

# The Philatelic Record.

---

Vol. II. No. 21.

OCTOBER.

1880.

---



WITH the first meeting for the season of the Philatelic Society, we Londoners feel as though we were getting fairly into harness again, and gird ourselves up to brush off the slight rust with which ruralizing is apt to dim our philatelic lore, and to hunt for sundry good things which, for the moment, we have missed through being away from town. It appears probable that we have a busy nine months' season before us, and we shall do all in our power to keep our readers *au courant* with what is going on.

Since we wrote last, another pair of old friends—the  $\frac{1}{2}$ d. and  $1\frac{1}{2}$ d. stamps of Great Britain—have been superseded by rivals of the De la Rue type. When we have said that the new stamps are superior to the current 1d., and there pause, we shall probably stand accused of damning them with faint praise. The Post Office authorities and—or—the Commissioners of Inland Revenue of to-day seem to have more confidence in average humanity, which we trust is warranted by statistics, than their predecessors were wont to show. In the new postage stamps most of the old cunningly-built-up safeguards against forgery have been abandoned. It does not strike us that the new stamps are more difficult to imitate than were the obsolete ones, and yet the plate numbers were abolished in the current 1d.; and now both the plate numbers and the transposed lettering of the angles disappear from the  $\frac{1}{2}$ d. and  $1\frac{1}{2}$ d. values. Another touching evidence of the faith of the authorities in the approach of the millennium is that afforded by the issue of forms spaced to hold twelve separate 1d. stamps, which, when filled up, may be paid into a post-office savings bank as the equivalent of a shilling deposit. In consequence, we presume, of complaints having been made of petty pilfering, postmasters were long ago forbidden to exchange single postage stamps for cash at

---

Price 2d.

2s. 6d. per Annum.

Abroad, 3s.

the market has lately been flooded, never saw the Transvaal territory, and have no postal value whatsoever," to which the *B.I.B.Z.* replies "that these Transvaal stamps have never seen the territory of Transvaal does not in the least prevent their being genuine. The most respectable firms continually buy and sell *British colonial stamps which have never seen the colonies for which they are issued*, and yet every collector readily admits such stamps into his collection as soon as he is assured of their authenticity." The editor of the *B.I.B.Z.* will confer a favour upon English dealers by informing them where they can obtain the stamps of English colonies, at face value, at home, and thus save them the trouble and expense of sending to the colonies to obtain them. It appears that the name of the town in Mecklenburg where the stamps were printed is Güstrow, not Gutzow, as we printed it last month. The *B.I.B.Z.* is indignant that the good faith of Herr Otto, the engraver, "an honourable man with grey hair," should be doubted, and threatens, on his behalf, legal proceedings against anyone who may further call it in question. In conclusion, our contemporary refers to the letters from dealers to which we alluded in our last, and half threatens "to stop the mouths" of some of them, who are grumbling about the last batch of Mecklenburg-Transvaals, by their publication.

**Uruguay.**—We have received the 2 centesimos Post Card to which we referred last month. It is of the same size and type, and has the same error as the 3 centesimos, which we fully described, and is printed in carmine upon white card.

**Venezuela.**—We have been shown some Postal Union Cards from this country, which strongly remind us of the provisional Trinidad which we described in June, 1879. There are three lines of inscription. 1st. "(UNION POSTALE UNIVERSELLE)." 2nd. ESTADOS UNIDOS DE VENEZUELA. 3rd. TARJETA POSTAL in block letters. A piece of ornamental chainwork separates this upper from the lower portion of the card, which has two long and one short lines for the address, with the word Señor printed above them. The whole is enframed with a chain border except the place for the stamp, which has plain lines. The three cards before us are severally franked by a 10 cents carmine, by two 5 cents blue Venezuela perforated adhesives, and by two 1 centavo Escuelas imperforate. Reverse side plain.

*P. Union Card* (without value expressed). Carmine on white card. Size, 130 × 94 mm.

*P. Union Card* (without value expressed). Black on white card. Size, 130 × 94 mm.

*P. Union Card* (without value expressed). Blue on white card. Size, 130 × 94 mm.

**Virgin Islands.**—We have to thank Messrs. Whitfield, King, and Co. for the new 1d. value for these islands. It is a De la Rue production of exactly the same type as the 2½d. It is a poor exchange for the old stamp which it supersedes.

1d., yellow-green on glazed paper; *wmk. C. C. and crown*; *perf. 14.*