

# STAMP COLLECTING

The first issue of postage stamps in Greece was on the 13th of October 1861. These were surface printed at Paris. The small figures to denote the value of each stamp were added in the second dies. These stamps were in use 25 years, and naturally there were a number of printings which accounts for the variety in shades to be found in the stamps of Greece. Although the die was the same, stamps were printed at Athens in 1862.

The 10 ore stamp of Denmark with the portrait of the King, which may be described as severely plain in design, has now been re-engraved and somewhat improved in appearance. The first issue should be worth saving.

A stamp of a new value has been issued in Holland, namely 1 1/2 cents. It is pale violet or blue lilac, according to the idea of the beholder.

Nicaragua is once more surcharging. This time the three centavos value has been overprinted in black "vale 10c." reading from top to bottom, down the centre of the stamp. On some of the stamps the c is reversed.

The Panama Canal Zone overprints will soon require a separate album in which to store them. 1905 issue of the Republic has been overprinted "Canal Zone," one line for each word in Roman capitals. Two bars of black at top and bottom blot out the original name and value of the stamp, and the new values are printed in at the bottom.

Russia may be busily occupied at home with "terrorists" and various other types of "reformers," but all the same two new large stamps have appeared on laid paper, finely engraved. One is five roubles, indigo and pale green, and the other, 10 roubles, red and grey. Five values of the ordinary Russian stamps have been overprinted in red diagonally for use in post offices in China, namely 4, 14, 35, and 70 kopees, also 34 and 7 roubles. All these stamps are on vertically laid paper.

The Tonga service stamps of 1893 are quoted by a London dealer as a bargain at the following prices, fourpence, 8; eightpence, 30; and one shilling at 50.

In *Safts "Illustriertes Briefmarken Journal"* appears an interesting article regarding the particular view which appears on the 1c to 5c stamps of Tunis. The article states that the picture leads to Kairouan, the Arabic holy city of schools which is situated in the interior of Tunis, and has a population of about 30,000. Prior to the occupation by the French in 1881, only Mohammedans were permitted to enter the city. Kairouan was built by the Arabs upon the ruins of Carthage, which city was destroyed 647 a.d. On the stamps two students are depicted walking towards the holy city of schools. Only a portion of the city is shown, in order to present a view of the Mosque which was erected by Sidi Okla, about the middle of the seventh century. This is called the "Mosque of the Barber," because it contains the bones of the holy man who had the privilege of shaving Mohammed. When the Sultan, as leader of the faithful chose Kairouan as his residence, it then became the religious centre of Islam, and is still the chief seat of Mohammedan religion and science. The mosque is continually visited by the followers of the Prophet.

Ireland has a national stamp collection as well as England. It was donated by the 5th Duke of Leinster, who

died in December, 1893. The Leinster collection is deposited in the National Museum at Dublin, and has lately been re-arranged under the superintendence of Mr. William E. Lane-Joynt. Once more the question arises, why should not this colony start the formation of a stamp collection in one of the museums?

Some arguments in favour of the establishment of the universal penny post, used by Mr. Heaniker Heaton are very convincing. Here is a sample:—During the last century ten million British emigrants went to the United States, as against five millions to our colonies. The American-English send home £1,500,000 yearly to poor relatives in the United Kingdom. It would cost us about £25,000 in the first year to establish penny postage to the United States, and £125,000 to all foreign countries. In the third or fourth year there would be a profit. All the populous States make a large profit from the Post Office, but the American surplus is swallowed up by concessions to book-post senders. It costs 2½d for a letter to France, 21 miles, but only 1d for one to Fiji, 11,000 miles. Our letters sent abroad number but 60 millions out of a total of 3,624 millions posted. Seven hundred and eighty thousand passengers cross the Channel yearly. Thirty-six thousand English are settled in France alone. Many thousands of our children are educated on the Continent. Our 2½d foreign postage rate is in effect a tax on British exports—a species of impost which must revolt protectionists and free traders alike. We have already universal half-penny postage for printed matter; let us strive to bring about universal penny postage for written matter.

Although universally voted to be a great success, it comes somewhat as a surprise to learn that at the Philatelic Exhibition, held in London last May, when stamps worth a quarter of a million were on view for nine days, only 1040 persons were sufficiently interested to pay to see them. This is estimated to be about three per cent of the collectors resident within ten miles.

## Our Illustrations

### NEW STAINED GLASS WINDOWS AT ST. MATTHEW'S.

The new stained glass windows placed in the baptistry of St. Matthew's Church have added greatly to the adornment of the building. They are the gift of Mrs. Burton, wife of Colonel Burton, of Takapuna, in memory of her father. The work was designed by Messrs. Clayton and Bell, the well-known artists, in stained glass, and has been carried out by them to the complete satisfaction of Mrs. Burton and the Church authorities. The windows comprise a set of four pictures; the principal ones being figures of Noah and St. John Baptist. At the foot of these two figures are scenes representing the entrance to the Ark and the Baptism of Christ in Jordan. A cross memorial tablet underneath the windows bears the inscription, "To the Glory of God and in loving memory of William Hobson, merchant of this city, one of the earliest parishioners of St. Matthew's, who died and was buried at sea, 20th January, 1847, aged 50 years. Erected by his only child."

The new windows are in harmony with the stained glass windows of the morning chapel, also the work of Messrs. Clayton and Bell. St. Matthew's is likely to be richly endowed with stained glass. Mrs. Jones, widow of the eloquent Rev. David Jones, B.A., a former incumbent, has promised to fill the three chancel windows to the memory of her husband. Messrs. Clayton and Bell have submitted a design for these windows also.

A BITCH in time saves nine, especially where a bad cold is. Feed the cold and starve the fever, by taking OT PUNCH before going to bed.

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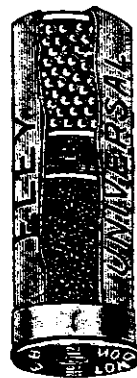


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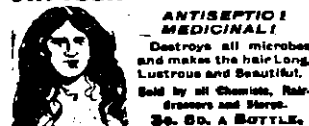
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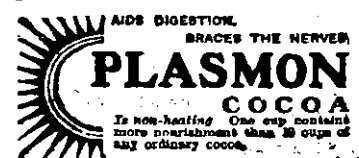
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