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THE MODERN BISECT



On the Cover is a 2 paise of the 6th definitive series, bisected diagonally and used in prepayment of postage of 1 paise (See Story on Page 191).

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THE MODERN BISECT?

AS we were enclosing the pages of our belated August issue, in an anxiety to overcome the backlog, we saw our good friend Mr. A. A. Khan just walking in. We saw lot of excitement on his face and felt, he had something very important to offer in the bundle he carried under his arm but when we were closeted for a little while, inspite of our very busy schedule in the office, he let us have the news.

Mr. Khan brought a 30P stamped postal stationery cover bearing additional stamps to cover 35p inland letter rate for 10 gms. The additional five paise to cover the 35P rate effective from 1st Sept. were made up of two 2 paise stamps of the new definitive series which made 34 paise and 2 paise definitive stamp cut diagonally (bisected) to make it 1 paise to make additional 5 paise stamps aggregating to 35 paise, the minimum inland letter rate.

We thought of holding on the final pages of the August issue and the result is the story of the "Modern Bisect". The cover in question is illustrated on the cover page of this issue.

While the defacement is not very clear the cover bears a Kalighat, Calcutta, Postage Due mark without showing any amount due but the

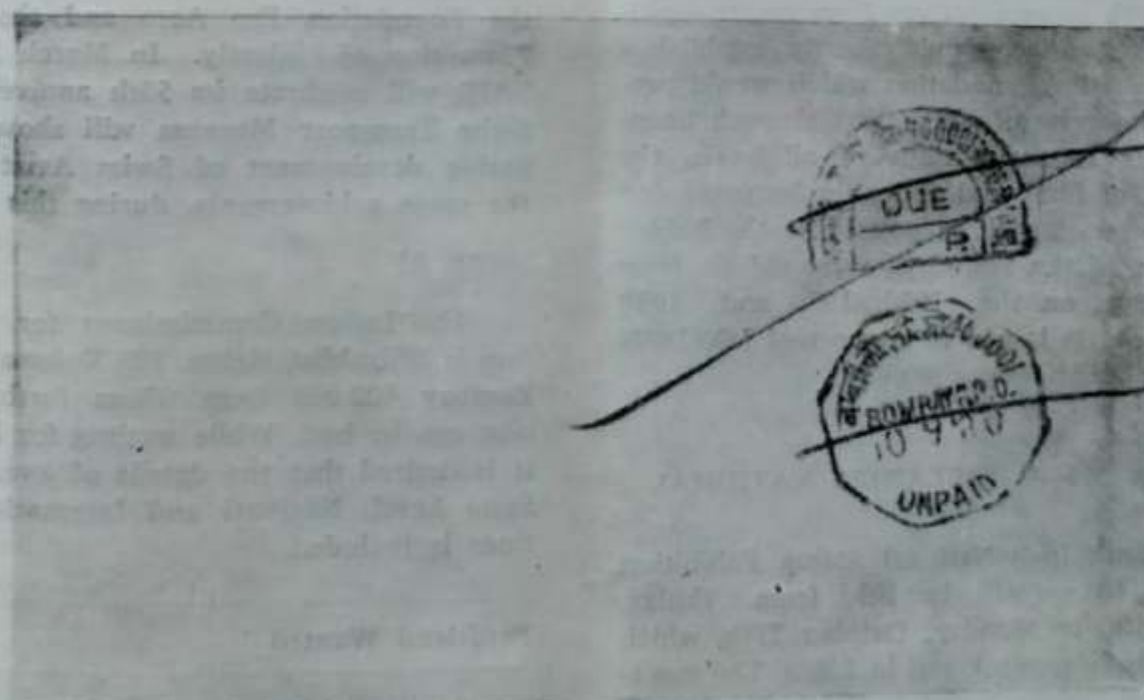
marking scored out, meaning thereby that the Kalighat, Calcutta P.O. had detected the 2 paise bisect digonally cut, however, possibly after some arguments or discussion among themselves, accepted the bisected adhesive and the value of the stamp in this case, a 30 paise for the cover and the rest adhesive equivalent to the new rate of 35P.

The letter was addressed to a firm in Bombay and therefore Bombay GPO (PIN 400 001) Unpaid Postage Due and the "Unpaid" octagonal postage "UNPAID" marking. Both these marks are finally cancelled. Where and how all the three markings were cancelled is not known but there was finally no postage due.

Thus a rarity, the modern 'Bisect'. The post office has accepted the bisect, 2 paise value stamp as 1 paise after the bisect after the postal authorities would have pondered over it and cancelled the postage due and delivered the letter to the addressee.

We made oral inquiries with postal authorities but had no explanation as to any orders for the use of the bisect by the post or the public.

We are indebted to Shri A. A. Khan for providing the illustration for the story and would welcome comments from the readers of the PJI.



The back of the cover shown on the cover page bearing the "Postage Due" marking and the "Unpaid" marking cancelled by ink, referred to in the article above.