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DEVOTED TO STAMP COLLECTING.

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British Colonials.

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II. Cape of Good Hope.

Cape Colony, or as often called, the Cape of Good Hope, is located in the most southern part of Africa and has been under British rule since 1795 or more than one hundred years.

Its area is 217,895 square miles and it has a population of nearly 2,000,000

Cape town is the principal city and is also the capital.

The Cape is famous in the Philatelic world as the originator of the triangular stamps, having made three issues of that shape.

As these are the most interesting of all this colony's numerous stamps, most of the space at my disposal for this article will be devoted to them.

It appears that the first issues were made from plates engraved by Perkins, Bacon & Co., an English firm, who afterwards turned them over to another firm.

None of the first or second issues are extremely rare, but in 1861 these stamps were out of stock and to meet the demand a printer in the colony made an issue.

This issue, all of which are rare, contains two errors which are due to the method of printing. Some collectors at one time claimed that they were printed from "wood blocks" (or wood cuts) and they are so listed. But the better opinion is that they were printed from stereotypes made from engravings on wood

A number of these cuts or plates being cast singly they were then mounted on a large block. This large block or plate contained 64 of these small cuts and it was due to a mistake in making them up that the errors occurred. A one penny cut was accidentally put on the four penny plate and vice versa. Thus the one penny error is in blue instead of red and the four penny in red instead of blue.

These errors are worth \$300 each.

In 1865 these unique stamps were replaced by the common-place design yet in use. The 1865 issue consisted of four varieties, one penny red, four penny blue, six penny lilac, and one shilling green. The three higher values were surcharged in 1868 to produce one penny and four penny stamps for an emergency. Also in 1879, 1882 and 1891-4 several new varieties were created by surcharging, none of which however, are rare.

In 1865 an imperforated revenue stamp was used for postage, and in '83 several were used. The last were all perforated. The Cape also has a number of interesting envelopes (including registration) and post cards. The envelopes are of a design similar to those of Great Britain, though some of the post cards are of distinctive design.

All the rarer stamps of this colony have been counterfeited and some reprinted, so that care must be used in buying them.