



SEYCHELLES.

c100 Stadtmüller

R.R. Shiller

1. 25



Postage Stamps

SEYMOUR

From their first issue in 1848

To the present time

BY

W. S. SEYMOUR

THE  
**Postage Stamps**

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OF  
SEYCHELLES,

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From their First Issue in 1890,  
To the Present Time,


BY  
A. J. FOULGER.

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Price { Paper Covers 5d. } Post free.  
      { Cloth Covers 7d. }

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PLATE I.



PLATE II.





# INTRODUCTION.



*The SEYCHELLES are a group of some thirty islands, situated in the Indian Ocean, some 600 miles N.E. of Madagascar, right in the heart of the Tropics. These Islands were taken from the French in 1798 by Great Britain, and are now under the Governor of Mauritius. They are mostly mountainous and surrounded by coral reefs. Exports—Fibres, Nuts, Palm Oil, &c. Mahè, is the largest Island, being 59 square miles, the chief town is Port Victoria, where a small garrison is always stationed. The population consists chiefly of slaves from East Africa. It is rather strange that although it has been a British Colony for so many years, French is still the language generally spoken.*

5, BEECHWOOD GROVE,  
90, Lister Avenue,  
MOORHEAD LANE,  
Bradford.  
SHIPLEY.

A. J. FOULGER.

**S**TAMPS were first issued in Seychelles in 1890, and were prepared by the well-known firm of Messrs. De La Rue. The first set of Stamps to appear consisted of eight values, the design as hereafter given. The head of Queen Victoria in a circle forms the centre-piece, at each side the word "Postage" appears in a rectangle, while the name "SEYCHELLES" is at the top of the Stamp. In the lower portion of the Stamp there is an hexagonal space which denotes the value, and on each side of this a spray of leaves. This same design has been used by many Colonies since its introduction for Seychelles. All the Stamps issued in this Colony are watermarked with a Crown and C.A., and are perforated 14. As most philatelists know there are two distinct plates used in the production of the above Stamps, classed as plate I. and plate II., but, however, it will be as well to point out the difference. To decide this examine the second jewel space on the band of the crown. In plate I. there are lines of shading in the middle compartment of the diadem which contains the diamond shaped jewel, and in plate II. you will perceive it is quite clear from any shading.

(See Illustrations).

These Stamps were produced in two operations. The first prints the design, whilst the second prints the name of the Colony and the value; thus it will be seen that the same plate is used for the body of the Stamp in each value. Altogether three plates have been used, the first shewing plate I., and the two later ones plate II. The Stamps are printed in sheets of 120, arranged in two panes of 60 (10



rows of 6) placed side by side. The plate number appears four times on each sheet, above and below the second Stamp from the ends of the top and bottom rows. Though there does not appear to be any reliable means of distinguishing between individual specimens from plates II. and III. (apart from the marginal Stamps from the corners). Those from plate I. can be easily identified as they are all plate I. There are also many colours of the gum used, such as brown, creamy, and white. The brown is mostly found on the earliest issues; the creamy on the intermediate ones, whilst the white gum has almost invariably been used for the later issues; but at the same time you can find all shades of gum on any of the issues. As I stated before the first issue for this Colony was in 1890, the set consisting of eight different values, ranging from 2 cents. to 96 cents. I may say that this is the only issue in which Stamps of die I. are known to exist.

### First Issue, 1890, Plate I.

2 Cents.	Green and Carmine.	Number issued	169,440
4	„ Carmine and Green.	„ „	156,720
8	„ Brown, Purple and Blue.	„ „	145,680
10	„ Brown and Blue.	„ „	99,960
13	„ Grey and Black.	„ „	28,800
16	„ Chestnut and Blue.	„ „	161,400
48	„ Ochre and Green.	„ „	28,200
96	„ Mauve and Carmine.	„ „	16,800

### Issue, 1890, Plate II.

2 cents.	...	...	Green and Carmine.
4	„	...	Carmine and Green.
8	„	...	Brown, Purple and Blue.
10	„	...	Brown and Blue.
13	„	...	Grey and Black.
16	„	...	Chestnut and Blue.

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### Second Issue, 1893, Provisionals.

A reduced rate of postage came into force early in 1893, and this caused the value of Stamps to be made to 3, 12, 15, 45 and 90 cents. necessary. Therefore, a supply of the first four values was ordered from Messrs. De La Rue, but before these reached the Colony a quantity of the 1890 issue values—4, 16, 48 and 96 cent. Stamps—were locally surcharged to meet the requirements for the first-named values. The surcharges are in two lines in black, consisting of the value in large thick figures about  $4\frac{1}{2}$  m.m. high, with the word "**Cents**" in heavy type underneath. There are a great many varieties in the surcharges issued which no doubt is accounted for by inexperienced hands being employed to carry out the surcharging. These consists chiefly of raised or dropped letters, caused by the type being left loose in the forme used for the surcharging. These varieties differ, however, by different letters being shifted—such as raised "C S" or dropped "N T," raised "S," raised "C." The surcharges was made on 30 Stamps at a time, so that each pane of 60 had to go under the printing press twice. These surcharges were made on both Plate I. and II., as it will be found the 3 cents. on 4 cents., 12 cents. on 16 cents. and 15 cents. on 16 cents. are on Plate II. only, and on Plate I. are found 12 cents. on 16 cents., 15 cents. on 16 cents., 45 cents. on 48 cents. and 90 cents. on 96 cents. There are also to be found in these, surcharged varieties with inverted surcharges, but only in the three lower values, namely, 3 cents. on 4 cents. Plate II., 12 cents. on 16 cents. Plate II., and 15 cents. on 16 cents. Plate I. There are also double surcharges to be found in the three lower values.

The number of each value with inverted surcharges issued, was about 200 copies of each value, and of the 12 cents. on 16 cents. may be found about 6 copies with double surcharge.

The quantities over-printed were :

				Stock on hand.	
3 cents. on 4 cents.	...	90,480	...	obsolete.	
12 ,, 16 ,,	...	23,760	...	5,880	
15 ,, 16 ,,	...	24,000	...	5,160	
45 ,, 48 ,,	...	13,200	...	obsolete.	
90 ,, 96 ,,	...	8,160	...	obsolete.	

### Third Issue, 1893, Plate II.

This issue consisted of four values, namely, 3 cents., 12 cents., 15 cents. and 45 cents., watermark Crown C.A., perforated 14 as before. The design was similar to the previous issues, but of course the colour was changed, the 3 cents. being Purple and Orange, 12 cents. Sepia and Green, 15 cents. Sage Green and Lilac, 45 cents. Brown and Carmine. This issue remained in force till June, 1896. The number printed of each value and the stock on hand at the time of withdrawal were as follows:—

Value,		Number issued.		Stock on hand.
3 cents.	...	131,880	...	72,000
12 ,,	...	107,880	...	90,000
15 ,,	...	100,860	...	60,000
45 ,,	...	47,160	...	37,200



### Fourth Issue, 1896, Plate II.

This issue consisted of two Provisional Stamps, being made from the issue of 1893, namely—the 45 cents. Brown and Carmine was surcharged 18 cents., and 36 cents. on 45 cents. The surcharges were made in tall thin type about 4 millimetres high and 16 millimetres in length, but one notable fact about the two surcharges are that the 36 on 45 is  $16\frac{1}{2}$  millimetres, the difference being in the value. There are also to be found in this issue double surcharges and also broken value and letters, as in most of the Stamps of this country.

### Fifth Issue, 1897, Plate II.

This issue was engraved and printed by Messrs. De La Rue & Co., and was made up of the following values—2 cents. Orange Brown and Green, 6 cents. Carmine, 15 cents. Ultramarine, 18 cents. Ultramarine, 36 cents. Brown and Carmine, 75 cents. Yellow and Violet, 1 Rupee Mauve and Deep Red, 1 Rupee 50 cents. Grey and Carmine, 2 Rupee 25 cents. Lilac and Green. This made nine values in all for this issue. There is no particular difference between this issue and the previous one, only there are four higher values, and collectors will note that the value on the four higher values are on a plain white ground in the hexagonal space, and on all the other issues and values the value has been on a ground work the same colour as their values.

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### Sixth Issue, 1901, Plate II.

Again there appears another Provisional issue, about June, 1901. What good use these were to supply it is difficult to understand, as most of the number issued was sold to a few collectors or dealers; therefore they never were used to fill the postal demands. The 3 cents. on 36 cents. was the first to appear. That is the reason why this value has become quite scarce without the surcharge. Then followed the 3 cents. on 16 cents. and the 6 cents. on 8 cents., and the last of the four 3 cents. on 10 cents. The issue of these four provisionals covered a space of four months. They were surcharged in the same way as the previous provisionals, so you will find dropped letters, such as are to be found in the issue of 1893, and also broken letters and letters missing, &c. The 3 cents. on 10 cents. and 3 cents. on 16 cents., and 3 cents. on 36 cents. are surcharged in Black, 3 cents. with two parallel lines cancelling the old value. The length of the surcharges are 12 millimetres in all values except the 6 cents. on 8 cents., which has the surcharge printed over the original value without any lines; this surcharge is about  $12\frac{1}{2}$  millimetres in length, and no doubt was printed with the same type as the previous three Stamps. The 3 cents. on 16 cents. is also known with double surcharge. The number surcharged as far as can be gathered are:—

3 cents. on 36 cents.	36,000	3 cents. on 16 cents.	31,200
6     ,,     8     ,,	50,000	3     ,,     10     ,,	42,000

### Seventh Issue, 1902, Plate II.

Just about twelve months after the last issue there followed another outbreak of surcharged varieties. The values issued were 2 cents. on 4 cents., 30 cents. on 75 cents., 30 cents. on 1 Rupee, 45 cents. on 1 Rupee and 45 cents. on 2 Rupees 25 cents. The surcharge on the 2 cents. on 4 cents. was as the previous issue, 12 millimetres in length, but in the other four values the surcharge differs, being 15 millimeters in length and the parallel lines run through the Stamps. As usual the work was badly done, as we find the type defective, and the ink used very freely, resulting in many cases in blurred impressions, also broken letters and missing letters. In the 30 cents. it will be found that the figure "0" in the 30 is narrower in some copies than others; this is only a variety of no great value, and in the 45 cents. on 2 Rupees 25 cents. a variety occurs in the 5 being narrower than in the ordinary type.

### Eighth Issue, 1903, King's Head.

Crown C.A.	Perforated 14.	Values Issued:—
2 cents. ... ..		Chestnut and Green.
3 ,, ... ..		Dull Green.
6 ,, ... ..		Carmine.
12 ,, ... ..		Grey, Brown and Dull Green.
15 ,, ... ..		Ultramarine.
18 ,, ... ..		Sage Green and Carmine.
30 ,, ... ..		Violet and Dull Green.
45 ,, ... ..		Brown and Carmine.
75 ,, ... ..		Yellow and Violet.
1 Rupee 50 cents.		Gray, Black and Carmine.
2 ,, 25 ,,		Mauve and Green.



This issue is the same as the first issue, only the ground work where the head of the King is printed is plain instead of being a ground work of lines; there are also minor variety which occurs in the 30 cents. value, the "C" in the value touches the "0" of the 30, whereas it does not occur in any of the other values.

Also there are to be found minor differences in the 15 cents and 45 cents. The top point in the crown is under the H of Seychelles, and in all the other values it is in the centre of the spacing.

#### Ninth Issue, 1903, King's Head.

3 cents. on 15 cents.	Ultramarine.
3    ,,    18    ,,	Sage Green and Carmine.
3    ,,    45    ,,	Brown and Carmine.

The surcharges in this issue are the same as in the 1901 issue, 12 millimetres in length with two bars through the original value. It is believed, however, that the number surcharged of the three values—was about 20,000 of each; these were bought up by one man, who still holds most of them.

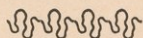
In this surcharged issue, the 3 on 15 cents value, as given above, is to be found back in the centre of the spacing.

ESTABLISHED AT THIS ADDRESS  
SINCE 1877.

# **MARGOSCHIS BROS.,**

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BIRMINGHAM.**



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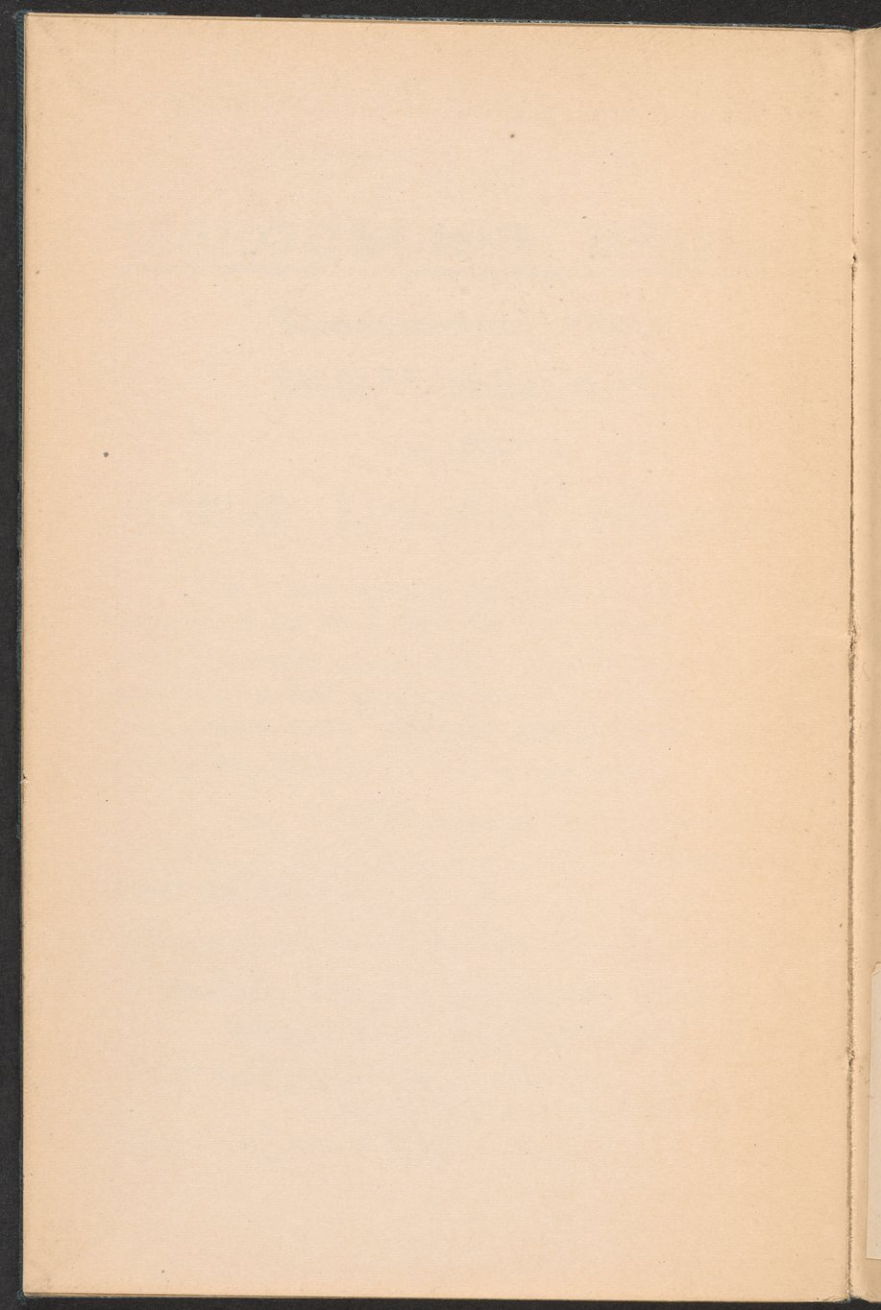
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British Colonial Stamps

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137 King Street Asheville, N. C.

