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THE

Halifax Philatelist.

VOL. II.

MAY, 1888.

No. 5.

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HALIFAX PHILATELIC COMPANY,
P. O. BOX 219.

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The Halifax Philatelist,

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The Halifax Philatelist.

VOL. II.

HALIFAX, N. S., MAY, 1888.

No. 5.

MAURITIUS POSTAGE STAMPS.

THE following paper was read by Lieut. Evans, R. A., at the Annual Meeting of the Royal Society of Arts and Sciences held on the 28th August, 1878:—

MR. PRESIDENT AND GENTLEMEN,

The paper which I have the honour of reading before you to-day is devoted to the consideration of certain curious specimens of engraving and printing, made in this Island some years ago, for the purpose of being employed as postage stamps.

Before however proceeding to the subject of my paper, I venture to ask your attention to the few remarks showing how widely spread is the pursuit of collecting postage stamps, and thus accounting for the interest taken in these and other parts of the world, in these engravings as stamps principally and as curiosities of engraving secondarily.

These books (“The Stamp Collector’s Magazine” and “The Philatelist”) are volumes of two periodicals, published in England in monthly numbers, entirely devoted to subjects directly or indirectly connected with the collection and study of stamps; both of them contain a vast number of illustrations, both are well printed and got up (one of them being conspicuously so), showing that neither care nor expense was spared in their preparation; one of them was started in 1863, the other in 1867, the first continued in existence for twelve years, the second for ten. These were the most important, or at all events the most long lived of the English publications devoted to this subject, but they were not by any means the only ones; during their career they may be said to have seen the rise and fall of Stamp Collecting as a fashionable mania, during the accurate period of which many ephemeral periodicals of a kindred nature sprang up and withered away. Although both of these magazines have ceased to exist in their earlier form, their publishers still issue monthly or quarterly circulars, consisting principally of advertisements and descriptions of newly issued stamps, etc., and they, as well as some three or four other firms in England, still carry on the business of dealers in stamps, and, I presume, succeed in making a living by it; in other parts of Europe, in France, Germany and Italy, and also in the United States, there are works of a similar nature published, and persons engaged in the same business; in short, I may safely say, that no other pursuit of no direct utility, certainly no other that has been so much despised and ridiculed, has given rise to so large an amount of special literature or afforded a means of livelihood to so large a number of persons.

Besides all this there are two Societies,—may I venture to call them Learned Societies?—the headquarters of one of which is London, and the other Paris, founded for the express purpose of studying stamps and other things connected with them; the English Society has not yet published any of its work, but that of Paris issues a Quarterly Bulletin, containing accounts of its meetings and portions of a catalogue which it is preparing; the number laid before you contains a list of its members who may be seen to be of various professions and nationalities.

The early stamps of Mauritius, and more especially those produced by local talent, have always excited very great interest among collectors, partly as very curious specimens of engraving, partly on account of the great rarity of some of the varieties of them, and partly no doubt on account of the want of accurate information as to the origin and dates of issue, which led to all sorts of conjectures being formed about them and consequent discussions of the various theories on the subject; many articles upon them have been published from time to time both in English and foreign magazines, but it was not until quiet recently that any really authentic information about them reached Europe. This information I was enabled to obtain through the kindness of the late, and of the present Colonial Secretary.

It appears that in 1846 a Postal Ordinance was passed in Mauritius in which Postage Stamps were first contemplated, and some time in 1847 a Mr. Barnard engraved two copper plates, one bearing a single stamp of the value of "one penny," the other a similiar stamp of the value of "two pence," for in September 1847, the then post master reported that the stamps required for carrying out Ordinance 13 of 1846 were ready, 700 of them having been struck off, such being apparently his idea of an adequate supply; however he seems soon to have found out that the stamp consuming capacity of the Mauritius public, even at that date was very much greater than he expected, for in May 1848, he reported that certain improved plates, containing twelve types each, one plate of penny the other of two penny stamps, were ready, and requested that a supply of each value should at once be struck off; other paragraphs in the letter show, that 1000 stamps had been printed from the original single stamp plates, and that those plates had been at once found to be quiet unable to produce a sufficient quantity of stamps to supply the demands of the public. These stamps were entirely for local postage, no stamps of higher value than two pence were issued here till some years later, but even in England penny and two penny postage stamps were the only ones in use up to 1847, in which year a shilling stamp was issued, followed in 1847 by a ten pence.

(To be continued.)

AMERICAN envelopes are being well ventilated now with Scott in the *Am. Journal of Philately*; Casey in the *Stamp Collector's Figaro*, and Tiffany in the *Collector's Ledger*.

THE STAMPS OF GUINEA.

UNTIL the 24th May, 1879, the Portugese Colonies of Guinea and the Cape Verde were under the same postal administration, both colonies using the same stamps, those of Cape Verde. After the date mentioned they were formed into separate provinces with separate administrations, and with this commences the history of the postage stamps of Guinea. To furnish stamps for the use of the new province, the stamps of Cape Verde were taken and sent to the Government printers at Bolama the capital of Guinea, and there surcharged GUINE. The surcharge is in small letters being only 2 mm. high and 9 mm. long. The surcharge was done by means of a hand stamp. The exact date cannot now be agreed upon, but the stamps thus surcharged were probably sent to Cochen in the beginning of 1881, about the same period at which the stamps with the large surcharge arrived from the metropolis (Lisbon.)

The series consist of the first issue of Cape Verde printed on thin paper perforated 12½, the most of those stamps are not gummed. The following are the colors and values:—

5 reis	black,	Black Surcharge.
10 "	yellow,	"
20 "	bistre,	"
25 "	rose,	"
40 "	blue,	"
50 "	green,	"
100 "	lilac,	"
200 "	orange,	"
300 "	brown,	"
Error,		"
	Mocambique	instead on Cape Verde in circle.
40 reis,	blue,	black surcharge.

The sheet in which this error is found is composed of seven horizontal strips of stamps by four deep. The error is the seventh stamp on the second strip.

All the values are found without accent, and the 100 lilac will be found with a triple surcharge. 100 reis, lilac, triple surcharge.

On the 1st April, 1881, the stamps for Guinea, surcharged at Lisbon, arrived in the Colony. The surcharge is printed in black and measures 3½ mm. in height by 11½ mm. in length. The following are the quantities of the stamps sent:—

2000	stamps of	25	reis,	dark	rose,	black	surcharge.
2000	"	50	"	dark	green,	"	
1300	"	100	"	lilac,	"		

In all the preceding the stamps are printed in sheets of twenty-eight, the 1st and 2nd stamps on the 3rd line, and the 4th stamp on the 4th line have the surcharge with the accent *grave* instead of *acute*, and all the stamps having the last accent.

The other stamps sent from Lisbon on the dates below given were:—

19 AUG. 1881.

6000 stamps of 25 reis, dark rose, black surcharge.
6000 " 50 " light green blue, black surcharge.
1000 " 100 " lilac, "

18 AUGUST, 1882.

150 stamps of 5 reis, black, red surcharge.
150 " 10 " dark green, black surcharge.
1000 " 25 " dark rose, "
2000 " 50 " light blue, "
1000 " 100 " lilac, "

1st APRIL, 1883.

500 stamps of 5 reis, black, red surcharge.
500 " 10 " dark green, black surcharge.
2000 " 25 " light rose, "
4000 " 50 " light blue, "

1st AUGUST, 1883.

2000 stamps of 5 reis, black, red surcharge.
2000 " 10 " light green, black surcharge.
4000 " 25 " light rose, "
4000 " 50 " light blue, "
2000 " 100 " dark lilac, "

The only error in these is in the surcharging of the 4th stamp on the 4th strip, having the accent grave instead of acute.

The writer possess an unperforated specimen of the 50 reis of this issue. On their arrival in Guinea, some values were found with the surcharge reversed, they were however destroyed by the post office authorities, and none issued to the public.

18th APRIL, 1884.

2000 stamps of 25 reis, light rose, black surcharge.
3000 " 50 " dark blue, "
500 " 100 " lilac, "

18th OCTOBER, 1884.

1000 stamps of 5 reis, black, carmine surcharge.
2000 " 10 " light green, black surcharge.
1000 " 25 " light rose, "
1000 " 50 " dark blue, "
1000 " 100 " lilac, "
500 " 200 " orange, "
500 " 300 " brown, "

5th OCTOBER, 1885.

? stamps of 25 reis, lilac, black surcharge.

5th APRIL, 1886.

This issue has the head of Louis the king of Portugal.

2 stamps of 5 reis, black.
" 10 " green.
" 25 " lilac.
" 50 " blue.
" 100 " brown.

In some of the stamps indicated before, of the crown type many of the values were surcharged by the Portugese Government, but having never been in use are considered as essays rather than as postage stamps, as they were never issued for public use. The writer has, however, a letter prepaid by one of those stamps which had passed through the post office, and was recognized as prepayment. They are:—

5 reis, black, black surcharge.
10 " yellow, "
20 " bistre, "
20 " carmine, "
40 " blue, "
40 " yellow, "

In the sheets of stamps of the 40 reis, blue and the 40 reis, yellow there is one stamp bearing the name Mocambique. A block of the Mocambique had been set up with those of Cape Verde. The error was rectified immediately after it was discovered. Before their arrival certain values had run out of stock, to supply the deficiency the authorities had employed a hand stamp with the words franco de poste (franco de porto), which was applied to the envelope, sometimes the words were also written on the letter by the postmaster.

And, now, to finish, follows a complete list of the stamps of Guinea:—

Issue of the beginning of 1881, crown in circle with legend Cape Verde, printed in color on white paper, perforated 12½, most of the values not gummed.

1st surcharge GUINÉ in small black letters, 5 min. high by 9 min. long.

5 reis, blue, black surcharge.
10 " yellow, "
20 " bistre, "
25 " rose, "
40 " blue, "
50 " green, "
100 " lilac, "
200 " orange, "
300 " brown, "

Error, with Mocambique in circle instead of Cape Verde.
40 reis, blue, black surcharge.

Varieties.—(a) Triple surcharge.

100 reis, lilac, black surcharge.

(b) With GUINE instead of GUINÉ.

5 reis, black, black surcharge.

10 " yellow, "

20 " bistre, "

25 " rose, "

40 " blue, "

90 " green, "

100 " blue, "

200 " orange, "

300 " brown, "

Issue of the 1st April, 1881 :—The same design, but with larger surcharge it being $3\frac{1}{2}$ mm. long and $1\frac{1}{2}$ mm. high. Printed in color on white paper, perforated $12\frac{1}{2}$ and 13.

25 reis, dark rose, black surcharge.

50 " dark green, "

100 " lilac, "

Varieties :—Instead of GUINÉ the surcharges are 1st GUINÉ, 2nd GUINE.

25 reis, dark rose, black surcharge.

50 " dark green, "

100 " lilac, "

Issue of the 19th August, 1881 :—

50 reis, light green, black surcharge.

50 " blue, "

Varieties :—Instead of GUINÉ the surcharges are 1st GUINÉ, 2nd GUINE.

50 reis, light blue, black surcharge.

50 " light green, "

Issue of 18th August, 1882 :—

5 reis, black, red surcharge.

10 " dark green, black surcharge.

Varieties ;—Instead of GUINÉ the surcharge is 1st GUINÉ, 2nd GUINE.

5 reis, black, red surcharge.

10 " dark green, black surcharge.

Issue of the 1st April, 1883 :—

25 reis, light rose, black surcharge.

Varieties :—Instead of GUINÉ the surcharge is 1st GUINÉ, 2nd GUINE.

25 reis, light rose, black surcharge.

Issue of the 1st August, 1883 :—

10 reis, light green, black surcharge.

100 " lilac, "

Varieties :—Accidentally unperforated.

25 reis, light blue, black surcharge.

Instead of GUINÉ the surcharge is 1st GUINÉ, 2nd GUINE.

10 reis, light green, black surcharge.

100 " lilac, "

Issue of the 15th April, 1884 :—

50 reis, dark blue, black surcharge.

Varieties ;—Instead of GUINÉ the surcharge is 1st GUINÉ, 2nd GUINE.

50 reis, dark blue, black surcharge.

Issue of the 18th October, 1884 :—

5 reis, black, carmine surcharge.

200 " orange, black "

300 " brown, " "

Varieties :—Instead of GUINÉ the surcharge is GUINE.

25 reis, light rose, black surcharge.

50 " blue, "

Stamps not issued :—

5 reis, black, black surcharge.

10 " yellow, "

20 " bistre, "

20 " carmine, "

40 " blue, "

Issue of the 5th October :—

25 reis, lilac, black surcharge.

40 " yellow, "

Variety :—Instead of GUINÉ the surcharge is GUINE.

25 reis, lilac, black surcharge.

Issue of the 5th April, 1886 :—Effigy of king Louis with full face, in oval, above Guine Portugeza, beneath value, on glazed paper, perforated 13.

5 reis, black.

50 reis, blue.

20 " green.

100 " brown.

25 " lilac.

(J. N. Marsden in the Jubilee No. of Le Timbre Poste, translated by)

DAVID LANG.

It appears as though the Norwegian Postal Authorities have got themselves into a tight place in giving Mr. W. Collet the inside track on the remainder of the Skilling issue of that Country. The daily press seems quite excited over the matter and think the Government open to censure. We ourselves can't see how Mr. Collet can make such a very great snap out of it, considering the Skilling issue in question is quiet easy to obtain with the exception of two or three values. No doubt they are of better value in an unused condition, but how many will pay say 20 cents for an 8 skilling 1867 unused when it can be obtained for 2 cents in a used condition. How ever this is a matter for Mr. Collet to arrange and we wish him the best of success. The following is a translation which we give for the benefit of our readers :

"Sale of Postage stamps in Christiania. It has been a matter of great attention here of late that the Government has sold the remainder of the skilling issue to Mr. W. Collet, chief of the Postal Department in Christiania. The amount of the remainder is in the vicinity of half a million crowns. The condition on which they were sold is that Mr. Collet has got 15 years in which to make the final settlement, although the Government will take back all which at that time is not sold. Obsolete issues of postage stamps as a rule brings many times the price of its original face value. In foreign countries the stamp traffic is of no little moment as collectors can be counted among the thousands; even children at school are passionately in love with Philately, and the older the issues are, the harder they become to collect, and consequently higher prices may be expected. The chances are that Mr. Collet will derive an immense income from the profit of his sales, and very likely become very rich, and no doubt the state could have enriched its Treasury very handsomely if they had been put up either by tender or auction. Several applications have been received by the Government and it is said Mr. Collet has secured one firm to take a hand in and are now working the "trust" as an organized company. The whole affair seems somewhat out of order and should be investigated." So says the VERDENS GANG.

FROM an article in a recent number of *Blackwood's Magazine*, under the heading "Cyprus under British rule," we glean the following, which may be of interest to our readers: "The postal arrangements; although a wonderful advance upon the days of Turkish administration when letters were scrambled for at the Austrian Consulate at Larnica or even upon Constantinople itself in this very year, where there is no Turkish Post whatever leave a great deal to be desired. Letters are only carried to and from the principal towns, and are not delivered at all. If a man expects a letter, he sends to the Post-office to meet it; if he does not it lies there until he happens to call for it, and this even at Nicosia, the Capital. I remember soon after my arrival receiving a telegram from a perfect stranger: "Send to post office for letter despatched to-day." I thought the sender must have taken leave of his senses, but found that he was only better acquainted than I was with the peculiarities of the Cyprus post office. As regards communication with the outside world, postal or otherwise, there is little to be said, but that it is rare, slow, and eminently unsatisfactory. For five years after the occupation a subsidized service to Alexandria conveyed letters and passengers once a week, in about seven days to and from London. But as soon as the contract came to an end the Treasury, looking to the tribute, forbade any new subsidy being granted, and letters came and went à la grâce de Dieu, the "return of post" from London to Nicosia and back, and occupied six weeks at least. Within the last few months only, some order has taken the place of the chaos and a slow and roundabout but regular service is provided by the French Messageries Maritimes once a week, with an Austrian Lloyd steamer once a fortnight "in case of need" and the result of this is not only that Cyprus trade has been injured and Cyprus industry checked, but that business to the extent of £50,000 or £60,000 a year has been diverted from England to Marseilles and Trieste.

MEXICAN PORTE DE MAR.

NO doubt many of the readers of this paper have seen the first issue of the Mexican Porte de Mar, black on yellow paper, and have noted the rarity of the higher values. They being scarcer in proportion of their values than almost any other stamps, even allowing for the limited use of high values.

By glancing at the plate here given

10	10	25	35	50	60	85
10	10	25	35	50	75	100
10	10	25	35	50	60	85
10	10	25	35	50	75	100
10	10	25	35	50	60	85
10	10	25	35	50	75	100
10	10	25	35	50	60	85

this will be easily understood. They are printed in sheets of 49 and unlike all other stamps the one plate contains all the values. With the exception of the 10 they are not to be obtained in a used condition, those values only having ever done postal duty the others never having been used at all. I would like very much if some of this paper's readers could give me an account of what those stamps were used for.

THEO LARSEN.

IN treating on the issues of the French Colonies, Mr. W. C. Stone in the *American Philatelist*; seems to consider the P. D.'s as only hand stamps and should be classified as such. We beg respectfully to differ with Mr. Stone as to the classification of these interesting stamps, and hold they must come under the heading of Postage stamps. Here we have a square piece of plain white paper with the P. D. stamped on, now is not this a stamp in every respect. This piece of paper is affixed to the envelope and cancelled with a date stamp, could anything be more plain. We fear Mr. Stone has not been able to obtain a set of these as they are exceedingly rare, and as there are a few possessors of these stamps in Halifax we like to see them chronicled as they should be.

ODD POSTAGE STAMP DESIGNS.

TO start with I may take the three countries which have copies of their Great Seal on their stamps, viz.: New South Wales, Nevis and St. Vincent. The New South Wales stamps are the celebrated Sydney views about which there has been so much discussion. The Nevis design is on the first issue of their stamps and is symbolical of the healing virtues of their mineral baths, for which the Island is celebrated. Over some of the springs a magnificent hotel named the bath house has been erected, and the grounds around laid out in gardens. Another spring issues from the side of a very large rock, forms a large pool and runs in quiet a large stream to the sea-shore. This is supposed to be the one illustrated on the stamps. The St. Vincent stamp referred to is the 5 shilling one, having an upright figure holding a branch in one hand, in front an altar with a kneeling female holding a wreath, above an imperial crown and the motto "Pax et Justitia." The figures I do not think are symbolical of the motto. Another odd stamp is the Reunion 1852 issue; a rather narrow rectangular stamp, with Ile de la Reunion above, the centre composed of underlaced lines looking much like the tale pieces of chapters in very old books, at the bottom "Timb Post" 15c. or 30c. as the value may be. A genuine used stamp of this issue is said to be worth \$50. What are called reprints are sold unused for \$1.00. The genuine stamps are printed on very poor paper and small bits of straw can be seen in it.

The 6 kop, 1864, Russian Levant enjoys the distinction of being the largest stamp used to pay postage. The first issue of Natal are of not so peculiar a design as they are in make, being merely embossed on colored paper. The Virgin Islands carry out their name (or rather they did) on their first stamps having the image of a virgin in various styles on all the values.

NOTES.

The Youth's Ledger has appeared in a new dress and Magazine style, it is needless to say that it improves it very much.

The Hawkeye State Collector is now issued weekly, a new departure for a Philatelic journal.

WE have received from the publisher, F. Trifet, of Boston, the April No. of his paper, the *Galaxy of Music*. The contents of it are very interesting to the musical critic, who especially commended the adaptation of Gounod's "Margarethe" by Louis C. Elson.

The Toronto Phil. Journal for April has a cut of F. J. Grenny and sketch of his life. The balance of the number is composed of official reports. It is to be hoped that in time we shall see some reading matter of interest.

The Philatelic Gazette has a very seasonable article on foreign correspondents, and what you are likely to get from many of them, it is worthy of careful reading.

MR. EMORY intends to give in the May No. of the *Eastern Philatelist* an account of a used Connell stamp he has. We are very much afraid that he has a long road to travel before he can give positive proof of there ever being one used.

WE are reprinting this month a paper on the postage stamps of Mauritius, read by Major Evans before the Royal Society of Arts and Science in 1878. and have no doubt but it will be found extremely interesting.

The Philatelist Journal of America has in its chronicle a reference to a surcharged Stellaland stamp which is chronicled as something new. The surcharge is "Twee" over the four pence blue. Those surcharged stamps are catalogued by Dr. Vedel of Copenhagen in his Feb, 1887, catalogue. There were only 384 said to be surcharged.

OWING to difficulty with the U.S. Government the late postal convention has been amended, and among other changes the rate of registration has been raised again to 5c.

CHRONICLE.

Anam and Tonquin.—"A & T," surcharged on stamps of the French Colonies, with large figure of value below. 1c. on 2c. 1c. on 4c. 5c. on 10c.

Argentine Republic.—2c. green, head of Lopez; 30c. chocolate, head of Dorrego; 40c. slate, head of Morena have appeared. The 5c. stamp and envelope have already been changed the head being slightly different and better executed.

Bavaria.—*The Ph. R.* reports the 3 pf. card, with vertical watermark and A. 88 at foot.

Belgium.—A letter envelope, inscribed "Enveloppe—lettre" and "Oms lag brief," with the current stamp, carmine on blue; has replaced the 10c. letter card.

British Honduras.—2c. red, 3c. brown, surcharged in heavier type than before, two cents in red on 50, on 1 shilling grey.

Bulgaria.—The stamps with head of Prince Ferdinand are probably essays.

Canada.—The 10c. is now carmine (c. c. 128.) Mr. Vallee has sent us a stamp issued March 1st by the Bell Telephone Co., of Montreal, with messenger boy in circle, printed in black.

Ceylon.—The 2c. on 4c. mentioned in January is of two colours; pink of 1880 and carmine of 1885.

Cochin China.—"1 Franc." is surcharged on the 60c. unpaid letter stamp.

Colombia.—We have seen a new Registry stamp, 10c. black on gray, measuring 39 x 18 min. A large R is at the left, and in three lines at the right "Panama—No. Colombia." In the frame at the bottom "Diez Centavos."

Dutch Indies.—A 7½c. card brown on white, stamp with figure of value in centre, has appeared.

Ecuador.—We have seen the 20c. with surcharge "Official."

Fr. Guiana.—The 30c. (commerce and peace), is surcharged "Dec., 1887—Guy Franc.—5c.," and the 75c. has become 10c.

Gambia.—The 4d. is chocolate brown.

New Zealand.—*Der. Ph.* notes the 1d. card with the frame of the reply card.

North Borneo.—We hear there are two minor varieties of the 25c. stamp.

Russia.—The colours of the 1 and 2 Kop. are a little paler, and the 2 Kop. is yellow green instead of blue green. The 7 Kop. envelope now on cream, 142 x 120 mm.

St. Helena.—We are informed that a new series is to be issued without surcharge.

South African Republic.—We have seen in the ½d. on 3d. an error, reading PRNNY.

United States.—The 90c. is now dark purple.

Venezuela.—The 5c. blue is now lithographed and comes both rouletted and with square holes.

NOVA SCOTIA PHILATELIC ASSOCIATION.

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Secretary, D. A. KING,
P. O., Halifax, N. S.

OFFICIAL ORGAN, HALIFAX PHILATELIST.

MEETING OF MAY 14TH, 1888.

MEETING opened at 8.30 P. M. In the absence of the President, the Vice-President took the chair. Members present, Crane, Larsen T., Hechler, Andrews, DeWolf, Shannon, Mathers, Currie, Gass, Smith E. A., Smith A. E., Smith E. F., Kaye and King. Minutes of last meeting read and approved. Ex. Supt. then gave in his report. A letter from Mr. J. R. Findlay was then read, stating his intention of issuing the initial No. of the Canada Stamp and Coin Journal, and offering every member of the Association a year's subscription free upon application to him by letter. A vote of thanks to Mr. Findlay was then moved by Mr. Kaye, seconded by DeWolf, carried. This concluded the business of the evening, after which a number of new issues were shewn by members present and the usual auction was held.

Meeting adjourned at 10 P. M.

D. A. KING,
Secretary.

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