



MALCOLM C. DIZER, who wrote this article, adds a new stamp to the collection which gave him the idea for a novel post-retirement career

I AM writing this aboard the *Esso Zurich*, where I am purser-pharmacist's mate. This is almost my last voyage for the Esso Shipping Company. I am nearly sixty-five now and due soon to retire. On November first I'll be coming ashore to stay.

It's not going to be easy, leaving the sea and my shipmates and a job I've loved. But, believe it or not, at an age when many people draw a deep breath and sit back to relax, I'm starting out on a new career with as much enthusiasm as though I were twenty-one. There will hardly be enough hours in the day for the work I want to do.

When I read the recent article in *THE LAMP* which told how important it is to plan ahead for retirement, it occurred to me that the story of what I am going to do might be of help to others who are beginning to think about retirement.

I am not beginning my new career out of the blue. It is something for which I have been planning and working in my spare time for many years. It had its start in one of the most widely shared hobbies in the world—stamp collecting. But I am incurably inquisitive by nature, and long ago I saw that just collecting stamps would never satisfy me. Every time I came across a new stamp, I found I wanted to know something about it. Looked at in this way, stamp collecting became a key which opened the door on a world of fascinating information. My research led me down odd byways, to the stories of far lands, of historic battles, of the lives of great inventors, artists and writers.

Even so, this would not have added up to a full-time practical retirement career until I hit on the idea of combining it with another interest of mine—selling. I love to sell, and what better product could you have than something you had put together yourself while enjoying every minute of it?

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MY SECOND CAREER
by Malcolm C. Dizer

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It all began quite by chance, as so many things do, back in 1936. Edward the Eighth had just abdicated, and this country was in a furor about it. It had long been my custom to send Christmas cards to my friends built around topics of current interest, and that year I naturally decided to use Edward.

Then, while I was browsing through a catalogue, I ran across a collection of Edward stamps, and it struck me that they would make an attractive addition to my card. I mounted the stamps on one side of each card, and on the other I had printed Edward's abdication message. Then I sent them out to my friends.

The response took me completely by surprise. Not only did my friends write to ask if they could get additional copies, but I had offers from people I had never heard of who wanted to buy them.

At that time I had just retired, having finished my working career (as I thought then) as European sales representative of a large American firm. My family had scattered and, feeling rather at loose ends, I was looking around for something to keep myself busy. Since people had already volunteered to buy my Edward cards, I decided to try to merchandise them.

THAT first venture turned out to be fairly successful, but what was more important to me, I had found a really absorbing hobby. I went in for stamp collecting in a big way, choosing commemorative stamps as my specialty. And whenever an issue came out that interested me I started to dig through old books and records, looking for something that would enhance the meaning of my stamps.

Sometimes I dug up and put together factual information, but often I would find quotations from famous writings, or possibly a bit of poetry that seemed suitable. Now and then I ran across drawings or photographs that I could use. When I had found what I wanted, I would take my findings home and arrange them, along with the stamps, into little booklets which I had published. Then I would look around for people who might want to buy them.

Living as I was in retirement, I was free to give all the time I wanted to my "history in philately," as I called it. But then, just as I was really getting under way, the war came. Even though there wasn't much for an old fellow to do, I wanted to get a front row seat in the affair. It took a long

time, but in 1943 I finally landed a job as a purser with the Maritime Commission.

That job gave me the front row seat I wanted: on ships that traveled back and forth across the Atlantic, carrying troops and supplies to the battlefronts of Sicily, Italy and, finally, southern France.

It also gave me my first taste of the sea, and I fell in love with it. So, after the war was over, I decided that if I could stay on a ship I'd keep on working. I was fifty-nine then, but I took a four months' course at pharmacists' school to get my purser-pharmacist's license. I won it, but I think it was just about the toughest course of study I ever took.

Then, in 1947, I enrolled in a refresher course the government was sponsoring at Sheepshead Bay. A lot of my classmates were people from Esso Shipping, and their enthusiasm for the company got me so excited that I decided to try to get a job with Esso too. I confess I had some qualms about my age, but I went to New York for an interview, and much to my surprise, they took me on, assigned me to a tanker, and I sailed that afternoon.

I've been at sea for nearly nine years now, and even though I've been away more than I've been home, I've never let my hobby go. I've always had some spare time on shipboard to work on my little books, and I've crowded every hour that I've been ashore on leave, doing my research, laying out the booklets, seeing the printer and, of course, looking for new customers.

In these years I've somehow managed to squeeze in the time to prepare and publish seven booklets. They are all different from each other, in size and design and subject matter. One of them, for example, the largest I've ever published, is a set of seven folders based on the stamps honoring famous Americans, which came out in 1940. And there's another, the last one I did, which tells the story behind two Liberian stamps that were issued to aid in that country's current literacy campaign.

Now that I am ready to retire, I am all set up with several thousand of these and my other stamp brochures waiting for me at home. I plan to begin finding customers for them just as soon as I come ashore in November, and then I'll start getting material together for another one.

Actually, this will be my second retirement. I guess I'll be too busy ever to think about a third.

Coronation Souvenir Album by Dizer

ONE of the most attractive volumes ever to be offered the philatelic public is soon to be released by *Malcolm C. Dizer, of 320 East 42nd Street, New York 17, N. Y.* It is an album devoted to the Coronation of Queen Elizabeth II, and in addition to charming reproductions of relevant material, will contain mint copies of all the postal commemoratives—106 varieties representing seventy-eight governments—issued for the Coronation on June 2, 1953. Each album is to be numbered. Number One will go to the Queen herself; and No. 2, to Prime Minister Sir Winston Churchill; the gift of Mr. Dizer.

Mr. Dizer is well known to many of our readers, for we have had stories concerning him from time to time, and of course he has a large personal acquaintance among the collecting fraternity. He has a gift for producing inspiring mementoes of historical philately, and the present album is another step along this way, though we feel that this one is the "masterpiece" of them all.

As the frontispiece is a large reproduction in color of St. Edward's Crown, the Crown of England. This is followed by an article on *The Spiritual Significance of the Coronation*, by The Very Reverend Alan C. Don, The Dean of Westminster, opposite which is a full page picture of the Archbishop of Canterbury, Dr. Geoffrey Francis Fisher, who presided at the religious ceremonies and performed the act of Coronation.

In addition to St. Edward's Crown, there are black and white illustrations of the Imperial State Crown, the ampulla and anointing spoon, the head of the Royal Scepter, and the Royal Orb, with explanation of their significance and use in the Coronation ceremonies. Then follows a beautiful colored portrait of the Queen, and a capsule story of her career from birth to the Coronation, and including pictures of her as a growing girl, on her wedding day, at the Royal barn dance in Canada, her visit to Washington, as a mother with her children, and a full page portrait of her husband, the Duke of Edinburgh.

Space is provided in the last section of the album for the June 2nd Coronation stamps, interspersed with pictures and details of some of the stamp-issuing colonies. Also included is a copy of the approved souvenir program of the Coronation of Elizabeth II.

The stamps are protected with aerated mounts approved by the Federal Bureau of Standards as a precaution against deterioration and other hazards that accompany handling. The loose-leaf album is of Du Pont Fabricoid, lettered in gold, and is enclosed in a protective case. It is the most beautiful souvenir of the Coronation that we have seen.

If you want a souvenir of the Coronation that has charm and beauty, as well as a strong philatelic touch, this is it.

STAMPS ☆ June 20, 1953

BECAUSE SO MUCH OF HIS TIME AND HANDICRAFT MUST BE CONTRIBUTED TO THE MAKING OF EACH ALBUM, MR. DIZER IS RESTRICTING PRODUCTION TO 500 COPIES.

EACH VOLUME WILL BE NUMBERED AND AUTOGRAPHED,