



SIPA Bulletin

For Private Circulation to Members only

Vol. 21 No. 2

March - April 2001

Bimonthly

Guest Editorial:

TO WIN - RULES SHOULD BE KNOWN AND FOLLOWED!

At several recent State, National and International philatelic exhibitions, we have been surprised and shocked to note that some of the exhibits do not display proper knowledge of the fundamental basics of philately and the F.I.P. rules and regulations even after so many years since their introduction.

In every game, sport or hobby it is essential to have proper knowledge of the fundamentals and the rules and regulations. This indeed is a 'sine qua non' - a 'MUST'.

The rules, regulations, and guidelines were not specified in detail in the early days leaving both the exhibitor and the juror in doubts and both tried to do their best. Under the circumstances the exhibitor was often absolutely at the mercy of the whims and fancies of the jurors. In those dark days we, as young persons, dared not approach each and every jury member for his advice and we may say that often when the jurors were kind and considerate, the advices offered differed and we often became no wiser than before.

Today there are the F.I.P. world body's GREX (General Regulations for Exhibitions), the Exhibition's own SREX (Special Rules for Exhibition), the GREV (General Rules for Evaluation), the SREV (Special Rules for Evaluation) for each Class of exhibit, the F.I.P. Guidelines for each Class of exhibit, etc. which studied properly greatly help both the exhibitor and the jury member alike. The exhibitor is now aware, to a very large extent, of what is expected of him and the juror also knows what exactly he has to keep in mind whilst judging the exhibit. The juror can no longer judge the exhibit according to his personal likes and fancies.

Moreover, there is a whole group of jury members and any of them can question the particular juror about his judgement. The exhibitor should not only study but master the GREX, SREX, GREV, SREV, Guidelines, etc. but also read articles on them and on the subject of judging; he should attend seminars in addition to studying the rules, etc. and his own subject.

He should bear in mind that "Philatelic and related knowledge, study and research" has the highest number of marks and so concentrate on this aspect. Your exhibit should display your knowledge, study and research. You may be a scholar but if this does not come to the notice of the jury by reading what has been written in the exhibit and from the items selected for display you now have none to blame but yourself.

Remember that judging an exhibit is not as easy as determining the results of an athletic or horse race. Remember that judges are also human and have the difficult task of judging numerous exhibits in a short period of time. The exhibitor should scrutinise the presentation, treatment and write up of his exhibit with a critical eye both before and after they are finally ready. Remember you have to attract and make the viewer and the jury aware of your material, knowledge, study and research. Moreover, do not forget the significance of the introductory page and also mention therein the salient features of your exhibit, the references, etc.

Instead of afterwards being dissatisfied by the results, take the above into consideration before exhibiting and you will help the Jury in ensuring that justice is done!

- VISPI S. DASTUR

PHILA - KOREA 2002 WORLD STAMP EXHIBITION

National Commissioner - Mr. G. Madan Mohan Das

2 - 11 AUGUST 2002

Eligible participants write for
Entry Application forms to

Mr. G. Madan Mohan Das
41, Perumal Mudali Street,
Sowcarpet,
Chennai - 600 079.
Phone : 539 0336

Closing Date for Entry : 31st August 2001.

STAMP NEWS

ST. ALOYSIUS COLLEGE CHAPEL PAINTINGS

12.01.2001

1500

1.0 million



Fine art, over the centuries, has drawn inspiration from devotional and religious experiences. The paintings of St. Aloysius College Chapel, Mangalore are among the finest specimens of paintings in India, and truly constitute a national treasure.

Executed by Antonio Moscheni, a Jesuit Brother from Italy during 1899-1901, the paintings are of these types:

frescoes (paintings on wet plaster), tempera (paintings on dry plaster) and panels painted on canvas and fixed to the ceilings. The masterly use of light and shade by the artist creates a sense of depth, making his images life-like. The rich colours and the delicate touch evoke the mysterious presence of the divine.

The layout of the paintings follows a threefold division. The central ceiling and the wall behind the main altar of the Chapel depict the life of the noble youth, Aloysius Gonzaga, the Patron of the College, who renounced a dukedom to become a Jesuit and died in the service of the plague stricken in Rome in 1591 at the age of 23. Second comes the two aisles of the chapel, painted with the life of Jesus Christ as described in the Gospels. These are painted on the walls as also on the ceilings together with the texts describing the events. The third set of paintings, on the slope of the roof and the two levels of arches, depict the saints of the Church and the jesuit order.

The artist, Br. Moscheni, worked for more than two years on the paintings, which are believed to be designed after the Sistine Chapel in Rome. When the extent of these paintings is considered, one is left with a sense of amazement at the perfection of execution and the speed of painting which the artist must have possessed.

Late Shri C. Rajagopalachari, one of the greatest exponents of the study of India's culture and heritage commented thus on the paintings of the St. Aloysius College Chapel: "It is an education and an elevation. As you enter it, your heart is ennobled and you soar to higher things. Even the fanatic would shed every drop of his fanaticism in the face of such humanising glory". Dr. O.P. Agarwal, Director General of INTACH (Indian National Trust for Art and Cultural Heritage) who supervised the restoration work of the paintings in 1993 remarked: "The paintings are a labour of divine love and some of the finest paintings we now have in India".

The stamp depicts one of the panels from the central ceiling of the Chapel, showing the early life of Aloysius Gonzaga. The stamp was released on 12th January 2001, as it was on this day in 1880 that the St. Aloysius College was inaugurated.

Theme : Christianity, Paintings, Heritage.

PERSONALITY SERIES: SOCIO-POLITICAL DEVELOPMENT

E.M.S. Namboodiripad, Giani Gurmukh Singh
Musafir, N.G. Ranga and Sane Guruji

25, 27.01.2001

300 each

0.4 million each



Today, India takes legitimate pride in being the largest democracy of the world. In the evaluation of the Indian democracy, contributions of many individuals stand out.

E. M. S. Namboodiripad (1909-1998) started his public life as a Congress worker in Kerala during the

Freedom Movement, but was later drawn towards Marxism in his search for solutions to the problems of poverty and inequality. He was among the founders of the Communist Party in Kerala in 1936 and created history in the 1957 elections by leading it to power in the state. As the Chief Minister of Kerala, he initiated the path-breaking land reform legislation and many other pro-poor measures, bringing solace to millions of people.

Giani Gurmukh Singh Musafir (1899 - 1976) plunged into the Freedom Struggle at an early age, stirred by anguish over the Jallianwala Bagh massacre of 1919. He was drawn to the Akali Movement for social reform, in which his dedication took him to the highest religious office of Sikhism i.e., Jathedar of the Akal Takht, Amritsar in 1930. In 1966, when the new state of Punjab came into being Giani Gurmukh Singh Musafir took over as its first Chief Minister.

Professor N.G. Ranga (1900 - 1995) hailed from Guntur in Andhra Pradesh. Deeply influenced by western socialist thinkers at Oxford, England, where he went for higher studies, the amelioration of the lot of the peasantry became his major motivation, and he joined the Freedom Movement and championed the cause of the downtrodden peasants. He was instrumental in the formation of the Swatantra Party along with Rajaji in 1959, though he later returned to the Congress. Prof. N.G. Ranga is remembered as champion of rural India.

Pandurang Sadashiv Sane alias Sane Guruji (1899-1950), like thousands of others from his generation, was drawn to the Freedom Struggle by the teachings, philosophy and life of Mahatma Gandhi. He was imprisoned many times. In particular, he worked tirelessly to implement Gandhiji's teachings on social reform. In a prayer meeting in Delhi, Gandhiji paid tribute to his efforts in getting the temple at Padharpur open to the dalits. The Sadhana weekly, started by him in August 1948 as a vehicle of socio-cultural emancipation, continues to spread his message.

Theme : Leaders, Freedom Struggle.

SHEEL BHADRA YAJEE

28.01.2001

300

0.4 million



In the 1920s, the national freedom struggle acquired fresh impetus with Gandhiji at its helm and 'Satyagrah', 'Non-cooperation' and 'Civil Disobedience' became the new non-violent tools to fight British Imperialism. There was another form of protest, that of the revolutionaries like Bharat Singh, Chandra Sekhar Azad, Sukhdev, Rajguru, and later this stream

was led by Subhas Chandra Bose. Sheel Bhadra Yajee (1906-1996) the fiery freedom fighter from Bihar was associated with both the streams.

Yajee's participation in the freedom movement began in 1928 when, as a student, he attended the Calcutta Session of the Indian National Congress. He joined the Congress Socialist Party four years later and became involved in the Kisan movement. Later, he came in close touch with Subhas Chandra Bose, as well as Mahatma Gandhi. In 1939 he joined Subhas Chandra Bose to found the All India Forward Bloc.

He was actively associated with the INA movement, and in Netaji's absence, he carried on the onerous task to implement instructions to assist INA in the ongoing freedom movement in Nagaland and Manipur. After India achieved independence, he worked tirelessly to perpetuate the memory of the INA martyrs who had laid down their lives during the national freedom struggle on the Kohima and Imphal fronts. He got constructed INA Martyrs Memorial at Moirang, Manipur where Netaji had established the Provisional Headquarters of the liberated areas of Nagaland and Manipur.

He worked at Barh for the relief of the people stricken by the earthquake of 1934. He was arrested many times during the freedom struggle and spent many years in Jail. He was elected General Secretary of the Patna District Congress Committee and also of the Kisan Sabha in 1934. In 1937, he was elected as a Member of the Bihar Legislative Assembly - the youngest MLA in India during 1937-45. In 1940, he became the General Secretary of the All India Kisan Sabha. For a time he served as the Whip of the Congress Party in Bihar Assembly. He was elected a Member of the Rajya Sabha in 1957.

Yajee raised his voice against caste prejudices and other social evils. He was a firm believer in the active participation of the peasants, workers and the middle classes in the struggle for the transformation of society. He espoused radical changes in the administrative system and supported the development of cottage industries.

He had an active interest in journalism and served as Chairman of editorial boards of the Azad Hind, Jhankar, Hansia, Hathura and the Labour Times.

Theme : Freedom Struggle, Patriots, INA.

INDIA'S STRUGGLE FOR FREEDOM: SOME GREAT REVOLUTIONARIES

Yogendra Shukla - Baikunth Shukla and Jubha Sahni

29.01.2001

300, 300

0.4 million each



India's freedom struggle was a movement of epic proportions, spanning many decades and involving millions of people. Though the mass movement

led by the Congress held the centre stage, the struggle also included other streams like those of the socio-religious reformers and the revolutionaries. The revolutionary activities, often isolated and lacking mass-base as they were, succeeded in firing the public imagination and keeping the pride and self-respect of the people high.

Yogendra Shukla (1896 - 1966) as well as his nephew Baikunth Shukla (1907 - 1934) hailed from village Jalalpur in Muzaffarpur (now Vaishali), district of Bihar and were torchbearers of the revolutionary spirit of freedom struggle. The writings and speeches of Bal Gangadhar Tilak were a source of great inspiration for the young Yogendra. He made his greatest contribution to the cause of Indian freedom between 1930 and 1942. He was a close associate of Bhagat Singh and Batukeshwar Datta. He had to serve prison terms for a total of more than sixteen and a half years. In independent India, he served briefly as a Member of the Bihar Legislative Council.

Baikunth Shukla was also initiated into the freedom struggle at a young age taking active part in the 'Salt Satyagraha' of 1930. The execution of the great Indian revolutionaries, Bhagat Singh, Rajguru and Sukhdev in 1931, as a result of their trial in the 'Lahore conspiracy case' was an event that shook the entire country. Phanindra Nath Ghosh hitherto a key member of the Revolutionary Party had treacherously betrayed the cause by turning an approver, giving evidence which led to the execution. Baikunth was commissioned to execute the plan to murder Ghosh as an act of ideological vendetta which he carried out successfully on 9th November 1932. He was arrested and tried for the killing. Baikunth was convicted and hanged in Gaya Central Jail on May 14th, 1934. He was 28 years old.

Jubha Sahni (1906-1944) hailed from a poor family in the Muzaffarpur District of Bihar and worked as a labourer in an agricultural farm where British supervisors kept watch. Jubha experienced the ruthlessness with which the British supervisors treated the Indian workers. He later joined the freedom struggle and dedicated himself totally to the movement, suffering imprisonment many times. From the Salt Satyagraha of 1930 to the Quit India Movement of 1942, his revolutionary activities were on the increase. In August 1942, he led an armed revolt against the Police Station in Meenapur in which the in-charge of the Police Station, Waller was killed. Jubha Sahni took the entire responsibility of the episode upon himself and was later sentenced to death by a special court appointed by the British Government. He was hanged to death in Bhagalpur Central Jail, at the age of 38.

Theme : Freedom Struggle, Revolutionaries.

WESTERN RAILWAY BUILDING, CHURCHGATE, MUMBAI

06.02.2001

1500

0.7 million



In 1853 Railways made a modest beginning in India when the first train was flagged off from Bombay (Mumbai) to Thane covering a distance of 34 km. Over the next one and a half centuries Indian Railways have grown into a mammoth organisation employing a workforce of 1.6 million, covering 63 thousand route km., having a fleet strength of 6900 locomotives and managing a network of 7000 railway stations.

Churchgate building was originally the headquarters of the erstwhile Bombay, Baroda and Central India Railways (BB & CI), one among the famous railway companies in British India. BB & CI was incorporated in 1855 to start a railway route from Surat to Bombay to ensure regular supply of cotton grown in Gujarat area. The Headquarters was originally located at Surat and later shifted to Mumbai. Construction of the Headquarters Building at Churchgate was started in 1894 and completed in 1899 under the direction of one of the most famous Victorian architects in Bombay, Mr. Fredrick William Stevens of the Victoria Terminus and Corporation Building fame. The construction cost was then Rs. 7.5 lakhs.

The tower of this building is square from the base up to 100 feet when it becomes octagonal and is surmounted by a circular dome. The building has an Oriental character, with facings of rough-hewn basalt inlaid with bands of red Bassein sandstone and white stone dressings. The dome looks like a Gothic Revival composition as that is the structural language employed. But, through distortions of scale and the complexity of the overall massing, Stevens deceives the eye, creating the perception that the office complex was designed as an Indo-Saracenic building. It is a transitional structure which absorbs from one tradition and applies it to another. The final appearance tends more towards the Indian rather than the Italian in overall effect.

When the building was constructed, the sea was next to it. However, now many multi-storeyed structures have come up in the surrounding area. The building consists of three floor devoted to offices, and in the centre below the dome, is an extra floor for the storage of records. The main entrance hall facing Churchgate Station, is 25 feet square and has a floor with coloured marble.

In 1951 Western Railway was formed merging BB & CI and other State Railways. Today, the headquarters of the Western Railways is housed in the Churchgate building.

Theme : Railways, Heritage, Architecture

SIPA wishes to thank Mr. **M. Chellappa**, transferred Circle Philatelic Officer, Chennai Circle for his wholehearted support and rapport and congratulates him on his new promotional post as Superintendent of Post Offices, Haveri Division, Haveri - 581 110.

CENSUS OF INDIA 2001

10.02.2001

300

0.4 million



Though census enumeration is generally believed to be a modern concept, historical evidence shows that attempts were made from very early times to collect population data in India. Kautilya's 'Artha Shastra' (3rd Century B.C.) prescribed the collection of population statistics as a measure of state policy for the purpose of taxation. During the Mughal period, extensive

records were maintained on land, production, population, famines etc.

The year 1872 marked the beginning of census taking in India in the modern sense, when results of the censuses around that time in different parts of the country were aggregated. From 1881 onwards, a complete and synchronous census has been held every tenth year. The history of the Indian census is a fascinating one. Apart from the fact that ancient and medieval India appears to have been familiar with population counts, there is hardly any country, which has had an unbroken chain of regular decennial modern censuses over the last hundred years.

The next decennial Census of India will be held from 9th to 28th February 2001 throughout the length and breadth of the country. The Census of India 2001 is going to be one of the most gigantic administrative exercises in the world. An idea of the magnitude of the operations can be formed from the fact that about two million enumerators and supervisors, mainly consisting of teachers, State/Central Government Officials and officials of local bodies will be deployed. Briefly, the 2001 census operations, will be carried out in two phases:

the first phase known as Houselisting Operations during April - June 2000 in different States/ UTs depending upon their local conditions.

The second phase known as Population Enumeration - to be held during 9th to 28th February 2001 (except in Jammu & Kashmir, where it has been held in September 2000).

Houselisting Operations aim at locating all human dwellings throughout the country. The data collected during the first phase will facilitate the smooth conduct of the second phase, i.e., actual Population Enumeration in 2001.

Census is not a mere counting of heads, but involves the collection of several demographic, social, cultural and economic characteristics of every individual which are all compiled and presented in the form of meaningful tables for the consumption of data-users. The Indian Census has the tradition of producing analytical reports and organising other ancillary studies to enrich the census statistics.

Theme : Population, Census.

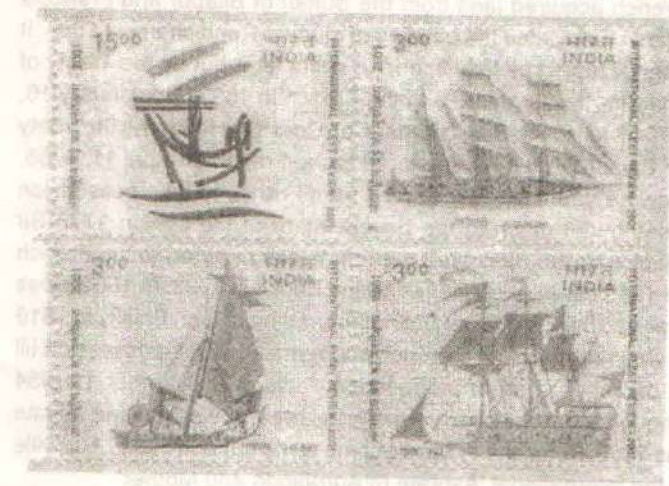
Vispi S. Dastur

India Used in the French Possessions in India is a very interesting and significant aspect of Indian Postal History. French interest in India started in earnest when a French East India Co. (Compagnies des Indes Orientales) was formed in 1664, although some abortive attempts had been made earlier by various companies since 1604. Of the four great European nations who came to India to trade, the French appeared last on the scene. Colbert gained a concession at Surat in 1668. Trading factories were opened at Surat, Chandernagore, Mahe and Masulipatnam. In 1674 the French acquired land from the Sultan of Bijapur and built the modern Pondicherry.

It has been stated by Clarke that in the five French settlements there were both French and Indian post offices. It is also believed that there was not more than one French P.O. in each settlement but two or more Indian P.Os in many of the cases. The functions of the French P.Os were practically restricted to the receipt and despatch of letters and parcels from and to France and its colonies. The Indian P.Os were the medium of all postal transactions with British India and were used by the public in the Settlements as the sole agencies for the despatch as well as receipt and delivery of mails to and from British India, England, the British Empire and other countries. The Indian P.Os also rendered money order and savings bank services.

It has been stated that there were twenty three Indian P.Os. in the French Settlements. These P.Os were opened with the consent of the French Administration. The first British Indian P.O. to be opened in the French possessions was at Chandernagore in 1784 followed by Pondicherry in 1787, Karaikal in 1794 and Mahe in 1795. During the negotiations which followed the Treaty of Paris (1814) it was suggested to the French at Pondicherry that an agreement should be made between the two governments for all existing British Indian P.Os throughout the territories of the French to remain under the superintendence of the Post Master General at Fort St. George at the charge and to the profit of the Government of India till French established their own P.Os. It was finally agreed that these British Indian P.Os should be on a permanent basis. This continued till 1859 upto which time the French had no proper postal establishment at Pondicherry beyond a letter box in which letters for transmission by sea were received for despatch free of postage. It may be mentioned that there was officially no need for combination covers with British India and French India stamps at any time as was the case with the Portuguese Possessions in India.

In 1859 it appears that the French established a system similar to the Indian District Posts for the purpose of delivering letters within the French territorial limits. This system was abolished in 1862. In Bengal there were the Chandernagore sub-post office, the Condalpara and Lakhiganj sub-offices and the Temata branch office, all within an area of three miles. It may be mentioned that the French Administration contributed Rs. 25 per month as house rent for the Chandernagore P.O. premises.



The review of a Nation's fleet of Warships, by the Head of State is a long prevalent Naval tradition. It is an opportunity for the Head of State to satisfy himself on the operational readiness of his ships. Reviews are also held to mark events of historical importance.

The President of India, in his capacity as the Supreme Commander of the Armed Forces, usually reviews the Indian fleet as the Head of the Republic, once during his term in office. The present review is thus the 8th review of the Indian Fleet. To commemorate the Golden Jubilee of the Indian Republic, the present review is being given a wider scope and will be an International Fleet Review (IFR-2001). A number of foreign countries have been invited on behalf of the Government of India to participate, by sending their warships. For the Review, the ships and submarines will be anchored in the harbour in designated static columns. The Presidential Yacht will sail past these. In addition, a mobile column of ships will also sail past the yacht.

The Review will be a grand ceremonial occasion following a time honoured tradition, uniquely Naval and all the more historical due to the presence of ships from all over the world. It is expected to foster a lasting relationship among all the maritime nations participating in the event. Typically the Review has the theme "Bridges of Friendship".

The first stamp depicting the potsherd painting of a boat belonging to Mohanjodaro period, is part of the official logo of IFR-2001. The Pal and Galbat, two types of ships which have participated in the fleet Reviews of the Marath Navy in the 18th century in the port of Ratnagiri are depicted in two of the stamps. The portrayals are from the painting of "Ships of the Maratha Period", c. 18th Century. The 'Pal' was a three masted fighter with guns peeping on the broadsides. The fourth stamp shows the Sail trainingship, 'Tarangini', of the Indian Navy, which will participate in the present review.

The First Day Cover has a symbolic representation of the wide participation of ships in the Review. The cancellation is the crest of the Indian Navy, the host of the IFR 2001, with its motto "Shan-no-Varuna" meaning "May the Ocean God-Varuna-be auspicious unto us".

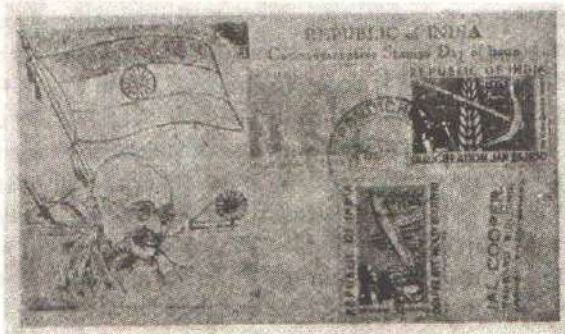
Theme : Navy, Armed Forces.

* * * * *

Details of the various British India P.O.s in the French Possessions are as under:

Name of Settlement	Name of Post Office	Date of Opening
Pondicherry	Pondicherry P.O.	was in existence in 1787
	Ariyankuppam B.O.	1904
	Bahoor B.O.	1885
	Olugarai B.O.	1907
	Vallinur B.O.	1875
	Pondicherry Bazar S.O.	1902
	Pondicherry Ry. Stn. S.O.	1895
	Muthialpet B.O.	1885
	Mudaliarpet B.O.	1885
	Karikal	Karikal S.O.
Kottuchari B.O.		1901
Tirunnaalur B.O.		1898
Puraluyar Road B.O.		1901
Ambagarattur B.O.		1904
Settur B.O.		1905
Tirumalrayapatnam S.O.		1875
Mahe	Mahe S.O.	1795
	Yanam S.O.	1876
Chandernagore	Chandernagore S.O.	1784
	Condalpara S.O.	1906
	Lakhiganj S.O.	1909
	Temata B.O.	1891

Col. Martin and Blair mention that c. 1862-63 French Packet and the British Indian postal rate was 4 as. per 1/2 oz. for mail from Pondicherry to Aden, Singapore, Saigon, Hongkong, Shanghai and 8as to Suez and Alexandria. The rate to Ceylon was 2as. for 1 tola. The rate to France and most European countries was 8ps. per 1/4 oz. French Packets carried mail to U.K. at the P. and O rates via Marseilles but this was forbidden in September 1871.



Republic of India 2as, 3 1/2 as and 4as, stamps used on f.d.c. from Pondicherry. Cover addressed to India's eminent philatelist, Jal Cooper

Pondicherry

Pondicherry was the capital of the French Possessions in India. In the olden days it was known as Padoke and Pontcherry; the Dutch called it 'Poelesere'. It comprises of 113 square miles

and is on the south east coast of India. It was settled by the Dutch for a short period in the sixteenth century. In 1674 the French acquired land from the Sultan of Bijapur and Francois Martin completed the building of modern Pondicherry in 1683. It was occupied by the Dutch ten years later but by the Treaty of Ryswick it was reverted to the French in 1697. On January 16, 1761 it fell to the British under Col. Coote but following the treaty of Paris (1763) it was restored to the French on April 11, 1765. Law de Lauriston who arrived from France to take possession contributed much to the development of the city. In 1778 Sir Hector Munro destroyed the fort. It was reverted to the French in 1783 but was recaptured by the British in 1793. In 1802 it was handed over to France but recaptured next year. Finally in 1816 it was returned to the French and remained their possession till it became a part of Independent India on November 1, 1954 though the Pondicherry Administrative Act was passed as late as 1962. Pondicherry has become world famous due to Auroville - the international 'Ashram of Aurobindo and Mother'.

It is noted that the first British Indian P.O. was established at Pondicherry in 1787 with the consent of the French. There were 8 sub-offices: Ariyankuppam B.O. (opened in 1904), Bahoor B.O. (1885), Mudaliarpet B.O. (1897), Muthialpet (1885), Pondicherry Bazar S.O. 1902), Pondicherry Railway Station S.O. (1895), Olugarai B.O. (1907) and Vallinur B.O. (1875).



An entire from Pondicherry to Port Louis with 2, British India Queen Victoria stamps cancelled with Pondicherry duplex of 'III'. Also "6d. TO PAY" marking.

Postal Markings:

1. 'PONDICHERRY' black handstamp in small circular form without lines and an ornamental star in the centre c. 1786 - 1818.
2. 'POST PAID' in fancy serif letters (?) c. 1794 - 1818. Not mentioned by Giles.
3. 'POST PAID PONDICHERRY' in crude letters in an oval in black c. 1795.
4. As in, (3) but larger oval and letters c. 1804 - 15.
5. 'SINGLE' in a rectangle with rounded edges in black c. 1804 - 15. Giles stated that it might not be a P.O. stamp but a stamp used by a field post.
6. 'PONDICHERRY / POST PAID' oblong with rounded edges in red and used as a despatch handstamp c. 1826-35.
7. 'PONDICHERRY/POST NOT Paid' in framed rectangle in black and used as a despatch handstamp c. 1826-36.

8. 'PONDICHERRY / Paid' in rectangle without compartments in c. 1838 - 51.
9. 'PONDICHERRY / DATE/Paid' in rectangle with three compartments in red c. 1840-53.
10. 'BUREAU DE PONDICHERRY' in black and blue in double ring circular date stamp with the date in French leading to the assumption that it was used by the French P.O. c. 1858 - 62. Also noted in a single lined c.d.s.
11. Similar to Type (8) but with 'Bearing' instead of 'Paid' in black 1839.
12. Similar to Type (9) but with 'Bearing' instead of 'Paid' in black c. 1851.
13. 'PONDICHERRY / DATE / Paid' in red with two 'Rs.' in the name c. 1851 - 58.
14. 'PONDICHERRY/FREE' in oval in red c. 1839.
15. 'PAYS D' OUTREMER' handstruck stamp has been used on a Pondicherry letter c. 1836 most probably by the French P.O.
16. Dastur Type 1 : Diamond of dots c. 1854.
- 16a. Dastur Type 1: Diamond of bars seen c. 1854.
17. Dastur Type 3: 'C/III' c. 1855-63.
18. 'PONDICHERRY' on top of an arc of two lines c. 1859.
19. Dastur Type 05:'111' with town name duplex. It may be mentioned that '111' was used by Tellicherry, Jeypore / Rutnagherry and Kalian R. S; hence the town duplex is essential to prove its use at Pondicherry.
20. "PONDICHERRY" around the circumference of a single lined circle with year in date.
21. 'PONDICHERRY' across the diameter of a single lined circle without year in date.
22. Dastur Type 6 M - 19; it has been noted that this cancellation was also used by Ootacummand in British India.
23. Squared circle cancellation.
24. Single line circle with 'REG' along with the town name.
25. As in (24) but with 'PAR' for 'PARCELS'
26. A large diamond with 'PONDICHERRY' and date.
27. Double lined circle telegraphic cancellation.
28. Straight line unframed large letters 'Pondicherry' telegraphic cancellation.
29. Catchet 'FRENCH CONCESSION / POSTAGE FREE / POSTMASTER / PONDICHERRY' 4 Lines in a Large rectangle seen used on official correspondence.
30. Single lined circle 'PONDICHERRY B.O. SOUTH ARCOT' with date.
31. '6/M-20' in Cooper Type 32 a. with town name duplex.
32. 'POSTAL DE PONDICHERRY' circular date stamp probably used by the French P.O.
33. Later period town name double lined circle, etc. with and without killer arcs.
34. Sub-Post Offices: Vallinur 'M-19/1'; and '6M-20' (according to Martin)? Rly. Stn. B.O., Pondicherry Bazar etc.
35. Small double lined c.d.s. 'INDE COLONIES FRAV.V.S.R.A.' has been seen c. 1858 on cover from Pondicherry.
36. Large oval 'INDE' at the top, date in centre and 'PONDICHERRY' at the bottom c. 1936.
37. Slogan postmark seen used as an obliteration in 1951 'POST EARLY TO CATCH / THE MAILS / 31 AUG. 51 / T.P.M. / PONDICHERRY'.
38. Letters from Pondicherry are often seen with 'P.D.' in a small rectangle in red which was applied to denote that postage had been paid to the destination.
39. Wavy framed 'TOO LATE', framed 'INSUFFICIENT' etc.
40. Dastur Type 8 : 'M' in a small circle of bars is noted used from Pondicherry Rly. Stn. B.O. c. 1904.
41. Large double lined circle with 'INDE FRANCAISE / PONDICHERRY' seen used on cover with Indian stamps - 1940.
42. Town names with and without killer arcs 'PONDICHERRY / TIME / DAY / MONTH / YEAR' in small double lined circle c. 1950.
43. Town name c.d.s. with wavy lines at the right 1950s.
44. Various slogan postmarks similar to those used in British India are seen used on Pondicherry covers in the 1940's and 1950s such as 'BUY NATIONAL SAVING CERTIFICATES', 'V / CARELESS TALK COSTS LIVES', 'A.R.P. PROTECTS YOU', etc.
45. Oval and horse shoe type of postage due markings have been seen.
46. 'PONDICHERRY R.S. / B.O. / 30 JL / 00 / SOUTH ARCOT' IN LARGE C.D.S. with ornaments at sides.
47. pondicherry / 9 mar 86' across diameter of cds seen on an east india postcard cancelled' sm. 21. t / mar 9' in single line without frame or circle.
48. 'pondicherry' on top part of circle along the diameter with '7 am dely' within two lines and '16 m.a. 01' on a postcard from Karikal.
49. Sub-post office markings have been seen in large double lined c.d.s. in Dastur Type 13.
50. 'PONDICHERRY' with almost full (3/4th) killer are double lined circle has been seen on King George VI POST CARD OF 1944.
51. Registration markings similar to those used in British India. Similar information about postmarkings of other French settlements at Karikal, Mahe, Yanem, Chandernagore are also available. However, that will be the subject matter of another article in future.

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(Courtesy : *Souvenir, Indepex Asiana 2000*)

ARMY POSTAL SERVICE

- Maj. Gen. K.K. Srivastava
Addl. Director General APS

The Army Postal Service is an extension of the Department of Posts which functions as a military organisation under the control of the Quartermaster General Army Headquarters. It extends the facilities of the Indian Post Office to the Armed Forces whenever and wherever required.

It was a happy coincidence that the first Army Post Office was organised at Bushire, South Persia in 1856 at about the same time as the establishment of the All-India P & T Department and the introduction of the first adhesive postage stamp in India. From 1856 to 1947, Field Post Offices have served with all the military contingents sent out from India and in many of the frontier campaigns. Wherever they go the Field Post Offices (FPOs) carry a bit of the Indian Post Office with them in the shape of Indian Postage Stamps.

In the earlier days, the FPOs cancelled the Postage Stamps with obliterators and postmarked the covers with their designations such as "Field Force, Persia" (1856), "Field Force Post Office, Abyssinia" (1865), "Field Force Post Office, Cabul" (1878 - 81), "Field Force P.O. Egypt, No.1" (1882). "Upper Burma Field P.O." (1885) and so on. After the Third Burmese War, the FPOs shed their Field Force and place names and assumed the simple numbering system which is now in vogue.

The first overprint of Indian Postage Stamps was done in 1900 for the Indian Contingent of the "China Expeditionary Force". It bore the legend "C.E.F." and was used at twenty FPOs from 1900. The second overprint for the FPOs was done in the First World War and it carried the inscription "I.E.F." to identify the Indian Expeditionary Forces serving overseas.

In 1879, the first special cover was issued in 9 pies denomination for the use of British soldiers writing to England. In 1895 this cover was overprinted with a crown and "One Anna" owing to an increase in the postal rates. In 1900 embossed envelopes and post cards were overprinted "C.E.F." for the use of the China Expeditionary Force. Covers and Post Cards overprinted "I.E.F." were issued in 1915 to the troops fighting in the First World War.

Since Independence, the Indian Army has taken a leading part in the UN Peace Missions. The first overprint for the FPOs of the International Control Commissions in the INDO-CHINA states of VIETNAM, LAOS and CAMBODIA was released with a first day cover on 1 December 1954. The second overprint became necessary when the "Indian Map" series of stamps were introduced on the change over to decimal coinage. It was released on 1 April 1957. A special overprint was also authorised for FPOs, which accompanied the Indian Contingent to the UN Peace Mission in CONGO in 1960.

It is the sole prerogative of the Department of Posts to issue postage stamps. However, when the Army Postal Services was unable to persuade the Department of Posts to issue postage stamps for which increasing demands were being received from the Services, it met the situation by introducing a new series of Special Covers to commemorate Service occasions. The aim of APS in issuing special covers, cancellation and brochures is to project the history, organisation and deeds of the three Services. During the last twenty-five years the Army Postal Service Special Covers have become an accepted part of such celebrations as Regimental Days, Reunions, Jubilees and Colour Presentations.

(Courtesy - *APS Souvenir - Indepex Asiana - 2000*)

PHILATELY QUIZ THRO' INTERNET

The Post Master General, Northern Region, Tamilnadu Circle is organizing Online quiz on stamps at Pondicherry. Com. This is open to anyone with no restriction on age or sex. Five questions on postage stamps in particular and posts in general will be asked in every quiz.

A person can send in any number of answers in the format furnished in the website or can sent by e-mail to admailnr@vsnl.net or can be sent by post to Stamp Quiz, Office of the PMG, Northern Region, Tamilnadu Circle, Chennai - 600 002.

The questions will be updated every fortnight. Prizes like stamp kit, annual pack of stamps, books on Philately will be given to 3 winners who give correct answers selected by draw of lots.

A mega prize of Rs.500 with free subscription for Philately Deposit Account for a year will be awarded to one winner chosen among the winners once in 3 months.

The prize winners will be informed individually and prizes distributed by post.

A letter of appreciation

Maj Gen Sudhir Mohan

Commandant

Tel : 234 2631 Ext 3059

234 5856

2193/Edn

26 Mar 2001

Dear Mr. Das,

1. I express my sincere thanks for the splendid philatelic exhibition that you so kindly put up as a part of the activities connected with our Passing Out Parade earlier this month. You have an excellent collection of Army First Day covers as well as rare stamps and I congratulate you on your commitment and achievement.

2. It gives me great pleasure to present you my personal collection of First Day Covers to further enrich an already commendable collection.

With warm regards

Yours Sincerely

(S/d) **Maj Gen Sudhir Mohan**

Mr. G. Balakrishna Das

President - South India Philatelist's Association

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INDIA 1947 - 1997 - AN APPRAISAL

By **Ashok Bayanwala**

The Postal History of India, prior to Independence is fairly and widely recorded by those Englishmen who lived in India at one time or another. Even Indian philatelists have contributed immensely.

Somehow or other the Postal History after Independence is somewhat neglected. Many facts have passed unnoticed and therefore it is likely that the history would long be left in posterity.

I am of firm opinion that systematic study of those facets of Indian philately should be done which were left unattended. I have always stressed that one should not neglect the Modern

Postal History or otherwise, the Philatelists of future would be left groping in dark what we are doing today.

If we look back, we will find that in last 50 years, many postal services were introduced, out of which some were revised and a few were discontinued. The facility of minimum two deliveries in a day, has become history of past. Postal labels, Clear Brass cancellations. Time Slug in cancellations and Delivery postmarks are no more available. The Charisma of cancellation is some what facing a slow death. Time is not far when stamps / cancellations will loose its identify with the advancement of Meters/Computers and Electronic Media.

In this Article, I have tried to join the loose ends, but I am not sure of my success. My real success lies in responses of the readers who come out with the missing links. This article aims to record various Postal facilities, services, achievements, events rules and regulations which were introduced and/or withdrawn during the last 50 years.

1. **15th August 1947** Bharat (India) became Independent.
2. **15th August 1947** First slogan of Independent India "Jai Hind".
3. **21st Nov. 1947** First Indian Stamp - 3 1/2 as. depicting National Flag.
4. **1947-48** 8 Postal circles formed.
5. **1948** POSTAL HOLIDAYS includes for the first time Independence Day (15.8.48), Gandhiji Birth Day (2.10.48), Dussera (11.10.48), Diwali (31.10.48), Moharrum (12.11.48 and Idul-Fitr (7.8.48)
6. **30th Jan. 1948** Gandhiji was shot dead in New Delhi.
7. **1948** Delivery District / Zone Numbers were introduced in Bangalore, Nagpore, Patna, Bhagalpur, Jamshedpur, Cuttack and Mangalore.

It was introduced in Bombay, Calcutta, Delhi and Madras in 1946.

8. **8th March 1948** Commercial Airlines - Air India International was incorporated. It took its first flight on 8th June 1948 for London via Cairo and Switzerland.
9. **1st April 1948** Pakistan will be treated as a Foreign Country
10. **1st April 1948** Persian Gulf Countries - Bahrein, Dubai, Kuwait and Muscat - The Postal administration of these countries is taken from India and transferred to British Post Office Agencies. These countries will be treated as Foreign Countries.
11. **1st April 1948** Probably "BRITISH LEGATION" in Kathmandu, Nepal was transformed into the "INDIAN EMBASSY (NEPAL)" Though recorded time of such transformation is in between 23rd April 1948 and 10th May 1948.
12. **8th June 1948** Stamp issued in denomination of 12 as. with validity for its use on first flight only. This stamp was not allowed to be used for any other purpose. Hence, this stamp was demonetized after the flight for London took place.
13. **15th Aug. 1948** Gandhiji stamps issued on First Anniversary of Independence were the first stamps to be printed by a foreign printer M/s. Courvoisier Switzerland.
14. **23rd Aug. 1948** First Stationery of Independent India appeared in the shape of inland Air letter in denomination of 2 as.

15. **15th Sep. 1948** Express Inland Air Service Fee was one anna for post card and two annas for letter.

16. **30th Jan. 1949** Night Airmail Service was introduced. The charges for NAS were same as of prevailing Air Mail Surcharge, such as 1/2 as. for postcard and 1 as. for letter.

17. **30th Jan. 1949** Air Parcel Service was introduced. Fee was 1st Pound weight Rs. 2/- Every Additional Pound Rs. 1/- Revised rate was introduced on 1st April 1949. 1st 40 tolas Rs. 1/- Every Additional 20 tolas 8 as.

18. **1st April 1949** ALL UP SCHEME was introduced. Airmail surcharge was abolished. Postal Charges were revised.

19. **1st April 1949** First Mobile Post Office was introduced in Nagpur. During 1951, it was introduced in Bombay, Calcutta, Madras and New Delhi.

20. **15th Aug. 1949** India issued her first definitive stamps, Now it is popularly known as the "Archaeological Series".

21. **1949 States' Post Offices AMALGAMATION**

1.8.49 Chamba State

16.9.50 Patiala, Nabha + Sind

1.4.50 All state Post except Anchal PO

30.6.51 Anchal PO

22. **1949** The inscription "ON HIS MAJESTY'S SERVICE" should be discontinued on official letters vide circular No. 5 dated 14.4.49

23. **26th Jan. 1950** India declared herself a sovereign Republic within the British commonwealth. India issued a set of 4 stamps in denominations of 2, 3 1/2, 4 and 12 annas.

24. **1st April 1950** LOCAL DELIVERY

* Concessional rate of Postage was introduced.

* 6 pies for post card

* 1 anna for letter

* Printed labels for local delivery was introduced on 24th April 1950

* Local delivery on letters was withdrawn on and from 1st May 1951.

* Local delivery on Post cards was withdrawn on and from 1st May 1963

* Local delivery in Anchal PO within Travancore and Cochin state was withdrawn on and from 11th June 1952.

25. **7th May 1950** All Post Offices will remain close on SUNDAYS, starting from 7th May.

1950 vide Postal Notice dated 1.4.50

26. **1950** Night Post offices were opened.

27. **1st May 1951** Air Mail Money Order System - 1 anna air fee was applicable since 1935. This fee was abolished because carrying of MO by air was made compulsory without any surcharge.

28. **1st Sep. 1951** Acknowledgement was must and free for insured mail vide clause 129 of P & T Guide since Independence.

1 anna fee for acknowledgement of insured mail was levied from this day.

28A. **2nd Oct. 1951** Health Seals in denomination of 1A, 4 as and Re.1/- were sold, in aid of the "Health Minister's Fund"

These were printed by Thomas de la Rue & Co. London.

29. **1951** Compulsory Registration of articles containing cheques, hundies, bank notes etc. was in existence vide clause 117 (1) of PT Guide since Independence. Clause 117 (2) provided a levy of twice the registration fee if caught.

As public was flouting this provision, a note was taken vide Postal Notice No. 21 dated 6.7.51, but no action was taken. May/June 1993, this clause was enforced. But the clause was deleted on & from 14.1.94 when it was vehemently opposed by Public Companies.

30. **1951** Registered Envelope - bearing the cross lines and the legend thereon in GREEN with embossed stamp in the usual BLUE colour, were issued vide DGPO circular No. 32 dt. 10th August 1951.

30A. **1952** Post office for each group of villages with an aggregate population of 2000. It means a village had a Post Office within a radius of 2 miles (3.2 Km).

31. **April 1953** Indian stamps with 2 parallel lines are meant for Saharnpur Training Centre. Such stamps should not be accepted as valid in any postal transaction. If found, the document should be taken possession of and the matter should be brought to the notice of the Principal of Training Centre for action.

32. **1st August 1953** Nationalization of all airlines.

INDIAN AIRLINES CORPORATION was formed for inland air flights. AIR INDIA INTERNATIONAL was converted into AIR INDIA for overseas flights.

33. **1953** HINDI was adopted as OFFICIAL LANGUAGE of P & T Department. And the First DGPO circular No. 30 dated 24th September 1953 appeared in Hindi with English.

34. **1953** During the year Postcard Vending Machines were installed at Calcutta, Bombay and Delhi. But could not last long.

34A. **Feb. 1954.** For the first time, a postal label was overprinted. Roughly 1,00,000 sheets of "Local" Labels were left unutilised when "Local" rate for letters was withdrawn on 1-4-1951. So the local labels were over printed EXPRESS DELIVERY and were used.

35. **1st March 1954** Clause 53 of P & T Guide says that any message found on the portion of the Post Card reserved for the address, should be taxed as Bearing.

Many complaints being received for such postage due. It was decided that these rules should not interpreted too strictly.

36. **1st Oct. 1954** Pre Independence Stamps were (Probably) withdrawn from use. These stamps were demonetized probably on and from 1st December, 1954.

37. **1st Oct. 1954** Centenary of India Postage Stamps. First International Philatelic Exhibition was organized at New Delhi from 1.10.54 to 15.10.1954.

Bombay celebrated stamp Centenary by holding an exhibition at Jahangir Art Gallery from 1st to 7th October 1954.

38. **1954** FOREIGN SETTLEMENTS

* 2nd October 1954 - Chandernagore (French) was merged in India.

* 1st November 1954. Pondicherry, Kerikal, Mahe and Yanam (all French) was merged in India.

* Dadra and Nager Haveli (Portuguese) declared them as free in 1954 and was ruled by its own people from 1954 till 1961, when it merged with India.

* Other Portuguese possession - Goa, Daman and Diu were liberated on 19th December 1961.

39. **1956** Postal Bag cleaning machine was installed in Calcutta G.P.O. Now all big cities have such cleaning machines.

40. **1st April 1957** Decimal Coinage System was introduced in India.

41. **27th Oct. 1958** Ashokan watermark was introduced in place of star watermark.

42. **1958** Metric system of weight and measures was adopted in India.

43. **1st April 1959** MOTTO - "WE SERVE DAY & NIGHT"

44. **1st Oct. 1959** Anna Postage stamps of Free India except 4 as. Or divisible by 4 as, were withdrawn from use.

45. **1st Dec. 1959** Anna Postage Stamps of Free India, except 4 as. Or divisible by 4 as were demonetized.

46. **8th Dec. 1959** Odd anna postage stamps after demonetisation, were used as SERVICE stamps, without any over-print.

47. **1959** Dead Letter Office (DLO) became Returned Letter Office (RLO)

48. **1960** M.O. Forms were charged for the first time in India. 3 np - 5np - 10p - 25 p as on today.

49. **1962** Postal censorship was clamped in 1962 when China invaded India. Airmail letters were censored at Calcutta Air Port Post Office.

50. **1st May 1963** The system of 3 months, 6 months and 9 months Registration of Abbreviated Address was abolished and on yearly basis was introduced. The fee was fixed at Rs.50/- only.

51. **1964** P & T Department installed an automatic stamp vending machine, on an experiment basis at Parliament street, Post Office. Horizontal rows of stamps from Map of India (Ashokan watermark) were joined together. The denominations were 5,10,15,20,25 & 50 Paise. These are known as coil stamps.

51A. **15th Nov. 1967** A new watermark - "Large star & India Govt." was introduced on 2P & 5P Service stamps.

52. **1st July 1968** India commemorated the opening of her 1,00,000th Post office in the country at Brahmpur-Chaurasta in Bihar, by issuing a 20 paise stamp.

53. **15th Nov. 1971** Refugee Relief Tax of 5 paise per Postal Article except Postcard was levied, to meet the expenses of nearly 10 million refugees from East Pakistan Mail from Jammu & Kashmir. Mail of Postal Department, Army, Pow's and blind men were exempted from this Tax. The Tax was withdrawn from 1st April 1973.

54. **15th August 1972.** Postal Index Number (PIN) in 6 digits was introduced.

54.A. **8th June 1973** Colour Control Marks popularly known as Traffic Lights, were first introduced with the Air India Issue. Now it is a common practise for multi Coloured Stamps.

54.B. **14th Nov. 1973** For the first time Miniature sheet (imperf) was issued to commemorate INDIPEX-73 India International Philatelic Exhibition, New Delhi.

55. **31st Oct. 1974** Express Delivery System which was introduced on 1st October 1930, was abolished.

56. **1st Nov. 1974** Recorded Delivery System was introduced. The RD fee was 65 paise which was increased to Re 1/- on 1.6.78 and again increased to Rs.2/- on 1.1.87. It was withdrawn on and from 1st October 1991.

57. **26th April 1975** Sikkim became a state of the Indian Union under 8th Amendment of the Constitution.

58. **1st August 1975** Quick Mail Service (QMS) was introduced without any fee, to popularise PIN Mail was being delivered on next day between state capitals. QMS was extended on 14.7.76 for local delivery. Mail posted before 11 a.m. was delivered on the same day.

58A. **13th Dec. 1975** For the first time, message for the public and/or slogan appeared on the sheet margin of the commemorative issue of India Security Press, Nasik, reading "Pin Code for Fastmail" in bilingual.

59. **1975** Department of Posts and Telegraphs was bifurcated in two Departments. viz. Department of Posts and Department of Telecommunication.

60. **1st June 1978** A new category known as Printed Post Card was introduced. The fee was 20p when regular Post Card was for 15p. The fee for Printed Card increased with the years and now in 2000 AD, the fee is Rs.2/- when regular Postcard is 25p.

60A. **Oct. 1979** Two labels reading "Happy Child Nations Pride" were issued in denomination of 50p and Re.1/- Both were not valid for postage, but used as postage.

61. **1979** Registerex Cash Registers, for booking Registered letters etc. were introduced at various post offices.

62. **25th Jan. 1980** A stamp Booklet the first of its kind to be issued in the Post-Independence period, was brought out to commemorate "India-80" International Philatelic Exhibition held in New Delhi from 25th January to 3rd February 1980.

63. **1982** Delivery of fully paid unregistered articles on Post office Holidays was abolished. By October 1992, it was again introduced to curtail the consecutive holidays for 3 days or more.

64. **1st Jan. 1983** Stationery Charges (S.C.) of 5 paise was introduced on Postal Envelopes. On 1st January 1987, Inland letter Card was also included. The fee was 10 paise for both categories. It was increased to 15 paise on 1.4.88 S.C. was merged with Postage in 1990.

65. **16th Aug. 1885** Licensed Postal Agency was introduced to reduce the congestion at Urban Post Offices.

66. **1st Aug. 1986** Speed Post was introduced first in 7 cities viz. Ahmedabad, Bangalore, Bombay, Calcutta, Delhi, Hyderabad and Madras. At present, it is in more than 80 cities.

67. **1st Aug. 1986** International Speed Post also known as Express Mail Service for Documents was introduced in 7 countries viz. U.K., Germany, Hongkong, Japan, USA, Bangladesh and Pakistan. Today it is working in more than 80 countries.

68. **1986** High Speed Automatic Meter Franking Machines were introduced in Post Offices of Bangalore, Bombay, Calcutta, Delhi and Madras. Slowly, they were introduced in all major cities of India.
69. **1987** Fax was introduced first in Bombay, Calcutta, Delhi and Madras. Then it was extended to all major cities.
70. **14th May 1988** Speed Post Money order Service was introduced with a guaranteed delivery.
71. **1st Dec. 1988** A set of 7 Air Mail Picture Post Cards, for the first time, were issued on the occasion of India-89. Each had an imprinted stamp of Rs.4/- the prevalent airmail postage for Post cards.
72. **20th Jan. 1989** A specially printed stamp Booklet was issued to commemorate India-89 International Stamp Exhibition held in New Delhi from 20th to 29th January 1989.
73. **1989** Postage Prepaid in Cash System which was introduced in 1889, was abolished.
74. **1990** The first Corporate Post office was opened at New Delhi, to deal with Pre Sorted Bulk Mail of Corporated Nature. At present corporate P.O. are working in all big cities.
75. **29th May 1991**, Mail Box Scheme was introduced. A statutory order under section 21 of Indian Post Office Act was issued for those residing on other floors, other than the ground floor, should provide mail boxes on the ground floor.
76. **1991** Minimum Postage Due Charges of Re 1/- was introduced. Thus double the deficiency remained with a minimum charge of Re. 1/- as Postage Due.
77. **1991** Computers for calculation of Postal tariff due on an article, depending on weight and class of Postal article was introduced. 102 machines were installed in 22 selected post offices of major cities in India. Now all major post offices are having computers.
78. **1992** Recording of time was abolished. It mean time slug from canceller and Delivery stamp, was dropped.
79. **1st April 1993** Surface Airlifted Mail (SAL) was introduced for Germany, Singapore, UK and USA. Now SAL is extended to other selected countries.
80. **29th April 1993** Automatic Mail Sorting Machine was introduced first at Santacruz, Bombay, Madras followed in 1996.
81. **8th Oct. 1993** Indian Post Office introduced its Corporate Logo, which symbolises the character of the Post and its tradition of Service.
82. **29th Oct. 1993** The Department of Posts introduced corrugated boxes in different sizes as packaging material.
83. **5th Nov. 1993** Greeting Envelopes in multi colour with Re. 1/- printed stamp were issued.
84. **27th Nov. 1993** Four different Seasonal Greeting Cards were issued to celebrate the Bi-Centenary of Bombay GPO.
85. **1993** Postal Labels on Registered, Insured and other classes were abolished.
86. **2nd April 1994** Metro Mail (channel), a re-incarnation of Q.M.S. was introduced in 6 Metro cities viz. Bangalore, Bombay, Calcutta, Delhi, Hyderabad and Madras.

87. **16th May 1994** Rajdhani channel was introduced to link all state capitals with New Delhi.

(Courtesy : Souvenir, Millepex 2000)

ILLEGAL ISSUES & UPU

Mani M Krishnan

Illegal stamps are unfortunately flourishing more than ever before. The UPU have received recent official denouncements from several countries. The fight against this proliferation of illegal issues is high on the agenda of World Association for the Development of Philately (WADP). WADP consists of UPU, FIP, IFSDA, AIJP and ASCAT. The WADP project team on Illegal issues is holding a meeting at Berne, Switzerland.

In November 2000 the President of the Afghan post said that his beleaguered nation hasn't issued a stamp since 1989. What then are the 100-odd items listed by Scott Catalogs (and recorded in Linn's New Issues listings) since then? "False stamps", is the reply.

Following is the gist of denouncements sent to UPU in 2000. This is definitely not a complete list of illegal stamps available to collectors in the global market.

Angola informs of the existence of several sets of illegal postage stamps issued by three companies located in Belgium, Great Britain and Lithuania. The accompanying list includes 60 sheetlets of 6 stamps, 2 sheetlets of 9 stamps, and 1 sheetlet each of 2 and 4 stamps on popular topics such as Flora, Fauna, Trains, and Millennium.

Chad protests the following as illegals; 5-stamp series with values, 100, 150, 200, 250, 300 F on Elephants, Cats, and 130th birth anniversary of M K Gandhi, a 6-stamp series on Butterflies with values, 100, 150, 200, 250, 300, 350 F.

Cyprus informs that the illegal regime in the territory occupied by the Turkish army issued, on 12 November 1999, a set of "postage stamps" entitled "Anniversaries and Events" for the 35 years of the so-called "Turkish Cypriot Postal Administration", the 125th anniversary of the UPU and the eclipse of the sun on 11 August 1999.

Georgia has provided a 7 page list describing 202 series of illegal stamps. This list will be distributed officially shortly by UPU.

Kyrgyztan is denouncing a web site based in the United States that carries illegal stamps in its name and in the name of many other places as well. These stamps have the symbol of the State printed on them, just like official issues. They show motifs representing Western show business personalities and have been reproduced in a Japanese periodical. All "Beatles" and "Madonna" stamps with a face value of 20s have not been issued by the postal administration of Kyrgyztan.

Mali was informed, on 14 March and 18 April 2000, of the existence of nine different series of postage stamps bearing the inscription "Republique Du Mali" and various designs. All these stamps are illegal and their circulation does harm to the Malian and international postal services and to collectors. Legal action has already been initiated to trace the forgers and bring them to justice. The pirated postage stamps purportedly issued by the

Republic of Mali are in the set of 9 values, 100, 150, 200, 250, 300, 350, 400, 450, 500 F on Train, Chess, Prehistoric animals, Magellan, Mushrooms, Computers, Dogs, C Columbus, Minerals. These "pirate issues" were produced in Eastern Europe on behalf of a Certain company in Great Britain.

Morocco informs that our administration has been informed of the existence of postage stamps bearing the inscription 'Republique Arabe Sahraoui Democratique' and various designs. This so-called republic does not exist and all these stamps are illegal.

Russian Federation informs the following: " our postal administration's grave concern about the illegal production and distribution of postage stamps ostensibly issued by various regions of the Russian Federation. We were grateful to see participants attending the pilot course for Central and Eastern European countries on the promotion and development of philately, recently held in Riga (Latvia), made aware of this ever-growing proliferation of illegal stamps. We have also learned that such stamps have been openly offered for sale on the Internet for some time now. Not only does such a proliferation of illicit stamps do harm to philately and the Russian Federation's reputation, it also contributes to the decline of the entire philatelic market. We are therefore counting on the UPU and the WADP to help us find a solution to this problem immediately. List of regions of the Russian Federation in whose name illegal stamps are being issued: Altai Region, Amurskaya Province, Jewish Autonomous Region, Franz Josef Land, Autonomous Region of Evenkia, Republic of Kabard-Balkaria, Kamchatka Region, Karachay-Cherkessia, Autonomous Region of Koriakia, Kuril islands, Novosibirsk islands, Kolguev Island, Kunashir Island, New Land Island, Spitsbergen Island, Republic of Adygea, Republic of Bashkortostan, Republic of Buriatia, Republic of Daghestan, Republic of Ingushetia, Republic of Ichkeria, Republic of Kalmykia, Republic of Karelia, Komi Republic, Mari-El Republic, Republic of Mordovia, Republic of Sakha (Yakutia), Republic of North Ossetia, Republic of Tatarstan, Republic of Tuva, Republic of Khakasia, Russian Antarctica, Sakhalin Region, Republic of Udmurtia, and Republic of huvashia.

Rwanda informs that an issue of postage stamps entitled "papillons" (butterflies) was illegally issued in 1999 in the name of Rwanda. The postal administration of Rwanda specifies that only the "Memoire du genocide rwandais" (Remembrance of the Rwandan Genocide) set was issued in 1999 and all other stamps issued in 1999 are illegal.

Senegal protests that two sheets of 9 stamps each of the 250 F and 450 F values, respectively, which have as the theme "Greenpeace".

Turkmenistan informs that sheets of postage stamps belonging to the EURO 2000 European Football Championship issue, with a face value of 120.00 TMM, are unofficial stamp issues not issued by Turkmenistan.

Ukraine informs that postage stamps of the fraudulent issue entitled "Ukrainian Antarctic Post" are appearing on the market. As the postal administration of Ukraine never issued such postage stamps in the period from 1992 to 1999 all postage stamps bearing that imprint are illegal.

Kindly cooperate with WADP by informing the fellow collectors, in particular those collecting thematics, about illegal stamps. The International Bureau of the UPU manages the

WADP Secretariat. More information about the WADP and UPU's philatelic activities and publications can be obtained by contacting the official in charge: Maria Libera, Deputy Head, Marketing Development Responsible for Philately maria.libera@upu.int

Take care - before you invest in thematic stamps.

(Courtesy : Stamps of India - Collectors Companion, Jan 2001)

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