

The form of the 2 cents inland post-card is to be entirely altered forthwith. The new card will be printed in green on white cardboard, and will bear an eagle in the centre. A new inland 4 cents letter-card has made its appearance. It is similar to the 5 cents one which had been formerly in use.

ITALIAN PHILATELISTS AND ERITREA.

Of late, the all-absorbing topic of discussion among Italian philatelists, is the ultimate destiny of the Eritrea Colony, regarding which opinion is as much divided among the people as among politicians. If abandoned altogether, as urged by a large section of Parliament, the stamps of this colony will soon be in great demand among Italian collectors, as they will be looked upon as the "souvenir" of an important page in the history of the new Italian kingdom.

SUICIDE OF A STAMP AUCTIONEER.

THE news appears in the Scottish daily newspapers of the suicide of Mr. Robert Ritchie, of the firm of Smith & Ritchie, Auctioneers, George Street, Edinburgh, who shot himself through the head with a revolver, the weapon being afterwards found lying by his side. Mr. Ritchie was well known to Northern stamp collectors as the philatelic auctioneer of Edinburgh. Messrs. Cambell, Ingles & Co., of Carlisle, to whom we are indebted for cuttings, &c., relating to this sad business, inform us that it was only last week that a member of their firm had a long conversation with the late Mr. Ritchie, when he referred to the fact that his stamp sales would recommence in October next. An inquest was of course held in the usual way, and it is stated that the *post mortem* examination revealed the fact that Mr. Ritchie had been suffering from chronic cerebral disease. The deceased was quite a young man—not more than 35 years of age—and the saddest part of a very sad business is that he leaves a widow and two children.

THE DEMAND FOR CANADIAN JUBILEE STAMPS.

THE Canadian correspondents of the *Times* and other daily journals testify that there has been a phenomenal rush for the Jubilee Stamps issued on June 19th by the Canadian Postal Department. As regards presentation sets of these stamps we learn that at present it has been decided to give only three sets, the recipients being the Duke of York, the Duke of Norfolk, and Lady Aberdeen. This, of course, is quite apart from the sets which have to be supplied to the International Postal Bureau at Berne.

THE SUNDAY PHILATELIC BOURSE.

PHILATELY is assuming alarming proportions in France, the *Court Journal* asserts. Paris has for some time had its Bourse aux Timbres, and the provinces have also periodical reunions, where they exchange what have been called the "Confettis officiels du ministère des postes." Certain provincial philatelists have been agitating for a Sunday opening of the Bourse aux Timbres. The Chamber of Commerce has refused the request, but the philatelists persist, and the matter has still to be settled. It is not, however, very improbable that before long the Sunday Bourse aux Timbres may become a recognised thing, both in Paris and the provinces.

MORE LOGROLLING IN AMERICAN PAPERS.

THE *Lone Star State Philatelist* is a lively enough paper, but if personalities were eschewed in its columns, we wonder where the Editor of the *Lone Star State Philatelist* would be. The pages of his journal would in that event present something of the same appearance as one of the pages of the Irish newspaper in the old story of the Hibernian editor, who, running short of matter and having nothing with which to fill the vacuum, stated: "Owing to pressure on our space, we have been compelled to leave this page blank." From cover to cover the *Lone Star State Philatelist* contains nothing but personal notes and biographical sketches. To lead off with, the editor, Mr. Roy B. Bradley, pens a biographical notice of Mr. Frederick Noyes, then Mr. Walter C. Lowry contributes an appreciation of the aforesaid Roy B. Bradley. Mr. Georges Carion is the next personage to be sketched by Mr. Bradley's appreciative pen; and Messrs. Henry G.

Askew, Emil Gerlich and E. W. Hensinger are among other philatelic personages whose virtues are descanted upon by this wholesale appreciator. Mr. Roy B. Bradley has his reward in the very amiable little notice penned by Mr. W. C. Lowry; but if it be not an unfair question, where does the aforesaid Lowry come in? Possibly the May number which has not yet reached us, contains some recognition of Mr. Lowry's abilities. We had thought that this logrolling of the mutual admiration society order was confined to Mr. Kissinger's paper, the *Pennsylvania Philatelist*. We are sorry to discover that Mr. Roy B. Bradley, who is spoken of as a coming philatelist and a promising writer, should devote his journal to the same base uses. The *Lone Star State Philatelist's* motto is; "Unfettered and Free—Servant only to the Truth," but we venture to suggest that under present conditions this might more fitly read: "Free and Easy—Servant only to our particular friends."

It would give us very great pleasure to be able to quote something from the pages of our Texan contemporary, but this is an absolute impossibility. Apart from the personal sketches already mentioned, there is nothing in the paper but formal reports of meetings of the Southern Philatelic Association and the Texas Philatelic Association, matters which may be interesting enough to Texan philatelists, but are of no importance whatever to the outside world. We beg pardon! there is one other item—some particularly bad poetry by Mr. W. Lionel Moise.

THE NEW SOUTH WALES JUBILEE STAMPS.

The three Diamond Jubilee Stamps of the values of 1d., 2d. and 2½d., projected by the Postmaster General of New South Wales, were it appears, to be issued on Queen's Day, so that by this time they will have been extensively used by the Australian people. Mr. Fred Hagen's paper, the *Australian Philatelist* gives very full particulars of the issue; and from this journal we also learn that it is intended to resuscitate the beautiful 5/- stamp of 1861, to replace the very common—place "map" design of the centennial issue.

A very well-known Colonial philatelist, Mr. W. Bretschneider, was leaving for England shortly before the publication of the issue of the *Australian Philatelist* under notice. His many philatelic friends feted him in Sydney prior to his departure.

TWIXT EDITOR AND READER



A MEMBER of the London Philatelic Society has handed us a letter from one, S. Azavey of San Remo, which accompanied a selection of stamps containing a profusion of all the recent forgeries of Naples, Sicily, and Parma, mostly used on entire envelopes. One sentence in the letter is most delicious:

As you know, sir, my conditions are, that I don't guarantee any stamps.

He might have well added that he could guarantee them to be absolute forgeries. They are of the same class as those described in the FORTNIGHTLY on pages 103 and 157, Vol I., and pages 17 and 290, Vol. II. One entire envelope we saw, which bore the complete set of the head series of Sicily beautifully used, was really an old envelope, from which the original stamp had been soaked off and its place, as well as that of the old postmark, was carefully covered with the forged stamps. By looking at the back of the envelope one could easily discern what had been underneath.

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For the first time in the history of the FORTNIGHTLY we are obliged to withhold the report of an auction sale held by

a prominent firm of auctioneers, owing to the grossly incorrect descriptions contained in the catalogue. We understand the bulk of the stamps belonged to a leading stamp firm, and were "lotted" and described by them! We are glad to know this fact, as we have always found the classifications of the auctioneers in question very fair and correct. We are assured that these gentlemen, whose reputation dates back to pre-philatelic days, will not again adopt the extraordinary and we should think quite unprecedented course of permitting their selling clients to arrange and describe their own "lots."

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As bearing out all we have said on this subject, the following letter from Mr. Ernest Stock, the eminent Berlin dealer, will be read with interest: "The auctioneers have sent the stamps, and I have returned them. It is altogether scandalous the lies told in describing these stamps. All good points were exaggerated, and all defects simply passed over. A hole, a tear, a crack or crease, a thin place, all these did not prevent the stamp being described as fine, very fine, or even extremely fine. I will not speak of what is called original gum, unused etc., but it is altogether a fraud pure and simple, and if I were in any way journalistically gifted I would like to write against this scandal and to warn my countrymen against this pick-pocketing procedure. The auctioneers may of course be quite innocent, and I have little hesitation in saying that the owners were at the same time the 'describers.' Of course, the photographs do not show these defects, but what may be the secret defects of some of these stamps after having undergone a water bath, which may only appear long after one has received the stamps when it is too late to return them. Besides, according to the rules one can only refuse those copies which prove to be either forgeries or reprints, and one is therefore compelled to keep those whose with defects so skilfully concealed as not to be visible at the time of sale."

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We deeply regret the receipt of the following from a very well-known London philatelist, a member of the London Philatelic Society:

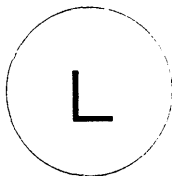
After mature consideration I have decided to abandon Philately; there is too much that is unpalatable about it for my taste. I shall sell off my collections some time next season.

One of the inevitable results, this, of the various shady practices which go far to disgust the average philatelist, and which the FORTNIGHTLY is doing its level best to put down.

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Mr. J. Seymour Summers, of Bombay, writes as follows;

Since my last letter to you, inquiring the significance of the surcharge in octagonal frame "On D.-B. S." (a paragraph referring to which occurs in the "S.C.F." dated 1st May, 1897), I have received a letter from Mr. L. W. Grey, of Pykara, Nilgiris, who suggests that the letters of the surcharge probably mean "District Board Service." He further says that sometimes these Boards are called "Local Fund Boards," but more often "District Boards." Mr. Grey has the ½ anna blue, Indian (El. Hd. watermark?) surcharged "L.F.S." and it seems to him that "D.-B. S." may stand for the same purpose. I have also some values of Indian stamps, viz., ½, 1, 2 and 4 annas, current surch. with a large "L" in a circle in black, thus: These, I know, are the Local Fund Stamps, and if I mistake not, Stanley Gibbons' Catalogue mentions those marked "L.F.S." but not any of the others. It would be interesting to have a complete list of the Local Fund Stamps (Service) issued.



PHILATELIC EVENTS for the FORTNIGHT ENDING JULY 24, 1897.

Auction Sales.

July 20th & 21st.—Messrs. Buhl & Co., Ltd., at Anderson's Hotel, Fleet Street, at 5.45 precisely each day.

Tapling Collection.—MR. E. D. BACON informs us that the following countries are now on view at the British Museum:—South African Republic and part of the Transvaal and New Zealand.

The Stamps of Austria from a Specialist's point of View.

BY S. C. BARNETT.

(Continued from page 209).

In 1867, a very interesting set appeared, consisting of seven values: 2kr. yellow, 3kr. green, 5kr. red, 10kr. blue, 15kr. brown, 25kr. lilac, 50kr. flesh. This issue can be found in two styles of printing, one set being clearly impressed and the other coarsely printed. The latter were also printed on rough and smooth paper.

The 50kr. clear print is perf. 12, and is in two shades, brown and flesh.

On the other hand 50kr. rough print is perf. 9-10, also brown and flesh.

In 1877, the above, with exception of the 25 and 50kr. were perforated 12, and in 1872, the 5kr. was re-engraved, differing only from the preceding one, in the lower angle ornaments. These are uncommon, being worth over 3/- each.

The next issue is rather uninteresting. It was issued in 1883 and had six values: 2kr. brown, 3kr. green, 5kr. red, 10kr. blue, 20kr. olive, 50kr. violet. This issue has more varieties of perforation than any yet mentioned. The 50kr. violet is the only one worth anything.

In 1890, an issue of 13 varieties came out; they were 1kr. grey, 2kr. brown, 3kr. green, 5kr. red, 10kr. blue, 12kr. red, 15kr. carmine, 20kr. olive, 24kr. blue, 30kr. brown, 50kr. violet, 1 gulden blue, 2 gulden carmine. These were perf. 9-14, beating the former issue easily in this respect. If the stamps of this issue are examined carefully the figures in each corner vary considerably in size and shape.

Next year, 1891, the 20kr., 24kr., 30kr., 50kr. designs were altered, the colours remaining the same, the head being enclosed by a rectangular instead of an oval band. The 1 and 2 gulden had their colours changed to a pale lilac and olive respectively.

The errors of the 1890 issue are, 3kr., printed in rose instead of green, 1gld., red instead of blue and 2gld., blue in lieu of red. The 1kr. was issued minus the perforations.

Newspaper Stamps.

The first issue under this heading was brought out in 1850 and comprised the following values, 1kr. blue, 10kr. yellow, 50kr. red; the first and last had two distinct shades, 1, blue and light blue, 50, red and pale rose. The 10kr. and 50kr. are beyond most purses, being extremely rare; the 1kr. is, however, fairly common and can be bought from 6d. to 1/-. A word of caution is necessary against forgeries of this and subsequent issues of which there are many.

In 1858, an issue appeared bearing the head of Emperor, laureated, to left, in square frame and had two colours, pale blue and lilac. Three years after, 1861, the head was reversed and enclosed in ornamental border and had the same colour. Both of these issues had the head embossed. The year of 1863 saw an issue comprising of one stamp, bearing the national arms, also in lilac. The next issue, 1867, scarcely needs explanation, as almost everybody is familiar with the lilac "mercury." Nine out of ten school-boys believe that this stamp belongs to Greece and so place it in their albums. In 1881 a ½kr. green was added, on this stamp the value is indicated. Both of these were perforated in 1890. The 1kr. "mercury" can be found in any shade between mauve and grey.

Imperial Journal Stamps.

These were first issued in 1850, the same year as the first of the postage series. They are,—1kr. black, 1kr. blue, 2kr. green, 2kr. red, 2kr. brown, 4kr. red, 4kr. brown; the 1kr. black is very rare and is extensively forged. None of this issue can be called common except the 2kr. brown. Some years later the 1kr. blue and 2kr. brown were printed on paper water-marked with large letters, these two were re-engraved in 1878 the shield in the national arms being slightly larger, the 1kr. blue was perforated later on. In 1891 the design was changed—arms enclosed by circular band and value on tablet below. There were only 3 varieties 1kr. yellow brown, 2kr. green, 28kr. red. The last is seldom met with used.

(To be Concluded).