

CHAPTER I.

NEW SOUTH WALES STAMPS PROVISIONALLY USED IN QUEENSLAND, 1859-60.

PRIOR to Separation, the stamps of New South Wales were of course used throughout the Moreton Bay District. Pending the receipt of a supply of stamps for the use of the new colony, the New South Wales stamps remaining on hand were permitted to frank letters so far as they would go, and in default of such stamps a return was made to the old system of prepayment in cash.

The *Gazette* of the 7th January, 1860, contained the following notice :—

“ COLONIAL SECRETARY'S OFFICE,
“ BRISBANE, 6th January, 1860.

“ POST OFFICE.

“ Until a supply of stamps shall have been provided at the several Post Offices, the proper amount of Postage must in each case be paid at the time of posting the letters, or they will not be conveyed. Such prepayment cannot be received after office hours.

“ Letters insufficiently stamped, or not properly prepaid, if addressed to places beyond the colony, are henceforth to be sent by the respective Postmasters to the Colonial Secretary's Office, Brisbane, to be opened and returned in all practicable cases to the writers.

“ By His Excellency's command,
“ R. G. W. HERBERT.”

Arrangements were then made with Major Christie, the Postmaster-General of New South Wales, to supply Queensland with the stamps of the former colony at the rate of 1s. 4½d. per 1000 stamps, being the estimated cost of production, excluding perforation.

In the Government Printing Office, Sydney, there is an entry as to the estimated cost of manufacturing these stamps for Queensland, dated 16th January, 1860. Paper, machining, and gumming, are specified, but there is no mention of perforating.

The stamps were procured from Sydney upon a requisition made by the Postmaster-General to the Treasurer, who forwarded a demand for the supply to Sydney, together with a cheque for their cost.

The following is a specimen of requisition and order :—

“ GENERAL POST OFFICE,
“ BRISBANE, 3rd April, 1860.

“ Required the undermentioned Postage Stamps for the use of this Department,
viz :—

| | |
|------------------|---------------|
| “ 15,600 | One Penny. |
| “ 34,800 | Two Penny. |
| “ 1,200 | Three Penny. |
| “ 20,000 | Six Penny. |
| “ 1,400 | Eight Penny. |
| “ 5,000 | One Shilling. |
| “ 2,000 | Register. |

“ Total 80,000

“ ALFRED NIGHTINGALE.
“ R. R. MACKENZIE.

“ Approved.
“ The Honourable
“ The Treasurer, Brisbane.”

“ TREASURY, QUEENSLAND,
“ 3rd April, 1860.

“ SIR,—I do myself the honour to enclose a requisition for a further supply of postage stamps for the use of this Colony, and to request that you will have the goodness to forward them at your earliest convenience, the last supply being nearly exhausted, in consequence of the demand being much greater than was anticipated. I also beg to enclose a cheque for the sum of £6, being the amount of cost of the stamps, at 1s. 4½d. per thousand.

“ I have, etc.,
“ R. R. MACKENZIE, *Treasurer*.

“ The Honourable,
“ The Treasurer, Sydney.”

Upon the receipt of the first supply of stamps under the new arrangement, the following notice was published in the *Gazette* of the 28th January, 1860 :—

“ COLONIAL SECRETARY’S OFFICE,
“ BRISBANE, 26th January, 1860.

“ POST OFFICE.

“ A supply of postage stamps having been received from New South Wales for the use of this colony, and forwarded to the several District Post Offices, it is hereby notified that the proper amount of postage stamps must hereafter be affixed to each letter, in order to ensure its punctual delivery.

“ By His Excellency’s command,
“ R. G. W. HERBERT.”

Under the same date a further notice was published, informing the public that, as it was necessary that all letters insufficiently prepaid, and posted for transmission beyond the colony, should be returned to their writers, they were recommended to avoid this delay and inconvenience by ascertaining at the several post offices whether their extra-colonial letters bore the proper amount of postage stamps.

The last requisition to New South Wales, under the arrangement detailed above, was dated 12th September, 1860, and ordered :—

15,600 One Penny.
20,400 Two Penny.
5,000 Six Penny.
3,000 Register (6d.).

Total 44,000

The receipt of these stamps was acknowledged on the 3rd October, 1860.

The number of each denomination supplied by New South Wales at cost of production, and the date of each supply, are shown in the following table :—

| Date. | 1d. | 2d. | 3d. | 6d. | 8d. | 1/- | Regd. |
|-----------------|---------|---------|-------|--------|-------|-------|-------|
| 21st Jan., 1860 | 7,800 | 8,640 | 240 | 9,800 | 100 | 600 | 1,200 |
| 31st „ „ | 15,600 | 17,400 | 360 | 19,800 | 200 | 1,300 | 2,350 |
| 7th Mar., „ | 15,600 | 17,400 | — | — | — | — | — |
| 11th Apr., „ | 15,600 | 34,800 | 1,200 | 20,000 | 1,400 | 5,000 | 2,000 |
| „ June, „ | 15,600 | 20,400 | — | — | — | — | — |
| „ July, „ | 7,800 | 17,400 | — | 9,800 | — | — | — |
| „ Aug., „ | 12,400 | 20,400 | — | 9,600 | — | — | — |
| 26th Sept., „ | 15,600 | 20,400 | — | 5,000 | — | — | 3,000 |
| Total supplied | 106,000 | 156,840 | 1,800 | 74,000 | 1,700 | 6,900 | 8,550 |

The peculiar circumstances attending this use of the stamps of one colony in another invest such stamps with a special interest. Instances of the use of British stamps in some of the West Indian and other colonial possessions are recorded, but these appear to have been in most cases in conjunction with a definitive local issue, the British stamps being used only to frank letters addressed to the United Kingdom. In the case of Queensland, the New South Wales stamps were purchased at a price based upon the cost of production only, and the whole of the revenue derived from their sale was appropriated by the purchasing colony, by which they were adopted as the actual and only stamps then issued. Such stamps, attached to letters posted in Queensland after the 26th January, 1860, are undoubtedly entitled to be considered as distinctively Queensland postage stamps. Consequently, I* am of opinion that a list of these stamps would not be out of place in a work on the postal issues of Queensland.

The period from 1st December, 1859, may also be considered, as although the stamps in use were supplied by the New South Wales Post Office before separation,

* In this and the following chapters, statements expressed in the first person singular are those of A. F. Basset Hull.

yet their sale to the public provided funds for the Queensland exchequer. Also, as will be seen from the circular of the 11th October, 1860, given in the next chapter, Queensland postmasters were instructed that on and after the 1st November, 1860, letters bearing New South Wales stamps were to be treated as unpaid, an exception being made in the case of inland letters, which were allowed fourteen days' grace. The Registered stamp was also permitted to continue in use until further notice, and remained in issue until January, 1861, when it was replaced by the Queensland stamp.

When the post offices were transferred, the New South Wales date stamps and obliterations were utilised until replaced by the Queensland marks. We thus find :—

Obliterations.

- (i) The usual New South Wales type—three concentric ovals with the initials "N.S.W." in the centre. This was replaced by :—
- (ii) The early Queensland type—three concentric ovals with the initials "Q.L." in the centre, the outer oval measuring 23 × 18 mm.
- (iii) The number of the post office enclosed in an oval of radiating dots. This remained unchanged, and for the period under review the post offices retained their old numbers.

Dated Postmarks.

- (i) Town name in upper part of circle, with date in centre, and "NSW" at bottom. This was replaced by :—
- (ii) Town name in upper part of circle, with date in centre, and "QUEENSLAND" at bottom.

Combined obliteration and postmark used in Brisbane.

Three concentric ovals, the outer oval measuring 21 × 14 mm., with the centre space blank. About 1 mm. to left of the ovals is a date stamp, "BRISBANE" above, "QUEENSLAND" below, and the date in the centre. The lettering is arranged in a circle, with the upper parts of the letters towards the centre of the circle. Owing to the size of this duplex mark only a part shows on the stamp.

Examples of the above obliterations and cancellations are illustrated on Plate XIV. Thus, with two exceptions to be mentioned later, the New South Wales provisionals can only be determined by a dated cover or postmark, by the presence of the "Q.L." in concentric ovals, or by the ovals with the central space blank.

At the time of separation, fifteen post offices were transferred to Queensland, their names and numbers being as follows :—

| | |
|---|---|
| 95 Brisbane. | 96 Maryborough. |
| 74 Callandoon (later Gundiwindi now Goondiwindi). | 108 Nanango (previously Burnett Inn and Goode's Inn in 1860). |
| 151 Condamine. | 201 Rockhampton. |
| 133 Dalby. | 110 Surat. |
| 85 Drayton. | ? Taroom. |
| 86 Gaydah. | 214 Toowoomba. |
| 131 Gladstone. | 81 Warwick. |
| 87 Ipswich. | |

The number for Taroom remains to be discovered.

By the end of 1860 an additional post office, Moggill, had been opened, but this was probably after the issue of the Queensland stamps proper.

In the *Australian Philatelic Review*, Vol. II., No. 3, page 10, dates are given up to which New South Wales date stamps were used at certain post offices :—

| | | | |
|------------|------------|----------|-----------------|
| Brisbane, | Feb., 1860 | Drayton, | Jan., 1861 |
| Condamine, | Dec., 1860 | Ipswich, | 12th Nov., 1860 |
| Dalby, | Jan., 1861 | Taroom, | 24th Dec., 1860 |

It should, however, be pointed out that the *Australian Philatelist*, Vol. XIX., page 22, illustrates a "Brisbane—NSW" postmark dated "Ap. 28, 1860," while the earliest "Brisbane—Queensland" date recorded is given in the same journal, Vol. XXX., page 204, as 30th April, 1860 (a misprint gives it as 1861), which fixes the date when the change was made. No doubt the Brisbane office would be the first to make the change, the other offices following later.

The stamps themselves are fully dealt with in the New South Wales Volumes, and it is therefore unnecessary to describe them in detail. It will suffice to mention that, with the exceptions mentioned later, they were all supplied without having been perforated, although the system of perforation was introduced in New South Wales in February, 1860.

It is a matter of considerable interest that the date of the first supply of the 2d., 21st January, 1860, was only nine days after the second plate for that value had been received and brought into general use at the Government Printing Office in Sydney. As the impressions on the plate were more regularly spaced, with a view to perforation, it is reasonable to suppose that the early batches of sheets printed from Plate II. would be reserved as far as possible for perforation, and issue on 1st February, and that the first consignment to Queensland (and possibly the next supply on 31st January) may have been from old stock printed from Plate I. The 2d. stamps on hand when separation took place were necessarily from Plate I., but so far it has not been possible to check this conjecture, as a sufficiently early date of use of a 2d. printed from Plate II. has not been forthcoming.

The fact of the 2d. printed from both Plates I. and II. having been issued in Queensland opens up the interesting fact that the retouched varieties on both plates can be found in that condition. Irrespective of postmarks, etc., Plate I. retouches are not distinguishable from copies used in New South Wales, but in the case of Plate II., imperforate stamps from which were only supplied to Queensland, a retouch at once identifies the specimen as one of the provisionals.

The actual date when Plate II. was retouched is not known, but the damage occurred when it had been only a few months in use, and before the 26th September, 1860, the date of the last consignment to Queensland.* In view of Plate I. having been sent to England for repair in the same month, it seems probable that the September consignment of the 2d. was the only one printed from the retouched Plate II., on which assumption only 170 copies of each retouch existed imperforate.

The watermarks were normal, except possibly in the case of the 6d. with watermark 8. I have seen a copy used on a cover postmarked "Brisbane."

The printings of the 6d. from August to December, 1859, were on this paper,† part of the December printing being on the normal watermarked paper, which had been

* *New South Wales*, p. 215.

† *Ibid.*, p. 168.

again brought into use. Thus it cannot be definitely stated that the 6d. stamps, supplied on 21st January, 1860, included sheets with watermark double-lined 8, while it appears more reasonable to suppose that the specimen above recorded may have been from the stock of stamps handed over on 1st December, 1859. The other imperforate watermark varieties were issued in New South Wales some years before the separation, and if any had found their way to the Moreton Bay District the stock would certainly have been exhausted by then.

It will be noticed that none of the 5d. were supplied, but a few copies in the hands of the public before separation may have been subsequently used.

In the *London Philatelist*, Vol. XXXIII., page 204, a reference is made to the 6d. perforated 12, with special Queensland postmark, as being more frequently come across than any of the higher values. This is an undoubted fact, and is opposed to the statement that all values were supplied imperforate. But it must be observed that this statement rests on the somewhat negative evidence that since the perforation was not paid for, therefore the stamps must have been supplied imperforate.

Owing to the number of copies seen, some explanation would seem necessary beyond the fact that travellers may have brought them into the country, or that they may have been enclosed in letters from New South Wales as small remittances, etc. There is also the possibility of purchases being made over the border between the two colonies, but the absence of perforated copies of the 1d. and 2d. seems to discount this theory. A natural explanation is that, in fulfilling one or more of the indents for the 6d. stamps, the New South Wales authorities, without making any extra charge, supplied a number of sheets which had been perforated, in preference to making a special small printing for the purpose. If this actually happened, the facts would not appear in the records, and so would escape Mr. Basset Hull's notice. A copy of the 6d. perforated 12 is known dated "Brisbane, 1860," but the month and day of the month are illegible.

Copies of the Registered stamp, perforated 12, are also known, and may have formed part of a consignment from Sydney, as suggested above for the perforated 6d. Covers bearing this variety are known, dated "Ipswich, 1st. Oct., 1860," and "Brisbane, — Dec., 1860." A copy of the 1s.* with perforation 12, and obliterated with "Q.L." in ovals, is also known, but it is unlikely that perforated stamps were included in the last consignment (5000 stamps) on 11th April, 1860.

As may be judged from the small numbers supplied, the 3d. and 8d., used provisionally in Queensland, are very rare. A copy † of the former has been seen postmarked "Brisbane, Queensland, 18 Sept. 60." The 3d. is in the bright yellow-green shade of the stamp issued with perforation 12 in New South Wales, and is quite different from the imperforate yellow-green stamp issued in that colony. As it was not issued imperforate elsewhere than in Queensland, it is essentially a Queensland stamp and thus is in the same category as the 2d. imperforate, printed from Plate II.

SYNOPSIS.

1st December, 1859—1st November, 1860.

Diadem types of New South Wales—Watermarked double-lined numerals of value—Imperforate.

* Collection of Mr. G. Ginger, which also contains a copy of the 1s. imperforate, postmarked "Brisbane, Queensland 26th April 60".

† Collection of Mr. F. J. Robinson.

- 1d. Orange-red.
- 1d. Scarlet.
- 2d. Dull blue (Plate I. with retouches).
- 2d. Dull blue (Plate II. with retouches).
- 3d. Bright yellow-green.
- 6d. Greyish brown (watermark double lined 8).
- 6d. Grey-brown.
- 6d. Grey-brown (perforated 12).
- 8d. Orange.
- 1s. Brownish red.

1st December, 1859—January, 1861.

The New South Wales Registered stamp—On unwatermarked paper—Imperforate.

(6d.) Orange and prussian blue.

(6d.) Orange and prussian blue (perforated 12).

Note.—The 6d. greyish brown with watermark double-lined 8 probably formed part of the original stock on the 1st December, 1859.

A single example of the 6d. imperforate is known in a fawn shade. This may have come from old stock in one of the Queensland post offices.

The 6d. grey-brown and the Registered stamp with perforation 12 may have been included in one or more consignments from New South Wales.

It seems probable that none of the old stock of the 5d. was issued in Queensland.

CHAPTER II.

THE FIRST ISSUE OF QUEENSLAND POSTAGE STAMPS, 1860-62.

The Executive Council Minute of the 17th December, 1859 (page 2), in which His Excellency the Governor requested to be supplied with information as to the manner in which the New South Wales stamps were manufactured or procured, was followed by this further Minute on the 23rd January, 1860 :—

“ Referring to previous proceedings with respect to the supply of postage stamps— His Excellency the Governor consults the Council as to the advisability of taking early steps for procuring the necessary dies for striking stamps for use within the colony of Queensland of a description distinctive and peculiar to itself.

“ 2. The Council advise that the Agents of the Colony, Messrs. Mangles and Company, be communicated with by an early opportunity and instructed to procure and forward to the colony by the overland mail, Postage Stamps of the number and value stated in the Appendix hereto, struck from dies bearing the Royal Effigy, with the value of the stamps in each case, and printed in colours corresponding to those of the postage stamps in use in England.”

I have no copy of the Appendix referred to in the above Minute, but the following letter contains all necessary particulars :—

“ QUEENSLAND,
“ COLONIAL SECRETARY'S OFFICE,
“ BRISBANE, 1st February, 1860.

“ Messrs. F. Mangles & Co.,

“ Agents to the Colony of Queensland,
“ 17, Gracechurch Street, London.

“ Gentlemen, I am directed by his Excellency Governor Sir George Bowen, to request you, as Agents for the Colony of Queensland (your appointment to which office is forwarded by this mail), to take the necessary steps for transmitting to this office, without delay, a supply of postage stamps according to the subjoined directions and specifications :

“ 2. You are desired to use your own discretion in the selection of those persons who may seem to you best qualified to undertake the execution of the dies, the supply of suitable paper, the printing of the stamps, affixing the cement, and other details connected with their complete preparation ; having due regard to economy, but requiring the engraving to be carefully done, in order that the stamps may present a handsome appearance, and that the probability of fraudulent imitation may be avoided.

“ 3. The Governor in Council has expressed his approval of the Effigy of Her Majesty as engraved upon the enclosed Tasmanian Postage Stamps and I am directed by His Excellency to request that you will cause the Head upon the Queensland Postage Stamps to follow the pattern as closely as possible. His Excellency also desired

that the several denominations of stamps may be distinguished by the colours now used for stamps of corresponding amount in England.

" 4. Stamps representing the following values will be required :

- " One Shilling.
- " Six Pence.
- " Three Pence.
- " Two Pence.
- " One Penny.

" Each stamp to bear the word " Queensland " above the head, and those denoting its value below.

" A further stamp will be required of a different order from the rest, bearing the words " Queensland," " Registered."

" 5. It is considered desirable that the Dies should remain with the manufacturers in England, it being probable that the printing could not for the present be satisfactorily executed in Queensland. A supply sufficient for two years' consumption will therefore be required in the first instance to prevent the possibility of the stock on hand at the General Post Office of Queensland being exhausted before a further supply can be received from England.

" 6. The following number of each denomination of stamps respectively is considered sufficient to commence with :

- " 200,000 One Penny.
- " 210,000 Two Pence.
- " 250,000 Six Pence.
- " 15,000 One Shilling.
- " 30,000 Registered.

" 7. It being of the utmost importance that the Postage Stamps should be supplied to the offices throughout Queensland at the earliest possible date, I have to request that you will use your best endeavours to despatch them by the very first overland mail * for which they can be got ready, and it will be desirable that the package containing them should be insured against loss, as well as that every precaution should be taken to prevent them from being injured either by heat or damp. If a part only of the number specified can be prepared in time for the first mail after the receipt of this letter, it should be despatched and the remainder should follow without delay.

" I have, etc.

" R. G. W. HERBERT."

* In the latter half of 1860 the Overland Mail route was by P. & O. steamer from Southampton to Alexandria, calling at Marseilles for the mails sent overland through France. The rate for letters was 9d. per $\frac{1}{2}$ oz. via Southampton, and 1s. via Marseilles. At Alexandria the mails were landed, and sent by rail overland to Suez, where they were again shipped on board a P. & O. steamer, which conveyed them to Australia, calling at Point de Galle, Ceylon, en route.

The railway across the isthmus was only completed in 1859, and prior to its completion the mails were carried by barge and steamer from Alexandria to Cairo, and thence by coaches and camels to Suez. Although the Suez Canal was opened to traffic on 17th November, 1869, it was not adopted as the regular route for the Eastern mails until 7th February, 1888.

The Overland Mail was a monthly service, the time taken from England to Brisbane being about eight weeks, and letters could be posted via Marseilles to within about six days after the mail steamer had left Southampton.

The Tasmanian stamps attached to the foregoing letter, which are now in the possession of Messrs. Perkins, Bacon & Co., were two used copies of the 6d. English print.

It will be noticed that in giving the estimated quantities required, the 3d. value was inadvertently omitted. This mistake was rectified subsequently.

Some considerable correspondence passed between the Queensland Government and their agents, and though we have copies of all the letters sent to the latter, we have failed, after diligent search, to find their replies with but one exception, hereinafter given. The several changes in the Ministerial control of the Postal Department resulted in these letters being forwarded from one department to another, until at last they appear to have been mislaid. However, the Post Office Register Book of correspondence received contains a list of these letters, giving dates and notes of the subject matter. From this we have gained some useful information.

Writing from 17 Gracechurch Street, London, E.C., on the 17th April, 1860, Messrs. F. Mangles & Co. referred to a conversation they had previously had with a representative of Messrs. Perkins, Bacon & Co., and enclosed for the perusal of that firm a copy of Mr. Herbert's letter of the 1st February. They added "We now request that you will undertake the order, and supply the following." (Here a list of values and quantities is given.) "We enclose as a sample two Tasmanian stamps, and refer you to the copy of the Colonial Secretary's letter for full instructions as to the execution of the order, which instructions must be rigidly adhered to."

"You will please commence with the One Penny stamps, and continue to produce the others in the following order:—Sixpenny, Twopenny, One Shilling, Registered.

"We have determined on having the stamps perforated, as is done in this country, which please attend to.

"You will also be good enough to supply a watermark paper (not a special one) as suggested by you.

"You will please to set about the execution of the order at once, and use your utmost exertions to complete the same as soon as possible.

"We shall be glad to receive each description of stamp as it is finished, without waiting for the whole to be completed before any portion is delivered. This order will most likely be under the supervision of the Board of Inland Revenue, but of this you shall hear further shortly.

"If possible, we shall be glad to receive the One Penny and Six Penny in time to send out by the mail in May, but if you are unable to get them ready, let us have them for the mail in June, as the Six Penny and One Penny will be of great service in sending letters to England."

In reply to a verbal communication, Messrs. Mangles & Co. informed Messrs. Perkins, Bacon & Co. on the 14th June that the latest moment they could give for sending the postage stamps would be 2 p.m. on the 22nd idem, delivered at their office.

On the 20th June, 1860, Messrs. Perkins, Bacon & Co. forwarded an invoice to Messrs. F. Mangles & Co. "for paper, printing and gumming 600 sheets, 240 each, = 144,000 Queensland 1d. Postage Stamps, @ 9d., £5 8s."

On the 14th July, 1860, the engravers wrote to the Queensland Agents:—

"The whole of the One Penny postage stamps for Queensland are ready for shipment, and have been perforated.

"200 sheets of the Two Penny and 300 sheets of the Six Penny are now ready, except the perforating. Will you kindly inform us if they shall all go on Tuesday by the overland mail, or whether you prefer retaining the two latter until they can be perforated?"

On the 16th July, Messrs. Mangles & Co. replied that they would be glad if the engravers would send off by the mail of that month all the postage stamps that they had ready, perforated or not, addressed to the Officer administering the Government, Queensland, the package to be forwarded to the Peninsular and Oriental Company's office before noon on the following day.

On the 17th July, Messrs. Perkins, Bacon & Co. furnished the Agents with the following invoice :—

| | | | | |
|--|--------|--------|---------------------|----------|
| “ For 200 sheets, 240 ea. | 48,000 | 6d. | Green, Unperford. | |
| 80 „ | 240 „ | 19,200 | 2d. Blue, Perford. | |
| 120 „ | 240 „ | 28,800 | 2d. „ Unperford. | |
| 233 „ | 240 „ | 55,920 | } 1d. Red, Perford. | |
| 1 „ | | 80 | | |
| | | | | £5 14 0 |
| 152,000 Postage Stamps at 9d. | | | | £5 14 0 |
| Perforating 75,200 at 4d. | | | | 1 5 0 |
| For engraving die roller, etc., and engraving folio plate of | | | | |
| 240 1d. Queensland postage stamps | | | | 105 0 0 |
| For do. 1 folio plate 240 2d. do. do. | | | | 105 0 0 |
| For do. 1 do. do. 240 6d. do. do. | | | | 105 0 0” |

The first of Messrs. Mangles & Co.'s letters to the Queensland Colonial Secretary was dated 18th April, 1860, and was followed by a second on the 18th May. We have not found either of these letters, which are simply stated in the records to contain information “As to Postage Stamps.” The following letter gives further information as to the contents of the first communication :—

“ QUEENSLAND,
“ TREASURY, 4th July, 1860.

“ GENTLEMEN,

“ I have the honour to acknowledge the receipt of your letter No. 2, dated 18th April, 1860, to the Honourable the Colonial Secretary, informing him that you had given instructions to Messrs. Perkins, Bacon & Co., of Fleet Street, for the printing of the Queensland Postage Stamps as requested by the Honourable the Secretary's letter of the 1st February to you.

“ The Department of the Post Office, Queensland, having been transferred from under the control of the Colonial Secretary to the Colonial Treasurer, you will please address all future correspondence on the subject of Postage Stamps to this office.

“ With reference to that part of your letter enquiring whether you are to supply Threepenny stamps or not, I have to reply in the affirmative, and request you will give instructions to the engraver to prepare a Plate for stamps of that description similar in design to those already ordered, but of course being of a different colour to any of the other stamps.

“ The number which will be required for the Two Years' supply will be Fifteen thousand.

“ 15,000 Threepenny Stamps.

“ I have, etc.

“ R. R. MACKENZIE,
“ Colonial Treasurer.

“ To Messrs. F. Mangles & Co.,
“ Agents to the Colony of Queensland,
“ 17 Gracechurch Street, London.”

The next letters, recorded as having been received from the Colonial Agents, were dated 26th June and 26th July, 1860, and both referred to "Forwarding Postage Stamps." Their further contents are detailed in the following letter:—

" QUEENSLAND,
" TREASURY, BRISBANE,
" 16th October, 1860.

" GENTLEMEN,

" I have the honour to acknowledge the receipt of your letters to the Honourable the Colonial Secretary, of dates the 26th June and 26th July, advising him that you had forwarded by the Overland Mails of those dates the following number of Queensland Postage Stamps, viz.: by the Mail of 26th June one case containing 600 sheets, or 144,000 at one penny, and by the Mail of 26th July one case containing 234 sheets, or 56,000 at one penny; 200 sheets, or 28,800 at twopence; and 200 sheets or 28,000 at sixpence. The number of sheets as stated by you is correct, but in the calculation of the number of stamps I find there is an error made in the 2d. and 6d., the quantities of which should be as follows: 200 sheets of 2d., or 48,000, and 200 sheets of 6d., or 48,000.

" I trust you will use every exertion to get the remainder of those ordered executed and forwarded as soon as possible.

" You will have received before now, my letter of the 4th July last, which contained instructions as to the printing of stamps of the value of Threepence (the number of which was omitted by the Colonial Secretary in his letter giving directions for the preparation of plates, etc.), of which I must urge the execution.

" The stamps received have given general satisfaction, both as regards their appearance and in the workmanship, more especially those perforated, which seems to be a great convenience in the separation. If the remainder of those ordered are not already completed I should wish them to be treated in a similar manner.

" I am, etc.,

" R. R. MACKENZIE,
" Acting Postmaster-General.

" Messrs. F. Mangles & Co.,
" Gresham House,
" Old Broad Street, London."

Upon the receipt of the first supply of stamps acknowledged in the foregoing letter, a notice was published in the *Gazette* of the 22nd September, 1860, as follows:—

" GENERAL POST OFFICE,
" BRISBANE, 21st Sept., 1860.

" QUEENSLAND POSTAGE STAMPS.

" It is hereby notified for public information that a supply of Queensland Postage Stamps has been received from England, and will be issued on the first day of November next, from which date the New South Wales Postage Stamps at present in use will no longer be acknowledged upon letters posted within this colony. All letters, therefore, posted in Queensland after the 1st of November bearing the New South Wales stamps will be treated as unpaid, and will accordingly be opened and returned to the writer.

" R. R. MACKENZIE."

This notice was probably published on receipt of the first supply of 1d. stamps, as the 2d. and 6d., which did not leave England until the 26th July, could scarcely have reached Brisbane as early as the 21st September.

The 2d. and 6d., however, reached Brisbane early in October, as may be judged from the following letter addressed to the Duke of Newcastle, who was at that time the Secretary of State for the Colonies :—

“ GOVERNMENT HOUSE,
“ BRISBANE, QUEENSLAND,
“ 5th October, 1860.

“ MY LORD DUKE,

“ At the request of the Government of this Colony, I have the honour to solicit your Grace to cause the Post-Master General to be informed that the postage stamps provided for Queensland will come into use (replacing those of New South Wales) on the 1st November next. Consequently they will be affixed to all letters posted in this Colony for England by the November Mail.

“ I enclose specimens of the Stamps for the information of the Post-Office authorities.

“ I have the honour to be, My Lord Duke,
“ Your Grace's Most Obedient
“ Humble Servant,
“ (Sd.) G. F. BOWEN.

“ His Grace the Right Honble.
“ The Duke of Newcastle,
“ etc., etc., etc.”

It was not until the 11th October that supplies of the new stamps were furnished to the Queensland postmasters together with the following circular :—

“ GENERAL POST OFFICE,
“ BRISBANE,
“ 11th October, 1860.

“ SIR,

“ I beg to acquaint you that a Supply of Queensland Postage Stamps has been received from England, and will be issued to the Public on the 1st day of November next, from which date no New South Wales stamps will be acknowledged.

“ You will receive herewith a supply of the Queensland Postage stamps to commence issuing from the 1st November next, but in the meantime you will continue to sell the New South Wales stamps, keeping a sufficient supply on hand for that purpose, and on the last day of October forward all the New South Wales stamps remaining in your possession at the close of that day to this office, when you will receive in exchange an equal amount of the Queensland stamps.

“ It must be understood that you are not to commence with the new stamps before the 1st day of November but only on and from that day, and all letters posted in your office (inland letters excepted, which may be allowed 14 days grace) subsequent to that date bearing New South Wales stamps, must be treated as *unpaid*, and forwarded to the General Post Office to be opened and returned to the writers; you will therefore see the necessity of giving due notice to the public in order that the inconvenience of having their letters returned may be avoided.

"As no Queensland Registered Stamps have as yet been received you will continue the use of the New South Wales Registered Stamps until further notice.

"It is also requested that you will exchange any New South Wales stamps for the public during the month of November, and on the last day of that month forward all stamps so exchanged to this office when a similar number of our own will be sent you.

"I am, etc.,

"R. R. MACKENZIE."

The regulation as to treating letters bearing New South Wales stamps seems an unnecessarily harsh one. The Queensland Government had received the full face value for these stamps, and could not possibly have suffered any appreciable loss had they permitted the small supply remaining on hand to be entirely used up. Imagine the case of a person living far inland using a N.S.W. stamp, bought from a Queensland office, to prepay his letter to England, and having it opened and returned after missing the monthly mail to Europe. If strictly adhered to, this regulation must have caused considerable annoyance.

In the meantime the engravers were proceeding with the work of printing the balance of the stamps ordered by Messrs. Mangles & Co. on the 17th April, 1860. On the 11th August, 1860, Messrs. Perkins, Bacon & Co. wrote to the Queensland agents, stating that they expected to ship all the rest of the Queensland stamps by that month's mail. However, on the 16th August, they furnished an invoice for a part of the balance only. This invoice was for :—

| | | | |
|--|-------|----|----|
| "For engraving folio steel plate containing 240 1s. Postage Labels | £105 | 0 | 0 |
| Do. do. containing 240 Registered do. | 105 | 0 | 0 |
| 500 sheets, 240 each, 120,000 6d. Green. | | | |
| 100 ,, 240 ,, 24,000 2d. Blue. | | | |
| 62½ ,, 240 ,, 15,000 1s. Violet. | | | |
| 75 ,, 240 ,, 18,000 Registered, Orange. | | | |
| | <hr/> | | |
| 177,000 Postage Labels at 9d. | 6 | 12 | 9 |
| Perforating at 4d. | 2 | 19 | 0" |

It was not until the 17th September that the balance of the supply ordered was furnished, together with an invoice :—

| | | | |
|---------------------------------------|-------|----|----|
| "For 138,000 2d. Blue. | | | |
| 82,000 6d. Green. | | | |
| 12,000 Registered, Orange. | | | |
| | <hr/> | | |
| 232,000 Postage Labels at 9d. | £8 | 14 | 0 |
| Perforating at 4d. | 3 | 17 | 4" |

On the 20th September, 1860, Messrs. F. Mangles & Co. wrote to Messrs. Perkins, Bacon & Co. requesting them to prepare a plate for 3d. postage stamps, similar in design to those already ordered, but the stamps to be of a different colour from any of the other stamps, and to supply 15,000 3d. stamps.

The following letter is the only one from the Agents I found in the Queensland records :—

“ GRESHAM HOUSE,
 “ OLD BROAD STREET,
 “ LONDON, E.C.,
 “ Sept. 26th, 1860.

“ SIR,

“ We are in receipt of your letter No. 57, of 4th of July, 1860, informing us that the Department of the Post Office has been transferred to your office.

“ We note that we are to supply Fifteen thousand (15,000) Threepenny postage stamps, and we have given orders to the Engraver to prepare a Plate for stamps of that description, the paper (? colour) to be of a different colour to any of the other stamps.

“ Referring to our letter No. 11 of the 27th August, 1860, addressed to the Hon. the Colonial Secretary, we have now to advise having forwarded the remainder of the Postage Stamps ordered by the Hon. the Colonial Secretary's letter to us of 1st February last per the present Overland Mail, viz. : one case containing :—

“ 138,000 2d. Blue,
 “ 82,000 6d. Green,
 “ 12,000 Registered, Orange.

“ The above case has been addressed to the Officer administering the Government, Queensland, and we have written to Sydney with directions to send on the case as soon as possible.

“ We now beg to enclose invoice of Postage Stamps ordered in letter of 1st February last, before referred to, amount £578 8s. 11d., which we believe will be found correct.

“ The Threepenny stamps ordered in your letter now under reply are being prepared as rapidly as possible, and shall be forwarded to you immediately they are ready.

“ We have, etc.
 “ F. MANGLES & Co.

“ THE HON. THE COLONIAL TREASURER,
 “ BRISBANE.”

“ Invoice of Postage Stamps forwarded by F. Mangles & Co., per Overland Mails to the address of the Officer administering the Government Queensland, by order and on account and risk of the Hon. The Colonial Treasurer, Queensland.

“ Postage Stamps ordered per letter No. 119 of 1st February, 1860 :—

“ 200,000 One Penny.
 “ 210,000 Twopenny.
 “ 250,000 Sixpenny.
 “ 15,000 One Shilling.
 “ 30,000 Registered.

"Particulars of stamps forwarded per Overland Mails :—

| | 1d. | 2d. | 6d. | 1s. | Registered. |
|------------------|----------------|----------------|----------------|---------------|---------------|
| June | 144,000 | — | — | — | — |
| July | 56,000 | 48,000 | 48,000 | — | — |
| August | — | 24,000 | 120,000 | 15,000 | 18,000 |
| Sept. | — | 138,000 | 82,000 | — | 12,000 |
| | <u>200,000</u> | <u>210,000</u> | <u>250,000</u> | <u>15,000</u> | <u>30,000</u> |

"To engraving original Steel Die and hardening it; transferring it to Steel Roller and hardening it, and from thence engraving a Folio

| | | | |
|---|------|---|---|
| Steel Plate containing 240 1d. Postage Stamps | £105 | 0 | 0 |
| 1 Folio Plate of 240 2d. do. do. | 105 | 0 | 0 |
| 1 " " " 6d. do. do. | 105 | 0 | 0 |
| 1 " " " 1s. do. do. | 105 | 0 | 0 |
| 1 " " " Reg'd. do. do. | 105 | 0 | 0 |

"To Paper, printing and gumming 200,000 1d. Postage Stamps

| | | | |
|--|-------------|-----------|----------|
| 210,000 2d. " " | | | |
| 250,000 6d. " " | | | |
| 15,000 1s. " " | | | |
| 30,000 Registered " | | | |
| <u>705,000 @ 9d.</u> | 26 | 8 | 9 |
| Perforating 484,200 Postage Stamps @ 4d. | 8 | 1 | 4 |
| 4 Tin and Deal cases, one @ 7s. 6d., two @ 5s. 6d. and one @ 4s. 6d. | 1 | 3 | 0 |
| | <u>£560</u> | <u>13</u> | <u>1</u> |

"As per Messrs. Perkins & Co's Invoice herewith—Charges: Insurance, etc.

17 15 10
£578 8 11

" F. MANGLES & Co.

" LONDON, 26th Sept., 1860.

" E'E'."

REPLY.

" TREASURY, QUEENSLAND,

" 18th December, 1860.

" GENTLEMEN,

" I have the honour to acknowledge the receipt of your letter dated 26th September last, advising that you had forwarded by that Mail the following Postage Stamps, viz. :

" 138,000 at One Penny.

" 82,000 at Sixpence.

" 12,000 at (6) Registry, which have duly come to hand.

" I am, etc.

" R. R. MACKENZIE.

" Messrs. Mangles & Co.,

" London."

An executive minute of the 11th December, 1860, provided for payment of cost of stamps as follows :—

“ His Excellency the Governor, at the instance of the Honourable the Treasurer, adverts to previous proceedings on the 23rd January ult. ordering a supply of postage stamps from England, and invites the Council to make a provision for payment with exchange of the account incurred in respect of those that have arrived to the amount of £578 8s. 11d.

“ 2. The Council advise that a special vote of the Assembly be taken upon the subject, and that in the meanwhile the sum in question be advanced from the item unforeseen expenses for the year 1861.”

On the 26th October, 1860, Messrs. Mangles & Co. wrote, intimating the preparation of 3d. stamps; on the 26th November they wrote, reporting progress of 3d. stamps; and on the 26th January, 1861, they wrote, enclosing invoice for 3d. stamps.

Messrs. Perkins, Bacon & Co. had written on the 15th December, 1860, that the Threepenny Plate had been prepared and the stamps printed. Their invoice of the same date was as follows :—

| | |
|--|----------|
| “ For engraving Folio Steel Plate containing 240 3d. Postage | |
| Labels | £105 0 0 |
| „ Paper, printing and gumming 62½ sheets 240 ea., 15,000 | |
| 3d. Brown Stamps @ 9d. | 0 11 3 |
| „ Perforating @ 4d. | 0 5 0 ” |

The Executive minute providing for payment of this account, dated 4th March, 1861, is as follows :—

“ His Excellency the Governor lays before the Council a letter from the Colonial Agent in England, enclosing an account amounting to £108 17s. 2d. for preparing the Threepenny postage stamps recently sent out.

“ 2. The Council advise that the necessary authority be given for payment of the sum in question, and further that a sum be placed upon the estimates for the current year to meet the expense that has been incurred in the preparation of the plates and dies of the Queensland postage stamps.”

Shortly after the completion of the first order for postage stamps, it became apparent that the supply of the two lower values, estimated to last for two years, would barely suffice for one, and in consequence the following order was sent for an additional supply :—

“ TREASURY, BRISBANE.,
“ 15th January, 1861.

“ GENTLEMEN,

“ I have the honour to request that you will be good enough to forward at your earliest convenience a further supply of postage stamps for the use of this Colony, it appearing that the quantities ordered as per Colonial Secretary's letter of the 1st of February last will be insufficient to meet the demand during the period they were calculated to last, viz., for two years, more especially the Twopenny stamps which are used more extensively than those of any other description.

“ You will therefore please forward postage stamps as follows, viz. :—

“ 500 sheets or 120,000 of One Penny.
“ 1,000 „ or 240,000 of Twopenny.

despatching the Twopenny (or a portion of those ordered) if possible by the return mail, in order that no inconvenience may be experienced by the Government of this colony through the supply falling short of the demand.

" I am, etc.

" R. R. MACKENZIE.

" Messrs. F. Mangles & Co.,
" London."

Messrs. Mangles & Co. acknowledged this letter on the 26th March, and stated that " the stamps will be sent by next mail " ; and on the 26th April, 1861, they wrote " forwarding stamps."

Messrs. Perkins, Bacon & Co's. invoice for this supply was dated 15th April, 1861, and the items were :—

| | | | |
|--|---------|---------|-----------|
| " For paper, printing, gumming and perforating | | | |
| 1,000 sheets | 240 ea. | 240,000 | 2d. Blue. |
| 500 | " 240 | 120,000 | 1d. Red. |
| ————— | | | |
| 360,000 @ 1s. 1d. = £19 10 0." | | | |

The increased demand soon extended to the higher values, and necessitated the following order :—

" TREASURY, BRISBANE,
" 6th March, 1861.

" GENTLEMEN,

" Referring to my letter of the 15th January last ordering One Penny and Two Penny Postage stamps, I have now the honour to request that you will have the goodness to forward additional stamps as follows ; viz. :—

| | | | |
|---------------------------------------|-----|---------|-------------------|
| " 500 sheets or 120,000 of One Penny. | | | |
| " 1,000 | " " | 240,000 | " Two " |
| " 62½ | " " | 15,000 | " Three " |
| " 500 | " " | 120,000 | " Six " |
| " 125 | " " | 30,000 | " One Shilling. |
| " 125 | " " | 30,000 | " 6d. Registered. |

" These may be sent in one package, and if possible not later than by the June mail.

" Complaints have been made that some of the stamps do not bear sufficient mucilage, and consequently are liable to fall off the letters when posted ; you will therefore be good enough to give instructions that those now ordered be carefully attended to in this respect.

" I am, etc.,

" R. R. MACKENZIE,
" Colonial Treasurer.

" Messrs. F. Mangles & Co.,
" Gresham House,
" Old Broad Street, London."

This order was communicated to Messrs. Perkins, Bacon & Co. on the 13th May, 1861, and on the 12th June following the engravers invoiced the stamps in the exact numbers ordered, the total being 555,000 stamps, and the charge for paper, printing, gumming and perforating being at the rate of 1s. 1d. per 1000 stamps.

On the 27th May, 1861, Messrs. Mangles & Co. wrote, acknowledging receipt of order for further supply of postage stamps; and on the 26th June they wrote, advising having forwarded stamps, and enclosing invoice for same, £39 4s. 5d.

No further orders for stamps were sent to England; the plates were obtained in 1862; and the stamps were thenceforth printed in the Colony. (See Chapter III.)

It is a matter of interest that the stamps of Queensland were included in the exhibits at the International Exhibition of 1862, as disclosed in the following letter, addressed to the Duke of Newcastle, the Secretary of State for the Colonies:—

“ GOVERNMENT HOUSE,
“ BRISBANE, QUEENSLAND,
“ 14th February, 1862.

“ MY LORD DUKE,

“ In pursuance of your Grace’s Circular Despatch of the 22nd November ult., I have the honour to transmit herewith specimens of the Postage Stamps used in this Colony. Specimens had already been forwarded in my despatch No. 83 of 5th October, 1860.

“ I have the honour to be,
“ My Lord Duke,
“ Your Grace’s most Obedient
“ Humble Servant,
“ (Sd.) G. F. BOWEN.”

Enclosure.

The Colonial Office Register of Correspondence shows that six stamps were enclosed in the above letter; there would be one of each denomination, and the Registered stamp; and that they were sent to the Exhibition on 26th April, 1862.

The designs of the first definitive series of Queensland are substantially the same for each denomination save that in the Registration stamp the corners are hollowed out to form an irregular octagon. These are illustrated from die proofs* of the 1d., 2d., 3d., 6d. and 1s., and a plate proof of the Registered (Illustrations, XV. (a) to (d), (f) and (h)). A die proof* of the latter is also shown in which the square corners are intact, the curved lines being roughly drawn in pencil. (Illustration, XV. (g).)

Of the above-mentioned die proofs, the 1d. and 1s. are on India paper, the 3d., 6d. and Registered on India paper mounted on card, the 2d. being on card. In the 1d. die proof there is a horizontal dash outside each vertical frame line at the middle point, and this is an indication that the 1d. was the mother die.

The die of the 1d. was first completed and the others were made from it by transfer under great pressure in the usual way, that is to say, by first transferring the design to a steel roller from which the value (then in relief) was removed. By pressure the design without the value would then be transferred to small flat squares of softened steel destined to become respectively the dies of the other values, on which the several

* Collection of Mr. R. B. Yardley.

denominations and any other requisite addition would then be engraved. These small squares would ultimately be hardened and become the actual dies for the other values.*

It should be noticed that in the 2d. and 6d. values there are additional little hooks at the bottom of the lowest scrolls of the arabesque ornaments on each side of the large oval band, and it is interesting to remark that they differ in the two values. This is most noticeable in those on the left side of the stamps and show that they were additions engraved by hand on the respective dies of those two values. Their presence or absence is of importance in considering the lithographic transfers for the 4d. yellow of 1875-79.

The artist who designed the head for the Tasmanian stamps was Mr. E. H. Corbould, and this design was copied by Mr. C. H. Jeens for the Queensland stamps. His charges to Messrs. Perkins, Bacon & Co. were as follows :—

| | | |
|---------------------|----------------------------------|-----------|
| “ April 21st, 1860, | Drawing Queen’s Head postage | . £2 12 6 |
| May 15th, „ | Engraving Do. | . 9 9 0 |
| „ „ „ | Touching Postage Die Queensland. | 3 13 6” |

There is, however, some doubt as to the extent of the work undertaken by Mr. Jeens; this question is discussed in a note by Mr. R. B. Yardley at the end of this Chapter.

The plates each contained 240 impressions arranged in 20 horizontal rows of 12. Except for the numeral 2 engraved on the second plate of the 2d., as mentioned in Chapter VI., there were no marginal inscriptions on the plates, and the impressions were symmetrically arranged.

As mentioned in their letter of 17th April, 1860, Messrs. F. Mangles & Co., when giving the original order to Messrs. Perkins, Bacon & Co., gave instructions that “you will also be good enough to supply a watermark paper (not a special one) as suggested by you.”

The first printings of the 1d., 2d. and 6d. were made on the well known large star paper, first used for the 2d. stamps of South Australia, and planned so that a star watermark should show centrally in every stamp when printed in register. Owing to the Queensland design being shorter, the stars were spaced too far apart in a vertical direction, although the horizontal spacing was correct for the Queensland plates. Consequently, Messrs. Perkins, Bacon & Co. introduced the small star paper, in which the vertical spacing of the star watermark was corrected to suit the Queensland stamps. This paper was first used in the consignment despatched on the 16th August, 1860.

Both papers were hand made of a medium greyish wove, the large stars being about 15½ mm. in diameter, while the small stars vary somewhat in size, and average about 13 mm. Sometimes a specimen may be found showing parts of a star watermark at the top and bottom of the stamp. Should the stamp be on large star paper the two parts will not form a complete star, as would be the case if printed on small star paper, but usually the small stars are found in register with the stamps. (Illustrations I. (a) and (b).)

* Judging from the details of the die proof mentioned above, and the existence of impressions from an intermediate stage of the die of the Registration stamp with the square corners still showing, although the curved arcs of the ultimate design had been engraved, it would seem that the transfer operation had to be repeated in order to get rid of the square angles and so complete the hollowed out corners of the external frame. (Illustrations XV. (g) and (i).)

A detailed description of the two papers is given in the Report of the Queensland Reference List Committee, page 8.

As the stamps of New South Wales, used provisionally for Queensland, were all imperforate, no mention of perforation had been made in the Colonial Secretary's directions of 1st February, 1860. But, as mentioned, Messrs. Perkins, Bacon & Co. were instructed by the Queensland Agents to have the new stamps perforated.

Nevertheless, owing to the urgent necessity for supplying the stamps as early as possible, the first consignment and part of the second consignment, as appears from the correspondence already set out, were sent out imperforate. All the other stamps supplied were perforated.

Upon receipt of the first two supplies, which comprised only the 1d., 2d. and 6d. values, specimens were sent to various intercolonial and other post offices, attached to a printed slip containing a copy of the *Gazette* notice of 21st September. One of these noted bore the 1d. and 2d. perforated, and the 6d. imperforate.

A detailed account of the perforations found on the stamps printed by Messrs. Perkins, Bacon & Co. is given in the Report of the Queensland Reference List Committee, page 42. (Illustrations IX. (a), (b), (c) and (d).)

The following tabular statement of stamps provided by Messrs. Perkins, Bacon & Co., as compiled from the correspondence given, is also verified by the extracts from the books of that firm, given in an article by Mr. E. D. Bacon in *Stanley Gibbons Monthly Journal*, Vol. IV., page 242.

TABLE OF PERKINS, BACON & CO.'S PRINTINGS.

P. PERFORATED. I. IMPERFORATE.

| Date of Invoice. | One Penny | Two Pence. | Three Pence. | Six Pence. | One Shilling. | Registered. |
|--------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|----------------|-------------------------|----------------|----------------|
| 20th June, 1860 . | 144,000 I. | — | — | — | — | — |
| 17th July, 1860 . | 56,000 P. | { 28,800 I. 19,200 P. | — | 48,000 I. | — | — |
| 16th Aug., 1860 . | — | 24,000 P. | — | 120,000 P. | 15,000 P. | 18,000 P. |
| 17th Sept., 1860 . | — | 138,000 P. | — | 82,000 P. | — | 12,000 P. |
| 15th Dec., 1860 . | — | — | 15,000 P. | — | — | — |
| 15th April, 1861 . | 120,000 P. | 240,000 P. | — | — | — | — |
| 12th June, 1861 . | 120,000 P. | 240,000 P. | 15,000 P. | 120,000 P. | 30,000 P. | 30,000 P. |
| | 144,000 I. 296,000 P. | 28,800 I. 661,200 P. | 30,000 P. — | 48,000 I. 322,000 P. | 45,000 P. — | 60,000 P. — |
| Totals . . . | 440,000 | 690,000 | 30,000 | 370,000 | 45,000 | 60,000 |

With reference to the various consignments :—

20th June and 17th July, 1860.

These were all printed on the large star paper, the 1d. and 2d. perforated coming from the Perkins, Bacon machine when it was giving clean-cut holes gauging 14 to 16½. The colours were :—

| | |
|--------------------------------------|--------------------|
| 1d. Carmine-rose (imperf. and perf.) | } Wmk. large star. |
| 2d. Blue (imperf. and perf.) | |
| 6d. Green (imperf.) | |

A horizontal strip of three 2d. is known, imperforate vertically,* but this variety may have been sent out in a later consignment on the large star paper.

16th August, 1860.

The whole of this consignment would get the clean-cut perforation, the 1s. and Registered being undoubtedly on the small star paper. The 120,000 6d. were certainly on the large star paper, as it is a common stamp in that condition, and the same remark applies to the 2d. The colours were :—

| | | |
|--------------------------|---|------------------|
| 2d. Blue (shades) | } | Wmk. large star. |
| 6d. Green (shades) | | |
| 1s. Violet-slate | } | Wmk. small star. |
| Registered, Olive-yellow | | |

A horizontal pair of the Registered is known, imperforate vertically,† but this variety may have been included in the next consignment.

17th September, 1860.

The Registered would be on the small star paper and judging by the relative scarcity of the varieties, the 82,000 6d. were also on that paper. As regards the 2d., it is comparatively common on the large star paper as compared with the small star paper, and it is estimated that 100,000 were in the former and the balance of 38,000 on the latter paper.‡

All these stamps received the clean-cut perforation gauging 14 to 16½, but by this time the Perkins Bacon Machine was showing signs of deterioration, and specimens of the 2d. and 6d. are known in a condition approaching the intermediate stage between clean cut and rough. The colours were :—

| | | |
|--------------------------|---|------------------|
| 2d. Blue (shades), | } | Wmk. large star. |
| 2d. Blue | | |
| 6d. Green (shades) | } | Wmk. small star. |
| Registered, Olive-yellow | | |

A horizontal strip of three 2d. on small star paper, imperforate vertically, was reported in the *London Philatelist*, Vol. XXV., page 123.

15th December, 1860.

By the time this supply was perforated, the machine was no longer giving clean-cut holes, the perforation being that known as intermediate between clean-cut and rough.

There was only one denomination :—

3d. Brown, Wmk. small star.

This supply completed the original order, as amended by the inclusion of the 3d., which had been overlooked when the initial instructions were given.

15th April, 1861.

Messrs. Perkins, Bacon & Co.'s perforating machine being fully occupied, all the stamps in this supply were perforated at Somerset House by one of the Napier comb machines, giving a clean-cut perforation, gauging a regular 14, the holes being larger

* Collection of Mr. J. H. Chapman.

† Tapling collection.

‡ It will be observed that the final batch of the 2d. on large star paper is a consignment later than the similar lot of 6d., which is all in keeping with the original instructions that stamps should be supplied in the order 1d.—6d.—2d., etc. The 38,000 2d. and 82,000 6d., as estimated on the small star paper, totalling 120,000 stamps, required one ream (500 sheets) of paper.

than in the Perkins, Bacon perforation. As the spacing of the impressions on the sheet did not fit the comb machine, well centred copies are very scarce. The colours were :—

1d. Carmine-rose }
2d. Blue } Wmk. small star.

12th June, 1861.

The stamps in this consignment were all perforated by the Perkins, Bacon machine, when it was giving the rough perforation. These were :—

1d. Carmine-rose }
2d. Deep blue, blue. }
3d. Deep brown, brown. } Wmk. small star.
6d. Deep green, green. }
1s. Violet-slate. }
Registered, Orange-yellow }

A horizontal pair of the 2d. blue is known imperforate between, while a horizontal pair of the 3d. brown * is known imperforate vertically. Copies of the 1d. carmine-rose have been seen with a perforation approaching the intermediate between clean-cut and rough,† and a single example is known with large margins and apparently imperforate.

A copy of the 3d. has been seen with double perforation at the bottom of the stamp.‡

This was the last consignment of stamps sent out to Queensland by Messrs. Perkins, Bacon & Co.

The following is a summary of the above, giving the numbers printed on the large and small star watermarked papers and distinguishing the various perforations :—

| Value. | Wmk. large star. | | Wmk small star. | | | |
|--------|------------------|----------------------|----------------------|-------------------------|----------------|------------------|
| | Imperforate. | Clean-cut 14-16½. | Clean-cut 14-16½. | Intermediate 14-16½. | Regular 14. | Rough 14-16½. |
| 1d. | 144,000 | 56,000 | — | — | 120,000 | 120,000 |
| 2d. | 28,800 | 143,200 ? | 38,000 ? | — | 240,000 | 240,000 |
| 3d. | — | — | — | 15,000 | — | 15,000 |
| 6d. | 48,000 | 120,000 ? | 82,000 ? | — | — | 120,000 |
| 1s. | — | — | 15,000 | — | — | 30,000 |
| Reg'd. | — | — | 30,000 | — | — | 30,000 |

Unfortunately, the record of star watermarked paper used by Messrs. Perkins, Bacon & Co. only goes back to 1867, and thus it is not definitely known how many sheets of the large star paper were actually allocated for Queensland stamps. The above estimate allows for 4½ reams (2250 sheets) of the paper being so employed. If the assumption had been based on the use of four or five reams of large star paper, it

* Taping collection.

† This variety was probably caused by the use of greased paper to clear the holes in the perforating machine, as referred to on p. 28 of the *Grenada* handbook by E. D. Bacon and F. H. Napier.

‡ As little interest attaches to varieties with double perforation, only brief mention will be made when they occur. It is not claimed that this will constitute a complete record. These varieties are not included in the Reference List.

would not have been possible to reconcile the figures with the rarity of the 2d. and 6d. on small star paper with clean-cut perforations, as compared to the same values, perforated, on the large star paper.

It is, however, quite certain that the plate for the 1d. was completed first, and that the whole of the original order was printed on the large star paper. It is also reasonable to believe that, on the completion of the plates for the 6d. and 2d., the first printings would use up the balance of the specially appropriated large star paper, and that after a first supply was sent out to the Colony, the remainder would be forwarded by the monthly overland mail, as the perforation was completed.

The colours of these English-printed stamps are very rich, and the 1d. and 2d. values are peculiarly subject to chemical discoloration.

Dextrine was used for the London printings by Messrs. Perkins, Bacon & Co., but owing to age, and possibly also to the effect of climatic influence, the gum usually has a brownish tinge.

With regard to the dates of issue of the respective values, the 1st of November, 1860, may be positively assigned for the 1d., 2d., and 6d. imperforate, and the 1d. and 2d. with clean-cut perforation, all printed on the large star paper. The 6d. on large star paper, with the 1s. and Registered stamps on small star paper, all with clean-cut perforation, leaving England by the mail of 26th August, would in the ordinary course reach Brisbane about the second week in November. There has been no opportunity of ascertaining the exact date of their arrival, but the consignment forwarded on the 26th September was acknowledged on the 18th December, 1860; consequently to assign 15th November as the date of issue of the 1s. and perforated 6d. cannot be far wrong. As regards the Registered stamp, the instructions to the postmasters permitting the use of the New South Wales Registration stamp do not appear to have been withdrawn, and there is no entry of any notification to postmasters as to the arrival of the definitive Queensland stamp. It seems probable that the comparatively small supply of the New South Wales stamp was allowed to be used until exhausted, as it has been seen used in conjunction with an imperforate 6d. Queensland, posted in Brisbane on the 14th December, 1860, and the earliest date found amongst a considerable number of used copies of the definitive stamp was 4th February, 1861. January, 1861, may therefore be assigned as the date of issue of the Registered stamp. The 3d., which appears to have been despatched from London about the 15th December, 1860, would reach Brisbane and be issued about the 1st March following.*

The imperforate 1d. and 2d. stamps were issued contemporaneously with the perforated ones. Copies have been found of the 1d. in the former condition used as late as September and October, 1862, and of the 2d. used in December, 1861.

The plates of the Queensland stamps seem to be remarkably free from re-entries, but varieties may be found showing the outer frame line redrawn or re-cut, this work having been done when touching up the plate after the impression had been rolled in, and before the plate was hardened.

The cause of this retouching was in the original die (1d.), in which the outer frame was not cut deep enough, and this characteristic would be more or less reproduced in the secondary dies and plates for the other values. Insufficient rolling in of the impressions would also contribute to the weakness of the outer frame lines and consequent retouching.

* In a reference list published in the *Monthly Report of the Herts Philatelic Society*, Vol. II., p. 81, the date of issue is given as 9th March, 1861, but there is no explanation as to how this date is arrived at.

In the 1d. the frame lines were strengthened and recut in a few cases.

The next plate to be manufactured was the 6d. In this value copies may be found showing retouching of the outer frame lines.

The 2d. plate followed, and in this value the outer frame is thicker and many recuts may be found. In addition to these there are at least five or six cases in which a frame line is prolonged at one of the corners. Typical examples are illustrated on Plate XV., (j) and (k).

The plates of the 1s. and the Registered show a few examples of touching up. A copy of the latter is known in which the lower end of the left frame is prolonged where it meets the curved frame.

The last plate to be completed was the 3d. In this value there was much retouching, but not so much as in the 2d. It is interesting to note that the plate proof in blue has thin outer frame lines, and was evidently from the plate in its untouched state before hardening. A block of thirteen * of the proof is illustrated on Plate XV.A (l).

There is, however, a most important retouched variety in the plate of the 3d., discovered by Mr. A. J. Séfi, and first announced in the *Philatelic Journal of Great Britain*, Vol. XXXVI., page 66. In the angle under the EN of PENCE the background has been entirely redrawn with irregular dots, quite unlike the regular pattern, the bottom frame lines under this place and slightly to right of it having been redrawn much closer to each other than in the normal stamp. The illustrations, Plate XVII., (a) and (b), clearly show the retouching.

The retouch was originally found on the 1861 3d. brown, watermarked small star, with rough perforation, and is also recorded on the 3d. greenish brown, wmk. truncated star, Colonial printing, issued in 1871.

In Chapter V. it will be described how a lithographic transfer was taken from the plate of the 3d. to provide the new 4d. value issued in 1866. The retouched variety has also been found on this 4d. lilac, as recorded in Vol. XXXVI., page 179, of the journal mentioned above.

As stated in Chapter V., the 4d. stamp with the retouch occurs in the second row of the sheet, and has at least two stamps to right and left of it. A vertical pair * of the 3d. on small star paper, with the rough perforation, illustrated on Plate XV.A (n), shows the retouch in the lower stamp, the upper stamp of the pair having, in addition to the small star watermark, two parallel lines, this being a part of the marginal watermark. This proves the position of the retouch in the second row of impressions on the plate. As regards the marginal watermark (Illustration II.) the four stars in the middle of the upper row have a single outline and the word "POSTAGE" in double-lined capitals above it. The rest of the stars have five parallel lines above them, and it is evident that the vertical pair must have come from one of these positions. With the limitation of at least two stamps to right and left, it is clear that the retouch must be either the 3rd, 4th, 9th or 10th stamp in the second row.

The collection of His Majesty the King contains an example of this retouch on the first London printing of the 3d., the issue on small star paper with perforation intermediate between clean-cut and rough. Since this printing only comprised 62½ sheets, it is clear that this retouch was in the original Perkins, Bacon printing plate.

As mentioned, the plate proof in blue of the 3d. was taken before the frame lines had been touched up, and thus there is the interesting possibility of the damaged

* Collection of Mr. R. B. Yardley.

impression before it was retouched being shown on the proof sheet. On the other hand, the damage to the plate may have been sustained while the retouching of the frame lines was in progress.

When a plate sustained damage, the general practice of Messrs. Perkins, Bacon & Co. was to burnish off the damaged impression, and re-enter a new impression from the roller. This is one of the two * known examples in which the firm preferred to retouch a plate instead of rolling in a new impression, which adds considerably to the importance of this most interesting variety.

In connection with the proofs of the Queensland plates before hardening, it may be remarked that it is the usual practice of engravers to strike off proofs of a new plate in order to assist them in detecting any defects and weak points in it. In the case of steel line-engraved plates, as supplied by Messrs Perkins, Bacon & Co., this means that as soon as all the 240 impressions had been rolled in, the plate still being in the soft condition, a few proofs were struck off and with their aid the surface of the plate was closely examined, and anything superfluous burnished out and any weak line strengthened. On the completion of this touching up another proof might be struck to see if the engraving was quite satisfactory, and then the plate was hardened.

It is of interest to note the possibility that proof sheets struck off before hardening may therefore exist which are not exactly identical. In the case of the Queensland plates, proofs before hardening have been found, so far, of the 3d., and the Second Plate of the 2d., a block of ten † of the latter bearing a date in pencil, "21/8/72." These were, in fact, the last plates made by Messrs. Perkins, Bacon & Co. for the Colony (Illustrations XV.A (l) and (m).)

A number of minor flaws may be found in the 1d. and 2d. These are generally in the latter Colonial printings, when the plates had become worn. Such varieties are not of special interest.

Stamps with abnormal perforations have already been referred to, but no mention was made of the 1s. slate-violet which at one time was considered to exist imperforate. From the details of the Perkins, Bacon consignments it is at once apparent that this value was never sent out intentionally imperforate to Queensland. If one or more sheets had been sent accidentally in that condition, we might expect that a pair would be forthcoming, but alleged single copies only have been seen. Mr. Basset Hull states in *Vindin's Philatelic Monthly*, Vol. VI., page 8, that he has never seen a satisfactory copy, the specimens being either closely clipped or showing signs of the rough perforation.

In the *London Philatelist*, Vol. IV., page 36, reference is made to a used copy of the 1s. imperforate, which brought £25 at Messrs. Ventom, Bull, & Cooper's auction sale of 31st January, 1895. Mr. Castle writes that "the margins of the stamp were certainly wider than any I have ever seen, and I fail to see how it ever could have been perforated." An illustration of the copy in question shows that the cancellation was apparently genuine, but that, from the standpoint of modern specialism, the lower margin, and perhaps the upper margin also, were too close to warrant a definite opinion.

The origin of this copy is not known, and in view of all the circumstances, philatelists are agreed in excluding the 1s. slate-violet imperforate from their lists.

Certain of the Perkins, Bacon printings are known with an obliteration consisting of the word CANCELLED in block capitals enclosed in an oval of thick bars as found in

* The other example was in the second 10-centavos plate of Chili, in which one impression was retouched. In the case of the 2d. plates of New South Wales and New Zealand the retouching was done in the colonies.

† Collection of Mr. R. B. Yardley.

the British Colonial obliterations. This obliteration, which is similar to the one supplied by Messrs. Perkins, Bacon & Co. and brought into use in Chile about 1861, is also found on other British Colonial stamps printed by that firm.

The Queensland stamps known with this obliteration are the 1s. violet-slate and the olive-yellow Registered stamp with clean-cut perforation; the 6d. green with the rough perforation 14-16½; also the 1d. carmine-rose and the 2d. blue, perforated 14 at Somerset House; all of which were printed on the small star paper. Possibly the 3d. may also exist, but no example has as yet been found.

The circumstances attending the use of this obliteration were first made known by Mr. E. D. Bacon, C.V.O., in a five minute paper, read at a meeting of the Royal Philatelic Society and published in the *London Philatelist*, Vol. XXXVIII., page 101.

It appears that in 1861 Messrs. Perkins, Bacon & Co., in answer to requests, supplied six copies of each stamp printed by the firm, other than British, to highly placed officials in the General Post Office, London. These stamps received the "CANCELLED" obliteration, and as only six copies of each variety were in existence they are of very considerable rarity.

The obliteration, which is a clear impression in deep black ink, is illustrated on Plate XV.A (o) and (p).

Between the years 1887 and 1894, various British Colonial remainders came on the market in mint condition. In an article in *Stanley Gibbons' Monthly Journal*, Vol. X., page 156, Mr. C. J. Phillips gives an account of these Colonial remainders, the Queensland stamps being included in the section, in which from 200 to 1000 copies of each variety were involved. These comprised the 1d., 3d., and the Registered stamp on small star paper with the rough perforation 14-16½. This explains the comparative abundance of mint copies of these varieties relatively to the other London printings.

Further *Gazette* notices for the period covered by this chapter were the following:—

"Letters for China, Japan, Philippine Islands, etc. :—

" INCREASED RATE OF POSTAGE.

" GENERAL POST OFFICE,

" BRISBANE, 1st October, 1861.

" The Postmaster-General directs it to be notified for public information that the Imperial Government have, upon the urgent request of a deputation comprising many persons of influence connected with the Australian Colonies, determined to re-establish the second monthly mail steamer between Point de Galle and China.

" It will therefore be necessary that all letters intended for transmission to Penang, Singapore, Hong Kong, including letters for China, Java, the Philippine Islands, Labuan, Borneo, Siam, Sumatra, or the Moluccas, shall, from and after the due publication of this notice, bear a rate of *one shilling* per half ounce, instead of sixpence per half ounce as heretofore.

" R. R. MACKENZIE."

" Registered letters addressed to the United States for transmission through the United Kingdom. :—

" GENERAL POST OFFICE,

" BRISBANE, 13th Sept., 1861.

" It is hereby notified that in order to ensure the forwarding of Registered Letters, addressed to the United States, for transmission by way of the United Kingdom, the

following rates of postage must be prepaid, in addition to the Registration fee of One shilling, viz. :

“ Upon letters not exceeding half an ounce, 1s. 5d. ; exceeding half an ounce, but not exceeding one ounce, 2s. 10d. ; and so on, increasing at the rate of 2s. 10d. for every additional ounce or fraction of an ounce. On ordinary letters the postage is the same as heretofore.

“ R. R. MACKENZIE,
“ *Postmaster-General.*”

Presumably the registration fee in the above cases would be denoted by two of the Registered stamps.

“ 1st *January*, 1862.

“ Appointment of Thomas Lodge Murray Prior, Esq., to be Postmaster-General of Queensland.”

“ 31st *May*, 1862.

“ Regulations for the issue and payment of Post Office Money Orders.”

“ 18th *July*, 1862.

“ Rates of Postage on Letters to France and Algeria and to Foreign countries via France published, ranging from 8d. to 1s. 7d. per $\frac{1}{2}$ oz.”

The following is a list of proofs taken from the dies and plates by Messrs. Perkins, Bacon & Co. In this connection a second plate of the 2d. was prepared and forwarded from London on the 26th August, 1872, and for convenience, the proofs from this plate are also included in the list. Further details regarding Plate II. of the 2d. will be found in Chapter VI.

PROOFS BY MESSRS. PERKINS, BACON & CO.

Die proofs in black on white card.

1d., 2d., 3d., 6d., 1s. and Registered.

Plate proofs in black on plain white wove paper.

2d. (Plate II.), 1s. and Registered.

The 2d. proofs were taken both before and after the plate was hardened.

Plate proof in blue on plain white wove paper.

3d.

Taken before the plate was hardened—thin frame lines.

In addition to the above, various die proofs of a posthumous nature are known. The exact status of these impressions was first made known to collectors by the investigations of Mr. P. Bond, which were published with the authority of Mr. J. Dunbar Heath, the Managing Director of Messrs. Perkins, Bacon & Co., in the *London Philatelist*, Vol. XXXVIII., pages 41 and 64, and the *Philatelic Journal of Great Britain*, Vol. XXXIX., pages 39 and 50. The following account is substantially the same as that given by Mr. Bond, as far as it relates to the Queensland die proofs.

Briefly, these die proofs were taken under circumstances which can be grouped under two general headings.

(A) *Printings in 1902.* These consisted of specimens, submitted privately by Messrs. Perkins, Bacon & Co. Ltd., from which were to be selected reprints of defaced dies for use on a philatelic society's invitation cards and dinner menus.

Taken from an intermediate stage of the die for the Registered stamp, in which the square corners are intact, but showing the curved lines inside. (Illustration XV. (i).)

- (a) On the small star paper.
Dull violet, blue, red-brown, brown, yellow-green, deep green, black, yellow, red-violet, orange-brown.
Note.—It has been stated that three of each of the above were printed. Copies in yellow-green and red-brown are known perforated 13½, 14.
- (b) On the broad star paper as supplied to South Australia in 1876.
Carmine, ochre-yellow.
Note.—Copies in pale sage-green and ochre-yellow are known perforated 13½, 14.
- (c) On thin hard white paper.
Black.
- (d) On thick white paper.
Scarlet.
- (e) On thick white card.
Black, grey, puce, myrtle, orange, orange-vermilion.

General Note.—It is thought that few of the actual impressions used on the invitation cards and dinner menus have survived, but they can be distinguished by being on a thin white card of good quality. The vignette proofs in this section which were attributed to Queensland are, however, from the Tasmania die, as mentioned in Mr. R. B. Yardley's notes which conclude this Chapter. (Illustration XVI. (i).)

- (B) *Printing in 1919.* Die proofs furnished by Messrs. Perkins, Bacon & Co., to a dealer in order to assist in the detection of forgeries.

The Registered stamp as above, with square corners and showing the curved lines inside. On plain white paper.

Black, carmine, vermilion, orange, deep blue, yellow-green, deep green, violet.

Note.—It has been stated that two of each of the above were printed.

From the above it will be seen that these posthumous die proofs are quite unofficial, but have a certain amount of interest as they are proofs from the incomplete dies.

It may be mentioned that, in addition to the above, proofs in modern colours of the complete undefaced dies of Messrs. Perkins, Bacon & Co. have been known for over twenty years. No impressions of the complete Queensland dies figure among this last mentioned group.

ADDENDUM.

Since this was written, copies of the 6d., watermark Large Star, imperforate, and on the Crown Q (1st type) paper, perf. 13, have been found with a vertical line, 4 mm. long, in the lower part of the left arabesque. The lines are in a slightly different position in the two copies, and may represent guide-lines. (Collection of Mr. T. W. Hall.)

CHAPTER II.—*continued.*

THE PORTRAIT OF QUEEN VICTORIA ON THE PLATES OF QUEENSLAND AND
OTHER COUNTRIES ENGRAVED BY MESSRS. PERKINS, BACON & COMPANY.

NOTES BY R. B. YARDLEY.

For Messrs. Perkins, Bacon & Co.'s plates of Queensland, and certain other Colonies, enumerated below, the effigy was undoubtedly taken from the portrait of her late Majesty in State Robes, painted by A. E. Chalon, R.A., about 1838. (See Frontispiece.)

A similar design of the effigy was adopted for the engraved plates of the higher values of Queensland, supplied by Messrs. Bradbury, Wilkinson & Co., and for some values of the Canada postage stamps, including the one-half cent, black, of the Jubilee issue, 1897, the cents series of New Brunswick, and the 4½d. stamp of Prince Edward Island, 1870. If, however, these stamps are examined with the aid of a magnifying glass, it will be readily seen that the drawing of the portraits differs considerably in style and detail from that of the engraving of Messrs. Perkins, Bacon & Co.

Returning to the productions of that firm, we find that on the stamps of Tasmania, Natal, Bahamas, Queensland and Grenada, the portraits are on the same scale and, at first glance, apparently similar in detail. These stamps constitute the group with which we are principally concerned in this Note.

Messrs. Perkins, Bacon & Co. also employed the same design, but on a much smaller scale, for their plates of New Zealand, all values, and the plate of the 1d. of Nova Scotia, in the former case taking in part of the robes, which are entirely missing in the stamps of Tasmania, Natal, Bahamas, Queensland and Grenada.

We have remarked that in the stamps of Tasmania, and other stamps of the group with which we are mainly concerned, the details of the portrait are apparently similar, and it may have been assumed by many that, in fact, they were identical, and produced by merely transferring, by pressure, the central medallions of the earliest production of this portrait, that is of the stamps of Tasmania. Mr. L. E. Bradbury was the first in any printed article known to us to dispute this conclusion. We refer to his paper, "Charles Henry Jeens, Engraver—His Life and Work," published in the *London Philatelist* of July, 1920,* in which he points out the existence of differences in proofs of the vignette heads of Natal, Bahamas, Grenada and Queensland.

In fact, there has been some conflict of opinion as to the origin of the several dies in question, and as to the identity of the respective engravers. Mr. Bradbury in his paper quotes from *The Athenæum* of 1st November, 1879, a report that Jeens engraved the plates for the postage stamps of Bahamas, South Australia, Queensland, St. Vincent and Antigua. On the other hand, in *Oceania*, it is stated that William Humphrys engraved the Perkins, Bacon dies of Queensland. Certainly Humphrys was employed by Messrs. Perkins, Bacon & Co. in the 'fifties of the last century to engrave many of their dies. He it was who re-engraved Heath's original die of the 1d. Great Britain,

* Vol. XXIX., p. 156. See also Vol. XXX. at p. 42.

to produce what is known as Die II., and he also engraved the dies for the early postage stamps of New South Wales (diadem) * and probably of South Australia,† New Zealand and Tasmania.‡

The late Mr. C. S. F. Crofton,§ in his paper "Queen's Heads, The Perkins, Bacon Dies," || frequently refers to Humphrys as working for Messrs. Perkins, Bacon & Co., and then states that "at the end of 1860 Messrs. Perkins, Bacon & Co. employed a new engraver named Jeens." In the note of the charges of Mr. Jeens against Messrs. Perkins, Bacon & Co., set out on page 80, the items dated the 21st April and 15th May, 1860, show that the words "the end of 1860" can scarcely be accurate, and that he was employed directly by the firm earlier than Mr. Crofton believed. Mr. Bradbury, in his paper already quoted, mentions that among the effects of Mr. Jeens at his death were found proofs of complete and incomplete dies of stamps usually attributed to Humphrys, and concludes that Jeens may at times have assisted him. Further, in commenting on the slight differences in the details of the vignette heads of the Natal, Queensland and other Colonial stamps, Mr. Bradbury accepted the statement in *Oceania* that Humphrys engraved the Queensland die, and concluded that Jeens was the creator of that of Natal.

It may be that we shall not obtain more precise information as to the identity of the respective engravers of the Perkins, Bacon dies, but it seems certain that W. Humphrys acted generally for the firm until about 1860, and that he was succeeded by Jeens. From the short biographical note in Mr. Melville's *Postage Stamps in the Making*,¶ it would seem that, in failing health, Humphrys went to Genoa some time before his death, which occurred there at the house of a friend in the year 1865.

The note of the charges presented by Jeens, cited by Mr. Basset Hull, clearly proves that Jeens was engaged in completing the Queensland die, but the wording demands consideration. It will be noticed that only in the third item, "Touching Postage Die Queensland," is the particular Colony mentioned; there is nothing to suggest that the other items related to Queensland. That of the 15th May, "Engraving Queen's Head Postage," it will be observed, is of the same date as the "Touching Postage Die Queensland," and the earlier item of April, "Drawing Queen's Head Postage," is silent as to the Colony. Further, we question whether there was any necessity for a drawing, since Messrs. Perkins, Bacon already possessed proofs of the Tasmania stamps from which the Queensland effigy was avowedly copied. We submit, therefore, that the third item alone related to the Queensland stamps, and that the only operation with which Jeens was entrusted was touching and completing a die, which the permanent staff of Messrs. Perkins, Bacon & Co. had begun. From what we have read of the procedure of that firm, and others, in producing line-engraved dies, of which the Queensland one is a typical example, it would seem that all the manufacturers had to do was to transfer by pressure the design of one of the Tasmania stamp dies to a roller, and therefrom remove everything except the oval medallion, and then, by pressure, re-transfer that oval medallion to a small plate of softened steel, on which had

* See a letter dated 9th March, 1853, from Messrs. Perkins, Bacon & Co. to Mr. Humphrys, instructing him to complete dies for New South Wales. It is set out in the *New South Wales* volume at p. 560.

† The statement in *The Athenæum* that Jeens engraved the dies of South Australia doubtless referred to those of the 9d., 4d., and 2s. denominations only.

‡ In *Oceania* it is stated that Humphrey (*sic*) engraved the dies of the 6d. and 1s. Tasmania.

§ See *The London Philatelist*, Vol. XVIII., p. 126.

|| *The Philatelic Journal of India*, Vol. XII., p. 139, reprinted in the *Stamp Collectors' Fortnightly*, Vol. XIV., p. 72.

¶ London, Stanley Gibbons, Ltd., 1916.

already been engraved the large oval band, the outer frame lines and the diaper pattern of the spandrels, which, we may remark, is of the same stock pattern as appears in the spandrels of the 1d., 2d., 6d., and 1s. South Australia. The firm undoubtedly possessed the lathes and engine-turning apparatus and patterns requisite for these operations, but no doubt the resulting engraving required expert touching up. Thus the Arabesque ornaments may have been added by Jeens. Moreover, we submit that examination of the impressions of the completed die and ultimate plates reveals clear evidence of the head being touched up, as we proceed to indicate.

In his paper Mr. Bradbury mentioned among minor differences in the several dies of Tasmania, Natal, Bahamas, Queensland and Grenada, the drawing of the ear-rings. With this we are entirely in accord, but the distinctive feature of the Queensland design which strikes us most forcibly is the treatment of the Cross Patée* of the diadem on the left side of the stamp. This is drawn in perspective and, if examined with a magnifying glass, it will be seen that in none of the stamps of the group is it accurately drawn as a Cross Patée. Such a Cross, as is well known, is a parallelogram with four notches extending inwards from each of the four corners towards the centre. In all the stamps of this group, the so-called Cross Patée is merely a square or parallelogram in perspective, bearing sundry meaningless lines of shading which do not accurately depict the necessary notches. There are, it is true, in all but the Queensland stamps some two or more short radiating lines, drawn from the near centre towards but not reaching the corners. In the Tasmanian stamps there are three such dashes, all joined at the centre, and a fourth which runs from the centre towards the upper left corner, but becomes a hook; the two lower dashes suddenly thicken and nearly meet. In the Natal stamps there are three short radiating lines towards the N.E., the N.W. and the S.W., while the south-east part of the parallelogram is occupied by a line resembling the letter "J." In the Bahamas the shading is almost identical with that of the Tasmania, and this applies also to the Grenada of 1861 and 1875, but some of the strokes are stronger than in the Tasmania stamps. See illustrations, Plate XVI. (c) to (g), which are taken from enlarged photographs of the respective stamps or proofs, as indicated.

In the die, and in all the stamps printed from Messrs. Perkins, Bacon & Co.'s Queensland plates, subject to what is said later as regards the second plate of the 2d., although there is no attempt to convert the square into a true Cross Patée, the treatment stands out as quite different from anything that appears on the other stamps of this group, namely, a clearly and strongly defined St. Andrew's cross has been drawn; in short, there are two strong lines, crossing one another in the centre and extending towards but not reaching the corners.

This addition seems to us a clear instance of retouching an existing engraving. It is conspicuous in all the stamps which we have examined, with this exception, that in some specimens † of the 2d. Plate II. the arms of the St. Andrew's Cross do not actually meet, but this may be due to wear of the plate. We have not noticed this peculiarity in any of the proofs of the 2d. Plate II., and there are no lines which do not occur on the impressions of the other Queensland plates.

We have already remarked that Mr. Bradbury was struck with the differences in

* In these notes we refer to this ornament as a Cross Patée, but it may be that it was intended to be a Maltese Cross, which differs from the Cross Patée in that in the latter the ends of the four limbs are straight lines, while in the Maltese Cross they are indented.

† This peculiarity shows on one of a pair of these stamps, while the adjoining has the St. Andrew's Cross normal.

the ear-rings in the stamps of this group, and we agree that in the stamps of Queensland the drawing of the ear-ring on the left side of the stamp is different from that of the other Colonies; the limbs of the upper part of the ornament project downwards, and are merely rounded at the extremities, while in the other stamps the end of the right limb is curved upwards and terminates in a point. As compared with the stamps of the other Colonies of the group, there are other slight peculiarities, e.g. in the parting of the hair. In conclusion we submit that these points of detail prove that Jeens actually did what he charged for in the third item of his account, namely, touching up a die that was entrusted to him in a nearly complete state. It should be noticed that although the Grenada dies of the 1d. and 6d. of 1861, and of the later die of 1875, head in a circle, used for the fiscal stamps and the 1s., the 2½d., the 4d. and the ½d. postage, were the latest to be made, the vignette of the Queensland stamps was not adopted for them; on the contrary, they followed that of the Tasmania die.

The portrait of the Perkins, Bacon Queensland postage stamp dies and plates was evidently used for the lithographed fiscal (Stamp Duty) labels of 1866 and 1872, other than the small 1d. stamp in mauve, presumably by transferring to the stone an impression in lithographic ink from one of the steel plates of the postage stamps. If any clearly printed specimen of the above-mentioned fiscal stamps is examined, all the distinctive features of Jeens's touching up will be recognised.

We may mention that recently certain vignette impressions in black and modern colours, a small oval, 11 mm. × 16½ mm., with the Chalon effigy, have been offered for sale by auction under the description of "Proofs of Queensland." These in fact are not the touched up type of that Colony, above described, but rather of the Tasmania type. They may be impressions from a transfer that was used in the production of dies for any one of the stamps of the group later than Tasmania.* (Illustration XVI. (i).)

Mr. J. H. Chapman possesses a proof in black on a large piece of white card (8¾ ins. × 5¾ ins.), not showing any indentation of the edges of the plate, of an oval medallion with a head of Her Majesty generally similar to those on the group of Perkins, Bacon stamps above described, but differing materially in many details from any of the sub-varieties of that group. The ear-rings on each side are quite different from those of the group, as are all the ornaments of the diadem, and the stones of the necklace are larger, and the ear is shown in more detail. The oval measures nearly 14 mm. × 17 mm. and the background is composed of horizontal and vertical straight lines, in this respect agreeing with the Perkins, Bacon vignettes, but differing from those of Bradbury, Wilkinson's, in which the background is made of horizontal lines only. So far we have failed to associate this impression with any postage or fiscal stamp known to us. (Illustration XVI. (j).)

It may be of interest to note that in the account of his charges, quoted by Mr. Basset Hull, we have conclusive evidence that Jeens undertook the drawing of the preliminary sketches as well as the engraving of dies. Before his engagement by Messrs. Perkins, Bacon & Co., some of the preliminary sketches for the dies manufactured by that firm were drawn by Henry Corbould, and later, by his son, E. H. Corbould. Thus, the firm informed the Publication Committee of the Philatelic Society, London, that E. H. Corbould made the sketch of the head on their plates for the postage stamps of

* The specimens of these impressions in the collection of Mr. J. H. Chapman show that they were struck from small plates measuring 2⁹/₁₆ inches wide. They are on paper watermarked "SPECIAL POSTAGE PAPER, LONDON," mentioned by Mr. P. Bond. (See p. 88, and the General Note on p. 89.)

Tasmania.* See also a note by Mr. B. T. K. Smith in the *Philatelic Record*, Vol. XXVII., page 157, and the *New South Wales* volume at page 162, as to the New South Wales 5s., and also pages 560-61 as to the stamps of the diadem series, with which Mr. Corbould was not concerned. A sketch in Indian ink of the Queen's head in our collection, as it appears on the 9d. stamp of South Australia and the stamps of St. Lucia of 1860 is, therefore, presumably the work of Jeens.

In concluding it may be not inopportune to describe shortly the peculiarities of the Bradbury, Wilkinson engraving of the Chalon portrait on their series of high value line-engraved stamps of Queensland.

In illustration XVI. (*h*) an enlargement is given of the part of the Bradbury, Wilkinson vignette corresponding with that of the series of Perkins, Bacon vignettes, already described, and on comparing them it will be seen first, as already mentioned, that while in the Perkins, Bacon series the Background consists of crossed vertical and horizontal lines, in the Bradbury, Wilkinson stamps it is composed exclusively of horizontal lines; secondly, that in the latter the ear-ring consists of two distinct little cylinders hanging vertically, a treatment that does not occur in any of the Perkins, Bacon stamps; thirdly, that in the Bradbury, Wilkinson stamps the Cross Patée on the extreme left of the diadem, although showing traces of a St. Andrew's Cross, is heavily shaded by parallel oblique lines, which are not represented in any of the Perkins, Bacon series. There are other differences, e.g. in the other Crosses Patées, the parting of the hair and the necklace, but the three points mentioned show that even if the artist employed by Messrs. Bradbury, Wilkinson & Co. copied, by hand, from the then existing Queensland stamps of the Perkins, Bacon type, there was no mechanical transfer from one die to another.

* *The Stamps of Tasmania*, A. F. Basset Hull, London, 1890, at p. 36, footnote.

CHAPTER III.

THE UNWATERMARKED SERIES OF 1862-63: THE BEGINNING OF THE "CONTRACT PERIOD."

PRIOR to September, 1861, all printing required by the Government for Gazettes, Parliamentary papers, etc., was performed by Messrs. Pugh & Co., under contract to the Government.

In September, 1861, a Government printing office was established, and Mr. W. C. Belbridge was appointed Government printer. The staff was a very small one, consisting of two clerks, two compositors, and three or four other hands.

The new branch was to be charged with the duty of printing the postage stamps, and instructions were given to the Colonial agents to forward the dies and plates in their possession by the following letter:—

" QUEENSLAND,
" TREASURY, BRISBANE,
" 26th Sept., 1861.

" GENTLEMEN,—The Government of Queensland having determined upon establishing a printing office, and decided that the postage stamps shall be printed in the Colony under the supervision of the Government Printer, I have the honour to request that you will have the goodness to forward by the first opportunity the dies and plates now in your hands, also a supply of the necessary paper for printing the stamps upon.

" It is considered that about twenty reams of paper will be sufficient for the present, and which quantity I beg you will forward, addressed to the Postmaster-General.

" I have, etc.

" R. R. MACKENZIE,

" Colonial Treasurer, Acting Postmaster-General.

" Messrs. F. Mangles & Co.,
" Agents for the Colony of Queensland,
" Gresham House,
" Old Broad Street, London."

Messrs. Mangles & Co. wrote to Messrs. Perkins, Bacon & Co., on the 20th December, 1861, requesting them to pack and deliver the dies and plates, together with twenty reams of the necessary paper for printing stamps. On the 21st January, 1862, the engravers informed the Agents that the plates and paper were ready for packing, and could be forwarded at any time on two days' notice being given. On the 30th idem, they gave particulars of the weight of " Six steel postage plates, and twenty reams of paper," but no mention of dies was made.*

* In their invoices, given in Chapter II., Messrs. Perkins, Bacon & Co. made a uniform charge of 100 guineas for engraving a "folio steel plate" for each denomination supplied. Although reference is made to an original steel die for the 1d., there is no mention of the secondary dies for the other values, and as no extra charge was made, it seems that the dies, transfer roll, etc., were considered part of the Perkins, Bacon process, and that the dies were not necessarily the property of the Queensland Government.

On the 27th January, 1862, Messrs. Mangles & Co. wrote acknowledging the receipt of this request, and stated that the dies and plates would be shipped per s.s. *City of Brisbane* and, on the 20th of February following they advised the forwarding of the dies and plates by that steamer, and sent the bill of lading for the goods.

The package arrived early in June, but the large supply of English printed stamps on hand was sufficient for all requirements for some months, and it was not until October, 1862, that the necessity arose for a fresh supply to be printed.

The first communication with the Government printer on the subject was as follows :—

“ GENERAL POST OFFICE,
“ BRISBANE, 11th Oct., 1862.

“ SIR,—I beg to inform you that, from the rapidly increasing demand for postage stamps, the supply of the one penny and two penny ones on hand at present will barely suffice for two months longer. I have, therefore, to request that you will have the goodness to be in readiness to meet a requisition for a supply of the description above named.

“ I am, etc.,
“ THOS. L. MURRAY PRIOR,
“ *Postmaster-General.*

“ The Government Printer,
“ Brisbane.”

Mr. Belbridge now found himself faced with a difficulty ; he had the plates, but had neither press nor skilled workmen to perform the duty of printing from the steel plates. He was compelled, therefore, to place himself in communication with Messrs. Ham & Co.,* copper plate engravers and printers who carried on business in Brisbane, and arrangements were made with them to print by contract, at a fixed sum per thousand stamps.

The state of affairs in the Government Printing Office was certainly extraordinary. The Office was established in September, 1861, with the official intention of printing the postage stamps there, but no attempt seems to have been made to procure a suitable press, although, as will be seen later, a perforating machine had been obtained.

A further letter from the Postmaster-General hastened the preparation of the stamps :—

“ GENERAL POST OFFICE,
“ BRISBANE, 26th Nov., 1862.

“ SIR,—I beg to refer you to my letter of the 11th ultimo, and to advise you that a fresh supply of one penny and two penny stamps will be immediately required, which I request you will be prepared to meet.

“ I am, etc.,
“ THOS. L. MURRAY PRIOR,
“ *Postmaster-General.*

“ The Government Printer,
“ Brisbane.”

Margin : “ 72,000 One Penny, 150,000 (?) Two Penny.”

The number of the 2d. stamps required is illegible, but would, probably, be about the number estimated.

* The principal, Mr. Thomas Ham, was the contractor for, and engraver of the first Victorian stamps. He then resided in Melbourne, but removed to Brisbane prior to 1862.

Messrs. Ham & Co. appear to have been communicated with verbally, as no record of a written contract or any correspondence is to be found. They were provided with a room at the Government printing office, supplied with paper, gum, and mechanical assistance, and were paid 1s. 1d. per 1,000 for printing the stamps.

The Government printer's record of postage stamps printed contains the first entry under date, 28th November, 1862. 27,360 2d. stamps were printed between that date and the 2nd December following. From the 4th to the 12th December, 1862, 64,800 of the 1d. were printed, and this first supply of both values was issued to the Post Office on the 16th December, 1862.

Further printings of these values took place on the following dates: 2d., 136,080, from the 13th December, 1862, to 14th February, 1863; 240,000, from 18th March to 1st April, 1863; and 1d., 175,200 from 16th February to 5th March, 1863.

The stamps were printed direct from Perkins, Bacon & Co.'s steel plates, on ordinary printing paper, a soft yellowish white wove paper, generally thick, but occasionally varying to medium and without watermark of any kind. This paper was used for all printings during the period covered by this chapter.

On the 17th May, 1862, Messrs. Mangles & Co. were paid on account for "postage stamp paper," £21 2s. 1d. This must have been the 20 reams of paper ordered on the 26th September, 1861. The package of paper was delivered by Messrs. Perkins, Bacon & Co., with the plates, and presumably had arrived in Queensland at the same time.

It seems somewhat singular that the plain paper should have been used for these first locally-printed stamps when proper watermarked paper was available, this being the small star paper used for the later London printings, and specially designed for the Queensland stamps.

It is unlikely that the watermarked paper was overlooked; possibly the Government printer, and also the contractors, were desirous of getting the best results in their initial attempt, and so preferred to use a soft paper instead of the hard star watermarked paper.

The first supply of the 1d. was printed in a peculiar shade of Indian red, which was never approached in any of the subsequent printings. The execution was excellent, every line of the engraving being clearly brought out to the minutest detail, the fine crossed lines forming the background of the central vignette being especially clear.

The 2d. was printed in a similarly excellent manner, in a clear pale blue, which varies somewhat in shade. The soft texture of the paper, and its even surface, peculiarly adapted it to bring out the details of the engraving, which generally suffer from the harder surface of the watermarked papers.

These two stamps, the 1d. Indian red and the 2d. pale blue, by reason of their soft colours and fine impressions, compare favourably with the stamps of the Bahamas, printed by Messrs. De La Rue & Co. on unwatermarked paper from the Perkins, Bacon plates.

Subsequent printings of the 1d. were in quite a distinct colour, being in shades of vermilion, and the execution was not so brilliant. The second printing was in a bright shade, the paler shades coming later.

Later printings of the 2d. were in shades of blue, deeper and quite distinct from the pale blue of the first printing, the paper being sometimes blued by absorption of the ink, or incomplete wiping of the plate.

Copies of the 1d. vermilion and 2d. blue may be found on a medium-hard greyish wove paper. These belong to the issue on the Script watermarked paper, described in Chapter IV., such copies having escaped the watermark in the sheet.

Early in 1863 the London printed supply of the 6d. began to run short, and an order was forwarded to the Government printer for a fresh supply. A subsequent letter on the subject was as follows :—

“ GENERAL POST OFFICE,
“ BRISBANE, 31st March, 1863.

“ SIR,—I have the honour to advise you that the sixpenny postage stamps already ordered will be required almost immediately, and also that the two-penny stamps in hand cannot last very long.

“ I have, etc.,
“ THOS. L. MURRAY PRIOR,
“ *Postmaster-General.*

“ The Government Printer.”

From the 2nd to the 21st April, 1863, 240,000 of the 6d. were printed, and the first instalment was issued to the Post Office on the 17th of that month. The colour was a pale yellow-green, and the execution, though very fair in most copies, lacked the clearness that marked the first printings of the 1d. and 2d.

The 6d., of which there were only two printings, totalling 4000 sheets, is found in pale yellow-green, dull yellow-green, pale bluish-green, and full green. Of these the dull yellow-green is quite distinctive, and by far the commonest. The pale yellow-green and pale bluish-green shades are not always easy to distinguish, but the difference is apparent when they are compared together.

In May, 1863, an order appears to have been given for a supply of 1s. stamps, but no letter or requisition for this value has been found. However, the Government printer's record contains an entry of 240,000 stamps of this value having been printed from the 12th to the 30th May, 1863. The first instalment was issued to the Post Office on the 14th July, 1863.

This was the only printing of the 1s. on the thick unwatermarked paper, the colour being grey, which varies somewhat in individual specimens. In addition to many used examples a mint copy is known in a distinct brownish grey, the brown tinge being in no way attributable to the gum.

The next value required was the 3d. The Postmaster-General requisitioned for a supply as follows :—

“ GENERAL POST OFFICE,
“ BRISBANE, 16th July, 1863.

“ SIR,—I have the honour to request that you will furnish me with the following postage stamps, viz. : 200 sheets, three penny, equal to one year's supply from this date ; 500 sheets one penny, to last to the end of this year.

“ I am, etc.,
“ THOS. L. MURRAY PRIOR,
“ *Postmaster-General.*

“ The Government Printer.”

120,000 of the 3d. were printed from the 4th to the 10th August, 1863, and issued to the Post Office on the 1st September. This was the only printing on the thick unwatermarked paper. The retouched variety described in Chapter II. may also be looked for in this printing.

The colour was brown, of a lighter and more yellowish shade than the London printed stamps of the same value. Slight shades may be found.

Copies of the 3d. are known which have every appearance of being printed from a worn plate. These are dry prints, i.e. prints on paper which had dried, or was not sufficiently damp to take up the full impression from the line-engraved plate.

There were also additional printings of the other values as follows :—

- 1d., 240,000, 17th July to 4th August, 1863.
- 1d., 720,000, 5th to 26th October, 1863.
- 2d., 76,560, 22nd to 27th April, 1863.
- 2d., 271,200, 1st June to 16th July, 1863.
- 2d., 448,800, 10th to 29th August, 1863.
- 6d., 720,000, 3rd September to 3rd October, 1863.

The gum used for these issues was of a brownish colour, more or less marked, and in some cases it stained the paper to a great extent, imparting to it a coffee-coloured appearance. The quality of this mucilage does not appear to have been of the best. Frequent complaints were made that the stamps would not adhere to the letters. In March, 1863, an improved quality was used, and eighty-three sheets of the 1d. and 100 sheets of the 2d. were returned to be re-gummed. These stamps having been already perforated, the result was disastrous to their appearance. A piece with two 1d. stamps in this condition has been seen postmarked "Toowoomba, July 8, 1863," the stamps having the rough perforation to be described later.

In all cases the sheets of stamps as printed by the contractors, Messrs. Thomas Ham & Co., were delivered to the Government printing office, where they were gummed and perforated. The somewhat primitive conditions in which this work was carried out are referred to in the Report of the Queensland Reference List Committee, page 33.

The perforations found in the stamps of these issues will now be considered. During this period two single-line machines were employed, both being the property of the Queensland Government. In order to understand the full working of these machines, it is desirable to consult the above-mentioned report, the evidence on the matter being given on pages 24 to 33, with a general account on pages 43 to 45. In the report the machines, for purposes of reference, are named A, B, C, and so on in the order of their introduction into use, and this plan will be adopted in the following pages.

Those we are now concerned with are the A and B machines.

The A Machine, obtained in 1862, was made by Messrs. Partridge & Son of Birmingham, and was a single-line machine gauging 13-13½, generally a true 13, throughout its length of 19¾ inches, being operated by a hand lever. This was the machine in general use. The holes are small and sometimes have the appearance of a pin perforation, but in this case the cup-shaped depression always shows the true character of the perforation. Generally the perforation was very rough, partly owing to the thick soft paper used, and to the fact that several sheets were perforated at the same time. Specimens of the 1d. vermilion, and the 2d. blue, with a clean-cut small hole perforation are known, and these, no doubt, are from sheets which were perforated singly: such copies are most uncommon. (Illustration IX. (e).)

An important change was, however, taking place in the machine as the result of repairs made from time to time necessitated by worn or broken pins having to be replaced. To effect this larger pins would be fitted and the corresponding hole in the bed-plate drilled out to fit the new pin. It is known that larger round holes were present in the line as early as 1863, and this process of introducing large pins had by

the end of 1866 quite altered the general character of the A machine perforation. This latter point will be again referred to in Chapter V. when discussing the issues of September, 1866, and 1867.

The B Machine was a single-line perforator gauging $12\frac{1}{2}$ (sometimes $12\frac{3}{4}$) in its length of $12\frac{3}{4}$ inches. It was made by Messrs. J. Bunce & Co. of Melbourne and was operated by a treadle. This machine gave larger holes than the A machine in its original state, the holes being usually clean-cut, and either square with rounded corners or perfectly round, the two descriptions being found mixed in the same line. The B machine was not in general use and seems to have been used only on occasions when there was a great pressure of work on the A machine. Owing to the short length of the line of pins, the B machine could only perforate the horizontal lines of the sheet, the longer (vertical) lines of which had to be done by the A machine.

All the denominations in the various shades mentioned come with the rough perforation 13, given by the A machine.

In 1863, when several large printings were made, the B machine was called into use, and thus we get a perforation $12\frac{1}{2} \times 13$ rough. The stamps which received this compound perforation were the 1d. vermilion, 2d. blue, 3d. brown, 6d. dull yellow-green, 6d. pale bluish-green, and the 1s. grey. Considering their relative scarcity it would seem that the majority of the 3d. received the compound perforation. (Illustration IX. (g).)

A variety of the 6d. (the line variety) caused by a defect (?) in the plate has been known to specialists for many years, although there does not seem to be any reference to it in philatelic literature. The variety, however, was actually priced in Messrs. Stanley Gibbons' stock book in the autumn of 1898.

The flaw, which extends over a horizontal pair, consists of a conspicuous well-defined line of colour sloping upwards to the right from the left lower extremity of the x of SIX, touching the top of the c in PENCE, crossing the lower part of the left arabesque of the right hand stamp of the pair, and terminating about 1 mm. short of the necklace. (Illustration XVI. (a).)

The complete flaw has been seen in the dull yellow-green and pale yellow-green shades of this issue with rough perforation 13. A single example* is also known on the 6d. pale bluish green with compound perforation $12\frac{1}{2} \times 13$. In the latter the flaw is that found on the left hand stamp of the pair, but the line stops short in the right margin, and presumably the flaw was not present in the right hand stamp.

The remarkable point about the flaw is that it entirely disappears from printings of the 6d. subsequent to that made in September, 1864. Thus, if present in the plate, the damage must have been repaired by retouching, but diligent search has failed to reveal anything of the sort. It is definite that Messrs. Perkins, Bacon & Co. did not supply a second plate of the 6d. It would seem, therefore, that the flaw was of a temporary nature, and that it was caused by a hair or other object adhering to the plate. This is borne out by the example mentioned above, in which the obstruction causing the right hand part of the flaw had failed to print, probably owing to the more careful wiping of the plate during printing.

The next printing of the 6d. was made in 1867, on the unwatermarked paper. For this printing, and also for the 1d. and 2d. made about the same time, the plates had evidently been cleaned, as the cross-lined background to the head is much clearer and quite distinctive. Possibly the obstruction on the plate was re-

* Collection of Captain C. W. G. Crawford.

moved during the cleaning process, which would account for the disappearance of the flaw.

Specimens showing the flaw are most uncommon ; a used horizontal pair showing the complete flaw is in the collection of His Majesty the King.

A line variety is also found on the 2d. blue. It occurs in a horizontal pair, the left hand stamp showing a nearly horizontal coloured line, about 3 mm. long, running into the side frame to the right of c of PENCE. (Illustration XVI. (b)). The right hand stamp shows a somewhat similar flaw in the left lower spandrel to the left of the w of TWO.

As a horizontal pair showing the two flaws is known on the truncated star paper, it is evident that they continued in the plate for the period of its use. (Illustration XXVI.)

In *The Mayfair Find of Rare Stamps*, by Fred. J. Melville, there is an illustration of a large block of 2d. stamps, despatched from Brisbane in April, 1864, the block being practically a lower half sheet. On examination it will be seen that the line variety shows on Nos. 10 and 11 in the 19th row of the sheet, and this is conclusive evidence that both flaws occur in the 2d. blue stamps described in this chapter.

It is not known when the flaws originated ; they have not been seen on the first Colonial printing, 2d. pale blue, or on the stamps printed by Messrs. Perkins, Bacon & Co.

Occasionally one or more lines of perforation were omitted when the sheets were being passed through the machine, giving rise to specimens with abnormal perforation, and in some cases the whole sheet escaped being perforated. It is generally accepted that such varieties are preferable in pairs, as, owing to the stamps being spaced so close together in the sheet, single copies, even with large margins, are not always above suspicion. In the following pages these points will be differentiated as far as possible when listing abnormal perforations.

With four exceptions, as noted, the following perforation varieties have been seen :—

Rough perforation 13, small holes.

(I) Imperforate.

1d. vermilion,* 2d. pale blue,† 3d. brown,‡

6d. dull yellow-green,‡ 6d. full green †

(II) Imperforate vertically.

6d. dull yellow-green.*

(III) Horizontal pair, imperforate between.

1d. vermilion, 2d. pale blue,† 2d. blue,* 1s. grey.

(IV) Vertical pair, imperforate between.

2d. blue,* 1s. grey.†

A vertical strip of three of the 2d. blue,* is known imperforate between the stamps and apparently imperforate at top and bottom.

In addition to the above, a single copy of the 6d. dull yellow-green is known with large margins and apparently imperforate horizontally.

* Collection of Mr. J. H. Chapman.

† The 2d. pale blue variety, imperforate, is chronicled in *Stanley Gibbons' Monthly Journal*, Vol. XIII., p. 101. The other items have also been catalogued, but in the absence of copies there is no other evidence of their existence.

‡ Collection of His Majesty the King.

Perforated $12\frac{1}{2} \times$ *rough perf.* 13.

The 1s. grey has been catalogued imperforate vertically, but the only example * seen was a single copy in which the imperforate (?) margins were wide, and would seem to justify the inclusion of this variety.

The 6d. dull yellow-green, with rough perforation 13, has been reported with double perforation (footnote on page 83).

Proofs.

It does not seem to have been customary to keep proof impressions of these issues, possibly owing to the printing being let out to contract. At one time it was thought that the imperforate varieties were proofs, but satisfactory used pairs are known of most of these.

Specimen Stamps.

It was not until about 1871 that the practice of overprinting stamps with the word "SPECIMEN" was adopted for distribution purposes, etc. The overprint was in sans-serif capitals measuring $2\frac{1}{2} \times 21$ mm., and was applied by means of a hand stamp to every stamp in the sheet, reading diagonally upwards from left to right. Inverted and double overprints are known, varieties to be expected from the use of a hand stamp. Of these issues the 1s. grey, with rough perforation 13, was the only stamp to receive this overprint which is found in blue or in black, the latter being probably of a later date.

A single example † is known of the 6d. dull yellow-green, perforated $12\frac{1}{2} \times$ rough perforation 13, with a similar overprint in black but measuring only $1\frac{1}{2} \times 11\frac{3}{4}$ mm. As this is the only example found with this type of overprint it is possible that it was an essay which was not approved.

In many cases specimen stamps are of considerable interest as they give the authentic shades and gum of the stamps as issued, and so may be of use in distinguishing reprints. In the following pages reference will be made to these varieties as they come under notice.

* Collection of Mr. J. H. Chapman.

† Collection of His Majesty the King.

CHAPTER IV.

THE SMALL STAR AND SCRIPT WATERMARKED SERIES OF 1864-66; CONTINUATION OF CONTRACT PERIOD.

THE printing of the postage stamps on plain unwatermarked paper of a kind that could be obtained anywhere and in any quantity, and the consequent absence of a reliable check upon the quantities printed, appear to have given rise to some comment. Towards the end of 1863 Mr. Drew, the Under-Secretary to the Treasury, formulated a scheme, based upon the practice observed in the other colonies, with a view to establishing a more certain check upon the number of stamps printed, and his plan was set forth in the following letter to the Government printer :—

“ THE TREASURY, BRISBANE,
“ 19th November, 1863.

“ SIR,—I am instructed to acquaint you that the Government, having had under consideration the mode of printing and issuing Postage Stamps for the use of the Public, are desirous of making some alteration in the present system, and I am to invite your opinion upon the following proposal, by which it is believed a direct check upon the printing, receipt, and issue of all stamps will be maintained, without in any way increasing the work of your Department, or causing inconvenience to that of the Postmaster-General.

“ 1. Postage stamps to be printed, in future, upon watermarked paper, procured from England for the purpose.

“ 2. Postage paper, on its arrival in the Colony, to be taken in charge by the Under-Secretary of the Treasury.

“ 3. Plates for printing the stamps to remain under the charge of the Government Printer.

“ 4. During the time postage stamps continue to be printed by contract, Treasury to forward, as required, to the Government Printer, the necessary postage stamp blank books, containing 100 leaves in each, with a requisition showing the description and number of stamps to be printed. The Government Printer (as now) to appoint a trustworthy person from his Department to superintend the printing by the contractor, due precaution being taken for the safe custody of the plates.

“ 5. The stamps, when gummed and perforated, to be returned to the Treasury, with the butt of each book.

“ 6. Treasury to undertake the issue of stamps to the Postmaster-General, upon proper requisitions approved by the Treasurer.

“ 7. Government Printer to make a return to the Audit Office of the number, description and total value of the several kinds of stamps printed immediately after performing the service.

“ 8. The Treasury to make a monthly return to Audit Office of the gross value and description of stamps issued to the Postmaster-General, also a return of the quantity printed and issued, showing the quantity remaining on hand.

" 9. Postmaster-General to make monthly returns to Audit Office, showing the value and description of stamps received from the Treasury Department.

" Awaiting your reply,

" I have, etc.

" W. L. G. DREW,

" *Under Secretary.*

" The Government Printer,
" Brisbane."

To these proposed arrangements the Government printer gave his unqualified approval, and the scheme was evidently put into operation shortly after, for, in the receipt book for stamps issued by the Government printer, the forms are altered from " Postmaster-General " to " Treasury," from the 24th February, 1864, on which date the balance sheets of 1d., 2d., 3d., 6d., and 1s., printed, but not issued to the Postmaster-General, were forwarded to the Treasury.

The first stamp to be printed under the new regulations was the Registered stamp, of which denomination 240,000 were struck by Messrs. Ham & Co. from Messrs. Perkins, Bacon & Co.'s steel plate between the 27th May and 10th June, 1864. 72,000 of these were forwarded to the Treasury on the 21st June, and the balance (168,000) on the 25th July, 1864. The date of their issue to the Post Office was probably on, or a day or two after, the 21st June.

I * have no record of the Postmaster-General's requisition for supplies during this period, but the dates of issue to the Treasury may be taken as approximately the dates of issue to the public.

With regard to the papers used for this and the script series, in respect to numbers printed on each variety of paper, and dates of issue, together with the later references to the truncated star paper, I am compelled to fall back on theory, or rather deductions, drawn from comparing the dates of printing with specimens of the stamps themselves on dated covers. So far as I could ascertain, there are no records existing as to the kinds of paper used for the respective printings. The period was one of constant change in the Ministerial control of the Departments, and the great commercial depression, compelling the issue of Treasury notes, which had to be printed on special paper, resulted in a state of confusion that can only be approximately unravelled by patient study of the stamps and careful comparison of the fragments of evidence obtainable.

To add to my difficulties, the whole of the records, books, papers and correspondence of the lithographic department prior to 1880 have been destroyed, and no trace of correspondence of an earlier date than 1872 could be found in the Government Printing Office. I think, however, that my deductions will be found reasonably correct, should any future discovery of papers throw further light on the subject. I deem it necessary to make this explanation lest I should some day be accused of making statements not in strict accord with facts.

The above-mentioned Registered stamps were printed in an orange-yellow shade, practically the same as the London-printed stamps with the rough perforation, sent out to the Colony in June, 1861. The paper used was the small star paper of which, as stated in Chapter II., 20 reams had been received from Messrs. Perkins, Bacon

* Passages in the first person singular are from Mr. Bassett Hull's MS.

& Co. about May, 1862, but had been overlooked (?) during the first contract printings. Both thick brown and white gums were used.

The Registered stamps received the rough perforation 13 given by the A machine. Mr. Basset Hull records having seen imperforate copies with satisfactory margins, while a variety double printed is recorded in the *London Philatelist*, Vol. XXV., page 124.

It would be as well, at this point, to trace the history of the Registered stamp to the end. No further printings were made, and the issues of supplies from the stock continued until 1st July, 1873, when it was decided to discontinue the use of a special stamp for denoting the registration fee. On the 2nd June, 1874, the balance on hand, amounting to 3600 stamps (after retaining a few sheets as specimens), was destroyed in the presence of the Auditor-General. The total number of the locally printed Registered stamps issued for use was 236,000.

In a letter to an applicant, who wished to purchase specimens of the Registered stamp, the Postmaster-General wrote (17th February, 1874) "Registration stamps are only intended for use, and are only sold at the time of registering letters. I have departed from the rule in forwarding you what I have, and cannot let you have any more."

The Registered stamp is known overprinted SPECIMEN similarly to the 1s. grey, described in the last chapter. The overprint is found in blue and in black, the former being probably applied about 1871 at the same time as the 1s., the black overprint being of a later date. Mr. Basset Hull records part of a sheet overprinted SPECIMEN with a line of perforation between two rows omitted.

In 1895 a reprint was made of the Registered stamp in orange-yellow on the truncated star paper never used for the original printings. These stamps received a single line perforation 12 which, together with the paper used, will be described in Chapter VI.

The next value to be printed on the small star paper was the 1d. Between the 28th July and 12th August, 1864, 480,000 were struck off, and a further 240,000* on the 14th September, and the whole supply was issued to the Treasury between the 9th and 14th September, 1864. The earliest dated copy I have found was used on the 8th July, 1865, but some of this printing was probably issued to the Post Office some months prior to this date.

The colour was vermilion, in slightly varying shades, and chemically-discoloured specimens are of frequent occurrence. White gum was used. The sheets received the rough perforation given by the A machine, and the B machine was also brought into use, as copies are found with the compound perforation $12\frac{1}{2} \times$ rough perf. 13. Contrary to catalogue quotations it seems that the stamp with the rough perforation 13 all round is the scarcer of the two. Owing to the harder nature of the small star paper the $12\frac{1}{2}$ perforations given by the B machine are often small square or oblong clean-cut punctures.

In the report of the Queensland Reference List Committee, an account is given on page 30 of a mint copy of the 1d. with a large hole clean-cut perforation

* This figure was given as 240 in Mr. Basset Hull's MS., and also appeared in the original publication in *Vindin's Philatelic Monthly*, Vol. VI., page 181. This was evidently an oversight. It is improbable that the plate was prepared for printing only one sheet, and in order to reconcile Mr. Basset Hull's figures, given later, accounting for the twenty reams of small star paper, it is necessary to accept the September printing as consisting of 240,000 1d. stamps.

13 all round,* the Committee being unable to come to a definite opinion as to the specimen. There is a possibility that it may have come from a sheet perforated singly, the stamp, at each operation of perforation, happening to strike a section of the line that had been fitted with larger pins.

Horizontal pairs † of the 1d. with rough perforation 13, are known imperforate vertically, while single copies are known with large margins, and apparently imperforate, or imperforate horizontally, the latter condition being also shown in a horizontal pair from the bottom row of the sheet.

The 2d. followed, 720,000 of this value being printed between the 13th August and 9th September, 1864. These were issued to the Treasury from 21st September to 6th December, 1864. The earliest dated copy I have found is of the 24th March, 1865. The colour was in blue and deep blue, with gum and perforation similar to the 1d., the deep blue shade also coming with the compound perforation.‡

A horizontal pair of the 2d. with rough perforation 13 is known imperforate between, and Mr. Basset Hull records the same stamp in a pair imperforate horizontally. Single copies have been reported with large margins and apparently imperforate. A horizontal strip of three § of the 2d. deep blue with rough perforation 13 has been seen with double perforation at top, the two stamps on the right being the variety imperforate between.

Of the 6d., 240,000 were printed on the 17th September, 1864, and issued to the Treasury on the 6th December following. I have seen a copy, used on the 21st June, 1865, but have not had an opportunity of examining many dated specimens. The colour varies considerably and may be classed as yellow-green, pale green, and deep green. White gum was used, and the stamps received the rough perforation 13.||

A copy of the 6d. yellow-green has been seen with large margins and apparently imperforate horizontally.||

A copy ¶ of the 6d. deep green, is known with the line variety. In this case the flaw is that found on the right stamp of the pair described on p. 100.

The twenty reams of paper ordered on 26th September, 1861, and used for this series, would suffice to print 2,400,000 stamps. The numbers already accounted for amount to 1,680,240, leaving a balance of paper sufficient for 719,760 stamps.

The next printing recorded was of the 2d., of which value 1,200,000 were printed between the 28th September and 6th November, 1865. 480,000 of these were issued to the Treasury on the 7th November, 1865, and the balance subsequently. I am of opinion that the rest of the star paper was used for the first of this supply, and that the remainder were printed on the paper next described.

On the 17th January, 1863, the Colonial Secretary, Brisbane, wrote to the Queensland Government Agents, informing them that the Government had decided upon an improved issue of postage stamps which would render forgery less practicable. He requested them to procure the manufacture of 10,000 sheets of paper according to a description forwarded with the letter, and have them bound in books of 100 sheets each, with thin millboard covers.

* Collection of Mr. R. B. Yardley.

† Collections of Mr. J. H. Chapman and the Rev. James Mursell.

‡ Collection of Captain C. W. G. Crawford.

§ Collection of Mr. J. H. Chapman.

|| The 6d. has been reported with perforation $12\frac{1}{2} \times 13$ rough, but no copies have been traced.

¶ Collection of the Rev. James Mursell.

The description accompanying the letter was as follows :—

Dimensions. Same as pattern sent, inclusive of the portion added. Smooth Demy.
 Quality. Same as pattern, but about five pounds heavier per ream.
 Watermark. *Light*—words as marked on back of pattern.
 Scroll. Black ink—about one inch from first row of stamps, pierced down centre so as to leave half on sheet issued and half on butt.

On receipt of this letter, Messrs. Mangles & Co. had a personal interview with Messrs. Perkins, Bacon & Co., and on the 19th March, 1863, they sent that firm a copy of the Queensland letter.

On the 18th June following, Messrs. Perkins, Bacon & Co. furnished the required paper, accompanied by the following invoice :—

For 1 pr. postage moulds (2 sheet).
 54 books, 100 sheets each.
 55 „ 100 „ „
 10,900 sheets, say 21 reams 16 q.
 Engraving block for marginal scroll.
 L. press printing 10,900 sheets.
 Perforating 10,900 „

A detailed description of this paper is given on pages 10 and 11 of the report of the Queensland Reference List Committee, the information being derived from a proof (?) sheet, showing the complete watermark, in the collection of His Majesty the King. (Illustration III., half linear size.)

From the invoice given above it will be seen that the moulds were “ 2 sheet ” and thus the 10,900 sheets supplied were double sheets, each of which showed two complete watermarks.

The watermark consisted of the words

QUEENSLAND
 POSTAGE * POSTAGE
 STAMPS * STAMPS

in script capitals in three lines, as above, reading vertically upwards in the sheet, with ornamental sprays forming a border, and dividing the lines of lettering. The ornaments between the repetitions of the words POSTAGE and STAMPS were fleurons, 14 mm. in diameter, and the spacing of the lettering and ornamentation was so arranged that the complete watermark covered the 240 impressions on the plate. The paper is a greyish white medium wove of hard texture.

Owing to the nature of the watermark, single copies show only parts of the lettering or fleurons, or both, and in the report given attention is drawn to the fact

that certain positions in the sheet may escape the watermark altogether. An interesting variety is a copy showing a complete fleuron, and when this watermark is in register, the sheet will include two varieties with fleuron, and three varieties without watermark. Mr. Basset Hull records a pair of the 1d. showing a fleuron as the sole watermark.

The Script paper being hand-made, some of the sheets may be thicker than others and, as noticed in the last chapter, varieties without watermark might possibly be mistaken for the issue on the thick unwatermarked paper, which, however, is of a soft texture.

Between the 7th and the 22nd November, 1865, 480,000 of the 1d. were printed. These were issued to the Treasury on the 24th January, 1866.

The colour of the 1d. was a duller shade of vermilion than that on the star watermarked paper. The 2d. is in somewhat dull shades of blue and pale blue, the latter nowhere approaching the pale blue of the first Colonial printing. The earliest used copies I have seen are the 1d., 24th April, 1866; 2d., 6th February, 1866; but I think both values were issued to the public during January of that year. White gum was used, but a mint pair of the 2d. blue is reported with deep brown gum. The perforation is the rough 13 given by the A machine and, in addition, the 2d. blue is known perforated $12\frac{1}{2} \times 13$ rough. Only one example has been seen with this compound perforation.* Varieties with abnormal perforation are unknown on the Script watermarked paper.

I have seen a bisected 2d., cut diagonally, used on original cover. It was addressed to a person in Dalby, Queensland, and postmarked 12th September, 1866. I believe that this was genuinely used as a provisional 1d., but without authority.

The line variety of the 2d., described on page 101, should also be found in the printings on the small star and Script watermarked papers.

Proof impressions of the issues dealt with in this chapter are unknown.

During 1866 the colony of Queensland suffered severely from commercial depression. The revenue fell off to such an extent that the Treasury was completely drained. Arrangements were made with a local bank to honour Government cheques, but the bank almost immediately afterwards closed its doors. Similar arrangements were made with a second bank, which also collapsed. The railway works were suspended, and the capital was inundated with men out of employment, clamouring for work. Hasty preparations were made to raise money by the issue of Treasury Bills for large sums, and Treasury Notes of £1 and £5. No suitable paper for these purposes was available, and temporary recourse was had to the postage paper, until a supply could be obtained from the English manufacturers. The result was that all the Script postage paper was used up, and in subsequent printings a reversion was made to the thick unwatermarked paper.

* Collection of Captain C. W. G. Crawford.

CHAPTER V.

THE FOURPENCE AND FIVE SHILLINGS OF 1866, AND THE END OF THE CONTRACT PERIOD.

As already mentioned, the stock of stamps was kept in the Treasury, and supplies were drawn therefrom upon requisition, as required by the Post Office. In April, 1866, it was decided to make an alteration in the existing arrangements by transferring the whole stock of stamps to the Post Office, to be placed in charge of an officer who would requisition for fresh supplies direct to the printer, and issue them to the sale office and agents.

At the same time provision was directed to be made for the issue of a 4d. stamp.

The following is a copy of the minutes of proceedings of the Executive Council on the 19th April, 1866, respecting the proposed new arrangements :

“ His Excellency the Governor, at the instance of the Colonial Treasurer, lays before the Council a recommendation from that minister that the postage stamps on hand should be transferred from the Treasurer to some officer in the General Post Office appointed by the Postmaster-General.

“ The Council advise that this transfer be approved, and further that a plate be provided for printing a fourpenny stamp.

“ HENRY D. PITT,
“ *pro Clerk of the Council.*

“ The Honourable,
“ The Postmaster-General.
“ Confirmed 25th April, 1866.”

This copy was transmitted to the Postmaster-General under cover of the following letter :—

“ EXECUTIVE COUNCIL OFFICE,
“ BRISBANE, 26th April, 1866.

“ SIR—‘I have the honour to forward herewith copy of minutes of proceedings of the Executive Council on the 19th April, 1866, in reference to ‘ Transfer of Postage Stamps from Treasury to General Post Office, and provision for a plate of fourpenny stamps.’

“ And I am to direct your attention to that portion of the minutes requiring action at your hands.

“ I have, etc.,
“ HENRY D. PITT,
“ *pro Clerk of the Council.*

“ The Honourable,
“ The Postmaster-General.”

The necessity for a stamp of a higher value than any available at the time had been long apparent, but was overlooked when recommending the preparation of a 4d. plate. In directing the Government printer to prepare the lower value, the opportunity was taken to provide for the higher one. The instructions were contained in the following letter :—

“ GENERAL POST OFFICE,
“ BRISBANE, 7th August, 1866.

“ SIR,—The Government having decided upon introducing a Fourpenny Postage Stamp, and the Honourable the Postmaster-General being of opinion that Postage Stamps of a higher value than any at present in use in this Colony are also very desirable, I am directed to request that you will, with as little delay as possible, procure the material necessary for the manufacture of Fourpenny and Five shilling Postage Stamps. Their mode of manufacture is left to yourself, but it is suggested that, if the stamps are to be printed from a steel plate, such plate, to save any extraordinary delay, might be obtained in Sydney or Melbourne.

“ I have, etc.
“ F. E. SALISBURY,
“ Chief Clerk.

“ The Government Printer.”

In order to avoid delay, and being doubtful as to the advisability of procuring steel plates in the colonies, the Government printer decided to try a temporary expedient, in the shape of lithographic transfers from steel plates in his possession, prior to ordering a fresh one from England.

He wrote :—

“ GOVERNMENT PRINTING OFFICE,
“ BRISBANE, August 15th, 1866.

“ SIR,—I have the honour to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 7th inst., respecting the introduction of Postage Stamps of a higher value than those now in use, and to inform you that temporary arrangements are now being made for the manufacture of 4d. and 5s. stamps, proofs of which will be forwarded for the approval of the Postmaster-General in a few days. Although by the means now being adopted, stamps exactly similar in size and appearance to those at present in use can be produced, I still deem it necessary, for several reasons, to obtain plates from England of the same kind as those now in the possession of the Government.

“ You would oblige me by stating the number of stamps of each variety required at present—say for eighteen months’ supply.

“ I have, etc.
“ W. C. BELBRIDGE,
“ Government Printer.

“ F. E. Salisbury, Esq.,
“ Chief Clerk,
“ General Post Office.”

Mr. Salisbury estimated 500 sheets at 5s. and 2000 at 4d. as sufficient. The Postmaster-General approved on the 22nd August, and the requisition was made as follows :—

“ GENERAL POST OFFICE,
“ BRISBANE, 24th Aug., 1866.

“ SIR,—In reply to your communication of the 16th inst., I have the honour to request that this Department may be supplied with one thousand sheets of fourpenny postage stamps, and five hundred sheets of five shillings; two hundred and forty postage stamps in each sheet.

“ I have, etc.
“ F. E. SALISBURY,
“ Chief Clerk.

“ The Government Printer.”

The lithographic transfers were prepared by Messrs. Ham & Co., who were still printing the stamps under contract to the Government, and were accommodated with a room in the Government Printing Office, where they performed the work.

Mr. William Knight,* a partner in the firm of Messrs. Ham & Co. at the time, informed me that impressions were first taken from one of the steel plates, a lithographic transfer taken, the original value erased, and the new value was then drawn by hand on the stone.

The fact that the value was separately drawn may easily be verified by a comparison of copies of the stamps themselves, when marked differences in the size and spacing of the letters FOUR or FIVE will be detected.

The 4d. was from a transfer taken from the plate of the 3d. Careful examination shows traces of the letters of the word THREE still remaining on some specimens of the 4d. stamp. The 5s. was from a transfer taken from the 1s. plate, the letter s being added to SHILLING by hand. (Illustrations XVIII. (a) (b) and (c).)

Although Mr. Knight said that the transfer was taken from a whole sheet, this procedure is so much at variance with the practice usually followed by lithographers, that I am doubtful about asserting that there are 240 varieties of lettering in each value. The general method is to take transfers of a strip or block in sufficient numbers to make up a sheet of the requisite size.

I can find no further reference to the submission of proofs for approval by the Postmaster-General. This was probably done personally by the Government printer, as no letters passed between the Departments on the subject. No proof specimens have been preserved by either Department.

The next letter on the subject of these stamps is the following :—

“ GOVERNMENT PRINTING OFFICE,
“ BRISBANE, August 27th, 1866.

“ SIR,—I have the honour to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 24th inst., requesting to be supplied with one thousand sheets of 4d. and five hundred sheets of 5s. Postage Stamps, and to inform you that Mr. F. J. Burke has been authorised by me to take charge of the necessary paper. The printing of the stamps will be immediately proceeded with.

“ I have, etc.,
“ W. C. BELBRIDGE,
“ Government Printer.

“ F. E. Salisbury, Esq.,
“ General Post Office.”

* Mr. Knight, who succeeded Mr. Thomas Ham as Government engraver, retired from the public service about 1898, and died on the 27th July, 1903.

From this letter it appears that some question must have arisen as to a supply of suitable paper for printing the new stamps. However, from the preceding chapter it will be seen that all available watermarked paper had been used up. Consequently, recourse was once more had to the plain printing paper of the first locally printed stamps, and on this the new stamps were printed.

Printings of the 4d. took place on the 24th September, 1866 (48,000), and on the 9th February, 1867 (305,040), in all 353,040 stamps. The 5s. also was printed on the same occasions; on the 24th September, 1866, 24,000, and on the 9th February, 1867, 92,400, in all 116,400. The total numbers ordered were 480,000 and 120,000 respectively.

In the Government printer's record book of stamps printed a memorandum appears to the following effect: "This requisition was not completed owing to the contractor (Mr. Ham) relinquishing his contract when appointed Chief Engraver to the Lithographic Department."*

The number printed seems to have been sufficient, not only for the estimated eighteen months, but for many years, and no further step was taken to procure steel plates. The first supply of both values was forwarded to the Post Office on the 24th September, 1866, and entered in the Accountant's receipt and issue book on that date.

The colour adopted for the 4d. was a pale lilac, which varies very considerably through a range of shades, which may be classed as lilac, reddish lilac, grey-lilac, grey, and slate. These shades were due no doubt to bad mixing of the pigment when printing was in progress, as they occur indiscriminately in dated copies, and were thus contemporary with each other. The 5s. was printed in pale rose and also in bright rose, the former having a somewhat chalky appearance. Both white and thick brown gums were used.

By the time these stamps were perforated, the introduction of larger pins in the A machine had proceeded to such an extent that most of the holes were large and round. Some of the small round and square holes still remained, and the perforation was somewhat rough, single copies generally showing the discs of paper still remaining on a vertical and a horizontal side of the stamp. In view of this change the perforation of these stamps, and all subsequent work of the A machine, will be classed as perforated 13, mainly large round holes. (Illustration IX. (f).)

As regards shades, although the Reference List Committee have not seen any specimens of the 5s. bearing dated postmarks that prove the order in which the two shades, pale rose and bright rose, respectively appeared, the record of this denomination as a new issue in the *Stamp Collectors' Magazine* of 1st February, 1867, is helpful. The Editor therein (at p. 25) describes the stamp as "of the old design in every respect, but printed in a light rose-coloured ink, far too delicate, if we may judge from the specimens we have seen, for lasting efficiency." † These remarks cannot well apply to the bright rose, and we therefore conclude that the 5s. stamps first seen by the Editor of the magazine were in the pale rose shade. These must have come from the first printing, but whether all the 24,000 stamps (100 sheets) were of the same shade it is impossible to say definitely. We can only submit the following considerations:—

* This memorandum no doubt refers to the September printings which were made under contract, this not being the case with those executed in the following February.

† *The Philatelist* of July, 1867, records a 2s. (*sic*) stamp of the well-known type "pink."

Other references in contemporary journals are not of much assistance. *Le Timbre Poste*, of January, 1867, records the 4d. and hears rumours of a 5s., but it is not until June that it is recorded and then as "rose." *Le Timbrophile* lists it also in June, 1867, as "rose."

As mentioned later in this chapter, only 10,000 stamps (45 sheets) had been taken out of stock by June, 1879, less than half the first printing, and we may assume that a substantial distribution was made at the start, that is before February, 1867. If the second batch was placed on the top of the remainder of the first, some sheets of the second printing would be taken out of stock for despatch to the post offices, and thus pass into use by the public. These, if of the bright rose, would account for the comparatively scarce specimens in this shade.

On the same assumption, the remainder of the 385 sheets of the second printing, as lying at the top of the heap in stock, together with some of the residue of the first printing, would be destroyed among the 96,000 5s. stamps officially burnt on the 26th June, 1879. This left about 9600 stamps which, on the above assumption, would be of the first printing and therefore possibly all of the pale rose shade. About half of these appear to have been issued, and the rest were officially destroyed in 1882.

As regards the 4d., the contemporary records in philatelic literature give but little assistance. The *Stamp Collectors' Magazine* of January, 1867, records the new value as in "a delicate mauve," and in the following month refers to it as "purple." *The Philatelist* of February, 1867, gives the colour as "lilac." *Le Timbre Poste* and *Le Timbrophile*, each of January, 1867, assign "lilas" as the shade; while *Le Collectionneur* of August, 1867, gives "lilas clair." All that can be gathered from these records is that the stamps seen by the respective editors were not grey or slate.

Many prominent philatelists have essayed the plating of the 4d. without success. One interesting point, however, resulted from the earlier investigations in that the specimens could be separated into two main groups, one with the word FOUR in tall thin lettering, and the other with shorter stumpy letters of similar thickness to the word PENCE. In the *London Philatelist*, Vol. XIX., page 258, Mr. Hausburg announced this discovery and expressed the opinion that there were two transfers of the 4d., the first of which was in the tall thin lettering. In confirmation of this it may be stated that a diligent search for pairs, etc., showing the two main types *se tenant*, has proved fruitless.

In view of the above, it has been decided for the purpose of this work to assign the first transfer in tall thin letters to the printing in September, 1866, the printing in February, 1867, being from the second transfer. Owing to the great scarcity of copies with early dated postmarks, it has not been possible to check the order of the transfers, but obviously the production of a 4d. dated before the 9th February, 1867, would settle the matter. The earliest dates seen are—First Transfer, 20th April, 1867; Second Transfer, 20th December, 1867. (Illustrations XVIII. (a) and (b).)

As regards the 5s., there is no evidence to prove the existence of two transfers, although it seems likely that this may have been the case.

Quite recently, with the assistance of what was possibly the largest accumulation hitherto got together, an attempt at plating the two transfers of the 4d. had to be abandoned for lack of material. The general conclusion arrived at was that the original transfers were not made in horizontal or vertical strips, and that if an intermediate stone was used, the block transferred to it must have been of considerable size. This is all in support of Mr. William Knight's statement given on page 111, and it may be reasonably assumed that, instead of using an intermediate stone, the original transfers were from the entire plate, resulting finally in 240 varieties in the sheet in each of the two transfers.

In this last attempt, upwards of fifty varieties were noted in each transfer, of which the following seem to be the most noteworthy:—

1st Transfer.

- (a) A large square spot after FOUR.
- (b) A small round stop after FOUR.
- (c) The shorter bar of the F of FOUR is drawn much too low.
- (d) (e) At least two examples in the sheet with FOUR and PENCE spaced together to read as one word.

2nd Transfer.

- (f) The word FOUR is defective, the R appearing double. In some specimens the FOUR is almost missing.
- (g) (h) At least two examples in the sheet in which the letters OUR are defective or missing.
- (i) Part of the round of the U of FOUR is missing.

It is thought that the second transfer varieties, (f) (g) and (h), were the result of a weak drawing on the stone, possibly due to the presence of the acid solution used to erase the word THREE. Examples of the varieties in both transfers are illustrated on Plate XIX. (a) to (i) as noted above.

In Chapter II., page 85, reference was made to a retouch on the plate of the 3d., and in the *Philatelic Journal of Great Britain*, Vol. XXXVI., page 179, a copy of the 4d. lilac is recorded showing the same retouch. This variety has the short thick lettering of the second transfer, and is illustrated on Plate XVII. (c), and also in a block of four * on Plate XIX. (j). Combining this block with the strip † illustrated on Plate XVIII. (b), it will be seen that the retouched variety occurs in the second row of the sheet, with at least two stamps to left and right of it, and no doubt, as mentioned on page 85 with regard to the 3d., it is either the 3rd, 4th, 9th or 10th stamp in the row.

No examples of the retouch have been found, so far, in the first transfer, although it seems probable that it was present in that printing.

Examples of the 4d. lilac, second transfer, have been seen in which the left inner vertical frame line is produced upwards to meet the outer frame line, which also shows signs of having been retouched. This variety was first recorded in the *Philatelic Journal of Great Britain*, Vol. XXXIX., page 239, and is illustrated on Plate XVII. (d), and in a block of four * on Plate XIX. (k). Although seemingly of little importance, it may prove to be of special interest, as the flaw may be due to a re-cut on the plate of the 3d., and not simply a touching up of an impression on the lithographic stone. The discovery of a 3d. stamp showing the re-cut would settle the matter.

In the 5s., examples may be found in which the oval line above the letters FIVE has been retouched on the lithographic stone. In such cases the ovals had evidently received damage when the original values ONE were erased. A prominent variety has the I of FIVE double so that the word reads FINE. Two copies are known ‡ of this variety, both being in the pale rose shade.

A most interesting variety of the 5s. pale rose has been recently described in the *Philatelic Journal of Great Britain*, Vol. XXXIX., page 118. From the enlarged illustration, Plate XVII. (e), it will be noticed that the lower frame at the left, and part of the words of value, are distinctly doubled, the doubling being particularly marked in the lower curve of the first s in SHILLINGS, and the oval under the letters VE.

At first sight this would appear to be a case of a double transfer, but, in view of

* Collection of the Rev. James Mursell.

† Collection of Mr. P. R. England.

‡ Collections of Mr. T. W. Hall and Mr. F. L'Estrange.

the word FIVE having been drawn separately on the stone, this is improbable, and the variety would seem to be due to a slip of the paper when printing.

The copy of the 5s. under review was in mint condition. If found, a second copy of this variety would be conclusive evidence of a double transfer. This would point to the use of an intermediate stone when preparing the printing stone, and re-open the question as to the original lithographic transfer having been taken from the entire Perkins, Bacon plate.

Two single copies of the 4d. lilac, second transfer, have been seen apparently imperforate. They were on pieces of the original covers, one of the stamps having fair margins. A copy of the 4d. grey, second transfer, is known with double perforation.

Vertical pairs of the 5s. pale rose are known imperforate between.

The 4d. remained in use until the end of 1874, when it was replaced by a fresh transfer in a different colour. The 5s. did not appear to be so much required as at first anticipated, and went off very slowly indeed, and at every periodical audit of stamps the bulky and valuable parcel of 5s. stamps had to be checked over. The Audit Inspector finally suggested getting rid of the surplus to simplify accounts. On the 13th June, 1879, the Accountant of Stamps wrote the following memorandum to the Under-Secretary of the General Post Office:—

“ Mr. Petersen, the Audit Inspector, suggests that it would be more convenient if there were not so large a supply of 5s. stamps in stock. There are now in stock 105,600 stamps of this value. The supply during the last 12 months has been only two sheets, representing 480 stamps. I would therefore recommend that four bundles, representing 96,000 stamps, be destroyed, which would leave the present stock at 9600 stamps, equivalent to 18 years' supply.”

The Under-Secretary communicated with the Auditor-General on the subject, and stated that “ these stamps appear to have been in use since 1866-67, during which time—thirteen years—the consumption has only been 10,000.* The present stock therefore is excessive.” He asked the Auditor-General to see that the surplus stock—say 96,000—was destroyed.

The request was granted, and on the 26th June, 1879, 96,000 5s. stamps were destroyed in the presence of Mr. Petersen and Mr. G. H. Buzacott, the officer in charge of stamps. Of the 9600 left, 5040 were issued to the sale room on the 19th of January, 1882; part of the balance had been issued between 1879 and 1882, and some had been cancelled as specimens.

Between the 12th and 25th January, 1882, some departmental correspondence took place as to the balance of the old 5s. stamps on hand.

Mr. Buzacott, wrote on the 12th January, 1882, “ As I understand that the new 5s. stamp is ready for use, I would suggest that the stock of the old stamps of that value be destroyed.” The Under-Secretary recommended that a few sheets should be marked as specimens, and the remainder destroyed in the presence of the Audit Inspector. The new 5s. stamp referred to by Mr. Buzacott must have been the lithographed stamp in brown, issued by the Treasury in August, 1881, but it was never supplied to the Post Office, as the new type became available shortly afterwards (April, 1882).

On the 25th January, 1882, the Accountant stated that he had then 4509, of the old 5s. stamps left; the Under-Secretary was of opinion that half a sheet would be sufficient to retain as specimens, and the rest were destroyed.

* It will be noticed that this figure should be 10,800. Possibly the discrepancy is accounted for by the stamps overprinted SPECIMEN.

The total number, therefore, actually issued for use cannot have exceeded 15,000. From 1st January, 1880, to date of issue of the new 5s. stamp in rose-carmine,* the old 5s. stamp was used for both postal and fiscal purposes.

Both values are found overprinted SPECIMEN, the overprint being similar to that already described. The 4d. is from the second transfer, and is found in grey with blue overprint, and in lilac and grey-lilac with the overprint in black. The 5s. is in pale rose with both blue and black overprint. As stated, the blue ink was used about 1871, and the black ink at a later date. The 5s. pale rose with blue overprint is known with double perforation.

* This was the Bradbury, Wilkinson design issued in 1882.