THE MARKET IN MODERN COLONIALS

TRANS-JORDAN COMMEMORATIVES

By "Philatelia."

Following the publication of the preliminary figures of quantities sold of the two highest values of the 1933 Pictorial issue, there has been a brisk demand for these two and to a lesser extent for the lower values, for which figures, as far as I am aware have not been published in this country.

I am indebted to a Palestine correspondent for the full figures for this issue.

Of the five low values the 5M. is the commonest with 215,487 issued, and the 3M. the scarcest with 31,200.

I will give the figures for 10M. up to 200M. and compared with the other two recent commemorative sets of this country, the Constitution or "Dastour" (1928) set, and the Locust Issue (1930).

The 500 and 1,000M. did not figure in the previous commemorative series, but the quantities I have received confirm those already given as 1,460 and 1,100 approximately, respectively.

To find a quantity as small as this among the Trans-Jordan issues, we have to go back to the 1923 issues amongst which are a considerable number of stamps issued in even smaller quantity, and to the scarcity of which to-day, most keen collectors of this country know very well. It is a **most** difficult country to complete!

Another scarce commemorative set, not often seen to-day, is that celebrating by overprint, the visit of King Hussein to Trans-Jordan in January, 1924. A highly romantic set overprinted in black and gold; much prized at the time, it soon went to a stiff premium on face, but to-day it is probably obtainable cheaper as the demand has quite fallen away.

The quantities for the three sets above mentioned are, according to my correspondent and previous notes. It is possible slight alterations may have to be made, and as regards the Pictorial series in addition to the figures given, 418 sets were overprinted "Specimen," and distributed through the usual channels. Exactly what these channels are I cannot say, but they seem first to go to all the governments in the Universal Postal Union, and afterwards a good proportion usually come on the philatelic market. As they are given away in the first place, who is it gets the chief profit on them?

Trans-Jordan. Quantities Issued of Commemoratives.

	Constitution Set. 1928.	Locust Issue. 1930.	Pictorial Series. 1933.
10M.	4,405	9,015	22,435
15M.	8,198	11,461	15,016
20M.	3,293	7,579	18,663
50M.	2,527	5,917	6,147
90M.	2,201	4,294	3,609
100M.	2,206	4,321	3,636
200M.	1,802	3,431	2,471

From these it will be seen that the quantities sold of the pictorials is considerably more than for the 1928 Commemoratives, but as regards the Locust set the high values sold better, but the low values not so well as the pictorials. This is accounted for by the fact that the pictorials were in exclusive use for a year and doubtless a fair proportion of the low values were used up and destroyed.

The constitution set is really rarer than the St. Kitts Nevis Tercentenary Series and the comparatively modest prices in the catalogue of the former set is an eloquent testimony to the relative popularity of the two countries!,

Nevertheless, this last pictorial set of the Trans-Jordan should do something to increase its popularity, and all three series may be expected to make a steady increase in value. The Pictorials have already gone up and most are about double their current issue rate. The two highest values have been the most sought after so far, as these were the only ones for which approximate figures were known. The full table shows that certain other of the high values are relatively shorter and may

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be expected to increase in a bigger ratio. Thus the 90 Mill. has about one-eleventh of the face value of the Pound, but the quantity issued was only about three times as great. This would suggest it will rise in bigger proportion, as there are far more people wanting to complete sets up to the 2/6 mark, than there are who go the whole way to the pound.

Experience shows that when a high and low value are issued in similar quantity, the low value increases in a much bigger proportion. Thus, in Cyrpus, 1903, the 9 pi. and 45 pi. were both issued in equal quantity, 2,400, but the former has increased nearly five times as much as the high value in proportion to its face value.

Already I understand Gibbons have advanced the 500M. and £1 to 30/- and £3 respectively, the others in similar ratio, and they will advance !

DEATH OF JOHN SAUNDERS.

We are sorry to report the death, on July 26th, of Mr. John Saunders, retired stamp dealer, and father of Mr. G. W. Saunders, the well known dealer of Ludgate Hill.

Deceased traded in stamps for many years and for some time traded as the Strand Stamp Company. Shortly after his retirement he had the misfortune to suffer the amputation of a leg.

The funeral took place at East Molesey Cemetery, on Tuesday, July 30th.

500th CELEBRATION ISSUE.

The 500th number of *The Philatelic Magazine* will appear on August 24th, and will go to press on August 17th. Will advertisers please note this date and be good enough to let us have their instructions in good time ?

ANSWERS TO CORRESPONDENTS.

E. B. (Perth W.A.).—There is nothing unusual in the stamps you have photographed, Queensland and South Australian Queens heads used for postage on the same letter. Queens head stamps of all the Australian States are still valid for postage on letters posted anywhere in the Commonwealth. The same applies to Orange River, Transvaal and Natal stamps used in the Union of South Africa.

TAPE NEWS.

Gibbons' 1935 Catalogues will appear on September 5th, except the "Simplified" which will not re-appear until later in the autumn.

Whitfield King and the Yvert and Tellier-Champion Catalogues are announced for publication on September 1st.

$811,723 is the total sales to stamp collectors for the fiscal year 1933-34 by the Philatelic Agency conducted by the American P.O. at Washington. At $5 to £1, this equals £162,344. Who says post offices shouldn't sell stamps ?

New P.S.I. Secretary. The new honorary secretary of the Philatelic Society of India, in place of the late Mr. Godhino, whose death we recently announced, is Dr. K. D. Cooper, Apollo Bunder, Bombay.

Overseas Stamps for Reply. Many overseas readers enclose a stamp of their own country as the equivalent of the cost of reply postage when writing to advertisers. But why do so many nullify this courtesy by sticking it on by the corner, and thus spoiling it for philatelic purposes—the only purpose for which the recipient can use it ?

More Plates for the "Royal." The original postal dues of Poonch (Kashmir) were formally presented to the Royal Philatelic Society on July 19th by their present owner, Lieutenant-Colonel S. H. Godfrey, to whom they were given on the rendition of the postage systems of Kashmir and Poonch to the Imperial Government last century.

"The Chinese Orange Mystery," by Ellery Queen, whose detective stories are well known, is the latest work of fiction to include a number of philatelists among its characters.

The Postal Scandal of presenting delegates to postal conventions with complimentary albums containing large numbers of current stamps has, we understand, been repeated at the recent Cairo gathering. We are told by two different dealers to whom they have been offered, that the British £1 commemorative was among them. It is time the authorities realised that all the delegates do is to sell these stamps to stamp dealers for what they can get as soon as the Congresses are over, and put anything up to £100 apiece in their pockets as a result. It should cease.

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