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THE

PHILATELIST'S ALMANACK

AND

STAMP-COLLECTOR'S VADE-MECUM

FOR THE YEAR

1895.

Grewford 1625(4)

THE

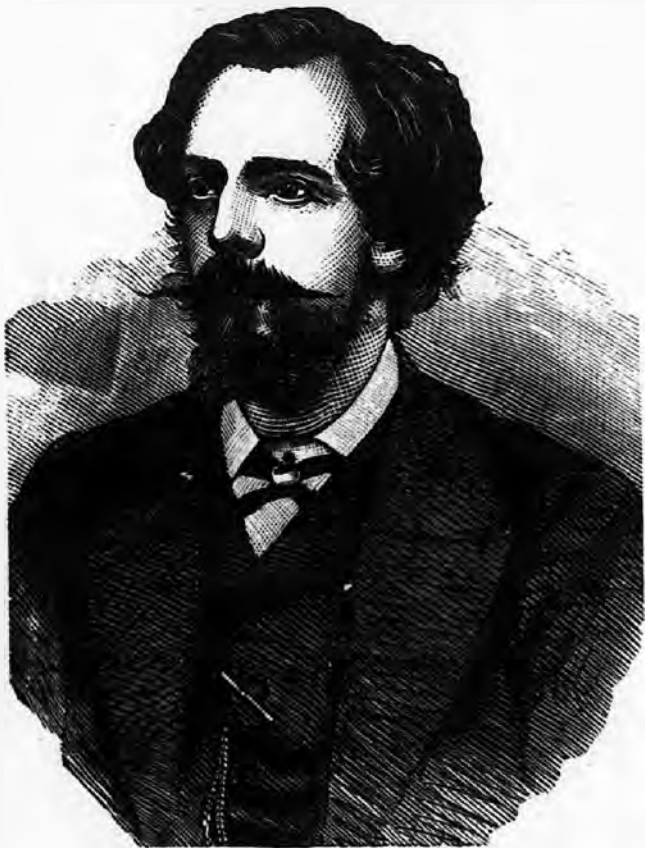
PHILATELIST'S ALMANACK

AND

STAMP-COLLECTOR'S VADE-MECUM

FOR THE YEAR

1895.



"KING OF STAMPS."

TO WHOM THE OLD YEAR BLESSINGS BORE,
STILL WITH THE NEW YEAR MAY THEY THRIVE;
AND MAY WE TURN FROM NINETY-FOUR
TO FIND A FRIEND IN NINETY-FIVE.

THE TOWER BRIDGE.

COMMEMORATIVE MEDAL STRUCK BY J. W. PALMER.

To celebrate the opening of the Tower Bridge by the Prince of Wales on June 30th, 1894, Mr. J. W. Palmer added to the series of commemorative medals. The medal will be given away until such



time as our stock holds out, to all purchasers to the amount of five shillings or upwards. In the event of the medal being sent by post, threepence will be charged. This applies only to the United Kingdom, outside of which the registration fee will increase the postage rate to sevenpence. It is impossible for

us to quote at length the notices the medal has received in newspapers all over the country. We can but acknowledge the courtesy of the several newspapers, for to give only their names would occupy more space than we can afford. The *City Press*, which has a particular right to be heard of on such an occasion, we must thank by name for its complimentary reference to the "handsome medal struck by Mr. J. W. Palmer." In other papers it is variously described as "a very pretty medal," bearing on its obverse excellent profiles of the Prince and Princess of Wales, and lettering recording the occasion of its issue, as "an elegant medal," with "good portraits (head) of the Prince and Princess of Wales," as "an excellent bit of artistic work," and as "an interesting souvenir." Another says that, "it is quite suitable that a structure, which will carry traffic from all parts of the world, should be celebrated by a philatelist." From the *Scottish Highlander* we quote the following description:—

"The medal, which forms one of the commemorative series issued by Mr. Palmer, bears on the obverse the side-by-side busts of the Prince and Princess of Wales to left, with the legend: 'In Commemoration of the Opening of the Tower Bridge by the Prince and Princess of Wales, 30th June, 1894.' The reverse has, in six lines within a beaded circle, the inscription: 'Presented | by | J. W. Palmer | Foreign Stamp Merchant | 281, Strand | London.' The medal forms a chaste little souvenir of the historical occasion referred to."

THE MYSTERY OF THE MILLION STAMPS.

A COLLECTION of a million penny postage stamps (used) is supposed to work wonders. There are still some good benighted folks who are collecting these stamps with charitable intent, but the story that the million stamps will open the portals of this or that charitable institute is mere hocus-pocus. Mr. Palmer has a million of these stamps at the disposal of any good-natured person who will show him that he is mistaken. The best thing such kind, misguided folk can do with the accumulated stock of English stamps is to turn them to account by making screens of them. These screens are very pretty. A still more picturesque effect is given to the work by using cheap foreign stamps as well—such as will be found in Palmer's packet No. 10, a thousand stamps for 5d. Besides the screens, old stamps may serve to paper rooms; for designs on tables—a varnished stamp-table looks prettier than the familiar chess-table. A very amusing toy, too, may be made of these stamps in the shape of a serpent. Neatly made, these stamp serpents turn and twist in very realistic fashion, and provoke a good deal of fun and laughter.

What has probably given rise to the story is that an impetus was given in the early days to stamp-collecting by the nuns connected with a Roman Catholic charity in Ireland. These ladies had been promised a large sum of money on the curious condition that they collected one million postage stamps within a specified time. The more readily to collect this seemingly impossible number of stamps, the self-denying ladies advertised for gifts of stamps to

JANUARY.

1	Tu	Issue of New English Stamps, 1880
2	W	Union of Great Britain and Ireland, 1801
3	Th	Gretna Green Marriages abolished
4	F	Est. of P.O. by Act to settle the Postage of Eng., Scot.,
5	S	Edward the Confessor died, 1066 [and Ireland, '56
6	S	T. A. Neale died, 1892
7	M	Lord Kimberley born, 1826
8	Tu	Victor Emmanuel died, 1878
9	W	Fire Insurance expires
10	Th	Introduction of the Penny Post, 1840
11	F	
12	S	Earl Iddesleigh died, 1887
13	S	George Fox died, 1690
14	M	J. S. O. D. Palmer died, 1894
15	Tu	<i>Bric-à-Brac</i> first issued, 1878
16	W	Battle of Corunna, 1809
17	Th	Battle of Abu Klea, 1885
18	F	German Empire proclaimed, 1871
19	S	Isaac Disraeli died, 1848
20	S	Mersey Tunnel opened, 1886
21	M	Louis XVI. guillotined, 1793
22	Tu	Defence of Rorke's Drift, 1879
23	W	William Pitt died, 1806
24	Th	C. J. Fox born, 1749
25	F	Dr. John Doran died, 1878
26	S	Death of General Gordon, 1886
27	S	German Emperor William II. born, 1859
28	M	Battle of Aliwal, 1846
29	Tu	George III. died, 1820
30	W	Charles I. executed, 1649
31	Th	Est. of a Metro. Penny Post by William Dockwra, 1680

A ROYAL STAMP COLLECTOR.

THE enthusiasm of the Duke of York as a stamp collector has been evinced by applications on his behalf which have been made to the Agents-General for most of the Colonies for specimens of the philatelic issues of the various countries they represent. In several cases sheets of stamps have been forwarded to His Royal Highness by the Colonial Governments through their London representative.

enable them to obtain the promised donation. The result of the advertising caused vast quantities of the used stamps to be sent to these nuns, who were successful in their efforts, and they duly received the promised donation. The million stamps were sold to a speculator, and ultimately exported to China, and used to decorate the walls of one of the "tea factories" in Canton.

It may be of interest to people who are engaged in collecting a million stamps to know that Mr. J. W. Palmer is prepared to purchase them at the rate of from £2 to £10 per million.

THE LANGUAGE OF POSTAGE STAMPS.

WHAT is the language of postage stamps? We have heard of the language of flowers, we know the language of the eye, and we have felt the language—if it is possible to feel a language—of the fist, but what is the language of the postage stamp? It is possible to talk sweet nothings by means of stamps or to carry on a conversation by the medium of a few impressions of the Queen's head? It would seem so, for we read that a language of postage stamps, instead of flowers, has been invented by a practical person. Thus, when a postage stamp is placed upside down in the left corner of the letter, it means "I love you;" on the same crosswise, "My heart is another's;" straight up and down, "Good-bye, sweetheart, good-bye;" upside down in the right-hand corner, "Write no more;" in the centre at the top, "Yes;" opposite

FEBRUARY.

1	F	First German Stamps issued (Bavaria), 1849
2	S	
3	S	Marquis of Salisbury born, 1830
4	M	Sir W. Palliser died, 1882
5	Tu	Postage Stamps first issued in the United States, 1847
6	W	James Chalmers, Originator of the Adhesive Stamp,
7	Th	Jules Verne born, 1828 [born 1782]
8	F	
9	S	Lord Mayo assassinated, 1872
10	S	Queen Victoria married, 1840
11	M	Thomas A. Edison born, 1847
12	Tu	Custom House burnt, 1814
13	W	Lord R. Churchill born, 1849
14	Th	<i>St. Valentine</i>
15	F	J. Bentham born, 1747
16	S	Battle of St. Vincent, 1797
17	S	Duchess of Albany born, 1861
18	M	Capture of Trinidad, 1797
19	Tu	King of Holland born, 1817
20	W	Princess Louise of Wales born, 1867
21	Th	Postage Stamps first issued in Russia, 1848 (Envelopes)
22	F	George Washington born, 1732
23	S	(24th) John Keats died, 1821
24	S	Great Earthquake at Mentone, 1887
25	M	Sir C. Wren died, 1723
26	Tu	Prince Ferdinand born, 1861
27	W	Elizabeth Ruth Palmer died, 1886
28	Th	Postage Stamps first issued Denmark, 1851

THE FATHERLAND OF FORGERY.

ORDERS were issued in February, 1894, throughout Germany—the centre of the trade in forged stamps—for the prosecution of all who are found manufacturing false stamps. Hitherto it has been difficult to punish such men unless they uttered stamps that were new, and therefore possessed an intrinsic value in money; but a stamp defaced by a sham post-mark had no intrinsic value at all, and could only be called a picture. At the International Postal Congress in Vienna, however, it was voted that the forging of postage stamps in any way ought to be made an indictable offence, and the Prussian Government has been the first to adopt this view with practical effect. This is carrying out Palmer's Clause to the letter, and Germany having shown the way, it is to be hoped other nations will follow.

at the bottom, "No;" on the right-hand corner at a right angle, "Do you love me?" in the left-hand corner, "I hate you;" top corner on the right, "I wish your friendship;" bottom corner on the left, "I seek your acquaintance;" on a line with the surname, "Accept my love;" the same upside down, "I am engaged;" at a right angle in the same place. "I long to see you;" in the middle of the right-hand edge, "Write immediately." This is all very pretty, but who could carry it all in his head? Of course the rules might be printed, and then they would be all right and comfortably easy to interpret. But the matter is capable of much greater extension. The aforesaid code only applies to penny stamps. A fresh set of rules and sentences might be gained on the same positions by using stamps of different value. Thus a halfpenny stamp stuck on the top right-hand corner would stand for "Look out, the old man is coming." Placed in the left bottom corner it would signify "My big brother Will saw you kiss me last night, and he is waiting in the lane with a big stick and a bull-dog." A three-halfpenny stamp in the first position might be read, "Oh, my beautiful damsel, come at once. The old folks are going to the theatre." In the second place it might signify, "Don't come near me any more. Ma is so angry, but never mind; look at me quietly when you see me at church, and I will try and fall behind." It will thus be seen that quite a little romance might be arranged with stamps of different value.



MARCH.

1	F	
2	S	Pope Leo born, 1810
3	S	Sir J. F. Stephen born, 1839
4	M	
5	Tu	Thames Tunnel opened, 1845
6	W	Artemus Ward died, 1867
7	Th	First Prayer Book issued, 1549
8	F	Postage Stamps introduced into Germany, 1850
9	S	German Emperor William I. died, 1888
10	S	Prince of Wales married, 1863
11	M	Benjamin West died, 1820
12	Tu	Bank issued £1 notes, 1797. £5 Bank of Eng. notes first
13	W	Grand Duke of Hesse died, 1892 [issued, 1793]
14	Th	King Humbert born, 1844
15	F	Viscount Melbourne born, 1779
16	S	Queen created Empress of India, 1876
17	S	
18	M	Communist insurrection, Paris, 1871
19	Tu	Lucknow taken, 1858
20	W	Sinking Fund established, 1786
21	Th	Warning issued by J. W. Palmer, '88, to colls. concern-
22	F	Albert Way died, 1874 [ing Laureated Head, N.S.W.]
23	S	National Gallery opened, 1824
24	S	H. W. Longfellow died, 1882
25	M	
26	Tu	Duke of Cambridge born, 1819
27	W	Postage Stamps first issued Ionian Isles, 1857
28	Th	Duke of Albany died, 1884
29	F	Albert Hall opened, 1871
30	S	Don Carlos born, 1848
31	S	Slave Trade abolished in England, 1806

THE RAREST STAMP IN THE WORLD.

THE Brattleboro' stamp—*rarissimus inter raros*—which was sold by J. W. Palmer for £250, is the rarest stamp in the world. It is certainly worth a good deal more than the Mauritius. The pair of Mauritius—the penny and twopenny, bearing the words "post office" instead of the words "post paid"—are worth a little less than the single specimen of the Brattleboro'. The specimens of the Brattleboro' still extant may be counted on the fingers of one hand, but the Mauritius can be numbered by the score.

VARIETY IS—ALARMING.

To give some idea of the extent to which the forgery of rare stamps is carried, we print the names of various countries represented in the Chamber of Horrors. Of course, this does not exhaust the list, which is, however, sufficient to put collectors on their guard against purchasing cheap unused sets of any of the following countries:—

Alsace-Lorraine.	Monte Video.
American (Locals).	Natal (first issue).
American Newspaper Stamps	Nevis.
American Periodicals.	Newfoundland.
American Pony Express.	Nova Scotia.
Baden.	Oldenburg.
Bavaria.	Papal States.
Bergedorf.	Parma.
Brattleboro'.	Persia.
Brazil.	Peru.
Bremen.	Philippine Islands.
British Guiana.	Reunion.
Buenos Ayres.	Romagne.
Cape of Good Hope (wood-	Samoa Express.
cuts).	Sandwich Islands.
Ceylon.	Saxony (first issue).
Columbia.	Sedang.
Confederate States (Locals).	Schleswig - Holstein (first
Danube (Roumania).	issue).
Fiji Islands.	Shanghai.
Germany.	Siberia.
Hamburg (Locals).	Sicily.
Hanover.	Spain.
Heligoland.	Steam Navigation Company.
Laureated Head (New South	Swiss (Locals).
Wales).	Suez Canal.
Lubeck.	Sydney Views, New South
Mauritius (old).	Wales.
Medina.	Venezuela.
Mexico.	Wurtemberg.

Genuine specimens of these stamps are worth as much, in some instances, as £250 a-piece.

APRIL.

1	M	Prince Bismarck born, 1815
2	Tu	Cobden died, 1865
3	W	
4	Th	F. M. Palmer born, 1860
5	F	Postage Stamps first issued Paraguay, 1870
6	S	
7	S	Denis F. MacCarthy died, 1882
8	M	Lord Chatham died, 1778
9	Tu	
10	W	Gen. Booth b., 1829 [of Stamps to the British Museum
11	Th	T. K. Tapling, M.P., d., 1891, bequeathed his Collection
12	F	Lord Rodney's victory, 1782
13	S	
14	S	Princess Beatrice born, 1857
15	M	3rd Sunday after Easter
16	Tu	Battle of Culloden, 1746
17	W	Magalhaens killed, 1521
18	Th	
19	F	Primrose Day. Lord Beaconsfield died, 1881
20	S	Postage Stamps first issued Costa Rica, 1862
21	S	Baroness Burdett-Coutts born, 1814
22	M	Petition against Forged Stamps prep. by Palmer, 1884
23	Tu	Shakespeare died, 1616
24	W	Daniel Defoe died, 1731
25	Th	First English Prince of Wales born, 1284
26	F	Jeremy Collier died, 1726
27	S	Duke of Devonshire born, 1808
28	S	Mutiny of the "Bounty," 1789
29	M	Postage Stamps first issued Lagos (Gold Coast), 1874
30	Tu	Sir John Lubbock born, 1834

PRIMROSE DAY. *April 19, 1881.*

"PEACE WITH HONOUR."

Britannia mourns to-day her patriot son;
Each year grows ever grief the more,
And heavier the loss his heirs deplore;
Chated of that Honour which he won
Of Peace with Honour which he brought to us of yore.
Now all is changed: the sacred Peace is fled,
Since laggards to the councils came—
Fierce war the nation's portion, theirs the shame;
In Peace with Honour sleeps th' illustrious dead.
England to the glory of his cherished name
Lovingly, as the early flowers of spring appear,
Dedicates th' Primrose, because he held it dear.—J. W. P.

NEW STAMPS.

It is announced that an entire change is about to be made in the postage stamps of the United States. Many new stamps will be issued, representing amounts which are not at present recognised. The New Americans, such as hold that title up to the present, are now reproduced in *fac-simile*, and these imitations are sold for 4½d. the set. The value of the same series of genuine stamps is seven guineas.

Hawaii under its new administration has issued new stamps which differ in several respects from those already in circulation. The one cent has stars instead of flowers for the two quarterings. The main alteration is, however, the absence of the crown above the crest. The two-cent stamp is simply a view of Honolulu Harbour. The five cent is a portrait of King Kamehameha I., while the twenty-five cent gives a portrait of the Administrator.

In connection with the silver wedding of the Mikado of Japan, celebrated in 1894 at Tokio, it will be interesting to philatelists to learn that a special set of postage stamps has been issued in honour of the event.

French philatelists have been in a flutter over the new postage-stamp designs, of which there were six hundred specimens. After a choice had been made, five of the rejected designs received honourable mention from the committee of selection, and a sum of £20 has been assigned to the artist of each.

MAY.

1	W	Issue of the Mulready envelope, 1840
2	Th	Thames Embankment opened, 1868
3	F	Jamaica discovered, 1494
4	S	Local Letter Post established in Vienna, 1772
5	S	Ex-Empress Eugenie born, 1826
6	M	Postage Stamps first issued, 1840
7	Tu	Robert Browning born, 1812
8	W	Monarchy restored, 1660
9	Th	Mr. Wallace, M.P., moved for Sel. Com. to inquire into
10	F	Crystal Pal. op., '54 [the merits of Rld. Hill's scheme, '37
11	S	Petition against forged stamps prep. by J.W. Palmer, '84
12	S	Sir Charles Barry died, 1860
13	M	Suicide of King of Bavaria, 1886
14	Tu	
15	W	German Emperor Frederick died, 1888
16	Th	Penny Postage Jubilee Celebration at Guildhall, '90;
17	F	Revised New Testament issued, 1881 [issue of Jubilee
18	S	New Eddystone Lighthouse opened, 1882 [post-card
19	S	Magna Charta signed, 1215
20	M	Postage Stamps adopted by the Sandwich Islands, 1851
21	Tu	Sir Lyon Playfair born, 1819
22	W	Grisi born, 1812
23	Th	Henry Fawcett born at Salisbury, 1833
24	F	Queen Victoria born, 1819
25	S	Princess Helena born, 1846
26	S	Tuileries destroyed, 1871
27	M	Repeal of Corn Laws, 1856
28	Tu	General Grant died, 1885
29	W	Empress Josephine died, 1814
30	Th	Alexander Pope died, 1744 [Archer, 1852
31	F	Machine for perforating stamps invented by Henry

POST OFFICES OF THE WORLD.

THESE are in Europe 55,500 receiving offices, 41,500 telegraph offices, and 225,000 letter boxes. The total number of persons employed by the various post offices was 356,000; and according to the latest published annual returns there were transmitted 3,683,000,000 letters, 546,000,000 post-cards, 1,048,000,000 books and parcels, 1,672,000,000 newspapers, and 117,000,000 telegrams, the gross weight of the matter sent through the post being estimated at about 800,000 tons. Less than half a century ago the number of packages of all kinds that passed through the post offices of the world was well under 100,000,000.

THE MUSEUM OF PHILATELY.

A CHAMBER OF PHILATELICAL HORROBS.

DURING the year 1894 the exhibition at Palmer's has been doing good work, we hope, as a warning to stamp collectors, &c. The room, which may be aptly described as a Philatetical Chamber of Horrors, the public are admitted to, free of charge. This room has been papered entirely with forged stamps and reprints, taken from collections purchased from time to time by Mr. J. W. Palmer, who has been over thirty years engaged in sorting the rubbish of this kind from collections purchased by him. That these things should have been offered to him in the belief that they were genuine by those who sold them, shows how much imposition there is in the business of stamp dealing. Mr. Palmer has always been able to detect a forgery or reprint (there is nothing to choose between them), and instead of putting them into circulation, he has always consigned them to a Black Book. From the Black Book they have gone (as the dealers in such things should also go) to the wall. The visitor will be astounded by the number of

JUNE.

1	S	Charles Lever died, 1872
2	S	Garibaldi died, 1882
3	M	2nd Sunday after Trinity
4	Tu	Lord Wolseley born, 1833
5	W	St. Boniface
6	Th	Cyprus Stamp issued
7	F	Postage Stamps first issued, Roman States, 1852
8	S	Sir John Millais born, 1829
9	S	Charles Dickens died, 1870
10	M	P. O. robbery of Telegraph Stamps discovered, 1890
11	Tu	Money Market panic, 1866
12	W	Rev. Charles Kingsley born, 1819
13	Th	Kensington Museum opened, 1857
14	F	Battle of Marengo, 1800
15	S	Napoleon I. died, 1821
16	S	Battle of Quatre Bras, 1815
17	M	Postage Stamps first issued, Tasmania, 1853
18	Tu	Battle of Waterloo, 1815
19	W	French postal system founded by Louis XI., 1464
20	Th	J. A. Palmer died, 1893
21	F	Longest day
22	S	Great fire in Tooley Street, 1861
23	S	Clive's victory at Plassey, 1757
24	M	Midsummer Day
25	Tu	Right Hon. H. Childers born, 1827
26	W	George IV. died, 1830
27	Th	First meeting of the Postal Union Congress held in
28	F	Coronation Day [Paris, 1863]
29	S	Lord Raglan died, 1855
30	S	Opening of the Tower Bridge, 1894

LAST YEAR'S PRICES.

THE following are a few of the "fancy" figures paid for stamps at a sale in June, 1894: Great Britain, 8d. brown, an unused strip of three, £16; 2s. salmon, an unused block of six, £18; a Tuscany 3-lire, yellow (a matchless specimen), £25 10s., and a brilliant unused specimen of a 2-soldi (the first in this condition ever offered at an English auction), £14; British Guiana, circular issue, 4c., lemon-yellow, one corner mended, £25; same issue, 8c., green, £13; Canada, 12d., black, slightly mended, £23; Antioquia, three specimens of the first issue, 2½, 5, and 10c., a total of £36 10s.; Peru, medio peso, rose, £11 10s.; United States, 1869, 15c., brown and blue, £17; and same issue, 24c., green and lilac, £18 10s.; Mauritius, 1848, 2d., blue, early state, a fine specimen of the "Pennoe" error, £10; Cape of Good Hope, wood block error, 1d., blue, £26.

forged stamps and reprints here brought together. But more astounding is it to think of the tremendous amount of money that has been expended upon them by collectors who bought them for genuine specimens, and were wholly ignorant that they had been cheated until they brought them for sale to Mr. Palmer, only to find that what they thought were rare stamps turned out, when submitted to the eye of the expert, to be rubbish, for which they could not obtain a penny. For Mr. Palmer does not sell, neither does he buy, forgeries or reprints. When they come into his possession, however, it has always been his aim to prevent them from falling into other hands. If other dealers had followed his example, we should not have heard so much of the trade in spurious stamps. A visit to the Stamp Exhibition will give some idea of the extent to which the trade in forged stamps has been carried. Here will be found the best and the worst specimens of their kind; specimens so clumsily imitated that they would not deceive anybody but the least experienced, and others so closely imitated that the practised collector—or dealer—might, as in the case of the forged Spanish two reals stamp, be easily duped. Even the famous Brattleboro', which Mr. Palmer sold for £250, is here in *fac simile*.

JULY.

1	M	20 cent. French Stamp suppressed, 1850
2	Tu	Penny Postage Jubilee Celebration at S. Kensington, '90
3	W	
4	Th	Declaration of American Independence, 1776
5	F	Lord Gifford born, 1849
6	S	Samuel Lever died, 1868
7	S	John Huss burnt, 1415
8	M	Shelley drowned, 1822
9	Tu	Fire Insurance expires
10	W	Abolition of Members of Parliament's privilege of
11	Th	Alexandria bombarded, 1882 [franking letters, 1840
12	F	Crimea evacuated, 1856
13	S	Voting by Ballot instituted, 1872
14	S	Bastille stormed, 1789
15	M	<i>St. Swithin</i>
16	Tu	Béranger died, 1857
17	W	Issue of American Five Dollar Stamp, 1862
18	Th	Dean Stanley died, 1881
19	F	Bishop Wilberforce died, 1873
20	S	Lord Westbury died, 1873
21	S	Robert Burns died, 1796
22	M	Issue of 15 cent. French Stamp (green), 1850
23	Tu	Duke of Devonshire born, 1833
24	W	Window Tax abolished, 1851
25	Th	Great Fire at Baltimore, 1873
26	F	Metropolitan Penny Post established, 1683
27	S	Bank of England founded, 1694
28	S	Armada dispersed, 1588
29	M	Seaham Harbour opened, 1835
30	Tu	General Post Office opened in St. Martin's-le-Grand, '29
31	W	Catherine of Sedgwick died

MARRIAGE OF THE HON. W. F. D. SMITH.

It was a memorable day for the Strand on July 26th, 1894, when our Member was married at the church of St. Clement's to Lady Esther G. C. Gore, third daughter of the Earl of Arran. That the Hon. W. F. D. Smith should have chosen to be married at the church in the district so intimately connected with his family shows a thoroughly good and proper feeling, which was not unappreciated in the right quarter. The ceremony was performed by the Rev. Dr. Warre, Headmaster of Eton, assisted by the Rev. Herbert Rowsell, Vicar of Christ Church, Mayfair, and the Rev. J. J. H. Septimus Pennington, rector of the parish.

THE CAUSE AND THE CLAUSE.

THE famous seventh (Palmer's) clause of the Post Office Protection Act was passed into law in September, 1884, at the instance of Mr. J. W. Palmer, who spared neither trouble nor expense in order to obtain the insertion in the act of this clause, intended especially for the protection of philatelists. We give the precise terms of the clause:—

(Section 7.) A person shall not—

- (a.) make, knowingly utter, deal in, or sell any fictitious stamp, or knowingly use for any postal purpose any fictitious stamp; or
- (b.) have in his possession, unless he shows a lawful excuse, any fictitious stamp; or
- (c.) make, or, unless he shows a lawful excuse, have in his possession, any die, plate, instrument, or material for making any fictitious stamp.

Any person who acts in contravention of this Section shall be liable on summary conviction on a prosecution by order of the Commissioners of Inland Revenue to a fine not exceeding £20, subject to the like right of appeal as in the case of a penalty under the Acts relating to the Excise.

AUGUST.

1	Th	Issue of Austrian Postal Union Card (5 kr.), 1880
2	F	Battle of Sedan, 1870
3	S	Mr. Speaker Peel born, 1829
4	S	Adhesive Postage Stamp first invd. by James Chalmers,
5	M	Queen of Saxony born, 1833 [of Dundee, '34
6	Tu	Duke of Edinburgh born, 1844
7	W	New French Issues
8	Th	George Canning died, 1827
9	F	Postage Stamps first issued, Roumania, 1862
10	S	George J. Goschen born, 1831
11	S	Dog Days end
12	M	M. A. M. Palmer born, 1885
13	Tu	<i>Old Lammas Day</i>
14	W	Local Government Act passed, 1871
15	Th	Sir Walter Scott born, 1771
16	F	Gas introduced in London, 1807
17	S	Rowld. Hill scheme adopted by House of Commons by a
18	S	Emperor of Austria born, 1830 [majority of 100, '39
19	M	Balzac died, 1850
20	Tu	Abergele Railway accident, 1868
21	W	Battle of Vimiera, 1808
22	Th	King Richard III. killed, 1485
23	F	Sir Astley Cooper born, 1768
24	S	Massacre of Huguenots, 1572
25	S	Postage Stamps first issued, Egypt, 1865
26	M	Battle of Cressy, 1346
27	Tu	Rowland Hill died, 1879
28	W	St. Augustin
29	Th	Foundering of the "Royal George," 1782
30	F	Battle of Plevna, 1877
31	S	Postal Treaty of Berne came into operation, 1874

PALMER'S MUSEUM.

THIS is the month when our "country cousins" come to town. Among the sights to be seen is Palmer's Museum. In connection with the Philatelic Exhibition opened by Mr. J. Palmer at 281, Strand—a collection of butterflies, birds' eggs, a mummy, and other natural curiosities now on view. The exhibition, which includes a room papered entirely with forged stamps, which would be of the value of £1,000,000 if the stamps were genuine specimens, is open free to the public. A photograph of the Forged Stamp Boom is sold at the exhibition for one penny, the net proceeds of the sales being given to the fund for assuring a fortnight's holiday for the poor children of Clare Market and Drury Lane.

POSTAL REFORM.

DURING the year the one notable reform is the private post-card. We have yet to see the half-penny post-card sold for a halfpenny. Mr. Palmer's scheme of the Ocean Penny Postage is also coming, coming, coming—but it is not yet come. Mr. Henniker Heaton, M.P., in addressing a meeting of the Manchester Chamber of Commerce on the question of postal reform, said the idea of Ocean Penny Postage was one which the country generally, and our fellow-subjects in the colonies almost unanimously, fell in with. Among other things in its favour was the fact that no increase of expenditure would be involved in its adoption; nor would there be any loss whatever to the postal authorities in carrying letters from England to any part of the colonies for one penny. Some people contended that twopence halfpenny was little enough; but why should they pay that sum per letter when it could be done with no loss to any one for one penny? He had lately visited every Postmaster-General in the colonies, and all of them received his proposal eagerly, and, indeed, enthusiastically. The cost to the Post Office of sending a letter to any quarter of the globe was one farthing; and, therefore, if the penny rate was adopted, a profit of three farthings

SEPTEMBER.

1	S	Palmer's Clause, P.O. Protection Act, 1884. Post-card
2	M	Board of Trade constituted, 1786 [reform introd., 1894
3	Tu	Oliver Cromwell died, 1658
4	W	J. Palmer, of Bath, submits to the Govt. his scheme for a
5	Th	Op. of Severn Tunnel, '85 [system of mail coaches, 1784
6	F	Sir Henry March born, 1840
7	S	W. H. T. Palmer born, 1883
8	S	Sebastopol taken, 1855
9	M	Thomas Watts died, 1869
10	Tu	Guizot died, 1874
11	W	Battle of Malplaquet, 1709
12	Th	Postage Stamps first issued, Iceland, 1873
13	F	Quebec taken, 1759
14	S	Duke of Wellington died, 1852
15	S	Liverpool and Manchester Railway opened, 1830
16	M	Ben Jonson died, 1637
17	Tu	Brighton Railway opened, 1838
18	W	Dr. Johnson born, 1709
19	Th	Dean Swift died, 1745
20	F	Battle of the Alma, 1854
21	S	Sir W. Scott died, 1832
22	S	Lord Chief Justice Denman died, 1854
23	M	Marshal Bazaine died, 1888
24	Tu	Postage Stamps first issued, Heligoland, 1867
25	W	Porson died, 1808
26	Th	Von Moltke born, 1800
27	F	G. Cruikshank born, 1792
28	S	Eugene Clemenceau born, 1841
29	S	J. W. Palmer married, 1880, Covent Garden Church
30	M	Fiji Islands ceded, 1830

UNDER THE CLAUSE.

THE Seventh—Palmer's—Clause of the Post Office Protection Act came into force September, 1884. In October there was a Post Office prosecution for "feloniously forging and counterfeiting a die and plate and stamp." The prisoner was sentenced to eighteen months' imprisonment. Mr. Osborne, the solicitor to the Post Office department, stated that this was the first case of the kind "that has ever occurred." Just ten years later the authorities effected a seizure of a popular newspaper that had published, in good faith, an illustration of an English penny stamp.

on each letter would be left. Now what has the Postmaster General to say to that? We are still waiting for his reply.

THE QUEEN'S HEAD.

“Look on this picture and on this,” is the burden of these reflections by a lady. I hold in my hand a new shilling and a new penny postage stamp. The one represents her Majesty as a septuagenarian, the other a person in early womanhood. The coin gives the Queen as she is, and as we hope she will practically remain for many years; the stamp bears a likeness which latest generations have never seen in her Majesty's face. The coin is issued under Government authority, so is the stamp. No one expects to see either coins or stamps reissued every three or four years to mark the changes of advancing age, but the Queen's head of St. Martin's-le-Grand is a burlesque, a travesty, an absurdity. Is no Postmaster-General to be moved by the fitness of things into chronological accuracy, and led to do historical justice to the real aspect of a venerable Sovereign? There should be history in stamps as well as in coins, but the British post-office ignores history and hands down fiction. Should there not be a reissue of coins and stamps every seven years?

OCTOBER.

1	Tu	Introduction of 6d. Telegrams, 1885
2	W	Sir Stevenson Arthur Blackwood died, 1893
3	Th	Postage Stamps first issued, Japan, 1871 [Memel, 1846
4	F	German Government Post started between Cleves and
5	S	Prince Henry of Battenberg born, 1858
6	S	Right Hon. W. H. Smith died, 1891
7	M	Edgar Allan Poe died, 1847
8	Tu	Great Fire of Chicago, 1871
9	W	St. Denys
10	Th	
11	F	
12	S	Pekin taken, 1860
13	S	Palmer's system of mail coaches adopted, 1797
14	M	Fire Insurance expires
15	Tu	Prince Alfred of Edinburgh born, 1874
16	W	Houses of Parliament burnt, 1834
17	Th	L. Pocock died, 1882
18	F	Lord Palmerston died, 1865
19	S	Henry Kirke White died, 1806
20	S	Lord Palmerston born, 1784
21	M	Battle of Trafalgar, 1805
22	Tu	Edict of Nantes revoked, 1685
23	W	Postage Stamps first issued, Servia, 1866
24	Th	Joseph William Palmer born, 1853
25	F	Battle of Agincourt, 1415
26	S	Post Office Prosecution, 1891
27	S	Sir G. Kneller died, 1723
28	M	New Royal Exchange opened, 1844
29	Tu	John Leech died, 1864
30	W	Gambetta born, 1838
31	Th	All Hallows Eve

England says:—"Mr. J. W. Palmer, of 281, Strand, the well-known stamp dealer, has called in his old sheets with a view to a systematic re-arrangement of his entire stock at net prices. All sheets sent out from this date will be marked at the lowest net prices, and no discount will be allowed. Customers will find that his prices in many cases are less than a quarter of those of other firms. It is unnecessary to state that every stamp sold by J. W. Palmer is absolutely guaranteed a genuine specimen.

STAMP-TAPE AND BOX.

IN philatelic circles one of the memorable successes of the year has been stamp-tape. Hitherto stamp-tape has been sold in reels, and in reels only, but Mr. Palmer is now able to offer it to his customers in a yet handier form. An elegant little box which may be conveniently carried in the pocket, is now made to contain a length of stamp-tape, and from the stamp-tape box the tape may be drawn as required through a slip in the side of the box, as with the ordinary yard measure. The stamp-tape box should come in handy for many purposes, and where it is designed to fix things neatly together it will be found more useful than gum or pins or clips, whilst it will, with regard to the special requirements of the stamp collector, effect a considerable saving of time and trouble. No prohibitive price has been put upon the stamp-tape box, for it has been Mr. Palmer's intention to bring it within the reach of all collectors. The box, with a length of twenty-two yards of stamp-tape, is offered for sale at the price of 1s., or by post 1s. 2d., the charge for postage being increased, according to official rates, for orders from abroad. Tapes for refilling the boxes may be had of Mr. Palmer, according to the width required, at 6d. and 9d. a length of twenty-two yards. The box may be had separately, price 3d.

NOVEMBER.

1	F	Stamped Pos. Letter-paper (<i>carta postale bollata</i>) issued
2	S	India proclaimed an Empire, '58 [by Sardinian Sts., '18
3	S	Mikado of Japan born, 1852
4	M	George Peabody died, 1869
5	Tu	Battle of Inkerman, 1854
6	W	Postage Stamps first issued, Gambia, 1869
7	Th	Henry Fawcett, Postmaster-General, died, 1884
8	F	John Milton died, 1674
9	S	Prince of Wales born, 1841
10	S	Royal Academy founded, 1768
11	M	25th Sunday after Trinity
12	Tu	J. S. O. D. Palmer born, 1887
13	W	Lord Rayleigh born, 1852
14	Th	First appointment of Postmaster-General for England,
15	F	William Pitt born, 1708 [1533
16	S	John Bright born, 1811
17	S	Suez Canal opened, 1869
18	M	Charles Heath died, 1848
19	Tu	Man in the iron mask died, 1703
20	W	Lesseps born, 1805
21	Th	Empress Frederick of Germany born, 1840
22	F	M. S. E. C. Palmer born, 1889
23	S	Post-Office prosecution, 1889
24	S	M. S. E. C. Palmer died, 1893
25	M	Postage Stamps first issued in Sarawak, 1866
26	Tu	Marshal Soutl died, 1851
27	W	Earl of Selborne born, 1812
28	Th	The <i>Times</i> first printed by steam, 1814
29	F	First School Board Election, 1870
30	S	Cardinal Wolsey died, 1530

ON THE FIFTH OF NOVEMBER PLEASE TO REMEMBER
THE Seventh (Palmer's) Clause of the Post Office Protection Act.
That it was at J. W. Palmer's instigation that the Clause was
passed into law.
That the campaign against forgery was carried on by J. W. Palmer
alone and unaided for years.
That J. W. Palmer does not sell forgeries or reprints.
That every stamp that is sold at 281, Strand, is guaranteed a genuine
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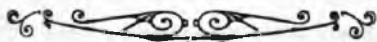
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THE HISTORICAL VALUE OF STAMPS.

Not only has the stamp collector a pleasant research for a leisure hour, but he insensibly acquires historical knowledge which could not be gained so easily in any other way. Stamps give us modern events in a concise and definite form. We have, in Spanish history, the futile insurrection of Don Carlos, 1873-75, clearly marked by the issue of stamps which he caused during those years, and the face of the Pretender in our albums keeps the fact definitely in our minds. The change from King Alfonso XII., to the Regency and the baby King Alfonso XIII., born in 1886, no collector will forget. These are but two instances showing the historical value of stamps—a value which is ever increasing. There is scarcely a stamp-issuing country which does not exhibit on its stamps the changes of government since it began their issue. Had printing been invented two thousand years ago, we might have had a priceless relic of the days that are gone. Think of having the portraits of all the Emperors of Rome upon a series of handsomely engraved stamps. In comparison with such a record the worn designs upon ancient coins would have little value.



DECEMBER.

1	S	Princess of Wales born, 1844
2	M	Queen Adelaide died, 1849
3	Tu	Rowland Hill born, at Kidderminster, 1795
4	W	Richelieu died, 1642
5	Th	Postal Service organised at Nuremberg, 1570
6	F	Postage Stamps first issued in Zurich, 1840
7	S	General Sir Redvers Buller born, 1839
8	S	F. M. R. Palmer born, 1881
9	M	Earl of Clarendon died, 1674
10	Tu	Post-Office prosecution, 1890
11	W	Archbishop Denison born, 1805
12	Th	Robert Browning died, 1889
13	F	Dr. Johnson died, 1784
14	S	Postage Stamps first issued in Belgium, 1849
15	S	Imperial Stamp of New Germany issued, 1871
16	M	A. de Fourcroy died, 1843
17	Tu	
18	W	U.S. Slavery abolished, 1862
19	Th	
20	F	John Wilson Croker born, 1780
21	S	<i>St. Thomas.</i>
22	S	"George Eliot" died, 1880
23	M	Samuel Parkes died, 1825
24	Tu	Thackeray died, 1863
25	W	<i>Christmas Day</i>
26	Th	Bank and general holiday
27	F	Postage Stamps first issued in Brazil, 1843
28	S	Lord Macaulay died, 1859
29	S	W. E. Gladstone born, 1809
30	M	Postage Stamps first issued in Naples, 1858
31	Tu	Gambetta died, 1882

CHRISTMAS PRESENTS.

The philatelist may find a choice of seasonable gifts at 281, Strand. Albums to suit all purses, from the most moderate price upwards, and packets of postage-stamps, in which every specimen is guaranteed genuine. There is no extra charge for that. Mr. Palmer's prices are lower than any other dealer's. A box of stamp-tape is a gift that is always in season.

NEW ISSUES AND OLD DODGES.

AMONG the gifts of the old year to the new was Portugal's issue of a new set of postage stamps in commemoration of the 500th anniversary of the birth of Prince Henry the Navigator. The stamps are twelve in number, of the following different values: 10, 15, 20, 25, 50, 75, 80, 100, 150, 300, 500, and 1,000 reis. Twenty reis are, roughly speaking, the equivalent of a British penny piece, the Portuguese crown of ten milreis being of the value of £2 4s. 4½d. A set of the first issue of stamps by the Mozambique Company, was sent by a correspondent, the 40 reis. Through Mozambique runs the Beira Railway, the high road of the future to Mashonaland. The new stamps, originally issued for the Portuguese colonial province of Mozambique, were adapted as a provisional issue by surcharging with the name of the Mozambique Company now owning the territory. The nominal value of the specimen reproduced is forty reis. It is printed in brown, the surcharge being in black.

A highly interesting article in the *Times* on the subject of "Stamp-Collecting" threw a good deal of light on the backstairs processes by which "obsoletes" and "surcharges" are created. For example, a dealer hears that in some distant post-office the stock of a particular stamp has run low. He immediately

telegraphs to his agent to buy up the whole lot, and having done so, to ask for more. There being no time to get a fresh supply from home, the postmaster has perforce to issue "surcharges" of the value required. These, too, the agent purchases, and transmits to his principal, who sells them at a considerably enhanced price to collect as a "new variety." This is how it's done, and the trick having been so thoroughly exposed, we hope steps will be taken to prevent its repetition.

NEW SHEETS FOR THE NEW YEAR.

RE-ARRANGEMENT OF STOCK.

NET PRICES.

MR. J. W. PALMER has called in his old sheets, with a view to a systematic re-arrangement of his entire stock at net prices. All sheets sent out from this date will be marked at the lowest net prices, and no discount will be allowed. Customers will find that our prices in many cases are less than a quarter of those of other firms. It is unnecessary to state that every stamp sold by J. W. Palmer is absolutely guaranteed a genuine specimen. As it is known by this time throughout the kingdom and all the world over that Palmer does not sell reprints or forgeries, collectors and dealers who hold dubious specimens may have them examined free of charge at 281,

Strand, where Mr. Palmer, as hitherto, is pleased to give his advice gratuitously upon all questions affecting philately. All correspondence through the post must be paid by remittance to cost of reply post. Our friends at home and abroad will please accept this intimation.

TO ALL WHO WISH TO SELL—OR BUY.

WE must ask for the occasional indulgence of our customers in completing rare sets, as we do not make stamps on the premises when we have not got them in hand. and we do not, under any circumstances, sell reprints. We put our readers on their guard against purchasing reprints, which are, like forgeries, not really worth the paper they are printed on. Collectors may be advised to give careful consideration to perforations and roulettes, unperforated stamps turned into perforated, or rouletted by devices which we have already exposed, and raised in price—though not in value—from a penny to a pound, in some cases. To an expert the imposition is one which may be easily detected; but the unwary may be so easily taken in, thinking they have a bargain, that too much attention cannot be directed to this matter. As Mr. Palmer only sells genuine stamps, his sales allow him to offer the highest prices ever paid to those who wish to dispose of rare stamps, and to sell at the lowest.

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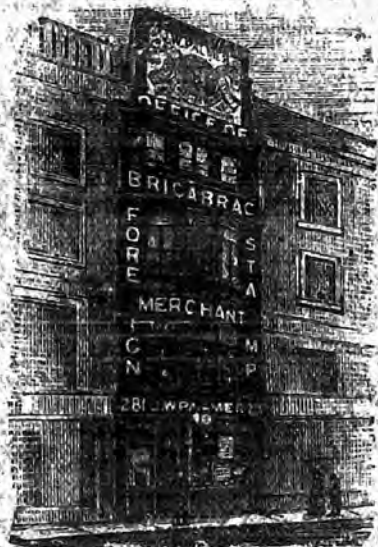
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PHILATELIST'S ALMANACK

And Stamp-Collector's Vade-Mecum,

FOR THE YEAR

1896.



J. W. PALMER,

281, STRAND, W.C.,

And Fairlawn, Norwood Road, West Norwood, S.E.