

SARAWAK
A COMPLETE HISTORY
OF ITS
POSTAGE STAMPS

BERTRAM W. H. POOLE

SARAWAK



A Complete History of its
Postage Stamps

*There will be a good
avenue movie*

BY

BERTRAM W. H. POOLE

Editor of "THE WEST-END PHILATELIST," etc., etc.

Heard

see

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[Entered at Stationers' Hall]

PUBLISHED BY

D. FIELD, 4 & 5 THE ROYAL ARCADE, OLD BOND ST.,
AND ALBEMARLE ST., LONDON, W.

MAY 1906

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PREFACE.



THE present is an opportune moment for the publication of a treatise dealing with the postal issues of Sarawak, for these stamps are particularly popular just now, and with the exception of the brief article that appeared in Volume I. of *The West-End Philatelist*, no work on the subject has yet appeared.

The information given in the following pages is as complete and full as it has been possible to make it, and it is hoped that these notes will give an impetus to the collection of these interesting stamps, and induce other philatelists to study them even more fully.

The article in *The West-End Philatelist* mentioned above, has formed the groundwork, as it were, of this volume, but many small inaccuracies in that article have been corrected, and the whole has, of course, been considerably amplified.

Much of the information has been gleaned from a study of my own collection of the stamps of this country; but I am chiefly indebted to a close examination of Mrs. Field's superb specialised collection of Sarawak. This collection is particularly strong in entire sheets, and it is largely by its means that I have been able to determine the positions of most of the varieties, and to identify the different printings of the early issues.

BERTRAM W. H. POOLE.

LONDON, *May 1906.*

CHAPTER I.

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INTRODUCTION.

ONE of the few countries, included in the "British Empire" portion of Gibbons' catalogue, whose postal issues the philatelist may hope to complete without undue trouble and with a moderate expenditure, is Sarawak. The total number of adhesive postage stamps this British protectorate has issued to date is not large, though they are most interesting, and the collector who cares to specialise them thoroughly should be able to form a most creditable and desirable collection. The quaint looking stamps of the earlier issues are almost as unique as the history of the territory itself, and it is somewhat surprising that they have not received more attention at the hands of specialists. These stamps offer a fine field for the philatelist of a studious turn of mind and, though the information given in the following pages is as exhaustive and comprehensive as the author has been able to make it, it is extremely probable that further study and research will result in the discovery of many varieties at present unknown.

The name of Sir James Brooke is indissolubly connected with the history of Sarawak, and it would hardly be fitting to describe the postal issues of this unit of the British Empire without entering into some details of the life of this enterprising Englishman.

The territory of Sarawak lies on the north-west coast of the island of Borneo—the largest island on the globe, with the exception of Australia and New Guinea—and geographically described its position is between latitude 5° North and the equator, and longitudinally it is situated between 109° and 114° East.

At the present time it has a seaboard of about 400 miles, its population numbers approximately half-a-million, and it has an area of 50,000 square miles, though when the territory first came into the possession of Sir James Brooke it was a comparatively small domain of about 3000 square miles.

Sarawak is intersected by numerous streams and, though the rainfall is heavy and the atmosphere more or less humid, the climate is not considered unhealthy. A chain of mountains 3000 feet high rises in the south, and running northwards has an increasing elevation throughout its length. Its mineral riches are extensive; it is well timbered, and, as might be expected from a country situated right in the heart of the tropics, its flora and fauna are numerous and varied. Indeed it is a regular entomologist's paradise, for in Sarawak and the adjacent country some of the world's rarest, largest and most beautiful butterflies and moths may be obtained. The land is extremely fertile and its vegetation includes rice, maize, pulse, yams, mandioca, cucumbers, betel, sago-palm, areca-palm, cocoa-nut, cotton, bamboo, spice, dye plants of all sorts, several oil-yielding plants, teak and other timber trees, and almost every kind of tropical fruit.

The country has an extensive trade, chiefly with Singapore in the Straits Settlements, and much of this is in the hands of the Chinese residents. In common with the whole island of Borneo its population is a mixture comprising the aboriginal inhabitants or Dyaks, the Malays, the Chinese, the Bugis of Celebes and Europeans. The Dyaks—the name was given them by the Malays, and is equivalent to our word "savage"—are the most numerous, and it is estimated that they are divided into at least 100 tribes. They have no native name by which they distinguish themselves in the aggregate; but each tribe usually takes the name of the chief river on which lies its principal residence.

Kuching, on the river Sarawak—a stream that can be navigated by large vessels—is the most important town in the protectorate. It is a busy and flourishing centre, and is divided into European and native portions, the former being, of course, much the smaller. The native town is divided into *kampongs*, or clusters, each named after the chief whose house appears in the centre. The European portion is built on some heights on the left bank of the river, and on the reach below the Chinese have established a colony.

Sir James Brooke, K.C.B., to whose untiring efforts the present prosperity of Sarawak is almost wholly due, was the son of a Devonshire gentleman, and he was born at Benares in April 1803. He was educated at the Norwich Grammar School, and in 1819, at the comparatively early age of 16, he entered the army of the East India Company. He served as a cadet in the first Burmese war of 1826, and was there severely wounded. Some years later he retired from the military service, and on the death of his father in 1835, he was, with the small fortune left him, enabled to carry out a scheme he had long cherished—a voyage of exploration in the Eastern seas. He therefore bought a small yacht, the *Royalist*, a schooner of 142 tons burden, armed her, and with a crew of 20 men set sail from England in 1838 in quest of fame and fortune. After cruising about for a time he conceived the project of establishing a British settlement on the coast of Borneo. Fortune smiled on him, for he landed in Sarawak at an opportune time. The ruler of the territory, Muda Hassim by name, was in sore straits, owing to a revolt of the Malays, and in desperation he asked Brooke to help quell the insurrection, promising him as a reward, the country, its government and its trade. Brooke succeeded in making peace between the natives and their ruler, and then found that the only concession he had for his trouble was permission

to trade. However, nothing daunted, he managed his affairs so well, that in 1841 the government of the district fell into his hands, and later this met with the full approval of the Sultan of Brunei, who was nominal chief of all the divisions of North-west Borneo. Brooke then settled down to the government of his new possession, and took the Indian designation "Rajah" for his title. He at once suppressed crimes and disorders, made an easier adjustment of taxation, and protected the poor Dyaks against the cruelty and rapacity of the Malays.

The island of Labuan, near Sarawak, having been purchased from Borneo by the British Government and created a British Colony, Brooke, who had been knighted in 1847, was appointed its first Governor, and at the same time he was created Commissioner and Consul to the Native States of Borneo. In the same year (1847), the independence of Sarawak was recognised by the British Government.

Subsequently he was particularly active in the suppression of piracy and slavery, and in this work he was assisted by the Hon. Captain Keppel, R.N., and by Sir Thomas Cochrane, who then held command of the British Fleet in Eastern waters. These expeditions resulted in the shedding of a great deal of blood, and as Brooke's methods were deemed too severe, he was attacked in the House of Commons in 1851. However, as it was proved that those who perished were freebooters and pirates of the worst class, he was afterwards exonerated, and it has since been recognised that his work in clearing Eastern waters of these pestilential rogues was of the greatest value in the furtherance of trade and civilising influences in the neighbourhood over which he ruled.

In 1856, Brooke relinquished his post of Governor of Labuan, and in 1858 he returned to England. He had only been in this country a few months when his

health received a serious shock from a paralytic stroke. He rallied from this, though for some months after he was incapable of active mental or bodily exertion. His troubles at this time were heavy, for in the following year he had the mortification of learning that all his private books and papers had been destroyed in a serious insurrection in Borneo, which he was not on the spot to quell. A public meeting was held in London, and a substantial sum was subscribed by his friends and admirers to enable him to replace them, and also to purchase the estate in Devonshire, where he spent most of his later years.

Towards the close of 1861, he decided to visit Sarawak, and on his arrival found the north-west portion of Borneo in a state of rebellion. As soon as the outbreak was suppressed he returned to England, but was again recalled to the East shortly afterwards by fresh complications in the internal administration of Borneo. These difficulties he had the satisfaction of seeing arranged in a farewell visit to the island, and returning to England, he spent a few peaceful years on his estate near Dartmoor, and died on June 11, 1868.

Sir James was a fine specimen of the best type of nineteenth century adventurers; he proved himself a wise and just ruler of Sarawak, and was greatly revered both by the native races and those Europeans who had their abode in his country.



CHAPTER II.

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THE FIRST ISSUE.

THE first issue of stamps for Sarawak consisted of a solitary specimen having the facial value of three cents. It was issued chiefly for inland or local postage, and was also available for fiscal purposes. In an early number of the now defunct *Stamp Collectors' Magazine*, the official document relating to its use is published as follows :—

GOVERNMENT NOTIFICATION.

On and after the 1st of March, 1869, the following rules will come into force :—

POSTAGE.

On all letters not exceeding half an ounce . . .	I stamp.
On every half-ounce in excess up to four ounces . . .	I „
On all Receipts or Paid Bills over 5 dols.	I „
On all Bills of Sale, etc., to become legal	I „
On all Agreements to become legal	I „
On all Bills of Lading or Mate's Receipts	I „

By order,

W. M. CROCKER,
Secretary.

SARAWAK,

Jan. 12th, 1869.

These regulations would appear to fix the date of issue of this stamp as March 1, 1869, and though it was intended solely for local use, it seems probable that it also had franking power on letters from Sarawak to Singapore. On arrival there foreign packages were further franked with Straits Settlements stamps to the amount necessary to carry them to their destinations.

Apparently the idea of issuing a stamp was conceived before the death of Sir James Brooke, for it bears his portrait, though not issued until some time after his demise. The work of production, however,

must have been commenced long before this, and specimen copies were distributed as early as September 1868, for in that month the *Philatelist*—a stamp journal issued in Brighton at that period—gave a description and illustration of its design. Then, and indeed for some months after its actual issue, its authenticity was gravely doubted by many of the leading philatelists of the day, owing to the general ignorance existing as to the personality of Rajah Brooke, and the whereabouts of Sarawak.

In all early descriptions of this stamp, it is positively asserted that the design was engraved and the stamps manufactured by Messrs. Maclure, Macdonald



and Co., of Glasgow. For many years this firm received the credit for its production, and also for the Sarawak stamps in the succeeding design, but modern investigations have proved that Mr. Charles Whiting, of London, was their manufacturer.

According to the catalogue, this 3c. stamp was *engraved* by Mr. Whiting, but a cursory examination of even a few stamps will show, beyond a doubt, that it was produced by a lithographic process. A die was first engraved, and from this sufficient transfers were taken to complete a lithographic stone for printing 100 stamps. The design, as will be seen from the illustration, consists of a three-quarter face portrait of Sir

James Brooke, with head to right, on an oval with an engine-turned background. Curved around the top of the head in the same oval is "SARAWAK" in uncoloured capital letters. At the corners fancy scrollwork is introduced, and in the top ones the letters "J." and "B." appear at the left and right respectively in small circles. At the base the value "THREE CENTS" is shown in uncoloured letters on a rectangular tablet, and in squares on each side of this are the letters "R" to the left, and "S" to the right. These letters, of course, stand for James Brooke, Rajah of Sarawak. The whole is enclosed in a single-line upright rectangular frame measuring $18\frac{3}{4}$ mm. by $26\frac{1}{2}$ mm.

Lithographed stamps often present interesting minor varieties in the shape of "flaws," many, if not all, of which should be noted by the specialist, and this first stamp of Sarawak forms no exception to this rule. Unfortunately, I have not been able to obtain a complete sheet of this value, so I am not able to state the positions of the various flaws mentioned below. It is quite possible that I may have omitted a few varieties owing to the fact that stamps from some portion or other of the sheet may not have come under my observation. The following is a list of the flaws I have noticed:—

Uncoloured spot between the letters "AW" of "SARAWAK."

Minute spot before the upper portion of the "S" in the lower right corner.

Large uncoloured spot in same position.

Minute brown spot on the corner letter "S."

Ditto, and has in addition a small spot before the lower part of the same letter.

Large flaw near the centre of the frame on right side.

Small stop between the letters "TH" of "THREE."

Flaw of irregular shape on the background below the "S" of "SARAWAK."

First stroke of the "H" of "THREE" is joined to the frame above.

Uncoloured spot at back of head just below the "s" of "SARAWAK."

Small stop between the words of the value, level with the tops of the letters.

The "s" of "CENTS" badly malformed as regards its lower portion.

Sloping cross bar to the "H" of "THREE."

Small dot in the centre of the "c" of "CENTS."

The "R" in the left lower corner is joined to the frame on top.

Small uncoloured line across the top of the second stroke of the "H" of "THREE."

Small stop between the letters "RE" of "THREE."

Uncoloured line through the centre of the upstroke of the "T" of "CENTS."

Minute stop after the "s" in right lower corner.

Uncoloured spot on the centre of the second "E" of "THREE."

The stamps, as stated above, are in sheets of 100, arranged in 10 rows of 10, printed in brown on fairly thick, unwatermarked, wove, yellow paper. The perforation, which gauges 11, was made by single-line machines, of which, apparently, two were in use. They may be differentiated as follows:—

A. Perf 11. Medium holes, fairly clean cut.

B. Perf. 11. Smaller holes, rougher, and sometimes almost pin-perforated.

The differences are not easily perceptible from single specimens, but in blocks of four or more they can readily be distinguished, especially if viewed from the backs of the stamps.

A fair number of shades may be found, and I have seen many "smudgy" impressions, caused by the lithographic stone being imperfectly cleared of the superfluous printing ink.

Specimens are known imperforate.

I have seen several interesting proofs of this stamp in black on the ordinary yellow paper, and fully gummed. On one block I have, I find the variety with a flaw between the letters "AW" of "SARAWAK" (the ninth stamp on a row); and another has the minute

Perf 11

Proof

stop between "RE" of "THREE" (the eighth stamp on a row). From another block I find that the variety with "H" of "THREE" joined to the line above occurs on the ninth stamp in a row; and on a block of four in Mrs. Field's collection, one of the stamps has a large uncoloured spot in front of the nose, which I have not seen on any of the issued stamps.

This stamp is exceedingly scarce in used condition. The following is a synopsis of the chief varieties:—

1869. UNWATERMARKED. Perf. 11.

3 cents. Brown, on yellow paper.

- (a) Pale brown on yellow.
- (b) Deep brown on yellow.
- (c) Imperforate.
- (d) Perf. "A" as above.
- (e) Perf. "A" vertically, and "B" horizontally.
- (f) Blurred or "smudgy" impression.
- (g) Various flaws as described above.



CHAPTER III.

THE 1871 ISSUE.

THE stamp bearing the portrait of Sarawak's first Rajah was only in use about two years when it was replaced by a new one bearing the effigy of the reigning Rajah, and it is said that on the arrival of the new issue the remaining stock of the old stamps was destroyed. The value and colour are exactly the same as the label it replaced, but the stamp is smaller in size and altogether different in design. In the centre is a three-quarter face portrait of Sir Charles Brooke, with head to left (exactly the reverse of the



first stamp), within an engine-turned circle. At the top is "SARAWAK," and at the base "THREE CENTS," both in plain letters on tablets of solid colour. At the sides are pillars composed of lozenge-shaped ornaments, the spandrels are ornamented, and in the corners are the letters "C. B. R. S.," which, of course, stand for Charles Brooke, Rajah of Sarawak. The whole design is in a single line, rectangular frame, and measures $19\frac{3}{4}$ by $23\frac{1}{2}$ mm.

Sir Charles, who was born in 1829, is the nephew

of Sir James Brooke, and succeeded to the title of Rajah and to the territory of Sarawak on the death of his uncle in 1868. Previous to this event he was Charles Anthony Johnson, but on acceding to the sovereignty of this Eastern State he assumed the surname of Brooke. Sir Charles has wisely carried on the admirable system of government inaugurated by his uncle, and has added considerably to his domains by further grants of territory in 1885 from the Sultan of Brunei and by the annexation of the Limbang River district in 1890. In 1888 Sir Charles had the satisfaction of having Sarawak placed under British protection—a step he had strongly advocated for many years.

Messrs. Maclure, Macdonald and Co. long had the credit of having produced this stamp, but later research showed that, like the value of 1869, it was manufactured by Mr. Charles Whiting, of London. The method of production was exactly the same. First a die was engraved, and from this sufficient transfers were taken to make a lithographic stone containing 100 facsimiles of the design.

This value is one of the most interesting of all the Sarawak emissions, for there is evidence of several printings (as shown by the absence or presence of certain flaws), and of these, one, at any rate, can be plated. I have seen several sheets of this printing, which I designate "A," and give a list of the most prominent varieties by means of which it is possible to reconstruct the plate. It should be understood that the sheet of 100 stamps is arranged in 10 rows of 10.

PRINTING "A."

No. 1.—Small uncoloured line from base of "s" in "SARAWAK" to frame at left.

No. 2.—Small flaw under the lower portion of the neck.

No. 3.—Uncoloured dot under the "s" in "CENTS," and a hair line through the "s" in right lower corner.

No. 4.—The first stroke of the "K" in "SARAWAK" is joined to the frame above.

- No. 5.—The “TH” of “THREE” are joined at the top.
- No. 6.—Small flaw on circle opposite lower left corner.
- No. 7.—Small spot under “N” of “CENTS,” and the “s” in the same word is abnormally thick in its lower half.
- No. 8.—The right hand frame line of the “c” and the left one of the “B” in the top corners are broken.
- No. 9.—The right hand frame line of the corner letter “R” is broken, and there is a brown spot close to this space.
- No. 10.—Slight bulge on the top of the “T” of “THREE.”
- No. 11.—Minute dot under the “T” of “CENTS,” and a brown dot on the “s” in the same word.
- No. 12.—Small flaw on circle opposite top right corner.
- No. 13.—Flaw at the back of head level with the ear.
- No. 14.—Brown spot on the uncoloured line below the “T” of “THREE.”
- No. 15.—Minute triangular flaw between the tops of the letters “AR” in “SARAWAK.”
- No. 16.—Small spot joined to the first “A” of “SARAWAK.”
- No. 17.—First “A” in “SARAWAK” is smaller and narrower than on any other stamp in the sheet.
- No. 18.—The “TH” of “THREE” joined at the base.
- No. 19.—Brown smudge on the first stroke of the “H” in “THREE,” and spot in top left corner of frame around “s.”
- No. 20.—Minute brown dot in the top left corner of frame containing the letter “B.”
- No. 21.—Right hand line of frame around “B” broken in two places.
- No. 22.—Small dot before the top of the forehead, and small break in the uncoloured circle at top.
- No. 23.—Brown spot on “s” in “CENTS,” and lower frame line of corner “B” broken.
- No. 24.—Small triangular cut in shading above eye.
- No. 25.—Minute dot at top after first “A” of “SARAWAK,” and frames joined just below left top corner.
- No. 26.—Small brown dot in lower right corner of the frame containing “s.”
- No. 27.—Uncoloured dot above the second “E” in “THREE.”
- No. 28.—Short line between “AR” of “SARAWAK.”
- No. 29.—Small stop between “TS” of “CENTS.”
- No. 30.—Large elliptical flaw at back of head.
- No. 31.—V-shaped flaw before the “s” of “SARAWAK.”
- No. 32.—Uncoloured dot before the “s” of “SARAWAK.”
- No. 33.—Lower portion of “s” of “CENTS” joined to frame at right.
- No. 34.—Large circular flaw on neck below the ear.
- No. 35.—Scratch from inside the chin nearly to circle.

No. 36.—Spot between the "AK" of "SARAWAK," and another above the second upright stroke of the "N" in "CENTS."

No. 37.—Short break in the centre of the uncoloured line above value, and small flaw at base of neck.

No. 38.—Short vertical line under first "A," and dot after the "R" of "SARAWAK."

No. 39.—Small brown dot on the "T" of "CENTS."

No. 40.—Flaw below circle on triangular ornamentation in left lower corner.

No. 41.—Frame line at base almost entirely absent.

No. 42.—First stroke of "R" in "SARAWAK" joined to frame below, and a spot under the space between "TH" of "THREE."

No. 43.—Small flaw in front of eye.

No. 44.—Brown spot in extreme top right corner of square containing "B."

No. 45.—Uncoloured spot above the space between "AR" of "SARAWAK."

No. 46.—Line through the lower portion and spot after the third "A" of "SARAWAK."

No. 47.—Small line at top after first "A" of "SARAWAK," and dot under the "C" of "CENTS."

No. 48.—Brown spot on first "A" in "SARAWAK."

No. 49.—Flaw across hair and dot under the "H" of "THREE."

No. 50.—Brown spot on the upper part of the corner letter "B."

No. 51.—Small dot inside corner "C," and top of "S" in upper right corner cut away.

No. 52.—The "TH" of "THREE" are badly shaped, and there is a triangular flaw on the colour between the letters "NT" of "CENTS."

No. 53.—Uncoloured line joining the lower portions of the letters "NT" of "CENTS."

No. 54.—The fourth and fifth lozenges from the base of the pillar on right are joined together.

No. 55.—Dot before the "S" of "SARAWAK," and line after the "S" of "CENTS."

No. 56.—Semi-colon after the "T" of "CENTS."

No. 57.—Brown spot on the "T" of "THREE."

No. 58.—The lower portions of the letters "HR" of "THREE" are joined.

No. 59.—The line above value is broken at right end.

No. 60.—Small spot on left lower frame by fifth lozenge from base, and the right side of the frame around "R" is broken.

No. 61.—Small flaw below "WA" of "SARAWAK," and another to the left of the "S" in "CENTS."

No. 62.—Frame lines to the left of the corner "R" are

broken, and there is a short line in the middle of the "c" in "CENTS."

No. 63.—Spot between "EN" of "CENTS.," and a dot on the back of the lower portion of the corner "B."

No. 64.—Small dot in the centre of the space between words of value, and top of corner "c" turns inwards.

No. 65.—Dot in corner "c," and "c" of "CENTS" is joined to the frame above.

No. 66.—The colour of the lower tablet encroaches on the bottom portions of the "CE" of "CENTS."

No. 67.—Dot under the first stroke of the "A" of "SARAWAK," and a small flaw on second stroke of the "N" of "CENTS."

No. 68.—Dot under the second "E" of "THREE," and a spot after the top of the corner "B."

No. 69.—The frames under the corner "s" are joined by a small line, and there is a prominent spot on the front of the corner "B."

No. 70.—Large flaw on the lower parts of the "SA" of "SARAWAK."

No. 71.—The top frame line is absent, and the corner "s" is thin on its lower curve.

No. 72.—The "T" of "THREE" is joined to the frame at side, and there is a large flaw on the "N" of "CENTS."

No. 73.—The "HR" of "THREE" are joined at the centre.

No. 74.—Two flaws in front of forehead, and another at back of head.

No. 75.—Outer frame is broken just above corner "R," and the lower part of corner "s" is very thick.

No. 76.—Triangular flaw above "H" of "THREE," and a small spot on lower frame line of corner "s."

No. 77.—Flaw on chin, and another immediately below; and large flaw on frame at left.

No. 78.—Brown spot on "s," and bulge on top of "R" of "SARAWAK."

No. 79.—Scratch through lower part of neck into tablet of value.

No. 80.—Small flaw above hair.

No. 81.—Spot on right leg of "K" of "SARAWAK," and small v-shaped flaw under neck.

No. 82.—Dot between "SA" of "SARAWAK," and dots above and below the upright stroke of the first "E" of "THREE."

No. 83.—Flaw by circle in front of nose, and small line joined to the front of the "E" of "CENTS."

No. 84.—Two small dots joined to the first stroke of the "N" of "CENTS," and a small bulge on the frame before the "s" of "SARAWAK."

No. 85.—Two brown lines join the lower part of the corner “B” to the outer frame.

No. 86.—First stroke of “H” of “THREE” joined to frame above, and dot under the corner “B.”

No. 87.—Break in frame under corner “C,” and another in frame on right of corner “B.”

No. 88.—First stroke of corner “R” joined to left lower corner of frame, and first “E” of “THREE” joined to line above.

No. 89.—Large flaw below circle on right.

No. 90.—Right foot of corner “R” is elongated, and reaches frame below; and spot on the back of the “C” of “CENTS.”

No. 91.—Uncoloured lines at bottom of “TH” of “THREE,” and “R” of same word touches frame below. Both legs of the corner “R” are too short.

No. 92.—Centre of “E” of “CENTS” is joined by an uncoloured line to frame above “C” of same word.

No. 93.—Dots joined to “W” and second “A” of “SARAWAK.”

No. 94.—Small dot in a semicircular uncoloured line at top of circle.

No. 95.—Flaw touches circle above head.

No. 96.—Dots before “S” and above two last “A’s” and “K” of “SARAWAK.”

No. 97.—Large stop between the words of value.

No. 98.—Dot before “S” of “SARAWAK,” and kink in upright stroke of corner “B.”

No. 99.—Spot in corner of frame above “S” of “SARAWAK,” and large flaw in right lower spandrel.

No. 100.—Short line between “RA” of “SARAWAK,” and dot under the “T” of “THREE.”

Of the above more or less prominent flaws, the only one deemed of sufficient importance to catalogue is No. 97, with stop between the words of value, though this is in reality of no more philatelic interest than any of the others. It is certainly not of such importance as the variety with narrow “A” in “SARAWAK” (No. 17).

I have examined another sheet and several large blocks, which seem to point to a fresh printing owing to the absence of some of the most prominent flaws mentioned above, and the presence of new ones which are not shown in printing “A.” I call this new print-

ing "B," to differentiate it from the other, though there is no evidence to prove which is the earlier of the two. The main points of difference occur on the following stamps:—

PRINTING "B."

- No. 1.—Also has a large spot between "AR" of "SARAWAK."
 No. 3.—Has no line through the corner "s."
 No. 11.—Also has a flaw near circle under neck.
 No. 13.—No flaw at back of head.
 No. 21.—Frame round corner "B" is unbroken.
 No. 23.—Has no spot on the "s."
 No. 24.—Has no cut above the eye, but there is a spot under the second leg of the "K" in "SARAWAK."
 No. 27.—There is no spot over the "E," but there is a short line under the "T" of "CENTS."
 No. 28.—There is no line between "AR" of "SARAWAK."
 No. 30.—The large flaw at back of head is not shown.
 No. 34.—The large flaw does not appear.
 No. 35.—The long scratch does not occur.
 No. 38.—The short line and dot are not shown.
 No. 39.—There is no dot on the "T," but there is a spot on the back of the "C" of "CENTS."
 No. 43.—The flaw is not shown.
 No. 46.—The line and spot do not appear.
 No. 47.—There is no dot under the "C" of "CENTS."
 No. 49.—There is no flaw across hair.
 No. 50.—Also has large flaw across right lower spandrel and frame.
 No. 55.—There is no dot before the "s" of "SARAWAK," but there is a large flaw across right lower spandrel and frame.
 No. 57.—There is a flaw in the circle to right of head, and another on the line of the circle at top right corner.
 No. 58.—The "HR" of "THREE" are not joined, but there is a flaw across corner "B" and right frame lines.
 No. 59.—The line above value is unbroken, and the top left frame lines of corner "C" are broken.
 No. 62.—The frame lines are not broken.
 No. 64.—Also has a short vertical line under the "R" of "THREE."
 No. 65.—The "c" is not joined to the line above.
 No. 67.—Also has flaw on top of tablet by "c" of "CENTS."
 No. 70.—The large flaw is not shown.
 No. 74.—Neither of the flaws is shown.
 No. 77.—The flaws do not appear, but the centre portion of the corner "R" is quite removed.

No. 80.—The flaw does not appear.

No. 83.—The flaw in front of nose is not shown.

No. 86.—Also has a large kidney-shaped flaw on frame, just above the bottom right corner.

No. 88.—Also has a large flaw under the space between "SA" of "SARAWAK."

No. 95.—The flaw does not appear.

No. 100.—The line between "RA" of "SARAWAK" does not show.

In addition to the above two printings, I have discovered another, which I call "C," in which the number of minute flaws is distinctly less than in either of the foregoing, and, also, two very prominent flaws—narrow "A" in "SARAWAK," and stop between the words of value—do not occur. The stamps showing the chief points of difference are listed below:—

PRINTING "C."

No. 1.—No spot under the "N" of "CENTS."

No. 10.—Small line through top right corner of frame containing "C," and another through left line of frame round corner "B."

No. 12.—Large semicircular blotch of colour joins the right end of top name-tablet to corner frame.

No. 17.—The first "A" of "SARAWAK" is quite normal.

No. 30.—The large flaw is not shown.

No. 38.—The "T" of "THREE" is joined at base to frame at left.

No. 45.—There is a triangular flaw at the top of the space between "CE" of "CENTS."

No. 50.—The large flaw does not appear.

No. 51.—Large dot between "NT" of "CENTS."

No. 55.—The large flaw does not show, but there is a scratch extending from left border to neck.

No. 62.—The "SA" of "SARAWAK" are joined at base.

No. 65.—Has a flaw on the hair at the top left side.

No. 71.—Has a large flaw on the corner above the "K" of "SARAWAK," and a minute vertical line under the same letter.

No. 73.—Has a stop between the letters "TS" of "CENTS."

No. 76.—The corner "s" is badly blurred, and there is a large flaw at top left corner.

No. 78.—There is a long scratch reaching from the "s" of "SARAWAK" to the left lower spandrel.

No. 83.—There is a flaw on the hair just above the ear,

No. 92.—There is a large semicircular flaw on the upper portion of the "A" of "SARAWAK."

No. 97.—There is no stop between the words of value.

The stamps are printed in brown on fairly thick, unwatermarked, yellow paper. The paper-maker's initials, "L.N.L.," in large double lined capitals sometimes occur as a watermark once or twice in the sheet. The perforation, which gauges 11, is made by an entirely new single-line machine, the holes being very much larger than in the case of the first issue, and they are generally clearly cut.

C. Perf. 11. Large holes clean cut.

This machine appears to have been exclusively employed for this value.

A fair number of shades may be found, and the paper varies in tint, and may occasionally be found in quite a pronounced orange shade. Smudgy impressions, caused as explained in Chapter II., are sometimes met with.

Specimens are known imperforate. I have seen no proofs of this stamp. An interesting forgery, perforated 14, and printed in blue on white paper, was recorded in 1874, but some prominent philatelists took immediate action to stop its sale, and it is now exceedingly rare. The following is a synopsis of the chief varieties:—

1871. UNWATERMARKED. PERF. 11.

3 cents, brown on yellow paper.

- (a) Pale brown on yellow.
- (b) Deep brown on yellow.
- (c) Orange paper.
- (d) Imperforate.
- (e) Narrow first "A" in "SARAWAK."
- (f) Long-tailed "R" in left lower corner.
- (g) Stop between words of value.
- (h) Other flaws as shown above.
- (i) Blurred or "smudgy" impressions.
- (j) Watermarked with parts of the letters "L N L."

CHAPTER IV.

THE 1875 ISSUE.

AFTER managing for six years with only a local post, the authorities at Sarawak decided to develop the postal service, with the result that several new stamps were required. Towards the end of 1874 orders for stamps of the values of 2, 4, 6, 8 and 12 cents were given, and, according to an old number of the *Stamp Collectors' Magazine*, a 24 cents stamp was also ordered. This, however, was not included in the set,



though it is quite possible essays were prepared. Imperforate proofs of the five values were distributed in 1874, and on the 1st of January, 1875, the stamps were on sale at Sarawak.

The design is the same as that of the 3 cents then current, with the value tablet adapted to the denomination required. The stamps were lithographed in sheets of 100 (10 rows of 10) by Mr. Charles Whiting, the manufacturer of Sarawak's previous postal labels. In each denomination there are five distinct varieties, differing chiefly in the lettering on the value tablets. The engraved die of the 3 cents stamp, with the inscription "THREE CENTS" removed, was used in

their production. From this die five transfers were taken, in each case, and on the vacant space at the base the value desired was drawn in by hand. From this strip of five impressions, the lithographic stone of 100 stamps was made, there being, of course, two strips in each horizontal row, and 20 specimens of each variety on the sheet.

All the values are printed on fairly thick, unwater-marked, wove, tinted paper, and some of the sheets have a watermark composed of "L N L" in large double-line letters, extending over about three stamps. These letters are the initials, or trade-mark, of the maker of the paper.

Although these stamps were produced by Mr. Whiting, and are exactly the same size as the value issued in 1871, none of them are found perf. 11. Gibbons' catalogue gives their gauge as $11\frac{1}{2}$, but I have never yet found a specimen with this measurement. The majority of the stamps gauge an exact 12, and in cases where they do not, it is so near 12 as to be hardly worth quibbling over. In perforating these stamps, at least three single-line machines seem to have been employed, their leading characteristics being as follows:—

- | | | |
|----|-----------|--|
| D. | Perf. 12. | Large holes, clean cut perf. |
| E. | „ 12. | Small holes, clean cut perf. |
| F. | „ 12. | Small holes, rough, and almost pin-perf. |

I think there can be no question that "E" and "F" are different machines, for in the stamps having the latter perforation the holes appear to be slightly smaller as well as rougher. Single specimens are not always easy to identify, but in blocks of four or more no one should have the slightest difficulty in being able to differentiate between the three varieties.

The 6 cents, in a deep shade, and the 8 cents, may both be found with a pin-perforation gauging $6\frac{1}{2}$, and

Perf.

6 1/2
unperf.
perf.

the same two values are known with a large regular perforation measuring 7, which is very similar to the Susse perf. found on some of the early French stamps. These varieties are quite unofficial, and it is supposed that they are from imperforate proof sheets stolen from Mr. Whiting's establishment, and perforated in this manner to make them look more like the issued stamps. But, though quite unofficial, they are of the greatest interest to the specialist, and are also scarce.

The stamps of this issue are very rarely found with gum, and when the mucous substance is present it seems to have a decided partiality for the face instead of the back of the stamps. It is probable that the gum evaporated in the hot climate of Sarawak, and there is little doubt that the majority of the stamps were sold to the public without gum.

To simplify the descriptions of the five types in each value as much as possible, I have deemed it advisable to take each value separately as follows:—

THE TWO CENTS.

The 2 cents, printed in lilac on lilac tinted paper, exists in a great variety of shades, ranging from a bright violet to a brownish-grey—the latter probably being a "changeling" due to exposure to a strong light or to the effect of the tropical climate. The following is a description of the five varieties, so far as the words of value are concerned:—

TYPE 1.—Space between the words measures 1 mm.—The "TW" in "TWO" are larger than the corresponding letters in the other types. The "C" in "CENTS" is smaller than the "E," and the "S" is thin at the top and bulges out too much in the lower half.

TYPE 2.—Space between the words is 1 mm. The "C" in "CENTS" is as large as the "E," and the letter "S" is larger at the top than at the bottom.

TYPE 3.—Space between the words is 2 mm. The “c” in “CENTS” is small and narrow, while the “s” is small and badly bent at the top.

TYPE 4.—Space between the words is 1 mm. The “o” in “TWO” is smaller than the “w” and the “s” in “CENTS” is largest in its lower half. All the remaining letters are taller than in the other types.



TYPE 5.—The space between the words is 2 mm. The “o” in “TWO” is larger than the “w” and the “s” in “CENTS” is larger than in type 4.

In addition to the above all the stamps of type 5 show a small dot after the letter “c” in the top left hand corner.

There were apparently two distinct printings of this value, as may be proved by the presence or absence

of certain flaws. In the first of these the most prominent flaws are as below :—

PRINTING "A."

No. 3.—Uncoloured dot on the second stroke of the "N" in "CENTS."

No. 12.—The "W" of "SARAWAK" is joined to the frame above.

No. 24.—The lower frame line is very thick.

No. 43.—There is a spot before the "S" of "SARAWAK."

No. 51.—The "S" in "SARAWAK" is thin, and the top frame line is very crooked.

No. 59.—There is a large flaw at the top of the space between the letters "wo" of "TWO."

No. 70.—The "S" in the lower right corner is thick and misshapen at the base, and the frame line below is cut away.

No. 73.—The "R" in the left lower corner has a long tail reaching to the frame line below.

No. 85.—The top of the "B" and the frame lines in the upper right corner are cut away.

No. 87.—There is a large stop between the "NT" of "CENTS."

No. 96.—The "C" in "CENTS" is curved inwards at the base.

No. 98.—A semicircular piece of the tablet under "NT" of "CENTS" is cut away.

I have been shown a block of 40 stamps (eight rows from the left half of a sheet) in which none of the flaws noted above occur, but the following new ones are shown :—

No. 23 (?).—There is a large flaw on the "N" of "CENTS" almost obliterating the letter altogether.

No. 31 (?).—There is a stop at the top after the "K" of "SARAWAK."

No. 35 (?).—There is a circular flaw at the top between the letters "RA" of "SARAWAK."

No. 64 (?).—A semicircular piece of the tablet under the "N" of "CENTS" is cut away.

This value is known imperforate, and I have found it perforated (1) E; (2) F; and (3) E by D.

THE FOUR CENTS.

The 4 cents, red-brown on yellow paper, of this set exists in some fairly striking shades, ranging from

pale to deep red-brown. Though only catalogued at 5*d.* it is by no means an easy stamp to obtain in strips or blocks. The five varieties of the words of value are as follows:—

TYPE 1.—The letters are all fairly large, with the exception of the “fo” of “FOUR.” The “s” in “CENTS” is abnormally small at the top.



TYPE 2.—All the letters are rather small except the “f” of “FOUR,” and the space between the words is wider than in the other types.

TYPE 3.—The “fo” of “FOUR” are thin and well formed, and are smaller than the other letters.

TYPE 4.—The “o” of “FOUR” is very small, while the “s” of “CENTS”, which is large, is smaller at the top than at the base.

TYPE 5.—The “f” of “FOUR” has a long top,

while the "CE" of "CENTS" are smaller than the other letters in this word.

It is interesting to note that in type 2, the "R" in the lower left corner has its second leg curved and much thicker than is the case in the other types.

There seems to have been only one printing of this value, and I have found the flaws named below, but, not having an entire sheet or any large marginal blocks, I am unable to state the positions of these varieties :—

(i.) Has a white stop, level with the tops of the letters, in the space between the words of value.

(ii.) The lower frame line is broken in two places.

(iii.) The lower frame line is very crooked.

(iv.) There is a large flaw on the top right portion of the letter "T" of "CENTS."

(v.) There is a stop after the word "CENTS."

(vi.) There is a stop between the "WA" of "SARAWAK," and a triangular flaw at the base between the "FO" of "FOUR."

(vii.) There is a small circular flaw just before, and level with the top of, the "R" of "SARAWAK."

(viii.) In the small square containing the "C" in the top left corner there are three small strokes in the centre of the letter, and a fairly long one to the left of it.

(ix.) There is a small stroke at the top of the "E" of "CENTS."

(x.) There is a break in the top frame line, a minute spot before the "S" of "SARAWAK," and another level with the top of the "R" of the same word.

This value is known imperforate, and imperforate vertically. I have found three varieties of perforation, *i.e.* (1) E, (2) F, and (3) E by D. The latter is, seemingly, very scarce.

THE SIX CENTS.

The 6 cents, green on green paper, exists in a number of different tints, ranging from pale to very dark green. The five types of the words of value may be described as follows :—

TYPE I.—All the letters are tall and the "C" of "CENTS" is very large and open.

TYPE 2.—All the letters are tall, but the “c” of “CENTS” is not so tall, and the “E” is narrower than in type 1. The “s” in the same word is small at the top.

TYPE 3.—All the letters are short, and the “N” of “CENTS” is very narrow.

TYPE 4.—The letters are all short; the “c” of “CENTS” is not so open as in type 3, and the “s” in “SIX” is like a badly made “5.”



TYPE 5.—The letters are all slightly larger than in types 3 and 4.

Type 3 is very easy to identify for the right lower end of the tablet containing “SARAWAK” is bent, and usually just touches the corner of the square containing the letter “B.”

From the evidence I have been able to obtain, I

am of opinion that there were two printings of this value, the commoner one showing the following prominent flaws :—

PRINTING "A."

No. 3.—Large flaw on the lower left corner of the name tablet.

No. 4.—Has a line extending from the centre of the top of the "K" of "SARAWAK" nearly to the end of the tablet.

No. 7.—The "R" of "SARAWAK" is joined to the line above.

No. 14.—Has a short uncoloured line on the top part of the space between "SI" of "SIX."

No. 27.—The top of the "C" in "CENTS" is curved inwards.

No. 29.—The top line of the "B" in the upper right corner is cut flat, and is very thin.

No. 34.—There is a small flaw, under the circle, in the left lower spandrel.

No. 42.—There is a small circular flaw on the top of the "X" of "SIX."

No. 44.—There is a large flaw in the top right corner of the tablet containing the words of value.

No. 49.—The "B" in the right upper corner is like No. 29, and, in addition, it has a short line just above it.

No. 53.—There is a small flaw in the frame below and to the left of the "C" in the upper left corner.

No. 57.—There is a small spot between the "WA" of "SARAWAK."

No. 58.—There is a small spot on the lower part of the "K" of "SARAWAK."

No. 59.—A short uncoloured line joins the top of the "K" of "SARAWAK" to the line at the right.

No. 60.—There is a large flaw at the top of the letters "WA" of "SARAWAK."

No. 79.—Similar to No. 59, but the small line is not so thick.

No. 87.—There is an uncoloured line under the "SA" of "SARAWAK."

No. 94.—There is a small line extending from the frame nearly across the space above the "B" in the top right corner.

I am led to the belief that there was another printing, by the discovery of several copies of two noticeable flaws which are not shown in printing "A." These are :—

PRINTING "B."

- (i.) Has a large circular flaw after the "x" of "SIX."
 (ii.) Has a triangular flaw connecting the first stroke of the "κ" with the line above.

I have found three varieties of the perforation in this value, viz. :—(1) F; (2) E by D; and (3) F by D. In addition the stamp is known imperforate, pin-perf. about $6\frac{1}{2}$, and with a large perforation gauging 7.

THE EIGHT CENTS.

The 8 cents, blue on blue paper, exists in a variety of shades, including deep blue, pale blue, and a very



clearly defined bright blue. The following is a description of the five types of the words of value :—

TYPE I. — The bottom stroke of the "E" of "EIGHT" is very long, and the curve at the base of the "G" in the same word projects beyond the top of the letter.

TYPE 2.—The tablet is very close to the bottom frame line.

TYPE 3.—The middle bar of the "E" of "CENTS" is so short that it hardly shows at all.

TYPE 4.—The "H" of "EIGHT" is much narrower than in the other types.

TYPE 5.—The "N" in "CENTS" is narrower than in the other types, and the "T" in the same word is very thin.

I fancy there was only one printing of this type, and the number of flaws is extremely small, viz. :—

No. 13.—Lower frame line is cut away.

No. 17.—The lower portion of the "s" in the right bottom corner is much blurred.

No. 100.—The crossbar of the "H" in "EIGHT" is continued through the left upright stroke of this letter.

I have found two varieties of the perforation—(1) E, and (2) E by D. Specimens are known imperforate, pin-perforated, and with the large perforation gauging 7.

This value may also be found on *laid* paper, though it is very scarce in this condition.

THE TWELVE CENTS.

The 12 cents, red on rose paper, like the other values of this set, may also be found in a goodly array of shades. The five types of the words of value are as follows :—

TYPE 1.—The letters are all fairly thick, and the "s" of "CENTS" is very open.

TYPE 2.—The "s" of "CENTS" is not so open, and the "c" is thin at the ends.

TYPE 3.—The "c" of "CENTS" is thick at the base, and the top curve of the "s" is small and somewhat attenuated.

TYPE 4.—The lower portion of the "s" of "CENTS" is very thick, and is flattened at the right.

TYPE 5.—The “s” of “CENTS” is very thin and small.

Type 3 may also be identified by a small uncoloured line placed diagonally across the top right corner of the value tablet.

Apparently there was only one printing of this value, in which the following flaws occur:—

No. 15.—There is a large scratch across the top of the “AK” of “SARAWAK.”

No. 16.—The “E” of “CENTS” is joined to the line above.



No. 17.—There is a flaw on the base of the “L” of “TWELVE,” making the letter look like an inverted “T.”

No. 21.—There is a small spot under the “T” of “THREE.”

No. 35.—There is a small circular flaw before, and level with the top of, the “C” of “CENTS.”

No. 47.—The lower end of the “C” of “CENTS” is curved inwards.

No. 55.—There is a large spot in front of the “B” in the top right corner.

No. 61.—There is a large flaw quite covering the lower portion of the letters "CE" of "CENTS."

No. 66.—There is a semi-colon after the "s" in the right bottom corner.

No. 80.—The top right portion of the "R" in the lower left corner is cut away.

No. 95.—There is a long scratch across the top of the "AW" of "SARAWAK."

I have discovered three important errors in the making of the lithographic stone of this value. Two of the transfers in the top row got damaged, or failed to take properly for *the fourth and fifth stamps in this row are types 1 and 3 respectively*, instead of types 4 and 5 as on all the other rows on the sheet; and *the tenth stamp in the third row is type 3* instead of type 5 as in the end stamps of all the other rows.

I have seen four varieties of the perforation in this stamp, viz. (1) E, (2) F, (3) E by D, and (4) F by D. This value may be found imperforate, and it is also known on *laid* paper.

* * * *

The following is a synopsis of the varieties of this issue:—

1875. UNWATERMARKED. PERF. 12.

2 cents, lilac on lilac paper (5 types).

- (a) Pale lilac on lilac.
- (b) Deep lilac on lilac.
- (c) Bright violet on lilac.
- (d) Imperforate.
- (e) Perf. E (small holes).
- (f) Perf. F (small holes, rough perf.).
- (g) Perf. E by D (small by large holes).
- (h) Long tailed "R" in left lower corner.
- (i) Other flaws as shown above.
- (j) Watermarked with parts of the letters "L N L."

4 cents, red brown on yellow paper (5 types).

- (a) Pale red brown on yellow.
- (b) Deep red brown on yellow.
- (c) Imperforate.

- (d) Imperforate vertically.
- (e) Perf. E (small holes).
- (f) Perf. F (small holes, rough perf.).
- (g) Perf. E by D (small by large holes).
- (h) Flaws as shown above.
- (i) Watermarked with parts of the letters "L N L."

6 cents, green on green paper (5 types).

- (a) Deep green on green.
- (b) Pale green on green.
- (c) Imperforate.
- (d) Perf. F. (small holes, rough perf.).
- (e) Perf. E by D (small by large holes).
- (f) Perf. F by D (small rough by large holes).
- (g) Pin-perf. about $6\frac{1}{2}$.
- (h) Large perf. gauging 7.
- (i) Flaws as shown above.
- (j) Watermarked with parts of the letters "L N L."

8 cents, blue on blue paper (5 types).

- (a) Deep blue on blue.
- (b) Pale blue on blue.
- (c) Bright blue on blue.
- (d) Laid paper.
- (e) Imperforate.
- (f) Perf. E (small holes).
- (g) Perf. E by D (small by large holes).
- (h) Pin-perf. about $6\frac{1}{2}$.
- (i) Large perf. gauging 7.
- (j) Flaws as shown above.
- (k) Watermarked with parts of the letters "L N L."

12 cents, red on rose paper (5 types).

- (a) Deep red on rose.
- (b) Pale red on rose.
- (c) Laid paper.
- (d) Imperforate.
- (e) Perf. E (small holes).
- (f) Perf. F (small holes, rough perf.).
- (g) Perf. E by D (small by large holes).
- (h) Perf. F by D (small rough by large holes).
- (i) Flaws as shown above.
- (j) Watermarked with parts of the letters "L N L."

CHAPTER V.

THE 1888-92 ISSUE.

IN 1888, the year Sarawak was proclaimed a British protectorate, this country entered the Postal Union, with the result that its postal system was greatly extended and thoroughly revised. A new set of stamps, available for both postal and fiscal purposes, was ordered, and the first values to appear were those corresponding with the labels of the old design they



replaced, viz. :—2, 3, 4, 6, 8 and 12 cents. These, I believe, were all issued in 1888, and the highest value of the set, the 25 cents, probably made its appearance at the same time. In 1891, 5c. and 10c. values were added, and about September 1892 a fresh denomination bearing the facial value of 1c. was also added to the set.

The stamps were engraved and printed by Messrs. De La Rue and Co., Ltd., one "head" plate being used for all the values, and the required denominations being inserted at a second printing in the space pro-

vided for the purpose at the base of the design. The design shows a three-quarter face portrait of Sir Charles Brooke, with head to right, instead of to left, as in the previous issue, in an upright oval, flattened at the base. Below this is a rectangular tablet, with rounded corners, for the value, and extending from each side of this, round the head, is an oval band on which "POSTAGE. SARAWAK. REVENUE" is inscribed. On each side of the oval containing the head, and between this and the oval band, are eight white spots, and the spandrels are ornamented. A single-line rectangle encloses the whole design, the measurements of this being $18\frac{3}{4}$ mm. by $22\frac{1}{2}$ mm. The value, in each case, is shown in large uncoloured figures followed by a small "c" on a lined tablet.

The stamps were issued in small sheets of 60 (10 horizontal rows of 6), and have a continuous line around in a colour corresponding to that of the design. There is a small coloured dot at each corner, and above the two centre stamps of the top row is a small circle with dot in centre, and line about half an inch long underneath. No marginal plate number is shown. All the values are on white wove unwatermarked paper, and are perforated 14 like the current British stamps. The "head" portion of the denominations from 1c. to 6c. inclusive are in lilac, and the other values are in green, the tablets showing the value being in colours quite distinct from these.

The 2 cents, with value in *carmine*, was reported in December 1897. This is quite a distinct stamp, and apparently a new plate was employed for printing the value tablet, for this also has a Jubilee line around the sheet close to and just outside the usual lilac line.

The 8 cents, green and *carmine*, was probably also printed from this new "duty-plate," and so likewise represents a distinct stamp. A fair number of shades may be obtained, there being a particularly striking

one in the 6c., with value tablet in yellow brown instead of brown.

The following is a synopsis of the varieties:—

1888-92. NO WATERMARK. PERF. 14.

1 cent, lilac and black.

(a) Pale lilac and black.

2 cents, lilac and rosine.

(a) Pale lilac and rosine.

2 cents, lilac and carmine.

3 cents, lilac and ultramarine.

(a) Deep lilac and ultramarine.

4 cents, lilac and yellow.

(a) Deep lilac and yellow.

5 cents, lilac and green.

(a) Pale lilac and green.

6 cents, lilac and brown.

(a) Lilac and yellow brown.

8 cents, green and rosine.

8 cents, green and carmine.

10 cents, green and violet.

(a) Green and pale violet.

12 cents, green and ultramarine.

(a) Green and blue.

25 cents, green and brown.

(a) Pale green and brown.



Registration was optional, and the fee eight cents, payable in Straits stamps.

Hong-Kong, the Treaty Ports of China and Japan.

Postage, 12 cents	Straits stamps.
5	„ Sarawak stamps.
—	
17	„ per pound or fraction of a pound.

Registration compulsory; fee, eight cents. Straits stamps.

Barbados, British Guiana, Constantinople, Grenada, Heligoland, Jamaica, Leeward Islands (including Antigua, Dominica, Montserrat), Nevis, St. Kitts and Tortola, St. Vincent, St. Lucia, Tobago and Trinidad.

Postage, 44 cents	Straits stamps.
5	„ Sarawak stamps.
—	
49	„ a pound or fraction of a pound.

Ascension, Cape of Good Hope, Cyprus, Newfoundland, St. Helena.

Postage, 54 cents	Straits stamps.
5	„ Sarawak stamps.
—	
59	„ a pound or fraction of a pound.

Canada.

Postage, 75 cents	Straits stamps.
5	„ Sarawak stamps.
—	
80	„ a pound or fraction of a pound.

No inland parcel post had been started up to this time.

In the early part of 1887 the postal revenue had fallen to nearly a third of the half-yearly revenue of the previous year, and the outstations postal revenue was only \$11.42. The expenditure had nevertheless increased by \$438.35 to \$1994.58.

This was doubtless due to the illicit carrying of letters unstamped by the captains of native vessels. A meeting was held to consider the matter. The minutes of the meeting are here quoted:

"INLAND POSTAGE.

"A meeting was held in the Resident's Office, Kuching, to consider the Post Office regulations:

HIS HIGHNESS THE RAJAH—*Presiding.*

The Honourable the Resident, F. O. Maxwell.

The Acting Treasurer, R. V. Awdry, Esq.

The Postmaster, A. K. Leys, Esq.

The Datu Bandar.

The Datu Emaum.

Abang Mahomat Kassim.

Mr. Chong Seng, chop Ewe Hai and Co.

Mr. Ghee Siang, chop Ghee Soon and Co.

Mr. Seng Kow, chop Seng Hak and Co.

Mr. Liong Loo, chop Soon Seng and Co.

Mr. Bun Tiong, chop Swee Ee and Co.

Mr. Ah Koh, chop Chin Ann and Co.

"H.H. the Rajah said that in 1869 an order was issued instituting a Postal Service between Kuching and the Outstations, and also between the Outstations themselves, when rates of postage were drawn up and published. In course of time these regulations had become relaxed and letters are

carried by native boats and by steamers without being stamped.

“In view of the increased facility of communication between Kuching and the Outstations by means of steamers and launches, H.H. the Rajah now puts the question to all present, whether the postal system shall be reorganised on the basis of that instituted in 1869. In the event of the decision of the members of this Committee being that such a postal system is not necessary or beneficial to the country, His Highness proposes to allow letters to be conveyed by native boats as hitherto *unstamped*, but that no letter can be carried by Government steamers or launches.

“After some discussion on the matter, the members of the Committee agreed unanimously that a Postal Service was most necessary throughout the territory of Sarawak; the Chinese merchants, whom it more particularly affects, receiving the proposition for the reorganisation of this department with the greatest approval.

“It was then determined that the rates of postage throughout the territory of Sarawak shall be :

Local or between the different stations or districts.	Letters p. $\frac{1}{2}$ oz.	Newspapers	Packet of Printed Papers or Books per $\frac{1}{2}$ oz.	Registration.
	2	2	2	6

“Limit of weight for a newspaper to be four ounces.

"Rates of postage from Sarawak to Labuan, Brunei and North Borneo will be arranged and published later. It being the custom among the Chinese and Malays to trust to native boats to a great extent to carry their letters between the different districts, it is now determined that in view of the fact that such boats are dependent on the tides, and that the Post Office may be closed when such boats are starting, it shall be permitted to the Nakhoda or captain to receive letters into his charge *stamped*, for transmission to the port or ports to which he is bound.

"No letters shall be received by captains of steamers, sailing ships, native boats, or other description of vessel without being previously stamped, under penalty of \$5 on each letter so received.

"F. O. MAXWELL, Resident,
"Resident's Office, Kuching,
"Sarawak, 22nd August, 1887."

The statistics for the year 1887 show an increase of revenue of only \$33.99, but an increase of expenditure of \$1712.34. An explanation of the slight increase of revenue is contained in a leading article in the *Sarawak Gazette* for May 1, 1888:

"The very small increase in the receipts of the Post Office is rather disappointing, and may perhaps suggest that certain clauses in the new inland postal rules are not respected by native shipowners. The increase is however larger than it looks, as the sum received from sales of stamps to collectors is much less than in former years. As, however, the new regulations were in force for but a short time at the end of the year, the results in the future may

be confidently expected to show a marked improvement."

This opinion was substantiated in the next half year (January to June, 1888), when the revenue was \$583.20, an increase of \$270.22 for the half year.

But more notable still was the increase of the outstations postal revenue, which rose from \$11.42 in the first half of 1887 to \$134.48 in the corresponding period of 1888.

A complaint in the *Sarawak Gazette* for July, 1888, drew from the Postmaster-General an interesting statement as to the irregularity with which the native vessels delivered their mails at this period.

To the Editor of the *Sarawak Gazette* :

SIR,—I notice in the *Gazette* for this month, in an account of His Highness the Rajah's visit to Simanggang, it is stated :

"It was unfortunate that owing to some irregularity in forwarding the mails from Kuching, no notice had been received at Simanggang of His Highness's intention to visit the station."

His Highness crossed from Singapore in the p.s. *Adeh*, which arrived here on the 21st May, and His Highness left in H.H.S. *Aline* for Simanggang on the 1st June.

All letters, etc., in this office on the 17th May, for Simanggang, were forwarded on that date in the usual way by a native vessel.

Between the 17th May and the 1st June no vessel cleared for Simanggang or the Batang Lupar river, which carries mails, consequently, all letters, etc., posted and received at this Department for Simanggang, after the 17th May were forwarded on the 1st June by H.H.S. *Aline*.

So long as mails are conveyed by native

vessels irregularity in *receiving* them may naturally be expected, but in the absence of communication, as in this case, "irregularity in forwarding mails" is impossible.

I should have been pleased had the writer of your article notified to me in the first instance any irregularity which he might think had occurred, and I regret that he did not do so or assure himself of an "irregularity" before censuring a Public Department.

I am, Sir,

Your obedient servant,

A. K. LEYS,

Postmaster-General,

General Post Office,

Kuching, 5 July, 1888.

On Thursday, June 14, 1888, the Supreme Council assembled in Kuching and signed the agreement by which Sarawak was afforded British Protection.

The Rajah issued the following Order, dealing with postal matters, and granting special opportunities to outstation officers to get their mails more speedily from Singapore.

"I hereby direct that no mail bag is to be opened whilst in transit from Singapore to Kuching under any circumstances whatever without my order and signature; and, moreover, all mails enclosed and sealed from Outstations or other places, addressed to certain destinations, are never to be opened for any purpose by any Officers in intermediate Stations.

"Should opportunities offer of vessels running from any outstation to Singapore and back again to an outstation, on their return bringing the mail-

bag addressed to Kuching, then the Officers of the Station can write a request to the Postmaster-General of Singapore to send their letters to them direct, outside the bag.

“Under my hand and seal this 15th day of September, 1888.

“C. BROOKE, *Rajah.*”

The establishment of a Money Order Service between Sarawak and the Straits Settlements was the next development on the part of the Post Office. This took effect from November 1, 1888.

The next month a new series of stamps was issued, and these are considered in the next chapter.

CHAPTER VII.

ISSUE OF 1888—93.

THE *Sarawak Gazette* for December 1, 1888, contains the following note:

“A new issue of Sarawak stamps has been made, and they are now in circulation. The stamps are very neat and a great improvement on the old ones; they are in two colours only, green and mauve, but each different value bears a small square of different colour on which the value is printed in figures. The issue consists of 2, 3, 4, 6, 8, 12 and 25 cents, postage and revenue.”

This is the first notice we have found concerning the new issue, but from official sources quoted later it will be seen that some of the values had been



11



12



13



14



15



16



17



18



19



20



21



22

issued nearly three weeks before this notice appeared in print.

The new stamps (figs. 11—20), which it should be remembered were still of local validity only, were surface printed by Messrs. Thomas de la Rue and Co., Limited, of 110, Bunhill Row, London, E.C., and bear a distinct resemblance to the general type of British Colonial stamps which have long been manufactured by this firm.

The central feature of the design is a three-quarters face portrait to right of Rajah Charles Johnson Brooke, on an oval disc which has a ground of horizontal lines, and an outer band on which are inscribed the words, "POSTAGE . SARAWAK . & REVENUE." A tablet with a ground of perpendicular lines, in a different colour from the rest of the stamp, bears the numeral of value and a small "c" for cents, the numeral and the letter being in outline on a white ground. The corners are ornamented with serrated and foliated corner pieces, and the whole design is enclosed in an outer line of colour forming a complete rectangle.

The stamps were printed in sheets of sixty, made up of ten rows of six stamps each, and all values have the jubilee line—an outer line extending right round the plate of sixty stamps.

The paper is white wove and has no watermark. The gum is white and apparently the same as that used by Messrs. De la Rue for the stamps of Great Britain. The perforation gauges 14 uniformly.

The shades of the colours vary, particularly the mauve of the six lowest values and the red of the two cents and eight cents. A second printing of each of these last two stamps took place, and the sheets have double jubilee lines on the later print-

ings and the colours of the value tablets are very different.

The first of the stamps to be issued at the General Post Office, Kuching, was the 4 cents, which appeared on November 10, 1888. The next day the 2, 6, 8 and 12 cents were issued. The 25 cents appeared on November 19. The 5 cents was not issued until June 12, 1891, the 1 cent till June 6, 1892, and the 10 cents appeared on June 12, 1893. The date of issue of the 3 cents we are not able to definitely ascertain, but it was probably during November, 1888, as it is mentioned as having been issued, in the *Sarawak Gazette*, on December 1, 1888, in the paragraph quoted at the beginning of this chapter.

The dates given above are given on the authority of the Postmaster-General. For the numbers printed of these stamps, we are indebted to Messrs. De la Rue and Co.

1 cent	...	...	...	3,018 sheets	181,080
2 cents	...	...	...	3,605	216,360
3 cents	...	...	...	2,945	176,700
4 cents	...	...	...	877	52,620
5 cents	...	...	...	1,026	61,560
6 cents	...	...	...	214	12,840
8 cents	...	...	...	1,735	104,100
10 cents	...	...	...	520	31,200
12 cents	...	...	...	925	55,500
25 cents	...	...	...	344	20,640

SUMMARY.

1888-93. Figs. 11-20. Surface printed on white wove paper. Tablet of value in second colour. No watermark. Perforated 14.

1 cent,	lilac and	black.
2 cents,	„	carmine.
2 cents,	„	rosine.
3 cents,	„	ultramarine.
4 cents,	„	yellow.
5 cents,	„	green.
6 cents,	„	brown.
8 cents,	green and	carmine.
8 cents,	„	rosine.
10 cents,	„	violet.
12 cents,	„	ultramarine.
25 cents,	„	brown.

CHAPTER VIII.

PROVISIONAL ISSUES OF 1889—92.

FOR some reason not yet ascertained there was a shortage of two cents stamps within a year of their issue. Possibly the first supplies from London had been exhausted, and during the period necessary to elapse before a fresh supply could be received a provisional stamp of this value was created by overprinting the current eight cents stamp with the numeral "2" and a small capital letter "c" for "CENTS" followed by a period.

2^c

The first issue of this provisional stamp (fig. 21) at the General Post Office, Kuching, took place on August 3, 1889.

The overprinting was done by hand stamp and in black ink, and was normally applied so that it

obliterated the numeral "8" of the original eight cents stamp.

The Treasury records do not appear to be clear on the number of these or of any subsequent stamps which were overprinted. The overprint was in every case done in the Government Printing Office, Kuching.

As is always the case with handstamped overprints, there is considerable unevenness in the impressions. Copies exist with a distinct double surcharge, and there are pairs showing one stamp with and one stamp without the "2c" *se tenant*.

No stamp of the denomination five cents had been included in the series of stamps ordered from Messrs. De la Rue in 1888, and it appears that no need arose for this value until the beginning of 1891. A supply was ordered from London, but until these could be put in hand a quantity of the twelve cents stamps was overprinted and issued on February 17, 1891 (figs. 22 and 23).

These stamps also were overprinted in black, and there are two important differences in the type used. The first is a block figure "5" with a small serif capital "c." The second is a thicker "5" and with a heavy block letter "c."

5^c

A

5^c

B

Both types are found with and without the period after the letter "c." Double surcharges of the first type are known, but we have not seen one of the second type overprinted double. Various portions of the overprints at times are missing owing to the defective manipulation of the hand stamp.

CHAPTER IX.

THE 1897-1898 ISSUE.

IN the years 1897-98 the then current set (see Chapter V.) was augmented by the addition of four new values—16c., 32c., 50c., and \$1. The 50c. and \$1 stamps were first reported in November 1897, and the other two values made their appearance early in 1898. They are all in the same design as the 1888-92 set, and were printed by Messrs. De La Rue and Co., Ltd., from the same general head-plate. The 50 cents is



in green, and the other denominations have the tablets of value in different colours. The highest denomination has the value "\$1" on a plain tablet, while in the other cases the tablet is lined as before.

The following is a synopsis of the varieties :—

1897-98. NO WATERMARK. PERF. 14.

16 cents, green and orange.

(a) Green and pale orange.

32 cents, green and black.

(a) Pale green and black.

50 cents, green.

(a) Green and grey-green.

\$1, green and black.

(a) Pale green and black.

CHAPTER X.

THE 1899-1900 PROVISIONALS.

DURING the latter part of 1899 and early in 1900 there was quite an epidemic of provisionals, due either to a desire of the postal authorities to work off old stock, or to a sudden shortage of two of the most generally used values. About August 1899, the 12 cents, of the 1875 set, was surcharged "2 Cents" in two lines in black; shortly afterwards the 8 cents of the same issue was overprinted "4 Cents" in red;



in October the 3 cents, of 1871, was similarly reduced in value to 2 cents by means of a surcharge in black; and early in 1900 the last of the four provisionals—the 6 cents, of 1875, surcharged "4 Cents" in red—made its appearance.

The word "CENTS" is the same on all four stamps and the two "2's" and two "4's" are also similar. The word "CENTS" measures $10\frac{1}{2}$ mm. in length and there is just 2 mm. dividing this from the figure above. The figures differ somewhat in their positions in rela-

tion to the word "CENTS" and may be found either exactly above "N" or just over the space between "NT."

THE "2 CENTS" ON 12 CENTS.

The "2 Cents" on 12 cents, red on rose paper, was surcharged in entire sheets of 100 stamps at a time. There appear to have been no less than three settings of the type, which may be differentiated as follows:—

1.—Has no errors in the surcharge.

2.—The eighth stamp in first row (type 3) and the first stamp in the fourth row (type 1) have a smaller capital "s" in the word "CENTS."

3.—The second stamp in the first row (type 2) and the first stamp in the fourth row (type 1) have a smaller capital "s" in "CENTS."

This small "s" is a very distinct variety and can be easily identified.

One sheet (setting 3) was issued with the overprint inverted, and in this the small "s" errors would occur on the tenth stamp in the seventh row (type 5) and the ninth stamp in the bottom row (type 4). It is said that only one sheet of 100 was issued thus, and these were bought at the post office in the ordinary way by a Chinaman, who used most of them before he discovered anything wrong. If this information is correct, the inverted varieties with small "s" should be of the highest degree of rarity, for there can be only two of them in existence. As Mrs. Field is the fortunate possessor of one of these (the tenth in the seventh row) there is only one left for the rest of the specialists in Sarawak.

The flaws occurring on the unsurcharged stamp can, of course, all be found in this provisional, and the laid paper variety also exists. I have found four varieties in the perforation, viz.: (1) E; (2) F; (3) E by D; and (4) F by D.

This value is known imperforate and also imperf. horizontally.

* * * *

THE "4 CENTS" ON 8 CENTS.

The 8 cents, blue on blue paper, was overprinted in half-sheets of 50 stamps (10 rows of 5) at a time. Presumably the same type was used as in surcharging the 2c. on the 12c., with the figures "2" replaced by "4's", for the two small "s" varieties occur in the same positions as in setting 3, viz.: second in first and first in fourth rows. It is interesting to note that the small "s" on the second stamp in the first row has the curve of the top left portion cut away. For some reason or other an extra vertical row of type was added on the right, for right-half sheets of this stamp, with the margin attached, invariably show the surcharge on the margin.

I have seen one of these stamps without the "T" and a pair, one of which has no surcharge. Neither of these varieties is due to absence of the type, but they owe their origin to careless inking.

This value may be found on very distinct *laid* paper and, judging from the few specimens about, the variety seems to be an extremely rare one.

Four varieties of perforation are known: (1) E; (2) F; (3) E by D; and (4) F by D.

Imperforate specimens of this stamp are also known.

* * * *

THE "2 CENTS" ON 3 CENTS.

The 3 cents, brown on yellow paper, surcharged "2 cents", was overprinted in sheets of 100 stamps at a time, like the 2c. on 12c. of this set. The same

type was employed, but the small "s" errors were corrected and so do not appear.

There were two settings of the type and in the first of these there is an interesting error. The sixth stamp on the top row of the sheets has no period, and only two small dots are shown where the "s" should appear. In this setting, too, quite a number of the stamps have no serif on the left of the top stroke of the "T". In the second setting, which is much the commoner, the above mentioned error is corrected and all the "T's" print perfectly.

Printings "A" and "B" of the 3 cents were surcharged, so all the flaws common to those printings may be obtained.

This stamp may be found imperforate.

* * * *

THE "4 CENTS" ON 6 CENTS.

The "4 cents" on 6 cents, green on green paper—the last of the provisionals—was also surcharged in entire sheets of 100 stamps. There were two settings of the type, the first of which had an error with stop level with the top of the "s" on the seventh stamp in the top row. This was soon corrected, and the subsequent printing was quite free from varieties of any kind.

I have found two perforations in this value, i.e., (1) E, and (2) E by D.

* * * *

The following is a synopsis of the varieties:—

1899-1900. NO WATERMARK.

"2 CENTS" on 3 cents, brown on yellow paper.

- (a) With no period and two dots instead of "s."
- (b) Pale brown on yellow.
- (c) Deep brown on yellow.
- (d) Imperforate.
- (e) Narrow first "A" in "SARAWAK."

- (f) Long tailed "R" in left lower corner.
- (g) Stop between words of value.
- (h) Other flaws as in printings "A" and "B."
- (i) Watermarked with parts of letters "L N L."

"2 CENTS" on 12 cents, red on rose paper (5 types).

- (a) With small "s" in "CENTS."
- (b) Inverted surcharge.
- (c) Laid paper.
- (d) Imperforate.
- (e) Imperf. horizontally.
- (f) Perforated E (small holes).
- (g) " F (small holes, rough perf.).
- (h) " E by D (small by large holes).
- (i) " F by D (small, rough, by large holes).
- (j) Deep red on rose.
- (k) Pale red on rose.
- (l) Flaws, as shown in Chapter IV.
- (m) Watermarked with parts of the letters "L N L."

"4 CENTS" on 6 cents, green on green paper (5 types).

- (a) Period level with top of the "s" in "CENTS."
- (b) Perforated E (small holes).
- (c) " E by D (small by large holes).
- (d) Very dark green on green.
- (e) Bright green on green.
- (f) Pale green on green.
- (g) Flaws, as shown in Chapter IV.
- (h) Watermarked with parts of the letters "L N L."

"4 CENTS" on 8 cents, blue on blue paper (5 types).

- (a) With small "s" in "CENTS."
- (b) Pair, one without surcharge.
- (c) With the "T" of "CENTS" omitted.
- (d) With surcharge on margin.
- (e) Laid paper.
- (f) Imperforate.
- (g) Perforated E (small holes).
- (h) " F (small holes, rough perf.).
- (i) " E by D (small by large holes).
- (j) " F by D (small, rough, by large holes).
- (k) Deep blue on blue.
- (l) Pale blue on blue.
- (m) Flaws, as shown in Chapter IV.
- (n) Watermarked with parts of the letters "L N L."

CHAPTER XI.

THE 1899-1901 ISSUE.

AT the end of 1899, at various times in 1900, and early in 1901, the values of an entirely new set printed by Messrs. De La Rue and Co., Ltd., made their appearance. The design is exactly like that of the 1888-1892 issue, with the exception that the inscriptions left and right of the head are "POSTAGE—POSTAGE," instead of "POSTAGE & REVENUE" respectively. The



4c. and 10c. appeared in November 1899, the 2c., 8c., 12c., 16c., 25c., 50c. and \$1, followed in January 1900, the 20c. appeared in May of the same year, and the 1c. was issued in January 1901. It will be noted that the 2c., 4c. and 10c. are in the proper Postal Union colours for these values—green, carmine, and ultramarine respectively. One "head" plate did duty for the entire series. This consisted of 60 stamps (10 rows of 6) with Jubilee line around, and with the plate number "1" in white on a solid circle of colour four times on the margin. The plate

numbers are placed above the second and fifth stamps in the top row, and below the corresponding stamps in the bottom row.

The value tablets were printed in at a second operation, and, with the exception of the 2c., 4c., 10c. and 12c. values, the colours of these are quite different from that of the rest of the design. The same "duty" plates—without Jubilee line—as were used for the previous issues, were employed for all the values of this set, except the 8c., 12c. and 25c. Later printings of the 2 cents stamps also had the value tablets printed from a new "duty" plate. In these four instances there is an extra Jubilee line around the sheet in the same colours as those used for the value tablets. The denomination of the \$1 stamp is shown on a plain tablet, while in the other stamps the value tablet is lined.

All the stamps are on unwatermarked white wove paper, perforated 14 as before.

The following is a synopsis of the varieties :—

1899-1901. NO WATERMARK. PERF. 14.

1 cent, dull blue and carmine.

(a) Bright blue and carmine.

2 cents, green.

(a) Deep green.

(b) Green and grey green.

4 cents, carmine.

(a) Carmine and pale carmine.

8 cents, yellow and black.

(a) Yellow and grey black.

10 cents, ultramarine.

(a) Deep ultramarine.

(b) Ultramarine and blue.

12 cents, lilac.

(a) Lilac and pale lilac.

(b) Aniline mauve.

16 cents, pale brown and green.

(a) Pale brown and deep green.

20 cents, bistre and mauve.

(a) Yellow bistre and mauve.

25 cents, brown and pale blue.

(a) Brown and blue.

50 cents, sage green and rose.

(a) Sage green and pale rose.

\$1, carmine and pale green.

(a) Carmine and green.



CHAPTER XII.

THE 1902 ISSUE.

EARLY in 1902 a supply of 2 cents stamps, in exactly the same design as the one described in the last chapter, was despatched to Sarawak, and on arrival there it was discovered that they were on paper watermarked "quatrefoils" like the issues of Johore and Zanzibar. This paper was, I believe, used in error, for other supplies of this value sent from London since have all been on the usual unwatermarked paper.

1902. WATERMARK "QUATREFOILS. PERF. 14.

2 cents, green.

(a) Green and pale green.

APPENDIX.

A DOUBTFUL VARIETY.

THE 3 cents of 1871 is known surcharged "TWO CENTS" in tall, thin, sans-serifs capitals, about 3 mm. high, and there is much doubt as to its authenticity. The variety in question appeared in 1876, so that, if genuine, it ranks as Sarawak's first provisional.

At one time it was included in the catalogue as a *bonâ-fide* variety, though in the present edition of "Gibbons," we are told that "it is considered a bogus surcharge." It is not stated by whom, or on what grounds, it is considered bogus, and having once been included in the catalogue, a little explanation on these points would be appreciated.

The postal affairs of Sarawak were in a somewhat crude state at this period (1876), and it is not at all unlikely that the stamp was issued by official authority without the fact being generally known. But until some substantial evidence can be produced for or against its authenticity, its status must remain an open question.

I have seen two used specimens cancelled with the Sarawak registered postmark in black, and also obliterated with the London "arrival" postmark in red. Why the latter was impressed on the postage labels it is difficult to say. This postmark was applied to all registered letters coming from abroad, generally on the face of the envelopes, and though it often happened that a part of it touched the postage stamps, it was a rare occurrence for the whole of the mark to cover the postal label. It is thus curious that both these

Sarawak stamps were cancelled in the same manner. So far as I can recollect, the dates of the two postmarks were September and November 1876, respectively.

There can, I think, be no doubt that both these postmarks are quite genuine, and as they could not have been impressed "by favour," it seems to prove that both these "TWO CENTS" provisionals passed through the post. Though this is, of course, not evidence of their genuineness, nor of the fact that they had any franking power.

I shall be pleased to hear from any reader who can furnish information likely to have any bearing on this subject.

* * * *

It is quite probable that many varieties of Sarawak stamps not mentioned in this volume will be discovered sooner or later, and these will be fully described from time to time in the pages of *THE WEST-END PHILATELIST*.



SARAWAK

Priced catalogue of varieties in stock at the time of going to Press:—

	Unused.		Used.	
	s.	d.	s.	d.
1869.—3 c., brown on yellow	3	6	—	—
1871.—3 c., brown on yellow	—	3	—	—
(a) pale brown on yellow	—	6	—	—
(b) deep brown on yellow	—	6	—	—
1875.—2 c., lilac on lilac	—	8	1	4
(a) blue lilac on lilac	1	9	2	6
(b) strip showing the five types ..	—	—	10	—
4 c., red brown on yellow	—	4	—	8
6 c., green on green	—	5	—	—
8 c., blue on blue	—	5	—	—
(a) deep blue on blue	—	8	—	—
12 c., red on rose	—	8	—	—
(a) dull red on rose	1	—	—	—
1888-92.—1 c., lilac and black	—	1½	—	—
2 c., lilac and rosine	—	4	—	—
(a) lilac and carmine	—	3	—	—
3 c., lilac and ultramarine	—	2½	—	—
(a) deep lilac and ultramarine ..	—	4	—	—
4 c., lilac and orange	1	2	—	—
(b) lilac and yellow	2	—	—	—
5 c., lilac and green	—	4	—	—
6 c., lilac and brown	1	3	—	—
(a) lilac and yellow brown	2	6	—	—
8 c., green and rosine	—	8	—	8
(a) green and carmine	—	9	—	—
10 c., green and mauve	—	9	—	8
12 c., green and blue	—	6	—	—
25 c., green and brown	1	6	—	—
1891-92.—1 c. on 3 c., small "o" and "c" ..	—	2	—	—
1 c. on 3 c., capital "O" and "C" ..	5	6	—	—
2 c. on 8 c.	—	4	—	—
5 c. on 12 c., small "c"	—	4	—	—
5 c. on 12 c., large "C" with stop ..	7	6	—	—
5 c. on 12 c., large "C" without stop	7	6	2	3

**D. FIELD, 4 & 5 The Royal Arcade, Old Bond Street,
and Albemarle Street, London, W.**

SARAWAK—*continued*

	Unused.		Used.	
	s.	d.	s.	d.
1892.—1 c. on 3 c., brown on yellow	—	1	—	4
1895. Perf. 12.—2 c., red brown	—	5	1	6
4 c., black	—	3	—	3
6 c., violet	1	—	—	—
8 c., green	1	—	—	—
1895. Perf. 12½.—2 c., red brown	7	6	5	—
(a) white paper	20	—	—	—
1897-98.—16 c., green and orange	—	10	—	—
32 c., green and black	2	—	—	—
5c c., green	2	6	—	—
\$1 green and black	5	—	—	—
1899-1900.—2 c. on 3 c., brown on yellow ..	—	2	—	5
(a) pale brown on yellow	—	6	—	—
2 c. on 12 c., red on rose	—	4	—	8
(a) with small "s"	7	6	—	—
4 c. on 6 c., green on green	3	—	—	—
(a) strip showing the five types	16	—	20	—
4 c. on 8 c., blue on blue	1	3	—	—
(a) small "s"	10	—	—	—
(b) strip showing the five types	8	6	—	—
(c) pair showing surcharge on margin	7	6	—	—
1899-1901.—1 c., dull blue and carmine ..	—	1	—	1
2 c., green	—	2	—	2
4 c., carmine	—	2	—	1
8 c., yellow and black	—	4	—	3
10 c., ultramarine	—	4	—	—
12 c., mauve	—	5	—	—
16 c., brown and green	—	6	—	—
20 c., bistre and mauve	—	7	—	7
25 c., brown and pale blue	—	9	—	—
50 c., sage green and rose	1	6	—	—
\$1, carmine and green	3	—	2	6
1902—with watermark—				
2 c., green	1	—	—	9

Most of the varieties not priced in the above list will probably be in stock by the time this work is published. Write for any you want and I shall be pleased to quote prices per return of post.

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*Newfoundland. 1880, 5c. blue seal	3/6	1/-
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*St. Lucia, 1892, 1d. on 4d. brown	2/-	1/-
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