

Forgeries.

Written for the Stamp Reporter.

Thanks to the concerted influence of all honest dealers, forgeries have practically become things of the past, yet there is still an immense deal of rubbish in the market, with which the young and inexperienced collector is deceived. Cenerally speaking, all colonial stamps of any value have been forged. (It is seldom, if ever, that stamps of no great value are forged.) In most cases, however, the imitations are very poor lithographs of the original fine engravings. Every collector should learn to tell a lithographed stamp from an engraved one, he will then be able to test four out of five forgeries that come in his way.

Another important point is the study of postmarks. Beware of obliteration, consisting of parallel bars, generally placed in one corner only; also of small black dots, as these, owing to their facility of execution, are favorites with the forges. All very light postmarks are suspicious—especially faint arcs bearing no letters. Collectors should try and find out what postmarks genuine stamps of a certain issue have.

The Mulready Envelope.

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The Mulready envelope was designed by W. Mulready, R. A., for Sir Rowland Hill, for postage

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purposes, in April 1840. It represented "Brittannia" sending messengers to all parts of the world with news. Before its issue to the public it was regarded very favorably by the Royal Academicians, to whom it was first presented when assembled in council. The public however received it with great disfavor, and it was mercilessly ridiculed by the papers, in consequence of which it had to be withdrawn. The rejection was so complete as to necessitate the destruction of nearly all the vast number prepared for issue. A machine had to be constructed for the purpose, the attempt to do the work by fire in close stoves (fear of robbery forbade the use of open ones), having failed. There were two values, 1d. black and 2d. blue. Mulready was born in Emmes, County Clare, England, about 1786, and died July 7th, 1863; made R. A. February 1816.

The Homeworker for January arrived. The principle article is the 5th chapter of the story, "A Romance of Philately." We cannot tell much about this story because we did not see the first three chapters. The "Press Review" is very lengthy this month. Under this heading we notice a mistake in the name of a paper, but taken altogether the paper is very good.

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