

POSTAGE STAMP DEVICES.

BY EDWARD F. HERDMAN.

IN Foreign Stamps we find strange vagaries of portraiture, devices, and contour. The face of Donna Maria II., who some 35 years ago ruled over Portugal, is plain even to ugliness; and that of the ex-Queen Isabella of Spain, as depicted in 1853, would not be regarded as more handsome than that of a coarse stout female of our middle class. Curiously enough, unlike those of our Queen, the portraits grew more flattering as she grew older, and in 1868 she grew almost handsome. The Republican Stamp, after her abdication, bore a pretty young woman, superseded by another device in 1872. Upon the French Stamps the bust of liberty, but decidedly a frisky and buxom-looking matron, appeared until 1876. The Head of Louis I. is borne upon the Stamps of the Azores, and other Portuguese possessions, but on the Baden Stamps, the Grand Duke's visage, too sacred to be liked, appears only on the Stamped Envelopes. No effigy appears on the stamps of Bavaria; but on the Belgian Stamps Leopold I, formerly appeared in full uniform, and was in due time succeeded by Leopold II. On the Brazilian Labels no head was seen until 1863, when they bore the head of the present Emperor. Bulgaria sports a bedraggled lion, shaking its forepaws, probably at the Russian bear. The Russian Stamps have the arms in relief, and in the centre is an oval frame, surmounted by drapery—with colours varying, as is customary in most countries, according to the value—without any portrait of the Czar.

WE are in receipt of the Jubilee Number of Mons Moens paper, "Le Timbre Poste." With the March No. it has concluded its 25th year. The contents are something very fine, being contributed from the leading Philatelists of Europe, each apparently writing in his own special line, as "The first stamped envelopes of Russia by F. Breitfuss, Postage Stamps of Italy by F. Carotti, Notes on the stamps of the extinct Italian states by C. Diena, Stamps of Bermuda by Major Evans, and many others too numerous to mention. Each article is headed by an engraving of the author. The No. consists of 36 pages of solid reading matter. In the April No. of his paper he has printed the article on the correct date of issue of the stamps of Nova Scotia, which was originally published in the columns of this paper.

ACCORDING to late despatches to Ottawa, the late Postal Convention between the United States and Canada is to be amended, on some points which the U. S. claim to be unfair to them. The amendments go into force from the 1st of May.

WE regret to say that lately we have been unable to get out much before the end of the month, but in future we will do better. Advertisers would do well to give us a trial ad. as we have a big Canada circulation.

"STAMP Collectors' Figaro" for April has a new cover and is looking remarkably well. It has made a new departure in illustrating its Chronicle. Evidently Bro. Voate is making money.