



SIPA

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EDITORIAL

I assume that in our country there are number of Philatelic Societies, Clubs, Associations; some have celebrated their Centenary, Golden Jubilee; Platinum Jubilee and many more have sprung up and have had a natural death. Whereas in foreign countries, there are Societies; some for the beginners and a very few are SPECIALIST SOCIETIES. They have done enough Research and have brought out monumental works. We were also privileged to have some 20/25 monumental works to our credit due to the untiring efforts of the Civil/and Military officers who manned the various establishments, who after retirement continued their Research.

Very few of our members know that the HISTORY of the Modern Indian Post Office began in 1774 and its first hundred years have been well covered by the Works of Renouf, Robson Lowe, Hammand Giles, Jal Cooper and Col.Martin. Very few random articles have been published about the Postal History of the next fifty years. It was during this period many new services were introduced. We owe a debt of gratitude to the painstaking efforts of that doyen of Philately who continued the Research from 1873 to 1923 by delving into the available old records in the Post Office Archives and other published and or exhibited material. We should be proud of this doyen, Late Brig.D.S.VIRK, A.V.S.M.(Retd) whose untiring efforts saw the First Published Research Book --INDIAN POSTAL HISTORY 1873 - 1923 (Gleanings from the Post Office

Records.) This book is in SIPA LIBRARY and the members are requested to go to the Library and avail themselves of the various services given to our members by reading such books, give their thought in new discoveries and write articles for our SIPA Bulletin. I must say it is the members who make up the Association, they should contribute their little bit of knowledge and enrich the Association. Please do avail the very many privileges that our Association is rendering to its members. Trust I have given some food for thought to our members. ENROLL NEW MEMBERS. We have nearly 450 Life Members and the Membership is only Rs.1000/- We have also a band of dedicated seniors who go to the various schools to conduct WORKSHOP on Philately, enroll the students as members for the CHAPTER of YOUTH PHILATELY, an Organ of the Philatelic Congress of India, the Apexbody of our Country. Think what you can do for the Association instead of looking to the Association for guidance/assistance. Trust I have given food for thinking.

Shri. Madan Mohan Das
Editor

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Contact : HONORARY EDITOR

Second Sunday of every month regular meeting at the CPMG's Conference Hall, Anna Road, HPO, Chennai - 600 002. (10.30 am. - 12.30pm). First and Third Sunday of every month - Auction meetings at our Library at 6, Nannian Street, Chennai - 3 (10.45 am. - 1 pm). SIPA Library open - Tuesdays & Sundays 6, Nannian Street, Chennai - 3 (7pm. - 8pm).

Our Second Sunday Meetings were held regularly where 40 members attended with President Shri. G. Balakrishna Das presiding. Shri. Mr. G. Madan MohanDas, Spoke on "Educational Values of Philatelic Exhibitions". New members introduced themselves. Talks by Members with display, News/Views appreciated.

STAMP NEWS

BETHUNE COLLEGIATE SCHOOL

7.5.99 300 0.7 MILLION



Bethune School, the first recognized Government institution for the education of girls in Bengal, was founded by John Elliot Drinkwater Bethune in 1849. J.E.D. Bethune had

come to India in 1848 as legal member in the Governor General's Council. Education of women was a subject close to his heart, and by virtue of his committed work he soon became the President of the Council of Education. His noble efforts found support from the great social reformer of Bengal, Pundit Ishwar Chandra Vidyasagar.

The initial years were full of adversities and it was mainly the efforts of Pandit Vidyasagar who was the Secretary of the school that ensured the survival of this institution. Dakshinaranjan Mukhopadhyay, Ramgopal Ghosh and Madan Mohan Tarkalankar also associated themselves with the school. That J.E.D. Bethune was a true visionary is evident from the fact that he not only focussed on women's education but also promoted education through mother tongue. In the foundation stone laying ceremony Bethune announced, "You have seen possession of this land symbolically given by delivering to us of a young Asoka Tree, I am told that its Bengali name may be not unfitly paraphrased as "The Tree of Gladness". It is commended for this day's ceremony not only by the gracefulness of its foliage, and the surpassing beauty of its flowers, but also because it is held in special honour among Hindu Women I propose therefore, henceforth that the Asoka tree be made the symbol of female education in India and not here but by every school which has been already established in the villages of Calcutta in imitation of this, and near all those which shall hereafter be multiplied in the land, I suggest that an Asoka tree be planted". The tree still adorns the campus.

The school produced prominent students like Bhubanmala, Kundanmala, Sarala Das, Abala Bose, Kamini Rao and Priyambada Devi. The first lady doctor of Bengal, Kadambini Ganguly and the first lady graduate, Chandramukhi Bose were also students of this institution. In later years, Suchitra Mitra, the renowned Rabindrasangeet maestro, Ila Mitra, the famous politician, Asima Chatopadhyay, the eminent scientist, Shova Sen, the famous theatre personality and Polly Guha, the eminent designer brought glory to the school. This dignified institution comprising of primary, secondary and higher secondary sections with twelve hundred students on the roll is one of the most successful Government schools of Bengal.

Theme : Education, Women, Buildings.

TECHNOLOGY DAY

11.5.99 300 0.7 MILLION



India's technological heritage dates back to the time of Indus Valley Civilization, which had developed sophisticated technologies for metallurgy, town planning and construction, hydraulics, navigation,

food processing and even surgery. Numerous scientists and technologists in post-independence India have worked to create new and powerful technologies that have assured peace and security for the nation, powered economic development leading to prosperity.

These technological contribution and their pervasive influence get rarely noticed in the day-to-day life of the nation. But from time to time, they seize public imagination with the sheer audacity, of their accomplishments, as for instance the recent launch of the INSAT - 2E satellite and the test firing of the Agni-II missile.

India is one of the few nations in the world with satellite launch capabilities. The mastery over space technologies has revolutionized the forecasting and management of natural disasters and greatly reinforced the nation's defence capabilities, apart from changing the face of our telecommunications services. The tactical support that our scientists and technologists have provided to the armed forces through design and fabrication of a wide range of tactical missiles, combat aircraft, armour and radar systems have been crucial to the country's security. Indian nuclear scientists and technologists are among the few who have successfully mastered the entire nuclear fuel cycle and production of atomic materials.

The Green Revolution has enabled India to become sufficient in food grains production. The doubling of life expectancy since independence and the general improvement in the standard of health of our people has been in no small measure the outcome of indigenous technological development in drugs, therapeutics and health-care systems.

Indian industry has grown more than twenty fold in the 50 years since independence and encompasses the entire gamut of industrial and consumer products.

The 11th of May 1998 was a special day in the history of India's technological progress. Three momentous events took place on the day that did the nation proud, namely the triple successful nuclear explosion at Pokhran, the successful test firing of the Trishul Missile and the maiden certification test flight of Hansa-3, the first-all-composite indigenous two-seater

aircraft. In recognition of these signal contributions of Indian scientists and technologists to national prestige, prosperity and well being, 11th May has been declared as National Technology Day.

The Stamp depicts the globe with three orbits girdling it. In one orbit is depicted the Insat-2E satellite and the Hansa aircraft, in another the Trishul Missile and in the third the wheat plant signifying the achievements of our agricultural scientists. The globe with three orbits could also be conceived as an atom with its nucleus and the orbiting electrons, thus representing the achievements of our nuclear scientists.

Theme : Globe, Satellite, Space, Technology, Planes.

125 YEARS OF MUMBAI PORT TRUST

26.6.99 300 0.7 MILLION



Mumbai Port - known as the "Gateway of India" or the 'Nation's window to the outside World' - has made a significant contribution to the nation's trade and

commerce. Strategically situated at the mid-point on the west coast and gifted with a magnificent natural harbour of 400 sq. kms, Mumbai Port has been the country's premier port for several decades.

The Mumbai (Bombay as it was then known) Port Trust was constituted on 26.06.1873 for the administrations of the affairs of the port and to take care of the interest of trade endangered by the possession by private companies of a monopoly of landing and shifting facilities.

On its constitutions, the port management immediately set about constructing facilities to service the trade. First came the Prince Dock in 1880 followed by Victoria Dock in 1888. With these two wet docks in operation, concentration was on development of other infrastructure facilities, equipment, transportation and storage. The deepening of the Suez Canal hastened the growth of trade which in its wake brought in deep drafted vessels. Taking cognizance of this change, the Port Trust constructed Alexandra Dock, now known as Indira Dock, in 1914, with 9.14metres draft. Road and railway infrastructure was added to handle the increasing traffic with the port's own railway running from Wadala to Ballard Pier serving all the cargo berths in the docks and the passenger berth at Ballard Pier and linked with the main railway network.

The Port has now 50 berths in the three dock systems mentioned above for handling of general cargo and containers and 6 berths for liquid cargo at Jawahar Dweep and Pir Pau with various crafts and equipment for handling of the ships and cargo and covered storage

accommodation of approximately 3.5 lakhs sq.mtrs. and open storage spaces of approximately 5 lakh sq.mtrs. The Port also provides modern ship repair facilities through its two dry docks.

The Mumbai Port has provided the base for development of the city with employment opportunities and commercial and financial trade. It has been a major factor in Mumbai becoming the commercial and financial capital of India. A number of public roads in the city were originally constructed by Mumbai Port Trust and handed over to the Municipal Corporation. The Mumbai Port Trust made a significant contribution in the development of the city.

Theme : Ships, Ports, Industry.

MIZORAM ACCORD

30.6.99 300 1 MILLION



From the status of Union Territory, Mizoram became the 23rd State of the Republic of India, in February, 1987. A mountainous region, the state has the most variegated hilly terrain in the eastern part of India. The hills are steep and separated by rivers flowing either to the north or south. Mizoram literally translated means 'land of the highlanders'. Assam and Manipur border the north while Tripura lies in the west.

For a number of years the state was ravaged by insurgency spearheaded by a separatist group called the Mizo National Front (MNF) resulting in untold hardship, suffering and loss of human lives. Development activities had come to a standstill.

On 30th June, 1986, the historic 'Mizoram Accord' was signed between the Government and MNF bringing an end to this era of insurgency and ushering peace and stability to the area. This historic accord served to strengthen the emotional integration of the people of the state with the nation as a whole. With Mizoram becoming a model state of the north east with the highest literacy rate, significant progress has been made in the fields of education, agriculture, telecommunications, infrastructure and overall prosperity of the region.

The design of the stamp emphasizes the lasting peace brought on by the Accord with the two hands clasped in a firm handshake symbolizing the Accord. The richly embroidered Mizo cloth 'puanchal' worn by Mizo women on occasions of merriment, gaiety and festivity symbolize, peace and harmony in the state and the lush green hills in the background represent the natural scenic beauty of the state. The first day cover again symbolizes the peace and progress brought by the accord.

Theme : Hands, Planes, Scenes & Sites.

SIKHISM AND SIKHS THROUGH PHILATELY

By Shri. Paramjit Singh

Sikhism means the path of disciple and discipleship as shown by the Sikh Gurus. It is a practical religion - faith of hope and optimism. The word SIKH is derived from Sanskrit word SHISHYA means a disciple or learner. The followers of Guru Nanak (first Guru) and his successors are known as Sikhs.

The emergence and development of Sikhism is one of the most inspiring and stirring era of the world religious history. The complete faith is based on the principles of democracy, secularism, and socialism without any barrier of caste, creed, sex, colour and religion.

The essence of Sikhism, the Gurus and their followers and sikh personalities can be highlighted through philately. Kenya in 1984 (SG 323) issued a stamp showing Nishan Sahib - a sacred sign of sikhism. The two swords in it represent the safeguard of whole humanity which is denoted by the middle circle. The sword (Khanda) in centre represents the unity and oneness of God.

SIKH GURUS

Sri Guru Nanak Dev Ji, founder of Sikhism was born in 1469 in Talwandi known as Nankana Sahib. India issued a stamp in 1969 (SG 602) to mark the 500th birth anniversary of Guru Nanak Ji. The stamp shows Sri Nankana Sahib Gurudwara. Guruji spent last eighteen years of his life at Dehra Baba Nanak in Kartarpur (shown on a picture postal card of 9 pias issued by North Western Railway in 1935). Guru Angad Dev Ji introduced the use of Gurumukhi script and developed the Punjabi grammar (number of advertisement/slogans in Gurmukhi have appeared on postal stationery of India from time to time). Guru Amardas Ji (India SG 953) introduced the institution of Pangat - dining together in Guru-ka-langar (the free community kitchen and Sangat-mixed congregation, where his disciples met as brother of faith recite the hymns. He gave women equal rights, status and discouraged practice of Purdah and Sati.

Guru Ram Das Ji, the fourth Guru of the Sikh faith marked the excavation work of holy tank Amrit Sarovar on a land gifted by Moghul Emperor Akbar the Great. A postal card depicting the Golden Temple and Amrit Sarovar was issued by the North Western railway in 1935 as a part of campaign to promote tourism. Sufi Mian Mir, a Muslim saint laid the foundation stone of the temple at the invitation of 5th Guru Arjan Dev Ji. The Golden Temple (India, SG 245, 319, 1282) - nucleus of Sikhism, is a sanctum sanatorium of sikhs, keeps its doors open to all

the people irrespective of their faiths. In its precincts Guru Arjan Dev Ji compiled Sri Guru Granth Sahib (Sikh Scripture). He also founded Amritsar city in 1587. He was the first martyr of Sikh history.

Sixth Guru Hargobind Sahib Ji was imprisoned in Gwalior fort (SG 1131) under the orders of Emperor Jehangir. A number of Rajput princes were imprisoned in the fort at that time and Guru secured their safe release. Guru Har Rai Ji, the seventh Guru, made sikhism strong and popular like his grandfather Guru Harkishanan Ji, the eighth Guru, became Guru at the age of 5, is also known as "Bal Guru". Guru Har Rai and Guru Harkishan Ji were anointed in kiratpur.

Guru Teg Bahadur Ji, the 9th successor of Guru Nanak Dev Ji sacrificed his life for the cause of vindication of religion freedom and dignity. India issued a stamp to mark the tercentenary of the martyrdom of Guru Tegh Bahadur. The stamp shows Gurudwara Sisganj (SG 544). He abolished caste and custom, old rituals and outdated systems. He created new order of Khalsa. In 1699 Guru Gobind Singh initiated the sikh Baptism by creating new Khalsa Panth. (Recently we celebrated the tercentenary of Khalsa Panth in April this year) through Panj Pyaras (five beloved ones) and gave distinct identity to the sikhs by five K's namely Kesh (Cluster of hair), Kara (iron bangle), Kangha (small comb), Kirpan (sword) and Kachha (underdrawers). He bestowed under the Granth the Guruship at Nanded in 1708 "all communities should recognise Guru Granth as the Guru. All obey the commandments contained therein, recognise the Granth as the visible body of the Guru. The sikh who wishes to meet me should find me there". A falcon (SG 1527) has been associated with Guru Gobind Singh Ji in his popular image. He breathed his last on 7th October 1708 at Nanded in Maharashtra.

The main theme of Guru Granth Sahib is search of God, means to communicate with God, method to realise God, religious commandments, rule of morality and the Sikh theology. Sermons by various saints Ravi Das (India SG 633), Kabir (India SG 337), Sant Nam Deo (India SG 626) and Surdas (India SG 340) are embodied in Guru Granth Sahib.

SIKH PERSONALITIES

The Sikh have made outstanding contribution in the world of religious, social, political, economic and cultural development of the country. Bhai Vir Singh (India SG 664) was a renowned poet and saint. Saint Harchand Singh Longowal (India SG 1253) was the head priest of Damdama Sahib and is famous for Rajiv-Longowal accord on Punjab issue who gave a new hope of harmony in the region in 1985. Bhai Nanak Singh was honoured by National



Sahitya Academy Award for his contribution to the Indian literature. A stamp was issued by India in honour on 10.01.1998. Amrita Sher Gill (India, SG 885) was the most out-standing painter of modern times. Bhai Kanhaiya Ji (India, 18.09.1998) devoted his whole life in the service of the mankind. He served water to the wounded without any discrimination to friends and foes in the battle field. He left behind a unique movement of "Sewa Panthi".

Maharaja Ranjith Singh (India, SG 534) was great warrior. He was a lover of horses, liberal patron of art and letters. Baba Jassa Singh (India, SG 1157) achieved great distinctions as a warrior and spiritual leader of the sikhs. He conquered Lahore and minted his own coins. Four princely states-Patiala, Nabha, Jhind and Faridkot were ruled by the Sikh rulers and issued their own stamps and postal stationery from time to time.

Sikhs made great sacrifices during the freedom struggle of India. Sardar Bhagat Singh (India, SG 571) contributed towards hastening of dawn of freedom by his revolutionary campaign. He ranks as one of the most out-standing and prominent patriot who sacrificed his all for the cause of his motherland. Sardar Udham Singh (India, SG 1505) gunned down Sir O'Dwyer responsible for massacre in which 2000 men, women and innocent children were killed at Jallianwala Bagh, Amritsar (India, SG 589) on Baisakhi day, 13th April 1919. Baba Kharak Singh (India, SG 1295) led a huge demonstration against the Simon Commission in 1928 and also took part in the Gurudwara Liberation movement. Master Tara Singh (India, SG 1149) actively participated in the Gurudwara Reforms Movement and the non-cooperation movement in 1930. Giani Zail Singh (India, SG 1649; South Korea

SG 1586) entered the arena of freedom struggle at the age of 15 and declared an open revolt against the feudal rule. He became the 7th President and the first Sikh of the Indian Republic (1982-87). Rajkumari Amrit Kaur (India, SG 1347) was the first woman to hold a post in the union cabinet as minister of health from 1947 to 1957.

Sikhs have brought laurels for their country in the field of sports also. They are depicted on stamps casually and identified with the masses in all walks of life and moving forward with other fellow countrymen for all around development, social progress, property and integrity of nations (Cricket-India, SG 654; Hockey-India SG 541, Dominica SG 755; Cycling-India, SG 1419 etc.). Sikhs have fought with the traditional determination and heroism in all major operations undertaken by the Indian army and have been honoured by Army Postal Services by issuing special covers with cachets and cancellations from time to time.

(Courtesy, The North Post)

THE EURO AND PHILATELY

Belgium moves towards Euro Stamps.

La Poste, the Belgium Post Office, has recently announced its planned move towards the use of the Euro as a stamp denomination.

The first step will be taken on 1 October 1999 when Belgium will issue its first stamp with a two fold denomination, Francs and Euros. The Euro value will be purely indicated as the actual value still be in Francs. All stamps issued from 1 October 1999 until 31 December 2001 will carry both values.

On 1 January 2001 La Poste will cease to sell stamps valued only in Francs. On 1 January 2002 all stamps will be issued exclusively in Euros.

Postage stamps with their value only in Francs will be accepted in exchange for Euro values until 30 June 2002 but after that date La Poste will not accept any returns. Stamps with dual denominations in Francs and Euros will remain valid until stocks are exhausted.

Current NVI stamps will remain valid throughout the change over and after and more of this types will be issued in the future.

Following the announcement from Belgium, the latest edition of the Universal Postal Union Review has drawn attention to the impact the introduction of the Euro currency will have on philately.

For those countries participating in the first wave of monetary union all local currency will have to be withdrawn before 1 January 2002 and as a consequence this will leave many stamps with out-of-date denominations. (Courtesy, GSM - Sep '98)

QUEER POSTS

By L. N. and M. Williams

The transport of letters in a tin, from the island of Niuafuou, Tonga, to the mail steamers which cannot approach near the shore owing to the heavy surf, has long been a source of interest to philatelists, and covers which have been carried by the mail are to be found in many collections.

In the course of history there have been other peculiar methods of message delivery, some of them quite as extraordinary as the "Tin Can Mail".

In the spring of 1475, Charles the Bold, Duke of Burgundy, was besieging the town of Neuss on the Rhine. The beleaguered inhabitants of the town were sorely pressed, but their courage was such that they refused to surrender.

Provisions were running low and ammunition was all but exhausted. Not far away, on the other side of the Rhine, a large Imperial army was encamped, but the people of Neuss were unable to get a message to the army to ask that the town be relieved.

At last someone struck upon the idea of enclosing a message in a cannon ball and firing it across the river. The message, in the hand-writing of Court Hermann of Hesse, was written on thin semi-transparent paper, and described the serious position in which the inhabitants found themselves. The paper was enclosed in a hollow cannon ball, but alas, the first shot fell into the river. Before a second shot could be fired the people were obliged to conduct a search throughout the town for sufficient gunpowder to fire the cannon.

Eventually, the requisite amount of powder was obtained, and the second shot was more successful. After a siege lasting eleven months the town of Neuss was relieved.

The letter was kept as a souvenir of the historic occasion, and was still in existence in the archives at Cologne before the II world war.

A rather similar method of delivering messages was employed, so it is said, by an artillery officer during the Great War (1914-18). His fiancée, who was staying on a farm, found herself cut off behind the enemy lines.

The officer was anxious to communicate with her, but could not do so in any usual way. He hit upon the idea which had been employed successfully some 450 years earlier. Regularly every week a "dud" was fired in the direction of the farm, and all that the young lady had to do was to dig up the shell and extract the message from it.

This unusual post was in operation for many months, but eventually the enemy got wind of it and ordered the inhabitants of the farm further behind the lines.

Although pigeons have been used for carrying messages on many occasions, it is only rarely that other

birds have been employed for a similar purpose. However, towards the end of the last century, experiments were carried out in France with swallows as postmen.

The experiments appear to have been quite successful, and the leader of a Viennese fire brigade, who was dissatisfied with the results obtained by his pigeon service, sent to France for a dozen swallows which he hoped would be more efficient than the pigeons. Despite the publicity given to these experiments, the Swallow Post did not achieve much popularity owing to the difficulty experienced in training the birds.

At one time it was suggested, in England, that pigeons might be used for a Transatlantic service, but the idea never reached fruition. Had it done so the R.S.P.C.A. might have had something to say about it!

Letters and messages have, on more than one occasion, been sent by submarine. During the Great War Germany instituted a submarine postal service to America. The service was established by a German shipping company, and permission was obtained from the Government for the issue of stamps. In all, eight denominations were issued; they ranged from five to one hundred marks. The central feature of the design was a lighthouse, surrounded by a circular frame. Enclosing this was a rectangle with the inscription "WERTBRIEF - BEFORDERUNG - DEUTSCHLAND-AMERIKA" ("Money - letter - Service - Germany - America").

These stamps were embossed by the firm of Giesecke & Devrient, of Leipzig; the perforation was 14. Not more than one thousand of any one value were printed. The service was suspended when the United States entered the war.

The enclosing of messages in bottles which are then thrown into the sea is by no means a new idea, and many instances of this method of transmission have been recorded from time to time. An interesting experiment was carried out in 1875. On 5th January of that year, a German sea captain, then cruising near the Kerguelen Islands in the Antarctic regions, enclosed a message in a bottle and threw it overboard.

For seventeen months the bottle pursued a north-easterly course. On 11th June, 1876, it was recovered near the mouth of the River Pieman on the west coast of Tasmania, by the captain of a Tasmanian ship. The distance covered by the bottle was calculated as having been 3287 miles at an average speed of from 6 to 6 1/2 miles per day.

During the siege of Paris, in the France-Prussian War, recourse was made to the River Seine as a medium of transporting messages which were enclosed in hollow floating balls. Although the balls containing the messages were released and drifted down stream they did not escape the vigilance of the enemy, who fished the novel mail carriers out of the river and destroyed them.

(Courtesy, The Philatelist)

WHAT IS A "CLASSIC"?

By L.N. and M. Williams

One of the most abused terms, and certainly one more liberally interpreted than any other in philately is the word "classic" as applied to an issue.

It is doubtful whether any two philatelists would agree as to the line of demarcation between classic and non-classic stamps.

One of the difficulties in regard to the use of the term "classic" is that no definition of it is to be found as applied specifically to stamps, and its application to literature, art or sculpture cannot be readily modified so as to result in a satisfactory philatelic definition.

It will be immediately acknowledged that each of the following issues is a classic; Great Britain 1840, the Bordeaux issue of France 1870, British Guiana 1 cent of 1856, Great Britain 1847 - and this could be multiplied many times. It is, therefore, apparent that the term classic must be defined so as not necessarily to exclude stamps which are as crude as the British Guiana 1 cent or even cruder, nor as inexpensive as the cheapest of the Bordeaux issue.

The design of a stamp has no bearing whatever on its eligibility to be considered a classic, no matter how beautifully or crudely it is printed, nor what its subject; the U.S. Pan-American stamp of 1940 is certainly not a classic even though it portrays the "classic" painting of Botticelli, nor are the South African triangulars of 1926, despite the fact that they reproduce the design of a classic issue.

Nor is the method of production in itself a test, for the 1d. black is recess-printed, the Bordeaux issue is lithographed, the British Guiana 1 cent is typographed, and the Great Britain 1847 issue is embossed. Again, the classics are not limited to first issues, nor is every first issue a classic; obviously the "Post Office" Mauritius is a classic; equally obvious the first issue of Basutoland is not.

Classics are not limited to a single country or group of countries, nor confined to the productions of a single firm of printers. Age alone is not a determination; for example, the St. Vincent 5s. of 1880 is certainly a classic - not so the first issue (1863) of the Orange Free State.

Obviously condition plays no part in determining whether a stamp is a classic or not. A classic status would in no way be impaired through, being represented by a torn, cut, or heavily postmarked specimen, nor would a lightly cancelled, perfectly centred and clean copy of a non-classic turn the scales in the other direction.

These, briefly, are but a few of the difficulties confronting the philatelist in search of an adequate definition of the term "classic issues". Mr. Benjamin

Goodfellow, in a paper read before the Twentieth Philatelic Congress of Great Britain propounded ten questions in the hope that discussion of the answers would lead to a satisfactory definition. Unfortunately, it appears that both the paper and the subsequent discussion were treated in a manner which rendered any serious contribution to philately impossible, but it is interesting to examine them in an attempt to obtain the desired definition.

Mr. Goodfellow's questions were:-

1. "Would it be correct to say that all imperforate stamps are classics, and if so, are all perforated stamps to be styled moderns?" The answer to this is obvious, for who could deny that, say, the "Connell" is a classic, and who would doubt that the 1923 issue of Japan is not?
2. "Can we say that, at all events, all the Perkins, Bacon line-engraved issues are entitled to be called classics?" The answer to this question may not appear so easy, but it must be in the negative, for all the Perkins, Bacon line-engraved stamps would include, say, the 1924 issue of Guatemala, and more recently, the Newfoundland Coronation series, neither of which can be styled classics. However, it is probably correct to say that all the Perkins, Bacon line-engraved stamps of the British colonies issued during the nineteenth century are entitled to the appellation 'classics'.
3. "Can any surface-printed stamp be a classic?" The answer to this must be in the affirmative because nobody can deny that the first series of British Guiana, no less than the 1 cent of 1856, the Cape "Woodblocks" and the Hawaiian "Missionaries" are all classics.
4. "Can a lithographic stamp be a classic?" Certainly; cf., the Western Australian issues of 1854 and 1857.
5. "Can a photogravure stamp be anything but a modern?" This question can be answered by stating that no photogravure stamp is a classic.
6. "Does the question whether a stamp is a classic depend upon its age or date of issue, or does it depend upon its rarity?" It has already been shown that age alone does not necessarily make a stamp a classic, but it can be said with certainty that every stamp issued between 1840 and 1850 is a classic - and so are many issued after that date. Presumably the inclusion in the question of "date of issue" in addition to "age" was intended to cover stamps put on sale some years after they were produced, such, for instance, as the first "Britannia"

type of Trinidad. Rarity is not a sine qua non of a classic, and there are many rare stamps which are not classics, while many classics are obtainable at a few pence each.

7. "If age is to be the test, can a date of issue be fixed prior to which a stamp shall be deemed a classic, and afterwards a modern?" Except for giving a very early date, such as 1850, it is not possible dogmatically to state that every issue made before a certain time is a classic, nor would it be correct to say that all issues made after such a date are not classics.
8. "If rarity is to be the test, how much rarity constitutes the measure of a classic, and is this dependent upon the amount of its quoted price in the catalogues, and what measure of catalogue price entitles a stamp to become a classic?" It has already been shown that rarity is absolutely no guide in determining whether a stamp is or is not a classic.
9. "Can a modern ever become a classic, and, if so, when, and why?" As in literature, a classic is a classic as soon as it is produced, but it may not be appreciated as such until after the passage of time.
10. "Are any of the Air mail stamps classics, and if not, why not?" It is by discussion of a point raised by this question that the writers hope to suggest a means whereby it should be possible to arrive at a successful definition of a "Classic".

Mr. Goodfellow's subject was "The Lure of the Classic as against the Modern Issues". The title of the paper was not of his own choosing, and it raises a difficulty which is not immediately apparent.

The opposition of "Modern" to "Classic" originates in the schools, and distinguishes two branches of learning - the one the imbibition of tongues and knowledge of the Ancients, the other the study of languages and science of more obvious practical application. However, the term "classic" in its accepted sense, and particularly when applied to literature, refers to the works of writers of the first rank. It is derived from the ancient Roman Division of the people into degrees of rank, the highest being "classicus" and all the other "infra classem". In this sense the antonym of the "classics" is the "romances" - the classics were written by authors of the first rank, in pure language, the romances by others in the vernacular.

It will thus be seen that it was particularly unfortunate that Mr. Goodfellow's paper should have been given a title which distinguishes a "classic" from a "modern".

In literature there are no universal classics, apart from the Ancients, owing to the difficulties of language. However, there are classics in English, in French, and in other languages, and these works are universally recognised as classics in their own fields.

The writers suggest that by an application of the principle of this division to stamps, some of the difficulties concerning the scope of the term "classic" will be overcome. Thus, for example, if we regard Air mail stamps as a class, it is quite possible to state that there are Air mail classes, and to point to issues such as a class, it is quite possible to state that there are Air mail classics, and to point to issues such as the "Rose Smith" and the "De Pinedo" as instances. However, they are not universal classics and do not qualify as classics except in their specific field. That is to say, if we were to take the Brazilian "Goats' Eyes", the Mauritius "Greek Borders", the "Pence" Ceylon, the Montevideo "Suns", the Argentine "Rivadavias", and the "Hawker" and to view them from the standpoint of stamps as a whole, all those issues would qualify as classics with the sole exception of the "Hawker", even though that is a classic Air mail.

Similarly with other classics: locals, express deliveries, newspaper stamps, etc. The "Lady McLeod", which is universally admitted as a classic, is in fact a classic local; likewise the Austrian "Mercuries", which are classic newspaper stamps. On the same showing it is possible to have classics in the pre-adhesive period, obvious examples being Bishop and Dockwra stamps.

While the division of stamps into classes narrows the field for the definition of classics as far as general postage stamps are concerned, it complicates matters in so far as it is necessary to apply different standards in evolving definitions of classics in each particular class.

However, in regard to general postage stamps, it is suggested that a necessary qualification of every classic issue is that it must be entirely free from any suggestion of having been made for collections, and no issue with such a taint can be a classic.

(Courtesy, The Philatelist).

BARODA PHILATELIC SOCIETY - VADODHARA

Baroda Philatelic Society, which was established on 27 April 1975, is celebrating its Silver Jubilee Year from April 1999 to March 2000. As part of Silver Jubilee Celebrations they have chalked out many programs, which includes, Stamp Bazaar, Philatelic Workshop, Philatelic Exhibition, Philatelic Quiz, etc., - SIPA, wishes the Society all success in their endeavour to promote philately during the Silver Jubilee Year.

EXPRESS DELIVERY

By Shri.A.K. Bayanwala Life member, SIPA.

Since the inception of Posts, the Department has taken every step to see that the Mail is delivered as early as possible to its destination. In early days, when there were fewer means of carrying mail, this was achieved by runners being replaced by animals, large ships being replaced by smaller fast-moving vessels and, when trains, automobiles and aircraft were invented, these being employed to carry mail.

As time went on, the Postal Department also changed. It brought in a scheme in the early 19th century which was known as 'EXPRESS MAIL' mainly for mail going from Calcutta to outside India. For a fee of 8as. mail was accepted for a ship which had already left Calcutta. The mail was despatched on horseback to Kedgerree, the last steamer point before the start of the voyage. This service was withdrawn in the 1880s.

Slowly the volume of mail increased, resulting in delay in delivery of mail after reaching its destination city. The Postal Department, therefore, came up with a new scheme on 1st October 1930 which was known as 'EXPRESS DELIVERY'. Clauses 28B and 54A of the Indian Postal Guide (1943) deal with this and are self-explanatory:

Clause 28B - Express Delivery: Unregistered letters, postcards and book packets may be transmitted by post for express delivery under the conditions mentioned in Clause 54A. Express to the post office of destination whence, after the opening of the mails in the usual course, they will be transferred to the nearest Government Telegraph office for delivery like a telegram.

Note: The transfer of express delivery letters, postcards and book packets to the nearest Government telegraph office for delivery like a telegram applies only to those post offices which are situated at stations where there are Government Telegraph Offices and does not apply to post offices at stations where there are no Government Telegraph offices.

Clause 54A - Postage and conditions of posting:
(1) The fee for express delivery of a letter, post card or book packet as defined in clause 28B is two annas in addition to the ordinary postage. (2) Unregistered letters, postcards and book packets may be transmitted by post for express delivery to any place not more than five miles distant from a Government Telegraph Office. (3) Express delivery letters, postcards and book packets must be conspicuously marked on the address-side with the words 'EXPRESS DELIVERY', and the fee for express delivery must be prepaid by the sender by means of postage stamps affixed to the letters, postcards or book packets or, in the case of holders of franking machine licences, by impressions of the franking machine. A special label having the words 'EXPRESS DELIVERY' printed on it is

supplied gratis by the post office and the sender is recommended to use this printed label instead of writing the superscription 'EXPRESS DELIVERY'. (4) Express delivery will not be made to anyplace more than five miles distant from a Government Telegraph Office, and of any letter, postcard or book packet on which both the postage and the express delivery fee have not been fully prepaid. Postal articles marked 'EXPRESS DELIVERY' which are addressed to a place more than five miles distant from a Government Telegraph Office, or on which the postage and the Express Delivery fee have not been fully prepaid will be treated like ordinary postal articles.

Note: An Express Delivery letter, postcard or book packet once delivered will, on redirection, be treated as an ordinary article in all respects and dealt with accordingly.

As delivery in this service was made like a telegram, all mail was numbered in manuscript. That is why all used Express Delivery mail is found with a number.

This service was also available for Airmail. Clause 154A(3) deals with this, and reads as follows:

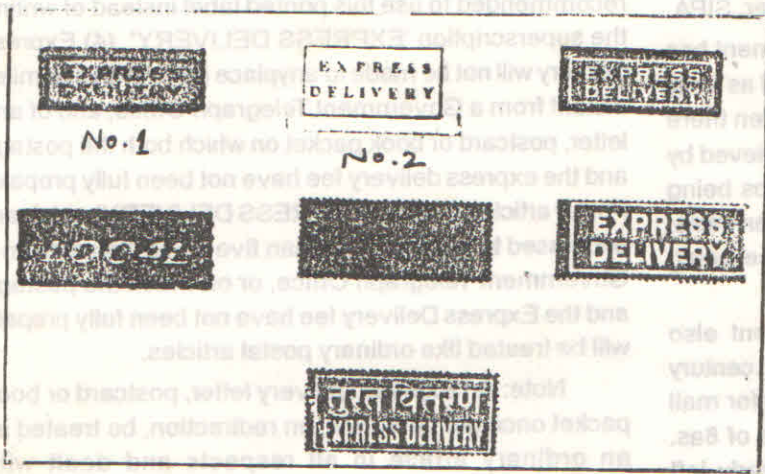
Clause 154A(3) - Express Delivery System - The Express Delivery system is available to inland articles transmitted by air mail on payment of an Air Mail fee and Express Delivery charge.

The Express Delivery fee of 2 annas remained unchanged for more than two decades. From 1st October 1930 to 31st March 1957 it was 2 annas. From 1st April 1957 until 1966 it was 13 naya paisa. Then the fee changed to 15 paise, but the date is not known to the writer. After this, the fee was again changed, to 20 paise and remained the same until the Express Delivery service was abolished on and from 31st October 1974.

It appears that there was only one type of express Delivery label (No.1) before Independence. It is found in different shades and lettering. After Independence, six different types of labels are found. All are in English except for the last one, which is bilingual. No.2 was the first label after Independence and may be found in different sizes and lettering.

It further appears that this service was not at all popular in the first ten years of its existence. Very few covers are found until 1940. To popularise this service, the P & T Department came out with Slogan postmarks, the first being found used in 1946.

It is in a rectangular box reading 'EXPRESS DELIVERY SYSTEM/SAVES MONEY AND TIME' in two lines. The time and date are flanked by 3 wavy lines on both sides. The fifth line deals with the city name. The second was also in a rectangular box, reading 'EXPRESS DELIVERY/ SAVES TIME' in two lines and with time, date and city name as before, found used in 1948. The format of the slogan changed to a Duplex type cancellation in 1951

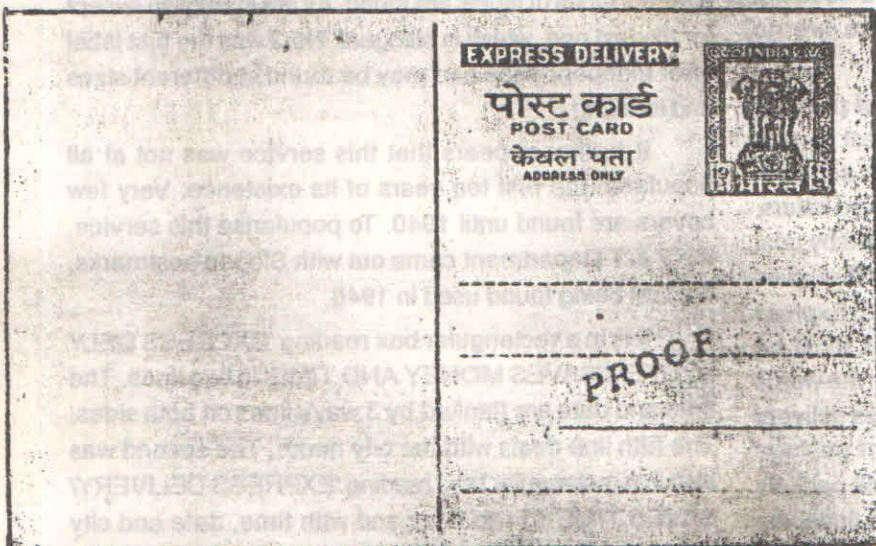
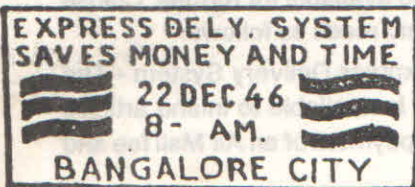


and remained in use until the service was abolished. Sometimes this slogan is found without duplex, as a supplementary postmark. A few examples of this slogan are found after its abolition on 31st October 1974.

Until 11th May 1964, there was no special Stationery for this service, when an embossed envelope of 28 paise (15p. postage & 13p. Express fee) was issued. the size of the envelope is 120 x 95mm. Sometime in 1966, essays of Express Delivery Post Cards and Inland Letter Cards were made in the denomination of 19 paise and 23 paise respectively, but they were never issued. As the rate of the Express Delivery fee was changed, a new embossed envelope in the denomination of 20p. + 20p. was issued on 7th September 1970 in size 120 x 95mm. This stationery was also issued in a commercial size which was 90 x 140mm. After the abolition of the Express Delivery service the special stationery was overprinted and used as ordinary embossed envelopes.

In addition to the above stationery, special envelopes were also issued by the P & T Department for its own use. These are found in the English language and bilingual and are very scarce and hard to obtain.

Before concluding this article, something must be said about the special cancellations used exclusively for this service. These show the words 'EXPRESS DELIVERY' or 'EXPRESS' or 'Exp. DLY' or 'E.D.' and are very scarce. It seems that very few cities had used these special cancellations, which are always found as a delivery postmark. Otherwise Express Delivery mail was delivered with a cachet of the Telegraph Dept. My examples are dated 18.5.65 from Hyderabad G.P.O., 6.9.67 from Bombay G.P.O. and 1.8.70 from Rajkot.



INDIAN POSTS AND TELEGRAPHS DEPARTMENT

EXPRESS LETTER *Shree*

Jain
Moti Lal Chhapra

Name of Office

INDIAN POSTS AND TELEGRAPHS DEPARTMENT

EXPRESS LETTER

Post
Calcutta 37

Name of Office

MGIPAH-1860 & 56-4-449-17,00,600.

अन्तर्देशीय पत्र
INLAND LETTER

EXPRESS DELIVERY

Category	Date	Stamp
Youth World	May 2000	India
World	May 2000	India
World	May 2000	India
Sport World	May 2000	India
World	May 2000	India
World	May 2000	India
World	May 2000	India
World	May 2000	India

(Courtesy, India post)

I. B. R. A. '99

Report by Mrs. Damayanti. M. Pittie, National Commissioner.

I. B. R. A. '99, organised by I.B.R.A. Philatelic GmbH was held from April 27th to May 4th 1999, at Nuremberg Exhibition center to celebrate the 150th Anniversary of 1st German Stamp of the state of Bavaria. It was held over an area of 36,000 sq. meters, comprising of 5 large halls. More than 5000 frames of 12 sheets of 655 collectors were on display in competitive class, besides 640 literature entries.

The standard of exhibits was very high which can be seen with awards given. Overall, 35 L.G., 112 G., 168 L. V., 151 V, 98 L. S., 90 S, 74 S. B., 40 B and 1 Diploma were awarded.

The Hall No. 7 which was occupied by 130 dealers' stalls, was called the Market Hall with Thematic exhibits and antique Cars' Museum. Hall No. 8 was entirely taken up by the department of posts where they conducted many different programmes.

The Central Hall No.9 consisted of Championship Class, Traditional, Revenue, Air Mail and Postal Stationery exhibits. There was also a stage for shows with plenty of accommodation. There were 70 stalls of 100 Postal Administrations and the Treasury of Philately with outstanding rarities such as 'BOMBAY LETTER' (franked with two copies of 'MAURITIUS 1p. red stamp'), the unique misprint of the CAPE OF GOOD HOPE triangle, etc.

The Hall of Philately (No.10-1) was specially for youngsters with Youth Class, Open Class and Maximaphily exhibits. A children's corner with many philatelic games and a Youngster's corner with many philatelic quiz were organised in the hall. Children were given snacks, gifts, prizes besides stamps with mounts and album pages.

Another Hall (No.10 above No.10-1) was with display of postals History exhibits, literature exhibits, 30-35 table-stalls were given to different Societies in the same hall.

Two miniature sheets were released during the exhibition. The best sellers were the I.B.R.A. Block and the Special Edition Envelops. These plus I.B.R.A. Souvenir Sheets and other philatelic items were sold in each hall at 2-3 places.

About 8,000 children came in I.B.R.A. school programme and many more with parents and individually. Most of the shows and programmes were in German.

From India, 18 provisional entries were sent including 2 Literature and 3 Youth entries. But only 11 entries were accepted, out of which 2 entries were withdrawn after acceptance. Therefore 2 other entries were included by the organisers from the entries sent earlier.

The awards received by Indian Philatelists' are as below :-

- 1) Dr. Ms. Sita Bhateja - Pre - Independent India (championship Class) L. G.
- 2) Mrs. Damayanti Pittie - Pre Stamp Postal History of British India 1779- 1854 (93 points) G.
- 3) Mr. Rajan Jayakar - Fiscals of British India 1800- 1900 (85 points) L. V.
- 4) Mr. Kishore Chandak - Indian Postal Missent Labels and Markings (82 points) V.
- 5) Mr. Ashok Bayanwala - Meter Post-India (81 points) V.
- 6) Mr. Dilip Shah - Specialised collection of Gwalior (81 points) V.
- 7) Mr. Radhakishan Sarawagi - Brahmani Dak, was earlier given (78 points) L. S. but later upgraded to 83 points to V. with falcitation.
- 8) Madhukar Deogawankar and R. Sarawagi - Literature (83 points) V.
- 9) R. Vaidyanadhan - Literature (63 points) B.
- 10) N. Vinay (Youth) - Railways (62 points) B.
- 11) K. Mittal (Youth) - Aquatic life (55 points) D.

The attendance in the exhibition was very good. More than 1,20,000 visitors came which is good according to the European standards. It was crowded most of the time.

In conclusion the exhibition was a great success with many interesting and attractive programmes and a big boost to the philately in Europe, specially in Germany, but it was too large to see it thoroughly.