

# The Book Table

Edited by EDMUND PEARSON

## Stamps and Civilization

By DON C. SEITZ

THE progress of the world is better measured by the perfection of postal systems than any other form of comparison. In "The Pageant of Civilization"<sup>1</sup> Mr. F. B. Warren sets out to show by the story of postage-stamps how the countries of the earth have advanced. He has done much more than compile a catalogue for collectors.

Undeniably stamp collecting is the easiest of hobbies to acquire. Most collectors start with stamps as small boys and then diverge into other fields. Yet stamp collecting holds a formidable following, at the head of which stands King George V of England. His collection of British and colonial stamps is considered the costliest and most complete in existence, even though it lacks that most precious of all philatelic possessions—the British Guiana one-cent issue, printed in black on magenta, of 1856, for a specimen of which Arthur Hind paid \$32,500. It is a pleasure to learn that his Majesty's penchant for postal rarities has often made him poor for the moment. His collection is valued at more than \$500,000.

Other rulers who cultivate the fad are Alfonso of Spain, Fuad of Egypt, Albert of Belgium, Hirohito of Japan, Elizabeth of Rumania, Queen Maud of Norway, the Prince of Monaco, and the Maharajah of Gwalior. Plenty of princes enjoy the sport, including the Prince of Wales, the Prince of Piedmont, and the Crown Prince of Sweden. The English peerage includes many votaries of stamp collecting.

Quite properly, Mr. Warren's long saga of stamp lore begins with Christopher Columbus, who has been much honored in Latin-American lands with pictorial reproductions on postage-stamps, even though Spain itself proved ungrateful in his lifetime. Nor does Peru forget Atahualpa, Emperor of the Incas. The liberators of South America from Spanish rule come in for liberal display, though Pizarro and Manco Capac are not forgotten. Indeed, the stamps of Latin America constitute an almost complete historical panorama of

its past. The troubled Central American states have produced a notable pictorial series. Mexico, Central and South America may be backward when measured by North American standards, but they are not behind in certain forms of art—certainly not in statuary and stamps.

France follows in order. She probably furnished the most interesting postal episodes in history during the famous Siege of Paris by the Prussian forces in 1870–1, when balloons and carrier pigeons were kept busy distributing mail from and to the beleaguered city. Between September 23, 1870, and January 28, 1871, when the white flag flew, sixty-five ascensions were made. Two gas-bags were blown out to sea and their pilots drowned. One landed in Prussia, another in Norway, 1,950 miles away. It was an uncertain, exciting game. Something like 4,000,000 letters were thus transported. The balloons took out homing pigeons, and these brought back microscopic missives concealed in quills, to be enlarged 300 diameters by photography. One experiment, that of taking out dogs, in the hope that they might sneak their way back, failed. All the dogs were shot. The pigeons fared better. France and her colonies provide a vast and varied output for the collector. Mr. Warren reveals that Louis Napoleon became the "Third" of his kind because the printers mistook three exclamation points on his proclamation for Roman numerals. He saw no reason to change, even though the Eaglet had never been on the throne. The error emphasized the duration of the Napoleonic dynasty.

England, of course, vies with France in her far-flung enterprises. Here again the colonies afford the most interest, though the stamps that bear Victoria and her heirs are all commonplace. The Irish Free State stamps are beautiful in Gaelic designs.

The law does not permit the reproduction of United States stamps, so the chapter devoted to them is not colorful. The chronology tells graphically the tale of American expansion from coast to coast and overseas. Not all our Presidents have found place on envelopes. John Adams, Andrew Johnson, Chester A. Arthur, John Quincy Adams, Martin

Van Buren, William H. Harrison, John Tyler, James K. Polk, Franklin Pierce, James Buchanan, and Millard Fillmore have all been overlooked by the engravers. None of these left many friends behind when they departed from office, which explains the neglect.

The Sandwich Islands in royal and republican days had excellent stamps, and the South Sea colonies of the several nations are also represented. Mexico's progress is strikingly illustrated by its stamps. Indeed, a collection from our neighbor's post office would be well worth having both for beauty and for historical value. Cuba too furnishes another line.

So the tale goes on of the pioneering peoples, notably the Dutch, and down to the great World War, with its making of new nations even unto Palestine. The stamps of the distant East—Persia, China, and Japan—complete the charming chronicle.

One wonders, on completing the reading of Mr. Warren's volume, how one small head can compass all he knows. Certainly here is set down an amazing quantity of accurate information.

The post office, as Dr. Charles W. Eliot wrote and Woodrow Wilson amended for the inscription on the façade of the Washington edifice is indeed:

"Courier of news and knowledge, instrument of trade and industry, promoter of mutual acquaintance, peace, and good will among nations, messenger of sympathy and love, servant of parted friends, consoler of the lonely, bond of the scattered family, enlarger of the common life."

## Answers to the Sherlock Holmes Examination

(See last week's Outlook)

1. Apparently in St. Bartholomew's Hospital. (See "A Study in Scarlet.")
2. Living on a small farm on the Downs, five miles from Eastbourne. He is well, although occasionally attacked by rheumatism. (Doubtless due to his life in a cave on Dartmoor, while hunting the Hound of the Baskervilles.) He is engaged in agriculture, bee-keeping, and the study of philosophy. (See prefatory note to "His Last Bow.")
3. "The Adventure of the Second Stain."
4. That while he had an erratic

<sup>1</sup>The Pageant of Civilization. World Romance and Adventure Told by Postage Stamps. By F. B. Warren. The Century Company, New York. \$6.

knowledge of chemistry, geology, law, and music, and a profound acquaintance with criminal history, he was totally ignorant of many other branches of knowledge; for instance, literature and astronomy. He had never heard of Carlyle, and did not know that the earth went round the sun. (See "A Study in Scarlet.")

5. No. Either Holmes was fooling Watson or else he bought the Five-Foot Shelf and took to reading on an extended plan. He cultivated a fine taste in literature—he quotes Hafiz ("A Case of Identity"), he carries a pocket Petrarch to read on the train ("The Boscombe Valley Mystery"), he wishes to talk about George Meredith (same story), and he quotes Flaubert ("The Red-Headed League"). As for astronomy, he discusses with Watson "the causes of the change in the obliquity of the ecliptic" ("The Greek Interpreter"), which certainly sounds like astronomy to me.

6. He spent two years at a college not named. (See "The Gloria Scott.") The type of men with him there suggests Oxford.

7. By no means. His creator seems to have adopted and exaggerated the public impression of him. Finally, Holmes is allowed ruthlessly to insult Watson and adopt the manner of Johnson to Boswell. (See "The Disappearance of Lady Frances Carfax.")

8. In "The Lost Special" (as "an amateur reasoner of some celebrity at that date") and in "The Man With the Watches" (as "a well-known criminal investigator"), both stories appearing in "Round the Fire Stories." The language and methods of Holmes are unmistakable.

9. About thirty-two. Ten of them are: "The Adventure of the Paradol Chamber," "The Amateur Mendicant Society," "The Singular Adventures of the Grice Patersons in the Island of Uffa," "The Tarleton Murders," "The Singular Affair of the Aluminum Crutch," "Ricoletti of the Club Foot and His Abominable Wife," "The Investigation of the Sudden Death of Cardinal Tosca," "The Arrest of Wilson the Notorious Canary-trainer," "The Repulsive Story of the Red Leech and the Terrible Death of Crosby the Banker," "The Addleton Tragedy and the Singular Contents of the Ancient British Barrow."

10. "The Musgrave Ritual."

11. "The Adventure of the Devil's Foot."

12. "A Study in Scarlet," "The Noble Bachelor," "The Dancing Men," "The Valley of Fear."

13. Cigars in coal-scuttle. Tobacco in

**YOUR  
MONEY'S  
WORTH**

**A Study in the Waste of the Consumer's Dollar**

*By Stuart Chase and F. J. Schlink*

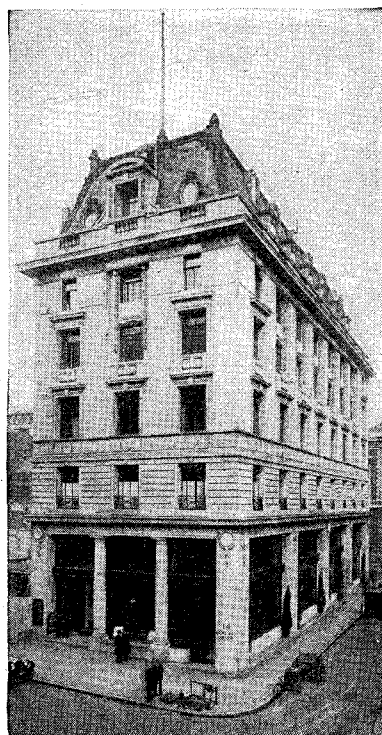
**THIS** amazing book lifts the curtain on all the side shows of Main Street and lets you see precisely how The New Salesmanship and High-Pressure Advertising are separating you painlessly from your money. Much of the fantastic hokum, deliberate falsehood, misrepresentation and quackery of the Wonderland of Advertising is exposed—the book names cases, offenders and products by the score.

If you are tired playing Alice in a Wonderland of hypnotic words and empty values, read this book. It should enable you to get more for your money than you ever have before. Dr. Henry Seidel Canby, Dorothy Canfield and other noted critics have endorsed it. Facts are made as entertaining as a detective story, or a magician's performance. This is one book that will tickle your funnybone as well as your bankroll.

**Just Published**

**At all bookstores—\$2.00**

**The Macmillan Co.      New York**



**London Office**  
of  
**The Outlook**  
**Hotel and Travel Bureau**

**I**N Dorland House, at 14 Regent Street, London, England, The Outlook maintains an office for your convenience.

We invite you to make use of that office while traveling abroad. Have your mail sent there. Go there to rest, to use the telephone, and to obtain information of unusual tours. There is no obligation or charge.

When planning any trip—at home or abroad—write to our New York office and let us help you with the arrangements.

**THE OUTLOOK**  
**Hotel and Travel Bureau**  
120 East 16th Street      New York City

**ADVENTURE !  
MYSTERY !  
DARING !**



## JUNGLE PATHS & INCA RUINS

By Wm. Montgomery McGovern  
Author of *To Lhasa in Disguise*

Extraordinarily bold adventures  
in the unknown jungles of the  
upper Amazon and among the  
lost ruins of the Inca kings, told  
with the same brilliance that  
made "*To Lhasa in Disguise*"  
a world-wide sensation.

Illustrated \$5.00

**THE CENTURY CO.**

Publishers of Enduring Books  
353 Fourth Avenue, New York, N. Y.

**STOPS**

**TRAIN SICKNESS**

Mothersill's prevents exhaustion,  
nausea, dizziness and faintness of  
Train Travel. Journey by Sea,  
Train, Auto, Car or Air in Health  
and Comfort. 33

75c. & \$1.50 at Drug Stores or direct  
The Mothersill Remedy Co., Ltd.  
New York Paris Montreal London

**MOTHERSILL'S  
SEASICK  
REMEDY**

25 Years In Use

## Wanted—Cartoons

THE OUTLOOK wishes to receive cartoons from its readers, clipped from their favorite newspaper. Each cartoon should have the sender's name and address together with the name and date of the newspaper from which it is taken pinned or pasted to its back. Cartoons should be mailed flat, not rolled. We pay one dollar (\$1) for each cartoon which we find available for reproduction. Some readers in the past have lost payment to which they were entitled because they failed to give the information which we require. It is impossible for us to acknowledge or return cartoons which prove unavailable for publication.

The Editors of The Outlook  
120 East 16th St. New York City

toe of a Persian slipper. ("The Musgrave Ritual.")

14. Morstan. ("The Sign of Four.")

15. Three years. Traveling in Tibet, Persia, Arabia, the Sudan, and working in a laboratory in southern France. ("The Empty House.")

16. His ancestors "were country squires, who appear to have led much the same life as is natural to their class." But his grandmother was "the sister of Vernet, the French artist," and he thought that the influence of "art in the blood, . . . liable to take the strangest forms," led to his peculiar abilities. ("The Greek Interpreter.")

17. (A) Audited the books in some of the Government departments. ("The Greek Interpreter.") But later he seems

to have risen to much greater importance as a sort of consultant on general information for the Government. ("The Bruce-Partington Plans.") (B) The Diogenes, in Pall Mall.

18. A suggestion from old Mr. Trevor, J. P., in "The 'Gloria Scott.'"

19. Three murder cases: "The Adventure of the Cardboard Box," "The Five Orange Pips," "The Resident Patient." Three robbery cases: "The Adventure of the Blue Carbuncle," "The Naval Treaty," "The Adventure of the Beryl Coronet." Three other crimes: "His Last Bow," "Silver Blaze," "The Adventure of the Engineer's Thumb." Three cases without crime: "The Yellow Face," "The Man with the Twisted Lip," "A Case of Identity."

## Fiction

**JOYKIN.** By Michael Arabian. Boni & Live-right, New York. \$2.

An earnest but amateurish novel of modern London. Joykin is a girl of the new generation who thinks the current formula of devil-may-care pleasure is good enough for her. After a false start at mating, the "right man" comes along, and she wakes to the discovery that life is more or less real and earnest. The rest of the tale tells how she releases herself from the false bond and joyfully accepts the true one. The author has an unfortunate likeness to Michael Arlen in race, name, and theme. Two young Anglo-Armenians being sophisticated and British at the same time are more than a genteel sufficiency.

**DAPHNE ADEANE.** By Maurice Baring. Harper & Brothers, New York. \$2.50.

Maurice Baring is among the handful of living novelists now being sought by the collector of modern "first editions." "Daphne Adeane" illustrates an odd quality in his work—perhaps the quality for which he is specially valued. A Victorian novel—with a difference. All of the materials to a certain point are the familiar materials of well-bred fiction as we knew it in the 'eighties and 'nineties—in the work, say, of William Black.

These are the nice English people of the upper middle class, with money enough and interests enough to make something of an art of living. They belong to the same world, if not precisely to the same set. Their circles are tangent and mutually aware of each other. Yet the most powerful influence among them is memory of a dead woman who, alive, had been a half-adopted alien, almost an outsider. Daphne Adeane, a woman without formal beauty or notable intellect or definable charm, has ruled through sheer personality. All women have shrunk in her presence, and all men have bowed down. Here is the story of her ghostly reign over those who survive her passing, and over all who come into intimate relations with them. A novel of odd and insinuating effect.

**"AW HELL."** By Clarke Venable. The Reilly & Lee Company, Chicago and New York. \$2.

It was inevitable that a certain number of camp-followers should come in the train of the recently revived interest in fiction concerning the World War. Mr. Clarke Venable is a lesser practitioner in the field cultivated with distinction by Leonard Nason, James Stevens, and Captain John Thomason. His novel is an earnest and conscientious but totally uninspired piece of work. A certain sympathy is inherent in his central character, Jep Brice, the

backwoodsman who persistently trailed after the regiment from which his weak heart excluded him. When he is on the scene, the novel assumes a certain vitality. Without him, none of the usual paraphernalia of fussy officers, comic sergeants, and stock episodes of heroism in No Man's Land is of any particular effect.

## History

**MAIN CURRENTS IN AMERICAN THOUGHT.**  
Vol. I—The Colonial Mind (1620-1800). Vol. II—The Romantic Revolution in America (1800-1860). By Vernon Louis Farrington. Harcourt, Brace & Co., New York. \$4 each.

Here is fresh and original interpretation of the more influential tendencies in American thought and sentiment from colonial days to the outbreak of the Civil War. The main contributions to the complex thing known as Americanism the author finds to have been English independency, French romanticism and utopianism, the doctrine of *laissez-faire*, nineteenth-century science, and Continental theories of collectivism. "The child of two continents, America can be explained in its significant traits by neither alone." He portrays the growth and conflict of these influences, giving point and vividity to his portrayal with personal sketches of the leading exponents of the various schools of thought. He disavows any particular concern with aesthetic judgments; he has tried to understand what our fathers thought and why they wrote as they did, and, since time is not always a just winnower, he has found it necessary to dig into lost causes and forgotten reputations. Though professedly written from a Jeffersonian standpoint, the real attitude is ultra-modern, and the text indubitably dates itself as post-war. The exposition is strongly deterministic; ideals, it would appear, if not based on economic needs, are at least fashioned by them. Though the author admits that his task is no May Day undertaking and that the attempt to lay bare the heart of a period has its many difficulties, his manner is briskly and even blithely confident. Hence there are judgments that to many will seem audacious and provocative, interpretations too simple to square with the facts, and terms too loosely used to mean what they ought to mean. The term "individualism," for instance, so repeatedly stressed in references to the frontier, needs some qualification when applied to a society that demanded State aid for internal improvements, neighborly help in barn-raising and crop gatherings, and in many of its ventures took on the character of group collectivism. The work nevertheless is a