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**OUR EXCHANGES.**  
 Edited by C. A. HOWES.

(Exchanges are requested to place C. A. HOWES,  
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 lists.)

According to the *Australian Philatelist* a deputation from the Sydney Philatelic Club headed by its President, Mr. A. F. Basset Hull, waited upon the latest Australian Postmaster-General, the Hon. Sydney Smith, M. P., on May 4th last in another attempt to impress upon the Federal authorities the desirability of finally getting out an issue of Commonwealth stamps and doing away with the numerous State issues, which are not representative of the new nation of the Antipodes. That they were respectfully listened to and assured that the matter was really under consideration, and that the "current" P. M. G. seemed impressed with their good faith and offer of any assistance they could render, seems an augury of final success in this matter which has dragged on for so long. Though the Australian Colonies always have been and always will be philatelically interesting, especially in their early and more beautiful issues, we think no philatelists will really regret the suppression of the present homely series of State issues and the final appearance of a single set worthy the great Commonwealth it will represent.

The same paper notes that "the 1st December, 1905, will see the jubilee of that grand old stamp, the 5d diadem, New South Wales, this stamp having been issued on the 1st December, 1855. The other stamp of the 1854-56 diadem series that has survived the many changes in the design since those dates is the 3d, whose

**STAMP STUDIES**  
 No. 35  
**GERMANY: Secret Mark HES REICH**  
 BY MARK POST



value beneath, with a few denominations showing only the figure of value. Now Emperor William had formed the mistaken notion, in common with many other people and in spite of the divine inspiration of his rule, that the Twentieth Century began on January 1, 1900 instead of a year later—and so it had to be, in Germany. To celebrate the event he designed a new set of stamps, taking a bust of "Germania", in coat of mail and with imperial crown on her head, for a centerpiece. His inspiration is said to have been received at the theatre, where he was much impressed by the impersonation of Germania by a young actress. His Majesty commanded that she should serve as the model for the personification of the nation on his new stamps.

But after the stamps, were issued a curious thing was noted. On the "boss" over the left breast of the lady, directly above the SP of REICHSPOST, will be found in the shading a very well formed figure "15". Our illustration enlarges it for better identification. This excited much comment at the time, but no one has ever attempted to explain whether it is in reality a "secret mark", put there with some purpose, or whether it is one of those curious accidents of design like the "death mask" on the Servian coronation issue. At any rate it is plainly there, like the "man in the moon," when it once catches the eye, and there it has remained.

jubilee will be in October 1906. We are not prepared at present with any suggestion how to celebrate the jubilee, except that as the leading philatelic institution in New South Wales, the Sydney Philatelic Club should take the form of celebration in its own hand." So let it be—the Club might fittingly make note of the occasion, but there is no reason for any postal jubilee or commemorative stamp. The Club should see that no such infliction is brought out.

The *Australian Philatelist* has cleared up to some extent the recent report that the postal authorities of Fiji were selling "postmarked to order" sets of the issues current previous to the King's head stamps. The Postmaster at Suva, the capital, answered a query by denying that any such sets were on sale, but referred the inquirer to another party from whom it was learned that a certain firm had purchased 105 sets and had them lightly postmarked, under the so often mistaken idea that this would increase their value. The holder is now trying to dispose of his stock. We are glad to know that the fear of Fiji following in the footsteps of St. Helena and a few other benighted colonies is unfounded.

The supplement to the *Illustriertes Briefmarken Journal* publishes a list of the "Forty rarest errors," arranged in the supposed order of their rarity, although this is admitted to be more difficult to do than with the 100 rarest (regular) stamps, which list was published some time ago. Errors of surcharge are naturally not considered, as their number is legion; but genuine stamp errors of at least \$25 in value are the only ones listed. The list may be a good one to add to the various lists published in our "Problems" at times during the year.

- Spain 1851, 2 reales blue for red.
- Austria 1867, 3kr red for green.
- Baden 1851, 9kr green for rose.
- West Australia 1854, 4d, inverted center.
- South Australia 1870, 4d without 3d surcharge.
- Saxony 1851, 1/2ngr blue for gray.
- United States 1869, 30c, inverted centre.
- Cape of Good Hope 1861, 1d blue for red.
- Spain 1876, 25m blue and rose, inverted center.
- United States 1869, 24c, inverted center.
- " 15c.
- " 1901, 4c, inverted center.
- Cape of Good Hope 1861, 4d red for blue.
- Finland 1891, 3r 50k yellow for gray with black.
- Great Britain 1869, 10d, wmk. emblems for spray of rose.
- United States 1901, 2c, inverted center.
- India 1854, 4a, inverted center.
- East Roumelia 1881, 10p black and rose.
- West Australia 1869, 1s olive brown for green.
- Finland 1866, 5k black on yellow for brown-lilac on gray.
- New South Wales 1856, 3d, wmk. 2 for 3.
- Colombia 1863, 50c red for green.
- Gibraltar 1889, (10c) carmine, value omitted.
- Mauritius 1843, 2d, PENOE for PENCE.
- West Australia 1865, 2d lilac for yellow.
- Colombia 1863, 2c green.
- Sweden 1872, inscribed Tretio (30) for Tjugo (20).
- Philippines 1854, 1r f, inscribed CORROS of CORREOS.
- Switzerland 1862, 10c, value impressed twice.
- Spain 1855, 2r green-blue for brown-violet.
- Peru 1853, medio peso, red for yellow.
- Porto Rico 1882, 20c p olive brown for lilac gray.
- Switzerland 1867, 25c, value impressed twice.
- Finland 1866, 10k brown-lilac on gray for black on yellow.

In Germany there is an interesting personality called the Kaiser. There are probably very few things in the Empire that have not come under this august personage's attention, or received some mark of his interest. In fact he emulates as far as possible the remark of the King of France: *L'Etat, c'est moi!*—"I am the State!"

Until the year 1900 the general type of the German stamps had been the same—the arms in the center and the

- Bulgaria 1884, 5st rose for green.
- Guatemala 1882, 5c, inverted center.
- New South Wales 1851, 3d, WACES for WALES.
- Spain 1865, 12c, inverted center.
- France 1872, 15c brown on rose for buff.
- Porto Rico 1877, 5c p carmine for brown.

The *Madrid Filatelico* for July has an interesting article on the stamps of Egypt from which we learn that:

The organization of the Post in Egypt is relatively modern. Before 1865 it was in the hands of private parties. In 1821 an Italian, Carlo Mevatti, established a free office in Alexandria. He distributed the correspondence between Alexandria and Cairo and several European cities for a small commission. After the death of Mevatti in 1847, Tito Chini continued the enterprise in company with Giacomo Muzzi, who acted as director. Twelve years later Chini obtained authority to extend the service to other cities.

In 1864 the Egyptian government abolished this privilege, constituted the Posts a monopoly of the State and appointed G. Muzzi as Director-General with the title of Bey. To him, therefore, belongs the honor of having organized the official service. But during the same time the postoffices of France, Italy, Austria and Greece, as well as those of Great Britain, Belgium and Russia, continued in operation.

The Egyptian Government, out of respect to that of the Sultan, its lord and master, did not adopt postage stamps until the latter had given it the example, and after organizing the Post the stamps were issued on January 1, 1866. The design of these first stamps demonstrates the fanatical religion of the Moslems, which prohibits any representation of the human figure, and therefore there are only arabesques of various kinds. Eighteen years [months? Ed.] later there appeared other stamps which hazarded the reproduction of several subjects recording the ancient splendor of Egypt, as the head of the Sphinx, a pyramid, Pompey's Pillar and Cleopatra's Needle.

The *American Journal of Philately* for July continues several of its valuable serials. Mr. Toppan takes up the varieties of surcharge of French Madagascar, Madeira, Malta and Martinique. We hope this series of notes will appear in pamphlet form on its completion, for it will certainly be a great help to the collector in looking for the varieties so dear to the heart of the student. The catalogues are yearly giving us more and more information about the varieties they list, but they obviously cannot go into details as deeply as this series of notes.

Jules Bouvez finishes an excellent study of the "Postal Service and Stamps of Malta," and Mr. Howes continues his descriptions of the designs of the Japanese stamps. The current issue, the silver wedding stamps and the Prince Imperial wedding stamp are all fully discussed and their peculiarly oriental symbolism explained. Much historical information is included and an account of the ceremonies incident to the Crown Prince's wedding, which we believe has never before been published in connection with the commemorative stamp in any philatelic periodical.

We are also glad to welcome back Mr. E. J. Nankivell's "English Letter" which has been missing for some time. Mr. Berthold has finished his exhaustive study of the "Die Varieties of the Nesbitt Series" for the first issue, and now begins the second issue of 1860. The one cent dies are taken up and thoroughly discussed, and much interesting information given about the introduction of newspaper wrappers in 1861.

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**UNDER THREE FLAGS.**

A post card recently received by a San Franciscan from a friend now travelling in Europe is unique even in this day of pictorial and highly decorated postals. It bears three postage stamps—one Austrian, one Russian and one German—on the address side of the card; on the reverse side, a group of the coats-of-arms of the three empires and the effigies of the three Emperors—Francis Joseph of Austria, William II of Germany and Alexander III of Russia are seen. The righthand upper portion of the card is occupied by a view of the intersecting points of the three empires, designated as Dreikaiserreiche Ecke b Myslowitz, Os.; Germany designated as Deutschland; Austria as Osterreich, and Russia as Russland. In the foreground of the picture is a low building resembling a cabin with a sort of flagpole, which constitutes the united post-office of the three great empires.—*San Francisco Chronicle.*