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# The Philatelic Courier,

## AND STAMP-COLLECTOR'S JOURNAL.

Vol. 2,

HALFAX, N. S., JANUARY, 1884.

No. 7.

### The Philatelic Courier

—AND—

STAMP COLLECTOR'S JOURNAL.

IS PUBLISHED QUARTERLY.

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184 Argyle Street,  
HALIFAX, N. S., CANADA.

HALIFAX, N. S., JANUARY, 1884.

#### POSTAL TELEGRAPHY IN THE U. S.

Two bills are before the U. S. Congress looking to the establishment of a Government telegraph system in connection with the Post Office Department of that country. One authorizes the P. M. General to negotiate for the purchase of all existing lines at a fair valuation, as was done in Great Britain, while the other provides for the building by the Government of new and independent lines to all principal points to which the mails are now carried and for their gradual extension as the demands of the business of the country may require. There are acknowledged difficulties in the way of carrying out either plan, but that something of the kind must ere long be done becomes more evident each day.

THE U. S. Post-Master General has recommended to Congress that the single weight of letters be made one ounce instead of one-half an ounce as at present. The suggestion will probably be adopted. The tendency of the age is decidedly in favor of reducing postal rates and there is a strong probability that this will eventually do away with post cards. It is self-evident that if a government can furnish the stationery and carry a missive for 1 cent it can better afford to do the latter,

only when the writer supplies his own material. The Canadian Post Master-General has informed the House of Commons that the Government has under consideration the proposition to reduce the postage rate in the Dominion to two cents. If, as appears probable, this is done it will necessitate the preparation and issue of new 2 and 4 cent stamps and envelopes.

#### FOREIGN LANGUAGES IN POST OFFICES.

In most European countries a rule has been adopted that the chief registration clerks, at least of all large or general post-offices must be acquainted with modern languages sufficiently to be able to write letters of enquiry or to reply to such correctly. We think that this rule should be applied also in America.

Suppose a registered letter addressed, say to a French or Spanish Colony, should go astray, a letter of enquiry written in the language of the country of its destination would be far more likely to receive prompt attention than if in English. If in the latter tongue the post-master or his clerks are quite likely not to be able to read it, and therefore have to lay it aside till they get an interpreter to translate it for them. Thus they are apt to forget it, and perhaps it is never answered. In this way the main object of registration is defeated as the effort to trace missing letters fails.

We have ourselves had sufficient instances where repeated letters of enquiry have been unanswered, and we believe that the reason of this apparent neglect is that noted above.

Our postal clerks, like civil servants in other departments, are required to pass examinations as to their qualifications, and we certainly think that modern languages should be considered as important a subject in which they should pass as history, geography, or mathematics.

#### THE FIRST COLLECTORS.

It will never be known who was the first philatelic collector or where he lived but it appears to be pretty well established that the first known collections were made in Germany. Gossip among philatelists of older standards report collections as early as 1854, and these must have been begun of some anterior period, possibly ten years earlier. As long ago as 1861-2 the literature of philately began to appear in the shape of catalogues, hand-books and journals, showing that even then the science had achieved a firm footing and a recognized position among intelligent people.

Les personnes qui ont reçu plus d'un exemplaire de ce numéro sont priées de les transmettre aux philatelistes de leur connaissance.

## WHAT GIVES VALUE TO STAMPS.

We have often been surprised to observe how little some collectors use their judgment in adding to their collections. Some unprincipled dealers offer them large batches of stamps that, if genuine, would be very valuable, for a mere trifle, and the offer is eagerly caught. They thus fill their albums with the veriest trash. If such people would stop and think a moment, they would see that not only are they paying for what is worthless but are encouraging roguery.

The approximate value of any stamps or class of stamps is well known to connoisseurs, and it is almost impossible for anyone who has made a study of the science to be deceived in them.

This value—we speak now only of genuine stamps—depends on their rarity. Thus the current stamps of any country are worth but little more than their face value, the slight advance being a small percentage to pay the dealer for handling them.

Provisional or surcharged stamps acquire an additional value, because they are only issued temporarily and but few of them, as compared with regular issues, are used. Some are in existence that were employed for a single mail only. Provisionals are of various sorts. Some consist of the ordinary current stamps of the time halved or quartered, so as to make the required postage when the smaller denominations were not obtainable at the time. Others have been and are made by surcharging stamps of one denomination on the face with another value. It is customary to surcharge larger stamps with lower than their original face value. The variations in these surcharges are numerous. Different kinds of type and different colors of ink are sometimes used in surcharging the same sort of originals. So also typographical errors in some cases in one or more stamps in a sheet, or in some the surcharges may be erect, upside-down, diagonal, sideways, or doubly imprinted. This shows that, even in a case where a provisional is used but the shortest time, a great variety may exist. There is not, nor can there be, any inflexible rule to govern the price of provisionals, as several conditions affect it. The principal conditions are the length of time in which they were used, and the period which has elapsed since they were employed. One thing is certain, that as their epoch recedes from us their value must advance in proportion. It is evident that in classifying a collection some provisionals must take rank among the rarest and most valuable of stamps.

Old issues are also valuable, according to their age. It was several years after postage-stamps were first issued before anyone thought of collecting them, and to obtain first issues old correspondence has been raked up from everywhere, and all sorts of places where there is the slightest probability or possibility of old stamps being found are carefully searched for them.

There are several other variations in some stamps of which collectors take note and which affect the values such as differences in the shade of colors, in water-marks, in perforations, in color and quality of the paper on which they are printed and, in some cases, in the post-office obliterations—particularly in halved and quartered stamps.

As to envelopes, post-cards and news-bands, we may remark that careful collectors take cognizance of difference in size, color, etc., even going so far as to note the folding and gumming of the same in some instances.

All these kinds are constantly increasing in value and for excellent reasons. The out-of-the-way places where a search may be rewarded by finding them, are growing less in number, and the larger portion of such as have been preserved, have gradually found their way into the hands of private individuals who have imbibed the idea of collecting stamps and who would not think of parting with them. As this process goes on, of course the decreasing few in dealers' hands must necessarily be enhanced in value.

In this connection we may properly remark that a collection is not valuable for the number, nor even for the variety of stamps that it contains but for their genuineness and rarity. Instances might be cited where even three extremely rare stamps have made a comparatively small collection almost priceless.

Philately has been reduced to an actual science which study, research, and writings on the subject have made nearly perfect. Therefore it is that every one who aspires to become a good philatelist should subscribe to one or more good philatelic journals. The price of doing so is small and the protection they give their readers may, not infrequently prevent a collector from losing far more than that in a single transaction.

To sum up in a few words we offer this advice—to junior collectors especially:—

1st.—Buy no rare stamps unless their character for genuineness is guaranteed to your entire satisfaction.

2nd.—Buy only from dealers whom you have reason to know are honest and reliable.

3rd.—Subscribe for and read regularly at least one philatelic paper. It will post you on all matters relating to the science and information gained from its pages will amply repay you for the cost in money and in time.

EDITOR PHILATELIC COURIER.

## PHILATELIC AUTHORITIES.

We are, from time to time, surprised to see articles on postal matters in the ordinary papers. They are usually written by persons who know nothing of the science of philately, but whose ignorance of the subject does not prevent their pretending to speak *ex cathedra*. The result is that most of their utterances are erroneous and misleading. This would be amusing if it was not calculated to do harm. The daily, weekly and monthly papers and magazines obtain large circulations and their readers are accustomed to believe what they see in them. Young philatelists are thus apt to imbibe false impressions as to rare stamps and their values and are liable to be imposed upon by unscrupulous dealers. The only way to get correct information on these matters is from the columns of a respectable philatelic journal. The editor of such a paper, it is to be presumed, is thoroughly posted on such matters and will always be happy to answer any questions or to solve any doubts that may arise if he is asked to do so.

We always welcome exchange correspondence.

Consignments sent us will be promptly and carefully attended to.

## VALUES OF RARE STAMPS.

Few people realise to what an enormous extent the business of dealing in postage stamps is carried on in all the great trade centres of America, of Europe and of Australia. In London, Paris, Luxemburg, Vienna, Frankfort, Berlin, New York, Sydney, etc., thousands of persons make it their regular business to deal in stamps. They have regular offices where their customers attend to make purchases and many of them have a full staff of clerks to carry on their extensive correspondence with all parts of the civilised world.

Hundreds of papers devoted to the science of philately are published and thousands of catalogues are printed periodically and sent abroad. In most of these cities, they have regular bourses or exchanges where dealers and collectors meet to trade. These are attended by people of every class, all professions and all nationalities. The scenes there are always stirring and sometimes very exciting as, for instance, where some prize in the shape of a rare stamp or set is desired by several and they bid for them as at an auction. So also discussions frequently arise on various points concerning certain stamps such as the exact color that they should be, their size, obliteration, when first issued, how long they were in use, marks of genuineness, etc. Sometimes these discussions wax warm and angry as is natural.

To give an idea of the extent of the business we may remark that in Paris alone there are over 150 dealers many of whom turn over more than two millions of stamps each year and sell over thirty thousand albums.

People who have never thought much or any on the subject and tyros or amateur collectors have no idea of the large amounts that have been, and are daily being paid for certain of the rarer stamps either where a man wants one or more to complete his collection in a particular line or is roused by opposition or competition. Under such circumstances some men of ample means will not stick at a price to secure what they covet and consequently figures are reached that to most persons would be regarded as ridiculously out of proportion for a little bit of paper scarcely larger than a wafer and that has already served the legitimate purpose for which it was made, and has been cancelled by the government.

Below we give a partial list of stamps that are rare and much sought after with the prices that are known to have been paid for specimens:—

*Mexico-Guadalajara.*—From \$75 to \$125.

*British Guiana.*—First issue—Some of these have brought 275 francs.

*Spain.*—Some of the earliest dates—250 francs.

*Bavaria.*—Telegraph stamps were first used only about thirteen years ago, yet some of these have realised as much as 120 francs.

*Tuscany.*—Some of the old stamps have commanded 500 francs.

*Mauritius.*—The issue of 1850, if on the original wrapper or letter so as to show the entire postal obliteration, thus assuring their originality, have been sold for 1,500 francs.

*Reunion Islands.*—Stamps of 1852, blue paper—1,000 francs.

*France.*—The first issue (1849) 1 franc, orange-yellow if unused—200 francs; used—60 francs.

*Hawaiian Islands.*—Stamps of the first issue, if, for the purpose of identification, they are on the original wrapper, have the full postal obliteration, and are in good condition, will bring 1,000 francs.

*British N. A. Colonies.*—The first issues of these are classed as very rare. The most valuable and difficult to obtain of these are:—The N. B. 5cts stamps bearing the profile of Hon. Mr. Collins, Postmaster General; N. S. and N. B. shillings of 1850 (if unused)—\$20 to \$45 according to shades but they are so scarce that it is next to impossible to procure them, and their value is constantly increasing; the various provisionals of the above shillings and sixpences—three-quarters, halves and quarters, showing the entire postoffice obliteration on the wrappers command various prices ranging from \$15 to \$50 and sometimes more; one of the N. S. provisionals surcharged has been known to have changed owners for \$93.50; some of the old Canada, first issued unused from—\$18 to \$36; Newfoundland first issue are so rare that almost any price would be paid for them. A gentleman living in that colony recently disposed of two specimens obtaining for them \$64. The 5cts brown of the cent series commands a very handsome figure through its rarity even though it is not an old stamp.

*Argentine Republic.*—Stamps of the 1864 issue without the initials of the water mark—from \$10 to \$25 according to the variations.

*Dominican Republic.*—Some of the earlier series are not procurable at any price. Others have realised as high as \$50.

*Great Britain.*—The V. R., 1 d, black, unused, of 1840 has commanded £10.

*U. S. of Colombia.*—Some of these stamps bring marvelously large prices.

*Italy.*—Piedmont post of 1819–20, original, vary in value according to denomination from 75 to 150 francs.

*Montevideo.*—Stamps of the first issue (1856) Dilegencia used and in good condition vary in value from \$20 to \$50.

*Buenos Ayrcs.*—Some of these command very high figures and part of the series is not procurable.

*New South Wales.*—Some of the first series bring readily from \$20 upwards.

*Peru.*—Some of the earlier series and some of later ones surcharged as provisionals command remarkably high prices.

*Philippine Islands.*—The earlier issues of this colony are extremely rare. They have been sold for 175 pesos, but are really worth more.

*United States.*—Some are very rare and we have known single specimens (3 cts.) to sell for \$100 and upwards. This country has the largest face value of postage-paying stamps in the world, in her \$60 stamps which are worth about 15 per cent. more than that figure if unused.

*Switzerland.*—The older issues command fair prices but nothing extravagant. This shows that there must be some considerable quantity in the market which depresses their prices.

The PHILATELIC COURIER Packet is unrivaled. Price \$1.

Subscribers can receive back numbers.

## ✓ PROTECTION AGAINST FRAUD.

One peculiarity of the philatelic business is that its success depends almost entirely upon the honesty, honor and good faith of both dealer and collector.

We regret to have to acknowledge that instances are not unknown where parties, having ordered stamps and received them from dealers, have then failed to make due remittance and have even denied receiving them.

The only safeguard against this form of fraud is in registration which should invariably be done. Though this does not absolutely assure the delivery of a valuable package still it makes it possible to trace it and to prove that it was either duly delivered to the addressee or was lost in transit. This fact undoubtedly tends to keep some men honest who perhaps would not be so otherwise.

Many collectors do not realise the labor, time and money that are expended by dealers who do business on anything like a large scale in securing and keeping up a large and varied stock to meet the demands of their numerous customers, of the risks that they must run in carrying on an extensive correspondence with all parts of the civilised or semi-civilised world, or of the large amount of capital that is locked up in stamps, etc., in some cases for years before it can be realised upon.

Another means of protecting themselves from fraud that dealers have been driven to adopt is the "Black List" in which are published the names or initials of parties who are known to have dealt fraudulently, whether as dealers or as collectors. No one is thus published unless the proof against him is complete or is believed by the publisher to be so, nor, as a rule, until after due warning has been given to the delinquent. Of course errors may occur occasionally, but they are rare and, when they happen, are errors of judgment and not of intent.

We have in previous issues given expression to the opinion that the plan which obtains in Germany and Russia of the government insuring the contents of registered letters, and packages should be universally adopted. This is important in domestic correspondence, but especially so in the case of letters going abroad where the risks of fire, wreck, missending, etc., are increased largely. We believe that the universal adoption

of this system is merely a question of time, and that when it comes into use the only matter of surprise will be how the world consented to do so long without it.

The fullest and most valuable stamp collection in the world belongs to a son of the duchess of Galliera. Though as yet incomplete, the stamps contained in it have cost \$300,000.

**CANADA'S GREAT CARNIVAL.** The great Winter Carnival in Montreal, 4th to 9th February, is attracting thousands upon thousands of sight-seers from all parts of the continent. The attack, defence and capture of the Ice Palace, the great skating carnival on a scale of unprecedented grandeur, the snow-shoe torchlight procession by thousands of snow-shoers, the tobogganing fête on Mount Royal, the great sleigh-drive turn-out, embracing five thousand superb sleighing equipages, the living arch manned by the snow-shoers in club uniform, cheering their Excellencies the Governor-General and Lady Lansdowne, as they are drawn through the triumphal arch, all these striking and startling features of the great fête, and many others, are to be splendidly illustrated in the Carnival number of the Montreal Star, printed on superior paper, with full and double-page colored illustrations. This special Carnival number of the Montreal Star will be of wonderful interest to all people in all lands. It is gotten up by the best artists in this country, and will take the place of the Canadian Illustrated News, suspended. Ten cents, in stamps, sent to the publishers, Graham & Co., will get a copy. Newsdealers will have them for sale.

**WORMAN'S FIRST SPANISH BOOK.**—We have been favoured by the courtesy of the publishers, Messrs A. S. Barnes & Co., New York, with a copy of the "First Spanish Book," just issued. It is one of the excellent series of Worman's Modern Languages. It was prepared by Dr. Worman, assisted by that distinguished Spanish scholar, Prof. H. M. Monsanto, P. A. As its preface declares it is intended for beginners wishing to learn the language of Spain and its allied countries, and is interesting to Philatelists, in that it will enable collectors with but a little study to extend their correspondence to countries where Spanish is the vernacular. The lessons are strictly graded and fully pictorially illustrated so that the mind of the learner may be aided by the sense of seeing in understanding the ideas intended to be conveyed. 12 mo., 96 pages.

We are indebted to our many friends in various parts of the world for furnishing us with early information of contemplated or accomplished changes, new issues and provisionals. Such information is always fully appreciated and will be noticed by us. We hope that they will all continue their kind offices.

Our approval sheets are the finest in the world—contain 135.

# HENRY HECHLER,

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**WM. NOTMAN,**

**PHOTOGRAPHER**

TO THE QUEEN,

**36 George Street,**

711

HALIFAX, N. S.

Foreign correspondence solicited.

## NEW ISSUES Of Adhesives, Post Cards, and Envelopes.

**Austria.**—This country has issued an entire new series of stamps. The values remain as before, but instead of bearing the bust of the Emperor they have the Imperial arms in the centre of which is a blank shield and beneath it a small circle. On the shield is printed in black the value and in the circle the letters "kr." In a semi-circle over the arms is the legend "Kais Konigl Oester Post." The four corners are occupied with network. The colors of the several values have been somewhat changed. The envelopes bearing the new adhesive, 5 kr. and 5 sid., rose, are of two different shades of paper. The post-cards also of the new type, 2 kr. and 2 x 2 kr., brown, have made their appearance. They are in eight varieties of dialects for the eight several languages spoken in that empire.

**Bahamas.**—It is announced that stamps valued at 5s. and £1 will shortly be issued. A very neat and pretty reply card, carmine on buff, of the value of 1½d. x 1½d. has appeared.

**Belgium.**—Some of the new stamps of this country have appeared. The designs are much like the old series, varying with the several values, the head is somewhat larger and they are not so finely executed as the last. The colors of the four that have issued are 10c. carmine, 20c. gray, 25c. blue and 50c. violet.

**Bolivia.**—The series of 1882 appeared near the end of last year with the figures for 1883, in place of these of the former years. It will be understood that it adds a new series to the stamps of this country.

**Brazil.** has issued three letter cards all of a pale green color. They are respectively 50 reis for local use with stamp imprinted in the usual place, red, 100 reis for use in the empire, blue, and 200 reis for foreign service, dark green. Each has four lines for address and along the top are the words "Carta Billete." The two of the lower values have the word "Mil mo." at the beginning of the first address line, and the 200 reis card has the letter "M" in the same place. The lines and letters are printed in the same colors as the respective stamps. A 50 cent stamp, blue, of a new design is also in use.

**British Guiana.**—A new reply card, 3d x 3d, carmine on buff is in use in this colony.

**Cashmere.**—A post-card ½ anna, red, has been added to the series of this country. It has two lines of Hindustanee inscription, and in the upper right hand corner is roughly imprinted, apparently by hand stamp, a shield with scroll work, surmounted by the sun and guarded on either side by a native soldier, bearing each a lance and a dagger. Under the shield a scroll ribbon, and below it an inscription of the value in Hindustanee. It is of middling strong paper, blueish-white in color, and having a corrugated surface.

**Chili.**—The color of the 5-centavo stamp has been changed from carmine to ultra-marine.

**Finland.**—Two locals for Helsingfors are in circulation. One is a stamp newly gotten up in red, green and white colors. Shield in centre green on red ground and surmounted by a crown; on either side the word "Helsingfors"; across the top "Stadepost" and across the bottom "Kansain Posti"; in the four corners, and in the centre of the shield is the figure 10. Also on a scroll below the shield the words "10 Penni," and on the crown the words "10 Penni." The other is a letter card printed in green. The upper left-hand corner is occupied by a stamp bearing the figures of value in white, in an oval, on a

checkered ground. The inscriptions are much the same as those in the stamp described above. Across the top appears in large letters the word "Korrespondenskort" and across the bottom the words "Stadeposten i Helsingfors." Over the letter is a double-line. In the centre of the address side are two address lines. The upper is prefaced with the word "Till." At the right of the lower line is the inscription "gatan No—"

**Dutch East Indies.**—Two unpaid letter stamps have been added to the series—10 cents and 20 cents, color carmine, with white circle in center bearing the figures of value in black.

**Ecuador.**—The 50 centavo, has been surcharged with the words "Diez Centavos" in two lines black. This makes an additional provisional.

**Great Britain.**—A new series of this country is announced as shortly to issue. They will, doubtless, bear the representation of H. M. the Queen. The 1d. and 4d. in oval; the 1½d. and 6d. in horse-shoe-shaped; the 2d. and 6d. in hexagonal; the 9d. in circular; and the 3d. and 1s. in square frames. The design of the 4d. stamp will be unchanged but the color will be black. The 9d. revenue and postage stamp has been withdrawn.

**Germany.** has a new design of a new design. It is 6½ inches in width and has two double lines, 2½ inches apart running across its width. The stamp, which is near the middle of the right-hand side, is green with the value, 3pf. in white in the centre. Design the same as the current adhesive. Between the lines are two dotted address lines. Over the upper of these lines is the word "An" and at the beginning of the other "in."

**Greece.**—Three new cards and three new reply cards have issued. They are as follows:—5 lepta and 5 x 5 lepta black on buff; 10 lepta and 10 x 10 lepta blue on buff; 10 lepta and 10 x 10 lepta carmine on gray.

**Hawaii.**—The color of the 10 and 12c stamps, which were both hitherto black, has been altered, the former into bright vermilion, and the latter into purple. This gives them a very handsome appearance.

The new series announced in our last as in preparation, has appeared. The values and designs are as follows:—Stamp 25 cents, purple, statue of Kamehameha I. in profile, facing the state building in Honolulu. On the pedestal on which the statue stands is the inscription "Hawaii, 1883." On the left side of the stamp is "Kamehameha I," and on the right "Postal Union." The figures of value, "25," in color in the lower, and white in the upper corners.

Stamp 50 cents, orange-red, portrait of King Lunalilo, (born 1835, died 1874,) in oval frame. Above is the word "Hawaii" and in the lower half the value in the Hawaiian language, and in a scroll below that in English, "fifty cents." Also 50 in figures, white, in each of the upper corners.

Stamp 2s., carmine, full face portrait of dowager Queen Emma, (widow of Kamehameha IV, born January 2nd, 1836,) in oval frame. In the upper centre is "Hawaii," in a scroll below "Akahi dala," and in slanting panels in each of the upper corners, 100.

Reply cards, 1c x 1c, same design as the single 1c cards, but the color is purple on buff; 2c x 2c same design as the current 2c card—color ultra-marine on white.

Stamped envelopes, 2c and 5c, each bearing a view of the city of Honolulu as taken from the sea, are in use.

**Iceland.**—Reply cards of 5 x 5, 8 x 8 and 10 x 10 are in existence. They fold in the middle and are printed with the same design as the single cards on the first and third pages.

**India.**—A half-anna stamp has been added to the new series. It bears the profile of Queen

Victoria in an oval frame with "India Postage" above and "Half-anna" below. The color is dark green and it has as a watermark a star.

A service post-card, color white, is in use. The stamp in the upper right-hand corner is blue. It has in the centre a profile of the Queen's head surrounded by two circles, between which are the word "On her Majesty's Service." The two upper corners of the stamp have respectively "I" and "E," and across the bottom is the value, "quarter-anna." The rest of the upper third of the card is occupied by the inscriptions in blue "East India Service Post Card" and "The address only to be written on this side; the signature and official designation of the sender must be written on the reverse."

**Jamaica.** has a new reply post card, 1d. x 1d. blue on buff. A new U. P. U. card, 1½d., has superseded the provisional recently in use.

**Mauritius.**—A 6c. x 6c. reply post card, violet on buff has issued. The provisional 18 on 17 cts. has been surcharged with a smaller type—long primer condensed. The 2d. blue is also surcharged 8cts.

**New Zealand.**—Stamp-duty stamps of 5s., and of £1. have been used for postal purposes.

**Norway.** The colors of the 5 ore and the 20 ore have been changed to green and blue respectively, and they are water-marked "Post Horn."

**Orange Free State.**—A new 2d. stamps and post cards of the values of 1d. and 2d. are promised shortly.

**Peru.**—The Chilians having left Peru of course the stamps surcharged with their arms are no longer in use. In place of them the stamps of this country are surcharged with a triangle containing the sun and the word "Peru." The new current series is as follows:—

1	centavo, green, with horseshoe surcharge.
2	" vermilion, " "
5	" blue, " "
10	" green, without, " "
50	" with "Plata" and "Lira."

1 sol, pink, " "  
The 1c. and 2c. are also used with horseshoe surcharge, but without the triangular surcharge above described.

We note for the benefit of our philatelic friends that the 10 centavo green was surcharged with the Chilian arms in four different colors—red, yellow, blue and black. The same varieties also exist with the surcharge inverted.

**Philippine Islands.**—The 10 quartros, bistre, fiscal, and the 12 four-eighths de peso, blue, are both used as postals and surcharged in black as follows:—"Habilitado" in a segment of a circle above, "De un real" in the same below and "Pa. Correos" in a straight line across the centre. The 8 cent de peso, brown, postal, has been surcharged the same as the above, except that "20 mos" is substituted for "1 de un real." In some instances the surcharge is put on in reverse.

**Portuguese India.**—The ancient series (star) of this colony has been resuscitated with the following surcharges:—

1½	reis black.
4½	" olive-green.
6	" green.

**Salvador.**—Reply post-cards folded in the middle and printed on the first and third pages, are in circulation. They are 2 x 2 centavos, rose on buff; and 3 x 3 centavos, blue on white.

**St. Domingo, or Dominican Republic.**—There are two distinct varieties of type in the surcharges of the 50 centimos on the ten centavos. The minor variations in the surcharges of this island, together with the fact that stamps of the same values are found with and without net work, make a full set quite a large one.

**Siam.**—The Straits Settlements stamps of the values of 2, 4, and 12 cents, have been printed

All letters promptly answered if return postage is enclosed. Otherwise they will not be noticed.

in new colors,—carmine, yellow, brown, and brown-violet, and those of 5 and 10 cents with new dies. They have been surcharged with a large capital "B" in black, for use in the foreign correspondence of Bangkok, the capital of Siam. The long looked for stamps of this country have at last appeared, and they are indeed very handsome. Their fine execution and rich colors make them a desirable and welcome addition to a collection. The series consists of five, each bearing the profile portrait of the reigning sovereign, King Chu-la-long Korn, (born 1863,) in an oval frame, and the inscriptions are in Siamese characters. The three first of the set have the values in the four corners, surrounded by circles. In an ellipse in the centre of the top is the name of the coin represented. The fourth has the value in a scroll at the bottom, and the fifth in an arched scroll at the top. Their colors and values are as follows:—

- 1 Pei, blue.
- 1 Sol-ot, carmine.
- 1 At, salmon.
- 1 Song-pei, orange-gold.
- 1 Salung, dark orange.

The post-card is printed in red on a medium stout yellow board. In the upper right-hand corner is the imprint of the 1 At of the current adhesive. In the upper portion of the card is an inscription of two lines of Siamese characters with the arms of the kingdom in the centre. The engraving is in steel, by Messrs. Winslow & Co., is an extremely creditable piece of workmanship, and artistically perfect.

**Sierra Leone.**—Two reply cards of the same design as the ordinary cards except that they are double have issued. Values are 1 x 1d. carmine, and 1 1/2d., x 1 1/2d., grey.

**Straits Settlements.**—The following values have changed their colors and are now:—  
2c. carmine.  
4c. brown.  
12c. lake.

The following new values of a new type have been added:—  
5c. blue-also in lake.  
10c. dark slate.

**Surinam.**—The series of this country has received an addition in a lilac stamp of the value of 1 cent.

**Switzerland.**—The entire series of unpaid letter stamps has changed its color. The new series is green with figures of value in carmine. Two nowbands—2 and 5 rappen, the former in black and the latter in red—have issued.

**St. Lucia.**—The provisionals have been withdrawn, and their supplied with a new series similar to the ordinary type of the British Colonies. The values and colors are 1/2d. green, 1d. carmine, and 2 1/2d. blue.

**Tasmania.**—A 2d. envelope, green, bearing the bust of the queen in oval in centre, "Tasmania Postage" above and "Two Pence" below is in use. Also a registration envelope after the regular style of the British Colonial register envelopes, value 4d. with embossed stamp on the flap.

**Transvaal.**—An entire new series is about to issue. Of these only one, the 3d., red on white, instead of black on rose, has as yet appeared. This series is to supplant the provisionals hitherto in use.

**Uruguay.**—A set of new stamps for this republic is being engraved in New York. Collectors will look eagerly for their appearance. The current 5c. and 10c. stamps (head series) have been surcharged "Official"—the former in red and the latter in green. The supply of the 5c. stamps of the head series having run short they were obliged to fall back upon the remaining stock of the 1877 issue of that value and to surcharge it to take the place of the others with

"1888" and "Provisorio" in two lines across its face from bottom to top and, in some instances, vice versa.

**Victoria.**—This Australian colony has a new set of nowbands, cards and envelopes. The envelope is of two varieties—1d. green on white and on blue. The card is buff with adhesive 1d. rose and has a frame of four straight lines overlapping at the corners. The wrappers are of three varieties—1/2d. rose on white, 1d. green on white and 1d. green on blue.

**Virgin Islands.**—The colors of the stamps of these islands have again been changed and the 1/2d. is green and the 1d. rose. The 1/2d. yellow was in use but a very short time and will doubtless soon rank as a rarity.

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Canada.....	9 10
*Confederate States.....	3 10
Costa Rica.....	2 7
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Cyprus.....	4 15
Deccan.....	5 25
Dominica, (Prov'l, 1883),.....	4 rare 1.75
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Escuela—1879.....	3 25
French Colonies.....	6 15
Grenada.....	3 12
Guatemala—1871.....	3 30
"—1877.....	4 50
"—1882.....	5 36
*Hamburg—1804—1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12, 13, 14, 15, 16, 17, 18, 19, 20, 21, 22, 23, 24, 25, 26, 27, 28, 29, 30, 31, 32, 33, 34, 35, 36, 37, 38, 39, 40, 41, 42, 43, 44, 45, 46, 47, 48, 49, 50, 51, 52, 53, 54, 55, 56, 57, 58, 59, 60, 61, 62, 63, 64, 65, 66, 67, 68, 69, 70, 71, 72, 73, 74, 75, 76, 77, 78, 79, 80, 81, 82, 83, 84, 85, 86, 87, 88, 89, 90, 91, 92, 93, 94, 95, 96, 97, 98, 99, 100	4 14
Hanover—head.....	4 20
*Heligoland—1867.....	3 25
Haytien Republic.....	3 12
Honduras Republic.....	3 18
Italy—Official.....	3 15
"—Surcharged 2c.....	3 18
Jamaica.....	4 7
Liberia.....	3 12
Luxemburg—Official.....	4 12
Montevideo.....	4 12
Natal.....	5 15
Newfoundland—1881.....	4 15
*Nova Scotia, 1, 2, 5, 8, 10, 12, 13, 14, 15, 16, 17, 18, 19, 20, 21, 22, 23, 24, 25, 26, 27, 28, 29, 30, 31, 32, 33, 34, 35, 36, 37, 38, 39, 40, 41, 42, 43, 44, 45, 46, 47, 48, 49, 50, 51, 52, 53, 54, 55, 56, 57, 58, 59, 60, 61, 62, 63, 64, 65, 66, 67, 68, 69, 70, 71, 72, 73, 74, 75, 76, 77, 78, 79, 80, 81, 82, 83, 84, 85, 86, 87, 88, 89, 90, 91, 92, 93, 94, 95, 96, 97, 98, 99, 100	6 rare 1.65
Orange Free State.....	2 8
*Persia—1882—Service.....	4 35
".....	4 25
Peru.....	5 15
*Porto Rico—1880 to 1882.....	6 15
"—1880, 1/2 to 4.....	6 50
"—1881, 1/2 to 8.....	5 30
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Roumania.....	3 12
Russia.....	6 10
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Sweden, official.....	10 20
"—unpaid.....	10 30
*Servia.....	7 15
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St. Thomas.....	4 14
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U. S. of Colombia, 1881.....	5 30
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