

The Montreal Philatelist

A MONTHLY MAGAZINE DEVOTED TO
THE SCIENCE OF PHILATELY

PUBLISHED AT
126 St. James Street,
Montreal.



.. BY
W. James Wurtele.



WE COME FROM MONTREAL, AND GO TO ALL PARTS
OF THE WORLD:



VOL. 4. No. 11.

MAY., 15TH, 1902.

WHOLE No. 47.

A LIST WORTHY OF EXAMINATION.

Bulgaria, 1901, unpaid, 10s. new.....	8	.05
Crete, 1902, 25l. surcharged, new09
D.W. Indies, 1902, 2c on 3c, 8c on 10c, new50
Dom. Republic, 1902, 1c to 50c, new .	1.70	
Nicaragua, 1902, 5c lith., new08
" 1901, 10c unpaid, new20
Philippine Island, 1901, 6c, new12
" unpaid 3c, new10
Servia, 1901, 10 on 20p, 15 on 1p16
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Ecuador, Jub., 1896, 7 var. used25
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10 Bulgaria	9 Honduras	5 Paraguay	3 Sarawak
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The Montreal Philatelist

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MAY 15th, 1902.

Whole No. 47

NEWS OF THE MONTH

Our list of novelties this month is short, but not without interest. All the big European nations having brought out new stamps within the past two years, the little countries are also taking a hand in the game. Denmark is to open a competition for the most artistic design. Spain is making the most of its few remaining colonial possessions, and a new Italian colony has sprung into existence, or at least the stamps have, for there is no postal administration in the country as yet. How the recent terrible cataclysm in Martinique, which has shocked the world, will be marked in philatelic annals it is yet too early to say, but as a faithful index of historical events, the event is sure to be chronicled in some way in the album of the stamp collector.

ENTRANCES AND EXITS.

BRITISH LEVANT.—(*King's head 40 paras*).—The current 2^d Great Britain has been issued for offices in the Levant surcharged 40 PARAS. Specimens have been furnished by Whitfield, King & Co.

CANADA.—(*Officially sealed label*). A new official seal stamp has recently been issued for the use of the Dead Letter office. It is a large stamp, 1½ x 2 inches, printed in black on blue paper, inscribed OFFICIALLY SEALED CANADA, in two lines at the top, DEAD LETTER OFFICE at foot, with a portrait of Queen Victoria in the centre.

CAPE OF GOOD HOPE.—(*3d in new type*).—*Eve's Weekly*, reports the issue of the 3d magenta similar in design to the current 1^d with figure of Hope standing.

FERNANDO PO.—(*The annual issue*).—The series dated 1902, is reported from Madrid as follows:—

5	centimos green
10	" blue
25	" carmine
50	" black brown
75	" lilac
1	peseta rose
2	" bronze green
5	" vermilion

DENMARK.—(*New issue contemplated*).—The *S. C. Fortnightly* reports that the Danish Government is offering prizes for a new issue of stamps to be issued before the end of this year.

GREAT BRITAIN.—(*King Edward stamps*).—All the stamps announced last month have since been issued, as well as the 9d value, which appeared quite unexpectedly at the same time as the 2s 6d and 10s on April 7th. The 5s was issued April 18th, but retains its old color carmine nose, instead of the previously announced vermilion. The current 6d has been issued surcharged GOVT PARCELS.



GREECE.—(*Unpaid letter stamps*).—We illustrate the design of the new unpaid letter stamps, reported last month. We have received specimens from Whitfield, King & Co.

MAURITIUS.—(*Provisional 15c envelope*).—*L'Essor Philatelique* reports the 18c blue envelope surcharged 15 CENTS.

PARAGUAY.—(*1c and 10c lithographed*).



—We have received from Whitfield, King & Co., specimens of the lithographed stamps reported in February, and also two new values 1c green, and 10c carmine red. The current set now consists of:—

1c	green
2c	olive grey
4c	light blue
5c	violet
10c	carmine red

PERU.—(*Provisional 5c unpaid letter stamps*).—The stock of 10 soles stamps has been surcharged DEFICIT CINCO CENTAVOS for use as 5c unpaid letter stamps.

SPANISH GUINEA.—(*Set of stamps for 1902.*)—The Spanish settlements on the West coast of Africa have hitherto used Fernando Po stamps, but this year they are to be given a set for themselves. The report comes from Madrid, that a set of the same design colors and values as those of Fernando Po is shortly to appear, inscribed GUINEA ESPAÑOLA.

UGANDA.—(*Provisional stamps.*)—*Even's Weekly* reports the current ¼ and 2½ of British East Africa, surcharged in block capitals UGANDA, also the following British East Africa stationery with a similar surcharge 1a carmine post card, ¾a green reply card, and 2a red brown registration envelope.

WURTEMBERG.—(*Remainders.*)—We learn that remainders of the recently current issue superseded by the German stamps inscribed DEUTSCHES REICH, are being sold at face value by the postal administration at Stuttgart. Included with these remainders is the 2-mark stamp, which owing to the fact that it was never sold to the public, is catalogued unused at \$3.50, although of a face value of about 50 cents. This restriction being now removed the stamp will come down in price to about one-quarter of catalogue figures.

* * *

SPECULATIVE STAMPS AND COUNTERFEITS.

(The stamps described under this heading, we would advise collectors to avoid, as manufactured either by official authority or by private individuals for their own gain at the expense of philatelists).

BENADIR.—(*A new set of stamps.*)—In June 1900, and again in April 1901, on the authority of the *Revista del Franco Bollo* we announced that a set of stamps was being designed for the Italian colony of Eritrea in East Africa having lion and elephant heads as their feature. The same journal now announces a similar series from Benadir on the Somali Coast which possibly may be a new designation for Eritrea. The values and colors are given as follows:—

1	besa	(2 cent)	brown
2	"	(5 "	green
1	anna	(10 "	red
2	"	(20 "	yellow
2½	"	(25 "	blue
5	"	(50 "	orange
10	"	(1 lira)	violet

The arms of Savoy indicating Italian sovereignty appear on all with a lion's head as the principle design for the two low values, and an elephant's head for the others. From later information we learn that this set of labels is now on sale at the offices of an Italian Commercial Company which has the administration of the affairs of the colony in charge. As there is no postal service in existence and not a single post office open, although the Company

expects to open several in a month or two (perhaps when the natives have learned to write) these stamps must be considered, at least for the present, purely speculative of the same class as those of Brunel, Clipperton Islands, or the Principality of Trinidad.

UNITED STATES.—(*Counterfeit post cards.*) We take the following from the *United States Counterfeit Detector*:—A gang of counterfeiters has put in circulation a large quantity of spurious postal cards, causing a loss to the Post Office Department of thousands of dollars. Every effort is being made by Post Office Inspectors and Secret Service men to run down the gang. Postmaster Vancott issued on April 22 the following general order to employees of the New York Post Office:

"This office is advised by the Post Office Inspector in charge of this division that he has been informed of the circulation of a counterfeit postal card, which is described as follows: The card appears to be counterfeit. Top of name line runs together, genuine is spaced. Lines of Jefferson's face are coarse and broken, wreath not uniform, word "Jefferson" is light face, genuine is bold face type. It is a coated paper not used for cards. The whole appears to be a copy from an old worn plate. All employees of this office and its stations will be careful to watch for these cards, and upon the discovery of one of them will immediately report the fact to the officer in charge, in order that the matter may be promptly brought to the attention of the Inspector.

The authorities are working in the belief that the counterfeiters are located in this city, which is used as a distributing centre for the spurious cards.

NEW PUBLICATIONS.

CANADIANA.—*A monthly devoted to Canadian papers and stamps.* O. H. Tielemans, Mariahill, Grenfell, Assa. Canada.

We have received the first four numbers of this publication, hailing from the Canadian North-West Territories: Considering the difficulties of procuring a first class printing outfit in those regions, it would perhaps not be fair to speak of the typographical work, and the quality of the paper used, but we fear the publisher will find it difficult to secure a paying subscription list at 50c a year unless he can find means of improving his paper in these respects.

The publication treats of the collection of newspapers, pursued by a class of collectors, which the editor styles "those indefatigable prospectors for the records of humanity" and whose number he deprecates as small. In the part devoted to newspapers many interesting notes are given, which however it is not in our province to treat of. But in the portion devoted to

stamps, there are so many absurd errors, that we must conclude the editor is a novice at philately. For instance in No. 1, the statement is made that "the happy possessor of a (Canada) 12 pence black of 1851 will easily find a thousand dollars" for his little square of paper, while the "6 pence violet of the same period is worth \$150." A fine unused 6d is perhaps worth \$150, but used specimens are not rare, and we think it would be far from easy to find a purchaser of even a mint state 12d at \$1,000 for some years to come. An unverified pair was sold some time ago at \$1,200, and that we believe is the highest price yet paid for unused twelve pennies.

A curious blunder occurs in No. 3. "Up to now, Canada has enjoyed an unique distinction, namely, that from the inception of its stamps, one sole ruler has been pictured on them: Queen Victoria." We always thought that this "unique distinction" was shared by Great Britain and all the British colonies! In the same number New Brunswick instead of Nova Scotia is alluded to as the "O'Connell" (sic) stamp. The latter article itself is a complete mistatement of the facts in regard to the interesting stamp referred to.

Had these blunders occurred in one of the juvenile periodicals of the United States, they would not have been surprising, but it is decidedly regrettable that a Canadian journal, that should know better, should propagate such rubbish.

The Montreal Philatelist
supports and solicits votes
for the following candidates
in this year's C. P. S.
election:

President—T. S. Clark
V. P., Canada—H. L. Hart
V. P., U. S.—C. H. Fowle
Secy-Treas.—N. Huguenin
Sales Sup.—H. Smith
Auct. Mgr.—G. P. LeGrand
Attorney—George F. Downes
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Ex. Committee {
O. W. Barwick
C. H. Goulden
A. R. Magill

THE SFVEN CENTS ERROR

CANADA BILL STAMPS FIRST ISSUE.

By A. C. Roussel.

I have lately had the good fortune to have in my hands several complete sheets of the 7 cents of the first issue bill stamps. I was able to examine them at leisure and I think that the result of my examination will prove of interest to the many collectors of Canada Revenues.

The sheet is composed of 100 stamps arranged in rows of ten. The words SEVEN CENTS are inscribed in large blue capitals on the margin, at the right upper corner, above the first row of stamps.

The famous error SEVEN is found in the first stamp of the bottom or tenth row. In my opinion this error was never corrected by a subsequent retouch, and on this point, I differ completely from the position of Mr. W. Kelsey Hall, as I shall proceed to show.

Mr. Hall in the preface to his catalogue of the Revenue Stamps of Canada, (edition 1897) states:—"I have catalogued the "error of the seven cent first issue Bill "stamp because I have before me as I "write all sufficient proof that it is a "genuine error on the part of the engraver "and not due to a broken die, or faulty "work, as has been affirmed. I have, in "fact seen a specimen of the stamp printed from a re-engraved die, plainly showing the correction, as the bar added to "the "E" at the bottom to made it an "E" "was placed too high up, and too much to "the left."

The stamp to which Mr. Hall alludes, and of which I have had quite a few specimens at different times, exists in all the sheets that I have examined. It is the fourth stamp of the sixth row, and cannot be the correction of the SFVEN above named since these two varieties exist on all the sheets. More than that I do not consider it to be a corrected error because on closer examination, one sees that the label bearing the words "seven cents" appears to have been broken and a small white mark also exists on the "E" of "cents" giving it the appearance of an E with an accent; thus the line which has the appearance of a "bar added to the F" is nothing but a crack in the plate. (*)

There exists also another minor variety in the fifth stamp of the fifth row, the upper bar of the first E of "seven" being broken which gives it the appearance of the letter "F" reversed.

These two minor varieties, without being as interesting as the error SFVEN, are deserving of a place in any collection worthy of the name, side by side with the famous error which so few collectors can boast of owning.

(*) After careful examination we cannot agree with Mr. Roussel's opinion. The line referred to could not be caused by "a crack in the plate" of lithographed stamps. It appears to be a line added by the lithographer to supply a defect in the first design on the lithographic stone.—Editor M.P.

EDITORIAL.**THE CANADIAN PHILATELIC SOCIETY.**

Several members of this society have written to us, asking if there is to be a convention this year, and propounding various questions in regard to the annual election of officers.

At the convention held last July, when the constitution was revised, it appeared to be the unanimous idea of the members present, that annual conventions were undesirable, and consequently all mention of such a gathering was purposely omitted from the new constitution, and provision was made for taking the annual vote for officers, by mail, under the supervision of three scrutineers to be named by the president. The same article provides that the date of the election shall be fixed by the president, and that ballot forms shall be mailed to all members in good standing six weeks before the date fixed upon. This is in order to give ample time for members abroad to cast their votes. Allowing the secretary two weeks time to get the ballots printed and mailed would not be too much, consequently the president's proclamation fixing the date of the election and naming the scrutineers would have to be made at least two months in advance, particularly as notice of any changes proposed in the constitution "must be given" in the official organ two months before "the date of the election." As nothing has been heard from our president, Mr. Hall, on the subject, we would inform enquiring members that no election can be held this year much earlier than August 15th. We have no doubt we shall hear from Mr. Hall in good time.

The society has been somewhat handicapped during the past few months by the inaction of the board of trustees. Several matters have been brought to the attention of these gentlemen, particularly the question of appointing a purchasing agent, as they have the filling of all vacancies that occur between elections, but they refuse to meet. One gentleman states he has resigned from the board, and the other two state that they have not been notified of the resignation by the president, and cannot in consequence appoint a successor to the vacancy in their own body, much

less make appointments to other vacancies.

In our opinion the society has got into a rut of do-nothing-ism, and it wants to be roused up by vigorous action, such as a change of the principal officers for instance. Mr. Fowle has proved a most able painstaking secretary, but as he has intimated that he will not again accept that office, we would suggest his promotion to the position of Vice President for U.S. Mr. Legrand has done exceedingly well as auctioneer and should be re-elected. Mr. Smith as sales superintendent has again proved himself a painstaking, conscientious official, whose services to the society stand pre-eminent. Mr. Downes has done all that has been required of him, but from the president, the two vice-presidents and the librarian we never hear a word. This is all wrong, there is plenty of work to do for every officer of such a society, they should be heard from in every issue of the official organ.

The ticket that will receive the support of the MONTREAL PHILATELIST is published in our advertising columns, and we solicit the votes of the members for the candidates named. Remember that no nominations are required, the ballots are sent out blank, and members write in the names of those they wish to vote for. This secures a perfectly free election and restricts no one's choice.

THE DESCRIPTION OF FORGERIES.

In the *American Journal of Philately*, in defence of his policy of silence on the subject of the description of forged stamps, Mr. Luff remarks:—"When a government discovers a forgery in one of its securities it does not print notices in the public press, saying, 'the forger of such and such a bank note will kindly observe that his work differs from the official production in such and such a way.'" While the Government, of course, does not exactly address the forger in the way Mr. Luff mentions, that gentleman surely must be aware that as soon as a counterfeit note is discovered, a circular letter is issued by Mr. John E. Wilkie, chief of the secret service of the Treasury Department, giving a minute description of the forgery. This notice is published in the public press, and partic-

ularly in *Dickerman's United States Treasury Counterfeit Detector*, a monthly publication that is probably read by every banker in the United States and Canada. It is from the May number of this publication that we extract the description of the recent forgery of United States post cards which we publish in another column. Prompt publication of the defects in forged bank notes has been found by the United States Treasury Department to be the surest way to render counterfeiting unprofitable, and the same rule applied to stamps will have a similar result.

COOK ISLANDS.

NOTES ON FIRST ISSUE, "MAKEA" AND "TOREA" SERIES OF STAMPS.

By Vivian C. Gosset.

Numerous enquiries both by letter and verbally, from Philatelic customers reach the Cook Island postmaster as to "what bird is depicted on the stamps?" also "whose effigy is it that the stamps bear?" The following are a few notes on these stamps in general.

FIRST ISSUE.

The first issue of the Cook Island stamps of which there were four values, viz:—1d black, 1½d lilac, 2½d blue and the 10d red, appeared in 1892 and were printed at the "Star" office in Auckland, New Zealand. They were type-set, as can be easily seen by looking closely, and were considerably larger than the current series. The words "*Postage*," "*Cook Islands*," "*Federation*," "*1½d* *pence*," or whatever value the stamp was, appeared in four straight lines across the stamp. The centre of the stamp was occupied by a circle of six stars surrounding a larger one in the centre. These stars, most people are led to believe are simply put there for ornamentation, but such is not the case. They represent the seven islands comprising the Cook group, the large star standing for the principal island of the group, Rarotonga; the six small stars are for Aitutaki, Mangaia, Atiu, Mitiaro, Mauke, and Manuae, these seven islands comprise the whole of the Cook group, although there is a very small coral atoll situated to the north-west of Atiu, distant 12 miles, its name is Takutea and it is only one mile long by a half broad. The natives of Atiu plant "pia" and Coconuts on Takutea from which they make arrowroot and copra, otherwise the island is uninhabited. When this first issue went out of date the remainders were burnt before a committee appointed by the British Resident Mr F. Moss, for that purpose. Ever since the burning of these stamps various rumors have been afloat as to whether or not they were all destroyed; but I think it only goes as far as rumor as, in my opinion, they were all burnt.

"MAKEA SERIES."

After the unsightly labels comprising the first issue were done away with, a new

lot appeared, of 1d brown (afterwards changed to blue); 1½d lilac, 2½d rose, 5d olive and 10d green, all bearing the effigy of a native "*Lady of the Royal Blood*" who is known as Makea-Takau Ariki, but is generally miscalled "Queen" Makea. She is not queen of the Cook Islands, but is only Ariki or chief of her district, Avarua in Rarotonga, although at present she holds office as chief of the Cook Islands Federal government. She is a very portly old lady about 65 years of age and I believe she has held the Ariki-ship of Avarua for about 45 years; although she cannot speak a word of English she is a very intelligent, commonsense woman for a Maori. The elderly married native women at Rarotonga have a custom of plaiting their hair into two long tails which they sometimes carry over either shoulder, one of these "tails" can be seen over the right shoulder of Makea on the stamp. She has, like all Maori women, a fine head of hair. Around her neck is seen a large white silken scarf, as all the Maoris are very fond of finery and bright colors. Makea belongs to the old predominating Makea-Karika clan who emigrated from Hawaiki many, many generations back, they discovered Rarotonga where they settled. Makea is married to Ngamaru-Ariki the hereditary chief of the Islands of Atiu, Mitiaro and Mauke, she has no direct descendant, but the title will go to her cousin, Rangai-Makea.

BIRD SERIES.

When the parcels post convention was signed between the Cook Islands and New Zealand it was found that some denominations would be necessary that were not included in the stamps then in use; so a new set was prepared having as its complement the ½d blue, 2½d brown, 6d deep lilac and the 1s rose. They were of an oblong shape having the value in each of the four corners. All values were printed from the same plates the figures of value being printed in afterwards. The middle of the stamp is occupied by a flying bird called by the natives Torea—with a view of Rarotonga in the background. The Torea is one of the Plover species and its scientific name is *Totanus Cancellatus*. It is mentioned in numerous Maori songs, laments and traditions, hence the suitability of placing it on the stamp. The Torea are not now so plentiful at the Cook Islands as they were in former times, having suffered much by the depredations of the natives for the purposes of food. They are of a light color with bright red beak and legs and frequent the lowlying sandy flats on the seashore and also the tide levels. Rarotonga which appears in the background is viewed from the north, looking south. Along the seashore is the settlement of Avarua on the northern side. The two peaks seen are Mount Ikorangi, the eastern peak, 2,100 feet in height, and Mount Te Atu Kura the western peak, 3,000 feet elevation. The latter is a well-known landmark to mariners around the group, as it can be seen on clear days for a distance of 60 miles. The foregoing notes are on the

issues of C. I. stamps to date, and I trust will be of interest, I shall now discuss philatelic prospects since the federation with New Zealand.

WILL THE COOK ISLANDS ADOPT NEW ZEALAND STAMPS?

This is a question that should interest all Philatelists. The Federation of the Cook Islands is now under the New Zealand Government, having been recently annexed by Lord Ranfurly, Governor of that colony. The question is, will the stamps be changed? New Zealand laws have been adopted as also have the rates of tariff; and various other changes have or will soon take place, which all go to show that the Cook Islands are essentially adopting New Zealand rule and government. Another item of interest is, a chief post-

one of the C. I. birds—the Torea (on the ½d, 2d, 6d and 1s labels). Now Makea-Ariki is, or was, the chief at the Cook Islands Federal Government, but this will most probably be abolished, if so, Makea will naturally lose her office; but she will, of course, retain her title and position as chief of the Avarua district, the principal one on the most important island of the group—Raratonga. It was on account of the "mana" or power she had that she was elected to the former office. Whether or not, representatives from the C. I. will be elected to the N. Z. Parliament remains to be seen. If her head is retained on the stamps it will be a very strange proceeding, as the islands are now formally a colony of the British Crown, and if the authorities follow the proper course, the King's head



THE CHIEF POST OFFICE, RARATONGA, COOK ISLANDS.

THE BRITISH RESIDENT, LT.-COL. GUDGEON, READING A PROCLAMATION.

master of the group has been appointed who was selected from the N. Z. Civil Service. Included in the annexation policy of New Zealand (besides the Cook Islands), are the tropical islands of Palmerston, Niue, Penrhyn, Manihiki, Rakahanga, Suwarrow and Pukapuka, and these places will adopt the same stamps as the C. I. group, as the Government officials who have been appointed there to control the revenue, etc. are at present paid by the Cook Islands Government.

The stamps at present in use are of two types, one bearing the effigy of Makea-Ariki (on the 1d, 1½d, 2½d. 5d and 10d values), the other type having a picture of

will be substituted. Formerly the group was only under the protection of the British flag, but since annexation, matters have altered.

As the islands will still collect and expend their own revenues as they have done in the past, the New Zealand stamps possibly might not be adopted, so as to prevent any confusion of stamp revenues of the two colonies.

The New Zealand Government Printing Department print all the stamps of the C. I. group, and, in my opinion, that office will, in view of the foregoing facts, probably soon receive orders relative to the reproduction of a different stamp.

