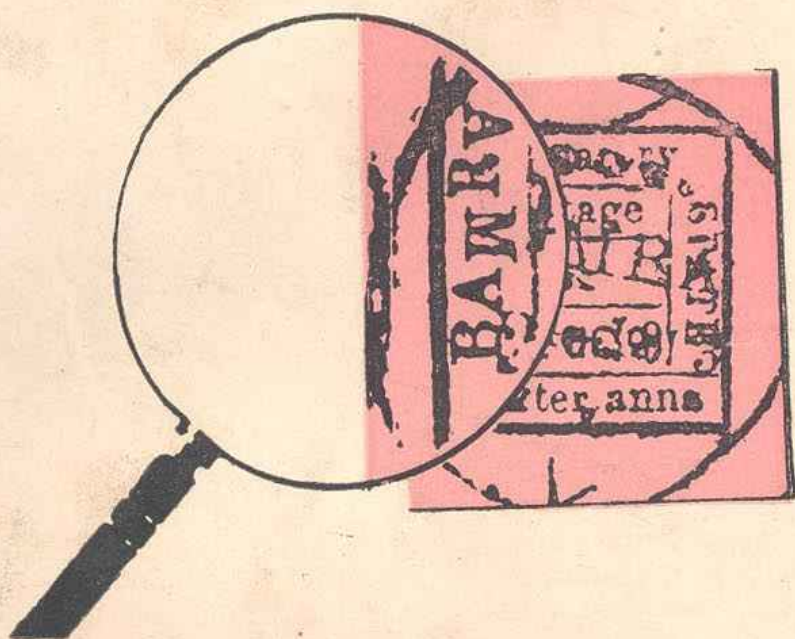


A GUIDE TO STAMP COLLECTING



S. Sahoo

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A Guide to Stamp Collecting

By S. Sahoo

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FOREWORD

While attempting to popularise philately and organize stamp collectors' clubs in philatelically backward areas I have faced a barrage of questions, almost all a result of genuine desire to know more about stamp collecting. I felt the need for a guide book, at least for those who do not see any experienced philatelist nearby. No doubt there are books available on the subject. But they are either highly priced or scantily informative, and sometimes out of reach of the common stamp-collector.

*This is an attempt to provide a solution. I have drawn upon my experience as the editor of **Stamps & Stamps**, a quarterly journal devoted to promotion of philately. I shall deem it a great reward if the book can add a few thousand new adherents to this exciting hobby of philately.*

S. Sahoo

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PHILATELY : AN EXCITING HOBBY

F. D. Roosevelt, an ardent philatelist, was the President of the U. S. A. during the Second World War. Soon after Japan declared war on the U. S. A. and proceeded in its lightning victory over some Pacific Islands in the south and east, it was necessary for the allied powers to set up an advance base at some strategic island in the Pacific. In course of discussion Roosevelt rejected all the sites proposed by Walter Nash the then Deputy Premier of New Zealand and suggested Tongareva, known as Penrhyn islands, directly south of Hawaii. Nash wondered how the busy President knew of such a place. Roosevelt explained, he collected used postage stamps and studied the postmarks thereon. He used to consult an atlas to locate the town it had come from.

This incident illustrates how our knowledge-horizon widens with each stamp we collect. If you just accumulate stamps, you are a collector alright, but you do not become a philatelist until you extract knowledge from each stamp. Philately *entertains* you as a pastime, *educates* you as a leisure-time activity and *earns* for you when you need money. These are 3 E's of stamp collecting.

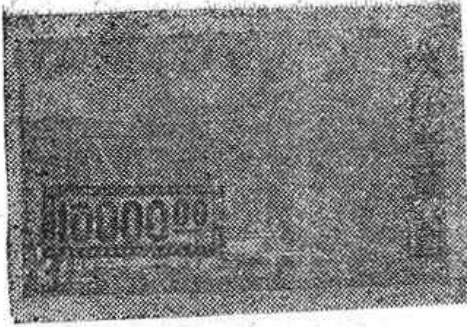
What does a stamp show ? It bears the name or symbol of the country of issue, its denomination in the country's currency, a central picture as its theme, some border ornaments and a caption to suggest why and when it was issued. Further, it is printed in a particular process, in specific colours, on special paper which has a particular gum. It shows whether a stamp has to be separated from another by a knife or torn along slits or holes; in case of holes we count

the number of holes per two centimetres of margin.

This is called perforation. If we take all these facets of a stamp into account, we would soon find that stamps which look alike are not necessarily duplicates. Do not therefore throw away a stamp because it appears a duplicate, till you are very sure that it is a duplicate. These are not the end of the details about a stamp. We also collect information about the artist who designed it and the routes it has taken and purpose it has served in its use. The picture on the stamp gives a general knowledge of geography, history, currency system, popular customs, current events and name what you may on any subject.

Have you heard of Tokelau? or Tonga? or Galapagos, Nauru or Negri Sembilan? These are countries which issued or still issue stamps. A geography teacher would beat a retreat before a stamp-collector. Let us talk of history. A collector of Indian stamps knows from his stamps when the East India Company's rule ended and which period Queen Victoria, King Edward, or King George V or VI ruled. Stamps indicate when we declared our independence and made ourselves a Sovereign Democratic Republic. History of independent India is amply illustrated by our stamps.

A stamp-collector knows more currencies than a bank teller who counts coins. There are 4 different rupees, more than 10 different dollars and half a dozen pounds no two of which have equal exchange value. A collector of stamps of the world has these figures on finger tips. What is more interesting, stamps show how inflation affects a country; for example, China changed its currency system thrice within 7 years, 1948 to 1955, to restore confidence in its currency



A 27 dollar stamp of 1946 surcharged 10000 dollars in 1948.



A 30 cent stamp (aeroplane over the Great Wall) of 1932 was surcharged 10000 dollars.

which had eroded in value during the post-World War period and the Communist Revolution.

Issues of stamps are milestones in the current history of the country concerned. A stamp is issued to mark an occasion, to celebrate an event, or to project some aspects of the country's development efforts. Whether it is SLV-Rohini rocket-or Hirakud Dam, whether it is the International Year for the Disabled Persons or a Dandami Maria tribal of Jagdalpur, Indian stamps portray them. If we add up such stamps of different countries it makes a formidable encyclopaedia of general knowledge and current events visible on our album pages. Thus a philatelist keeps abreast of current events more easily than others. If we want we can build collections on some special themes, e. g., birds or butterflies or transport or space travel or effects of war, or any other subject we choose. These thematic collections make the philatelist a specialist in the subject and competent enough to give a lecture thereon. From planktons to robots, from prehistory to futuristic projections, from deep-sea to interstellar space—there is not a single theme on which some stamps have not been issued. Greater the

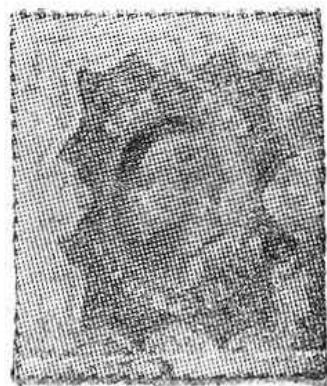
number of stamps, greater the knowledge. Arranged properly, your stamp-album is an armchair travelogue, an account of people, their customs, their socio-economic and political life and tourist spots. Stamps are like open windows through which a collector can see far-away places and watch how their citizens live, work and enjoy themselves.

A stamp-collector alone by himself won't be able to gather all this information. For better perception, he ought to join a stamp-club to exchange not only stamps but ideas. We have a number of clubs in our country. Some of them publish journals to enrich the members' knowledge. In club meetings children of 12 to 15 mix freely with adults of 40 to 50, for knowledge knows no age bar. Philately is rightly called the king of hobbies for it interests the young and the old alike.

Most of the adult collectors have another interest in the hobby—they know that old, rare stamps appreciate in value and become a hedge against inflation. Imperfection is the hallmark of perfection here. A stamp with some error has a higher value than a perfect copy. The value of a stamp depends on its condition, quality and availability. Some of the costliest Indian stamps are Gandhi 10 rupees over-



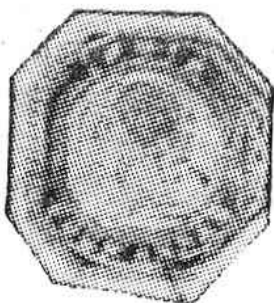
printed 'Service' now quoted at Rs. 40,000 and Edward VII 25 rupees at Rs. 10,000/-, which means, you can carry a crore of rupees worth of stamps in your pocket.



If philately can provide such a portable store house of knowledge, pleasure and profit, is not it an exciting hobby ?



The first stamp in Asia is a regional issue :
"Scinde Dawk $\frac{1}{2}$ anna embossed stamp issued under the authority of Sir Bartle Frere, Commissioner in Sind (now in Pakistan) on 1st July 1852.



Stamps for all-India use were first printed in 1854 in 4 denominations of $\frac{1}{2}$ anna, 1a. 2 as. and 4 annas. Though printed earlier, they were available for use in October 1854.

HOW TO START A COLLECTION

The cheapest source of stamps is the daily mail you receive. You may collect stamps from friends, relations or pen-friends. Stamps can also be obtained from office-correspondence and in exchanges from other collectors. You may join a philatelic or stamp collectors' club and buy from or exchange with other collectors who are its members. If you have money you can also purchase stamps from stamp dealers and philatelic auctions. In case of buying be sure of what you want. Stamps purchased without selection would be wastage of money. A stamp collectors' club can guide you about what you should purchase. Accept any stamp if you are getting free.

Do not collect bogus stamps and black-listed stamps. *Bogus* stamps are issued by non-existent administrations. The *black-listed* stamps are those which a country issues only for sale to the stamp collectors and not so much for its postal use. As per rules for competitive exhibitions, there is a down-grading of marks for stamps classed as undesirable issues, black-listed issues or harmful issues. In course of time a black-listed stamp may get re-categorised as a genuine stamp when the country concerned mends its ways over a long period but it is very rare. The Stanley Gibbons Catalogue (See page 21) maintains an appendix of several countries who issue huge quantities of stamps for the specific purpose of making an income from stamp collectors only.

There is no limit as to the number of stamps or the types of stamp you should collect. It depends on your interest. For exhibitions, however, you have to follow rules

and select your stamps accordingly. You may collect *mint* stamps or *used* stamps. But on the same (single) page of album, do not keep both mint and used stamp; However, if you have put very fine used stamps, a mint stamp or two can very well go with it. It is advisable to show mint stamp and used stamp on different pages. Do not keep a badly cancelled stamp or damaged stamp in an album page because it spoils the show. As sidelines to stamp collections you can collect First Day Covers, special cancellations and postal stationery. Tetebeche, setenant, composite stamps, gutter pairs, stamps with traffic lights, pane blocks, etc. should be collected as issued. They should not be separated but should be kept in original condition.

If you are not collecting the whole cover or entire piece of paper with stamp and postmark together, (see p. 76) you have to *wash* the used stamps off. Do not tear or steam stamps off an envelope. Cut neatly round the stamp(s) without damaging perforation. Float or soak them in a bowl of clear water for about 15 minutes. If colour of a paper or stamp runs it will spoil others. Remove them and individually wash. Paper will separate from stamp or allow a little longer to soak and gently peel paper from stamp (not stamp from paper). This is the only time when you use your hands (not tweezers). Wash off any trace of gum with your thumb or a paint-brush dipped in water. Spread the stamps, face down, on white blotting paper; cover them with another similar paper to prevent curling up and finally put a heavy book on top. Never dry stamps in sun or on heat : they will curl up.

There are two types of postage stamps, *definitive* and *commemorative*. Definitive or regular stamps are issued

for general use and kept in circulation for many years. Sometimes they are reprinted with change of papers, water mark or perforation. Commemorative stamps are issued on occasions or events of special importance. They are issued only once and usually between 3 and 5 millions in our country. There is no reprinting of commemorative stamps and they are not available after a few weeks of issue.

To obtain new issues at face value you may visit the local post office. The Post Office also sells information folder when any new stamps are issued. These folders give all information about the stamps, the paper on which printed, colours, perforation, water mark, number printed, designer, printer and any other information relevant to the stamp. Remember that the post office sells only current definitive and commemorative stamps and postal stationery. If you want older issues you have to contact a good stamp dealer. When ordering stamps from a dealer, identify items wanted by you by Stanley Gibbons number, country of issue and condition of stamp. If you are a beginner, purchase a largest possible all-different packet of stamps of the country or theme you choose to collect. Do not purchase from street corners without the advice of an experienced collector.

* * *

Before postage stamps were invented, various post marks were applied to the letters in the same way as modern cancellations, usually in black, but sometimes in red ink to show payment or otherwise.

This cachet is usually found on government letters before official stamps were introduced or on letters of persons with franking privilege before it was abolished.



BY POST *3as*

31 May 1823

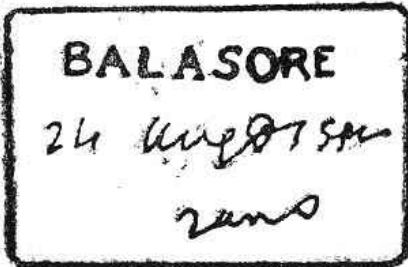
Postage 3 annas. collected at the Post Office : 31st May 1823.



A Cuttaok post mark
28th Nov. 1823.



An early post mark of Calcutta
G. P. O. indicating Post Paid
5 annas.



A Balasore post mark of 24
Aug. 1852 indicating collec-
tion of 2 annas as postage.

5-5-7

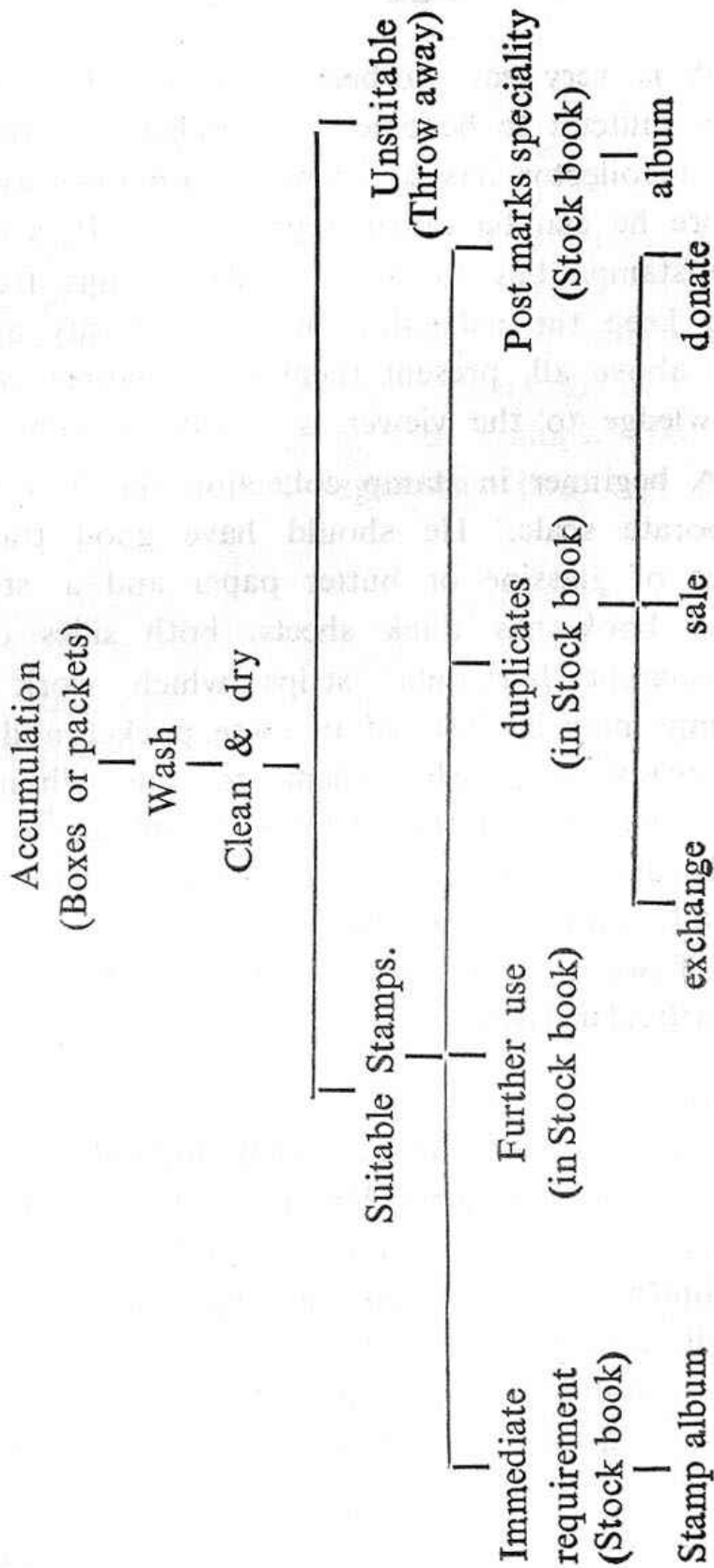
A simple handwritten endorse-
ment indicating prepayment
of 5 annas, usually in conjunc-
tion with post office cachet.

WHAT IS IN A STAMP

An individual stamp has six parts, viz. design, printing, paper, water mark, adhesive and separation. When issue of a new stamp is authorised, artists submit their sketches out of which one design is picked up and suitably enlarged. Illustrators and graphic artists work from this enlargement and prepare a complete picture. The completed art is handed over to an engraver who reproduces the art in metal. This metal is called a *die*. The master die is transferred to a press die by using transfer rolls under great pressure. The press dies are joined together to form a plate from which the whole sheet of stamps is printed.

Most Indian stamps are now-a-days printed by photo-gravure process (see page 32). The paper used for printing stamps vary from country to country and from issue to issue and sometimes even within the same issue if the stamps are frequently reprinted. Normally 3 types of papers are used, laid paper, wove paper and granite paper. For security the paper is generally water-marked. Some special type stamp papers used in printing stamps are not water marked. Generally before printing, the sheet of paper is coated with an adhesive or gum on the back. This gum is used for affixing the stamp to the postal articles. Stamps are generally issued either in sheets or coils. Coil stamps are issued for vending machines. Individual stamps are separated from the sheet or coil by perforations. Stamps separated from a sheet are perforated on 4 sides, but *coil* stamps are usually perforated on 2 sides either horizontally or vertically. In the only instance of issue of coil stamps in India, the map series low values, the stamps were perforated on all 4 sides, the coil stamps were known by machine-numbering on the gummed side.

HOW TO PROCESS YOUR STAMPS



GET INTO DETAILS

It is very easy to become a collector of stamps, but a bit difficult to become a philatelist. There is no age-bar, but a collector has to know certain rules and follow them before he can be called a philatelist. It is easy to accumulate stamps but to preserve the stamps from damage or loss, keep the collection in order, classify and study them and above all, present them in a manner which conveys a knowledge to the viewer is a difficult task.

A beginner in stamp collection should not start on an elaborate scale. He should have good transparent envelopes of glassine or butter paper and a stock book. A stock book has thick sheets, both sides of which have transparent horizontal strips which work like pockets. Stamps may be inserted in these pockets and stored till you are ready to transfer them to an album. The stock book displays all the varieties of stamps to enable you to make up the set or theme for your collection. It also shows up all stamps at one time so that you can distinguish varieties, flaws or errors, if you have more than one stamp of a particular issue.

Album :

The beginner should satisfy himself with an album of medium size to carry him through the early stages of his collection. A big album cannot be easily filled up by a beginner and would take a large chunk of his money. A small collection is lost in a big album. Lots of blank pages would be boring to look at. But one should always choose an album which has capacity to be expanded. These

albums are called loose-leaf albums because every page is independent of the other page but kept together through punch holes by some pegs or screws through a binder. It should be of somewhat thick white paper of good quality, say of cartridge quality and should preferably be ruled in faint quadrille pattern. It looks like a light graph sheet and helps you to arrange stamps symmetrically, that is, keeping equal measure from left and right or top and bottom. Avoid album pages which have heavy borders or ornaments because they distract view from the stamps. To the loose leaf album you can add page after page as your need grows.

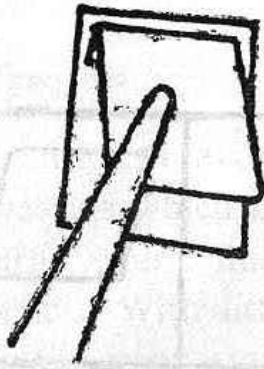
Catalogue :

To arrange your collection in order, you have to know some details about stamps. The details about any new issue, particularly of your own country, are given in the folders issued by the Post Office Department. But to know details about stamps old and new, you have to get a catalogue. A catalogue is generally a dealer's price list but its illustrations help you to identify your stamps, place them in chronological order, and above all, know to which country or period your stamp belongs to. For a beginner Stanley Gibbons' "Stamps of the World" is ideal because it lists stamps in simple form, ignoring varieties. When you become a serious collector or specialise in some country, you would like to own a specialised catalogue, for example, in case of India the British Common Wealth Catalogue. These catalogues are revised annually. Now there are catalogues published in parts alphabetically from A to Z. These catalogues are revised once in 2 or 3 years. It

is very expensive to have a new catalogue every year. It is, therefore, economical to join a club which purchases catalogues every year from which you can note down your requirement and make it up-to-date. If you collect themes, there are booklets on various themes published by various Topical Associations, generally available to members.

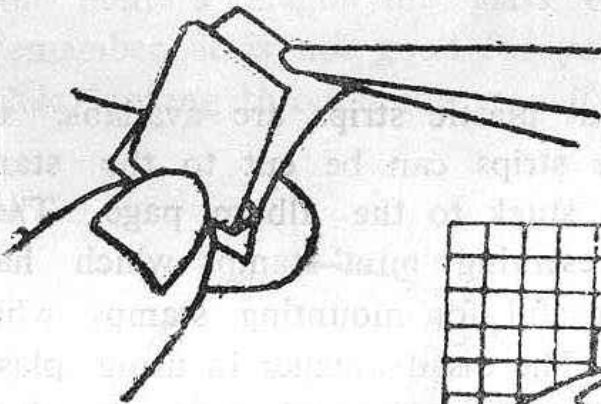
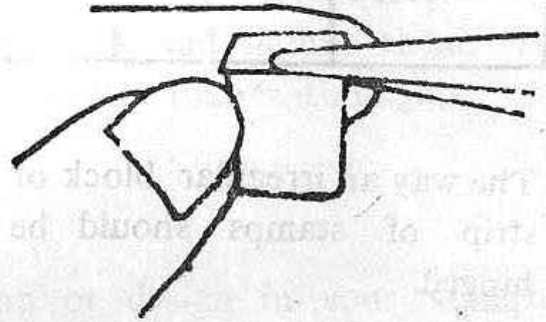
Hinges :

If you have started your collection without knowing anything from others, you might have pasted stamps in an exercise book. This ruins the stamp. Modern method of collection is to use stamp hinges, which are quite thin, coated on one side with a pure tasteless gum and are peelable. A hinge is peelable if on drying it peels off the album page or off the stamp without leaving any mark on the page or spoiling the stamp. Wet hinge sticks fast. Cheap bazaar hinges are costly in the long run because they are likely to tear the back of a stamp when peeling off. The best of hinges are already folded, though good quality hinges are also available without folding. Take the little gum strip with the tweezers and fold it to form the hinge. Just touch the shorter arm of the hinge with your tongue and lightly press it in position at the top of the back of the stamp immediately below the perforation mark. You may avoid using the tongue if you can use lightly damp sponge. Now you have to moisten the longer part of the hinge, also very lightly (because more water will wash the gum away) and place the stamp and hinge in proper place on the album page.



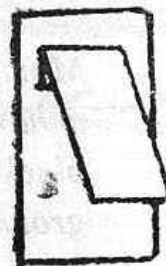
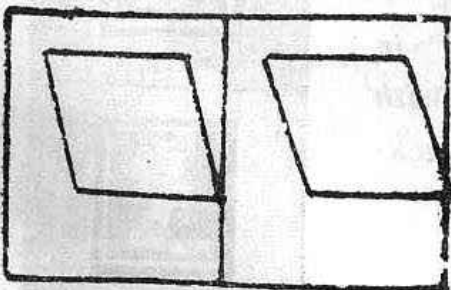
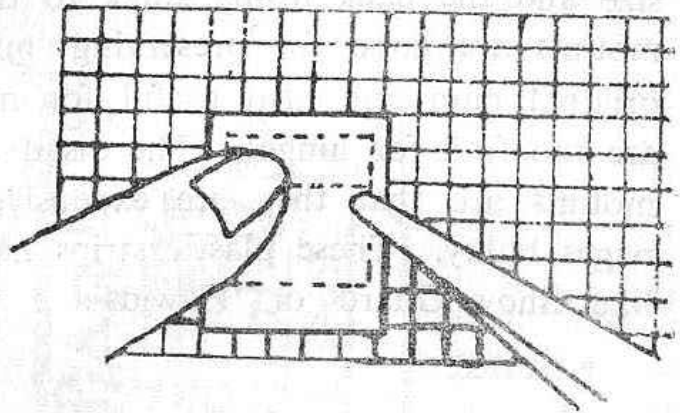
Now the hinge is fixed to the back of a stamp.

With the gum-side out the hinge is folded preferably in the ratio 1 to 4. Here the hinge is held between the forefinger & the thumb while the tweezers keeps the fold.



The larger part of the hinge is now ready for moistening.

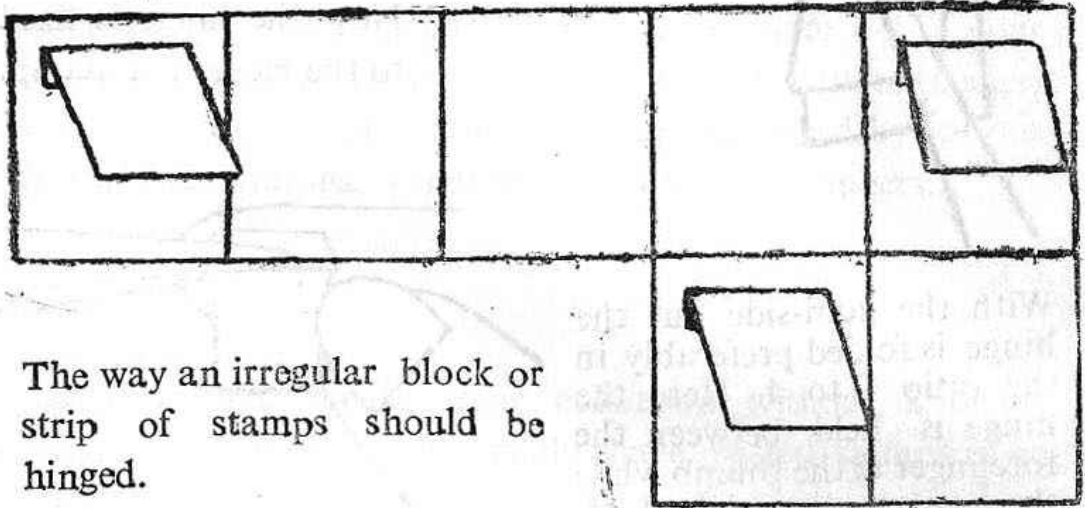
Stamp is fixed to album page. The broken lines indicate hinge and its fold behind the stamp.



Hinges may be halved to fix small stamps.



A pair should be mounted with two hinges to avoid tearing.



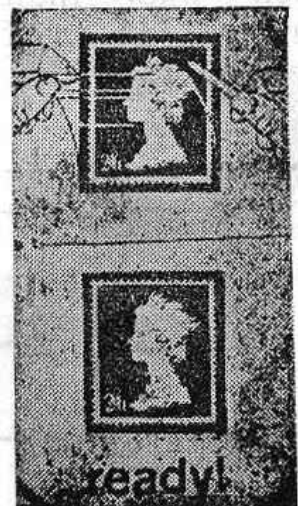
The way an irregular block or strip of stamps should be hinged.

Mounts :

Now-a-days transparent plastic strips are available for mounting stamps. These strips can be cut to the stamp size and the back firmly stuck to the album page. These mounts are good for preserving 'mint' stamps which have original gum and also useful for mounting stamps which are too frail for hinges. The disadvantages in using plastic mounts are that they are expensive and make the album pages bulky. These plastic strips have certain trade names like 'Show Guard' or 'Hawids'.



Mounting in a hawid with black background.

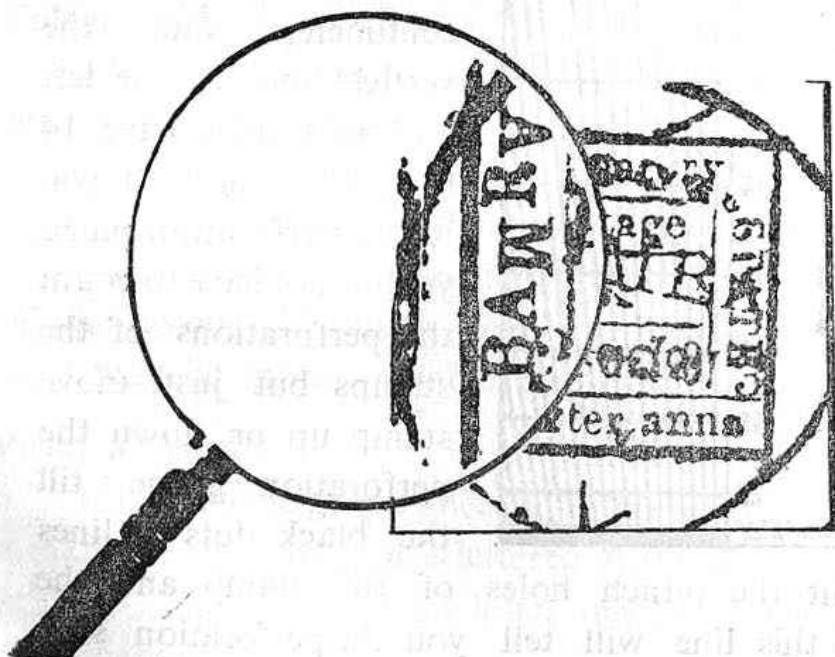


Tweezers :

Another accessory is tweezers. Do not use sharp pointed tweezers which may cut into your stamps. Handling stamps with your fingers spoils it and wets it with your sweat. With little practice you will find your tweezers easy to sift your stamps, sort them out and mount them. In fact mounting is easier with tweezers than with fingers.

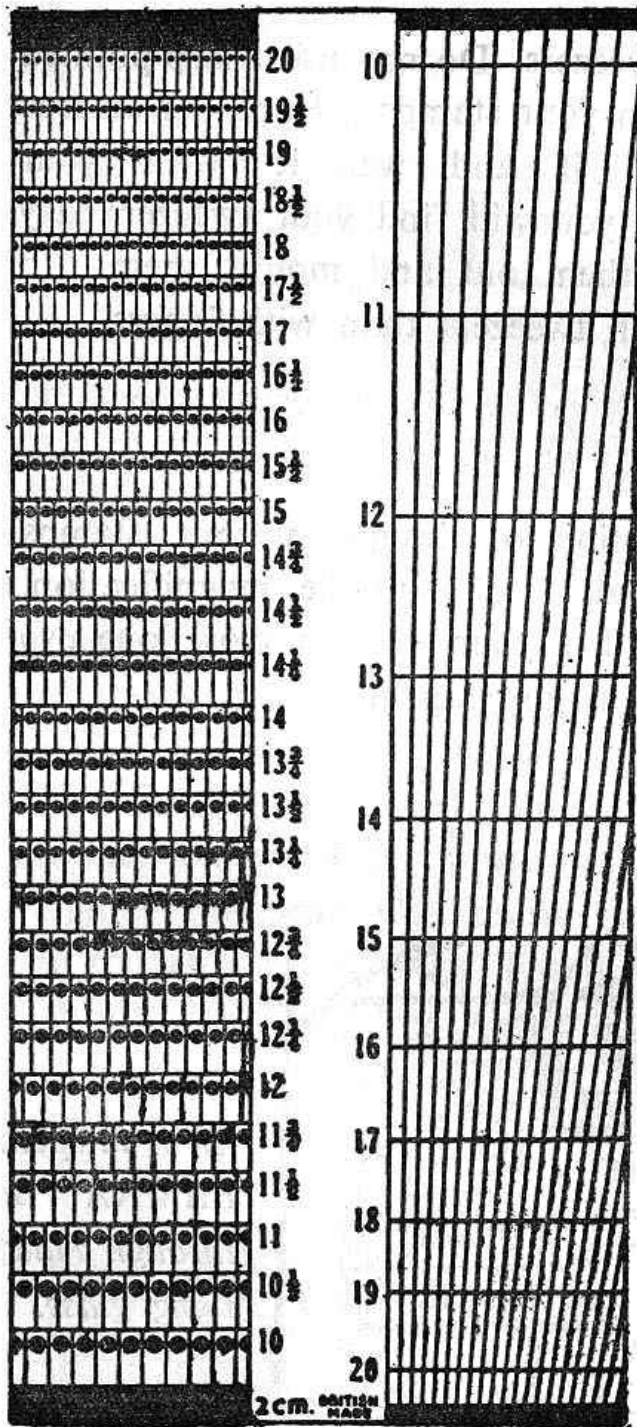
Magnifying glass :

For reading the inscription or design in your stamps you need a magnifying glass of suitable magnification. Remember, it is not good for your eyes to close one eye while looking through the magnifying glass.



*Error in spelling
BAMRA seen
through a magni-
fying glass.*

Perforation Gauge



You also need a perforation gauge. Perforation makes it easy to separate one stamp from the other. Many stamps which look alike differ in style or measure of their perforation. The number of holes per unit of space or type of perforating may differ. A stamp described as Perf. 15 × 14 means that the horizontal lines, that is top and bottom, have 15 punch holes for every 2 centimeters and the vertical lines i. e. the left and right sides have 14 for every 2 cms. If you have a perforation gauge, you do not have to count the perforations of the stamps but just move stamp up or down the perforation gauge till the black dots or lines

in the gauge fit the punch holes of the stamp and the number next to this line will tell you the perforation size. It is not necessary to measure perforations of all your

stamps. The catalogue indicates it. But if a particular stamp has different perforations or if you have any suspicion that the perforation is not as described in the catalogue, you have to measure your stamp against the perforation gauge.

Water mark Detector :

Water marks are the designs, or patterns created in the paper during its manufacture. You can see the design by holding the stamp up to the light, by placing it upside down on a black surface or by using a water mark detector. The easiest way to see the mark is to soak the stamp in water and look at its back. Because water leaves the impressed design untouched, it is called water-mark. Water mark detector is a small black tray into which the stamp is placed face down. A little benzene or petroleum ether 40/60 dropped on the back will reveal the water mark design for a minute or two before it evaporates. Modern photo-gravure stamps are likely to lose their colour under benzene.

Colour guide :

There are some advanced pieces of equipment to help you study your stamps in greater details. A colour-guide helps you to identify the colours described in stamp catalogues. It also tells differences between similar looking colours e. g. red, crimson and vermilion. There are shades of one colour—if only a few are printed in one shade, they may be more valuable than the rest.

Position Finder :

It is a plastic graph sheet to help you note the position of a mark or flaw. Its grid is lettered A,B,C,D....vertically and 1,2,3,4....horizontally, the letter and figure together indicate the square of the flaw.

PAPER AND INK

Paper is largely made from wood-pulp, although grass, rags and old paper are sometimes used for particularly good quality papers. Wet pulp is contained in a tank at one end of a paper-making machine. It enters the machine and follows over a vibrating wire-mesh conveyor which allows most of the water to drain through. The remaining fibres cling loosely to one another and are then passed between rollers which compress them together. After final drying between heated rollers, the paper is wound into large reels. Different kinds of paper vary in the amount and kind of pulp used and in the pressures applied during rolling. Some kinds are coated with a china clay or plastic solution to give them a fine, smooth printing surface.

Printing ink is not like the inks we use for writing but is greasy, paint-like substance which adheres to the paper as a thin film without blotting or running. It can be of any colour for printing separately, one at a time, but for the four-colour printing process the primary colours of yellow, red and blue are specially prepared to a standard colour specification. This enables them to be printed one with the other, and it is the combined effect of these special tones, plus black, that gives a coloured print its natural appearance. Multicoloured prints are therefore generally 4 colour prints. India Security Press uses 4 colours to print its multicoloured stamps-different tones in excess of 4 main colours come because of a combination of two or more colours. A golden ink or black ink is used as border lines or as inscriptions. They make six colours. Examples of 6 colour (i. e., 6 different impressions while printing) India stamps are the 2 rupee Rubens self-portrait issued on 4. 4. 1978 and the 50 paise AICC Quit India Resolution on 9. 8. 1983.

HOW STAMPS ARE PRINTED

There are several printing processes and one or more variations of each. Each process has its own advantages and disadvantages. But there are three important methods of printing.

Letterpress printing is carried out from a raised surface. Lithograph, or litho, to use its more common name, involves printing from a flat or very slightly recessed surface. Photogravure, normally shortened to gravure, is printing from a recessed surface. This process is also known as intaglio printing. (The word comes from the Italian and means 'to cut into'.)

Setting the type

When movable type was first invented in the mid-fifteenth century, all the separate pieces were kept in two cases, the upper case always contained the capital letters and the lower case held the small letters. Capitals thus became known as upper case letters and the small type as lower case, and this terminology is used in printing even today.

Type was always set by hand, one letter at a time being placed in a narrow tray, known as a composing stick, which was held in the other hand. By moving a slide along the tray and fixing it in the desired position, the lines of letters could be set to a precise width. Most type-setting today is done by machines which do the job very quickly, but the composing stick is still used when a small amount of setting has to be done, such as display headings, for corrections or when there is a number of different sorts and sizes of type to be set.

The man who sets type and composes the page is called a compositor. Type letters are made the wrong way round

so that they will reproduce the right way when printed onto paper. Hold this page up to a mirror and you will get the compositor's view of the type letters.

Mechanical Type setting

Machines also set and cast metal type. It was invented in the late nineteenth century. There are two kinds of machine: Monotype which casts the characters individually, one at a time, and Linotype which casts a complete line in the form of a type slug.

Although the two machines are really quite different in operation they both have key boards containing all the necessary capital and small letters, figures, punctuation marks, spaces and so on. Like a typist the operator presses the appropriate keys on the key board and this sets the various mechanisms in motion.

Apart from the normal type keys, the key board also includes what are known as justification keys. Usually on a printed page, like the one you are now reading, the lines of type end evenly, each line being of exactly the same length. In other words, the lines are justified. When the key board operator has nearly reached the end of the line he is setting, a justifying indicator tells him what space is left. He must then decide whether he can complete the last word or whether the line has to be justified. If the word is too long, he presses a justification key which adjusts the spaces between the existing word so that the line is set to the exact measure required.

The Lithographic Process

Litho printing is done from a very thin metal plate, usually made of zinc and aluminium, which can be bent to fit round a printing cylinder. Because this form of

printing uses a flat, or very slightly recessed surface, a means has to be found of confining the ink to the image areas of the plate and keeping it away from the non-printing portions. Without some such method the rollers would simply cover the whole plate with ink and the result would be a terrible mess.

The system depends on the actions of two natural enemies—grease and water. A greasy substance is applied to the areas to be printed, and the non-printing areas (which have a very finely-grained surface) are dampened with water. A very fine film of water is retained by this grained surface. The greasy printing ink adheres to the greasy image but is rejected by the water on the dampened part of the plate which therefore remains clean and does not mark the paper.

Photo-Litho and Offset-Litho Printing

Litho printing plates are produced photographically by making a negative image of the subject; it might be type-matter or illustration or both. The illustration negative is then photographed through a screen and a positive screened image is produced on film. This film is then exposed onto a light-sensitive plate. The printing image thus produced may be left flat or lightly etched into the metal with acid. Unlike a letterpress block, the image on a litho plate is the right way round. This is because the plate does not print directly on the paper as in letterpress. The impression is first transferred, or offset, onto a cylinder carrying a rubber blanket, and from there onto the paper. This process is known as offset-litho and is the one now universally adopted. It gives a softer appearance to the

printed picture than letterpress, it can be used on less-expensive, non-coated papers and is suitable for long printing runs without the plates wearing out.

Litho colour printing, which can be in line or half-tone requires separate plate for each colour. Multicolour presses are frequently used. One model, called the Web Offset machine, prints 4 colours in quick succession and on both sides at once of a continuous web of paper fed from reels. Several colour-magazines are printed on a press of this kind.

Photogravure

Printing by photogravure is exactly the reverse of printing by letterpress. Instead of the ink being applied to raised type or dots, it is contained in tiny hollows or cells, recessed below the surface of a copper-plated, steel cylinder.

The type matter and illustrations are photographed, and transparent positives are made. These are laid down in their correct positions on a glass screen. The assembled positives are then transferred photographically onto a paper coated with a light sensitive gelatine and known as a carbon tissue. The carbon tissue has already been exposed to light through a screen made up of a cross hatch of fine, transparent lines which form a pattern of tiny, light-proof squares. The light has the effect of hardening the gelatine in the cross line formation whilst leaving the square dots unaffected. When the positives are photographically exposed to this prepared surface the light begins to harden the dot areas too, but this hardening process varies according to the lightness or darkness of the details on the positives.

The carbon tissue is placed around a copper-plated cylinder and the backing paper is removed with water. The

water also has effect of dissolving away the gelatine, but the light-hardened areas tend to resist this and the resulting gelatine layer therefore varies in thickness.

Finally, the cylinder is etched in a bath of acid. The thinner parts of the gelatine etch away before thicker parts and, eventually, the cylinder has cells of varying depths; the darker the tones the deeper the cells.

When it is quite certain that no alternations or corrections have to be made, the surface is given a hard chromium facing in order to make it hard wearing.

Photogravure Printing

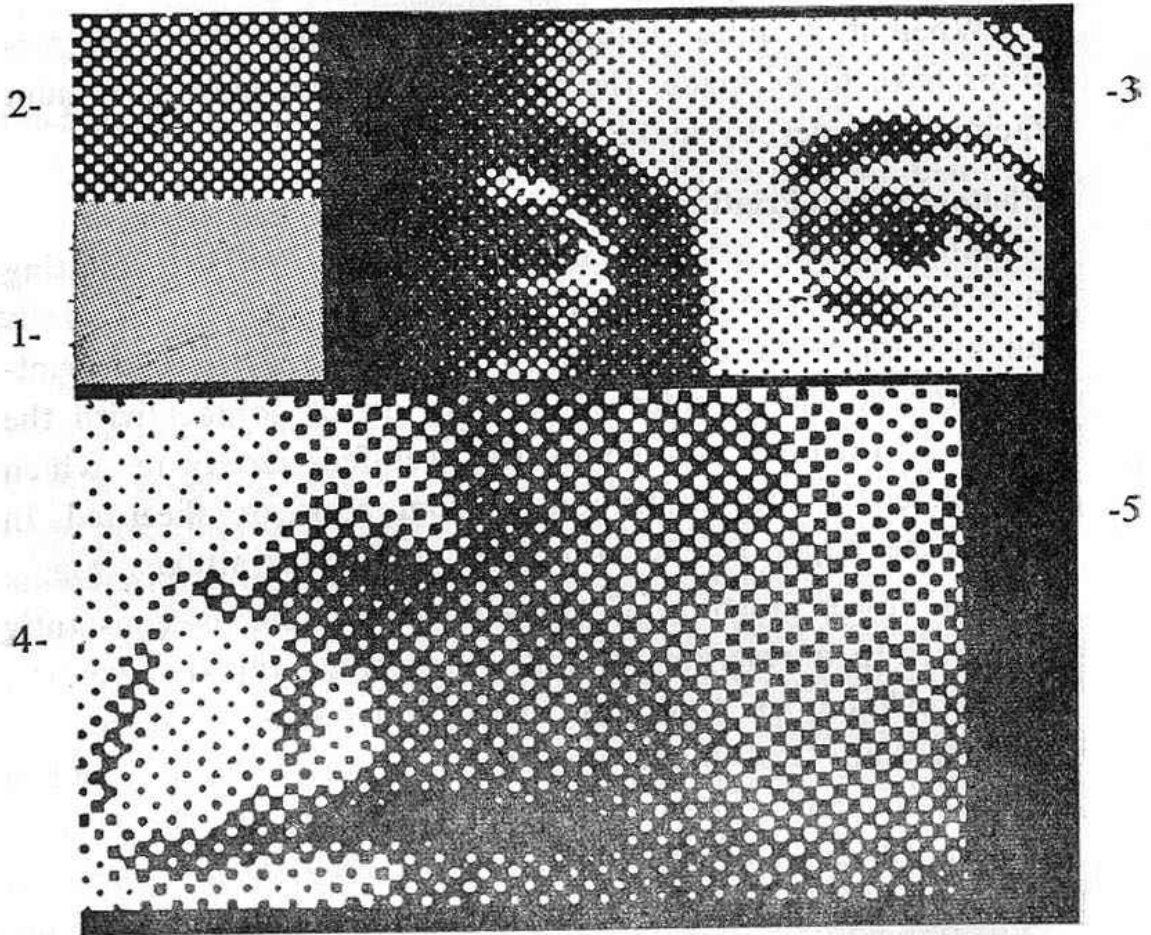
All gravure printing machines work on the rotating principle, as with litho, but no water is used and there is no process of offsetting onto a rubber blanket. The printing area of the cylinder comes into direct contact with the paper. Machines can be of the web-fed variety in which the paper is run continuously from reels, or sheet-fed in which the paper is cut into sheets before printing.

The lower portion of the etched cylinder is constantly immersed in a reservoir of ink which flows thickly over the whole cylinder as it rotates. The cylinder also runs in contact with a thin steel blade known as a *doctor blade*. When the ink-covered area emerges from the reservoir the surface is scraped clean by the blade, leaving only the ink held in the cells which prints on the paper in dot formation. Sometimes the scraped ink remains on cylinder and gets printed on to the sheet as an ink-bar. This is called Doctor Blade variety.

You can always distinguish gravure printing from the other two main processes by examining the type-matter under a magnifying glass. You will find that all the letters,

as well as the illustrations, are reproduced by dots because the types and illustrations are photographed together through the same screen. Remember, the dots in gravure printing vary in density as well as size.

Multi-colour gravure machines are common. A separate cylinder is used for each colour and the paper is passed between rollers from one to the other.



A halftone block

1. & 5. *Lighter and darker tones.*
2. & 3. *Magnified, the block shows dots.*
4. *Further magnified, a part of face in the block looks a jumble of closely or sparsely packed dots only.*
5. *Unlike line block, this deep tone would look like a closely packed assembly of dots.*

HOW ILLUSTRATIONS ARE REPRODUCED

In printing terms there are just two kinds of illustrations, line and half-tone. With line blocks the printing surface produces a solid colour on the paper without any gradations of tone. In other words it is simply one colour or white without any shades of colour between. This kind of block prints well on even the poorest quality paper and is suitable for reproducing type-matter and pen-and-ink drawings.

Half-tone blocks are used to reproduce from subjects such as photographs or wash drawings in which the tones vary throughout the illustration. If you look through a magnifying glass at a photograph in a newspaper or magazine, you will see that it is broken up into a mass of dots. These dots are larger and more closely-packed in the dark areas, and are smaller, more widely-spaced in the light areas. Generally speaking, half-tone blocks reproduce better on good quality paper, although the screen plays an important part in this. (See pages 32, 36)

Making a line block

The drawing from which a line block is made is mounted on a copy board which is brightly and evenly lit by arc lamps. Facing the copy board is a large process camera which can move backward and forward to obtain the correct focus and to enlarge or reduce the image. A negative image is produced and this is photographically printed down onto a metal plate, normally of zinc-alloy treated with a special, light-sensitive solution.

Negative and plate are fixed in a vacuum frame from which all air is excluded to ensure perfect contact. Both are then exposed to a bright light for a pre-set time. Where the light penetrates the lighter areas of the negative and reaches the solution, it hardens slightly. The remaining area of the solution remains soft and is afterwards washed away with water. On the zinc-plate thus appears an image matching that of the negative, the light areas of the negative showing as hardened solution on the plate, and the dark areas as bare zinc-alloy. The hardened solution is then further hardened by heat which forms an acid-resisting enamel over it.

The plate is then placed in an etching machine containing a bath of acid. Motor-driven paddles splash the acid onto the plate, and the light, unprotected areas are etched away, leaving the enamelled metal printing surface raised above the surrounding metal. From this a proof can be taken.

Making half-tone blocks

Half-tone blocks are produced in almost the same manner as line blocks, the subject being photographed and a negative printed down onto a light-sensitive solution previously applied to a metal plate, which is then etched in acid. A description is given under heading "Photogravure" at page 32.

Screens

Screens vary in the number of lines drawn across them. A greater number of lines gives a fine screen, less lines give a coarse screen. Screens of 55, 65, 85, 100, 120 and 133 lines to the inch are common. Poor printing surfaces need coarser screens.

Engraving for Colour

Printing illustrations in their natural colours, instead of black and white, is done generally by the four-colour process. In other words all the colours of the subject have to be produced by four coloured inks only, namely—yellow, red, blue and black.

Half-tone colour blocks—a separate block for each colour—are made in the same way as a black and white one except that a light filter is placed in front of the camera lens so that only one colour is photographed at a time. A violet filter is used to isolate yellow for the yellow negative, a green filter for the red negative and a red filter for the blue negative. A combination filter is used for black which is really an extra printing to give depth and contrast to the illustration.

To ensure that the four different coloured dots do not print one on top of the other, the screen is rotated a given number of degrees for each colour exposure and the dots print in a circular pattern. Where necessary the white paper shows through the colours to produce high-lights and other bright areas.

When printing by the letterpress four-colour process, yellow is usually the first colour on, followed by red, blue and black, in that order.

To detect a forgery

In case of a stamp printed by half-tone or photogravure process, the number of dots per unit space would give a clue whether the stamp is a forgery or genuine one. A clever

forgery of the 50 p. stamp of the 600th birth anniversary of St. Arunagirinathar issued on 14th August 1975 (India S. G. No. 775) is known to exist. The stamp is printed dull purple and slate black. The portrait of the saint was found printed double but on close examination under magnifying glass it was discovered that a different screen been used to give a second impression of the had portrait.

All reproductions in this book are in a screen different from the screen used in printing original stamps.

SOME USEFUL TIPS

How to uncurl your stamp :

Sometimes stamps curl up in dry atmosphere, particularly in our winter. Do not flatten them, you might damage the stamp. Place such a curled stamp in something like a cigar or cigarette box in which a moist sponge be kept and the box tightly closed. The stamp will uncurl naturally after sometime. Keep the stamp away from the sponge and do not allow it to absorb more moisture than is necessary to enable it to uncurl. Once the stamp is dry, keep it flat.

How to separate the mint stamps :

Sometimes the mint stamps get stuck up. It will damage the stamp if you tear them off each other. Take a flat cork or thermocole pack or anything that floats on water without soaking. Let it float on a small basin of hot water. Put the stamp on its dry top till the steam loosens them sufficiently to pull the stamps apart without damage. This method can be used to remove the paper off the back of a stamp which loses colour if soaked in water.

PREPARING AN EXHIBIT

The greatest fun in stamp collecting is in the participation in a State or National exhibition. An exhibit is prepared to attract the viewer as well as the judge. Rules for the exhibition are given in the prospectus issued in connection with the exhibition. The exhibition authorities prescribe the size of the album page suitable for the frames they have. Depending on the size of the page, a frame would take a certain number of pages. A standard frame takes 16 pages of the size 22 cms \times 29 cms.

A beginner faces the problem of arranging his stamps in a blank album page and describing them suitably in writing. A few tips are given here.

A blank album page has quadrille pattern, or graph design, in which the centre lines are conspicuously heavy lines. The vertical centre line is the guide on either side of which stamps should be arranged symmetrically. Most of the stamps being rectangular, they can be balanced very well on either side of the centre line, leaving equal space in each line from both margins. You should not start each issue against the left hand margin and leave the right hand margin more or less blank to the extent the stamps fall short of space. Different rows of stamps may be of different length, but they should look divisible into two equal halves by the centre line. Arrangements can be made in diamond or circle, but it becomes difficult to put description below each stamp in a symmetrical manner. The symmetry being the first consideration, the stamps need not be placed in order of value though it is better to put stamps in order of date of issue so that a better and easier description is

possible. If you have three tall stamps and one broad stamp in a set, it is better to put the odd stamp in another line. Neatness and good look are the only considerations. If you try to save a few pages by over-crowding stamps in less leaves, you would be sacrificing attractiveness. If there are different varieties or dies of a particular stamp, they should all be in one line for the sake of lucidity of display. Similarly in a big set the low values may be arranged in lines separate from the high values. As you would avoid over-crowding a single page, you should also avoid putting too many stamps at the bottom of the page.

Look at a page and you will find that the centre of your vision is not exactly at the centre of the page. It is slightly above the horizontal half way line. For this reason, a choice stamp will receive immediate attention if placed at the optical centre or eye-line. In an arrangement of 5 rows of stamps, the second and third from the top should be the longest, and others shortened in varying degrees.

The appearance of the arrangement depends much on spacing of the stamps. Album leaves are generally ruled 3 squares to a centimetre. In this gauge 2 squares spacing is generally effective, 3 squares may be good between two large stamps or if you want to make the page appear roomy. Similarly between two consecutive rows, uniform spacing, say 3 to 4 squares should be observed. It should be more or less uniform throughout the collection as in the pages of a book. Generally five rows give a pleasing appearance. If there is only one heading six rows may be mounted on a single page. If you are mounting more than one issue

BAMRA

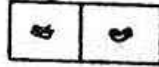
STORY OF HER STAMPS

1888-1894

Printed at Jagannath Ballabh Press
Deogarh, Bamra by Typo

Bamra issued two series all imperforate in black on coloured
paper colour varying with denomination paper then picture

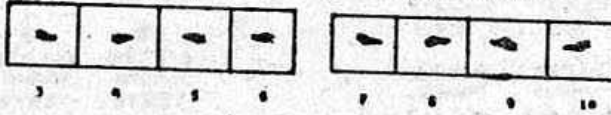
1888 scroll ornament



1 2

4a, 4a & 8a have type 1, 4e, 10, 10e type 2 above of design

1890-93 elephant trunk with log of timber at centre



11 12 13 14



15 16

This ornament is of 4 sizes, 4mm (types 3 to 6), 5mm (types 7 to 10), 6.5mm (11 to 14)
& 11mm long (types 15 to 16), either pointing to right/left, & upright/inverted

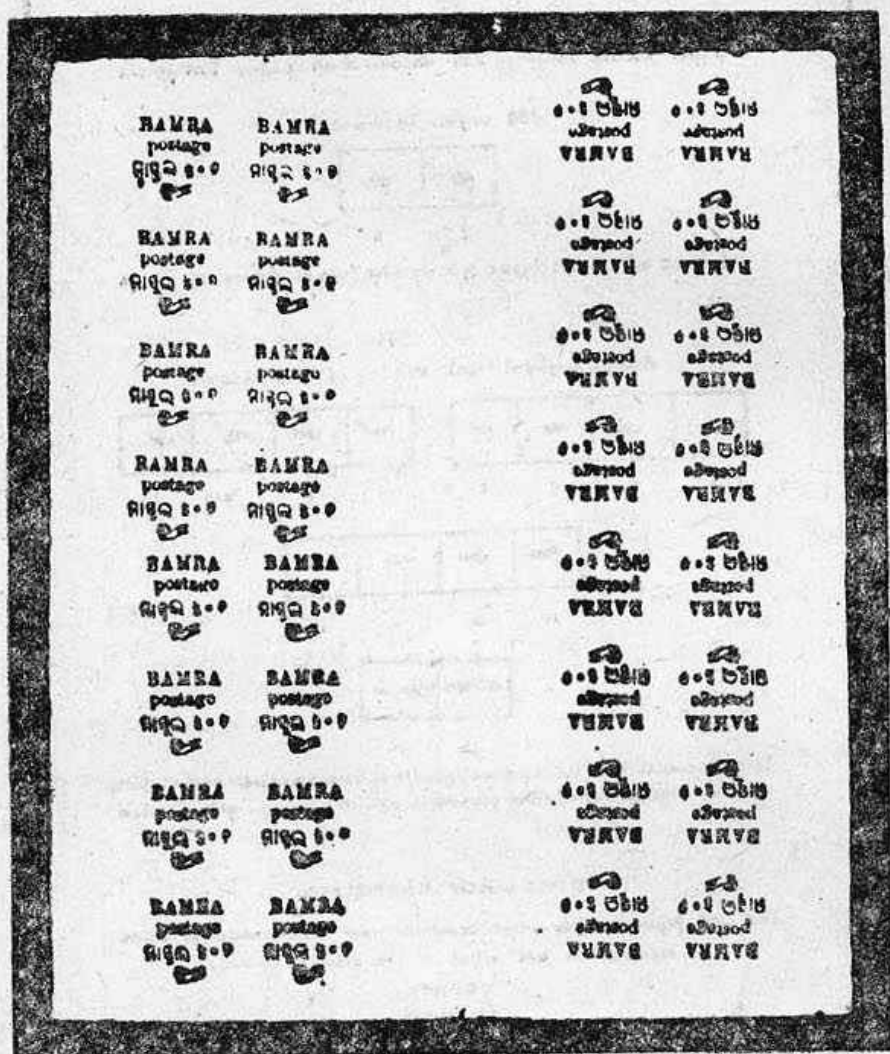
vernacular characters

The last figure in value either broken or clear in 1888 series The words
in 1890-3 series are either in one group or in two e.g.

୧୧୧୧୧
୧୧ ୧୧୧

The first page of the exhibit on
BAMRA collection giving an introduction
to her stamps. Actual size is 22cm x 29cm.

1888
six pies



Printed from plates of 96 stamps, sometimes only a part of the plate was used, in rows of 8 each pairs of rows being inverted to each other variety

4th stamp in the set of the two rows

KAMRA

A page from an exhibit on BAMRA feudatory state showing a full sheet of 1888 six pies stamp. Actual size 22cm x 29cm.

on a single page, there should be enough gap between one issue and the other to indicate that they are different issues.

Next is the write-up. It is limited by your intention. If it is a *country* collection the name of the country comes on the top of the page usually 5 mm up from the top of the squares. Date of the issue, purpose of issue, its water-mark and perforation, should be written below the stamp. If there is enough room and writing does not distract attention from the stamp, you may add more details like printers, designers and brief description of the design below each stamp. If the collection is *thematic*, on themes like migratory birds, burrowing animals or children's dress, the name of the theme should be on the top of the page. Do not give a full story of, say, a particular bird or animal, because it would bore the viewer. Write its name, habitat, a few distinguishing characteristics and not more. If the description is too long and explains many stamps, it is advisable to write the description of all the stamps together below the set. In case yours is a *specialised* collection, you can show result of your line of research by a little explanatory note. Judges are hard-pressed for time. If you want to bring a particular point to their notice, it can be grasped at a glance if sketches or drawings or enlarged photographs of the concerned portion of the stamp are used. Arrows or ink marks may be used to indicate emphasis.

Before attempting to write in the album page, draft write-ups should be in pencil so that mistakes can be easily corrected or arrangements altered, if necessary, and the line of letters better centred.

It may happen that you may not have all the stamps of a set. Do not leave any blank space in the exhibit, because it would remind the judges of incompleteness of your collection. Judiciously camouflaging the absence of certain stamps would help in avoiding negative marks for your exhibit. If you have *errors* and *varieties*, put them on an extra page. If their number is small, say, one or two, they can be mounted as the last line in the page below the normal set.

A writing in one's own hand gets better marks. However, if your handwriting is very bad, a type writer or a stencil set may be used. After the whole page is written up, the pencil marks may be erased and page cleaned before mounting stamps in proper places. Your aim is to satisfy the judges that yours is the best in its particular class.

Most of the exhibitions do not allow you to show your entire collection of a subject or a country because of limitation on the number of frames. Moreover, pages of a particular size are specified. Accordingly you may have to remount your stamps to fill the space you are allotted in the frames. It is desirable to include all the stamps you consider rare or high value. In a bigger set, particularly of a definitive series, you may display only top values or varieties in colour or design and exclude lower values. If at the end you win a prize below your expectation, or fail to win any prize, do not grumble. Being allowed to participate in a National or International exhibition is itself a great honour. The same exhibit may get an award in one exhibition while it may not win any in another.

While sending your exhibits to an exhibition, you must protect every album page with a thin transparent cellophane envelope. Modern exhibitions prescribe that your album pages must be protected by transparent plastic covers. For, they take no risk otherwise. *Protective covers* not only prevent your collection from soil, dirt and moisture due to frequent exposure, but may prevent possible pilferage of stamps from a page by unscrupulous persons.



A theme can be built up on uses of nuclear energy. This Israeli stamp shows the equation $E = mc^2$ formulated by Einstein. It is the basis of nuclear reaction and atom

bomb. E stands for energy, $m =$ mass of an element sought to be converted into energy and 'c' the speed of light per second.

AN USEFUL TIP

How to brighten your stamps :

Some of the stamps may have become unusually soiled or dirty. Some stamps also get blackened through exposure. When metallic printing is used it absorbs sulphur from the polluted air and thereby cause an uneven depth in colour on the stamp surface. These stamps can be restored to original colour by immersing the stamp in hydrogen-peroxide solution. This solution is available with all chemists. If the stamps have delicate colour or a part of the stamp has been discoloured, a camel hair brush should be used to apply hydrogen peroxide on that portion of the stamp only.

CURIOSITIES IN STAMPS

A stamp collector is a fault finder. He readily discovers small differences in design, colour, paper, perforation etc. It is not always necessary to use the magnifying glass. It may be used but rarely. If you are accustomed to looking for differences, the small, significant details which distinguish different stamps in a similar design are almost always visible to your naked eye.

If you train your eye, you will also safeguard your interest and not purchase stamps with such defects as a small tear, a pin hole, a thinning, a repaired stamp, a stamp cleaned off cancellation, a reprint, a fake, a forgery. Your trained eye gives you a sixth sense to choose the best stamp for your collection.

Your catalogue gives you details of differences but these differences or varieties are what are already discovered. You might discover more.

India issued a 100 p. stamp on 25. 3. 1983 to mark 86th Session of International Olympic Committee at New Delhi. There is no need for a full stop after the word "86TH". But it occurs in Row 5 stamp 4, the full stop is in line with the bar of 'H', reading thus 86TH· SESSION....(Row is counted from top horizontal line downwards and stamp from left margin towards right).



Do you know which hand one uses in blessing? Bodhisattva (1 anna issued on 15 Aug. 1949 as part of Archaeology Series) had his left hand on left knee with outstretched palm as a sign of blessing. This is wrong; blessing is not given in left hand. It was corrected on 15 July 1950.



Here are two more examples of how seemingly identical stamps are different. One is Kalidas Commemoration issued on 22 June 1960. The denomination Rs. 1.03 was the then foreign postage rate but did not find favour with people. It had to be surcharged as Re. 1 on 2 Feb. 1963.



The other is 10 rupee stamp atomic reactor at Trombay, near Bombay. The stamp was first issued on 14 Nov. 1965 as a part of definitive series of 1965-75. The value tablet was changed from "Rs. 10" to "1000" on 1 Nov. 1976 in keeping with the Government policy of indicating denominations in paise only.

Size : Difference in size in stamps depicting Gandhi or Nehru exist. 25p.-Nehru has one portrait measuring 24 mm. at the base, another 15.5 mm. at the base,

a third one 23 mm. at the base. In one the last character in Hindi for Nehru is written as ऋ and in another ॠ. Later values of Nehru in 30p., 35p. or 50p. are in the size of 17×20 mm.

Shape : Stamps come in various shapes, generally rectangular, but also triangular, diamond, square, oval or irregular in the configuration of the design. Tonga has issued irregular shapes.

Prints: Stamps may occur with printing on both sides.



Sometimes a negative impression comes on the back because it remained in contact with another sheet while print was not dry. A sheet printed with insufficient ink is again put into print, showing a double impression. Some stamps are printed with matter on the back—generally a short history. It is called *back view*.

Double impression of Queen Victoria 2 annas—greatly enlarged

Manuscript surcharge : In case of Indian envelope, a postal official's pen makes for 5 paise as stationery charge. In

old days hand writing or typewriter could alter the face value.

Changeling: A stamp whose colour or paper has been changed by exposure to weather, water or chemical.

Colour: Sometimes a stamp is printed again in another colour to suit the U.P.U.'s directives. If a stamp is printed in a colour not officially indicated it is an error. In old days of lithographic printing, a wrong *cliche* (single die of a stamp, as distinguished from a plate) placed in a plate of stereo-types caused it to take the colour of the *stereo*.



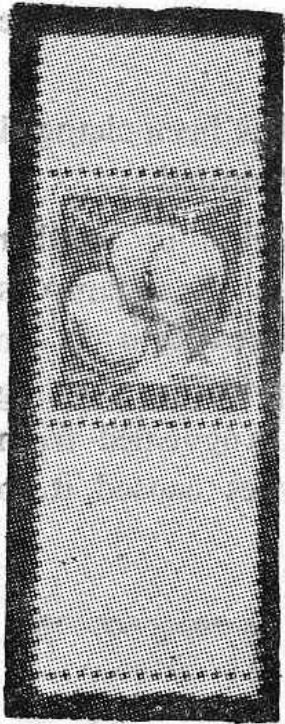
The Bhubaneswar 4 annas stamp of Archaeology Series originally (15 Aug. 1949) printed in lake colour was printed again (15 July 1950) in bright blue.



Centre inverted or missing :



When stamps are printed in 2 or more colours, or in 2 or more operations, there is likelihood that one operation or one colour may miss, thus causing missing vignettes. Or a sheet or two after being printed in one colour may be fed into the press the wrong way for another



impression. This produces inverted centres. Famous "missing centres" are India King George V Re. 1 stamp both with single star and multiple star watermark. "Inverted centre" examples are India 4 annas Queen Victoria lithographs, USA "Inverted plane" and "inverted flags" and Australia "inverted swan".

On left is an example of omission in printing. Beware! Sometimes forgerers remove printing chemically. Better see the whole sheet!

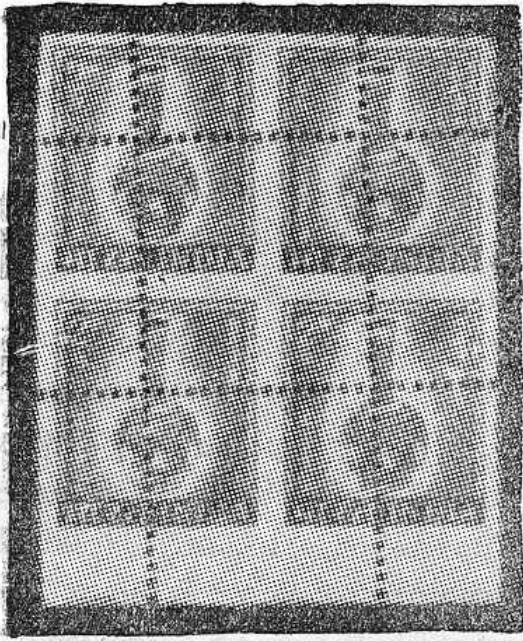
Sometimes a wrong inscription occurs due to the engraver's mistake.



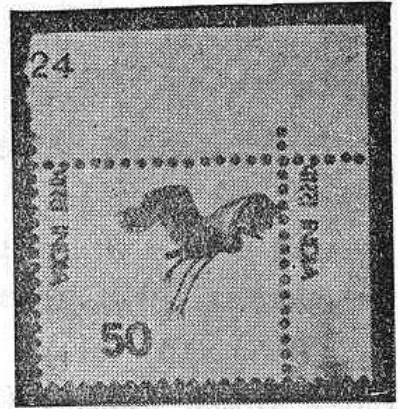
Omissions or wrong inscription :

TPOPO for TROPO

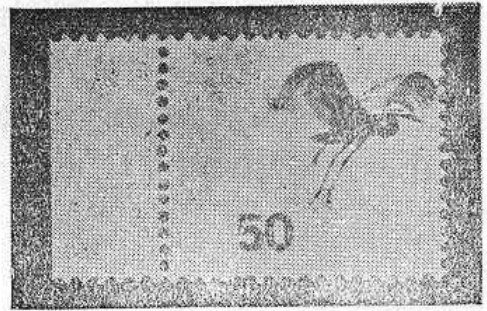
As in case of centre missing or frame missing, you may sometimes find some inscriptions missing. Sometimes the country's name or the denomination is missing. Less often, though, some inscription is found wrongly or is not found at all, without any mistake in the printing process. It occurs when perforator machine is so placed as to leave the marginal stamp in the row without the inscriptions and include extra unprinted area of the paper. Vice versa, a marginal stamp may have an extra inscription on the selvedge.



Misplaced perforation, creating a white cross in the centre in 2 p. Bidriware stamp.



Extra print selvage



Country not printed



Perfortor playing havoc in 50 p. flying crane. Value and INDIA both occur on the left.

HOW TO IDENTIFY STAMPS

Generally the name of the country is written on the stamp. If it is written in a language we do not know or is not written at all, you may look at other signs like the emblem or currency or a general design. Britain's stamp is known by Sovereign's head, presently of Queen Elizabeth II. Early Brazil stamps (1843-66) had no name, nor even currency or purpose of stamp. It is nicknamed Bull's Eyes, or Goat's Eyes depending on whether numerals in large figures or slanting figures were in the picture. Holland made two issues in 1850's with picture of King William III and without country's name, but with the word "Postzegel" (postage stamp).

A

A. C. C. P.—Azerbaijan (USSR)

ACORES—Azores

A.E.F.—French Equatorial Africa (Afrique Equatoriale Francaise)

AFGHANES—Afghanistan

ALGERIE—Algeria

ALLEMAGNE DUETSCHLAND—Germany under Belgium

A M POST—Allied Military Rule over Germany

ANNA—(currency) if printed on U. K. stamps it is for Bahrain or Zanzibar, if printed on French stamps, it is for French offices in Zanzibar.

ANTANANARIVO—Malagasy

A PAYER TE BETALEN—Postage Due—Belgium

ATT, ATTS(currency) Thailand

AUR (currency)—Iceland

AVISPORTO—Denmark
AVO—Macao
AVOS—Timor
AYUNTAMIENTO DE BARCELONA—Spain
AZERBAIDJAN—Azerbaijan (USSR)

B

BADEN—Germany under France
BASEL—Switzerland
BATAAN—Phillippines
BHAEHCKAR—U.S.S.R.
BELGIE *or* BELGIEN *or* BELGIQUE—Belgium
BERLIN—Printed on German stamps—Allied powers
BOLIVAR—Columbia
BOLOPOSTALE—San Marino
BOYAC—Columbia
BRASIL—Brazil
BRIEFPOST—Germany under French occupation.
BRITISH CONSULAR MAIL—British embassy in Malagasy
BULGARIE—Bulgaria
BUSSAHIR—Indian native state

C

CABO—Nicaragua
CABO VERDE—Cape Verde
CAHATOPHyMb—Bulgaria
CAMB AUST SIGILLUM NOV—New South Wales
CAMPECHE—Mexico
CANTON—Printed on Indochina stamps—for use of the
French Government in China
C C C P—Union of Soviet Socialist Republics
C. E. F. (Chinese Expeditionary Force)—India

- CENTIMOS (currency) without country name—Spain
 -do- on French stamps—Morocco
- CESKO-SLOVENSKO—Czechoslovakia
- CHEMINS DE FER SPOOR WEGEN—Belgium
- CHIFFRE TAXE : perforate—France
 : imperforate—French colonies
- COLIS POSTAL—Belgium
- COLONIES POSTES—French colonies
- COMMISSION DE CONTROIE PROVISOIRE—Albania
- COMMUNICACIONES—Spain
- CONFED. CHANADINA—Columbia
- CONFEDERATIO HELVETICA (Helvetic Confederation)—
 Switzerland
- CONGRESS DE LOS DIPUTADOS—Spain
- COREE, COREAN—Korea (undivided)
- CORREIOS—Portugal
- CORREIOS, CORREIOS E TELEGRAPHOS—Portugal
- CORREOS INTERIOR—Philippines
- CORREOS NACIONALES—Columbia
- CORREOS OXACA—Mexico (Osaca province)
- CORREOS Y TELEGS—Spain
- CORRIENTES—Argentine (Corriantes province)
- COSTA D' IVOIRE—Ivory Coast
- COTE DE SOMALIS
- COTE FRANCAIS DES SOMALIS | Somalia
- CROISSANT ROUGE TURC—Turkey
- CUERNAVACA—Mexico
- C. T. or CTOT or CTOTNHKN (currency) Bulgaria

D

- DAMAS—Damascus—Syria
- DANMARK—Denmark

DANSK-VESTINDISKE/VESTINDIEN—Danish West Indies
 DELEGACOES—Portugal
 DE GOLFO DE GUINEA—Guinea under Spanish control
 DERECHOS DE FIRMA—Phillippines
 DEUTSCHE REICH—Germany (empire)
 DEUTSCH OSTER REICH—Austria
 DEUTSCH—German
 —NEU GUINEA—German New Guinea
 —OST AFRIKA—German East Africa
 —SUDUESTAFRIKA—German South West Africa
 DEUTSCHE DEMOKRATISCHE REPUBLIK—
 (D. D. R.) East Germany
 DEUTSCHE FELDPOST—German military parcel post
 DILIGENCIA—Uruguay
 DINAR (currency) Iran
 DINERO (currency) Peru
 DIOS PATRIA LIBERTADO—Dominican Republic
 DOPLATIT *or* DOPLATNE—Czechoslovakia
 DRZAVA *or* DRZAVNA—Yugoslavia

E

E. C.—Greece
 E. E. F.—Egyptian Expeditionary Force : Palestine
 EGYPTE—Egypt
 EIRE—Ireland
 ELUAKENETA—Hawaii
 EM—Grece
 EMIRDITES—Albania
 EMP. OTTOMAN—Ottoman Empire (Turkey)
 ENAPIOMON *or* EONIKH—Greece
 EQUATEUR—Ecuador

ESCUELAS—Venezuela
 ESPANA—Spain
 ESTADO DA INDIA—Portuguese India (Goa, Daman & Diu)
 ESTADO ESPANOL—"Spanish State"—Spain
 ESTADOS UNIDOS DE NUEVA GRANADA (United State
 of New Granada)—Old name of Columbia
 ETABLISSEMENTS DANS D' INDE or DE L' INDE—
 French India—Pondicherry Karikal & Mahe
 ETAT FRANCAIS—French
 ETIOPIA or ETHIOPIENNES—Ethiopia
 ΕΛΛΑC or ΕΛΛΑΣ or ΕΛΛΗΝΙΚΗ—(Hellas) Greece

F

FILIPAS or FILIPINAS-Phillippines
 FILLER (currency) Hungary
 FLORIDA-Uruguay
 FLUGPOST-Airmail-German/Austria
 FRANCA-Peru
 FRANQUICIA-Spain
 FREIMARKE-Turn & Taxis postal service
 FRIMARKE-Scandinavian countries
 FRIMARKEKGL POST-Denmark

G

GARZON-Columbia
 G. E. A. German East Africa Uganda, Kenya, Tanganyika
 GOYA—Spain
 G. P. E. or G. & D.-Guadeloupe
 GRONLAND—Greenland
 GUINE—Portuguese Guinea
 GUINEE FRANCAIS—French Guinea
 GUY or GUYANE or FRANCISE—French Guinea

H

HARPER-Liberia

HAUTE VOLTA—Upper Volta

H. E. H. THE NZAM'S—Hyderabad (Indian native state)

HEJAZ & NEJD *or* HEDJAZ & NEDJDE—Saudi Arabia

HELVETIA—Switzerland

H. H. NAWAB SHAH JAHAN BEGAM—Bhopal
(Indian native state)

HIRLAPJEGY—Hungary

H. J. & U. S.—Hawaii

HOLAKAR STATE—Indore (Indian native state)

HRVATSKA—Yugoslavia (Croatia)

I

I. E. F.—Indian Expeditionary Force

IIOYTA—U. S. S. R.

IMPTO. DE GUERRA—Spain

INDO CHINE—Indochine

INDE, INDIE—French India

INLAND—Liberia

INSELPOST—German military post

IRANIENNES—Iran

ISLAND—Iceland

ISTRA *or* ISTRIA—Yugoslavia

ITALLA *or* ITALIANE—Italy

J

JAVA—Indonesia

JOHOR—Malayasia (Johor province)

JUGOSLAVIJA *or* JY P O C H A B N J A—Yugoslav

K

- KAMERUN—Cameroons
 KARLFONDS—Austria
 KEDAH—Malayasia (Kedah province)
 KELANTAN—Malayasia (Province)
 KEMAHKOTAAN *or* KETAHKOTAAN—Malayasia(Johor)
 K. G. L. *or* KONGELIGT—Danish West Indies
 KISHANGARH—Indian native state
 KORCA *or* KORCE—Albania
 KOWEIT—Kuwait

L

- LAND STORMEN—Sweden
 LAO PEOPLES DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC—Laos
 LAS BELA—Native state in Pakistan
 LIBAN *or* LIBANAISE—Lebanon
 LIRE (currency)—Italy
 LOKALBREF *or* LOSEN—Sweden
 LUFTFELD POST—German air mail (military)
 LUXEMBURG—Luxembourg
 MACAU *or* MACAU—Macao
 MAGYAR “Hungarian”
 MAROC | —French use
 MAROCCO *or* MAROKKO | Morocco —German use
 MARRUECOS | —Spanish use
 MAURITANIE—Mauritania
 MBBETNIJA SHQIPTARE—Albania
 MEDELLIN—Columbia
 MEJICO—Mexico
 MOCAMBIQUE—Mozambique
 MONROVIA—Liberia
 MONTEVIDEO—Uruguay

N

NEDERLAND—Netherland
NEGRI SEMBILAN—a province in Malayasia
NIEUWE GUINEA—Dutch New Guinea
NIGER—Nigeria
NORGE—Norway
NOYTA—“Postage” in Russian
NOYTOBAR MAPKA—Finland
N. S. W.—New South Wales
NUEVA GRANADA—Columbia
NYASSA—Nyasaland
N. Z.—Newzealand

O

OAHAMAPKA—Finland
OCEANIE—Oceania
OESTERR POST—Austria
OFFENTLIG SAK—Norway
OFTEREICH—Austria
ORANJE VRIJ STAAT—Orange Free State (South Africa)
ORTS-POST—Switzerland
OSTER REICH *or* **OSTERR-POST**—Austria
OSTLAND—“Eastland” Russian territory under Germany
ΟΛΥΜΠ—Greece
OZ—Peru

P

PACCHI POSTALI—Italy
P C C P—“Russian Soviet Socialist Republics”
PERSANE—Iran
PERUANA—Peru
PILIPINAS—Phillippines

P. M.—Italian military post
POCZTA *or* POLSKA—Poland
PONCE—Puerto Rico—U. S. A.
PORTEADO—Portugal
PORTE DE CONDUCCION—Peru
PORTE DE MAR—Mexico
POSTEKHEOEUIEEGIZIANE—Egypt
P. S. N. C.—at 4 corners of the stamp with ship
in the centre : —Peru

Q

QUARKU—Albania

R

RAYON—Switzerland
RECARGO—Spain
REICH POST—Germany
R. F.—“Republic of France”
R. H.—“Republic of Haiti”
ROBERT SPORT—Liberia
ROMANA, ROMANIA *or* ROHANIA—Romania
ROYAUME DE L' ARABIE SOUDITE—Kingdom of
Saudi Arabia
ROYAUME DU CAMBODGE—Kampuchea
ROYAUME DU LAOS—Laos
R S M—San Marino
RUMANIEN—Romania
RYUKUS—Ryuku islands

S

SAARE—Germany (Saar)
SAHARA ESPANOL—Western Sahara under Spain

SALONIQUE—Turkey
 SAORSTAT EIREANN (Free State of Ireland)
 SCINDE DISTRICT DAWK—India (Sind province)
 S. D. N. BUREAU INTERNATIONAL du TRAVAIL—
 I. L. O., Switzerland
 SEGNA TASSA or SEGNA TASSE—Italy
 SEVILLA BARCELONA—Spain
 SHQIPNI or SHQIPNIJA or SHQIPONIES | Albania
 SHQUIPENIA or SHQYPTARE |
 S. H. S. (Serba, Hivata, Slovena)—Yugoslavia
 SIEGE OF MAFEKING—Cape of Good Hope
 SLOVENSKO or SLOVENSKY | Czechoslvoakia
 or SLOVENSKENO |
 S. MARINO—San Marinow
 SOBREPORTE—Columbia
 SOCIETE DES NATICNS (League of Nations)-Switzerland
 SONORA—Mexico
 SOUDAN—Sudan
 SOUDAN FRANCAIS—French Sudan
 S. THOME E PRINCIPE—St. Thomas & Princep Islands
 SUIDAFRIKA—Union of South Africa
 SUIDWES AFRIKA—South West Africa
 SUOMI—Finland
 SURINAME—Surinam
 SVERIGE—Sweden
 S. W. A.—South West Africa
 SYRIE or SYRIENNE—Syria

T

TAKCA—Bulgaria
 TAKSE—Albania

TANGER *or* TANGIER—Morocco
T. E. C. K.—Turkey
TCHAD—Chad (Africa)
T. C. POSTALARI—Turkey
TE BETALEN—Dutch Indies
TE BETALEN APAYER—Belgium
TELEGRAFOS—Philippines
TOGA—Tonga
Touva—Tannu Tuva
T. T. T. T. (on 4 corners)—Dominican Republic
TUMACO—Columbia
TUINIS *or* TUNISIE—Tunisia
TURKIYE *or* TURK POSTALARI—Turkey

U

UAPCTBO—Bulgaria

V

VALLES D' ANDORRE—Andorra
VALPARAISO MULTADA—Chile
VANCOUVER ISLAND—Columbia (Under U. K.)
VAN DIEMEN'S LAND—Tasmania-Australia
VATCANE—Vatican city (Italy)
VENEZ., VENEZOLANO—Venezuela
VETEKEVERRIA—Albania

X

XAPTOΣHMON—Greece

Z

ZEGELREGT—Transvaal
ZUIDWEST AFRIKA—South West Africa

БЪЛГАРИЯ

Bulgaria

ΚΥΠΡΟΣ

Cyprus

ΕΛΛΑΣ

Greece

ΠΟΥΤΑ

USSR. Russia

ЈУГОСЛАВИЈА

Yugoslavia

中国人民邮政

China

日本郵便

Japan

조선우표

North Korea

琉球郵便

Ryuku Islands

대한민국우표

South Korea

臺灣國民華中

Taiwan-Republic of China

CHANGING NAMES

“Nothing is permanent except change.” Indeed the world of stamp—issuing countries proves that,

Whenever a new Government found it desirable to change the country's name either out of necessity or out of vanity to pander to the populist whims, they did it.

Quite a few countries that have changed their names are;

<u>New Name</u>	<u>Former Name</u>	<u>Date of change</u>
Angola	Portuguese West Africa	1975(Independence).
Belize.	British Honduras.	1973, June 1.
Benin (People's Republic of).	Dahomey.	1960
Botswana.	Bechuanaland.	1966, September 30
Bourkina Fasso. ("Land of Upright Men")	Upper Volta.	1984, August, 4 (Official declaration)
Colombia (Republic of)	State of New Grenanda.	1886
Djibouti	Afars and Issas (French Territory of) or French Somaliland	1977, June 26.
Ghana (Republic of)	Gold coast	1960
Guinea Bissau.	Portuguese Guinea.	1973 Unilaterally declared independence, recognized by Portugal in 1974.
Guyana.	British Guiana	1966, May 25.
Jordan(Hashemite Kingdom of)	Trans-Jordan	1949.
Kampuchea.	Cambodia Khmer Republic	Oct. 70—May 75.

Kiribati	Gilbert and Ellice	1979, July 12
<i>See Tuvalu</i>	Gilbert Islands got independence renamed Kiribati	
Lesotho	Basutoland.	1966, October 4
Libya Arab Jamahiriya	Libyan Arab Republic	1977, March.
Malagasy (Republic of)	Madagascar (French Overseas Territory of)	
Malawi	Nyasaland	1964, July 6.
Mocambique.	Portuguese East Africa. (Mozambique).	
Namibia	South-West Africa	
Papua New Guinea	New Guinea.	1972
Sabah.	North Borneo. (Now a part of Malayasia)	1964
Solomon Islands	British Solomon Islands	1975
Sri Lanka	Ceylon	1972, May 22.
	Officially styled :	March 1976
	The Democratic Socialist Republic of Sri Lanka	
Surinam	Dutch Guiana	1975 (Independence)
Tanzania (included Zanzibar).	Tanganika	1964, October 29.
Togo (Republic of)	Togoland	1960 (Independence)
Tokelau.	Union Islands	
	(Formerly part of Gilbert and Ellice Islands, it became part of New Zealand from 1949, January 1.)	
Tuvalu	Gilbert and Ellice Islands	1976, January 1.
	(Two island groups sharing common administration got separated on January 1. Ellice Islands renamed Tuvalu.)	
Vanuatu.	New Herbrides.	1980, July 30
Zaire	The Congo (Democratic Republic of)	
Zambia	Northern Rhodesia	1964, October 24.
Zimbabwe	Rhodesia	1980, April 18
	Southern Rhodesia, till 1964, October	

— *Contributed by Subrat Sahoo*

A NOTE ON FISCAL PHILATELY

Collectors of postage stamps do not collect fiscal and fiscally used stamps. But there are collectors in most countries who collect and study fiscals as distinct from postage stamps. Fiscal is a stamp used for revenue purposes other than postage. Used fiscal has a pen cancellation or handwritten note or a rubber or metal stamp, or a punch hole of any design. A manuscript indicates date of its sale and purchaser's name, and sometimes the vendor's initials.



4 as Bamra Courtfee

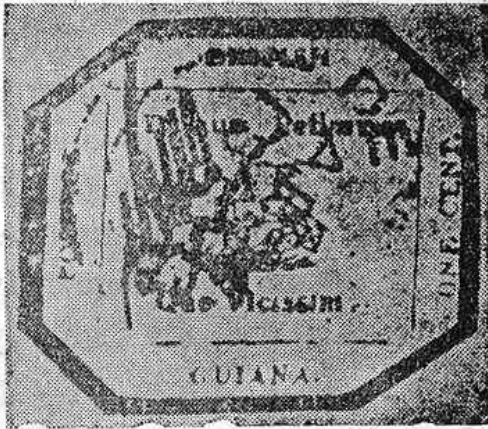
Rules which govern collection, study and write-up of postage stamps also apply to fiscal stamps with due alterations.

Among the fiscals the most popular is the revenue or receipt stamps, Court Fee stamps and stamp-papers as they are more easily available. Insurance, hundi, T.B. Seals and the like come under *cindrella* collection.



Four annas Bamra state postage stamp of 1890-93 series used as court fee stamps, one cancelled by signature, the other by a cross.





WORLD'S MOST VALUABLE STAMP

In 1856, the Post master of British Guiana in South America ran out of stamps. To tide the problem over until a fresh supply arrived from London, a local printer was asked to produce a few dozen one cent and four cent stamps. For security, each was initialled by a postal assistant. The total print of 1 cent (black on magenta paper) was some 50 stamps. The stamps bore the figure of a ship and had the script "Damus Petimusque Vicissim" (We give and seek in return).

For almost 20 years, all of the one cent provisionals, black on magenta, were lost. But in 1873, a teenager L. Vernon Vaughan in the colony's capital discovered one among his collection of letters. It was postmarked April 4, 1856. The stamp was unattractive. He sold it, for about \$ 1.50 with difficulty to a local Scottish collector.

Over the years the stamp passed through the hands of many leading stamp collectors, including Count Phillippe La Renotiere van Ferrary, an Italian-Austrian noble man who roundly allocated \$ 10,000 a week toward enriching

his collection. When the Count died in 1916, Arthur Hind, a New York manufacturer, bought the stamp for about \$ 32,500, reportedly outbidding an agent of King George V of Britain. Rumour has it that when a second Guiana turned up, Hind secretly bought it for more than \$ 60,000 and set it on fire so that his stamp remained unique. This is the only stamp of its kind in existence. There may be single freaks or error stamps but this is the only regularly issued postage stamp celebrity. The British Queen's stamp collection lacks lustre because of its absence. There are two markings at the back of this stamp, a comet insignia made by Mr. Hind and a fleur de les marking by Count Ferrary.

This stamp has travelled extensively throughout the world in its bullet proof case with armed escorts, to be shown in international exhibitions. Mr. Irwin Weinberg was only 12 years old when he saw it at the New York world fair, 1940 and he had a dream of owning the stamp. The desire to possess it was so strong that by the age of 15 Mr. Weinberg was an avid stamp collector. He worked for stamp dealers and collectors in his free time. He read everything he could about philately and his evenings would be spent trying to buy and sell stamps. If asked to disclose the exact number of stamps he has, he says, "It would be a sacrilege to do so." He keeps many of his stamps in safe deposit vaults in his home town, Pennsylvania. He also owns the rare USA inverted aircraft stamp.

It was in 1970 that Mr. Weinberg and his syndicate of eight partners brought the rarity at a New York auction for \$ 2,80,000. On April 5, 1980 this unimpressive piece of smudged

paper was put to auction and fetched a record price of \$ 850,000 from an anonymous collector at the Waldorf—Austoria Hotel, New York City soon after its return from New Delhi's India 80 international stamp exhibition.

Long-recognized as the most prized of all postage stamps this British Guiana 1 cent remains, for its size and weight, the most valuable single object in the world. You might ask why do people pay such a fabulous price. The reply was given to the press by Mr. Weinberg at India 80, "For years you bask in the reflected glory of a stamp".

Penny-black, enlarged

Great Britain issued the first adhesive postage stamp in the world on May 6th 1840, called penny black. The check letters H,E means 8th row 5th stamp ('E' is 5th, 'H' the 8th letter of alphabet.) *Adhesive* means a stamp with gum at back, as distinct from a stamp actually printed on envelope, card or wrapper.



SOME PHILATELIC TERMS

Albino :

An impression without colour. It may result from an uninked stamp die or plate or type.

Aniline :

A colourless liquid chemical base used in the production of brilliant colours. This is shown by saturation of some paper by the aniline inks. Soaked ink is visible through the back.

Arrow-block :

Arrows are printed on the margins of sheets as guides for printing or perforator. An arrow block is a block of 4 or more stamps with a marking showing the arrow.

Bisect :

A stamps cut in half for use at the half face value. Generally used during a shortage of stamps of lower denominations. (see 'Tied')

Booklets, Leaf Sheet :

Stamps issued in handy booklet form are printed in large sheets composed unlike the regular sheets, for convenience in cutting up and binding into booklets. A Booklet Sheet is larger than ordinary sheets. A Booklet Leaf is one of the small leaves (or blocks) of stamps of which a booklet is made up.

Cachet :

A mark impressed by hand-stamp (and rarely printed) on postal articles to denote the special circumstances in which it has been posted, e. g. an important expedition, a particular flight, an exhibition, or first day of use

of a stamp, or a particular anniversary or event. Official cachet is applied by the post office. It is private if applied independently of Post office authority.

Small marks stamped by experts, dealers and collectors on the backs of stamps as marks of guarantee, authenticity or identification, generally in the form of initials, are also called cachets.

Cancellation :

Any mark applied to a stamp to prevent its use, or re-use, in the post, e. g. postmark, pen-cancellation, overprint or handwriting denoting invalidation, specimen or sample. Inutilizado, or punched with holes. A *mute cancellation* is a postmark void of inscription, letters or figures. It is generally a 'killer'.

Cancelled to Order or C. T. O. :

Stamps postmarked in quantities for sale to the stamp trade, without giving any postal service in return.

Chalky Paper :

Indicated in many catalogues by the initial 'C'. A paper coated on the printing side with a solution of chalk and gum. It produces a brilliant but fugitive colour impression.

Cliche :

One of the separate units (stereo or electro) making up a plate for printing stamps.

Column :

The Vertical lines of stamps in a sheet are described as columns, the horizontal lines as rows.

Combination Cover :

Mainly found among early letters when the stamps of one country were not valid beyond its own borders. It bears stamps of more than one country.

Cover :

The envelope or wrapper. A stamp retained on the whole envelope is 'on original cover' or 'entire'. If only a portion of the cover remains, the stamp is described as 'on piece'.

Cut Square :

Cut-outs are usually cut rectangular, not close round the design. Where adhesive stamps are of peculiar external form, e. g. round, oval or octagonal, these are at their best when cut square.

Cut to Shape :

A stamp of unusual form, e. g. round, oval, octagonal, etc., trimmed close to the printed impression. It is relatively valueless compared with cut square.

Cylinder Number :

Stamp sheets printed by rotary photogravure from cylindrical plates bear figures in the margin denoting the number of the cylinder.

Demonetised :

Obsolete stamps that have been specifically made invalid for use in the Post. This occurs generally when there is revolution or change in currency. Great Britain stamps bearing values in other than decimal currency were demonetised in February 1972.

Die :

The original plate or block bearing the design engraved in correct dimension is the original or master die. These may be transferred by means of roller dies to a steel plate, or to provide working dies to make moulds for electrotyping or making plates.

The terms Die I, Die II, etc., are used to distinguish actual stamps deriving from dies, or replicas of dies with small alterations.

Essay :

A proposed stamp or design that has been rejected, or that, if adopted, has been modified before issue.

Fake :

A normal stamp cunningly altered to represent an 'error' or 'variety'. A letter or cover to which a stamp or cancellation has been added to make it appear as if on original cover.

Flaw :

A damage to a printing plate or die may cause a flaw in the printed sheet. Flaws sometimes guide a collector to know the plate number or date of issue. Such a flaw is more or less skilfully corrected by a Retouch.

Forgery :

An imitation of a stamp, a surcharge or a postmark, made to deceive either postal employees and/or collectors.

Frank : (Sign to ensure free carriage)

In early times Court or Government officials and other privileged persons were allowed to send corres-

pondence free, usually with their signature in the lower left corner of the address side of the letter.

Granite Paper :

A Paper containing small unbleached fibres easily visible on the back of a stamp.

Gutters :

The wide space left between two rows of stamps in a large sheet.

Jubilee Line :

As a protection against the wear of typographical stamps plates at their edges, a rule was added round each plate of most of the British stamps. It appears as a line of colour on the sheets, known as the 'Jubilee line' because it was first adopted in 1887, 50th anniversary of Queen Victoria's accession to throne.

Killer :

Heavy cancellation making a stamp illegible.

Knife :

The shape of the blank paper cut out to be folded into envelope form is called the knife.

Laid Paper :

With a texture of lines close together, usually with other lines crossing them wide apart.

Locals :

Stamps whose use was limited to a town or district.

Manila Paper :

A strong, light coarse paper, usually smooth on one

side and rough on the other, commonly used for stamped envelopes and wrappers.

Matrix :

A counterpart impression in metal or other material from an original die, and which in its turn is used to produce copies exactly similar to the original die.

Meter :

Mark of prepayment on the mail impressed by machines under licence or permit from the post office. Machines automatically record the amount due to the post office.

Pane :

A rectangular division of a sheet of stamps, divided by pane margins into sections for convenience in selling and accounting.

Paquebot :

French word for Packet-boat in international use in postmarks on sea-borne letters.

Pelure Paper :

A crisp, thin, hard paper; the description is commonly given to varieties of stamps on any paper that is very thin and hard.

Perfins :

Stamps with perforated initials to indicate the user—a device to prevent unauthorised use by outsiders.

Plate Number :

(See cylinder number) It appears on the sheet margin.

Postal Fiscal :

A stamp primarily issued for fiscal purposes that has been duly authorised for postal use.

Pre-cancel :

The system whereby large mailing concerns in U. S., Canada and some European countries are supplied with stamps already cancelled to save time and labour in the post office, the cancellation usually consisting of the town name.

Pre-stamp Covers :

Letters or covers posted in any country prior to the adoption by that country of the postage-stamp system.

Printers' Waste :

In preparing plates and working up for colour, in the printing press, much paper is used and thrown aside as waste. Sometimes (rarely) some of this waste leaks out and is sometimes imposed upon collectors as rare freaks of double, treble, etc., impressions; printed both sides; on coloured papers other than those appropriate to the issued stamps.

Reprint :

An impression taken from an original plate that has gone out of use, or from new plates or stones derived from the original die.

Rosace :

The little embosed or impressed device formerly found on the loose flap of early manufactured envelopes in imitation of the old-fashioned wafer used in sealing.

Se tenant :

French expression, meaning "not separated". Two different stamps or two varieties of the stamps or two denominations in an unseparated pair.

Specimen Stamps :

Stamps overprinted with the word 'Specimen' as a means of cancellation but generally for distribution through the International Bureau of the Universal postal Union to postal administrations of all countries to show what stamps have been issued and are valid in other countries.

Tete-beche (head to foot)

When, by the inversion of one or more cliches a sheet of stamps contains stamp inverted in relation to their neighbours, a normal and inverted stamp unseparated form a Tete-beche pair,

Thinned :

Stamps carelessly removed from envelopes or back paper, losing a part of the surface of the paper at the back. Through it more light passes when held to a lamp.

Tied :

A stamp is said to be tied when the postmark extends neatly over part of the stamp and the adjacent part of the cover. This distinguishes a genuine cover from one that has been faked; and especially in the case of bisected stamps, where it is desirable to have the postmark overlapping the line of bisection.

Universal Postal Union :

The Universal Postal Union, founded in 1874, now embraces every country having an organised postal service and its conventions regulate international relations between postal administrations of the world. Abbreviation: U. P. U.

Used Abroad :

Before certain countries and colonies had postage stamps of their own a mother country's contemporary

stamps were used. This extra-territorial use can only be distinguished by the postmarks. The stamps of Britain France, U. S. A., India etc., are met with used abroad.

Vignette :

The central or otherwise-placed portrait, picture view, as distinct from its frame.

Wove paper :

Has a plain, even texture. Commonly used for most books, news paper and magazines.

POSTMARK COLLECTION:

Postmarks have been in use much longer than stamps. In pre-stamp days they were indications of mode of payment; now they deface the stamps. You can organize a collection of postmarks in the same way as you do stamps—placewise or subjectwise. Or you can specialize on your hometown only. Display them in alphabetical and date order. Cut round stamps as well as postmarks—always of the same size, say 8 cm × 5 cm, except slogan cancellations which have to be bigger. Important postmarks are to be kept on their envelopes. Mount cut—outs with hinges, but envelopes with photograph corners. You may modify your stamp album by cutting slits across the page, through which you slide an envelope until only the postmark section is visible. First, position the envelope on the page, allow space for a heading and any notes, make pencil mark well below the postmark and ensure the bottom envelope does not hang beyond the bottom of the page. Cut slits across the width of the envelope, keeping the envelope central. Put the envelopes in the slits and secure the top corners on the front of and the bottom corners behind the album page with photograph corners. Put suitable write up. That becomes your exhibit.



Here is an envelope which carried a proposal for marriage from one Mr. Hough to Miss Jannett Brown in 1847. This was certainly the most important letter in his life. But it could never have occurred to him that one hundred and forty years later the envelope ("cover" in philatelic terms) would be so important to stamp collectors around the world.

In 1982, the cover of Mr. Hough's love letter, bearing the 5 cent "Blue Alexandria" stamp, was sold in Geneva for one million dollars (one crore rupees), the highest price ever paid for a philatelic item.

The stamp is part of a "provisional" issue, the rarest kind of stamp in American philately. Provisional stamps were created and issued by local post masters before the U. S. government began to issue its own stamps on July 1, 1847. The "Blue Alexandria" is also known affectionately as the "Blue Boy" in philately. Issued by Post master Daniel Bryan of Alexandria, Virginia, it is considered the greatest post master provisional.

Stamps used on covers prove the saying, "old is gold". Next time you see any old stamp on cover, do not separate the stamp from cover until you are very sure that the stamp is not worth having on cover.

US \$ 3 — UK £ 2 — Price—Rs. 45/-

* * *