

## FROM AROUND THE GLOBE

---

This new feature is aimed at giving members information about the issues from the more popular collecting countries and about the more popular themes.

1981 saw, or has yet to see, three major issues of the omnibus type, namely, the Royal Wedding issue, the sets commemorating the International Year for the Handicapped and those for the 1981 World Food Day.

The wedding of Prince Charles to Lady Diana Spencer in July gave rise to the issue of a maxi-omnibus, both by Commonwealth countries and by others which have no conceivable connection with the Royal House of the United Kingdom. As usual on such occasions the philatelist's appetite was whetted by a variety of attractive, and generally costly, presentations. Unfortunately many of these had little or no philatelic value and, some, even less artistic merit. At the last count over forty countries had issued stamps, souvenir sheets, sheetlets, gutter strips, booklets and what-have-you. A number of 'local' issues with no postal validity have also seen the light of day.

The other two events have been, or are being, commemorated in a much more restrained manner. Even here, however, postal administrations, or their advisers, seem reluctant not to seek to fleece philatelists. Collectors are therefore well advised to stay away from territories whose only aim seems to be that of getting as much money out of them as possible.

Having been so critical in a general way one cannot but praise those postal administrations who still realise that the main object of a stamp is for it to be used on mail.