 but without Centavo or Peso spelled out, and 2 - 2 Centavos denomination stamps.
Roll Without No. containing: One each of 1, 5, 10, 20 and 50 Centavos and 1 and 2 Pesos denomination stamps.
Die No. 583 containing: One 2 Centavos denomination stamp.
Die No. 590 containing: One each of 1, 5, 10 and 20 Centavos denomination stamps.
Die No. 591 containing: One 50 Centavos denomination stamp.
Die No. 612 containing: One 25 Centavos denomination stamp.
Die No. 1611 containing: One each of 1, 2, 5 and 10 Pesos denomination stamps.
Die No. 1630 containing: One each of 3, 4 and 30 Centavos denomination stamps.
One Type Cut each of 1, 3, 5, 10, 20, 30 and 50 Centavos denomination stamps.

Such destruction was performed in accordance with the instructions set forth in a letter dated October 10, 1951, Nicaraguan Reference No. 05319, addressed to Hamilton Bank Note Engraving and Printing Company, signed by Rafael A. Huezo, Minister of Finance of the Republic of Nicaragua, certified by the American Embassy and transmitted to Security Banknote Company by Augustin Venegas F., Director of the Philatelic Agency of the Nicaraguan Government, at the request of Hamilton Bank Note Engraving and Printing Company.

THIS NUMBER CERTIFIES THAT no printing of any description was made from any of the above items while in the possession of Security Banknote Company.

SECURITY BANKNOTE COMPANY

Executive Vice President

Witness:

Director of the Philatelic Agency of the Nicaraguan Government

Collectors Club of New York

Consul of Nicaragua at New York

Dir. of the Philatelic Museum

Consul of Nicaragua at Philadelphia

Phila. Div. Smithsonian Inst., Wash., D.C.

The Philatelic Foundation

New York Times

Philatelic Div. of The Pan American Union

New York Herald Tribune

14 Copies executed at Philadelphia this Eleventh day of December 1951

Fig. 8. One of the Certificates of Destruction signed by the ten witnesses. This one lists nine of the total of 296 plates, dies and rollers destroyed. There were 12 such certificates.

the opinion of several of the philatelic witnesses present, their use by 1951, even for some years before then, would not produce acceptable stamps. Nevertheless, Nicaragua was so desirous of restoring her integrity in philatelic circles that this Central American republic insisted upon this public destruction as late as 1951. After the ceremony, we returned to New York with Sr. Vanegas. He sincerely believed that Nicaragua had closed the book on the infamous "Seebecks" by this destruction.

Tabulation

Figure B shows one of the certificates of destruction signed by all the witnesses, the Nicaraguan officials and those from the banknote company. Each one of these sheets stipulated the specific plate, die or roll defaced. There are 12 different certificates.

A total of 296 items were destroyed at the office of the Security Banknote Co. on December 11, 1951. Itemized by the "Scott Catalogue," they are as follows:

Regular Issues (Scott Nos. 20-21, 23-25 and 30-120)	125
Postage Dues (Scott Nos. J1-J28)	28
Officials — without overprints (Nos. O1-2, O4-6, O11-40, O42-139)	143

Missing Plates

The missing plates of the Nicaragua and Honduras issues of 1890-91-92 were not found. We subscribe to the theory advanced by some of the philatelic witnesses at the 1951 destruction of the dies, transfer rolls, and clichés, that the plates are not in existence today. The lack of modern hardening of the plates, the great number of impressions made, and the fact that the Hamilton Bank Note Company ground down plates of obsolete designs and reused them for other designs, all support the theory that these plates were not in existence at the time the Seebeck issues were reprinted.

On some of the defaced plates found at the Hamilton Bank Note Company in November, 1911, were both some Nicaragua and Salvador designs. For this and other reasons, we are inclined to conclude that some of the plates still existent in 1911 were not the original ones, but plates especially made to produce reprints. Joseph Kroeger, in his great work, "Die Seebeck Marken, ihre verschiedenen Dreuckauflagen und Neudrucke" ("The Seebeck Stamps. Their Different Printings and Reprints"), which we shall frequently quote, supports this view.

The stamps produced from plates made at a date subsequent to the period of issue of the stamps, although from original dies, should really be considered revenues. We shall henceforth, however, only refer to reprints, because it is impossible to determine, with the exception of the 1896 issue, whether a stamp was printed from the original plate or from one produced at a later date.

Many believe that no reprints were made during Seebeck's lifetime. The first reprints were allegedly printed in 1899 shortly after his death. Several reasons, however, would seem to indicate that the first reprints of the 1896 and 1897 issues were suggested by Seebeck himself. It should be pointed out that this is only a theory; proof is lacking.

Seebeck, a philatelist himself, understood the reasons for the attacks made against his issues during the period of the contract. To try to answer the criticism, Seebeck said that he was prepared to cancel the contracts he had negotiated in the name of Hamilton Bank Note Co. if the respective governments

would agree and guarantee that they would not negotiate similar ones with any of the Hamilton Bank Note Co.'s competitors.

The first announcement of the existence of reprints of the Seebeck stamps can be credited to Joseph B. Leavy, who published a number of articles on this subject in the "Gibbons' Monthly Journal." Leavy, however, considered as reprints only those stamps which were printed on the thick, conspicuously porous paper, which was first used by Hamilton Bank Note Co. for the 1899 Postage Due set of Salvador (Scott J49-J56). The reprints exist on this paper with and without watermark. For many years, it was not known that the "Phrygian Cap" watermark is horizontal on this thick, coarse paper, whereas on the original paper used for the issues of 1895-1898 the "Phrygian Cap" is always vertical.

Although Leavy's discovery was laudable, it caused great confusion among the Anglo-Saxon and French collectors as well as the catalogue editors, who up to the present, consider the stamps of 1896-1898 as originals only when found on thin paper.

Gradually, "Scott's Catalogue" recognized that differences between the paper used for various printings and reprintings existed. Thus, in their 1912 edition the following is first mentioned: *"Reprints of Nos. 81 to 109 are on thick porous paper, with and without watermark. The paper of the originals is thinner."*

This comment was added to over the years until the appearance in 1957 of the note as it now reads: *"Reprints of Nos. 81 to 109M are on thick, porous paper, with and without watermark. The watermark is sideways. The paper of the originals is thinner for Nos. 81 to 109 but thicker for Nos. 109A to 109M."*

The 1930 edition of "Scott's Standard Postage Stamp Catalogue" took note that: "The paper of Nos. 109A to 109L is slightly thicker and more opaque than that of Nos. 81 to 89 and 90 to 98. The 5c and 10c also exist on very thin, semi-transparent paper." This note has continued to be published to this date with addition of No. 109M to the first sentence.

In 1940, the editor of "Scott's Catalogue" heeded the advice of Nicaraguan specialists and finally included the last of three footnotes now found after the Seebeck listings:

"Specialists now claim the existence of reprints of Nos. 81 to 89 and 90 to 98 on thin paper, but with shades differing slightly from those of the originals."

Previous Research

Joseph Kroeger wrote very detailed articles about all Seebeck stamps and their reprints in "Illustriertes Briefmarken Journal" published by Gebrueder Senf in Germany. The 1910-1911 volumes of this German magazine contain general comments pertaining to the Seebeck problem, the letter exchange between Gebrueder Senf and G. B. Calman, the aforementioned report of the American Philatelists' Committee regarding the defaced plates found at the Hamilton Bank Note Co., and the wording of the various contracts made between Seebeck and the Latin American governments.

In the 1912-1913 volumes, Kroeger touches upon the Seebeck issues of Nicaragua relying to a great extent on research by Mr. Gerhauser, who had the extensive material of his firm, Gebrueder Senf, at his disposal. With due credit to Joseph B. Leavy for being the first to announce the existence of reprints of Seebeck stamps, the consequent Gerhauser-Kroeger articles contributed valuable information, which helped clarify the reprint question of Seebeck stamps of Nicaragua. (Kroeger's research of the Seebeck issues of Ecuador, Honduras, and Salvador, also published in "Illustriertes Briefmarken Journal," do not enter into the scope of this discussion). The outstanding work of Stian Sanness,

also published in "Illustriertes Briefmarken Journal," should be mentioned, although his prime interest was the Nicaraguan issues commencing with the year 1900 (after the Seebeck issues).

We decided to record the results of our research in conjunction with the findings of Gerhauser and Kroeger to the present day collectors because the old numbers of "Illustriertes Briefmarken Journal," are very difficult to obtain. Furthermore, the late Dr. Willer, who first stimulated by the articles of Kroeger, thoroughly studied for almost 50 years the problems posed by the Seebeck issues, came to substantially different conclusions than Kroeger.

Dr. Willer searched through practically all the dealers' stocks on the European Continent and in England, and also was in touch with the leading dealers of the Western Hemisphere. He inspected large and small Nicaragua collections, acquired a substantial part of the Ferrari Nicaragua section and later a part of the Hind Nicaragua collection, and studied a great many covers. Furthermore, he was able to secure a part of the Desire-Pector correspondence. Pector was for many years the Consul General of Nicaragua in Paris, France. The study material was later supplemented by purchase of the Birrell (Nicaragua Section) and other collections acquired by the writer.

While we reached different conclusions than Gerhauser and Kroeger on many points, we cannot represent that the results of our own research are the last word. To be perfectly honest and conscientious, it must be conceded that many questions are not fully answered and many of our conclusions could be revised if evidence, as yet unknown, should appear. For this reason, we urgently appeal to all stamp collectors and dealers interested in these Nicaraguan stamps to let us know if any of their observations do not correspond with ours.

In addition to describing which issues exist only as originals and which ones have been reprinted, we intend to discuss in some detail the differences between originals and reprints.

We do not have anything startling to add to the results of the Gerhauser-Kroeger studies. Frankly, it will be frequently difficult to distinguish between an original stamp and a reprint if a collector has only one copy of the stamp in question. In a very few isolated instances, we may be unable to make certain identification, despite our experience and material at hand. But these are rare exceptions.

It is believed that in almost all cases our guidelines should suffice to define the necessary differences. We have not included use of an ultra violet-lamp as an aid because not many collectors have this instrument at their disposal. Furthermore, we found that this ultra-violet lamp often does not show a result different from that of ordinary light, or at least not sufficiently different to make a correct identification. We shall continue, however, our own examination with ultra-violet light and will report if and when any new significant results are found. The late Dr. Willer always attributed great importance to the composition of the paper mesh, which, in many cases, provides singularly distinctive identification. We agree here and shall retain this conclusion until such time as new evidence proves us to be in error.

Why No Reprints Of Some Issues?

Before we proceed to discuss the individual issues of Nicaragua, we must point out that no known reprints exist for the years 1890, 1891, 1892, 1893, and 1895. There were several printings of the 1894 issue, the status of which is not entirely clear.

It is understandable that the following four questions arise:

1. "Why are there no reprints of the first six issues with the possible exception of 1894?"

2. "Why do the original stamps of these years exist in substantial quantities, while most denominations of the 1896 and 1897 issues, with the exception of the Postage Due stamps, are scarce?"

3. "Why are the mint originals of 1896 and 1897 extremely scarce?"

4. "Why is the 1896-1897 situation similar for the regular and Official stamps of 1898, whereas no reprints are known of the 1899 issue?"

We shall try to answer these questions.

It was learned from G. B. Calman's correspondence with Gebrueder Senf of Leipzig, Germany (see "Illustriertes Briefmarken Journal" No. 16 of August 20, 1910) that Seebeck, prior to the time of the first annual delivery to the Postal Administration of Nicaragua, had had a certain excess quantity printed. It was to be kept as a supply on hand to enable him to fill quickly any reorders by the Nicaraguan government, or, upon demonetization of the respective issue, to deliver to Calman the desired quantity.

Other sources, not completely reliable, wrote that Seebeck always put aside a supply of 100,000 complete sets and 200,000 "small" sets. It appears that the "small" sets consisted only of the 1 and 2 centavos denominations. These "small" sets were widely offered for sale in the 1890's. Other than these consisting only of two stamps, the stamp trade offered only complete sets.

Upon a reorder by the Postal Administration of Nicaragua, Seebeck probably printed additional supplies either to fill Nicaragua's order or to restock. Reorders, however, occurred very rarely and were only for the most commonly used denominations. As these stamps were printed during the period of postal validity, we consider them originals, regardless of whether they were shipped to Nicaragua and used there; or not used due to sufficient original stock on hand in the Nicaraguan post offices or retained in New York as a reserve. The lack of known postally used stamps, particularly on covers, prevents, in most cases, a precise determination of the fate of stamps reprinted during the time of their postal validity. By no means should one conclude that Seebeck retained the complete issue of newly printed stamps and filled the reorders only from the reserve he had kept at the time of the original printing. It is possible that upon a second reorder, stamps from the second printing were sent to Nicaragua.

The question of which stamps from additional printings during the respective year of postal validity were actually used probably never can be completely solved. Only the possession of incontestably postally used later printings would show that one is dealing not only with a stamp from Seebeck's reserves, but with a stamp of a second or later printing, which actually got into circulation. In any case, these are originals to be valued according to the rarity of the respective issue.

In view of this, it is still not clear why some issues of originals are very common and reprints do not exist, except for reserve printings during postal validity; whereas many originals of other issues are very scarce with reprints of them existing in large quantities.

As previously mentioned, Seebeck is supposed to have stocked 100,00 complete sets and 200,000 "small" sets of the 1 and 2 centavos denominations, as a reserve for sale only to G. B. Calman. If this were true, the latter quantity appears rather large. It is doubtful if Calman could sell 200,000 sets, because offers of the two small denominations were at that time, and are even today, much scarcer than complete sets which cost no more than 25 cents. It may be that initially these quantities plus the remainder of Nicaragua's supplies returned at the end of the respective year were sufficient to meet Calman's demands.

It seems that in the first few years, the Postal Administration ordered much greater quantities than it actually needed, so that the stock of unused remainders

were large. Later, the orders were probably adjusted to the expected actual need, which resulted in several reorders of the 1898 issue.

The administrative difficulties connected with these reorders probably caused a larger initial order for the 1899 issue. From this issue, sufficient quantities remained for Calman's needs. Seebeck probably urged the Postal Administration of Nicaragua to restrict its orders to the approximate need, because the supplies returned to him at year's end most likely were more than Calman needed. Broken sheets, singles, climatic damage, and other factors often made resale impossible. It is very probable that Seebeck insisted on drastically reduced orders by Nicaragua for the 1896, 1897, and 1898 issues. At the same time, he seems to have abandoned the practice of printing with the original order a reserve for sale to Calman. Otherwise, it is difficult to explain why most denominations of these issues are so scarce.

Calman began selling the 1897 issue in the midyear of 1899. He began selling the 1896 issues only toward the end of 1900. The originals of these issues are very scarce. It is suspected from the dates of sale by Calman of the 1896 and 1897 issues that Seebeck, who up to this point had made no reprints because of sufficient reserve quantities on hand, had ordered reprints made shortly before his death so as to satisfy Calman's requirements for these two issues.

We have to admit that the foregoing is an assumption on our part. As yet no official documents of the Government of Nicaragua nor records of Seebeck have been found, which authenticate the size of original deliveries or amounts of remainders, or at whose suggestion reprints were made. It can be stated, however, with reasonable certainty that the majority of all reprints were produced only after Seebeck's death. Also, it can be said with certainty that reprints of Seebeck issues cannot be printed today since, as mentioned previously, all plates are presumed to have been defaced or destroyed. The ones not found in 1911 at the Hamilton Bank Note Company were undoubtedly destroyed before that date, at least those plates used to print Nicaraguan stamps. Calman, who surely did not obtain these plates, would obviously have strongly objected to allowing these plates, if they existed, to be acquired by other persons, to compete against his business.

Each Issue Examined

Now, we shall proceed to discuss the individual issues.

Throughout the following discussion of identification of original stamps in contrast to reprints, we shall continually refer to the horizontal or vertical mesh of the paper, as well as to the "Phrygian Cap" watermark. In order to remove any misunderstanding, the two illustrations of the paper's mesh (Figs. 1 and 2) and the watermark (Figs. 3 and 4) will prove useful.

1890 Issue

A. Regular Postage Stamps (Scott Nos. 20-29)

Kroeger differentiates between two types of paper, a thin one for the 2 centavos and 1 peso stamps and medium one for all other denominations. He states that a few of the 2 centavos were printed on medium paper. We do not agree with this. We strongly believe that two distinct types are not warranted. The differences in the paper are so trifling that even a highly knowledgable specialist will experience difficulties in trying to identify them.

Kroeger maintains that he found color differences only on the 10 pesos, orange and yellow-orange. We are inclined to attribute the difference in color shades to fading, which easily occurs with yellow colors. We do, however,

agree with Leavy, who found different color shades in the 20 and 50 centavos. The 20 centavos really exists in a faint brown-red shade in contrast to the more common bright brown-red. We found the 50 centavos in purple, dark purple, and a pronounced lilac. The 5 pesos comes with the normal lake and in faint brown-red. We also find bright and dark shades of blue of the 5 centavos.

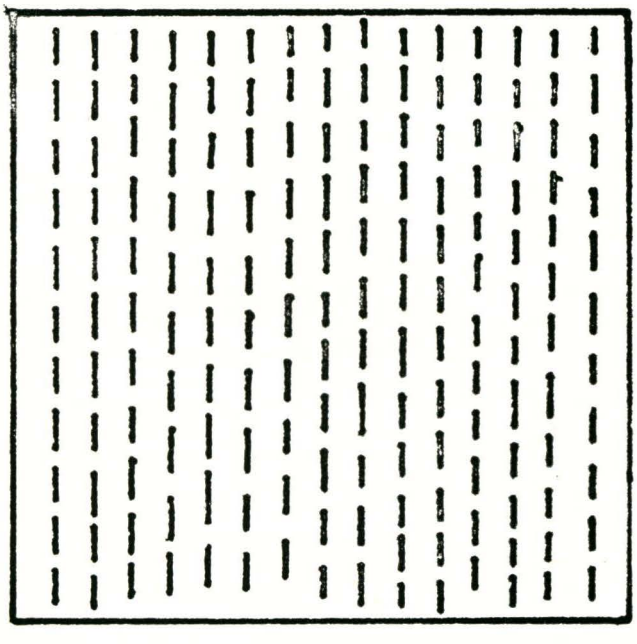


Fig. 1. Vertical Mesh.

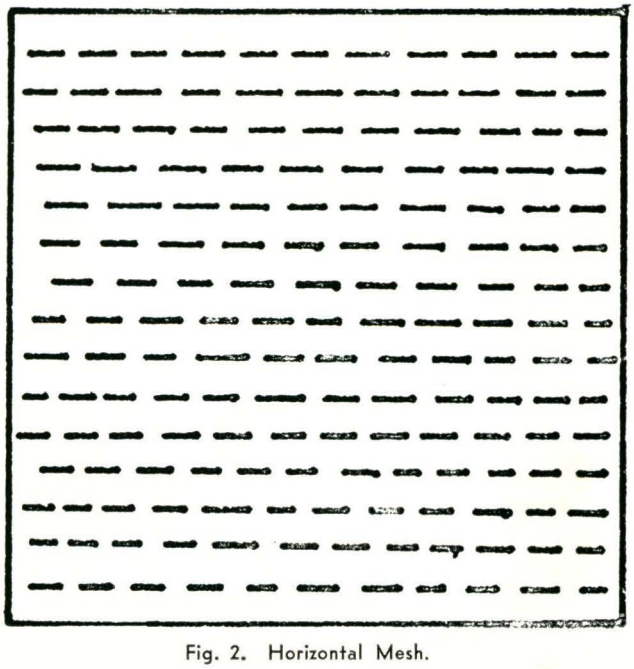


Fig. 2. Horizontal Mesh.

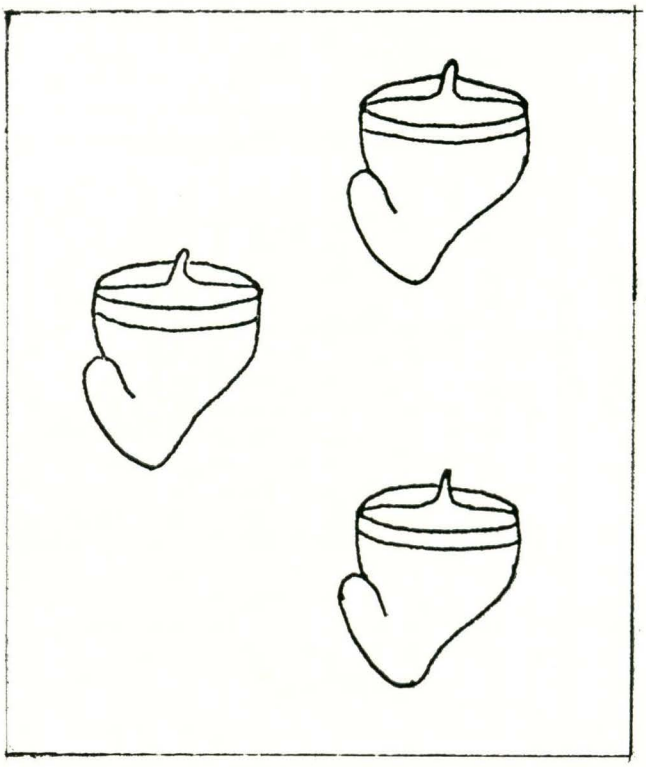


Fig. 3. Vertical Watermark "Phrygian Cap."

We doubt, however, that these varying color shades indicate different printings. During the printing, the ink had to be frequently mixed, so that the results were not always uniform. The small number of postally used copies, with the exception of the 5 centavos, makes it difficult to check a sufficient amount of cancellation dates. This would help to show whether particular shades belong to separate printings.

Proof printings of all denominations are known to exist on thin ungummed (India) paper in shades closely approximating the originals. They are scarce.

Imperforate stamps printed in original colors on regular gummed paper exist. The Scott Catalogue lists these in imperf. pairs for all denominations except the 5 pesos (Scott Nos. 20a-27a, 29a). Kroeger wrote that he had seen copies of the 5 pesos imperforate. This is unknown to us, but that does not preclude their existence.

Several denominations are known imperforate horizontally or vertically. It is said that these perforation varieties, including the imperforates, were sent to Nicaragua but were returned to Seebeck because they did not meet the terms of the contract. It is possible, however, that these stamps, particularly the imperforates, were not sent to Nicaragua but were added by Seebeck to his stock held for future sale.

Imperforate stamps on India paper in colors differing from the originals are considered to be Color Trials.

In all Seebeck issues only the denominations up to the 10 centavos are frequently found postally used. Higher denominations, particularly pesos values, genuinely used are, almost without exception, extremely scarce. How-

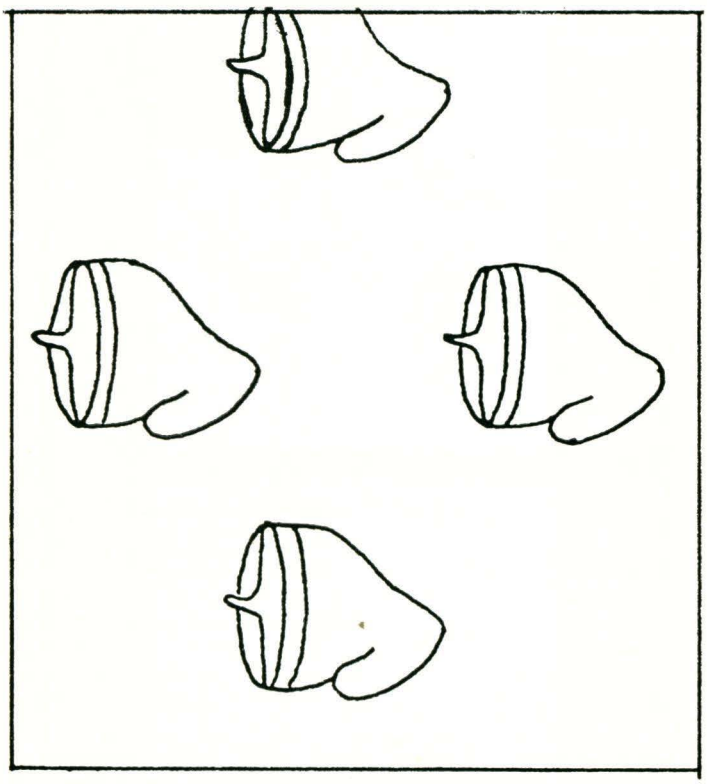


Fig. 4. Horizontal Watermark "Phrygian Cap."

ever, postdated, cancelled-to-order, and counterfeit cancellations, particularly of the 1890 issue, are frequently found. A study of the cancellations will come later.



Fig. 5. 1890 Regular Issue.



Fig. 6. 1890 Official Issue.

B. Official Stamps (Scott Nos. O1-O10)

All denominations are in the same color, ultramarine. Kroeger also made a distinction here according to the thickness of paper. He lists all denomina,-tions, except the 50 centavos, on medium paper, also the 50 centavos and all pesos values on thick paper. Here this separation into two groups seems more justified. The stamps of the two groups are not only different as regards the thickness of paper, but also as to their color and mesh. The stamps on thick paper show vertical mesh, the others a horizontal one, as do the regular postage stamps. The copies on thick paper with vertical mesh have much paler colors than do the much more plentiful pieces in a vivid ultramarine shade. Furthermore, the overprint "FRANQUEO OFICIAL" of the first type has a more brown to dark red or orange-brown color shade than the lighter orange or brown-red of the medium paper group. Although Kroeger listed only four denominations on thick paper, we have also found the 2 centavos on thick paper.

The 1 centavo, however, is different. The stamp with vertical mesh is on thinner paper, while that with horizontal mesh is on thicker paper. The former has a lighter orange-red colored overprint normally associated with the second group.

Some denominations exist imperforate horizontally and vertically; some are known with incorrect and double overprints. These stamps also have the previously mentioned different paper thickness. Horizontal overprints in small black or small carmine letters are trial impressions, which were not used because of their lack of discernability. The stamps with trial overprints likewise have the differences in paper thickness.

The question arises whether there are different printings. If so, which stamps belong to the first and which to the second printing? The scarcity of stamps from the thick paper group should lead to the conclusion that they came from the first printing. An examination of the few existing postally used copies refute this belief because they show the characteristics of the medium paper group. Is it possible that the medium paper group was the first printing and the thick paper group a second one, which Seebeck printed as a reserve, and which never reached Nicaragua? This does not seem plausible, because a reserve stock would not have been printed in small quantities, primarily consisting of pesos denominations. If no new reference material is found, this question may forever remain unanswered.

It should be mentioned that the overprints on this issue frequently are poorly centered and many copies have many different broken letters.

1891 Issue

A. Regular Postal Stamps (Scott Nos. 30-39)

Kroeger lists two color shades each of the 1, 2, 50 centavos and the 5 pesos stamps. Leavy also lists two shades each of the 1 centavos, the 1 and 10 pesos. One 2 centavos is brick red having a horizontal mesh, while the other is quite pale vermilion with a vertical mesh. The main difference between them is in the mesh. A dark blue and a light blue color shade exists of the 5 centavos. The lighter blue shade appears on slightly bluish tinted paper. In contrast to the mint copies of the 2 centavos, which are more plentiful with the horizontal mesh, mint copies of the 5 centavos with horizontal mesh seem to be very scarce. On the other hand, we have never seen genuine postally used copies of the 2 centavos pale vermilion nor the 5 centavos with vertical mesh.



Fig. 7. 1891 Regular Issue.

It is possible that the 2 and 5 centavos, the denominations most used, had a second printing, which, however, did not get into circulation to any great extent. It is peculiar that we found the 5 pesos only with the vertical mesh, whereas the other denominations, with the exception of the 2 and 5 centavos, show only the horizontal mesh. New Year's greeting cards, bearing the issues of 1891 overprinted "specimen," were used by the Postmaster General to acquaint government officials and businessmen with the forthcoming stamps. On the front was printed "El Director General . . . Managua, 1. de enero de 1891."

There are at least 31 essays in different colors on India paper of all denominations. The plate proofs in colors resembling the issued stamps also are found on India paper. The only die proofs known are of an unaccepted design, classing them as essays.

The 1 peso is known imperforate. The 10 centavos and 5 pesos are known partially imperforate. They are scarce.

The 5 centavos in violet instead of blue, and the 10 centavos in blue instead

of slate are lithographed Telegraph stamps of the same design without the "TELEGRAFOS" overprint. The 5, 10, and 20 centavos Telegraph stamps are reported to have been postally used. Whether or not these were a genuine use is difficult to determine. It is possible that postal use of Telegraph issues occurred during unanticipated shortages of postage stamps at various post offices.



Fig. 8. 1891 Official Issue.

B. Official Stamps (Scott Nos. O11-O20)

This set is interesting because it is lithographed, as were the Telegraph stamps, although the contract between Nicaragua and the Hamilton Bank Note Company stated that all stamps were to be steel engraved.

It is further interesting to note that only the 1 centavo and the 2 centavos were printed in sheets of 100 stamps. The other denominations, including the 1 and 2 centavos, were printed from two stones comprising 130 subjects (10x13); each stone had five denominations (see Figs. 9 and 10). Therefore, the 1 and 2 centavos were printed on two different stones, first separately with a layout of 100, and again on the 130-subject stones. 30 subjects of the 1 centavo are seen at the bottom of Fig. 9, and the same for the 2 centavos on the Fig. 10 stone. Examining the plate layouts in Figures 9 and 10, it is obvious that pairs of different denominations are found se-tenant and that blocks of four can be found with four different denominations. Such combinations are, however, rarely found today.

Kroeger differentiates between a thin and very thin paper. Some denominations exist only either on thin or very thin paper. In our opinion, the differences between these two kinds of paper are so minute that they make separate classifications unnecessary, and can be ignored by specialists.

Small shade variations in the green color can be noted, as well as thicker or thinner color application.

With the exception of the 2 centavos, the entire set is known to exist without the overprint "FRANQUEO OFICIAL." Double or poorly centered overprints have been found, as well as other types of misprints and small typographical errors (for example, the word "OFICIAL" missing).

There is only one perforation irregularity known, the 2 centavos in horizontal pairs, imperforate between.

50c	50c	50c	50c	50c	20c	20c	20c	20c	20c
50c	50c	50c	50c	50c	20c	20c	20c	20c	20c
50c	50c	50c	50c	50c	20c	20c	20c	20c	20c
50c	50c	50c	50c	50c	20c	20c	20c	20c	20c
50c	50c	50c	50c	50c	20c	20c	20c	20c	20c
2p	2p	2p	2p	2p	10p	10p	10p	10p	10p
2p	2p	2p	2p	2p	10p	10p	10p	10p	10p
2p	2p	2p	2p	2p	10p	10p	10p	10p	10p
2p	2p	2p	2p	2p	10p	10p	10p	10p	10p
2p	2p	2p	2p	2p	10p	10p	10p	10p	10p
1c	1c	1c	1c	1c	1c	1c	1c	1c	1c
1c	1c	1c	1c	1c	1c	1c	1c	1c	1c
1c	1c	1c	1c	1c	1c	1c	1c	1c	1c

Fig. 9. Printing layout of 130 (10x13) for the 1c, 20c, 50c, 2P., and 10P.

10c	10c	10c	10c	10c	5c	5c	5c	5c	5c
10c	10c	10c	10c	10c	5c	5c	5c	5c	5c
10c	10c	10c	10c	10c	5c	5c	5c	5c	5c
10c	10c	10c	10c	10c	5c	5c	5c	5c	5c
10c	10c	10c	10c	10c	5c	5c	5c	5c	5c
5p	5p	5p	5p	5p	1p	1p	1p	1p	1p
5p	5p	5p	5p	5p	1p	1p	1p	1p	1p
5p	5p	5p	5p	5p	1p	1p	1p	1p	1p
5p	5p	5p	5p	5p	1p	1p	1p	1p	1p
5p	5p	5p	5p	5p	1p	1p	1p	1p	1p
2c	2c	2c	2c	2c	2c	2c	2c	2c	2c
2c	2c	2c	2c	2c	2c	2c	2c	2c	2c
2c	2c	2c	2c	2c	2c	2c	2c	2c	2c

Fig. 10. Printing layout of 130 (10x13) for the 2c, 5c, 10c, 1P., and 5P.



Fig. 11. The 1892 Regular Issue.

Issue of 1892

A. Regular Postage Stamps (Scott Nos. 40-49)

Important paper differences of this issue are not known to exist. The gum of the 10 centavos, usually white or colorless on the other values, always has a brownish tint. It is difficult to determine whether different gum was used for the 10 centavos, or whether excessive gum deterioration on remaining stock took place.

Color shade differences are rather insignificant. The 1 centavo has a dark yellow-brown shade, which is scarce, as compared with the usual light yellow-brown shade. The 5 centavos varies between dark blue and blue. The former is more frequently found, while the latter comes on a slightly blue tinted paper. Leavy mentions the 50 centavos in purple and also dark purple color shades. We, however, find this difference to be very minute.

The mesh of the paper is horizontal, very clear, and easily recognized.

Stamps of this issue also were used on the official New Year's greeting cards of the Postmaster General. These stamps were overprinted "Specimen" with a rubber handstamp.

The 50 centavos is found plum colored instead of purple, the 2 pesos in vermilion rather than green.

In the footnote to this issue, Scott's Catalogue mentions that "Stamps of the 1892 design were printed in other colors than those listed and overprinted 'Telegrafos'. The 1c blue, 10c orange, 20c slate, 50c plum and the 2p vermilion are Telegraph stamps which did not receive the overprint."

Additionally, John L. Stroub listed in his unpublished catalogue of Nicaragua a 2c brown, 5c green, 25c yellow, and a 1p blue. These, likewise, are Telegraph stamps which failed to receive the overprint. None of these has been seen by us. All of these variations of color have the overprint "Telegrafos" omitted.

Leavy maintains that several denominations of the Telegraph stamps, among them the 2 and 10 pesos denominations, were used as postage stamps. We have seen copies with such use but believe that, particularly in the case of the high denominations, they are demonetized stamps with postdated cancellations. It is, however, possible that a few Telegraph stamps had been used for regular postage.

This issue has the centavos values imperforate, imperforate vertically, and in pairs imperforate vertically or horizontally. It is doubtful that any of the higher peso denominations legitimately exist in an imperforate or partially imperforate condition.



Fig. 12. The 1892 Official Issue.

B. Official Stamps (Scott Nos. O21-O30)

The color of these is yellow-brown with light and dark shades. The lighter shades are scarcer, except for the 5 pesos, which we have seen only in light yellow-brown.

The color of the overprint, which is often badly registered, varies between dark blue (most commonly seen) and medium blue.

Some denominations are known with an inverted overprint. Scott lists the 10 centavos (O24a), 1 peso, 2 pesos, and 5 pesos (O27a, O28b, O29a). The 2 pesos is found with a double overprint, the 2 centavos has a missing overprint; there seem to be pairs of the 1 centavo with the overprint missing on one stamp.

In a footnote Scott's Catalogue mentions the existence of the 1 peso without overprint and indicates that it and the 2 centavos without overprint were not regularly issued. We have never seen the 1 peso without overprint.

Some denominations, the 50 centavos and the 2 pesos, exist imperforate. The 1 centavo and the 5 pesos are found with vertical pairs, imperforate between.

1893 Issue

A. Regular Postage Stamps (Scott Nos. 50-60)

The design shows the main part of the coat of arms of Nicaragua with five mountains, a rising sun behind them, and Phrygian Cap (Fig. 13).

Kroeger and Leavy note color variations in some instances. We do not find it necessary to distinguish between color shades, because the variations are so slight that they can only be described with great difficulty. Only the 5 centavos should be mentioned, because besides the commonly seen dark blue color shade, we possess some copies which have a noticeably lighter blue shade. The paper is usually thin with a slight variation in thickness. The mesh of the paper always is horizontal.

We doubt that these color variations and paper differences indicate different



Fig. 13. The 1893 Regular Issue.

printings. There were no reprints of this issue. The 1 centavo blue instead of yellow-brown and the 2 centavos brown instead of vermilion are Telegraph stamps without the overprint, "Telegrafos."

Some copies of the Telegraph stamps of the issue are reported to have been postally used.

Partially imperforate stamps of some denominations exist. Scott lists the 1 centavo (No. 50a) and 5 centavos (No. 53a) as vertical pairs, imperforate between; the 2 centavos imperforate vertically (No. 51a); and the 2 centavos (No. 51b) and 2 pesos as horizontal pairs (No. 58a), imperforate between.

The January, 1894 number of the "American Journal of Philately" quoted a European report that the 5 centavos existed with perforation 14 instead of 12. We have never seen such a variety.

The Postmaster General again used this set on his annual New Year's greeting cards for 1893. As were the issues of 1891 and 1892 these stamps were handstamped with the "Specimen" overprint.

B. Official Stamps (Scott Nos. O31-O41)

This consists of eleven denominations, unlike the other regular series and all the previous Seebeck sets which had only ten. For the first time, a 25 centavos denomination was added.

The colors range from slate to black. Kroeger cites four color groups; lilac gray, slate, gray black, and black. Also, he stated that some denominations come with different color shades, while some have only one. After our own examination of extensive material on hand, we do not find Kroeger correct. He lists the 10 centavos as black only, while we found distinct color varieties, a slate and a black. Leavy, who only describes three color varieties — gray, gray-black and black — also describes various values in his color groupings, which were not mentioned by Kroeger in his four color classifications. In addition to the 10 centavos slate and black previously mentioned, we wish to point out another outstanding color variation, that of the 20 centavos which comes in both a lilac-gray and in black.

Inasmuch as the four color groups of Kroeger exist, but are very difficult to identify, we prefer to disregard them and to only admit that slight different color shades exist. We would like to add that the true lilac gray shades are scarce.



Fig. 14. 1893 Official Issue.

Some denominations are found with broken and double overprints. (Scott mentions double overprints on the 1 centavo, 2 centavos, 5 centavos, and 2 pesos — Nos. O31a, O32a, O33a and O39a). Some are found without overprint. (We have seen those mentioned in the Scott footnote; e. g. — the 2 centavos, 5 centavos, 10 centavos, 20 centavos, 25 centavos, 50 centavos, and the 5 pesos). Inverted overprints are known on the 5 centavos, 10 centavos, 50 centavos, 1 peso, 2 pesos, 5 and 10 pesos (Scott Nos. O33a, O34a, O37a, O38a to O41a). We know of no unusual perforations, except the 1 centavo vertical pair, imperforate between, also listed by Scott (O31c).

(To Be Continued)

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Denmark

The First Essays With King Frederik VII and Mercury Head Designs

By Stig Andersen

Historical Review

About eighteen months before the introduction of postage stamps in 1851 in Denmark, M. W. Ferslew, an engraver and purveyor to the Royal Court, at the request of M. T. C. Bartholdy, the then manager of the foot post office, designed two stamps — one with the coat of arms of Denmark, the other with King Frederik VII. The subject of the two designs were suggested by Mr. Bartholdy.

On November 7, 1849, these were sent to Count Danneskiold-Samsøe, Director General of Postal Services, as requested by his letter of October 13, 1849. With his letter enclosing the essays, Mr. Bartholdy recommended the adoption of the design representing the coat of arms of Denmark because "the one with H.M. the King is more expensive, and must be altered in case of change of king, and the copies produced then must be destroyed."

The designs submitted were not adopted. But a pencil sketch on the back of one of them (presumably drawn by Count Danneskiold-Samsøe) roughly outlined the main subject (Fig. 1), which later was incorporated in the design of the first Danish postage stamp, Fire (four) R.B.S. (Scott No. 2).



Fig. 1. The pencil sketch drawn on the back of one of the essays.

The denomination on this first stamp only corresponded to that of the Kingdom of Denmark's currency without any designation of its face value in German currency. This was severely criticized by some people in the Duchies of Sleswig Holstein and Lauenburg.

On the higher level, it was desired to react favorably to such criticism. Mr. Ferslew was requested to insert the denomination both in Danish and in German currency on the 8 Skilling stamp, when the Director General of Postal Services had assigned to Mr. Ferslew the designing of the stamp. A new 4 Skilling stamp was also requested, likewise having the face value in both Danish and German currencies.

Before he could complete the assignment, Mr. Ferslew died in April, 1852, only 51 years old. On May 4, 1852, his widow, Mrs. Lassenia Ferslew, sent her

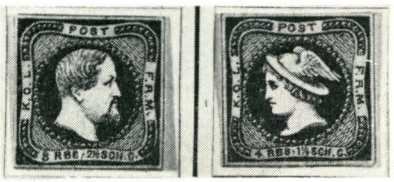


Fig. 2. The two essays of 1852.

late husband's essays, with the King Frederik VII and Mercury designs, to the Director General of Postal Services.

For some unknown reason, these essays were not submitted to the Minister of Finance until twelve months later, on June 14, 1853. Then four days later, on June 18th, the Minister announced that there was no need of issuing an 8 Skilling stamp, because such a denomination would not be in accordance with the Post Office Act. No objection or criticism was raised, either by the Director General of Postal Services or by the Minister of Finance, against the choice of designs.

The design with the bust of King Frederik VII is hardly distinguishable from that on the Danish coin, 1 Silver Rigsbankdaler, which was struck in 1849. The other with Mercury wearing the winged hat, does not seem to differ much from the Hermes Head coins of Greece. A certain caution seems to have been exercised in the choice of subjects. In all probability, the Director General of Postal Services, Count Danneskiold-Samsøe, selected the designs.

An idea, prevailing up to the present, that the reason why the design with the king's head was not used we regard as a misconception. It was believed that there was objection to having the king's face "cancelled" or marred in any way. Also, it was rumored that the Mercury head design was discarded because it caricatured Countess Donner, the king's consort. This seems to be entirely without foundation.

It seems more reasonable to account for the reason why the designs for the stamps were not accepted was due to strained relations between the Director of the Postal Services, Count Danneskiold-Samsøe, and the Minister of Finance at that time, Count ("of the Empire") Wilhelm Sponneck. Mr. Ferslew, the designer, as well as Count Danneskiold-Samsøe, if they had been aware of any objections to using the king's face on a stamp, certainly would not have submitted a design with this in 1852, when it had already been rejected in 1849.

The Minister of Finance differed with the Director General of Postal Services. The former thought that decisions on the issuance of new stamps should be made by his ministry. Count Danneskiold-Samsøe protested in vain that the postal authorities were better qualified to select the designs for new postage stamps and determine their face values.

Furthermore, several applications for a new 8 Skilling stamp had been made by the Merchants Guild. But every time they were submitted to the Minister of Finance, they were refused.

A New Finance Minister

Mrs. Ferslew and Count Danneskiold-Samsøe decided to let matters rest until there might be a change to a less rigid policy. This happened after Regnar Westenholz succeeded Count Sponneck as Minister of Finance in December, 1859.

However, according to a report of a parliamentary debate, it became obvious to everybody that the appointment of the Minister of Finance was only a political move, because Mr. Westenholz, on account of failing health, among other reasons, did not want to be a minister, but "would make this sacrifice" under the existing circumstances.

Mrs. Ferslew now saw a chance to have her husband's designs used. In the first place, the new Minister of Finance did not interfere with the postage stamp policy of the Director General of Postal Services; in the second place, he was a personal friend of King Frederik VII.

The old designs with Frederik VII and Mercury from 1852 had been hurriedly engraved. Sheets of twelve with both the King's and Mercury's head were printed and sent to Count Danneskiold-Samsøe. The original 1852 size of the sheet with sixteen copies each, was probably changed because of currency requirements. Twelve stamps at 8 Skilling each were equivalent to 1 Rigsbankdaler, and 4 Skilling to ½ Rigsbankdaler. Doubtless, it was the Director General who suggested this new size of sheet.

There are many indications that Mr. Westenholz never had had the essays submitted to him, while he was Minister of Finance, because he retired on February 24, 1860, after only 71 days in office.

Surely, Mr. Westenholz's resignation was a great disappointment to Mrs. Ferslew. But evidently it did not deter her, because she had some more sheets with both of her husband's designs printed in the same year. The quantity, this time was about 650 sheets of each denomination, printed on a lithographic power press. This differed from the first printing in 1860, some 50 sheets, which were printed on a hand press. This seems to indicate that Mrs. Ferslew did not intend to send the usual few sample sheets only to the Director General, but that some others also would have an opportunity to state their opinions. In this way, more could bring pressure on the then new Minister, C. E. Fenger, chief physician, university professor and general practitioner.

Another Ministry Change

Mrs. Ferslew was not successful. The reason given was that Professor Fenger had more pressing matters needing his attention than stamp designs.



Fig. 3. A sheet of the 1852 King Frederick VII essays.

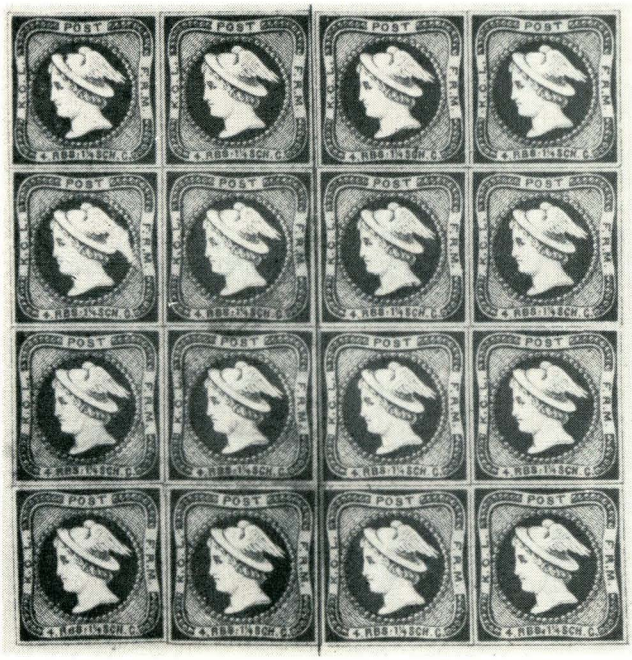


Fig. 4. Sheet of 16 with the 1852 Mercury Head essays.

But a more likely explanation is that he was not very friendly disposed towards the Duchies of Sleswig Holstein and Lauenburg. Consequently, he found it unreasonable to comply with their demands for postage stamps also with German currency face values. Incidentally, this problem had been already solved in 1854, with the issue of the 4 Skilling stamp, where on both the denomination and the lateral letterings had been abbreviated, so that they could be read as either German or Danish (Scott No. 4).

At the same time, some people were complaining because the denomination on the stamps did not stand out distinctly enough. Therefore, it was contemplated to issue some new stamps, on which the designation of the value and the rest of the inscriptions should be more conspicuous. In addition, they should be perforated. Also, preliminary experiments had been made to see if Sweden's Count Sparre's punching machine could be used for perforating Danish stamps.

H. Olrik, an artist, was entrusted with the task of designing the new stamps. By a letter, dated September 15, 1862, the design for the 1864 issue was approved.

Mrs. Ferslew must have been aware of the fact that an issue of new stamps was being contemplated, because in 1862, she once again sent in her King's head and Mercury essays to the Director General of Postal Services. This time the burelage was printed by a newly-made engraving, but the design and the inscriptions still were made from the old 1852 engraving.

According to Berger-Levrault & Sohn: "Beschreibung der bis jetzt bekannten Briefmarken," Strasbourg, 1864, the quantity printed was 1,200 sheets with 20 stamps to a sheet. It can be assumed that a supply as large as this was not intended for the approval of the Director General alone. Possibly Mrs. Ferslew also sent some other important persons each one sheet. It is reasonable to assume, for instance, that each member of the Merchants' Guild likewise received a sheet from her. The existence abroad of so many copies from this



Fig. 5. The 1852 essay without burelage.

supply seems to confirm this assumption.

The essays were not adopted this last time either, perhaps for the reason, among others, that Mrs. Ferslew was not aware of the revisions required with the new stamps.

Mrs. Ferslew certainly was persistent in trying to have her husband's designs adopted for use on Denmark's postage stamps. It is due to her attempts in doing this that she had arranged to have such a large quantity of sheets with her husband's essays printed.

These sample sheets have become the source of a large supply of essays with two different designs of early Danish stamps for philatelists all over the world. One finds them in many collections. So that they may be better understood and identified, now follows a detailed description of each individual essay of the designs made by Mr. Ferslew, including some counterfeits that later were made of them.

The Two 1852 Essays

Note: All four printings are imperforate, no watermark, no gum, and come on fairly heavy paper.

The *Frederik VII* essay was printed by a hand press in sheets of 16. Characteristics: (Fig. 2 left) joined framelines — the most distinctive mark of this printing. The period between "RBS" and "2½" has become an oblique colon. The "M" in "F.R.M.," is pointed where the two oblique strokes meet. The lower shading on the neck ends towards the nape in two brown spots. Burelage: thick, greenish blue lines. Color: clear, soft reddish brown.

Mercury (Fig. 2 right). Like above except for the "M" in "F.R.M." and the shading on the neck. In addition, there is one ink stain, like a spot, over the "S" in "POST."

According to Berger-Levrault, three sheets were printed, i.e., 48 copies of each denomination. But this cannot be because I once saw some copies of the Frederik VII essays with number 41. Many must have been lost during the course of time, to which must be added those copies which remain in collections. It may be possible, and even probable, that the three sheets refer only to those without burelage. But these were, of course, only meant to show how the brown color would look without the disturbing burelage (see Fig. 5).

The theory that the stone's layout was 48 (4x16) is repudiated by printing technicians. It can be concluded, however, that the supply did not exceed 25 sheets, because a larger amount than that were not printed on a hand press.



Fig. 6. The two 1860 Type I essays.

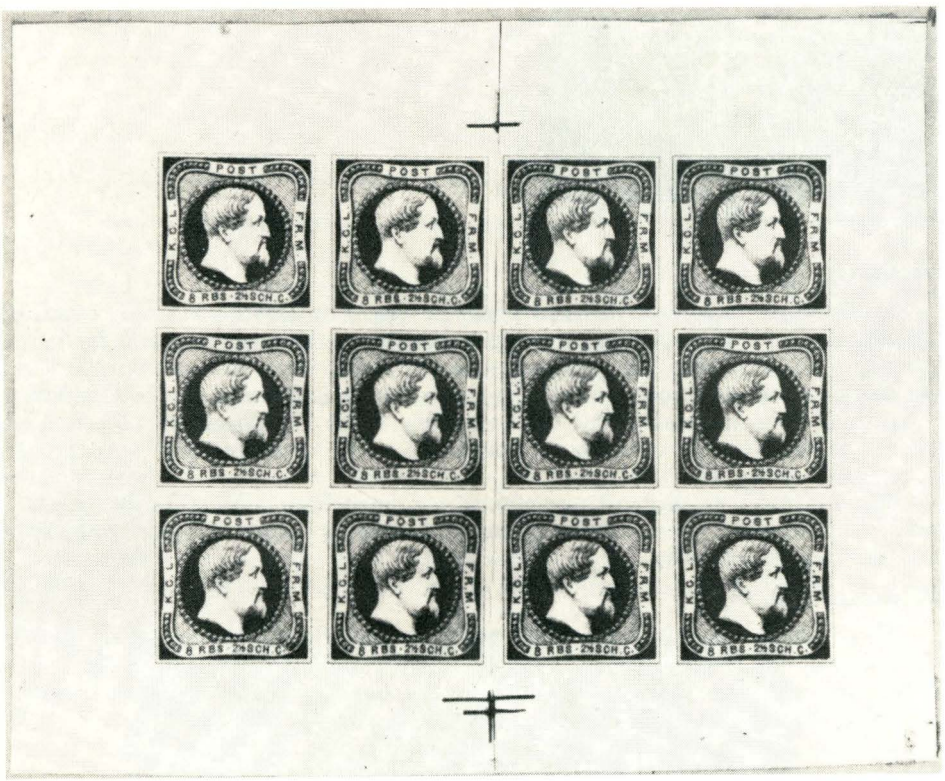


Fig. 7. Sheet of 12 with the King Frederik VII 1860 Type I essays.

Also, the color intensity of the printing does not indicate that large quantity of sheets were printed. Finally, the Director General of Postal Services did not require more than 15 or 20 sheets of each denomination for his purposes. (See Figs. 3 and 4).



Fig. 8. Sheet of 12 with the Mercury Head 1860 Type I essays.

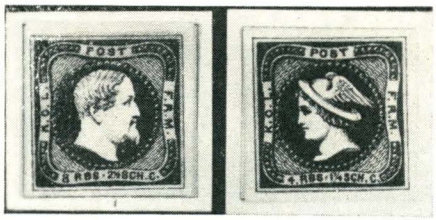


Fig. 9. The two Type II 1860 essays.

1860 Essays Type I

These were printed by a hand press in sheets of 12 (see Figs. 6, 7 and 8). Characteristics: The stamps are separated, each having its own frameline. Burelage: thick, pale blue lines. Color: light dull brown, without red. The King's neck shading ends without the two brown spots of the 1852 printing.

Berger-Levrault stated the 1860 quantity to be 700 sheets of each denomination. Evidently, no distinction was made as to whether they were printed by a hand or by the lithographic power press.

Those printed by a hand press must not have been more than 50 sheets of each denomination. The scarcity of copies from this supply supports the theory of a very small quantity.

1860 Essays Type II

These were printed by the lithographic power press in sheets of 12 (see Figs. 9 and 10) as the 1860 Type I. Characteristics: Color: a dull dark brown. King Frederik VII: a clear, round spot beside the ear. The eyebrow is a thick, short line. Details of the beard, completely missing.

Mercury: Shadings on neck, crude and coarse. The eye often covered with ink. Generally, the copies appear technically imperfect, the finer nuances of shading and inscriptions being lost. There is every indication that this is the printing which Berger-Levrault termed "Nachdruck," a later printing or reprint.

No complete sheet of Mercury 1860, Type II, has been found.

The quantity is believed to be approximately 650 sheets of each value.



Fig. 10. King Frederik VII 1860 Type II essays in sheet of 12.



Fig. 11. The two 1862 Printing's essays.

1862 Printings

Printed by the lithographic power press in sheets of 20 with 10 of King Frederik VII on the left and 10 Mercury on the right, arranged with four copies in each of five horizontal rows (see Fig. 12). Characteristics: Each copy has a complete frameline. Burelage: New engraving, thin, dark blue lines — the most distinctive mark of this print. Color: faint resemblance to the 1852 printing, but much paler.

Mercury without the ink stain (burr) over the "S" in "POST." No colon between "RBS" and "1¼."

King Frederik VII. No spot beside the ear. Neck shading like that of 1860 Essay Type I.

Pairs from the center of the sheet come se-tenant, which is typical of a machine print. The quantity according to Berger-Levrault, is 1,200 sheets, which



Fig. 12. Sheet of 20 having both designs from the 1862 Printing's essays.



Fig. 13. Four examples of counterfeits.

seems to be correct.

In an article by Alfred Jacobsen in the "Nordisk Filatelistisk Tidsskrift" of September 20, 1912, he described these essays as "nytryks." This translates in English as reprints, which we believe is wrong. These are essays of designs for stamps that were not issued, or rejected designs. Consequently, as previously described, the following shows the different types:

1. 1852 printing with (Figs. 2-3-4) and without burelage (Fig. 5)
2. 1860 printing Type I (Figs. 6-7-8)
3. 1860 printing Type II (Figs. 9-10)
4. 1862 printing (Figs. 11-12)

Quantities Known

No records exist stating the exact quantities printed of the Ferslew essays. Consultation with the leading Danish specialists offer an opinion that the following quantities are likely to exist:

1. 1852 printing without burelage . . . 48 of each denomination
   with burelage . . . 400 of each denomination
2. 1860 printing Type I . . . 600 of each denomination
3. 1860 printing Type II . . . 7,800 of each denomination
4. 1862 printing . . . 12,000 of each denomination.

Counterfeits

Around the turn of the century, counterfeits appeared. There are twelve different ones. All are so crudely printed that they should not deceive. Nevertheless, they have appeared in collections, being considered genuine postage stamps. Four of the counterfeits are illustrated in Fig. 13. We are sure that anyone comparing them with the original Ferslew essays will not be deceived.

Acknowledgements

I wish to express my thanks to the firm of Aage Reddersen, stamp dealer, whose managing director, Mr. V. C. Nielsen, in the most admirable way, fulfilled the promise which Aage Reddersen gave me shortly before he died — that I could borrow the material, kept by the firm, relating to the essays Frederik VII and Mercury for this article. Also, I am indebted to Mr. H. M. Jensen, Post Office Inspector, who helped me locate certain archives describing the historic events. And finally, my thanks to the editor of the COLLECTORS CLUB PHILATELIST, Mr. Henry M. Goodkind, who so conscientiously edited the "English" writing of a member in Copenhagen, Denmark.

The Clubhouse

New Zealand Classic Stamps

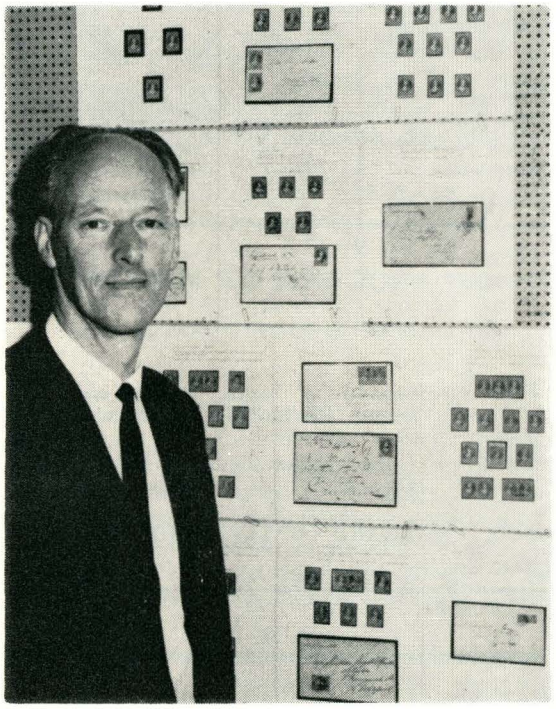
August 2, 1967

The Stephen G. Rich Memorial Meeting Room has been empty every year from about the middle of June until the middle of September. Not only is there a summer recess of the club's regular meetings, but the Study Groups using the meeting room also take a summer vacation.

This year was an exception. On August 2nd, there was an outstanding display and lecture of New Zealand's classic issues along with proofs and essays by our member, Mr. Marcel C. Stanley of Wellington, N. Z. Returning from Europe to his home, Mr. Stanley stopped off for a few days in New York City.

Because of this timing, it was unfortunate that parts of this great collection could not have been scheduled as one of the regular Collectors Club meetings. But to arrange that those in New York City last summer could view this collection, two of our study groups asked permission of the club's Board of Governors to hold a special meeting on August 2nd; this was granted.

Announcement had been made about this special meeting to be staged by the combined efforts of the *British Empire Study Group* and the *Essay-Proof Society* at the club's June 7th meeting, to which all Collectors Club members were invited. A number attended including President Herbert P. Woodward and the COLLECTORS CLUB PHILATELIST's editor. On this hot summer night, the



Mr. Marcel C. Stanley of Wellington, New Zealand standing before one of his frames displaying his collection on August 2, 1967. (Photo by Boutrelle)

meeting room was very well filled.

The Marcel C. Stanley collection of New Zealand is superlative. Those, who visited Washington, D. C. in 1966, should remember it. It won a SIPEX gold medal. The year before in Vienna, Austria, it also gained a WIPA '65 gold medal. This year in Holland, it won the best-in-show, AMPHILEX's "Grand Prix d'Honneur."

Because this was not a regular Collectors Club meeting, the usual detailed report will be omitted. Also, it was reported in a number of American stamp newspapers, according to a press release sent out by the British Empire Study Group's Richard S. Wilson. However, in view of this unusual occasion and the wonderful exhibit, a short mention of the night of August 2, 1967 at the Collectors Club seems very much in place. *(H.M.G.)*

The following have qualified for membership in The Collectors Club and have been duly elected by the Board of Governors:

5232 Thomas P. Campbell, Jr., White Plains, N. Y. Collects Canada and United States.

5233 Morton S. Sellner, New York, N. Y. Collects United States, United Nations, Scandinavia, Central Europe.

5234 David Krauss, Dallas, Tex. Collects Souvenir Sheets, Italy, Non-Scott Items.

5235 Joseph F. Chamberlin, Los Angeles, Calif. Collects United States, Great Britain, Greece, Western Europe.

5236 Edward W. Metzger, Jr., Racine, Wisc. Collects covers.

5237 Hartley Smith, Findlay, Ohio. Collects Findlay Postal History, Manchukuo, Czechoslovakia.

5238 A. L. Tobias, Los Angeles, Calif. Collects Confederate States, Ryukyus, Bhutan, Mexico, Art on Stamps.

5239 Quentin R. Wolff, Irving, Tex. Collects United States.

5240 Thomas J. O'Sullivan, Orange, Conn. Collects United States Pioneer Air Mail.

1967 PROGRAM OF MEETINGS

Meetings convene at 8 p. m.

November 15th — *Canada — Large Queens on cover*—Robert W. Lyman, Marblehead, Massachusetts

December 6th — *United States air mails*—Philip Silver, New York City, N. Y.

December 20th — *BOARD OF GOVERNORS OPEN HOUSE*

In case of change of address, please notify Secretary, The Collectors Club, 22 East 35 Street, New York, N. Y. 10016.

Book Reviews

The United States Postage Stamps Of The 19th Century (Vols. II and III) by Lester G. Brookman, published (1966) by Lindquist Publications, Inc. 153 Waverly Place, New York, N. Y. 10014. (The second and third of a set of 3 volumes). Volume II — Issues of 1861-1882, 336 pages. Illustrated. Volume III — Issues of 1882-1888, 272 pages. Illustrated. Price $30. for the set.

The second and third volumes of the newly revised books originally were issued in 1947 in two volumes. (See review of Volume I in COLLECTORS CLUB PHILATELIST, May 1967, Page 166).

These two volumes are revised and enlarged, as was Volume I, with some new information and many more illustrations. Unfortunately, some of the previous errors in the original edition have not been corrected.

But before a critique is made, it must be stressed that if any collector and dealer of United States material inquires about available literature, the Brookman 19th century books are the ones that should be first recommended. The errors and omissions, compared to the useful and accurate information, are few, and not too consequential to offset in the least the great overall value of this work.

Volume II

The August issue of Scott numbers 55 to 62 receive insufficient treatment in the book. A statement that "their market value has taken a tremendous drop" is corrected in Volume III. In the 1968 Scott Catalogue, the price of the 1c (No. 55) is raised from $4,500. to $6,000. and the 12c (No. 59) from $16,000. to $20,000. Regardless of what the author thinks of them, they are collected as rare and valuable stamps.

As in Volume I, unused stamps, color shades and blocks are somewhat neglected, whereas used stamps and covers are illustrated and written about in detail. In the regular issue of 1861, there is a 2c Black Jack with a "Steamer 10" cancellation illustrated. This certainly is a questionable item, and some of the covers with this cancellation are not entirely above suspicion.

The grilled issues are exhaustively written about in 12 chapters — perhaps more than they deserve; but they are difficult stamps. Mr. Brookman is an authority on them, so that it is well that they are discussed in depth. In contrast, the very popular and very interesting 1869 issues occupy only one chapter. More U. S. specialists are interested in these than the grilled stamps.

Volume III

In this Volume, again unused stamps are not written about in depth. The Columbian 4c blue "error of color" (Scott No. 233a) repeats what was written in the original edition, i. e. "one error pane was found by J. V. Painter of Cleveland, Ohio." There certainly were more than this one — several used copies not with identifiable Cleveland cancellations are known. A plate number and imprint strip of four is known with the number "D18" as well as the strip with the "D17" noted. Therefore, at least two sheets of 100 did exist (200 copies). Several unused blocks are known in addition to the ones mentioned in this book.

The re-issues and special printings are all grouped and written about in one chapter (VIII). The author suggests that they should be separated and listed by themselves rather than by issues. Some do not collect them at all, but others do. Most collectors, who specialize in United States issues, want the re-issues and special printings. This reviewer believes that they should be

catalogued as they are now. The 1861, 1869 and some of the Banknotes are known used (much scarcer than unused) and on cover, also in unused blocks: all should have been noted. Also, the 2c and 10c 1861 re-issues, which were printed from new plates, can be positively identified by plate marks. Possibly this, too, applies to the 1c, 5c and 12c as well, because they were printed from new plates.

Despite some errors and omissions as mentioned above in these three volumes, they are by far the best and most useful books on 19th Century United States stamps. A tremendous amount of work and study is printed here for all to learn from their study and use. The author has made a great contribution by compiling all this information. If you are interested in United States stamps, these books are recommended. *(E.D.C.)*

The Postage Stamps of Great Britain. Part One. The Imperforate Line-Engraved Issues by J. B. Seymour and Clive Gardiner-Hill. Third Edition. 336 pages (5½" x 8½"). Photo and line illustrations. Published by and obtainable from The Royal Philatelic Society, London, 41 Devonshire Place, London, W.1, England. Price 50/- ($7. U. S.); de luxe edition 65/- ($9.10 U. S.). Postage extra.

Edited by the late John Easton, this is a third edition of Part One of the classic textbook by J. B. Seymour which first appeared in 1934. It has been a "must" for every serious student of Great Britain's first stamps ever since. Its contents are limited to an introduction of the line-engraved issues and material on the imperforate one penny and two pence stamps.

The first edition was based on the German "Kohl Briefmarken Handbuch," which appeared serially, beginning in 1923, in German, with Dr. Herbert Munk as editor. Mr. Seymour supplied the information for the Great Britain section and helped in its preparation.

Our own Collectors Club acquired the English translation rights to the "Kohl Handbuch"; sections appeared in the COLLECTORS CLUB PHILATELIST. The portion dealing with Great Britain, however, was considered to be of such importance that The Royal Philatelic Society, London, was offered and accepted the rights for the English edition, and Mr. Seymour provided much new material.

Owners of earlier editions will be interested to know that there are now 678 new illustrations prepared by A. R. Butler. Also new to this edition are reproductions of six of the Wright and Creeke plate and paper diagrams which are not now generally available to collectors. They are contained on three treble-page sized, double-sided sheets and are pull-out diagrams of the 1d Die I, State I; Dies I and II, State V; 2d Die I, State III; Die II, State V; 1½d Die II, State II; and ½d State I.

Since the second edition, Dr. Gardiner-Hill has completed his study of the penny red imperforate. Most of the increase in the size of the new book over the second edition reflects the results of his studies. As an example, the discussion of Plates 46 to 175 covers 34 pages in the second edition, but has now been increased to 119. In the second edition less than three pages were devoted to the Alphabet II stamps which are found on Plates 132 to 175, inclusive. In the new edition, 40 pages are devoted to this subject.

This book has twenty chapters. The first six contain a discussion of the pre-adhesive period, the post office reform, the production of the line-engraved stamps, postal rates and cancellations during the period 1840-1880. There are twelve chapters on the One Penny, separating them into logical study divisions, covering quite thoroughly plates 1 to 175. Separate chapters discuss the 1840 Two Pence blue (Plates 1 and 2) and the second issue which first appeared in 1841 (Plates 3 and 4).

The "List of Varieties" which was appended to the two earlier editions has been omitted, probably for economic reasons. This was a handy means of checking many stamps; its elimination is regrettable. The Publications Committee of the Royal Philatelic Society, London, suggests that most of these can be checked in Stanton's "Varieties and Characteristics of the 1d Red," which is true. Unfortunately, readers will have to have access to both books, and many do not possess the latter.

This book is a desirable and worthwhile tool for everyone interested in the imperforate stamps of Great Britain. Not intended to be all-inclusive, it is, nevertheless, an excellent supplement to the basic works and catalogues on the subject. It is worth owning and is highly recommended. *(Wallace W. Knox)*

Stamps of Italy Used Abroad, Part Five; Dodecanese: Rhodes. 78 pages. By S. D. Tchilinghirian and Rag. R. Bernardelli. Harris Publications Ltd., London 1967. Price $6.00.

This section, the last published before Mr. Tchilinghirian's untimely death last July, maintains the high standard of its predecessors. As has been the practice in previous sections, the postal history of Rhodes under the Ottomans and its foreign post offices — French, Russian, and Egyptian (those of Austria are treated in the companion series "Austrian Post Offices Abroad") is outlined. The cancellations of the pre-Italian period are described and priced. The Italian offices, both military and civilian are given lengthy treatment; their markings, over 100 for Rhodes Town alone, are illustrated and priced. The short-lived (1943-45) German Military Post is explained, as well as the period of British Military Occupation. Lastly, the Greek Military Occupation Post is discussed and priced.

Other Italian post offices on the island are treated in a similar manner. The extreme scarcity of many of their markings becomes readily apparent, partially because of their small size and, in part, because their inhabitants many times utilized the offices of Rhodes Town in preference to them, especially in the case of registered mail. In the case of a considerable number, no examples of their markings have been reported, although Italian offices are known to have existed.

This volume contains an excellent map of the Isle of Rhodes, and gives a brief history of Rhodes Town and information on each of the smaller towns and villages. One can only hope that the series will be continued under the capable Signor Bernardelli and past collaborators as a memorial to our fellow Collectors Club member, Simon Tchilinghirian, a tireless, first-rate philatelic student whose loss will be more and more felt as time passes. *(Gordon H. Torrey)*

The First Decimal Issue of Canada 1859-68 by Geoffrey Whitworth, Published by The Royal Philatelic Society, London, 96 pages, edition limited to 1,500 copies. Price 40/- ($6 U. S.).

Geoffrey Whitworth has written the most exhaustive study of the cents stamp issue of Canada. Collectors now and in the future should be thankful that the stamp collecting fraternity has such research students. It is a labour of love, because you could not purchase the hours put into this work for the small price asked.

The contents are divided into twelve parts as originally printed in "The London Philatelist." Everything is dealt with chronologically such as production, coloring, proofs, plate features, postal rates, and finally, forgeries. Quite

logically, a copious amount is written on the five cent "Beaver" and its plate flaws and re-entries. To make his work almost complete, the author should have included a section on perforations and also photos of the major rarities on cover. The detailed work on plating is extraordinary. *(John H. M. Young)*

Scott's Standard Postage Stamp Catalogue, Vol. II. Published by Scott Publications, Inc. 461 Eighth Avenue., New York, N. Y., 1001. 1367 pages, illustrated. Price $8.50. Combined edition, Vols. I and II bound together, $13.50.

In this centennial year, the 1968 Scott Standard Catalogue, Vol. II, has glanced back in five countries (Somalia, Angola, Aegean Islands, Russia and Albania) and added a few older issues, including two air mail items.

It also provides 35,000 price changes and the increment of 3,090 new issue listings of the preceding year for the nations of Europe, Africa, and Asia and their colonies.

A new member of the editorial staff for Vol. II is Paul Morgoulis, the internationally known professional, whose skill and experience are reflected in the pricing. *(H.D.S.H.)*

Scott's United States Specialized Catalogue. Published by Scott Publications, 461 Eighth Ave., New York, N. Y. 1001. 693 pages, Illustrated. Price $5.00.

More price changes than ever before, 18,548, have been packed into the 45th edition of Scott's specialized catalogue of United States stamps. Price increases in the regular postage section, totalling 8,149, stand out particularly in the blocks of four, all re-issues and special printings of the 1857-80 issues, blocks of the re-issues of 1861-62, the "Z" grills, inverted centers, and plate number blocks of practically all stamps from 1890 to 1926. Almost all of the earlies have advanced. *(H.D.S.H.)*

Müller Catalogue of Switzerland and Liechtenstein. 37th Edition. 308 pages, Illustrated. Edited by Urs Peter Kaufmann. Published by Basler-Taube Verlag AG. Basel and Hamburg. Price Sw.Fr.8 ($2.00).

The Müller catalogue, awaited with great interest by collectors of Switzerland and Leichtenstein, appeared this year on September 1st.

The prices, as indicated in this catalogue, reflect the new and healthy market situation which will undoubtedly have a positive influence on auction realizations here and abroad.

An important enlargement of the text comprises a description of additional varieties that are considered worthy of collecting.

This catalogue continues, as before, to be the best in its field, in this reviewer's opinion. *(H.D.S.H.)*

Zumstein Catalogue on European Stamps, 1968, 51st edition. 1,112 pages, Illustrated. Published by Zumstein and Co., Marktgasse 50, Bern, Switzerland. On sale in the United States at Helvetic Stamp Co., Box 314, Wall St. Sta., New York, N. Y. 10005. Price $9.00. With Thumb Index, $10.00.

This catalogue covers all the stamps of Europe, European post offices abroad and former German Colonies, and Cyprus complete.

Looking through the new edition, it becomes evident that the publishers have once again done a fine job and given the subject a most thorough treatment, to bring it in line with the latest market conditions. *(H.D.S.H.)*

Kottelat Catalogue, 1968. Switzerland and Liechtenstein. Spiral bound. 233 pages, Illustrated. Published by Kottelat and Co., Spitalgasse 29 Bern, Switzerland. Price Sw.Fr.3.00 (Approx. $0.75).

This is a workmanlike catalogue of the stamps of Switzerland and Liechtenstein. The text is in both French and German. The pricing is in line with the current European market prices. There is sufficient information to enable one to form a reasonably complete collection. While this impresses us as a passable catalogue, it is not quite complete enough to warrant being called a completely satisfactory one for an advanced specialist. *(H.D.S.H.)*

Catalogo Neto España, Correos y Telegrafos. Prepared by José A. Vicenti. 120 pages Illustrated. Obtainable from El Centro Filatelico, Carlos Lenze, Calle del Barquillo, Madrid-4, Spain. Price 20 Pesetas ($0.40).

This catalogue appears to be a straightforward listing of the postal and telegraph stamps of Spain. It contains the bare essentials of information regarding the separate listings. Its format is small enough so that it may be carried in the pocket as a checklist, which is probably its best use. *(H.D.S.H.)*

Berck Catalogue, 1968. 26th. Edition. Specialized catalogue of France and Colonies, including Andorra. 313 pages, Illustrated. Published by Ed. Berck, 6, Place de la Madeleine, Paris. Obtainable in the United States from HJMR Co., P.O. Box 2368, Miami Beach, Fla., 33140. Price $1.50.

This catalogue is primarily a firm pricelist put out by the Parisian stamp dealer Ed. Berck. It is not arranged in chronological order but rather by designs. Philatelic knowledge and information is at a minimum. As an example, we refer to page 211. The illustration of the Oran type of the R.F. Overprint on the 6 cent U. S. air mail stamp is a counterfeit. It may also be noted that the genuine R.F. overprints only exist on covers to America sent by French Navy personnel from North Africa during World War II. Those applied to unused stamps are invariably counterfeit. This catalogue prices R.F. overprints *unused*. This should be enough of an indication of the usefulness of this catalogue. *(H.D.S.H.)*

The Library Committee reports the acquisition of the following:

The Private Local Posts of the United States, Volume I, New York State, by Donald Scott Patton. Published by Robson Lowe Ltd., London, England. 1967. 350 pages. Illustrated. Clothbound. Courtesy of the publisher.

The Philatelic History of Trinidad to 1862 by John B. Marriott, F.R.P.S.L. Published by The British West Indies Study Circle. 1963. 65 pages. Illustrated. Ring binder. Paper cover. Gift of the author.

The Postmarks of Haidarabad, edited and published by Muhammad Ashraf, Hyderabad, India. 1967. 82 pages. Illustrated. Paperbound. Gift of the author.

Haiti 1881-1906 by Nils Farnstrom. Published by Sveriges Filatelist-Forbund. 1967. 44 pages. Illustrated. Swedish text. Paperbound. Gift of the author.

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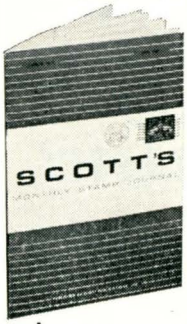
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