



THE STAMP COLLECTORS' FORTNIGHTLY.

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CONTENTS.

	PAGE
Philatelic Personalities	41
City of London Philatelic Club	41
Philately at Home	42
Franks and Frankers	42
Prize Competitions	43
Under Bennett's Clock	43
Between Ourselves	44
Bad Stamps and Real Love	45
A Visitor from India	45
The Y $\frac{1}{2}$ of Cuba	46
Answers to Correspondents	47
The "P.P.A."	48
Essays on Specialism	50
Philatelic Memories	51
Auction Sales of Stamps	52
Our Black List	54
Philately Abroad	55
Our Forum	56

Philatelic Personalities.

CONCERNING the late Mr. Gilbert Harrison, whose death is so deeply deplored in philatelic circles, many interesting personal details are given in the sympathetic obituary notices of the *Monthly Journal* and the *London Philatelist*. The deceased philatelist was a great footballer, it seems. He was captain of his college team, and afterwards became an "international," playing for England against Wales, Scotland and Ireland. It is believed (the *Monthly Journal* tells us) that in one of these matches, a few years ago, he received some internal injury, which developed into cancer on the spine—the primary cause, it appears, of his untimely death.

MR. HARRISON'S executors, it is added, have placed his varied and valuable collections of stamps in the hands of Messrs. Stanley Gibbons, Limited, for disposal. Their value is estimated at £15,000!

WE are happy to be able to state, on the authority of a letter printed elsewhere, that the book on the stamps of Afghanistan, upon which Mr. Harrison had been working in conjunction with various members of the London Society, will be published after all, it being found that the manuscript is in a sufficiently advanced stage of preparation.

HERR PH. DE FERRARY, the well-known Parisian collector, is at present staying in London on his usual annual visit. He has once stated that London is the best place to find philatelic treasures; many of his choicest gems emanate from London dealers, and no wonder, seeing that everything discovered in matter philatelic is at once reported to London and in most cases at once snapped up.

MR. GEORGE J. HYNES, Postmaster-General of Bengal, an interview with whom we publish elsewhere, will stay in

England until January, 1896, when his leave expires. Mr. Hynes talks of leaving the service shortly and settling down at home. He has been in harness for twenty-six years, and that in such a climate as India's, is enough for any man.

* * *

ANOTHER distinguished philatelic visitor is Mr. R. F. Albrecht, of New York City. Mr. Albrecht's special business over here is perhaps explained by a paragraph in Mr. C. J. Phillips's "Notes and News," announcing that the New York branch of the Stanley Gibbons business, is, if we may use the word in this connection, disestablished.

* * *

As a specialist in Continental stamps, with perhaps a particular weakness for Spain and its Colonies, Mr. G. A. Padro is well known. Our readers will therefore appreciate the valuable article from his pen which appears in this issue. Mr. Padro is a city man and a member of the City of London Philatelic Club.

* * *

AMERICAN "philatelic journalists"—"pen pushers" they more often call one another—are nothing if not personal in the extreme and boisterously libellous. Mr. Herbert Crane Beardsley, writing in the *Pennsylvania Philatelist*, anent the plans for next year's P. S. of A. Convention, says "Roy F. (meaning presumably Roy F. Green) will be there, with all his poetry, etc. Bring your guns along!"

* * *

AGAIN, he writes, concerning a personal grievance: "One Frederick S. Fox, made the infamous statement the month before last that I rode a bicycle and wore a pink shirt. He makes a mistake there. I have a good many bad habits, but thank heaven I neither ride a bicycle, wear pink shirts, smoke cigarettes, nor play on a mandolin."

* * *

IN further "pars," all as genially quarrelsome as the foregoing, Mr. Beardsley speaks of "Kissing and his gang," "the Omaha gang," and "Grandfather Russell" (meaning the President of the Sons of Philatelia); and finally states with the greatest gravity that he (the writer) has "just been elected President of the Philatelic Writers' Protective and Benevolent Association." He adds that he is "still in the ice business," but this, if it be a joke, is far too subtle for our poor brains. But how "fearfully and wonderfully made" is American philatelic journalism!

City of London Philatelic Club.

MR. MORLEY ON CANADIAN FISCALS.

"CANADIAN FISCALS" was the burden of the very interesting discourse by Mr. Walter Morley at the meeting of the C.L.P.C., held on Thursday, December 6th. Mr. Morley showed his own very fine collection of these fiscals, which is nearly complete, and includes representatives

however, is my strongest country. Here"—turning over the leaves of a Gibbons' "Philatelic" Album—"is my Indian collection. You see I have nearly everything in whole sheets, or rather whole plates, for four of these plates of 120 stamps would go to the printer's 'sheet.'"

"Here, you see, is the 8 pies without watermark, and the $\frac{1}{2}$ anna, blue, imperf. and perf. Of the perforated varieties of the blue I have three separate plates, representing the three distinct printings of May, July, and August, 1854." "And, by the way," Mr. Hynes went on, "there is

A THING NOT GENERALLY KNOWN

that you might mention in connection with this 1854 issue. The $\frac{1}{2}$ anna blue and the 2 annas green differ appreciably in watermark—not in the central coat of arms itself, but in the wavy lines which forms an outer border to the sheet. See!" and Mr. Hynes held the two sheets up to the light to demonstrate the fact that in the one the wavy line comprised three loops, and in the other five loops.

Mr. Hynes has complete sheets of all the 1854 values, and complete plates of all issues from the watermarked elephant's head onwards. Of the exceedingly rare 6 annas, 8 pies "Service"—worth about £7 per stamp—he possesses a block of ten, and regrets that he did not keep a whole sheet; and of the small "Service" series he has a goodly show of the 8 pies, 4 annas and 8 annas, including a sheet of the last named value, unwatermarked. Nor must I forget to mention a beautiful proof sheet of the $\frac{1}{2}$ anna black, a stamp which was abandoned almost as soon as it was designed, for much the same reason as that which impelled the British postal authorities to change the "black penny" to red. Altogether Mr. Hynes' Indians are a beautiful lot, and unrivalled, I suppose, by the possessions of any other collector of these stamps. His sheet of the $\frac{1}{2}$ anna red, if ever it came into the market, would fetch something like a cool thousand.

AS A GENERAL COLLECTOR.

Mr. Hynes has had of course greater difficulties to contend with; but he seems to have overcome them very satisfactorily. In Europeans he is nearly complete, though he is doubtful as to the respectability of certain old Moldavians which he has just submitted to the Expert Committee of the London Philatelic Society. Of that Society, by the way, Mr. Hynes has been a member for two years past, and since his arrival in London he has attended several meetings at Effingham House. Possibly in the near future his fellow-members will be favoured by him with a paper on Indian stamps. It is certain that what he does not know, philatelically, concerning our Eastern Empire, is not worth knowing.

PERCY C. BISHOP.

The $Y \frac{1}{4}$ of Cuba.

— RACKE 94127

Translated from the *The Echo de la Timbrologie*.

SURCHARGED Stamps are now to be found in all collections. No collector can ignore their existence. For this reason it seems to me that it will be interesting to know which was the first surcharged stamp.

The country to which belongs this doubtful honour is France; but it would serve no useful purpose to dwell at any length on this stamp, which, as everyone knows, is the 25c. on the 20 centimes blue of 1850.

Only one printing was made, and an alteration in the postal rate rendered the surcharge unnecessary. The stamp, therefore, was never issued to the public. Properly speaking, the first surcharged stamp was issued by the Spanish Indies in 1855, the same year in which appeared first issue of Cuba. This surcharge was " $Y \frac{1}{4}$ " on the Cuban stamp of 2 reales plata. Of course, a great number of philatelists have found in this inscription an enigma about which they were much troubled; but its meaning is not far to seek. Nothing is more easy, in fact. The philatelists would think only of the inscription of the Spanish stamp, edition 1879/82, "Correos

y Telegrafos,"—which every collector will translate as "Posts and Telegraphs"—they would arrive at a quick solution, and understood the significance of this peculiar overcharge.

" $Y \frac{1}{4}$ " simply means "and $\frac{1}{4}$."

The stamp receiving this surcharge is—as you will observe—the 2 Reales Plata, red brown edition of 1855. It represents the effigy of the Queen Isabella II. looking to the right and the paper shows rings as watermarks, like the corresponding Spanish edition. The stamp is one of a series of three, the others being the $\frac{1}{2}$ real blue green and the 1 real green.

However, the edition of these 3 values was not quite sufficient for the necessities of postal service. The duty for letter postage in the capital itself being fixed at $\frac{1}{4}$ real, and the metropolis not having taken care to provide the colony with stamps of this value, the postal administration of the Spanish Antilles, promptly rectified the omission by the issue of this surcharged stamp.

Though it has been argued that the appearance of this surcharged stamp could not have any official character, careful inquiries make it an indisputable fact that the Governor of the Island authorized the edition by a decree dated the 15th November, 1855.

At first sight it would appear that the application of " $Y \frac{1}{4}$ " to the stamp of 2 Reales Plata relates to this value—that is to say, that the surcharged stamp is of the value of 2 $\frac{1}{4}$ reales, but it is not so. The surcharged " $Y \frac{1}{4}$ " was intended to alter the value to $\frac{3}{4}$ real, thus making the series consist of four stamps— $\frac{1}{4}$, $\frac{1}{2}$, 1 and 2 reales.

The 2 Reales Plata of the 1856 issue, with a diamond as watermark, and that of 1857, on wove paper, received the same surcharge, which was used at Havana till 1862, where a special type of this value came out printed in black like the first ones with the effigy Isabella, but this time looking to the left.

The stamps " $Y \frac{1}{4}$ " are much esteemed by philatelists, and I know more than one who would be happy to possess them.

Besides, their commercial value is sufficiently high to class them as good stamps. The following are the values:—

		UNUSED	USED
1855.	$Y \frac{1}{4}$ for 2 reales, red carmine	£1/12/-	12/-
1856.	" " red	£4/15/-	£2/1/-
1857.	" " rose	4/-	£3/2/2

All three have the black surcharge.

Several amateurs have taken pains to find out varieties of this surcharge. We know four absolutely indisputable ones. They are found by observation of the " Y " and are to be distinguished by these four forms:—The height of the " Y " for the first type is $4\frac{1}{4}$ millimetres; for the second type 5 millimetres; for the third type $5\frac{1}{4}$ millimetres; and for the fourth type $5\frac{1}{2}$ millimetres.

Besides, the distance between the two arms of the Y on the top varies from $\frac{1}{4}$ to 1 millimetre.

With regard to the figures 1 and 4 (which forms the $\frac{1}{4}$) they have a height of from 2 to $2\frac{1}{2}$ millimetres, according to the variety. Finally the number 4 shows a slight difference in size according to the different types.

The surcharge stamps of the Spanish Antilles have afforded endless opportunities for forgeries which inundate our markets. We can classify them without difficulty in two categories: those, where both stamps and surcharge are falsified, and those where a falsified surcharge has been placed on authentic stamps. In the former case the forgeries need not be largely discussed; for if the stamp is bad, it is clear that the surcharge must be bad also.

But in the second case, the evidence of the imitation requires more serious observation and enquiry. Deceived by the authenticity of the 2 reales stamp, people believe the same of the surcharge. One of the signs which at once betrays forgery of the surcharge is, that the " Y " has its 2 arms of different length.

Last year (1893) a London house sold numerous forgeries of the surcharge " $Y \frac{1}{4}$ " on the 2 reales.

The distinctive character of these dangerous imitations is that they are 1 millimetre too high and that the $\frac{1}{4}$ is further from the " Y ," which will give it some millimetres more in

breadth. All these stamps are used, but an attentive examination shows quickly that the surcharge is put over the obliteration.

[This article has been translated from the French, as various statements made therein do not seem to agree with acknowledged facts. The writer of the reply is a well-known specialist who had an opportunity to verify his researches by official records. What he states, are therefore, facts, not conjectures. *Ed., S.C.F.*]

A SPECIALIST'S REPLY. <PADR9412>

I think it to the interests of philatelists to dispel the erroneous impression which Mr. G. Ackein's article, printed above, may convey to the reader, on the origin and meaning of this surcharge.

Though "Cuba" as Mr. Ackein very rightly puts it, is the pioneer of surcharged stamps, having been the first in producing these most objectionable philatelic monstrosities, it is vastly to her credit that her postal authorities have not availed themselves more fully of this mode of swelling their exchequer, a perfectly justifiable reason being given for the issue of the above surcharge as well as for those of 1866 and 1883, true it is that following the dictates of the mother country her issues since 1864 have been very numerous, but of this more anon.

Prepayment of postage became compulsory in Cuba on January 1st, 1857, though in accordance with a Royal decree, dated in Madrid on September 1st, 1854, postage stamps were issued for sale to those who chose to prepay postage from January 1st, 1855.

This issue consisted of three values only, viz.:

- $\frac{1}{2}$ real, plata fuerte (blue), for Inland postage
- 1 " " (green), for postage to Spain
- 2 reales, " (carmine), for postage to Philippine Islands

All collectors are aware that the above issue, and all the subsequent ones (except the surcharged stamps of 1855 and 1866) up to 1876 inclusively, were in use both in Cuba and Puerto Rico; but it is perhaps less known that the so-called issues of 1856 and 1867 exist only as such in the minds of compilers of catalogues and handbooks who found it very convenient to thus account for three varieties of paper on which the 1855 issue was printed. The fact is that as the "Fabrica Nacional del Sells" in Madrid had run through the supply of the paper watermarked "loops," an order was issued on the 28th of December, 1855, authorizing the use of the paper watermarked "lozenges," the stock of which must have been comparatively small, as on the 11th of April, 1856, official notice of its exhaustion was given, sanctioning at the same time the use of the plain white wove paper, in use from that date until 1864, when the 1855 Issue was withdrawn; during the nine years' life of the stamps and between 1858 and 1862, many were the forgeries found of them, and to describe them would be beyond the scope of the present paper.

ORIGIN AND MEANING OF THE SURCHARGE Y $\frac{1}{2}$.

Whilst harmony was in postal communication with the Inland towns of Cuba, with Spain, and with the Philippine Islands by means of the adhesives of 1855, locally there was no recognised official Postal Service, the consequence was, that the only means to send a letter from one part of the City to another was by private messenger involving in some instances an exorbitant outlay, it therefore became apparent to the authorities that such state of things was far from conducing to the comfort of the inhabitants of Havana, and on November 18th, 1855 the

Correo Ynterior (Local Post)

was officially established and the first surcharged stamp was issued. So that from the above your readers may easily see the meaning of the letter Y on the 2r of 1855 is nothing more nor less than Interior: that is to say available only within the precincts of the City of Havana, and all stamps so surcharged are purely locals.

The limited stock of the watermarked papers, principally that of the "Lozenges," will, to a great extent, show why the surcharged stamps are so scarce on these papers, and help to explain why the forger has been so assiduously exercising his skill in their imitation.

There are three distinct types of the surcharge.

- two on the paper watermarked Loops.
- one " " Lozenges.
- one " " with no watermark.

of which there are three minor varieties.

	1st Type. Paper Wmk. Loops.	2nd Type. Paper Wmk. Loops and Lozenge.	3rd Type. Paper Without Wmk.
Height of letter Y ...	43mm.	53mm.	5mm.
Width " " " ...	3mm.	23mm.	33mm.
" " " thick stroke ...	36mm.	3mm.	1mm.
Length " Numeral 1 ...	2mm.	2mm.	2mm. (bare)
" " fractional line ...	33mm.	33mm.	2mm.
Total height of fraction ...	7mm.	7mm.	53mm.

The remaining three varieties of this surcharge on the no watermark paper consists of:—

- a. Inverted 1 in the fraction
- b. Roman figure 1 instead of 1
- c. Thinner figures in the fraction.

The shrinkage of the paper may account for varieties of the first two types not agreeing in all particulars with the above table, though any very marked deviation may safely be looked upon as a certain indication of forgery.

The shades of these stamps vary greatly, and the prices vary according to rarity of shade; thus the rosy-pink shade of types I. and II., watermarked loops, are worth three times as much as the carmine shade. Type II., on paper watermarked lozenges, is quite a rarity. There are various errors in the wording of the upper label in all the values of this issue, the word Correos being spelt Corbeos, Corfos, &c., but I should think that these are mainly due to the worn state of the plates. G. A. PADRO.

Answers to Correspondents.

. We shall at all times be glad to answer any questions which relate in any way to Philately. But to make the work of our Correspondence Editor as light as possible, readers are requested:—(1) To write on one side of the paper only; (2) to make their communications as brief as possible; and (3) in the event of asking more than one question to number their queries, a, b, c, and so on.

H. H. (Carnarthen) has been reading our Bremen articles and finds that one of his Bremens—the 10 grote, black on white—answers fully to the description given, except that the "O" of the figure 10 on the left side does join. We should like to see the stamp. The Prince Edward Islands about which "H.H." enquires are probably quite genuine. As to his third question, yes, the absence of watermark would be enough to condemn the 96c. Straits Settlements. But is "H. H." sure there is no watermark? The perforation, 12 $\frac{1}{2}$, is quite in order. The firm of Young and Stockall, of whom H. H. speaks in a fourth question is a thing of the past. It is difficult to speak with certainty as to the reputation of individuals; but if H. H. will send the unused collection he speaks of to our publishers they will be happy to pronounce upon the status of the stamps therein. (E.) The best all-round stamp catalogue is Senf's, but Gibbons's and Scott's have their good points as well. It is best to have all three.

Granville (Eastbourne) speaks of the 10c. on 8c. Straits Settlements in slate—quite a distinct colour to the normal green. So far this error is unknown; but if "Granville" will send the stamp to our publishers, enclosing return postage, they will be happy to give their opinion.

J. W. J. asks as to the value of a New South Wales wrapper with penny adhesive stamp cut in half and used (on the wrapper) as a halfpenny stamp. No value at all; the thing is only a postal eccentricity—a "made variety." As to the French Levant with error of surcharge, our publishers would like to see it, if our correspondent will send it to them, enclosing a stamped envelope for reply.