

receive, as they anticipate, the co-operation and support of philatelists generally there can be no doubt about the result.

Information as to the Exhibition can be obtained on application to the Hon. Secretaries at 13, Walbrook, London, E.C., and remittances by donors or guarantors can be sent direct to the Hon. Treasurer, F. Reichenheim, Esq., 29, Holland Villas Road, Kensington, London, W. The Committee will be glad to receive further promises of financial support.

Donors and Guarantors to the Exhibition will be entitled to tickets of admission.

H. R. OLDFIELD, *Hon. Sec.*

L. L. R. HAUSBURG, *Assist. Hon. Sec.*

## Philatelic Note.



### THE RAREST STAMP ERRORS.

**I**N the April number of this journal for 1904 was inserted an acknowledged tentative list of the approximate degree of rarity of stamps with inverted centres and errors of colour. This subject has been further discussed since in various journals, but under the title of "The Hundred Rarest Stamps in the World." One list has been evolved by the *Stamp Collector*; following this, the *Illustriester Briefmarken Journal* has recently published a list of the "forty rarest errors," classed according to their respective rarity. Messrs. Senf Bros., whose great experience entitles their opinion to careful consideration, preface their list—as following—with the remarks that, "arranging this class of stamps according to rarity, it is much more difficult to do this than with ordinary stamps. Errors of overprinting, whose numbers are legion, are not taken into consideration; the errors here listed have at least a value of £5 apiece, such of less value not being enumerated."

1. Spain, 1851, 2 reales, blue, instead of red.
2. Austria, 1867, 3 kr., red, instead of green.
3. Baden, first issue, 9 kr., green, instead of rose.
4. West Australia, 1854, 4d., blue, inverted centre.
5. South Australia, 1870, 4d., blue, without surcharge "3 pence."
6. Saxony, 1851, ½ ngr., blue, instead grey.
7. U.S.A., 1869, 30 c., inverted centre.
8. Cape of Good Hope, 1861, 1d., blue, so-called woodblock.
9. Spain, 1876, 25 m., blue and rose, inverted frame.
10. U.S.A., 1869, 24 c., inverted centre.
11. U.S.A., 1869, 15 c., inverted centre.
12. U.S.A., 1901, 4 c., inverted centre.
13. Cape of Good Hope, 1861, 4d., red, so-called woodblock.
14. Finland, 1891, 3 r. 50 k., yellow and black, instead of grey and black.

15. Great Britain, 1869, 10d., red-brown, watermark Emblems, instead of Spray of Rose.
16. U.S.A., 1901, 2 c., inverted centre.
17. India, 1854, 4 a., inverted frame.
18. East Roumelia, 1881, 10 p., black and rose.
19. West Australia, 1869, 1s., olive-brown, instead of green.
20. Finland, 1866, 5 kop., black on yellow, instead of brown-lilac on grey.
21. New South Wales, 1856, 3d., green, watermark 2.
22. Colombia, 1863, 50 c., red.
23. Gibraltar, 1889 (10 c.), carmine, value omitted.
24. Mauritius, 1848, 2d., blue, "Penoe," instead of "Pence."
25. West Australia, 1865, 2d., lilac, instead of yellow.
26. Colombia, 1863, 2 c., green.
27. Sweden, 1872, "Tretio Oere," red, instead of "Tjugo Oere."
28. Philippine Islands, 1854, 1 r. f., blue, "Corros," instead of "Correos."
29. Switzerland, 1862, 10 c., blue, figures of value impressed twice.
30. Spain, 1855, 2 r., green-blue, instead of brown-violet.
31. Peru, 1858, medio peso, red, instead of yellow.
32. Porto Rico, 1882, 20 c.p., olive-brown, instead of lilac-grey.
33. Switzerland, 1867, 25, green, figures of value impressed twice.
34. Finland, 1866, 10 kop., brown-lilac on grey, instead of black on yellow.
35. Bulgaria, 1884, 5 st., rose, instead of green.
36. Guatemala, 1882, 5 c., red and green, inverted centre.
37. New South Wales, 1851, laurel wreath, 3d., "Waces," instead of "Wales."
38. Spain, 1865, 12 c., blue and rose, inverted centre.
39. France, 1872, 15 c., brown on rose, instead of yellow.
40. Porto Rico, 1877, 5 c.p., carmine, instead of brown.

This list is drawn up with evident care, and in some cases could hardly be bettered; but almost every one would approach this "sequence of merit" from a different standpoint, and we would suggest where we diverge somewhat from Messrs. Senf's list.

In the first place the varieties of watermark can hardly be included in this list of what are "face value rarities," or if they were, the list thereof should be much more extended, as only one or two are quoted; while in the instances, among others, of New South Wales and Victoria, stamps with abnormal watermarks are omitted that are either unique or only known in two, or perhaps three, examples.

Beyond this, the question of what *are* errors is open to debate. Did the engraver of the "Post Office" Mauritius not make an "error" when he forgot, or neglected, to use the word "Paid"? And in the case of the 1 cent, crimson, of British Guiana, 1856, of which only one copy exists, was the "one" erroneously inserted in place of the "four" cents, which was the only value of the issue? And "there are others!"

With regard to the relative rarity of the specimens quoted, we would suggest the following alterations among the first flight of rarities—ignoring varieties of watermarks—the italics signifying wherein they differ from normal specimens.

*The Fourteen Rarest Errors.*

1. Spain, 1851, 2 r., *blue*.
2. Austria, 1867, 3 k., *red*.
3. Spain, 1876, 25 m., *inverted centre*.
4. Baden, first issue, 9 k., *green*.
5. S. Australia, 1870, 4d., *blue*.
6. W. Australia, 4d., *centre inverted*.
7. India, 1854, 4 a., *inverted frame*.
8. Finland, 1866, 5 k., *black on yellow*.
9. U.S.A., 1869, 30 c., *inverted centre*.
10. Saxony, 1851,  $\frac{1}{2}$  ngr., *blue*.
11. Finland, 1891, 3 k., *yellow and black*.
12. U.S.A., 1901, 2 c., *centre inverted*.
13. Cape of Good Hope, 1d., *blue*.
14. Cape of Good Hope, 4d., *red*.

After these there comes a considerable gap—the other stamps cited all being more or less procurable. The position of Nos. 11 and 12 can only be considered on what is known to-day as to the number of copies existent, and they may perhaps some day be relegated to a lower position. The two Cape errors, though eminently prized and more readily marketable than many in our little list, are really incomparably easier to be met with than any other that we have quoted, and we have really extended our originally proposed list of the dozen rarest specimens by the inclusion of these two popular stamps, in order to demonstrate by comparison the really great rarity of the first ten specimens. We would refer our readers to the article hereon previously quoted, which will be found in the *London Philatelist* for 1904, pages 83, 84, and 85, and we should welcome any expression of opinion hereon, as the question is one of considerable interest to collectors.

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## Occasional Notes.

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### MINOR VARIETIES AND CATALOGUES.

**S**OME remarks made in a recent issue of *Mekeel's Weekly Journal* tend to show that the views now spreading in this country with regard to the salvation of the general collector are re-echoed in America. No one, of course, wishes to depreciate that careful study and collation of minute varieties which, by the specialist, has created Philately in the true sense, but every one must feel that, in the twentieth century, what is solid fare for the advanced philatelist must form but a very indigestible meal for the beginner or young collector. The two concluding sentences of our contemporary's remarks seem to us to fully bear out and supplement the arguments hereon that have appeared in the *London Philatelist*, and in our view are absolutely sound and unanswerable.