

"U.N."

Although U.N. stamps are not as popular, perhaps, in the rest of the world as they are in the U.S.A. (where they can be used for postage, if the mail is handed in at U.N. headquarters, which it very often is, particularly by collectors), they are still very much the vogue here in Great Britain. Thus the new definitive 1½c. stamp which was issued in March in meeting with ready sales, as was to be expected. It replaced the stamp which had been on issue for sixteen years, so no one can claim that it came before its time. Four million copies have been printed by Courvoisier of Switzerland, and the designer was the Hungarian Jozsef Vertel. As usual the result is an exceedingly attractive stamp, as can be seen from the illustration.

Tristan da Cunha

We are told, without anyone batting as much as an eyelid (stout people amongst stamps nowadays), that a postal need for 4d. and £1 stamps has arisen. So, of course, we are getting just these stamps and, such is the popularity of those far off island stamps, that they will be in the 'hot cakes' selling class just as long as they are on issue. As this new high value was taking over the royal portrait design of the 10s. value, the latter is also being changed and H.M.S. Challenger (I wonder if that was the warship I served in for a time during the first world war?) shown instead. We are told that the 4½d. stamp is no longer needed, so these have been surcharged 4d. Altogether, changes which will add to the popularity of Tristan stamps, for providing it is not overdone (I hope the £1 stamp isn't classed thus), new stamps do evoke interest. This is why the special issues of our own country have set the stamp market so literally ablaze, and sent prices rocketing. And don't overlook the forthcoming Duke of Edinburgh set.

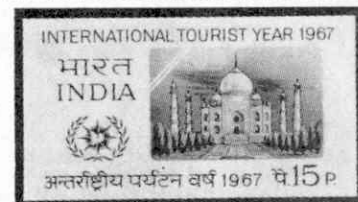
All Phosphor

Phosphor and non-phosphor lined stamps have provided a lot of fun for British collectors, and some profit for many. Now, of course, all our stamps to the 2s. 6d. value are to be phosphor lined, as is generally known. But one reader (and perhaps there are others similarly puzzled) wants to know what the lines are really for, and why the high values are not lined. Well, first of all the high values are not generally used on letters, unless they are going by registered post, or air mail, and these are handled differently to ordinary mail. Machines are now in use in many big post offices, where much mail is handled, which are known as Automatic Letter Facing Machines. These machines prepare letters for date stamping by facing them the same way up, with stamps in the top right corner. The machines work best with phosphor lined stamps. The cost of having all stamps lined is, of course, an extra expense, but such is the labour saving by using stamps thus treated that the cost is well worth while, and that explains, I hope, the queries which have been received from time to time regarding the why and wherefore of the phosphor business. Incidentally, whilst the British post office was, I think, the first to adopt the system (as to be quite fair, it often is, for there are few postal administrations as up to date, yes, and efficient, in spite of the way we grumble over late deliveries), others like Canada, U.S.A., Holland, etc., have now followed its lead.

International Tourist Year

Under the aegis of the United Nations, a number of nations are issuing a set of stamps to mark this, the I.T. Year, and India released March 19, a single in participation. A nice little stamp it was, too. I cannot say that these omnibus issues, which are what collectors call stamps issued by a number of

Stamps News By F.E. Metcalfe



countries, with the same object in view, are particularly popular with collectors. But odd stamps of low face value, such as the one India released, sell readily enough, and this has meant that the stamp illustrated has been almost a best seller. Indian stamps are, of course, very popular with British collectors and, as I have previously remarked, with every reason, because whilst this postal administration sees to it that all important events are marked by an attractive stamp, no attempt is ever made to exploit collectors. May it stay that way, as an example to all those P.O.'s whose aim is apparently the opposite.

Beetles

There are an awful lot of lady collectors, many of whom will be interested in popular Papua and New Guinea stamps, but I wonder if the Beetle set (nothing to do with the other Beatles, or they would be popular) will be quite to their taste. Anyhow, the four stamps issued April 12, each of which illustrates, in full colour, one of the many kinds of insects which are to be found away in the South Pacific. I must say that I took care to buy a set, and the dealer told me it was a best seller. After all, the designer was a lady, a Mrs. P. M. Prescott, who has in all designed over twenty stamps for P. and N.G.

The Tip of the Month

A few weeks ago, I was shown a collection which was really the pride and joy of a father, son and daughter. They lived in the suburbs of a large city (I will not be more explicit than that, for obvious reasons), and most Saturday mornings the three of them trip off to the city and spend around five shillings on what they fancy in the way of what they consider attractive stamps, and I must say that they do pick up some nice looking items. But I am afraid that their number one concern seems to be numbers, and they know to a single just how many stamps their joint collection contains. And, alas, in their desire to get as many stamps as they could, they worked on the principal that half a stamp is better than none. In other words, even damaged specimens were included. They get such pleasure out of the hobby that it would have been cruel to criticise, but it is certainly true that the collection would have looked much better if at least two hundred copies were removed. And this is my tip. Condition is getting more and more important. In fact, stock-book type of albums are being used more and more so that mint stamps may not even have hinges attached. That is, perhaps, going a bit too far, but it's the trend, so do try and keep torn (however small the tear, unless

the stamp is a valuable specimen) or heavily cancelled stamps out of your collection. It will be all the better for it.

And now I must add the word 'finis' to these articles, which I have been writing for many years, and all I will say is that if they have given readers half as much pleasure in reading them, as they have given me in writing them, then I will be well satisfied. Stamp collecting is a grand hobby, and if these notes have been instrumental at all in making just one new recruit, then one collector at least has benefited. Goodbye to you all.

Super Model Rebuilt—continued from page 47

13. The grab is now freed from the suspender and it can be lowered in the open position (Fig. 11). On reaching the material to be removed, the hoisting rope is allowed to fall quite slack so as to give the weight of the Collar 16a a chance to pull the knot free from the catch, and so permit the closing of the jaws when hoisting is commenced.

The two ½ in. by ½ in. Angle Brackets 14, by bearing against the connecting arms of the grab, serve to maintain the grab head in a horizontal position in relation to the jaws under all conditions of service.

Parts required :

| | | |
|--------------|----------------|----------------|
| 14 of No. 1 | 2 of No. 18b | 8 of No. 83 |
| 15 of No. 1a | 8 of No. 20 | 1 of No. 85 |
| 13 of No. 1b | 9 of No. 20b | 7 of No. 70 |
| 35 of No. 2 | 3 of No. 21 | 2 of No. 72 |
| 16 of No. 2a | 6 of No. 22 | 4 of No. 76 |
| 17 of No. 3 | 7 of No. 22a | 5 of No. 77 |
| 19 of No. 4 | 1 of No. 23a | 1 of No. 94 |
| 33 of No. 5 | 2 of No. 24 | 5 of No. 96 |
| 6 of No. 6 | 3 of No. 25 | 4 of No. 96a |
| 10 of No. 6a | 7 of No. 26 | 4 of No. 102 |
| 4 of No. 7 | 1 of No. 26a | 6 of No. 103 |
| 4 of No. 7a | 4 of No. 27 | 4 of No. 103a |
| 28 of No. 8 | 4 of No. 27a | 2 of No. 103e |
| 14 of No. 8a | 2 of No. 28 | 4 of No. 108 |
| 9 of No. 8b | 2 of No. 29 | 1 of No. 110 |
| 22 of No. 9 | 4 of No. 30 | 10 of No. 111 |
| 10 of No. 9a | 1 of No. 30a | 6 of No. 111a |
| 2 of No. 9b | 1 of No. 30c | 10 of No. 111c |
| 1 of No. 9c | 1 of No. 32 | 2 of No. 111d |
| 1 of No. 9e | 645 of No. 37a | 2 of No. 114 |
| 2 of No. 9f | 578 of No. 37b | 2 of No. 125 |
| 14 of No. 10 | 156 of No. 38 | 2 of No. 128 |
| 1 of No. 11 | 3 of No. 40 | 7 of No. 128a |
| 24 of No. 12 | 1 of No. 46 | 4 of No. 133 |
| 4 of No. 12a | 8 of No. 48 | 1 of No. 133a |
| 2 of No. 12b | 9 of No. 48a | 4 of No. 136 |
| 2 of No. 13 | 4 of No. 52 | 4 of No. 140 |
| 1 of No. 14 | 7 of No. 52a | 1 of No. 145 |
| 4 of No. 13a | 4 of No. 53a | 2 of No. 147c |
| 3 of No. 15a | 2 of No. 55 | 1 of No. 163 |
| 1 of No. 15b | 2 of No. 55a | 2 of No. 167b |
| 18 of No. 16 | 6 of No. 58 | 2 of No. 196 |
| 4 of No. 16b | 51 of No. 59 | 1 Power Drive |
| 8 of No. 17 | 6 of No. 62 | Motor |
| 6 of No. 18a | 1 of No. 62b | |

Lead Weights Large=24 2 in. Strips=50 grms.
Lead Weights Small=12 2 in. Strips=25 grms.
Steel Weights 6 of 3½ in. by 2 in. by ½ in.