THE COLLECTORS CLUB

PHILATELIST

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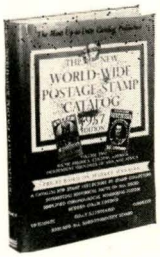


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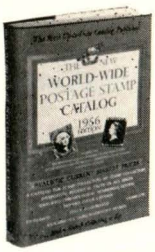


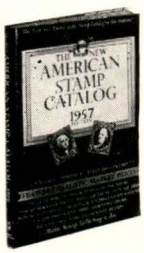
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Editorials

The Stamp's The Thing

Those, who have had the opportunity and privilege to participate in international philatelic activities, come away with many lasting impressions. Among these, the first and foremost is a realization that leading philatelists from every corner of the world independently agree that the keystone of philately is the postage stamp.

Philately, like many other things, will periodically undergo changes. This is not to be deplored. It is rather a most healthy sign of progress. Philately in recent times has broadened beyond the stage of the collecting and study of the postage stamp itself. History has entered into philately, adding a most worth-while factor. Postal history, whether or not pre-stamp, has given to philately a most humanizing touch. Most every leading philatelist in the world holds the highest respect for history. It is a great intellectual pursuit. Yet it must hold its proper place in philately, never growing to the stature that it overshadows the postage stamp.

Design and art work also have come to bear a role in philately. These too have broadened our hobby opening avenues of pleasant collecting pursuits to thousands. Yet iconography has its limitations in philately. A stamp collectors club in any part of the world should never become an art museum. It is laudable for collectors to strive to display their stamps more artistically and pay more attention to the stamp's design. This too humanizes philately.

There is no dogmatic statement herein and let no reader interject any dictum as to how one should collect. Rather this is a report upon a factual observation. The unanimous views of leading collectors from America, Europe, Asia, Africa and Australia is that the stamp is *the star*. All other manners of collecting are in the cast of the play "Philately", but they are the supporting players. It is true that on occasions there may be conflicts. Often a supporting player will strive to have a larger and more important part. Yet there is only one "star", the postage stamp. Consequently if one of the leading players in philately seem to be rebuffed, it is simply because the producers and directors see that an expanding role of the supporting actors is detracting from the star's role. Thus when postal history, postmarks or iconography tend to replace the postage stamp, action must be taken to prevent this. It is no reactionary move nor a diehard stand of a small group of traditionalists.

If one moves among the leading philatelists, amateur or professional, he will discover for himself that it is every one's firm conviction that in stamp collecting the hard core has been and will continue to be the stamp.

The Pursuit of Stamp Collecting Versus The Art of Philately

Those, who have spent considerable time with stamps, perceive two different approaches to what is synonymously called stamp collecting or philately. In actual practice, philately is more of an art. Stamp collecting is not. This situation may be discussed objectively disclosing factual matters that few seem to realize. These views are not snobbish. They do not deprecate stamp collecting nor elevate philately. They merely hold that these are two basically different aspects to the same pursuit.

Stamp collecting is the pleasure of gathering postage stamps or related material. It is a fact that the great majority, in what is commonly called philately, simply collect stamps. The popular current preferences include the most recent United States issues, preferably in plate number blocks, first day covers of these new stamps with printed cachets or slogan cancels, exhibition seals and foreign mixtures.

Proof for this current popularity in stamp collecting is found in the advertising matter of America's popular stamp papers. Most advertising space is devoted to printed cacheted envelopes for the latest U. S. stamps. Next come ads for these same stamps in blocks with or without plate numbers or in full sheets, followed by offerings of foreign new issues. One finds much advertising of a variety packet ranging from 200 to 10,000 different kinds from various countries, along with low-priced approvals.

If one seeks further proof of what is currently popular in stamp collecting, he will find it also in the text of the stamp papers. The feature and front page news is devoted almost exclusively to new issues, new cachets, slogan cancellations and first day covers. Of course, the new issues of the United States predominate. But United Nations and foreign stamps also receive full treatment. All such material is in ample supply with the stamp dealers so that prices and price lists, easily compiled, are readily available.

However, the philatelist's approach to collecting is radically different. Material is assembled primarily for its cultural value. One seeks a scarce cancellation, a valuable cover or an unusual multiple piece. Philately is beyond the stage of one-of-a-kind. Popularity is not the compelling motive to collect. A philatelist is inclined to set his own standards of what he wishes to collect. Thus, in practice, philately is more like an art. So all the philatelic material cannot be catalog-priced. In fact, it is practically impossible to give a reasonably accurate indication of what a philatelist is willing to spend for certain stamps or covers. A scarce postal marking or fancy cancellation may be worth ten times an ordinary marking. An unusual cover for various reasons may seem reasonable to philatelists at 100 times catalog value. The price of a multiple piece is not determined at three or four times that of a single copy. Who knows how high a philatelist will go to acquire a rare pair or block of a stamp that catalogs a few dollars?

One need not be a philatelic writer or expert to be considered a philatelist. One may be a collector simply pursuing the art of philately. Often we refer to such philatelists as connoisseurs. They have a taste for the finest philatelic material. Their collecting ways have become an art.

If one adds science to the art of philately, he comes upon the relatively small circle of philatelic scholars. They collect stamps and philatelic material where little information is known. This engenders a desire to supply the missing data. Consequently, material will be collected with this in mind. Its purchase price is determined by the individual seeking it. It is impossible to set a realistic price valuation of stamps or covers essential to the philatelic student.

If there is a message to this editorial, it is a plea to be realistic, to see that stamp collecting and philately are not in conflict with each other, or that the stamp collector is inferior to the philatelist. Serious philatelists frequently have become so burdened with their problems that they must put them aside for an interval. Often during this interruption the pleasure of stamp collecting will supply the necessary relaxation. Simple stamp collecting for a while will prove so restful that a philatelist can return to his art or science refreshed and clear in mind. Too few realize that many of our most scholarly philatelists also collect stamps.

It is harmful to place stamp collecting in conflict with philately. It tends to divide,

setting one group against another. The art and science of philately without doubt is on a higher plane. Yet this does not justify a feeling of superiority. A philatelist holding such views is harming himself because from the ranks of thousands of stamp collectors came the practitioners of the art of philately.

Nor should a stamp collector feel inferior. In actual practice, we have seen many a collector slowly turning towards the art of philately. This transition period is extremely difficult. Many do not realize they are entering into it, nor have they begun to visualize the length and breadth of philately. Encouragement from the more experienced is essential during this stage.

The art of philately cannot be measured always in dollars and cents. It defies definition and exposition in print. But it certainly offers all, who practice it, a lifetime of pleasure and stimulation. Those enjoying it today must realize that the others, who will turn to this art, must come from the ranks of stamp collecting. Otherwise philately will be a small, exclusive club of old men or young men with old ideas that will never flourish nor flower into the status it deserves. If anything nettles us, it is hearing budding philatelists speak about their stamp collecting activities with an inferiority complex. And it is equally unsettling to see an advanced philatelist go strutting about feeling superior to most of the others with whom he comes in contact.

Let us all work to have stamp collecting and philately a union where individuals can pursue their own collecting preferences in harmony and understanding. Encouragement from above often can mean helpful criticism, sympathetically pointing out to the less experienced the most enduring and pleasant philatelic roads. The less experienced will make mistakes. The danger lies not in pointing this out to them, but how it is done. Be it a hobby or an avocation, philately and stamp collecting can be most enjoyable.

Philately's Unsung Heroes

An exception is being made in these editorial columns by specific mention of a name. This has been done not to embarrass either Mr. Charles Lott or anyone else, but only to forcibly bring forth a topic that long has been due for a discussion. We would venture the opinion that the minority of all the collectors in America could answer—"yes, I know or knew of Mr. Lott". Let's turn back the clock for a few years.

An enormous undertaking like FIPEX is planned years in advance. At least one year before the exhibition is opened, a small office force is assembled to start the actual work. Usually this consists of a paid secretary and a few volunteers. With FIPEX, it was practically one. Starting in 1955 for a full-time workday from 9 a. m. to 5 p. m., Mr. Lott came into the Association For Stamp Exhibitions' office regularly every week. As the start of FIPEX neared, his work schedule was voluntarily extended, so that he worked many a night until midnight. Mr. Lott is a retired businessman from upstate New York, who has settled in New Jersey. He is not young.

Now all of us have read much about FIPEX in the stamp papers and journals all over the world. Often many names are mentioned. But never Mr. Lott's, who told us he had given more than 1500 hours of voluntary service to FIPEX. To our knowledge, no testimonial dinner has been given to him. He truly is one of philately's "unknown soldiers". And there are others.

Philately's sources of news seem to be responsible for this failing. In many endeavors, our best workers remain unknown, while others, whose accomplishments are not as great, get all the publicity. We believe that a great change is in order.

From personal experiences, we know most of the leading philatelic experts. The most respected experts are those seldom mentioned. Many publicized experts do not deserve this title. They know people, who collect stamps, but *not* stamps.

Philately's best authorities, authors, scholars, and workers remain unknown names to most collectors. A great scholar usually is modest. The braggarts seek and receive the publicity. It is a sad situation, but it could be changed.

Our news mediums are at fault. Too many stamp newspapers play favorites. The editors and publishers have their pets, and they use space to plug them upon every occasion.

So our hat is off to "the Charley Lotts", who have served philately long and well in complete anonymity, but never uttering one word of complaint. They keep on giving their services, while others are taking the bows and gloating over their pictures in the papers. If you like to see justice prevail, as we do, then work with us to see that the services of the dedicated philatelists become known and are appreciated. Philately will be much better off when this transpires.

Highly Exaggerated

Too many are going overboard in their efforts to describe the universal appeal of stamp collecting. First of all, these columns previously have challenged the well-publicized sum of 10 or 12 million stamp collectors in this country as grossly inflated. We do not believe there are a million collectors. Now many write that stamp collecting is "big business", which also is untrue.

The term "big business" never has been defined. There is a committee in the U. S. Senate for "small business". But even its chairman, when interviewed on television, could not define exactly the line of demarcation between "big" and "small" business. However, assuming that the annual sales of stamps for collectors in America runs into several million dollars, this on a comparative industrial basis is far from big. One automobile company does over several billion dollars sales annually. So does a leading petroleum company, telephone and a chemical concern. Taking industries like automobiles, chemicals, steel, petroleum, electronics or even amusement, stamp collecting's annual sales total only a small fraction of the yearly volume of the aforementioned industries. One can be sure that a statistical listing of all industries in this country would show stamp collecting in the lowest part of such a list.

It must be admitted that the constant use of the term "big business" involves potential harm. A true "big business" often comes under government investigation and perhaps supervision. No stamp collector or dealer wants this ever to happen.

So let us be content with the prosperous state of stamp collecting as it now operates. But let us not fool others or ourselves that it is "big business." Nothing is to be gained by this. More emphasis upon the charm, educational, or cultural value of stamp collecting is far better than the untrue bragging some are prone to do.

Obituary

Richard S. Bohn 1893-1956

Richard S. Bohn died on September 22, 1956 after an illness of several months. As far as his philatelic career was concerned, his rise was meteoric. Up to the time of CIPEX in 1947, he was little known. In 1956 he was the head of FIPEX.

"Dick" Bohn was one of the organizers of *Aero-Philatelists,* a specialty group of air mail stamp collectors. His drive and dynamic salesmanship were soon recognized by philatelic leaders. So it was shortly after CIPEX when he was appointed a governor of this Club.

In 1948 he was elected President of The Collectors Club and served in this capacity through 1950. "Dick" Bohn met a number of post-war problems facing this Club with a true businessman approach. He often said he was a businessman first, and then a stamp collector. He declined the title "philatelist," claiming this was for the more serious collectors.

The editor of this magazine and its Editorial Committee look back to Mr. Bohn's time of presidency as that when he chose us to take over. We had become well acquainted during the first years of *Aero-Philatelists.* It was primarily "Dick" Bohn, who suggested that the editor of *Aero-Philatelists,* would make an acceptable editor of THE COLLECTORS CLUB PHILATELIST.

After his presidency, Mr. Bohn remained active on The Board of Governors. In 1953 he was chosen to be one of the three Collectors Club Trustees, retaining both positions up to the time of his death.

With a solid reputation now established, Richard S. Bohn was elected President of *The Association of Stamp Exhibitions* in 1954. Then he became the one in charge of the mammoth 1956 International Philatelic Exhibition (FIPEX). Shortly after this be-

(Continued on Page 370.)

CORRIENTES

The Issues from 1856-1880

By LOUIS STICH

INTRODUCTION

How does one go about choosing a philatelic specialty? The usual way, according to what one reads, is to select one field out of general philately that has a personal appeal above all the others. If this is the general rule, then the manner in which Corrientes became my chief specialty is an exception—because this is what happened.

About thirty years ago, while living in Europe, I had the occasion to visit in Berlin, Germany. Being interested in stamps, it was not surprising to find myself attending a stamp auction that was taking place during my stay. Inspecting the material to be auctioned, I saw three lots of covers which were franked with perhaps the ugliest stamps I had ever seen.

LOUIS STICH is another instance of a serious student of philately, who began collecting stamps as a young boy. He is an artist by trade, a profession from which philately and this magazine often benefits. The new cover and designs of THE COLLECTORS CLUB PHILATELIST introduced with the March, 1956 number were the creations of Mr. Stich, to which he had freely given many hours of work and thought.

His Corrientes collection, which was used for the basis of this research, is perhaps his favorite. He has frequently exhibited portions of it in major international and national philatelic exhibitions. This collection has gained top awards in the New York 1947 and 1956 International Exhibitions, as well as the Grand Award in The Collectors Club competition in 1953.

However, Mr. Stich's philatelic interests are very broad. He has specialized in the first issues of Austria and Lombardy-Venetia, the Trident issues of Ukraine, German Occupation Issues of World War I and Poland Local stamps. He has studied the first issues of many South American countries thoroughly, and has garnered an excellent knowledge of them. Consequently, a few years back he was invited to become a member of the *Expert Committee of the Philatelic Foundation,* New York, N. Y.

Mr. Stich's close friends know him as a gentleman of great culture with a wide knowledge of arts, old silver, medals, photography, old guns and antiques. In his younger days, he was an accomplished athlete, being among others an expert skier. Now his best outdoor activity is his garden in his summer home on Long Island. He has hopes that the love of stamps will be carried on in his family, because three of his grandchildren, aged 14, 12 and 9 respectively are actively collecting stamps.

Although Mr. Stich has written a few shorter articles for this magazine, these being a write-up of the Club's Regular Meetings when devoted to specialties well-known to him, this Corrientes research article marks his first work as a serious philatelic author. The stamps of Corrientes, because of a limited general interest, have long been neglected. It is with pride that THE COLLECTORS CLUB PHILATELIST presents this series of articles on the stamps of Corrientes, believing that the knowledge recorded will stand for a very long time as *the* authoritative article on the comparatively unknown issues of this South American Province.

Really, I cannot recall what made me buy these lots. But I did! If some reason must be found for the purchase, it might be attributed to my fascination with the complete absence of beauty or technical skill connected with these stamps. It must have been for this reason, because the stamps were not sold cheaply, nor were they contemplated as additions to an already existing collection. I did not own one stamp from Corrientes. As far as I was concerned, this was an unknown South American country.

Many other philatelists probably have been in the same situation. When attending an auction, one starts bidding, keeps on going higher, until suddenly one finds oneself the owner of something he does not actually want or need. As for me, now I had these lots, and I found myself wondering about the exact location of Corrientes, its postal history, and other pertinent details.

It did not take too long for me to learn that Corrientes was a Province of Argentine, or that Corrientes was the first Province to issue stamps in the Argentine and was then followed by stamps from two other Argentine Provinces. Buenos Aires and Cordoba both in 1858. These findings were accompanied by pangs of disappointment, because examination of a number of stamp catalogues showed that Corrientes had issued only eight stamps in its entire history! Certainly this did not seem like a glowing prospect even when envisioning an interesting field of specialization.

But this original purchase at a Berlin auction of several Corrientes stamps started a chain of events, which has turned out to be more than something of just casual interest. It did not take me too long to ascertain that the Province of Corrientes was not like other stamp issuing countries. My first attempts at procuring more stamps were completely fruitless; the stamps were just not available. And the same proved true about philatelic literature relating to Corrientes. Articles about these stamps were conspicuous by their absence in philatelic journals; and, for that matter, it has not changed much since 1920. However, fortune favored me. Within time I acquired both some stamps and notes from the holdings of Dr. Jose Marco Del Pont, well-known in the philatelic world for his writings on the stamps of numerous South American countries.

Patience and perseverance over the years has paid off. The three lots originally bought in Berlin plus the Marco Del Pont additions were rounded out by numerous items procured later from such famous collections as the Earl of Crawford, Ferrari, Lee, La Tours, Lagerloef, Gilbert, and others. What follows is the result of the study and research of my final collection as it now exists. In virtually all instances, the opinions expressed are based upon my analysis and study of actual stamps, sheets, covers and other material contained in the collection. My findings may not always agree with many of the previous statements that have appeared in the philatelic press. My conflicting expressions of opinion are not necessarily presented as contradictions of the past statements of others, but rather the opinions in this article are offered as my own conclusions, which are corroborated by philatelic evidence in my possession.

GEOGRAPHICAL BACKGROUND

Corrientes (meaning "currents or rapids" in Spanish) is one of the Provinces of the Argentine Republic. Its area is about 34,500 square miles with a population of about 500,000. It is bounded on the north by Paraguay; on the south by the Province of Entre Rios; on the west by the territory of the Chaco and the Province of Sante Fe; and on the east by Brazil and Uruguay.

The boundary lines are the Parana River on the west and north, the Uruguay River on the east, the small Saranai and Gomez Rivers on the south. The Province of Corrientes is located in the northern part of the Republic of Argentine, specifically between 27 and 31 South latitudes, and 56 and 60 West longitudes.

The capital of the Province of Corrientes is located in the extreme northwest corner. It was founded in 1588 by Tores de Vera, who called it San Juan de Vera de las Siete Corrientes ("seven currents"), after the seven rapids in the river just above the town.

ORIGIN OF THE STAMPS OF CORRIENTES

The story of the origin of the stamps of Corrientes has often been recorded, but unfortunately with each re-telling, more fiction seems to replace the original facts. My



Fig. 1. The Plate after 24 years of service in its last state.

studies lead me to believe that the original version, told about 50 years ago by Dr. Jose Marco Del Pont, is historically the correct one. Having been a native of South America for many years, as well as an astute philatelist, educated, widely travelled, and an affluent person with a host of friends and acquaintances in almost all parts of the continent, it is reasonable to accept the statement that Dr. Marco Del Pont received his information first-hand from a prominent citizen of Corrientes, who personally had participated in the actual production of the stamps.

The monetary system of the existent Argentine Confederation was, to say the least, very confusing. National coinage might be said to have been non-existent, because the small quantities struck at the mints of La Rioja and Cordoba were hardly worth taking into account.

The Province of Corrientes had its own paper money in denominations of one or more Real (MC), meaning (M)oneda (C)orrientes. Un Real also had a value of 12½ centavos fuerte, ("fuerte" meaning "approximate"). Eight Reales was the equivalent of one Dollar, also a denomination of paper money. Thus, one Dollar was the equivalent of 100 centavos fuerte.

The issuance of the stamps in Corrientes was due to a need for small denomination coinage. It appears that in 1856 an acute shortage of paper money in denominations lower than One Dollar, that is 8 Reales, developed. Although it has not been so stated, it is reasonable to assume that, what may have been a problem for some time, became much more severe early in 1856, because it was in February of that year that the Assembly had passed a decree permitting charges for the carrying of the mail. (See Postal Regulations in Appendix 1.) Although it will be described in detail later, the fee for mail carrier service was set in different amounts starting with Un Real. In the beginning of 1856, the mail service did not provide for the issuance or usage of stamps. It was simply a matter of calculating the stipulated fee for mail services according to the weight of the letter. This will be described in far greater detail later on.

Small denomination monetary exchange had been a problem. It had become a practice to handle transactions that amounted to less than One Dollar by the use of "pieces of silver" dating back to the time of the Spaniards. But even the available supply of these fell far short of the need, and the whole system became a great inconvenience. To make the situation more complicated, the Provincial Post Office found itself with further prob-

lems when attempting to provide for the newly conceived mail conveyance fee.

The State Printing Bureau, where the paper money normally was printed, was under the direction of Mr. Paul Emile Coni. After due deliberation, Mr. Coni came to the conclusion that a very practical way of solving the small denomination money shortage throughout the Province, while at the same time implementing the new postal regulation of the Provincial Post Office, was to issue postage stamps. This would serve a dual purpose: 1)—It would make make available a supply of adhesives indicating the prepayment of postage for mail carriage. 2)—The stamps would serve as small change. This seemed a more effective method than only printing small denomination paper money.

Mr. Coni took his idea to Mr. Jean Pujol, then the Governor of the Province, whose acceptance was immediate. Mr. Coni was given authority to have the stamps prepared. This was simpler said than done, because it was then discovered that Corrientes did not have an engraver capable of creating a plate or die for the production of stamps. While in the throes of this dilemma, Mr. Coni had occasion to air his problems within the hearing of a baker's errand boy, who was delivering bread to his home. To Mr. Coni's great surprise and joy, the young man stated that he was quite capable of producing the die. It seemed that this baker's lad had been apprenticed to an engraver while living in Italy, his native country, before coming to Corrientes.

It is not known why Mr. Coni had selected the Ceres head stamp of the French Republic (France No. 1) as his model. But he showed this French stamp to the young man, who assured Mr. Coni that he could make a satisfactory copy. The young man was given a copper plate with instructions to engrave eight copies upon it, each bearing the value of 1 Real. Thus the pane of eight stamps would have the total value of 1 Dollar, while each stamp could also be used as 1 Real or 12½ centavos fuerte for small change, or as postage adhesive for that denomination. The engraving was to be done in relief for printing by typography.

Several days later the young engraver delivered the results of his labors. The work was so extremely crude, and so far from being professional looking, that Mr. Coni could not summon enough courage to show it to the Governor. His premature boasting of a "find" made his dilemma even more difficult. But there was no way out. After several days of deliberation, he showed it to Mr. Pujol who strangely enough, completely overlooked the amateurish production. Instead he accepted the work immediately because it gave him the opportunity to supply the greatly needed postage stamps.

One of the highlights of all stories relating to the creation of stamps concerns the individual who engraved it. In the case of the stamps of Corrientes, the names of many, who were responsible for them, are known. Unfortunately, the name of the young man, who engraved the plate and whose work has lived on after him, remained unknown until 1939, when it was first mentioned in the book "Sellos Y Otros Valores Postales Y Telegraficos Argentinos" by Antonio Deluca. This name, forgotten for so many years, is *Matias Pipet.*

Although unrelated to our study of the stamps of Corrientes it is interesting to note that Mr. Coni, who played an important part in the production of the first Corrientes stamps, in 1862 moved to Buenos Aires where he established a printing plant. Possibly Mr. Coni's earlier experiences with the crude operations in Corrientes were responsible for the expansion of his business. The Coni concern exists today as one of Argentina's great printing establishments.

After the creation of a general postal system in the Republic of Argentina in 1862, the Province of Corrientes was notified then (as it was again in 1865) to stop the use of their provincial postal system and facilities, and adopt those of the Republic. But it seems these requests were not heeded, because Corrientes continued to use its own provisional facilities. Although for inter-provincial post, the stamps of the Republic had to be used together with those of the province.

It was not until September 11, 1880, when a decree by the authorities declared the provincial stamps of Corrientes invalid, that the Republic of Argentina erected its own post offices throughout the Province, and that Corrientes was forced to give up its own postal system and adopt that of the Republic.

CATALOGUE

The following is a complete tabulation, done according to a style that may be used in a specialized catalogue of all the stamps of Corrientes.

Year	*Month*	*No.*	*Denomination*	*Color*	*Setting*	*Group*
1856		1	Un Real M. C.	blue	1	1
		1A	Un Real M. C.	dull blue	1	1
		1B	Un Real M. C.	gray blue	1	1
		1C	Un Real M. C.	transparent paper	1	1
		1D	Un Real M. C.	bluish impression	1	1
Between 1856 and 1860 the first adjustment was made, type 5 is found ¾mm higher.						
Provisional Issue:						
1860	February	2	3 Cent. fuerte	blue	1	1
1860		3	3 Cent. fuerte	blue	2	2
		4	3 Cent. fuerte	blue	3	2
1864	January	5	5 Centavos	yellow green	3	1
1864	February 24	6	2 Centavos	green	3	1
1865		7	2 Centavos	blue green	3	1
1867		8	2 Centavos	yellow	3	1
		9	2 Centavos	lemon yellow	3	1
		10	2 Centavos	straw yellow	3	3
Issue of 1860 in temporary use again:						
1870		11	3 Cent. fuerte	blue	2 & 3	2
1871	January	12	3 Cent. fuerte	dark blue	3	3
		13	3 Cent. fuerte	dark blue	3	4
1874		14	3 Centavos	rose lilac	3	3 & 4
1874		15	3 Centavos	lilac rose	3	3
1875		16	3 Centavos	purple	3	3
1875		17	3 Centavos	salmon	3	3
1876		18	3 Centavos	rose	3	3 & 4
1876		19	3 Centavos	rose lilac	3	3
1876		19A	3 Centavos	bright rose lilac	3	3
1876		20	3 Centavos	crimson	3	3
1877 ?		21	3 Centavos	bright purple	3	3
1877		22	3 Centavos	lilac	3	4
1877		23	3 Centavos	maroon	3	4
1877		23A	3 Centavos	maroon shade	3	3
1878		24	3 Centavos	gray purple	3	3 & 4
1879		25	3 Centavos	lilac rose	3	3
1880		26	3 Centavos	deep purple	3	3
1880		27	3 Centavos	pale rose	4	3
1880		28	3 Centavos	rose lilac	4	3 & 4
1880		28A	3 Centavos	mauve	4	4 & 5



Fig. 2 TYPE 1

The two leaves in hair are more even and larger. Lower bar slanting upward.



Fig. 3 TYPE 2

Broken circle on left. Heavy white line in lower right.

MAKEUP OF THE PRINTING PLATE

The source of the following information about the makeup of the plate is in the main, attributed to Mr. W. Loescher, who was a resident of Corrientes for many years. He is alleged to have had the opportunty of first recording the information about the physical makeup of the original plate. "The Kohl Handbook" mentions Mr. W. Loescher as its source of its information.

The engravings were done individually on a copper plate, with eight engravings of the design in two rows of four (2 x 4). The work was crude, because the engraver's skill was limited. Moreover, since each design had been cut individually, no two were alike. Hence the eight engravings constitute eight "types", so that it is relatively simple to identify each, when the individual distinguishing characteristics become familiar. Differences between "types" are instantly recognized when two or more stamps are placed side by side for comparison purposes.

After the work of engraving was completed, the eight designs on the plate were cut apart. Judging by the appearance of the finished product, and from comments by Mr. W. Loescher, the type forms were re-arranged in two rows of four, each soldered to a brass plate. The plate was then attached to a wood block by means of screws in the following manner: in the top row between types 1 and 2, and between types 3 and 4; in the bottom row between types 5 and 6, and between types 7 and 8. One large screw was placed in the center, at a point corresponding to the intersection of a diagonal between types 2 and 7, and 3 and 6.

Considering the extensive use to which the plate was put, the soldering could have been done only along the side of the metal blocks. Unavoidable pressure placed upon the plate during printing, in addition to the fact that soldering was not a practical way of fastening the copper to the brass, caused the solder mounts to weaken. This in turn caused a successive shift in the exact location of the eight dies on the printing plate.

These difficulties gave rise frequently for strengthening the solder mounts. It was during these operations that the vertical and horizontal shifts of the printing surfaces to the brass plate occurred. More than likely after strain had weakened some of the solder-



Fig. 4. TYPE 3

Broken design on right. Three separate hair curls on right.



Fig. 5. TYPE 4

"Corrientes" larger lettering.

ing joints, the position of the individual dies was shifted slightly, to reline them. Then they had to be resoldered. It was these shifts in the position of the engravings, as well as the transposition of two engravings after they had broken off completely, which allow us to establish each of the settings. Each successive correction made upon the plate created a new setting. Thus over the years, *four* different settings can be distinguished.

As to the use of the printing plate (regardless of the settings or the specific positions of the types on the plate), it might be well to remark at this point that a printed sheet consisted of either three or four panes with eight stamps each. Whatever the arrangements of these panes on the printed sheet may have been, each remains the equivalent of one printing group. Over the period of 24 years of issuing stamps, *five* different printing groups were in use.

Summarizing the fundamental facts about the Corrientes stamps, we find that:

1. They consist of eight types with the same design created by the eight separate engravings.
2. The eight types when printed formed one pane. The layout of the eight stamps was two horizontal rows of four each. (2 x 4)
3. The location of one type in relation to another does not remain constant in the panes, thus making *four* settings of *eight* types.
4. A sheet of printed stamps consisted of either three or four panes. But the sequence followed in placing the impressions of the panes on the paper was not consistent, thus giving rise to five different printing groups of the panes, the key to which is téte-béche pairs.

Familiarity with the distinctive features of each type makes it possible to identify the location of an individual stamp in the pane of each setting. The characteristics found on an unsevered pair can lead to a more exact identification in the particular setting. Finally, having certain stamps in pairs, it is possible to identify the printing group.

TYPES

In order to clarify what is meant by "types" the following explanation is made:



Fig. 6. TYPE 5

Outer circle penetrating the panel of Corrientes. The leaves in back of hair are much longer.



Fig. 7. TYPE 6

Panel of Corrientes is broken. First "R" touching frame line.

1. The same design was used for all issues of Corrientes.
2. The variations between the stamps, which caused the different types, are due to the hand cutting of the eight engravings made for the plate.

The inexperienced engraver could not be expected to control his tools well enough to exactly duplicate the design eight times. Hence each engraving differs from all the others. France's first postage stamp, the design with the head of Ceres, was used as the model. But the eight copies cut by the baker's lad each show some great differences in the nose, head, chin, mouth, hair, wreath, the circle of pearls, which framed the head, and the border design. The differences between each type are numerous, easily seen by comparing one to another. Some of the differences are prominent, but many more are less easily seen. One need learn only the most important distinctive marks of each type. These are illustrated, as Figs. 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8 and 9.

Other identifying marks on the stamps came as a result of other causes, such as changes in denomination, damage due to mishandling, or improper care of the plates while in storage between printings.

THE SETTINGS

As for the settings, we have already accounted for their occurrence. Each setting is illustrated. Each occurred at a certain time in the printing sequence, and lasted for a particular period. The difference between settings is found in the location of the designs corresponding to the various types.

Changes in the monetary values and the colors occur throughout the years of the issues' production. Hence different values and colors appear in various settings. But they do not form our guide to the basis of the settings.

In order to understand our explanation of the settings, each is illustrated, sometimes in two different ways, othertimes by only one method. These are:

1.) by an illustrated drawing with grid lines which clearly indicates the shifts in the positions of the stamps on the brass plate for each setting.

2.) by a photograph of a complete pane of eight stamps as they were printed.



Fig. 8. TYPE 7

The left frame line is broken. Additional line in lower left panel. Hairdress shows two even lines in back.



Fig. 9. TYPE 8

Fat lettering in Corrientes. Broken frame line on left. Two additional lines in lower left panel.

The First Setting

The first setting is shown in Fig. 10. The numbers indicate the positions of the eight types as they appear on the printed pane. If we were numbering them as they actually were printed on the plate, the types would read from right to left in both rows. But for easy reference, the type positions are numbered as they are seen on the printed sheet, presumedly being the original sequence.

One can readily see that even in the very first setting the eight stamps are not properly aligned. For that matter even the physical dimensions of the printing surfaces are not uniform. The position of each of the eight types along the grid guide lines in the first setting is used as the standard. The later settings are always compared to the first one to clearly show both the direction and amount of shifting that took place during the various uses of the plate.

The first setting was used for two issues as shown in Table 1. The first issue was the Un Real M. C. of 1856. This was printed in black on blue wove paper. Because of the crude printing facilities then available, the impressions vary in clearness and intensity. The paper used also varies greatly coming in all sorts of shades.

This same setting was used for the Provisional Stamps of 1860, required because of a change in the postal rate. They differ from the first issue because of denomination, Un Real M. C., on the printed stamp was crossed out with a pen stroke. When so altered, the stamp now bore a value of 3 centa-

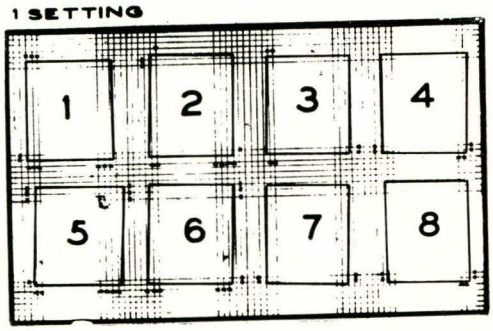


Fig. 10

vos fuerte. The total number of stamps so revalued is not known. But it is reasonable to assume that stamps that were then marked with the pen stroke were remnants of the first issue. Between 1856 and 1860 a minor change appeared in the first setting. The position of the type 5 stamp moved up about ¾ mm. This shift has been reported by the late Monsieur Gerard Gilbert of Paris, who later moved to New York, N. Y., where he died.

Table 1

First Setting

Year	*Value*	*Color*	*Printing Group*
1856	Un Real M. C.	blue and shades	1
1860	3 Centavos fuerte	blue	1



Fig. 12

The Second Setting

The second setting is diagrammed in Fig. 11, while Fig. 12 shows a pane with the eight types as it was printed. This setting was in use for several months during 1860, as shown in Table 2. While there is no record to substantiate our opinion, it is reasonable to assume that changing the denomination on a stamp by a pen stroke was not practical. Therefore, it was decided to eliminate the value tablet entirely. In the light of present-day printing practices, this seems inefficient. But that is how it had been done. The blue stamps without denomination had a value of 3 centavos fuerte.

Judging by material available to us, the value label seems to have been tooled out of the plate by hand while the dies were still attached to the brass plate. The removal of the value label was not complete, as traces of black ink marks often are found in the blank space.

As to the individual characteristics of the eight types in the second setting, a comparison of Fig. 11 and 12 shows that while the numerical sequence had been retained, the positions of the types 2, 5 and 6 were

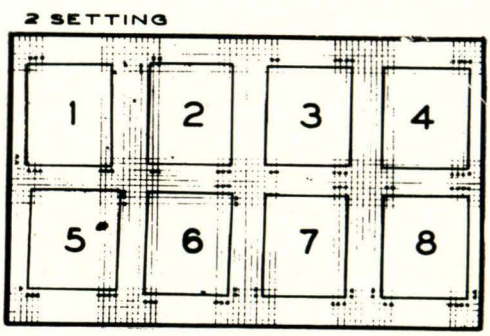


Fig. 11

changed. Type 2 was shifted slightly to the left, being reset so that it now is almost parallel with type 1. Type 5 and 6 also were moved slightly to the left. Both were changed to more upright positions being less tilted than in the first setting. While it is true that none of these changes in positions of the types are very conspicuous, the fact that the engravings themselves were subject to a modification at the same time affords us the reason to designate this setting as the second one.

Table 2

Second Setting

Year	*Value*	*Color*	*Printing Group*
1860	3 Centavos fuerte	blue	2

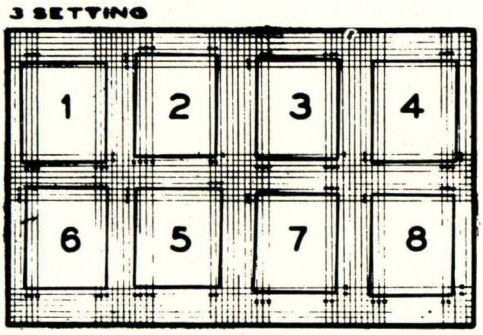


Fig. 13

The Third Setting

The third setting appeared later in 1860. (Thus the first, second and third settings saw use in 1860.) The drawing illustrating this setting is shown in Fig. 13. A printed pane of the eight types, as they appear in the third setting, is shown in Fig. 14. Of all the stamps printed in Corrientes during the life of this basic design, this third setting was used to the greatest extent for almost twenty years from 1860 to 1880. The stamps printed with this arrangement of types appeared in many colors; and with three denominations; 2 centavos, 3 centavos fuerte, and 5 centavos, respectively. Their complete listing is given in Table 3.

Comparison of Fig. 13 with Fig. 11 brings out several differences between the third and the second settings. One of these is easy to detect—namely the transposition of types 5 and 6. Type 5 is now where type 6 had been. This can be readily seen by examining the characteristics of each of these types. In addition, type 2 moved up, no longer being parallel with type 1. In fact, the positions of types 1 and 2 in the third setting are not duplicated in any other one.



Fig. 14

No one can definitely account for the transposition of types 5 and 6. But it is reasonable to assume that the soldered mounting may have given away completely, so that the engravings separated from the printing plate. They had to be resoldered, and obviously were not replaced in the same positions. As can be seen, the type 6 was placed in the space previously occupied by type 5. But the type 5 was replaced higher on the plate than the original position of the type 6, as plainly seen in Fig. 11.

Table 3.

Third Setting

Year	*Value*	*Color*	*Printing Group*
1860	3 Cent. fuerte	blue	2
1864	5 Centavos	yellow green	1
1864	2 Centavos	yellow green	1
1864	2 Centavos	green	1
1865	2 Centavos	blue green	1
1867	2 Centavos	yellow	1
1867	2 Centavos	lemon yellow	1
1867	2 Centavos	straw yellow	3
1870	3 Cent. fuerte	blue	2
1871	3 Cent. fuerte	dark blue	3 4
1874	3 Centavos	rose lilac	3 4
1874	3 Centavos	lilac rose	3
1875	3 Centavos	purple	3
1875	3 Centavos	salmon	3
1876	3 Centavos	rose	3 4
1876	3 Centavos	rose lilac	3
1876	3 Centavos	bright rose lilac	3
1876	3 Centavos	crimson	3
1877	3 Centavos	bright purple	3
1877	3 Centavos	gray purple	3
1877	3 Centavos	lilac	3
1877	3 Centavos	maroon	4
1879	3 Centavos	lilac rose	3 4
1880	3 Centavos	deep purple	3
1880	3 Centavos	pale rose	3 4

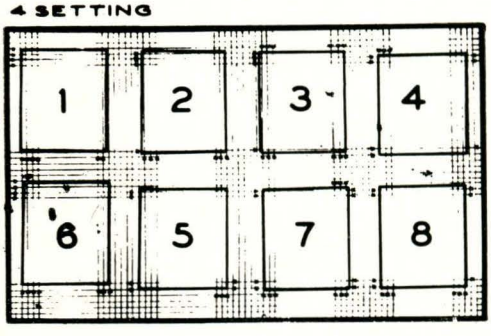


Fig. 15

The Fourth Setting

The fourth setting appeared sometime in April of 1880. It can be considered as coming from the last state of the plate. As shown in Figs. 15 and 16, types 5 and 6 still are transposed, while several others also have been shifted. Note that type 1 has moved up from where it was in the third setting, thus making the space between the bottom of type 1 and the top of type 6 much greater. The top borders of types 1 and 2 again are parallel, and the entire upper row of types is arranged in a descending order. Judging by the evidence presented in the material in my collection, the fourth setting was used for



Fig. 16

three printings: pale rose, rose lilac and a mauve, all having denominations of 3 centavos fuerte, but not bearing any value labels. The space for the denomination was left blank, just as in the case of all the other printings since the setting started in 1860. A complete listing of the use of the fourth setting is found in Table 4.

It is interesting, and very important, to note that all the reprints come from the fourth setting, thus contributing to a ready recognition of the reprint. Knowing that the reprints resemble the fourth setting and then studying this printing group, the identification of reprints is comparatively simple. This will be discussed in greater detail later.

Table 4
Fourth Setting

Year	*Value*	*Color*	*Printing Group*	
1880	3 Centavos	pale rose	3	4
1880	3 Centavos	mauve	4	5

THE PRINTING GROUPS

The printing groups play a very important part in the study of the stamps of Corrientes. The random manner in which the paper seems to have been fed into the press accounts for the number of printing groups.

One must realize that primitive printing facilities were available during the production of these stamps. The printing plate was made up of the eight individual engravings. So it would seem logical to assume that the printing was done on a very small hand press. To print one sheet of 32 stamps, it was necessary to insert and remove the sheet of paper into and from the press four different times. Each operation printed one pane of eight stamps. Also it was necessary to shift the position of the sheet before placing it in the press for each succeeding operation. To print a sheet with 24 stamps required the paper to be fed into the press and removed three times. Besides it was necessary to shift the paper into position twice more in order to have the second and third panes to go on the sheet. This is called a "work and turn" process.

It is not surprising that under such primitive conditions, the feeding of the paper into the press was not always the same operation. The work took place over a period of two years. Since the operator was working with a small hand press, we can assume that he would insert the paper either from the front, the rear or the sides; or he could possibly lock in the plate with the design normal or inverted relative, as we see it, to his own position. Several insertions of the paper being necessary to complete the printing of one sheet with three or four panes, the operator

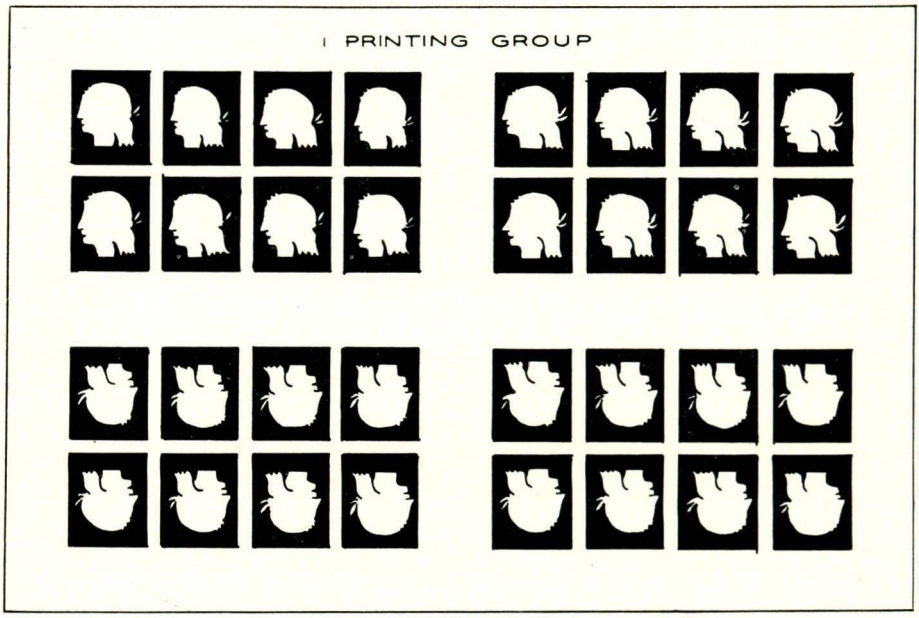


Fig. 17

conceivably could have turned the sheet to the right or to the left; or simply could have shifted the position without turning the sheet. It is this shifting and feeding the paper into the press from all manner of positions that definitely contributes to our knowledge of the groupings in which the stamps were printed. The creation of different tête-bêche pairs is the guide used by us to classify the following printing groups.

The First Printing Group

The first printing group (Fig. 17) shows clearly how the printing took place. There was no set plan of operation because the stamps were printed in four panes each with eight types. Each pane was impressed on the paper individually. It is not known whether the two top ones were printed in two successive operations, and then if the paper was reversed or if a top and a bottom pane followed each other in the printing sequence. Although it is not too important to have this information, the first explanation seems the more logical, if for no other reason that it would be the most practical, requiring less effort. We might mention that the spacing between the vertical and horizontal panes is not uniform.

Referring to Fig. 17, it is seen that the first printing group was formed as the sheets were fed into the press with the top panes normal and the bottom ones reversed, thus producing eight tête-bêche pairs of types. These types are determined by the settings as used in each printing group, which, in turn, is determined by the tête-bêche pairs.

For example, the first printing group was used for two settings, the first and the third. In the case of the first setting, the tête-bêche pairs are the types 5-8; 6-7; 7-6 and 8-5, being repeated twice on the sheet. In the third setting of the first printing group, the tête-bêche pairs are found in the types 6-8; 5-7; 5-7 and 8-6. This is clearly seen in the illustrations.

As to horizontal pairs with the gutter between, stamps in the first setting of the first printing group are types 4-1; 8-5; 5-8 and 1-4, while in the third setting of the first printing group they are types 4-1; 8-6; 6-8 and 1-4.

A complete listing of the use of the first printing group is found in Table 5.

Table 5

First Printing Group

Year	*Value*	*Color*	*Setting*
1856	Un Real M. C.	Blue	1
1860	3 Centavos Fuerte	Blue	1
1864	5 Centavos	Yellow Green	3
1864	2 Centavos	Yellow Green	3
1864	2 Centavos	Green	3
1865	2 Centavos	Blue Green	3
1867	2 Centavos	Yellow	3
1867	2 Centavos	Lemon Yellow	3

The Second Printing Group

The second printing group is the simplest to explain. The layout of the panes is shown in Fig. 18. It is seen that the sheet consisted of three parallel panes of eight types, totaling 24 stamps. Depending on whether the top or the bottom pane was printed first, the remainder were printed by simply shifting the paper up or down after the first operation. The spacing between the panes is not uniform. The paper was not turned, hence the positions of all of the stamps on the sheet is constant.

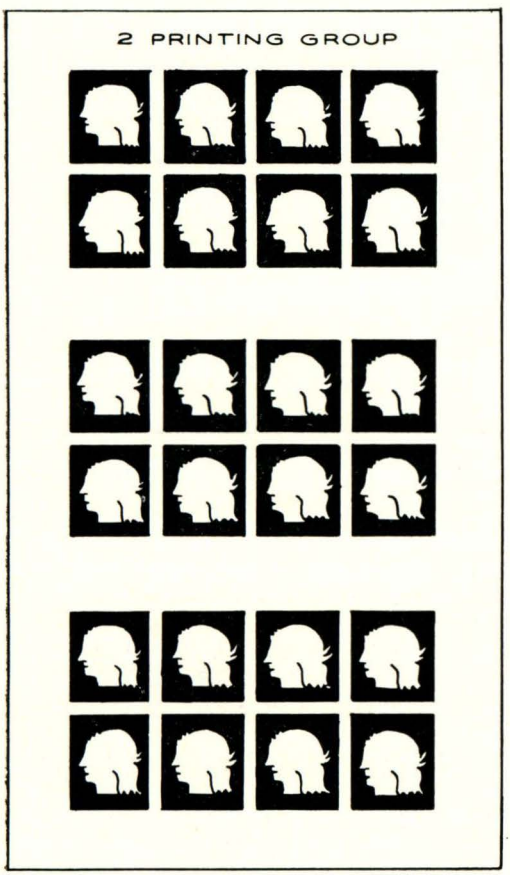


Fig. 18

The second printing group was used for all of the 1860 issue of the 3 centavos fuerte stamps with the exception of the short-lived provisionals described earlier. These appeared in the first printing group. Remainders of these two printings (from the second and third setting) were used again as late as 1870, (always as 3 centavos fuerte). Therefore, both the second and third settings appear in the second printing group of the 3 centavos fuerte on blue paper, first used in 1860 and again in 1870. However, it must be understood that these two settings did not appear on the same printed sheet bearing the second printing group, because, only one printing plate was available at one time. So whichever setting it may have been, there was only one setting of types at a time.

In the second printing group, the printed sheet has no tête-bêche pairs. Nor are there any horizontal pairs composed of stamps from adjacent panes.

Table 6 shows a listing of the limited use made of the second printing group.

A very interesting incident occurred in connection with this second printing group. Evidence exists indicating that remaining sheets from this printing group were placed in the governmental archives. Some of them fell into unauthorized hands late in 1880. Being unaware of the manner of printing the stamps, specifically the creation of different printing groups during the numerous official printings when the plate was assembled and

re-assembled many times, these people mistakenly thought that only the second printing group had been used for all issues, so they used it as the model for reprints of all the issues. Therefore it is our good fortune that a lack of philatelic knowledge enables us to rather easily spot the reprints, which will be discussed later.

Table 6.

The Second Printing Group

Year	*Value*	*Color*	*Setting*
1860	3 Centavos Fuerte	Blue	2
1860	3 Centavos Fuerte	Blue	3
1870	3 Centavos Fuerte	Blue	2 3

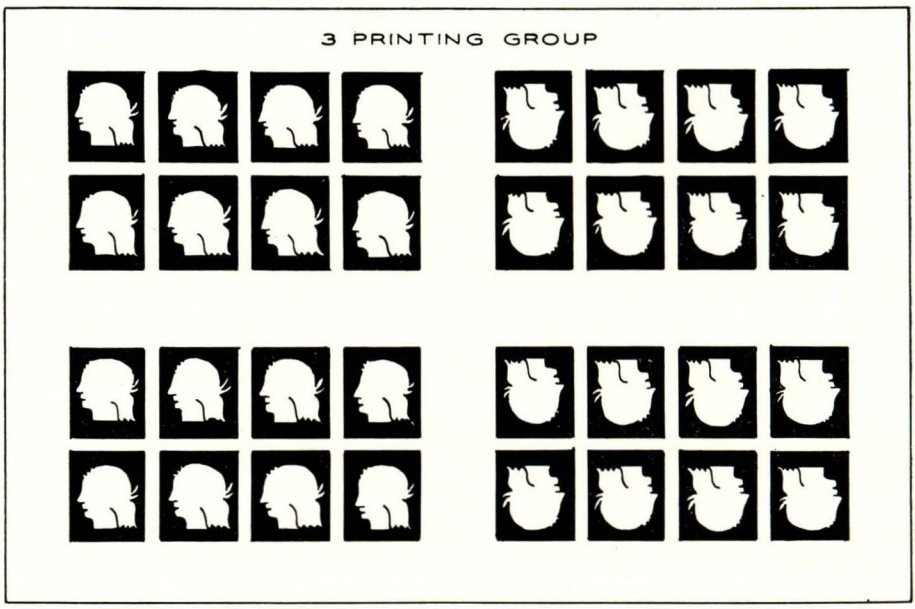


Fig. 19

The Third Printing Group

The arrangement of third printing group is shown by Fig. 19. It differs so completely from the second that a detailed descriptive comparison is unnecessary. However, it is interesting to compare it with the first printing group as shown in Fig. 17. Whereas the first printing group had both top horizontal panes placed similarly and the bottom row printed upside down in relation to the first, in the third printing group the lefthand column of two panes of stamps and the right hand vertical column of two panes were printed reversed in relation to the first column. Thus only four tête-bêche pairs are found with stamps on the adjacent panes in the third printing group, these being types 4-8; 8-4; 4-8 and 8-4.

This printing group with some exceptions appears for sixteen different issues from 1867 through 1880. The issue of 1867 had a denomination of 2 centavos, but all the other issues in the same printing group a 3 centavos fuerte. The colors of these printings were numerous. (Table 7.) As to the settings, only one appears in the third printing group, this being the third variety shown in Fig. 13.

Table 7.

The Third Printing Group

Year	*Value*	*Color*	*Setting*
1867	2 Centavos	Straw Yellow	3
1871	3 Cent. Fuerte	Dark Blue	3
1874	3 Centavos	Rose Lilac	3
1874	3 Centavos	Lilac Rose	3
1875	3 Centavos	Purple	3
1875	3 Centavos	Salmon	3
1876	3 Centavos	Rose	3
1876	3 Centavos	Rose Lilac	3
1876	3 Centavos	Bright Rose Lilac	3
1876	3 Centavos	Crimson	3
1877	3 Centavos	Bright purple	3
1877	3 Centavos	Gray purple	3
1877	3 Centavos	Lilac	3
1879	3 Centavos	Lilac Rose	3
1880	3 Centavos	Deep Purple	3
1880	3 Centavos	Pale Rose	3

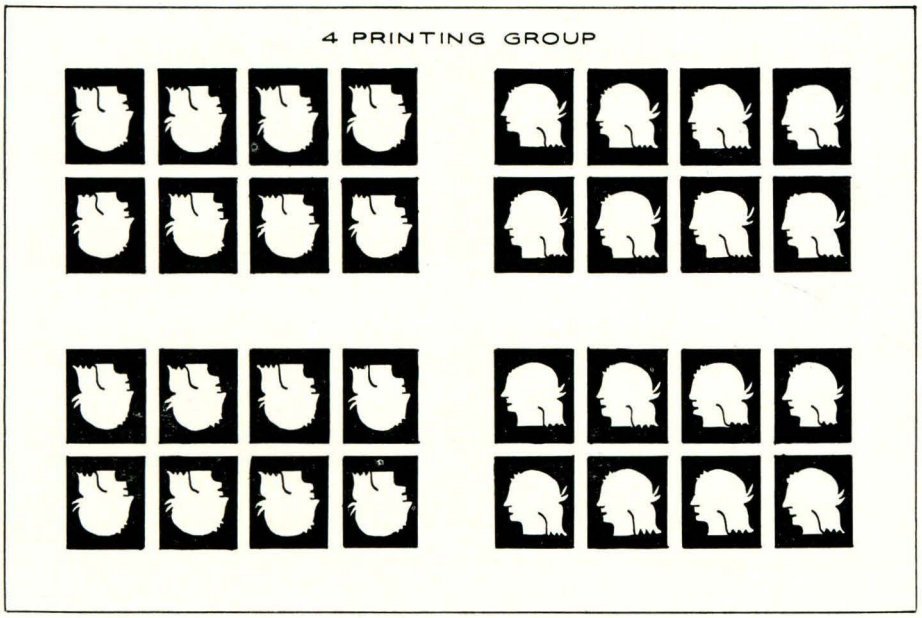


Fig. 20

The Fourth Printing Group

The layout of the panes in the fourth printing group is the reverse of the third, because the left hand column of two panes is upside down, whereas the position of the right hand column of two panes is normal. (Fig. 20.) This printing group was used for seven printings between 1871 and 1880, all these stamps having a denomination of 3 centavos fuerte. The colors varied. Table 8 shows the various uses of the fourth printing group. Concerning the settings, the third setting was used for all printings from 1871 to 1879 but only one in 1880. But the fourth setting was used for three other issues in 1880.

Because of the make-up of the panes, only

four tête-bêche pairs were created, these being types 6-1; 1-6; 6-1 and 1-6 all in the fourth printing group. While it is true that both the third and fourth settings appear in this printing group, although not on the same printed sheet, the tête-bêche pairs remain constant regardless of which of these two settings were used at the time.

Table 8.

The Fourth Printing Group

Year	*Value*	*Color*	*Setting*
1871	3 Cent. fuerte	dark blue	3
1874	3 Centavos	rose lilac	3
1876	3 Centavos	rose	3
1877	3 Centavos	maroon	3
1879	3 Centavos	lilac rose	3
1880	3 Centavos	pale rose	3
1880	3 Centavos	mauve	4

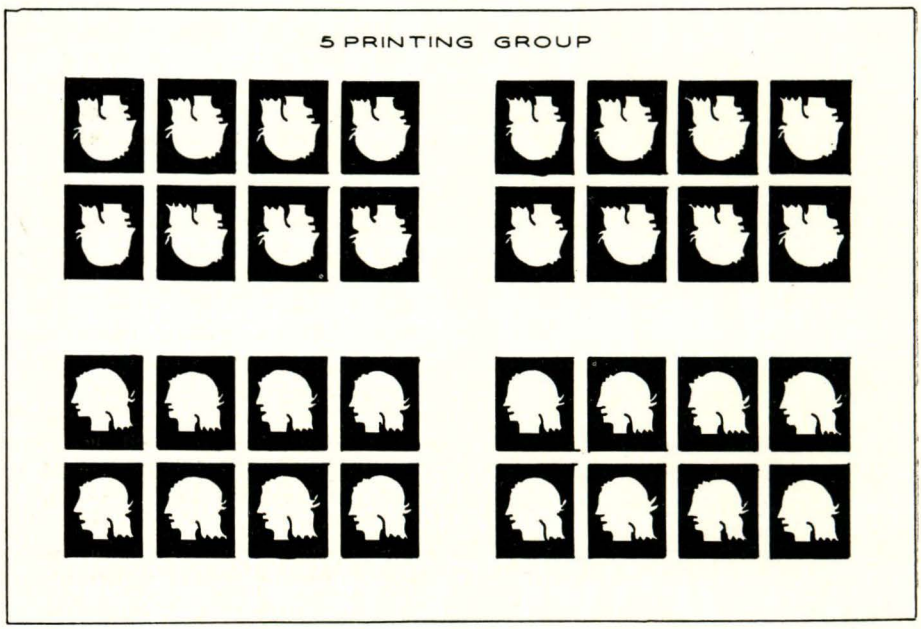


Fig. 21

The Fifth Printing Group

The fifth printing group (Fig. 21) has the layout of the panes the exact reverse of the first. As shown in Fig. 21, the upper row of two panes is printed inverted, whereas the stamps in the lower row of two panes are normal. Compare these with the panes shown in Fig. 17.

The entire fifth printing group appears in one of the issues of 1880, with a 3 centavos fuerte denomination in both a rose lilac and mauve color. The fourth was used throughout. Because of the layout of the panes, eight tête-bêche pairs were created from stamps in panes. These are located in the vertical columns. Starting with the upper types, these pairs were formed from types 4-1; 3-2; 2-3; 1-4 in one vertical row, and the same combination of types in the second vertical row.

It might be of interest to mention that the author's collection does not contain material

(Continued on Page 369.)

THE MALDIVE ISLANDS

Their Postage Stamps and Postal History

By EUGENE V. CONNETT 3rd

Introduction

I hadn't waded very far into the raging waters of philately before I discovered that in this gentle pastime the only substitute for youth was pelf. Having none of the former, and very little of the latter, I found my choice of a specialty was greatly circumscribed.

The catalogue indicated that the Maldive Islands had no postal history before 1906, and that there had been only five issues of stamps since then. This little known and philatelically unpopular country appeared to be my oyster. The stamps should be easy to assemble and the investment should be small. Then I came across these words written by the late and somewhat unlamented Amin Didi, to whom further reference will be made, and they cinched the matter.

"If you open an Atlas and turn up the map of Asia, you will find, off the West Coast of Ceylon, what appears to be a splutter of the cartographer's pen in the Indian Ocean.

"It is a country which is more sea than land. There, all men are rovers of the sea; all women daughters of the waves.

"There, blue melts into green and azure haziness—pale and pleasant—and melts back into blue.

"As the sun sets, an entrancing scene gradually unfolds, which for peaceful picturesqueness and ineffable beauty will be hard to match. A sapphire sea, gently lapping wooded isles of multiplex greens and browns —all, water, land and sky, bathed in a glorious color—flood of mingled hues.

"Silhouetted against expansive horizons, green palms toss their heads against the skies . . . It is a country which is more sea than land. It is the enchanted Isles of the Maldives!"

My interest in these islands was further aroused while reading the manuscript of a forthcoming book, *The Diversions of A Diplomat In Ceylon,* by our Ambassador to that country, Col. Philip K. Crowe. The last chapter was on the Maldive Islands, written shortly after he had made a visit to them in December, 1953. Some of the following description of the islands is based upon Ambassador Crowe's manuscript; the rest of it has come from other original sources and correspondence.

The 215 inhabited islands in the Maldives have a land area of about 115 square miles, but there are some 2000 coral islands scattered over 50,000 square miles of sea, running from the southernmost, Addu Atoll, below the Equator, to Tiladumnati Atoll over seven degrees north, a distance of more than 470 miles. The whole group of islands lie some 450 miles west and southwest of Ceylon. The 90,000 inhabitants are Moslems, who largely depend on fishing and the making of "maldive fish" (of which more later), although some lacquer work, matting, coir rope and cowrie shells are exported.

The islands are a fully independent country, by treaty under the protection of England, and their foreign relations are conducted through the British in Ceylon. This arrangement was first effected in an exchange of letters between Queen Victoria and the Sultan, Mohammed Mu' in-ud-din in 1887, and has been renewed several times. The first foreign visitor to the islands was an Arabian explorer, Ibn Battuta (1325-1354), who lived in Malé for some years. The next visitors were the Portuguese whom the natives finally drove out in 1650. The bases of the street lights in Malé are old Portuguese cannon. The Maldivian National Holiday is

the first of the lunar month Rabee-ul-Avval, the day on which Muhammed Thakurufau the Great saved the Maldives from the Portuguese.

Up until 1952 ninety-two Sultans and Sultanas had ruled, although the office has been elective since 1930. When the last Sultan designate, H. H. Amir Abdul Majid Didi, died in the spring of 1952, the young Prime Minister, Amir Amin Didi proposed a republic and was elected President. All the rulers of the Maldives have been members of the nobility of Malé, and most of them members of the Didi family. The republic was inaugurated January 1, 1953, and Amin Didi attempted to project his country from the 15th to the 20th century in a very short time. He accomplished a number of excellent social, educational and hygenic reforms. But largely due to a breakdown in health he made some very radical changes which resulted in his expulsion. For instance, his doctor told him he must give up smoking, so he gave all the people of the country just one year to stop it shutting off the import of all tobacco. He instituted a road building program on islands about one by one and a half miles in size which did not have the least use for boulevards, and in doing this took the people from their fishing and caused them to cut down hundreds of food-bearing trees, such as coconuts and bread fruit.

On September 4, 1953, a non-violent revolution resulted in Amin Didi being put in protective custody on the island of Doonidu in order to save him from the people. On December 31, 1953, he made the mistake of escaping to Malé where he was attacked by the people and died on January 19, 1954. Meanwhile the people asked Ibrahim Ali Didi and Vice-President Mohammed Didi to take over the government. On March 7, 1954, Ali Mohammed Farid Didi, eldest son of the last Sultan designate, was restored to the throne, and Ibrahim Ali Didi was proclaimed Prime Minister. Mohammed Didi was made Postmaster General.*

For years the mails between the Maldives and Ceylon were carried by the captains of the native sailing vessels, the largest of which, a two-masted dhow of about 100 tons, is the *buggalo*. A smaller version of this craft is the *battely*. Both of these carry maldive fish, coir rope, and on fortunate occasions ambergris, to Ceylon, the trip taking about a week with the favorable southwest monsoon (during March, April and May), and up to a month when the northwest monsoon is blowing, during October, November, December and January.

Maldive Currency

At the beginning of Maldive postal history 100 cents equalled one rupee. In 1951 the currency was changed to 100 lares equal one rupee. Four kuda lari (small) equal 1 bodu lari (large), and 25 bodu lari equal 1 rupee. "At present there is no exchange value between the Government of Ceylon and the Maldive Government, trade being carried on mainly by barter. However, in instances when monetary transactions are carried out, value is paid in Ceylon currency." This information about the currency is from a letter dated April 24, 1956, written by the Maldivian Government Representative in Colombo. Ambassador Crowe wrote in 1954 that 5 Maldivian rupees equalled 1 Ceylon rupee, or about 4 U. S. cents to 1 Maldivian rupee. (In 1956 he writes that 1 Ceylon rupee is worth 20 U. S. cents.) In view of the information from the Maldivian Government Representative, it is not likely that this rate of exchange is now in effect. When Lieut. Ronald G. Shelley, R.N., visited Malé in 1955, he found Maldivian notes of ½, 1, 5 and 10 rupees in circulation, but stated that Ceylon currency is slowly superseding the local money.

Establishment of the Post Office at Malé

The capital of the country is the city of Malé which occupies the entire island of Malé, about one mile long and a half mile wide.

In 1905 the Maldivian Ambassador to Ceylon estimated that 30,000 letters and parcels passed through the Maldives every year, and by having no postage stamps, nor a post office, the Government was losing some £500 in revenue. He made a study of the opera-

* In April 1956, Mohammed Didi was relieved of his position as Postmaster General. Mohammed Zaki, the Maldivian Government Representative in Colombo resigned. A letter dated April 24, 1956, is signed by A. Zaki, Maldivian Government Representative, Colombo.



Fig. 1. The overprinted issue of 1906

tion of the Ceylon post office, and ordered seals, forms, etc. from India. The post office at Malé was opened on September 9, 1906.

The Provisional Issue of 1906

The then current Edward VII stamps of Ceylon in the 2, 3, 4, 5, 15, and 25 cent values, were overprinted MALDIVES in black sans serif capital letters and delivered to the G. P. O. on March 6, 1906. (See Fig. 1.) A delay in receiving the necessary equipment for the post office put off the day of issue at Malé until September 9, 1906.

The 3, 4, 15, and 25 cent values were overprinted in complete sheets, while the 2 and 5 cent values were overprinted in half sheets. In addition to the stamps, a 5c blue on buff envelope, Ceylon 1903-1905, overprinted MALDIVES in red; a 10c registered Ceylon envelope with the head of Edward VII in pink on the back flap (printed by De La Rue) overprinted MALDIVES in black across the bottom of the stamp; two wrappers, a 2c violet on buff, overprinted in blue, and a 5c olive on buff, overprinted MALDIVES in black; two post cards, a 2c olive overprinted in black, and 2c plus 2c olive return card overprinted in black, and a letter card 5c brown overprinted in red, were made available for use in the Malé post office. (See Figs. 2 through 8.)

The first overprinting of Ceylon stamps was issued at Malé on September 9, 1906. The quantities were as follows:

2c red brown	2400 copies
3c green	600 copies
4c yellow & blue	1200 copies
5c lilac	4800 copies
15c blue	1200 copies
25c bisque	1200 copies

A second overprinting, delivered by the Treasury to the G. P. O. on October 15, 1906, was issued at Malé on December 15, 1906:

2c *orange* brown	2000 copies
3c green	3000 copies
4c yellow & blue	1000 copies
5c *deep* lilac	14000 copies

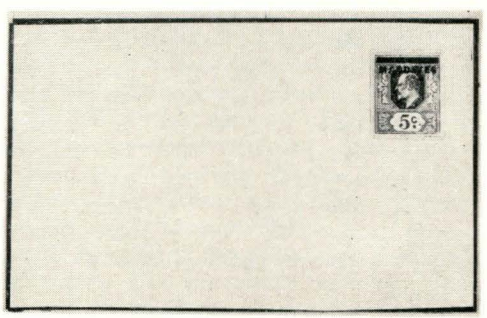


Fig. 2. 5c blue on buff envelope overprinted in red. (Courtesy of John F. Field)

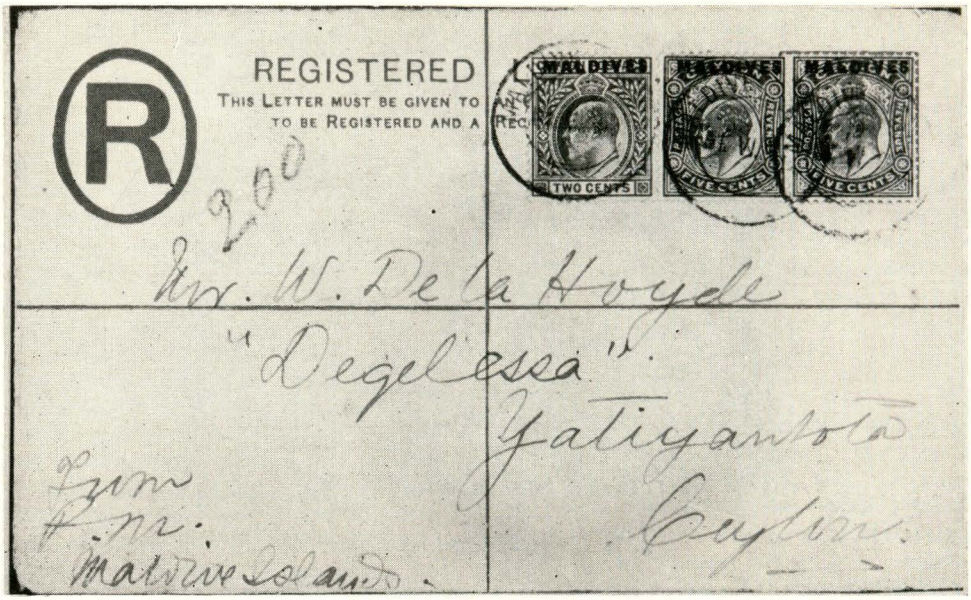


Fig. 3. 10c registered envelope overprinted in black on flap of cover.

The 5c cent deep lilac stamp of Ceylon was printed in a new shade from Plate II. This second printing sold out at Malé Post Office on March 2, 1907. The philatelic demand for these stamps was great, and counterfeit overprints appeared. The Governor of Ceylon (apparently worried by the philatelic demand for the stamps!) decreed that no more Ceylon stamps be overprinted for use in the Maldives, and Ceylon stamps without overprint be used. These can only be recognized by the Maldive Islands postmarks which they carry. They were the official stamps for about 18 months, but the stamps of Ceylon were used in the Maldives for many years, as the following list of Ceylon stamps with Maldive Islands postmarks in my collection will testify:

Scott No.	*Value*	*Date in Postmark*	*Comments*
197	5c	? ? ?	
225	1c	Jan. 19, 193?	Die II Type II
226	2c	? ? 1934	Die II Type I
229	5c	"Oc" 9 1927	Die I Type II
260	6c	July 30 1935	
260	6c	Nov. 29 1935	
265	3c	June 19 ?	
266	6c	Feb. 26 1936	
266	6c	July ? 1936	
275	6c	Jan. 1938	
275	6c	Oct. 29 ?	
278	2c	April ? 1940	
279	3c	Sept. 1 ?	
280	6c	? ? 1939	

All of the above stamps carry the regular Maldive Islands postmark, which is a double circle measuring 26 mm. in diameter, with Maldive Islands around the top section between the circles, the innermost of which measures 15½ mm. in diameter. The form



Fig. 4. 2c violet on buff wrapper overprinted in blue. (Courtesy of John F. Field)

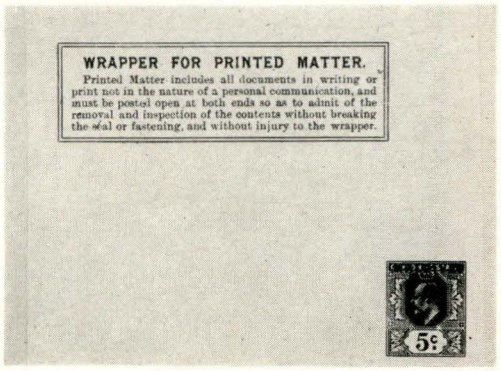


Fig. 5. 5c olive on buff wrapper overprinted in black. (Courtesy of John F. Field)

of the date is 31 X 38 (31 October 1938) running across the center of the inner circle. All the postmarks I have seen are in black.

In Mr. John Field's Maldive collection are four Scott No. 231 6c violet Ceylon stamps, without overprint, dated 1933, 1934 and 1935 in the postmarks. He also has three Scott No. 265 3c green and black Ceylon without overprint, one of which is dated 1938, the other two dates are not legible; two Scott No. 266 blue and black 6c, one of which is dated 1936; one Scott No. 280 blue and black 6c dated 1938, and three Scott No. 275 deep carmine 6c all dated 1937. These stamps carry the regular postmark of the Maldive Islands.

Before leaving the overprinted issue of 1906 it may be of interest to note that on May 8, 1908, at an auction by Puttick & Simpson, a complete unused set of this issue brought £1/6/0. Again, on December 8, 1908, such a set brought £2/2/0. The number of references to Maldivian stamps in the British philatelic press of that period indicates a lively interest in the postal affairs of the Islands. Merely for the purpose of showing a healthy growth in the interest in these stamps (or their growing scarcity) it may be noted that the 1956 edition of Gibbons quotes this issue unused at £10/5/0, and used at £12/0/0.

The First Regular Issue of 1909

The Philatelic Record of August 1908, noted that Abdul Hamid Didi, the Maldivian Representative in Colombo, was in direct communication with stamp makers in England in regard to a new issue of Maldivian stamps. These were recess printed by De La Rue and were issued at Malé in May, 1909. They show the minaret of the Juma Mosque. (See Fig. 9.) They are printed on medium white wove paper watermarked multiple rosettes, and are perforated 14 on both comb and line machines. They measure 18 by 22½ mm. They were printed in sheets of 240, 4 panes of 60, 6 by 10. The set consists of 2c brown, 3c green, 5c mauve and 10c red. So far it has not been possible to discover the quantities printed, as Mr. Newman of De La Rue informs me that all the records covering this issue were destroyed during the last World War in the bombing of London. I have examined proofs of this issue, three in green and two in black ink, one of the proofs carrying the De La Rue number in the margin, all authenticated by Mr. Newman.

The Second Regular Issue of 1933

Ahmad Didi Effendi was Postmaster General when this issue appeared. The stamps were printed by photogravure by Harrison & Sons, Ltd. They measure 18 by 21½ mm. and are perforated 15 by 14. The paper is watermarked Harrison & Sons London in upper and lower case script letters, the watermarks being close enough so that parts of two lines of them appear on each stamp, and the watermarks run across the stamps horizontally. (See Fig. 10.)

The denominations are 2c gray, 3c red brown, 5c mauve (color listed by Gibbons

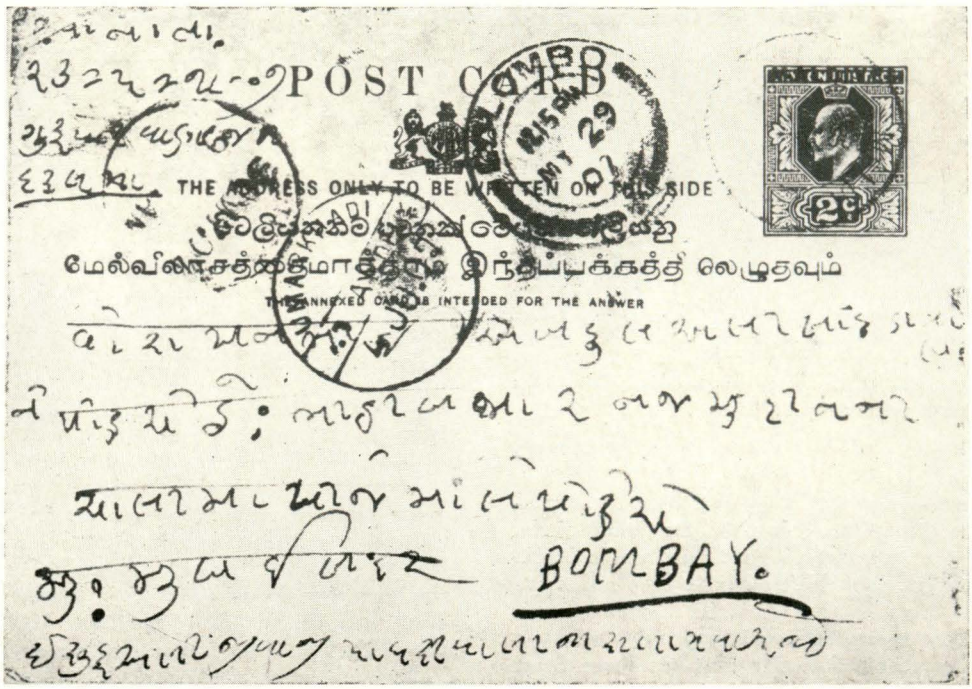


Fig. 6. 2c olive post card overprinted in black (Courtesy of John F. Field)

although Scott lists this as brown lake), 6c scarlet, 10c green, 15c black, 25c brown, 50c purple and 1 rupee blue. These stamps appeared in the Malé post office in panes of 60, 10 by 6. They were presumably printed in sheets of 240. They are comb perforated.

I have two shades of the 10c, which appear different to the naked eye, but under the ultra violet light they fluoresce very differently, which suggests that there were two printings of at least this one value. In response to several communications I have sent to Harrison & Sons, I have received on June 28, 1956, the following: "We regret we cannot supply the information you desire as since that time (1933) much reorganization has taken place in this company and many references disposed of, which at the time would not appear worth retaining. The Postal Administration of the Islands may have retained our original correspondence etc. in their archives and could possibly give you some assistance." As I have never been able to obtain any information of any kind from the Postal Administration of the Islands, I think we may assume that from here on we shall have to try to reconstruct any further details of the 1933 issue from whatever evidence we can gather.

The Third Regular Issue of 1936?

The question mark refers only to the date, and not to the fact that there was another issue of the same design as that of 1933. Although neither Scott nor Robson Lowe catalogs mention the fact, Gibbons notes that all values of the 1933 issue exist with the watermark vertical instead of horizontal, but lists the vertical variety only in the 5c value as being claret color. I have all but the 10c green with the vertical watermark, and with the naked eye can detect no difference whatever in the colors of the 5c value with and without the vertical watermark. They are both a rich reddish purple, and I suspect that Gibbons, in describing the 1933 issue of the 5c horizontal watermarked stamp as mauve, was simply retaining the color description of the 1909 issue.

I have examined all the values except the 10 cent, of the vertical watermarked stamps under the ultra violet light and compared

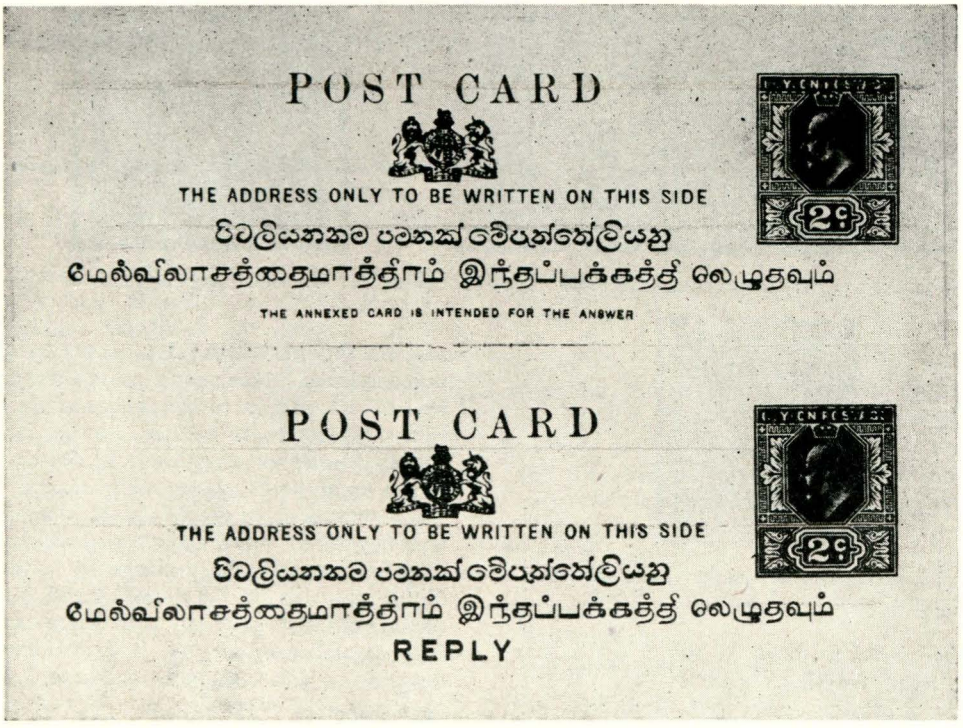


Fig. 7. 2c plus 2c return card overprinted in black. (Courtesy of John F. Field)

them with those of the horizontal watermarks. There is a very different fluorescence of the two varieties, indicating a distinctly different printing. The difference in fluorescence is so marked that there can be not doubt about the matter. Heretofore it has been supposed that a limited quantity of the watermarked paper was inadvertently run through the press with the watermark running vertically across the stamps. We doubt whether Harrison & Sons would have changed the ink when such sheets were "inadvertently" printed.

The only conclusion that the foregoing facts admit is that there was a second printing with the watermarks vertical which in itself defines these stamps as a new and distinct issue, although the design is the same as that of the 1933 issue.

As Gibbons is the only catalogue which even mentions these stamps, and as it is far easier to obtain specimens of the horizontal watermarked stamps, I suggest that this new issue must have been in greatly reduced quantities.

After a search of the American, British and German philatelic press of the period, the only record I can find dealing with the 1933 issue states that the first values to appear in January 1933 were the 2c, 3c, and 10c. At the end of the year the 6c, 15c, 25c, 50c, and 1 rupee values were issued. It was some time later before the 5c value appeared.

Mr. John F. Field, a fellow student of the Maldives, states that the vertical water-

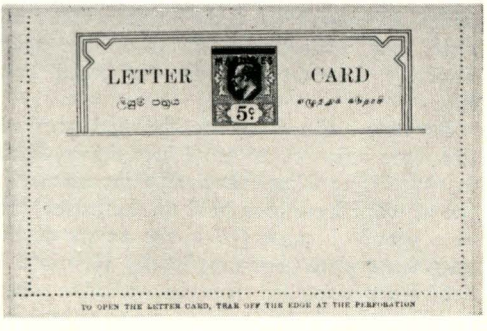


Fig. 8. 5c brown letter card overprinted in red. (Courtesy of John F. Field)



Fig. 9. The first regular issue of 1909



Fig. 10. The second regular issue of 1933. Note right hand panel with CENTS only.

marked issue appeared in 1937; but I have a 6c stamp carrying a date of "17, VI, 36," and a 2c stamp dated 1936, both with the vertical watermark. Hence I ascribe the issue to 1936.

A fact which makes me doubt the truth of the statement that the 5c value of the 1933 issue appeared some time in 1934, is the change in design of the 6c, 15c, 25c, 50c, and 1 rupee values, which merely have "CENTS" and "RUPEE" in the right hand border panel, while the 2c, 3c, 5c, and 10c values (the same values as appeared in the 1909 issue) have the values written in full in this panel: TWO CENTS, THREE CENTS, FIVE CENTS, and TEN CENTS, just as they appeared in the 1909 issue. Obviously the higher values could not have been written out in full in the space available, but certainly the 6c could have been.

As stated above, the 2c, 3c, and 10c values were reported to have been issued early in 1933. For what conceivable reason would the 5c value have been held up the better part of a year? I suspect that the values of the 1909 issue were photographed by Harrison & Sons for making the new photogravure plate, and that the copy for the new values had the right hand border panel changed—including the 6c which could readily have been the



Fig. 11. The third regular issue of 1950.

same as the other low values as far as space was concerned. The 2c, 3c, 5c and 10c might well have been printed in advance of the new values, which would explain why the former appeared early in 1933 and the latter late in the same year. I can only assume that the 5c was sent to the Maldives along with the other three, and the Malé post office must have held up the sale of the 5c for a year—if they actually did. You will recall that in the overprinted issue of 1906 there was a total of 18,800 of the 5c. The next highest quantity of that issue was only 4400 copies of the 2c. It is possible that in 1933 there was still a sizeable lot of the 5c denomination in stock, and the new 5c might have been held back until these were reduced. In support of this theory I note a cover in the collection of Mr. John Field bearing a block of four of the 5c of the 1909 issue, postmarked at Malé 28. V. 33. It is only fair to state that this cover might also prove that the 5c of the 1933 was not yet on hand in Malé.

Regardless of the exact dates of issue of the 1933 stamps with horizontal watermarks, and that with the vertical watermarks, it can be stated definitely that Harrison & Sons did produce, and the Maldivian Government did issue two separate and distinct issues of the same design, easily recognized by the different watermarks.

The Fourth Regular Issue of 1950

On December 24, 1950, a new set of eight denominations was issued at Malé. The design shows a palm tree at the left and a small fishing boat (a *dhoni*) at the right. (See Fig. 11.) These stamps were recess printed by Bradbury, Wilkinson & Co. The Maldivian currency was changed at this time to 100 lares equal 1 rupee, and the values are

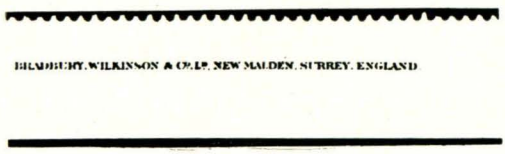


Fig. 12. The Margin imprint of the 1950 issue.



Fig. 13. The two new designs of the fifth regular issue of 1952.

shown in both English and Arabic figures. The present Maldivian Government Representative in Colombo spells the plural of lares as "lari," while on the stamps of this issue it is spelled "larees."

The issue consists of the following: 2 l. olive, 3 l. blue, 5 l. emerald, 6 l. red brown, 10 l. scarlet, 15 l. orange, 50 l. violet, and 1 rupee chocolate. Lieut. Ronald G. Shelley, R. N. writes me that when he visited the post office at Malé in late 1955, the 1 rupee value had been sold out. The stamps measure 25½ by 21½ mm. and are perforated 13. They are printed on unwatermarked white wove paper. I have the sheet margins of the 3, 5, 6, 10, 25 and 50 lares stamps, with the inscription reading Bradbury, Wilkinson & Co. Ld. New Malden, Surrey, England, with a script plate number 1, through the kindness of Lieut. Shelley. (See Fig. 12.) I have the complete set used (each stamp carrying a different date, and, therefore, probably not philatelically postmarked) indicating that the stamps were good for postage outside of the Islands.

Through the courtesy of Messrs Bradbury, Wilkinson & Co. I am able to give the details of how this issue was printed. The values were printed in pairs, 50 stamps of each value on plates of 100. In each case the panes were 5 by 10. The pairs were as follows: 50 and 25 lares, 15 and 10 lares, 6 and 2 lares, and 5 and 3 lares. The stamps were delivered in panes of 50 in each case. The 1 rupee was presumably printed from a plate of 50, although Messrs. Bradbury, Wilkinson do not mention this point.

The Fifth Regular Issue of 1952

In 1952 two new stamps, recess printed by Bradbury, Wilkinson & Co. were issued under the Sultanate, as the Republic was not in being until January 1, 1953. The 3 l. shows four Maldivian fishes and is printed in blue. The 5 l. shows a group of Maldivian products and is printed in emerald green. (See Fig. 13.) The stamps are on white wove paper without watermark. They measure 25½ by 21½ mm. and are perforated 13. The sheet margins of the 3 and the 5 lares reads the same as those of the previous issue, although the plate number 1 is of slightly different design.

Up until now it had been supposed that the issue of the 1952 consisted of two values only, the 3 l. and 5 l. However, Messrs Bradbury, Wilkinson & Co. have informed me that this issue was the "same method of printing as the 1950 issue, with the same combinations except in the case of the 5 and 3 larees which were of new design." So we now know that instead of the 1952 issue consisting of two only, it actually consisted of eight values, with two of them of different design.

In reply to my inquiry as to whether there were any differences between the 1950 and 1952 issues, Messrs Bradbury, Wilkinson & Co. have written me: "With regard to differences between the 1950 and 1952 printings, apart from the different designs of the 3 and 5 larees values, we would say that there would exist only those very slight differences which are inevitable between two printings of the same stamp from the same plates and which, as stamp printers, we trust are not sufficiently obvious to attract the attention of philatelists!" So far I have discovered no differences.

The four species of fish shown on the 3 l. stamp are the *canely,* with no stripes; the *catibilo* or true bonita; the *lati* resembling the catabilo but with a narrower tail, and the *ragony,* a spotted variety smaller than



Fig. 14. The lares and rupee values of the sixth regular issue of 1956.

the canely. The delineation of these fish leaves something to be desired from the naturalist's point of view. I had supposed that "maldive fish" was made up of these four species, but a recent letter from the American Ambassador states: "Maldive fish which is a necessity of Ceylonese curry eaters is dried Bonita. These fish are caught in great numbers by the Maldivians, placed on racks in the sun and then shipped to Ceylon by *buggalo,* a two-masted sailing dhow.

"Aside from a few sea shells, ambergris, lacquer work, etc., Maldive fish is the only important rupee earner that the Islands have.

"The reason the Ceylonese, and for that matter all East Indians, like salted dried fish on their curry is that it gives a tang and spice to the dish. Maldive fish, in my opinion, also imparts an unpleasant fishy odor but one gets used to it. The Islanders do not catch these fish with nets. They jerk them into the boat by means of a coir line tied to a rod. The hook used has no barb and has a swollen shaft which the Bonita evidently take to be a small fish. The fisherman sails into a shoal and stays with it until his *dhoni* is virtually awash with 10 or 15 pound Bonita."

Maldive fish has become an indispensable item in the diet of the people of Ceylon. During the war it was rationed! In 1948 over 63,000 hundred weight were exported to Ceylon, valued at 3,834,856 rupees. With a business considerably in excess of this amount we can understand the need for postage stamps.

The Sixth Regular Issue of 1956

On April 17, 1956, the American Ambassador to Ceylon sent me a new issue of Maldivian stamps, which had just been presented to him by the Sultan. These reached me on April 26, 1956, and as far as I can discover they had not been reported to the philatelic press up to that time. The issue consists of eleven values: 2 l. purple, 3 l. dark green, 5 l. reddish brown, 6 l. dark blue, 10 l. emerald green, 15 l. chocolate, 25 l. scarlet, 50 l. orange, 1 rupee emerald green, 5 rupees blue, and 10 rupees reddish purple. (See Fig. 14)

The 2 lares through the 50 lares values measure 34½ by 18 mm. from the outside points of the fluted borders. The rupee values measure 35½ by 22 mm. The lares values show the entrance to the inner harbor at Malé, with lighthouses on either side, a colorless block containing an Arabic inscription at the upper left and a crescent enclosing a star at the upper right. At the lower left corner is the value in English, and across the bottom is Maldive Islands in old English upper and lower case letters, with the value in Arabic at the lower right corner.

The rupee values show the wall of a fortress with a flying flag at the left and the Sultan's Palace, also flying a flag, at the right.* Connecting the two is a wall with a covered entrance next to the building. At the top center of the design is a colorless block with an Arabic inscription. At the upper right hand corner is a colorless rectangle enclosing the value in English, and at the lower left hand corner is a similar rectangle showing the value in Arabic. Across the bottom in a ribbon is Maldive Islands in sans serif block letters. All the stamps are recess printed. The lares values are perforated 13½; the rupee values are 11½ by 11.

This issue was printed by Bradbury, Wilkinson & Co. in 1955. Each value was printed in sheets of 100 stamps, 2 panes of 50, and the stamps were delivered in panes of 50, presumably 5 by 10. As this is being writ-

* The Maldivian flag is rectangular with a red border and a green center with a white crescent in it.



Fig. 15. A registered cover to Seabright, N. J. dated 1910.

ten in July, 1956, the stamps have been released at the Malé post office. In view of the fact that the Maldives are not members of the Universal Postal Union, and that the stamps can only be used in the Islands and the Laccadive Islands according to our Ambassador, there is some question as to the need for these stamps in eleven different denominations.

However, various commercial covers dated as late as 1956, addressed to India, carry Maldivian stamps of several issues.

Official Envelopes

Lieut. Shelley sent me an official envelope, which he obtained in the Malé post office. It measures 9 by 4 inches and is buff. Printed in black across the top front is "On His Highness's Service" in upper and lower case letters with a black line under them. At the lower left hand corner appears, also in black, *From* / GENERAL POST OFFICE / MALE / MALDIVE ISLANDS.

During the period of the Republic in 1953, a smaller official envelope measuring 6 by 3½ inches, with "On Maldivian Govt. Service" in upper and lower case black letters, and with a line under this, was issued. Mr. John Field has a specimen of this envelope, handstamped in purple at the lower left hand corner with The/Maldive Government Representative / COLOMBO. It carries the postmark of Colombo, dated 16 Jly 1953.

Mr. Field also has a 6 by 3½ inch official envelope, bearing stamps of Ceylon, and postmarked at Colombo on 5 August 1955, with "On His Highness's Service." in upper and lower case black letters with a black line underneath. This envelope was used by the Maldivian Government Representative in Colombo. Another official envelope, the same as the one first described, is dated 22 VIII 37 at the Maldive post office. It was addressed to San Francisco and carries 22 cents in postage of the 1933 issue.

Maldivian Covers

We have noted that the Governor of Ceylon decreed that no more overprinted stamps should be issued, after the second printing was sold out by March 2, 1907. Then there was a regular Maldive issue in 1909. Figure 3 shows a registered cover dated June 1, 1907. On the front it carries a 2c and two 5c overprinted stamps. This is an overprinted Maldives (in black) registered cover with a pink 10c embossed Edward VII Ceylon Reg-

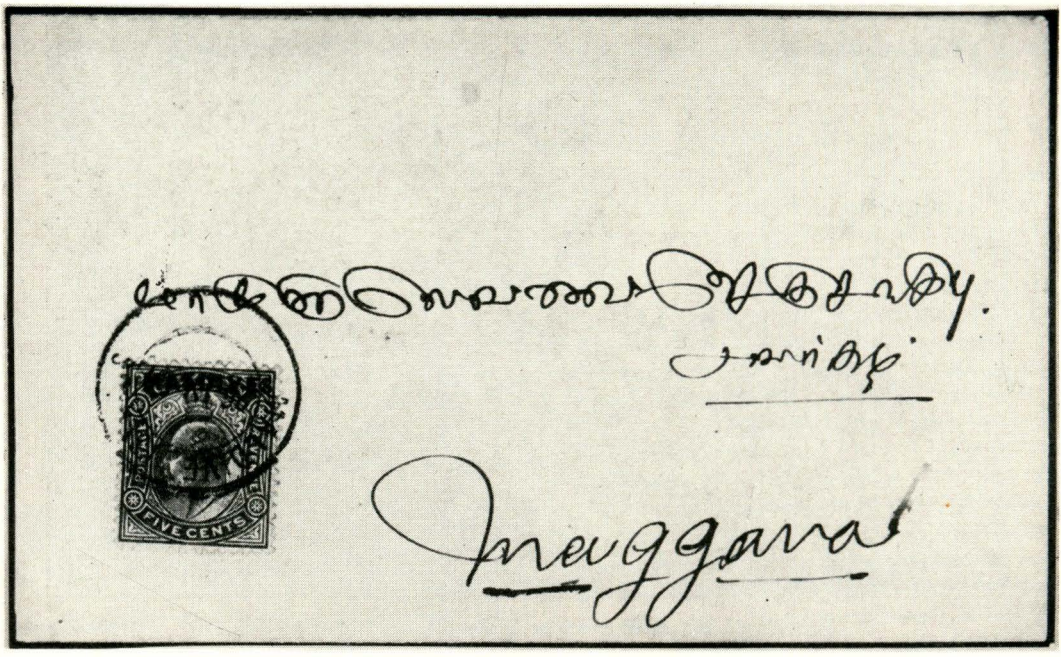


Fig. 16. A cover to Maggona dated 1907.

istration envelope stamp on the flap of the envelope. It is a "Thos. De La Rue & Co. Patent," as printed under the flap. The postage stamps on the face of the cover carry the Maldives postmark, and on the back of the envelope are two circular Colombo marks and a circular Yatiyantota postmark, all in black. The letter was addressed to Yatiyantota, Ceylon. This patented registration envelope is listed by Robson Lowe as R. P. 1, under Maldive Islands, overprinted in black on an R. P. 8 Ceylon registered envelope. In the lower left hand corner of the front of the envelope is written in ms From/P.M./Maldive Islands. In *Gibbons Weekly* of Sept. 12, 1908, D. B. Armstrong notes that the overprinted issues of 1906 were sold out at Malé by March 2, 1907. But here are three of the stamps being used by the Postmaster of the Maldives on June 6, 1907. We can only assume that although no more stamps were sold to the public after March 2nd, the postmaster still had some for his own use—as did others who had purchased the stamps previously. Or possibly Mr. Armstrong's note in *Gibbons Weekly* was in error.

We show in Figure 15 an interesting registered cover dated January 31, 1910, in the Maldive postmark. It carries pairs of the 2c, 3, 5c and 10c stamps of the 1909 De La Rue engraved issue. The letter is addressed to Seabright, N. J. and carries a purple registered postmark of that town, dated March 17, 1910. On the reverse are a black circle Colombo registered mark, a purple double circle Seabright registered mark, a red double oval New York registry mark, a double oval black Registry Division, N. Y. mark, and a double circle red Station New York registered mark, the letter having been forwarded from Seabright to New York. Note the square boxed R mark on the front of the cover, measuring 14 by 14 mm. The same handstamp is still in use in the Maldives and is shown in an article by Lieut. Ronald G. Shelley, R.N. in January-February 1956 issue of the *Stamp Lover* magazine. Lieut. Shelley obtained an impression of this stamp, and of the regular Maldive Islands postmark when in Malé in 1955. It is evident that both of the original handstamps are still in use.

In Figure 16 is a cover dated Sept. 26, 1907, carrying the 5c overprinted stamp of

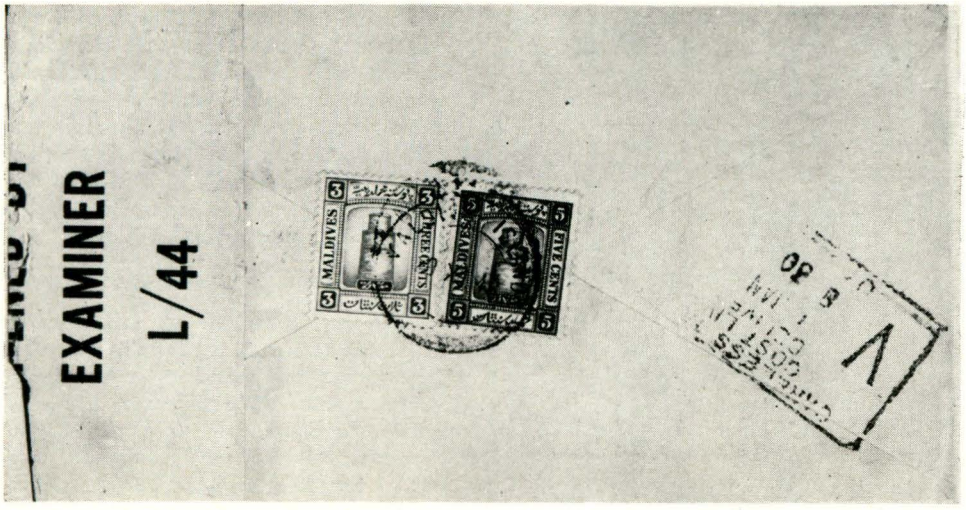


Fig. 17. Censored cover with 1909 issue dated 1943.

1906 which was reported sold out in March 1907. On the reverse is a Colombo postmark dated Oct. 1, 1907, and a double circle Maggona postmark dated Oct. 1, 1907. It is evident that the overprinted issue was still valid after it had been sold at Malé, and that the Governor's decree that no more stamps of Ceylon should be overprinted for use in the Maldives did not prevent existing overprinted stamps being used for postage.

It is interesting, however, to note that the Ceylon 5c Scott No. 197, shown in the table of Ceylon stamps without overprint, does not carry the overprint. It is unfortunate that the date on this Maldive postmark cannot be read. This, of course, is the same issue of Ceylon that was overprinted, and shows that after the Governor's decree the stamps of Ceylon without overprint were valid in the Maldives.

We now face another minor mystery. The table of Ceylon stamps carrying Maldive postmarks shows that such stamps were used as late as 1940. However, in 1909 there was a regular issue of definitive Maldive stamps. In Figure 15 we see this issue used on a cover in 1910. In 1933 there was another issue of Maldive stamps, photogravured by Harrison & Sons. In Figure 17 we see a 3c and 5c of this issue used on the reverse of a censored cover dated Nov. 29, 1943. On the front of this cover is written "Letter in Gujarati," as a guide to the censor. I have the 1933 issue used on a cover dated June 28, 1938. But in the table we see that Ceylon stamps were used in the Maldives as late as 1940. I also have a block of the 1933 issue used on December 7, 1955. Both the 1950 and 1953 issues were available at the Malé post office on that date, and we can only surmise that Lieut. Shelley used the 1933 stamps on this cover for philatelic reasons. It might be of interest to note that I have a used block of the 5c of the first overprinted issue of 1906 with a Maldive postmark dated October 29, 1931, and a used block of the 10c of the 1909 issue postmarked in the Maldives on January 16, 1922. It may be becoming clearer why I find the Maldive Islands a rather absorbing study!

Robson Lowe says, in regard to the 1906 overprinted issue: "After two small printings had been made a decree was issued forbidding further printings as the demands for stamps appeared mainly for the purpose of filling philatelic requirements." I might add that I have a 2c, 3c, and 5c of the 1909 (De La Rue) issue, cancelled in Malé on June 25, 1910, with the original gum intact, which leads one to believe that the Maldivian postal authorities were not above giving the Governor of Ceylon some grounds for his suspicions!



Fig. 18. (Top) A genuine; (Below) a counterfeit overprint of the 1906 issue.

Counterfeits

There have been counterfeits of the overprint on the 1906 issue. Robson Lowe, in his Encyclopedia, says: "It is usual to find at least one forged overprint in a complete set of this issue." I can unhappily confirm this statement, as I have never bought a set of these stamps without one counterfeited overprint—usually on the 3c.

In Figure 18 are shown the genuine and a counterfeit overprint. You will note that the genuine overprint can be recognized by the thinner left leg of the "M," while this counterfeit has a heavier left leg and the top of the "M" is not as sharp and clean as it should be. So far as I know this issue is the only one subject to counterfeiting.

When the overprinted issue appeared—or shortly thereafter—the quantities of the first overprinting were known to the British philatelic press. You will remember that only 600 copies of the 3 cent stamp were issued in the first printing. I suspect that the reason one finds more counterfeit overprints on this value is because the forger decided that 600 stamps would make his nefarious behavior more profitable, and presumably it was, at least until the second printing of 3000 more 3 cent stamps appeared. As a total of only 1200 stamps each of the 15 cent and 25 cent were overprinted, it would be wise to examine these with a skeptical eye for counterfeit overprints.

Use of Stamps on Foreign Mail

In spite of many commercially used covers addressed to Ceylon and India, the Maldive Islands are not members of the Universal Postal Union. The Director of the Union writes me under date of April 9, 1956: "I regret to tell you the Maldive Islands are one of the only territories of the world not included in the Universal Postal Union."

In years gone by, when Ceylon was part of the British Empire, and the Maldives were a Protectorate of Ceylon and administered by the British High Commissioner in Ceylon, Maldive postage stamps were obviously honored by members of the Universal Postal Union, as shown by several of the covers illustrated. Unfortunately the Director of the Union, in reply to my recent inquiry as to this matter, writes: "I am not in a position to furnish you the information of a philatelic nature which you wish to obtain on this subject."

The American Ambassador to Ceylon has recently informed me that Maldivian stamps are acceptable for postage in the Laccadive Islands, as well as the Maldives, at the present time, but it is his understanding that they are not good elsewhere, including Ceylon. However, covers known to me, dated in 1956 show that the stamps of the Maldives are valid for postage to India.

A cover is shown in Figure 19 carrying the overprinted stamps of 1906, which was mailed from Malé, but the stamps are cancelled with the Colombo Registration postmark, and the cover bears the boxed R of Colombo, measuring 13½ by 13½ mm. There are no Maldivian postal markings on either the front or the back of this cover. Messrs E. G. Adamaly had an office in Malé, as well as in Colombo, and this letter is addressed to their Colombo office "Post Bag, No. A 20." I show in Figure 20 another cover of this company with the same address mailed from

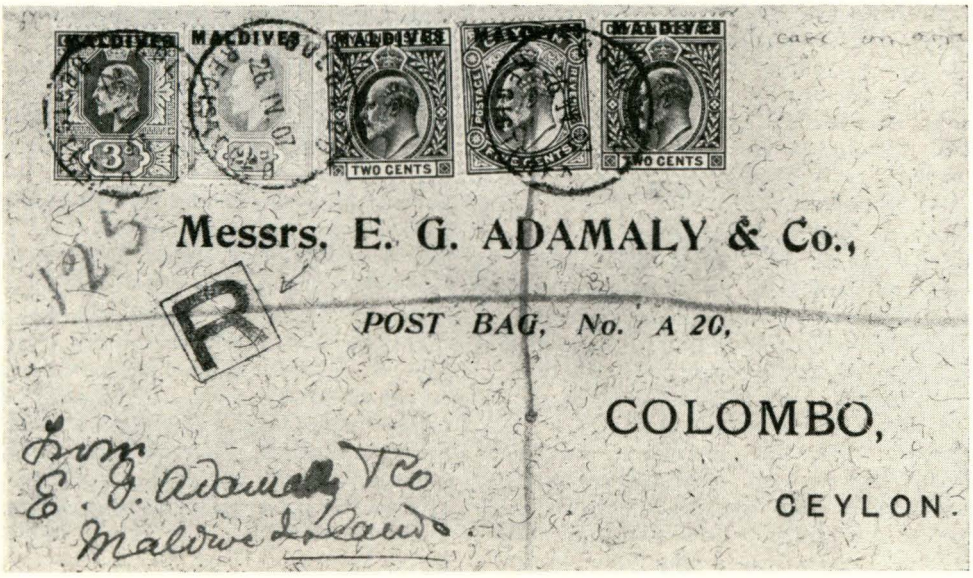


Fig. 19. Post Bag No. A 20 cover cancelled at Colombo.

Malé, on which the stamps were cancelled with the Maldive Islands postmark alone. The cover in Fig. 19 apparently did not go through the Malé post office, although in the lower left hand corner is written "From/ E. G. Adamaly & Co / Maldive Islands," and Maldivian stamps were used for its carriage. This company could apparently send mail by special bag directly to Ceylon without first placing it in the post office at Malé.

Postal Rates

It has been a great temptation to ignore the problem of postal rates of the Maldives due to the seemingly impossible difficulty of obtaining accurate information about them. Requests to the Maldivian Government for facts about the rates have met with silence. The complete lack of cooperation on the part of the post office employees which Lieut. Shelley met with when he visited Malé, indicates that students of Maldivian postal matters will have to rely on such evidence as can be obtained by studying as many covers as possible. Fortunately Mr. M. H. Robertshaw of Sheffield, England, has a large number of covers mailed from the Maldives in recent years, and he is making these available to me. Mr. John F. Field of California and Mr. Millard H. Mack of Ohio, also have a number of earlier covers, and these, together with others in my possession, have afforded some background material on which to base a few facts.

Covers dated 1907, bearing the overprinted issue of 1906, show that the rate for ordinary letters (as opposed to registered mail) from the Maldives to both Ceylon and India, was 5 cents. Further evidence of this rate is the fact the overprinted stamped envelope and the letter card both carried the 5 cent stamp. A cover from Malé to Colombo dated December 1906, carried 10 cents postage, but this apparently was a double rate letter.

A registered cover dated 1907 bears 12 cents in stamps of the overprinted issue on the front and on the back is the overprinted pink registery envelope stamp of 10 cent value. This cover was mailed from Malé to Colombo. The total postage on it is 22 cents. Another registered cover dated 1907, from Malé to Colombo, carries 16 cents in stamps of the overprinted issue. The only explanation of these two seemingly unusual rates that I can think of is that the first letter was double weight and the single rate was 6 cents, which would account for 12 of the 22 cents on the cover, the remaining 10 cents being for registration. Then the second cover, with 16 cents would have been a single weight let-

ter at 6 cents, plus 10 cents for registration. I realize that the rate for ordinary mail at this time was 5 cents; but I invite you to give a better explanation of the 22 and 16 cent rates on these two contemporary covers! Just to add spice to the problem. Mr. Millard Mack has a cover dated Dec. 12, 1906 carrying a 17 cent rate.

Figure 15 shows a registered cover from Malé to Seabright, N. J. dated 1910. It carries 40 cents postage of the 1909 issue. Although all the stamps of the issue are represented, I do not believe that this is a philatelic cover. So we may assume that the rate for a registered letter from Malé to the United States in 1910 was 40 cents.

The next cover that I have been able to find dated between 1910 and 1949 is one from Malé to India dated 1943. It is shown in Figure 17 and carries 8 cents postage of the 1933 issue. I also have a cover from Malé to India dated 1944 carrying an 8 cent rate. You will notice later that in 1951 and 1952 several letters from Malé to India carried 8 lares in postage. Does this indicate that at one time the rate was 8 lares? (or cents). This might account for the mysterious 8 lares which will be mentioned later. In any event, the application of rates at the Malé post office often appears to have been loosely regulated.

If you will refer to the list of Ceylonese stamps (without overprint) mentioned earlier, you will see that the preponderance of them were the 6 cent value, and that the others could have readily been used to make up a 6 cent rate. These stamps were used between 1927 and 1940. In the absence of covers dated between 1907 and 1943 we can only speculate as to rates and must fall back on circumstantial evidence.

The 1909 issue did not contain a 6 cent stamp, and it is probable that the 5 cent rate still obtained. (By the way, the rate to Ceylon and to India appears to have always been the same.) The 1933 issue did contain a 6 cent value, and the number of 3 and 6 cent values in the Ceylonese stamps listed above, might well indicate that a 6 cent rate was in force for some years, and that by or before 1943 the rate was increased to 8 cents (See Figure 17. Sometime before 1949 the rate was increased to 10 lares (lares and cents being of the same postal value).

In further support of the possibility that by 1933 the regular rate of postage increased from 5c to 6c, is the fact that Gibbons lists the 5c value as being worth more than the 6c. This presumably means that there were more 6c stamps used and they are therefore more plentiful. Scott, however, lists the 6c at twice the value of the 5c; but I imagine that Gibbons has had more experience with the sale of the issue, and that their prices reflect actual values more reliably.

What I believe to be the largest collection of modern Maldivian covers belongs to Mr. M. H. Robertshaw. He has been kind enough to list his covers, all of which were mailed from Malé to Morvi, District of Saurashtra, India. Without exception they were all used commercially, and thus provide an excellent guide to postal rates during the period of their use. Eighty-three individual covers have been listed, and another group, all carrying the same amount of postage, have been added. Space forbids an individual listing of the covers, but certain definite conclusions may be reached from them.

In 1949 the rate for regular letters was 10 lares, and an air mail letter carries 25 lares. In 1950, 30 covers bear the 10 lares rate. In 1951 one cover has two 6 lares stamps, probably because the sender did not have the necessary 10 l. or two 5 l. stamps on hand; but 16 covers bear the regular 10 l. date. Strangely enough three covers in 1951 bear 8 l. and on two of these had been written "by air mail" which was later erased. Why these came through with this rate is a mystery.

In 1952 three covers bear the 10 l. rate, one bears 13 l. (a 10 l. plus a 3 l.), and three more bear the mysterious 8 l. rate. These covers are all dated during the first part of the year. In October, 1952, three covers bear 20 l., another bears 30 l. and still another 25 l. It is evident, however, that the rate of 10 l. was raised to 20 l. around the middle of 1952. This is further borne out by the fact that in 1953 nine covers bear the 20 l. rate, although two more covers bear 25 l.

In 1954, 1955, and 1956 another large group of covers carry the 20 l. rate. In 1954 two registered covers carry 50 l. which establishes the rate for this class of mail. In 1955 two covers bear 30 l. and provide another mystery, while a third cover carries

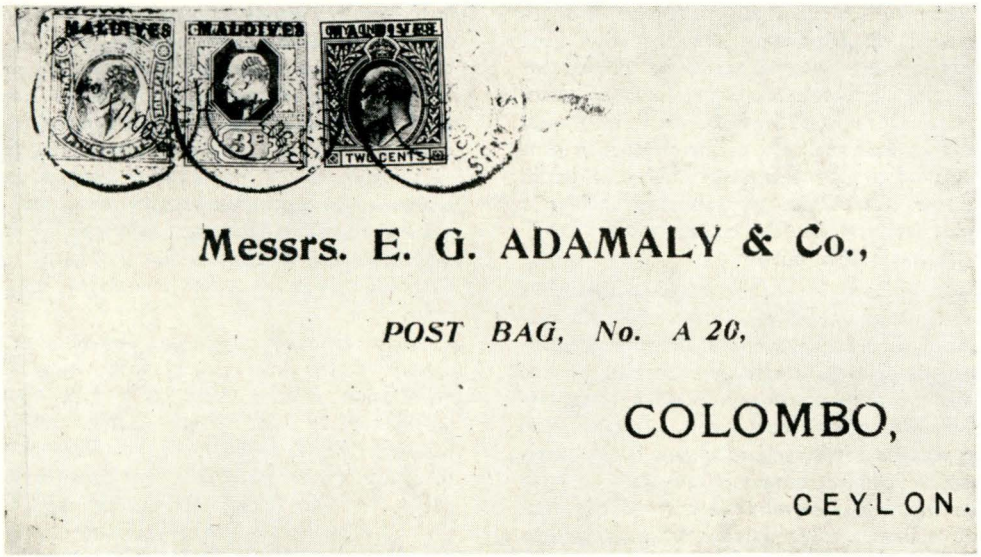


Fig. 20. Post Bay No. A 20 cover cancelled at Malé.

21 l. From the stamps on this cover it would seem that the sender did not have stamps on hand to make the 20 l. rate, and overpaid 1 lares.

Mr. Robertshaw sums up the matter thus: for some time previous to October, 1952, the rate for ordinary letters was 10 lares, but by October of that year the rate was raised to 20 lares. The rate for registered letters is now 50 lares. Unexplained are the 8 lares rate of 1951/52; the 25 lares rate of 1952, and the 30 lares rate of 1955. (I would add that in 1949 the rate for air mail was 25 lares, and the 1952 cover bearing 25 lares may have been an air mail letter, although not so marked.) The four covers of 1955 bearing 30 lares, and the three 1951 and three 1952 covers with 8 lares are still puzzles. I suggest that in view of Lieut. Shelley's experience at the Malé Post Office in 1955, one might suspect that the postal clerks are not unduly meticulous in the carrying out of their duties and this might explain the "puzzles."

An interesting group of covers in my collection confirms that in 1954 and 1955 the postal rate from Malé to India was 20 lares. These covers were all addressed to Vankaner, Saurashtra, India, and carry the postmark of that place, as well as the regular Maldive Islands postmark. Four different issues of Maldivian stamps are on the covers, and as they were all commercially used, the validity of these issues is established.

Mailed at Malé	*Received at Vankaner*	*Postage stamps used*
14. XII. 1954	3 Jan 1955	2 l., 3 l. and 15 l. of 1952 issue
11. V. 1955	31 May 1955	two 10 cent of 1909 issue
22. VI. 1955	1 July 1955	two 10 l. of 1950 issue
14. VII. 1955	23 July 1955	two 10 cent of 1933 issue
24. IX. 1955	4 Oct. 1955	two 6 l. of 1950 issue, two 3 l. of 1950 issue, one 2 cent of 1933 issue
20. X. 1954	1 Nov. 1954	one 15 l. of 1950 issue and one 5 l. of 1952 issue

Another point to be noted in connection with these covers is that lares and cents are of equivalent value for postal purposes. The time in transit varied from ten days to three weeks. These are unregistered letters and there is no indication that they were sent by air mail. They are all addressed "Via Bombay."

When we see issues from 1909 to 1952 being used on legitimate commercially used covers in 1955, we can hardly be blamed for suspecting that the Maldives have at times ordered more quantities of certain stamps than they had need for. The wonder is that stamps of the 1909 issue should still be in good condition, as to gum, having been in a tropical country that is "more sea than land" for almost half a century.

Mr. Millard H. Mack of Cincinnati has kindly sent me a list of the covers in his collection. The earliest, dated October 3, 1906, is addressed to Colombo and carries two 2c stamps of the 1906 issue. As the post office had been open for barely a month, this rate was obviously in error due to inexperience. Five other covers dated 1906 to 1910 from Malé to Colombo all carry the 5 cent rate, as does a cover dated 1907 addressed to India. One registered cover in 1907 carries the 25 cent rate.

Of particular interest is a cover dated July 27, 1946, from Malé to Jamnagar, India, with a 3 and a 5 cent stamp of the 1933 issue. This indicates that the rate of 8 cents was in force in 1946, and I have a cover dated 1943 carrying a rate of 8 lares, which seems to confirm this rate.

In Mr. Field's collection is a censored cover from Malé to Whittier, California, bearing a 10c and a 15c stamp of the 1933 issue. The letter was from the Postmaster General of the Maldives, who certainly should have known the correct rate for the cover. Another group of covers in this collection was addressed to a well known dealer in England, and the selection of the stamps on them indicate that they were "philatelic" covers, and thus not reliable indications of postal rates.

A brief summary of the probable postal rates is suggested as follows: originally the rate was 5 cents; sometime around the middle of 1933 the rate was 6 cents; there was an 8 lares rate for a while; then the rate was definitely 10 lares until about October 1952 when the rate was raised to 20 lares, which appears to be the rate at present. All of these rates apply to letters between Malé and Ceylon and India. Overseas rates beyond these two countries are extremely confused by the miscellaneous "philatelic" covers which the Maldivian Post Office appears to have been willing to pass in an effort to cater to philatelists and stamp dealers.

The commerce of the Maldives has been largely confined to Ceylon, with a lesser amount to India, and the great bulk of legitimate commercial mail has been with these two countries. I have never seen a cover addressed to any other country that was not open to suspicion of being "philatelic." That, of course, does not mean that legitimate commercial covers to other countries do not exist.

After this manuscript was delivered to the Editor, I received a very interesting communication from Ceylon in regard to the postal rates. Mr. Douglas M. Cochran, of the American Embassy staff, was kind enough to devote some of his free time to an investigation in "the dingy recesses of the Post Office" in Colombo. He received from the Postmaster General of Ceylon a table of postal rates from Ceylon to Malé from 1906 to date. "According to the Superintendent of Mails, Ceylon and Maldive postal rates are understood to have been equivalent between 1908 [1906?] and 1947, when Ceylon achieved independence. From 1947 forward, the Superintendent is of the opinion that the rates have remained more or less equivalent." In a covering letter the Postmaster General says, among other things: "There is no Money Order or Postal Order Service with Malé."

Due to lack of space I shall only list the first class letter rates and registration rates from the table. Perhaps in a later issue it may be possible to reproduce the entire table of rates for various classes of postage. From 1906 to 1919 first class rate was 5 cts. for every ounce. From 1919 to 1926 it was 6 cts. for every 4 ounces. From 1926 to 1930 it was 5 cts. for every 2 ounces. From 1930 to 1942 the rate was 6 cts. for every 2 ounces. In 1942 the rate was 6 cts. for the first ounce and 3 cts. for each additional ounce. In 1949 it was 5 cts. for every ½ ounce, and in 1953 the rate was 6 cts. for every ounce. Remember, these rates were those of Ceylon to the Maldives, and not necessarily those of the Maldives to Ceylon, although that is indicated.

The Registration Rate from Ceylon to the Maldives was 10cts. in 1906. In 1919 this was raised to 15 cts. and that rate was in

force until 1949 when the rate was raised to 20 cts. In 1953 the rate was made 25 cts.

In view of the fact that the rates of exchange between Ceylonese and Maldivian currency may have changed from time to time it is doubtful if the above rates are identical with rates from Malé to Ceylon and India. I suggest that my studies of the available covers mentioned in this article may be useful in a final determination of Maldivian rates.



Fig. 21. F. P. O. postmark of Addu Atoll.

Addu Atoll Field Post Office

I recently dined with several high ranking British Naval Officers and, of course, asked them whether they had ever visited the Maldive Islands. Three of them said they had been to Addu Atoll during the late World War. At the time I was somewhat surprised at this, but in looking through Mr. John Field's collection I discovered two covers carrying a circular F. P. O. No. 150 postmark. There was also a copy of a letter addressed to the U. S. Army Attaché in New Delhi, from the Chief of the General Staff in New Delhi, stating that "Field Post Office 150 was functioning in the Maldive Islands at Addu Atoll during Feb 1943 to June 1945." Mr. Field notes that Addu was Prime Minister Churchill's secret base in the Indian Ocean during World War II, and that "the harbor can accommodate the entire British Fleet."

Collectors of Maldivian postal material can therefore add covers bearing this F. P. O. No. 150 postmark to their collections—if they can find them. The postmark is a double circle, measures 32 mm. in diameter, and has a wide band running across it in which No. 150 and the date appear. In the upper segment of the double circle appear the letters F. P. O. Between the circle above and below the broad band are seven small perpendicular lines. The width of the transverse band is 16 mm. The color is black. (See Fig. 21)

Some Final Notes on The Maldives

The Maldivians are a separate people, with a language and a literature of their own. They have much in common with the Sinhalese of Ceylon and evidence some influence of Moorish and Arabian navigators, who at one time and another visited the islands. Originally the first settlers embraced Buddhism, but it was not long before they became Muslims, which they are to this day.

The oldest form of Maldivian writing is the "Evala Akuru." It resembles mediaeval Sinhalese very closely. This developed into "Dives Akuru" which, like the former is written from right to left. The present day "Tana" is based on Arabic and Persian script, and has been in use since the seventeenth century. On the stamps of the Maldives the inscriptions are in Arabic and English. The Ceylonese feel that the Maldivians are cousins, although a separate people, and it is undoubtedly true that the first settlers in the islands came from Lanka, another name for Ceylon.

The highest rank the Sultan can bestow is that of "Kilegefanu." Only six nobles may hold this rank at any one time. The degrees of the rank are: Rannabaderi Kilegefanu, Dhorimeina Kilegefanu, Famuladeri Kilegefanu, Farana Kilegefanu, and Mafat Kilegefanu. I mention these ranks of nobility as they sometimes appear after the name of the leaders of the Maldives, and confuse the foreigner unaquainted with them. There are also six orders that can be bestowed. In order of the rank they are: The Distinguished Order of the Qasi (N.Q.I.V.), The Distinguished Order of Izzuddin (N.I.I.V.), The Ibrahimi Order (N.I.V.), The Majidi Order (N.M.V), and two military orders, Military Gold Medal (A.M.I.V.) and Military Silver Medal (A.M.V.) These letters often appear after the names of well known citizens.

So that is my story of the 2000 Enchanted Isles and their postage stamps, as I know it today.

INDIA

The Postage Stamps of Jasdan

By H. D. S. HAVERBECK

The Feudatory State of Jasdan is situated in the Kathiawar Peninsula. It comprises an area of 283 square miles, containing 62 villages with a total population of approximately 30,000 people. The annual revenue is approximately 290,000 Rupees, out of which a tribute of 10,660 Rupees is paid annually to the British Government, Baroda and Junagarh. The State maintains an army of 341 men.

On March 15, 1942, the State inaugurated its own postal system. A postage stamp of the denomination of 1 anna was placed on sale on the same date. The design can be seen from the illustration. The full face of the sun shows the caste mark of the Brahmin, and is surrounded by inscriptions in Gujrati characters. The upper part of the inscription reads "Rajsathan Jasdan" meaning "Kingdom of Jasdan"; the lower half "Darbari Tappal" meaning Government Post. The denomination, One Anna, appears in English in the top panel with the figures of value in corner boxes, while at the bottom, similarly arranged, it appears in Gujrati characters.

The stamps, which come in shades of green color, were printed by typography in small sheets of both four or eight stamps, bound into booklets containing 200 stamps. Up to March, 1944, the total number printed amounted to 13,000. The printing was done by Messrs L. V. Indap and Co. of Bombay.

Careful study of these stamps indicates that there were three printings of the sheets of four and two printings of the sheets of eight. Separate groups of clichés were used for the sheets of eight. All of the clichés were prepared from one master die. The distinguishing features of the different printings are found in the spacing of the clichés



Sheet of four stamps from the third printing.

on the plate and in the color of the stamps. The relative positions of the various clichés do not appear to have been changed between the printings.

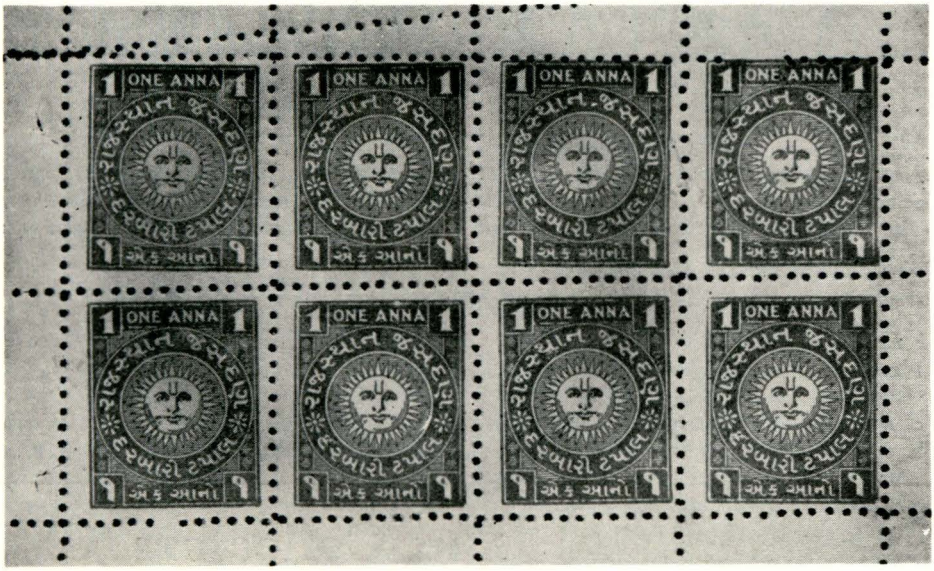
The distinguishing marks of the clichés in the plate of four subjects are as follows:

No. 1 The Sun's ray at 6 o'clock and the one to the right are joined at their bases.

No. 2 There are two small colored dashes diagonally under the upper left box, one of which breaks the outer white circle. There is a similar dash to the right of the Sun's ray at 3 o'clock.

No. 3 No constant flaws have been observed.

No. 4 There is a white flaw across the first character of the lower inscription reading from left to right.



Sheet of eight stamps from the first printing.

Two gauges of perforation were used on the sheets of four, 10½ and 8½. There are always two vertical lines of perforation and one horizontal.

The change to a sheet of eight stamps took place early in 1944. The distinguishing marks of the clichés in the new plate are as follows:

No. 1 There is a small notch in the outer edge of the top frame line 2 mm. from the upper left corner.

No. 2 There are two notches in the outer left frame line about 10 mm. from the upper left corner.

No. 3 There is a dent in the right frame line beginning about ½ mm. above the lower right corner.

No. 4 There is a small break in the lower frame line 4½ mm. from the left corner and a notch in the same line 8½ mm. from the left corner.

No. 5 The top frame line is decidedly thinner over the word "ANNA".

No. 6 The inner line of the three lines of shading at the left side of the Sun's face is very short. The center line of the same shading is broken.

No. 7 There is a spot of color on the Sun's face at 9 o'clock.

No. 8 There is a dent in the outer edge of the top frame line between "A" and the first "N" of "ANNA".

The stamps in these sheets were perforated all around. Again two gauges were used, 10 and 9¼.

There are, in addition to these constant flaws which distinguish the various positions in the second plate, certain flaws which appear only on these eight clichés. These may be used to differentiate single stamps from the plates of four and the plates of eight. They are:

A. A white line in the outer colored frame line at the top 4½ mm. from the upper right corner.

B. A small colored spur on the outside of the right hand frame line at 3 o'clock.

C. A small colored dot in the ray of the star at the left. This occurs in the ray positioned at 7 o'clock.

The following table can be used as a guide to the various printings:

Printing	*No. of stamps*	*Perforation*	*Size of sheet*	*Color*
1.	2 x 2	10½	45 x 55 mm	deep myrtle green
2.	2 x 2	10½	49 x 58½ mm	bluish green
3.	2 x 2	8½	45½ x 55 mm	yellow green
4.	2 x 4	10	96 x 56 mm	grass green
5.	2 x 4	9¼	100 x 56 mm	bluish green

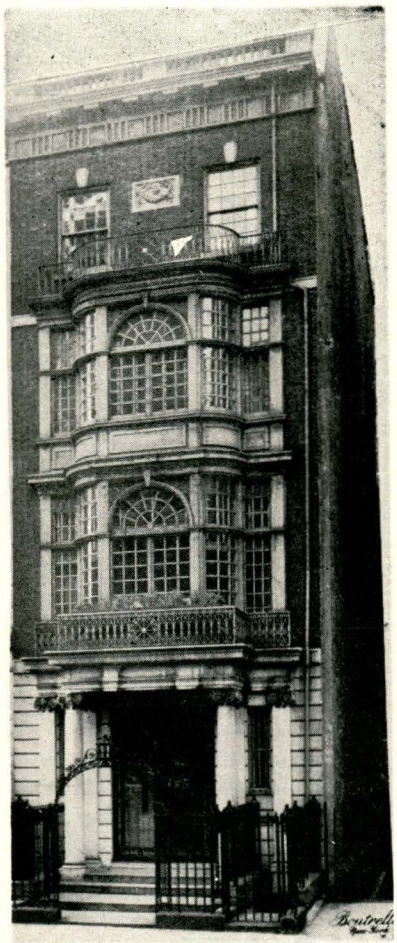
Note: The measurements given for the size of the sheet take into consideration the spacing of the stamps. They are measured from the left hand side of the first stamp to the right hand side of the last stamp and from the top frame line to the bottom frame line.

Post offices were located in the towns of Jasdan, Vinchhia and in ten villages.

Check List

1. 1 anna deep myrtle green, bluish green, yellow green (N)
   a. sheet of four, perf. 10½ (4N)
   b. sheet of four, perf. 8½ (8N)
2. 1 anna grass green, bluish green (N)
   a. sheet of 8 perf. 10 (8N)
   b. sheet of 8 perf. 9¼ (16N)

Note: Used stamps are scarce. Covers are decidedly rare.



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FRENCH LEVANT

1855 Jaffa Cancellation

By PAUL STEIN

In THE COLLECTORS CLUB PHILATELIST, Volume XXXIII, No. 5, September 1954, there was an article French Levant, by E. Tolkowsky.

On page 242 there is shown in Fig. 10, Type III of the Jaffa cancellation, and mentioned on the same page that the earliest known date is July 22nd, 1856.

I have in my collection a letter, dated July 9th, *1855,* with the postmark of the following day, backstamped in Marseille on July 22nd, 1855.

Also of great interest is the subject, with which the following letter deals:

"Jaffa, July 9th, 1855

Messrs.
Pastré brothers,
Marseilles.

"I have received your honorable letter of June 20th last, in mail satchel No. 8, which according to your wishes I have forwarded to Mr. Botta.

"If I am not mistaken, it is more than likely that this will be the last time, Gentlemen, that I will have the pleasure of writing you, unless future events put me in a position to be again useful or agreeable to you.

"You will have learnt before we did of Mr. Botia's being named to the position of General Consul at Tripoli of Barbarie; this event has caused us all the most vivid pain, for he was not only a Chief, but a father and a friend that we had in Palestine; and, as he regrets to leave a position that he has occupied with such distinction and for so long, we still have some hope—small it is true—that upon his arrival in Paris, for which he will leave tomorrow morning, it might somehow happen that he will be returned to us. . . . It would be a day of great joy for all Frenchmen of Palestine.

"Please, accept, Gentlemen, my devoted and sincere salutations,

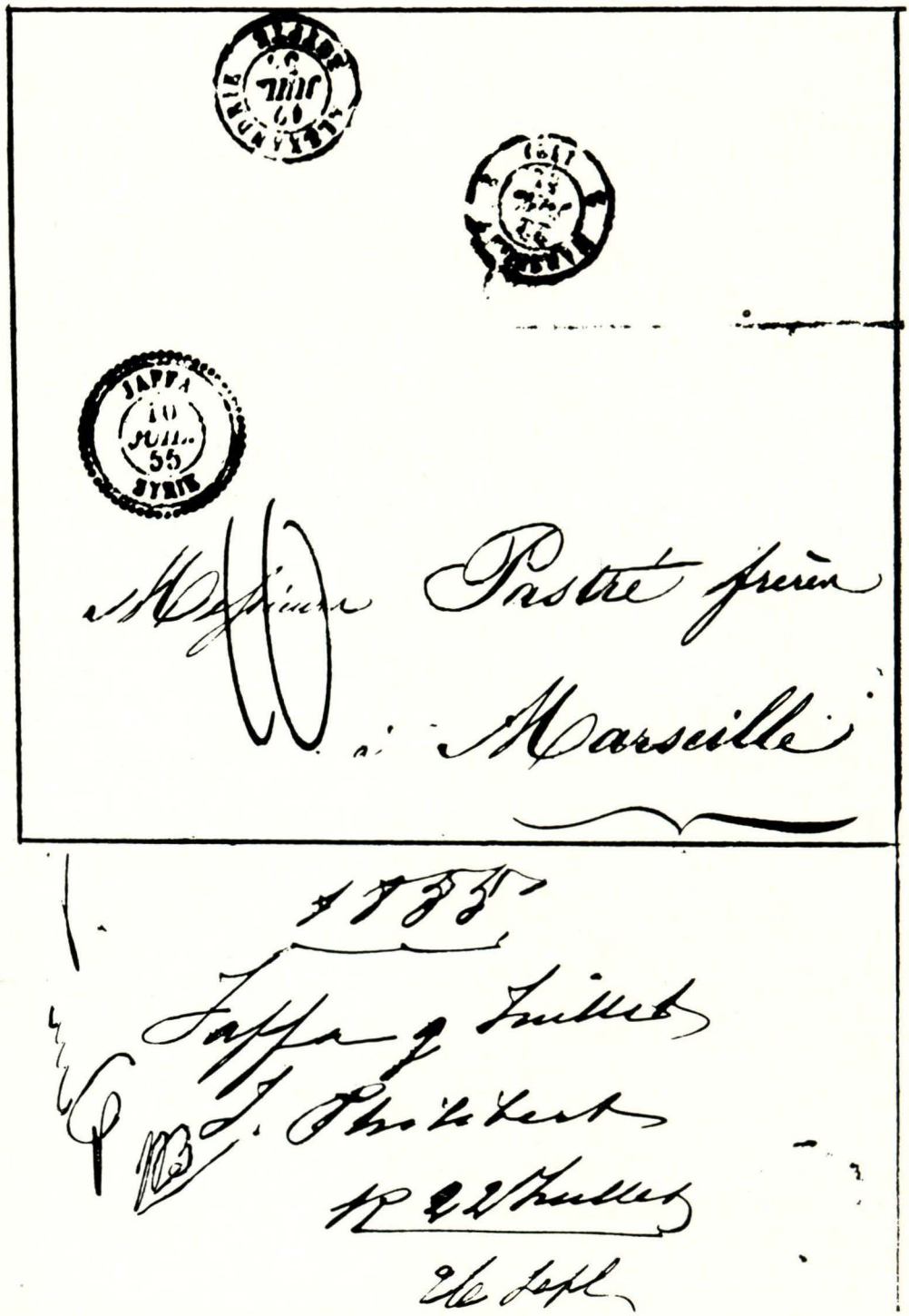
J. PHILIBERT"

(*Illustration On Page 362.*)

PHILATELIC LITERATURE

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

A complete list of all our Handbooks still available can be obtained free of charge by writing to the Executive Secretary, 22 East 35 Street, New York 16, N. Y. A recent check showed that the supply of some is dwindling fast, and they will be out of stock soon, not to be reprinted. Better order now what you wish.


JAFFA
10
JUIL.
55
SYRIE
Marseille
1855

BOOK REVIEWS

Maroc, Postes Francaises. By Exelmans and O. de Pomyers. Amiens, France, Sept. 1948, Editions Yvert & Tellier. Paper, 225 pp., price not given.

Review of a book more than eight years after the date of its publication is quite exceptional. The justification is that this outstanding specialized study of French Moroccan stamps has in no sense been superseded in the intervening years and indeed is not likely to become outdated for a long time to come. Why this book has failed to receive the attention it deserves is difficult to understand, unless perhaps one assumes that copies did not become available in this country until long after it first appeared; normally the philatelic press reviews only newly published works. This is only a guess, however. Whatever the reason, the book certainly has been unjustly neglected, and it is no more than right to attempt to make some restitution.

"Maroc, Postes Francaises" is a monograph which embodies considerable original research, not a priced catalogue. It discusses in great detail the precursors and all of the stamps issued prior to the Allied landings in North Africa in November, 1942, with the exception of the 1917 parcel post stamps and with the addition of some postwar postage due stamps (up to about 1946), plus a section on essays and proofs. While its appeal will undoubtedly be greatest to the specialist, this book cannot fail to be of value to anyone at all interested in the philately of French Morocco.

The attempt is made to include information not only about every known variety, but about every identifiable printing where a stamp was in production over a period of years. Lavish use is made of descriptions of differences in shades, papers, gums, color of surcharges, even shape of millesime numbers in succeeding decades, all with the aim of making the discussion as complete as possible. In this connection the seventeen-page analysis of the many printings of the 1917-26 eight-value postage due series has to be seen to be believed.

The impression is inescapable that the authors' first-hand knowledge of all phases of French Moroccan philately is unmatched anywhere. In those instances where they do not have in their own collections, or have not seen, a particular variety they specifically so state, but such instances are comparatively few. Their studies have enabled them to correct several errors included in the last (1938) edition of "the Yvert & Tellier Specialized Catalogue for France and Colonies," and to report a number of varieties not listed elsewhere.

Readers will find of great value the warnings, where needed, about faked surcharges, unauthorized printings made from the original plates, made-to-order cancellations and also the hints about the existence of distinctive characteristics helpful in recognizing authentic varieties. Likewise helpful are the brief but adequate descriptions of methods of stamp production (typography, engraving and photogravure), of the various plate layouts and sheet markings, of the different kinds of papers used, and of the various types of essays and proofs. The information about and listing of varieties of the photogravure issues, particularly of the first airmail issue, should prove an eye-opener to most collectors, indicating as they do the definite possibility of plating every one of the stamps.

An entirely convincing case is presented showing why two issues, long listed as legitimate, ought to be stricken from the catalogues. The authors label the 1903 "P. P." overprints (Scott's Nos. 24-25) a strictly speculative local issue, without justification on the basis of legitimate postal need. The "first" 1914 Red Cross semi-postal (Scott's No. B1) is branded a phantasy, prepared in a manner analogous to that said to have been used to produce the many varieties of No. B3, i.e., by persons who gained access for a few hours to the printshop in Rabat where the normal Red Cross stamps were being produced, the original surcharge plate being used to turn out all of the varieties. Whether the various catalogue editors are any more likely to pay attention to the arguments presented

than they generally do to the great mass of published results of philatelic research is most unlikely, however, to say the least.

One rather surprising oversight has been noted by this reviewer: there is no discussion of the plate retouches of the 1917 engraved issue. Even though they are aware that retouching took place (see p. 212) the authors state that they know of no constant printing variety on any denomination in this issue (p. 82). On the basis of information uncovered in the course of his own unpublished researches, this reviewer knows how very inadequate the discussion of the 1917 engraved issue actually is.

One might wish that diagrams had been included to show the various types of sheet markings, particularly of the photogravure issues, to which reference is made in the text. Also, photographs of at least one or two of the well defined partial double transfers to be found on several of the engraved stamps would have been helpful. Their inclusion would probably have spurred collectors to hunt for similar varieties, which no doubt still remain unreported.

Only a very few errors in proofreading have been noted. One in particular may be mentioned here: on page 45 a variety D is indicated as being located in position No. 49; on page 46 (line 2) the position appears as No. 99. (*Charles Neidorf*)

The Denmark 2 Rigsbank Skilling 1851-1852, Descriptions of the 200 clichés, By S. Gronlund. Copenhagen, 1956.

The subject of this painstaking monograph is the small blue stamp issued by Denmark about one month later than the 4 RBS brown. It describes and illustrates all the clichés used by Ferslew and Thiele in its two printings.

The 2 RBS is by no means a common stamp, less than a half million having been the total issued. How it was possible for the author to have procured or to have had access to enough stamps for his research and photography is hard to understand, yet he says that it took him only about two years.

There are excellent line cuts of the ten types and of the two hundred clichés, each illustration uniformly enlarged a trifle more than two and one-half times. The four burelage types are also illustrated.

Under each cut is found the plate number, the position number and that of the type. This information is followed by a minutely detailed description of the sometimes microscopic flaws found on the stamp, and, when it is remembered that the size of the stamp is less than twenty millimeters square, finding all the flaws could not have been easy. The descriptive matter is very concise and clear but is entirely in Danish. No English supplement has been included as is quite often issued with Danish philatelic literature, and would be difficult to work out much of the text aided merely by a dictionary—particularly as there does not seem to be a good Danish-English one available.

The ardent plater, however, would not have difficulty in assigning his stamps to their proper place by comparison with the cuts, but he would have to remember that, as the author points out, there are three types of flaws to consider: (1) Innate flaws in the engraving or the clichés. (2) Faults sustained during the printings. These, naturally, would not be on all the stamps but would be recurrent on many. (3) Accumulated faults. Disregarding the two latter categories, enough of the primary flaws still visible would furnish the identification.

The book is in a hard-glazed paper cover printed in two colors, and the sixty-four pages of text and illustrations are very clearly printed on a fine quality paper. If you do have one or more of these rather elusive 2 RBS stamps you would be sure to find this excellent book of both interest and value. (*Paul Carlton*)

The Springbok Half-Penny. By Gordon Ward, M.D., F. R. P. S. L. London, 1956, 46 pp., paper. H. E. Wingfield & Co. 5s, plus postage.

Dr. Ward's articles as a serial in "the Strand Stamp Journal" have here been assembled into a coherent book, with emenda tions at some points arising from additional information. The result is a comprehensive specialized study of this haypny stamp which was in use, in its many variants, from 1926 to 1954. Not merely the regular adhesives in sheets, but the single-color coil stamps, the postal stationery and the booklets, are all

treated. Excellent diagrams of jubilee lines, sheet layouts and roto cylinder plans, together with fine practicable illustrations of the varieties, are assembled in the rear portion of the book.

Dr. Ward's study is arranged primarily according to the "sets" of plates or rotogravure cylinders which were used. He divides these into six groups, each definitely delimited by special circumstances or methods of use in stamp production.

Dr. Ward's preliminary statement of the terminology must, of course, be carefully read in order to use the book intelligently.

This reviewer found only one difficulty in using the book. It is sometimes quite a task to place some interesting specimen according to Dr. Ward's treatment, short of going through the relevant section of group, plate or cylinder set by set. Thus, it took some little time to locate the conspicuous "two Afrikaans stamps together" coil variety.

The plating keys and charts are adequate, free of confusion.

In fact, the only real qualm one may have is whether this treatment may be beyond the needs or desires of most collectors' interests in the 1926-54 pictorials of the Beloved Country for which one must indeed cry. (*S. G. R.*)

The Flight of Alcock & Brown 14-15 June 1919 by Graham Wallace. Published by Putnam, 42 Great Russell St., London, England. 312 pp. Cloth bound. Illustrated. Price 18/-.

Most every collector, interested in either air mail or Newfoundland stamps, will be grateful to the Club Library for purchasing this book that was published this year. It is a fast moving account of the famous first Trans-Atlantic flight, which gives a philatelist a vivid background to the well-known Newfoundland 1919 air post issues—"The Hawker", "The Martinsyde" and the $1 on 15c, the specific stamp issued for the Alcock-Brown flight.

Consequently, any one collecting these Newfoundland air mails will have a f[illegible] greater appreciation and understanding [illegible] these items after he reads this exciting book. One finds only a few passing references to stamps, but the author devotes much attention to the mail that Alcock and Brown carried on their famous flight. Stamp collecting becomes so much more enjoyable after one learns the stories behind the stamps. Here is a book that offers this. (*H. M. G.*)

The Postmarks of Great Britain & Ireland, Part II by R. C. Alcock and F. E. Holland. Published by R. C. Alcock, Ltd., 11 Regent Street, Cheltenham, England. Price unknown.

To understand what this booklet of sixty-four pages attempts to encompass in its subject field one must know the original work published in 1940 and its fifteen supplements, which have been issued to keep apace with the discoveries being made almost continuously of new postmarks, or in the extension of known marks in time of use, color of ink or scope of purpose. The original "Alcock and Holland", as it is more familiarly and reverently known, was divided into three main Parts for a total of seventeen Sections. In Part II or what would be more correct Volume II the publishers have consolidated all the data pertaining to Part I in the original work, that have appeared as discovered and reported in the eight individually published Supplements and the seven scattered Supplements of varying size which have appeared periodically in "The Philatelic Adviser".

Part I in the original dealt with the postmarks prior to the introduction of General Penny Postage and the continuation of the use of certain classes of these postmarks to about 1857. The Super Supplement issued this year covers the same group.

While the appearance of this Supplement—consolidation fulfills a very definite need, it being quite a task in itself to acquire a complete set of the Supplements, it will leave many Great Britain and Ireland Postmark students and collectors sorely disappointed. For in truth what is needed is not this distillate of data to supplement the original, but a complete re-issue of "The Postmarks of Great Britain and Ireland." Part II (Part I in the original) and the two promised additions cover Parts II and III of the original are indeed welcome for they will reduce to a minimum the now necessary cross referencing

of the postmarks from the Supplements to the original. Because of this there are more interlinear notes in my "Alcock and Holland" than usually found in the lazy student's Cicero.

The publishers hope that Part II is sufficiently autonomous to stand independent of the original represents a bit of wishful thinking. Postponement of the index until the last of the proposed three parts is published provides the collector with a little of this wishful thinking.

The typography and the line illustrations, the quality of the paper and, most important, the quality of content are all of the high standard so typical of the House of Alcock. This reviewer is not in complete agreement with the deductions of Mr. J. V. Preston, who has supplied the information for the rewriting of the Unpaid Dublin Mermaids. Figure 554 (no reference to the Mermaids dimensions) has been seen as late as 1814 and on an entire originating in Scotland for delivery in Dublin. A few other Irish extensions of use by date or in color, which are in neither the original nor this work, were noted. Among the latter is the Dublin scroll Charity Letter marking (orig. Fig. 886) in red. These, however, are minor and the work suffers nothing from their omission. It is not necessary to write that every collector and student of British Postmarks should obtain a copy, the mere announcement by the House of Alcock that it has been published establishes that necessity. It is impossible to intelligently collect postmarks on philatelic clairvoyance alone, the facts too are necessary. (*Malcolm G. O'Reilly*)

Channel Islands — France Mail Services, 1683-1939, by William Newport. London, 20 pp. paper, Jan. 1956.

The Date-Stamps and Other Cancellations of Jersey and Guernsey 1830-1956. By O. W. Newport and O. J. Simpson. London, 20 pp., paper, mid-1956.

Both to be had at 75c each from Channel Islands Specialists' Society, 122 Woodyates Road, London, S. E. 12, England.

These two handbook pamphlets are properly to be reviewed together, so the earlier was held until the later one could arrive. It is our understanding that at least two more will appear, to form sections, it is presumed, of a comprehensive Channel Islands handbook.

The first of these, on the Channel Islands services to France, attracts attention because of the accurate detail coverage of this little-known service. Substantially every postmark involved is pictured, actual size. For the student of Movable Box services, the section on this feature is particularly useful, giving as it does the essential features to be taken into account in understanding any such service. The list of British stamps with French cancellations, arising from this service, and French stamps cancelled on the Channel Islands or with the Movable Box marks, is one of the valuable features. The final "Guide to Values" section is also most illuminating as a market report.

The second book, Jersey and Guernsey postmarks, is one of the most completely competent postmark studies that this reviewer has yet seen. Anyone attempting similar publication, whether for an office in the U. S. or a small country in the antipodes, would be well advised to secure a copy as his model for procedure.

It is hard to review these little productions adequately without seeming to "rave," because they are really done exactly right. (*S. G. R.*)

SCHEDULED MEETINGS

December 5th

The Program will be presented by The Philatelic Foundation.

December 19th

Colombia. Jacob S. Glaser.

Program for 1957 To Be Announced Shortly

THE CLUBHOUSE

Devasya CCP Medal Presentation

THE COLLECTORS CLUB PHILATELIST medal for the best article published in 1954 was awarded to the co-authors of the *Travancore-Cochin* series. This magazine described and illustrated an important ceremony that took place in our clubhouse on November 16, 1955 (see Vol. 35 pp. 25-6). As known, one of the authors was *Frank M. Cowen* of Norwalk, Conn. The other was *J. Devasya* of Travancore, India.

The Republic of India deemed this philatelic honor to one of its citizens so significant that it delegated its Consul-General in New York, The Hon. L. R. S. Singh, to personally visit here to receive upon Mr. Devasya's behalf his CCP medal. This ceremony turned out to be one of the most historical in the 60-year history of our Club, and was widely reported by the press.

It was later learned that the matter did not end here. The Government of India forwarded Mr. Devasya's medal to India, but this was not turned over to him through the mails or in any other ordinary manner.

On August 1, 1956, The Hon. A. K. Dutt, Government of India, Information Services, New York, N. Y., wrote us:



Fig. 1. Mr. J. Devasya receiving the COLLECTORS CLUB PHILATELIST medal in Travancore, India from the District Collector of Quilon at a special ceremony.



Fig. 2. Mr. J. Devasya holding the CCP medal and the District Collector.

"I have pleasure in forwarding to you some photographs taken on the occasion of the presentation of the philatelic award to Mr. J. Devasya at a fitting ceremony organized by the State Government of Travancore-Cochin. The occasion was widely reported in local newspapers. We thought you may like to make use of these photographs as you see fit."

Illustrated here are two of the photographs of this ceremony.

The Library Committee reports the acquisition of the following:

Twelfth American Philatelic Congress Book, edited by W. R. McCoy. An American Philatelic Congress publication.

Thirteenth American Philatelic Congress Book, edited by W. R. McCoy. An American Philatelic Congress publication.

Seventeenth American Philatelic Congress Book, edited by Jere. Hess Barr. An American Philatelic Congress publication.

Philatelic Literature. Contributed by Mr. Sol Whitman.

Hodson's Postal History Thematic Catalogue. M. Hodson, Edinburgh, Scotland.

United States Postage Stamps, 1945-1952, by Sol Glass. Bureau Issues Association, Inc., West Somerville, Mass.

The Romanov Tercentenary Issue by Dr. Gregory B. Salisbury. Reprint from The Journal of the British Society of Russian Philately.

Greece, Large Head of Mercury. The Varieties of the Plates of the Postage Stamps, 1861-1882, by N. Garas. Published by the author, Athens, Greece. (English, Greek and French)

Aerial Proapganda Leaflets, compiled by John C. W. Field, F. R. G. S. Francis J. Field, Ltd., Sutton Coldfield, England.

Slikovnica za Male Filteliste. Filatelisticki Savez Hrvatske, Zagreb. (Croatian)

Pen Klub Izdanje 1933, compiled by Velimir Ercegovic. Reprint from "Filatelija". (Croatian)

Fezzan Air Stamps by Sebastiao Amaral. Published by author, Belo Horizonte, Brazil.

Philately from Australia, Vols. I-VII, 1949-1955.

Philippine Journal of Philately, Vols. I-VII, Sept. 1948-Aug. 1955.

The Aero Field, Vol. 19, 1955.

Brasil Filatelico, Vol. XXII, 1955.

The Holy Land Philatelist, Nos. 4-18, 1955-56.

The Journal of the Rossica Society of Russian Philately, No. 46/47, 1955. (English and Russian editions)

Boletin Centrofil, Nos. 334-345, 1955-56.

Die Luftpost, Nos. 23-24, 1955-56.

Kurzl Briefmarkenliste, No. 1/56.

Michel Nachtrag, Nos. 1-5, 1956.

Austria Philatelist. Odd issues.

Mexico Postal. Oct.-Nov., 1955.

Correo del Orinoco, Nos. 1-5, 1955.

Der Sammler Dienst, Dec. 1955-Mar. 1956.

Boletim do Clube Filatelico de Portugal, Nos. 50-56, 1955-56.

La Philatelie Francaise, Nos. 42, 43, 1955.

Danmark 2 Rigsbankskilling, 1851 og 1852 by S. Gronlund. Published by Nordisk Filatelistisk Tidsskrift, Copenhagen, Denmark. (Danish). Gift of the Kobenhavns Philatelist Klub.

Topical Handbook No. 12. Published by the American Topical Association, Milwaukee, Wisconsin.

The Post Offices of Southwestern Indiana, compiled by Neal J. Gravert, Clarence E. Kouts and Henry A. Meyer. Published by the Evansville Stamp Club, Evansville, Indiana.

Stanley Gibbons' Postage Stamp Catalogue 1957, Part II. Stanley Gibbons, Ltd., London, England.

Wrona Deutschland-Spezial Katalog 1957. Wrona, Berlin, W. 30, Germany. (German).

History of the United States in Postal Slogan Cancels by Moe Luff. Published by the author, New York, N. Y.

Postal Service in Iceland, 1776-1951. Issued by the Post and Telegraph Administration of Iceland, Reykjavik, Iceland.

Wembley and the Posts by W. G. Stitt-Dibden. Published by the author, Wembley, England.

The Postmarks of Great Britain and Ireland, Part II, by R. C. Alcock and F. C. Holland. Publisher, R. C. Alcock, Ltd., Cheltenham Spa, England.

The Date-Stamps and Other Cancellations of Jersey and Guernsey, 1830-1956 by O. W. Newport and O. J. Simpson. Published by the Channel Islands Specialists' Society, London, England.

The Springbok Half-Penny by Gordon Ward, M.D., F. R. P. S. L. Published by H. E. Wingfield & Co., London, England.

Postal Forgeries of Spain by Charles Jewell. Reprint from "Stamp Collecting", London, England.

Detroit and Algonac Steamboat Rural Free Delivery Service by Bramston Beach. Diamond Publishing Co., Detroit, Mich.

The Flight of Alcock and Brown, 14-15 June 1919 by Graham Walker. Publisher, Putnam, London, England.

Speciale Catalogus 1956, Nederland. Nederlandsche Vereeniging van Postzegelhandelaren, 's-Gravenhage, Netherlands. (Dutch).

Muller Katalog 1957: Schweiz, Liechtenstein. Ernst Muller, Basel, Switzerland. (German)

Album of "FIPEX" Photographs. Gift of Mr. Adrien Boutrelle.

Jaarverslag van het Nederlandse Postmuseum over 1955. Nederlandse Postmuseum, 's-Gravenhage, Netherlands. (Dutch).

145 Photographs of Selected Pieces from the Uruguay Collection of Mr. Robert Hoffman. Mounted in an Album. Gift of Mr. Robert Hoffman.

A Glossary of Philatelic Terms, compiled by a Sub-Committee of the Philatelic Congress of Great Britain. Blandford Press, London, England. Gift of Mr. Paul Carlton.

The Endless Web by Joan Evans. Publisher, Jonathan Cape, London, England Gift of Mr. Albert H. Higgins.

Stanley Gibbons' Postage Stamp Catalogue 1957, Part I. Stanley Gibbons, Ltd., London, England.

Philatelic Literature. Gift of Mr. Adrien Boutrelle.

Neuer Ganzsachen-Katalog, 1 Lieferung: Europa, Albanien-Danemark. Edited and published by Berliner Ganzsachen-Sammler-Verein, Berlin, Germany. (German).

Locations and Assignments, U. S. Army Post Offices, World War II. Compiled by A. J. Tripp for the War Cover Club. Gift of Mr. Isadore Willinger.

Specialise Berck: 15th Edition 1849-1957. Edouard Berck, Paris, France. (French)

Bornholmske Poststempler by R. King-Farlow. Reprinted from Nordisk Filatelistisk Tidsskrift, Copenhagen, Denmark. Gift of the author. (Danish).

Flags on Stamps by Sophia Webb and Capt. M. F. Stern, A. R. I. B. A., F. R. G. S. Published by the American Topical Association, Milwaukee, Wisconsin.

Scott's Standard Postage Stamp Catalogue 1957, Volume II. Scott Publications, Inc., New York.

At the Board of Governors meetings held in June and September, 1956, the following new members were elected:

4401 Thomas Anderson Matthews, Springfield, Ohio. Collects Airmails of the World.

4402 Arthur Romerhaus, Evansville, Ind.

4403 Lowell Cooper, Newcastle, Ind. Collects introductory philatelic material.

4404 Mrs. CeDora J. Hanus, Berwick, Pa. Collects U. S. 5c Jefferson's 1856-1867.

4405 Henry W. Hill, Wayzata, Minn. Collects U. S. 5c 1856-1860, Territorial covers.

4406 Donald K. Knee, Gaspee Plateau, R. I., Collects 19th Century U. S., Stampless Covers, R. I. Postal markings.

4407 Harry Zifkin, Toronto, Canada. Collects Israel.

4408 Kenneth Rowe, Toronto, Canada. Collects Austria.

4409 Dr. Sheldon H. Goodman, San Rafael, Calif. Collects Western Covers.

4410 Ike West, Jr., Vanderbilt, Texas. Collects United States, Germany and Canada.

4411 Arthur Salm, Chicago, Ill. Collects Bergedorf, Bremen, Thurn & Taxis, Saar, German Colonies.

4412 Richard E. Heller, M.D., Chicago, Ill. Collects Italian Postal History, Disinfected mail, Early United States.

4413 Paul C. Rohloff, Chicago, Ill. Collects United States, Jamaica.

4414 Harriet L. Work, Long Island City, N. Y. Collects British Empire Booklets.

4415 Jan Bart, Belle Harbor, N. Y. Collects United States, Israel.

4416 Bernard Eisenberg, Forest Hills, N. Y. Collects British, French, Spanish and Italian Colonies.

4417 C. Archer Stockbridge, Glen Ridge, N. J. Collects U. S. and foreign.

4418 Charles Del Giudice, Philadelphia, Pa. Collects Italy.

4419 Robert W. Yant, Canton, Ohio. Collects United States, Germany.

4420 Alex P. Watts, Allenhurst, N. J. Collects Jamaica and Samoa.

4421 Leo F. Goerth, Akron, Ohio. Collects French Colonies, Reply coupons, United States Registration seals.

4422 Lewis K. Foster, Jr., Whittier, Calif. Collects 19th Century United States covers and cancellations.

4423 George E. Schwanhausser, Buffalo, N. Y. Collects United States.

4424 Thomas W. Ward, Fallbrook, Calif. Collects Indian Feudatory States.

4425 G. L. Jepsen, West Newton, Mass. Collects Asia.

4425 Langdon H. Longwell, Elmhurst, Ill. Collects Mexico.

CORRIENTES

(Continued From Page 338.)

giving evidence of the fifth printing group, yet we show a re-construction of a complete sheet in Fig. 100. This tête-bêche pair arrangement, that does not fit into any of the other four printing groups, strongly indicates the existence of a fifth.

Table 9.

The Fifth Printing Group

Year	*Value*	*Color*	*Setting*
1880	3 Centavos	rose & mauve	4

PAPER AND GUM

The paper used for all the stamps of Corrientes is commonly called "sugar paper". This type of paper is not found used by any other South American country at that time. One can account for its use in Corrientes as coming from a stock that may have been used for wrappings on imported products, perhaps as far away as the Orient.

Physically sugar paper is very thin and its fibers are very loosely woven, but it should be said, although the paper is thin, it varies to a very thin transparent paper. Pin holes are frequent on many copies. In general, the paper is very fragile and of poor quality. This paper comes in different colors. This serves as an excellent means of identifying the different issues. Under rather primitive conditions, no doubt it was more practical and economical to use different color papers than different ink colors for the various stamps needed. Furthermore printing inks were probably difficult to obtain. Since all of the stamps of Corrientes were uniformly printed with black ink, the color identification is done by the paper differences.

Perhaps our theory about the use of sugar paper in different colors, the black printing ink and a single design may be wrong. Without any records or documentation, we can only follow a path of logical conjecture. Possibly some archives do exist to explain this matter. If they do, we would like them called to our attention.

It was unfortunate that the type of gum used eventually did great damage to the stamps. A very thick, brown gum apparently was applied by hand to the stamps with a brush. Due no doubt to the ingredients, within a few years' time a chemical action causes severe discoloration of the paper. This can be noted especially on the yellow and lilac issues. This may explain why Moens referred to the color of the yellow issues as a "dirty yellow". Possibly already as early as in Moens' time, the gum already began to discolor the paper causing him to mention such a shade.

(END OF PART I)

R. S. BOHN

(Continued From Page 320.)

came history, he was stricken with his illness from which he never recovered.

Richard S. Bohn was a *Fellow of The Royal Philatelic Society, London,* a *Trustee of the Philatelic Foundation,* and a member of *The International Board of Judges at Toronto, Canada in 1951.*

He was a long-time general collector, but specialized in air mail stamps and Lincolniana. President Abraham Lincoln was his hero, and "Dick" Bohn always felt a close personal bond to this great American. Dick was born and raised in Indiana, which he believed was Lincoln's country.

For a number of years he had served as President of Preferred Utilities, Inc., New York, N. Y., manufacturers of industrial oil burners. Mr. Bohn was one of the organizers of the Oil Heat Institution, and served some years as its presiding officer. He graduated as an engineer from Purdue University. In recent years, he had both his residence and factory in Connecticut. He is survived by a widow, a daughter, two sons and six grandchildren.

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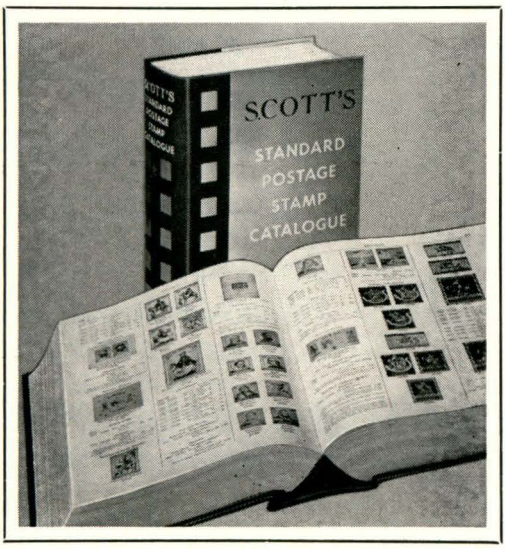
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