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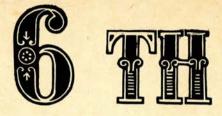
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OF



1935





ANNIVERSARY

OF RUSSIAN PHILATELIC SOCIETY CHINA 1053, AVE. FOCH P. O. BOX 490 SHANGHAI

Published by; Russian Philatelic Society

Edited by; F. Lilienthal

In presenting this special magazine in commemoration of the sixth anniversary of the RUSSIAN PHILATELIC SOCIETY IN CHINA, the Society wishes to record the progress and work accomplished during the short period since its inception, and to further the primary object of the Society which is the unification of all philatelists both in this great cosmopolitan city and abroad.

= PREFACE =

On behalf of the Committee of the Russian Philatelic Society in China and myself, I wish to express our sincere gratitude to all those who contributed articles on the different philatelic aspects and assisted in the publishing of the Philatelic Magazine which is now commemorating 6th Anniversary of the Russian Philatelic Society in China.

The Society also thanks all those who advertised in the Magazine and the do nors of all complimentary advertisements who greatly helped in the successful publication of the Magazine.

Special thanks are due to Mr. Sapojnikoff (Sapajou) for his two caricatures which he donated to the Magazine.

B. Maklaevsky
President of the Russian Pilatelic
Society in China



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History of The Russian Philatelic Society

The Russian Philatelic Society was established in Shanghai, China, exactly six years ago and has during all those years extended to such an extent that its membership to-day includes almost all Russian Philatelists and several foreign collectors.

A brief resume of the history of the Society follows:

During the years 1929-1931 when the Russians first immigrated to Shanghai from Manchuria and other points North, a unification of Russian Collectors was attempted but with no success, due to the fact that amongst them there was no permanent leader.

Not being in the position to have its own printing means, it was difficult to support the idea of Philately, however towards the end of 1934 Mr. A. N. Vansovich arranged for a regular weekly page in one of the leading Russian Dailies and from then on it was a weekly feature, the latest news in the philatelic world appearing in its columns, as soon as it was known that this page was of interest to several of its readers Mr. Vansovich had the idea to form a Society and when Mr. A. Katkoff the noted philatelist supported it by himself writing in the column, it had the whole hearted support of most Russian collectors.

Not wishing to delay, an invitation was tended through the press to all Russian Philatelist and those acquainted with the Russian language to attend a meeting which was called for the 23rd. December 1934.

The first meeting was more than a success for in addition to numerous Russian collectors quite a number of foreigners who had contact with Russian Philatelist attended.

Mr. Katkoff and Mr. Vansovich the organizers, in the opening speech at this historical meeting of Russian Philatelist, stated their reasons why all Russian collectors should get together and join the Society. Other founding members included Mr. K. Ahwerst, Mr. J. Chlopunow, Mr. Dobrohotoff, Mr. and Mrs. V. Enckevort, Mr. N. Fadeyeff, Mr. L. Kolot, Mr. H. Schwamberg (†), Mr. G. Titow (†), Mr. S. Zajeff (†); and others.

Shortly afterwards—or to be exact, on January 13, 1935—another general meeting

was called and a permanent Committee for the year was chosen with Mr. J. G. Vershaer as president. It was only a short time later that one of Shanghai's foremost collectors, Mr. E. P. Stauder, American, the last president of the Shanghai Philatelic Society, joined the Russian Philatelic Society and began his untiring and inspiring work in further developing the Society, coordinating his efforts and interest with members of the Acting Committee. No less credit nor less commendation is due to Mr. Dobrohotoff and to Mrs. Golievskaya for their untiring and painstaking work in helping to rear this Society from its days of infancy.

Regular weekly stamp auctions and evening exchange meetings were made fixed institutions and contributed, directly from the start, to the rapid development and growth of the Society. These functions have continued to remain to the present day. The Society's weekly stamp auction is held at 8:30 p.m. on Tuesday and weekly exchange meetings take place every Monday evening. Membership fees were kept on low scales from the beginning and the commendable progress manifested by the Society attracted philatelists of other nationalities to membership in healthy numbers quickly. The "Philatelic Page" of the Zaria automatically became the official organ of publication and advertisement for the Society and continued to lead in the campaign for uniting all Shanghai Philatelists.

Great success crowned the first full working year of the society and it was celebrated with a gay banquet. The second year in the life of the Society found it staging on May 18, 1938 the first stamp bourse ever held in Shanghai. Its success was great.

The thanks of all Russian philatelists are due to Mr. Vansovitch and Mr. Katkoff who through their untiring efforts were able to put the Society on a firm basis. After the Society had been in existence for three years Mr. Maklaevsky joined and in due course was elected its President, it was mainly through his efforts on its behalf that the Society grew to its present position. Mr. Maklaevsky a real philatelist at heart still heads the Society after all these years and it is his ambition to bring the Russian Philatelic Society to the same standard as any of the best the world over.

Roll of Members of the Russian Philatelic Society in China

NAME		
Walled The Control of	Address	Phone Remarks
C A A1		
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2	870 Weihaiwei Road	36682
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G. E. Brockett	ditto	13482
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Mrs. Assadourian	Hai Alai	
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M. Ilves	188/5 Ave. Roi Albert	71862
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C. P. Wang	97/2-A Route Vallon	12283
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O. Lustig	188/11 Ave. du Roi Albert	70692
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	870 Weihaiwei Road	78139
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The Chinese 3c on 5c Surcharge

By H. C. CHEN

The modern Sun Yat-sen series has proved to the collectors of Chinese stamps to be as interesting as it is popular. Generally known as the Hongkong printing this series has already given many thrills to the philatelic public, but the greatest surprise of all has been the sudden appearance last November of the 3c on 5c surcharge.

With regard to this new Chinese addition, information reaching Shanghai about the outport issues is still very meagre. Nevertheless, with what little is now known, an usually high interest has already been aroused by the new stamp. When more light is shed on the many varieties that are known to exist, a still greater interest will undoubtedly be created in the philatelic world.

According to reports to hand, there are no less than 11 standard varieties of the new surcharge. Of this total 5 have their origin in Shanghai, 2 each in Chekiang, Kiangsi, Honan and Hunan, and 1 each in Chungking and Kansu. As time passes it is very probable that more varieties will turn up before the collector.

This unexpected wealth of new material for the collectors of Chinese stamps must be attributed to an accident. It is learned in reliable sources that prior to enforcing the increased domestic postal rates last October, the Chinese Post Office had decided to raise the local letter rate from 2c. to 5c, and that for outport from 5c to 10c. Consequently, large quantities of the 5c and 10c denominations of the new Sun Yat-sen series were printed and distributed to various postal districts in the country preparatory to being put in use. This plan, however, was upset by the subsequent decision to increase the local postage to 4c, and the out port 8c. So, in order to utilize the large stocks of the 5c stamps and thus avoid the trouble of having them returned because of the transportation difficulties, the Central Postal Administration instructed the various postal authorities to surcharge part of their stocks locally for use as 3c stamps, which were required to supplement the 5c denomination to pay for outport postage.

The surcharge was made in all localities in black ink except in Chekiang, where it was executed in red. Since the latter color was identical to that of the 4c on 5c surcharge which was made earlier, the Chekiang Post Office was soon ordered to discontinue the

surcharge, but was permitted to dispose of what stocks it had on hand.

It appears that most of the surcharged stamps were first issued last November. The numbers of stamps surcharge in the various places are not known, and it is yet impossible to tell their relative scarcity except on the basis of materials which have reached this city. However, no one doubts that the outport issues can not be very large, and hence from 10 to more than 20 times the face value are already being paid for these stamps. Among these issues the Kiangsi and Kansu specimens have been found to be more elusive than the others.

Shanghai

There are five different printings which have been surcharged, these being as follows:

- (1) Chung Hwa, green, perf. 12½, unwmk.
- (2) Dah Tung, green, wmk.
- (3) ,, ,, green, unwmk.
- (4) ,, ,, olive, wmk.
- (5) ., ,, olive, unwmk.





These stamps were first put on sale at the Philatelic Section of the Shanghai Post Office on December 3. Each buyer was allowed to purchase only four sets, and each dealer 20 sets. In a few days the stamps with watermark were withdrawn, but the others without watermark were left on sale and could be obtained at the various sub-postoffices in town. Later, the sale of these was also stopped, presumably due to the exhaustion of stock.

(Cont. page 13)

3.

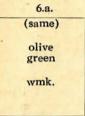
Chekiang

Although several forms of this surcharge have been reported, collectors are inclined to credit only two with a genuine origin, both printed in red as follows:

(6) Dah Tung, green, wmk.

(6a) " olive-green, wmk.





These stamps were the first of the surcharged series to make their appearance in the Shanghai market, although this does not necessarily mean that they were the first to be issued. Right from the beginning they have been receiving the close attention of local collectors and although they have now proved to be more common than originally expected, they are still very popular because of the color of their surcharge. Of the two varieties the one in olive-green is considerably scarcer than the other.

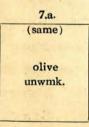
Kiangsi

The two varieties of this surcharge are:

(7) Dah Tung, green, wmk.

(7a) ,, ,, olive, unwmk.





In these stamps the Chinese characters of the surcharge are considerably larger than those of specimens coming from other localities. Very few of these stamps have thus far found their way into Shanghai, but the question of their rarity must be held in abeyance until the actual size of the issue has become known.

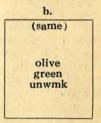
A major error has been discovered in this printing. This occurs in the 28th of the sheet of 200 stamps of the green color with watermark. In it the lower left Chinese character of the surcharge suppears as "fen" instead of the normal "tso", so that the surcharge reads "tsai fen san fen". This "double fen" error was corrected in latter printings where, however, several interesting varieties, such as misplaced letters and wide and narrow surcharges, are still to be found.

Honan

The Honan surcharge appears on two types of stamps, namely:

- (a) Chung Hwa, olive, perf. 12½, unwmk.
- (b) Dah Tung, olive-green, unwmk.





The genuineness of these stamps is open to serious doubt. Even in well-informed circles, no news has ever been received confirming their issue by any of the post offices in Honan. In view of this fact the question whether the stamps are genuine or otherwise, cannot he settled until more information has been received.

Hunan

In this issue also only two different varieties have been found, these being:

- (8) Chung Hwa, olive, perf. 121, unwmk.
- (8a) Dah Tung, green, wmk.



green wmk Cont.

THE CHINESE 3c on 5c SURCHARGE

Chungking

There is only one variety in the Chungking (Szechwan) surcharge, viz.:

(9) Dah Tung, olive-green, unwmk.

9.



The Chinese characters in this surcharge appear identical with those of the Shanghai issue, the difference lying in the Arabic figure "3", which is longer and thinner in the former. In this surcharge, which is made in sheets of 200 stamps in two operations, an interesting variety has been discovered. This is the small figure "3", which is found in the 5th and the 15th stamps in the second last horizontal row of the sheet. Until more information is received about the number issued, all comments on the comparative rarity of this variety must be reserved.

Another vareity of this surcharge exists, which is made on stamps of the Chung Hwa printing. As the types used in the surcharge of these and the Dah Tung stamps are different, particularly the figure "3", it has come to be doubted whether the former is not merely a forgery.

Kansu

Up to the time of writing only one type of stamps with the surcharge has come to Shanghai from this distant province. The particulars of this stamp are:

(10) Chung Hwa, olive, perf. 121, unwmk.

10.



This is the latest specimen of the series to be seen in the local market and is thus still very scarce. Like the rest of the surcharged stamps, no one is able to state with certainty how many stamps have been thus surcharged and sold over the post office counter. However, owing to the great distance of this province and the difficulty of communication, it is safe to say that not many of this variety will likely find their way to the outside world, and that they may prove to be the most desirable among this interesting series of the latest surcharged stamps of China.

The attention of collectors is called to the fact that a dangerous forgery of this stamp has been seen in the Shanghai market. The Chinese characters of the surcharge on this forged stamp are smaller than those in the genuine specimen and the general appearance of the whole inscription is also more crude.

Latest News from Chungking

According to latest information from official sources. The surcharge was made by the King Hwa Printing Co., Five thousand sheets totalling 1.000.000 stamps were thus surcharged. The small figure "3" occurred in the first setting only, from which some 400 sheets were printed. Thus it appears that this variety is quite scarce, as there may be altogether not more than 800 copies in existence.

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The Sun Yat Sen Issues of China

By WILLIAM E. JONES

The effect of the war that has been raging in China for over two years is now beginning to show in the stamps of this ancient country, especially in the issues depicting the portrait of Dr. Sun Yat Sen. The first stamps to show the likeness of Dr. Sun appeared in 1931, and consisted of seven denominations as follows:—1 cent red-orange 2 cents olive-green, 4 cents green, 20 cents ultramarine, \$1 sepia and red-brown, \$2 redbrown and blue, \$5 black and scarlet.

These stamps were printed, in recess, by Messrs. De La Rue & Co., London, England, the distinguishing mark from the stamps that follow being the sun with "double line circle." This sun was immediately criticised by the Chinese; it should not have two lines. So the plates were altered, producing the second type "single heavy-lined circle," consisting of:—2 cents, 4 cents, 15 cents, 25 cents, \$1, \$2, \$5, colours all as before.

The 5 cents yellow-green was added in 1933, the 15 cents scarlet in 1934, and the 20 cents ultramarine in 1937. All the foregoing stamps were perforated 12½ x 13, seem to vary between $12\frac{1}{2} \times 12\frac{1}{2}$ to 13×13 , and were printed by the "wet" process, in which the paper is dampened before printing takes place.

Some time later, it must have been about 1936-37, the "wet" method was discontinued and the stamps were printed by the "dry" process, i.e., the sheets were not first dampened. The result was that certain denominations can be found at least 1 mm. larger than formerly. With a little practice the difference can be quite easily detected by the eye alone without measuring. The values to be found of this size are: (All single ring sun) 2 cents, 4 cents, 5 cents, 15 cents red, 20 cents, 25 cents, 10c surcharged on 25c.

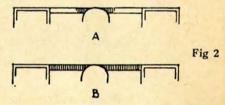
The 15c green, and the 1c surcharged on of 4c are only to be found printed by the wet process, so it is no use looking for them in

the larger size.



A change was made, as far as I can ascertain, it must have been during 1936, in the perforation of the dollar denominations only. Instead of being 12½ x 13 they now appeared $11\frac{1}{2} \times 12\frac{1}{2}$. A very interesting and conspicuous, constant flaw is to be found in the \$2 value with this new perforation. It consists of a "gash" from the left hand side of Dr. Sun's mouth, extending right across to the base of the left ear. I understand the Postal Authorities withdraw as many copies as they could find and destroyed them. The location of this variety is the eighth stamp on the bottom row or the 48th stamp in a full sheet; the lower right hand corner.

At first the war brought no change to China's stamps, but when further supplies were needed the order was placed with a firm in the British Crown Colony of Hong Kong, in South China, Messrs. The Chung Hwa Book Co., Ltd. (China Book Co.) They produced an entirely new design but based on the old one. The three dollar values, \$1, \$2, \$5 were put on sale in November, 1938; these are perforated 12½ x 12½. The printers seemed to have trouble in centering the vignette of Dr. Sun's head properly in the frame. So in 1939 an entirely new vignette was prepared locally that was larger and would better fill the frame. The chief differences to be noted are:-



(1) The coat button is now a complete circle, with a couple of very minute strokes in it, instead of only a half circle. This is the clearest test. Fig. 4, a and b.

(2) There are now nine lines of shading above the head instead of six.

(3) Horizontal lines of shading to the right of button now.

(4) Lines of background and of coat extended to form a larger and more even oval.

An interesting little problem arises here concerning the frame, which I thought at first had not been touched. But a close examination will reveal the frame has been altered, at the top, between the parallel lines on either side of the Sun.

(Cont. page, 16)

Stames.S

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STAMPONS

(From page, 16)

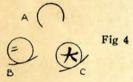
The first printing shows a few vertical lines between these lines, now (B) in the second printing these lines have been carried right across on both sides, except on the \$1.00 value! Why not this value? I will refer to this again later on.

A 2 cent and 5 cent stamp, olive and green respectively, were produced by this firm, but as these were single colour stamps, another, a third, single die was made.

Late in 1939 the Chung Hwa Book Co. had trouble with their Shanghai employees and a large number went on strike, which so disrupted the running of the firm, that a large number of sheets which had been printed but not perforated had to be handed over to another firm, Messrs. Dah Tung Book Co., Hong Kong, for perforating and some for gumming as well. The Chung Hwa Book Co. had used a comb machine for perforating their productions which gave a perforation of 12½. Messrs. Dah Tung used



a single line machine giving a perforation of 14 to 14½, and, through lack of experience, large numbers of sheets were spoiled and had to be destroyed, one report puts it as high as 30 per cent. Stamps with this perforation are the 5c. \$1, \$2, \$5 and \$10.



At will be found that the \$1 denomination has now got the vertical shading between the parallel lines on either side of the sun, referred to above, as well as the other dollar values. The question is did Messrs. Dah Tung add this shading or did Messrs. Chung Hwa before they handed over the sheets? If the latter, which seems the more probable, do any stamps exist with this additional shading but perforated 12½? I have not seen any at this time of writing, but if it does occur it should be very scarce.

The strike continuing, Messrs. Chung Hwa had to hand everything over to the Dah Tung Book Co. who now did the printing of the stamps as well as perforating, first of all



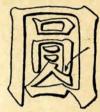
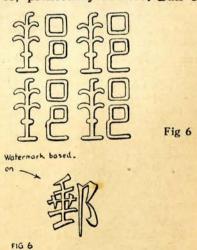


Fig 5

adding an official "Secret" mark to the stamps, and one of their own. This latter was frowned upon by the Postal Authorities and is only to be found on the 5c denomination. The secret mark is to be found in the case of the 5c value, in the upper right corner: where the Chinese character for "cents" has a tiny line added separating the radical from the main character, fig. 3. Messrs. Dah Tung's own mark consists of the first character of their name, "Dah" (great) minutely engraved in the long-suffering button of Dr. Sun's coat, fig. 4. Each character having been put in separately by hand, slight variations can be found, but hardly enough to enable the stamps to be plated.

The secret mark in the dollar values will be found in the character for dollar, in the upper left corner; here once more it consists of a tiny line separating a stroke of the character, fig. 5. So far only the \$1, \$2, \$5 have been printed by Dah Tung, but the \$10 may appear any day now, and later a \$20, as well as a 15 cents and 25 cents stamp.

As though all this has not given collectors a bad enough headache, it has now been decided to use watermarked paper, and the 5 cents denomination has just appeared on this paper, printed by Messrs, Dah Tung &



Co. and perforated as before 14½. The watermark consists of the Chinese character (modified) for "Post" and appears four times per stamp, fig. 6. It will be noticed that to read the character properly the sheet has to be looked at from the back in all sheets I have so far examined, typically Chinese!

The Chinese Airmail stamps are all to be reissued on the new water-marked paper.





Fig 7

The Commerical Press, Ltd., Hong Kong, have secured the contract, and the 30 cents scarlet has already made its appearance in Shanghai. The perforation is 12½.

Again a secret mark has been used, and is to be found in the first character on the left, at the bottom of the stamp, next to the figures of value. The small bottom stroke of the character to the left is now completely separated from the rest of the character, fig. 7.

The Chinese Postal Authorities have decided that the whole series of Martyr stamps is to be reprinted, and the order has been placed with the Hong Kong Branch of the Commercial Press.

The first denominations to appear are the 1c, 8c, 10c, 30c and 50c. The 1c, 10c and 50c are on plain paper, the 8c and 30c are on watermarked paper, as used for the latest Dr. Sun stamps. As this watermarked paper is to replace the plain paper, future printings of the 1c, 10c and 50c will undoubtedly be on the watermarked paper.

Once again "secret" marks have been used, but fortunately the perforations also vary from the old issue, which was a rather rough 14 x 14, and is now 13 x 13. The 50c can also be found 12 x 13 and 12 x 12.

The secret mark will be found in the first character on the left of the lower Chinese inscription and consists of the lengthening of a stroke of the character, fig. 1. The mark is very minute, so it is fortunate the perforation varies, which makes the easiest way of distinguishing the two printings. The colour of the 30c denomination is rather a brighter shade than formerly, with more of a reddish tinge. (Reprint from: World Digest)

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The First Official Stamp

By L. N. & M. WILLIAMS

in Stamp Collecting

At the time when the first stamps were in preparation, it was decided to issue a special stamp for use by government officials.

The idea of this stamp seems to have originated with Sir Rowland Hill. It was first mentioned in a memorandum which he wrote on March 26, 1840. From this memorandum, which is reproduced from the late Sir E. D. Bacon's "Line Engraved Postage Stamps of Great Britain," it will be seen that originally Sir Rowland Hill had the intention of issuing both 1d and 2d stamps for official use:

"One plate of penny and one plate of twopenny stamps will be required to supply the Government Offices. They are to be distinguishable from those used by the public by inserting V. R. in place of the ornaments in the upper corners.

(Signed) R. HILL."

Perkins, Bacon & Petch, the printers, at once proceeded to carry out these instructions, and within a week the preparation of the plate for the ld stamps was well in hand. On April 14 the plate was ready, and on the same day it was put to press, the first printing consisting of 174 sheets.

In common with the normal Penny Blacks, the V. R. stamps were printed in sheets of 240, twenty rows of twelve. The paper was watermarked with small crowns, so that one crown fell upon each stamp.

In the margins of the sheets there were the usual inscriptions regarding the price of the stamps, and instructions that care should be taken, in wetting the backs, not to remove the gum. In view of the fact that it was never intended to sell the stamps it is peculiar that the inscription regarding the price was not omitted from the margins. It was intended that this part of the inscription be removed, but the instructions were given after printing had been started, and it was decided then not to alter the plate. In each corner the margins contained the plate number, which is the case of the V. R. sheets was a Roman capital letter A.

The lower corners of each stamp contained check letters, beginning with A-A on the first stamp and ending with T-L on the last stamp in the sheet. Some stamps on

the sheet have certain abnormal characteristics—on the stamp lettered O-L the R in the upper corner has no tail, and the stamps lettered P-J, P-K, and P-L show distinct traces of the croix pate in the upper righthand corners.

Between April 14 and June 3, a total of 3,741 sheets was printed. Of these 148 were spoiled. Two imprimatur sheets were registered at Somerset House, one on April 15, the other on May 9.

Thirteen sheets without gum were sent to Somerset House at the end of April for use as specimens on the post office circulars which were sent to postmasters throughout the country on May 7. The circular, which was signed by W. L. Maberly, secretary of the Post Office, referred to the stamps in the following words:—

"I also enclose, for your information, two Specimens of the Label Stamp bearing the Letters V. R. at the upper corners, which are to be applied to the correspondence of Public Departments and other Persons formerly enjoying the privilege of Official Franking. This latter specimen of the Label Stamp is merely sent to prevent, when it may come into use, any misapprehension arising from the Letters V. R. which are intendet to denote that the Stamp is employed for Official Correspondence."

It is uncertain when or why a decision was reached not to use the stamps. However, it is quite certain that they were never used officially. Some postmarked specimens have been found, but nearly all of these were cancelled for experimental purposes.

One or two of the stamps seem to have passed through the post, but they did so quite unofficially, and by oversight.

The plate of the 2d stamp with V. R. in the upper corners was never made, and on Jan. 25, 1843, 3,302 sheets of the 1d value were destroyed.

In unused condition the V. R. stamps are very scarce. The largest known block ever to be contained in a private collection was owned by the Earl of Crawford. The block consisted of 225 stamps, but this large part sheet has long since been split up into smaller blocks and single specimens.

(Cont. next page)

Take Care of Forgeries

EDITORIAL

It is hoped that with the co-operation of dealers a sharp check may be given to the present flood of rubbish that is being thrown on the market. Unfortunately there are so many completely ignorant people now selling stamps that it is comparatively easy to find channels through which fakes can be foisted on collectors. The only cure for this is for purchasers to confine their buying to the reputable firms. There are plenty of these, so that there is no reason for anyone to fall into the hands of the unscrupulous or the (equally dangerous) ignorant merchant."

Such a tendency, if unchecked, will have serious consequences for the stamp trade. For the dealer's welfare is inseparable from that of the hobby by which he lives. And nothing is worse for the stamp hobby than the disappointment of collectors who, on finding even a small number of spurious stamps in their albums, erroneously conclude that the whole stamp trade is a racket, lose confidence in all dealers, become suspicious of stamps in general, and give up collecting altogether. Sometimes it takes only a 25-cent set of labels to produce a reaction of this sort.

Even where bogus issues are frankly described by the vendor and sold for exactly what they are, the evil results of marketing

(Cont. from page 18) First Official Stamp

On account of its comparative rarity, the V. R. stamp has been forged more than once. Some of the forgeries can be recognized immediately by the fact that they are lithographed instead of being recessprinted, However there is a recessprinted forgery which is more difficult to detect, although close examination of the small "crown watermark" will reveal that it is not a watermark at all, but was added after the stamp was printed Specimens of this forgery are always lettered P-K in the lower corners.

More frequently to be found are fakes, in the shape of genuine 1d black stamps from which the croixpate in each of the upper corners has been erased and the letters V. R. substituted. On careful examination these fakes, too, can be recognized; the paper in the upper corners will show traces of minute thinning, where the crosses have been erased, or thickening, if small squares of paper have been pasted over the crosses.

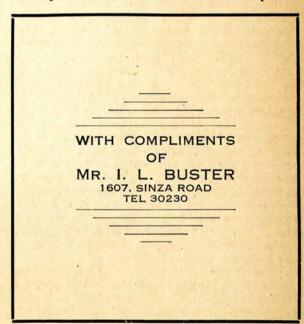
this stuff is not lessened. For by the time these illegitimate varieties reach the ultimate buyer, their true status is no longer declared, and the collector buys them in good faith as genuine postage stamps.

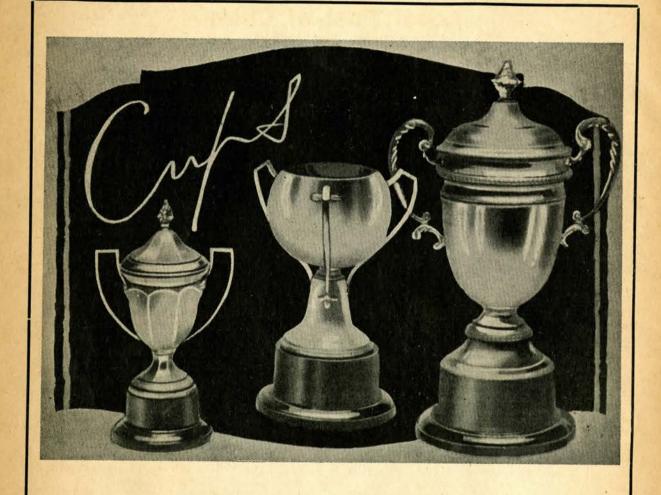
This type of spurious stuff, which claims attention only because it bears a resemblance to the real thing, has of course no philatelic standing whatsoever. There is no limit to the quantity that can be produced, except the promoter's supply of ink and paper and the customer's ignorance. Nor do these pseudostamps have any resale value, for informed collectors will not buy them, nor will reliable dealers handle them.

It is unnecessary to give here a list of the bogus stamps, "Overprinted" issues, private printings, etc., whose continued distribution would bring the China stamp trade into widespread disrepute.

Phoney stamps exist only because of the large and easy profits accruing to the original printers and purveyors. Dealers have only to decline to handle this type of trash to make profits disappear, put the promoters out of business, and cause the undesirable issues automatically to vanish from the market.

By doing this the promoter of bogus issues can be driven from the China market before he gets a foothold, and the stamp trade will remain, as it is today, a healthy and reputable field of commercial enterprise.





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Local Post of China

by Dr. W. ROSENBERG

Having finished the manuscript to the above publication which will make it's appearance by middle of February, I have decided not to waste anymore ink, especially as it took more of my time than anticipated, to compile the material for the above study. The ambitions and energy however, as displayed by the Russian Philatelic Society, to a certain extent doing more for it's members than other Philatelic Associations in Shanghai, may account for the reason of ranging these lines between the finish of my book and my intended vacation from literaric

philately.

I believe or hope that most readers of this magazine will avail themselves of my work, either because of being collectors of Treaty Ports Stamps or of using this opportunity as to increase their common knowledge of Chinese stamps as a whole. Since further I do hope that even on the danger of boasting, I have accomplished a study about such a topic more comprising than anything previously published in these lines, I will not take my collector-friends time with a chapter they are bound to get acquainted with on perusing my study. There is nothing I could offer today, what not on a broader basis will be brought to the collector's attention when my book is at hand, and I therefore wish to excuse myself and beg to accept these lines at face value only and as a kind of introduction to the "Local Post of China".

It is hardly believable that collectors still exist who do not wish to see these stamps enlisted in all leading catalogues and I sincerely hope Scott, Gibbons, Yvert will notice my book and pay much attention to historical facts and statistical evidence for the assumption of a real Post. We have an immende amount of basical facts concerning the genuineness of quite a number of issues, and genuine issues mean genuine stamps.

Some of course have served philatelical purposes only and yet this is no reason to condemn all and sundry or to degrade them to freaks. Which collector does not remember the "German Colonies" which in complete sets as the so called "Schalterausgabe" in Berlin were distributed to collectors only "over the desk", therefore the name. No matter which Colony was asked, they were ready for sale in full sets purposely, exactly as were those of Chinkiang or of Wuhu. This was the past but what happens today? The Shanghai Post Office in it's monthly notifications to collectors offers also in full

sets only the previous issues and recent issues with Sinkiang surcharge and not usable in Shanghai, for stamp collectors and stamp dealers only. And yet Scott and Gibbons continue to list the Chinese stamps although hardly in any bolder way could be demonstrated the distribution of recent issues for collectors exclusively. We all are aware of the fact that big and small countries alike overreach themselves in the creation of hundreds of series of Jubilee-, Commenorative-, Congress- or Memorial issues, which serve the means of filling the prospective Government's bags via the pockets of philatelists. Not a word can be lost about the true intentions of such postalic commercial transactions, but all these issues appear in the catalogues and are quoted in mint, in used, in large or in miniature sheets, and often enough quoted higher than justified.

Why condemn now a group of Post Offices which to the greater extent have really served honest postal purposes and have really functioned whilst their stamps remained means to franc the letters or parcels in certain places at certain times. These stamps in question, often referred to as Chinese "Locals", are nothing else but the logical ourcome of a peculiar postal situation, which could not take wonder in such a vast district of confusing fiscal situations, bare of provincial unification and of a country not yet a

member of the "Weltpostverein".

There are no arguments about the first local post in China, Shanghai, with stamps listed in all catalogues although there seems no difference between this post and the institutions I have taken under the magnifier in my "Local Post of China". As early as 1865 we can date the postage stamps of this city, which also amongst them have some items of obscure a nature without the Damocles Sword above their head. When Sir Robert Hart had brought into life the Chinese Imperial Customs Post, for Shanghai the LocalPost was running simultaneously until it's abolition in 1892. It was not until 1897 however that the Chinese Government in Peking actually centralized all postal matters of this large country. It happened thus, that the vacuum of 1892- 97, had in some way to be filled out, inasmuch with the abolition of the Shanghai Local Post, it's branch offices, which managed the postal affairs of the Treaty Ports, came to a stillstand themselves. Such branch offices had been kept on the run by subaribers

mostly and these did not like the idea of being left on a dead track, commonly spoken. The fact however, that a few of these Posts, saw their new offices inaugurated by private associations or single individuals, has been responsible for a misinterpretation, more or less to regard these new stamps as a private undertaking indeed.

In one unfortunate case this idea was correct and this lamentable incident of Wuhu, was the cause for the total suppression of Chinese "Locals" by the shortlived Society for the Suppression of Speculative Stamps.

In my publication now, which I preferred to call "Local Post of China", I have carefully reported the true situations and actual facts and have set myself the goal as to rehabilitate these illfamed stamps, which in my opinion, really belong to a Collection of China.

Each Port has it's place under a classification in groups. Group No. I will report those Local Post Offices, which have been inaugurated by the Municipal Authorities, as occured in Amoy, Hankow, Chinkiang and Kiukiang. Group No. II will comprise the places in which Local Committee have created the new Local Post Offices, Ichang and Nanking. Group No. III show's the Offices which have been opened by private individuals such as existed in Chungking and Wuhu. Attached to the latter I have Weihaiwei, which not a Treaty Port, yet issued stamps in a similar way and manner as the Treaty Ports did. This is usually done and therefore in order to be correct, I have chosen the title of "Local Post of China" instead of "Treaty Ports Stamps".

Using this opportunity, I may as well outline the intentions, which were underlying my publication, which for the benefit of collectors was written rather than out of a personal vanity. The endavours of recently published catalogues I esteem truly high, the prize quotations however contained therein, to the collector appear mostly based upon the stocks of individual dealers. In order now, to give a picture or a quotation of values, from an unbiased and neutral aspect, I undertook the construction of logical prices. It might be interesting to learn of the way which led to achieving such object. first step was the accumulation of prices for a certain copy secured through offers of different dealers and different towns. In addition was to be considered the offer of private collectors and the amount of certain copies available on request. When for instance I intended to obtain a certain stamp and the Shanghai dealers failed to supply and it made even difficulties of obtaining abroad, a cheap quotation in catalogues had to be

rectified. When the other way round, a copy was quoted quite dear, yet several copies at hand, the price should be lowered. The second step lay in the right quotation of varieties or errors, which often enough appeared confusing and left to the discration of dealers. An example might serve as a test: A certain copy of Amoy is generally quoted at 30 cts. A minor variety (letters touching. strokes or figures irregular, minor changes in design, little spots or dots, hairlines etc), is quoted by dealer X with 50 cts., deales Y with 60 cts. and Z want's a dollar. If such a copy for instance is printed in two rows of five and all ten copies show something different and no copy is like the other. thus showing ten varieties in ten stamps, the different prices are nonsense and the logical prize for all ten copies must be the same." When again this stamp is printed in 2 rows five but 1 copy only has a hairline or dot, whilst 9 copies are similar, a higher price for the variety is absolutely correct.

In my book now the beginner will find the prices for all the ordinary copies of course whilst the specialist may enjoy as far as are known, all the varieties and errors and their market prices. There are the prices for varieties of any kind, for shades or errors like double perforation or imperforated sidewards only. Prices for pairs, blocks or whole sheets and prices for stamps on cover, actually mailed or cancelled to order. There will be a lot reported about the latest discoveries, Bowker's Split P, with scetches and pictures and even their prices. Pictures and prices for new discoveries of Kiukiang or "both sides printed" in first issue of Hankow, wait for their reader and over 200 illustrations in text, six full pages of pictures, of sheets, stamps or covers, the freaks of Wuhu, all in natural colours, will attract the readers and a historical map, specially designed for collectors, will help to inform about the geographical location of the Treaty Ports.

My combination of an historical study with a specialized catalogue is something new and this combination as mentioned, I hope will avoid the boring moments as easily kreep up on perusing a catalogue. I am looking forward to may own publication and am worried a bit about one thing alone, the hole to be torn in my collector friend's pocket on acquiring this book. Producing however this publication as the outcome of my hobby, I may assure the collector that I am satisfied with covering expenses, It look's in fact that Im going to loose yet I consider it win, if my book is accepted in philately and if I succeeded in writing" from a collector" "for a collector" the "Local Post of China".

First Issue of Liechtenstein

When some small country issues its first set of stamps, philatelists immediately want to know someting about the newcomer who forces his way into their albums. So it is today with Hatay, Alexandretta, and Norfolk and Pitcairn islands. Years ago San Marino, Andorra, and Liechtenstein were among the Objects of attention. In fact, when Liechtenstein's first set appeared, in addition to explaining the location and nature of the strange little country, one stamp journal added the brief comment: "No, no, Annette, we fear you are wrong. Liechtenstein is a European country, not the popular second-hand clothing man."

Liechtenstein's first postal issue appeared on the twenty-ninth of January, 1912. It consisted of three stamps portraying old Prince Johann II. Printed by Austria at the Imperial Printing Works in Vienna, they were designed and engraved by those who performed the same duties for the stamps of Austria, Professor K. Moser and Ferdinand Schirnboeck. These stamps were by no means intended to replace Austrian stamps, which had previously been exclusively used in the principality. They were merely supplementary; all Austrian stamps were still valid, and, since only three Liechtenstein values were provided, the remaining Austrian denominations were widely used.

In later years Liechtenstein, finding the issuance of postage stamps an opportunity for making huge profits from sales to collectors, did not so drastically restrict its postage stamp programs.—W. H. Rusch.

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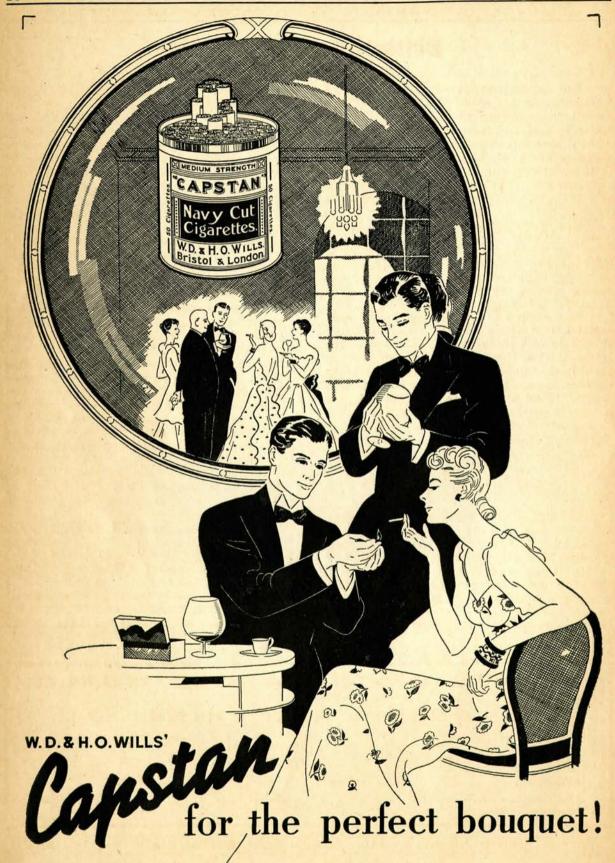
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British Crash Covers

By H. Stanley Redgrove

The inclusion of crash covers in a collection of air-mail souvenirs has been criticised as a sign of morbidity. This is unjust. Crash covers are definitely of historical interest. The conquest of the air has been won only at the price of considerable loss of human life; and a collection of airmail souvenirs of a particular country should illustrate not only the triumphs, but also the failures, of civil aviation.

It is remarkable, seeing that mails have been regularly carried within the British Isles on various routes since 1933, prior to which there were numerous internal mailcarrying flights, how few are the crashes which have occurred in connection with the

internal mail-carrying services.

One occurred on September 11, 1911, when Charles L. A. Hubert endeavoured to fly a Farman biplane, loaded with eight bags of mail, from Hendon to Windsor. Just as he had got clear of the aerodrome his machine crashed from a height of about 40 feet, and both Hubert's legs were broken. The disinclination of the Organising Committee to compensate the unfortunate aviator led to a strike on the part of the other aviators engaged in connection with the service. Fortunately, the matter was settled satisfactorily, otherwise the First United Kingdom Aerial Post would have ended in a fiasco.

The full story is told in Field and Baldwin's admirable work on The Coronation Aerial Post, 1911, to which work readers are referred for further information.

It is not known with certainty which bags of mail Hubert was carrying, but presumably they were Nos. 6 to 13 inclusive, which were successfully flown to Windsor by Hamel, Greswell and Driver, Hamel carrying bags Nos. 6 and 7 on the evening of the same day, while Greswell carried bags

Nos. 12 and 13, and Driver carried the four other bags on September 12.

All the mail in these bags was postmarked September 9; and, as mail carried in a number of other bags received the same postmark, there is no means possible of identifying pieces which crashed with Hubert.

A crash which occurred in connection with the internal air-mail services of the British Isles, of which several covers are available for collectors, took place on January 8, 1935. Fortunately no loss of life occurred, so collectors who add a souvenir of this crash to their collections will not be accused of morbidity.

As all aero-philatelists know, Highland Airways, Ltd., convey mail for the Post Office between Inverness, Wick and Kirkwall

(Orkney Islands).

On the date in question, the northbound plane, piloted by F./O. E. H. Coleman, crashed into 5 feet of water in Moray Firth. In addition to mail, the plane was carrying two passengers, Mr. and Mrs. Wm. D. Firth, of Harry, a honeymoon couple, who were returning home to the Orkney Islands by air. The pilot, passengers, and mail—the last entirely submerged—were rescued. The mail was returned to the Head Post Office at Inverness, partially dried, and flown to destination the next day.

A number of covers exist signed by the pilot. The example in my own collection bears, in addition, the authentication of Mr. J.A. Wood, Postmaster at Finstown, Orkney, the town to which the cover is addressed. I have seen also covers bearing the signatures of the honeymoon couple, who in return for a very unpleasant experience, have gained immortality in the records of aero-philately.

(Reprint)

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A. A. KATKOFF

What is a Stamp "Worth"?

By far the most frequent question put to me by correspondents as well as by collectors I have met in the flesh is: "How much is such and-such a stamp worth?" My answer has almost invariably been. "What it will fetch." That answer, disconcerting though it must have been to most of my enquirers, is literally true for any and every stamp; and in this article I will try to explain why this is so.

In the first place, let me give the coup de graece to that old dogma of the purists that the true philatelist should pay no heed to the commercial value of his stamps. Seeing that most stamps nowadays have to be bought and eventually sold for good, hard cash, it would surely be irrattional for any collector not to attempt to buy and sell "at best." That argument of the purists that the commercial aspects of one's hobby should he left entirely to one's dealer would, if adopted, make for the elimination of competition among dealers; and competition is as necessary in the stamp trade as in any other.

Mark you, I am not advocating that commercial considerations should constitute the be-all and end-all of philately. Far from it. Even the dealer, if he is to prove successful, must have a soul above pounds, shilings and pence. The collector, while keeping himself sufficiently well informed in regard to current market conditions to guard against paying too much for the stamps he buys and receiving too little for the stamps he sells, should prize his possessions chiefly for the pleasure they give him.

Now, let us consider the problem of the monetary value of a stamps.

The fact which the beginner finds most difficulty in assimilating is that there is no fixed price for any stamp. As ordinary members of the community, we are-or were until the outbreak of war-accustomed to walk into a shop and buy a pound of butter, or a pair of boots, or an ounce of tobacco of a certain specified kind or grade, and to pay therefor a certain price, which was in general the same at whatever shop we patronised. In other words, these staple commodities were sold at fixed prices, Butter and boots and tobacco are products of highly organised industries which are able to decree at what prices these products shall be sold; and such an arrangement obtains in every civilised country. Stamps, however, are not (or

should not be) manufactured as merchandise; and except for current issues of certain countries, they can only be acquired by dealers in the open market. Moreover, this market is a world market, so vast that it is difficult to imagine any organisation that could control it and fix either wholesale or retail prices. The likelihood even of there coming into force a system or price control for stamps in any particular country is exceedingly remote.

In each country, however, there is in general use a particular stamp catalogue, which is regarded as the standard catalogue for the country in question. Nearly all stamp catalogues are published by firms of stamp dealers, and new editions quoting the latest prices are published from time, usually once a year. Serious collectors make a point of arming themselves with the current edition of what is, in their country, the standard catalogue, and, for want of a better guide, accept the prices quoted therein as a basis on which to estimate the buying, selling and exchange values of stamps.

This is where the beginner is again apt to obtain a wrong impression. He finds it so difficult not to regard "catalogue value" as "absolute value" - if, indeed, we can apply such a term to what is intrinsically worth no more than its face value, if unused, or its value as waste paper if otherwise. Yet a little consideration should make it evident that catalogue prices, being, as they are, the prices at which the publishers of the cata-logue are prepared to sell the stamps at retail, cannot be the same as the prices for which, even, they would sell at wholesale, much less the prices at which they themselves could be expected to buy. In fact, catalogue prices are not even to be accepted as the retail prices of other dealers, some of whom occasionally have their own catalogues, and most of whom issue what are more humbly known as price-lists.

It is true that, in practice, the smaller dealers base their retail prices to a varying extent upon catalogue prices, endeavouring where possible to sell below these, while quoting "catalogue" as an indication of the "rebate" or "discount" they are offering. This very fact only adds to the confusion of the novice. Too often, he dosen't know where he stands.

(Cont. next page)

The truth is that catalogue prices cannot be regarded with any real justification as affording more than a very rough idea of stamp values. An actual valuation in any given case would have to take account of a surprisingly large number of factors influencing the current market value of the stamp in either an upward or a downward direction. Factors which would generally tend to elevate the price are: earliness of issue, rarity (due either to small quantities issued or a small number preserved), documentary value (e.g., a piece containing evidence relating to a philatelic problem), condition in proportion as it varies from fair to superb, scarcity on the market (irrespective of actual rarity), popularity of the country and of the issue to which the stamp belongs, popularity of the stamp itself, and so on. Factors which would usually tend to depress the price are: commonness, poorness of condition, un-popularity of the country or issue to which the stamp belongs, unpopularity of the stamp itself, the existence of "cornered" stocks or remainders which might be released at any time, and the expectation of further supplies becoming available at no distant date because of the stamp being still current.

Condition becomes less important as the documentary value of the such as Norway 2 and 3 skilling, Greece set of 7, Sandwich Islands, etc.; and many advertisers requested prospective buyers to send for printed price lists. In the later numbers some choice items are to be found: 1d. blue Tasmania, at 10d.; 21d. British Columbia, at 9d.; 1 kr. black Bavaria, at 1s. 3d.; 1, 2, 5, 10, 20 and 50 grana Sicily at 6s, the set.

IT HAPPENED IN JULY

- 1. Universal Postal Union commenced to function, 1875.
- 3. Great Britain 2½d Prussian Blue, Sliver Jubilee, discovered, 1935.
- 13. New Zealand First Issued Stamps. 1855
- 14. New York Postmaster's Stamp Issued, 1845.

IT HAPPENED IN SEPTEMBER

- 1. Triangular Cape of Good Hope stamps issued, 1853.
- 3. Decree authorising Russian Zemstvo
- posts, 1870.
 21. "Post Office" Mauritius issuse, 1847.
 23. First Polish local stamps issued at Warsaw, 1915.

IT HAPPENED IN AUGUST

- 1. Brazil first issued stamps, 1843.
- 9. Heligoland ceased issuing stamps, 1890.
- 15. Provisional issue at Bushire, 1919.
- 20. World's First Aeroplane Mail, Blackpool-Southport, 1910.

IT HAPPENED IN JULY

- 1. British Guiana first issued stamps, 1950
- 1. Scinde Dawk Issue, 1875
- 1. Universal Postal Union commenced function, 1875
- 13. Barbuda first issued stamps, 922.

IT HAPPENED IN OCTOBER

- 1. First Halfpenny Stamp issued by Great Britain, 1870.
- 1. Archer's Plan for Perforation submitted to the Postmaster-General. 1847.
- 15. Treasury Competition close, 1839.
- 30. British Guiana 1 cent, 1856, Offered for sale in London, £75,00 bid refused, 1935.

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Russian Rurals

Russian rural postal stamps, or Zemska stamps, were supplementary to the Russian state stamps. Russian National Postal Department extended only to towns and a few of the larger villages. Before the installation of the Zemsky stamps, many of the inhabitants of the rural districts had to travel up to thirty and forty miles to deliver or collect their mail.

The name "Zemska" comes from Zemstvo, a branch of the government of Russia, and "Zemstvo" from the Russia word "Zemla," meaning land, or country.

The Zemstvo was an elective council for the rural districts, and each Zemstvo, or council, entirely independent of any other. One of the duties of the Zemstvo offices was to maintain ways and means of communication.

Zemsta stamps first appeared in 1865 in the Schlisselburg district of the government of St. Petersburg. They were not made legal until 1870. The development was slow and apparently never entirely completed. Some districts never issued stamps, the collections and distribution of mail being free.

The Zemska stamps were good only the in the district issuing them and in no way

competed with the Russian state postage, or any other rural postage. Consequently there were many varieties of stamps issued, some 3,000 according to the authors of the F. G. Chuchin catalogue. Some few were every artistic—the finest probably in Krasny.

A collection of Zemska stamps is, therefore, very interesting and quite indicative of the advancement of art in the different districts, and will make a valuable addition to any philatelic collection.

The Chuchin catalogue was issued in 1925, eight years after the revolution, which put an end to the Zemstvo offices and Zemska postage. There were earlier catalogues issued, but the only one of much value was

entirely destroyed.

There are very few collections of Zemska stamps in existence. My own coutains close

to 1,100 varieties.

The writer spent several years in Russia as an advisory engineer for the Russian government on the design of meat packing plants. It was while there and living in Moscow that he made this collection.

-James Barr, 7434 Princeton Avenue, Chicago, Ill.

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Edwin Brooks Suggests You Collect Air Mail Covers

Aerophilately, is another sideline of philately, commonly known to stamp collectors as the collecting of air mail stamps and covers. During the last ten years this sideline has developed huge proportions, and is now a complete hobby in itself.

As a rule, used air stamps (off cover) are not in great demand smong aerophilatelists, most of whom confine their collections to mint stamps and flown covers.

"Covers" are postcards, envelopes, newspaper wrappers, etc., and should be kept entire. Under no circumstances should a collector remove the stamps from a cover, or cut it in any way. A cover with the back missing, or the address cut out is worth much less than one in its original state.

Nearly all "cover collectors" collect flown covers, which are usually of greater interest than the saving of mint air mail stamps only. There are several sub-sections in the collecting of covers and these are the covers with official air stamps, with special postmarks for special flights, with ordinary postmarks, etc.

Some very good covers have nothing to show that they were carried by air mail, except a manuscript note, "By Air Mail," and ordinary postmark of a certain date. The Paris Siege Balloon covers (1870-71) can only be distinguished by the words "Par Ballon Monte" and a Paris postmark of the correct date.

In most cases flown covers increase in value ahead of mint air mail stamps. Once a first flight has taken place, the number of covers available is fixed; but a fresh printing can always be made of stamps. Some ten years ago cover collecting, although in its infancy, brought great finds in covers and everyone who acquired them has something

today worth more than many stamps that are known to be rare. In those days, a collector had to go some to acquire a cover first hand. He had to nose out the information and the address of the man who would be willing to receive covers from collectors, go to the air field and personally deliver the mail to the pilot (and per chance get the pilot's autograph on all the covers). This was real collecting. Nowadays, the government post office does all the dirty work and even sends you ten covers per an event if you so desire. Of course, all this enormous amount of mail tends to lessen the value of each cover.

This writer has purposely left out all information on the collecting of air mail stamps, since this in itself is still another branch of stamp collecting. So for the beginner who would start on a cover collection we shall quote a few well chosen words of advice from the able authority. Leo N. Rousseau. He suggests that the beginner acquire a few choice items such as the Paris 1870-71 balloon covers, one or two Great Britain 1911 London-to-Windsor and a few others. Of course the expense would be enormous, but as a start for a beautiful collection, Rousseau knows whereof he speaks. Then he says:

"Having gotten together a fair display of officials (covers) and pioneers (flights), I suggest the addition of covers carried on important flights, if possible with special cachets. These are of a greater interest. Covers with cachets which are not official, but applied by private individuals, Chambers of Commerce, or similar bodies, should be avoided by a collector who wants to see his purchases increase in value.

(Reprint from Stamp Review)

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There's Money In Diamonds

By WILLIAM H. RUSCH

Into the well-furnished offices of Holmet and company, "Everything for the Philatelist," walked a pair of young men who, inspite of being well-dressed, seemed hardly to be the wealthy type of collectors who usually patronized this New York stamp shop.

They nodded coldly to a clerk in the sales room and made their way rapidly toward a back office which, they knew, was the place such business as theirs was transacted. Jerking open a door they filed in and greeted a sour-looking man who did not rise from his chair

"Well, you're here at last. Did you get those Ceylons?"

"Yeah, it was a cinch. Hope doesn't see a thing."

With the pronouncement, one of the visitors slid an envelope across Hilmet's desk. "George Hope probably won't discover they're missing for a month or two." the dealer replied, as he carefully opened the envelope and removed half a dozen stamps.

"Say, what's the idea?" he exploded. "These aren't the stamps I told you to grab! You actually got your hands on the Hope collection and came out with—with trash like this! Why, these stamps aren't worth fifty cents. I told you to get the 1857 Victorias; this is packet stuff. Don't you know an imperf when you see it?"

"You mean they ain't worth anything?"

"I'll say they aren't," he replied, tossing stamps and envelopes back across the desk to his two visitors. "If you boys were only stamp collectors yourselves, you might get some of these assignments straight! You were probably looking at ten grand worth of stamps and passed them by. I can't pay you for stamps that aren't worth anything. I've got to make a profit."

"You make plenty," one snapped, and the two men turned and slowly moved out the door.

Out on the street they hailed a taxi, which drove them to their hotel. By its appearance, their apartment proved, at least, that all of its occupants' deals were not as unsuccessful as that just related. "I had a notion to sock old Holmet today, Sam. This dizzy stamp business makes me sore," the elder of the two announced.

"We oughtta get out of this business,"

said Sam, sliding into a chair. "There's more money in diamonds and stuff like that."

"Diamonds, huh! Why, Sam, every diamond you'd find would turn out to be glass."

"Yeh? .. If we could only find some stamps that was really worth something. Holmet's scared to get mixed up in a big job; so he just gives us chicken feed," the other said, as he propped his feet on a foot stool and picked up the evening paper. Then he suddenly became intensely interested in an article in the paper. He read it, and then read it again. "Say," he yelled, "Here's our chance! A real valuable stamp is being carried to New York all the way from London. Gosh it must be worth a fortune! It's one fellow named John Elbert, and it's going to be delivered to the Mallot Stamp Agency Thursday. If we only knew—."

Four days later the two men again entered the office of the president of Holmet and Company. They greeted him in a more pleasant manner than usual, confident that they had something really worth-while to show.

"Well, what have you got this time?" Holmet asked without the slightest trace of enthusiasm or expectation.

"The best catch we've ever made!" was the announcement. "Look at it. Don't tell us that ain't worth real dough; we almost got plugged getting it."

A look of utter astonishment crept across the dealer's ordinarily expressionless face. Then, partially regaining control of himself, as if enjoying himself for the first time in his life, he glanced up, saying, "Yes, it's your best catch, boys; indeed it is. In fact, my friends, it's too good."

"Whaddaya mean 'too good'?" Sam demanded.

"This stamp, you dumb crooks, is the rare British Guiana No. 13, recently brought from England to—or rather FOR—the Mallot agency to deliver to Ronald Gould, America'a greatest collector of British Colonials. It is worth anywhere from \$30,000 to \$50,000, but there is exactly one stamp of this kind in the world, and this is it." Then, with perhaps the most laughter ever known to pass Holmet's lips, he added, "I can't sell a stolen stamp if there's only one like it, can I? Ha! What a fine pair of ignoranuses you turned out to be!"

(Cont. next page)

(Cont.)

THERE'S MONEY IN DIAMONDS

"The rarest postage stamp in the world was recovered today. This stamp, issued by British Guiana in 1856, had been missing since yesterday morning when John Elbert of the London firm of Elbert & Company was robbed of the stamp. Elbert was taking it to the Maliot Stamp Agency, which has purchased the rarity for an unknown clientThe stamp was recovered by William C. Holmet, president of Holmet & Company, New York stamp firm.

Holmet explained to police that two strange men attempted to sell the stamp to him. He not only refused but told the two men—who are thought to be the same men who robbed Elbert—that the stamp, being the only one of its kind in the world, could never be disposed of by anyone other than its owner. When the men realized their mistake, for some unexplained reason, one of them "socked" Holmet on the nose, breaking it in two places.

Police have been baffled by a remark attributed to one of the men as they left the offices of Holmet and Company. Miss Mary Smith, sales clerk, said she overhead one of them say, "I told you we oughtta get out of this business. There's money in diamonds."

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IT HAPPENED IN JUNE

- 1. Austria first issued stamps, 1850.
- 6. Western Isles Rocket Mail, 1934.
- 9. Alcock and Brown Airmail stamp issued by Newfoundland, 1919.
- 19. Diamond Jubiles stamps issued by Canzda, 1897.

IT HAPPENED IN NOVEMBER

- 1. Firft issued of Queensland 1860.
- "Fiji Times" Express stamps issued
 — 1870.
- Ross Smith England Australia flight begun — 1919.
- Bordeaux issue of France 1870.

THE CARE OF ALBUMS

It is generally assumed that, once a stamp has been mounted in an album, its preservation in the condition in which it entered the album is automatically and permanently assured.

Well, that depends on how you handle—and store—your albums.

Books are among our best friends. If you consider awhile, you may be surprised to realise how much books enter into our lives, and how much benefit we derive from them, either as aids in our daily routine, or in the form of knowledge or entertainment. Yet how do many of us treat them? We drop them, we toss them on to a table or shelf, we leave them out in the sun or the rain, we ruin their bindings in an effort to make them lie flat when open, we turn down the corners of their pages to mark our place—in short, we do everything we ought not to do with them. If you don't believe me, examine the books in any library, watch readers in the train—and watch yourself. I have often expressed the opinion that a compulsory subject in all schools should be the care and treatment of books. As things are, school books are the most ill-treated of any.

Now stamp albums are books that require particularly careful treatment. Apart from the fact that they are fairly expensive, as books go, they contain our philatelic treasures, which are not immovably affixed to the pages (I hope).

Every stamp lover should try to become a book lover, too. Lay your stamp album, or one of your albums, in front of you. How do you turn the pages? The correct way is to life each page at the outside top corner, and run the finger down the edge until the middle of the edge is reached; then turn. Lifting and turning from the inside corners, near the binding, involve the risk of tearing the page; while turning from the outside corners tends to cause sliding of the page over the surface of that on to which it falls, and consequent rubbing of the stamps. If your album is interleaved, turn the interleaving at the same time as the page. This will prevent the stamps from rising on their mounts and running the risk of creasing. Vertical pairs and blocks can easily be damaged through lack of care in turning the pages.

If you use loose-leaf albums, remove the cover before mounting stamps, unless the latter are to be placed on the first few pages of the book. Otherwise, you will be exerting harmful pressure on the cover, especially on the springs in the spine. I know the lazier way is the more attractive; but a little extra

trouble in this respect will add years to the life of your covers, and mounting is far easier on flat that on curved pages.

The storing of stamp albums is very important. Laying them flat, and especially piling them one on top of another, is good for the albums but definitely bad for the stamps, as the accumulated pressure of overlying stamp and mounts causes ridging on those underneath. On the other hand, standing the albums upright, as we do in the case of the ordinary books on our shelves, is better for the stamps, but not so good for the albums, whether these are fast-bound or loose-leaf, as it exerts tension on the upper part of the binding or springs, and compression on the lower, and creates a general tendency on the part of the leaves to sag towards the outside bottom corners, where they may curl and even become dog's-cared if the books are standing free. Some looseleaf albums are fitted with a special clip inside the cover to support the leaves and prevent this sagging. Albums not so equipped are best stood on shelves in such a way that, with other books if necessary, they are held as tightly as will keep them firmly closed-no more.

A bookcase with doors should be chosen as the abiding place of your stamp albumsnot open shelves. As a precaution against the effects of damp, the bookcase should be set against an inside or party wall and not an outside wall of the house. It should also be kept in a room where the air is fairly dry and warm all the year round. Damp can ruin a stamp collection. Besides causing mint stamps to stick fast, it affects fugitive colours and assists the development of rust and stains. If you notice brown stains growing on the extreme edges of your album leaves, trim off the affected edges or remount the stamps on fresh pages, and find a drier home for your albums. These stains have a fungoidal origin, and are caused by damp and by insufficient ventilation. Make a point of bringing each of your albums out of the bookcase once a week or so and turning the pages in order to give them a change of air.

Don't open your albums in strong sunshine or close to a fire. If you do, the stamps will curl and run the risk of creasing when the book is closed or the pages turned.

Finally, if you live in a tropical climate, you will need to devise special methods of warding off the effects of damp and the depredations of insect and other pests. In extreme cases, a steel-lined, waterproof container might be required to give adequate protection.

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Russia-- 1927

First International Air Mail Congress, at Moscow

By H. L. Logan, Pres., S. I. A.

The first international air mail congress met in Moscow in 1927 at the instigation of the U. S. S. R. and to commemorate this important postal event Russia issued two special air mail stamps, Scott's Nos, C10 C11. The design is an airplane superimposed over a map of the world drawn on the Mercator projection. In the uppears the symbols of the U. S. S. R. surrounded by a wreath. In the upper left corner is a cartouche on which are the Russian characters C. C. C. P., or in English, U. S. S. R.—Union of Socialistic Soviet Republics. Russian inscriptions referring to the event commemorated appear at the top of the stamp.

They are lithographed, perforated 13 x 12, the 10k being dark blue and yellow brown while the 15k is deep red and olive green. They are on white wove, unwatermarked paper. The 10k is also known imperforate. Quantities are 200,000 of each value.

Will some reader give us the dates of the Congress, the first day of issue, the period of validity, names of designers and printers, first day cancellation (if any) and any other data missing from the above thumb nail acount?

France-- 1927 International Aviation Exhibition.

By H. L. Logan, Pres., S. I. A.

An International Aviation Exhibition, which ran for one month opened at Marseilles on June 25, 1927. Two special air mail stamps were issued which were sold only at the exhibition, at a premium over face and limited to one of each for each ticket holder.

These stamps, (Scott's No. C1 and C2, type A18) were made by overprinting the regular 2F and 5F stamps of the "Merson" type with the silhouette of an airplane above the words "Post Aerienne" in one line in dark blue or black ink. In this France followed the precedent established for the Bordeau Philatelic Congress in 1923, which was again repeated in 1929 for the Havre Philatelic Exhibition. In all these three cases the normal "Merson" type stams was suitably over-printed, sold only at the exhibition and only to ticket holders. The stamps to compliment this International Aviation Exhibition may therefore be Considered Souvenir issues as they follow the form and the method adopted for such issues, and because, as is usually the case, the exhibition included a showing of stamps, in this instance air mail issues.

They were surface printed, perforated 14 x 13½. No errors or varieties are known to the author. Can any reader inform us as to the quantities, first day cancellation or any other pertinent information?

The Auction At

"Gentlemen, Gentlemen, I cannot overshout you! Quiet please. Lot No. 1, what of — fers?"

Suddenly a voice is heard from the corner: -

"Fifty cents!"

Who can that man in uniform be, who opens this bid? Why, how stupid of me, I should have known that it could be no other than Mr. Isak. Isn't

fifty cents his limit?

Mr. Vilinsky is back with us again, his operation was success, and he is his usual self once again, bidding sky high for the stamps he quires. What chance have any of us when he is around?

Lets look around and see who else is Mr. here. Buster (mind telling us who your tailor is?) Mr. Jakovleff, Mr. Synner-berg, Mr. Katoff, Mr. Brostling, Mr. Teimer.

Mr. Reiniger, seemingly busy, chatting with Mr. Wiedler, there probably some lots he is inte-

rested in, or else Mr. Wiedler must be trying to convince him to buy something he does not need.

Mr. Borea and Mr. Gadjieff Jr. are here too. It is really amazing how the Jr. can detect forgeries, when he's around, we need not consult the expert.

Our president Mr. Maklaevsky is trying to buy all available stamps from the auction, if not for himself, then for the poor Russian scholars. Its no wonder, he was elected for a Forth term! Here's betting you a Manchukuo 15 Fen (2nd issue watermarked), that he will be elected once again!

Our new member Mr. Melgunoff is doing quite a lot of buying these days. Hope, he is satisfied with the bargains, and here's welcoming him to the Society.

There goes again that thunderous voice of our treasurer Mr. Vansovich.

"Quiet, please", asks Mr. Ananyin. Loud voice or no loud voice, hats off to Mr. Vansovich, the founder of R.P.S.!

There goes an almost complete collection of Manchukuo. Mr. Artemenko offers \$ 200.00, Mr. Schlager \$ 220.00; but who do you think gets the collection? Why, no other

than Mr. Vilinsky for \$ 265.00. Mr. Majiak shouts: "Well, don't we get a better offer?" wonder who's owner. Mr. Musasticoff is enjoying relating the latest jokes to Mr. Ananyin, they are laughing to their hearts content, anyhow if you are in need of any information or wish to lodge any complaints just write to the secretary Mr. Musasticoff 203 Medhurst Road. I'm wondering who'll be first to sign the dotted line on a Life Policy?

Well! Well! Well! where is Mr. Lilienthal to-night, why go any further, he's the

writer of this article.

"I bet a thousand dollars" it's a forgery shouts the agitated Mr. Wiedler, and that's how the argument all started, it was a block of four ordinary 2 cents Sun Yet Sen offset. Print, Mr. Wiedler swears that it was chemically treated (and promised to prove his contention at the next auction, let's hope he does not forget it) that's an impossibility says Mr. Vilinsky, I'm a printer and surely know something about printing.

Mr. Tang, "Why it sure is genuine."

Mr. Chen just keeps his opinion to himself.

Mr. Buster anyhow, must believe them genuine as he buys them for \$25.00 the opening bid, under the guarantee of the owner (Lilienthal) that it would be returned



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if proved a forgery. I wonder who's right? I have a recollection of a few instances where Mr. Wiedler was wrong, if his opinion is correct, my apoligizes, buf I am pretty sure Mr. Buster is correct.

Gentlemen, we must continue, we cannot argue here all night, says the auctioner.

Next lot, block of four overprinted 3 cents Chungking, Mr. Manjiak kindly offers

face value for them, and Mr. Bërstling buys them for \$6.00 a long way off your offer, eh Mr. Manjiak!—

Mr. Fadyeff is unusually quiet to-day, not doing any selling nor buying, nor offering any opinion.

Mr. Katkoff is trying to explain something to his neighbour, which I am unable to catch.

Dr. Lusztig and Mr. Jakovleff bidding against each other, but neither of them successfully, as Mr. Schiller gets the lot.

Mr. H. C. Chen busily occupied selling KANSU 3 cents overprint, business to be quite prosperous, every one is buying.

Mr. Wiedler claims them to be forgeries yet, buys thirty himself, why?

Welcome to Mrs. Gadjieff, Mr. Maklaevsky has enlisted her as a member of the Society.

Mr. Emeliano seems to be very satisfied with the last lot he purchased, he should be, why I had a glimpse of his collection, and believe me, it was the largest I ever saw.

Mr. Makaroff and Mr. Musasticoff still chatting.

"Please keep quiet", says the much irritated auctioneer.

Mr. Wiedler is still trying to explain to Mr. Hauffe that the ordinary 2 cent Sun Yet Sen double print is a bogus stamp, that's how he called it.

Welcome to Mrs. Gluckauf, I believe its the very first time she has ever attended a stamp auction.

We are sure of getting a crowd to-day, why here comes Mr. Barbier, Mr. Prefol, Mr. Shacks, and the diminutive Mr. Zee.

Seems that the Russian scholars are in luck to-day, several voices can be heard bildding \$ 1.00 lots for the boys.

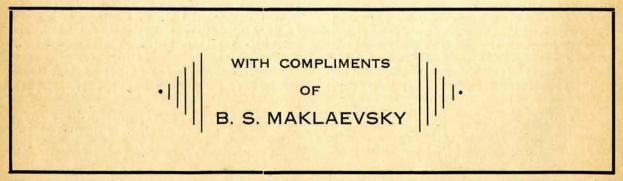
At our last General Meeting Mr. Vansovitch once again brought up the idea of paying for the schooling of one poor boy the yearly sum amounting to \$340.00. the proposition was passed by the committee and now lets hope that this little fellow will grow up to be an ardent collector and join the Society it later years.

There it goes again, the same old story of Mr. Wiedler, its a forgery that ordinary 2 cent Sun Yet Sen offset. print, Mr. Vilensky now offers \$25.00

to be donated to the Society funds if Mr. Wiedler is definite in his proof that it is a forgery.

Lets hope that all our members are satisfied with their bargains, and will turn up at the next auction in full force, to witness Mr. Wiedler's demonstration as to how the ordinary 2 cent Sun yet Sen offset print was done.





Names and Men Behind Guarantee Marks

By PETER KREISCHER and J. W. LOWEY

In The Czecho-Slovak Specialist

When examining the reverse side of stamps, especially rarities of the 19th century, collectors will often find tiny marks in the shape of initials, names or ornament. These are guarantee marks affixed by experts which are to show that the items so marked have been examined by them and were found to be genuine.

In every country there are usually one or more men who have given a lifetime to the study of its stamps and who therefore are well qualified to pass judgment upon items submitted to them. Many have worldwide reputation, such as for instance the late Luff of New York, Mueller of Vienna, Diena of Rome and many others.

Czechoslovakia too has its experts of which Jaroslov Leseticky was dean. He was not only the first and one of the foremost experts of Czechoslovakian stamps issued during the early years of the Republic, but also a recognized authority of the stamps of other countries as well. A reputation gained as a collector and philatelic writer for over fifty years.

Expertizing of stamps some 15 or 20 years ago in comparison with today has undergone vast changes. Today the student of stamps has a world of technical knowledge available, methods of detecting counterfeits, fakes, re-perforation, fake cancellation, repaired stamps, etc. To illustrate; several of the top flight rarities of the "Postal Ceskoslovenska 1919" overprints which were submitted to Leseticky years ago and which he found to be genuine in every respect and to which he accordingly affixed his guarantee were some years later pronounced to be counterfeits by another expert. Subsequent re-examination by several other experts acknowledged the opinion of the latter. This reversal of Leseticky's opinion by another group of experts did in no way put him in a bad light. It is simply explained by the fact that Leseticky formulated his opinion upon a basis in comparison with material available at the time and with which any expert was to judge this particular issue. It must be added that the 1919 overprints are one of the most difficult groups to be expertized, chiefly because the overprint was done with

set type, a type so common that any printer had an identical set of type in his own shop.

Another group of stamps which is difficult to expertize is the imperforate "Dove" and the "Liberty" issues and the 125, 500 and 1000 denominations of the Masaryk portraits of 1920. A collector who wishes to be sure that his imperforates are genuine will buy either in blocks or in pairs. Yet a great many are unable to afford more than a single. They may well do so, especially in cases where the mark of a well known expert appears on the back. It should be said that no expert will attempt to pronounce a single imperforate stamp as such. Usually they are handed full sheets or large blocks for all around examination and after having found them genuine in every respect they then apply their guarantee mark upon each stamp.

Not all symbols, initials or signatures found upon the stamps of Czechoslovakia are those of experts, the majority of stamps bear the facsimile of signatures of dealers. The dealer does this for self protection and will, if he is reliable, take back and make refund on any stamp that turns out to be unsatisfactory to the purchaser, providing the reverse of the stamp bears his signature.

As stated before, experts have made mistakes, and rivalry between experts is very keen. Some claim to be better than others, pointing to their longer and wider experience, personal ability and knowledge. In most instances these rivalries are harmless "lip warfare" and seldom mean anything.

In speaking of mistakes and rivalry one particular case should be mentioned, that of Ervin Hirsch, Editor of "Tribuna Filatelistu" and Rudolph Gilbert, Professor of the Academy of Graphic Arts at Prague. For the past ten years these two men were the acknowledged top experts of Czechoslovak issues. Both have an equally large following and in order to retain the following have trespassed the borders of accepted ethics on several occasions. Their clashes in the courts have been numerous. The reason for the rivalry between these two men is due to the fact that several years ago one of them made an error in examining a stamp and pronounced it as genuine. The other exposed the mistake and on every occasion played it up.

BECOME ONE TODAY!

Stamps to Be Withdrawn

28th February, 1941

Sale of all Canal zone commemorative stamps will be discontinued Feb. 28, 1941, according to C. H. Calhoun, director of posts. The issue includes air mail stamps of six denominations which were placed on sale July 15, 1939, and the sixteen regular postage "before and after" series released Aug. 15, twenty-fifth anniversary of the Canal opening.

All stamps on hand after close of business Feb. 28, 1941 will be inventoried and the entire lot burned sometime the following month.

The philatelic agency at Balboa Heights can supply complete sets of all twenty-two denominations in reasonable quantities for a limited time. Wholesale orders for 1-cent stamps will not be accepted. The supply of 3-cent regular and 15-cent air mail may be exhausted in a few months, but there should be enough of other denominations to satisfy the demand.

Requests for stamps must be made not later than Friday, Feb. 28, and orders sent by mail must be postmarked not later than that date.

All orders should be sent to the postmaster at Balboa Heights, accompanied by money order to cover cost of stamps and postage. Stamps sent by ordinary mail are at the purchaser's risk, but such stamps may be registered at regular rates up to the value of \$1,000. No stamps will be sent on approval and no refunds will be made unless the stamps are damaged in the mail. Plate numbers will not be supplied except where blocks of twenty-four or more stamps are ordered.

The following table shows the number of commemorative issue stamps still on hand:



		Quantity
	Quantity	on Hand
Value	Received	Aug. 1, 1940
1c	1,020,000	*9,000
2c		
3c		647,000
5c	FOF 000	147,300
6c	100 (50	135,600
7c	212 000	148,400
8c		
10c	240 000	135,550
11c	40= 000	153,500
12c		148,750
14c	200 000	254,000
15c	010 000	219,600
18c	210,000	169,200
20c	215,000	125,900
25c	105,000	55,000
50c	105,000 .	41,250
Air Mail		
		90.700
5c		89,700
10c		75,700
15c		*25,000
25c		130,700
30c		
\$1.00	105,000 .	70,200

*At philatelic agency, Balboa Heights. Purchase of 1-cent stamps now restricted to sets for private collection.

IT HAPPENED IN MAY

- 1. Great Britain first issued Stamps, 1840.
- 7. Stamps issued at Long Island, 1916.
- U.S. 24 cents Airmail Stamp with Inverted Centre discovered, 1918.
- Philipp la Renotiere von Ferrary died, 1917.
- 1. First Postage Stamps put on sale, 1840.
- 10. Society for the Suppression of Speculative Stamps founded, 1895.
- Great Barrier Island Pigeongram Service started, 1897.
- 22. First Official Airmail Stamp issued, in Italy, 1917.

Inside Central Europe

The political changes in Central Europe are still the cause of continual new stamp issues.

Czech Protectorate

The new postage stamp issue has now been completed by two values of 3K, and 4K. Copies of these stamps are not yet available, but it can be stated that their design is thoroughly new. The 3K, stamp bears a picture of Zlin, the city of the well-known Bata Shoe Works, and the 4K, value depicts Mahrisch-Ostrau or Moravska Ostrava, the centre of the coal and iron industry in Northern Moravia.

The top values of 5, 10 and 20K. of this set, which have already been reported, can now be described. Their design is similar to that of the blue 1K, stamp of the Prague sheet, issued on the occasion of the Prague International Stamp Exhibition in June, 1938. This stamp is one of the most attractive Czechoslovak stamps, and its design deserves full appreciation. The new high values are of the usual size and of transverse, rectangular shape. In printing and perforation, they compare with the earlier reported issues, and their colours also have already been described in another article. The design shows the famous sandstone-built bridge of King Charles in the foreground, with its numerous groups of Saints decorating the landing. Amongst these statues is one of St. John of Nepomuk, the Bohemian patron, who was thrown into the River Moldau or Vltava by his opponents from the very place where the monument is erected, according to the legend. The bridge was constructed in the fourteenth century in the reign of King Charles IV, who was also the Emperor of the Holy Roman-German Reich, and devoted all his power to the embellishment of his capital, Prague. The bridge is said to have been built by the same German builder, Peter Parler, who constructed the Cathedral of St. Vitus, The view seen on the stamp is taken near the fine Gothic bridge tower, which appears at its end and forms the entrance to the most ancient and romantic part of Prague, the quarters of the "Mala Strana" and of the Hradschin Castle. On the stamp the Hradschin and the Cathedral of St. Vitus rise into the clear sky behind the gateway and the old palaces to which the bridge

leads. It is one of the loveliest sights of Prague, never to be forgotten by one who has seen it.

Other new stamps of the Protectorate are the two stamps of triangular shape of 5oh. value to secure personal delivery to the addressee. They are, respectively, red and blue in colour, and I told of them as the Czech "love letter stamps" some time ago. They had to change their inscriptions, which are now in the German and Czech languages.

- BY -

J. H. MARTON LL.D.

A 10h, stamp for business papers has also been issued with bilingual surcharge. The stamp, one of the first Czechoslovak newspaper stamp issue, has received the surcharge "G.D.-O.T." "G.D." is the abbreviation of the German "Geschafts-Drucksache," and "O.T." of the Czech "Obchodni tiskoviny," both meaning "business papers."

New postage due stamps comprising the usual values of 5h. to 20K. have been issued, too. The design is a new one, and the colour of the low Heller values is red and that of the Kronen values blue. I hope I shall be able to give more particulars next time.

It may be of inerest to learn something about the number of copies issued of the first provisional issue of the Protectorate. It will be remembered that the Czech stamps were surcharged with the bilingual, official designation "BOHMEN u. MAHREN"—
"CECHY a MORAVA." According to my information, there are only 276,000 complete sets. The two different 1K. Masaryk stamps, one with the original and the second with the hyphenated name of the country, exist in different quantities. Of the first issue there were only 386,000 copies, and of the second one 630,000. The 2K. stamp shows a rather low figure, 432,000 copies only, whereas the remaining, most frequently used values show much higher ones, as follows: - 30 H. in the coat-of-arms design, 630,000 copies; 25 H. in the coat-of-arms design, 715,000 copies; 10 H. in the coat-of-arms design, 750,000 copies; 20 H. in the coat-of-arms design, 790,000 copies. The largest quantity is that of the

(cont. next page)

Inside Central Europe

50 H. stamp, with the view of Pilsen, of which 1,322,300 copies exist. The higher values, not specified, were issued in about the same quantity as the lowest one mentioned. Used copies of this issue are already hard to find, and one might prophesy for them a good future.

Hungary

On behalf of the Regent Horthy Fund for pilots, three charity stamps have been issued. The designs show allegorical pictures, and the surtax is equivalent to the nominal value. The lowest value of 6+6 Filler depicts a boy-scout flying a kite, with the enlarged emblem of the Fund in the background. The stamp is green. The next value of 10+10 F. shows a pilot and an aeroplane in brown. The 20+20 F. value pictures the Patrona Hungaria with a group of aeroplanes flying in formation, and is red in colour. The emblem of the institution can also be seen near the lower frame line of the stamp, and underneath it the words

"Magyar Kir. Posta." The designs have been created by the Hungarian artist Legrady, who designed the recent issue on the occasion of the Protestant Exhibition. The size of the stamps is 22×33 mm. and they are perforated $12\frac{1}{2}$ to 12. The number of sets printed is 400,000.

Slovakia

The stamp issue, planned in aid of Slovak sportsmen visiting the next Olympiad in Finland, has been abandoned.

The Slovak G.P.O. has not been satisfied with the watermarked paper hitherto used for its stamps and produced in Slovakia. Now another paper has been ordered from Vienna. The watermark is to remain unaltered, but a surprise is not impossible. The perforation is unsatisfactory, too, and new possibilities are being studied at the moment, so the busy collector may expect even more varieties from this country.

A competition, ending on January 31, 1940, was arranged to obtain new designs for the current issues. Only the air-mail stamps will remain and the 5oh. stamp, bearing the portrait of Father Tiso, the President.

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SHANGHAI

IT HAPPENED IN MARCH

- 1. Finland first issued stamps, 1856.
- 13. National Philatelic War Funds Auction,
- First Norwegian Local Stamps issued at Trondheim, 1865.
- 24. Mafeking Siege Stamps issued, 1900.

IT HAPPENED IN AUGUST

- Western Australia first issued stamps 1854.
- 18. First War Stamps issued during the Great War by France, 1914.
- World's First Aeroplane Mail, Blackpool-Southport, 1910.
- 20. British Photogravure stamps issued, 1934.

SOUVENIR ISSUES IN 1940 By R. L. Cullum

Many critics of our phase of the hobby say that sufficient new issues do not appear in one year's time to keep an active collector busy. This is hardly the case as in the one calendar year of 1940 more items were issued than in a period of ninety years from 1840 to 1930. In order to give definite answer to this statement, we have taken the list of all announced and issued items as they appear in H. L. Logan's file. Here they are, and note that where a (*) appears the stamp or sheet has not made its appearance although previously it has been announced.

Argentina—Souvenir sheet of four, commemorating the Centenary of the Postage Stamp.

Bulgaria—Two stamps commemorating the Centenary of the Postage Stamp.

Burma—One stamp commemorating the Centenary of the Postage Stamp.

Brazil—Three souvenir sheets commentorating participation in the New York World Fair.

Columbia—Set of five stamps to raise funds to build a post office department building.

Cuba—Souvenir sheet of four stamps and one stamp to commemorate the Centenary of the Postage Stamp. A souvenir sheet of four stamps commemorating the Centenary of the Medical Press.

Czechoslovakia—Three philatelic souvenir sheets overprinted for the 1940 New York Worlds Fair.

Dominican Republic—Two stamps commemorating the Centenary of the Postage Stamp.

Estonia—Four stamps commemorating the Centenary of the Postage Stamp.

Ecuador—One stamp overprinted to raise money for the Guayaquil Post Office.

Great Britain and Colonies—Thirteen stamps commemorating the Centenary of the Postage Stamp. (Colonies - Morocco and Tangiers).

Guatemala—Three stamps commemorating the Centenary of the Postage Stamp.

Hungary—Souvenir sheet issued for flood sufferers.

Honduras—Souvenir sheet of four air mail stamps commemorating the Pan-American Union.

Japan—Two souvenir sheets, Nos. 4 and 5 of the National Parks issue.

Liechtenstein—Souvenir sheet of twelve nommemorating the Birthday of Prince Johann.

Lithuania—Souvenir sheet commemorating the return of Vilna.

Luxembourg—Stamp for the International Philatelic Exhibition at Mondorfles-Banis (*).

Mexico—Ten stamps commemorating the Centenary of the Postage Stamp.

Mozambique—Souvenir sheet commemorating the Centenary of the Postage Stamp (*).

Nicaragua—Two stamps commemorating the Centenary of the Postage Stamp.

Paraguay—Four stamps commemorating the Centenary of the Postage Stamp.

Portugal—Souvenir sheet commemorating the Portuguese Legion—Eight stamps commemorating the Centenary of the Postage Stamp—Souvenir sheet commemorating the same (*).

Roumania—Three souvenir sheets to aid rearmament.

Sweden—One stamp to commemorate the sixtieth birthday to the Director General of the Post Office (*).

Southern Rhodesia—A souvenir folder of a set of stamps commemorating the founding of the colony (*).

Salvador—Three stamps commemorating the Centenary of the Postage Stamp.

Switzerland—Souvenir sheet of four stamps issued for the National Fete.

Turkey—Souvenir sheet of Kemei Ataturk.

Jugoslavia—Five stamps issued as the Zagreb Postal Employes Charity set.

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ESTERO STAMPS OF ITALY

In the current number of "L'Orient Philatelique," official organ of the Egyptian Stamp Club, of Cairo, Egypt, H. R. Holmes, a fellow of the Royal Philatelic Society of London, describes the Estero stamps of Italy and

where they were used.

For many years prior to 1874 the ordinary postage stamps of Italy were used for the pre-payment of postage from various post-offices established by the Italian Post Office Department within the territory of certain foreign states, such as Tunisia and Egypt. It was found, however, that the varying rates of exchange permitted speculation and that a herative traffic was carried on at the expense of the Italian Post Office. To counteract this illegitimate traffic the Italian government issued special stamps, overprinted "Estero," which could be used in these foreign offices but not in Italy.

Mr. Holmes's study of these stamps is comprehensive, giving dates when they were used; pictures of used copies, on and off cover, and other philatelic information.

Among the towns where Estero stamps were used, according to Mr. Holmes, are Tunis, La Goletta and Susa; in Tunisia; Alexandria, in Egypt; Tripoli, in Barbary; Buenos Aires, in Argentina; Montevideo, in Uruguay; Baia di Assab and Massawa, on the coast of the Red Sea, and on the Island of Malta. It is interesting to note that while the Italians had no Malta, the British A-25 often found on the Estero adhesives.—(New York Herald-Tribune.

NEW AIR MAIL ITEMS

Supplementing the air mail set released on Oct. 23, the Argentine Postal Administration is having stamped envelopes and letter envelopes printed for use in air mail correspondence. The date when this material will be ready for sale is not known, but is expected to be soon.

The designs will be the same as used for the air mail stamps, i.e., "airplane and envelope," "Mercury" and "airplane in flight," and the denominations are to be,

respectively, \$0.15, \$0.35 and \$1.45.

This will be the first time postal stationery with the stamps printed right on it, as commonly available for ordinary surface mail, will be in existence here for air mail correspondence.

NEW SOUVENIR ISSUES

HUNGARY—Reports have been received that the set of stamps released by Hungary on Dec. 15 to honor the art and artists of that country are to be released in a souvenir sheet form. This set of semipostals comprises four values. The 6f plus 6f will feature a winged female figure, holding in one hank an olive wreath, and in the other a plaque, according to the New York Sun. The 10f plus 10f shows a male figure representing a sculptor, while a female figure symbolizing a painter is shown on the 16f plus 16f. The 20f plus 20f value will show Pegasus, a winged horse. The designer of this set which shows the figures in white as basrelief against a dark background, is Legrady Sandor.

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British Guiana First Issued Stamps, July 1, 1850

The three most primitive stamp issues ever made in the British Empire are the Bermuda "Postmasters," the typewritten stamps of Uganda, and the first series of British Guiana. Even Edward L. Pemberton, the pioneer philatelist, who described a much better-looking stamp as "a foully hideous thing, and the engraving apparently done by a blind man with a skewer," must have been at a loss for words fit to describe the British Guiana "Cottonreels," because, as far as can be traced, he did not pass judgment on them in print.

The "Cottonreels": that is how the early philatelists referred to them, but to a large extent the sobriquet has fallen into disuse, and nowadays the stamps are more generally known as the "Circulars." The series includes one of the rarest British Colonial stamps, the two cents, which is rarer than either value of the "Post Office" Mauritius, for only ten copies are known to exist, six of which consist of pairs on letters or envelopes.

It was on June 15, 1850, that a notice about the impending issue of stamps appeared in the Royal Gazette of British Guiana:—

"The public is informed that on and after the 1st proximo, Daily Mails (Sundays excepted) will be made up at the Post Office, Georgetown.

"Prepayment of Letters will be necessary in all cases, to facilitate which, Postage Stamps of the respective values of 4, 8 and 12 cents are being printed, and will be ready for Sale on or before the 24th instant, at the Post Offices in Georgetown and New Amsterdam, and at the different Receiving Offices."

The notice included also a list of places and the postal rates applying to them. It will be observed that the date on which the stamps were first to be put on sale is given as June 24, but in view of the fact that they were not available for postal use until a week later, the date of issue is reckoned as July 1.

The stamps were printed at the office of the Royal Gazette. The design was of extreme simplicity and consisted of the words "British Guiana" in a circle, with the figure of value and the word "Cents" in one line in the centre. Surrounding the whole was a rough circular frame-line, formed by bent pieces of printer's rule.

All the stamps were printed in black on coloured paper. The four cents was yellow, the eight cents green and the twelve cents blue. The four cents has been found on pelure as well as the ordinary wove paper, and is known in orange and lemon yellow. The sheet formation has never been discovered, but it is not unlikely that there were 25 stamps to the sheet in five rows of five.

These three values were in use for eight months before the appearance of the two cents. On February 22, 1851, the Post Office at Georgetown issued a notice to the effect that, in response to requests by several of the merchants of Georgetown, a local delivery of letters would be made twice daily through the principal streets of the city, beginning on March 1. The fee of two cents per letter for this delivery had to be prepaid, otherwise the letters would be subject to the full postage of eight cents.

The new denomination was printed at the same office and was in the same design as the others. The colour of the paper was rose.

The local delivery service was in operation for only a short while, and when it ceased the remaining stock of two cents stamps was used for ordinary postage; this accounts for the three pairs, used to make up the four cents rate, which have been found on letters addressed to places outside Georgetown. It accounts also for the rarity of the two cents, as only a very limited number can have been printed owing to the small demand.

So crude was the appearance of the "Cottonreels" that, as a protection from forgery, the Postmaster gave instructions that each stamps was to be initialled by a postal official before being used. Five sets of initials have been found on the stamps: E. T. E. D(alton), the Deputy Postmaster-General; E. D. W(ight), Clerk of the Colonial Department of the Post Office; J. B. S(mith), Clerk of the Imperial Department of the Post Office; H. A. K(illikelly), Clerk of the Post Office at Georgetown; and W. H. L(ortimer). The intials are known in various coloured inks and als in pencil. (cont. next page)

British Guiana First Issued Stamps, July 1, 1850

As the stamps were available for use only on inland letters, specimens were almost unknown to the early philatelists, and it was not until the late 'seventies that, as far as collectors outside the Colony were concerned, the stamps passed out of out the "unobtainable" class.

About 1877 there was a great find of "Cottonreels" in British Guiana. This came about chiefly through the efforts of C. G. A. Wyatt, N. R. McKinnon and M. Garnett, three of the Colony's keenest philatelists. Another fortunate collector was L. Vernon Vaughan, who four years earlier had found the unique 1 cent of 1856. Mr. Vaughan, who is still alive, recalls having sold every "Cottonreel" he found at a uniform rate of \$5, irrespective of the denomination.

The most romantic find of these stamps, indeed, one of the most romantic stamps finds of all time, concerns a fine pair of the two cents on an envelope.

In 1898 Christ Church, Demarara, was in serious financial straits. An appeal to the local inhabitants had met with a resonably good response, but a large sum was still needed. Some of the gifts had been in the form of old stamps, and one particularly useful present had come from an old coloured lady.

The minister paid this lady a visit to thank her personally for her gift, and while doing so he took the opportunity of asking her whether she had any other stamps she was willing to donate. She replied that she had already given them all away, but to make quite sure she emptied on to the table a basket containing some old papers, bills and receipts.

As she did so there tumbled out of it the envelope bearing the two stamps, which she at once donated to the church. They were instrumental in adding some £200 to the funds.

After passing through the Duveen and Hind collections, the envelope is now in the collection of M. Théodore Champion, of Paris, through whose kindness it is here illustrated.

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AUSTRIANA

by E. MARBACH

Among the most preferred modern Stamps are the Austrian semi-postals Stamps. The reasons are many: The fine artistic work of Austrian tradition of culture and arts, the limited quantities issued and the fact that the Austrian Administration of Posts never made any kind of reprints and kept away speculation from their stamps. When shortly after the war, the director of the government printing bureau made "unperforated and other errors" of the Austrian fieldpost Stamps and tried to sell them, he was persecuted and hanged him self to avoid any court trial. As the Austrian Stamps are very much liked by our local collectors too, we bring some particulars of very much interest, which shows that the development of prices of of these fine issues are still going on and beside their philatelic appreciation they are a good investment for the future.

The first post-war issue appeared in Sept. 1920 in occasion of the plebiscite in Carinthia, the disputed strip of land between Austria and Jugoslavia, the set consist of 19 different in the type of the current issue in other basic co'ours and printed on paper formerly used for the Austrian Post-Offices abroad. Issue 300 000 sets, from which large part have been consumed for packets of differents so that any greater quantities are no more on the market.

In Spring 1921 appeared a similar Issue of 20 different sold at triple face value for the benefit of the victims of the inondation in Austria. The surcharge in German "Hochwasser 1920" means "inondation 1920". Printed 400 000 sets and particulars given for the previous issue can be applied to this issue too. An important variety is die 2 Kr. without date.

1922. charity Stamps, the very first set of the Austrian Semi-portals who won the heart of the philatelists all over the world. The set consists of different values from $2\frac{1}{2}$ to 100 Krowns, engraved perforated $12\frac{1}{2}$, but existing in perf $11\frac{1}{2}$ too, except the 5 and 50K. The Stamps shows the portraits of the famous Austrian composers as Haydn, Beethoven, Schubert, Bruckner, Strauss, Wolf, who are of international fame. Issued 100 000 sets and 100 separate sets on de Luxe Japan-

Paper in decorative books, sold by suscription, numbered from 1 to 100 with the original autogrammes of the designer and engraver. Rarely on the market, this special prints cost at present about 150 gold \$.

1923. Issue of Austrian towns. For the benefit of Austrian Artists. Fine gravures 9 different, artistic work of the same designers and engravers as for the previous issue. Like all Austrian Stamps, printed by the famous Austrian government printing plant. 100 000 issued unsold stock destroyed. Each Stamp shows the capital of a federal district of Austria, therefare 9 diff. Stamps, represented by their most know architechural Nounments. 250 de Luxe printed sets were issued like for the previous emission, worth to-day about 98 \$ gold. The 400 K exist right side unperforated and is very scarce.

1924, Charity Stamps, small sized with symbolics of charitative character. The stamps being not considered as a very lucky result of Austrian art, did'nt get very much populary and few only sold. The biggest part of this remained unsold and burned on the beginning of 1925. The actual price of this is about 8 gold \$ and no dealers stocks exist.

Issue of 1926 so called "Niebelung-Issue" shows different motions of the Niebelung-Saga, in six different prints of fine Art Printing by the Government printing bureau, engraved by R. Franke and R Zenzinger, after designs of the famous Prof. Wilh. Dachauer. This issue won a reward in the U.S.A. as the finest artistical work in stamps. The issue was quite large, 500000 complete sets and remained in circulation for about ten years until exhausted, in consequence the mint is more valuable than the used. All values except the first, exists partly unperforated and are worth US\$ 40.00 each.

1928 Commemorative issue, in commemoration of the 10th. anniversary of the Republic shows President Haynisch, 4 values, all the same design. engraved by Prof. Schirubock, designvd by Rud. Junk, 250000 issued, surplus for the benefit of War Orphans. 1930 President Miklas, the last president up to (Cont. next page)

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Cont.

AUSTRIANA

the time of the german invasion, 6 different values, all the same design, engraved and designed by the same artists as the previous issue, 100000 sets issued and sold in sets only as most of all other Austrian semipostals, surplus for the benefit of a Tuberculosis-Hospital in the Carinthian mountains.

1931. Rotary-Congress Commemorative issue, ordinary stamps, in other basic colours surcharged. Issue only 50000 sets, this set is already very rare and the market price for them is aroung US\$ 15.00. No varieties are known.

1931 Poets Issue. six values with potraits of the six best known Austrian Poets designed and engraved by the same artist. Issue 50000.

1932 Chancellor Pralat F. Seipel, in memoriam, Seipel was wounded in an attempt on his life and died after a long illness. He introduced the Autoritary course and suppressed the social-democraties in Austria. The issue consists of a single stamp in blueviolet, engraved and perforated 12½, issue 100000. 80000 were bought by a speculator, a variety exists, right side imperforated and worth seven times more.

1932 Charity issue analogue to the 1931 poet-issue, this time the portraits of Austrian Painters: Waldmuller, Schwind, Makart, Klimt, and Egger-Lienz, all of international fame. Same quantity issue viz. 50000sets.

1933, FIS-Commemorative Issue 12 (+ 12), 24 (+ 24) 30 (+ 30) 50 (+ 50) groschen 4 kinds, on chalky paper, issued on the occasion of the International Skiconcurrence in Tirol. Very attractive stamps showing snow-sports. Issue 12g 80000, 24 and 50g each 50000 and 30g 65000, Designed as for most all Austrian stamps by Prof. Junk. Variety: 30g rightside imperforated all perforated 12½. Actual market value over US\$ 20.00

1933 Wipa-Issue WIPA German initials for the Vienna Philatelic Exibition, one of the largest exibitions of stamps ever shown. Over 50,000,000 US\$ worth of stamps from the largest known collections were exibited. The director of Posts to commemorate the

occasion of this magnitic exibition of stamps, issued a special stamp showing an old-time post-carrier, the design was by Prof. Yunk after the painting of Moritz von Schwind and engraved by Ferdinand Lorbeer Three different kinds are easily distinguishable

1) Ordinary Paper, perf. 12½ issue 40000
Granite Paper ,, 12½ ,, 20000
,, ,, 12 issued in
small miniature sheets of 4 stamps
issue 10000 sheets.

As at the start part of this miniature sheets were split into single copies, the figure of the miniature sheets is in effect much smaller.

This stamp has a considerable demand at present and the market price in consequence much higher than the catalogue quotations.

1933 Sept. 6th. special issue celebrating the occasion of the German Catholic Congress, coinciding with the 250th, anniversary of the Relief of Vienna from the Turkish siege, engraved by Comtess Attems on bases of copper prints of the time. 6 values. 50000 complete sets only issued. The12g. shows the Pater Marc d'Aviant, papal lagat, the 24g. Vienna and St. Stephan's Church in the 30g. 1683, Rudiger von Starhenberg, commander of the besieged imperial Austrians, the 40g the Polish King Johann Sobiesky who with his army came to the relief of Vienna from the Turks with the Duke of Lorraine (50G) The 64g finally bears the portrait of the Mayor of Vienna at this critical time, Johann Andreas von Liebenberg. The only variety is to be found in the 40g. with the wrong inscription JSHAN instead of JOHANN.

The regular Charity issue of December 1933was made by a change of colours of current stamps and surcharged with additional values and the words Winter Hilfe (Winter-Help) the small values 5 2, 12 3 24 6 have an issue of 1000000 each, the lsch 50g only 60000 copies. The small values were largely used and therefore much cheaper in this condition than Mint.

1934, Architects Issue, engraved, designed and gravure by Hans Ranzoni, all printed on yellowish japan-paper, 6 different, 70000 sets issued. Portraits of the most famous

(Cont. next page)

AUSTRIANA

Austrian Architects with their best known achivements in the background. The 30, 40 & 60g are known to be partly imperforated and are very scarce.

In May 1935 and further in May 1936 and 1937 a special series of stamps were issued in commemoration of Mother's Day. The 1935 issue was a copy of a painting of the Danhauser in the Belvedere Castle in Vienna, the 1936 issue from a famous painting of Durer, the 1937 issue was designed by F. Kraft. These three very attractive stamps are still obtainable at a bargain, there being two millions of each issued. The stamps were sold at net face value and largely used in normal franking of inland correspondance. The 1935 issue is unperforated between, and the 1936 issue right side unperforated.

1935. The regular charity issue known as the heroes-Issue and here again there are six different kinds. Sketched by Prof. Dachauer, engraved by Prof. Lorbeer and printed and perforated in the usual manner. 70000 complete sets were issued, no varieties of this set are known. 12g (+ 12) Prince Eugen of Savovia, famous for his victories against the Turks, 24 (+ 24) Fieldmarshal Landon, who fought under empress Marie The-resia against Frederick the Great. On the 30 (+ 30)g. Archduke Charles, the leader of the Austrian Armies against Bonaparte. On the 40 (+ 40)g. Fieldmarshal "father Radetsky" the commander of the Austrian forces in Northern Italy during the Italian Independence wars. On the 60 (+60) g Vice-Admiral Tegetthoff who defied with his wooden ships the iron-made (at that time modern) fleet of the Italians, near the island of Lissa, in 1866.

In 1936 second FIS-Issue Austria once again issued its annual charity issue, due most probably to the great success of the first set. This time the International games at Tirol was the theme and was once again was an ernomous successful propaganda for the high development of winter-sports in Austria. This set consisted of 4 values and 70000 complete sets were printed. In addition 25,000 sets of the first two values were also printed. The frame for these stamps were sketched by K. Gesser and the

centres were reproduced from photographs. Printed in photograyure.

The year 1936 was a good year in Austria for charity issues for besides the above mentioned set and the Mother's day issue two further sets appeared. In November a set of 4 different performing charitable symbolics, printed in photogravure. 1 (1) sh. 100,000 copies., others about 400,000 each, the other set of six different values with the effigies of famous Austrian Engineers, engraved by Prof. Lorbeer, designed by Prof. Dachauer, 130,000 sets were issued and comprised 12 (+ 12)g Josef Ressel (shipscrew) 24 (+ 24)g Chega, builder of the Alpine Semmering Railway in 1854, 30 (+ 30)g Wemdl (Arms-Technician) 40 (+ 40)g Auer, physicist inventor of among many other things of the incandescent gas (auer-light) 60 (+ 60)g Von Lieben strengthing radio-tubes) 64 (+64)g. Victor Kaplan (Kaplan-turbines) In 1637 we have to record two commemorative and two charity issues and the last Austrian Stamps-The Birthday Greeting Stamps. In June a set of three commenorating the introduction of steamshipping on the Danube (11 to 21 millions issued) In October a set of 4 Charity Stamps for Winter Help 5 (+ 2)g, 12 (+ 3)g 24 (+6)g each 700,000 and 1 (+1) sh. 200,000 Photogravure. In November in commemoration of the centenary of the Railway in Austria set of three Issue: between 1 and 6 millions In December Serie of famous Austrian Physicians, 9 stamps engraved artist as the previous, the same issues, only 150,000 complete sets were issued. This set honours Austria's best Physicians who through their works made Vienna world famous in this connection. In December 1937 we have to record the last two stamps issued by Austria, the birthdaygreetings stamps, two denominations 12 and 24 g. large quantites were issued and used. Some ultra-Nazis pretend to see in the top of the nosegay the profile of Hitler, (see Froede Catalogue) but fantasy is required to discover it.

Special post-marks for each issue were used and some sets are much higer priced in this condition.

This Austrian special cachet is a rich and interesting field for specialist. No forgeries of any of these Austraian Commemorative and Charity issues are known.

Museum of Philately

By Wm. B. YUHASE

One of the most modern philatelic museums in the world, ranking, it is said, with the collections at the British Museum and the Museum of Nurnberg, is the Museum of Philately at Budapest, Hungary.

One of the unique features of the museum is they way in which the stamps are displayed. The visitor himself pulls forth double sheets of glass, between which the stamps are housed. Daylight is excluded from the building, owing to its tendency to fade the colour of stamps.

The museum houses a collection of more than 60,000 varieties, many of which are rare and unique. To begin with, there is a complete collection of Hungarian stamps from the first issue in 1871 to date. In includes also the famous Popovitz collection.

There are trints, lithographed and engraved stamps, stamped envelopes, bisects, varieties in printing and perforation, misprints errors in perforation, forgeries,

stamps printed in relief, stamps printed to special order—in short, everything that goes to make an absolutely complete collection. Each of the series includes every phase in the life of a stamp from the first trial prints to the bits of paper put into circulation as postage stamps.

It is the feature of this museum that the original plans, drawings, dies and experimental printing equipment of stamps are shown. The collector can find there plans and even trial printings of stamps which for certain reasons were never put into circulation. There are sheets and blocks of Hungarian rarities that exist nowhere else in the world.

Apart from the Hungarian collection, the museum has collections of foreign stamps filed in alphabetical order. And at all times it is reads to exchange stamps with any nation.

(Reprinted from The Stamp Magazine)

WITH COMPLIMENTS

OF

B. S. SIDLINE

WITH COMPLIMENTS

OF

S. C. TIMER

Stamp Papers And Watermarks

It is necessary for every budding philatelist to acquire at least a working knowledge of the different kinds of paper that have been used for printing stamps. besides enabling the knowledge, collector to garner additional varieties whenever he comes upon stamps which, otherwise similar, are printed on different sorts of paper, often puts him in a position to locate the printing source or determine the approximate date of printing of a particular specimen with more certainty than would be possible by reference to other features than the paper-impression, colour, watermark or perforation. Moreover, it is a great aid in the detection of reprints and forgeries, which usually differ materially from the originals in regard to the paper, however closely they may approach them in other respects.

The commonest kind of paper used for printing stamps is wove paper. When held up to the light, it shows an even texture throughout, often with a "cloudy" effect. It is usually of medium thickness, exceptionally thin or thick qualities being described respectively as thin wove or thick wove. In colour it is white or nearly white.

Granite paper has been extensively employed for the stamps of Switzerland and Japan and for various issues of other countries. It is so called because it contains small pieces of coloured fibre, added to the pulp during the manufacture of the paper.

The collector will occasionally come upon a stamp, the paper of which, especially when held slantwise to the light, shows a texture made up of parallel lines, set close together. This is laid paper. According as the lines are vertical or horizontal in relation to the design of the stamp, the paper is described as vertically laid or horizontally laid. Both kinds were used for the stamps of Russia from 1866 to 1905.

Ribbed paper consists of thick ridges with thinner material in the intervals between them, and is to be distinguished from repp paper, which is crinkled but of the same thickness throughout. Repp paper has not, to my knowledge, been used in stamp manufacture; while ribbed paper seems to have been thus employed rather as a makeshift, during a temporary shortage of

other kinds, than from choice, as stamps on ribbed paper (e.g., certain printings of the Argentine issue of 1864) are generally scarce varieties of stamps normally printed on wove or laid paper.

Bâtonné paper is somewhat akin to laid, but with the lines farther apart and with the intervening spaces either wove, laid or ribbed, according as the complete description is wove batonne, laid batonne or ribbed batonne. All three types of batonne paper, as well as laid paper, were used for the 1884 issue of Poonch.

Many stamps issued by the Indian Feudatory States and some other Asiatic countries are on native paper, which is a very rough, usually handmade paper, varying greatly in texture and thickness, and of a yellowish or greyish hue. Native paper may be wove or laid. Some qualities are hard and look like parchment, while others are soft, resembling thick India paper. A particular variety of native paper with a peculiar, silky appearance was used for the early issues of Japan, and is sometimes referred to as Japanese paper.

The so-called India paper, by the way, is really Chinese paper. It is very fine and soft, and of the colour of straw, being made from bamboo fibre. Although too expensive to be used in stamp printing, it is generally employed for taking die proofs on account of the excellence of the impressions obtained upon it.

Far too much prominence has been given in the past to three makes of paper used for certain of the stamps of New Zealand. These very minor varieties of paper are known after the names of the makers as Basted Mills paper, Cowan paper and Waterlow paper. They cannot be distinguished with certainty except by advanced specialists, who alone need bother about them.

Very thin qualities of ordinary paper are commonly but erroneously described as pelure paper. Real pelure paper, however, is a thin, tough, hard paper, generally of a greyish hue. The 3 dinars stamp of the 1905 issue of Serbia (perforated 11½) exists only on this kind of paper.

In describing native paper I have alluded to hand-made paper, which, being produced

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Stamp Papers And Watermarks

in sheets, has four deckle-edges, whereas machine-made paper, being manufactured in continuous rolls, has only two deckle-edges. This distinction is unfortunately of little account to collectors who see only single stamps; but it is useful to remember that hand-made paper usually has a rougher surface than machine-made.

Since postage stamps offer opportunities to the forger and "cleaner" to defraud the post office, it is natural that special precautions should have been taken at various times and by various governments to render the forging and "cleaning" of stamps parti-cularly difficult. Among such precautions is the employment of special kinds of paper, which are either not easy to imitate, or which are of such a nature as to make it practically impossible to remove a cancellation without damaging the design of the stamp. In the first group we have Dickinson paper (named after its inventor), containing a continuous silk thread in its substance, used for the tenpenny and shilling embossed stamps of Great Britain and for all Bavarian stamps up to 1868 except the 1 kreuzer, black, of 1849; and Mr. C. F. Steel's double paper, consisting of two layers joined, employed experimentally for certain United States stamps of 1873-5. In the second group we have enamelled paper, of which the side intended to receive the impressions of the stamps is provided with a "surfacing", smooth to the touch and glossy in appearance, used for various stamps of Portugal and her colonies; and chalky or chalksurfaced paper, which is ordinary paper coated on the printing side with a preparation of chalk, and which has been extensively employed for the stamps of a wide range of countries, including many British and French Colonies. To distinguish this kind of paper, collectores sometimes use a "detector" in the form of a pencil of silver, which leaves a black mark on chalk-surfaced but not on ordinary paper. Stamps printed on chalky paper may be identified, however, without thus defacing them. In unused condition they have a "thick," soft feel and a very smooth, shiny surfase on which the impression of the stamp is peculiarly sharp and clear. If the paper is white, it is very white. In used condition, with the gum removed, stamps on chalky paper have a peculiar

tendency to curl upwards along all four edges, and to "set" stiffly thus unless kept flat under pressure.

In the case of the ordinary Russian issues of 1909-1917, the chalk-surfacing is of a special kind. Instead of being applied to the whole of the printing side of the paper, it forms a "trellis" pattern of intersecting oblique lines.

A rolled paper with a smooth and shiny but not chalky surface is largely used nowadays for stamps produced by the photogravure and photo-lithographic processes.

To our first group of "safety:' papers belong the various coloured papers so frequently employed for the early stamps of many countries, and still used for the higher values of British Colonial stamps as well as for certain French Colonial and other issues. papers are sometimes coloured throughout their substance, sometimes coloured on the surface only, and more rerely of one shade on the surface and another on the back, as in the case of some of the green papers used for various modern British Colonial stamps.

Toned papers differ from coloured papers in that their colouring is fainter and not, as a rule, given to them intentionally. This colouring is sometimes derived from the ingredients of the paper itself, but more often from the printing ink, either because of the absorbent qualities of the paper or on account of the use of unsuitable ink. When derived from the ink, the toning is the same colour as the stamp, unless there is a chemical reaction between the paper and the ink, when the usual effct is a bluing of the paper, no matter what may be the colour of the stamp, as in the case of the red penny and blue twopenny British stamps of 1841-57, most specimens of which have this blued or bleuté paper. From 1920 to 1933, most Swedish stamps appeared on paper toned in the same colour as the stamps; but about 1933 a new paper was introduced, and this remains 30 white even after printing that it is commonly referred to as bleached paper.

There are on record instances of varieties which have been noted and sometimes actually catalogued as on toned or tinted paper, when, as has subsequently been proved, the tinting has been the result of packing the sheets of stamps for transport between

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Stamp Papers And Watermarks

sheets of coloured tissue, the paper of the stamps having absorbed some of the colour of tissue.

The use of watermarked paper to defeat the forger would seem to safeguard the collector more than it does the revenue: for the presence or absence of a watermark is indiscernible when the stamp is affixed to a packet. Nevertheless, such paper is used in stamp printing by nearly every important country; and the study of various types of watermark forms a prominent feature of philately.

There are two kinds of watermark, the true and the impressed. True watermarks are formed by attaching "bits" of every thin metal or wire, cut or shaped to the desired desigen, to the wire-mesh or dandy-roll with which the paper pulp comes into contact during its transition from a semi-fluid to a solid state with the result that the design of the "bits" leaves the paper a trifle thinner where it bites into the pulp, and the watermark shows as a more or less translucent outline when the paper is held up to the light. Impressed watermarks, on the other hand, are impresssed in the paper after manufacture, and are distinctly recessed, although, in consequence of the paper being pressed thiner, they have something of the transparency of true watermarks. A good example of an impressed watermark is that of the Swiss issues of 1862-98.

A watermark is described as "sheet" when its device extends over a number of stamps; "single" when it falls once on each

stamp; "simple" when it is repeated in vertical columns in such a way that portions of more than once complete example of the device fall on each stamp; and "multiple" when the repetitions occur in diagonal columns.

A special from of watermark consisting of vertical and horizontal straight lines crossing to produce a pattern of small squares gives us quadrillé paper, which was used for the blue 15 centimes French stamp of 1892.

Watermarks which are difficult to see often show up more clearly when the stamps are laid face downwards on a glossy, black surfabe or on a similar coloured surface harmonising or contrasting with the colour of the individual stamp. The old-fashioned method of applying benzine to the stamp markes no appreciable difference in the clarity of the watermark, and is definitely dangerous; for benzine, besides being highly inflammable, is a solvent, or most inks used in the photogravure process.

As substitutes for watermarks, some countries have lithographed either a simple device on the backs of their stamps (e.g., the blue posthorn on the Swedish stamps of 1886-91), or a burele or network background on the printing surface of the paper (e.g., many Estonian stamps), or a burele band across the backs of the stamps (Queensland, 1879-80). Sometimes the burele background froms part of the stamp design, in the case of the stamps of the stamps of Alsace and Lorraine (German Army of Occupation), or is overprinted on the stamps, as in the 1881 issue of the Dominican Republic.



Buried Treasure

This is the story of the accidental discovery of a box of stamps which brought a lucky New Zealander about £2,500. Seven years ago Mr. Warwick Ladd, an Auckland magazine dealer, used to garage his car at a Wellington repair shop. One day while he was watching a mechanic cleaning his car he dropped two stamps. The mechanic picked them up, returned them to him, and asked if he was interested in stamps. When Mr. Ladd said he was, the mechanic told him that at home he had a large box of stamps which had been left him by his grandfather, who had once been a postmaster in Tasmania, or, as it was then called, Van Diemen's Land.

Mr. Ladd politely suggested that the mechanic should show him the stamps one day and promptly forgot all about the matter. Not so the mechanic, however. Two days later he arrived with a large box of stamps under one arm. They proved to be some of the earliest and rarest of the Van Diemen's Land issues.

Concealing his excitement, Mr. Ladd made the mechanic an offer of £10 for the lot. The mechanic took the money before Mr. Ladd had time to change his mind, and departed happily for his home, thinking may be of the unaccountable folly of some people. Mr. Ladd, on the other hand, left for England, by way of America, and disposed of the stamps as he went along. Altogether for his £10 he received almost £2,500.

When he returned to New Zealand, with his appetite whetted by his incredible luck, he decided to get in touch with the mechanic to see if there were any more such boxes in his house. The mechanic did not disappoint him. His mother, he said, had three boxes of full-face Queens. He gave Mr. Ladd her address and the eager buyer departed in a hurry for her house. This time, however, disappointment awaited him. The mother said she had buried the stamps in a vacant section in teak boxes.

Thereupon Mr. Ladd hurried to the New Zealand Forestry Department, discovered that teak can resist all sorts of ravages, and went out to the section to dig up the boxes. But there was another setback in store fcr him. Formerly empty, the land now proudly bore a house on its unruffled surface. Mr. Ladd was not defeated. He bought the house. Then he began to dig. He tore up the whole of the backyard before he came to the reluctant conclusion that the full-face Queens must be somewhere in the ground under the house. Even that did not deter him. He started in with his spade on this part of the section and did not give up his search until the piles gave way.

Mr. Ladd still has the house but is willing to sell. So if there is any ardent philatelist who puts some boxes of full-face Queens before the stability of a dwelling-house, there may yet be a sequel to this tale.

RUSSIAN & CHINESE PAPER MONEY

FOR

COLLECTORS

A. A. KATKOFF 1413 Avenue Road

Shanghai China

Decree Authorising Russian Zemstvo Posts, 3rd September, 1870

Russia is the largest of the countries in Europe, and to this fact can be attributed the issues of stamps made by the Zemstvos, for the purpose of collecting postage on letters sent through the posts in the rural districts of Russia.

Although the economic development of the postal services in the comparatively thickly populated countries was well within the compass of the central governments, it was impossible for the Imperial post of Russia to attempt adequately and regularly to provide services catering for the thinly populated districts in which the country abounds.

With the object of authorising the establishment of services run by local administrations, a Ministerial Decree, in the form of a circular dated 3rd September. 1870, was sent to the presidents of all the administrations. The circular was signed by Prince Lobanoff Rostovsky, Minister of the Interior, and after outlining the existing difficulties, it went on to give authorisation for the setting up of local posts which were entitled to handle ordinary mail, newspapers circulars, etc. The posts were allowed to have their own stamps, provided that the designs were entirely different from those of the stamps issued by the Imperial post. It is interesting to note that a few of the rural posts contravened this condition, and the 1884-94 issues of Bugulma, the 1881-4 issues of Buguruslan and the 1881 issue of Morschansk, to mention only three, are very similar in appearance to the ordinary Russian postage stamps. It seems that no steps were taken to enforce the condition, and the stamps remained in use for some time.

The first Russian rural service had been in operation as early as 1865. It was set up at Vetlonga, in the province of Kostroma, but whether or not stamps were issued seems unknown; at all events, no specimens have been found.

The first town to issue stamps was Schlüsselburg, in the government of St. Petersburg, on Lake Ladoga, which on 1st September, 1865, produced a 5 kopecks value printed in black on blue-green paper. The design, as was the case with a number of other Zemstvo stamps, reflected the town's name. Schlüsselburg means Keyburgh, and a prominent feature of the design was a key. The stamp did not long remain in use, and was suppressed in 1866.

In that year Dnieprovsk and Werchne-Dnieprovsk each issued a stamp, and subsequently other posts were set up in various districts, and stamps issued by them.

Not until three years later was a Zemstvo stamp chronicled in the philatelic press. In its issue dated 1st May, 1869, the Stamp Collector's Magazine described the 5 kopecks value of the first series of Bogorodsk, and quoted a correspondent as having said that he had seen several other stamps used for other places. The Schlüsselburg stamp was not mentioned in the same periodical until August, 1869.

Following the publication of the decree there was a large increase in the number of stamps issued, and in all, between the date of the Schlüsselburg stamp and the end of the Great War, when the rural posts ceased operating, issues were made by more than 150 different towns and districts.

Until the end of the last century, Zemstvo stamps enjoyed considerable popularity among collectors, but with the fall from grace of local stamps in general, the Zemstvo issues went out of favour. Nevertheless some philatelists continued to collect and study these stamps, and in 1908 there appeared the first part of a monumental work dealing with the history and characteristics of the Zemstvo issues. The book was written jointly by C. Schmidt and A. Faberge, but after treating the districts whose names begin with the letters from A to K, it ceased publication in 1915, not being completed until comparatively recently.

The Zemstvo stamps provide a very interesting field for the philatelic student. Among these issues are to be found specimens printed by several different methods, on various types of paper, with

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Decree Authorising Russian Zemstvo Posts, 3rd September, 1870

unusual perforations, or with curious gumming.

Lithography is represented, for example, by several issues of Tikhvin, and the 1893 stamps in particular provide instances of multi-coloured printing by that process, the colours being black, gold, silver, green and copper-bronze. Recess printing was used for the diamond-shaped 5 kopecks deep purple of Pskov, 1871. Typesetting was the method employed in the production of the first issue of Bobrov, and the 1875 issue of Kasimov was embossed in colour. The only issue of Staraia Russa was handstamped, and the 1878-81 issues of Tikhvin actually had the centre colour applied by hand.

Many of the rural stamps were issued imperforate, but among the perforated issues that of Buguruslan, 1881-4, is particularly notable as bearing one of the lowest gauges ever used for stamps; it is perforated 6-7. Rough perforation can be found on the already mentioned Tikhvin stamps of 1893, and rouletting on the 1876 issue of Melitopol.

Shapes and sizes there are in plenty. The stamps of Volshansk are in the form of an oblong diamond, the 1873 series of Vessiegonsk is oval, and the first issue of Livny is a circle with scalloped edges. One of the smallest stamps is the first issue of Tambov, which measures about 11 × 14 millimetres, and one of the largest is the 1880 issue of Ostrogozhsk, measuring about 3 × 4 centimetres. This size is exceeded by the first type of Kotelnich, but in that case the stamp included a counterfoil which was torn off and retained by the postal authorities, only the stamp itself being affixed to the letter.

Originality appears not to have been a strong point of some of the designers of

Zemstvo stamps, and two particularly noticeable cases of plagiarism occur in the issues of Sapozhok and Zadonsk. The first of these were obviously copied from the 1862 series of Switzerland, while the second bear more than a passing resemblance to the 1870 type of Denmark.

Owing to the fact that, in several instances, issues were made and became obsolete before collectors were aware that the stamps existed, some of the Zemstvo stamps are exceedingly rare. Especially is this true of the 2 kopecks, grey-brown, of Tschistopol, 1911, of which nine specimens are known, the 2 kopecks provisional with blue surcharge, of Tscherdyn, 1902, of which seven copies habe been found, and the 3 kopecks bright blue of Starobjelsk, 1878, of which only two examples are known to exist.



KEY TO ILLUSTRATION PLATE

- 1. First Zemstvo stamp-Schlüsselburg, 1865.
- 2. Tikhvin, 1893
- 3. Zadonsk.
- 4. Sapozhok. 5. Volshansk.
 - 6. Pskov. 7. Vessiegonsk.

8. Buguruslan.

IT HAPPENED IN JANUARY

- Holland first issued stamps, 1852.
- "Columbus" series issued by U.S.A., 1893.
- Penny Postage Act came into force, 10. 1840.
- 21. William Humphrys died, 1865.

IT HAPPENED IN DECEMBER

- 8. Hong Kong first issued stamps, 1862.
- New Zealand's first "Health" stamp 11. issued, 1929.
- 15. "The Monthly Advertiser." philatelic journal published, 1862.
- 19. Map stamps issued by Latvia, 1918.

Stamp Colours

Stamp collecting provides many problems for the earnest student to tackle. Therein lies much of its fascination. The greatest of these problems is universally admitted to be that presented by stamp colours, and it has many aspects, according to whether we are considering the nomenclature employed for the colours, or the identification or valuation of individual colours.

The "colour problem," however, is not a prerogative of stamp collectors. It enters every day into the lives of dyers, painters, printers, tile makers, drapers—in fact, of all who utilise or handle colours or coloured materials—and it is not lessened by the fact that most of these different sections of the community have their own systems of colour nomenclature and their own standards of colour valuation.

Attempts are constantly being made to solve this problem and to evolve a system of colour standards which shall apply universally. The chief difficulty, as it seems to me, is to reconcile the two meanings of the word "colour."

When a colour manufacturer employs the word, he is usually speaking of a "pigment," which is something that he can handle and which is, moreover, something that is fairly definite and constant. Pigments are substances of mineral, vegetable or animal origin which, by their diffusion through other substances, impart their colour to the latter.

When a scientist speaks of "colour," however, he is apt to be thinking of certain electro-magnetic waves which, being intercepted by the eye, are signalled by the nervous system to the brain as a "sensation" of colour. Some authorities go so far as to aver that this "sensation" of colour is a purely psychological phenomenon, that is to say, it does not exist except in the mind. Whatever may be the ultimate explanation of colour perception, it is certain that here we have something which is very intangible and yet very important to all who have to match or judge colours.

The colour manufacturer and the scientist differ also in regard to their colour systems. The former recognises black and white as colours, and his other basic colours are those of the range of substances he most

commonly employs. To the scientist, black is mere absence of colour, white is the mixture of colours of which sunlight is composed, and the primary colours are those which he separates from this mixture by means of his spectroscope-red, orange, yellow, green, blue, indigo and violet. The artist and the colour printer, who use the pigments supplied by the colour manufacturer, both recognise black, red, yellow and blue as primariesf among which the artist also places white. Apart from black, the colour printer's primaries are magentacrimson, primrose-yellow and cyan-blue, the first and third of which the artist regards as mixtures and not as pure colours. Red and violet appear at opposite ends of the scientist's spectrum, and so do not merge; yet the artist says that violet contains red.

Until we succeed, on the one hand, in evolving a universal system of colour standards and, on the other, in discovering exactly how colour "sensations" are set up in the mind, we cannot hope to introduce order into the existing confusion; but a certain amount of clarification will result from our remembering always that the pigment and our reaction to it both contribute to the colour "sensation" we experience.

Within philately itself there is little agreement in the names given to the colours of particular stamps, although there is a more or less recognised colour vocabulary. The Gibbons catalogue employs 730 different colour names; but these include qualifica-tions of tone, such as "light" or "dull," or of intensity, such as "pale" or "deep," as well as a number of colour names which are not generally used in philately. The Yvert catalogue uses throughout a system of colour names standardised by reference to the colours of a number of specified stamps. This is an excellent idea which seems to work well, in spite of the fact that stamps which are so constant in colour as to warrant their adoption as standards are almost nonexistent.

Personally, I think that about a hundred names, all generally used in philately, are sufficient to describe with reasonable approximation the colours of all stamps. These are exclusive of such general qualifications of tone and intensity as I have men-

(Cont. next page)

Stamp Colours

tioned above. Any of these qualifications could, and should, if necessary, be applied to most of my hundred colours. As my primaries I have adopted those of the artist: red, yellow, blue, black and white, each of these colours being understood to be perfectly free of any trace of any of the others. The first three are the most important, and with the secondaries derived from each pair of them they can be arranged to form a complete circle, in which each secondary occupies its correct position in the graded sequence from one primary to the next. I have constructed this circle for you, as this is the next best thing to illustrating the actual colours in order to furnish a guide to the identification of the colours named and to show how they differ from each other.

To represent black and white respectively I have drawn outer and inner circles; and between these and the main circle I have indicated the secondaries and tertiaries resulting from an admixture of black or white with certain of the colours in the main circle. The secondaries derived from black and white and their combinations with various colours in the main circle I have shown separately, as to work them into the main scheme would require a three-dimensional figure.

In employing hyphenated colour names, it is customary to put the qualifying tone first. Thus, red-orange is orange with a tendency towards red; yellow-orange is orange with a tendency towards yellow; orange-yellow is yellow with a tendency towards orange. If the tendency towards another colour is only slight, we use a colour adjective without a hyphen to indicate the tendency, as "reddish orange" for orange which has a tendency towards red but less than red-orange.

This brings us to the vexed question of colour shades; and here the personal equation comes prominently into play. Imagine a pint tin full of vermilion paint and another full of scarlet paint. Suppose we take all the vermilion paint (we should have to pour it into a larger tin), and to it add, drop by drop, all the scarlet paint. Each drop of the scarlet added to the vermilion would, theoretically at least, produce a new shade, always nearer vermilion than scarlet, but constantly receding from vermilion until, with the addition of the last drop of scarlet, we should have a colour mid-way between vermilion and scarlet. Of the thousands different shades thus produced-all describable only as scarlet-vermilion-how many could we recognise as definite shades?

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"Stephen D. Brown" Collection Sold For More Than £26,000

The famous "Stephen D. Brown" collection of United States stamps and covers was dispersed in New York in a six-day sale lasting from October 30 to November 4, 1939. It realised the remarkable total of \$107,000, or nearly £26,617 at the current rate of exchange of \$4.02 to the £.

Among the fine material contained in this collection was a copy of the well-known air stamp error, the 24c. with centre inverted, which realised a new record price for this item, namely, \$4,100, or just under £1,020.

The sale, which was originally to have been held in London, but was transferred to New York in consequence of the war, was described by the American Press as one of the most spectacular periods of buying in the annals of American philately. Radio broadcasts referred to it as "front page news," and an interesting report of the sale

was heard in London from Radio City, New York.

The result of the sale affords eloquent testimony of the extraordinary firmness of the stamp market during the war; for, although America is neutral, market conditions there are extremely sensitive to European influences.

ENGEL COLLECTION TO BE SOLD

The collection of Francis Engel of Elizabeth, N. J., who died last spring, will be offered at auction by Herman Herst, Jr., of New York City on Feb. 21. Mr. Engel had collected stamps continuously since 1879, and his collection of foreign and U. S. A. was widely known because of the unusually fine condition of the stamps represented in it.

Mr. Engel was one of the first collectors of precancels in this country, his main interest in them being his specialized collection of gap and line pairs of Buroprint coils, which catalogued a few thousand dollars. This is also to be offered at the same sale.

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Postmarks And Pseudo-Postmarks

The study of postmarks, as such, is not a part of philately, but a separate branch of postal history. Indeed, there were postmarks long before the advent of the adhesive postage stamp; and, to the student of these "handstruck stamps," as postal historians call them, it matters little whether they are used in place of, in conjunction with, or as obliterators of adhesive stamps. To these good people, "the postmark's the thing."

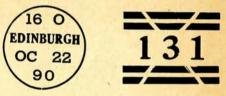
Now we, as just plain stamp collectors, or philatelists, if you will, are by no means bound to take such a deep interest in postmarks as that. We are chiefly concerned with adhesive postage stamps; and, if we confine ourselves to the collecting of unused stamps, postmarks simply won't come into our picture.

However, most of us collect used stamps as well as unused, and some of us collect used stamps exclusively. On these used stamps we necessarily collect postmarks, or rather—since we do not like our specimens too heavily obliterated—portions of postmarks. Some of the postmarks—or what look like postmarks—are so unusual that we cannt help taking notice of them; but, in general, we are apt to look at the stamp but not the postmark.

This is a habit of which we should try to break ourselves. Apart altogether from the interest which is often to be found in the postmark as a postmark, it not infrequently conveys to us some vital information about the stamp on which it appears. Let me take a few examples to show what I mean.

We have all seen specimens of postage stamps which have been cancelled, not with a hand stamp, but with pen and ink. The cancellation may take the form of a date, or a signature, or a combination of these, or just a cross. If we remember that many postage stamps, especially of Great Britain and the British Dominions and Colonies, were also used for revenue purposes, whether they were inscribed "Postage and Revenue" or not, we shall be inclined to treat such cancellations as fiscal cancellations. In the great majority of cases, we should be right; but we must also bear in mind that pen cancellations may represent postal cancellations on the early stamps of some countries (e.g., Iran) which at first had no other form of obliteration. Signatures, too, sometimes written

with pen and ink, but more frequently handstamped, have been applied to stamps as a form of "control," usually to give better protection against the counterfeiter. Such stamps are, of course, to be accepted as postage stamps in every way; but stamps which have clearly been used for revenue purposes should not be included in a collection of postage stamps, as they are, by reason of their fiscal use, fiscal and not postage stamps.



This type of postmark, consisting of a "town" mark and a numeral, is called a duplex postmark

Most postage stamps are accepted in prepayment of telegrams, and, when they are so employed, are often cancelled with a distinctive postmark, containing the word "Telegraphs" or a foreign equivalent thereof. Some of these telegraphic cancellations are hexagonal instead of circular in shape. The general opinion among philatelists is that telegraphically used stamps should not be regarded as postally used.

If you have a used copy of the Penny Black of Great Britain, you will probably find that the postmark is in the form of a Maltese cross in red or in black. If, however, the cross is in some other colour, such as blue, magenta, orange, or yellow, or if the obliteration is not, in fact, a Maltese cross but a "town" postmark, you have a rarer cancellation and consequently a higher-priced "variety" of this stamp, Coloured United States cancellations are scarcer than black, and you can find them on modern stamps. Violet cancellations of an oval shape, however are generally fiscal cancellations.

The earlier stamps of the Straits Settlements and Ceylon often show a violet cancellation, ususally oval in shape, as well as the black, circular postmark. These violet cancellations are the office stamps of private firms or Government departments, and were,

(cont. next page)



New Issue Of Germany



New Issue Of China

Postmarks And Pseudo-Postmarks

I believe, applied to the stamps after the latter had been affixed to the correspondence, in order to prevent thefts. On account of their dual cancellation, such stamps are not liked by collectors; but, personally, I don't consider that they should be discarded solely on this ground.

If you have not already done so, you will come across specimens of early Spanish stamps cancelled with a thick black bar between two thinner ones, running right across the stamp; specimens of early Costa Rican stamps cancelled with five black bars or four clearly impressed concentric circles; and specimens of the stamps of North Borneo and Labuan cancelled with an oval of black bars. All such stamps, especially the Spanish, are commonly described as "barred." The cancellations are not postmarks, and the stamps have not done postal duty. The stamps are, in fact, "remainders" (i.e., stamps left on hand after they have been discontinued), or supplies of current stamps sold to dealers at a discount and cancelled with a non-committal sort of obliteration to ensure that they should not be used for postage. In other words, they are stamps "cancelled to order," and they are anathema to the conscientious philatelist. It must be remembered, however, that the barred oval of North Borneo was at one time used as a postmark, as also was the fourcircles cancellation of Costa Rica, which, however, is usually smudged when postally

employed. Current stamps of certain countries, such as Liberia and Australia, have been similarly cancelled to order, but with ordinary postal cancellations which cannot easily be distinguished from those applied normally in the post.

A type of postmark which looks more like an overprint is the "precancel." It is applied before issue to large quantities of low-value stamps sold to certain approved commercial firms who are in the habit of mailing bulk lots of second-class matter, such as circulars, samples and price-lists. This arrangement saves time in handling mail of this kind; and the United States, France, Belgium and Holland have all adopted the system and have their distinctive precancels. Some of the Belgian precancels alter the value of the stamps to which they are applied, and so amount to surcharges.

There are some postmarks that really provide stamps with a character all their own. In this class are the cancellations which indicate that a stamp has been used abroad. You will occasionally find British stamps that bear numeral or "town" cancellations of British Colonies, or of foreign ports or cities where at the time there were British consular offices. Such use of British stamps was made in these places for the most part before the colonies or countries in question had stamps of their own. The stamps of a few other countries may similarly be found with postmarks indicating use

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Postmarks And Pseudo-Postmarks

abroad, e.g., Indian stamps used in Aden, and United States stamps used without overprint in Shanghai. Somewhat different are the "interprovincials" of South Africa, i.e., the stamps of the Cape of Good Hope, Natal, the Orange River Colony and the Transvaal used in provinces other than their own in accordance with the regulations introduced on the Union of the four provinces in 1910. A third group of stamps of this class are those with "paquebot" cancellations, indicating that they have been used on mail posted on a ship of the nationality of the issuing country, and sent ashore at a foreign port for transmission to destination. All such items should be collected, where possible, "on piece" with the complete postmark.

I mentioned in my previous article the importance of dated cancellations when they give a clue to the earliest date of issue or period of use of stamps about which no other information on these points can be discovered.

This is no place to enlarge on the interest attaching to "slogan" postmarks; but I think I have shown that it is not wise to ignore the cancellations on our stamps. In particular, a watch should be kept on those pseudo-postmarks which I have described as indicating other than postal use; for stamps with such obliterations are worth considerably less than genuine postally used, and are often offered as "used," without qualification, at so-called "bargain" prices. Accept such items if you will, but beware of paying for them the full prices of postally used specimens.

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История Русского Общества Филателистов.

Только что исполинилось ровно ШЕ-СТЬ лет, как основалось и работает с большим успехом Русское Общество Филателистов в Китае.

История этого общества заключается в следующем.

Еще в 1929-31 году, когда только началась тяга русских из Манчжурии, в Шанхай появились зачатки организации русского объединения коллекционеров. Однако из-за отсутствия постоянных руководителей филателистов из этого ничего не вышло.

Не имея своего печатного органа трудно было поддержать идею филателии, но вот в конце 1934 года, одному из шанхайских филателистов А. Н. Вансовичу удается заполучить в одной из русских газет Шанхая, место для печатания филателистического материала каждую неделю, таким образом родилась «Страница Филателиста».

Как только «Страница Филателиста» стала на твердый фундамент, редактор ея А. Н. Вансович начинает вести кампанию за организацию Русскаго Общества Филателитстов и стоило только известному филателисту А. А. Каткову поддержать эту идею своим выступлением на «Странице Филателиста», как море русских филателистов начало волноваться.

Неоткладывая в долгий ящик, А.Н. Вансович по своей собственной инициативе созвал первое организационное Собрание на 23 декабря 1934 года. На Собрание через газеты Шанхая были приглашены все желающіе принять участие не только русские филателисты но и те кто понимает по-русски.

Момент был самый подходящий, так как в 1934 г. Шанхай усиленным темпом стал заселяться русскими, а потому первое собрание было довольно многолюдным; было также много иностранцев, владеющих русским языком.

Открывая первое историческое собрание русских филателистов организатор А. Н. Вансович в своем слове к собравшимся отметил причины, которые

заставляют русских филателистов в массе своей объединиться в свое общество и просил выделить организационную коммисию для разработки деталей устава и технического проведения в жизнь основной идеи.

Коммиссия из нескольких человек была моментально выбрана и уже к 20 января 1935г., она созвала первое Общее собрание на котором был зачитан проэкт устава и выбрано первое правление Общества.

Первое Правление общества состояло из следующих лиц: Ж. Г. Вершер, А. Н. Вансович, В. Л. Голиевская, г. Девид, В. фон-Енкеворт, и С. Заев. В рев. ком. вошли: А. А. Катков, С. М. Радбиль и Н. Фадеев.

Первым денежным фондом общества, было несколько лотов с марками принесенными на собрание филателистами, которые тут же были проданы и вся вырученная сумма стала капиталом нового общества.

С этого времени начинается грандиозная работа, по объединению русских филателистов, устройства аукционов марок, лекций, обменных кругов и т. д.

Через год, недостатка в членах не наблюдалось, филателисты шли охотно, без призывов и возваний, правда всем были даны такие льготы в виде минимального членскаго взноса, какие не существовали ни в одном филателистическом Обществе.

Через три года, во главе общества стал Б. С. Маклаевский, который довел Общество к полному расцвету.

За все эти шесть лет Общество меняло помещение очень часто, первый год находилось при украинской Громаде на Таку род, затем перешло в помещение Украинского Благотворительного Ком-та на Вейхайвей род, потом на Баблинг Велл род, затем в кантин Британских Войск на Ферри род, потом в помещении Королевских Дочерей на Ав. Фош и в конце концов в Русское Общественное Собрание в котором и находимся по сие время.

О марках Сун Пин-вена.

Многим филателистам, коллекционирующим марки Маньчжуго, известны марки «Сун Пин-вена», но не очень многие имеют эти марки.

Прошло шесть лет со дня выпуска этих марок, но литературы о них за это время было мало. Через год после их появления была помещена большая статья в «Маньчжуриан Коллектор»; сокращенное описание в добавлении к каталогу Скотта за дебарь 1936 г. (статья японскаго филателиста), и нъсколько заметок на «Странице Филателиста» «Шанхайской Зари». Вот все, что имеется об этих марках.

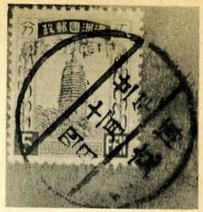
Располагая некоторыми данными, мы даем этот материал как бы в подтверждение ранее помещенных статей и за меток в вышеуказанных изданиях.

История этих марок такова. В конце 1932 года, когда уже все марки китайскаго выпуска с перепечатками «Гирин-Хейлунзянг» были изъяты из обращения и выпущены первыя марки Маньчжуго, на западной линіи бывш. Кит. Вост Жел. дороги, поднял возстание ген. Сун Пинвен, который присоединился к войскм ген. Ма Чжан-шана, и, занял территорию между Бухеду и Маньчжурией

По приказу ген. Сун Пин вена все марки имеющиеся в продаже должны были быть перепечатаны. В полуразрушенном районе не оказалось ни одной типографии, а к тому же и не было времени и возможности собрать всв марки со всех станций линии жел. дороги, то решено было производить перепечатку на местах ручным штемпелем в одну строчку горизонтально в четыре китайских иероглифа «Китайская республика». Эта перепечатка должна была ставиться наверху марки, закрывая слово «Маньчжуго».

Штемпелей для перепечаток было сделано всего лишь несколько штук, и все были розданы отделениям. Всего существует два типа таких перепечаток: а) размер 12 мм. в длину слелан неаккуратно и б) в 14 мм. в длину — более аккуратной работы.

По цвъту перепечатки разделяются на три категоріи: а) черной почтовой штемпельной краской, часто грязной и расплывчатой, б) красно-оранжевой краской, употребляемой китайцами для своих печаток, болъе аккуратная, но иногда с обилием масляных пятен, в) со



случайно смешанной черной и красной красками, так как одной и той же печат кой двлалась перепечатка одновременно двумя красками. На марки красных цветов ставилась черная перепечатка и на темныя марки — красная, но в большинстве случаев ставилась красной краской, так как черная при гашении становилась незаметной. Смешанная краска перепечатки имеет как бы фиолетовый оттенок, но таких марок встречается очень мало.

Штемпеля гашения этих марок имеют большое значение, так как специалист по этим маркам может легко определить фальшивую от настоящей. Всего было открыто по линии КВжд пять почтовых отделений, из которых в достаточной степени функционировали только три станции: «Бухеду», «Хайлар» и «Манчули», т. е. ст. Маньчжурия, которая считалась центром мятежников.

Штемпель гашения представляет из себя обыкновенный тип старой китайской почтовой печати в виде точнаго круга, диаметр котораго равен 30 мм. Окружность штемпеля разделена на три равные части: нижняя — имеет название станции, средняя — дату и верхняя совершенно пустая, так как там раньше помъщалось слово «Маньчжуго».

Штемпеля гашения на этих марках встречаютя с 9-10-32 г. по 29-12-32 г. арабскими цифрами, но в большинстве случаев китайскими цифрами с 12-10-21 г. т. е. года Китайской Республики. Штемпель гашения «Бухеду» был обозначен китайскми иероглифами, а «Маньчжурія» по-английски.

Указать количество выпущенных марок ген. Сун Пин-вена не представляется возможным, так как никакого контроля не было, а мятежники остатки марок и книги вывезли при бегстве на террито-

рию СССР, где и теряется след этих данных.

Во всяком случае предполагается, что за трехмесячное курсирование этих марок их было не менее пяти тысяч штук разнаго достоинства.

Перепечатка ставилась на эти марки чиновниками иногда при самой продаже марок, почему зачастую и встръчаются перепечатки почти по середине марки или перевертки.

Обслуживая только внутреннюю корреспонденцию, естественно что перепечатки ставились на марки малаго достоинства, к тому же не все номиналы этой серии оказались в достачном количестве в почтовых отдълениях, что и объясняется очень малым количеством марок от 13 фен до 1 дол.

Когда мятежники были разбиты японскими войсками, то всем чиновникам и остаткам метежной армии с награбленным наспех добром пришлось перейти границу СССР. куда с собой вывезли остатки этих марок, часть которых им пришлось ликвидировать в СССР люби телям.

Очень незначительное количество этих марок оказалось в Шанхае, привезенных депортированными в 1936 году китайцами, которые пожелали вернуться на родину и были отправлены советскими властями через Владивосток в Шанхай. Среди этих депортировинных был один бывший почтовый чиновник который прекрасно знал цену маркам, будучи сам филателистом, а потому привезенныя им марки оказались не бракованными с прекрасным филателистическим гашением.

Несколько десятков лиц, проживающих в Маньчжуго, имеют эти марки не только одиночками, но и на конвертах. Список фамилий лиц, обладающих такими редкостями, далеко не полный был опубликован в свое время в журналъ «Маньчжуриан Коллектор».

Несмотря на появление в филателистической прессе сведений об этих марках, они до сих пор не появлялись ни в одном каталоге. Объясняется это тем, что ни одна из фирм не располагает достаточным количеством этих марок, чтобы указать на них ту или иную цену.

Говорить о рыночной стоимости этих марок не приходится, так как определенной цены на них нет, но катируются оне в Маньчжуго по очень высокой цене и с каждым годом показывают сильное повышение.

А. Н. ВАНСОВИЧ.

Открытие первой городской почты в России и выпуск первых штемпельных конвертов для городской почты в Санкт-Петербурге.

Для русских филателистов будет интересным узнать как зародилось почтовое дело в России в 19-ом веке, до того еще периода, когда была изобретена и введена повсеместно в Европе в 1840 году почтовая марка для оплаты корреспондеции.

Россия была одна из первых стран Европы оценившая пользу почтовой марки, хотя сама почтовая марка появилась в России впервые в 1857 году.

В 1830 году в России была произведена первая серьезная реформа почтового дела. По проэктам реформы 1830 года было предположено учредить Городскую Почту при почтамте города С. Петербурга как «временную меру» на основании «Особого Положения» о Городской Почте. Сборными пунктами для корреспонденции, согласно «Особого Положения», должны были быть мелочные лавки расположенные на видных местах города, как то: — на перекрестках улиц,

мостов и т. д. и в этих лавках должны быть поставлены Почтамтом почтовые ящики, куда, сами отправители должны были опускать корреспонденцию, предварительно уплатив хозяину лавки причитающуюся по тарифу плату в размере: — 20 коп. ассигнациями за закрытое письмо и 10 коп. ассигнациями за открытку или за разные пригласительные или другие билеты.

Семнадцатого января 1833 года состоялось открытие Городской Почты в С. Петербурге и это была первая и единственная во всей России Городская Почта. Вначале Городская Почта не имела своих отделений в городе, а корреспонденция сдавалась в 42-х лавочках, где были поставлены Почтамтом почтовые ящики. Корреспонденция из этих ящиков вынималась и доставлялась в Почтамт особыми письмоносцами, названными так в отличие от почтальонов которые разносили иногороднюю почту. Эти письмоносцы также разносили местную корреспонденцию адресатам после ея разборки на Почтамте. При открытии Городской Почты в С. Петербурге имелось 42 приемных пункта — лавки, но уже через три месяца Почтовый Департамент открыл еще 31 приемный пункт для корреспонденции. В 1835 году существование Городской Почты в С. Петербурге было оффициально утверждено.

В 1838 году с открытием Царско-Сельской ж. дороги Почта начала принимать корреспонденцию в Царское Село каковая оплачивалась по тарифу Городской Почты. Также в этом году началась впервые доставка периодических изданий городским подписчикам.

В 1842 году открылось второе отделение городской почты в С. Петербурге.

До 1845 года городская почта существовала только в С. Петербрге но в январе этого года открылась городская почта и в Москве.

В 1845 году Почтовый Департамент ввел целый ряд реформ улучшивших Городскую Почту и тогда же были введены в обращение штемпелные конверты для городской почты в С. Петербурге.

Мысль о введении штемпельных конвертов принадлежит бывшему тогда управляющему Финляндскими Почтовыми Конторами, имя которого, к сожалению, не известно пишущему эти строки.

В 1844 году Управляющий Финляндскими Почтовыми Конторами издал циркуляр:— 1) об установлении новой письменной таксы и 2) об употреблении для писем штемпельных конвертов. Перевод этого циркуляра был послан в Почтовый Департамент в С. Петербург и о нем было доложено Главноначальствующему. Главноначальствующий сразу же оценил пользу штемпельных конвертов и решил использовать такие же конверты у себя в С. Петерубурге.

Он поручил С. Петербургскому Почтамту представить свои соображения совмения подобных финлядским штемпелей, но без кувертов» при приеме корреспонденции на С. Петербургской городской почте. Очевидно Главноначальствующий имел ввиду нечто вроде почтовых марок.

Заведующий С. Петербургской Городской Почтой Чесноков, по получении запроса из Почтамта, обратился за сметой на «штемпеля» к художнику Императорской Академии Мозжечкову и за его заключением, Пишущему эти строки

не известно что именно ответил художник Мозжечков зав. почтой Чеснокову. Мнение Чеснокова о «введении штемпелей подобных финлядским, но без «кувертов» Почтамтом было переслано Почтовому Департаменту, при чем в донесении был дан довольно скептический отзыв о самих «облатках» прототипах первых русских марок.

В августе 1845 г. Директор Почтового Департамента, после долгого перерыва, представил главноначальстующему доклад о введении финляндских кувертов со штемпелями при приеме корреспонденции на городскую почту. В докладе эти куверты назывались «пакетами» размером в восьмую и двенадцатую долю листа, а также была приложена и цена на 1.000 кувертов без штемпелей в 8 рублей серебром и 10 рублей серебром за 1.000 кувертов с штемпелями.

Почтовый департамент также постановил загатовить 6.000 штемпелеванных кувертов, по образцу одобренному гланональствующим, отказавшись таким образом от «штемпелей без кувертов.»

В октябре 1845 г. разрешено было введение штемпельных кувертов на городской почте. На основании этого разрешения почтовый департамент предписал управляющему С. Петербургской городской почтой циркуляром от 15 ноября 1845 ввести штемпельные конверты на городской почте С. Петербурга и заготовить 6.000 штемпельных конвертов, по одобренному образцу. Было также предписано кроме мелочных лавок, избрать несколько больших магазинов на главных улицах города куда нужно было поставить особые почтовые ящики исключительно для писем со штемпельными конвертами. Цена на штемпельные конверты была установлена 6 коп. серебром из которых 1 коп. за самый конверт, а 5 коп. за пересылку и доставку письма.

О введении штемпельных конвертов публика была извещена через оффициальный отдел газеты «Северная пчела» от 23 ноября 1845 года. где также были указаны адреса магазинов где были установлены особые почтовые ящики для приема корреспонденции в штемпельных конвертах.

Конверты были изготовлены шести форматов от самого малого «дамского» и до самого большого «канцелярского».

13 декабря 1845 года была открыта продажа; штемпельных конвертов на городской почте С. Петербурга. Все эти конверты за искючением конвертов

шестого выпуска очень редки и известны только в единичных экземплярах, а из серии конвертов «формат 138×108» четвертого выпуска 1848 года известен всего лишь один экземпляр и он является уникумом.

Штемпель представлял из себя государственный герб Российской Империи в виде круглой печати по краям которой на верху было выгравировано «С. П. Б. Городская Почта», а внизу «за письмо пять коп. серебром и конверт одна коп, серебром», внизу под гербом выгравировано два скрещенных почтовых рожка.

«Руссфил».

Что мы сделали за шесть лет.

Выпуская настоящее издание в свет, инициатор и душа этой идеи наш почетный безсменный секретарь член Правления Ф. Лилиенталь, обратился ко мне, с просьбой написать эту краткую заметку, почти перед самым выходом в свет настоящего Сборника.

Настоящее издание, является как бы юбилейным Сборником-сувениром в память шестилетняго существования нашего Русскаго Общества Филателистов в Китае, а потому действительно в этот юбилей мы должны подвести итог нашей работе за все пройденные шесть лет.

Интересно даже самим нам оглянуться назад и посмотреть, что мы сделали за эти шесть лет. Просмотреть все этапы нашей работы с указанием точных данных очень легко, если мы просмотрим «Страницу Филателиста» при газете «Шанхайская Заря», еженедельном нашем органе, который является зеркальным отражением нашей шестилетней работы.

Нам, действительным членам общества, кажется, что мы ничего не сделали и все, что уже есть, как-то не замечается в повседневной жизни, однако это далеко не так. Работа проделана колоссальная.

Шесть лет тому назад в Шанхае было только одно, закрытое для широкой публики, филателистическое общество и в филателистическом отношении Шанхай представлял из себя почти нуль.

С самого начала основания нашего Общества, жизнь филателистов закрутилась как в вихре. Наше филателистическое объединение с первых шагов стремилось к объединению главным образом русских филателистов или тех, кто понимает по русски и вращается среди них, одиако к нам сразу же пришло много иностранцев и китайцев. Русские стали во главе своей организаци и полезная работа русской филателии пошла быстрыми шагами вперед. За шесть лет Р.О.Ф. устроило три выставки марок, из которых одна 16 апреля 1939 года была ди-

пломной. Пять больших и малых бирж марок прошли с колоссальным успехом. На семи общих собраниях решались самые серьезные вопросы жизни Общества, одно из них было чрезвычайным Общим Собранием 30 апреля 1939 г.

Состав Правления из года в год изменялся очень мало, что доказывало полное дрверие к работе определенных лиц, руководящих делами Общества в течении шести лет. В составе действительных членов Общества перебывало около 250 человек. Было устроено и проведенно около 250 обменных вечеров и собраний. Аукционов было проведено 243 и выпущено более 50 обменных кругов. Цена лота на аукционе с пяти цент за лот была доведена до 50 цент, но и это в настоящее время считается редкостью, и средняя стоимость лота дошла до 2.50 долл.

Обороты Общества ежегодно стали выражатся в десятках тысяч долларов включая операции не только по аукционам и обменным кругам, но и по покупке, закладу и продаже марок как от членов Общества так и от посторонних лиц.

Редактируя в течении шести «Страницу Филателиста» в Шанхайской Заре, Р.О.Ф. выпустило около 300 печатных газетных страниц. Другие шанхайские газеты видя популярность отдела по филателии, так же стали печатать материалы по филателии если не специальным отделом то отдельными заметками. Общество всегда шло навстречу большинству филателистических журналов и изданий и всегда поддерживало их своими объявлениями, например «Азия Стамп Журнал», «Россика» и др.

В Японии, Маньчжуго, Северном и Западном Китае Р.О.Ф. имеет своих членов

Сотни тысяч марок прошли через наше Общество и тысячи людейпобывали за эти шесть лет в стенах нашего Общества.

Особое внимание было обращено за последнее время на юных русских фи-

лателистов, учащихся местных школ. Организованные лекции по филателии для юных филателистов проводятся и в настоящее время, а так же налажено регулярное снабжение марками и другими филателистическими принадлежностями русских школьников, совершенно безплатно.

Благотворительная сторона никогда не забывалась Обществом и на большие православные праздники как Пасха или Рождество, всегда вносилась солидная лепта в приют, школу или в О-во Королевских Дочерей.

В начале этого года наше Общество пошло еще дальше, на Общем Собрании 5 января с. г. была утверждена годовая стипендия имени «Русскаго О-ва Филателистов в Китае» в Коммерческом Училище, которую получил ученик 1 класса В. ДИВЯКОВ получая не только образование, но и полный пансион.

Наше Общество стоит вне политики, вне расы и вне религии, а потому у нас состоят членами лица различных национальностей, рас и религий от простого обывателя до лиц власть имущих, от мелкого торговца до крупного коммерсанта, от конторского клерка до высшего служащего.

Развитие нашего Общества породило энергию и пыл работы в других фила-

телистических организациях как напр. «Шанхай Филателик Сосайти». «Нью Лайт Филателик Сосайти», возродился местный отдел китайских филателистов, расширило свою работу отделение шанхайской «Россики».

Наше Общество также тесно связано с другими филателистическими организациями посредством вхождения наших ответственных и рядовых членов в состав иностранных заграничных организаций.

Владельцы самых крупных в Щанхае марочных контор и магазинов, состоят нашими членами и всячески стараются развивать наше Общество.

Наше Общество имеет оффициальное разрешение на существование от властей сэттльмента и концесеи.

Этот Сборник — сувенир в память шестилетняго существования нашего Общества, по своему содержанию и исполнению может служить ярким доказательством нашей работы, игоги которой мы сейчас подвели.

Мы будем приветствовать все попытки здоровой критики нашего издания дабы улучшить подобные издания в будущем.

А. Н. Вансович.

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