

Some Philatelic Oddities.

(BY JOHN PELTZ.)

Oddities in stamps are closely related to errors, nevertheless there is a distinction between them. Errors are very popular with the majority of collectors; oddities are saved and collected by only a small minority. The reason for the above condition may be that as most errors are catalogued collectors know of their existence, and therefore collect them while, on the contrary, oddities are not catalogued, therefore less known and collected. It is my intention to give ignorant collectors a little knowledge on oddities and descriptions of some of them, which are as follows: Albino envelopes are generally termed as oddities. They occur when only the die and design is impressed on the envelopes minus the color. The 1897 1c and 2c U.S. envelopes on white paper exist with the design and die impressed in upper right hand corner and the color lacking. The 1c blue on manilla paper also comes part Albino and these have a very odd appearance. The 1898 1c green envelope of Canada, has been discovered by Starnaman Bros., publishers of the "Advocate" as an Albino.

I have heard of a copy of 3c red, same issue (Canada 1898) which had the die impressed in the regular place on the envelope with the color inside just under the impressed design. This reminds me of a copy of the obsolete 2c green U.S. envelope, white paper, which I found with the color on the outside as well as on the inside beneath the die.

I have seen many U.S. envelopes which were cut round the design and color and were then pasted on regular envelopes to serve as "regular" stamps. I know of one postmaster who gave me leave to do this, saying it was allowed by Uncle Sam, while another forbade it saying that it was against all postal laws. Some of these "provisionals" went through all right, while a few had Postage Dues attached. I have seen adhesive stamps from France, Bavaria and Holland which had the perforator clipped on every side and at top and bottom and then used on letters. At first glance they seemed to be imperforated copies, but a little examination revealed the cutting.

In 1893-94 New Zealand allowed all kinds of advertisements to be printed on the back of its adhesive stamps, and in this way probably made a handsome profit. Following is a list of stamps that were printed with advertisements on back:—

New Zealand, 1882 issue, perforated 1½, 1 p rose, 2 p lilac, 4 p sea green, 8 p blue, 1 sh red brown 1892 issue, perforated 10, 1 p rose, 2 p lilac, 2½ p blue, 3 p yellow, 4 p

sea green, 5 p olive gray, 6 p brown, 1 sh red brown.

The above is taken verbatim from Scott's 57th; therein they are catalogued, but not priced, but neither the 58th or 59th lists them, for what reason I do not know.

LONDON NOTES.

BY W. F. DICK.

The sad event of the month has been the death of the Duke of Edinburgh, one of the best known of our royal philatelists. He will be much missed by philatelists in general.

The collectors of pictorial post cards are assuming large proportions and a new magazine has now appeared in connection with this hobby. "It is entitled "The Pictorial Post Card" and in it philately is not wholly neglected as there are some good illustrations of stamps.

Switzerland has just issued a stamp in commemoration of the jubilee of the postal union. In appearance it more resembles one of the exhibition labels that hail from the continent. It is about twice the size of the ordinary postage stamp and there are three values.

A large leakage of unused I. R. official stamps has just been discovered at Somerset House and has culminated in the suicide of one of the Government clerks employed there. Surely the authorities should take greater precaution and not leave such temptation in the way of their employees.

A friend of mine who knows Mr. Castle well has just informed me that he must have made at least £20,000 profit on the sales of his various collections. There is still great curiosity as to who is the buyer and in this connection the Stamp Collectors' Fortnightly has received the following from a correspondent:

What is £30,000 to a millionaire? A mere Flea Beit. Mr. Beit is a well known South African magnate.

A new stamp has been issued by Japan in commemoration of the wedding of the Imperial Prince, and it is more than usually interesting. In the middle of the stamp there is a willow box covered with red paper. In this box the first letter which the bridegroom sent to the bride is kept, above this there is a table beautifully ornamented with cranes and pines and as cranes live a 1000 years and pines never die, this is emblematic of long life and on the table are placed as many cakes of rice as there are years in the bride's age and these are left in the bridal chamber to be eaten by the happy couple. The stamp is only intended for inland use and can be procured for the small sum of 3c.

ILLINOIS ITEMS.

(BY SHIRLEY E. MOISANT.)

Having just returned from a trip to Canada I find it impossible to find much news but I will give all that is of interest. While in the old Dominion I wanted to go to Smith's Falls to call on my employers but I found it too far out of my course.

Buchanan, the alleged accomplice of Jas. Clark, who was arrested some time ago for having counterfeited stamps, dies and plates in his possession is now out on \$1000 bail and will be given a hearing in the next Session of the Federal Court, Sept.

At a meeting of the Chicago branch of the A. P. A. held July 26 it was decided to keep the room at 1693 Marquette Bldg. open all day the Sunday before the conventions, so that all visitors in Chicago may call.

Mr. Cecil Rawson, formerly of Philadelphia, Pa., has removed to Hinsdale, Ill.

The Chicago delegation to the A. P. A. meet will leave for Milwaukee on Monday, Aug. 27.

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