

The Quaker City Philatelist.

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EARLY ISSUES OF QUEENSLAND.

BY an order in Council of the 6th day of June, 1859, certain of the statutes then in force in the colony of New South Wales were continued in force in Queensland, which was separated from the parent colony of N. S. W. and established as an autonomous colony by the same order.

One of the Acts thus continued in force was 15 Vict., No. 12, the New South Wales "Postage Act," of 22d December, 1851, which consolidated and amended 13 Vict., No. 38, under which postage stamps were first issued in that colony. This Act, framed, in common with those of the other Australian colonies, on the British statute, contains the usual proviso—"That the Postmaster-General or Inspector or Inspectors of Stamps shall, with the approval of His Excellency the Governor, cause stamps to be made and sold indicating such amounts of postage as may be directed in that behalf by His Excellency the Governor." It also provides penalties for forging stamps, and states that the stamps shall be affixed to or *impressed* upon the outside of the letters, etc., above the address. Under this Act the rates of postage were fixed at one penny per $\frac{1}{2}$ oz. for town letters, two-pence for inland, and three-pence for ship letters; the latter to be in addition to the inland rates, when letters had to be conveyed from any place to the port of departure.

Prior to the separation, Queensland, being a portion of New South Wales, used the postage stamps of the latter colony; and after the separation those stamps remained current until a definite issue could be obtained from England.

The first notice of the issue of such stamps was published in the *Gazette* in September, 1860, as follows:

"GENERAL POST-OFFICE, BRISBANE, 21st September, 1860.

"QUEENSLAND POSTAGE STAMPS.

"It is hereby notified for public information that a supply of Queensland Postage Stamps has been received from England, and will be issued on the first day of November next, from which date the New South Wales postage stamps at present in use will no longer be acknowledged upon letters posted within this colony. All letters, therefore, posted in Queensland after the 1st of November bearing the New South Wales stamps will be treated as unpaid, and will accordingly be opened and returned to the writer.
R. R. MACKENZIE."

Copies of this notice were forwarded to the various post-offices with specimens of the new stamps attached. Affixed to one of such notices were the following:

One-penny—Rose carmine, perf. 16 x 14.

Two-pence—Blue, perf. 15.

Six-pence—Green, imperf.

The design of these stamps is too well known to need any description here. The Oceania catalogue of the London Philatelic Society states that they "were engraved on steel (by Humphreys), and printed in *taille-douce* by Perkins, Bacon & Co., of London, on stoutish white wove paper; white gum, watermark large six-rayed star. There are two sizes of the star watermarks on the perforated stamps, and complete sets are

found of each variety. It seems probable that both varieties of watermark exist on the same sheet." The same publication remarks that "a specimen of the penny, imperforated, with postmark of Bath, England, 23d August, 1861, is known."

Vindin's Philatelic Monthly for August, 1890, mentions the finding of a block of three of the two-pence, large star, perforated 15 only at bottom, imperf. at sides and top, and showing the margins of the adjoining stamps.

The earliest printings of these stamps, viz., those on the paper watermarked with a large star, all bear that unmistakably *English* appearance, being rich in color and clearly and carefully printed. The unwatermarked stamps appearing in 1864 are not so well printed. It seems to be a matter of certainty that all the large star stamps were printed in England and sent out with the plates, and judging from the varieties of perforated and imperforate stamps, one would naturally assume that some sheets were sent out perforated as examples, probably accompanied with quotations for perforating machines. It must be borne in mind that the system of perforation was not adopted in the mother colony of New South Wales until 1861, and, therefore, in ordering the plates and stamps the Queensland Government were, doubtless, silent as to perforation.

In addition to the three values above mentioned there are two others, three-pence, brown, and one shilling, gray lilac. The former has never been chronicled in an imperforate state, although it is known with two gauges of perforation, but the one shilling is catalogued both imperforate and perforated 15 and 14 x 15. The exact dates or issue of these two values does not seem to be determined, though in all probability they were contemporaneous with the other values, as the rate for ship letters was three-pence, and one shilling represented the double packet rate.

The perforations of 14 x 16 and 15 reported, as being found on the stamps attached to the official circular, were all clean-cut machine perforations. The Oceania catalogue records a set "roughly punctured 15." It is possible that this was effected by a local machine after the arrival of the stamps in the colony. Subsequently, when the English-printed stamps were exhausted, and a locally-printed supply took their place, a rough perforation of the 13 gauge appeared. Perhaps this was effected by a machine obtained from England in 1864, as that gauge is found (with two temporary changes to the square perforation of 1866 and the 12 gauge of 1869) right up to 1875, when 12 became permanent.

Having thus opened the ground of the early Queensland, we will now leave the subject to be cultivated by some one who may be able to throw further light upon these interesting stamps from official records, and stamps on original covers.—*Federal Australian Philatelist*.

STAMPS OF BHOPAL.

I HAVE taken the opportunity of a day's halt at Bhopal to write the following notes:—Those who are interested in genuine collection, and not mere indiscriminate buying, of postage stamps, may read with pleasure a few notes taken after a visit to the State Post-office at Bhopal, a Native State in Central India, ruled over by Her Highness the Nawab Shah Jahan Begam, whose name is so cruelly treated in the various "errors" catalogued.

The Bhopal stamps are purely "locals," like those of most Indian States, and are utilizable only within the confines of the State. Bhopal does not intentionally pander to the depraved taste of collectors in manufacturing errors and varieties for sale; but in one respect the worthy Deputy Postmaster lays himself open to blame, for he confesses readily that he issues both perforated and imperforate sheets, "because gentlemen ask for both."

I am inclined to think that the errors are unintentional, and the result of carelessness and ignorance of English. The Postmaster admits that the sales to "gentlemen" in all parts of the world, dealers as well as collectors, are far greater than to Her Highness' subjects. A clerk is kept solely to deal with the outside demand. The Postmaster

has bundles of envelopes from almost every country, the stamps on which he sells at 4 annas apiece. He knows nothing of the difference between a rare and a common stamp, and the result is that the few remaining foreign stamps in his possession are of no value. He is by no means greedy, and freely offered any I wanted *gratis*. One interesting one I found, a hand-drawn *fac simile* of the $\frac{1}{4}$ a. of 1880, in black, sent out by a Paris dealer to indicate the variety he wished to secure.

There are forty post-offices in the State. The charge is $\frac{1}{2}$ anna per *tola*; so that the higher values are in genuine demand for postal purposes on parcels.

The perforations are made by hand with a simple punch; the distinction made in the catalogues between large and small perforations does not, therefore, appear justifiable.

The catalogued errors are of two kinds, "Embossed centre reversed," and misspellings of the Begam's name. The former was unintentional, for it has not been repeated since 1881; the misspellings seem to be equally unintentional. The Postmaster is not aware of their existence; he seems far more interested in gardening than in philately, and does not understand English.

I obtained a few sheets of the current issues, and examined them, with the following results:

8 annas, rect., perf. and imperf., 10 stamps on the sheet in pairs, on embossed paper. Errors: In each of the last three pairs the first stamp has HAH for SHAH.

4 annas, square, perf. and imperf., 24 on sheet in rows of 4. I find little support for the catalogued error EEGAM, though here and there the "B" of BEGAM is somewhat like an "E."

2 annas, blue, square, perf. and imperf., 24 on sheet. First row, second stamp, BEEGAM; fourth row, second stamp, NAWAH.

$\frac{1}{2}$ anna, red, rect., perf. and imperf., 32 on sheet. First row, fourth stamp, SAH; sixth row, third stamp, NAWABA.

$\frac{1}{4}$ anna, deep green and yellow green, rect., perf. and imperf. Sixth row, second stamp, NAWAA; third and fourth stamps, NAWA. Seventh row, third stamp, NWABA and BEGAAM; fourth stamp, NWABA.

$\frac{1}{4}$ anna, blue green, rect., perf. and imperf. First row, first stamp, NWAB; fourth stamp, SAH. Third row, second stamp, NAWA and JANAN.

$\frac{1}{4}$ anna, black, square, perf. and imperf., single line, 24 on sheet. No error, unless such faulty impressions as .HH. for HH., or HII, or BEGAM, or JAHAN, are going to be catalogued as errors by ingenious dealers.

There are numerous differences on the same sheet in ornamentation, in the size and shape of the letters, English and vernacular, in omission and misplacement of stops, and in the markings over the native characters; but it seems unwise that either these or the misspellings occurring on the same sheet should be magnified into errors worthy of recognition by *bona-fide* collectors. The case is much worse when the errors are intentional.

E. C. O.

[We trust that our correspondent will not class us with collectors of "depraved taste" if we confess that we look upon *all* the numerous varieties of type of the stamps of Bhopal and other Indian States as more or less worthy of collection. In regard to the so-called "errors," we are glad to find that he is able to confirm our opinion that, in the case of Bhopal at all events, they are quite unintentional. We do not consider these as of really greater interest than any of the other varieties of type, and we chronicle them partly as prominent and easily describable varieties, and partly as a means of identifying the sheet on which they occur. For the general collector, a single specimen of each value and each design, or perhaps a pair or small block to illustrate the fact that there are varieties of type on the same sheet, is quite sufficient, and a collection carefully arranged on this principle would be quite as complete, in our opinion, as one in which the errors were fully represented. The specialist, however, must have not only these errors, but all the other types also; and it is well that there should be some that collect thus, for without such a collection it is almost impossible to detect forgeries. We can only trust that the Postmaster's taste for gardening may not develop in the direction of the cultivation of *la carotte timbrologique*.—ED.]—*Philatelic Record*.

The Quaker City Philatelist.

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WITH this issue, the last of Vol. v, the present editorial and business management of THE QUAKER CITY PHILATELIST will retire and will be succeeded by a prominent member of the American Philatelic Association, who has secured a controlling interest and who will greatly enlarge and improve on the present form.

We wish him every success, and trust that our patrons will continue their valued aid and assistance.

We regret that other business matters will not permit us to continue the publication, in which we have taken great pride in the past, but we feel that in our successor's hands THE QUAKER CITY PHILATELIST will continue to aid philately even more efficiently than heretofore.

THE now (plain) Vice-President has apparently subsided for a time. We presume this quiet is too good to last, however, and we may have lots of noise ere long.

WE have received from W. W. Jewett his "Hand-book on Counterfeits." Beginners should have a copy of this work, as it will be of assistance to them in their collecting.

THE new Literary Board of the American Philatelic Association consists of Messrs. Stone, Bradt, Hatcher, Leland and Gambs. They ought to make a first-class Board and no doubt will make the *American Philatelist* better than it ever was. We suppose a number will be issued very shortly and it should command the support of collectors and dealers.

DEALERS should give hearty support to all philatelic journals, as the more journals issued the greater the interest taken in philately and consequently the more stamps disposed of. The late Mr. Durbin always said the small stamp papers were the backbone of stamp-collecting interests, and no matter how many papers were started, financial support should be accorded all of them.

C. H. MEKEEL will issue, beginning January 7, a weekly philatelic newspaper. If any one can give a good paper Mr. Mekeel is the man. Correspondents in all parts of the United States will contribute to its columns weekly.

WE have received the 51st edition of the Scott Stamp and Coin Company's catalogue. To say that it is a fine catalogue is putting it very mild. It is a great improvement over their last edition, although many collectors thought that the last could not be improved. All collectors should secure a copy.

WHAT a shaking up the editorial staff of the *Metropolitan Philatelist* has received! Mr. Gregory was allowed to resign. Messrs. Shurmann and Bogert's resignations were not accepted. They are the right men in the right place. And how the mighty have fallen! Messrs. Corwin and Scott were dropped. Mr. F. W. Hunter will be Managing Editor and R. F. Albrecht Business Manager. It is to be hoped that Mr. Corwin will allow American Philatelic Association members to run the Association as they want it and not as C. B. C. thinks they want it.

If collectors would examine all their duplicates, no doubt they would find many rarities in shades, perforations, and errors, both of typography and colors—various kinds of paper. To show the importance of careful investigation and classification, what would be thought of a numismatist who refuses to look at the reverses and rims of his coins? He would not be considered a numismatist, but only a collector of round pieces of metal. Where is the difference between such a person and of a collector who does not examine his stamps for all variations?

THE eighteenth edition of Durbin and Hanes' "Catalogue of Postage Stamps" has just arrived, and we are at a loss to find words to do justice to the subject. It is greatly enlarged in size, containing one hundred and eighty pages and all issues up to the latest moment. The present edition illustrates as well as catalogues the watermarks of the various countries, and with the well-known artistic taste of this firm, which does nothing by halves, they have printed them from photo-engravings on plate paper. The typography is a marvel of excellence. As a companion piece to the portrait of the late Mr. Durbin, which appeared in the seventeenth edition, the portrait of Mr. E. B. Hanes forms the frontispiece. It is a matter of congratulation to philatelists that such a liberal firm exists as to turn out a work like this at the price it does, as we know it is sold way below cost.

THE vote in the A. P. A. of 381 to restore the *American Philatelist* to 35 against such restoration proves to us conclusively that Mr. Corwin should practice what he preaches, by taking the advice he gave to our Secretary, and resign from the office to which he was elected by proxy and not by a majority of the members.

HENRY GREMME's fifth edition of his price-list contains prices of over 6000 varieties. Collectors investing ten cents will find full value for money expended.

NOTINGS.

UNTIL 1711 the post-offices of Scotland were carried on independent of England.

THE Sydney, N. S. W., Philatelic Club ought to be a success. The Postmaster-General is its President.

PREVIOUS to 1837 there was no uniform system of money orders in England, the business being done in a semi-official manner.

WILLIAM LEWINS, a traveling English post-office clerk, wrote the most exhaustive work that has yet been printed, dealing exclusively with postal affairs. His book was published in 1864, under the title, "Her Majesty's Mails; An Historical and Descriptive Account of the British Post-office." Information on every conceivable phase of the subject is contained in Mr. Lewins' work. An immense number of interesting, curious, and historical facts are recorded, all bearing directly on post-office affairs.

POOR Chalmers is in the hole again and has to come out with a pamphlet (letter) again, as unruly publishers decline to print for him gratis. How different is the dignified position maintained by Mr. Pearson Hill!

THE Glasgow Post-office was the first in England to be lighted with electric light.

CHALMERS' last straw was a heavy one. He no longer can claim the support of the most prominent Philatelic Society in America. But one (the Chicago Philatelic Society) is now supporting him on this side and none of importance on the other side, with possibly *one* exception. His methods of vilification and the abuse of the dead has reacted on his own head, as it should, and his "*Cause Celebre*" is waning away into thin air.

THE New Zealand Insurance Department have an issue of their own. The design is very unique. The centre is a light-house, the beams of light from which bear the words "Government Insurance."

A LONDON firm of dealers has purchased the celebrated collection of British Guiana stamps, which were awarded a gold medal at the recent exhibition. It contains, among others, the pair of two cents, rose, of the first issue, besides eight specimens of the other values, thirty-one of the 1851 issue, and three of the blue four cents of 1856.

IT is rumored that New South Wales will soon have a set of unpaid stamps similar to our own.

THE Glasgow postmen's uniform in 1855 consisted of a scarlet swallow-tail coat, blue vest, and a tall black satin hat with gold band, and cockade and trousers to match the suit.

ONLY 1000 of the New South Wales 6d. violet official registration envelopes were issued.

BIRDS AND POSTAGE STAMPS.—The recent Philatelic Exhibition reminds a contemporary of how great a part birds play in what stamp collectors call "philately." In heraldry the eagle, the great emblem of empire, is of the most frequent occurrence. As in heraldry, so in the science of postage stamps. Naturally enough, it is the empires which have chiefly adopted the eagle for this purpose. The Austrian stamps bear a representation of the Emperor, but they formerly sported a double-headed eagle, therein resembling the Russians and the people of Lübeck. The same device was used in the original stamps of the French colonies. The single-headed eagle has been used for Russia, for the German empire, and for Venezuela. To the rule of the eagle for the empire, China forms the proverbial exception, and uses the dragon in place of the king of birds. The stamps of Great Britain and of her colonies as a general rule have female heads, which are more or less unlike her Majesty; but far more worthy attempts to represent the Queen have been made in Newfoundland and Canada. Some of the colonies have however shown a little variety. Trinidad and Barbadoes, which are now sadly commonplace, formerly used pretty little pictures of Britannia; whilst in Canada we have seen a beaver and also the Prince Consort, and in Newfoundland a seal. An emu is shown on one of the new series of New South Wales stamps; but, from the bird-lover's point of view, this must give way to Western Australian stamps. The single swans there are admirable. The only other stamps bearing the mark of the bird which we can at present recollect are the gentle doves on the embossed stamps of Switzerland and the attractive green parrots on those of Guatemala.

FRANKING LETTERS.

THE system of "franking" letters in England in the high postage days led to an appalling abuse of that privilege, which belonged to peers and members of the House of Commons. It was no doubt originally allowed to enable members to correspond with their constituents, but under the circumstances it is perhaps not surprising that the plan soon became abused and was ultimately used to cover all kinds of correspondence, not only members', but other people's as well. At one time, indeed, all sorts of curious packages passed free under the franking privilege, such as dogs, a cow, parcels of lace, bales of stockings, boxes of medicines, fitches of bacon, etc.

Sometimes, indeed, franked covers were actually sold, and they have been known to be given in lieu of wages to servants, who speedily converted them into ready money.

This abuse, taken together with the illicit traffic in letters, so openly and widely carried on, formed, of course, a most important argument in favor of the proposals for cheap postage formulated by Rowland Hill, and no doubt did much to damage the cause of his opponents. But there is one other abuse to which Londoners were subjected which may just be mentioned. At that time the two-penny post was in operation in the English metropolis, and would have fairly served the inhabitants in postal matters if it had not been for the practice which existed of allowing commercial houses and other firms who were willing to pay for the privilege to have their letters picked out from the general heap and delivered by special postmen, and so enable them to get their correspondence an hour earlier than those who did not pay the "quarterage," as it was termed, of five shillings per quarter, and which, it appears, went into the pockets of the postmen concerned, many of whom, we are told, and it can easily be understood, thus made incomes of from £300 to £400 a year. However beneficial such a system was to commerce and trade in London, it operated most unfairly on ordinary correspondents, and it was certainly not the least of the evils which the introduction of penny postage swept away.

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