

small at the bottom, the centre of the chrysanthemum is too small and the left upper corner star has only six angles in place of seven; the stamp is too large, measuring $19\frac{3}{4} \times 22$ mm.

No. 47 is moderately good, printed in dull red-brown, and the paper is not elastic enough; the two upper native characters are too far apart. The stamp measures $19\frac{3}{4} \times 22\frac{1}{4}$.

No. 48 is printed on yellow native paper, which has caused the illustration to look black in parts. The centre characters are badly printed, the perf. is defective, and there are only 15 petals to the chrysanthemum, in place of 16.

No. 49 is very coarse, and need not detain us long. The wreath in the centre is crooked, the side inscriptions are too small and might be anything, the stamp is imperforate, and the chrysanthemum has 17 petals.



No. 46.



No. 47.



No. 48.



No. 49.



No. 50.



No. 51.



No. 52.

No. 50 is a fine forgery, in fact it is almost too fine, for the inner corner ornaments are too prominent. The perf. is bad, the word "SEN" is as in No. 47, the colour is brown-red, and the size is $19\frac{3}{4} \times 21\frac{1}{2}$ mm.

No. 51 is very badly lithographed instead of being engraved and is dull red. The obliteration is of large square dots, frequently found on forgeries of all countries; the carelessness of forgeries of 30 years ago is shown by the fact that they only had two or three obliterations, which they used indiscriminately on French Colonies, Nova Scotia, or Japan!

No. 52 is a "Moro," but in order to get these signs in just above the crossed branches the central characters have been placed higher up and crammed together, making them very compact. The colour is a yellow, much resembling the 2 sen of 1873.

The forgeries of the above-mentioned yellow stamp of 1873, though as numerous as the red of 1872, but the same descriptions cover them all. Some have the "square dots" obliteration mentioned for No. 51, and all Japanese stamps bearing this are undoubted forgeries. Various others of course exist besides the seven already given, but they all fail either in paper, perf., colour, method of production, or general appearance. The colour is not a reliable test, as the originals vary so much in this respect, and many forgeries are in the exact shades: the yellow varies from greenish-yellow to maize-yellow or orange.

(To be continued.)

Punctured Official Stamps.

SHOULD THEY BE COLLECTED?

NOW that a general change is being made from surcharged to punctured official stamps, the question as to the collectability of the latter becomes one of primary importance.

What do the readers of the *Stamp Collectors' Fortnightly* think?

The Editor of the "West End Philatelist," in publishing a useful list of the world's punctured Officials, expresses the opinion that it is illogical to ignore these stamps, while collecting the surcharged varieties. Below we take leave to reproduce our contemporary's review of these issues:—

GREAT BRITAIN. Before the overprinted stamps made their appearance, $\frac{1}{2}$ d. and 1d. values, punctured "o.w." were used in the Office of Works department. The Board of Trade never had specially surcharged labels, but for some years all the stamps used on the correspondence from that department were punctured with a large crown over the letters "B.T."

LUXEMBURG.—Many of the stamps of the 1891 and 1895 issues, are known with the word "OFFICIEL" punched diagonally for official purposes. We believe these are now in use and that they have displaced all the surcharged stamps.

NATAL.—Quite recently one or two of the current values of this Colony has appeared punctured "N.G.R." (Natal Government Railways). These are used in place of the stamps surcharged "OFFICIAL," which have now been withdrawn from circulation.

NEW SOUTH WALES.—This Colony has quite dispensed with surcharging in favour of puncturing its stamps for official use. The 1d., 2d., 6d. and 1s. are known punched with the letters "G.R." for use on the Government Railways. Practically all values from $\frac{1}{2}$ d. to 10s. exist punctured "o.s.-N.S.W." in two lines. There are said to be two types of this, one having eight and the other ten holes in each "s."

In addition, all the values from $\frac{1}{2}$ d. to 1s. now current are punctured "o.s.," this type apparently replacing those previously described.

QUEENSLAND.—All values from $\frac{1}{2}$ d. to 2s. are reported punctured with "o.s." for official purposes.

SOUTH AUSTRALIA.—Surcharged stamps are no longer in use here for departmental correspondence. In their place all values from $\frac{1}{2}$ d. to 5s. have been issued punctured "S.A." and "o.s." The latter seems to be the variety now in use, and apparently it has replaced the "S.A." punctures.

SUDAN.—The 5 mills. carmine, of the 1897 issue, and the 5 mills. carmine and black, of the 1898 set, are both known punctured "S.G." (Service Gouvernemental). These were the first official stamps used in the Sudan, and, in reversal of the usual order of things, they have been replaced by surcharged stamps.

TASMANIA.—All the values, from $\frac{1}{2}$ d. to 2s. 6d., were punctured "T" for official use, and these have now been replaced by stamps of corresponding values punched with the letters "o.s."

VICTORIA.—The current stamps, ranging from $\frac{1}{2}$ d. to £2, are all known punctured "o.s." for use on official correspondence.

WESTERN AUSTRALIA.—All the stamps of the various issues of 1854-85, used on official correspondence were punched with a circular hole measuring 3mm. or 4mm. in diameter. This system of punching was abolished in 1886. Now, however, all stamps for official use are punctured either "W.A." or "o.s." The latter is most probably the current variety.

(FOLLOW-UP: 2617 & 2618)

Quite a number of people have discovered (or think they have discovered) specimens of the re. British Guiana of 1856, the rarest stamp in the world. We hope this will not prove to be quite a common variety, after all!

In an article on the literature of Philately, the Editor of "Morley's Philatelic Journal" declares that there are certain editions of the early philatelic works, compared with which the first issue of Mauritius sink to the rank of second-class rarities. Oh, Mr. Fulcher!