The Collectors Club

Philatelist

A Magazine devoted to Philatelic Study & Research

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The Collectors Club Philatelist

MAY 1952. VOL. XXXI, No. 3

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Editorials

INTERNATIONAL PHILATELY

The following two editorials might better be called "Two Minds With One Thought." Your editor had written his when along came that of *Major Anthony Walker,* the former editor of the well-known British weekly "Stamp Collecting." Since both ideas tie in so well together, it has been decided to run them as an unit.

The Future For the Hobby

To allay any possible suspicion, I shall start this with the remark, anticipating my further comments, that I am sure there is a bright future for the hobby of stamp collecting, but I think upon different lines than those on which it is set at present.

Twenty-five years ago, when I started stamp collecting as a boy, I was no more aware of the immensity of the financial interests involved than the majority of youngsters drawn to the hobby. I must confess that I enjoyed enormously finding that I had bought a stamp that would have cost me ten shillings from a certain famous dealer in London for a mere shilling from another dealer. It was not until I tried to sell it at a profit that I received my first lesson in the economics of buying and selling stamps. That lesson (The dealer offered me 10/- for a collection that "catalogued" over 200/- by 'Gibbons,' your equivalent is Scott) I took to heart, and resolved that in future I would never buy for resale but only for my own collection.

By sticking rigidly to this formula I found —to my considerable surprise—that I could, nevertheless, resell at a profit. Those Austrian Charity stamps and the 10 Sch. "Dolfuss" that I bought from the post offices in Austria, other stamps for my collection bought in different parts of Europe, all these I sold in 1938 and made a considerable profit. During the War, wherever I happened to be, I purchased some stamps to remind me of the place—there were some places I needed no reminder, but I bought stamps all the same!—and I found to my surprise that on my return to Britain I could (and did) sell them at a profit, in some cases exceeding one-hundred times what I had paid for them. In all these cases I knew that there were still enormous stocks of the stamps in the hands of dealers, speculators and collectors in Asia. When these fantastic offers were made me, I made a point of telling the buyer that I thought his offer far too high. The answer was invariably the same, or similar:

"What do you care? You are making a profit."

But I did care, and I do care now because I know that many collectors could, by waiting

a few years, have bought the same stamps for a fraction of the money that they paid me. A case in point is the Burma "peacocks". I got a few of these while in Burma, which I sold on my return, because I was little interested in them. To my surprise, a tale was circulated in Britain and in the U. S. A. that these were legitimate postage stamps which had fulfilled postal duty in Burma. I devoted some little time to arguing in print, what I and any other collector who had been on the spot knew, that they were souvenirs which could have done postal duty no doubt, but of which perhaps one half of one per cent were actually so used. The great majority were made to sell to Japanese collectors in the invading Armies, and, the high prices at which they were sold, horrified all who knew their commonness. But the collectors in 1946 would not be prevented from buying them. A sort of "furor emptoris" had taken hold of them. Burma and Japanese Occupations generally were only one aspect of the general disease. All stamp prices boomed: it seemed that the collectors were all speculators. The most degradingly speculative issue of all time, which to our eternal discredit was made by British Governments (The "Silver Wedding" stamps of 1948) were eagerly bought, though a few more serious collectors began to wonder. Foreign governments battened on collectors: agents, speculators, investors in New York, London and other cities sold the "stamps" of governments that governed a few thousand illiterates, of governments that ran no postal services, of governments that governed—Nothing. Anything that looked like a postage stamp would sell: particularly if, by a cunning press campaign, it was suggested that very few existed and they would be a "good investment." A most excellently run press campaign in the U. S. A. boosted sales of recent U. S. commemorative stamps in particular to astronomical heights, thereby insuring that the "investors" would not even get their money back. A sober collector in the U. S. A. wrote me that he himself had been offered and bought (in 1951) one thousand dollars worth of mint U. S. commemorative stamps of what he is pleased to describe as the "Egg" period (referring to one particularly blatant piece of political jobbery on the part of one Congressman) for two hundred and fifty dollars cash. "Therefore," he wrote, "I am afraid that you will have to put up with these stamps on my letters for some little time to come: I can't afford not to cut my postage bill by three-quarters."

British Colonial stamps were no exception. Even when the "Overall" Colonial sets had proved a damp squib, the Colonial Governments continued (at the instance of the Colonial Office in London) to pour out new issues that were not needed, because collectors would infallibly buy them. Did Britain herself issue a special set for some occasion that perhaps merited it, the stamps must be overprinted for unimportant dependencies and territories overseas whose inhabitants hardly had any use for a postage stamp.

France, Italy, Portugal, and many others were infected by the same disease (In these cases they had been innoculated long ago, but it seemed that the dose had not "taken"). The last few years have seen the greatest splurge of new stamps since the postage stamp had been invented, and in almost every case it is the fault of the collector.

If you, the collector, did not buy, there would be no new issues whatever. This statement needs qualification of course. Broadly however, it is completely true, and we are reaching the point where the collector has begun to realise it, and is not buying these new issues.

What is to become of the recent deluge? The market cannot hope to absorb and keep its bouyancy all the hundreds of millions of pounds, dollars, francs, escudos, lire, bolivars, rubels and pesetas worth of new issues that have poured from the printing presses since 1935. There are some stamps on which any one cannot hope to get half his money back if he waits fifty years. Other stamps, like the Ionian Islands stamps with which a dealer papered his office in 1865, may not be worth soaking off for another eighty years—if then.

In all sincerity I would advise the *destruction of bushels of modern stamps.* Naturally, the U. S. A. commemoratives need not be destroyed, since they can be used for postage, nor need British stamps of the recent reigns, since by tradition the stamps of the last King but one are demonetised and rendered invalid for postage. But that still leaves a great number of totally unnecessary stamps of questionable postal validity. It will be

objected that this cannot be serious because of the harm it will do to dealers' stocks and those firms which have enormous sums tied up in stamps. I beg leave to doubt that any firms in the U. S. A., Britain and France (Still the world's three greatest markets) could not "write off" tens of thousands of dollars, pounds and francs worth of recent issues and not suffer for it. The simultaneous announcement that Messrs ..... of New York, Messrs. ..... of London and Messrs ..... of Paris have destroyed 100,000 U. P. U. sets or similar new issues would have an immense effect on the market, restoring the collector's confidence in his single set and the small dealer's in his few sets in stock.

As a further measure, I recommend the banishment from the columns of the world's philatelic press of all "tipsters," "financial advisers" and the like, and their replacement by a carefully organised campaign to educate the collectors into a belief that YOU CAN'T MAKE MONEY IN STAMPS! Only by rigorous self-control on the part of editors and dealers can this succeed. But if it does not, I will prophesy that the hobby could be choked to death in a relatively small number of years. Furthermore, every time that a government (No matter how important or big it is) announces the issue of a new set of postage stamps that are not justified by some really important national event, all organised bodies of philatelists should swiftly and firmly protest against it, and pledge themselves not to buy the stamps. AND, HAVING MADE THE PLEDGE, THEY SHOULD KEEP IT.

A moratorium should be declared on all new issues for five years, except such as are rendered inevitable by a change in the head of Government, if it is a country that puts the King or President's head on its stamps. I should like to see a U. P. U. ruling that commemorative and charity stamps should be banned for ten years; and souvenir sheets forever. It might give the new issue collector a chance to catch up! But this, I am fully aware, is building castles in Spain, but I can hope, can't I?

This is written under the shadow of the death of a beloved King, but under the greater shadow of the certainty that within the next months I (or any other collector of British "new issues") shall be forced to pay approximately fifty pounds (or 150 dollars) for new issues which bear the head of our young Queen from innumerable British Colonies. Like many others, I shall stop to close my albums at the death of King George Sixth. But that is only a partial solution: the stamps will appear, whether I collect them or not. The stamps of the late King will lose popularity and favor because there are many millions (no exaggeration) invested in the stamps of King George VIth: where is the money coming from to buy these new Queen stamps except from the sale of the others? If popularity and demand drops, what will happen to the stamps that many have sold to buy new stamps?

Frankly, I believe they are better burned than remain a drug on the market for fifty years and more. They can never become valuable because the least of them was sold in larger quantities than the most common of the classic issues of the last century. More important, they were sold not to ordinary citizens writing letters but to collectors who have preserved them with diligence against the ravages of time and currency. What then of the future? I have committed myself to the view that the hobby will survive the threats of modern speculation: How then?

If collectors can be persuaded that you cannot make money by buying new issues, storing them for a few years and then casting them back onto the market. I will let them into a secret which has been hidden from many of them. There is more to the hobby than slavishly buying what your dealer or your newspaper advises you to do. *The only collectors who have made money on stamps consistently are those who have studied them,* and not only the stamps themselves but their background, the reasons for the stamps, the way they were printed, all the multifarious details in connection with postal services. If you spend a great deal of time on these, you will inevitably enrich your collection with the fruits of your study. And by those studies, you will increase the demand among others (There are always at least ten people ready to follow another person's lead for one who is prepared to lead) and will make your own

stamps more valuable. Every collector worth his salt, and certainly every reader of this magazine will know that this is true. *My recipe for making money is to collect what everyone advises you not to collect,* give it devotion, care and time—above all, time. When you come to sell or circumstances force it, you will find that what has given you enormous pleasure will also yield you a profit.

My recipe is a simple one. It involves you at first in running the gauntlet of the "wise guys," the "investors" whose mint sheets of commemoratives allow them to retire in California (where we are told all Americans go to die); the dealers who make you buy new issues, their only stock; the newspaper editors who are the tools of their advertisers, the dealers who have the moderns to sell. Look at all the newspaper stamp columns—nothing but the new stamps, nothing about philately's real worth or better stamps! But by ploughing a lonely furrow you will be heartened to find that you are not alone; that there are others like yourself who are wandering in the wilderness, and whose companionship and help makes your task lighter. There is no bond in the world closer than being in a minority together, except it be that of not being in financial competition.

Stamp collecting is a very pleasant hobby: it suffers from the abuse and the jeers of the majority because of its unique quality, that of a pursuit of knowledge and of friendship without financial gain. Of recent years collectors have attempted to defend themselves against the World by pretending that there is money in stamps. This pretence has been exposed for the sham and fraud it is (Ask members of the New York or London Stock Exchanges their opinions of stamps for investment and pick yourself up with a broken bone or two!). Therefore it is more profitable that we should abandon it entirely, acknowledge that our hobby is too esoteric for the comprehension of the layman and enjoy it in our own small way without caring what the outsiders say or think. They will be less scornful if we do that than if, as so often now, we claim that stamp collecting makes money and then prove that it does not.

The way to do that is to refuse to collect anything that you do not want to collect, and, above all, to collect without thinking all the time "Will it be a good investment?" It won't. And you know it so you will be a lot happier if you admit it to yourself right here and now.

Anthony Walker

Filatelic Finance

It is time that some of the confusion regarding the financial aspect of stamp collecting is cleared up in print. Nothing good comes from confusion. So our hobby is handicapped by all that has been said and written about the importance of the *profit motive* to stamp collecting. The idea per se is controversial. Some believe that as long as people are interested in profit from stamps, they should be guided properly. Others strongly oppose so much publicity for the financial aspect of philately, believing that a quiet, restful hobby cannot become a substitute for a stock market or race track operation. We not only side with the opposition but feel called upon to criticise the lack of both philatelic and economic knowledge among the spokesmen and writers of profits in stamps.

Stamp collecting allows for both a knowledge of *values* and *prices*. The student will know values but little about prices. It matters not to him whether a certain stamp realized $30 or $35 when last sold at auction. In contrast, there are many, both amateur and commercial, who are authorities on stamp prices. They can quote at the drop of a hat the exact market price on the latest commemorative set or a classic stamp. Show them a magazine such as this and they dismiss it with laconic comment: "Not interested." Consequently one whose interest is confined solely to prices finds philatelic knowledge no requisite. He knows prices but not values.

As for a knowledge of economics among the price group, let us examine some instances of their confused thinking. Our thoughts are directed to the writers upon the financial trends of stamp prices. They forecast, telling people which stamps to buy or not. They use the word "investment" but are wrong because this is speculation: no, almost gambling.

It is an axiom that a stamp collection represents an investment. It is a part of your worldly goods, like securities, real estate, annuities or other properties. But *it must be a collection,* not an accumulation dumped into a box, stockbook or mint sheet file. A stamp collection is assembled over many years through the love and fascination of philately. The money put into it is by every yardstick an investment. And we join with those who are striving continually to protect this investment by encouraging new collectors, by support of philatelic societies, by guarding against counterfeiting and unscrupulous dealers. A Sperati can be as harmful to a stamp collector as a bucket shop operator to an inexperienced widow.

But no real stamp collection ever was assembled with the idea of buying only stamps confined to profit possibilities. Such a collection placed on exhibition would be a sight to behold.

If some want to speculate with stamps, let them do it and regard them with compassion. Our objection primarily is that this is called "investment." The press should not encourage this confusion. The trouble is that the press senses the growth of a popular trend and it tries to cash in on it. Also such articles on the subject do not require too much philatelic knowledge and experience compared to research.

Even the word "speculation" as used in stamp collecting is confused. It is applied to bogus stamps and labels. Items that cannot pass as collectible stamps are lumped under that loosely-defined group of "speculative stamps." What makes a modern Souvenir Sheet any more speculative than a long commemorative set of thirty years ago? Is it because more are speculating with the sheet than with the set? Or does it signify that the newer sheet is a less seasoned item than the older stamps? But what is "speculative" about an issue never placed on public sale but rather sold immediately after delivery from the printer on the philatelic market? Our point is that questionable items, unlisted in the world's leading catalogs, are *bogus items and not speculative.* This latter term is used because it implies less condemnation when offered for sale.

It is about time that those interested in stamp prices demonstrated that they *understand the difference between investment and speculation.* And that a questionable philatelic item be branded more specifically than by the word "speculative."

Do We Fear the Truth?

It is this hullaballoo over speculating in new stamps which allows our Post Office to offset partly their huge annual deficit. People buy our new stamps for future profits by the hundreds of millions. This is because of an impression left over from thirty years or so ago. Since a collector now has to pay one dollar for a 2c stamp thirty years old that he vividly recalls purchasing at face value at the post office, he reasons falsely that history must repeat itself and that the present-day 3c stamp must also increase ten-fold within the next two decades. He is blind to the fact that millions are doing the same thing and that recent stamps are continually being sold at a discount, but believes that the worst that can happen is that he will always get his money back. One would think that people would stop to appraise what is actually transpiring. But "Hope springs eternal," and they go on dreaming that perhaps the next stamp will be THE ONE.

No philatelic leadership has come out to assert itself on this matter. It is not our desire to discredit a popular movement, but rather to protect the hobby of stamp collecting. The only gainer from the sale of new commemorative stamps is the Post Office, which incidentally is presently giving us about the poorest service in its history. Many newspapers are reporting this. People all over the country speak with ridicule of mail deliveries, particularly anything designated "Special Delivery." Incidentally, this has just happened in our particular case. Late at night a letter was delivered to our home by special delivery. The carrier had mistaken one of our recent *blue* 3c commemoratives for a special delivery stamp. The Universal Postal Union, through its color regulations, has tried to avoid this so as to bring order out of chaos, but to please the speculators our Post Office confuses everyone, both its own personnel and the general public, by

using red, green, purple, blue or black for the ordinary letter rate. There is no purpose in cataloguing the sad state of our present-day postal service. It is a mockery for the richest and most highly industrialized nation in the world to tolerate this. It is realized that many other countries turn out too many pointless commemorative issues in large annual outputs, but if our country wants to justify its position of leadership it should set an example in this regard. We believe that all these commemoratives was the influence upon the United Nations to share some of these speculative funds by issuing their own stamps.

This post office inefficiency reflects itself in our commemorative stamps. Their selection —whether five, ten or fifty a year—is without any proper understanding of our rich American history and heritage. Forget the 1948 chicken, poppy or gymnasium stamps. A politically-minded Congress was blamed for that. Since then, however, we were assured of a much more sensible annual output, with the final selection resting on the Head of our Post Office Department. Look at what they have chosen in the past year or so:—

The American Automobile Club
Casey Jones
The 4-H Clubs
Baltimore & Ohio Railroad
Chemists
Bankers
Civil Engineers
Newsboys

Now we can place the blame where it belongs. It is maintained that political motives are behind such selections, because a certain locality or group being honored with a stamp, will favor the administration with its votes. How would this reasoning apply to the Automobile Association stamp? It is ridiculous to suppose that the AAA members will vote a certain way because of a stamp.

Most people never notice our commemoratives, unless, perhaps, to ridicule and criticize them. The public dislikes them because they are inconvenient for various reasons. It seldom looks at the design. We believe that at least three-quarters of the population of this country cannot name even one of the commemorative stamps issued so far this year.



A collector trying to decide whether to buy 100 shares of B. & O. stock or 100 sheets of the stamp.

It was only because of front page publicity that many knew of the Betsy Ross and Baltimore & Ohio stamps. A great many of our children never see these stamps, nor do their teachers, so the reason for our new stamps is neither political, public convenience nor educational.

It is said, therefore, that they are issued for philatelic purposes. We doubt this because we fail to see any great philatelic knowledge in a plate number block of four of a recent issue; nor is our stamp knowledge heightened by the ownership of a full sheet of fifty.

The sole purpose behind these commemorative stamps is the appeal to the gambling instinct of those who buy them in quantities for a hoped-for but seldom realized future profit. It is amazing that the stamp dealers do not fight this sort of competition more effectively. While post office sales soar into the millions, the stamp dealers' business has not been prospering. The odd thing is that their advertising media seem to place all the publicity on the new commemoratives and very little on the stamps they have in stock to sell. In this way the competition is being encouraged.

(Continued on Page 165.)

HONDURAS

The Maya Commemorative Issue of 1947

By IRVING I. GREEN

Editor's Note: Stamp collectors' taste, as most everything else, experiences periods of change. A new specialty is the collecting of stamps solely by the design. Call it "Topical," "Thematic," "Motive" or "Subject Matter" collecting, the lack of an universally accepted name has had no effect upon its popular growth.

Philatelists, in the sense of students or serious collectors, allege that such collecting can be nothing more than a popular pastime because it is incapable of research and study.

The study of a stamp's design—*Iconography*, as Mr. Winthrop S. Boggs calls it—can lend itself to research in a philatelic sense just as a stamp's printing and preparation. A stamp's design is usually not a haphazard selection. From the first rough sketch submitted to the final approved form, it offers as complete a field for study as the engraving.

The following article instances philatelic research applied to Iconography.



Fig. 1 Original Emblem of the Conference design in Havana, Cuba.

The Stamps

The First International Archeological Congress of the Caribbean convened during August, 1946, at Tegucigalpa, Capital of the Republic of Honduras. The object of this assemblage of world-renowned scientists was the discussion of the ancient Maya civilization as determined through extensive archeological research, and the formation of plans envisaging future investigations into this same field.

The Maya civilization of southern Mexico and northern Central America was the most brilliant of the New World in pre-Columbus times, which flourished during the fourth to the sixteenth centuries of the Christian era. Because of the rather complete destruction of its literature, the history of this remarkable civilization must of necessity be deduced from the representations in their relics.

The Congress was of sufficient importance to warrant the authorization by the government of Honduras of an air mail commemorative issue by Decree of August 3, 1947. The set was first placed on sale on October 20, 1947, consisting of the following:

Scott Cat. No.	*Value*
C164	16 centavos
C165	40 centavos
C166	40 centavos
C167	1 lempira
C168	2 lempiras
C169	5 lempiras

A conference badge (Fig. 1) designed in Havana, Cuba, was adopted, with slight modifications, by a Honduranean artist for the first sketch of the proposed issue (Fig. 2). The Hamilton Bank Note Company of New York,* printers of the stamp, made additional changes in the design subsequently used (Fig. 3).

The issue is recess-engraved on a coarse, soft, wove paper of medium weight with a normal perforation of 11 by 12½. A melange of varieties, however, has resulted from the inclusion of a vertical perforation 11, so that it is not uncommon to find a stamp perforated 12½ vertically on one side and 11 vertically on the other. No variation in the horizontal perforation 11 and no missing perforation varieties have thus far been reported.



Fig. 3. Design of the issued stamp.

The stamp format is composed of a double-lined border enclosing a pictorial design. The border details the events commemorated, with the 16c, 22c, 2L, and 5L values displaying an octagonal margin without ornamentation, and the remaining values, 40c and 1L, showing a rectangular and somewhat ornate edge. The portrayal within the border, identical on all values, reveals a map of Honduras surrounded by drawings of various Maya relics. The balance of this article will be a discussion of the objects pictured within the border of the stamp.

Color	*Quantity Issued*
Green	500,000
Yellow	500,000
Orange	400,000
Blue	300,000
Violet	200,000
Brown	25,000

Official rate of exchange—1 lempira (100 centavos) equals 50 cents (U. S. A.)

(*) This is the same Hamilton Bank Note Engraving and Printing Company of New York, N. Y., of which Mr. N. F. Seebeck was Secretary when the famous (or infamous) contracts were drawn up and signed in the 1890's to supply annual postage issues to Ecuador, Honduras, Nicaragua, and El Salvador. The issues were supplied free of charge by Seebeck, in exchange for the privilege of reprinting, after the year of issue, whatever quantity he desired for collector's needs and also for the return to him of all remainders after the year of issue. A few years ago, the Security Banknote Company of Philadelphia, Pa. secured control of the Hamilton Company, thus ending the long-established Hamilton Bank Note Company's existence.

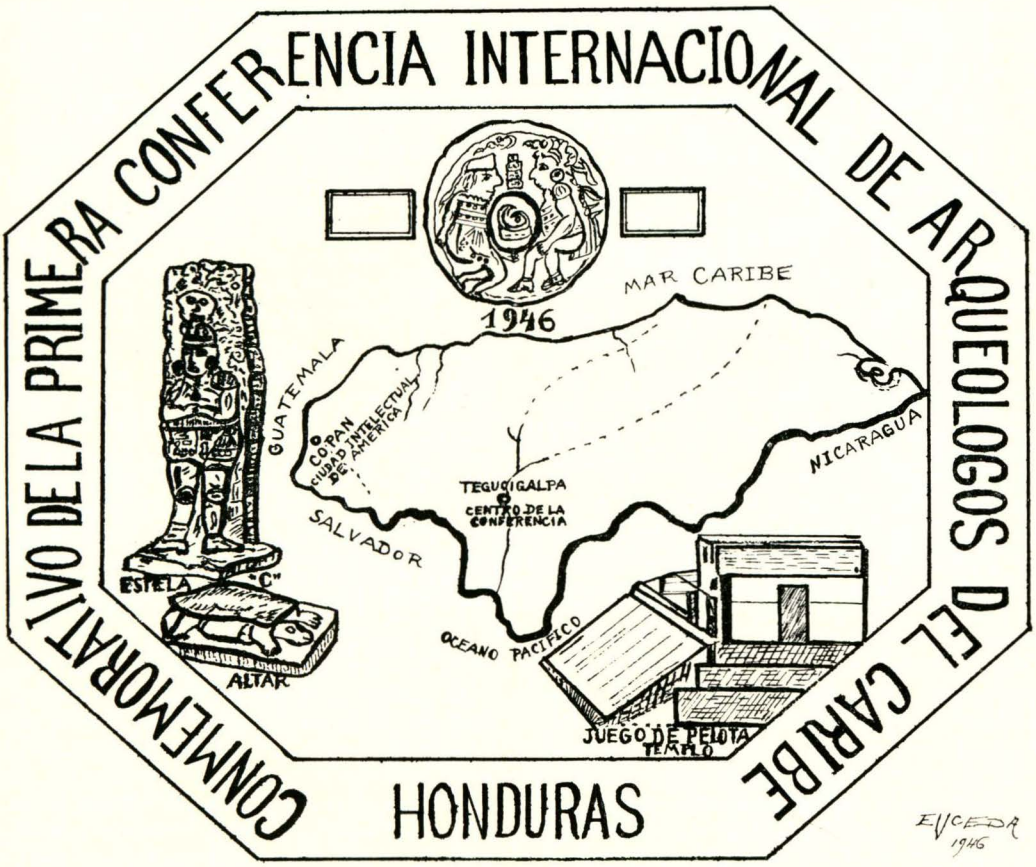


Fig. 2 Artist's sketch with modifications from the Conference Emblem.

The Historical Background of the Design

The map of Honduras, occupying the central portion of the design, clearly presents the Honduran version of the boundaries of the contiguous Republics of Guatemala, Nicaragua, and El Salvador. To understand the difficulties in determining definite boundaries in Central America, it is necessary to look back to the year 1821. In that historic year, after three centuries of subjugation, the Audiencia or Kingdom of Guatemala, comprising the provinces of Guatemala, Honduras, and Costa Rica, threw off the yoke of Spanish domination. Each province assumed the rank of a sovereign state, inheriting such territorial rights and boundaries as existed at the termination of Spanish rule. Actually definite surveyed boundaries had been marked out between the states. The lines being more or less established by custom, usually consisted of rivers and mountain ranges. This uncertainty as to boundaries was to become a major problem between the new Republics, the cause of bitter disputes and even wars in years to come.

A Special Boundary Tribunal was constituted by the Treaty of Arbitration of July 16, 1930, between Guatemala and Honduras. Presided over by Chief Justice Charles Evans Hughes of the United States, it rendered the opinion and award in the boundary dispute between these two republics which, principally, involved the claim of Guatemala to a portion of the rich North Coast of Honduras, bordering the Mar Caribe (Caribbean Sea) and also to the ancient historic city of Copán. The Tribunal awarded a small section of the North Coast to Guatemala, but

sovereign title to Copán and its renowned Maya ruins remained with Honduras. A boundary dispute between Nicaragua and Honduras, involving a portion of the Mosquito Territory, still remains unsettled and will probably not be settled until some neutral Tribunal with the consent of both Republics renders an opinion and award.

Copán is located at the extreme western part of Honduras. It is titled "Ciudad Espiritual De America" which in Spanish means "The Cultural Center of the Old Maya Empire." The great ancient ruins of Copán were unknown at the time of Cortez. Though the Spaniards captured a native town named Copán, they knew nothing of the ruins of the ancient nameless city which lay nearby, entirely covered by a dense forest. It was not until some forty years later, in 1576, that the ruins were discovered by Diego de Palacio, an officer of the Audiencia of Guatemala, who on the eighth of March of that year wrote to King Philip II of Spain describing his findings in some detail. Quoting Palacio, "I endeavored with all possible care to ascertain from the Indians, through the traditions derived from the ancients, what people lived here, or what they knew or heard from their ancestors concerning them—but they had no books relating to their antiquities. They said that in ancient times there came from Yucatan a great Lord who built these edifices but that at the end of some years he returned to his native country, leaving them entirely deserted."

For 250 years following its discovery, little thought was given to Copán and to the perished civilization it represented. In 1839, however, John Lloyd Stephens, flushed with the success of his book, "Incidents of Travel in Egypt, Arabia, Petraea, and the Holy Land," and eager to open up new fields of research. He hit upon Yucatan and Central America as a locale for investigation. Little had been recorded of the ancient cities of Middle America and their civilizations. Nevertheless, Stephens, in preparation for his junket, avidly studied the few sketchy, existing articles on the subject; the writings of Waldeck (1834), describing the ruins of Palenque(*); "The Ruins of Copán in Central America" by Colonel Juan Galindo in *Proceedings of the American Antiquarian Society,* (1835); THE RECUEIL DES ANTIQUITES MEXICAINES(†) with the article by Lorenzo de Zavala, which yielded data on the ruined city of Uxmal and also included three fine memorials on Palenque by Du Paix and the enlightened research by Humboldt into Mexican antiquity. All this study convinced Stephens that an important culture had flourished in that area in days of yore. Palenque, Uxmal, Copán—these three magic names became indelibly engraved on his mind so that he could hardly restrain his desire to be off on the exploration.

At that time, Frederick Catherwood, the illustrator of the Stephens sensational best-seller, was in New York City working at his profession as an architect and also promoting "The Splendid Panorama of Jerusalem" of which he was the proprietor. He displayed great enthusiasm for anything pertaining to architecture and was an ardent lover of the picturesque art of archeological research. Stephens made Catherwood a favorable offer to accompany him to Central America, which was at once accepted.

On October 3, 1839, Stephens and Catherwood sailed from New York for Central America. The results of their two visits between 1839 and 1841 have been embodied in two books by Stephens, "Incidents of Travel In Yucatan" (1843). Both books were illustrated by Catherwood's superb drawings. Today, more than a century later, they are still considered the most delightful narratives ever written of the Maya area.

(*) The ruins at the Palenque were never mentioned before 1750. News of their discovery at that time excited considerable interest in Spain as is proved by the two explorations made by order of the Government of that Kingdom—in 1784 under Bernasconi and in 1785 under Capitan Del Rio. Del Rio wrote an account of his findings titled "The Description of the Ruins of an Ancient City," and Stephens read this while in London.

(†) It was not until 18 years after Del Rio's exploration of Palenque, that Charles IV of Spain caused a careful reconnaisance to be made, the results of which long remained unknown. Forgotten in the archives of Mexico during the period of the Revolution, the three important memorials of Capitan Du Paix of the Mexican Army, and the drawings of his companion Castenada, became finally, by exchange, the property of a Frenchman, Mr. Baradere, who published them in 1834 as part of a huge volume called, *Recueil des Antiquetes Mexicanes.* In the same book, the famous Lorenzo de Zavala, then Minister to France, contributed an article describing for the first time the ruins of the ancient city of Uxmal, Yucatan —which he had visited and explored as a youth, having lived nearby.

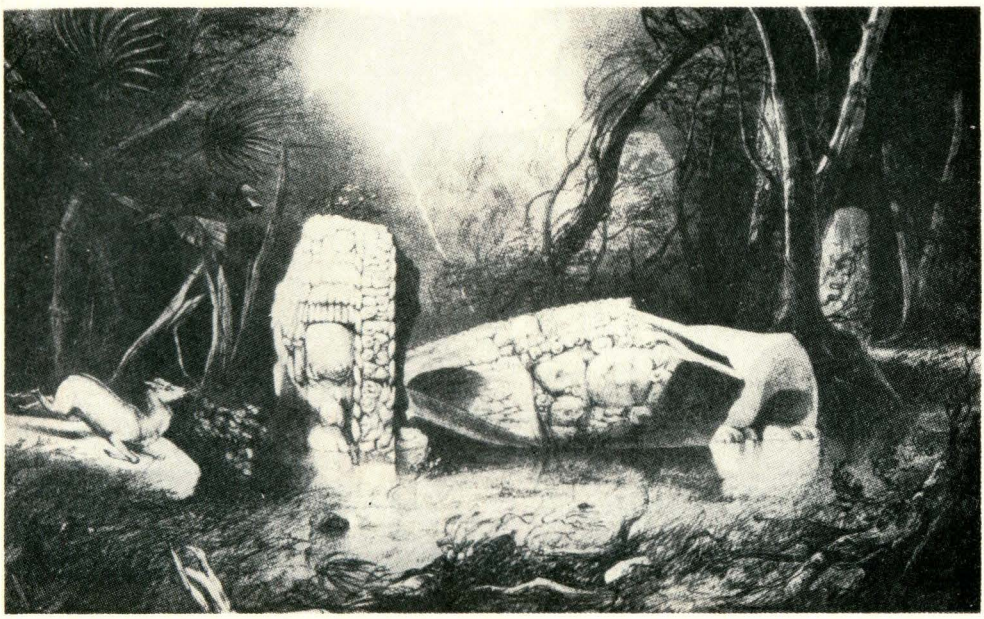


Fig. 4 The fallen idol at Copan (Stela C), since restored to upright position, from a lithograph by Catherwood. Note the headless Altar of the Turtle, at the right.

Certainly it can be said that Stephens awakened public interest on both sides of the Atlantic in the ancient civilization of Central America.

Since Stephens, many scientific institutions as well as individual students, have engaged in piecing together the various parts of the Maya puzzle. The most important contributions have been made by; 1) the English archeologist, Sir Alfred Maudslay, the results of whose 15 years exploration of the Maya area (1881-94) constitute the first scientific description and study of Maya civilization; 2) The Peabody Museum of Harvard University, which between 1888-1915 sent many expeditions to the Maya area, contributing important findings to the knowledge of the ancient Maya; 3) The Carnegie Institution of Washington, with the cooperation of the government of Honduras, which has been conducting extensive studies of the Maya field for the past 30 years, and as a result has accumulated a vast amount of material and knowledge in the various fields of science pertaining to the Maya.

The exhaustive research of the antiquities at Copán conclusively proves that the inhabitants of this section of the continent were a people admirably skilled in the arts of masonry and architectural decoration. There is also evidence to show that Copán was probably the greatest center of learning in the old Maya empire, especially in the field of astronomy, as the formulas of their astronomer-priests for the determination of the true length of the solar year and the eclipse periods were more accurate than those of any other ancient city.

To the left of the map on the stamp design is pictured a rather correct replica of Stela C (pronounced Steel-a) as it stands today at Copán. This monument, facing east and west, measures 11 ft. 10 inches in height with an average breadth of 3 ft. 6 inches, and was hewn from a single block of light-colored volcanic rock (trachyte). It was found originally by Stephens in 1839 broken in two (Fig. 4) perhaps as the result of an earth tremor centuries previous. The bottom section still erect, and representing about one-third of the total height, had at some time in the past, suffered from fire as much of its surface had been flaked off. The broken-off portion was lying on its side just as it fell, almost buried under a thick layer of earth with its intricate carving well preserved and still covered with the protective red Maya paint.

Stela C is believed to have been erected about 783 A. D., although the exact date is questioned, as only a secondary series of date-glyphs has been found upon it. It is considered the most elaborately carved of the whole series of Stelae at Copán. Catherwood, while sketching it, remarked, "This is one of the most beautiful Maya carvings in the round and in workmanship is equal to the best remains of Egyptian art."

Maudslay in 1885, temporarily raised, with difficulty, the fallen section to mould its glyphs being the first to behold and photograph the face on the underside. He noted that the heavy beard which covered the lower part of this face was unique among the sculptured figures in Central America. Also he observed that Stela C was the first monument found in Honduras with a double human figure, one on each side. To Maudslay, we are also indebted for the name Stela C, as he classified all the ruins and sculptures at Copán by letters and numbers. His nomenclature remains to the present day.

In 1894, an expedition from the Peabody Museum located a crypt under Stela C which contained three earthenware jars of great scientific value. In 1935, some Carnegie Institution scientists rebuilt this crypt and replaced the fallen portion of Stela C to its original upright position upon its pedestal, which had remained nearly intact down through the centuries.

Directly under Stela C on the stamp design is the "Altar of the Turtle" at Copán. This was also discovered by Stephens and is located among the ruins a few feet west of Stela C. Maudslay's description of the altar; as he found it in 1885, is worthy of note: "The back of the animal is without ornament and the claws, which are not in the shape of a turtle's, are detached from it, but the monument has been too much disturbed for the design to be made out with certainty. It is just possible, that the alligator-like head which is figured by Stephens as lying at the foot of Stela B nearby, may have belonged to this nondescript animal." Today, thanks to archeological reconstructing genius, the Altar of the Turtle is complete with original claws and head, which was the one suggested by Maudslay. The legs and head are carved from separate blocks of stone, on top of which lies one large stone slab, representing the shell. The cold sculptured faces of the Stelae overlooking their altars probably witnessed scenes so terrible that even the lapse of centuries cannot dispel the horror that they inspired, and their grim features must mock at the efforts of man to unravel the riddle of the perished civilization they represent.

In the lower right hand corner of the stamp design is pictured an ancient building with the inscription "JUEGO DE PELOTA TEMPLO." This is the eastern half of the Maya Ball Court and Temple at Copán, one of the most interesting structures in the world. It is the only Maya court dated by glyphs, corresponding probably to 775 A. D., this date being clearly visible in the strip of bas-relief hieroglyphs which run through the center of the eastern inclined platform. The Copán ball court as it stands today (Fig. 5) is completely reconstructed with its original stones, a remarkable accomplishment done under the supervision of Dr. Gustav Stromsvik of the Carnegie Institution. Of great interest was the discovery during the rebuilding, of two earlier courts under the flagged paving of the latest court. The lowest is three and one-half feet below the present level of the plaza while the middle court is one and one-half feet below the level of the latest, or top court.

As the Spanish explorers returned from the New World, they bore strange tales of the wonders they had witnessed. They told of a ball made of an unknown substance which possessed great resiliency, almost as if it were alive, and with which the natives played a game, akin to their tennis or *pallone*. Las Casas records that Columbus himself brought back such a ball, probably after his second voyage. The report of these bounding balls constitutes the first notice of rubber in Europe. The material, rubber, was obtained by slashing the stem, roots, and leaves of certain plants and trees located in some districts and thereby allowing the sap to ooze forth. By collecting this sap and evaporating its water content, the resultant black matter, after cooling and coagulating, was the native rubber. It was used in various ways by the natives; for shodding sandals, waterproofing garments; medicinally as a cure-all; burned as an incense because the black smoke which it exuded resembled rain-clouds and was thus believed to appease the

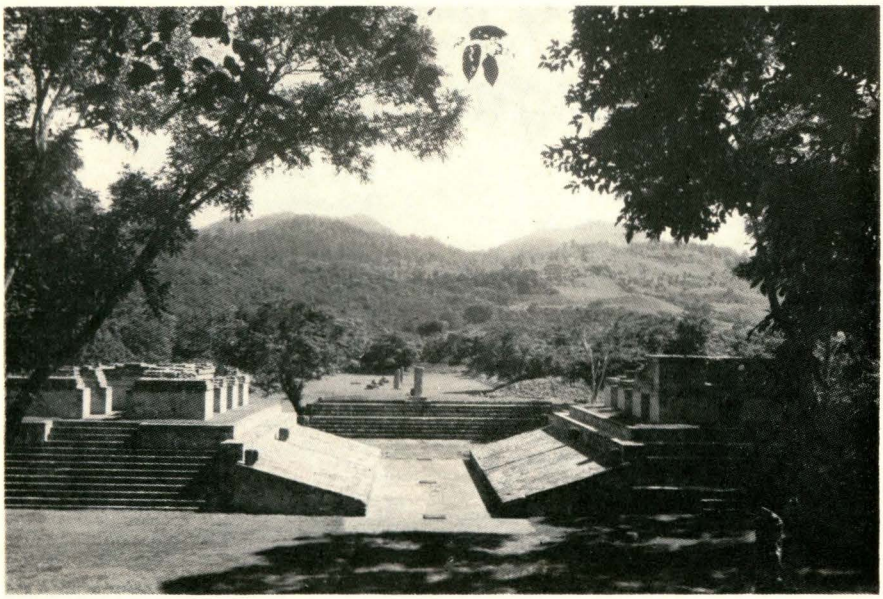


Fig. 5 The Ball Court at Copan *(Courtesy of the Carnegie Institute).*

God of Rain; and as a preservative, especially for idols, which were heavily coated by frequent applications of the sap. The bounding balls used by the natives on their ball courts were made by hand-fashioning native rubber into heavy, crude, round forms about 12 inches in diameter. A tribute of 16,000 such balls alone was exacted annually from the rubber-producing natives in the hot lowlands of the southern Vera Paz province of Mexico by the court of Montezuma.

Though rich in archeological testimony of ball courts, the Maya area oddly lacks a single extensive description of their indigenous ball game, known as *Pok-ta-Pok*. Evidence must therefore be gleaned from the many Maya sculptural representations and from eye-witness accounts of the later Aztec game *(tlachtli)* whose court layout so resembled that of the Maya as to suggest a similarity in play.

The popularity of the Maya ball game is apparent from the many courts found in that area. Every sizeable community included at least one stone highly-ornamented ball court among its important buildings. Temples always adjoined the court, which indicates that religion figured prominently in the games. These religious rituals did not, however, appear to detract from the intense interest shown by contestant and spectator alike, who thrilled to the play quite as much as any modern sports enthusiast.

Rulers and nobles matched their skill, wagering high stakes and even kingdoms on the outcome. The common man, too, was allotted playing time on certain communal courts, but women under no condition were permitted to play. Heavy gambling on important contests was the order of the day, and it was not unusual for some bettors to lose their entire belongings, thereby reducing themselves and their families to slavery. Some players became so proficient that they were classed as professionals *(ollamani)*. Highly esteemed as such, they were included in the retinue of important rulers.

The central feature of the Maya ball court is a flat, zoned alley with a smooth floor covered with mortar and bounded on either side by an elongated mound or range, from the inner of which a low bench projects to form an alley border. At either end, the alley opens into an expanded rectangular end-field. The plan of the court, thus defined, takes the form of a capital *I,* or a double capital *T* placed foot to foot. These courts vary in size, some being several hundred feet in length, though most of them are much

smaller, falling within comparatively narrow size limits, which argues for a uniformity in playing rules. An average alley length of 52½ to 115 feet is generally combined with a corresponding width of 19.7 to 29½ feet. The great ball court at Chichen Itza of Aztec origin has an inside measurement, according to Morley, of 480 feet by 120 feet and Maudslay states that the main parallel walls are 272 feet in length and 119 feet apart.

A Maya ball team consisted of one or two players, although the bas-reliefs at Chichen Itza suggest more players to a side. Each team doubtless prepared its own ball magically prior to a game and considered it a decided advantage to have their ball selected for play by some prearranged method. The first serve, a further advantage, went to the side winning the use of their own ball.

For protection, each player wore leather knee-pads; a girdle or broad-belt lined with flat stones to withstand the shock of impact with the heavy ball, and to provide better hitting power; and a thick rawhide, kilt-like apron guarding the thighs and cut away in front to allow freedom of movement. Gloves were used, usually in the form of a wrapping, which also protected the lower arm. Doeskin leggings offered protection from abrasions resulting from sudden contacts with the stone floor.

The object of the game was to drive the ball *(quiq,* meaning sap of a tree) through one or the other of two stone ring markers set high in each side wall at the half-way mark in the length of the playing alley with the opening perpendicular to the ground.* Scoring a ringer through the marker, whose opening was only slightly larger than the diameter of the ball, won the game then and there. But this was such a notable achievement, so rarely accomplished that the game was usually won on points. The ball was required to be kept in motion between the teams ranged on the opposite sides of the court, and a penalty was imposed on the team in whose territory the ball died. Players could only take the ball on their knees, elbows, hips, or buttocks, and failure to hit the ball properly resulted in a penalty. The hip shot was probably the most difficult, only skilled players could properly execute it. Umpires were seated on the top of each wall overlooking the ring, a vantage point to rule upon the scoring.

According to Maudslay, who quotes the 16th century historian Hererra, "By the ancient custom and law of the game, when the ball passed through the hole, the victor had the right to the mantles of all the spectators, and it was an amusing sight to see all the onlookers take flight with much merriment and laughter in the hope of saving their mantles, while others clutched, on behalf of the victor, who had to make certain sacrifices to the Idol of Trinquete, the God of Ball Game. To those who saw the feat performed for the first time, it seemed like a miracle, and they claimed that a player who had such good luck would become a thief or adulterer or would die soon, and the memory of such a victory lasted many days, until it was followed by another which put it out of mind."

At the top of the stamp is a circular marker that was found in the buried second or middle ball court at Copán during the restoration of the top court. This marker, now in the museum at Copán, clearly shows two opposing ball players wearing their protective harness and pressing the ball between them with such force that it has become flattened. The glyph or carved symbol in the middle of the ball has not yet been deciphered.

From the foregoing remarks, briefly describing some aspects of the Maya civilization, one can realize the importance of the subject and understand why the Republic of Honduras, justly proud of its priceless ancient relics, deemed it fitting to commemorate the First International Archeological Congress of the Caribbean.

On February 16, 1951, the remainders of the Maya issue were overprinted, almost to obliteration, to commemorate the 75th anniversary of the Universal Postal Union. Some could construe this as a triumph of modern over ancient history. For practical reasons, Honduras did not wish to go to the expense of ordering a specially printed issue for 75 years of the U. P. U.

(*)The Maya courts show no rings but do have paired markers in the shape of animals or human heads, which doubtless served the same purpose.

TRANSLATIONS FROM

KOHL'S HANDBOOK

BRITISH STAMPS USED ABROAD: BRITISH OFFICES AT CONSULATES IN COLOMBIA, 1865-1881

By Dr. Herbert Munk

Translated by GERALD W. BENTLEY

Sources: *Various catalogs, including Ewen, Standard Price Catalogue of the Postage and Telegraph Stamps of the United Kingdom, 6th (final) edition, London, 1898; J. J. Bernstein and Charles Nissen, British Stamps Used Abroad, revised edition, Brit. Phil., Dec. 1910 to Oct. 1914; Rev. C. S. Morton, British Stamps Used Abroad, Stamp Collrs. Fortnightly, No. 840, 1927. Material has been lent by Messrs. A. Leo of Munich, H. Koehler of Berlin, B. MacGowan of Dumfries, Charles Nissen of London and E. E. Yates of London. Mr. Nissen has also furnished market values of these stamps.*

Colombia, then the United States of Colombia, with its portions of both the Atlantic and Pacific coasts, formed an important link in the chain of post offices at consulates, which Great Britain set up through the West Indies and around the coasts of South America. Though trade between Great Britain and Colombia was not so great for many years as with the other large South American republics, Colombia possessed, in its state of Panama, the Isthmus of Panama, the bridge between the Atlantic Ocean and West Indies on one side and the Pacific Ocean on the other.

The West Indian mail steamers of the Royal Mail Steam Packet Co. brought the mail for the west coast of all America, for Australia, etc., to Colon on the eastern coast of the isthmus. On the west side of this isthmus, the mail steamer service of the Pacific Steam Navigation Co., mentioned frequently in connection with other British services abroad, began. This company distributed the mails from Europe and the West Indies down the western coast of South America as far as Valparaiso, Chile, and likewise brought the assembled mail for points east to Panama.

As early as 1845, an agreement existed with the government in Bogota, by which Great Britain had the right to carry its own foreign mail across the Isthmus of Panama by muleback, in sealed sacks. For this right, the British paid the Colombian government a transit fee of 10d per Colombian ounce on such mail.

After the Panama Railroad, from Colon to Panama, was opened in 1855, traffic across the isthmus increased so greatly, including volume of mail, that it became impracticable to keep the transit fee at the previous height. Colombia and Great Britain failed to come to any agreement on this. Accordingly, an arrangement was made by the British with the Panama Railway Co., which had certain postal rights along its line. (See further discussion of this under the Panama office). The arrangement provided for direct payment of transit charges to the rail concern, without Colombia receiving any part of this payment.

In 1865, the year in which Great Britain began the use of her own stamps in her offices at consulates in Colombia, the dispute between the two countries and the Colombian efforts to force their own plan as settlement, became severe. The British postal administration seriously considered giving up the post offices at the consulates in Colombia in 1867. In one case, Colombia seems even to have seized a shipment of British stamps.

But the fall of President Mosquera in 1867 brought about a relaxation, since he was the source of Colombia's demands. The British postal service in Colombia was, however, not formally recognized, but continued.

Only in the second half of 1875 was the British Consul General at Bogota able to conclude a postal convention with Colombia, by which the British post offices at the consulates formally or officially had the right to collect or deliver directly mail to or from abroad. Meanwhile, in the Argentine, Uruguay and Brazil, the opposition to the British consulates' post offices grew as time went on. The British had to close their offices in these countries in the earlier '70's. In Colombia the situation was reversed, as Morton first explained. The opposition of the Colombian government was greatest when the British stamps were first introduced, and diminished steadily through the '70's.

The two oldest British consulate post offices in Colombia were those at Panama on the west coast, for transit mail, and at Cartagena, on the north coast, for exchange of mail with Colombia itself. These two offices were supplied with dating town marks and PAID handstamps as early as the middle of 1846. Panama remained, in later times as then, the only British post office on the west coast. As time went on, a number of British offices were opened on the north coast. Of these, the oldest ones were in part closed, and in part maintained or reopened.

These kaleidoscopic changes in the offices on the Caribbean coast of Colombia arise from the fact that the capital, Bogota, is situated far inland, amid the mountains. Mails for that city or to it had to be routed through Baranquilla, situated a few miles inland on the Magdalena river, and thus to or from a coastal port. The mail route was up the river to Honda, thence by land to Bogota. Up to about 1866 the mail route to Baranquilla from the coast was from the port of Cartagena, just mentioned as one of the first British office sites, on the coast west of Baranquilla. After this, mails went from the more easterly port of Santa Marta, at which a British consulate post office had been set up in the early 1860's. After Baranquilla had been linked to the little port town of Savanilla by a railroad in 1872, British mails for Colombia went through this place, due north of Baranquilla. As a result, in 1872, an additional British post office was set up at Savanilla. This change had the result that the British mail packets no longer called at Santa Marta after 1873; the closing of the British post office there followed in 1878.

During the revolution of 1875, mails for Bogota had to be sent, for a considerable period, across Panama to the west coast of Colombia, and to Bogota from the port of Buenaventura.

Also, a British consulate post office was set up in 1870 at Colon (also called Aspinwall) with its own office number E88. In the '50's and '60's, not only was the mail for the west coast of South America landed, here, but also that for Cartagena and Santa Marta just mentioned. These two ports, according to Morton, were served in the 1860's by a local branch line of the Royal Steam Packet Co., linked up with the main line service, plying between Cartagena and Santa Marta. In the middle of 1869 a direct mail steamer service was set up between Southampton and Cartagena. This may have a causal connection with establishment of a British post office at Colon in the consulate. From 1871 on, the mails from England and the West Indies for points on the Pacific coast were sorted at Colon. Up to then, they had been sorted at Panama.

The three offices that existed in 1865 were assigned the office numbers C35 for Panama, C56 for Cartagena and C62 for Santa Marta (which the British seem always to have spelled "Santa Martha"). The British stamps and numeral killer were received at Panama in February 1865, simultaneously with the first delivery of such to the other offices on the Pa-

cific coast. In contrast, Cartagena and Santa Marta did not receive theirs until August 1865, at the same time as first delivery of such to the other West Indian post offices. Later, in 1866, in error, Cartagena was supplied a new killer with office number C65 instead of C66. This is discussed further on. Colon received office number E88 in April 1870 and Savanilla F69 in 1872. The British consulate at Baranquilla did not receive any office number, nor any killer of its own. But in June 1878 it was supplied with a dating town mark. During use of this, the stamps were cancelled on arrival of the mail at Savanilla.(1) Thus, like letters with Alexandria killer BO1 and British dated town mark of Cairo (Egypt), we find killer F69 of Savanilla on letters with the British dated town mark of Baranquilla.

The rate to England apparently had been set at 1s per unit of weight(2) at or before the introduction of stamps in the offices abroad, for letters from Colombia. To other countries in Europe it was 1s 2d up to the middle of 1875; then 1s 1½d, per half ounce. For a special transit fee on the rail section Panama to Colon, at a later time, see the section "Later Period" under Panama, below.

The British consulate post offices in Colombia were closed after Colombia entered the Universal Postal Union on July 1, 1881. We discuss, below, the presumed closing of that at Santa Marta as early as 1878. However, evidence shows that the British consulate or the British mail steamer agency associated with it, at Panama continued the use of the dated town mark and its numeral killer C35 until the end of the 1880's. Generally, but not exclusively, these are found on letters from personnel of the British Navy. We discuss this point further under Panama, in the section "Later Period."

Panama (Pacific Coast)

In 1865, in its first consignment of postage stamps, Panama received £200 worth. This was the third largest amount sent to any consulate office on the west coast of South America, and next to the quantities sent to



I

Callao and Valparaiso. So we see that Panama evidently had a fairly extensive postal business, apart from its very extensive transit traffic.

This volume of business was extended by the fact that the British warships, which were stationed or cruising in the Pacific Ocean, sent the bulk of their letters to England to the Panama office. Also, letters which had gone into the mails at points further south, frequently were postmarked and stamps cancelled only on arrival at Panama. Thus we get fully prepaid letters to Great Britain, to other countries in Europe, and to the United States, which bear killer C35 as their first postal marking applied, even though their contents, hand-stamped corner cards of firms, etc., show that they were sent from Guayaquil, Callao, or even places in Chile, where they would appear to have been put in the mails or on board ship.(3)



II

These facts explain why, next to those from Valparaiso (Chile), Callao (Peru) and St. Thomas (Virgin Islands, then Danish West Indies), Panama is the commonest British consulate post office mark from America.

(1) We have not been able to find any evidence that an actual British post office existed at Baranquilla. —Editors, C. C. P.

(2) Presumably a half ounce.—Editors, C. C. P.

(3) Evidence that any such letters went into the actual mails before reaching Panama seems to be lacking. Perhaps some may have been handed in after mails closed and sent on "loose" by the same or other ship.—Editors, C. C. P.

In the first supply, early in 1865, Panama received two separate killers. C35, in the large transverse oval form, type II(4) and a duplex device with killer in erect oval form, Type III but with only three bars above and below number (1). The characters on the two types of killers differ so much that they can be recognized even in incomplete impressions on loose stamps, by their style. See figures 1, 2.



III

The dated town mark of the 1865 duplex device was a small single circle, with A at top, PANAMA under it straight across center, and date in two lines below that. See fig. 2. A dated town mark, identical even to letter A, was used with the transverse oval killers, to postmark letters. In later years this device was used alone for cancelling, directly on the stamps. Occasionally there occurs with the transverse oval killers as a postmark, a transit postmark from older days: one sent out from London in 1848 or earlier. Without border, this consists of three straight lines of thin unshaded gothic capitals, reading PANAMA / (date) / TRANSIT. Usually this found use only as a transit mark: that is, on letters whose stamps had already previously been cancelled at the office of mailing (especially at Guayaquil but also from points much further south). It appears to have been struck only on letters which had not come to Panama en route to Colon in closed bags from the Pacific Steam Navigation Co.'s ships, but had come to Panama specially separated for some reason or other, or deviated from the regular mails passing through, etc. We have found it in a few cases on letters whose senders' imprints or other evidence indicates that they had been put on board ship much farther to the south, but whose stamps were cancelled in Panama with the transverse oval C35. Thus, the old transit mark was certainly employed in these cases instead of the normal town mark with A in it. In spite of its age, this device was used until 1879 at least. Sometimes, because of its outsize and old-time format, it had been struck onto the stamps. In two cases, on a pair of 1d stamps and on a 1s stamp, it has been found as the only cancellation—presumably accidentally.

Fifteen years after the issuance of the first C35 devices, killers and duplex, a new one was sent out from London, in April 1880. The killer portion is in Type 4, with only three bars above and below. See figure 3. The office number is sharply marked off from earlier devices by its 3 having the flat top, as found on the late devices of Cobija (C39), Port au Prince (E53) and Arroyo (F83). A period after C is also present, but sometimes fails to show in imprints. The town mark of this new device of 1880 shows, instead of the mere office name PANAMA, the wording PANAMA TRANSIT, not across the device but around the single circle border line, and thus above the letter C.

Whether this late duplex was actually planned as a successor to the old transit mark of 1848-79 which we have just mentioned, we do not know. The new device can of course be considered because of its wording, as devised primarily for use on transit mail. But the fact is that both the transverse oval C35 and the duplex of 1865 were used alongside of this new device. In fact, in the "Later Period" after the formal

(4) Dr. Munk classifies the killers in use at the British offices abroad into four main types, in his introduction to the whole field, and refers to these types in all sections. They are:

Type I: Small oval, three thin lines above and below characters. Supplied only before 1863.

Type II: Large transverse oval, three heavy lines above and below characters. Supplied from 1864 onward.

Type III: Large vertical oval, conspicuously tall, four heavy bars above and below characters. Usually part of a duplex device with dated town mark, but sometimes a separate killer. Supplied from early 1865 onward.

Type IV: Smaller vertical oval, with three very thick bars above and below characters. Occasionally part of a duplex device with town mark (dated). Supplied from 1872 on as the only type.

All four types have two curved lines before and after the characters.—Editors, C. C. P.

closing of the Panama office on July 1, 1881, to the end of the '80's, not this new duplex delivered in 1880 but the transverse oval killer, the duplex of 1865, and the separate town mark of Panama with letter A were used. We discuss this below.

Thus, the duplex C35 in Type IV was in use for at most one year. It is accordingly not only merely much scarcer than all other Panama postal markings, but counts as a real rarity.

Panama: The Later Period

The fact, which has been mentioned often, that British postage stamps were used, without objection or interference, in Panama for many years after the British post office there had been closed, and were cancelled with the British postmarking devices, constitute one of the unsolved problems of the uses of British stamps abroad. With the admission of Colombia to the Universal Postal Union on July 1, 1881, only Colombian stamps could legally be used for franking mail within its postal territory. The other countries of the U. P. U., from that date on, were obligated to treat all letters from Colombia which did not bear Colombian stamps to pay postage, as unfranked, whether or not the stamps on them were those of a member of the U. P. U.

The matter is not so clear about the transit journey between Panama and Colon in either direction. For this railroad line, Colombia had on its side, as has been mentioned earlier, granted the Panama Railway Co. certain independent rights to postal fees, specially that to set and increase special transit charges. These special powers and transit charges of the Panama Railway Co. were not directly affected by the entrance of Colombia into the U. P. U. Moreover, Colombia had made a special clause in her agreement to enter the U. P. U., explicitly to the effect that the Panama Railway Co. still had the right to levy a special transit charge and to collect it from the country of origin of each piece of mail turned over to them.

Great Britain in 1881 had, as mentioned previously, a special agreement with the Panama Railway Co., which had been negotiated directly with that concern as owner of the postal rights over the rail line Panama to Colon. Colombia itself and the United States also had special transit contracts with this company. This arrangement which Great Britain had for carrying British mail bags between Colon and Panama, seems to have provided for very favorable fixed sum payments. Colombia had always opposed it strongly, as has been mentioned previously. But the special postal charging powers of the company certainly were not actually removed by the entrance of Colombia into the U. P. U.

Most probably, Great Britain's postal activity in Panama after July 1881 was limited to dispatching of British transit mail, and thus to direct exchange of pouches with the Panama Railway Co. The postal administration was concerned primarily with the need and conditions for the maintenance of one particular limited postal activity on Colombian soil, under its special arrangement with the railroad company and the special rates for this service.

Actually, we find only two special kinds of letters, whose stamps were cancelled with the British Panama markings after 1881. In both cases, we conspicuously note that the letters were normally franked in advance with British stamps outside of Colombia. Their cancellation at Panama certainly took place only in transit mail. We have seen, as mentioned previously, that the same thing happened in the '50's and '70's.

The first kind of letter is that sent by sailors or marines of the Royal Navy, from ships stationed in or cruising in the Pacific Ocean. These "Sailor's Letters" could be sent to England for 1d for a single weight letter.(5) These letters were regularly franked with stamps on board the ships, and hence on British soil. On arrival at an appropriate port, were delivered for forwarding by the "Naval Commander" on land. From the earliest days these officers seem to have had certain priority rights in most American ports. For example, at Buenos Aires, the British consulate was originally re-

(5) This is the well known "concession rate" of 1d for a letter to Great Britain from anywhere on active service. It existed for many years, ending apparently about 1900 with establishment of free mail for soldiers and sailors. Such covers are well known from many lands, often with British colonial stamps used. —Editors, C. C. P.

quired to send a letter box to the Naval Commander so that letters from His Majesty's ships could be mailed through the Naval Commander's office.

The second kind of letter, which to the best of our knowledge has not yet been described in the Philatelic press, consists of business correspondence from Costa Rica to England. These letters had been franked in Costa Rica with stamps of that country for the journey to Panama and with British stamps for the journey oversea. The British stamps were cancelled in Panama with the British post-marking devices. We illustrate such a piece further on and here merely emphasize that the British stamps, as in the picture, were applied outside Colombia for prepayment of postage and were cancelled in transit at Panama.(6)

As we have already seen, these British stamps were cancelled in this Later Period, sometimes with the transverse oval C35 killer, sometimes with the 1865 duplex device (large killer, round-topped 3), and sometimes with the separate dated town mark of Panama (single circle with town name across middle).

Let us now clear up several facts about this Later Period—rates, and length of existence of the usage. According to Morton, the sailors' letters had to pay the regular transit rate of 6d which Great Britain charged, so that such letters entering the mails at Panama cost 7d: the 6d plus the regular 1d concession rate. According to Bernstein and Nissen the transit rate was only 1d.(7) Ewen (English Specialist Journal, p. 46) reports a sailor's letter with the British Panama postmark of July 1888, franked with two of the 1d British stamps of 1881 (16-pearl variety). Thus it appears that the transit rate was actually only 1d for a single-weight letter. The date on this item indicates that the Later Period evidently lasted till towards the end of the '80's, not only to the middle of that decade as stated by some British writers. Presumably Morton is correct in this case in giving the ending date as 1889. In Jan. 1889, a new dated postmark inscribed BRITISH PACKET AGENCY PANAMA was sent out from London. This change may indicate the end of the Later Period.

Other Offices (Caribbean or North Coast of Colombia)

Cartagena(8) received its first device, a large transverse oval killer in Type II, reading C56, during the second half of 1865. In June 1866 a new device, vertical oval in Type III, large with four bars above and below, was sent here. Instead of C56, it reads C55, the office number of Heywood (Lancashire) in England. But Heywood never had a killer in this type. This change of office number was not intentional, but strictly an error. This fact appears from the later event that Heywood received an office number, C63, the number formerly used for the British Post Office at Tampico, Mexico, which had closed in 1876.(9) Both these killers, C56 and C55, were separate killers, not duplex devices. They seem to have been used side by side for many years, despite reading differently. We have seen letters from the end of 1869 with C56, and in contrast C56 on 4d stamps of plates 7 and 9 as well as on the 1s stamp of 1865.

Santa Marta(10) had a dated town mark in 1862, received in the second half of that year, and another one received at the beginning of 1863.(11) In late 1865, at the same time as Cartagena, it received killer C62, in the large transverse oval Type II. After the Baranquilla-Savanilla railroad was opened in 1872, Santa Marta as a result was given up as a port of call for the Royal Mail steamers. At the end of 1878 the British

(6) Such usages, combination of stamps of country of mailing to carry to nearest British P. O. and British stamps for rest of journey, are known from many countries, mostly in the '70's and '80's. Either a postal treaty with Great Britain providing validity of stamps of country of origin, or country of origin joining U. P. U., ended such usage in each case.
—Editors, C. C. P.

(7) And they are right.—G. W. B.

(8) Regularly spelled CARTHAGENA on all British postmarks—H inserted.—Editors, C. C. P.

(9) Dendy Marshall, The British Post Office, p. 292.
—Dr. Munk

(10) Regularly spelled SANTA MARTHA on all British postmarks—H inserted.—Editors, C. C. P.

consulate was closed. Before this the post office seems to have almost completely ceased handling mail.

Colon or Aspinwall first received its own office number for the British post office in April 1870—E88. The killer with this number is in vertical oval Type III, with four bars above and below and large size. It exists only as a separate killer. The dated town mark of Colon, of which, according to Morton, three different devices were sent out from London between 1869 and 1871, apparently all had the town name across single circle with letter above it. Only letter A has been found. (These marks read ASPINWALL—Editors, C. C. Phil.). They were used as postmarks only. As at Panama, Colon also had several transit postmarks. These, however, we have not yet seen. Covers from Colon, in spite of the presumption of much postal business, are relatively rare. (These transit marks read COLON TRANSIT—Editors, C. C. Phil.[12])

Savanilla had a British consulate post office, opened in 1872, after the Savanilla-Baranquilla railroad had been opened and as a result this port became one of call by the Royal Mail's ships doing postal service. This has been discussed earlier. Its killer F69 is in Type III with four lines above and below, vertical oval.[13] But the characters are of a shorter and bolder form than those previously used in this type, and especially does this show for the letter F in impressions. See illustration. We have mentioned the occurrence of the British postmark of Baranquilla on letters with cancellation F69, earlier.

Letters showing Savanilla's F69 killer come not only with Baranquilla's postmark instead of the Savanilla single circle with A.



Fig. 4

This also comes with a single circle mark with the names of both offices, SAVANILLA above, BARRANQUILLA below. This is 23½ mm. diameter, same size as the Savanilla postmark, with key letter C above date (Mr. Egly's cover). Possibly this was in use on the Savanilla-Baranquilla railroad.[14]

(The preceding paragraph occurs in the Nachtrag section of the original, and is here inserted in its proper systematic place).

The Stamps Used

Dr. Munk here gives a list of the stamps used at each office. As this list was made in 1931, it is somewhat inadequate in view of many items discovered since then. I refer the reader to the Gibbons catalog, where these are reported, not only by issue but by plate number, for each office, in the editions issued prior to World War 2. To the Gibbons listings I add the following, without noting plate numbers.—G. W. B.

PANAMA: 9d 1865; 1d lilac 1881.
CARTAGENA: 1½d 1880; 2d 1875-80; 2½d 1876; 2s brown 1880.

(11) From Lowe, Handstruck Stamps of the Empire, 2nd Ed. p. 40, we discover that the earlier one reads SANTA MARTHA, the later one Santa MARTHA PAID. Both are single circles with inscription around, not across.—Editors, C. C. P.

(12) This information from Lowe, Handstruck Stamps of the Empire.—Editors, C. C. P.

(13) Savanilla's town mark is a single circle, wording around border, and key letter.—Editors, C. C. P.

(14) We regard this as a very wild guess. No evidence is at hand or known to us, to give the least color of plausibility to Dr. Munk's supposition. No Railway Post Office mark of any sort has been reported among the British offices abroad, as far as we can determine. We make the suggestion that this is probably the mark of a Colombian postal service or even of private carrier. This seems the more likely, since we fail to find it listed in Lowe's Handstruck Stamps of the Empire.—Editors, C. C. P.



Fig. 5

Combination Covers

Three varieties of mixed franking or combination covers are known with the British offices in Colombia showing as cancellations on British stamps.

First and rarest is joint use of British and Colombian stamps. Some years ago a cover showed up on a London auction, with two Colombian stamps and three British ones: the ½d plate 6, 1d plate 122 and 1s plate 12. These three were cancelled at Savanilla with the F69 killer.

More interesting as postal history is the presence of British stamps with the British Panama cancellation together with those of Costa Rica with that country's cancellation. This occurs in the early 1880's, and only two examples are reported. In both we have one red 2 real stamp of Costa Rica (Scott No. 4; Gibbons No. 3) and one British 1s orange brown, plate 13 (Scott No. 87, Gibbons No. 163) of Great Britain. In both cases the Costa Rican stamp is cancelled with the Costa Rican grid with numeral 1 in center. On one the British stamp is cancelled with the transverse oval C35 of Panama. On the other it is cancelled with the dated town mark of Panama's British office. In this last case the Costa Rican grid shows clearly trespassing on to the edge of the British stamp: thus, we are positive that the British stamp was affixed to the letter when it was mailed in Costa Rica. The illustration shows this.

As this picture shows, the Panama town mark with A is not only struck twice on the British stamp, but also once more on the right hand part of the letter. Next to this we find also the dated town mark of Punta Arenas, a port of Costa Rica on the west coast, north from Panama. Therefore this letter was either mailed there or at San Jose, the capital of Costa Rica and connected to Punta Arenas by a railroad. In this case, the British stamps were applied in a country in which Great Britain has never had a foreign post office. That this usage was allowed in Costa Rica, apparently derives from a postal convention that Great Britain made in 1859 simultaneously with both Costa Rica and Nicaragua.

The date at which this usage occurred is still more interesting. The postmark of Punta Arenas, where the letter was mailed, is dated July 18, 1882, and that of Panama July 25, 1882. Thus they show a time at which the British post office at Panama had actually already been closed. We have mentioned this matter earlier.

But this does not exhaust the matter. In July 1882, not only were the British offices in Colombia, but all British offices abroad on American soil, already closed. The last British post office in America, that at Greytown, was shut down on May 1, 1882, because on that date Nicaragua became a member of the U. P. U. Costa Rica's admission to the U. P. U. took place on Jan. 1, 1883. There-

fore, letters going abroad from that country, which were to be fully prepaid from place of mailing, had to carry the stamp of some member of the U. P. U. to prepay their travel outside of country of origin, during the whole year of 1882. Thus we find the unique situation that the last American country, in which British stamps could legally be used for ordinary business mail was Costa Rica, although Great Britain had never had a post office of her own within that land.

Finally: in one case the use of British stamps cancelled with the C35 of Panama and United States stamps is known. This is on a letter from the U. S. consulate in Callao, to a city in Georgia. This is discussed under offices in Peru and also in the general introduction to the offices throughout America.

GERALD WILLIAM BENTLEY was born at Thornham, Lancashire, England in 1890. He began to collect stamps in 1899, and has been an enthusiastic collector ever since.

He was educated in England, and at Neuchatel, Switzerland. In 1934, he was awarded the Congress Cup, at the 21st Philatelic Congress of Great Britain, held in Manchester, for a paper on "The Forgery Collection, Its Arrangement, and Its Value to a Philatelic Society."

In 1937, he became the Assistant Editor of The "Philatelic Journal of Great Britain," and is still on the staff of that journal. His writings for that paper include "Espana Arriba" (The story of the stamps of the Spanish Civil War), the history of the stamps of Spanish West Africa, the stamps and postal history of Thessaly, etc., and many translations. Mr. Bentley is a past president of the Manchester Central Philatelic Society. He was one of the founders of the Sale Philatelic Society, of which he was the first president 1944-48. Since 1931, he has been a member of the Manchester Philatelic Society. He has collected the stamps and postal stationery of the whole world. At present his favorite countries are Spain and Colonies, Japan and Dependencies, Italy, States, and Colonies, Ionian Islands, Greece, Heligoland, Thessaly, and Germany, States, and Colonies. He knows eight European languages, which he finds very useful for philatelic purposes.



THE COLLECTORS CLUB PHILATELIST MEDAL

This handsome bronze medallion is awarded annually for the best article published in this magazine.

The recent winners have been:

1951—F. G. Larsen, "First Two Issues of Colombia."

1950—Cornelius W. Wickersham, "Venezuela, The First Escuelas Stamps."

1949—Lyons F. Livingston, "R. A. Villard and The Stamps of China."

1948—R. S. Mechin and Alex A. Cohen, "Costa Rica, The First Postage Stamps of 1863."

UNITED STATES

Carrier Service in New York City, 1847

By CLARENCE W. BRAZER, D. Sc.

In a recent research in the National Archives at Washington, D. C., through the courtesy of Dr. Holdcamper, I found copies of a few letters of interest to philatelists. These were only the outgoing letters of Cave Johnson, P. M. G. Although outside my present interests, they are published here for the information of others.

While they do not give the complete story, until the incoming letters are made available, if ever, they do contain some heretofore unknown information as to the details of the letter carrier service in New York City in February, 1847.[1] At that time, carrier delivery and collection of letters and newspapers was contemplated and details were being considered by the Postmaster General and Robert H. Morris, postmaster of New York City.[2]

Robt. H. Morris Feb. 12, 1847
P. M. New York

"You have 19 walks for your letter carriers, who receive letters from the office and deliver them charging two cents each:—suppose you add to their duties the reception of letters for the Post Office and charge one cent for the delivery, to be paid at the time of receiving the letter—each letter carrier should, under your directions, provide a box at some suitable place within his walk for the reception of letters, keep it locked under the eye of some suitable person at which he could call three or four times each day and take the letters to your office, when he visited it to get the letters coming by mails for delivery—these boxes would be taken care of by any apothecary or merchant, or other person in business, because of the persons that would be necessarily drawn to their establishments, without charge to the letter carrier, and should never be opened except by the letter carrier. The letter carriers should also receive letters in their walks for delivery at the City Post Office. Newspapers, printed advertisements, lithographed circulars not sealed would be taken for half a cent either to or from the office.

I make these suggestions at present, and desire your views in relation to them, before an order is made—the number of districts, if deemed necessary, might be increased.

C. J. (CAVE JOHNSON, P.M.G.)

Dated 21 February, 47.

R. H. Morris, Esq. P. M.

New York

I have received yours of the 17 February and think there is much force in the objections made to the suggestions of mine of the 12 inst. and shall yield to the plan pointed out in yours of the 18 of January.—

Your friend,

C. J. (CAVE JOHNSON, P.M.G.)

Final Instructions dated April 6 provided 2c each way on letters and ½ cent on newspapers.

[1] For information about this in 1845, see John N. Luff's "Postage Stamps of the United States," pages 36-37.

[2] From Cave Johnson, P. M. G. Outgoing Letter Copy Book R2 (or UI).

The Postage Stamps and Postal History of *TIBET*

By H. D. S. HAVERBECK

(Continued from Page 82.)

CHAPTER VI

THE TIBETAN STAMPS AND CANCELLATIONS

1. The First Issue of Tibet Postage Stamps, 1912

From the philatelist's point of view the most important result of the visit of the Dalai Lama to India was his opportunity to see the Indian Post Office in action. The efficiency of this postal system so impressed him and his Ministers that the decision was made to establish a state controlled postal system in Tibet.

The Dalai Lama left India on his return trip at the end of June, 1912. The preparations for the inauguration of the postal system had already been started. "The Pioneer," an Indian newspaper, printed a dispatch from Kalimpong in its issue of June 6, 1912, which in part reads as follows: "The Dalai Lama's decision to start for Tibet on the 24th is causing a stir in our Tibetan quarter. . . . The official in charge of the new postage stamps has prepared a number of sets of dies and has been busy experimenting with different colours of ink. The stamps will be issued shortly after the arrival of the party in Tibet."

The postage stamps were issued in Lhasa in December, 1912. They were not put on sale in the other post offices until the following year.

Several sheets of the color trial proofs from the plates have survived and individual copies have been seen in various important collections. The earliest known is a sheet of twelve, printed in violet, which reached England in September of 1912. This was on display at the stall of Mr. W. T. Wilson during the Jubilee International Stamp Exhibition, held in London, October 4-19, 1912.

These color trial proofs were all of the 1/6 trangka denomination. The following varieties have been reported:

Violet, on machine made white wove paper (2 sheets) Fig. 16
Violet, on native paper
Purple, on machine made white wove paper
Black, on native paper
Blue, on native paper

With the exception of the first proof listed, there is only one sheet known of each of these.

There are also in existence line engraved die proofs of an essay prepared by Waterlow and Sons, Ltd. It is not definitely known whether these die proofs represent an attempt on the part of the printers to submit a bid for the Tibetan postage stamps or whether they were prepared on order of the Dalai Lama. Whichever was the case, Waterlow and Sons did not receive any con-

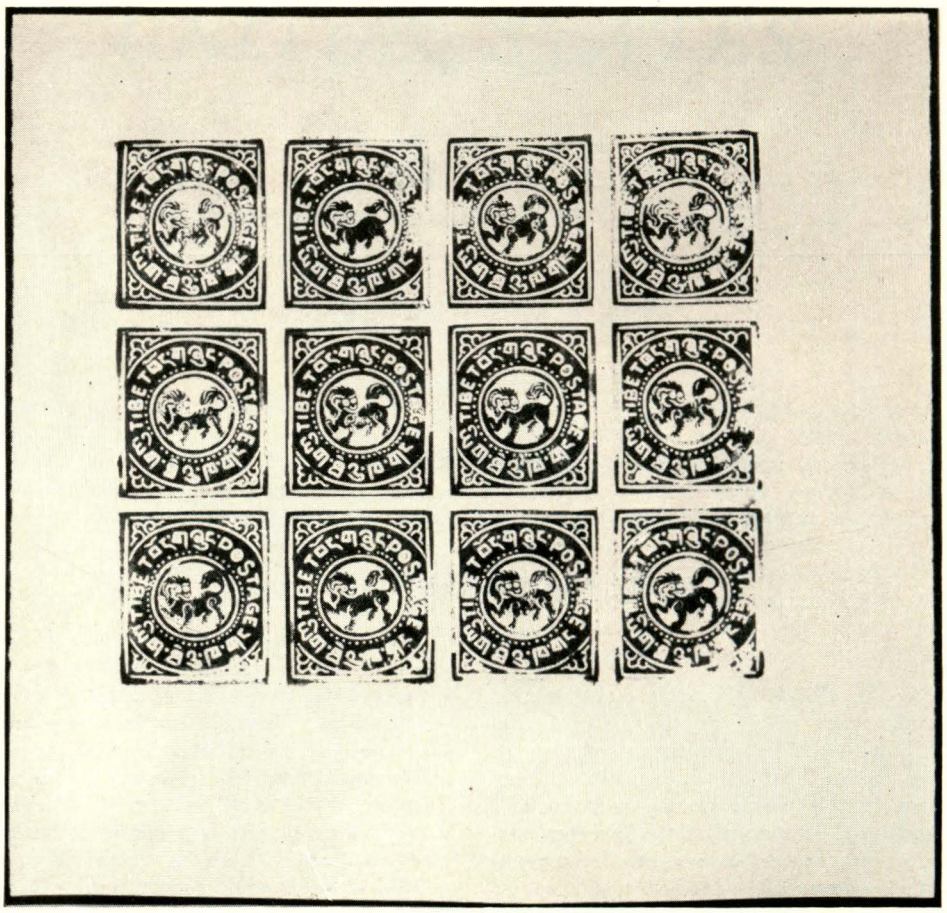


Figure 16. A complete sheet of the "Dalai Lama" proofs.

tract for the preparation of Tibetan stamps. As the illustration (Fig. 17) shows the engraving was very well executed, the design being similar to that of the issued stamps. The following Waterlow die proofs are known; all of the 1/3 trangka denomination:

Imperforate.

Bright Blue, Deep Yellow Green, Deep Yellow, Deep Orange, Bright Red, Carmine, Albino (This latter may result from two sheets of paper being placed on the proof press), all on thin white wove paper.

Perforated.

Mauve on white wove paper,

Yellow Green on thick rough carton paper,

Albino on white wove paper.

The perforated proofs are similar to miniature sheets, divided by lines of perforation into nine squares in the center, one of which is the die proof. The size of the design is 23 x 19 mm. and the overall size of the die sinkage is 100 x 63 mm.

The issued stamps were printed from wood blocks consisting of 12 stamps (4 x 3). Each of the 12 subjects was individually carved in the wood and differ one from the other. The entire sheet of each denomination is illustrated so that these variations may be more readily seen. The central design is the "White Lion," symbol of life and death and the personal emblem of the Dalai Lama. This theme is repeated in other documents, e.g. the seal of the Tibet Trade Mission

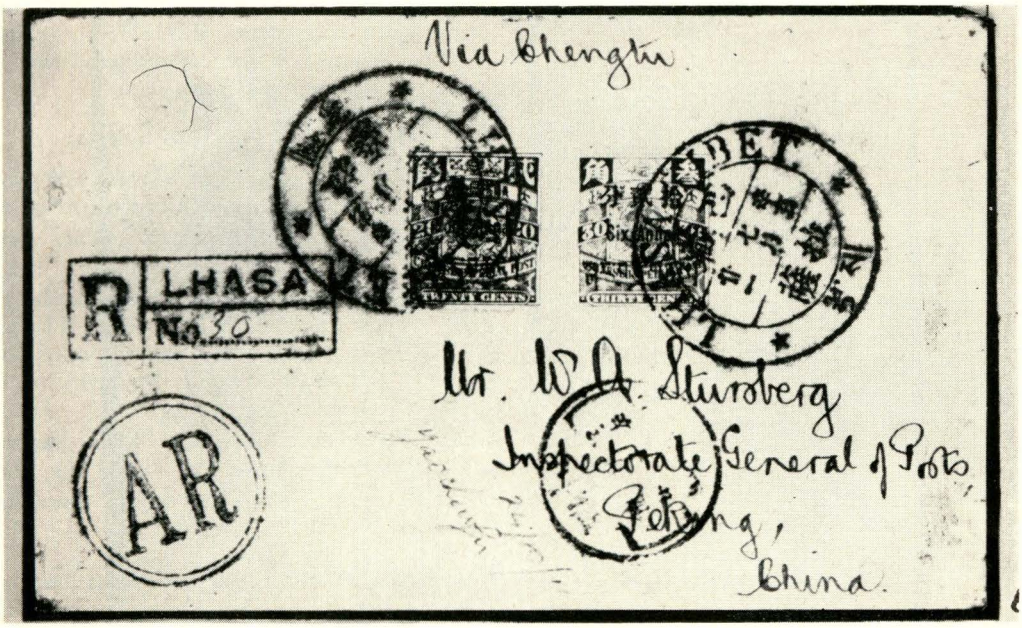


Figure G. A cover from Lhasa to Peking which travelled over the "Silk Road." Note postmark of Yao-Chow-Fu.

(Fig. 18) and on the paper money of Tibet (Fig. 19). This vignette is ringed with a circle of color in which appears the inscription in white letters, English characters for "Tibet" and "Postage" at the left and right, while at the top are the Tibetan words "Böd-Zhung" meaning "Tibet Government" and at the bottom "Yigth-Hu" meaning "Letter Postage" and the denomination in Tibetan character. The frame and spandrels are copied from the Indian 1 anna stamps of Queen Victoria and King Edward VII.

The stamps were issued imperforate and were printed upon a paper of local manufacture. Concerning this paper, David MacDonald, the British Trade agent for twenty years at Gyantse and the Chumbi valley writes: ("Twenty Years in Tibet," and "The Land of the Lama").

"The major industry at Gyantse is the manufacture of paper for the Government. From the hills around Gyantse large quantities of the bark of a shrub of the genus *Daphne* is collected. The bark is steeped in



Figure 18. Seal of the Tibet Trade Mission.

water for several days, then pulped by wooden mallets until it reaches the consistency of a thin paste. The pulp is then spread over muslin sheets fastened in wooden frames. To give evenness to the paper these frames, muslin, pulp and all, are gently agitated in water, then drained and placed in the open air to dry. After the moisture has evaporated the sheet of paper is peeled off, trimmed, and is ready for use."

From the nature of the manufacture, this paper varies considerably in thickness and in color. It is possible to find sheets of the stamps where the paper varies from thick to thin in the same sheet.

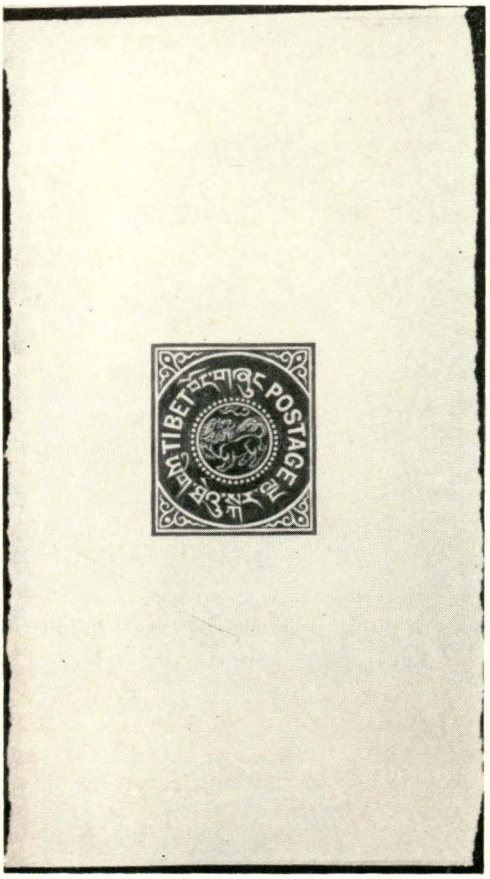


Figure 17. Die proof of the Waterlow Essay.

The inks used for printing these stamps are of a rich color. There is surprisingly little variation in the colors considering the long period of their issue.

The issued stamps are as follows:

1/6 Trangka (1 Kakang) Green, pale green, emerald green, olive green. (Fig. 20)

1/3 Trangka (1 Karmanga) Blue, deep blue, ultramarine. (Fig. 21)

1/2 Trangka (1 Tschaky) Deep purple, violet, pale mauve. (Fig. 22) The pale mauve is the most marked color variation to be found. It occurs on the last printings, 1929-33

2/3 Trangka (1 Shokang) Red, carmine, scarlet, brown, red, rose. (Fig. 23)

1 Trangka Vermilion, orange, vermilion. (Fig. 24)

Kiss prints of all denominations are known, also varieties caused by folds and creases in the paper. These are of some interest but of little philatelic importance.

There is one important error in this issue. It occurs on positions 6 and 7 of the sheet of the 2/3 Trangka stamp. (See Fig. 23). This consists of the word "Postage" being spelt "POTSAGE." These errors were never corrected and can be found in all of the shade variations of the normal stamp. In the later



Figure 19. 10 Trangka banknote showing the White Lion as central motif.

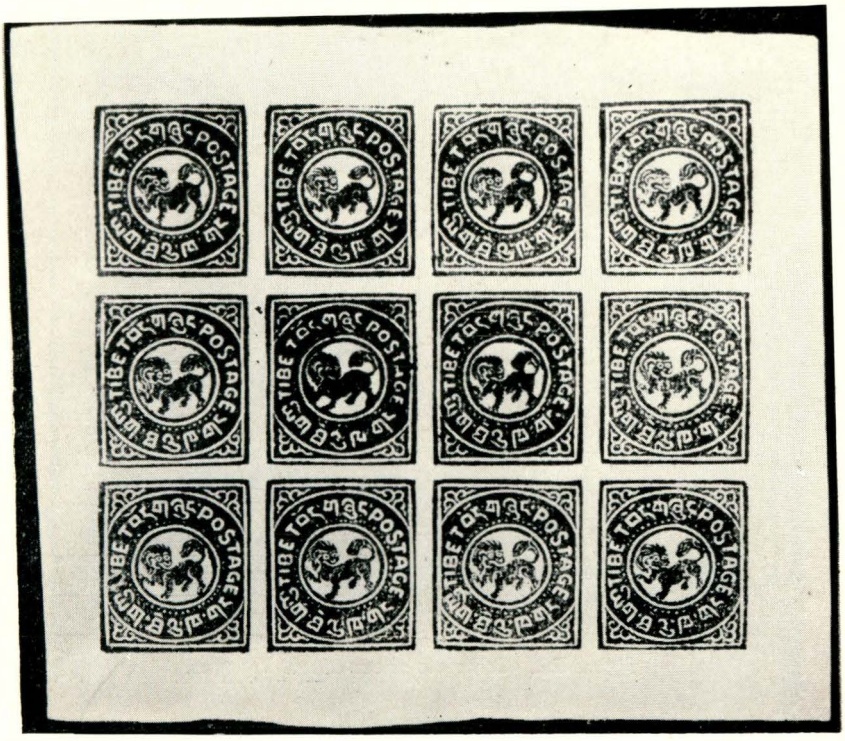


Figure 20. Complete sheet of 1/6 Trangka.

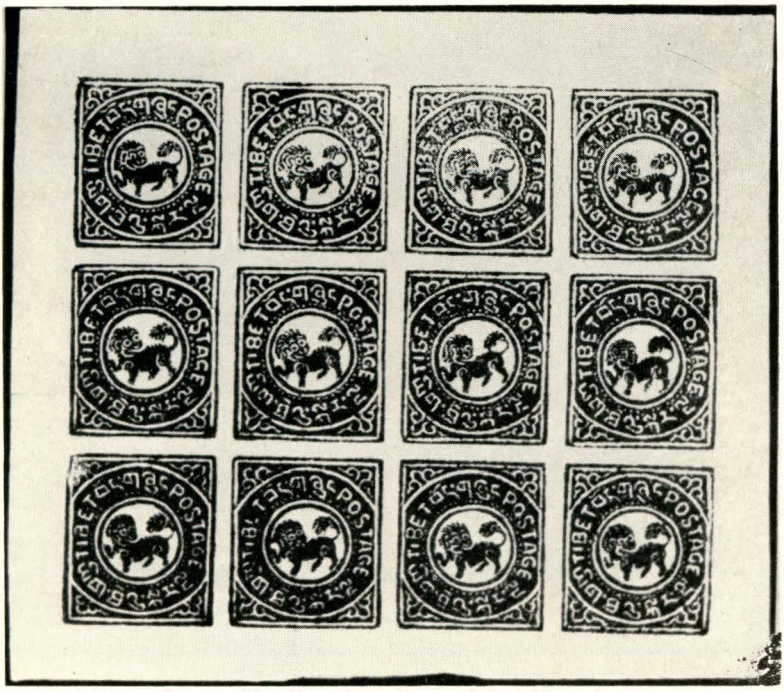


Figure 21. Complete sheet of 1/3 Trangka.

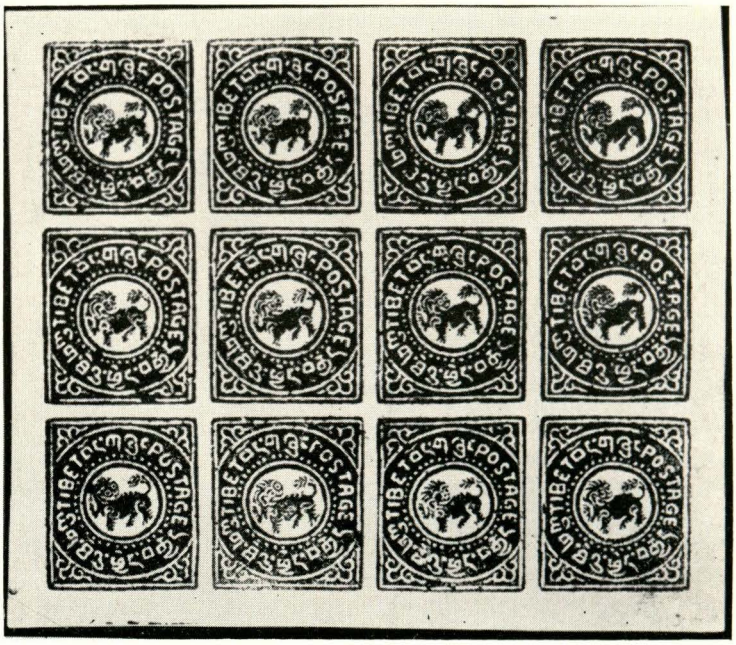


Figure 22. Complete sheet of ½ Trangka.

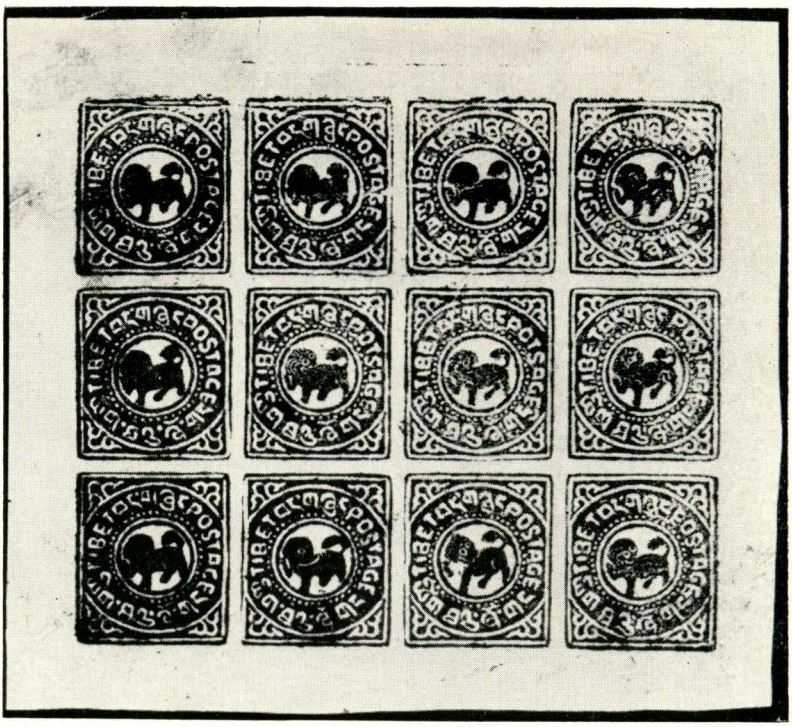


Figure 23. Complete sheet of 2/3 Trangka.

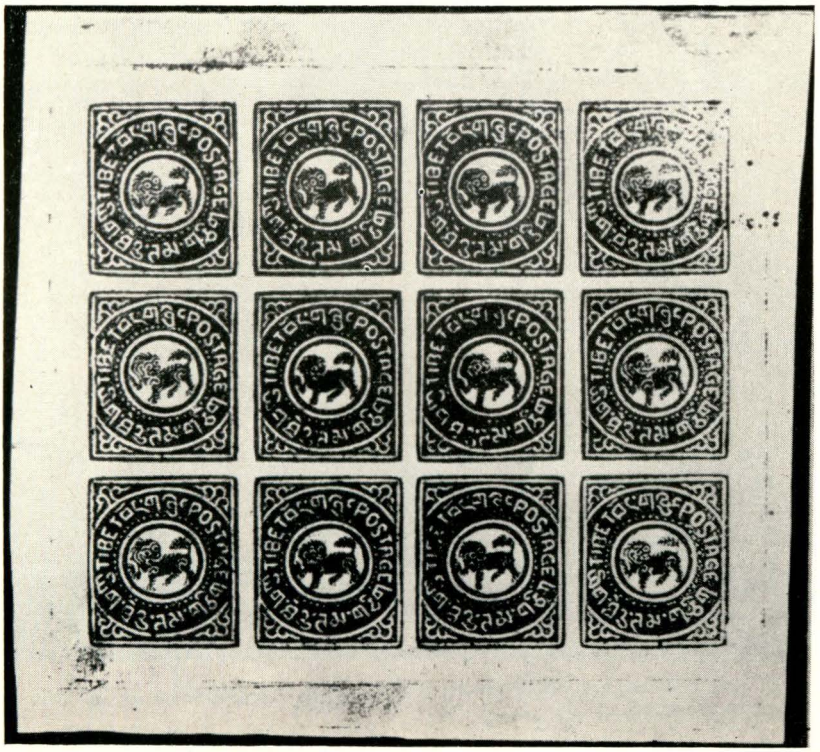


Figure 24. Complete sheet of 1 Trangka.

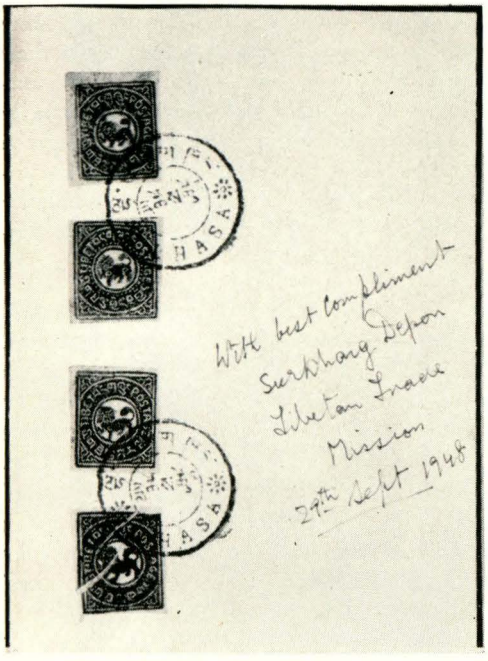


Figure 25. Presentation sheet of the Tibetan Trade Mission showing stamps of the first issue.

printings of this stamp, the letter "P" in "Postage" on position 12 became worn and appears as "Eostage".

These stamps were still available in Lhasa as late as 1948. The evidence for this is the existence of presentation sheets prepared for the Tibet Trade Mission. The sheets were prepared by pasting the four lower denominations to a sheet of thin white card. The Lhasa postmark was applied twice in such a way as to tie each stamp to the card. These sheets were carried by the Trade Mission for presentation to important personages met during its visit to the United States. One of these autographed by Surkhang Depön, a member of the Trade Mission, is illustrated. (Fig. 25)

Forgeries of the first issue are plentiful and are more frequently met with than the genuine stamps. The complete sheets of the genuine stamps have been illustrated purposely to enable the student to distinguish the genuine from the forgery. In each of the three major types of forgery the colors are

decidedly different from the originals. The genuine stamps measure 19-19½ mm. wide and 22½ mm. high. The forgeries do not have these measurements. The colors are dull and flat and usually appear to be aniline. Some of the characteristics of each type of forgery is given:

Type I. All five denominations were forged. 18¾-20 mm. wide and 23-24 mm. high. No "Potsage" error on the 2/3 Trangka. These are found with forged cancellations that do not agree or even resemble the genuine ones.

Type II. The space between the inscription and the outer frame line at the top of the stamp is too wide. The characters are badly formed and the inscription is crowded. All denominations known.

Type III. Only the three low values. Easily distinguished by the fact that they are lithographed on a glazed *laid* paper of Indian manufacture.

2. The Second Issue, 1914

This issue consisting of two stamps is one of the more remarkable stories of philately. *Although issued early in 1914, they remained unknown to stamp collectors until 1943, a period of 29 years.* They were first discovered when some correspondence of Col. F. M. Bailey, C. I. E. was offered for sale in London. Col. Bailey had obtained the stamps in Tibet so that there can be no question as to their bona fides. At the time of the Younghusband Expedition, Col. Bailey was attached to the 32nd Sikh Pioneers, one of the military units which composed the force. He made the trip to Lhasa with Younghusband and later was appointed Agent at Gyantse. He next served as Commissioner for Sikkim and Tibet and was His Majesty's Minister at Kathmandu, Nepal, prior to his retirement.

These stamps are of extreme rarity. As far as is known at the present time, the total number known of each denomination is approximately 50 copies.

The stamps were carved on wooden blocks in the same manner as the first issue. The plate consisted of six stamps (3 x 2). The design consists of the symbolical "White Lion" surrounded by two circles. The outer circle contains the inscriptions "Tibet Postage" in English at the bottom and the Tibetan inscription at the top. This is similar to the wording found on the first issue.

The stamps are as follows:

4 Trangkas, Indigo blue, chalky blue (Fig. 26, Type A)

8 Trangkas, Carmine rose, carmine (Fig. 26, Type B)

There are no errors in this issue. The paper is similar to that used for the 1912 issue and varies considerably in thickness.

Forgeries of this issue have not yet been seen, but it would not be surprising if there are some in existence. It is strongly recommended that any copies offered for sale be purchased with a guarantee from a reputable dealer or that they be submitted to the expert committee of The Philatelic Foundation for a certificate of genuineness prior to purchase.

The stamps of this issue are considerably rarer used than unused. It is doubtful if more than ten covers are in existence and the used copies off cover can be estimated at about the same number. It is known from a statement made by a member of the Tibet Trade Mission that a small supply remained in the Post Office at Lhasa in 1948. But since that time no more than 18 to 20 copies of both denominations have been obtained from sources in Tibet. It is interesting to note that the covers known all had been used in the period 1924-33.

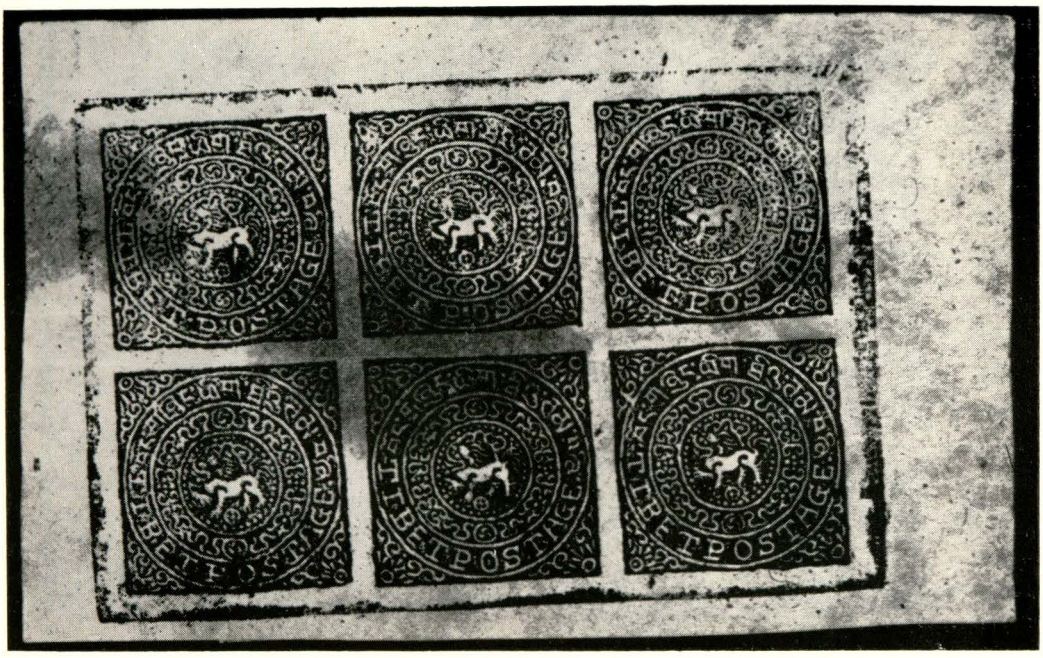
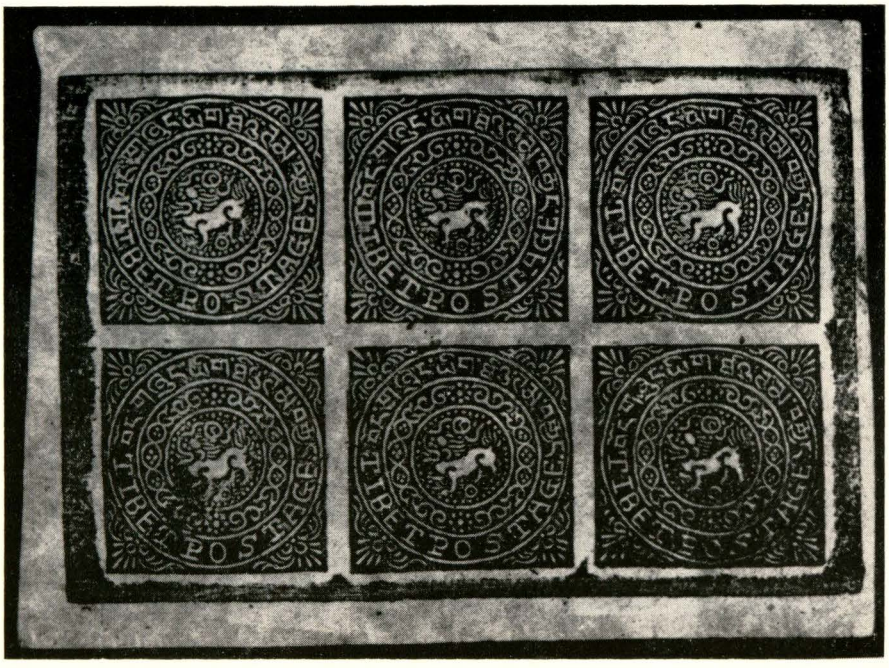


Figure 26. **A.** Complete sheet of 4 Trangka.



B. Complete sheet of 8 Trangka.

3. The Third Issue, 1933

On May 1, 1933, a new issue of stamps with new designs and colors made its appearance. It was not until June of 1934, however, that any record of this issue appeared in the philatelic press (Gibbons Stamp Monthly, June, 1934). When these stamps were issued, the old designs were withdrawn from use. The old cancelling devices were also changed at this time.

The issue consists of five denominations printed in sheets of 12 stamps (4 x 3). The plate was made up of 12 separately hand carved clichés made of brass and each differs from the other. When the stamps were to be printed the clichés were held together by a cord or strip of leather to make up the plate. This fact of the existence of separate clichés is easily demonstrated by the sheets themselves. An inspection of several sheets of the same denomination obtained at various times shows that the individual impressions are very uneven in alignment, some even being twisted through 10 degrees of arc. Proof also may be had from the late printings of the 4 Trangka stamp which shows only 11 stamps in the sheet, with position 4 always missing. It is possible that further study may be able to show the sequence of printings from the arrangement of the clichés, but up to the present time there is not enough material available to establish this with any certainty.

The stamps were printed upon a very thin white native tissue paper and were perforated. The Postmaster at Lhasa made a hand perforating device consisting of a wooden handle holding a steel wheel with spikes in it, much the same as a dressmaker uses when doing pattern work. This device makes a perforation similar to a roulette, which is termed a pin perforation.

The design is again the "White Lion." This time it is arranged in a square. The English inscription appears at the bottom, the Tibetan at the top. In the side panels appear



Figure 27. Translation of characters and numerals on third issue.

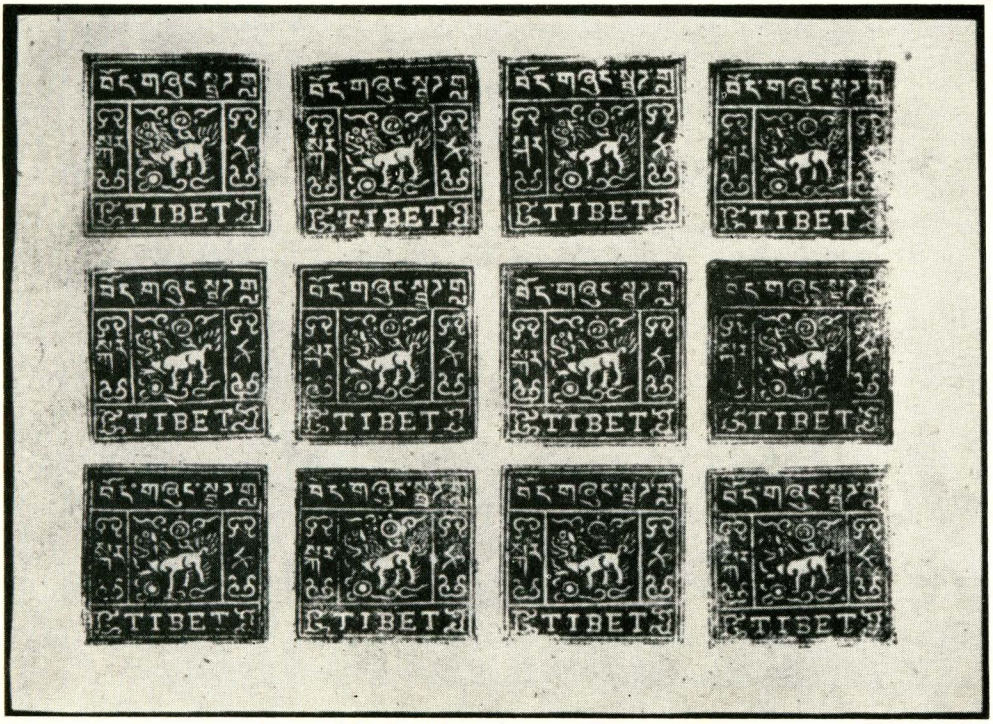


Figure 28. Complete sheet of ½ Trangka.

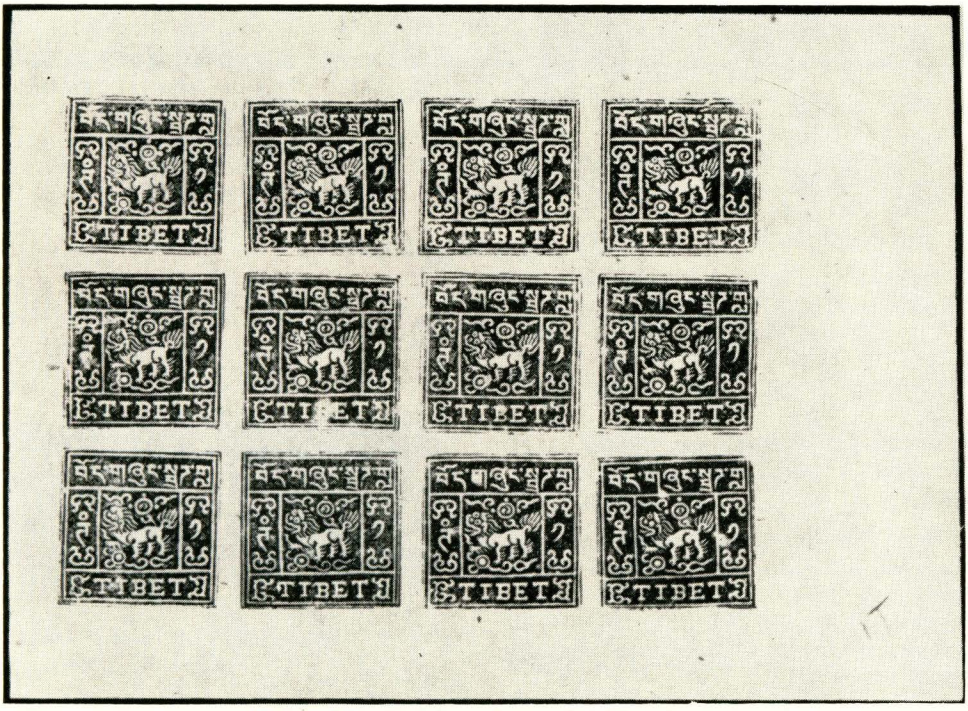


Figure 30. Complete sheet of 1 Trangka.

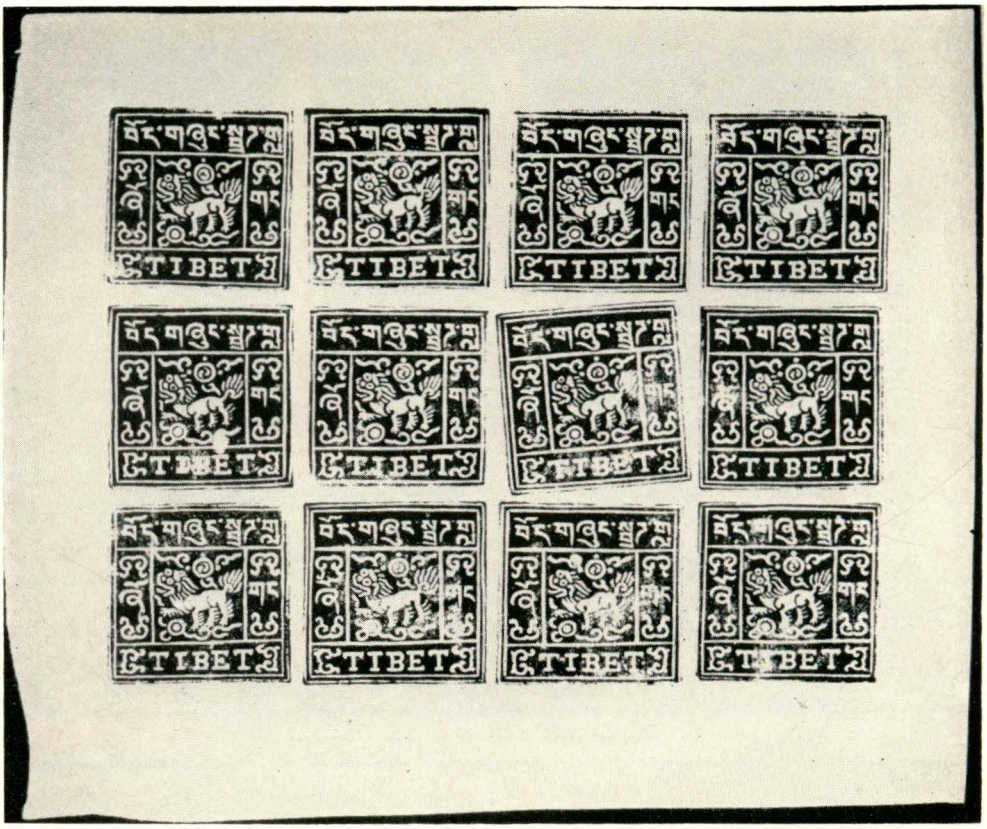


Figure 29. Complete sheet of 2/3 Trangka.

the indications of value. The attached drawings prepared by Mr. Newman illustrate this very clearly. (Fig. 27)

The five denominations are as follows:

½ Trangka (1 Tschaky), Orange, yellow, yellow orange (Fig. 28)
2/3 Trangka (1 Shokang), Blue, Dark Blue (Fig. 29)
1 Trangka, Carmine, rose carmine (Fig. 30)
2 Trangka, Vermilion, scarlet (Fig. 31)
4 Trangka, Green, emerald green (Fig. 33A)

Three of the five denominations exist in small sheets of two stamps arranged horizontally with wide margins around them. (Fig. 32) These are proofs in the color of the issued stamps. The three stamps known as proofs are:

2/3 Trangka, Blue
1 Trangka, Carmine
2 Trangka, Scarlet

There are no errors known of the perforated stamps.

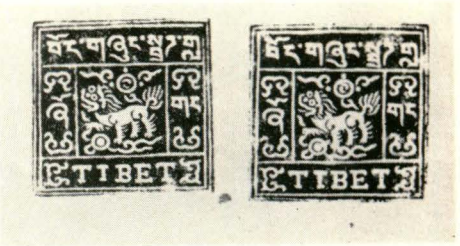


Figure 32. Small proof sheet of 2/3 Trangka.

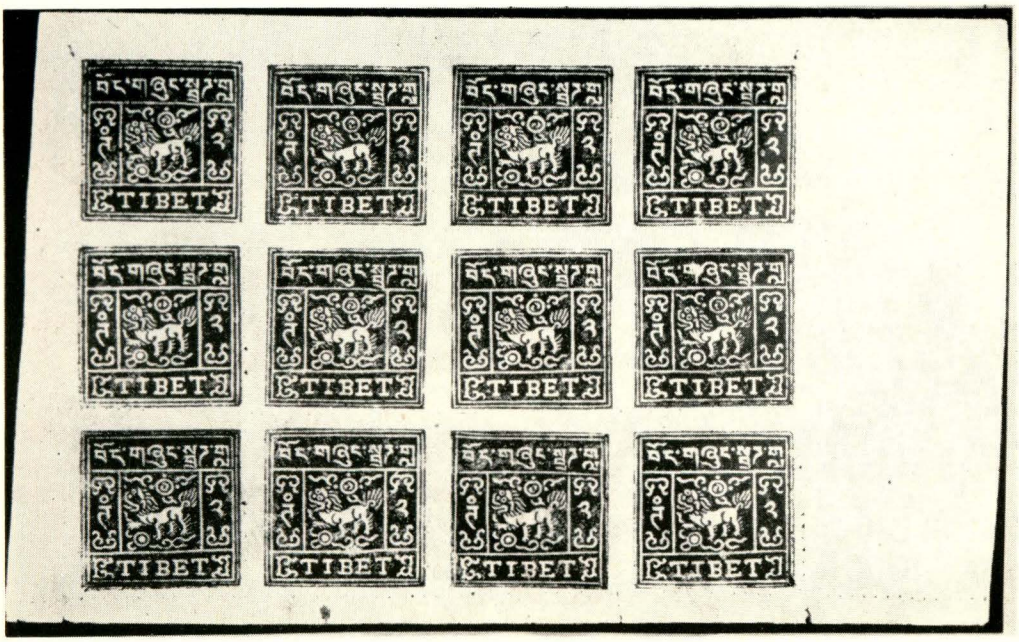


Figure 31. Complete sheet of 2 Trangka.

Forgeries of these stamps are known printed by lithography on a glazed native *laid* paper of Indian manufacture. The forgeries were printed in sheets of 12, and come perforated and imperforate. These forgeries are also known on covers. One type of cover is always addressed to Sikkim and has the post marks of Gyantse, Tibetan post Office and Indian Post Office, also forged. The second type is addressed to Castle Rock in India. The Tibetan and Indian stamps are cancelled by the postmark of the British postal agency at Yatung.

4. The Fourth Issue, 1939

While there is no change in the design, there are sufficient differences in the colors and papers to warrant calling this a separate issue. The practice of pin-perforation was discarded. The paper used was again the thick, brownish native one, the same as in the earlier issues. The stamps which fall in this group first appeared in 1939, they are as follows:

½ Trangka, Bright yellow, orange yellow
2/3 Trangka, Dark blue
1 Trangka, Carmine, rose vermilion
2 Trangka, Red rose
4 Trangka, Olive green (Fig. 33B)

There are two major errors of this printing. The first is caused by the loss of one of the clichés of the 4 Trangka denomination. Position No. 4 always appears blank. In some of the earlier examples of the sheets of this stamp, position 4 is filled by pasting in one additional stamp so that the sheet, as sold at the post office, is composed of 12 stamps. The second error was discovered in the summer of 1951. The 1 Trangka, car-



Figure 33B. Complete sheet of 11 stamps of 4 Trangka.

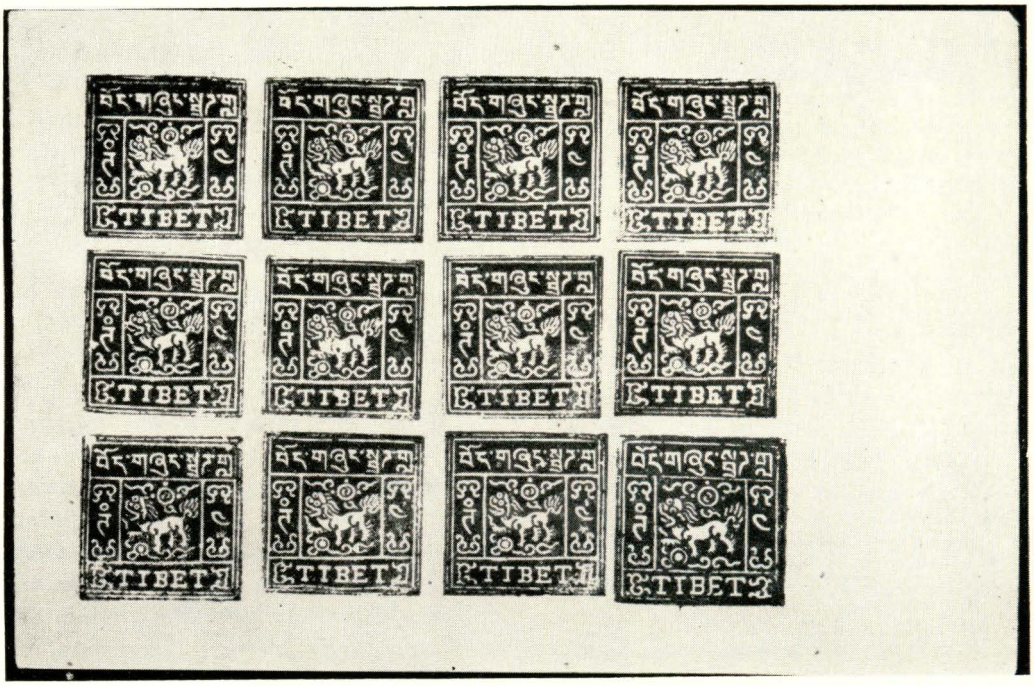


Figure 33A. Complete sheet of 12 stamps of 4 Trangka.

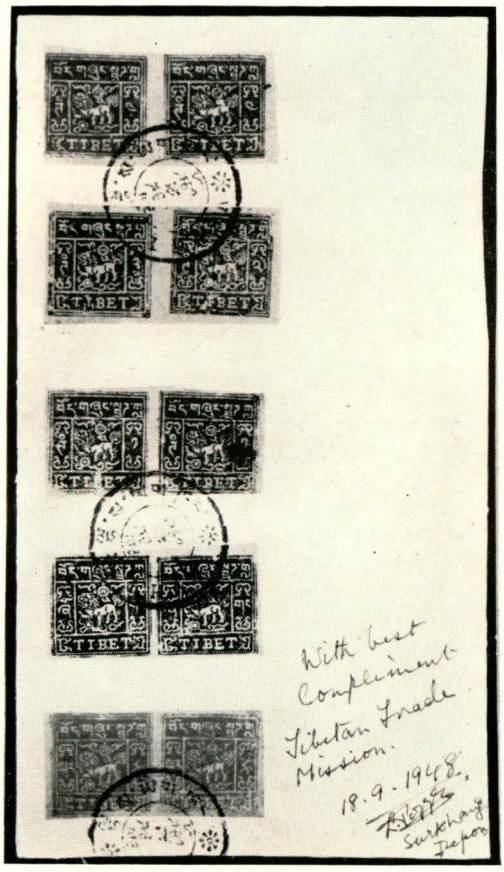


Figure H. A presentation sheet of the Tibetan Trade Mission showing pairs of the fourth issue.

mine, was found printed on both sides. As far as can be ascertained only one sheet of this error was found. There is in existence a vertical strip of three in the collection of Mr. Neil Campbell of California, a single used on cover in the same collection, and a block of four in the author's collection. The remaining four stamps were probably used on local mail and lost.

There are several forgeries of these stamps. *They are all very dangerous, being considerably more common than the original stamps.* It is believed that the forgeries all emanated from the same source in Northern India. Careful comparison with the originals is the only sure way to distinguish these forgeries. The paper is almost identical to that used for the genuine stamps. The colors are not good. The forged ½ Trangka is particularly poor in this respect, being in a shade of brown orange or brown yellow. Also the frame lines are poorly printed, in most cases appearing as thick single line, rather than two thin double lines. It is also evident that forged post marks have been applied to these forgeries, but this is not a sure test as some copies have been found with genuine post marks. It is possible then that these forgeries may have been prepared with an eye to defrauding the Tibetan posts as well as for sale to collectors.

(To be concluded in the following number.)

IS THE DIFFERENCE USEFUL?

Philatelic usage today allegedly differentiates the terms "overprint" and "surcharge," restricting the latter to face-value-changing overprints. Is this distinction of any real usefulness, or of any importance? Does it help us in any way in understanding our stamps or in doing a more accurate classification of them?

The question is therefore one as to whether the use of the two terms is worth while. My judgment is that it serves no useful purpose, and is really a distinction without a difference. We might be well advised to drop the word "surcharge" entirely. This is the more desirable, because identity of form with a word of banking and financial use, has been the prime cause of limited application of this term. The actual history of the philatelic word "surcharge" is that it is the French printing trade term for "overprint" and nothing more.

Let it also be in the record that regular usage among stamp people throughout North America is to treat the two words as synonyms.

—*Stephen G. Rich*

UNITED STATES

Varieties of the 2c 1883-1887

By STEPHEN G. RICH

Examination of some 500 copies of the 2c 1883 and the same quantity of the 2c 1887, off and on cover, some time ago, brought out some interesting features not indicated or vaguely indicated, by the handbooks and the specialized catalog. If these features have been found by others, they apparently are not yet reported.

On the 2c browns of 1883, the shadings under the edges of the shield, above the words "TWO" and "CENTS" do not fall into the pattern of listings in the U. S. Catalog.

I have not been able to find any copies which show only the "horizontal" or "solid" shading listed in the catalog. On the contrary, all copies which I have examined, show horizontal lines of shading; and almost every copy clearly printed, shows some trace of "crossed lines of shading." A very few copies show the crossed shading quite plainly.

But there is a marked distinction between two groups of the stamps, in this shading.

The early copies, as shown by year dates of cancellations, up to roughly mid-1885, show the patches of shading under the shield and above "TWO" and "CENTS" composed of distinct lines.

The later copies, beginning in 1885 and becoming all but universal in 1886, show the shading patches with lines much thickened and almost coalescing.

This same condition obtains—thickened and almost coalescing shading in these patches—for all the green 2-cent stamps.

Furthermore, the characteristic appearance of "wash etching" is shown on the patches of shading in question. It is not very conspicuous on the early stamps; it is strikingly present on the later ones. On the later form, it is quite evident that the deepening of the shadow patches has been secured by wash-etching, which widened the lines and also caused the areas between them to retain some ink when wiped.

The contrast between the shadows and the rest of the areas in which they are situated, is fairly well concealed by the color of the ink used, in the green printings from 1887 on.

Double transfer or re-entry seems to occur very frequently, most usually on the words "TWO" and "CENTS" in the early form. It is clearly seen in such cases. I have not yet seen it on the late form, whether in brown or in green.

From these facts, I infer that at some time, perhaps late 1884, the die for this stamp was worked on by etching, producing this variation. Clearly it is not a mere difference in depth of entry, nor a relief break. It is really a minor re-engraving of the die.

The well-known "nick" variety, in which the lowermost line of the stamp is sharply bent in, close to southwest corner of numeral 2, occurs on the later form only, and in both colors.

The change of shading does not coincide with the period of change of shade among the browns. Specialists in this stamp speak of the "red brown" and "orange brown" periods. I find both shades, as well as the "dark red brown" on both forms.

The prevalence of re-entries or double transfers on the early form, and their absence on the late form, may be ascribed to the change in platemaking about 1885. Before this date, we know, thanks to Brazer, that the plates were not case-hardened, and maintained by re-entering of subjects to overcome wear. The introduction of case-hardened plates appears to coincide with the advent of the second form.

THE ROYAL PHILATELIC COLLECTION *

By ROBSON LOWE

When one writes of "The Royal Collection" one refers to the remarkable collection founded by King George V and maintained by the late King George VI.

The collection is housed in some 330 red volumes containing the issues up to the end of 1935 and comprises the one formed by King George V. His son, the late King George VI, maintained the collection by adding certain rarities and pieces that helped complete the studies. In addition, a new collection was started, which filled over 40 volumes and in which King George VI included the stamps of Great Britain and the British Commonwealth issued during his own reign. To distinguish this collection from that formed by his father, the albums housing King George VI's personal collection are bound in blue. The collection is restricted to the stamps issued by The British Commonwealth. With the exception of certain rarities and pieces needed for philatelic research, it is restricted to unused copies.

To give the reader some idea of the scope of the collection here is a brief description of one country, *Bermuda.*

The famous Local Provisionals issued by Mr. W. B. Perot the Postmaster of Hamilton, and made by adapting impressions of the Hamilton date-stamp are represented by three copies:—

1d. black on greyish paper dated 1848
1d. red on white paper dated 1853
1d. red on blue paper dated 1854

The first and third of these examples were bought in 1922. The second was one of two which had at one time been a pair and were found in a desk.

The first definitive issue that appeared between 1865 and 1873 printed by Messrs.



Fig. 1

De La Rue & Co. (Fig. 1) include die proofs in black on white glazed card of the 1d., 2d., 3d., 6d., and 1/- and similar die proofs, but in the issued colours of all but the threepence.

The issued stamps are represented by mint blocks and most values overprinted "SPECIMEN" and the well known variety of the 1/- green, imperforate between horizontally, is shown in a vertical strip of three. (Fig 2) All values are there in imperforate state, including a pair of the 6d. mauve on cover addressed in the King's writing to Her Royal Highness, the Princess of Wales, at Sandring-



Fig. 2

* The distributors of this book throughout the United States are H. R. Harmer Inc., 32 East 57th Street, New York 22, and Carl E. Pelander, (Agent for Robson Lowe Ltd.), 545 Fifth Avenue, New York 17.



Fig. 4

ham and was sent by King George to his mother (later Queen Adelaide) when he was in Bermuda in December 1890.

There is a similar cover addressed to the Princess of Wales at Marlborough House and bearing the 4d. red-orange issued in 1880.

The 1874 provisionals with the surcharge "THREE PENCE" in fancy capitals (Figs. 4 & 5) include a mint block of the one penny, pairs of both types of the 1/- and the surcharge in Roman capitals on the 1/- is shown in a used strip of three.



Fig. 5

The "One Penny" provisionals issued in 1875 include the 1/- with inverted surcharge used on piece with a current sixpence.

The issues that follow are complete in mint blocks, mostly corner pieces showing the plate number and there are many die proofs.

Of special interest are two unadopted essays for the one farthing stamp in black and carmine made by De La Rue in 1901, and two essays for the "ONE FARTHING" surcharge (one of which was adopted) on the 1/- in olive, in yellow and in grey.

The 1902 Dock type includes a remarkable set of colour trials of the one penny printed from a small plate, imperforate on paper watermarked Crown CA. All are in horizontal pairs with top, right and bottom margins and the colours are marked in manuscript below the designs and numbered from "1" to "24."

Coming to more recent years, there are two copies of the 2½d. sage-green used on cover and carried by the airship "Los Angeles" from Bermuda to Lakehurst, U. S. A. and dated April 17, 1925.

Now let us turn the pages to those stamps of neighboring colonies—*British Columbia & Vancouver Island.*

The first stamp was issued in 1859, the 2½d. There are two die proofs in black on white glazed card, one with an outer border. There are two imperforate corner pairs showing the plate number "1" from the imprimatur sheets registered on December 19, 1859. There are three other imperforate copies, one with a forged cancellation!

The issued perforated stamp includes a block of four and several pairs, one of which is marked in ink "Redeemed A. W." The initials are those of A. Watson who was Treasurer of Vancouver Island.

The 1865 Vancouver Island 5 and 10 cents commence with die proofs of both values in black on white glazed card. The rare imperforate 5 cents is represented by two mint and one used, and the 10 cents by a mint pair with corner margins as well as two mint singles and one used. Both values perforated are shown in mint blocks of four.

The 1865 3d. commences with a set of lithographed color trials made from the first die which was subsequently altered. These trials are in pale red, pale yellow-green, buff and pale brown.

The second and adopted die proof in black on white glazed card is in two states, the first without value and taken before the corners were cleared and the second in the finished state. The last is also shown in pale blue.

The 1869 surcharges on the 3d. are complete in mint blocks of four, both perforated 12½ and 14. Of the former, only one other set is recorded in blocks of four. There is a complete set overprinted "SPECIMEN," one overprinted "CANCELLED" and the 50 cents is shown imperforate.

During the reign of King George V, the Keeper of the King's Stamps was Sir Edward Denny Bacon, M.V.O., but the latter died in

1936 and the post was filled by the present Keeper, Sir John Wilson, C. V. O., LL.D.

The latter is one of the greatest students that philately has ever known. A collector in his own right, Sir John's expert knowledge is not confined to the stamps of the British Empire but includes an unusually broad field of study of the classics issued of all countries.

For nearly five years he has been engaged in the task of preparing an official history of the Royal Collection and this volume was to have been published this Spring by the gracious permission of His Majesty and it will be entitled "The Royal Philatelic Collection."

Owing to the death of His Majesty, the publication date, which will be announced in the course of the next few weeks, has had to be postponed for a month or so.

The first section of the book deals with the history and formation of the collection and of King George V's special tastes and interests in collecting, illustrated with many hitherto unpublished photographs.

These include specimen pages from the collection, the introductory pages of the special presentation volume of the Canadian Diamond Jubilee stamps and a set of these famous issues as mounted and illuminated in volume.

Two Royal covers—one from Queen Victoria to Queen Adelaide, initialled by Queen Victoria, the other from King George V, then Duke of York, to Queen Mary when Princess of Wales.

A presentation specimen of the first Transatlantic postage stamp—the Hawker—mounted on a card with Hawker's signature.

A Windsor Castle card bearing autographs of John Alcock, pilot and A. Whitten Brown, navigator, the first men to carry air mail successfully across the Atlantic Ocean.

There are many other illustrations in this section of the book with some original drawings and essays including those for the Silver Jubilee of 1935, as well as photographs of the Stamp Room at Buckingham Palace and one of the book-cases which house the collection—all of which serve to make the reader of the book familiar with the setting in which these Crown Jewels of philately are mounted.

It may be of interest to read the opening paragraphs of the first chapter:—

"The appraisal of a stamp collection and of the discrimination and genius of the person who formed it cannot be attempted without some consideration of the history of collecting.

"Curiously enough, the history of collecting is very little understood, as enthusiasts of the present day begin with an accumulated knowledge; they do not bother to spend time examining how that knowledge has been acquired.

"King George V's collection was largely formed during the second half of the 19th Century. It is, therefore, relevant to give a very brief resumé of progress in the first half of that century.

"The first adhesive postage stamp was issued in Great Britain on 6th May 1840. For the next 20 years, collecting was largely confined to school-boys and cranks, with a handful of serious students, and it was not until 1862 that catalogues began to appear. These were followed by albums and periodicals devoted to the cult. The increased interest naturally gave birth to the dealer.

"In 1869 the first philatelic society was formed in London and the present Royal Philatelic Society, London, with its 865 fellows and members in all parts of the world, reveals how well the original handful of enthusiasts built the foundation of the Society.

"For the first forty years of scientific study of stamps there was never any lack of problems to be solved. Many of the primitive stamps had been engraved on plates by hand and, as no engraver can exactly duplicate a design, each unit obviously differed. Until these stamps had been plated, no one could be certain that he did not own a forgery. Such work took time and collaboration (in 1892 the plating of the 3d. Sydney View was still being corrected) but these were obvious problems and they were largely solved. Typeset stamps presented similar features and were plated in the same way, and the details of differences in embossing dies were carefully described.

"Paper (which involved watermarks) and perforations were largely mastered, but very little attention was paid to the less evident and more obscure points. The knowledge of die-produced line-engraved plates was elementary; the solution of the settings of lithographed stamps, except in the relatively few

instances where each design was drawn separately on the stone, had hardly been touched; the technique of stereotyped or electrotyped stamps was very little understood. Even Bacon, the greatest student of his time, propounded the theory in 1892 that the Cape of Good Hope issue of 1861 had been lithographed, and although he rapidly corrected his opinion, it showed a lack of mastery of technique; as an examination of even a very few specimens of those stamps would convince any practical printer that they were not the product of any flat printing device.

"Generally, unless connected pieces showed obviously different types, they were cut up. Mahe records that his block of nine red Mercuries could only be sold one by one; Griebert similarly dispersed a large piece of the 1/3 gr. of Oldenburg; and the strip of four 4d. Ceylon in the Tapling Collection has had to be rejoined, as the dealer who had it immediately broke it into four fine singles. The albums of the time (especially the earliest albums) of course contributed to this vandalism, as the object then was to pack as many different designs and colours on to one page as was possible.

"All the leading early collectors set the fashion for the unused stamp. The great object was to have everything unused in all possible shades of colour. The actual beauty of the specimens was desirable but it was better to have the stamp, however indifferent, than not have it; and small defects such as a thinning, a stain or a little tear hardly affected the valuation at all.

"The main emphasis was on rarity. All the early exhibitions featured and emphasized rare stamps and in the collections of the time generally far less attention was paid to the quality or completeness of the less valued specimens. It was hardly possible either, to have too much of a good thing, and there would be rows of rarer stamps which would simply be looked upon today as needless duplication and bloating."

Then follows the Catalogue of the collection in which every essay, proof, piece and stamp is described and, as will be seen from the proof pages every item of importance to the philatelic student is described with considerable detail.

There are 48 monochrome lithographic plates illustrating the Catalogue and consisting of 16 plates of Great Britain and Possessions in Europe, 8 of British North America and the West Indies, 8 of Africa, 8 of Asia, and 8 of Australia.

There are also 12 colour plates. More than forty colours are used in certain of these plates which illustrate, with exceptional beauty and accuracy some of the finest and rarest examples in the collection. The United States Treasury Department has lifted its ban on coloured reproduction of postage stamps so that collectors in the United States may be able to possess this unique volume.

And now for a word on the production of the book. The full binding is in red Niger morocco and, as will be seen in the photograph, the front of the binding will carry the Royal Arms in gold. The size of the volume is 14 inches by 12 inches and there are approximately 550 pages.

It is possible that I have sounded too enthusiastic about a mere book, but there is nothing that I have told you that is not factual. To those collectors like myself, for whom knowledge and philatelic appreciation far outweigh the pride of possession, this volume is going to provide a permanent source of information and enjoyment.

I realise that even all those who can afford to buy such a work will be unable to possess a copy owing to the limited edition, but I believe that there will be sufficient so that all the larger societies and libraries will be able to obtain a copy for their members. I only hope that the other type of collector—the lover of books that are both beautiful and rare—will not have his enthusiasm so aroused that philatelists will find undue competition from another hobby.

Since the war, selected pages of the Royal Collection have been shown at International Exhibitions in New York, Paris, Brussels, London, Melbourne, Toronto and, during 1952, other parts of the collection will be shown at Cape Town and probably at some of the 1952 European Exhibitions.

King George VI continued the happy custom established by his father, King George V, that the first fixture in each season in the program of the Royal Philatelic Society is the display of a country from the Royal Collection.

THE CLUBHOUSE*

Meeting of January 16, 1952

"Gems From Our Library"

The program was under the direction of *Mr. Julian F. Gros,* Chairman of the Library Committee.

Mr. Gros briefly discussed the origin of our library, pointing out that its present status was based upon the great labor of such farseeing men as the late Dr. J. Brace Chittenden, Joseph S. Rich and Alfred F. Lichtenstein. Mr. Theodore E. Steinway is also one of the great benefactors of the library. It was through Mr. Steinway's generosity that the extensive philatelic library of the eminent Austrian Jurist, Dr. Victor Suppantschitsch, was purchased and donated to the Collectors Club. This acquisition placed ours among the world's greatest philatelic libraries, making it certainly the finest in the Western Hemisphere. Constant additions and generous donations have kept it in the forefront.

The library is one of the main cornerstones of the Club, being a rendezvous for students, research workers, and anyone who seeks philatelic information. No worthwhile philatelic literature is produced today that does not in some way owe something to our library.

In addition to a magnificent range of philatelic literature, the library has many objects of philatelic interest. Among them Mr. Gros displayed a clay tablet and envelope from Babylonia with cuneiform characters. This was a gift of Dr. Clarence W. Brazer.

In order to give some insight into the treasures on the shelves, several members displayed and spoke about a number of the outstanding books, some of them among the rarities of philatelic literature.

Mr. Malcolm O'Reilly showed the famous masterpiece by the late Mr. A. M. Tracey Woodward on the "Postage Stamps of Japan and Dependencies." Mr. O'Reilly pointed out that this magnificent work was not only a philatelic treasure, but also an outstanding example of the printer's and bookbinder's art. The edition was limited to 100 copies, representing a lifetime of work by the author. Mr. Woodward had traveled around the world several times gathering and studying material for his book. The illustrations are magnificent and there are numerous fine line sketches of the varieties which occur on the various plates of the early Japanese stamps.

Mr. Edwin E. Elkins told of the great collection of catalogues in the library. Taking several of the editions of the 1870s, he compared the listings and pricing in the early days with those of the present. The contrast proved startling in every way.

The next book discussed was Alan D. Stevenson's magnificent work, "The Triangular Stamps of the Cape of Good Hope." This book, which has been awarded the Crawford Medal, was published in 1950, being the culmination of a brilliant piece of philatelic research. *Mr. Stephen G. Rich,* ably enlightened the members present by showing how Mr. Stevenson applied his engineering training not only to philatelic problems but to the proper exposition of such a work. Outstanding among the line drawings are those on page 37 showing the evolution of the stamps from the master die to the plate. Other diagrams such as those showing the normal and abnormal arrangement of the watermarks were also pointed out by Mr. Rich. The book is also noteworthy in the profusion of magnificent half tones and color plates which make it so easy to follow the text. Mr. Rich modestly refrained from mentioning his contribution to Mr. Stevenson's great study.

Before concluding, Mr. Rich referred to another work in the library, Tiffany's famous book on "the United States Stamps," which prior to Luff's work was the standard book for our country's stamps. The copy that Mr. Rich displayed was the one presented to the library by him. This formerly belonged to his father, the late Joseph S. Rich, (one of the Club's great benefactors) who had illustrated it in many cases by the actual stamps discussed.

Following Mr. Rich, *Dr. George Camnitzer* discussed two outstanding works by German philatelists. The first is "the Gros-

* This new title replaces that C. C. P. feature previously called "The Secretary's Page" because it is a far more indicative name.

ser Ganzsachen Catalogue," edited by Dr. Ascher, published in 1925. This is the most authoritative work on the world's postal stationery ever compiled, representing one of the greatest catalogues of all time. It is now a very rare work.

The second book shown by Dr. Camnitzer was Dr. Friedeman's encyclopaedic work on "the Stamps of the German Post Office Abroad and the Colonial Issues." This wonderful book, which was published in 1921, is *the* authority for the collectors of this group of material. This also is now a rare book.

It seems hardly necessary to guess that the discussion of any books on India and Russia would be by *Mr. H. D. S. Haverbeck,* the enthusiastic and able student of these countries, also a member of the Expert Committee of the Philatelic Foundation.

The fundamental book for any student of the stamps of India is the "Postage and Telegraph Stamps of British India" by Hausberg, Wilson and Crofton, published by the Philatelic Society of India in 1907. Mr. Haverbeck pointed out that Indian philatelists are particularly fortunate because one of the keenest students of British Indian stamps at the time of the writing of this book was Sir Charles Stewart Wilson, the Postmaster General of India. Thus official records have been made available to philatelists which might otherwise not have been.

In referring to the book "Jamma and Kashmir Simplified" by E. A. Smythies and L. E. Dawson, also published by the Philatelic Society of India (1937), Mr. Haverbeck pointed out what a fascinating field this is and how at the turn of the century some of the greatest philatelists turned their attention to the stamps of this state. No one can collect Jammu and Kashmir without this small but succinct book.

In conclusion Mr. Haverbeck mentioned a book which is an example of careful study on a small but interesting group of stamps, those of the state of Jaipur. In 1924 Mr. J. R. M. Albrecht wrote this. Also this is now rare, but essential to any student of these stamps.

In the next speaker, the Club welcomed a newcomer to membership, one whose chief philatelic interest happens to be in its literature. *Mr. A. Appleton Lane* introduced his subject by pointing out that just as the collector finds the stamps of the world too vast a field, and therefore must limit his interest to certain groups, so does the philatelic literateur. To emphasize his point he displayed only the books from the library which have been awarded the Crawford Medal by the Royal Philatelic Society, London. Mr. Lane gave a brief history of the institution of this medal and the conditions of its being awarded. He pointed out that it had been awarded only 27 times in 32 years. Furthermore, he was proud to say that the great majority of those who were awarded the Crawford Medal were members of the Collectors Club at the time they received the award, and that of the six United States awards every winner was or still is a member of the Club. Mr. Lane had time only to briefly mention each book. He was pleased to find that the Club's library has every book which had been awarded this coveted medal.

The final speaker of the evening was *Mr. Winthrop S. Boggs,* who summarized what the previous speakers had said and then went on to discuss the history of philatelic literature in general, illustrating his remarks by examples of some of the rarities in our library. Mr. Boggs' speech was so enlightening that we have asked him to prepare an article on the subject of The History of Philatelic Literature as shown from items in the Collectors Club library, requesting that he place in writing the fascinating story which only those present had the opportunity to hear. Every one present was inspired by Mr. Boggs' presentation, little realizing how the importance and prestige of philately is demonstrated in its literature.

W. S. B., H. M. G.

Meeting of February 6, 1952

Governors Exhibits

A total of 52 gentlemen and 7 ladies were present at the fourth 1952 meeting: Members.—Messrs. Adler, Baker, Barovick, Barrett, Boker, Boutrelle, Booy, Brazer, Britt, S. Brown, Cabot, Camnitzer, Corin, Glaser, Glaenzer, Gros, Grosse, Haverbeck, Higgins, Hoffman, Kaiser, Kohn, Lane, Lichtenstein, Lindenberg, Connor, O'Reilly, Philhower, Major Phillips, Rankin, Rich, Ritter, Rubel,

S. M. Shure of Chicago, Tilson, Tripet, Col. Woodward, Wray, Mrs. Florence O. Brown, Mrs. Ehrenberg, Mrs. M. C. Hoffman, and Mrs. Lee. Among the guests present were Dr. Reed, and Mr. F. W. Thomas of England, a member of the Manchester Philatelic Society.

Immediately following the opening of the meeting by President Jacob S. Glaser, Mr. John J. Britt, in his capacity as President of the Aero Philatelists, presented to Mr. Julian Gros of the Club Library Committee, a bound volume of the *"Aero Philatelists News,"* Volumes 1-5, 1946-50, as a gift to the Collectors Club.

Mr. Glaser then introduced Mr. Richard S. Bohn who acted as Master of Ceremonies. Mr. Bohn, genially presented in the order named, the following Governors, each of whom exhibited some part of his collection:

Mr. John J. Britt exhibited two frames of proofs of air mail overprints, of interest and value as reference material for settings and sizes. Bulgaria, Costa Rica, Czechoslovakia, Ecuador, Nicaragua, Panama, Portugal, and Spain were represented.

Mr. Oscar R. Lichtenstein then showed three frames of Mexican Air Mails, a very complete collection including nearly all known errors.

Mr. Julian Gros presented the most unusual feature of the evening in exhibiting one of the heaviest pieces of philatelic interest known. This consisted of a beautifully bound Presentation Volume of Essays and Proofs of every public and private United States Revenue Stamp up to 1874. All of these stamps were produced by Joseph R. Carpenter & Co. This museum piece with all of its heavy pages, gilt-edged and with sterling silver clasps, was presented on January 7, 1874, to George S. Boutwell, Secretary of the Treasury of the United States at that time. Small format proofs of the Government issues were in blocks of four, intermediate sizes were in pairs, the large sizes and all of the Private Proprietary Match and Medicine stamps were in single copies. Included was the approved design of the $5000 Internal Revenue, should there have been any demand for such a value. As the demand never materialized it was never issued.

Mr. Harrison D. S. Haverbeck showed approximately two and a half frames of miscellany, explaining that it represented a cross-section of his philatelic interests. These included such esoteric items as Tannu Tuva, Mongolia, Formosa, Black Flags, Morocco Locals, Tibet, Yemen, Siam, Hejaz, Nejd, China, Nepal and Indian Native States, as well as a small study of Brazilian Santos Dumont air mails, and "phantom" countries —places which actually physically exist, but for which there was never any official reason for issuing stamps except in the minds of the pioneer-type romanticists, who actually believed that they were empire builders.

Following this, *Mr. Jacob S. Glaser* exhibited two frames of proofs from Bolivar, Department of Colombia.

Mr. Sidney F. Barrett presented two frames of miscellaneous oddities which he accumulated over the course of his many years in stamp dealing, items belonging to a "client" and therefore not for sale. While of little intrinsic value these were unusual and interesting.

Mr. William R. Rankin displayed two frames of Hong covers from China, 1880 to 1911, these being private Local Posts in that fascinating oriental land. Practically all were stampless, the distinguishing features being the study of the "chop" which indicated routes, companies and locations.

Dr. George Camnitzer exhibited two frames of Cameroons, including several rarities from this former German Colony.

Mr. Stephen G. Rich showed four frames of his father's (Joseph S. Rich) Collection of United States Postage Stamps, all nineteenth century, featuring home-made pages, some decoration, some very beautiful early items, including covers, New York, Providence, Baltimore Semi-Officials 1847s, 1851s, including a used block of eleven of the 14 1869s complete, many grills, the Columbians complete, all in very good condition, with each item mounted on a white card. Aside from merely being nice stamps, the display was of interest to the modern collector because it showed the ideas a nineteenth century collector had in the matter of mounting and

arranging. Mr. Joseph Rich was a former President of the Collectors Club, so the Collection is held "as is" by his son, in the father's memory.

E. G. Corin.

The Meeting of February 20

Falkland Islands

The topic of the meeting was a display and talk on the stamps of the Falkland Islands by *Mr. Donald M. Steele* of Philadelphia. Mr. Steele showed a competent collection which was practically complete with the exception of the early franks. Among the highlights was a fine copy of the South Georgia Provisional, forty-two copies of the £1 Centenary out of 127 copies sold, several interesting usages of the bi-sected stamps on covers and a fine postcard of the German South Pole Expedition.

It was quite pleasing to be able to examine the pages of the collection at close quarters while the speaker was describing them. Mr. Steele had encased the pages of his display collection in transparent plastic covers so as to be passed from hand to hand during the lecture. This is helpful to the audience, having been done at the Club only once before.

Mr. Steele, being a competent speaker, carried the interest of his audience along by a series of anecdotes and stories connected with the subject of the design. His adventures in acquiring covers from the Falkland Islands showed signs of genuine perseverance, proving that commercial mail from there is almost impossible to obtain and even philatelic covers are extremely hard to secure, leaving the impression that many Falkland Island stamps were not primarily issued for postal purposes.

H. D. S. H.

Meeting of March 5, 1952

Venezuela

The fifth meeting of 1952 was presided over by Vice President John J. Britt, in the absence of Mr. Jacob S. Glaser, the president, who was absent due to illness. Because of the nature of Mr. Glaser's ailment which will require a period of time for recovery, it was resolved to send him on behalf of the Club our best wishes for a speedy return to good health.

A new Collector's Club handbook was displayed for the first time. It is the CUMULATIVE INDEX of THE COLLECTORS CLUB PHILATELIST compiled by Mr. Roland King-Farlow. This was reprinted from Vol. XXXI, No. 1. As shown and announced by Mr. Henry M. Goodkind, the editor, this limited edition is available for distribution at $1.00 per copy.

Lt. General Cornelius W. Wickersham was the exhibitor of the evening and displayed portions of his *Venezuela* collection not previously shown.

His first six frames consisted of a wide range of Venezuela's early postal history as shown by an extensive collection of stampless covers. The General was quite modest in his detailed talk on this material, admitting that much information and explanations for postmarks and rate marks are as yet unknown. THE COLLECTORS CLUB PHILATELIST has been honored to have had the privilege of running most of General Wickersham's studies on Venezuela and he has promised that his next article will cover this stampless period, explaining exactly what is known or unknown. Several interesting covers shown were hit with the British-French Accounting Mark which was described in Vol. XXX, page 55 of this journal.

The second portion of the exhibit was devoted to cancellations of Venezuela used upon French, British or Private Steamship Companies' stamps. The audience's attention was called to what the speaker considered an extremely scarce cancel. This is a large double circle and crown applied to the British issues of the middle 19th century.

The final part of General Wickersham's display was devoted to the interesting *Large and Small Guayana Issues of 1903*. This covered the same ground as the articles which appeared in this magazine on these stamps. Because General Wickersham was the author, one need only refer to THE COLLECTORS CLUB PHILATELIST, Vol. XXX, No. 6, page 335 ff. and Vol. XXXI, No. 1, page 47 ff. for the information on these.

As usual, when General Wickersham comes before us, the attendance was large and the audience followed closely the speak-

er's remarks until the very end of a long but philatelically interesting session. It might be questioned whether the program would have greatly interested the run-of-the-mill collector, but those present considered it a genuine philatelic delight. This was evidenced by the prolonged applause heard when the speaker concluded.

H. M. G.

Meeting of March 19th, 1952

20th Century United States

This meeting was opened by John J. Britt, Vice President, who conveyed greetings from President Jacob Glaser, still ill. Mr. Britt introduced two visitors, Dr. Gerhard Henkel of Berlin, Germany, President of the Berlin Philatelic Club and Mr. Raissler of New York.

Mr. Edwin Elkins, the Program Director, then introduced *Mr. Howard Lederer,* who was in charge of this meeting. He showed six frames of the earlier 20th Century Commemorative material, including just a few freak printings from his famous Harding collection, also Pan-Americans, and finally Lincoln, Hudson-Fulton and Alaska-Yukon 1909 Commemoratives.

Mr. Henry M. Goodkind showed a frame of the 1930 Graf Zeppelin stamps on covers, introducing them as the "trouble-makers," because ever since they became scarce, every profit-minded accumulator of mint sheets in the country looks upon them as the classic example of how to make money. This, of course, is *not* philately. Mr. Goodkind then proceeded by reference to his covers to explain the postal rates used, and the reason for each denomination.

Mr. Stephen G. Rich demonstrated his amazing ability to make something out of practically nothing, by showing two frames of the 1922-36 coils, garnered from his own business correspondence, showing how a fascinating study can be made with more or less commonplace stamps.

Dr. Clarence W. Brazer spoke about his two frames of scarce 20th Century proofs, and then enlarged upon his theme by going through one album containing a wide range of similar material, detailing each page with some personal anecdotes and his own intimate personal knowledge of the material, explaining how proofs come on the philatelic market.

Due to the time consumed by the previous speaker, the last two exhibitors spoke only briefly about the material in their frames.

Mr. Elkins showed three frames of early 20th Century Imperfs. in blocks, and *Mr. Julian F. Gros* showed us how he collects the Louisiana Purchase issue, taking two frames to cover the five stamps issued.

This was a popular meeting, thoroughly enjoyed by the forty-one members present, including two ladies who had braved the inclement weather in order to attend.

E. G. Corin.

At the meetings of the Board of Governors held February 27th and March 26th, 1952, the following new members were elected:

No.

2977 Elliot G. Corin, Glen Ridge, N. J. Collects South and Central America.

2978 Herman Seltzer, Whitestone, N. Y. Collects U. S. Airmail & Zeppelin Flights.

2979 Arthur I. Heim, Albertson, N. Y. Collects Congo (Belgian).

2980 Harry A. Holman, New York, Collects Airmail.

2981 Emanuel M. Reggel, New York. Collects British Colonies.

2982 Ralph D. Heim, Gettysburg, Pa. Collects British Colonies.

2983 Lt. Col. Ben W. Covington, Jr., Fort Knox, Ky. Collects United States, Scandinavia & Finland, Belgium, Netherlands and Colonies.

2984 L. W. Christenson, Cleveland Heights, Ohio. Collects Japan.

2985 Theodore H. Parker, Hartford, Conn. Collects Classics on cover only.

2986 R. B. Keusch, Dayton, Ohio. Collects British Colonies (King George VI), Postal History, Literature.

2987 Elmer J. Huber, Joliet, Ill. General Collector.

2988 Carroll T. Sinclair, Pittsburgh, Pa. Collects United States, including Essays, Proofs and Locals.

2989 Anthony Mendo, Brooklyn, N. Y. Collects Italy, U. S., Egypt, Vatican City.

2990 Neil A. Campbell, Richmond, Calif. Collects Tibet, China, Germany, General.

2991 Claude M. Hiberly, Tacoma, Wash. Collects Covers and Postal History.

2992 Alfred J. Hillel, New York. Collects Brazil, Latin America.

2993 A. Swoboda, Ridgefield Park, N. J. Collects Old German States, Vineta Issues, Marshall Islands.

2994 Charles Neidorf, New York. Collects France and French North Africa (French Morocco, Algeria and Tunisia).

2995 William N. Salomon, Hempstead, N. Y. Collects U. S., G. B., and interested in Scientific Philately.

2996 J. L. Patterson, Charlotte, N. C. Collects United States, Great Britain and British America.

2997 Charles W. Dougan, Glendale, Calif. Collects Tibet, China and Chinese Treaty Port Locals.

2998 Sherman Trowbridge Leavitt, San Marino, Cal. Collects U. S. 19th Century.

2999 Austin H. Brown, Indianapolis, Ind. Collects 19th Century U. S., Proofs.

3000 Frank M. Cowen, Ph.D., Norwalk, Conn. Collects India and States.

3001 Jno. G. Schleich, Jr., Greenwood Lake, N. Y. Collects South America, used only.

3002 David L. McVickar, M.D., Santa Monica, Cal. Collects Persia, Hejaz and Nejd only.

3003 Henry H. Clifford, Pasadena, Calif. Collects Western Covers, primarily Western Express.

3004 Clifford M. Gould, Kenmore, N. Y. Collects United States 19th Century, British America.

3005 Ivor Griffiths, Venezuela, S. A. Collects British Colonies.

3006 Lionel Edward Dawson, Dublin, Ireland. Collects India and Indian Feudatory States.

The Library Committee reports the acquisition of the following:

"Royal Mail" by F. George Kay 1951.

"Techniques in Philately" by Bert Baker 1952.

"Katalog der Zentralbibliothek des Verbandes schweizerischer Philatelistenvereine," by Generaldirektion PTT.

"A Highway into Stamp Collecting" by Stephen G. Rich 1943.

"Stanley Gibbons' Postage Stamp Catalogue 1952, Part II, Foreign Countries, Europe and Colonies."

"Argentine—L'emission de Timbres-poste Rivadavia 1864-1872" by Jean Jacmart.

"Catalogue des Preos d'Europe" by Jean Lepingle 1951.

"British Army Field Post Offices 1939-1950" by Col. G. R. Crouch and Norman Hill.

"Les Timbres de Journaux de France et leurs Obliterations 1850-1908" in French by Gilbert Noel. Gift of W. S. Boggs.

"Catalogue des Marques Postales et Obliterations d'Algerie 1830-1876" by Cr. ab der Halden & E. H. de Beaufond, Paris 1949. Gift of W. S. Boggs.

"Le 20 Centimes non dentele de l'Empire au Type Primitif (dit "Tyle 1"). Gift of W. S. Boggs.

"Stanley Gibbons Catalogue United States Postage Stamps 1952."

"Specialized Catalogue of the Postage Stamps of Palestine" by Paul P. Lindenberg.

"The Postmarks of Aden—Postal Markings 1839-1939" by M. H. Robertshaw. Gift of A. H. Higgins.

"Les Timbres de Roumania des Emissions de 1872 a 1879" by Eduardo Cohen. Lisbon 1952.

SCHEDULED MEETINGS FOR MAY AND JUNE, 1952

May 21—Postal History, by Postal History Society—Mr. Charles F. Meroni in charge.

June 4—Club Competition—Members to show 20 pages from their collections.

SUMMER RECESS DURING JULY AND AUGUST.

BOOK REVIEWS

A Stamp Collectors' Encyclopædia, compiled by R. J. Sutton. Published 1951, Hutchinson Technical Publications. 263 pp. Cloth bound. Price 12/6.

The expression on any Englishman's face would be something to study if he read the following: "Victoria: One of the 48 states in Australia, named after a famed movie actress of the 19th century." But such ludicrous fancy is exactly what is found throughout this so-called encyclopædia, one of Britain's poorer contributions to philatelic knowledge. The abject ignorance frequently displayed in this book is unbelievable. We fail to understand how it could have found its way into print without correction. For one to attempt to compile an encyclopaedia with so little philatelic, historical and geographical knowledge is beyond our comprehension. There are so many instances that we could clutter up pages of this magazine with specific quotations. So allow us to present first a few samples relating to United States philately.

"Madison: Wisconsin, U. S. A. One of the Confederate 'Postmasters' issues of the American Civil War came from this city."

"Millbury: Massachusetts, U. S. A. One of the rarer Confederate 'Postmasters' was issued here during the American Civil War."

"Shermack Perforations: A diamond square perforating in use in the U. S. A."

Now let us examine a few examples on an international scale:—

"Afghanistan:* * * All its stamps were imperforate from the first issues of 1909 to those of 1927."

"South America: The continent-inclusive of the Central States * * * of the following past and present republics: Argentina, Bolivia, Brazil, Colombia, Chile, Corrientes, Costa Rica, Ecuador, Granada Confederation, *Guatemala, Honduras, Mexico, Nicaragua, Panama,* Paraguay, Peru, *Salvador,* Uruguay and Venezuela." (Italics are ours.) So Mexico is in the continent of South America. And what happened to French and Dutch Guiana—were they ceded to the Falkland Islands?

And finally we shall quote on general philately:

"Miniature Sheets: Term applied to a single stamp—usually printed with very wide margins—or a small block of stamps with exaggerated margins, and sold at a premium as souvenirs. They are speculative issues with no true postal value or purpose." We are not Miniature Sheet "lovers" but certainly all of the United States sheets were sold at face value and franked mail. Another error on this topic in this book is the failure to define the difference between a Miniature and a Souvenir Sheet, this latter being ignored entirely.

Omissions from this book are too numerous to cite. For instance, (and forgetting the ignorance about the United States Postmaster Provisionals), the Annapolis, Md. item is not included. Nor is this just confined to non-British matters. Under Newfoundland, only the Hawker air mail stamp is defined but not the almost equally famous Alcock-Brown, De Pinedo or Columbia issues. Also many general philatelic and printing terms are not given e.g. "printer's waste," which is our general opinion of this masquerade for an encyclopædia.

H. M. G.

British Army Field Post Offices 1939-1950: Locations and Assignments. By Col. G. R. Crouch and Norman Hill. New York, 1951, L A V A, 112 pp., paper, $2.75.

This handbook, picturing the various types of markings, listing them by theatres of war and by numbers, with dates of use where practicable, will probably become a necessity for any student of the Second World War military mail. As with most handbooks which consist basally of lists, the system involved has to be mastered. This reviewer noted with interest special articles on the Travelling Post Offices of B. O. A. R., and on the British Army offices serving troops of other countries. Undoubtedly future discoveries and research will fill in many a gap; but meanwhile this handbook quite adequately

reports what we know. This reviewer, not collecting in this field, cannot say if any errors, typographical or otherwise, have slipped in; but as no word of such has appeared in other journals, evidently the errors are few or inconsequential.

S. G. R.

The Costa Rica Philatelist (a Monthly publication for Costa Rican Specialists). Mimeographed in pamphlet form 8½" by 11" with a cover page, no back—Volume I, Number 1, dated March 1952. Edited by H. D. Mitchell, Publisher W. P. S. Hall, 327 Winthrop Street, Washington 20, D. C. 11 pp.

Pages one and two present the editorial section, introducing the publication and explaining some of the aims of the editor.

Pages three, four and five are given to a fine article on Postal History of the country as reflected in "Decrees" and "Resolutions" —official notices of the issuing and authorizations for issuing postage stamps. This could well be expanded.

Page six and half of page seven discuss prices realized at recent auctions for Costa Rican lots. The balance of page seven requests help in obtaining access to material for railway cancellations of Costa Rica.

Two pages of bibliography of literature in English about Costa Rica, and an article on postage stamps surcharged for revenue use complete this issue.

This is an ambitious little project, and while limited in scope, it is to be hoped that enough support will be forthcoming to keep it alive. No price is listed, so any who are interested should write direct to the editor for further information.

Elliot G. Corin.

"L'Emission RIVADAVIA d'Argentine 1864-1872" by J. Jacmart. Published by La Société Philatélique Belge, Brussels, Belgium. 28 pages, paperbound. No price stated.

The Rivadavia stamps of Argentina have been extensively studied and described by philatelists in this country, England, Germany and, of course, Argentina. "The Kohl Handbuch" treats them. The 1923 publication in London by W. J. Cochrane on the stamps with H. A. Spowart on their obliterations ranks as possibly the most authoritative research on the Rivadavias. It is noted that all previous studies of the top rank have been listed in this new Belgian publication's bibliography at the end. Consequently by comparison to older works, this new booklet is neither as thorough or scholarly.

On the other hand, collectors conversant only with French, will find this publication useful and need not resort to translating from English or Spanish. This work is a neat, compact compilation of merit. The type is readable, the paper of good quality, the presentation orderly and the illustrations adequate. The real student, however, will still find Cochrane's work more thorough and his plates at the end most helpful guides from which the handicap of a strange language is removed.

H. M. G.

THE SOUTH AFRICAN TERCENTENARY INTERNATIONAL STAMP EXHIBITION, CAPE TOWN, 1952

This Exhibition was duly opened on March 26th by His Excellency Dr. The Hon. E. G. Jansen, Governor-General of the Union of South Africa, and the doors were closed on April 5th.

There were about 170 exhibits, the majority of which came from collectors in South Africa, but about 40 of them were from England, to say nothing of the selections from the Royal Collection, the Exhibit of the British Post Office (with the original proof of the World's first stamp) and Government exhibits from Holland, France, Germany, Belgium, the Argentine and Israel.

Among the invited exhibits shown in the Court of Honor were a very fine show of Russian stamps from Sir John Wilson, a considerable array of forgeries of triangular Capes from H. R. Harmer and the line engraved stamps of Ceylon from Mr. William Irving. Though the stamps of America were hardly represented at all, and the exhibits

from Europe were small in number, there was a magnificent display of the stamps of the Cape of Good Hope and of the Union of South Africa.

In the regrettable absence of Sir John Wilson, through illness, Mr. William Irving was elected Chairman of the Jury.

The Drill Hall, in which the Exhibition was housed, was sufficiently capacious to enable visitors to inspect the frames in comfort and the lighting was considerably better than that at some other Exhibitions. Needless to say the Royal Exhibit held pride of place, being flanked by the various Government Exhibits, while the majority of the competitive exhibits were set up in the main body of the Hall.

Another section was devoted solely to the Cape of Good Hope triangulars and one to the Union Government exhibit which was very attractively displayed on special stands, the swing frames to which facilitated the perusal of the stamps, which are very widely collected throughout South Africa.

The Grand Trophy, a handsome picture of South African scenery, was donated by Mrs. Ernest Hunt of Johannesburg. This went with the Championship for the triangular stamps of the Cape of Good Hope 1853-63—to Captain C. Emerson Huston, while the Championship for the Stamps of the Union of South Africa (specialized) was awarded to Mr. Sam Legator. The Royal Philatelic Society's Medal went to Mr. D. J. Klink for a magnificent display of the early stamps of Holland and a Special Prize was awarded to Mr. Ernest Hunt for a World collection, from which there are missing only comparatively few items.

The greatest percentage of Awards went to the British Exhibitors, but it would be invidious to single out any particular exhibit for special mention.

Wm. Irving.

EDITORIAL

(Continued from Page 118.)

As for the real collector, he hears that every year new millions join his ranks, yet his collections show no great increase in value. The answer must be, therefore, that only gambling in stamps has become popular. It is, however, a tribute to the real philatelists that our hobby has remained as virile and progressive as it has under present conditions.

We read with amusement about the impressive first-day sales of a new stamp. They are really a joke in the eyes of any serious philatelist who happens to attend one. Meaningless speeches drone on for hours while the prospective purchasers mill all over the place complaining either that stamps are not on sale or if they are that there is not one well-centered sheet in the entire stock. But the newspapers do not report it this way, but with a non-existent pomp and ceremony.

This whole commemorative stamp program does not reflect glory upon our country. The stamps fail to depict our great history. They are meaningless both to people here and abroad. They have not gained one bit of respect for our government or our way of life. Contrariwise, they rather cheapen us by becoming butts of humor for radio and television comedians, or by inspiring letters of ridicule from our friends abroad.

Is it not time to ask why philately should continue to help defray the costs of the annual Post Office deficit when the service rendered has so badly deteriorated? Is it not time for philatelic leadership to assert itself? This can be done by an informative press that will tell the truth about commemorative stamps just as our newspapers are doing in telling us about crime conditions and political corruption. It will be interesting to see if any of these remarks will receive further public notice and support, or if they will be merely read by a few and then forgotten.

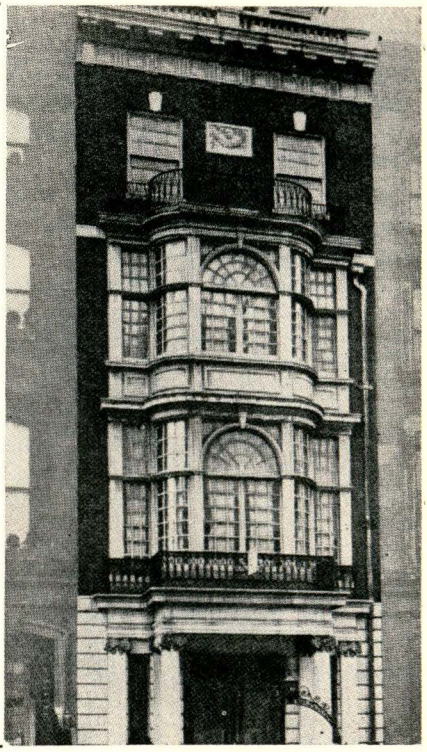
This is not a crusade or an attempt at reform—it is a sincere call to stamp collectors and dealers alike to stop publicizing and glamorizing that which is doing all of us, without exception, much harm.

If we are a "government of the people, by the people and for the people," then we should get what we really want.

H. M. G.

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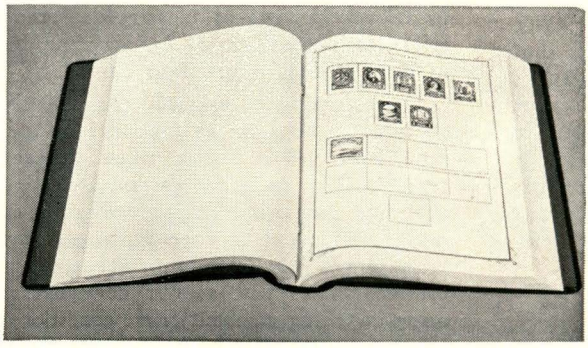
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