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By our Special Paris Correspondent.

THE INTERNATIONAL PHILATELIC EXHIBITION.

ANOTHER pleasant and interesting event has begun, ended, and become a cherished recollection. When we do anything here in France we do it well, and L'Exposition Internationale de Timbre Poste proved no exception; but as it is usual dissenters are found, who being themselves dissatisfied for some reason, wish to make others feel likewise, and from a collector's view of the matter, with one or two possible exceptions, I consider the exhibition a success. An objection—not from a Philatelic, but rather from a human standpoint—that the exhibition was too far from the centre of the city to be convenient. This objection comes mainly from the inhabitants, of what Max. O'Rell calls "John Bull's Island"—are we to consider our Anglo-Saxon brethren lazy? It seems so. It is true the Exhibition was not very central, but it being the best that the committee could obtain we had to put up with this slight inconvenience. The Exhibition was held in the Palace of Liberal Arts, on the Champs de Mars. When we were once in the Exhibition we were loth to leave it, for where stamp collectors meet there is more gossip than is made by any dozen old women you ever heard of; with this the "sights" made the time pass only too quickly. The capital represented by the exhibits was enormous. In the exhibits of the dealers, our English brethren—to use the regular expression—"took the cake." I can scarcely judge betwixt their merits. An interesting exhibit was that of Messrs. Bright & Sons, which was in charge of genial Harry Hilkes. The varieties shown by this firm were of the "first water," their widely advertised block of Saxony errors being among the number. I also noticed among their exhibit several frames of the English plate numbers, and a couple of fine entire sheets of the Mulreux envelopes. Near by the stall of Wm. Brown, of Salisbury, attracts attention, being very handsomely furnished. Mr. Brown's stock seemed an exception to the general exhibits of other dealers who exhibited their specialties, while Mr. Brown's stock comprised a little of everything. Another noticeable English exhibit was that of the well-known firm, Messrs. Theo. Buhl & Co., of London. The exhibit of this firm is to be found in every part of the building, and at every turn some small exhibit of this firm was visible. Their main exhibit being prominent for their magnificent display of rarities. The arrangement of this firm's goods is superb. Then the largest firm in the world, Messrs. Stanley Gibbons Co., Limited, of London, have an exhibit which is, undoubtedly, the finest in the whole exhibition. The collection of Western Australian stamps, which they show, is the finest I ever had the pleasure of inspecting, and it is considered the finest stock of these interesting stamps in existence. Their exhibit of philatelic publications is *par excel-*

lence. Messrs. Stanley Gibbons are the only dealers who do not sell goods at their exhibit, it being shown for exhibition purposes only. The enterprising Australian firm, Messrs. T. H. Thompson & Co., of Bishop, Auckland, New Zealand: This firm are well known here through their purchase of the Leeward Island remainders. They did not bring their whole stock of these stamps with them, but, nevertheless, a large assortment was shown. This firm seemed to be doing a brisk business in these stamps during the whole exhibition. The above comprise the larger dealers who exhibited, but the following also occupied smaller stalls in a more remote part of the building: Mr. T. H. Hinton, of Chelsea; Messrs. Stafford Smith & Co., Brighton, etc. This latter firm made a very noticeable and attractive exhibit with their "Permanent Album". Mr. H. Hilkes showed me the advance sheets of his works on "Reprints," and of course, as a result of the temptation, he "hooked" my order as well as those of my colleagues; the work is indeed a valuable and complete handbook on reprinted stamps, one that every collector should possess. Turning to the exhibits of the collectors, here we find what may be termed the most interesting portion of the whole exhibition. I have seen some very choice collections of Swiss stamps but never did I see such an excellent one as was exhibited by Mr. Hauser, of Lucerne. The general completeness of the collection may be judged from the following list of some of the stamps I noticed therein: 21 specimens of the 4 r. and 41 specimens of the 6 r., Zürich, Geneva. He shows 22 of the 10 c. in pairs; 13 of the *provisional* ½ of 10 c.; a block of 10 of 5c., first type, unused; a block of 14 5 c., second type, unused; 8 of the rare 4c. Vaud are shown; of the other local issues they are there in immense quantities. Many of the plates are complete. A block of 15 City Post are among the gems shown in this most remarkable collection of Swiss stamps. One of our leading Parisian collectors, Dr. Legrand, showed a portion of his large collection, among which were the Mauritius 1d. and 2d. "Post Office"; Reunion 1st issue, complete; Sandwich Islands, several copies of the rare 13c., 1st issue; Bokhara, complete set; Zürich, about 20 specimens of the 4r. and 6r.; Roumania, 1st issue, set of 4; Mauritius, 2 entire, 15h. envelopes with different tresses, besides the above mentioned stamps are dozens of others of equal values. Mr. J. B. Moens, of Brussels, exhibited a full set of the many philatelic works published by him; Mr. Le Roy d'Etrolles shows an almost complete collection of the surcharged French Colonial stamps, including many of the rarer varieties; Mr. M. Mahé showed a beautiful complete set of the French essays; Mr. Walter Morley showed a very complete set of English stamps; M. Kuck showed a complete collection of the stamps of Luxembourg; M. Greau showed some entire sheets of essays; Messrs. Theo. Buhl & Co. showed some very fine made-up plates of the early issues of the Australian Colonies and Mauritius; also a used New Brunswick "Connel"; Suez, complete set *used*; most of the rare local stamps of Mexico, and a fine specimen each of