



SIPA

For Private Circulation to Members only

Bulletin

web : sipa.org.in
E-mail :
mail@sipa.org.in

Vol.32 No. 4

Oct - Dec 2013

QUARTERLY

KANGAROO & MAP
AUSTRALIA 56

MAURITIUS
GANDHI BLOCK 62

Guest Editorial.

The Right Way to Collect.

There was an article in an issue of a stamp magazine which, like ginger wine, or something stronger, warmed the cockles of our heart. There must be thousands of people who have been making a collection of cheap stamps for several years and who decide that they would like to sell them. Therefore they take their collection to a dealer and ask him to buy it. They are disgusted and think he is a robber of the first class, when he either tells them he doesn't want it, or offers a price out of all proportion to what the collection cost them. To the uninitiated, to a collector who has got, say, five thousand different stamps, for which he has paid around a rupee each, there appears to be something radically wrong. There must be, when the very dealer he has bought them from calmly says he doesn't want them but as he is a customer, the dealer will give so much for them. That "so much," compared with what the collection has costed, seems absurd, and the collector feels there must be a reason for it, otherwise this side of stamp collecting is a delusion and cheating.

Dear reader, there is a reason-and that too a very good one. How often have we paid a rupee each for stamps-and got great joy from buying and owning them. How often, after years, when we had amassed many thousand of this kind of stamps, have we got the catalogue and spent many hours counting up what all these one rupee and two-rupee stamps amounted to. Heavens! if we got that much for them, our collection would make us rich. But we knew better and did not expect anything so ridiculous.

Now the stamps that a dealer sells for a rupee each are bought, usually, in quantity. It may be that the dealer pays ten rupees for 100 of them. Yes, sir, it looks as though he is going to clear 90 rupees, on every hundred. But wait a minute. Now it always happens that a varying number out of every hundred turn out to be damaged, heavily cancelled, or otherwise defective, and this makes it impossible to sell them separately. Assuming that sixty out of every hundred are saleable, and this is a good average, and these are sold at one rupee, there is not much in it, for it must be remembered that they have to be sorted, mounted and priced, and this costs time and money. No dealer ever got rich selling cheap stamps on this plan, or ever

will, and if you give this a little thought you will realize the futility of offering such a collection and hoping to get for it what you consider a satisfactory price.

Now cheap stamps include some of the most beautiful and most issues of the world, and for sheer fun and pleasure they want a lot of beating, but as an investment they have little or nothing to offer.

If you must have stamps for an investment, you must gather the higher priced items into your net. It is more or less true that expensive stamps are for the man of means and, after all, it is rather stupid to talk about investing money if you don't possess enough of it! The rich collector naturally goes in for quality and at the same time he must have quantity and there is no doubt at all that he gets a great amount of pleasure from following his hobby. Pleasure and enjoyment are the things in stamp collecting whether the collector is rich or poor. The rich collector may be able, and often does, get more satisfaction because he can look on his collection as an investment, but all things considered, every collector irrespective of means, can rely on stamp collecting for years and years of profound interest, harmless pleasure and profitable enjoyment. The yield, or profit, from stamp collecting must not be measured in terms of money alone, and for this reason any collector of average intelligence cannot fail to gain a lot of knowledge and satisfaction from the pursuit of his stamp collection.

(Courtesy: American Philatelist 1976)

Note : The above ideas may clear the confused minds of many a yesteryears collector who wants to clear their good old collection over which they have spent many years and considerable money.

Monthly Second Sunday Meetings

With President
Mr. G. Balakrishna Das on the
Chair, 16- members attended the
meeting on 12.9.2013 .

Mr. D.H.Rao spoke on "Light
Houses on the Eastern Coast of
India."

STAMP NEWS

DELHI GYMKHANA CLUB

03.07.2013

500

0.41 Mill

D e l h i
Gymkhana Club is a sporting club which was established by the British for the use of officers of the Indian Civil Service, Armed Forces and residents of Delhi. It was established on 3rd July, 1913 as the Imperial Delhi Gymkhana Club. After independence, the word 'Imperial' was dropped and it came to be known as Delhi Gymkhana Club. Located in the heart of Lutyen's New Delhi, the club was constructed as per the site plan made by Sir Edwin Landseer Lutyen. It has since been declared a 'Heritage property' by the Government of India. The President of India is the Patron of the Club.



Delhi Gymkhana Club has a unique and rich history. The historical meeting between Mahatma Gandhi and Lord Irwin leading to the Gandhi Irwin Pact was held in its premises.

Delhi Gymkhana Club has the distinction of having 26 grass courts and 7 clay/synthetic courts. The Club has an active tennis membership of over 200 members and also runs a training academy for juniors. It has had the privilege of hosting several National and International Championships.

Theme: Delhi, Clubs, Recreation, Centenary.

RAJ BAHADUR

21.08.2013

500

0.32 mill

Raj Bahadur, a noted freedom fighter and an eminent parliamentarian, was born on 21st August, 1912 at Bharatpur, Rajasthan.

Raj Bahadur did Graduation in Science from St. John's College, Agra. Thereafter he obtained a degree in Law as well as a Masters in English.

Raj Bahadur chose to follow the ideals of Mahatma Gandhi and actively participated in the freedom struggle and was imprisoned several times.

After independence, Raj Bahadur was chosen as a representative of the state of Bharatpur in the Constituent Assembly. He was a member of the



Provisional Parliament during 1950 to 1952 and was elected to the Lok Sabha from 1952 to 1966 and 1971 to 1977. As a young parliamentarian, he took active part in debates and discussions.

He was inducted in the Union Council of Ministers in May 1951 and served as the Deputy Minister of Communications till 1956 and the Minister of State for Communication thereafter.

As a Minister of State for Shipping and Transport from 1957 to 1962, he undertook revamping of the shipping industry which was facing acute financial crisis. On his recommendation, two government owned shipping companies were merged and named as the Shipping Corporation of India. Raj Bahadur held additional charge of the Civil Aviation and Tourism Ministry from 1963 to 1966. A new Department of Tourism was created at his behest.

As a Minister of Information and Broadcasting in 1966, the path breaking decision of allowing commercial advertisements on radio and television was taken. Raj Bahadur was elevated as the Union Cabinet Minister for Parliamentary Affairs and Shipping and Transport in 1971 and served upto December, 1976. In 1980, he contested the Rajasthan Assembly elections and remained its member till 1985.

He breathed his last on 22nd September, 1990 in Delhi.

Theme: Personality, Freedom fighter, Parliament.

KERALA LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY

07.08.2013

500

0.41 mill

The Kerala Legislative Assembly, also known as the Niyamasabha is the law making body of Kerala. The Assembly has 140 elected representatives and one nominated member from the Anglo-Indian community, today.



The history of the Kerala Legislature dates back to 1888, when the Maharaja of Travancore, established a Council for the purpose of making laws and regulations. The inaugural meeting of the Council was held on 23rd August, 1888.

The Kerala Legislature had three parallel courses of development in the three regions of Travancore, Cochin and Malabar until they were merged together on 1st November, 1956 to form the State of Kerala. The first Legislative Assembly of Kerala with a strength of 127 including 10 nominated members was constituted in 1957.

Shri K.R. Narayanan, the then President of India, inaugurated the new assembly building called the Niyamasabha Mandiram, located in Thiruvananthapuram on 22nd May, 1998. Built primarily in the classical style with a strong influence of many contemporary styles, the

building has a large Central Assembly Hall, gardens and water bodies. The design of the stamp, First Day Cover and Information Brochure of the Kerala Legislative Assembly depict various facets of this marvelous building.

This year Kerala Legislature is celebrating its 125th anniversary.

Theme: States of India, Kerala, Legislature, Buildings.

WILD FLOWERS OF INDIA

03.09.2013 12x500 0.81 mill sheets

India has a rich and varied heritage of plant diversity exhibiting a wide spectrum from tropical rainforests to alpine vegetation and from temperate forests to the coastal wetlands. The Flora of India is one of the richest in the world due to its diverse climatic regimes and topology. There is virtually no area in our country without a particular treasure or species of special beauty or interest.

1. Dibang Chirita

Botanical name : *Chirita dibangensis*
Family : Gesneriaceae (Gloxinte family)

Dibang Chirita is a species named after Dibang valley in Arunachal Pradesh.

2. Kashmir Mallow

Botanical name : *Lavatera cachemiriana*
Family : Malvaceae (Mallow family)

Kashmir Mallow is a beautiful plant species, endemic to Kashmir in Western Himalayas.

Tail in a clear pink shade. Flowers are borne singly. They are 4 - 8 cms across, obovate or oblong-obovate.

3. Himalayan Mini Sunflower

Botanical Name : *Cremanthodium ellisii*
Family : Asteraceae (Sunflower family)

Himalayan Mini Sunflower is a perennial herb growing 25-35 cms tall with yellow, sunflower like flowers, 4-7 cms long having dark centres. Flowers are solitary, looking down, with dark disk florets and narrow elliptic yellow coloured ray florets approximately 2.5 cms long. It is found at an altitude of 3,500-4,800 metres, from Kashmir to South-East Tibet. Flowering season is from July to September.

4. Himalayan Lantern

Botanical name : *Agapetes serpens*
Family : Ericaceae (Rhododendron family)

Himalayan Lantern is a beautiful shrub, 40-60 cms tall with arching stems and tiny hanging lantern like flowers. The flowers are bright red, orange or pinkish white, with dark red zig zag bands. Him'alayan Lantern is found at an altitude of 1,200 - 3000 metres in North- Eastern Himalayas, particularly in Darjeeling and Sikkim Flowering season is from May to June.

5. Roundleaf Asiabel

Botanical name : *Codonopsis rotundifolia*



Family : Campanulaceae (Bellflower family)

Roundleaf Asiabell is a perennial vine, flowers are bell shaped, greenish white veined with purple short lobes, 2-3x1.5- 2 gms in size. Sepals are elliptic to lanceolate, leaf like, hairy about 2 cms long, pointed to blunt it is found at an altitude of 1800-3600. Flowering season is from July to August.

6. Blue Poppy

Botanical name : *Meconopsis aculeata*
Family : Papaveraceae

Blue Himalayan Poppy is a rare beautiful herb. Flowers are usually-4-5 petalled measuring 5-11 cms across. The golden yellow stamens contrast well with the deep blue petals it is found from Uttarakhand to Kashmir at an altitude of 3,000 -4,500 metres.

7. Globe Thistle

Botanical name : *Echinops niveus*
Family : Asteraceae (Sunflower family)

Globe Thistle is a sharp spiny herb with a simple stem and dense head flower which is spherical, 6-8 cms across It is found from Kashmir to Nepal at an altitude of 1,400-1,700 metres

8. Himalayan Iris

Botanical name : *Iris kemaonensis*
Family : Iridaceae

Himalayan Iris is found in alpine pastures at elevations of 3000-4000 metres. It is a stunningly beautiful perennial rhizomatous herb with deep lilac to purple flowers, growing 45 -50 cms tall. Flowering season is from April to June.

9. Himalayan Bellflower

Botanical name : *Campanula latifolia* L.
Family : Campanulaceae (Bellflowerfamily)

Himalayan Bellflower is a beautiful perennial herb It is found in the wild from Kashmir to Nepal. It is a plant having spikes of large, nodding, dark blue- purple, bell shaped flowers. Flowers are 4 - 5 cms long, borne in a spike at the top of stems They are found at an altitude of 2,000-3,500 metres.

10. Cobra Lily

Botanical name : Arisaemawallachianum
Family : Araceae

The Cobra Lily derives its name from its Jood- like incurved spathe, 7-21 cms long, . longitudinally striped in purple or bronze colour The plant is distributed from Himachal Pradesh to Sikkim at an altitude of 1800 to 4300 metres Flowering season is from July to September.

11. Bladder Campion

Botanical name : Silene vulgaris
Family : Caryophyllaceae
(Carnation family)

Bladder Campion is a perennial herb, with branched stems 30-100 cms tall. It is easily recognized by its few large drooping white to greenish flowers, with deeply lobed petals and its bladder like greenish sepal tube with a network of darker veins. Flowers are 1.5 - 2.5 cms across, usually in lax branched clusters. The sepal is 1.5 cms long, enlarging to 2 cms in fruit, with triangular lobes. Flowering season is from June to August.

12. Rhododendron

Botanical name : Rhododendron arboreum
Family : Ericaceae

Rhododendron, pink coloured with a bellflower shape, is a native to the Himalayas from Eastern Nepal to Arunachal Pradesh in forests and on rocky hill sides. It grows at an altitude of 2700 - 3700 metres. This evergreen shrub has leaves upto 11 cms long which are white or fawn beneath. Flowering season is from March to June.

Theme : Flora and Fauna, Flowers, Wild Flowers, Himalayas

LALA JAGAT NARAIN

9.9.2013 500 0.41 mill

Lala Jagat Narain, affectionately known as Lalaji, was born on 31st May, 1899 in Wazirabad, District Gujranwala, now in Pakistan. After graduation he joined the Law College, Lahore. Deeply influenced by Mahatma Gandhi's ideals, he left his studies in 1920 and joined the non-cooperation movement. He was sentenced to two and a half years' imprisonment. After his release from jail in 1924, he was greatly perturbed by Katherine Mayo's book, "Mother India". Lalaji demanded a ban on the book but when the British government took no notice, he wrote a book



"Unhappy India". He also became the editor of Bhai Parmanand's weekly Hindi paper "Akashvani".

Lalaji married Shanti Devi in 1924. Both husband and wife remained active in the freedom struggle. Lalaji was in jail for almost nine years. He was the President of the Lahore Congress Committee for seven years. He came in touch with Netaji during the Congress session at Lahore in 1929.

After partition of India, Lalaji came to Jalandhar and started the Urdu daily "Hind Samachar" in 1948, Punjab Kesari (Hindi) in 1965 and Jag Bani (Punjabi) in 1978. With his editorials, Lalaji became the face of fearless journalism during the Punjab insurgency.

He was also a Member of the Rajya Sabha from 1964 to 1970.

Lalaji was shot dead on 9th September, 1981 near Ludhiana.

Theme : Freedom Fighter, Journalism, News Papers.

ACHARYA GYANSAGAR

10.09.2013 500 0.46 mill

Acharya Gyansagar was born on 2nd June 1891 in the village Ranoli, Rajasthan. His original name was Bhooramal. He graduated as a 'Shastri' from Queen's College, Varanasi.

While studying, he took a vow of celibacy and resolved to dedicate his life to propagate the tenets of Jainism.

Acharya Gyansagar followed the path of renunciation throughout his adult life. In due course, he emerged as an outstanding scholar of ancient Jain literature. Acharya Gyansagar was elevated as a "Muni" in 1959 and as an "Acharya" in 1969.

Acharya Gyansagar will always be remembered for his outstanding contribution towards revival and enrichment of Jain literature. He wrote nine books in Sanskrit, out of which, four epics are widely read. 'Bhagyodaya', 'Kartavya Path Pradarshan', 'Manav Dharma', 'Vivekodaya' are some of his outstanding literary compositions in Hindi. He also composed the popular Hindi epic poem 'Rishabhavatara' which was inspired by the account of the life of Rishabh Dev, the first Tirthankar, as given in 'Adi Puran'.

Acharya Gyansagar taught his disciples to limit their desires and be contented in order to achieve happiness. He selflessly practiced what he preached. Acharya Gyansagar breathed his last on 1st June, 1973 at Nasirabad, Rajasthan.

Theme : Personality, Sages & Saints, Jainism

GURAJADA VENKATA APPARAO

21.9.2013

500

0.31 mill

Gurajada Venkata Apparao, a versatile Telugu writer, was born in Rayavaram village near Yelamanchili in Visakhapatnam district of Andhra Pradesh.

Gurajada did his schooling from Cheepurupalli and Vizianagram. He completed his graduation in 1886. In 1887, he joined the M.R.College as a lecturer and promoted as a senior Lecturer in 1891.

Gurajada began his writing career by writing several English poems. His literary work, Sarangadhara, published in 'Indian Leisure Hour' was received well. Though his English writings were appreciated, he was encouraged to write in Telugu. His drama 'Kanyasulkam' was staged for the first time in 1892 and became the first Telugu drama written in spoken dialect. The use of the spoken dialect led to a movement which turned Gurajada into a celebrity. In 1909, Gurajada came up with the second edition of Kanyasulkam which is considered as an outstanding work of literature. His other notable contribution to literature are Desabhaki, Poornamma, Kanyaka and Lavanaraju.

Gurajada used all forms of literature like drama, novel, poetry, short story and essay with equal finesse. Known as the harbinger of new age in Telugu, Gurajada gave a concrete literary platform to the social reform movement. His writings on female education, widow remarriage, abolition of child marriages, condemnation of corruption, illiteracy, etc are his contribution to the society.

Gurajada took retirement in 1913 and was honoured with Fellowship by Madras University. After a brief illness, he died in 1915.

Theme : writer, literature, social worker.

PRATAP NARAYAN MISHRA

24.9.2013

500

0.32 mill

Pratap Narayan Mishra was born on 24th September, 1856 in the village Bajjegaon, District Unnao.

He studied on his own and mastered Bengali, Sanskrit, English Urdu and Persian languages. He contributed to the enrichment of the different genre of Hindi literature. His famous works were 'Lokoti Shatak', 'Prathana Shatak', 'Shriprem Puran', Kali Kautuk, Hathi Hammir, Bharat Durdasha, Braidala Swagat, Trupantam, and Kanpur Mahamatya.

He was the first stylist essayist of Hindi who penned more than 250 articles on contemporary topics. He translated



many Bengali works of Bankim Chandra Chattopadhyaya and Ishwar Chandra Vidyasagar.

Mishra was one of the pioneers of Hindi literature. He was the founder publisher and editor of the famous Hindi monthly journal 'Brahmin' which started on 15th March, 1883.

Pratap Narayan Mishra made notable contribution to the freedom struggle with his writings. He represented Kanpur along with others at the third and the fourth session of Indian National Congress held at Madras and Allahabad respectively.

Pratap Narayan Mishra left for heavenly abode on 6th July, 1894 at a young age of 38 in Kanpur.

Theme : Literature, Writer, Journalist.

JOOMDEV

30.09.2013

500

0.4 mill

Joomdev was born on 3rd April, 1921 at Nagpur to Vithoba Jubrikar, a weaver and Saraswati Bai, a housewife.

Joomdev had an undistinguished childhood and youth. He was, however, gradually drawn towards spirituality and came to believe that service to fellow human beings was the best way to serve God. He propagated Manav Dharma, the Crux of which was that we should lead a life based on dedication, sacrifice, mercy, forgiveness and peace.

Joomdev established "Parampujya EK Sewak Mandal" at Nagpur on 4th December, 1969. A Manav Mandir consisting of a school, playground, houses, library, etc for the poor was also set up at Nagpur. Joomdev was a perfect blend of spiritual and human virtues. He established many other social welfare organizations like 'Sevak Nagrik Sahkari Bank' 'Sahkari Grahak Bhandar' and 'Dugdha Utpadak Sahkar Sanstha' also in Nagpur and adjoining areas. He advocated a cooperative system for his followers many of whom were not only poor but also illiterate.

Joomdev firmly believed that education can change the plight of the downtrodden.

Joomdev breathed his last on 3rd October, 1996.

Theme: Leader, Social worker, Educationist.

(Courtesy: India Post, Information Brochures)



POST MARKS OF BRITISH PAQUEBOTS

HARRY HAWKES

PART 3 (Continued from July-Sep 2013)

London. A lot of paquebot mail is handled but surprisingly little of it is British. As a typical example in August 1964, the Overseas Mail Branch in London applied paquebot markings to the following items; 628 Swedish, 143 Russian and 18 British. The G.P.O. says that this reflects the importance of the timber trade on which the majority of the Russian and Swedish vessels are operating and also that most of the mail from British ships seems to be put ashore before reaching London.

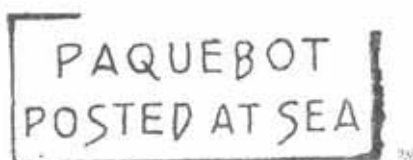
There, the paquebot marks are divided into two sections the distinctive machine mark (Fig. 28) and handstamp (Fig. 29) applied in the London Foreign Section and the "twin" rubber handstamps (Figs. 30 and 31) used in the Mount Pleasant Inland Section. The only way to distinguish between these two rubber marks is in the slight variation of spacing between the date slugs.



27



29



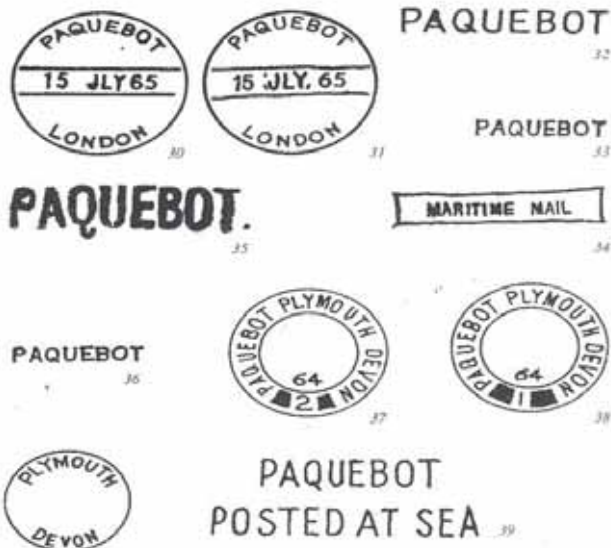
30

Manchester. Although Manchester and its ship canal sees a lot of shipping, the amount of ship mail handed in is almost non-existent. Fig. 32 is among the rarest British paquebot postmarks. Like the veteran Hull mark, the Manchester paquebot stamp is made of metal and its age is difficult to determine. It has certainly passed its half century and is probably much older than that. Manchester post office are unable to say when the mark was introduced but recall that it was in use during the 1939-45 war. It was then used as a "dumb cancel" when it was necessary to avoid any reference to Manchester for security reasons. Such mail, the post office explains, was opened by a censor and re-sealed with a label marked "Opened by Examiner No".

Middlesbrough. Another uncommon mark for although the docks are busy nearly all the ships are heavy cargo vessels and the use of the paquebot rubber stamp (Fig. 33) is very infrequent. In 1964, the Middlesbrough post office estimated that the mark had not been used for about five

years. The stamp is another of the standard British omnibus marks which is impressed in violet ink after the adhesives have been cancelled normally.-

Although it is not a paquebot mark, another Middlesbrough rubber stamp is worthy of note. It is the unusual 36 mm. boxed Maritime Mail mark (Fig. 34) which is reserved for letters handed in from H.M. ships. This mark, also most uncommon, is struck in violet ink.



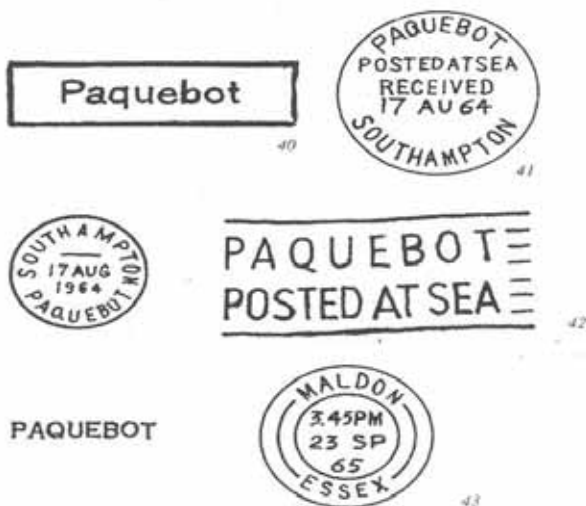
Newcastle upon Tyne. The battered rubber stamp (Fig. 35) is the one listed by Brigadier Studd as A20b with the first appearance date of 1950. I have been unable to trace any previous use despite its dilapidated condition, but further research is needed on this handstamp. As it cannot have had a great deal of use since 1950, it seems most odd that it should have, worn so badly in that time. On the other hand, had the mark been used earlier, as its condition suggests, surely examples would have come to light.

Used only infrequently during the past few years, the mark was used for some time on mail landed from the Bergen-Newcastle run which oddly enough ends at North Shields. The mail was for-warded from there to Newcastle for postmarking (See North Shields). Since North Shields' own paquebot mark has been restored, and the Newcastle mark lies largely unused. At Newcastle post office I was told "Whilst there are no regular passenger boat services operating to or from Newcastle which would normally require this service, the paque-bot mark is being retained. It is possible that due to unforeseen circumstances a passenger boat requiring the facility may be diverted to this port".

North Shields. Recent maritime postal services at North Shields are closely linked with Newcastle upon Tyne. Brigadier Studd records the North Shields mark as A21a, starting in 1948. This mark (Fig. 36), one of the standard British omnibus pattern, was later with-drawn—probably around 1958—and the North Shields ship mail was sent to Newcastle for paquebot postmarking. Nearly all this mail came from the ships operating regular passenger services from the port—Leda, Venus, Braemar and Blenheim.

In September 1964, it was found that the paquebot arrangements were not working properly and that ship letters were being irregularly posted in Newcastle pillar boxes by crew members. As a result, the North Shields mark was reintroduced.

Although there is a joint North and South Shields head office situated in South Shields, I am told officially "No ships require the service at South Shields and no paquebot stamp is in use at this office".



Plymouth. With two handstamps (Figs.37 and 38) and a machine die (Fig. 39) Plymouth has more paquebot marks than any other U.K. port outside London. The marks are, however, redundant, for today no mail at all is landed there. Ocean-going liners no' longer anchor in Plymouth Sound on their return from the West Indies. First the French Line decided to change their British port of call to Southampton because it is so much nearer to London. Their last liner to call on a scheduled service was Liberte in November 1961, The Royal Netherlands Steamship Company followed suit and it was on October 7th, 1963, that two K.N.S.M. liners Prins Der Nederlanden and Willemstad called for the last time.

Large liners were never able to dock and baggage and passengers were taken ashore by tenders. These tenders were sold at the end of the Dutch and French calls and because of this passenger liner calls are rare. Plymouth marks are virtually impossible to obtain because of this. Certainly, none of them were used at all in the twelve months following the end of the K.N.S.M. service.

Normally, the marks might have been withdrawn, but bearing in mind the possibility of other ports of entry being disrupted through strikes or other un-usual circumstances diverting liners to Plymouth, it was decided to retain the three marks.

Even before the present absence of Plymouth sea mail little use was made of the handstamps and post-war examples are not common, though they can be found on pre-war mail cancelling various Spanish and West Indian stamps. The machine mark has been widely used.

Preston. One of the rarest marks in Britain and also one about which there is only scanty knowledge. Before World War Two a lot of ship mail was passed to Preston from Fleetwood. In addition, cargo ships, sometimes carrying a small number of passengers, docked at Preston and occasionally handed in mail. Since the war, however, the mail from Fleetwood has dwindled away and the ships docking at Preston hand over their letters to local agents who post them in pillar boxes.

It seems likely that the mark (Fig. 40) has been used in the past few years to cancel all types of ship mail for there are examples of it being used on mail landed from R.N. ships. One naval cover has the stamp tied to the cover by the boxed mark and is endorsed "June 9th, 1949"—but there is no postmark as proof. Otherwise, the earliest known date is December 2nd, 1963, with the date shown by a normal Preston machine cancellation. Impressions are known struck in green, violet and black inks.

Southampton. It is officially estimated that each year half a million paquebot items are cancelled at Southampton head office. In addition to the British mail, the main foreign categories are letters bearing the stamps of the U.S.A., France, Holland, Germany, Spain and Portugal.

To deal with these 500,000 items a year, one handstamp (Fig. 41) and one machine mark (Fig. 42) are held. The machine mark is unusual for Britain, consisting of separate paquebot sections—a "Southampton Paquebot 11 circular dated section, in addition to the "Paquebot/Posted At Sea" slogan. Occasional examples occur where the two are not used together, for example the circular paquebot die with a "Post Early for Christmas: slogan.

The handstamp, Studd's B28, is known to have been in use in 1936, but because of its similarity in design to other marks—Dover, Holyhead, Belfast and Cardiff—which are recorded much earlier, the probability is that the Southampton handstamp was at least delivered, if not used, several years before this stamp.

(Courtesy: Gibbons Stamp monthly, 1966).

Do you know?

Balloons were first employed for the transport of mails by the French Government during the sieges of Metz and Paris in the Franco - German war of 1870-71. Two types of balloons were utilised in the postal service, viz those carrying pilot (Monte) and free balloons, timed to descend after a set period in the air (Non-Monte) From Paris no fewer than 69 mail flights were made during the siege, carrying some thousands of missives.

- West-end Philatelist, June 1930.

THE WORLD'S FIRST CHRISTMAS STAMP

ARTHUR A. DELANEY

THERE is little fear that topical collecting will become stagnant. Whereas some once-popular areas of philately have lost favor with the fraternity's majority, topical collecting, hailed by some as being the most refreshing form of philatelic specialization, will continue to grow as long as postal paper can be conveniently divided into substantive categories. Topical philately is assured its perpetuation, growth, and evolution because new fields are being added continuously to those which have been already accepted as desirable fields for study.



Newest of the topical areas is the collecting of Christmas commemoratives. It is a field that any collector possessing sufficient interest can master successfully regardless of financial means. As in the case of Europa issues, it is a seasonal activity, for the stamps appear but once a year. It is a topical that can be completed and kept up-to-date without encroaching on the efforts which the collector normally devotes to his principal philatelic interests.

So far, it is easy to chronicle the number of Christmas stamps; for only a few countries produce annual issues. Those issued by Australia and New Zealand, considered the cornerstone of the topical, have gained tremendously in popularity since the "Down Under" postal ministries began producing them.

Last year the United States issued its first Christmas stamp, a 4c holiday adhesive, and the great demand for this stamp resulted in a printing of more than 800 million copies. The 1963 Christmas issue, which depicts the National Christmas Tree and the White House grounds, is expected to be issued in a quantity of 2,000 million. With precedent established, collectors can probably look forward to an annual United States Christmas stamp.

Joining ranks with these nations who postally honor Christmas this year will be Canada. But, unknown to many collectors, is the fact that sixty-five years ago Canada issued what many collectors consider to be the world's first Christmas stamp. This collector, seeking information for his album write-up, recently contacted L. V. McGurran, Director of Accounting for the Canadian Post. Office Department's Postage Stamp Division. The stamp in question was Canada's Imperial Penny Postage issue of 1898, more commonly referred to as the "Map Stamp."

The introduction of a penny rate of postage among the members of the British Empire was a long sought after ideal. The chief proponent of Imperial Penny Postage was the then Canadian Postmaster General, the honorable William Mulock. After a vigorous campaign among Empire members, the penny rate (roughly the Canadian equivalent of two cents) was finally achieved and came into effect on Christmas Day of 1898.

To commemorate the start of a uniform postage rate between British dominions, Mr. Mulock conceived the idea of issuing a special stamp to mark the acceptance of the new rate by most of the major members of the Empire, and at the same time to publicize to the world something of the vastness and significance of the great Commonwealth then known as the British Empire. To emphasize this feature, he used the line "We hold a vaster Empire than has-been." This famous quotation is from Sir Lewis Morris's "Ode of Empire." Sir Lewis composed his Ode to honor the golden anniversary of Queen Victoria's reign, publishing it in 1887.

The stamp depicts Mercator's projection of the world, and for this fact alone is coveted by those who collect maps on stamps. The printing was done by a basic engraved plate in black, and a third printing over the top of the two color impressions was accomplished by electrotype: plates which depict the oceans in blue and the Imperial countries are depicted in red, the standard color used by cartographers in delineating British possessions.

Two types are cataloged, according to color. Number 85 is listed as being printed in black, lavender and carmine, while number 86 was printed in black, blue and carmine. The former also exists imperforate and with the carmine color omitted (85a and 85b, respectively).

The stamp also carries the inscription "Xmas 1898," and it is due to this notation that the adhesive is included by most topicality in their Christmas stamp collections. Mr. McGurran states: "I have searched our files regarding the Xmas 1898 and conclude that the use of this title on the stamp has no relation with, the special significance we normally attach to Christmas." Students of postal history are well-aware of this fact, but if they pursue the "Christmas stamp topical, they find themselves adding this popular issue to their collections.

(Courtesy: Stamps, 1963)

Children....
Do you know?

The earliest stamps of all, were issued imperforate for easy separations into singles.

An Irishman, Mr. Henry Archer was the First to think of the idea that led to the general perforation of stamps. At any rate he was the first to put the idea into practical use for he invented a machine for perforating sheets of stamps which was ultimately bought by the Government in 1854.

-West-End Philatelist, March 1930

THE KANGAROO AND MAP STAMP DESIGN

RICHARD BRECKON

The first uniform Australian Commonwealth stamp issue made its appearance amid controversy. Probably no other Australian stamp design created more discussion and debate in the community and in political circles as the Kangaroo and Map design.



IN JANUARY 1911, the competition to produce a design for the first Commonwealth stamp issue was organised. It had originally been intended that four designs would be selected for the full stamp series, but a Federal Cabinet meeting in early December 1910 decided that only one design would be used. Out of the 1,051 designs submitted by 533 participants, the first prize of £100 was awarded to Hermann Altmann of St Kilda, Victoria, for his elaborate, full face portrait of George V flanked by a kangaroo, emu and six shields bearing the emblems of each state. The second prize of £50 was shared between Donald Mackay of North Finchley, England and Edwin Arnold of Annerley, England. Mackay's design featured the Commonwealth Coat-of-Arms and Arnold's depicted a kangaroo.

The competition closed on May 31 1911 and the results were announced a few weeks later. It was a condition of the competition that prize-winning designs would not necessarily be adopted for the issued stamps. Little appears to have happened over the next few months until a new Postmaster-General, Charles Frazer, took office in October 1911. Frazer, who at 31 was one of the youngest Federal ministers in Australia, took an interest in stamps and had questioned the Government in 1907 about its future intentions for a Commonwealth stamp issue following the report of the Board of Inquiry into the subject. Frazer wanted an assurance that Parliament would be consulted concerning the choice of stamp subjects.

When Frazer assumed office as Postmaster-General he was shown the winning competition entries. However, Altmann's Royal portrait design did not please him - it was "execrable" he told Parliament later. It was decided that the Victorian Artists' Association would be asked to nominate an artist to produce an alternative stamp design. The Association chose Blamire Young, a noted watercolorist, who was commissioned to prepare a group of new designs that would be typically Australian in character. "If a picturesque stamp can be provided in which an outline of Australia is a feature, I am certainly favourably inclined towards it" Frazer was quoted in the press at the time.

Blamire Young submitted 10 designs to the Post Office in January 1912, all of which are believed to have featured scenes within an outline map of Australia. None of

these designs survive today, but it is recorded that one design featured two kangaroos within the map. The exact sequence of events is unclear, but it appears that Frazer resolved to have a design which featured a single kangaroo within a map of Australia. He penned a short instruction on his Ministerial notepaper (the document passed eventually into philatelic hands) which read: "1. Get coastline of Aust. 2. Insert Baldy's Roo. 3. Produce in colours for different denominats." Baldy was the nom-de-plume of Edwin Arnold, the equal-second prize winner in the 1911 competition and it was Frazer's wish that Arnold's standing kangaroo be the principal motif of the very first Commonwealth stamp.

An initial design was produced in horizontal format featuring a kangaroo (Baldy's Roo) on an outline map of Australia, flanked by draped flags and enclosed in an ornamental frame. This was rejected in favour of a vertical design in the basic style of the issued stamp. The first version in the vertical format had the kangaroo within a map that omitted Tasmania! Also, the denomination was featured within two value circles in the top half of the design. This design was amended to include Tasmania and the top right value circle was dropped, as this could not be accommodated with the increased depth of the map.

Printed examples of this design were produced and released by the Postmaster-General to the Press on April 2, 1912, together "with the announcement that this was the approved stamp. In itself, this was an unusual occurrence; Normally, new stamps were issued unheralded and the public's first look happened after the stamps had gone on sale. Frazer clearly was proud of his Kangaroo stamp and wanted to show it to the public well before the stamps could be issued. On April 3, Frazer distributed examples of these printed essays to his colleagues in the Cabinet.

The newspaper reaction to the released design was generally hostile and mocking in tone. A selection of press comments is presented below:

Sydney Morning Herald, Sydney, April 4. 1912: "Today the Postmaster-General, Mr Frazer, had a little surprise for his colleagues when they assembled in Cabinet. He presented each with a copy of the new Commonwealth postage stamp... Mr Frazer set to work and worried out something which he thought would suit the simple tastes of the residents of Australia. Once having struck the idea he called on the Victorian Art Society to his aid, and Mr Blamire Young, with pen and brush, put the Postmaster-General's views into effect. It was a copy of this that the Ministers saw today. The new stamp is simple, decidedly so. The main feature of the design is a map of Australia. This is in white, on a background of fine lines running across the stamp. There is no lettering on the map, the bareness of the content being eliminated by the figure of the kangaroo on a plot of ground. It is not barren country either, for in front of the animal there is a small plant-like substance. Officially it is Kangaroo grass, but the uninitiated might easily take it for an inkpot with two pens sticking up in it. One gentleman who saw it facetiously expressed the remark that it was a rabbit sticking its head out of a burrow.

The Weekly Times, Melbourne, April 6 1912: "The design is exceedingly simple. It consists of a dark background with the continent of Australia outlined as a white blank. In the centre of this blank is a kangaroo. Across the top of the stamp is the word "Australia", while at the bottom is the denomination, such as "halfpenny," "penny" as the case may be. The denomination is again shown in figures in a small circle.

Argus, Melbourne, April 4 1912: "Our postage stamps go all over the world; they become, in the course of time, a sort of national symbol; and it is therefore very annoying to find that our country is to be represented in the eyes of the world by a grotesque and ridiculous symbol, and that she will be a laughing-stock even to childish stamp collectors of every nation. Mr Frazer had no good reason for departing from Imperial usage in this matter. Australia should do as the rest of the Dominions do; we should all alike have the King's head printed on our stamps because it is the most obvious and unmistakable symbol of the constitutional bond between the various members of our far-scattered empire. But even if Mr Frazer entertains republican sentiments, and thinks it his duty to express them by means of the national postage he might surely have found some heraldic device more noble and dignified than that absurd kangaroo and that humorous rabbit."

Punch, Melbourne April 1912: After a very great deal of trouble, the spreading of much ink on acres of Bristol board, a Commonwealth stamp has evolved. The Federal Minister spared no labour and no expense, he was appreciative of the talents of the artists, and called their society to his aid. Many clever draughtsmen contributed designs, and the result is forthcoming, it has been printed - it is as dull, flat, ugly and brainless as the dullest bourgeois could desire. Mr Frazer knew enough to employ artists, but he did not know enough to subordinate his own rather indifferent, untrained judgement to that of the specialists. He had the good designs, but he had not the ability to recognise them. It is quite foolish to call upon experts in any line to do a certain thing, and then allow a wholly inexperienced, tactless and tasteless person to sit in judgement on their products, maul them about and chop out and rebuild. By that means, you get only the tasteless person's work after all. This is what has happened in the case of the Federal stamp. We get Mr Frazer's work, nothing better, and whatever fine qualities Mr Frazer may have he knows no more than a child about design and decoration. The Postmaster-General took a blank map of Australia from one artist's design and a "blanky" kangaroo from another, slapped the kangaroo on top of the map, and there you are. The result is, simply childish; it represents a child's tastes, a child's mind. Mr Frazer was pleased with the kangaroo, so would any child have been, but an educated taste might ask for something with a brighter fancy and a higher significance."

The Daily Telegraph, Sydney, April 11 1912: "Mr C.E. Frazer, Postmaster-General, who had been staying in Sydney since Wednesday last, left for Brisbane by the northern express yesterday., Mr Frazer said there was nothing of any great public interest connected with his visit. Conversation then turned in the direction of the new stamp. Mr Frazer was enthusiastic "They'll be in use in about eight

or nine months," he declared triumphantly. He was toying with a bulky envelope at the time, and suddenly pulled out half-a-dozen specimen prints of the stamp, in various colours. "Could you wish for anything better? Neat simple and artistic. Look at that stamp' demanded the Postmaster-General holding it at arm's length, "and show me where's the suggestion of the "seven years drought" which "Daily-Telegraph" found in it. (This was a reference to the cartoon featured in the paper a few days earlier). The design is not half as bad as it is made out to be, and when the people get used to it they'll love it. What else could you get to represent our continent, more thoroughly than a kangaroo?" "You might have brought in the symbol of the golden fleece." was suggested: The Postmaster-General thought for a moment, and then dismissed the suggestion. "No! You couldn't improve on the kangaroo," he said with an air of finality as he stepped into the car and made himself comfortable. Then reminiscently, as the train steamed out of the platform, "You can't beat Sydney for a holiday, stamps or no stamps."

"A postage stamp is one of the best advertising mediums the country can have. Every letter leaving our shores bears an advertisement of the country on its stamp."

The last item quoted is merely descriptive and is no doubt taken from official publicity, as the same remarks have been seen in other publications. In the National Library, Canberra, there is a scrapbook of newspaper clippings which Charles Frazer compiled during his political career. Only one clipping relating to the Kangaroo stamp design appears. This is taken from the Adelaide Advertiser, which quotes some approving remarks about the design by a local philatelist, R.W. Sharpies. Obviously Frazer did not want to be reminded of the harsh criticism that had been heaped on his stamp.

In the face of this criticism the Postmaster-General did not abandon the Kangaroo & Map design, but he did order two changes as a result of observations made by critics. The first was the insertion of POSTAGE, which in any event, was the usual practice so that postage stamps could be distinguished from revenue stamps. The second was the deletion of the small tuft of grass, likened to a pair of rabbit's ears by critics, and an animal which by then was one of the country's greatest pests.

Frazer promised that the new stamps would be issued by January 1 1913, but there was a delay in the shipment of watermarked paper from England on which the new stamps would be printed. The initial consignment of paper did not reach the Stamp Printing Office in Melbourne until December 30 1912, which meant that only a limited quantity of 1d Kangaroo stamps could be printed and despatched to post offices by the beginning of January 1913. The remaining 14 denominations in the series were issued progressively over the next three months. When the 1d Kangaroo stamps went on sale, a new surge of debate started about the design and, in particular, the omission of the King's portrait:

The Daily Telegraph, Sydney, January 13 1913: "It is not surprising that there should be an unmistakable expression of public indignation against the new

Commonwealth stamp. A feeble-looking kangaroo, perched on the continent of Australia - that is the best idea which those responsible for this production have been able to evolve as to what is required in such circumstances. The kangaroo, be it observed, replaces the head of his Majesty, a result which is likely to arouse in the outside world dubious speculations if not as to the loyalty or at any rate as to the good taste of this part of the King's dominions. This aspect of the matter alone should have been sufficient to explain the popular feeling that has been evoked by the new stamp. But apart altogether from this important phase, it sins in other directions, not merely against good taste, but against the canons of art. For in what possible way is a dejected kangaroo will be.

Forgeries: All the different forged denominations were prepared from a single design on the original 5c lithographic stone, and all show the same distinctive feature - the missing tail on the "Q" of "BELGIQUE". This letter resembles an "O". Perforated and imperforate copies exist on paper of many different colours, with and without forged cancels.

Genuine: There is a distinct tail cut into the "Q" of "BELGIQUE". All values are printed on a smooth white paper, but the paper of the 20c value shows a light representative of Australia? Australia just as much a part of his Majesty's dominions as England, Ireland or Scotland, and his mails run throughout the Empire without any dissemination between its different parts. And we venture to say that the true sentiment of the Australian people never called for the displacement of the symbol of British from the national stamp by the counterfeit presentment of a kangaroo, which, apart from its artistic merits, would be in the wrong place when substituted for the King's head on a stamp which is part of our Imperial system."

In June 1913, a federal election saw the defeat of the Labor government in which Charles Frazer was a Minister. The new Liberal government's Postmaster-General, Agar Wynne, had plans for the Kangaroo stamps. Two weeks after he became Postmaster-General, Wynne announced that the stamps would be replaced by the winning design in the 1911 competition. In the event, the Altmann design was too complex to be used and a new Royal portrait design was produced and issued as the 1d red engraved stamp in December 1913. The background to this development is beyond the scope of this article, but Agar Wynne's decision to scrap the Kangaroo stamps led to a debate in the House of Representatives on August 21 1913, which throws some interesting light on the first Commonwealth stamp. Speaking in the debate, Charles Frazer, explained his reasons for selecting the Kangaroo and Map design:

"A postage stamp is one of the best advertising mediums the country can have. Every letter leaving our shores bears an advertisement of the country on its stamp." Stamps with the King's head in the design are generally regarded as proper to communications from Great Britain. In designing our stamp we put into it the outline of the coast of Australia. The stamp shows a White Australia, indicating the Commonwealth's policy in regard to its population. In the centre of the stamp is a kangaroo, an animal peculiar to Australia and common to every state of

the Union. That animal was drawn from the design which took the second prize."

Frazer's reference to the white map being symbolic of the White Australia policy is interesting confirmation of something that had been long speculated about. Coupled with the omission of the King's head, the development of the Kangaroo stamp design was a highly political exercise. However, Charles Frazer did not live to see his beloved Kangaroo stamps effectively ended by the issue of the letterpress 1d George V stamp in July 1914. Fraser died in November 1913 at the age of 33 after contracting pneumonia.

(Courtesy: Australasia Stamps, 1998)

A QUESTION OF DEFINITIONS "USED ABROAD"

D. L. G.

The term "Used Abroad" has been and still is being used very loosely and, as I cannot recall ever having seen a definition, I will attempt to give one and also to differentiate between this category and other similar ones.

Firstly, the term implies the use of the stamps of one country in another. Secondly, there is the implication that such a use was unusual. Thirdly, the stamps must "have been available at one or more post offices in the country under consideration". The reasons for these three conditions will be seen later.

Now one way in which these conditions could be brought about was when certain countries did not belong to the Universal Postal Union. It followed that the stamps of these countries were not valid for mail which left the country. In these circumstances various countries would set up their own post offices, which were open to the general public, and which sold their own stamps. These "foreign" offices were the only means of dispatching letters, etc., abroad. Sometimes they were situated in the consulates, and sometimes special post offices were built for the occasion. A good example of this type was in Constantinople, where the British, French, German, Greek, Roumanian, Russian, Italian and Egyptian governments all had their own post offices.

It will be seen that this category fulfils all three conditions. I will now explain the reason for the second condition. In all these offices, the ordinary stamps of the country of origin were used without overprint, but as time went on, the authorities apparently considered that some distinction should be made in the stamps and, one country after another, they began to overprint their Stamps and in some cases to issue completely different ones.

Now these overprinted stamps cannot be classed as "Used Abroad", as there was nothing unusual in their being used in these offices. In fact, the overprinted stamps were in all cases used solely in foreign offices. A case in point is the stamps of "Austrian Italy" and "Austrian Levant".

These stamps are frequently described as being used abroad when they bear such postmarks as Alexandria or Cyprus; the fact is, however, that such postmarks are normal and, while a most interesting collection of the various postmarks to be found on these issues can be made, they cannot be classed as "Used Abroad". The same remarks apply to the stamps of Italy overprinted "Estero". These also are sometimes offered as "Used Abroad", whereas, of course, they are not found used anywhere else.

Now we come to the second category of "Used Abroads". In certain countries, islands and small localities, there were postal facilities long before the places in question had stamps of their own. In many cases these places, on the introduction of stamps, used the stamps of another country until the time when they had stamps of their own. Instances of this are (a) "India used in Aden and Straits Settlements, (b) Mauritius used in Seychelles, (c) Jamaica used in the Cayman Islands, (d) Queensland used in British New-Guinea. In all these cases no overprint was used and the stamps can be identified only by their postmarks.

The third category is a small one. It has happened that a certain place has run out of stamps of some particular value; usually the difficulty is met by overprinting some other values, but it has been known for the country in question to borrow stamps from another country and, by special decree, make them available for postage without overprint. This was done in Kedah in 1919 when stamps of Straits Settlements were used for a short time without overprint.

These are, in my opinion, the only categories of "Used Abroads". There are, however, occasions when a collector comes across an exotic postmark on a stamp and imagines that he has discovered a rare or hitherto unrecorded "Used Abroad". I have several such examples before me as I write: a Hong Kong stamp postmarked Honolulu; a Mexican stamp postmarked A05 (Nassau, Bahamas); and a French Congo stamp postmarked Plymouth.

The way in which these postmarks occurred was as follows: passengers in steamships, etc., having a supply of their own stamps were allowed to use them on letters posted on board. Sometimes the letters would be cancelled with a distinctive postmark on board the ship. On other occasions, particularly in small ships, the stamps would be postmarked on arrival at the port where the mail was landed. If the port was a large one the postmark would often bear the word "Paquebot" or a similar word to indicate that the letter had been posted on board a ship, but small ports very often had no special postmark and the stamps were cancelled with the ordinary town postmark. These stamps rightly belong to a collection of ship postmarks and not to a collection of "Used Abroads"; it will be noticed that they do not fulfil the condition that they must have been available in a post office of the country under consideration. This does not, of course, detract from their interest, and it is extraordinary that a varied collection of these odd postmarks can be made. I have, for instance, stamps of Hong Kong postmarked Mombasa, Dares Salaam, Honolulu, Hawaii, Townsville (Queensland), Port Darwin,

Penang, Singapore, Nagasaki, Tonquin, Haiphong and San Francisco. Yet these are not by any means "Used Abroad".

Nor can I agree that so-called foreign postmarks, due to political changes of frontiers, can be classed as "Used Abroad". Such instances are Russian stamps with postmarks of places in Poland. It will be found, in most cases, however, that these places were actually in Russia at the time; therefore there is nothing Unusual in finding Russian stamps with these postmarks. In fact, it is only upon Russian stamps that these post marks can be found at the particular period. This is not to say that a collector of Poland should not include in his collection a selection of such stamps; but this has no bearing on the subject under discussion.

A more controversial point is the case of stamps which are used by an occupying force or troops stationed in a foreign place. I consider that the proper category for such items is "Army and Campaign postmarks". Among them I should include the stamps of Chile used in Peru about 1880, and the stamps of Great Britain used in Field Post Offices in the Boer War, Egyptian Campaign, Great War, and present war.

A recent article stated that British stamps Used in Iceland were likely to prove among the rarest of "Used Abroads". The fact is, however, that these stamps were only used in military post offices and the postmark bore no reference to Iceland. Further, the general public continued to use Icelandic stamps for both internal and external correspondence.

After waiting the foregoing, I must emphasise that these are merely the views of one collector. I should be very interested to receive criticisms, either favourable or the reverse!

(Courtesy: The stamp Lover, 1943)

"BURN THIS LETTER"

The Story of the Alexandria "BLUE BOY"

FORTY-TWO years ago (in 1902) the philatelic world was thrilled by the news that a rare stamp had been found in U.S.A. The stamp was still affixed to the envelope bearing the letter it franked, and was a hitherto unrecorded variety of the issue made by Daniel Bryan, Postmaster of Alexandria, Virginia, in the months before the first general issue of the United States.

The Alexandria stamp is, in any event, a great rarity: to this day only seven specimens have been found. All but one are on buff coloured paper; that one, the stamp found in 1907, is on bluish paper, and has acquired the sobriquet of "The Blue Boy," being named, no doubt, after an equally rare if more valuable work of art.

The discovery of this stamp was made by Mrs. Mary Goulding Fawcett, widow of Edward S. Fawcett, while sorting through some of her mother's old correspondence. Like many other girls, her mother was sentiment enough to keep her old love letters, and it was on one of these that the stamp was found.

At the time of the discovery the philatelic and lay published the story beneath large headlines, and some details of the circumstances in which the find was made were given. Apparently nobody questioned the curacy of the details, or perhaps the precise circumstances were veiled, and in this way an inaccurate version of the find has come down to philatelists through years.

Now, with the co-operation of our good friend Dr. Lowell Ragatz, who carried out some research work in new home town of Alexandria, and through the kindness of the Misses Ellen and Susan Fawcett, who provided the details and photographs, the true story can be published for the first time. James Wallace Hooff (not Hough as it was spelled in earlier accounts) fell in love with his second cousin, Jannett Brown. They both lived in Alexandria, in a house at 517 Prince Street, where she had been born.

At the time when our story begins James and Jannett, very much in love, had become secretly engaged, and she was on a visit to relatives at Richmond, Virginia. The lovers corresponded with each other, and on 24th November he wrote to her a budget of friendly, pleasant family news, referring to the secret betrothal, and, as did not want that to be disclosed, he added at the ad, "Burn this letter". It was fortunate that she did not do so, for this was the very letter bearing the Alexandria "Blue Boy".

In due course James and Jannett were married, and the ceremony took place in the house at Prince Street. It was on 17th February, 1853, and the bride looked radiant in a grey silk damask dress, with white bonnet and lace veil, and white satin slippers which had been made especially for her in Philadelphia, having square toes and no heels, the fashion of the day. These clothes are still in existence.

For some years after the wedding, James and Jannett lived with his parents, but then returned to the house in Prince Street, where they spent the rest of their lives. Mary Goulding Hooff, their daughter, married Edward Stabler Fawcett, and had several children, among whom were Ellen and Susan Fawcett, previously mentioned.

Towards the end' of 1907 Mrs. Fawcett, living at the house in Prince Street, came across the letter and, being struck by the crude appearance of the stamp, showed it to a Mr. Jameson, an old friend, who was a photographer in Alexandria and a stamp collector. He considered that the stamp was valuable, and suggested that Mrs. Fawcett should communicate with J. M. Bartels, the stamp dealer, then at Boston. He replied at once, and had he taken the first train to Alexandria he would no doubt have been able to buy the stamp, but as it was the stamp passed into the George H. Worthington collection at a price of \$3,000.

All this time James Wallace Hooff was alive, and indeed was very active. He was gratified that the old love letter he had written had become so valuable, but he insisted that the letter itself should not be sold together with the cover; so the letter remained in the Fawcett family and is still preserved in the scrapbook of clippings and letters which the Fawcetts made at about the time when the cover was sold. The letter, wrote Miss Ellen Fawcett in October, 1949, "is in perfect Condition and as easy to read as if it had been written last week".

James Wallace Hooff died in 1915 at the ripe old age of 90. Writing of him his grand-daughter states:—"We looked upon our grandfather as another father. He was very devoted to us and we to him and in every way was a most remarkable man with wonderful health up to the time of his death. He spoke about the stamp, but there is nothing of importance that I can remember to report. Just to tell us that they were the kind of stamps used at that time. No mention of the stamp in the letter—apparently it was not considered uncommon at that time.

"He spoke frequently of Daniel Bryan, the postmaster of Alexandria, that Mr. Bryan-lived two blocks west of 517 Prince Street, and that the post office at that time was one block east of our house, on the southeast corner of Pitt and Prince Streets. So that Mr. Bryan probably passed our house many times on his way to the post office. My grandfather described him as being a handsome man, always very well dressed".

In 1916 the Worthington collection was dispersed and the "Blue Boy" passed to Henry C. Gibson. Six years later Gibson's collection was bought by Warren H. Colson, who sold the "Blue Boy" to Alfred H. Caspary, its present owner.

(Courtesy: Stamp Lover, December 1949)

MAURITIUS.

Centenary of the birth of Gandhi.

On the 1st of this month Mauritius is releasing a six value set of stamps in honour of the great Indian leader Mohandas Karamchand Gandhi. A souvenir sheet reproducing the six stamps inside a decorative border based on traditional Indian symbols and motifs is being released concurrently: it is illustrated on page 13.

Having qualified in London (Middle Temple) as a barrister—see the 2c stamp for Gandhi as a law student—Gandhi went to South Africa in 1893 where he practised in Natal. There he espoused and advocated the cause of the Indians; during the Zulu rebellion he was a stretcher-bearer (15c value). Towards the end of 1901 he returned to India with his family, having launched in Natal a movement for the emancipation of the Indians from the colour-bar. In this movement he and his followers used for the first time the "weapon", to become so familiar in India in later years, of satyagraha: non-violence and passive resistance (50c).

He left Natal for Bombay on the S.S. *Nowshera*, which on 30th October, 1901, put into Port Louis, Mauritius. He spent the three weeks ashore; for one night he was guest of H.E. the Governor, Sir Charles Bruce—a notable Sanskrit scholar who had translated part of the Atharva Veda and the story of Nala Damayantee into English. Henri Bertin, Mauritius leading attorney of the day, introduced him to the Mauritius Bar at the Supreme Court on 4th November. On that occasion, reported the local press (as indeed for most of his stay in Mauritius) - Gandhi wore a tiny turban, a high collar and a black suit. (See Re 1-00 value).

During his three weeks' stay, Gandhi travelled about the island sightseeing and getting to know social and economic problems. He stayed with Muslim friends but met Mauritians of all races. He invariably travelled in a horsedrawn carriage (no motor-car arrived in Mauritius until 23rd December, 1903), his coachman usually being a Muslim, Sheik Hossen. Visiting Hindi friends at the village of St. Pierre he stayed at a now vanished hotel opposite Appavou's stores. He was impressed by the Sino-Mauritians and said of them, "I learned to admire their thrift, industry, resourcefulness and internal unity".

On 13th November, Muslim and Tamil merchants in Port Louis—who had reports from Indians in Natal of Gandhi's work as a militant social reformer—held a reception in his honour at the Taher Beg, Champ de Mars,

Port Louis. He spoke Gujerati and English. He said that the sugar island owed its unprecedented prosperity mainly to the labour and endurance of indentured Indian immigrants. He stressed that Indians should regard it their duty to acquaint themselves with what was happening in their Motherland, and should take an active interest in local politics as well. Adding that he had seen that Indo-Mauritian children were intelligent, he appealed to parents to ensure that their children were educated: "They must try and get what might be called a European education".



The results were immediate. An Indian named Pipardy unsuccessfully stood as a candidate at the Port Louis municipal elections the following month (he polled 595 out of 2,347 votes); but was later elected when the municipality was divided into wards for local government elections. The Arya Samaj took up his plea for children's education and political consciousness, and the Samajists pursued a vigorous policy of religious and social reforms. Their "Renaissance movement" included modernisation of Hindu religious doctrines, democratisation of Hindu society, and educational facilities for adults and children.

The *Nowshera* left for Bombay on 19th November, and Gandhi thus had 20 days to study social and political conditions in a small colony. Later, in his autobiography *The Story of My Experiment with Truth*, he wrote, "So I sailed for home. Mauritius was one of the ports of call and as the boat made a long halt there, I went ashore and acquainted myself fairly well with the local conditions. (In 1936 he wrote to an enquirer, Mr. K. Hazareesingh—whose book *A History*

of Indians in Mauritius makes the, curious error of dating Gandhi's visit in 1902 on his way to South Africa—that he stayed in Mauritius "while my boat was lying at anchor. There was no-other purpose in my visit ... I stayed in the house of some Musulman friends and that gave me the opportunity of meeting other people. I also met the Governor".)

Although Gandhi's visit was fruitless, and had no prearranged purpose, it had momentous results. Two immediate results—increased Indo-Mauritian participation in local politics and the Arya Samaj Renaissance—have been referred to. Less immediate but more significant were two long-term results. Gandhi, according to the Mauritian historian D. Napal, "grasped our problems and was eager to render whatever help was possible in the circumstances. As he could not do it himself he had to find someone who could shoulder the responsibility and the work for the betterment of his countrymen settled in Mauritius. His choice fell on Manilal Maganlal Doctor who, like Gandhi himself, was a member of the Servants of India Society". Doctor, a barrister, journalist and militant social worker, came to Mauritius in 1907 and stayed for several years, with Indo-Mauritian emancipation as his constant aim. Like Gandhi before him, Doctor urged the importance of education; he also opposed the use of French as the language of instruction and sought recognition of the place of Indian languages in the schools. Additionally he attended hundreds of *baikhas* and there advised the labourers on how to achieve social and economic progress. Like von Plevitz 35 years before, he spoke about the sorry state of the Indian labourers—and in particular about their grievances concerning the "double cut" and the "corvee"—to a Royal Commission on the sugar industry. Under Gandhi's inspiration, Doctor "awoke the Indians from their stupor" (K. Dhanesh, Adolf von Plevitz); and, again like von Plevitz; eventually left Mauritius for Fiji where Gandhi instigated him to undertake similar socio-political work among the Indians.

Among Mauritians who later joined Gandhi's campaign of *satyagraha* in India was the philosopher and scholar Basdeo Bissoondoyal, a Mauritian of Bihari descent, who introduced *satyagraha* to Mauritius on his return in the mid-1940's. Inspired by Gandhi, B. Bissoondoyal gave the Indo-Mauritians a sense of unity and purpose, pride in their culture, confidence in their own collective strength, and above all organised leadership; an outcome of Mauritian *satyagraha*, and therefore an indirect outcome of Gandhi's visit in 1901, was the first popular Constitution, that of 1947.

While Mauritius was slowly learning the lessons of Gandhi-ism, Gandhi himself was becoming a national leader in his own country. In the early 1920's he came to the U.K. to attend a Round Table Conference on India (60c). Indian students in London, who were organised into a London Branch of the Indian National Congress, held a reception in his honour at which Gandhi naturally met the students' secretary, a young man in his early twenties Seewoosagur Ramgoolam. That young man, the son of a coolie, a year old when Gandhi had visited Mauritius, later qualified as a doctor, returned to Mauritius and is now Sir Seewoosagur Ramgoolam, Prime Minister of Mauritius and one of the Commonwealth's respected elder statesmen.

The issue was designed by John Waddington Ltd. staff artists and printed by Format International by their own lithographic process. It has been printed on C.A. Block watermarked paper in sheets of 25.

(Courtesy: Crown Agents Bulletin, 1971)

SKY IN OUR LIMIT PARSI AMARCHAND

Sundar Nivas, No.160, Baracah Road,
Secretariat Colony, Kellys, Chennai - 600 010.

Phone [0] 044-25388905, 25381370

[R] 044 - 26481077; 26613575

Mobile : 98401 56410

Email : parsiamarchand@yahoo.com

We buy at Higher Prices: India Pre-stamp covers, 1854 classics, Early Indian Cancellations, Essays & Proofs, Mint & used Indian Commemoratives, Great Britain, British Colonies, France & West Germany & Other Countries and accumulations.

We sell : Pre Stamp covers, 1854 Classics, Pre & Post Independence Mint & Used stamps, First Day covers, Exhibition and Special Cancellation covers, Indian & Foreign Gandhi stamps including Stationeries of India Gandhi, Foreign Mint Thematic Sets & Miniature Sheets.

We also sell Imported Crystal Clear Covers & Strips for stamps of many sizes, Imported Stock Books, Tweezers, German acid free Album pages & Rexine bound quality Indian Stock Books etc.