



SIPA *Bulletin*

For Circulation to Members only

Vol. 12 No. 6

November - December 1991

Bimonthly

SOUTH INDIA PHILATELISTS' ASSOCIATION

(Founded 1956)

(Affiliated to the Philatelic Congress of India)

Happy New Year

Sweet Pongal

Our Monthly Meetings: November, 1991.

After the usual exchange of pleasantries, the Meeting was called to order. 25 members were present. Minutes of the last meeting read and adopted. A brief resume of the celebrations of the Postal Week in the CPMG's office was given. Shri. D.H. Rao gave details of recent Ship Covers he got from abroad. He also brought and showed how at a concessional price he got a Book costing nearly \$25 for Rs.50/- on Railways and ships of England (UK).

All credit goes to Shri P.S. Seshdri, our Life Member and a small scale industrialist in taking four schools in AVADI Area, giving everyweek an hour of Philatelic talk free packets of stamps and also some literature and how through this initiative, nearly 20 students from his four schools took part in the School of Philately conducted by the Tamilnadu Dept. of Posts during the Philatelic Week. All credit to our Senior Members: Mr. D.H. Rao, Dr. U. Gandhidas, Mr. G. Balakrishnadas; Mr. C.S. Sankaranarayanan; Mr. P.S. Seshadri and our President, Mr. Madan Mohan das for giving their full cooperation in the conduct of the School of Philately by the Department. Our member Janab S. Ravooof gave a display Talk on "SDS" service with display of four or five covers. What does SDS mean, how, when he asked his friend for the IPKF covers, he got from him the above covers and the seals "S D S" was marked on them, how he went to the Army Post Office in Fort St. George and got to know that service existed for the personnel of the IPKF wounded and undergoing treatment in the Army Hospital at St. Thomas Mount and their relations and its service was for a limited period only and would request members and others to furnish more particulars. With announcements regarding new issues, the meeting came to a close with a hot cup of tea.

All communications relating to Bulletin may please be addressed to Mr. M. T. Karunakaran, Hony Editor, Sipa Bulletin, No.3; III Cross Street, Jayanagar, Tamberam Sanatorium, Madras-600 047.

December, 1991 Meeting

27 Members were present. Minutes of the last meeting read and adopted. Members were requested to give a short talk on their collecting interests. New Members got themselves introduced. Mrs. P. Thomas brought her collection on Christmas in five frames for display. She gave a very simple pleasing talk as depicted on stamps and also the significance of the twelve days of Christmas. She had to include in her collection Stamps of the Trucial States (though Blacklisted) as they are printed nicely and also due to the paucity of stamps. Mr. Thomas exhibited to the members present her version of "The Bible through Philately" She had placed in sequence the Christmas Scenes starting with the Annunciation, then the Visitation, the Birth of Jesus in Bethelehem, the Gloria Angels on gutter with traffic lights, the sheperds, the 3 kings offering gold, frankinsense and myhrr and the flight into Egypt. Next are the associations with Christmas like Carols, Christmas trees, Santa Claus, Snowmen and other songs of Christmas. With FDC's, miniature sheets and over 200 stamps he had tried to depict this great event, we christians of the world celebrate on December 25th every year. The talk was thought provoking. Our President Shri. G. Madanmohandas made announcements regarding new issue of stamps and stationery, Special and Permanent Pictorial cancellations by the Department; two commemorative stamps were withdrawn from sale from Philatelic Bureau/counters in October/November; how two more are to follow in December, 91 and Jan. 92 as six month period of sales is over at the Bureau. whether they will be sold across the postoffice counters or not is not clarified. He also read out the Tentative Programme for 1992 of New Issues of stamps. Our President wished all the Members and their Family a MEERY CHEERFUL CHRISTMAS and A Happy Prosperous New Year 1992. Shri. N. Narayanan was thanked for distributing to Members at every Meeting Brochures of New Issues of New Zealand and Switzerland.

SIPA MEETINGS

SECOND SUNDAY of every month - Regular meeting at the Philatelic Bureau, Anna Road Post Office, Madras 600 002. (10.30 a.m. to 12.30 p.m.)

THIRD SUNDAY of every month - Auction meeting at our Library Hall at 6, Nannian Street, Madras 3. (Timing: 10-45 a.m. to 1 p.m.)

SIPA Library Open Tuesdays & III Sunday, 6, Nannian Street, Madras - 3.

Some "Armorial" Cancellations of the Indian Post Office

Mr. A.C. Glidhill, The Philatelists 1965

Indian postmarks of the 20th Century are a far more rewarding field of study than is generally appreciated. The use at two small post offices—GANGANAGAR in RAJPUTANA and DRIGHROAD near KARACHI—"circa 1930-33" of R.L.'s Type C.21, a Type that till a few years ago was believed to have been used only at PERIM, an Indian Post Office in the Red Sea, is a case in point. The heterodox Types of T.P.O. Cancellations that had a brief and sporadic currency from "circa 1906" onwards are another. The "armorial" Types of postmarks are a third.

To collectors of the Postal Stationery of the Indian Convention States, the coats-of-arms of their Rulers are, of course, a familiar sight. For—to satisfy princely pride, no doubt—not only the name of the State but also its coat-of-arms were, almost invariably, overprinted on the envelopes and postal cards of India supplied to the State Treasury by the Government of India. The largest of the Convention States, GWALIOR, gave even greater prominence to its armorial bearings. For it incorporated their salient feature in its cancellations and even in its miscellaneous handstamps. Usually a pair of cobras, but sometimes only one, embellished the many types of postmarks of offices of the Gwalior Posts.

And collectors of the "adhesives" of the Feudatory States need no reminding that several States incorporated the State emblem in the design of their postage stamps..... the dagger of BUNDI, the sun-chariot of JAIPUR, and so on.

In the Sections devoted to the Indian States, R.L.'s Encyclo. Part iii illustrates some of the heraldic embellishments I have mentioned. But less publicized are the armorial postmarks of the Imperial Posts. These fall into two groups:-

- A. Those used at Imperial Post Offices in British India.
- B. Those used at Imperial Post Offices in Native States

Group A: These featured the Royal Arms and were "slogan postmarks" with the "slogan" above and below the Arms. They were usually duplex cancellations, but occasionally the "slogan" was struck as a separate postmark. Their use was confined, I think, to offices of major importance only, and I have come across only two themes to which the Royal Arms lent support, though there may be others. They were:-

1. BUY P.O. CASH CERTIFICATE (Royal Arms)
6% COMPOUND INTEREST
2. SUPPORT (Royal Arms)
INDIAN INDUSTRIES

The second of these slogans was extensively used in postmarks devoid of the Royal Arms and over a long period, of course. It is perhaps worth mentioning too a "semi-armorial" duplex cancellation that advertised the 1924 Wembley Exhibition. For it incorporated the "British Lion". Its use was apparently confined to a few important offices, and examples of use at CALCUTTA are a feature of the postcards despatched from the Mount Everest expedition of that year and cancelled on arrival at CALCUTTA.

Group B. Examples are scarce. For, though the Imperial Post had its offices in every Native State worthy of the name, only in two States, as far as I know, were its offices provided with cancellers that differed materially from the All-India Types in use elsewhere. These offices were located in the States of FARIDKOT and BHOPAL, and for their use the All-India Types current from time to time were modified to enable the coat-of-arms of the ruling dynasty to feature (prominently) in the cancellers. The arms of FARIDKOT can be seen in the cancellations of KOT KAPURA, the only office of any importance in the small principedom which for a brief spell that ended in 1901, enjoyed the privileged status of a "Convention State". The arms of BHOPAL appear in the cancellations of quite a few Imperial Post Offices within that major "feudatory"..... BHOPAL, BHOPAL CHOWK, SEHORE, SEHORE CANTONMENT and possibly others.



Why this concession to the feudal pride of two ruling dynasties but not to the scores of others of as greater or greater-political importance in whose territories the Imperial Post had its offices? And why did it happen when it did, and continue as long as it did? For though the State post of FARIDKOT closed in 1911, it was not till many years later that an 'armorial' canceller came into use at KOT KAPURA, nor have I seen an example earlier than 1914 of an 'armorial' cancellation used in BHOPAL STATE. Yet one can find examples of use from then on up to the late 1930s at any rate.

Moreover, as New Types of All-India cancellors followed one another and, in modified form, were supplied to the Imperial Post Offices in the two States, the design of their coat-of-arms was sometimes re-drawn. So it is possible to build a small specialised display of these "armorial" cancellations, spanning the years between the start of two World Wars, and maybe longer. Yet, strange to say, they were not used to the exclusion of unmodified All-India Types, not at the Imperial Post Office at BHO-PAL anyway. There, from time to time, a 'slogan' hand-stamp or a circular date stamp identical in all respects with Types in use throughout India was used for cancelling items of mail. As for KOTKAPURA, material is much harder to come by, but non-armorial cancellors may have flitted across the scene there too.

We know of only two Native States in which the cancellors used at Imperial Post Offices incorporated the

State emblem. Perhaps a third qualifies for inclusion, though in very different and readily understandable circumstances, JAIPUR STATE. Its Posts, along with those of all other Indian States, were "liquidated" by Independent India in 1950/51. But for a year or two afterwards, "Jaipur Type" cancellors featuring the 'Sun' emblem of JAIPUR remained in use at several offices taken over by the Indian Post Office. But their continued use was no doubt merely a manifestation of the delays inevitable when any major 'takeover' occurs.

One can write only of what one has observed. It may be that Group A and/or Group B embrace uses of armorial postmarks not recorded above. Be that as it may, they provide yet another example of the interest to be found in comparatively modern material by collectors with more patience than pence.

MAP STAMPS

By W. DENNIS WAY

THE collecting of Map Stamps can form quite an interesting side-line as by now the world's surface is fairly completely covered by detailed charts amongst the stamp designs. Many feature globes and maps that are devoid of detail and for that reason are not further referred to in this article, but of globes that really have maps upon them we must take notice of the following, taken for convenience in alphabetical order.

The Pan-American Postal Congress stamps of 1921, issued by the Argentine, in which America is mapped on the globe behind the figure and the New World on some of that country's air mails of 1928. Later some of these were surcharged in celebration of the first anniversary of the revolution and for the *Graf Zeppelin* flight.

The 2 c. 1929 "Day of the Race" issue also shows the New World on the globe, whilst the Refrigerating Congress issue of 1932 is content to show South America, surely a curious event to celebrate with stamps! The final item from this country is the 1 p. of 1936, which is interesting as showing the Falkland Islands as belonging to the Argentine. It is not generally known that every year Buenos Ayres sends a polite request to London for the colony to be handed over!

Australia has given us some splendid world maps, the Kingsford-Smith trio of 1931, the 6d. of the next year and the 1s. 6d. of 1934, which is a beautifully produced stamp with a wealth of detail on the map.

Minute, but quite clear in detail, are the globes at the foot of the 25 c. Belgium, 1884, whilst the Pan-American Congress pair of Brazil, 1906, again give us a New World Map.

Canada's 5 c. air stamp of 1928 furnishes a poor map of that country. It was surcharged as a six cents value later, at the same time as a new 5 c., showing Mercury before the Americas, was issued. Much better was the 13 c. of the Ottawa set, clearly showing the Empire. Good maps also are shown on the Cuban Pan-American set of 1928, the globe having been split in half for the occasion.

Eritrea also gave us a globe in her air mail set of 1934, and to France belongs the honour of producing the first map stamp, for an examination of the Peace and Commerce series of 1876 will reveal the world behind the value plate.

The next country on our list is Germany. Her

first map was of the northern hemisphere on the *Graf Zeppelin* set of 1928. Stamps of this set have to be looked for with many overprints for later flights to the North Pole, South America and Chicago. Also from Germany comes the 1934 air set of which some values show an eagle flying before the world.

Yet another globe appears on the 3 l. air stamp from Lithuania of 1934, whilst still two more are the pair of 6 p. 80 c. Paraguayan air stamps of 1930. Included, too, must be the 1933 Columbus set which shows South America on the usual globe.

A globe likely to be overlooked is that on the four higher values of Portugal's Prince Henry set of 1894. Much of the northern hemisphere also appears on the fine 50 k. Airship Construction set of Russia, 1931, whilst splendid indeed is the chart of the Arctic regions on the Franz-Josef pair of 1932.

Our final globes come from the U.S.A., beginning with that on the 5 c. 1928 air mail stamp and passing on to the 2 c. Red Cross Society issue of 1931 which features the two Americas. Valuable to our collection, too, is the 3 c. Byrd Antarctic stamp as, with the Russian issue mentioned, we have a pair of Polar stamps more up to date than any map in our atlases! Lastly, the 2.60 *Graf Zeppelin* stamp shows the globe.

Having completed globes we pass on to world maps on the familiar Mercator's projection. There are not many of these, and pride of place must go to the 1898 Canadian stamp with its three shades of blue for the sea. This was the first British Colonial map stamp.

Good also is the world on the 6 s. and 10 s. of the Japanese U.P.U. set of 1927.

Russia gave us a further map on the pair for the 1927 Air Post Congress, whilst in 1925 Spain produced Red Cross air stamps with a map of the Old World showing the route to Manila. The stamps were overprinted in the year following in honour of the twenty-fifth anniversary of King Alfonso's coronation.

These complete our world maps, so we turn first of all to Europe, beginning with the 10 s. 1921 of Bulgaria. This stamp caused unfavourable comment at the time of its issue as the map claimed large portions of surrounding countries! The reason was that the issue had been prepared in Austria during the war when Bulgaria was





convinced of ultimate victory. Next in alphabetical order come the curious "home made" stamps of Crete, 1905, and then we come to the Lithuanian map with its many subsequent surcharges.

The Blériot stamp of France shows quite a good map of the English Channel.

The 3 pf. of the German International Philatelic Exhibition, issued at Königsberg in 1935, is extremely interesting as the frame is made up from an outline map of East Prussia and Danzig, a fact likely to be missed by the casual observer.

Greece has given us one or two interesting designs commencing with the 4 dr. of the Centenary issue. This shows the territorial increase in the size of the country during the last century. Then the Aero Express Co. showed us a map of their routes whilst the rival Government service included three values in their 1933 set showing Greece upon the hemisphere. This design is interesting as showing the Corinth Canal. In the same set were two other values showing a plane over the Archipelago.

Iceland has given us two maps and Ireland three values of one design, whilst Lithuania's triangular air stamps of 1932 are interesting as claiming Vilna—forcibly occupied by the Poles during their war against Russia.

Rodi, lying off the coast of Asia Minor, also gives us a good map whilst, commencing in 1927, we have three different interpretations of Greater Roumania, none of them very good. The first is the 1 l. of the Geographical Society issue, the second the same value of the 1930 Census set and the third is the 2 l. of 1935.

Russia produced a vivid 14 k. in 1927, showing that Republic spreading over the map of the old world and followed with a similar value three years later in which it is not easy to discover that the Red Cavalry are dashing over a map towards the Crimea. Finally from that country there came in 1934 a route map of the airship service.

A map likely to be overlooked is that of Switzerland forming the background to the figure of

Helvetia on the 10 c., 12 c. and 15 c. of 1908. Flushed with her Dardanelles victory it is not surprising that Turkey in 1917 issued two designs in honour of the event. They are quite good maps and several subsequent overprintings have also to be looked for. These were followed in 1922 with the 200 pi. showing a good map of Anatolia and in 1931 by nine values showing the Tree of Friendship growing with its roots in the various Balkan capitals. Last is the map of Holland on the 1935 Air Fund 6 c.+4 c.

This completes Europe to date, and adopting the school-book order for the continents we turn to the small number of maps from Asia. First in order come those from Castelrosso, 1923, listed as being Asiatic as the island lies off the coast of Asia Minor. Then comes the fine old chart featured on the 1½ pi. 1928 Cyprus stamp followed two years later by the clear drawing of Japan on the Census pair. A rather obscured map of Manchuria appears on two of her 1933 stamps. North Mongolia furnishes a queer chart of unknown Touva to complete Asia, our most backward continent as far as map stamps are concerned.

Abyssinia in 1931 gave us an air set of seven values showing a 'plane flying over a very poor map of the country, but both Ascension and St. Helena in 1934 gave us good maps of the respective islands. Entirely lacking in detail are the Jubaland of 1926, whilst an examination of the 65 c. Kenya of 1935 will show a map of Africa with the East African possessions shaded. Three values of the ordinary and official sets of Liberia, 1928, also show Africa with Liberia clearly marked. Outstanding, too, is Madagascar on that country's air set of 1935 whilst the detailed chart of Reunion is one of the best-known map stamps.

With such a large design it is a pity that we are given no detail on the Sierra Leone 1½d. of 1933, which boasts of two maps.

America is the most prolific source of map stamps. Canada's splendid 12 c. of the Confederation issue shows us the expansion of the colony. Then we have the fine 40 c. of Mexico, 1915, with



its numerous overprints. This shows a wealth of detail unusual in a map stamp. This was followed by a New World map in 1926 for the Postal Congress, shown on the 4 c. and 10 c. values and subsequently overprinted.

Newfoundland has furnished several maps beginning with the 2 c. of 1908, then the two varieties of the 1 c. of 1928 showing newly won Labrador, the Atlantic map of 1931 and the fine old-time chart on the 20 c. of 1933. The one dollar Atlantic stamp must also be looked for surcharged 1.50 for the Dornier DO-X flight, though, alas, it is beyond the reach of most of us. From nearby St. Pierre comes a map of the twin islands joined by a causeway, whilst the U.S.A. provides the 1904 Louisiana design showing the vastness of that historic purchase. This was followed by a not too good map of the country on the air mails of 1926 and the Lindberg Atlantic map of 1927. A similar map appears on the 1.30 of the Zeppelin issue, 1930.

Turning to the West Indies we have the Cayman Islands ¼d. and 3d. of 1935, and the clear chart of the Caribbean Sea on the Cuban set of 1914. Then we have the well-known Dominican Republic stamps which owing to the boundary being too far westward nearly led to war with Hayti. In point of fact, the boundary has only just been fixed. A similar set in 1926 shows a truer map. Hayti herself produced a good map of this area in 1924, used later as a 60 c. for air mails.

In Central America we have Costa Rica showing us at different periods a map of the country, one of the north-west province of Nicoya and, recently, one of Cocos Island. As everyone knows, this is reputed to have treasure hidden somewhere. From Honduras also comes a very good map on the 15 c. air stamp of 1935, and our list is further added to by the 1896 and 1897 Nicaraguan sets. These clearly show along the southern frontier the San Juan River, intended one day to be a rival to the Panama Canal.



From there we pass to the long series of maps of Panama of which that of 1878 is astonishing as it is drawn the wrong way round! Salvador completes Central America with a good map of the whole peninsula issued in 1924. There are various

surcharges to look for. Before leaving this area we have to note the Spanish Exhibition pair of 1930 showing Central and Latin America respectively.

In South America particular interest applies to the Paraguay-Bolivia dispute, as hostilities were carried on by stamps as well as by more usual methods. Paraguay began in 1924 with maps claiming most of Bolivia, but in 1927 showed a definite boundary on the new set. Numerous other sets followed and were first replied to by Bolivia in her 1928 set. Paraguay's remaining map is a poor one of the South Atlantic for the Graf Zeppelin flight.



From Brazil come three maps, the rather feeble ones of 1927 and 1934 and the excellent South America of the 20 r. 1932. The A.R. 5 c. of Colombia, issued in 1917, is interesting as showing

that country still laying claim to Panama, whose independence she has not yet recognised. Next in order comes the splendid map of the Falkland Islands and our list rapidly draws to an end with the 5 c. red of Uruguay, 1928, in which several of

the Departments, notably Misiones, are shown to the right of General Rivera's portrait. A bleak-looking Spain and South America figure on the Columbus set of 1933, whilst the Congress triangles of the same year show us the two Americas.

We conclude the continent with the Miranda set from Venezuela. Issued in 1896 they claim half of British Guiana! The 1930 air set also has a good map of the country.

Australasia has little to offer. We have, of course, the Commonwealth's well-known map and kangaroo; preceded in 1888 by the 5/- New South Wales which is interesting as showing the State boundaries before they were altered. New Zealand has given us a very plain map of the Dominion, and we arrive at our last two, these being the Dutch Indies 1 g. air stamp of 1931, which shows the area from Java to Australia, and finally the Lithuanian air stamp of 1934 which shows the Atlantic.

Whilst a quarter of a century elapsed before maps began to appear as stamp designs, progress remained slow until air mails became a modern necessity. It is surprising how large a proportion of our maps are from air post stamps.

