

Jamaica.—"Ewen's Weekly" has recently chronicled an error in the new stamps of the Arms type. This occurs in the motto "Indus uterque serviet uni," the word "serviet" being set "ser. et" or "ser. : et." The error occurs in all four values, the position on the sheet being the second stamp in the fourth row of the upper left-hand pane.

Morocco Agencies.—The 5c. King's Head with error of overprint reading AGEN—CIES has been mentioned. It now appears, according to "Ewen's Weekly," that the error is to be found on the multiple as well as on the single CA. paper, a few sheets having been printed off on the multiple before the error was corrected.

New South Wales.—From Messrs. Winch Brothers, Colchester, we have received an interesting set of perforated officials, the current postage stamps of ½d., 1d., 2d., 2½d., 3d., 4d., 5d., 6d., 8d. and 1s. being perforated with the letters O.S.—N.S.W. in two lines. Our correspondents have also seen specimens perforated "O.S." only.

Nicaragua.—The new issue for this Republic is now apparently complete, the values and colours of the set being:

1c. green.	15c. olive-brown.
2c. red.	20c. claret.
3c. purple.	50c. yellow.
4c. orange.	1 peso black.
5c. blue.	2 .. blue.
10c. brown.	5 .. green.

Portuguese Colonies (Mozambique).—We are reminded that in chronicling the recent provisional stamps of 50 reis on 65 reis, we omitted Mozambique from the list of colonies to which this novelty was supplied.

For *Angra, Funchal, Horta, and Ponta Delgada*, two colour changes are to be noted, the 50 reis now appearing in a pale blue, and the 75 reis in a light brown. Specimens are to hand from Messrs. Whitfield King & Co., who, by the way, have received the not unwelcome news that these new stamps will have a very short life, since "it is intended to do away with the separate issues for Angra, Horta, and Ponta Delgada, and substitute a uniform issue for the Azores as formerly."

Reunion.—From continental sources "Ewen's Weekly" gathers that the preparations for the pictorial issue for this French colony have reached an advanced stage, the drawings being already in the hands of the printers. The following will be the designs for the various values according to present arrangements:—

Postage Adhesives.

- (i) Map of Réunion, 1, 2, 4, 5, 10 15c.
- (ii) View of harbour, with Arms and motto "Praeter omnes angulus ridet," 20, 25, 30, 40c.
- (iii) Sea-view with volcano in distance, 50, 75c., 1, 5f.,

Postage Due Adhesives.

- (iv) "Reunion—Taxe à Percevoir" in centre: values not stated.

All the designs are inscribed "Chauvet," the name of the designer.

Roumania.—The "Philatelic Record" has received the 5 bani of the current type in yellow-green. The stamp appeared in the new shade on September 10th.

5 bani, yellow-green.

Transvaal.—We have to thank Messrs. Bright & Son for the penny stamp just to hand, printed in red instead of red and black. It is on multiple CA paper.

King's Head, 1d. carmine.

By the way an interesting postmark, evidently of special creation for the visit of the British Association to Johannesburg, is shown us by Mr. H. K. Osborn, of Ladysmith. The impression is by a rubber stamp and the extra-large circular mark is inscribed, "British Association—Johannesburg—1 Sep. 1905."

Western Australia.—The 5d. olive yellow, of the issue of 1885-93, has made its appearance with the V. and Crown watermark. Specimens are to hand from Messrs. Hamilton, Macrae, Ltd., Perth, W.A. The perforation is 12½.

Wmk. V. and Crown, 5d. olive-yellow.

Notes on the Posts and Post Roads of Nelson's Time.

By FRED. J. MELVILLE.

(Read before the Junior Philatelic Society, at the Meeting in Exeter Hall, on Nelson Centenary Day, October 21st, 1905).

THE 21st of October, 1805. One hundred years ago to-day. There is something awe-inspiring in the term one hundred years. Perhaps because we use it mostly on anniversaries of great events. A deed which has lived in the memories of the people a hundred years must have been a deed of great worth, or of the highest import. The span of a century enables us to look back upon such events as the battle of Trafalgar Bay in minds unbiassed by contemporary prejudices. And if in the perspective of a hundred years we can still claim Trafalgar Day as the greatest in the history of naval warfare, we must recognise how profoundly awed must have been the people of England on learning what had passed in Trafalgar Bay one hundred years ago to-day.

Now Nelson has but little part in my paper to-night. I am merely asking you to go back with me one hundred years, to consider some of the conditions under which the world existed in Nelson's day. A prominent member of the Junior Philatelic Society wrote me when I was making up the programme for this season to ask if the British Government were going to issue a special series of commemorative stamps for the Nelson Centenary. The idea, much as it has been worked upon in other countries, even amongst the first class countries of the Postal Union, seems utterly impossible to expect of our own home government. Yet on turning to our programme I saw that we were to meet on the Nelson Centenary Day, a day when our thoughts would be going back a hundred years to dwell upon a victory renowned above all others gained upon the sea, a victory which secured the British supremacy on the ocean.

So although Nelson had nothing to do with postage stamps, having died thirty-five years before Rowland Hill gained one of those great victories of peace which are no less renowned than those of war, yet it seemed to me that a little study of postal matters in Nelson's time would not be out of harmony to our course of philatelic and postal study.

Nelson was a very considerable letter writer, so we may take it that he used during his occasional stays in the home country, all the chief lines of postal communication. Abroad too, he wrote frequently to his friends and relatives, to his superior officers and to his subordinates. We have seven large volumes of his letters and despatches preserved to us as a proof of his zeal as a correspondent. The first letter we possess of his was written in 1777, at the age of eighteen, telling his brother, the Rev. William Nelson, of his passing the lieutenant's examination and getting appointed to a fine frigate of 32 guns—the *Lowestoffe*. "So" he says "I am now left in [the] world to shift for myself which I hope I shall do, so as to bring credit to myself and friends." He has an interesting note at the bottom of the first page in which he says "N.B.—If it is not too troublesome, turn over."

But we can go back a little further with our study of the posts of his time, even though he may have used them little before leaving the rectory of Burnham Thorpe in Norfolk. To this day his birthplace is not too easy of access, so in a time when it took ten to twelve days to travel from London to Edinburgh, and then vehicles were only procurable at long intervals, letters must have been exceedingly scarce in the Nelson homestead.

In 1758, the post boy still rode his stages with his horse and mail bag, for the stage coaches were still very few. The boys were supposed to travel five miles an hour at that time, but the roads in general were bad and the boys undisciplined, indolent and careless.

The gentry allowed their good nature often to exceed their judgment and treated the post boys to drink, and gave them money which also was soon invested in liquor; so they were constantly being complained of for drunkenness during the performance of their duty.