

The Stamp Collectors' Fortnightly,

And International Stamp Advertiser.

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Some form of Esperanto might, we think, be introduced with advantage into the world's philatelic catalogues. At present, if one is in the habit of making constant reference to British, French and German catalogues, the confusion of tongues is a continual source of vexation. Suppose we desire to turn up the United States, we must open the various catalogues at a different letter for each language. Take "Cape of Good Hope" as another instance. This, true enough, is still under "C" in "Yvert & Tellier"—"Cap de Bonne Esperance"; but in the German books we must search for it under "K"—"Kap der Guten Hoffnung." Austria in the German books is "Oesterreich." Spain ("Spanien") is alright in German so far as the initial letter goes, but it is rendered "Espagne" in French. For "Germany" we must turn also to "Allemande and Deutsches Reich." The case of Holland is perhaps as bad as any country one could think of, for it is variously rendered Holland, the Netherlands, and "Pays Bas" (Low Countries). Even in catalogues in the English tongues there are regrettable differences in the rendering of such names as Holland, the Papal States, &c. To collectors using only one catalogue the trouble may be no great one, but it is our own experience, and probably that of every philatelist who has entered the field of specialism, that one wants to refer to *all* the catalogues when looking up any particular country. It would, we feel sure, be a real boon if a little great uniformity in catalogue nomenclature could be brought about. In saying this we must add our opinion that the British-language catalogues are more to blame than the continental works. Such catalogues as "Kohl" and "Senf" endeavour to simplify matters for an international clientèle by printing the names of most of the British Colonies in the way we are accustomed to see them printed, but no such reciprocal effort with regard to foreign countries is made by the publishers of British handbooks. With a little give-and-take it should be possible to agree upon a list of standard names for all catalogues and albums, and surely the ultimate result would be a consummation devoutly to be wished!

Opinions as to "Punctured Officials" appear to be almost evenly divided so far as they have been voiced by the readers of the *Fortnightly*. There are outspoken opinions on both sides, and we cannot gainsay the reasonableness of one writer who contends that there is little sense in the abandonment of overprinted official stamps by various Colonial governments if the punctured labels introduced in their stead are to be quite as eagerly collected by philatelists, for this will mean that there is still the same inducement to official employees to furnish the stamp market with illicit supplies! On the other hand as "W. J. T." tersely puts in a postscript to a lengthy letter—quite like a young lady's postscript—"they are stamps, aren't they? then why not collect them?"

Subscribers to the "S.C.F." receive with this number two interesting insets hailing from Messrs. Ewen, of Palace Square, Norwood, and Messrs. Coates & Marsh, of High Street, Borough, S.E., respectively.

The Stamp Market of To-Day.

By J. W. H. H.

THE announcement in the "Colonial Office Journal," to the effect that the stamps of Grenada from 3d. to 10s. are in future to bear the Seal of the Colony, affords food for reflection. If the change is to be immediate, the 2s. on chalk ought to be a good stamp; and the 6d. and 1s. multiples were only expected to run until this autumn, when they were to appear on chalk. If this pair is to bear the Colony's Seal in place of the King's Head, any 6d. and 1s. chalky that may appear will have a short life. It may be well to watch for these and be in the field in good time. This contemplated change raises also the 3d. chalky to the rank of a promising stamp; it is still in its infancy and there has been no very great sale of it. The 5s. and 10s. multiples may also be moved up a peg higher in the ladder of possibilities.

The recent decision of the Berne authorities that the centre of 2½d. stamps may be in black, provided that the rest of the design be in blue, may possibly have some influence on the issue of 2½d. unicolours generally. If there is no absolute necessity for the 2½d. values to be all blue, what is there to prevent this denomination from re-appearing in future with central design in black—S. Nigeria for example? It is a point worth bearing in mind.

The higher values of Mauritius should be good property presently, since a change in design is contemplated. 50c. to 5 rupees C.A. and the 1 rupee, chalky, present design, are now stamps of promise.

Since new chalky Revenues have been supplied to the Seychelles, it seems likely that the postage set may presently appear on the same paper. Multiple Seychelles have not been bought half so freely as the C.A.'s, and should be worth attention.

East African chalkies promised well some time ago, but the early announcement of the 1907 set spoiled the chalkies as an investment. The early notice of the change gave every one a good chance of laying in a stock of the present issue, and there should therefore be plenty of them about, and no great rise may be apprehended for some time to come. Much the same thing happened in the case of the multiples.

Of St. Vincent, the 2d. and the 3d. have proved a disappointing pair, but the 6d. is scarce, and should be a "riser" this winter. Why is this stamp priced only 1s., while the 6d. Grenada, which is much more plentiful, is quoted 1s. 6d.? The 1s. St. Vincent C.A. has gone up to 8s. 6d., and is not likely to stop there. The 2½d. chalky, we should think, is very good; so also is the same stamp of St. Lucia and Sierra Leone, and the 4 mils Sudan brown and blue.

Exchangers should beware of accepting Belgian Parcel Post at catalogue rates; these are now worth very little, and a dealer in Brussels is offering a good mixture at three shillings per thousand. Some of the stamps catalogued 6d. can be got for that sum per hundred, or nearly. Doubtless these will be priced 1d. in the next catalogue.

There is a class of foreign stamps that are worth looking for, and laying by in hundreds if one can get them—such as Greece A.M. 1903; no one seems to have any of these. Spanish Don Quixotes are also scarce in every dealer's list. Ecuador 1904 is going to be dear. Used Benadir are also not to be despised, nor the new Italian Crete. The new 12½c. Guatemala is not a bad stamp. Paraguay 1904-06, 5c. and above, are good property, and there are some pretty pictorials of Peru (1898-1901) the wholesale value of which has doubled in a year. Dominica Republic is now on watermarked paper (same watermark as Wurtemberg); the 10c. with black border, and the 5c. unwatermarked, are both good stamps to have a hundred of; they should be worth 4d. each.

Three interesting new stamps to watch for are the 5 paras Cyprus, 3c. red Mauritius, and the promised 6c. Hong Kong.

The 2 rupee Indian King is at last obtainable at 8d. The other day we saw sixty at this figure.

After all, mint Canada does may not be so dear as recently forecasted; the hour of their withdrawal has been the signal for the appearance of quite a quantity of sets.

(SEE ALSO 2616-7)