

BRITISH

GUIANA.

Official Organ
OF THE
Victory Philatelic Society.

6^{d.}

Motto:—*Aut Optimum Aut Nihil.*

❖ The ❖
**British Guiana
Philatelist.**

EDITED BY W. A. HUSBANDS.

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THE

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VOL 1.

JULY, 1925.

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STAMP COLLECTING.

WHAT is Stamp Collecting? Collecting bits of dirty paper would be the reply from the uninterested. Those bits of paper of various hues stuck on envelopes to make legally capable by payment of a fee the carriage of a letter, business or whatever else it may be, to its addressee, having already served its purpose can be of no good whatever. Of course the uninitiated would say this and more, for some go so far as to deem stamp collecting a fool's paradise and declare we are only qualifying for the lunatic asylum.

We, philatelists, however, feel that there is something more than mere collecting, for if there was not, we may as well collect match-box labels or china ware. These narrow-minded folk evidently do not know and have never sought to know the joys of collecting, the several branches of study, and finally the financial investment.

To the initiated stamp collecting is the collecting of postage stamps with understanding, but of course to become a live collector, one must necessarily possess that spark of life called "Enthusiasm" which is the greatest force in life and indeed the vital power and main key to success in every sphere.

Gifted with enthusiasm and coupled with nature's desire to possess, one may easily grasp what are the essentials towards the hobby of Stamp collecting. From Stamps can be obtained knowledge and knowledge implies learning. Take a Stamp, any one you can lay hand on, watch it closely, and only consider how many things there are to be learnt; of material importance of course and to fully appreciate the value of Stamps, their designs and all that they imply must be carefully studied and thus we desire to learn something about the designer, the cause or the why and wherefore of the design, the engraver, and all these touch upon the artistic merits of a Stamp; then comes the paper on which it is printed, the impressing of the watermark, the ink or die, the perforation, the gum and the quantities printed. All these require a certain amount of study and frequent recourse to philatelic literature is of absolute necessity. Finally we see that the design teaches us something either geographically, historically, or politically and then we are eager to know why was such a design printed, thereby delving into the Postal History of that particular country. Each of these are all separate branches of education and responsible* authorities regard Stamp collecting as the best educational hobby affording an endless variety of interest and teaching boys observation, neatness, accuracy, patience and a hundred and one other things.

It would be impossible to deal herein with each branch of learning separately and the benefits to be derived, but any disciple of Stamp collecting would certainly concur that there is no other hobby so instructive, so educational and so financially profitable.

* See Editorial Notes.

THE British Guiana Philatelist.

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Edited by WALTER A. HUSBANDS.



JULY, 1925.

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FOREWORD.

WITH this issue commences the publication of the B.G. Philatelist, the official organ of the Victory Philatelic Society, a magazine which has been given the careful consideration of an enthusiastic band of live collectors, and which we have tried to bring up to a deserving standard, thus we hope it will prove a boon to its readers. It is our intention to publish this magazine quarterly if we meet with sufficient support both from advertisers and subscribers. We therefore solicit any support our readers can afford us.

Subscription to Journal only. Oversea or Local 2/- per annum.

Overseas Membership in the Victory Philatelic Society which includes the free and regular receipt of Journal... 4/- per annum.

All local particulars re Membership may be had on application to Hon. Secretary, V.P.S., 24, George Street, Georgetown.

Letters of enquiry must contain return postage.

All remittances must be by Postal or Money Order payable to Victory Philatelic Society. Stamps not accepted.

MSS. and anything of Philatelic interest must be sent in not later than 15th of month preceding date of issue. Rejected MSS. will not be returned.

The Editor does not hold himself responsible for the opinions of his correspondents.

All Editorial letters to W. HUSBANDS, 24, George Street, Georgetown, Demerara, British Guiana.

All local Advertisements to P. WATSON, Church and Queen Streets, Georgetown, Demerara,

All other business communications regarding Subscriptions, etc., to R. A. SAVORY, 224, New Market Street, Georgetown, Demerara.

EDITORIAL NOTES.

In presenting to you our first number of the British Guiana Philatelist, we feel it our duty to state that this journal is published solely in the interests of Philatelists and Philately, the most recreative of all hobbies. Our policy is to bring collectors, dealers and all those interested in Philately into closer union with each other, and to stamp out all fraudulent philatelists. We therefore desire that our readers will criticise us at all times and assist us to make this journal as interesting as any other.

There can be no doubt that Stamp collecting is far more recreative and profitable than any other hobby. It appeals to all classes and any British subject will willingly vouch for its educational value.

From Stamp collecting we learn Geography which necessarily precedes that of History because the fixed physical features of the world's surface form the ground on which all human actions take place. We learn History from the heraldic emblems, coat-of-arms and countless designs depicted on stamps; from the U.S.A. 2c. Stamp of 1892 we learn that Christopher Columbus discovered America. Stamp collecting increases one's powers of observation, teaches one to be neat, accurate, and patient and thus learn one to govern one's temper. Then there comes the artistic designs which awakens the thought and desire to know who is responsible for the designing, engraving and printing. Then the design may present some bird or animal or politician that widens your interest and then your desire to know something about each colony. It would be impossible for any collector who has once taken up Philately in the right way that would not desire to partake of the several benefits derived from it and once you have started in the right way you will never forsake Philately. Those bits of paper once collected in the proper way instills that desire to possess rather than to dispose.

The thanks of the officers and members of the Victory Philatelic Society are tendered to the other Philatelic Societies, to the many journals, dealers and collectors for their many kindnesses already shewn in various ways, and above all, we beg to thank those who have assisted us to produce this magazine and given us their unstinted support and for many more which we anticipate from our fellows in other parts of the globe.

The slogan cancellation for the British Empire Exhibition as used by British Guiana in 1924 is again in use for the 1925 Exhibition:

The tendency of late is to start by collecting and end up by dealing. The commercial spirit is becoming too prominent.

We regret to mention that Mr. W. Fisher is no longer a member of the Victory Philatelic Society, he having been expelled for not conforming to the rules of the Society.

A Great Educationalist.—Mr. J. L. Paton, M.A., Head-Master of Manchester Grammar School at Victoria University, Manchester, on May 9, 1908, said "He always found those boys who collected stamps were especially bright and had a desire to follow in the footsteps of so many famous

men who had found the key to fame, no always in the schoolroom, but in the hobby of a leisure hour." He went on to say that "he thought all instructors of education should encourage Stamp collecting." Philatelic Institute Leaflet.

A Famous Zoologist.—Dr. John Edward Gray, F.R.S., F.L.S., etc., of the British Museum, said: "The use and charm of collecting any kind of object is to educate the mind and the eye to careful observation, accurate comparison and just reasoning on the differences and likenesses which they present Postage stamps afford good objects for all these branches of study." Philatelic Institute Leaflet.

A Learned Judge.—His Honour Judge Philbrick, K.C.: "The study of postage stamps is a capital training in accuracy and observation, and from my experience in certain 'marble halls' it is a training that was frequently omitted in the bringing up of children some years ago. Even the youngest collector can teach the oldest something." Philatelic Institute Leaflet.

BRITISH HONDURAS, 1922-1924.

HARRY E. HUBER.

As early as 1919, it was rumoured that British Honduras was abandoning the D.L.R. 1912 keyplate design, and in future the Nyasaland 1908 keyplates—conventional size (18½ x 22½ mm.) for the "cents" values, and receipt size (25 x 30 mm.) for the "dollar" values—would be used. But printings continued to be made from the D.L.R. 1912, plate 2, and even plate 3 was used in 1921 for the 1c. and \$5. Not until early in 1922 was it that the Crown Agents announced (in their January-March Bulletin), that "new duties of 5c., 25c., and \$2 have been printed from the Nyasaland type general keyplate."

It was disappointing that the King's head and Arms type of the 4c. modified Peace stamp of 1922, was not adopted for the new series, as besides being a distinctive and pleasing design, stamps produced by the line engraved process are in much better appearance than those typographically printed from the Nyasaland or any other of the De La Rue general keyplates. Even though the master die was available, and the value tablet only would have needed

changing, the cost of line engraved plates and printing stamp supplies from them would have been much more expensive than from the typographic key and duty plates.

The D.L.R. 1888 keyplate design (the original of which contained the head of Queen Victoria, but altered as to the sovereign's head in 1901, and again in 1911) was more favourably received than had been anticipated, even though the design was mediocre and left much to be desired. In favour of the keyplate process is the resultant economy effected, as the keyplates are furnished by De La Rue and Co., Ltd., free of cost, and the Colonies pay merely for the overprint or duty plates. Thus the expense of a separate plate for each value is avoided.

In 1908 an improved design was introduced, known as the Nyasaland type, and first used in that year for the stamps of the Nyasaland Protectorate. In this the head of King Edward VII. was on a horizontally lined ground within a pearled oval. Requiring a border plate, rather than an overprint plate, for completion, its use is more expensive than the D.L.R. 1888 and D.L.R. 1912 keyplates, which latter require only simple name and duty plates. At the same time, a keyplate was made up for a stamp in the receipt size, 25 x 30 mm. (intended for high values) in which the pearled oval was surmounted by a crown, all being superimposed on a shield with garlands of fruits and flowers.

Originally, with the head of King Edward VII., the receipt size design was used by none of the British Colonies in the Western Hemisphere, and the conventional size design only by Jamaica for the 2d. gray, issued February 16, 1911. In the following year, when the new keyplate with the head of King George V., was made available, this design was adopted by Jamaica, and subsequently used for all values from 1d. to 5s., and by St. Lucia, for the 4d. The receipt size keyplate was used by Bermuda for the 2/6, 5s., 10s., and £1 issued March 30, 1918, and the 2s. and 4s., issued June 19, 1920.

The Nyasaland conventional size keyplate consists of two 120 set plates, which when clamped together produce sheets of 240 stamps, four panes of 60, with plate 1 over the 2nd and 5th stamps of the first horizontal row of the upper left and upper right panes, respectively, and under the corresponding stamps of the lower row of

the lower left and lower right panes. The lower margin of the two upper panes, which is also the upper margin of the two lower panes, is devoid of plate number marking. When 120 stamp sheets are required, either sheets of 240 stamps are cut in halves, or the plates are unclamped, and the upper or lower 120 set used separately.

The 5c., 25c. and \$2 stamps of British Honduras in the Nyasaland type, were received at Belize on 29th May, 1922, but withheld from issue until August 1st, 1922. The 5c. and \$2 were watermarked multiple Crown and script CA., while the 25c. was on emerald green with the Roman CA lettering.

In the border plate design, the value is in colorless figures and letters in tablets in the upper corners, with the Imperial Crown between. At the bottom, "British Honduras" in colorless caps, with "Postage" and "Revenue" at the sides in small colored caps, conforms to the oval. The marginal line (part of the border plate impression), is broken at the line of perforation, which is comb 14.

The stamps were in sheets of 120 (cut into panes of 60), from the lower 120 set, with plate 1 in the lower margin only.

The 10c. advised by the Crown Agents, in their April-June, 1922 Bulletin, as being in printing, was received in the colony on 28th September, and placed on sale December 1st, 1922.

The July-September, 1922, Bulletin, notified that "supplies of 2c. stamps, Nyasaland type, are being printed; also stamp booklets each containing 100 2c. stamps." These, printed in brown, were received at Belize on December 21st, 1922, and issued March 1st, 1923.

The booklets contain 100 stamps each, inserted in ten strips of ten stamps each (5 horizontal by 2 vertical), with wax interleaves, and wire stitched between pink covers. In black on the front cover, in three lines, is "BRITISH HONDURAS—100—Two Cent Stamps." Postal information appears on the inside covers.

As only 50 stamps of the 60 stamp panes could be used, the 6th vertical row of the left pane, and the 1st vertical row of the right pane, were discarded, leaving five blocks of ten stamps from the left pane, with margin at the left, and five blocks from the right pane, with margin at the right. Booklets made up of stamps from the left pane open at the right, and are wire stitched at the left; those with stamps from the right

pane open at the left and are wire stitched at the right.

The booklets measure 2-7/8" x 1-7/8", which is the size of a block of six stamps (3 x 2), with margin attached. The other block of four of the strip is folded over. The booklets are sold at face to popularise their use.

The 50c. on blue script, was issued November 1, 1923, and the 25c. on green script, and the \$5 on Roman CA red, October 1, 1924. Blue script was first used for the 2s. of Barbados small Seal series issued November 14, 1921, and green script for the 10s. of St. Kitts-Nevis Tercentenary series of January 2, 1923. Red paper originally made for 1d. Colonial stamps and transferred in the Crown Agents' scheme of 1908 to stamps of £1 or near equivalent has no great use, and the stock, which is quite large, will probably not require replenishing for years.

The 2c. and 5c. are on ordinary paper, and the higher values on chalk surfaced.

The 25c. script green of British Honduras exists with yellow green, and blue green back, readily distinguishable when the two are compared, but hardly sufficiently distinctive to justify separate catalogue listings.

The \$1 is in the Colony, and will be issued January 2nd, 1925; the 1c. will be the next to follow.

Although the foreign post card rate was raised to 3c. on January 1, 1922 (by Order in Council of October 26, 1921), no card of this value has been issued—the 2c. U.P.U. card being used with a 1c. stamp added. It is not likely that the Nyasaland type series will contain a stamp of this denomination. On the other hand, the 4c. in the modified Peace design, printed from line engraved plates, and costly to produce, will eventually appear in the Nyasaland design, unless the British Empire and U.S.A. letter rate is restored to 2c.

During 1924, remainders of the D.L.R. 1912 type stamps, i.e., 1c WAR, 5c, 10c, 25c. 50c, \$2, and \$5, were destroyed, acting on general instructions issued to the Colonies by Downing Street early in 1924.

1922-24.

Nyasaland type. King George V, Postage and Revenue.

Watermarked multiple Crown and Roman CA (25c. \$5.) and Script CA.

10c. and above Chalk surfaced.

Comb perf. 14.

Plate 1 (lower 120 set).

2c. Dark Brown, March 1, 1923.

5c. Ultramarine, August 1, 1922.

10c. Olive Green and Lilac, December 1, 1922.

25c. Black on Emerald Green (Roman CA), August 1, 1922.

25c. Black on Emerald Green (Script CA), October 1, 1924.

50c. Ultramarine and Violet on Blue, November 1, 1923.

\$1. Red and Black, To be issued January 2, 1925.

\$2. Red Violet and Green, August 1, 1922

\$5. Purple and Black on Red, (Roman CA), October 1, 1924.

AWAITING AIR MAIL IN BRITISH GUIANA.

By W. A. HUSBANDS.

Since the advent into British Guiana of Major Hemming of the Aircraft Operating Company, Limited, London, stamp-collectors have been watching keenly what actions the Government would take with regard to Air Mail Service. A survey of the route to be traversed was made by Major Hemming and Mr. A. J. Cheong, surveyor, lent by the Government, and on their return Major Hemming placed his concrete proposals before the Government on the 23rd July. The proposals which seemed extremely favourable, and considerate were eagerly supported by our local press and by most collectors, who indeed (apart from the several prominent aspects which Air Service will present) are yearning for Air Mail Service. Undoubtedly the service as a whole ought to be, should be, and must be of considerable assistance towards the development of the colony from every commercial standpoint, but since the Major returned to England to put before his directors this worthy scheme, we are yet to know what are their recommendations. Whether any communications have been received officially, we do not know.

We were again confronted with the hope of Air Mail Service in British Guiana on the 13th November last when Capt. Trace arrived on H.L.S. "Ingoma" with a seaplane for the uses of the Balata Estates Co., Ltd., in the colony. The work of assembling the plane was begun a few days after the arrival, while Capt. Trace and Mr. A. J. Cheong travelled for the Rupununi to survey the route to be traversed and to measure out their landing sites. This Government

has no subsidy or interest in the management, and as regards the carriage of mails, in a letter recently from our Postmaster General we are informed that no steps have been taken for the arrangement of so vitally important a matter. Surely we all cannot travel to the Rupununi and in all probability would like our mails to get there hurriedly when there is an opportunity for so doing, but like all other things we are with hands outstretched. Patience is a virtue, but virtues are sometimes overdone.

However on Saturday, the 28th March, the launching of the plane which is named the "Fairey Nicholl" took place at Messrs. Curtis, Campbell & Co.'s premises. There were in attendance several prominent members of the community and large crowds also were attracted within the vicinity of wharves and dockyards. At 9 a.m. the seaplane glided smoothly to the end of her slipway where she was boarded by Capt. Trace, her pilot, Mr. C. B. Baker her mechanic, and His Excellency and Lady Thomson (first passengers) and were ready for the official trip. At 9.10 a.m. she left her moorings proceeding in a southerly direction and suddenly turning north, she rose into the air amidst a sensational applause. Its highest altitude was 3,000 feet and manoeuvred nearly half an hour in the air. It is built almost of aluminium and is fitted with a Rolls-Royce Eagle 9 twelve-cylinder engine, capable of developing from 36 to 40 h.p.

Following upon this, there appeared in the "Argosy" of Sunday, March 1st, a stirring letter on Air Mails written under a nom-de-plume entitled "Zenophon." It dealt closely with the inception and success of Air Mail Service all the world over and enquired why the Government of British Guiana should not enter into a contract and make necessary arrangements for the carriage of mails and the benefit of their citizens.

We are apt to believe that from the prominent aspects of Air Service as a whole and the letter on Air Mails, the Editor of "The Daily Argosy" was led to make his editorial of March 1st "IN THE AIR" and from this well written leader we quote herewith several passages which show how near and yet so far are our prospects for Air Mail Service:—

"We understand that the Balata Company's enterprise has up to the present cost them something like \$80,000 and we admit to some difficulty in understanding how the interest and sinking fund—and an aeroplane has not a very long life—on the capital expenditure and running costs of salaries and wages of pilot and mechanics, petrol and oil consumed can be recouped by the enterprising owners if the seaplane is only to be used as an ambulance and for the transportation of medical stores to and from the Apoteri, in the Rupununi districts. The licence for the machine we believe, which has been granted by the British Air Ministry, only entitles it to be used for the purposes stated and not for a passenger service or the transportation of mails." "It would certainly appear that the service has been inaugurated more from humanitarian reasons than for its advantages from a purely commercial standpoint," thus it becomes desirable to ask whether our Government are bound by the licence, or whether they are at liberty to make use of the plane which is on the spot. We think the Government ought to inform themselves fully on that point and that they ought to go out of their way to make the employment of the Fairey biplane an economic possibility, by providing lucrative work either in aerial surveying or in the transport of mails—which, by the way, does not necessarily mean a descent of the machine at every spot where it is required to drop a bag of mail matter. We always believe in encouraging enterprise and although we took exception to the expenditure of public funds on the installation of wireless for the benefit of a private concern, we can see no reason, now that expenditure has facilitated or made possible the inauguration of a seaplane service, why the Government should not take advantages of that service to the utmost in the interest of the development of the colony."

We have no authentic information as to the particulars of the licence but if it is as stated, we are indeed amazed to know with what spirit the British Air Ministry granted such a licence. Evidently there was no consideration for the owners, and the citizens in the colony in which the plane is to be used. We can only hope that our Government would adopt the right policy with the Air Ministry and remember "DAMUS PETIMUSQUE VICISSIM" and not "DAMUS PETIMUSQUE NIHIL."

A CHAT ON THE STAMPS OF SARAWAK.

BY LEONARD A. GIBBENS.

Mr. Husbands has asked me to write an article for the first issue of THE BRITISH GUIANA PHILATELIST. I am always very pleased to assist with anything, particularly so when associated with philately, but it is a long long way from breezy Brighton to sunny Georgetown, and, as I hear MS. must be in hand by December 20th, and I received Mr. Husbands' request when November had begun its course, I have not the time available just now to write an article. However, I will try and have a brief chat with you on the stamps of Sarawak; one of the "countries" in whose stamps I am at present actively interested.

The earlier issues, as no doubt you are aware, were all lithographed and, apart from the characteristics of each transfer, there are many other flaws and varieties. A large number of these are constant in occurrence and therefore these issues provide plenty of material—not too expensive and fairly easy of access,—with which a collector can delight in the semi-intricate and fascinating study of plating.

The 12c red on *pale rose*, of 1875, presents a variety on laid paper. This I have found rather hard to find and copies I have handled were not, to my way of thinking, on paper which complied with the orthodox definition by which we recognise "laid" paper.

Many collectors to whom I have mentioned Sarawak have awarded my enthusiasm with a shrug of their shoulders because: "Sarawak's stamps are all alike" !!! I must admit the designs, and the method by which the issues since 1888 have been produced, give the series a certain sameness of appearance. But, to the true philatelist, the appearance of a stamp, or a series of stamps, matters very little—and decides for very little, for or against. One has but to take the standard works on Sarawak and to study and compare the lists with those of the catalogue and the decision will be; "There is more in these stamps than at first meets the eye—they will provide a lot of work, and *pleasant work too.*" Indeed, it will require a very short time for the truth in this statement to become agreeably apparent.

To all collectors in need of new fields to find delight in—new, that is to say, to them

—I venture to put in a good word for the stamps of Sarawak.

I regret that time is so limited and in consequence I am unable to give you no more than a mere introduction to the joys of a collection of Sarawak but the well-known hand-books are both cheap and easy to obtain. Get them, study them and commence your collection. Do not be discouraged at the outset should stamps seem difficult to obtain. Listen to the following comparison and take heart. My interest in Sarawak was aroused when I inspected a friend's collection of these stamps, contained in eight loose-leaf albums. At present I have but one album and that is not yet filled !!

I want to conclude this little chat with the heartiest good wishes for the success of THE BRITISH GUIANA PHILATELIST. Long may it thrive, and with good fellowship always amongst those who co-operate to produce it; no magazine need contemplate any but a future of usefulness and prosperity.

[It is greatly regretted that Mr. Gibbens was misled by us as regards the time.—E.D.]

TOPICS OF THE TIMES.

Barbados 1/- Script.—The 1/- Barbados Script still continues to ascend the ladder. It is unobtainable even at 10/- a copy in its land of birth; Now that the new set has appeared and the quantity printed (6,000) is now finally determined, there can be no hopes of a further printing, and in a popular country like Barbados, there is every possibility of this stamp fetching 25/- a copy.

British Guiana.—So much has already been said and reiterated in the Philatelic press about faked stamps that hardly anything more can be said, but we would like to advise collectors to exercise great care in the purchase of higher values of this colony especially 48c., 60c., 72c. and 96c. as Mr. W. Husbands has just traced what is believed to have been fiscally used stamps which have been cleaned and a forged postmark put on, probably by someone in the G.P.O. in vogue with the rogue that cleaned these stamps. These stamps were offered to Mr. Husbands by a young urchin who hails from Martinique and his legs did not deceive him after being threatened to be placed in the hands of a custodian.

St. Kitts-Nevis.—The St. Kitts Tercentenary issue which was derided as unneces-

sary and speculative during the year it was on sale is now causing considerable envy amongst collectors. Now that it can be clearly seen of the business-like method of the St. Kitts officials in burning the remainders, and the sudden alteration in S.G. Monthly Journal, one is inclined to believe that the set will ultimately rise to about £25. On March 30th Mr. H. R. Harmer obtained £7 7s. at auction for the £1 mint.

COINAGE OF BRITISH GUIANA IN RELATION TO POSTAGE STAMPS.

By W. A. HUSBANDS.

Quite recently and for the second time I am asked to relate the reason why the stamps of British Guiana are issued in dollars and cents values whilst the coinage of the country is in pounds, shillings and pence. Indeed it would be rather hard to confine ourselves to the fact that our coinage is in pounds, shillings and pence or that our coinage is in dollars and cents for we use Bank Notes of \$100, \$20 and \$5,—their equivalent being £20. 16s. 8d., £4. 3s. 4d., and £1. 0s. 10d., respectively; we use currency notes issued by Government authority of \$2 and \$1, while we use British coinage of 5/-, 2/6, 2/-, 1/-, 6d., 4d. and 3d. pieces all silver and 1d. and ½d. pieces made of copper. So we are amidst the devil and the deep sea when we are to think seriously of our coinage. Anyhow there is one consolation for us and that is, the method in vogue with our coinage is not off the track as almost with everything in British Guiana; we need another hinge to turn on, and that hinge is always late in coming.

Now strictly speaking the coinage of British Guiana is a growth first from Dutch Guilders, Spanish Dollars and Portuguese Johannes or Joes (Gold Coinage). Natural Developments led to the exclusion of the Dutch Guilders and the adoption of the Spanish Dollar which was current until the great fall of Silver in 1870. Upon the silver depreciation, the British Coinage of pound, shilling and pence was adopted. The Dollar, however, was still retained as a medium for accounts and is still represented as a token on Colonial Notes. The common coins are all British, easily reckoned at ½d for one cent, and 4s. 2d. to the dollar.

At the fall of silver, about 1870, the Spanish Dollar was only worth 1s., 11d. or

46 cents, then it rose to 2s., 3d. or 54 cents. A well-known firm in the Colony of British Guiana imported Spanish Dollars in boxes and paid all their employees with them. The Government thereupon was compelled to step forward and protect the labourers; they called in all the Spanish Dollars and made the British Coinage of pound, shilling and pence the only legal tender.

Up to this time all postage Stamps had been issued in cents values and this was consequently continued as up to the present. It will be wise to note that only cent values of Postage Stamps have been issued by British Guiana. The Dollar values of 1889 were primarily Revenue and all Dollar values since then are for revenue purposes, hence any that may be found postmarked are either *par complaisance* or forged.

VICTORY PHILATELIC SOCIETY MEETING.

A Meeting of unusual philatelic interest took place in St. George's School Hall on Tuesday 24th February, at 8 p.m., when the members of the Victory Philatelic Society assembled to welcome Messrs. L. V. Vaughan and W. Abraham, members of the B.G. Philatelic Society. Mr. A. H. July, president of the Victory, occupied the Chair and among others present were Messrs C. D'Ornellas, R. A. Savory, E. W. Savory, P. A. Driffield, Oswald Mann, T. Delmore with W. Husbands, Hony. Secretary, and Rev. W. T. Naish (visitor)

Members were busily engaged in discussing their various new finds they had been fortunate enough in securing until the time came when Mr. L. V. Vaughan opened up his Album to the many eager eyes around him. His Display of British West Indies was extremely fine being in superb condition and rich in blocks of four, and the gaps few and far between in most countries. A particular feature was that all shades not listed by Gibbons were placed on separate page. Mr. Abraham passed around a Duplicate Album which aroused considerable attention.

Mr. Abraham then addressed the Members of the Victory.

Mr. President and the members of the Victory Philatelic Society,—It is the first time Mr. Vaughan and myself have visited this Society, and I am very pleased to see the keen interest taken by you in the fine collection of stamps Mr. Vaughan has

shown you, also the small lots I have brought, and on behalf of Mr. Vaughan and myself I can assure you that we will do anything we can for this Society. I can assure you also, that it will not be the last time we will visit you. Of course, this is a young society, but I must say this much—stamp collecting is a hobby, but it is a very expensive hobby. As soon as you commence, you have your stamps costing very little, but once you get to a certain point (and that depends upon your book, of course) your stamps will cost you very much more. For instance, Mr. Vaughan and myself have got to a point of not £5 or £10, but it is a question of getting what stamps we want and of course we are going ahead for shade, etc., but there is one point I would like to impress on you: Whenever I get a letter through the Post Office, even the ordinary letter, I look at that stamp and try to find out some error in it. You must not discard every stamp you get, but look carefully at the perforation, etc. If you buy stamps from the Post Office you might find one with the perforation different and in your leisure time in looking at stamps, you will no doubt discover a lot of varieties of shades. As soon as I get my stamps from the bank, I shall have much pleasure in bringing them down. Both Mr. Vaughan and myself thank you very much for the kind reception. We belong to the original society—The British Guiana Philatelic Society, but at the same time we shall be very pleased to visit the junior collectors and any advice I can give will be readily given. I thank you very much for the kind invitation and hope the society will increase. Above all don't stick your stamps in the book. You may have good stamps damaged by bad mounting. Stamps require much patience. Because you have a stamp sticking a little do not disfigure it. If you cannot get the stamp out leave it until your temper has cooled. Never be hasty or do not collect stamps. Again I thank you all.

The President then replied paying high tribute to Messrs. Vaughan and Abraham, both experienced Philatelists and Medalists at British Guiana Philatelic Exhibitions.

Mr. E. W. Savory then endorsed the remarks of the President and related how he was prompted to be a Philatelist. The Rev. Naish also begged to associate himself with the remarks of the several speakers.

The health of the Exhibitors and Visitors were then drunk. A hearty vote of thanks was duly accorded the Exhibitors.

1st ANNUAL MEETING OF THE V.P.S.

The annual meeting of the Victory Philatelic Society took place in St. George's School Hall on Friday, 13th March, at 8.30 p.m., when Mr. A. H. July, President, presided over a large attendance.

The meeting began by the reading of the notice convening the meeting which was followed by the

PRESIDENTIAL ADDRESS.

Gentlemen,—I am very pleased indeed that the Society has completed its first year or (as Mr. Webber would say) has functioned for one year, and I think that the society as a whole is indebted a great deal to Mr. Husbands for having inaugurated it and getting it on a sure basis. I believe I am right in saying that I was elected president in my absence but I must thank the members for electing me to the chair and although we have had one or two little unpleasantnesses during my year of office, the society has done very well. The number of members was seven and it is now sixteen.

Well, the secretary is clamouring for more members, I agree that the society should increase in numbers, and if the present members continue to bring up new members—say one in six months, it would be far better than 30 or 40 who collect secretly in their homes and don't broadcast philately (Hear, hear). The one unpleasant incident that took place during my year of office was the expulsion of Mr. Fisher for not conforming to the rules of the society and I hope that during the coming year no more of that will take place.

With regard to the financial statement it is a very excellent one for such a small society of 16 members. For that we have in a large measure to thank the contributors and purchasers of the Exchange Branch.

With respect to the library, I think that we are doing very well and with the suggestions recently made, I think that in due course our library will be as good as it should be.

In connexion with the journal, certain proposals have been made and I only hope they will materialize because this society would be better known outside and it would be a fillip to the older society to see we are making progress.

Well, gentlemen, I will close my remarks by thanking you all for the assistance you have given me and the officers of this

society during my year of office and I would ask that during the coming year members turn up more regularly than they have done during the past because the bigger the attendance, the better we feel; the more people there are, the better the officers do their work. Gentleman, I will conclude my remarks by thanking you again for the assistance you have given me during my year of office and I hope that the Victory Philatelic Society will continue to prosper step by step (Hear, hear).

MR. P. WATSON (VICE-PRESIDENT).

Mr. President, I beg to return thanks to you for the address you have first given us and to thank you still more on behalf of the members of this society for the interest you have displayed in this society. Your attendance is a matter of record. It has been exemplary. Probably I would have followed in your footsteps but illness has prevented me.

I think that when the item of "Election of officers" is reached we cannot do better than to re-elect you. We feel confident that with your leadership, we will pass a brilliant time as we are first on the brink of important occurrences in our society's life. (Hear, hear).

MR. E. W. SAVORY.

I beg to associate myself with the remarks of the Vice-President, and to add a bit more "Our President is like the right pill the doctor ordered" (Laughter):

HON. GENERAL SECRETARY'S REPORT.

(SEASON 1924-25.)

MR. CHAIRMAN AND GENTLEMEN,—In preparing this report to place before you, I have endeavoured to be as brief as possible, and to arrange it in such a way that every member may obtain a comprehensive view of the Society's development during the past year. Despite our undoubted failures in one or two directions, our achievements have been such that we can afford to be proud of the year's work as a whole. Perhaps the most satisfactory information I have to impart is that our membership has increased from seven (7) at the inception of the Society to sixteen (16) at the present time.

The average attendance at the ordinary meetings according to the attendance book is 8. This sounds extremely disappointing considering our membership was increased

immediately after the first meeting and what is moreso disappointing is that certain members have been consistently absent from meetings.

In accordance with the requests of several members, the Society's funds were invested in ordering Stamps from the different Post Offices for the benefit of members. The Society has also endeavoured to be of service and assistance to its members by ordering hinges, club sheets, suscribing to Philatelic Magazines, ordering S. Gibbons priced catalogue and in many other ways have tried to promote a lively interest in the hobby amongst its members. Of course, it would be wise to mention at this stage that no returns have been forthcoming as yet from these exceptionally good ideas.

Without undue egotism, I feel it my duty while in my capacity as Secretary to point out that although my post has carried with it very onerous duties, my love for the hobby and the shower of correspondence from oversea has many a day enlivened me with a true philatelic spirit (hear, hear). I endeavoured to make our little functions as popular as can be and I judge they were always interesting from the appreciative joy expressed by several members. Variety is the spice of life and this is what I succeeded in procuring. At each meeting when there was no important business, I always succeeded in arranging an interesting Display for those who should attend; but there is one thing I do lament over and that is:—no member was ever disposed to display a foreign colony. I admit that in a Society like ours, it is necessary to have a preponderance of British Colonial Displays, while on the other hand, I contend that foreign colonies should not be despised and should on some occasions be given a fair field.

In the matter of the Journal, which I know is uppermost in your minds at present, a conclusion has not yet been reached; but I think that I may say that so far our prospects in that direction may be considered good; the project is one which is likely to yield a good return for the time, money, and energy which we should have to put into it. Our organisation was formed mainly for the purpose of promoting a lively interest and of securing for its members better conditions and the journal will, to a great degree, contribute towards this anticipated success. (hear, hear, and applause).

We have held one social gathering for the year and that was on the occasion of the visit

of Messrs. L. V. Vaughan and W. Abraham.

The general state of our finances you will have seen by the copies of the balance sheet which have been circulated.

I want to take this opportunity of conveying my warmest thanks to all those who assisted me in my onerous duties during my tenure of office and to expressly mention the Press, the many Philatelic Societies, and Publishers and last but not least the several individuals, who in many ways have offered their assistance.

I would like to point out that our first year is now ended and for the coming year, I am inspired to predict big enterprises; more so should we embark on the publication of our journal early, the season will be one of crowded activity.

Finally, gentlemen, we need a stronger numerical strength, and in the year that is now before us, we must not relax effort, if we are fully to justify ourselves and the principles by which we stand. (hear, hear.)

THE PRESIDENT.

"Gentlemen,—After hearing our Hony. Secretary's able and excellent report, I have no hesitation in moving a hearty vote of thanks. Our Secretary has been the mainstay of our Society; he has done excellent work, and I think I may say that his zeal and interest displayed has been fully esteemed by all members."

MR. E. W. SAVORY :

"I have very great pleasure in seconding the vote of thanks to our Hony. Secretary. He is indeed the type of Secretary required. He is the "backbone" of our Society. Those with whom he comes in daily contact are unanimous in the opinion that his energy is of inestimable value to any interests which it is his intention to further." (hear, hear.)

THE VICE-PRESIDENT :

"I think it would be grossly unjust if I omit to add my opinions of the Secretary. For my part, I am convinced that our Secretary has devoted his whole-hearted attention to the interests of this Society. I am sure, we owe practically the whole of our strength and efficiency to his untiring efforts. He has shown us that he possesses common sense coupled with fine ideals and worthy aspirations. Moreover I must state, and I believe you will all agree, that no one can take his place as Secretary." (hear, hear.)

Mr. R. A. SAVORY :

"Gentlemen,—I can hardly add anything to the befitting remarks made to our Secre-

tary, therefore I must beg to associate myself with the remarks of the several speakers and to state that our Secretary is capable of furthering the aims of our Society and I should recommend him for re-election."

Mr. T. DELMORE :

"Gentlemen,—I can heartily say that our Secretary is 'the man'; we can safely rely on him to further our interest; he has achieved great things for us and will, I am confident, achieve greater. He is energetic, forceful, and greatly daring and with these qualities we can achieve anything. I support his re-election."

THE SECRETARY :

"Mr. Chairman and Gentlemen,—I now rise to thank you most heartily for the kind expressions and high tribute you have paid me; but I must protest that you have been too complimentary, but since it is an honour, I will endeavour to overcome my diffidence. I do not intend to make a sententious oration but would, however, remind you that Dame Fortune helped us in no little degree and my love for the hobby caused me to persevere so as to accomplish my ideals. I again beg to thank you all for the generous expression of good feeling.

The Treasurer's Statements, Exchange Superintendent Reports and Librarian's Reports were next read in order mentioned and all considered highly satisfactory.

An Auction Sale was next conducted, the Vice-President Mr. P. Watson officiating as Auctioneer, and several high prices were realised which included St. Vincent S. G. 122 b cat. 10/- for 7/-, and Barbados S. G. 70 cat. £8. for £5.

A competitive Paper on any Philatelic Subject was the next item taken and was a walk-over for the Secretary.

The Competitive Displays arranged for the evening resulted as follows:—

In Antigua, Mr. E. W. Savory took 1st place

In Barbados, Mr. A. H. July took 1st place

In British Guiana, Mr. A. H. July took 1st place

In Union of S. A., Mr. W. Husbands took 1st place

In Australian Commonwealth, Messrs. Savory and July tied for 1st place.

In any British Colony not longer than 15 years a Stamp issuing colony:—

Mr. W. Husbands took first place with Kedah.

In Austrian Republic:—

Mr. W. Husbands took first place,

In any foreign Colony ;—

Mr. E. W. Savory took first place with Hungary.

The election of Office-bearers was next dealt with and resulted as follows ;—

Mr. A. H. July, President (re-elected).

Rev. S. E. Watson, vice-President.

Mr. P. Watson, vice-President (re-elected).

Mr. W. Husbands, Secretary, (re-elected).

Mr. O. Comacho, Treasurer (re-elected).

Mr. R. A. Savory, Librarian.

Mr. W. Husbands, ex-Superintendent (re-elected).

Mr. P. A. Driffield, Hon. Auditor.

Messrs. E. W. Savory, C. J. Pestano and P. A. Driffield, Members of the Committee.

During the evening refreshments were served and a most enjoyable time was spent.

REVIEWS.

H. E. HARRIS & CO.

Bi-Monthly Journal :—Just to hand is a Copy of H. E. Harris & Co's Special Anniversary number. It is a well compiled number full of interesting articles and bargains galore. Among the many offers is to be found a collection of 200 British Colonial War tax Stamps at face value (\$8.25.) The firm guarantees satisfaction or cash refunded and can be relied upon to deliver the goods ordered. Look at the ad. in this Issue.

S. G. M. J. and Price Alterations :—We welcome with Enthusiasm the price alterations in S G. monthly Journal. No better step could have been taken, for many Colonies are indeed far too low priced. We hope serious attention would be given to most of the Georgian Issue especially coloured papers, while on the other hand there are a few colonies that ought to take a step down the ladder.

Western Collector :—The Western Collector, a monthly publication, with which is combined the Kingston Stamp News, is the official organ of the Winnipeg Philatelic Society. One can always find an article of interest and also a wide range of advertisements that carry some tempting bargains.

H. R. HARMER.

Philatelic Auctioneer :—Mr. Harmer is well known the world over as one of the leading auctioneers in London. Both the seller and the buyer can always depend

upon a square deal. The finest and largest selections of rarities and scarcer issues are continually passing through his hands. His page Advertisement in the present issue should command attention.

NEW ISSUES AND DISCOVERIES.

Afghanistan.—We learn from Champion's Bulletin that a new issue of this Country will appear and the present set will not be reprinted.

Barbados.—The new issue of this Country which is a trifle larger than the 1921 set and smaller than the large Sea-horse type, was put on sale at the G.P.O., Barbados, on 1st April. The values and colours are the same as 1921 set, and all on Script C.A. paper. It is understood that the remainders will be burnt.

British Solomon Islands.—Mr. S. Fernandes has sent us a Copy of the 10/- Green and Red on Emerald on Script paper for inspection.

Cayman Is.—Fresh Supplies of the 2½d, 1/-, 2/-, 3/- and 5/- Stamps of this Colony have been despatched by the Crown Agents. The 1/- and 5/- are on Script paper for the first time.

Gold Coast.—Mr. W. Husbands reports the 1/- and 2/6 Gold Coast on Script C.A. paper for the first time.

Malta.—A correspondent in Malta informs us that there will be a complete new set of stamps, most likely to appear late in 1925. The Postage Due Stamps are also on order on Script paper.

Union of South Africa.—Mr. R. E. Harewood sends us for inspection a Cape Town—Durban Air Mail Cover which he recently procured. It is also reported that the Government of this Colony has an entire new set in preparation.

British Guiana.—Mr. A. H. July has reported the 24c. Script of this Colony with Inverted Watermark.

N.B.—Correspondents are requested to give early information of new issues stating whenever possible the date of issue, design, paper, printers, etc., etc.

Communications to the Editor.

THE BEGINNER'S OWN PAGE.

We are endeavouring to assist the Junior Collector by reproducing from the Stamp Lover the first of a series of lessons issued some years ago in the interest of beginners by the New England Stamp Company of Boston, U.S.A.

LESSON NO. I.

Philately.—Philately is a term embracing the collecting and study of the stamps of all nations. The word comes from the Greek *philos*, a friend or admirer, and *atelia*, exemption from taxation. Taxation, at the time it derived its name in Greek, was represented by a small printed piece of paper or check, used as a postage stamp is now used.

Benefits and Pleasures.—Philately stimulates research in nearly every branch of learning, and may be rightly termed the science of sciences. It is the key that unlocks the door to many a storehouse of knowledge and instruction, among which may be mentioned Zoology, Geography, Ornithology, History, Biology, Botany, Genealogy, Heraldry, Mythology, Ethnology, Philology, as well as Art and Literature.

How to Start a Collection.—To study Philately, one should form a collection of Stamps for the same reason that, when we study Botany, we form a collection of flowers, or if we take up the study of Entomology, we form a collection of insects. To start a collection of insects or flowers, we go out into the woods and fields to find specimens. To start a collection of stamps, we go to old files of correspondence for the older stamps and to the waste basket for current ones.

When our sources along these lines are exhausted, we seek a reputable stamp dealer.

The Catalogue.—A collection of stamps should be scientifically arranged along certain lines, geographical or political, as one may elect. While a political division of the countries of the world has its devotees, there is no doubt but what a geographical division is by far preferable to any other, inasmuch as in most instances we can tell from the stamp itself what a country is politically, whereas in but very few instances can we tell the geography of a country from the stamps themselves.

The first and most important book for the student of Philately to own is a standard postage stamp Catalogue, the same being a descriptive list of all postage stamps ever issued by any government in the world, giving their date of issue, colour and value, illustrated with the types of all stamps and giving the prices, used and unused, at which they can be purchased. For general information on stamps and their study, the Standard Catalogue is the best yet published, and should be in the hands of every Philatelist.

The Stamp Album.—Another very important book to have is an album to keep your stamps in. For the beginner a printed album is by far the best. After you have made a collection of 5,000 to 10,000 varieties and have studiously and carefully mounted them in your printed album you will then be far enough advanced in the art to judge for yourself as to what changes, if any, you wish to make. For the advanced collector, there is nothing better than a blank album with interchangeable leaves.

(To be Continued.)



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