



# SIPA Bulletin

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## CATCH 'EM YOUNG

*We cannot always build the future for our youth, but we can build our youth to the future.*

**-Franklin D. Roosevelt**

THE YOUNG ONES of today have many interesting diversions such as T.V., video, video games, internet, etc., so to many seniors the lure of stamp collecting seems to be fading to the youth of today. In today's dynamic fast moving world, stamp collecting, perhaps, appears comparatively dull to the young ones.

Senior philatelists have had innumerable discussions on promoting the hobby amongst the youth. Displayed talks, workshops at exhibitions, a lesson on philately in the school textbooks, etc. are the usual well intentioned suggestions. Regular holding of exclusive youth exhibitions and school exhibitions at school, city, district, state and national levels should be considered. Exclusive international youth shows have already taken place, though infrequently, in the West.

It should be realised that the ever increasing use of franking postage (even by eminent stamp dealers and auction houses) and the lack of colourful and interesting stamps on one's daily mail is killing youth philately as most children collect stamps off cover and do not have the money to buy expensive mint stamps.

Let's forget the pessimists, there is plenty of life and thrill in philately yet, but all of us have to do our own little bit to keep things going up smoothly.

One wonders why our Indian dealer friends cannot take up the challenge and bring our bright, colourful and interesting 'Stamp Starter Packs' of various types in different price ranges. These junior collector's Kits and stamps could also be prominently displayed and sold at toy and book

shops. Remember that today's young one may be tomorrow's 'Grand Prix' winner and without him and his friends there will be neither any market to support a viable stamp trade nor any future for the hobby.

Colourful, humorous and attractive stickers promoting the hobby could be brought out.

The promotion of the hobby amongst children should not be the concern of the stamp dealers alone because "without a regular generation of collectors coming up we cannot expect there to be any substantial interest in our own collections if any when the time comes for their disposal".

The United Nations Declaration says that mankind owes to the child the best it has to give. Prince Bismark said you can do anything with children if you only play with them; so play with them with stamps as toys and arouse their natural curiosity and interest.

On this coming Diwali, Christmas and other festival days why not make a start by presenting stamps, stamp packets, albums, etc. to your near and dear little ones; collect stamps from banks, offices, friends, etc. and give them to the young ones.

Take the youngsters stamp exhibitions; also show your collections and arouse their interest by telling them the fascinating stories behind some of the stamps displayed. Let this be your contribution to the hobby.

Let's talk to today's youth in their language, give prizes that they will be tempted by and appreciate in addition to just the bronze or silver medal.

If philately has to survive and prosper in the years to come the senior collectors, dealers, philatelic societies and the Department of Posts must go all out to remote the hobby amongst the young ones in terms of their language, their likings and their interests.

Our Second Sunday Meetings were held at the CPMG's Conference Hall, Anna Road, HPO, Chennai - 600 002. (10.30 - 12.30 pm) regularly where 30 members attended with President Shri Balakrishna Das presiding. Mr. Madan Mohan Das Spoke on "Youth Philately" in February, 2002.

## STAMP NEWS

### 100 Years of Directorate General of Mines Safety

7.01.2002

400

0.8 million



The Directorate General of Mines Safety (DGMS), Dhanbad, a subordinate office of the Union Ministry of Labour is entrusted with the responsibility of ensuring safety, welfare and health of workers employed in mines.

Mining has provided vital inputs of the tremendous technological and economic development achieved by humanity in modern times. The procedures involved in the actual extrusion of minerals from the depth of

the earth, however, continue to be tedious and hazardous, despite the concerned technologies having been refined many times over with the passage of time. Innumerable dangers loom large at every corner of the process and mining has rightly been deemed to be a war with the unpredictable forces of nature.

The DGMS, originally called Bureau of Mines Inspection, was set up in 1902 with its headquarters at Calcutta. The headquarters was shifted to Dhanbad in 1908 and the organisation re-designated with its present name in 1967.

At the headquarters of the DGMS, the Director General is assisted by staff officers who have specialisation in different disciplines like mining, electrical engineering, mechanical engineering, occupational health, law, survey, statistics, administration and accounts. The field formation of the organisation have been grouped into six geographical zones and each zone, further divided into three or four regions/sub-regions. The country has about 600 coal mines, 6000 non-coal mines and 32 oil mines. The total staff who deal with safety and health aspects in the different mines of the country numbered about 1100. In its hundred years of existence, the organisation has been closely associated with the policies and planning, research & development, education and other allied activities connected with the mining industry of the country. Keeping pace with the latest developments, DGMS has developed skills and resources to achieve targets against many odds.

The DGMS has been striving to reduce the risk of occupational diseases and casualties to mine workers by drafting appropriate legislation and laying down standards. In order to ensure compliance of these laws and standards, it has initiated a variety of awareness programmes. The vision of the DGMS is to ensure nationally acceptable and internationally comparable standards of health, safety and welfare for employees of Indian mines.

Theme : Industry, minerals, safety.

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### Indian Army Everest Expedition 2001

15.01.2002

400

0.8 million

Indian Army added another feather to its cap in May 2001, when its mountaineers successfully scaled Mount Everest and put a record eight members and seven Sherpas on the summit. This is the largest number of summiteers on Mount Everest in an Indian expedition.



The mighty mountain ranges of the Himalayas have, over the centuries, inspired not only man's imagination and spiritual quest, but also his spirit of adventure. Mount Everest, the highest of the peaks of the Himalayas as also the whole world, stood in its unattainable isolation for thousands of years, till Tenzing Norgay and Edmund Hillary conquered it in 1953. Since then, at least a thousand climbers have set foot on it.

The Indian Army Mount Everest Expedition was flagged off by the Chief of the Army Staff on 1st March 2001 at New Delhi. It was led by Col. Krishnan Kumar. After flagging off, the team moved to Nepal and after a long trek from Jiri, reached Base Camp of Everest on 3rd April 2001.

The stoking and establishment of various camps was completed by 10th May 2001 and summit attempts were planned for 14-15 May. However, bad weather forced the team to return to Base Camp from Camp-II. Weather remained bad for a few days. Finally on 19th May the team started from the Base Camp for their final attempt to reach the summit. On 20th May the first summit team reached camp-III and the next day they reached South Col around 1300 hours. The same night the summit attempt started. After making their way through severe winds and subfreezing conditions, the first party consisting of seven members and three sherpas finally reached the summit of Everest on 23rd May between 0720 hours and 0845 hours. The second team comprising one member and four Sherpas left Camp-III around 0630 hours and 23rd May and reached the summit of Mount Everest around 0545 hours 24th May 2001.

Smooth de-induction to the Base Camp was subsequently carried out wherein all the camps were closed. In keeping with the Indian Army's care and concern for the protection of the environment, all waste was brought down from the mountain.

This unique mountaineering feat has not only brought laurels to the Army but also glory to the nation.

Theme : Mountains, Nature, Expeditions.

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### Buddha Mahotsav

21.01.2002

1500,400,400,800

1.5 million each



Buddhism taught humanity the middle path, the virtue of observing moderation in life and staying clear of the extremes of both self-indulgence and self-mortification. It rejected ritualistic practices and emphasised the need to eliminate desire in order to attain salvation from

suffering. It also advocated peace, non-violence and respect for all forms of life. Having originated in India, Buddhism spread far and wide, to different corners of the world.

India, the 'cradle of Buddhism', has a path rich with Buddhist history and traditions. The places connected with the four principal events of Lord Buddha's life, viz. his birth, enlightenment, first sermon

and nirvana, which took place respectively at Lumbini (Nepal), Bodhgaya, Sarnath and Kushinagar, are looked upon with great veneration. Sravasti, Sankisa, Rajgir and Vaishali, together with the first four are regarded as the eight holy places (Ashtamahasthanas) and are well known pilgrimage destinations.

The annual Bauddha Mahotsav festival aims to propagate the message of Lord Buddha and to create awareness about India's rich Buddhist heritage. Promoting pilgrimages and tourism as well as increasing the travel facilities are integral to this festival. The Bauddha Mahotsav also aims to strengthen the cultural links provided by Buddhism between different countries and their peoples.

A set of four stamps on the Bauddha Mahotsav. The first stamp shows the Mahabodhi temple located adjacent to the Mahabodhi tree at Bodhgaya. This magnificent temple dating back to the second century A.D. is an amalgamation of architectural features representing many cultures. The second stamp shows the Gridhakuta hills of Rajgir, from where the Lord had delivered many of his sermons. The third stamp depicts the Dhamek Stupa of Sarnath from where Lord Buddha is believed to have given his first sermon and the fourth, the Mahaparinirvana temple of Kushinagar where he is stated to have attained release from the endless cycle of birth and rebirth. The four stamps also carry pictures of prayers and festivities, in an attempt to capture the spirit of the Bauddha Mahotsav.

Theme : Religion, Buddhism.

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## The Year of Books 2001 - 2002

28.01.2002

400

0.8 million



The magic of the book has never ceased to charm humanity. Through the ages it helped man knit his hopes and aspirations. Second within its covers, it brings to him ancient wisdom, with which he builds the edifice of the future.

Books not only enable us to understand things in the correct perspective, but also empower us intellectually and can imbibe in us a sense of pride in our national culture. They also transform love and sorrow, and even pain, into a form of human expression that can be experienced and appreciated by others. The growth of the human resources of a country is linked to the reading habit prevalent in that society.

For almost a decade now, books have been facing serious competition from the audio-visual media. With the advent of computers and the internet, there is a growing feeling that the book may gradually fade away. But the fact remains that it is only books and not computers that can be read anywhere, at any time and in any environment - in a running train, in a favourite quiet corner of the library and even sitting on the water tank of one's multistoried building. The reasons for which one reads can be as varied too. One may read for pleasure, out of sheer habit, for entertainment, to study, for researching a subject, to be able to fall asleep, and also for not wanting to sleep.

Whatever the prophets of doom may say, there is no other medium that can create an intimate relationship such as that between a reader and a book. Let us therefore dispel the myth that the book will fade into oblivion. Books are there to stay.

There is, however, a need to make books reach the people and thus create an awareness about them. We need to inculcate the reading habit, specially, among our youth and make available

to them books at affordable prices. It is to create this awareness that the Government of India has dedicated one full year to books by declaring the year 2001-02, commencing on 23rd April 2001, as The Year of Books.

The Year of Books seeks not only to create public awareness about the importance of reading books and find solutions to the many problems facing writers, publishers, book distributors and readers, but also to strengthen the library movement. The slogan for the Year of Books is "Books for All and All for Books".

Theme : Education, Literature.

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## SWAMI RAMANAND

4.02.2002

400

0.4 million



Swami Ramanand was one among the leading lights of the Bhakti Movement, the great socio-religious renaissance of medieval India.

Ramanand was spiritually inclined from his early childhood. He was drawn to the Vaishnavite doctrines which were popular those days. He became a disciple of Saint Raghavananda, under whom his mystic insights received a new direction.

A pilgrimage to Kashi proved to be a turning point in the life of Swami Ramanand. It was during this voyage that his thoughts on the relationship between Man and God took definite shape. He realised that God can be worshipped by one and all, and that the prevailing concept of the priestly class enjoying the exclusive privilege to do so was wrong. He taught his disciples that, "A person who takes refuge at God's feet frees himself from the bonds of caste-divisions". A memorial was built as a mark of respect for the Swami, that stands in Kashi to his day.

Swami Ramanand's ideas were no doubt revolutionary in the social milieu of medieval India. The impact of his ideas was not confined to religion, but extended to the social realm as well. His message that all human beings are equal and that one should truly love humanity helped people of the so-called lower castes to rediscover their dignity and self-belief.

Swami Ramanand's liberal teachings inspired a sect of Bairagis (renouncers). This sect adopted him as their Acharya and followed the path shown by him. His thoughts have also found a place in the Guru Granth Sahib, the holy text of the Sikh religion.

Ramanand has several disciples who went on to expound the way of Bhakti in different parts of India. Kabir, Ravidas, Saint, Dhanna and Pipa are believed to have been his followers, though some of them were not his contemporaries.

Theme : Religion, Saints, Hinduism.

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## The Guide for the Development of Philately

Why the UPU brought out the book, "The Guide for the Development of Philately. The fascinating world of stamp" is given here in the 1st Chapter, Introduction, of the book. Chapter one sets out the Background, purpose and Structure of the Guide, Gives Guidance on its use, and recognises those who have provided their knowledge and skills.

Understand the structure of The Guide and the broad concepts contained within it. Draw on the contents of This Guide but develop your own philatelic programme.

Introduction

- 1 Background
- 2 Purpose of The Guide
- 3 Structure of The Guide
- 4 How to use The Guide
- 5 Acknowledgments

1 Background

The World Association for the Development of Philately (WADP) originated as the Contact Committee between the UPU, the International Federation of philately (FIP), the International Federation of Stamp Dealers Associations (IFSDA), the International Publishers' Association of Editors of Postage Stamp Catalogues, Stamp Albums and Philatelic Publications (AsCAT) and the International Federation of Philatelic Journalists (AIJP).

The objective is to create a more open forum for the various partners of the philatelic industry that would be more responsive to market developments and the changing needs of all the partners and their customers generally. In formulating its work programme, the WADP put as its highest priority, the production of *The Guide for the Development of Philately* which would contain guidelines and best practices with a view to ensuring the further development of philately. *This Guide* is the result of that decision.

In commissioning The Guide, the WADP is conscious of the role and contribution of each of the three major partners of philately: the collectors, the commercial trade and the postal administrations. Each of these partners forms one of the three sides of the equilateral triangle by which philately maintains its strength and its continuing appeal. The triangle of the industry is the WADP logo.

In order to develop philately further and ensure that it becomes a leading area of collectables in the twenty-first century (as has been the case in the twentieth century), it is critical that these three partners fully understand their individual roles, their inter-relationship with one another, and the necessity of a commonality of purpose.

The WADP, through its Secretariat at the International Bureau of the Universal Postal Union, will act as a central and focal point of reference for any additional information required on the various aspects of the development of philately.

2 Purpose of The Guide

*The Guide* for the Development of Philately has been produced by WADP to promote the hobby of philately and to increase the strength of the philatelic industry. It provides an overview of the basics of philately and the range of ideas and approaches to the further development of philately as a world-wide industry with world-wide support.

The Guide combines the collective experiences of postal administrations; the trade and organised philately on the best way to further develop philately as a strong and growing hobby into the 21st century and beyond. In addition to the text, it includes Case Studies provided by relevant postal administrations and Appendices where more detail is required.

Marketing philately is more scientific and challenging than it first appears. It is not as simple as marketing many other goods. There is a continuing interplay between the interests of postal administrations in maximising profits and the need to keep issues to sensible levels for the long term good and survival of the hobby.

In developing marketing plans and strategies, it is important to look for long-term success and not just short-term gain. Finding the correct balance between these alternatives is the first question

that must be asked and answered in the development and implementation of any philatelic programme. It is best answered through understanding the market and customers, and through consultation between the Major participants in the philatelic industry: the collectors, the trade and the postal administrations. Nevertheless, 'the final decision is one for postal administrations alone.

3 Structure of The Guide

The Guide commences with a detailed list of contents. Therefore, a particular subject can be identified and found in the main body of the text. While each chapter has been written with the intention of it standing alone, some relevant information may be contained in other chapters or in an Appendix. Where this occurs the relevant text has been cross-referenced.

*The Guide* comprises two major parts: the first part covers the basics of philately and the hobby of collecting postage stamps and the second part discusses philatelic development and the steps in developing and implementing a philatelic programme. These two parts provide the basis for activity by all sectors of the industry, the implementation phase. **Part one comprises four chapters:**  
 .Chapter One -Introduction

.Chapter Two -answers the question "*What is a Postage Stamp?*" with a detailed resume of all the roles and functions of a postage stamp.

.Chapter Three -examines the emergence of the hobby of postage stamp collecting, associated commercial activities and finally the growth of philatelic activities by postal administrations. It also describes how collectors collect, the material they seek and the service they require.

.Chapter Four outlines the structure of the philatelic industry and describes the various components and their interrelationship. The second part comprises seven chapters concerned with the development of philately. It is a holistic approach looking at the product, at customers and at markets: An important element is the need to plan, to operate efficiently and to communicate. To properly support the development of philately, all participants need to look far ahead - a ten year time frame is not too short. This means that there must be vision, a shared vision, and a coherent plan to achieve that vision. An additional chapter comprises a Glossary of Philatelic Terms.

.Chapter Five discusses the philatelic market including the structure and operation of organised philately.

.Chapter Six -sets out ideas on the appropriate government policies concerning postage stamps with a view to developing philately. This chapter also covers the relationship, commercial and legal, between postal administrations and their suppliers ( of philatelic and associated materials).

.Chapter Seven -covers the steps and elements of Strategic Planning.

.Chapter Eight -the planning of a postage stamp issue programme as well as a production and issuing timetable and the style and content of relevant production contracts.

Chapter Nine -the range of philatelic products that can constitute a philatelic programme.

Chapter Ten -marketing and promotion of the hobby. This chapter is mainly concerned with the provision of information and the retention of existing customers.

.Chapter Eleven -the development of new customers through promotion and product design.

Chapter Twelve -provides readers with a Glossary of Philatelic Terms.

*The Guide* is intended as a one-stop shop for postal administrations, for trade organisations and for national, international and world philatelic federations. It combines the collective experiences of postal administrations; the trade and organised philately on the best way to further develop philately as a strong and growing hobby.

Case Studies support the information presented in *The Guide*. A selected number have been chosen to exemplify what has been done in practice and augment the theory of the text. Appendix 3 contains a list and details of selected case studies.

The ideas and concepts contained in *The Guide* follow the generally accepted pathway to philatelic development. However each country and postal administration works within its own political, social, financial, and marketing environment. Equally, each country, at any one time, will be on different parts of the philatelic development curve and cycle. However, it should be remembered that all such activities have taken place in a particular philatelic and commercial environment and that previous success in that environment is no guarantee of future success. Nevertheless, case studies constitute an important guide and a wealth of ideas that can be drawn upon to build new activities geared to the promotion of philately.

Because of these factors, each country should take the advice and ideas contained in *The Guide* and adapt them for their own use where appropriate. Rarely are any actions or products directly transferable from one country to another without some modification. Each action and product must be designed specifically for the relevant country and for the market in which the action takes place. On the other hand, the experiences of countries in the issuance of postage stamps and their effects on the marketplace, both short-term and long-term, can serve as a basis for positive input into decisions by other postal administrations concerning their own overall philatelic programme. WADP believes that *The Guide* will be of use to all postal administrations and their philatelic staff. Furthermore, it may be also of assistance to other staff of a postal administration, particularly the Executive and those who may have overall responsibility for the executive management of a philatelic section or other staff members who may occasionally be engaged in philatelic duties (such as communications and special events experts as well as general counter staff running a special promotion).

For those staff newly commencing in a philatelic area, *The Guide* provides an introduction to sound operational and business practice. For those postal administrations that are still developing their philatelic programme, it will provide guidance on growing the business and for those authorities with mature philatelic programmes, it may stimulate the introduction of new approaches; For all administrations, expect that it could provide an important educational tool for new staff members who have little or no understanding of philately or the particular peculiarities of the philatelic market. It is also a resource for the commercial and collector sectors to better understand the overall industry, how it works and the role that all three parts of the triangle play in ensuring the development of philately.

Acknowledgments. We are grateful to the many UPU members, the trade and organised philately who have been part of the development of *The Guide*. We particularly thank the former Presidents of FIP, D N Jatia, and IFSDA, Paolo De Rosa, for their considerable input into *The Guide*. We also thank Ed Druce, a renowned philatelist, for his valuable contribution and insight in helping the WADP to put this Guide together.

(Courtesy : Flash, 2002)

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## THE POSTAL HISTORY OF NEPAL

Dr. WOLFGANG C. HELLRIGL

Of the many Asian countries I visited, there is one which left an unforgettable impression in my heart: the Kingdom of Nepal. Squeezed in between the two rival giants, China (Tibet province) to the north and India to the south, and yet protected by the mighty Himalayan ranges, this country has conserved its natural impulses, spontaneity and beauty.

Nepal is the birthplace of Buddha and it is perhaps the only place in the world today where two main religions - Buddhism and Hinduism - prosper in harmony. It is also the land of the fierce Gurkha soldiers and of Mount Everest, the world's highest peak.

Its long and colourful history, its religious mystique, splendid architecture and culture, its remoteness and complete isolation for thousands of years have made of Nepal something like an ancient dreamland which has suddenly been confronted with the progress and technology of the space age.

Originally, the country was composed of many tiny kingdoms and principalities which were united, in 1768, by the King of Gorkha. The 19th century saw the first contacts-including a brief war-with the British and a gradual influence by India. However, Nepal never formed part of the Indian Native States nor of the British Commonwealth. A succession of kings, regents, tyrants and powerful families ruled the country until 1950, when a democratic system was finally introduced. Shortly thereafter, Nepal even opened its borders to foreign visitors and tourists.

Today, Nepal has a population of some 12 million people of various races. The national language, Nepali, is very closely related to Hindi.

Much of Nepal's unique character is mirrored in its postal history which is, beyond doubt, one of the most exciting as well as unusual areas open to collectors.

It is obvious that the impracticable terrain created the greatest difficulties of communication between the mountain people. Until recently there were no roads and only very few paths and makeshift bridges. A short railway line was opened just fifty years ago. Yet the obstacles were (and still are) formidable: mountain passes, hills, torrents, the Himalayan rivers, swamps and wild animals made many regions of the country inaccessible and impenetrable.

The earliest forms of delivery of written communications in Nepal were the 'stick-posts': Letters and documents were tied to a stick and left by the wayside to be carried by travellers along the route to their destination.

Only towards the end of the 18th century do we find a more or less regular state service, with the King's couriers carrying documents, orders and official correspondence between the most important towns, Kathmandu, Kalaiya, Pokhala, Palpa and Gorkha. With the exception of traders with the neighbouring Tibet, the public virtually had no needs nor possibilities to communicate in writing.

Over the years, this royal courier service was systematically improved and expanded until it was taken over by the native postal system some hundred years ago.

### THE NATIVE POSTAL SYSTEM :

In 1879 several new routes of communication were created and some forty post offices opened in key positions. At the same time the postal service was made available to private citizens. The first native postmarks were introduced the same year.

Mails were carried by the post runners who armed with spears, had to cover the long and dangerous journeys on foot. Even today,

runners still operate in many parts of the country.



Two years later, in 1881, the first postage stamps, locally printed with extremely primitive methods, were issued. The design of this first set, consisting of 1, 2 and 4 annas (fig. 1), shows the crown of Nepal above a pair of Khukris (Nepalese Knives). An additional stamp, the ½ anna, showing a bow and arrow above a pair of khukris, was issued in 1899.



Fig. 1

These four classic stamps were retained until 1907 and used again, from 1917 to 1929/30. During the course of their exceptionally long period of use, they were subject to a great number of different printings, settings and other variations, ranging from differences in paper, shades, gum, perforation, to inverted cliches, errors of colour, printing flaws, retouches, missing cliches, etc.

Taking, for example, the shades, one is confronted with an almost endless range of colours only few of which are obviously listed in the catalogues. Thus the 2 anna stamp gradually changes over the years, from purple to lilac, blue, grey, black, lavender, claret, rose, brown, orange-brown, with literally dozens of intermediate tones.

As a result of the primitive inking and printing processes used, even stamps from one and the same sheet do not necessarily show identical shades. At the same time, the clarity of the design varies enormously, from the initial sharp printings to the blotchy and completely illegible impressions of the 1920s.

These innumerable variations provide the main theme for a specialized Nepal collection and give excellent scope for research. A large section of Nepal's postal history is, in fact, still unexplored, thus offering many possibilities of making original discoveries and contributions, towards a better knowledge of the native philately. Rather than to strive for completeness, Nepal collectors try to obtain a representative cross-section of the various classic printings. Whenever possible, classic stamps are collected in full sheets. It is therefore quite normal for a specialist to have 1,000 or even 2,000 copies of the same denomination in his collection! It follows that even though the number of Nepal specialists may not be very high the demand for the early issues is nevertheless quite considerable.

Today, we know of 70 distinct settings of the four classic stamps. A 'setting' is the arrangement of a printing plate, including any sheet inscriptions and framelines. Some settings were used only for a single printing while others were maintained unchanged for a number of



Fig. 2

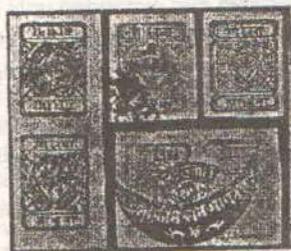


Fig. 3

different printings. The classic stamps were originally arranged in sheets of 64, the individual cliches being locked in a printing form. Occasionally cliches dropped out of this form and some of them were replaced upside, causing tete-beche varieties. Some of the later sheets were reduced in size, either owing to a row being removed or owing to missing cliches. Incidentally, most classic cliches show tiny, individual flaws which enable the expert to identify their position in the sheet to (Plating) and thus to reconstruct sheets.

Except for the first issue (on European paper), the classic stamps of Nepal were printed on the typical native paper - a sort of fibrous rice paper which lends them a special oriental charm. The native paper was left without gum and pin-perforations were used only on isolated occasions.

The stamps on European paper (1881 - 86) are much more valuable than catalogues would indicate and the few covers in existence are very rare. Later classic issues on cover can still be found, however, and these make beautiful and exotic showpieces. Most covers are made of native paper too and, if registered, bear a number of striking wax-seals.

There are two distinct subtypes of the basic one anna stamp: the first consists in major retouches to the framelines of each (stamp 'recut-frame') while the second subtype is really a slightly different design from an entirely new plate which replaced the recut-frame type in the late 1920s.

The classic postmarks in use from 1879 to 1911, include cancellations, mechanical Late stamps and hand-dated postmarks (fig. 2). Occasional pen and seal cancellations can be found as well. The dates are expressed, in Devanagari (Nepali) figures and based on the Bikram Sambat calendar, which is 57 years ahead of our Gregorian calendar. (this year, ilie Nepalese celebrate their year 2034!).

In 1907, a sensational change took place when the Nepalese Government ordered a new set of 4 stamps from Perkins, Bacon, the London firm who produced ilie famous 'Penny black'. These new stamps, line-engraved, gummed, perforated and impeccably printed on high quality paper, provide a most impressive contrast with the locally printed issues.

The new design, which lasted over 40 years it was in fact repeated, with modified dates and inscriptions, in 1930 and 1935, respectively shows the Hindu deity Shri Pashupati, also known as Shiva Mahadeva.

Die proofs of all three issues and imperforate proofs of the first Perkins, Bacon set exist and are eagerly sought by collectors;

Nepal's first telephone line was opened in 1917. Since it was also used to transmit telegrams, it soon achieved considerable importance. Telephone fees were prepared with stamps, to be struck to. Appropriate forms and obliterated with special telegraph cancellations. For this purpose, the authorities revived the old classic stamps which were reprinted, in large quantities, from 1917 to 1929-30, exclusively for telegraphic use.

The most interesting of these late classic issues is the 1 anna stamp, printed in orange-vermilion (instead of black), thought to be an error of colour. It was issued in 1917, although all catalogues incorrectly list it under 1903. Tete-beche pairs of this variety are extremely rare and have been extensively forged (fig. 3). This particular stamp should thus never be purchased without a Nepal expert's photo-certificate.

Different types of forgeries exist of all other classic stamps as well as several later issues, including even some stamps of little value. Forged cancellations, are known, notably on fake Nepal/Tibet combination covers, which range from crude to extremely dangerous imitations.

In 1941, owing to world war events, it became impossible to obtain regular stamp supplies from London. The Nepalese therefore had to produce stamps locally once again! The plates for these local war-time issues were photographically produced from the current Perkins, Bacon stamps, of 1935. Again, we have a great



Fig. 4

number of different settings (Some 70 for the set of seven values), various perforation errors and an error of colour. It was only in 1949 that the first pictorial set was issued and special cancellations were introduced, leading Nepal into the modern era of philately which, however, it has mastered with a very responsible and conservative policy. The modern stamps of Nepal show its fauna, flora, mountains, architecture, scenic beauty, folklore, kings and illustrious personalities. Isolated perforation errors have crept into some modern issues, but most of these have illicit origins and should therefore be avoided.

Nepal's postal stationery is of great interest, too. The first postcard was issued as early as 1887 and comes in many different types, including several rare printings in blue (instead of orange-vermilion).

Official mail has always been carried free, except for a brief period from 1959 when special service stamps were issued for official purposes. Stampless official covers can be obtained very cheaply and yet they are an ideal means to build up a collection of the different types of postal markings used from 1879 to date. Even on current covers we can find many unusual postmarks, seals and temporary hand-stamps as well as occasional pen cancellations.

For the 'Cinderella' collector, there are a variety of landlord fee stamps, court fee stamps, documentaries and service fee stamps of all shapes and sizes. Old documents bearing the large seals of the Kings and Maharajas are another attractive sideline adding interest to any Nepal collection.

#### THE BRITISH INDIAN POSTAL SYSTEM:

Apart from the native postal system, which only covered internal mail, an external service to and from India was provided by the British-Indian authorities.

The British established a Residency at Kathmandu which offered postal facilities. The earliest recorded cover bearing a British-Indian postmark of Nepal is dated 1816, just after the Anglo-Gurkha war. Such pre-stamp covers which passed through this post office are, of course, extremely rare.

This British-Indian office could be used exclusively for sending mail between Kathmandu and India (letters to Tibet also had to pass through India). Since Nepal was not a member of the U.P.U. which prevented recognition of its stamps abroad, this external link proved to be of the utmost importance. The Kathmandu Residency post office obviously used only Indian stamps, as it was in no way connected with the native postal system.

A collection of 'India used in Nepal' is therefore a collection of covers and postmarks as well as registration cachets and labels. The Residency was later changed into a 'British Legation' (G1923), then into an Indian Embassy (G1947), continuing to provide postal facilities for parcels and registered articles to India and beyond. After Nepal had become a member of the U.P.U., opening its own

Foreign Post Office, the Indian Embassy P.O. was no longer required and so it was finally closed down in 1965. Combination covers bearing Nepalese and Indian stamps are very scarce.

I hope that this brief sketch of Nepalese postal history has helped to illustrate the considerable interest and fascination hidden behind these rather modest and unobtrusive issues. Even if the initial difficulties of forming a specialized Nepal collection seem great, so will be the rewards. It is one of the few countries still wide open to original research and one where philately means much more than a brief look through the catalogues would indicate.

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(Courtesy: Il Nuovo Corriere Filatelico, Florence, Italy, Vol. In, No. 2, April, 1977)

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## AMATEUR PROFESSIONALS AND PROFESSIONAL AMATEURS

*D. Geoffrey Manton*

(A Paper delivered at the British Philatelic Federation Congress held at Cambridge from September 20-23. 1990).

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When I was invited to make this contribution, it was suggested that I should prepare a paper discussing the attitude of auctioneers and dealers towards collectors and the inter-action between both parties. Such thoughts, however, can be summed-up in but a few short paragraphs. *There is little doubt that the collector can exist without the dealer although the end product, his collection, would suffer as a result.*

I knew two old-time collectors one who refused to have any truck with the trade at all, and the other who considered that no stamp was worth more than a penny and confirmed his purchases to that amount. Both managed to accumulate quite large collections

which were of interest if only for the limitations imposed by the owners.

Similar eccentrics are recalled including the one who only collected red stamps for which there must have been some deep-seated psychological reason. Another collected Camels on stamps and achieved a complete, but necessarily small collection. Both were early exponents of collecting on a theme.

The dealer of course owes his very existence to collecting on a theme. The dealer, of course, owes his very existence to the collector and many prospered from the resulting partnership. It is said that antique dealers can thrive by simply dealing between themselves, but it would be difficult to visualise the stamp trade achieving such a comfortable existence.

It seemed manifestly obvious that the score of the brief being offered was far too narrow, and after some discussion I was given more or less freedom of the press to express my thoughts, both considered and random on the past, present and perhaps future stamp scene.

Whether the paper will arrive at any definite conclusions is doubtful, but hopefully it may stimulate some comment. My own view is that interest in stamps (although not Postal History) will continue to experience a slow decline - I hope I am wrong.

Let us now turn to the period of 1979-90 and the boom and "bust" which followed. Already towards the end of 1979 there were signs that the market was riding too high, but these were overshadowed by the imminence of the 1980 Exhibition, and so prices, although faltering, managed to hold during May and June of the following year.

It will be remembered that Gibbons Part 1 Commonwealth Catalogue was published that year in time for the Exhibition instead of the usual time in August. This catalogue prices had been advanced very considerably over those ruling the previous year. This proved, however, to be an unfortunate miscalculation as subsequent to the Exhibition prices fell sharply. The gap between Catalogue and Market prices widened drastically and continued to do so as confidence declined. This contributed to the slump which followed.

The boom period saw the proliferation of advertisements extolling the investment possibilities of stamps. Many of these appeared in the financial columns of the media, and, indeed were frequently the subject of favourable comment by market pundits as alternative investments. Stamp investment companies appeared overnight, offering investment portfolios couched in the language of the stockmarket. Mostly they were run by individuals with little, if any, philatelic knowledge. Apart from the ability to read a stamp catalogue and follow auction realisations which continually escalated because of investor demand. Very many of these so-called "portfolios" were purchased by non-collectors including quite serious investors which shows that even the most hard-headed financial man can fall for hype.

Sadly a few of the most respected stamp firms did not wish to be left out and made up "stamp investment portfolios" of their own. A lot of material included was less suited to investment portfolios, bearing in mind the dealers' profit margins and the selectivity with which the material was put together, rather than the provision of a broad-based portfolio. Sadly it is now the auctioneer who usually has the task of explaining to the vendor the reason why his investment is now worth; at best, some one-third of the price he paid. Equally sadly, the bearer of bad news is seldom popular.

*How fortunate it is that the Postal History market has been less affected during this period of philatelic piracy and continues to progress from strength to strength.*

There are, of course, other factors which have contributed to the gradual decline in stamp collecting and the British Post Office most certainly merits a good share of the blame. There was a time when our new issues were awaited with pleasurable anticipation, and the appearance of a new commemorative set would help to stimulate the interest of new collectors. Today such issues are generally awaited with, at best, boredom, and at worst, something approaching dread. The Post Office is very aware of its ability to print money, and it is reported that the volume of stamps, booklets, presentation packs and other confections issued by Great Britain and our off-shore islands, places us fourth in the list of stamp-issuing countries. To some this may be a source of pride but not the local stamp dealer who finds himself competing with what is, in effect, a state subsidised industry.

Elsewhere vast Omnibus issues commemorating Royal Weddings, Births, Birthdays, etc., incorporating miniature sheets and innumerable variations have been heavily promoted and oversold by certain dealers, mainly to non-collectors, who now find they have acquired the unsaleable. Again it is the auctioneer who is ultimately obliged to break the bad news and yet another potential collector is lost to the hobby.

The Melville Committee, now supplemented by "Stamp Active," continues to have conspicuous success in encouraging the young collector, setting many on the road to becoming sophisticated philatelists. They will succeed in influencing perhaps hundreds, hopefully thousands, but not, I fear, the hundreds of thousands of young collectors who existed between the wars.

*It was also my good fortune to know some of the old-time dealers, many of whom became rich. To them stamp-dealing was a vocation, they were essentially philatelists as well as traders. They would share their knowledge and could always find time to instruct the beginner. Perhaps this is why they acquired wealth. Not that these old timers were all paragons of virtue by any means. In the later twenties, one, Herbert Eastwood, conducted a one-man crusade against "cleaning, repairing, forging, transforming, defrauding, and other unscrupulous practices". It is time, he said, that "something was done to protect collectors, not to ensure them". His book "Philately under the Lamp" is in many respects an entertaining fantasy. Not only, many dealers, but also auctioneers, philatelic publishers, stamp societies (including the Royal) are branded as the villains.*

Over the years the character of both dealers and collectors has changed.

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## THE BIRTH OF THE MYSORE GOVERNMENT SERVICE POST CARD

By Late L.G. Shenoi

That the Government of the Princely State of Mysore had its own Service Post card and that these 'postcards were accepted by the Indian Post Office as valid for use within the state are facts which are not widely known to the philatelist collectors of Postal Stationery or students of Indian Postal History. The circumstances of the birth of this postcard and certain facets of its use are given in this article.

### THE ABORTIVE PROPOSAL OF 1886:

As is well known, the State of Mysore had its own local postal system the Mysore Anche. Although the Anche was primarily set up for conveying official mail, it conveyed private mail also on payment of a stated fee. The payment was made in cash as no postage stamps were in use.

The introduction of postage stamps in Mysore had been the subject of discussion between the Government of Mysore and the Government of India since 1866 ; but no decision had been taken as the question invariably got linked with the merger of the Anche into the Indian Postal Department. The dialogue was taken up vigorously in 1879 and went on until 1889 when the Anche was finally abolished and the Indian Post Office took over .

Meanwhile, on 12th July 1886, the Anche Bakshi put up a proposal to the Chief Secretary to the Dewan of Mysore for the introduction of an Anche (Post) card. The proposal was as under :

1. I have the honour to submit that, pending the introduction of the label system into the Province, it is feasible to introduce the system of Anche (Post) cards by means of which the public in Mysore would be greatly benefitted and a great convenience placed within the reach of all. My proposal is to have a card about the same size as an Imperial Post Card with the words Mysore State Anche (post) card printed on one side which being supplied to Anche Mutsaddis etc. could be sold to the public at the low rate of one pie. These cards being made use of for correspondence, would be charged at the reduced rate of 2 pies for postage the same procedure now in force with regard to letters being adopted for the card.

2. The Superintendent of Government Press with whom I consulted on the subject says that he can supply the number of cards required and the cost of each card, it is hoped, will not exceed  $\frac{1}{2}$  a pie. By appropriate devices these cards could be prevented from being counterfeited.

3. The cards can also be used for official correspondence.

As desired by the Dewan, a specimen of the proposed Anche card was sent to him on 17th July. He observed, on 8th August, that the specimen was not such as could be adopted. He stated further that "It must bear a regular stamp, with value thereof etc. The proposed compromise between the stamp and cash systems must be inconvenient. The introduction of a label system will shortly receive consideration."

On 24th September the Anche Bakshi was able to produce for the Dewan's approval specimen cards bearing the proposed Mysore label and submitted by Messrs. Waterlow & Sons of the U.K. The cost of the cards would be Rs. 3 per 1000 for not less than 250,000 at a time. Apparently the Dewan was satisfied by the specimen card, for he wrote to the Resident in Mysore on 2nd November 1886 : I have the honour to request to be informed whether there would be any objection to the Darbar using in supersession of the present Anche payment system, their own postage labels of the pattern herewith forwarded. I beg to add that His Highness' Government consider the change above proposed highly desirable, but it is not their wish to resort to it, if there be any prospect of the Director- General of Post Offices being able to agree, as regards Mysore, to an arrangement such as has been entered into by the Imperial Postal Department with the Patiala State."

The matter was not pursued, any further, probably because the question of a Postal convention or in the alternative, the merger of Anche into the Indian Post was under active consideration. And thus the first proposal for the introduction of an Anche card got buried unceremoniously.

**THE ABOLITION OF ANCHE :** After protracted negotiations it was decided in December 1888 that the Anche system will cease to be and that the Director General of the Post Office of India will take over the management and control of postal arrangements in the Mysore State with effect from 1st April 1889, and that from that date all postal arrangements in the Province will be transferred to the Imperial Postal Department. An important provision in the agreement was as under :

Official correspondence of the State will, from 1st April 1889, be carried within the limits of the Province, free of cost, by the Imperial Postal Department in the same way as such correspondence is now carried by the Local Anche. Official correspondence of the State will be carried beyond the limits of the province at the official rates of postage prevailing in the Imperial Postal Department."

#### **A CIVIL SERVANT TAKES THE INITIATIVE :**

The Residency in Mysore addressed the following letter to the Dewan on 28th August 1893 :

It has been brought to the Resident's notice that post cards purporting to be " Mysore Government Service Post Cards," of which a specimen to be returned is enclosed, for the information of the Durbar, are now being posted in the Post Office at Bangalore.

"I am to refer you to the correspondence on this subject ending with Maj. Ravenshaw's letter No. 2147-5-9 dated 18th July 1891, which pointed out that the previous orders of the Government of India were necessary before service post card could be introduced into the Mysore State, and in which it was requested that a revised specimen of the proposed Service card should be submitted for transmission to the Government of India".

On enquiry it came out that Mr. H. Grover, the Superintending Engineer and Secretary to the Government for Railways, had taken the initiative in the matter. On 6th May 1891, Mr. Grover had sent the following note to the Dewan :

"Proceeding on personal instructions from the Dewan on the 17th Ultimo, while accompanying him from Bangalore by rail to Closepett, the enclosed specimen of the proposed Mysore Government post card was printed at my request by the Superintendent, Mysore Government Press. "But happening to meet the Post Master General of Madras shortly after, that officer observed that the circulation of the post card without the previous knowledge and consent of the Director General of post offices, Government of India, would be irregular and result in postage being levied. I then wrote to Officiating Postmaster General, asking him if, to save delay, he could arrange to obtain his Director General's sanction, Demi-Officially or otherwise and his reply is enclosed. It is therefore solicited that the question at this stage may be taken up in the Department of the Chief Secretary. .

Apparently the early introduction and use of the Service post cards (which can be readily printed at the Mysore Government Press) depends merely on a formal reference to the Resident with a specimen of the proposed card."

The reply from Offg. PMG, Madras, dated 2-5-1891 was as under :

I have looked into the matter of the Mysore ' Government's intention to issue service post cards for the use of its officers. No possible objection can be raised to it and the convenience of such a mode of official communication is patent to everyone, but it will be unavoidably necessary that the introduction of these postcards should be with the previous knowledge and concurrence of the Imperial P. O. as the whole postal administration in Mysore rests with it and it has the right to know of any innovation, however trifling. This must be done officially through the normal channel and instruction will have to be issued to all Post Offices or else the post cards will not circulate but will be charged with postage and it would be irregular for me to issue such instructions upon demi-official intimation. Nor do I consider myself competent to move in the matter at all without the approval of the Head of my Department which should be obtained in regular official course by me.

A formal Note was accordingly sent by the Chief Secretary to the Residency on 15/18, May 1891 requesting that permission of the Imperial Postal Department may be obtained to the introduction

of the proposed post card in the province. The proposed specimen had provision for entering the signature and official designation of the sender on the face or address side of the card. As the imperial post card had provided for this on the reverse side, the PMG at Madras advised the Resident that the proposed card may be suitably modified. The Residency, in turn, advised the Dewan on 16th July 1891 to forward a revised specimen card for submission to the Government of India.

Apparently the matter rested there without any further action until early in 1898 when Mr. Grover chanced to discuss the matter with the Superintendent of Post Offices, Bangalore. According to Mr. Grover, 'I understood that officer to say that there could be no possible objection to their use under the arrangement by which all official correspondence on Mysore Government Service in this State if properly franked etc. is exempted from postal fees.' Mr. Grover did not lose much time in launching forth his baby. 'I proceeded to use the card with the personal knowledge of the Dewan about two months ago.' Mr. Grover expressed regret for the occurrence which was due to misunderstanding and dutifully suspended the use of the cards pending formal sanction of the Government of India.

The Chief Secretary wrote as follows to the Residency on 7/8.9.98 for the required sanction: In reply to your letter No. 2910 5.89 dated 28th ultimo regarding the unauthorised use of service post cards by the Superintendent Engineer for Railways, I am directed to forward for the information of the Resident extract from Mr. Grover's Memo dated 30th ultimo explaining how the cards happened to be used.

The Post cards can be made up at the Mysore Government Press. They can be of the same size and thickness as the East India Service Post Card of the British Postal Service. On the face of it may be printed the words "On Mysore Government Service only." No stamp need be impressed as no value is payable. As to the signature and official designation of the sender, the Durbar consider that it would be more convenient to allow of these being written on the address side of the card rather than on the Correspondence side, as by adopting the former course there would be economy of space and there would also be saved to the postal officials the trouble of turning the card to see whether it has been used by a public servant competent to use it. If, however, the Postal Department are of a different opinion there is no objection to requiring the name and designation of the sender being written on the correspondence side of the card and in that case, to print below the words 'On Mysore Government Service only' the following instruction which is now printed on 'East India Service Post Card':

The address only to be written on this side; the signature and official designation of the sender must be written on the reverse.

"These post cards 'On the Mysore Government Service only' will be used for correspondence within the Mysore State."

On 7th December 1893 the Dewan was advised that the Resident was prepared to recommend to the Government of India the adoption of the Service card as proposed by the Durbar for correspondence within the State and that the signature and designation of the sender may be on the face or address side as propose. The Dewan was requested to forward a pattern card. This was sent on 12-2-94 and the sanction of Government of India was communicated on 27th March 1894. The cards were formally introduced with effect from 1st September 1894. The Government order announcing the introduction made it clear that the circulation of these postcards is confined to the limits of the Mysore State: they should not therefore be addressed to places situated outside those limits.

## ACKNOWLEDGEMENT:

I am indebted to the Government of Karnataka State for making available to me the papers from their Archives from where the above information; has been extracted.

## THE SEQUEL :

We have seen how the initiative taken by the Superintendent Engineer for Mysore Railways led to the introduction of the 'Mysore Government Service Post Card. It may be remembered, an objection had been made in 1891 by the Indian Post Office about the proposal to place the inscription pertaining to the signature and designation of the sender on the address side; And, yet, in 1894 no such objection was raised. This was because the Government of India were themselves planning to effect such a change in their own 'East India Service Post Card.' This change was effected in 1894. It is reasonable to presume that the rationale of the Mysore Government proposal impressed the Director, General of Post Office and that, in turn, led to the introduction of the new card.

I am illustrating here two Mysore Government Service postcards one with the Government insignia and the other without. What is notable about the latter is that it was sent from Saklasapur, Mysore State, to Mangalore, *outside the state*. And yet no 'Due' was charged. Was it just an oversight or was the Government of Mysore, by 1939, allowed the facility to send official communications through the Indian Post free of cost ?

(Courtesy : Ind Dak)

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## EARLY CANCELLATIONS

### PART IV

### CHAPTER III

#### The First Series of Town Number Cancellation

Soon after the adoption of the prepayment of postage by means of adhesive stamps, it was decided to follow the example of England and other countries and to introduce obliterators framing town numbers, to supersede the plain diamonds of dots or bars. **Bombay Circle Type [4]** The Bombay Circle Type [4] is an adaptation of Type [2]. It is a diamond composed of lines parallel to two of the sides, framing a number. The lines normally ascend from right to left. The original type has normally eleven lines, but eight, nine, ten and twelve are known. The common dimensions are, diagonals, 24 to 25mm. and 18 to 20 mm, but the longer diagonals vary on occasions between 23 and 27 mm. The figures are 7 or 8 mm. high. The lines vary in thickness.

A feature of Type [4] is the remarkable range of sub-varieties, apart from definite subtypes, which come into use between 1855 and 1873. In this respect, the Bombay Circle enjoys absolute pre-eminence. It is impossible to give an illustration or a minute description of these sub-varieties. It will suffice to illustrate the undoubted sub-typed which were presumably in accordance with official directions. The existence of sub-varieties will be indicated in the text, and this will be a sufficient guide to collectors. This principle will be followed with regard to all types of cancellations.

It was the intention of the central authority to issue each year a new oblierator to each post office. But it is most improbable that this ideal was adhered to—indeed, it is clear that many obliterations evidence a degree of wear that can only be accounted for by very prolonged use. It is very probable that renewal was frequently effected by enlisting the services of a local misiri, or ironworker, who was at that time, and doubtless is still, a very skilful and resourceful craftsman. The result would usually be an excellent

obliterator, but frequently departing in some details from the normal. The above theory would account for many sub-varieties of type in the various circles. The post office now has its workshops which turn out obliterations of a high degree of finish and uniformity. Eighty years ago, there were no such workshops.

There were 124 post offices in the Bombay Circle in 1854 and this was the extent of the numbering. In Bombay itself there were receiving houses besides the principal office.

Some important towns such as Aurangabad, Poona and Ahmedabad had two offices. In 1859, or perhaps earlier, about 30 or 31 offices were taken over from the Northern Circle and received numbers from about 139 to 169. The earliest date found from these Northern Circle offices is 6th April, 1859, from Goonah. Of these, Sehore, Aboo, Indore and Mahidpore have also been seen with this Northern Circle numbers. In 1861, the Sind offices were transferred to the new-Punjab Circle. In 1866-67 the Central Provinces Circle was formed, and, consequently, a number of offices were re-allotted, and this explains some cases in which two post offices appear with the same number, as for example, 78 with Ellichpur and Verawal, and 159 with Augur and Dhond. This does not explain the case of 117 with Mandvi and Karwar. Karwar's original number was 217, and it seems probable that 117 was issued in error in 1873. Kamptee; 76, deserves mention as Kamptee is shown in the Northern Circle list of post offices of 1854. As it received 76 in the Bombay series, it must have been transferred to the Bombay Circle before the introduction of Type [4].



As Post Offices were taken over by the Imperial Department from the District Post, or newly created, they were allotted numbers in continuation of the original series. The highest number seen in Type [4] is 359. Higher numbers have been seen in Type [8] for Deolali, 375, and Gooledgud, 436, and are apparently in the same numbering.

An instance of the use of Type [4] in the Madras Circle deserves mention. This is number 150 from Nagapatnam in duplex form, in 1873. The left duplex is also in the Bombay form with the circumference of the circle incomplete at the top, the gap being occupied by the town name. The explanation suggested of this irregularity is that the Nagapatnam office being in urgent need of a new obliterator, decided to get one made locally. It was perhaps found that the Bombay type was easier to have made locally than the Madras type. But the all important Nagapatnam number, 150, was retained. This interesting item will doubtless be sought after by collectors. The collector will find the Bombay Circle one of the most attractive with its numerous sub-varieties.

The earliest example of Type [4] is from Kamptee dated 16th May, 1855. This was the sole type used in Bombay until about 1867, when many post offices began to show type [9]. Bombay itself experimented with Type [9] in 1861 and 1864. Type [4] and [9] were used side by side down to 1873.

In 1859, we find an attempt to turn out better workmanship, the features of the sub-variety being slightly reduced dimensions (figures 6 mm, in height and greater neatness). In the original Handbook this was treated as a sub-type and illustrated. This however seems to have been an unnecessary elaboration. Similarly it is sufficient to direct attention to slight modifications to provide space for three figure numbers. The diamond has to be widened and slightly flattened. The number of lines is increased, the maximum seen being 14.

Type [4a] is practically a square, indeed; in some cases with three figures the longer diagonal is that running through the number. The lines vary in fineness and the figures also exhibit differences in size and style. The space for the figures is fairly well marked, and numbers stand out well. The diagonals vary between 19 and 21 mm. and the number of lines between nine and fourteen.

The first example seen is dated 1858, from Julgautm. But examples are rare until 1863. As will be seen experiments were made in Types [4b] and [4c], Type [4a] being eventually selected for general use.

The importance of this type is that it was adopted for the duplex obliterator, the first example reported being from Poona dated the 27th September, 1862. Three or four years; seem to have passed before it came into almost general use. It will be seen later on that the duplex obliterator was used with Bombay, "I" in 1862 and that it had been tried in 1861 for Bombay and Calcutta in Type [9].

A variety of type [4a] shows the capital letters "A" over the number "52" for Poona City Receiving House. "D" over "52" is also on record, and this relates, presumably to another Poona Receiving House. Similar variations include "57" over "O", and "C.P.L." over "129". The first is doubtless a branch office of Ahmadnagar, but an explanation of "C.P.L." remains to be suggested or discovered.

Type [4b] is an attempt towards an obliterator markedly larger than Type [4], presumably with a view to a more effective cancellation. The longer diagonal varies between 27 and 31 mm., with 28 as the common measurement. The smaller diagonal is usually 20 to 21 mm. The figures are clumsy, sometimes grotesque, and about 2mm. longer than in Type [4], measuring 9 mm. The number of lines is usually seventeen, but there may be two or three less or more. The earliest date seen is 15th September 1856, from Surat. Examples are very few after 1865. Numbers recorded after 9, 14, 17, 23, 36, 38, 43, 48, 53, 56, 67 and 93. Examples are fairly scarce.

Type [4c] represents the limit reached in reducing the size of the obliterator. Diagonals are about 20mm. by 15mm., with from ten to sixteen lines. The figures are about 4mm high. There is an open rectangular space for the number. The result proved unsatisfactory, as the impression was very frequently more or less of a smudge. The earliest date recorded is December 1863. Examples are seen as late as 1870. Numbers recorded are 3, 6, 7, 17, 20, 22, 25, 30, 36, 57, 78, 108, 152, 164 and 272. Examples are not common. This type is found with a duplex obliterator in 1868. Types [4b] and [4c] were both abandoned in favour of Type [4a].

Type [4d] has as its chief characteristic a well defined rectangular open space for the number, throwing the number into prominence. The lines, eighteen in number, are finer and sharper than before. Figures measure 6mm. in height. Diagonals are 25 and 19mm.

A sub-variety is the usual modification for a three figure number, the diamond being slightly flattened, and becoming almost a square. The figures are 5mm high, and the number of lines varies between thirteen and eighteen.

The date of appearance of Type [4d] is perhaps indicated by

its adoption for Muscat in 1864. It is seen until 1873, but examples are scarce. This type appears sometimes in duplex form.

Numbers reported are 78, 84, 202, 212, 308, 309, 335, 356, 357, 359.

This brings to a close the description of Type [4] and its subtypes. The type [4] varieties for Bombay City will be dealt with in Chapter IX on Urban Cancellations. The cancellations for Bombay City are particularly varied and interesting.

Type [4] with reversed lines, this is, with lines rising from left to right, are found in all types except [4b], but are scarce. In Type [4] the numbers reported are 52, 62, 64, 69, 70, 71, 72, 119, 134, 136, 137, 139. The groups 69 to 72 and 134 to 139 strongly suggest local manufacture for a group of offices. In Type [4a] numbers seen are 47 and 315. In Type [4c] we have 25 and 57, and in Type [4d], 84, 266, 315 and 347.

Coloured obliterations of Type [4] may be found in blue, violet and brown-red and are rare. Used abroad numbers in Type [4] are: 13, Damuan; 124, Aden; 125, Aden Contonment, 1871; 131, Field Force, Persia; 308, Bushire; 309, Muscat; 356, Baghdad; 357, Basrah.

In the Northern Circle Type [5] is a diamond formed by lines parallel to the long diagonal, the office number appearing in a space in the centre.

The Northern Circle, Type [5]

There are three broken horizontal lines flanking the number on each side, while there are usually four lines above and below the number. Examples, may be found with three or five lines above and below the number. The lines vary in thickness. The diagonals measure about 28 and 21 mm. and are fairly constant. Some late examples are about 25 by 22 mm. Cancellations exist in blue, but are very rare.

In 1854, the Northern Circle comprised the United provinces, Punjab, the North-West Frontier Province, Indore and parts of the Central Provinces, with a total of 251 Bodr. and subordinate offices. The original series in Type [5] probably ran up to 263. Later additions raised this number to 297. In 1859, some thirty offices were transferred to the Bombay Circle. The numbering followed the alphabetical list of head offices.

The earliest date seen is on a cover of the 23rd November, 1855. Type [5] was superseded in 1860 by Type [8]; when there was a re-numbering-a few offices continued to use Type [5] but these are not numerous. very examples appear on the 1865 issue. With a currency of little more than four years, it has proved difficult to identify town numbers. In the other Circles, the numbering was unchanged down to 1873, and consequently there has been a much larger measure of success.

Gujarat's number 138, appears as a re-issue to Amritsar City Post office in 1871.

Sialket's correct number is 244, but it shows Kangra's number, 144, in 1859. This is an obvious case of a slip by the issuing clerk. The number 44 from Nagode can

be found with loops of the 4's reversed-a clear instance of local manufacture in replacement during the Mutiny. I have a letter from an officer with one of the columns showing the reversed 4's cancellation which shows that Nagode was in the Mutiny area.

As already noted, 30 or 31 offices were transferred to the Bombay Circle early in 1859. It may be assumed that this measure

was under consideration in 1858. In consequence of the impending transfer, the authorities of the Northern Circle decided that a re-numbering was desirable. With this re-numbering, a new type of obliterator was essential, to avoid confusion. Experiments were accordingly made with Types [5a] and [8], the original Type [5] numbering being retained in these experimental obliterations.

Type [5a] is simply Type [5] with the side lines running right through the number. The earliest date seen is July, 1858, from Calpee (60). Numbers seen are 1, 3, 43, 46, 47, 51, 56, 60, 81, 128, 131, 134, 139, 176, 177, 178, 181 and 261. Examples are rare. This type was not approved as the lines running through the numbers frequently made the number undecipherable.

The second experimental cancellation, Type [8], was that subsequently adopted for the re-numbering of 1860. It is an adaptation of Type [5] formed by closing the figure space to the left and right with vertical lines, thus providing a rectangular space for the number. The diamond is then complete with two or three vertical lines of diminishing length. The rectangular space is made slightly larger, the result being better definition for the town number. The diagonals are about 29 and 22 mm., and figures are about 6 mm. high. Number seen in Types [5] and also in experimental Type [8], are as follows: 23, 52, 56, 64, 92, and 176. The earliest date is October, 1858, for Delhi (64) and Lucknow (176).

The following numbers in the Type [5] series have not been seen in Type [5], but have been accepted as Type [5], but have been accepted as Type [5] numbers form entries showing the experimental type [8] cancellation. These are: 25, Bulandshahr, 1858; 211, Mynpoori, 1859, Sirsa, 1859.

The dates by themselves indicate the Type [5] series of numbers. Apart from this, a careful comparison with neighbouring Type [5] numbers, and a scrutiny of the list of post offices in 1954 leave no doubt on the point.

It will be noticed that Lucknow, 176, received both experimental types.

Experimental Type [8] can only be identified on entire; and is accordingly an extremely rare find.

In the Madras Circle, Type [6] is a diamond composed of dots, framing a capital C above the town number. This is an adaptation of Type [1]. The long diagonal varies between 27 and 21 mm. and the shorter between 21 and 20 mm. The dots are diamond shaped and vary considerably in size. The letter "c" and the figures also vary in height, the largest figures measuring 7 mm. and the smallest about 4 1/2 mm. Impressions from worn obl iterators may be very faulty; the dots may even run into one another and appear as bars. In extreme cases, these may be solid blocks of colour. Some very crude examples probably represent replacements by local artisans. Examples of Type [6] may be found in blue and violet.

In 1854, the Madras Circle included Madras, Mysore, Travancore and parts of Hyderabad (Deccan). In the 1854 list, we find 130 offices. The first issue included numbers up to about 159. Offices opened after this numbering were given obl iterators in Type [9] and [12]. There is only one recorded example of a number in Type [6], over 159 - this is 247 for Old Arcot, seen in 1869.

Madras accounts for as many as nine offices. Bangalore has three, and the following towns have two - Secunderbad, Pallamcotah, Trichinopoly, Wellington and (possibly) Bellary.

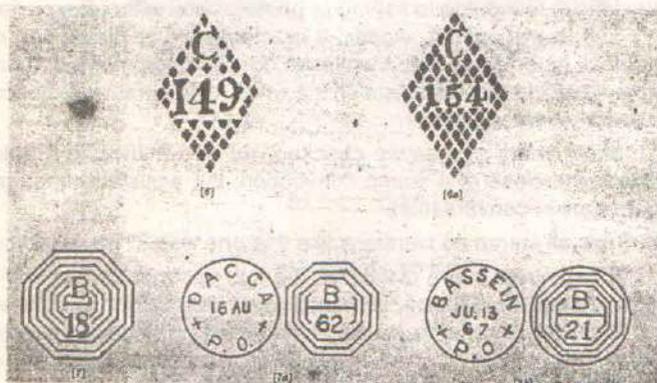
The significance of the letter "C" is a matter of surmise, but it is generally agreed that it probably stands for Carnatic. Madras was often referred to as the Carnatic in the first half of the last century and some Madras regiments were known as "Carnatics".

The earliest date is 26th February, 1856, on a Madras cover. As Type [1] has been seen on a large number of Madras covers throughout 1855, and in January 1856, it seems clear that Type [6]



made its appearance in February of that year. The cancellation was in general use until about 1862-3, when Type [9] was introduced, retaining the 1856 numbering. Stragglers appear as late as 1873. Type [12], mainly for higher numbers, is found after 1866-7.

Type [6a] is a replica of Type [6] in its smallest form. Figures



are 4 1/2 mm. high. The diagonals measure 22 and 17mm.

Seekers after "errors" may find a reversed "C", "C" or "C" and number missing, or a small "C" with a serif.

A striking and very rare variety shows an outer frame-line as in Type [8a]; the number is not clear. This is a very crude effort and clearly a local replacement.

Used Abroad : 89, Mahe; 111, Pondicherry; 147, Karikal.

Type [7] for the Bengal Circle, consists of a series of octagons, one within the other, capital "B" over a number. In the normal form, there are four complete and three incomplete octagons, the third being a very incomplete effort at the extremities of the line between "B" and the office number. The width between parallel sides is 21 mm. "B" obviously stands for Bengal. Mr. Jal Cooper records rare instances of five complete octagons with a width of 23 1/2 mm. A rare example is reported with a "D" instead of a "B". The "D" is probably a mistake for a "B". If it were connected with District Posts, one would expect examples to be fairly numerous.

The Bengal Circle comprised Assam, Lower Bengal, British Burma and the Straits Settlements. In the 1854 list, there are 176 post offices. The highest numbers seen with later dates are 283 and 415, between which no number has been reported. Bassein, 21, used the No. 12 for a few years after 1860. As the Persian script runs from right to left a native clerk could easily make this mistake when issuing an obliterator.

The 1854 list shows six offices under Calcutta. I have seen two to three examples of No. 2, Howrah, and I have heard of one example of No. 3 on stamp. I have no report of No. 4. As No. 5 is Akyab, the possible Calcutta urban numbers would be restricted to Nos. 2, 3, and 4. One would expect to find Calcutta with more than three urban offices, for Bombay shows six and Madras eight, besides the head office. A cover of 1861 shows B/1 for Calcutta sub-offices. The point needs clearing up.

The Bengal Circle has as "Used Abroads" Singapore (172), Penang (147), Malacca (109) and Chandernagore (86), and now that Burma is separated from India, the Burma numbers acquire a status similar to the Straits Settlements offices and Aden.

The earliest date seen is 5th November, 1855, from Rangpur. Examples abound down to 1866. After that, the use of this cancellation was restricted, although stragglers continue down to 1873. Types [9] and [10] were brought into use, in place of Type [7], office numbers, however, remaining unchanged.

Type [7a] is a smaller obliterator obtained by dispensing with the outer octagon. There is an incomplete octagon springing from

each end of the horizontal line below "B". The width of the obliterator is 19mm. This type is found in single obliterator and in duplex form. The earliest date is August, 1861, in duplex form. Numbers recorded are 1, 51, 62, 144, 183, 186 and 269. Examples are scarce.

An interesting and rare variety shows Calcutta 1 in duplex form with a space of 10 mm. between the right and left duplex.

Type [7b] is practically [7a] enclosed in a circle and used in duplex form. The difference from [7a] is that there is a distinct incomplete octagon, besides an embryo at the ends of the line between "B" and the number. The diameter of the circle is 19 mm. The earliest date recorded is June 1863. There are stragglers down to 1873, but examples are very rare. Numbers seen are 6, 7, 21, 46, 174 and 200.

As duplex obliterations. Types [7a] and [7b] were discarded for Types [9] and [10]. A trial was made with Type [9] in 1861.

Summing up, in late 1855 and early 1856 all Imperial post offices in India were equipped with obliterations displaying the office number, separate designs being adopted by each circle. The Post Office Manual, 1858, states that a key to the office numbers was circulated to every post office. Up to the present, no copy has been traced, but one should not abandon hope of a survival and discovery. In the meantime, a sustained effort has been made to identify numbers, by the examination of early covers. The measure of success is shown in the following table:

	Number of offices	Number	Percentage
Type [4]	124	89	71
Type [5]	264	110	41
Type [6]	159	105	66
Type [7]	182	118	64

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## GENERALS, PRESIDENTS AND RULERS

By Herman Herst Jr.

It was a President of the United States, Franklin D. Roosevelt, who said:

"I owe my life to my hobbies, especially to stamp collecting."

Many who say similar things do not mean them as much as the late President did. During those years when he was immobilized by polio, it was Roosevelt's hobby of stamp collecting that kept him on an even keel, able to face each day as it arrived.

It was the same President, now war weary, who again alluded to his hobby when he sat in on a war strategy session which mapped out this country's plans to, mount offensive against Japan that eventually won the war for us.

"We plan to go from the offensive in the British Solomons Islands, and from there proceed north until we can finally strike at Japan's main islands".

Thus did one of our war staff disclose to F.D.R. what our plans were. And in so doing, he offered to wheel a large globe of the world over to where the president was sitting, "so that you can see where the Solomons are located."

"There is no need to," the President replied, "I know where they are. Don't forget that I am a stamp collector."

We once had as a client the Chief Counsel for one of the nation's largest utility companies.

"Don't be afraid to drop in at my office any time you happen to be in the vicinity, and if my secretary tells you I am not in, or in conference, just tell her you collect stamps. She has orders to admit anyone who uses those words, without an appointment....and I will be only too happy to get a few moments of respite from whatever I am doing, in order to talk stamps."

During the 1950s, the Commandant at the Military Academy

at West Point was General Charles Bonesteel. General Bonesteel was a third generation two star general, as well recall, and his son currently has made it the fourth generation. West Point was just a few miles from Shrub Oak, New York, where we then resided.

"You wouldn't mind if I drove over once in a while to relax?" he once asked us. We assured him he could, but couldn't he relax just as well at the "Point," where he had every comfort, including a whole staff to wait on him?

He replied; "Sure, maybe it is more comfortable there, but you have a library of stamps, and I can lose myself a lot easier learning about stamps than having people always saying Sir' to me." The General came over several times a week, adone day, genuinely concerned that several thousand cadets might not be getting the education that they wanted, we asked him who was minding the store.

"When you get to be a General, you never wonder whether something gets done or not, for you have people under you who see that it is done. Now get me that book on the three cent 1851 I was reading last week, and go about your business."

There is a message in these little anecdotes, all true. It is that stamp collecting should be a lot more for pleasure than many of its practitioners realize. Advanced collectors know that. Millionaires know that. Veteran philatelists know it. It just seems a shame that so many newer collectors do not know it.

One does not have to spend a lot of money to have fun with stamps. Someone once took imbrge at our calling it "waste basket philately," but it is as good a name as any, and we have known many collectors who had the time of their lives without spending a nickel. Their source for their material was the wastebasket.

There are dividends in any hobby that can be shared with all who follow it. Golf, sports, fishing, bridge, photography.... of these and many more can become a veritable way of life to those who want so to make it. And philately is not different .Infact, stamp collecting, because of the way it is structured offers far more

inducements to plesure than any hobby one can name.

If one is gregarious, there are the countless stamp clubs all over the country, often startingwith one right in one's own backyard. There are the stamp shows, one of which is sure to take place every few months not too far distant form where one lives.

But even if one is a loner, philately offers its rewards. It is prettydifficult to indulge in fishing or photography without exposing one's self to the outself world ; it is impossible to playbridge or football all by one's self. But while we do not recommend it, there are plenty of "closet philatelists" in the world, who pursue the hobby, on a purely personal basis.

Many years ago as we checked out of a midwestern hotel following the close of a stamp convention, the assistant manager engaged us in conversation.

"Are all stamp conventions like this one was ?" he asked us.

"I had never met a philatelist," he told us, "and for all I knew, they were a whisky-guzzling, woman-chasing group which might have given this hotel a bad name. Instead, I found them to be decent people, many coming with their wives and children, and every single one of them was the type of guest I wish we could have all year around."

We understood exactly what he was trying tosay. We have been preaching that same gospel ever since we started writing this column for HOBBIES in 1936-over 40 years ago.

Philatelyis for pleasure. Enjoy it. Share it with your family. Collect as you wish, and what you wish. Follow the rules, if you want tocome out ahead financially, but if you choose toviolate every rule in the book, do it if you want to.

After all, when Kings and Queens, Presidents and statesmen, industrialists and millionaires turn to the hobby of philately for a relief from the pressures of the daily grind, why should not an average citizen, as you and I, take full advantage of what it has to offer.

Philately is for pleasure, and don't you forget it.

*(Coutesy : India's Stamp Journal)*