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MINKUS PUBLICATIONS - FORT MILL, S.C.

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Sirmoor: A Country Collection

M. G. P. A. P. S. 61661

by Curtis E. Gidding

Each collector from the start has some sort of basic goal regarding his collection. Commonly, most of us have aspirations to collect either a specific country or group of countries. These plans may lead either to our being able to exhibit a collection, or our merely being content with developing the "compleat" country. In this article, I would like to relate my experiences in starting a country collection, as illustration that the process can be exciting, intellectually stimulating, and very rewarding. Primarily, I want to show that country collections can develop into an activity that involves more than just filling spaces in a commercial album.

My interest in India and the Indian Feudatory States began when I purchased a small and inexpensive



Figure 1. The overprinted issues of 1859-99.

more extensive than I had seen elsewhere before. Gibbons listed thirty-three issues of regular stamps, and fifty-seven issues of official stamps. Thus, a potential Sirmoor collection had expanded abruptly in the number of stamps needed for completion.

pies stamp was printed in two different colors: brown and orange. Gibbons states that there were seven printings of the 3- and 6-pies; six of the 1-anna; and four of the 2-anna. Gibbons also states that all of the values were printed in sheets of seventy, made up of groups of transfers showing two or more varieties. The numerical listing of the stamps shows the various printings, and also uses the different color shades to further separate the catalogue numbers. Since color shades did not seem to me to be conclusive methods for identification, I tried to find how a collector could determine to which printing a stamp belonged, without using color. After some inquiries, I was directed by fellow collectors and members of the India Study Circle to some research articles on the subject.

Three journal articles later, I found that it was indeed possible to determine the exact printing of each value of the 1859-99 issues, but that is not to say the task would be an easy one. The article that answered my basic questions was one written by Sir David Masson and appearing in the *The Philatelic Journal of India* in 1906. Using the information

This number does not include sheet varieties, retouches, etc., as does the total of 124 shown in the text.

collection from a mail auction. Upon examining the group of stamps, I was intrigued by those of the feudatory state of Sirmoor. Referring to *Scott's Standard Postage Stamp Catalogue, 1979. I found that the state of Sirmoor had issued twenty-two regular stamps and sixteen official ones between 1879 and 1899. This volume appeared ideal, because my interest was in small countries that I could hope to complete.

Shortly after deciding to form a collection of Sirmoor, I came across two copies of the 1859-99 issues overprinted "On.S.S.S.," but not listed in Scott's (Figure 1). Upon consulting Gibbons' *British Commonwealth Stamp Catalogue, 1979, to my surprise I found a listing of Sirmoor issues far

The 1885-1896 issues were shown by Gibbons in greater depth than Scott indicated. Scott merely states that, "There are several printings, dies and minor variations of this issue." I began to gather all available information on these issues, and found the following.

The 1885-1896 issues consisted of four values (3-pies, 6-pies, 1-anna, and 2-anna), all bearing the portrait of Raja Sir Shamsher Prakash (Figure 2). The stamps were lithographed by Waterlow & Sons, and perforated 14-15. The 3-

(continued on Page 1149)









Curtis E. Gidding, an APS member since 1978, is an active collector of Indian material and a member of the India Study Circle.

Figure 2. The four issues of Sirmoor, 1885-96.

Sirmoor State 1879-1899 PANjAb - CAP-Natian (Scott lists 22 stamps + 16 Service) (Stanley Gibbous lists 33 Regulars) All obsolete since 3/31/1901 1879 STATE STRMOOR. STATE POSTAGE STAMP. VIAMIAITI VISI LILLIII POSTAGE. POSTAGE! STAMP. STAMP त्र येर्मोर् 1885-1888 Rala Sir Shamsher Prakash STATE OF THE PROPERTY OF THE P 110 1893 SIRMOOR SIRMOOR STATE! ·STATE · ·STATE * POSTAGES POSTAGE POSTAGE STAMP. STAMP. STAMP . असत सेर्मोर तात मेर्मोर (9) (10) (9A) 1895-1899 (16) M. G. P. A. P. S. 61661

SIRMOOR State

M. G. P. A. P. S. 61661

1899

Sir Surendar Bikram Prakash



1890-1891

1890-1892











Big S

(06)



1892





















(011)

(0/3)

(014)

(015



Gibbons notes that these were never (016) "officially "energented - noundere gorteralmo





a der Stamp

Sirohi State

Not Listed Gubbans

Formerly Rajputana State Agency

1924-41



Type 27 #(274)

Type 10



104) (106) Types 1944-43



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TIBET

1934

Heavy Toned Native Paper



1/st (14) 1/st(15)
Excellent counterfeits 4/15t.

H (16) 2t (17) 4+ (18



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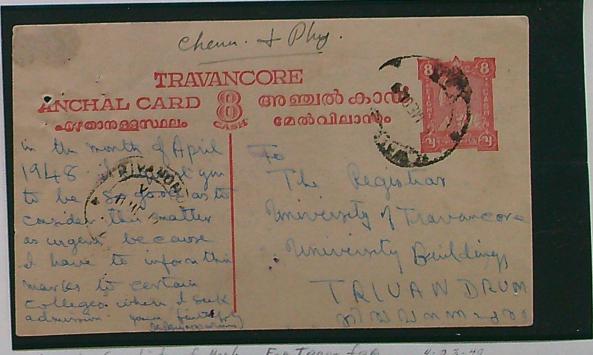
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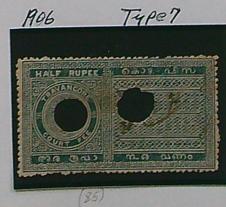


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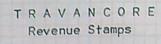








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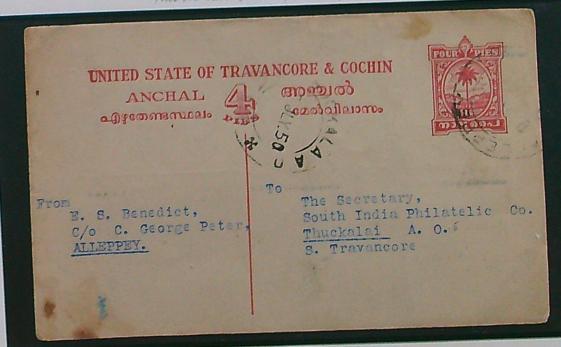
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TRAVENCORE Cochin Revenue





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M. G. P. A. P. S. 61661

1888-1889 35tampoanly



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(3)

complete

Formerly West Ind, State agency Now in Gujarat State WAHKANER Type 17 1907-1919 Re part of I ONE RUPEE 8A Caler 1995 Type20 (201)

Pondicherry- French India



(52)



(53)



(54)



(95)





(64)

Pondicherry - French India





M. G. P. A. P. S. 61661

Pondichery - Chandennagore - Mahe - Karikal - YANAON (All merged with India by 11-1-1954)



used in 1942 by Vichy Govt but more placed on sale in French India



SOLD at Paris 6/7-7/8/48 but not placed on sale in the Colony

1942 Lotus Flower



(144

























Portugal continued to print special-1550e stamps for its lost Colony after its annexation by INDIA 12/18/61. Stamps of India were first issued Dec. 29. Stamps of Totugae India remained valid until 1/5/62.











1958



1959





(575)





578)

-GOA-1956 536) 1957 553]







(511)

1952







(518)

1953









1329











446)

1945-46



(463)



12/3/1931



(414) A-23

1933



(404)



425)

GOA - Portugese India

Capital - PANSIM (MOVA GOA)
1891- 12/18/1961









1898-1903





(205)



(226)

1913-1921









361)



Stamps Gift of alice D'Oruz - Xmas 1974



PostAGE Due











