

# THE VIRGINIA PHILATELIST



JANUARY, 1905

Vol. VII. No. 1.

VIRGINIA PHILATELIC PUB. CO., RICHMOND, VA.

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I have just purchased the entire stock of the Dearborn Stamp Co., Chicago, so I am fully prepared to fill your wants.

**R. H. A. GREEN,**

386 Dearborn Ave.,

Chicago,

Illinois.

# The Virginia Philatelist

"An Exponent of Philately"

Vol. VII. No. 1. RICHMOND, VA., JANUARY, 1905. Whole No. 73.

## Forgeries of a Scarce Bavarian.

*Stamp Collectors' Fortnightly.*

AN interesting paragraph in the latest issue of the French Philatelic Society's official organ, the "*Revue Philatelique Francaise*," concerns the only surcharged stamp ever issued in Bavaria—namely, the 2 pfennig Unpaid Letter stamp of 1895. This variety, as every philatelist will remember, was suppressed almost as soon as it was issued, and it is generally accepted fact that only six specimens were generally used, the remainder of the issue being destroyed. In such a case, and with such a stamp, an attempt at forgery was inevitable: and Mr. Paul Kohl, of Chemnitz, in a letter to our contemporary, states he possesses several specimens of a somewhat dangerous forgery, all of which bear a forged postmark of "Aichach," which was the town where the few specimens placed in circulation were used. There are clear variations by which the forged stamps may be detected, but Mr. Paul Kohl, holding that it would be unwise to particularise these for the information of the counterfeiter, offers instead to examine and report upon all specimens sent to him, free of charge.

By the way, quantity for quantity, this 2pf. on 3pf. Bavarian must surely be the rarest of all the stamps of that Kingdom? The French Society's catalogue makes no attempt at fixing its present market value.

## Honduras Counterfeits.

SAYS the *American Journal of Philately*: We wish to warn collectors against

counterfeits of the 1877 surcharges, which are now in the market. Sometime ago a lot of these things were sent us from Paris, mostly in pairs, showing inverted, double and *tête bêche* varieties.

We found the surcharges were very clearly impressed and did not agree in colors or measurements with the accepted varieties. At a later date more of the same things were offered us by a man in this city, who claimed to be acting agent for some one in Honduras.

On our expressing an unfavorable opinion of the stamps, he volunteered to procure used copies for us and did so, but they were not to our satisfaction.

At the last meeting of the Philatelic Society the subject was very thoroughly gone into the evidence was produced which left no doubt in the minds of those present that the surcharges were counterfeit. Many of them are offered on letters which appear to have contained official correspondence, (which was forwarded without stamps), and the story which accompanies them is that they represent a batch of letters found in the Dead Letter Office. There is some reason to believe that the envelopes are genuine, but it is evident that the stamps have been applied at a later date and cancelled probably with the old cancelling marks. There is evidence, however, that the dates had been tampered with, and in one or two instances they were cancelled with a later date than that of the receiving mark on the back of the envelope.

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An Exponent of Philately.

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Copy for advertisements should reach us by the 5th of each month to insure insertion.

RICHMOND VA., JANUARY, 1905.

#### In 1905.

WE begin the seventh volume of THE VIRGINIA PHILATELIST with this issue, which is dated January in order to commence our numbers even with the new year.

The past volume has been an uneventful one for THE VIRGINIA, and the journal has been neglected somewhat through the inability of the present management to find the necessary time to devote to it.

We trust that our new arrangements which we are now perfecting will enable us to greatly improve THE VIRGINIA in many ways, and we hope that our friends will find the paper more interesting than ever.

We ask the co-operation of our patrons and call especial attention to our advertising columns, where many bargains are offered.

#### A Weekly For England.

THE well known firm of STANLEY GIBBONS, Ltd., have begun the publication of a newspaper for the younger philatelists, named *Gibbons Stamp Weekly*, the first number of which appeared January 7th. We trust that the new youngster will flourish side by side with its elder brother, *The Monthly*, each performing its mission in its own way.

#### Manuscript Wanted.

WE desire to secure several articles of merit for our columns, and although it is becoming quite difficult to secure acceptable copy, we trust that some of our literary friends will assist us in the matter.

#### 15,000 Forged Stamps.

SENF BROS. of Leipzig, gave the subscribers to their paper a Christmas present, and ordered 15,000 Columbia stamps from a Paris firm and the stamps were inserted and mailed. It now turns out the entire lot were forged, and the Paris firm will make compensation only if the stamps are returned to them—which of course is impossible. A law-suit will probably be the sequel to the story.

#### Exit Szekulal

THE genial Bela Szekulal has departed from Geneva, owing many tradesman, stamp clerks, etc., who lament his sudden departure. It is said he left for Budapest.

#### Exhibit of British Stamps.

WE acknowledge with thanks the receipt of an invitation to attend the exhibit of British stamps, given by The Junior Philatelic Society of London, in Exeter Hall, Strand, Friday and Saturday, February 3rd and 4th, 1905.

## The "Tai Han" Surcharges of Corea.

BY BERTRAM W. H. POOLK  
 IN *S. C. Fortnightly*.

OWING to the war in the Far East the postage stamps of Corea have received more than ordinary attention of late, and like most of the stamps of Eastern nations, they are vastly interesting and well worthy of study. It is not a large country, philatelically speaking, and contains no great rarities. It thus forms an ideal country for the collector specialist tastes who has not at the same time the control of an unlimited purse.

But though its issues are not many and its first stamps were issued so recently as 1885, there are many points in connection with its postal emissions on which authorized information is sadly lacking. These make Corean stamps of particular interest to specialists, and there is no doubt that the application of a little careful study will do much to satisfactorily explain several matters that at present are extremely uncertain.

One, or rather several, of the most points relate to the "Tai-Han" surcharges, which are catalogued under the date of "1900." (As a matter of fact it is highly probable that the stamps were surcharged soon after October 14th, 1897, on which date Corea was declared an Empire.) There seems to be considerable doubt to whether these surcharges, or at least a great many of them that are about, were ever issued with official sanction. Indeed, some students of the stamps of this country have gone so far as to assert that the surcharges are merely a private speculation on the part of some individual or other.

The stamps I refer to are the four values of the 1895 issue surcharged with three or two native characters at the right hand ends of the upper and lower labels respectively, designated as "type 7" in Stanley Gibbons' current catalogue.

These characters mean "Tai Han,"

which may be freely translated as "Empire of Corea." The authorities seem to be agreed that this surcharge in red, as originally issued at Seoul, is quite official, but opinions are divided as to the status of the red overprint emanating from other towns, and of the similar surcharge in black. One thing is pretty certain: the surcharges, by whoever applied, and whether in red or black, did not affect the franking power of the stamps in any way. As to the legitimacy or otherwise of the several varieties, I am not in a position to venture an opinion, but I have lately seen many varieties of the red surcharge that have not hitherto been chronicled and which apparently are as deserving of catalogue rank as those already listed. I will endeavor to describe them as lucidly as possible.

To start with, how was the surcharge applied? I have examined a large number of specimens, and have arrived at the conclusion that the top and bottom portions of the overprint were applied by hand, quite independently of one another, and to one stamp at a time. A tedious process certainly, but one that has been adopted in other countries, notably in the case of the early surcharges of Siam. I am led to this belief by the fact that the two parts of the surcharge vary very considerably in alignment and distance from each other on stamps in the same row of blocks or sheets. Therefore if my contention that the surcharge was made by the application of two distinct hand stamps to each specimen is correct it is fairly easy to account for the following varieties:—

(1) 5 poon, block of 20 unused arranged in five rows of four.

The third stamp in each row is without the surcharge on the lower label.

(2) 5 poon; mint block of four, all without surcharge at foot.

I also have a used pair in similar condition.

(3) 5 poon; with surcharge on top label, as usual, and a similar one to the right below the central symbol. The characters on the lower label era

inverted, and are also stamped just below the right hand end of the inscription "KOREA," again upside down. I have this variety used and unused.

- (5) 5 poon; used, with ordinary overprint at top, a similar one across the centre standing upwards, and the surcharge at the foot inverted.
- (5) 10 poon; mint pair, without any surcharge on the upper label, but with the three characters impressed on the left of the lower one instead. The usual overprint at the foot is by the side of this and inverted. I also have this variety used.
- (6) 10 poon; used, with usual surcharge at top, but with one on lower label inverted.
- (7) 10 poon, used, without the overprint at the top, and with the lower one inverted.

In addition to the above, which I consider equally legitimate varieties of this surcharge on the one catalogued as No. 23, I have several varieties of the later stamps similarly overprinted. I list them as follows:—

- (8) 1 cheun, blue, 1900 issue; used pair. The left stamp has the usual surcharge at the top and the one at the foot inverted, while the other specimen is similar but has in addition an extra impression of the top portion of the overprint over the "2" at the bottom.
- (9) 2 cheun, blue, 1900-01 issue, perf. 11; used, with top part of surcharge at the foot of the stamp to the left, and with the other portion of the overprint inverted at the right, also at the bottom.
- (10) 2 cheun, blue, 1900-01 issue, perf. 11; used pair, right hand stamp is like No. 9, and the other has usual surcharge at the top of the lower one, in its usual position but inverted.
- (11) 2 re grey, 1900-01 issue, perf. 11; used with lower portion of surcharge only, inverted at the bottom of the stamp.
- (12) 1 cheun, green, 1600-01 issue, perf. 10; used pair surcharged in an exactly similar manner to No. 9.

All the stamps mentioned as *used* in the above list undoubtedly did postal duty and franked letters posted at Chemulpo in April, 1901, addressed to either Petersfield or Gosport in Hampshire.

### \$1,100 for 1804 Dollar.

ELVEN hundred dollars was the price paid for a silver dollar yesterday.

It was the same coin dated 1804, which J. D. Dexter of Philadelphia paid \$1,000 in 1885 thereby causing it to be known as the "Dexter dollar." Now nineteen years

later, when W. F. Dunham, a private coin collector of Chicago bought it its value has appreciated \$100. Only thirteen of the 1804 silver dollars are known to collectors. The Dexter dollar was sold yesterday with 560 other rare coins at an auction of the H. B. Brown collection, of Portland, Ore., at the Collectors' Club No. 351 Fourth avenue.

Nearly \$7,000 was realised from the sale. Dollars of 1836, 1838, 1839, 1851, 1852 and 1858 brought from \$35 to \$150. An 1804 dime sold for \$8, and a half dime of 1792 for \$8. A copper cent of 1856 sold for \$15. Four half cents were taken at \$42 each.

About twenty-five persons attended the sale. Collectors from all parts of the United States were represented.—*New York Herald*.

### Italian Military Stamps.

PHILATELISTS will be interested in a novelty introduced by the Italian government, who are issuing what may be described as military picture stamps. Each regiment of the Italian army is provided with a special stamp for the use of the soldiers belong to it. The designs are, of course, all different and of the most varied nature. Thus, on one appears the portrait of a colonel of the regiment, on another a design of rifles supporting the national arms. The military district of Ivrea has a stamp on which is a view of the town of Ivrea; on that of Milan is a representation of a military council; on that of the twenty-second regiment of calvary are arms of Cantenea with the regimental motto. On the regimental stamp of the sixth Besaglieri are the notes of the regimental bugle call and the motto: "Bersaglieri ta tua dotrina? Patria, onore, carabina." And so on.

It is believed that these stamps will not only increase the esprit de corps of the soldiers, but will heighten civilian interest in what appertains to the army.



Correspondents of THE VIRGINIA PHILATELIST are requested to forward to the editor information they may possess regarding new or projected issues. The same will be properly acknowledged.

**Barbados.**—*The American Journal of Philately* has been shown an imperforate pair of the 5sh. stamp of 1873 issue.

**Ceylon.**—The multiple watermark has made its appearance here, two values of the current set having been printed on the new paper.

4c. yellow and blue, wmk. multiple Cr. CA.  
6c. rose " "

We hear that the stamps surcharged "On Service" for official use are to be withdrawn and that in future departmental correspondence will merely be marked "On H.M.S." and franked with the signatures of the heads of the departments.

**Columbia.**—A new set of six stamps is shown *the Fortnightly* Whitefield King & Co., as well as "A.R." Registration labels.

As we have already explained, new issues have been necessitated in Columbia and its provinces by the alarming depreciation of paper money in the Republic.

It appears that one Columbian gold dollar is at present held to be the equivalent of no fewer than a hundred paper dollars. To restore something like equilibrium so far as the postal service is concerned it is enacted that the new Columbian stamp shall only be sold for gold coin. The novelties now to be chronicled are;—

**Postal Adhesives:** ½c., Yellow  
1c., Green  
2c., Rose  
5c., Blue  
10c., Mauve  
20c., Grey Black  
**"A.R." Stamp:** 5c., Blue  
**Registration:** 10c., Mauve  
**Registration:** 10c., Mauve

**Ecuador.**—Messrs Sellschopp & Co,

have shown *The American Journal of Philately* the commemorative issue of 1896 surcharged like our No. 126. We therefore chronicle the balance of the series.

Perforated 11  
Surcharged in black  
1c rose  
2c blue  
5c green  
20c red-orange  
51c violet  
1s yellow

**Great Britain.**—The half-penny stamp in the new shade was issued to the public at certain offices on Saturday last, Nov. 26th. The colour now adopted is a green, so pale that there should be no risk of further confusion between this value and the 2½d stamp.

**Haiti.**—*Le Journal des Philatelistes* (the new title of M. Lemaire's paper, *La Cote Reelle*) announces the discovery of a variety of Type 48 of the Commemorative issue, in which Toussaint-Louverture has moustache! This variety occurs both on the 2c. and the 5c. in the last stamp of the top row of all the sheets M. Lemaire has examined. It appears to be uncertain at present whether this appendage is a *secret mark* or an altogether accidental and unauthorized addition, but we gather from an enlarged illustration in *Le J. des P.* that it is distinctly visible, if not a distinct improvement to the portrait.

**Honduras.**—*Mekeel's Weekly* chronicles a companion to the 5c. of 1898 in the colour of the 6c., in the shape of a 6c. of the same type in the colour of the 50c.

*Adhesives*

6c., orange-red; error?

*The J. of Ph.* reports that forgeries of the surcharged stamps of 1877 are once more put on the market. They are to be had upon original covers, some of which appear to be more genuine than the stamps they bear.

**Hong Kong.**—*Ewen's Weekly Stamp News* says that the following stamps of

the current series have appeared upon the new paper.

Watermarked Multiple and C. A.

Perforated 14

2c gray green.

4c violet on red

5c orange and gray-green

20c orange-brown and black

30c black and gray green

50c red-violet and gray green

\$1.00 olive-green and lilac

\$2.00 scarlet and black

**Mauritius.**—*Ewen's Weekly Stamp News* announces a new 15c value. Also one value with the new watermark.

Watermarked Crown and C. A.

Perforated 14.

15c black on blue, value in ultramarine

Watermarked Multiple Crown and C. A.

6c lilac and carmine on red

**Montserrat.**—Several of our contemporaries announce several of the series with the new watermark.

Watermarked Multiple Crown and C. A.

Perforated 14.

½p green

2p brown and gray

3p orange and purple

6p lilac and olive brown

**Servia.**—A set of eight stamps of abnormal size has been issued to commemorate the Coronation of King Peter and the hundredth anniversary of the revolt against Turkey. The stamps are large and oblong in shape. The dates, 1804 and 1904, appear on the left and right of the centrepiece respectively and various inscriptions, foliage, and fancy ornamentation completes the designs.

The values and colours are :—

5 para green

10 " rose

15 " purple

20 " blue

30 " brown

1 dinar buff

3 " emerald

5 " mauve

**Straits Settlements.**—The *Philatelic Record* announces another value of the current series with the new watermark.

Watermarked Multiple Crown and C. A.

Perforated 14.

1c green



F. FOURNIER, of Geneva, has the barefaced audacity to forward advertisements to American magazines, the V. P. among the number offering his counterfeits for sale.

The Russian war office is adopting a Military stamp similar to the one adopted in Italy, and of which the king of Italy is said to be the originator of the new departure, in which he takes a lively interest.

THE forgeries of British "I. R. Official" stamps that have been appearing for some time, originated in London, says *Stanley Gibbons Monthly Journal*.

It is stated that General Nogi, who commanded the besiegers of Port Arthur, is an ardent philatelist.

A *tête-bêche* pair of the Finland 8 pen. stamp, issue of 1866, on vertically laid paper has been found in St. Petersburg.

A new issue is being prepared for Reunion, the designs of which are to include the arms of the colony.

Mr. William Thorne has shown *The American Journal of Philately* blocks of four of the Iceland 6a gray and 20a dull blue, perforated 12½ and surcharged in red "1 GILDI", etc. In each of these blocks two of the surcharges are printed *tête beche* to the other two.

According to the report of the third assistant postmaster general for 1897 the office of Akroa, showed the enormous increase in the mailing of second class matter of 284 per cent.



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## THE PHIATELIC ADVERTISER ITHACA, N. Y.

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Every collector who send the undersigned 15 cents in unused stamps of his country for three months trial subscription to "The Oceania Philatelic Journal" can have a 26 word advertisement inserted free or the advertisement will be repeated 12 times for a money order of \$1.50. "The O. P. J." is a monthly publication that was started in June, and each month it shows an increase in size and quality. Exchange advertisements are a specialty.

If you want a sample copy send a post card asking for one.

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15 Dutch Indies . . . . . 10	12 Guatemala . . . . . 10
10 Persia . . . . . 12	6 Strait Settlements . . . . . 06
50 British Colonials . . . . . 20	10 Argentine . . . . . 06
10 Portugal . . . . . 02	20 Greece . . . . . 15
10 Mexico . . . . . 05	25 Phillipines . . . . . 35
8 Russia . . . . . 02	5 U. S. Columbia . . . . . 05
9 Salvador '91 . . . . . 25	8 Costa Rica . . . . . 08
4 Suriname . . . . . 03	13 Peru . . . . . 12
5 Venezuela Mirandi. 12	7 Honduras '78 . . . . . 30

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" 10 " " 10 . . . . .	0 14
" 15 " " 10 . . . . .	1 80
1888 2 1/2 " " 10 . . . . .	0 60
" 1 gulden " " 10 . . . . .	0 36
1891 1 " " 10 . . . . .	0 36
" 2 1/2 " " 10 . . . . .	1 80
1896 1 " " 10 . . . . .	0 36
" 5 " " 5 . . . . .	3 60
1899 1 " " 10 . . . . .	0 20
" 2 1/2 " " 10 . . . . .	1 40
" 5 " " 5 . . . . .	2 20

### Unpaid Letter Stamps.

1881 1 gulden per 10 . . . . . 1 80  
 All stamps are used, undamaged, off paper.  
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