



SIPA

Bulletin

For Circulation to Members only

Vol. 12 No. 4

July - August 1991

Bimonthly

SOUTH INDIA PHILATELISTS' ASSOCIATION

(Founded 1956)

(Affiliated to the Philatelic Congress of India)

OUR MONTHLY MEETINGS

July 1991: 23 Members Present

Janab A. Ravof gave a DISPLAY Talk on "TESTED RED FLUORESCENT CANCELLATIONS from Feb.5, 1990 to 16/4/1991 in South Carolina (U.S.A.). He also showed the various coloured Telegram computerised cancellations, 1987 PM Feb.21 and WATCHLIKE (computerised Time cancellations and his talk was appreciated by the members.

Shri D. H. Rao gave his impressions of his visit to Harbour where two warships were berthed: 'INDIRA JYOTHI' & 'another warship'. He showed how is friend got for him from U.K. a PLAQUE from "MARY ROSE" in enamel, a Gold Coin in plastic cover -22ct gold plated medallion and a First Day Cover of HENRY VIII with Mary Rose stamp of 11/10/1982 at Portsmouth. He next announced that Canada will issue two PROOF COINS (made of Gold) @ Can \$ 217.

Next our President, Shri G. Madanmohandas announced new issues, special cancellations. He then gave news about the PCI Letters to the Postal Dept., along with Philatelic society of India's letter addressed to the Secretary, Postal Department, New Delhi pinpointing the hazards and how the Ban of PROOFS, Colour trials, Dies and how the Emergency Meeting of PCI scheduled to be held on 17/7/1991 at New Delhi to take a decision on the same and press the Postal Department to implement the same for the Post Independence issues and how the Secretary, Dept of Posts has assured the PCI that he will pass such orders after hearing their view points at a meeting to be held on 18/7/1991 and that he was likely to visit Delhi for the Meeting on behalf of SIPA. After some discussion, the Meeting authorised our President to take such decision in the best interests of collectors.

AUGUST 1991: 25 Members present.

After the usual exchange of pleasantries, our President called the Meeting to order. He then requested new members to introduce themselves. Shri VIKRAM RAGHAVAN for the benefit of members gave QUIZ both for the beginner and advanced-35 Questions and elicited answers from members and one or two of which members could not answer, answer was given.

Next our young Social worker and enthusiastic member who always serves the disabled: Shri K. Hastimal Jain who has already won two Awards at TANAPEX-90 and BIOPEX-89 with Silver Medals for his Medical theme put on Display SPEED POST COVERS nearly (40) and asked for guidance as to how to give a write up. Shri G.MADANMOHANDAS, our President, explained it up with his exhaustive knowledge. Shri D.H. Rao showed some ship covers and said

that he gave a Six minute TALK on the AIR Madras in English on COINS as President, Madras Coins Society. With a hot cup of Tea Meeting came to a close.

PHILORAMA

GENOVA-92:

GENOVA-92, a Thematic World Philatelic exhibition, being organised by the International Ministry of Post & Telecommunications and by the Federation of Italian Philatelic societies, is being held to commemorate the 500th anniversary of discovery of America by Christopher Columbus. It will be held under the FIP patronage at the premises of the Fiera International di Genova, from Friday 18th to Sunday 27th September 1992. The Exhibition classes would be: Class 1: Thematic Philately; Class 2: Youth Philately (thematic exhibits only); Class 3: Literature. The frames have the width of 100 c.m. and height 100 c.m. with a capacity of 12 album pages (approximately 24 X 32.5 c.m.) in three rows of four pages. The participation fee per frame in the thematic class will be 10 U.S. Dollars; in the Literature class 10 U.S. Dollars per exhibit; no frame charges in the Youth Class. The Indian Commissioner for the exhibition is Mr. Suvra Chandra, 56, Dr. S. Sarker Road, Calcutta - 700 014.

CANADA 92

CANADA 92 is a world Philatelic Youth Exhibition organised by "Society de promotion des Expositions Philateliqes (S.O.P.E.P) inc" under the patronage of the "Federation International de Philatelic" and will be held at the Palais des congress Montreal (Quebec), Canada from 25 to 29 March 1992. Participation is open to all collectors who are members of societies affiliated to member societies of the F.I.P.... entries to the competitive classes must be awarded a Silver Bronze Medal at an exhibition of a National level or be accompanied by a written statement from the National commissioner confirming the quality of the Exhibit. Provisional entry forms must reach the National Commissioner not later than November 1, 1991. Commissioner for India: Mr. S. Sahoo, IAS, 5R-1, Unit-1, Bhubaneswar-751 009.

GRANADA 92

Granada 92 International Philatelic Exhibition is scheduled to be held at Canada, Spain from April 17-26, 1992 and is being held under the patronage of F.I.P. to celebrate the 500th Anniversary of the discovery of America by Christopher Columbus. The 61st World Congress of the F.I.P. will be hosted by the city of Granada. For furthering information please contact the Indian Commissioner, Mr. Vispi S. Dastur, C/o. D.J. Jasavala & Co., Uco Bank Buldg., 4th Floor, 359, D.N. Road, Bombay-400 001.

The views contained in the articles published are the author's own and not necessarily of the Association.

All communications relating to Bulletin may please be addressed to Mr. M.T. Karunakaran, Hon'y Editor, SIPA Bulletin, No.3, III Cross Street, Jayanagar, Tambaram Sanatorium, Madras-600 047.

SIPA MEETINGS

SECOND SUNDAY of every month - Regular meeting at the Philatelic Bureau, Anna Road Post Office, Madras-600 002
THIRD SUNDAY of every month Auction meeting at our Library Hall at 6, Nannian Street, Madras-3 (Timing: 10-45 a.m. to 1 p.m.)
SIPA Library Open Tuesday & 3rd Sunday, 6, Nannian Street, Madras-3.

THE POST OFFICE OF INDIA

A NEW Post Office Act-Act XIV - was introduced in 1866, which cheapened rate of postage, and from this date onward, that is for the last fifty years, no department of Government has been more progressive.

It will, perhaps, be best to give the principal events in a brief chronological table, and then to refer to some of them separately.

1866.- In May the Post Office Act XIV introduced the following modifications:-

(1) Letter postage cheapened to 1 a. for 1/2 tola, and for weights above 1/2 tola the scale progressed by as. per tola;

(2) the former book post converted into a packet post, and no restriction as to contents, except letters and dangerous substances, and 20 instead of 10 tolas allowed for the single rate;

(3) the weight allowed to newspapers increased to 10 tolas for the single rate.

In August, official franking abolished.

1867.-A new contract with the P. and O. Company provided a weekly service to Bombay, with a transit of 26 days a subsidy of £ 400,000. Local posts established at Calcutta and Bombay. Village postmen employed.

1868.-Sea-sorting introduced between Bombay and Suez.

1869.-The inland letter. rate lowered to 1/2 anna for 1/2 tola from 1st April. Uniform parcel rates introduced varying only with weight and irrespective of distance 6 as. for 20 tolas.

The Brindisi route opened 10 as. 8p. per 1/2 ounce.

The Indian Postal Guide first published in April at a charge of Rs. 1-8-0 per copy.

1870.-The charge on the Brindisi route reduced to 8 as. per 1/2 ounce. Bicycles introduced on the Agra-Mutta road, and worked at an average speed of 7 miles with 40 lbs. of mail matter.

1871.-Inland postage on newspapers reduced from 1a. to 1/2 a. for 10 tolas.

1872.-Reduction of parcel rates to 4 as. for 20 tolas, and the postage on pamphlets and trade circulars from 2 as. to 1 a. per ten tolas.

Detaching apparatus used for exchanging mails at small stations on the Eastern Bengal Railway.

In October an exchange of money orders introduced between India and the United Kingdom.

1873.-Reduction from 1st April in rates for official postage to:-

Note exceeding	1/2 tola	1/2 anna.
"	10 tolas	1 "
"	20 tolas	5 annas.
"	30 tolas	10 "
Every additional	10 tolas	5 "

In April the price of the Postal Guide reduced to Re. 1.

Post Office Manual published. Commission allowed to postmasters on the sale of postage stamps reduced from 6 1/4 per cent. (one anna in the rupee) to 3 1/4 per cent. (half anna in the rupee.)

Carriage of parcels between India and England arranged in March through the P. & O. Company up to 50 lbs. in weight at the rate of 3 as. per ten tolas.

1874.-Camp post offices formed to serve the Duffla campaign.

1875.-In July the rate of charge for overland parcels reduced to 1 shilling or 8 annas per lb.

1876.-India admitted to the General Postal Union on 1st July and Union rates for foreign postage introduced. Prior to this date the Union comprised beside European countries, only Egypt and the United States of America.

Owing to financial pressure resulting from the depression of silver and considerable outlay for famine, measures involving loss of revenue or increase of cost were necessarily postponed.

1877.-Redirection charges abolished from 1st April.

Reduction of packet rates from 1 a. to 1/2 a. per ten tola from 1st September; and reduced rates for parcels exceeding 40 tolas.

Postal arrangements made for the Jowaki campaign.

V.-P. system introduced from 1st December.

1878.-Further reduction of rates for service correspondence.

Insurance introduced at 1/2 per cent. without limit as to amount, from 1st January.

A fully equipped postal establishment despatched with the Indian troops to Malta.

From 1st April certificates of posting granted at 1/2 anna each.

From 1st August insurance rates reduced from one-half to one-quarter per cent.

In November the Afghan War commenced and field post offices were organised.

1879.-Inland and foreign post-cards introduced in July.

Registration fee reduced from 4 as. to 2 as.

Peace restored by the treaty of Gundamak in May, but the murder of the British Ambassador in September led to a resumption of hostilities. In December the price of the Postal Guide reduced to 8 as. and the Indian Postal Abstract first published at the price of one anna.

1880.-Reduction from 1st February of letter rates to Europe from 5 as. to 4 as.

Money order business transferred to the Post Office from 1st January. Maximum limit Rs.150, and commission one percent. and the substitution of 5,090 post offices for the issue and payment of money order in place of 321 treasuries. In three months the transactions were more than quadrupled.

From 1st February new mail contract with the P. and O. Company came into force, with a speed of 1.1 knots, and 15¹/₂ days allowed between Bombay and Brindisi. The contract was for a term of 8 years with a subsidy of £370,000, and the Southampton route abolished.

Sorting of local mails for Calcutta began in the Railway Mail Service in February, by which means the distribution at the first delivery was advanced by two hours. The number of local deliveries in Calcutta increased from three to four in the day.

From 15th August, reduction of the minimum rate on parcel from 8 as. for 40 tolas, to 4 as. for 20 tolas.

From 1st August the rate of commission on V.-P. articles reduced by one half (i.e., from 2 per cent. to 1 per cent).

From 1st August the price of the Postal Guide reduced to 4 as.

1881.- Post Office Manual, Second Edition, published.

Reduction of postage on light newspapers to 1/4 anna for 3 tolas.

in August the registration fee reduced from 4 as. to 2 as.

1882.-From 1st April Savings Bank work undertaken.

From 1st November stock notes sold through the agency of the Post Office.

Five Field Post Offices opened in Egypt for the convenience of the Indian Force serving in that country.

1883.-From 1st January Indian Postal Notes issued.

From 1st December all post offices constituted receiving offices for telegrams.

1884.-Revenue money orders introduced.

On 1st October telegraphic money orders introduced; also the payment of ordinary money orders by postmen at the houses of payees; and the sale of British Postal Orders.

Telegraph work undertaken by the Post Office staff.

Reply post-cards provided.

1885.-From 1st July a direct parcel exchange for light parcels not exceeding 7 lbs. with the British Post Office.

Field Post Offices accompanied the Military Force to Upper Burma.

From 1st October the V.-P. system extended to unregistered book packets.

1886.-From 1st January the V.-P system extended to railway receipt notes.

The Jubilee of Her Majesty the Queen-empress celebrated on 16th February by the illumination of the larger offices.

From 1st May the limit of weight of parcels exchanged with the British Post Office raised to 11lbs.

From 1st September one anna revenue stamps were sold.

Sale of Indian Postal Notes discontinued from November.

Purchase and sale of Government promissory notes and securities.

1887.-From 1st January the rates for telegraphic money orders reduced, and the postage to Ceylon reduced to inland rates.

Introduction of rent money orders.

1888.-From February new P. and O. contract, 16 days 16 hours London to Bombay, mails to pass through the Suez Canal, and subsidy reduced to £265,000.

A Field Post Office organised for the Sikkim Expedition.

Sea-sorting restricted to between Aden and Bombay, instead of between Port Said and Bombay.

In September field offices organised for the Hazara Expedition.

1889.-From 1st January, reduction of parcel rates to the United Kingdom.

A system introduced of summoning reservists for training, or service through the Post Office.

Payment of Native Military Pensioners undertaken.

Field Post Offices sent with the Chin-Lushai Expedition.

From 1st April the Post Offices in the Mysore State were taken over.

On 1st April the rates of commission on inland money orders revised.

From 1st November insurance introduced for parcels exchanged between the British and Indian Post Offices.

From 1st April reduction of the yearly limit from Rs. 500 to Rs. 200 of Savings Bank accounts, and of the maximum limit from Rs. 3,000 to Rs. 2,000.

1890.-From 1st May amount of inland insurance limited to Rs. 1,000.

Field offices accompanied the Zhob Expedition in September.

1891.-In January field offices accompanied the Miranzai and Hazara Expeditions; and also the Wuntho Expedition.

On 1st January postage on letters to the United Kingdom reduced from 4¹/₂ to 2¹/₂ as. per half ounce. Postage between Aden and India reduced to inland rates.

From 1st January the V.-P system introduced between India and Ceylon.

In April a field office accompanied the Manipur column.

1892.-In September a field office accompanied the Isazai Expedition, and in October the Kurrum Field force, and also the Wanco Expedition.

Moveable plates introduced as a check on the clearance of letter boxes.

The union rate of 2¹/₂ as. made uniformly applicable to all foreign countries.

1893.-Telegraphic money order exchange with Ceylon introduced in May.

1894.-From 1st April rate of interest on Savings Bank accounts reduced from 3³/₄ to 3¹/₄ per cent.

From 1st May a daily steamer service established between Tuticorin and Colombo.

From 1st November the amalgamation of the Kashmir State postal system with that of the Post Office of India.

The management of posts in the Native States of Bamra, Nandgaon, and Pudukotta undertaken.

Field Post Offices organised for the Waziristan Force.

1895.-From 1st August, unregistered parcels received for transmission through the inland post.

Introduction of thumb impressions for illiterate persons in connection with money order and savings bank transactions.

Opening of Post Offices in the Native States of Meywar, Marwar, and Bhurtpure.

The Indian Post Office at Zanzibar was closed after an existence of twenty years.

1896.-Presidency Savings Banks merged in the Post Office Savings Bank.

1897.-On the 1st January the amalgamation of the posts of the Native States of Bharatpur and Khairpur with the Post Office of India.

The introduction of "continuous delivery" system at Calcutta.

On the 12th June, the earthquake in Assam caused the entire destruction of 25 Post Office buildings, and serious damage to 52 others.

On the 24th October the cyclone at Chittagong caused the total destruction of 33 Post Office buildings, and serious damage to 8 others.

1898.-From 1st February postal life insurance extended to all Government servants.

From 1st February, new P. & O. contract, London to Bombay, 14 days 15 hours.

From 1st April the V.-P system extended to unregistered parcels.

From 1st July new Post Office Act.

On Christmas Day the introduction of the Imperial penny postage scheme at the uniform postage rate of one penny the half ounce.

Scale of postage for inland letters revised and made cheaper, a new rate of quarter of an anna for four tolas added to the scale of postage for registered newspapers; and the maximum limit of insurance raised to Rs. 2,000.

Rates for parcels via Gibraltar reduced, and the Brindisi route opened for parcels.

1899.-A field office opened in connection with the Mishmi Expedition.

1900.-On 1st January the postal arrangements of the Banganapalle Native State amalgamated with the Post Office of India.

The Senders of parcels to the United Kingdom enabled to pre-pay customs duty.

In June field Offices despatched to China to accompany the British Contingent of the China Field Force.

1st November the postal arrangements of the Jhallawar Native State amalgamated with the Post Office of India.

The foreign parcel post extended to the United States of America.

1901.-On 1st March the postal arrangements of the Kotah Native State amalgamated with the Post Office of India.

Field Post Offices opened in connection with the blockade of the Mahsud Waziris.

The postal arrangements of the Dhar Native State taken over by the Post Office of India on 1st April.

Reduction of inland parcel rates from 1st July, 12 as. instead of Re. 1-4-0 for a 5 lb. Parcel, Re. 1/- instead of Re. 1-12-0 for a 7 lb. parcel, and Re. 1-8-0 instead of Rs. 2-12-0 for a 11 lb. parcel.

1902.-From 1st April the posts of the Sirmoor State transferred to that of the Post Office of India.

From 1st April the commission on money orders not exceeding Rs. 5 reduced from 2 as. to 1 anna.

From 1st July the amalgamation of the posts of the Alwar State with the Post Office of India.

Mail communications established with Persia via the Nushki-Seistan route.

1903.-Post Offices opened in connection with the Coronation Durbar of January.

In January a Field Service Establishment sent to Somaliland.

The weight for registered newspapers was increased from 4 to 6 tolas for 1/4 anna.

In December special postal arrangements made for the Thibet Mission.

India accepts a cheap uniform scale of parcel postage within the Empire.

1904.-From 1st January the postal arrangements of the Bikanir Native State amalgamated with the Post Office of India.

On 1st April booklets of half anna and one anna stamps were introduced, interleaved with oiled paper so as to preserve the stamps in good condition during the monsoon.

From 1st August revised rules introduced for the purchase of Government securities, whereby no charge is made

for brokerage or commission on the purchase or sale, and no income tax levied on securities so long as they remain in the custody of the Comptroller-General, and a scheme for permitting investment of small sums not less than Rs. 10, for which certificates are issued.

1905.-From 1st April the inland letter rate lowered to half anna for $\frac{3}{4}$ tola, and above this weight to 1 anna for $1\frac{1}{2}$ tolas; and arrangements made to grant, under certain conditions, compensation up to Rs. 25 for the loss or damage of registered articles. From 1st July insurance fee reduced from $\frac{1}{4}$ to $\frac{1}{8}$ per cent., subject to a minimum of one anna.

From 1st July deposits at six months' notice of withdrawal introduced, and interest allowed at $3\frac{1}{4}$ per cent., and the interest on deposits at call reduced to $3\frac{1}{8}$ per cent.

From 1st October the use of half anna and one anna postage stamps authorised for revenue purposes.

Six postal officials killed and five severely injured by the earthquake in the Kangra and Kulu Valleys.

The letter postage to Australia and Egypt reduced to 1 anna.

British Postal Orders made payable in India from 1st October.

1906.-From 1st March Zemindary Dak establishments absorbed by the Imperial establishment.

Postage on foreign parcels reduced from 1st October.

1907.-From 1st March premia reduced on Life policies.

1st April, commission on the sale of postage stamps discontinued.

The amalgamation of the Holkar State system with the Post Office of India.

From 1st October the weight raised from $\frac{3}{4}$ to 1 tola for $\frac{1}{2}$ anna, and from $1\frac{1}{2}$ to 10 tolas for 1 anna; and parcel rates applicable to weights between 20 and 440 tolas reduced by 2 annas throughout the state. Preferential rates for official correspondence were thus abolished.

From 1st October the unit of weight for foreign letters raised from $\frac{1}{2}$ oz. to 1 oz.

From 15th November the international reply-coupon introduced.

1908.-In February field offices accompanied the Bazar Valley expedition, and in April the Mohmand expedition.

From 1st February new contract with P. and O. Company and time allowed between Brindisi and Bombay reduced by 8 hours.

1909.-The scheme of reducing inland postage rates was completed by raising the maximum weight for which a registered newspaper can be carried for $\frac{1}{4}$ anna from 6 to 8 tolas and for $\frac{1}{2}$ anna from 20 to 40 tolas.

The revenue money order system was extended to the Bombay Presidency.

Courtesy : An Outline of Postal History and Practice -
IVE G. J. HAMILTON.

POLLUTION COMMON CAUSE FOR CONCERN

OIL IS PRECIOUS — SAVE OIL

THE COLLECTOR

By ARTHUR BLAIR

ONCE upon a time there was a collector...

Nothing very unusual in that, for there have always been plenty of collectors at all times, but this particular collector was Different, so that's why this story begins: Once upon a time there was a collector and his name was George and he was a happy business man.

George was also married, so one day he decided to take up stamp collecting as an escape from his wife's incessant chatter, so he bought an "all-the-world" album and a quantity of stamps and spent many a happy evening mounting specimens in his album while his wife chatted on unheeded.

Then among his friends he discovered two that were collectors, Bill and Arnold, and they both came round one evening to see him and George sprung a surprise on them by bringing out his album.

"I see you jamb both mint and used on the same page," said Bill.

"Shouldn't do that," remonstrated Arnold, "a set composed of half mint and half used specimens always looks untidy."

"Quite right," agreed Bill, "stick to mint, they're the best."

"Rubbish," said Arnold, "a mint stamp isn't a proper postage stamp, it hasn't done it's duty; no, George, you go in for used only."

Then followed an argument, with all the pros and cons that crop up in the unused v. used controversy; but George finally settled it by saying that he was going to collect both mint and used.

One day old Colonel Morgan, who lived near George, came to look at the air raid shelter he, George, had built in his small garden. The Colonel had been in the Boer War and pretended he knew all about air raids and the effect of high incendiary bombs. "During the Siege of Ladysmith I remember ..." began the Colonel.

"Ladysmith?" interrupted George, "Oh, I suppose you don't happen to have any of the Baden-Powell stamps, do you?"

"Phew," said the Colonel, blowing out his moustache, "Do You collect stamps?"

"Oh, boy! I'll say I do," said George, who went every Saturday to the pictures.

So out came the "all-the-world" album, and the air raid shelter and Ladysmith were forgotten. After the Colonel had seen the collection he advised George to specialise. "Why don't you concentrate on Cape of Good Hope-plenty of scope there in spite of the fact that there are never any new issues-and what about Great Britain?"

So George started specialising in Cape of Good Hope and Great Britain, since the Colonel recommended them, and then someone else suggested that he should increase the scope of his speciality-why not go in for all British Colonials? And George saw no reason why he shouldn't, so he became an Empire specialist.

Then he went to an exhibition of air mail stamps one day, and a dealer at one of the stalls proved to him the desirability of collecting air mails, and George came away from the exhibition with a lot of material for an air mail collection, and the dealer sent him by post some days later a lot of air mail covers, and George decided to include this branch into his scope of collecting, for he thought the thousands of first flights that had taken place were of great historical interest as most of them had been commemorated philatelically.

While he was "air minded" George read an article in a magazine about collecting "etiquettes," so he made up his mind that he would form a representative collection of the blue air mail labels-and very interesting he found it, too, although muddling at times, for so many of the etiquettes looked alike.

Then he met a lady collector who went in for all "pretty" stamps and the lady said to him: "Why on earth don't you collect charity and commemorative stamps?" and George said "Well, I do- in a way-for I'm a general collector and that includes charity and commemorative stamps to a certain extent."

"Aw, fuzzi!" said the lady friend, "you can't do justice to them in a general collection, you've got to treat them as separate issues." So George treated them as separate issues and got two new albums in which to place his new specialities, and he was just beginning to attain a form of law and order when an enthusiast severely reprimanded him for not having a complete collection of Jubilees and Coronations. "Where's your patriotism?" demanded the enthusiast. "You must include these two Empire groups, for they are steeped in the tradition of all that is British-oh, and don't forget the group is not complete without sets of first day covers."

"Coronation first day covers as well as Jubilee?" enquired George, with a worried look.

"Certainly," said the enthusiast, "don't be put off with all the stories you hear about forged postmarks."

"Forged postmarks?" asked George, looking more worried.

"Now don't get cold feet," said the enthusiast, "I can put you in touch with a bloke whom you can trust implicitly-one who'll write a guarantee of genuineness on the backs of all doubtful first day covers."

So George went to the trustworthy dealer, who obliged by signing his name on the backs of all covers that he charged £1 or more for.

As the maintenance of so many collections made a large hole in George's weekly wages, he had to give up smoking and the midday "pint" and the evening whisky and soda. He also gave up golf and picture-going and joined the local philatelic society instead, and at a meeting of the club one Saturday afternoon he met a collector who proudly showed him a collection of registered and express labels; as George was admiring them another collector came up and insisted on showing his specialised collection of postage dues.

"The advantage of registered and express labels," said the collector of these items, "is that you can get such a fine lot together for a comparatively small financial outlay."

"Same with postage dues," said the "P.D." enthusiast to George, "I've a number of duplicates you can have if you want."

"I also have quite a lot of registered and express labels which you are welcome to," said the other collector, also to George, and George said he didn't think he could spare the time or energy to collecting these items, but the two enthusiasts soon showed him what a ridiculous statement that was, so George accepted their unwanted specimens, and spent a lot of time looking through dealers' stock books for further labels for his collection, and the dealers were very happy to hunt out such items for him.

Then George's wife left him; she couldn't stand it any longer-wherever she turned in the house she saw stamps and albums and magazines and catalogues and bits of old stamp mounts, and her housekeeping money had been cut right down, so she left. The old Colonel was the first to know of this tragedy, the day he called with some swaps for George.

"Good gosh!" said the Colonel, when told the news, "when did it happen?"

"The day I received a trunk of unpicked office lots from a firm," said George, "Oh, I was upset."

"I bet you were," said the colonel, with sympathy.

"Yes," said George, "because I found that the trunk of guaranteed unpicked stamps was composed of nothing but rubbish."

The time came when George had to sell his house and furniture and go into a furnished bachelor apartment, and in the room next to his there was an American, who soon made friends with George, and it was not long before the American revealed the fact that he was a philatelist, and George didn't feel quite so lonely. The American had a magnificent collection of miniature sheets and they looked so beautiful and imposing that George decided that he must collect souvenir sheets, and the American showed him how to procure them easily; he also introduced him to the thrills of slogan postmarks and naval covers.

One day the bank manager sent for George and asked him what was happening, and George said "Nothing," and the bank manager said "What about this overdraft?" and George said, "Don't worry about that, I'm selling my car," which he did, together with his gold watch, links and cigarette case, and on his way to the bank to pay in the money he passed a stamp auction room and, never having been in one before, went in out of curiosity.

The auctioneer was trying to dispose of a world collection of postal stationery, and when George saw the quantity of unused post cards, wrappers and envelopes he entered the slow bidding, which annoyed an old man who thought he was going to get the box of stationery for £1. The old man went mad and so did George, and they bid against each other until the auctioneer and the other men in the room began to get frightened. After ten minutes of shouting the old man collapsed over the table, and George secured the collection of postal stationery for £50. He took it to his apartment in triumph and showed it to his American friend, and the American said "By jove, old fellow, what a perfectly ripping accumulation of postal stationery. Why do you not accompany me to an auction of postal history to which I shall be going to-morrow," and George said, "OK, I'll sure be mighty glad to have you accompany me, son."

George avoided the bank and its manager and went to the postal history sale instead, and there he saw what a wide field it really was—old postal covers and documents, ship cancellations, even books, paintings and prints of postal interest.

The fever had now a serve hold of George and he bid recklessly, and eventually staggered from the auction with a miscellaneous collection of items appertaining to postal history. He was now quite "broke"; he couldn't afford a taxi home, so the American helped him to carry his new acquisitions to the apartment. "What a pity there was not a collection of locals for sale to-day," said the American, "You can often pick up a cheap lot at these sales."

"Locals?" asked George in a daze. "Locals—ah, yes, I haven't any locals—must get some locals—must have a collection of locals." And as the American did not like the look or sound of George, he left him and locked himself in his own apartment.

Some days later the bank manager rang up George and said it was serious, and George said, "Yes, it is, because I am having difficulty in getting together a good collection of locals." And the the manager said "What?" and George gave a hysterical laugh and threw the 'phone in the air.

Then just before George went completely cuckoo someone asked him if he didn't collect forgeries and reprints, and George said "No, but thanks for the suggestion—must have a collection of forgeries and reprints—must have a collection of reprints and forgeries." So he took all his suits, spare shirts and underwear to the pawn shop and pledged them for a few pounds and went to a dealer and asked to buy a collection of forgeries and reprints, and the dealer said "I don't sell forgeries, but I'll sell you an old collection of genuine stamps, and if

you find it's full of forgeries—which it is—well, we'll all be satisfied, eh?" George said "Yes" and threw his money at the dealer, grabbed the collection of forgeries and ran home and shut himself in his room and gibbered over his latest possession.

The American friend paid George a final visit one evening; he found him sitting at a large table surrounded by a hundred albums and chuckling to himself. The room was bare, for George had removed the furniture and fittings one by one when the landlord was out, and had sold them in order to join a new issue service and also keep his other collections supplied with material. "Oh, come in," said George, "I'm just looking through my little collections. He, he! I've got a complete collection of everything connected with philately. Look! Here's my general collection, here's my specialities and commemoratives and charities, my postage dues, registered and express labels, my first day covers, my Jubilees and Coronations. He, he! And these books contain my railway stamps and these my miniature sheets, and these forgeries and reprints, and all these are bursting with postal stationery and postal history." And then he broke down and wept and in a shrill voice told of his misery in having listened to everybody and taken everyone's advice. The American said he was sorry to hear of his trouble, but what he'd come for was to try and sell him a collection of Christmas charity seals, and George threw up his hands and went into hysterics, and the American called a doctor and the doctor sent George to a nursing home, thinking he had money.

Well, George eventually recovered and when he came out of hospital, where the doctor had transferred him, he found that all his collections had been seized and sold to pay off his debts, and when the man heard of this he danced so much for joy that the doctor was sent for again; but the doctor was a wise chap and saw that George was an overjoyed man, and he said to him, "What you want to do is go away for a holiday and take up some occupation, to occupy your mind—like stamp collecting."

George didn't go into hysterics at the mention of his former hobby, for he was a sane man again. He simply said "OK, doc. I'll take up stamp collecting." And he did, but this time he set himself a definite ambition and kept a firm grip of himself. When he went to philatelic society meetings he was able to listen to the different collectors raving about their particular specialities without deciding to compete against them—in other words, sanity had entered his hobby and he was a happy man again and slowly he got back to his former financial position and his wife returned to him and the bank manager invited him out to his home to dinner, and when George got there the manager said he wanted him to look at his gigantic collection of cigarette cards, poster labels, tram tickets and match box labels, and like the little Audrey of a year or two back, George laughed and laughed and laughed, for he knew what was going to happen to the manager.

Tucked among these many words there is a moral, so obvious that we wouldn't insult your intelligence by mentioning it.