

## Stamp News in Brief

(Will readers kindly send us early news of forthcoming issues, specimens of all new stamps issued, official notices, historical and other details regarding new designs, names of designers, printers, engravers, etc., and any other interesting information. Stamps submitted will be returned, or their value credited, whichever desired. Copies of new editions of the Gibbons Catalogues are presented annually to those readers who give us the most valuable assistance. We are not always able to publish every item received and news acknowledged to one informant often arrives from other correspondents too late for acknowledgment to be made to them in print. Information is always acknowledged by post in such cases.—ED.)

### BRITISH EMPIRE.

The chief items of interest in the new issue of the Crown Agents' Bulletin are the reversion of the penny values of the *Leeward Islands* and *Montserrat* to the old red colour, and the consequent change of the 1½d. values of these colonies to light brown.

The following may also be noted:—

*British Honduras.* 1 cent, Nyasaland type (on order).

*Kelantan.* New \$1, blue, Script wmk. Portrait of Sultan (on order).

*Leeward Islands.* 10/- in Nyasaland type, ½1 receipt size (on order).

*Zanzibar.* 30 r. First time Script (despatched).

**Great Britain.** Mr. C. F. Dendy Marshall kindly points out to us that the earliest known copy of the 1s., green, Plate 12, as given in his book, *The British Post Office*, is 16th August, 1875.

**Australia.** We are indebted to several of our Australian correspondents for further details of the forthcoming Air stamp. It is to be of the same format as the Canberra stamp, and will show an aeroplane flying over a field of sheep, with mountain scenery in the background.

Messrs. Séfi, Pemberton and Co. inform us that they have received cabled information of the forthcoming issue of the International Philatelic Exhibition stamp, not a special printing of the 1½d., but a 3d. value, Kookaburra type, in sheets of 60 and of a total printing of one million!

Mr. David Hogarth brings to our notice that the threehalfpenny Ash printing loses its "golden glint" upon moistening.

**Falkland Islands.** Mr. B. S. H. Grant tells us that the actual number printed of the 2½d. on 2d. provisional was 1179, and that the type used for surcharging has been destroyed.

**Hong Kong.** Mr. H. Wilson kindly shows us a copy of No. 91 (1928 Cat.) with a postmark which, by curious coincidence, is the same as that on the stamp shown us by Mr. Philip J. Dyke and referred to in September, in these notes, viz. April 16, 1898.

**Iraq.** From Mr. A. J. Batten we receive a specimen of a two annas Railway Letter stamp, together with a newspaper cutting relating to the new Railway Post Service introduced by the Iraq Railway on the 1st September last. By this service letters can be despatched by passenger train from any railway station upon the addition of the special 2 annas stamp to the ordinary postage fee.

**Newfoundland.** We learn that the official title of the recent Newfoundland set is the "Publicity" series, in contradistinction to the "Pictorials" of 1923-24.

### FOREIGN COUNTRIES.

**Abyssinia.** Impossible though it may seem, the inauguration of the new Post Office has at last taken place, and the new stamps, overprinted with the presentation overprint, are to hand. The designs are unattractive and the printing of that poor quality which we have come to associate with the pourings of the French Government Printing Office.

The Amharic inscription on the Prince type, it may be of interest to state, is "Abyssinia extends her hand to God," and that on the Empress type, "Lion conqueror of the tribe of Judah."

Five thousand sets received the special overprint, and each privileged person received three sets.

**Austria.** We understand that on November 1st there will be issued a Charity set of four values (10, 15, 30, and 40 gr.) with the portrait of President Dr. Michael Hainisch. The stamps will be recess-printed, and as Messrs. Junk and Schirnböck will be in collaboration as designer and engraver respectively, we may hope they will attain the same high standard of artistic merit as the 1922 and 1923 Charity sets.

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**Costa Rica.** Senor G. Noriega informs us that several inverted surcharges of the 5 c. on 15 c. provisional (S.G. No. 175) have leaked out. These are, however, unofficial in character, as the Government of Costa Rica has prohibited the sale or circulation of errors.

**France.** The ill-fated *Ile de France* Catapult Air Mail Service has left its mark in Philately. The fee for letters by this service was 10 fr. 50, and, on account of the large quantity of mail despatched upon the first flight into New York, the stock of 10 fr. stamps became exhausted. A fresh supply was urgently needed for the second flight between the liner and Paris, so the French Consul in New York authorised the surcharging of 1000 of the 90 c. Berthelot and 3000 of the 1 fr. 50 Pasteur as 10 fr. stamps.

The covers carried on these flights received the following *cachet* in black:

AOÛT-SEPTEMBRE 1928

PREMIÈRE LIAISON POSTALE AÉRIENNE  
TRANSATLANTIQUE

PAR HYDROAVION LANCÉ PAR AVION

DE L'ILE DE FRANCE

PILOTE: LIEUTENANT DE VAISSEAU L. DEMOUGEOT.