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BIMONTHLY

SOUTH INDIA PHILATELISTS' ASSOCIATION

(FOUNDED 1956)

(AFFILIATED TO THE PHILATELIC CONGRESS OF INDIA)

STILL MORE FAMOUSER STAMPS

By The Rev. H.J.A. McKEE

Chapter 1. THE INTELLIGENT HORSE

Early one fine Spring morning in 1893 Lord Oldmarchar told his coachman that he wished to show his young bride the Aberdeen Fish market as the catches were brought in. They started off, passing the irregular crown of King's College and the Byronic gates of Powis Lodge in the cole light of dawn, and then, in College Bounds the horse suddenly stopped and refused to move. Lord Old machar leapt out to enquire what was amiss. He found the horse standing rigidly as if nailed to the spot, and the coachman told him that this same horse had once stopped in the same manner in Bon Accord Square, and when at last it had been persuaded to move, a sixpence was found under its hoof. "Nee doot". Said the coachman, "he'll find another sixpence" When at length the sagacious horse was moved they found an envelope bearing, as might be expected, a rare stamp.

That very day Lord Old machar took the train to London and at the first opportunity presented himself at 391 Strand, where he was received with great deference and courtesy. On explaining that he had come to sell a rare stamp he was immediately received by the Managing Director in the delightful room overlooking the famous thoroughfare. A brief glance at the stamp was enough, then, at a sign, an assistant threw open a large safe and withdrew several bags of gold which were handed to his Lordship without further ado.

Shortly afterwards this magnificent specimen passed into the hands of a rich American collector who in turn sold it some years later to a dealer in Paris. This dealer lost no time in sending a message to the millionaire collector, Furriery, who arrived shaking with excitement and, after a glance at the stamp, wrote a cheque for 20,000 francs without a murmur. At the Ferrary sale it was bought by Lord Marshmallow and now reposes in the collection at Hogsnoton, under the Curatorship of Mr. Gillie Potter.

(The stamp is so rare that its identity must not be

revealed, but I can vouch for the accuracy of the story, which I had from the horse's mouth)

Chapter 2 . THE RUSSIAN'S VIOLIN

Serge Vufku stood at the window of his attic bedroom in the suburbs of Northern Paris and played softly in the dusk until a gentle knock at the door made him stop and lay down his violin quickly. He unlocked the door with terming fingers and caught the hands of Bubbite as she came in

"What did she say?" he asked, anxiously.

"Oh, Serge," she answered, "it is quite useless, Mama will not let you stay any longer unless you pay the rent you owe."

"Then there is nothing for me to do but drown myself", he said tragically.

"You must n't do that," she cried, flinging her arms around his neck. "something will turn up soon".

He gave a sardonic laugh and pushed her away with more vigor than he intended, being still in his tragic mood. Caught off her balance, she fell back and sat down heavily on the violin. There was a hideous sound of breaking, and Bubite got up again as if propelled by a spring.

Serge took a step forward and gazed in horror at what remained of his beloved violin. It was broken beyond repair, and it was his only means of earning a living. He stood there transfixed.

Bubbite meanwhile had worked herself into a temper and now turned on him. "You brute," she screaned. "You knocked me down and all you are interested in is your old violin. You don't care how much you hurt me."

"But I do care" he protested, "and I never meant to knock you down. It was a pure accident"

"All you care about is your broken violin" she cried. "You don't seem to care whether you break my heart. I never

SIPA MEETINGS

Second sunday of every month - Regular meeting at the Philatelic Bureau, Anna Road Post Office, Madras - 600 002 (10.30 a.m. to 12.30 p.m.) first and 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 & Sunday, 6 Nannian Street, Madras - 600 003. (7 p.m. to 8 p.m.)

want to see you again." With this melodramatic farewell she rushed from the room.

Left alone, Serge bemoaned the tragedy which had overtaken him. He had lost his girl, his violin, and he would have to clear out of his room at once. He picked up the fragments of the violin and as he did so, a small envelope fluttered to the floor. It must have been inside, and it looked like one of those envelopes in which one buys violin strings. Serge picked it up idly. It was transparent and contained only two old French stamps. He noticed that one stamp of the pair was upside down in relation to the other. He had heard stamp collectors call this a *tete-beche*, and he hoped it might be valuable.

Running downstairs he burst into the living room and showed his discovery to Bubbite and her mother. All the hard words were forgotten and forgiven. The following morning they went to a dealer and sold the pair for a large sum. It was a 1 franc orange *tete-beche*, and the dealer made haste to send for Ferrary, who arrived breathless with excitement and... (Aw shucks, we know the rest!)

Chapter 3. IT ALL DEPENDS.

A small burly man, bearded, wearing a rough tweed suit and heavy boots, bustled into the dealer's shop and was immediately recognised by a polite assistant.

"Good morning, professor, and what can we do for you?"

"It was my intention to purchase a stamp bearing the likeness of a philosopher, if you have such a thing.

"Certainly, sir, there is a Cyprus stamp showing the head of the philosopher Zeno".

"Excellent. May I have a copy?"

"If you will wait one moment, sir, I shall get one. Would you like it used or unused?"

"Might I see one of each?"

"Delighted".

The assistant moved over to a door and, as he did so, an elderly man dashed into the shop in a state of neat excitement.

"You remember that stamp I bought yesterday?", he called out to the assistant, who nodded, "Well, I've swallowed it!"

"Don't worry, sir," said the assistant. "We have a resident nurse with a special stomach pump. There have been five cases already this morning, and all have been treated successfully."

"But will the stamp not be damaged?" asked the man, anxiously.

"Not one bit, sir," was the reply. "Nurse Jonah is an expert. Just step; this way, sir."

The philosopher was an interested spectator of this scene and ventured to inquire how the collector's came to swallow their stamps. The assistant explained that following the historic example, they placed the stamp in a glass of water, went to sleep, and on waking, drank the water and the stamp.

"How very remarkable," mused the philosopher.

The assistant now made to get the stamps, but there was another interruption. This time an old lady entered and demanded to see the manager at once.

"I am sorry, madam," said the assistant, "but the manager is very busy in the attic where they have just discovered an old drawer full of rare stamps, and a famous philatelist who happened to be passing (they always happen to be passing) is helping him to look through them."

"But," said the old lady, "I have here an old collection in a Lallier album and it's sure to contain a rare stamp."

"In that case madam," said the assistant, apologetically, "you must wait your turn in the Old Ladies Room, and I'm afraid there are twenty-three old ladies there already with Lallier albums."

The old lady looked somewhat crestfallen, but brightened up when she was told that a cup of tea would be served immediately.

The philosopher had more food for thought as he chose and paid for his stamp. The assistant counted out the change, and then made an unusual departure from his normal correct demeanour.

"I wonder, sir," he said. "if you would be so very kind as to answer a question which I have always wanted to ask?"

"Well, you are not the first person who has asked me a question," said the philosopher, smiling benignly. "What do you wish to know?"

"I wanted the answer to that question about why a cow gets up hind legs or front legs first. I Don't remember which it is."

"Well," said the philosopher, "it all depends what you mean by a cow."

Sky is our Limit

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THE SEVEN PILLARS OF PHILATELY

By ARTHUR BLAIR.

A little group of collectors met a month ago to celebrate the first anniversary of peace-time collecting; each man had been "out" of the hobby for the six years of war, and after twelve months of collecting again they had this reunion to celebrate something or other, and discuss post-war philately.

During the discussion, one man expressed his fears that the speculators were threatening the very foundations of the hobby with their "investing"; he had a vague idea that certain "black-marketeers" were buying up expensive collections, only to sell them again so that the money realised would be free from tax, etc., etc.

Someone else remarked that the "stock exchange" element was an old fear that would never do much harm; that this type of investor, often called the "curse" of stamp collecting, had always been with us in some form or other and that the flag of the hobby would remain flying thanks to the Seven Pillars of Philately.

"And what" asked another man, in some surprise, "are the Seven Pillars of Philately?"

We here they are: the solid columns upon which the hobby is built to withstand the tremors of forger and faker, rams and racketeers, swindlers and speculators.

THE OLD COLLECTOR

The backbone of decent collecting. Not necessarily old in years, but in philatelic experience. He belongs not always to the "Royal", but to less pretensions, and in their sphere, just as important, societies.

He specialises—often an as general "collector!—but he is not to be confused with the bore he amasses thousands of copies of the one stamp and mounts them upon hundreds of pages to indicate thousands of shades and minute non-constant pin-point specks that can only be seen with the aid of a strong glass—and we don't mean whisky.

Philatelic Materials

For Stock Books, Albums, Graph Sheets,
Hawid Mounts Butter Paper Covers, Country Stamp Pockets, Thematic stamp packets, Indian commomontives in Bundles, Indian Difinitives in Bundles, Errors Etc.,

Please Contact :

A.C SUKUNYANATH

(Philatelist)

Pandra - Baktha Flats, I Floor,
7/E, B.N. Road,
(Entrance in Second Street)
Near Kanthimathi Kalayana Mandapan,
T. Nagar, Madras - 600 017.

The "old" collector loves to show his stamps, to talk about them and encourage others in the hobby, especially the young folk—the philatelists of the future. He has been a collector for so long that the value of a stamp is not priced in £.s.d., but in interest, beauty and maybe the fact that he had to search for a particular specimen for a long time before it took an honoured place in his album.

He is a born collector, and appreciates other hobbies like coins, books, china, prints, antiques, and the less expensive, and sometimes unusual, side-line collecting—Valentines, Christmas cards, theatrical programmes, etc.

They are not all wealthy collectors by any means: the majority have definitely to limit their spending, yet somehow manage to get together very fine collections.

He gets a great kick out of the hobby because he is a true stamp collector: 'market rates' don't usually worry him, but he's broad-minded enough to realise that they interest many others!

THE CATALOGUES

The "who's who" of stamps: the guide, philosopher and friend of all collectors. Without the catalogues the hobby would die.

There is tradition behind these fine volumes, at least as far as the old established publications are concerned: they are not static, but reflect the changes that take place in the hobby: yet in spite of some slightly specialised lists, they manage to keep the simple style that has altered little from their early days. The wonderful work done by the compilers of these catalogues keeps the hobby sweet.

THE "GOOD" DEALERS

Yes, we have to quote "good" for we mean just that—the old-established firms that have helped collectors through years—many, many years—of collecting. We owe a great debt to the reliable firms with the tradition behind them. These firms are out to help their customers all they can, not merely because it's good business, but because of goodwill and the comradeship of the hobby.

Side by side with these businesses are the one-man firms with the more personal touch; many of them are old-established, some newcomers to the trade, but all have this in common: a square deal for the customer. They are out to keep, and build up, satisfied clients and to help them in the hobby. These dealers are collectors themselves by instinct and appreciate the student who may spend all day looking through: stock books and then buy perhaps only a 2d. stamp because it has a minute flaw in it that means a lot to him.

You soon find out the dealers that are out to foster the hobby; it doesn't take long to discover the "cheap Jack" who will sell you anything, will spin all sorts of yarns in order to boost up prices of certain stamps he has in stock, and who has only one object: to get hold of your money—and to hell with the fair name of Philately.

Some say this type of dealer, with no previous knowledge of stamps, has sprung up like mushrooms lately; maybe—only call them toadstools, for they are soon distinguished from the real thing.

THE MAGAZINES

There is no fortune to be made out of publishing philatelic magazines.

It is a highly specialised occupation that attracts only those who have a deep love of stamps and who want to see the hobby kept alive and go on from strength to strength.

There are in Britain just now six independent magazines and four house organs that are worth-while publications, whose proprietors have an almost fierce respect for philately and are determined to keep it as clean as possible in these hectic days. They try to guard the collector against "ramps"—from unnecessary government issues to other, and more obvious, swindles.

The magazines are the life-blood of the hobby and, as a group, form one of the most important pillars. Those who run them have deservedly earned the respect and gratitude of all collectors. A collector without at least one regular magazine will not keep his interest in the hobby for long.

Closely linked with the Magazines are:

THE WRITERS

Foremost under this heading come the Editors. They are the sentinels of clean philately, the men who educate collectors and by their capable editing give readers those articles, from the specialised work to the new issue paragraph, that keep them up-to-date and alert.

The so-called writers who occasionally gate-crash into print with cheap and vivid "story behind the stamp" articles and re-hashes of other people's labours are not of much consequence.

The real philatelic writer is a student of stamps who writes for the love of stamps rather than a love of money. Besides famous specialists, whose writings are the recognised authority on certain issues, philatelic journalism has been built up to its present high standard by such universal writers as Melville, Phillips, Armstrong, Pemberton, Harris, the Williams Brothers, Lowe, Strange, Way and

others. These are great names in philatelic journalism.

THE AUCTIONEERS

The healthy state of the hobby to-day—a health that can overcome speculation fever and doubtful war-time issue sickness—is reflected in the popularity of the big auctions that take place every week in London and other towns.

In auctions you get the more serious side of the hobby; the atmosphere here is commercial, but as many of the lots offered at these auctions form the "sources of supply" for traders, it will be realised that these sales are vital to the hobby.

True, many an inexperienced speculator has received burnt fingers through imagining that it is possible to unload "investments" on the auction market and reap a good reward; it is also true that prices for certain material have been alarmingly high, but when it is remembered that so many new collectors have come into the hobby lately and so many more returned after five or six years of inactivity in philatelic matters, it will be realised that the high prices realised are, in most instances, not inflation figures.

The private collector is still a heavy buyer at these auctions, whether he attends himself, bids through the post or gets an agent to act for him, and auctions also constitute a fine medium through which to dispose of one's collection, should the occasion arise.

Auctions keep alive the interest in "unpopular" group—postal stationery, literature, locals, fiscals, for one can be sure of at least one of these groups being offered at almost every auction, and the prices realised are showing that the word "unpopular" is a badly chosen one.

I know of a recent instance where a collector bought a small collection of locals at an auction; this whetted his appetite for these interesting issues and he soon found a dealer, through a magazine advertisement, who is now helping to build up this group for him.

THE CLUB

That the SIPA and the "PSI" have done, and are doing, wonderful work for philately no one will deny, but in our admiration for these much publicised societies let us not forget the equally wonderful work being carried out by the lesser known clubs.

These locals societies are, without doubt, the Seventh Pillar of Philately. They support the enthusiasm that keeps the hobby active and virile.

With their meetings, displays and exhibitions, the social side of the hobby has been built up into a grand comradeship which is international; this feeling of good fellowship springs from the "local" club.

We know some people only join certain clubs to participate in the exchange packets, but there is nothing wrong in this! From my own experience you don't get better "bargains" or finer specimens from these packets than you do from a dealer, but you can often dispose of odd stamps

and sets through these packets that might be difficult to sell or exchange elsewhere, unless you know of a particular person interested in your particular items. These packets, then, are really the exchange system that started nearly a hundred years ago when collectors started "swopping" for the first time. The method is slightly different, but the principle is the same. They constitute no threat to the trade, rather do they act as an incentive to the collector to start specialising, and when you start concentrating on the issues of a particular group, it is not long before you enlist the expert aid of the dealer.

Well, those are the Seven Pillars of Philately, the firm columns that support the structure that is our hobby. Speculators may come, shoals of labels under the guise of stamps may be turned out by certain governments, forgeries and fakes may seep their way into circulation, but these pillars will withstand all that—they always have done, they always will do.

Collector's Corner

Exhibitions

The most popular question asked by novice collectors is, "where do I get information about stamps?" The answer is obvious for the modern issues, all of the information is available from your Post Shop or the Philatelic Bureau. For older issues the answer can be both complicated and expensive, but with one major exception - Exhibitions!

At any exhibition at Club, Regional or National level you can see on display the results of hundreds, perhaps thousands, of hours of research carried out by this country's philatelists. A few hours selective note taking at each of three or four exhibitions will benefit your collection in a variety of ways. General knowledge will assist in classifying all material accurately. Background information will make the collection more interesting to look at and work on. Specialised knowledge on your chosen collection will make it easier to identify the varieties you may have or may wish to look for.

If this idea sounds attractive then you should approach any exhibition with a clear plan. Make certain you have a notebook and pen. Buy an exhibition catalogue before doing anything else. Find the coffee shop and enjoy a cup of coffee whilst reading the catalogue and identifying those displays which may provide the type of information you need. Find the displays you marked and check them all quickly to assess their potential for your needs. Select the best two or three displays and read them from start to finish making notes as you go. If any display is of very specific interest ask around and see if you can find the owner. If successful ask for a photocopy of the collection. (Don't forget to offer to pay for the photocopying.) All experienced collectors are happy to assist fellow enthusiasts and you may well be pleasantly surprised with the quantity and quality of assistance available.

How to find out about exhibitions? Join a stamp club. You don't have to attend meetings (although this is another marvellous way to learn about the hobby)

The club newsletter will generally keep you up to date with what's on and where. If you need the address of your local club then ask the Secretary of the New Zealand Philatelic Federation, PO Box 1547, Invercargill. He knows everything.

Tom Lee, President

New Zealand Philatelic Federation Inc.

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FORWARDING AGENTS—I.

By Mrs. E.L. MORGAN.

"But when he once attains the utmost round,
He then unto the ladder turns his back,
Looks in the clouds, scorning the base degrees
By which he did ascend".

So says Lord Byron in "Childe Harold's Pilgrimage", and so it is in our Postal History. We have reached the stage when we can drop a letter into a box in remotest rural England and be confident that it will, in due course, be delivered to the addressee in whatever part of the world he may be. But that is only because we have ascended well up the ladder of postal services, and, having become acclimatised to our height, we forget the rungs up which our fore-fathers so laboriously toiled, the Postboys who traveled up to about twenty mill a day over atrocious roads, and often with no heart in their job, the weekly posts, which left London for about half a dozen towns only, Dockwra's Penny Post, the Coffee Houses and the Forwarding Agents.

It is to the last mentioned that I would direct your attention, but first we must briefly recapitulate our history in order to see exactly why and when they appeared and to what circumstances they owe their origin.

From the days when the Phoenicians discovered Britain and traded in tin with Cornwall, and the later date when Lief Ericsson made his voyage to America and established his settlement in Greenland, until the end of the fifteenth century, little was done in exploration and the discovery of new countries by sea. But the beginnings of the sixteenth century saw great developments in this respect and a great increase in the spirit of adventure. In 1492 Columbus made his first voyage to the West Indies and, having in the meantime made a second voyage to the same Islands, in 1502 he went further and found the coast of South America. 1497 saw John Cabot sail from Bristol on a voyage westward and after sailing for fifty-two days, land at Cape Breton Island. A third explorer of the Western Ocean was Jacques Cartier who, in 1536, discovered the River St. Lawrence. Meanwhile Vasco da Gama had sailed south and east and had established the route to India via the Cape of Good Hope. In the wake of these pioneers went the settler and the trader whose objects were to circulate goods between their own home countries and the lands of their adoption. As the merchants' activities increased, both in quantity and complexity, some method or liaison was required particularly in the ports, who by the interests of all parties concerned in trade could be safeguarded and the passage of their merchandize expedited. To meet this need firms either sent out their own representatives to live in the countries with which they traded, or else appointed as agents people already on the spot.

Thus was called into being the genus of "Shipping and Forwarding Agents" who in the seaports of the world protected the interests of merchants and shipowners, either by attending to the needs of their vessels or by arranging for the collection and despatch of their goods.

Trade needs correspondence, and the obvious method of sending mail from one country to another was by the ships trading between them. Thus, for many years ships' captains became the postmen of the world, and their handling of mail was regulated by their Governments. These sea-borne letters were in due course handed over to the national Post Office, where one existed, and conveyed to

the addressee. Many people, however, required an accommodation address, and the most natural place for this was at that very old, but still extant, rendezvous of merchants, the coffee House.

For quite a long time the Coffee House served as a "Poste Restante" and from it eventually sprang some of the private mail carriers who competed with the Government Posts.

The foregoing is all very well provided one can find a ship sailing direct from one country to the other, but what happens if there is no direct sailing available to the country to which a letter is addressed? The writer cannot wait until a suitable vessel turns up and the addressee wants his news. The letters are, therefore, handed to the captain of a vessel proceeding to an intermediate country where they are passed on to an agent, either Consular or purely commercial, who in turn places them on board another vessel, having in the meantime endorsed them, either in manuscript or by handstamp, "Forwarded by" thereby giving the student of Postal History another story to assist in the delineation of the full picture of the structure of the posts.

The earliest evidence that we have of this practice goes right back to 1673, to a letter "Forwarded by" Ezekiel Wright of London, and from then until the end of the seventeenth hundreds the evidence continues, although somewhat meagre. From the beginning of the nineteenth century, however, the stream begins to flow more strongly and, after reaching full flood in the 1820's to 1840's, continues until the establishment of the U.P.U. in 1874.

During this latter period correspondence was increasing at a faster rate than that at which the Post Offices were expanding and many of the national postal systems had not extended beyond their own boundaries, nor made that official connection with the systems of other countries whereby a continuous mail service, such as we have to-day, could be provided between senders and addressees wherever they may be.

This difficulty of corresponding with distant lands had been partially overcome by some countries, particularly Britain and France, by the introduction and establishment of Postal Agencies or "Post Offices Abroad", but these Agencies only functioned at certain ports and could not provide a service for the interior of the countries in which they were situated.

It was here that the forwarding agent stepped in to bridge the gap, either by providing liaison where no official linking up existed, or by finding speedier means of transport. Although he had no official status in the postal system, yet, by receiving mail and arranging for its on-carrying to destination or to another junction, he was performing a vital work in connecting up postal systems and must be accorded a definite place in Postal History.

The "Forwarding Agent" must not be confused with the Private or Independent Posts and Express Letter Companies which also flourished during this period. While their work is in many ways analagous and while the private post companies could, and no doubt frequently did, act as forwarding agents, their main occupation was the carriage of mail from point to point. The forwarding agent, on the other hand, simply provided an entrepot where mails were

transferred from one carrier to another. Letters passing through the hands of a forwarding agent were usually marked with the agent's name, either in the form of manuscript endorsement or by means of a handstamp.

These endorsements included, or there were added to them the words "Received and Forwarded by ..." or simply "Forwarded by..." Instances occur, however, in which the agent only applied his own handstamp to a letter, without the words "forwarded by" (or one of its variants), and on this account confusion may be caused in the minds of collectors and many stamps may be overlooked or disregarded by virtue of the fact that the original senders very frequently impressed their own stamps on their letters.

A rule to cover this contingency is that where a letter bears a manuscript endorsement or handstamp showing the name of an individual or firm other than that of the sender or addresses, then that letter has passed through the hands of a forwarding agent or agents.

Many examples are found where a letter in the course of its travels has been sent on various stages of its journey by two and sometimes three forwarding agents.

Agents' cachets are found in great variety of design, wording and colour, and, apart from their postally historical significance, they stimulate curiosity concerning the firms themselves—their rise and maybe fall—their amalgamations and ramifications.

One of the fascinations of cover collecting is the tracing and following of the route traversed by the letter on its journey from sender to addressee, and the variety of ways in which letters handled by forwarding agents reached their destination provide plenty of scope for this pursuit.

The absence of postal markings to cover part or parts of a journey will sometimes leave apparently unaccountable blanks in the tracing of the progress of letter, but in this connection it must be remembered that at this time a considerable amount of mail was carried by ordinary cargo vessels and not in mail vessels. In many cases the presence of a forwarding agent's cachet solves this difficulty. But, even so, one method of passing mail by means of these

agents itself adds a seeming difficulty to this route tracing, but it is a difficulty that can be broken down when one is aware of the fact that private agents held a definite place in the chain of mail carrying and takes this fact into consideration when studying any particular letter or cover.

The method referred to is the sending of letters to an agent for re-forwarding, under another cover. The original cover would, of course, be opened by the agent, and, according to the business methods (or lack of them) adopted by him, would be either preserved or discarded, but the letter contained in the cover would be sent on to the addressee and would naturally show no markings until it was sent on its way by the forwarding agent.

As an example of this I have a cover from South America addressed to a firm in London. This cover bears the stamp of a forwarding agent in south America and evidence to show that it was carried by a vessel sailing from south America to England.

On arrival in this country the cover was handed over to the British Post Office and duly delivered to the addressee. But inside the cover one finds this message—"Messrs—are requested to forward the enclosed to Messrs—Paris". This request was no doubt complied with and "enclosed" would be stamped "Forwarded by —London", handed to the Post Office and in due course would reach its destination in Paris. The letter, although by the London Post Office and would doubtless puzzle a present day collector into whose hands it came, unless, as already mentioned, he was aware of, and made due allowance for, the work performed by the forwarding agent.

List of Forwarding Agents, of whose cachets I either possess or have seen copies, will be published in subsequent issues, together with details of colour, shape and dimensions and also the earliest and latest (or only) years in which I have found them used.

Details on similar lines for stamps which do not appear in these lists and which are in the possession of collectors will be welcomed, so that as complete a schedule as possible may be compiled.

Children's Health Camp

The 1995 Health Stamps come in a special shape - a triangle. It's just the second time in 140 years of New Zealand philatelic history that triangular stamps have been issued. The first was in the World War II year of 1943 when a young Princess Elizabeth, now Queen Elizabeth II, and her sister, Princess Margaret, featured on the health stamps.

Because of their shape and subject, the 1943 stamps were exceptionally popular with collectors.

Health stamps have been issued every year since 1929 and New Zealand Post Limited supports the Children's Health Camps movement just as strongly as did its predecessor, the New Zealand Post Office. From the beginning, the stamps have carried a small surcharge and when they are sold the surcharge becomes in effect a donation by the purchaser.

The Sale of Health stamps now raises more than \$100,000 a year for the Children's Health Camps Board which operates seven permanent camps for needy children.

A boy on a skateboard (45 cents postage, plus 5 cents surcharge) and a girl on a bike (80 cents postage, plus 5 cents surcharge) feature on the 1995 stamps.

INDONESIA - 96

A world Philatelic youth exhibition styled as Indonesia will be held in Blandeng, Indonesia from 21 to 30 March 1996.

This is the first time a world Philatelic youth exhibition would be held in Asia.

The under mentioned philatelist has been appointed as the Indian Commissioner for the exhibition

Dr. P.S. Dixit,

Dos Housing Colony, Qtr. No. B7

Jeevan Bhima Nagar Bangalore- 500 075.

Junior Philatelists whose collection have required to least a silver bronze award at the national exhibition or silver at one of the state level exhibition may write to Dr. Dixit in case they desire to exhibit their collection. As in normal with the youth class, then would be free for your exhibits.

THE ENVIRONMENT

New Zealanders are fortunate to live in such a unique and captivating land. There are plant and animal species that are found nowhere else on the planet, but live here in a land that is both clean and beautiful.

Every family member can make small contributions towards maintaining the beauty and richness that surrounds them. The importance of caring for our environment is depicted in the Environment stamp booklet. This booklet has only been produced in a single 'hangsell' format. Strips of five 'standard' booklets will not be available. The booklet is guillotined top and bottom rather than perforated, due to the booklet production process. Standing order customers should note that all standing orders for standard booklets will now be supplied as hangsell booklets. So follow the message on the ten stamps and help to retain the wonders of New Zealand's natural paradise.

Editorial from Stamps & Stamps

By : Mrs. Sumitra Sahoo

The brain-child of fifteen of Britain's leading philatelic professionals, "Rare Stamps of the World" has a simple concept - that of philatelic excellence. The object: to bring together the very best, the most highly prized material from some of the world's most renowned collections, gathered from the four corners of the earth - all in a relaxed, non-competitive environment. Accordingly, a number of the world's leading collectors were invited to show their favourite pieces. Freed from the normal exhibition regulations, their response has been universally enthusiastic.

Visitors to 'Rare Stamps of the World' were supposed to be afforded the opportunity to see over a hundred frames filled with the most amazing array of philatelic rarities - many of which have never been shown before - all guaranteed to illustrate what it was that constituted the very best, most fascinating and desirable in the fields of philately and postal history.

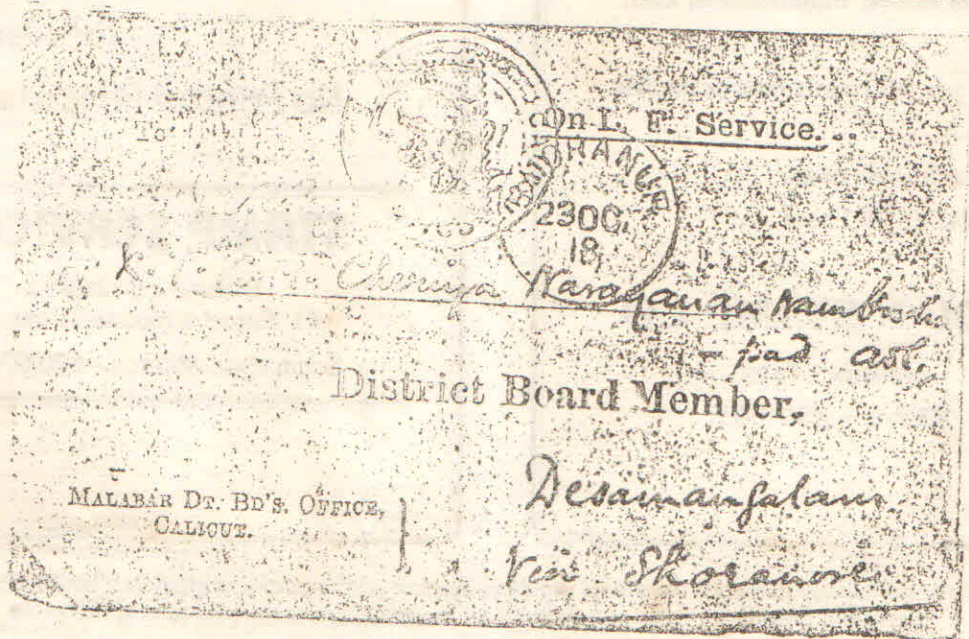
It is the news so far. The feeling in the circle of stamp-collectors (should we say philatelists?) is that of awe, followed by desperation. Desperation, because all that different exhibitions portend is a premium on classic stamps. And classic stamps being costly, hobby lays a premium on older collectors. Prizes are showered on traditional collectors. Even the thematic collectors don't get any higher awards unless the exhibit contains some classic samples of stamps and stationery or postal history items. This is acting against any desire to become new stamp collectors. One must inherit from some old guards, if parents are not philatelists. Or spend a huge fortune to show a presentable exhibit in any competition.

Time has come to provide sufficient incentives to new collectors or else the hobby would not spread among the masses and become universal in appeal.

ON LOCAL FUNDS SERVICE

by L.C.J. Brown

Stamps overprinted 'ON L.F.S.' or L.F.S' are fairly common, though they are rather more scarce on cover. I possess a few of those overprints and the one common factor is that each stamp has been cancelled by Type 18 or 19 postmarks, letter M for Madras Circle. This open up the question another or not this type of overprints was used outside Madras Circle. Local overprints have been described and illustrated by Jal Cooper (1) and elsewhere, and I confine my illustration to an official on L.F. Service post card.



It occurred to me that simply labelling these items 'Local Funds' without any real idea what this terms meant was a 'cop-out', and to my surprise several long - serving ISC members were unable to enlighten me. I hope, therefore, that the results of my research will be of general interest. This relates to the origins of Local Funds in the Madras Presidency, and all references to Acts are those of the Presidency.

The Local Funds idea originated in 1853 with the Collector of Taxes, south Arcot, who observed that there was not a single district road in some 5,00 square miles of his territory. He suggested that a small portion of the land assessment be retained as a Road Fund. In 1854 this was approved and extended to North Arcot and other districts.

By 1855 the sources of funds were (1) the Road Fund in South Arcot (2) Ferry Tolls (3) proceeds of avenue clippings another districts (4) glass rents, and (5) Cart Tax, although the latter was shortly afterwards abolished. In the 1960's

various revenues were added such as the Cattle Pound Fund. The District Road, Cess Act brought in further funds from reminders and in madras not previously taxed.

In the meantime the Education Act 1963 set up provision for elementary schools. Due to inexperience of the administrators the results were not uniformly satisfactory and the Local Funds Act 1871 consolidated district roads and education under one overall administration. The Local Boards Act 1884 may further amendments and included health and sanitation. The act was conformed as a model by Mysore.

In 1864, the Government of India became interested in the workings of the Presidency Local Funds, and it maybe that as a result of this the Local Funds concept spread through India and Burma.

Bibliography :

1. Jal Cooper : Stamps of India
2. The Local fund Manual for Madras and Mysore 1905