



SIPA Bulletin

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Bimonthly

LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT

It gives me great pleasure to meet you once again in our Golden Jubilee year.

It has been a long way from our humble beginning on 30th Dec 1956 to our golden Jubilee celebrations, in December 2006.

It has been decided to have our National level Golden Jubilee philatelic exhibition "SIPA GOLD 2006" during the second fortnight of December. Celebrations Committees have been formed with leaders for various wings or divisions. To have effective working teams the leaders have selected their own team members in adequate numbers.

As during the previous exhibitions conducted by SIPA, this time also we will have a quality 'souvenir' which will be produced by three of our senior members. Members are requested to send articles on Philately, for publication in the souvenir. As the cost of holding a national level exhibition is very high, every member should contribute his/her right and might in bringing sponsors and advertisers and also it has to be done in the earliest.

Moreover, members are advised to start preparing their exhibits immediately so as to put in maximum time and effort to reach appreciable standards. Higher award winners in 'SIPA GOLD 2006' may be lucky to get a knock at the doors of the National exhibition 2007 being planned to be conducted by India-Post at Chennai, if everything goes well as per aspirations.

Further, interested members are requested to join

the festivities in flesh and blood during our festival period and if possible prior to that during exhibition hall preparation, which needs quite a few working hands.

On the whole let us all rise up to the golden occasion and gear up to live upto the great expectatious.

With regards.

G. Bala Krishna Das



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Our Second Sunday Meetings were held at the CPMG's Conference Hall, Anna Road, HPO, Chennai-600 002. (11:00 A.M. - 1:00 P.M.) regularly where about 30 members attended with president Shri G. Balakrishna Das presiding. Past President & Patron Shri.Dr. H. Rao spoke on "Philately on Navy" in April 2006.

M. SINGARAVELAR

2.3.2006

500

0.4mill

Shri M. Singaravelar was a freedom fighter, a lawyer, labour union leader and the first member of the Corporation of Madras.



DR. BHARATHI M. SINGARAVELAR

INDIAभारत 500

He was born in a wealthy family, the third son of Venkatachalam Chetty and Valliammai on 18th February 1860. He had his schooling from Hindu High School at Triplicane and graduated from the Presidency College. He then took a degree in law and practiced as a lawyer at the Madras High Court. It was the time when he met the great poet Bharathiar, V. Sakkurai Chettiar, V.O. Chidambaram Pillai as well as some revolutionary Congress leaders. Inspired by the news of the Russian Revolution of 1905 and the working class struggle in Bombay in 1908, he was drawn to the nationalist movement and fought for the betterment of the conditions of the Indian working class.

Singaravelar was instrumental in spreading the communist movement in India. Although he worked as a member of the Congress Party, after 1921 he dedicated himself to the establishment of the communist movement. Along with Vi. Kalyanasundaranar, a veteran trade unionist and congressman, he actively associated in the formation of Madras Labour Union.

He sowed the seed for the celebration of May Day, which is celebrated in India since 1923. It was on that day when he announced the formation of the Labour Kisan Party. He served the people by getting their support and becoming a member of the Corporation.

He responded to Gandhiji's call for non-cooperation and gave up his practice as a lawyer and entered whole heartedly into the freedom movement. He participated in the movement to boycott the Simon Commission. He was successful in organizing demonstrations in several parts of Chennai against the Rowlett Act. Singaravelar's association with Periyar played a very important role in the Self Respect Movement.

As a prolific writer, he published several books on various topics. He started a fortnightly Labour Kisan Gazette and, 'Thozhilalan', a Tamil Weekly.

Singaravelar visited many countries. Besides English and Tamil, he had good command in Russian, French and German languages. He had a valuable Library of about 10,000 books, which he donated to the Communist Party of India.

He passed away on 11th February 1946.

Theme : Personality ; Freedom Fighter, Communism

WORLD CONSUMER RIGHTS DAY

15.3.2006

500

0.8mill

World Consumer Rights Day is an annual occasion for expressing solidarity within the international consumers, and for a firm reaffirmation that those rights are respected and protected. It commemorates a historic declaration of four consumer rights made by former U.S. President John F. Kennedy on 15th March 1962. It was first observed on 15th March 1983 by Consumers International (CI), and has since become an important occasion for mobilizing citizen action and is observed every year on 15th March all over the world.

In India, the enactment of the Consumer Protection Act (COPRA), 1986 is considered as one of the most significant achievements in the Consumer Movement. The Act provides for a separate three-tier Quasi Judicial consumer district levels. Further in the Amendment of the Act in 2002, while bringing spurious goods and services that are hazardous to life and safety have also been enlarged.

In India the Department of Consumer Affairs being the nodal Department for the protection and welfare of consumers, started observing the World Consumer Rights Day from 1988 onwards. This year's theme for the World Consumer Rights Day is consumer health and safety. To spread the message of consumer health and safety all the Central Ministries having consumer interface, State Governments/UT of Govt., voluntary Consumer Organization, Industrial Houses, Education institutions have planned to observe the day in a befitting manner by highlighting consumer welfare related activities.

There are a number of legal and penal provisions, enactments, legislations and regulations but most important requirement is the creation of awareness among the consumers regarding these provisions and the scope for legal redressal.

Theme : Consumerism, Personal Rights

INDIAN AGRICULTURAL RESEARCH INSTITUTE

30.3.2006

500

0.8mill

The Indian Agricultural Research Institute (IARI), popularly known as the 'Pusa Institute', was originally established in 1905 at Pusa (Bihar) aided by a donation of 30,000 from an American philanthropist, Mr. Henry Phipps. Following a devastating earthquake in 1934, the Institute was shifted to its present location in Delhi.

The Institute has been playing a key role in agricultural research, education and extension in the country. The emphasis of the Institute of a 'Deemed-to-be University' in 1958, besides basic research, applied and commodity research gained great importance resulting in the development of several popular high yielding varieties of almost all major crops and their associated management technologies.



The Institute has expanded from its original infrastructure of five Divisions to its current network of twenty Divisions, eleven dedicated Units, six National Coordinating Centres, five multidisciplinary Research Centres, nine Regional Research Stations and two off-season nurseries. The Institute's library holds the largest collection on agrobiological literature in South Asia. The National Phytotron Facility is the only controlled environment and containment research facility in South Asia.

The Institute has strengthened its existing key areas of research and education such as Molecular Biology, and Biotechnology, Microbiology, Virology, Physiology, Biochemistry and Agrochemicals, Precision and Organic farming and bio - fuel research. Apart from crop improvement and breeding, the thrust has been shifted to new strategic areas such as exploitation of heterosis and development of hybrids, including apomixes, new plant types combining high biotic and abiotic stresses, and creation of pre-breeding stocks combining multiple resistances and other desirable attributes.

The Indian Agricultural Research Institute has significantly contributed to the growth of Indian seeds industry, by making available quality seed of nearly 175 varieties of field and transfer.

The Institute has been the harbinger of the Green Revolution and the flagship of Indian agriculture. The increased food production through the application of the Green Revolution technologies has been the corner stone of India's food security and overall agricultural success.

Theme : Agriculture, Institutions

62 CAVALRY

01.4.2006 500 0.8mill

62 Cavalry has the dual honour of being the first Armoured Regiment to be raised in independent India, as also the first raised on Tanks. Raising orders were issued on 1st July 1956, and the Regiment was declared fit for war on 31st March 1957.

It was in the 1965 Indo-Pak war that the Regiment displayed its excellence in battle. It played a pivotal role in the capture of Phillora. Hurling into combat, the aging Sherman tanks of the Regiment were pitted against the cream of Pakistani Armour Patton Tanks at Pagowal. In the intense and vicious tank battle that ensued, 62 Cavalry destroyed six Patton tanks and one Chaffee Tank, thus securing the object, as well as the withdrawal of the pride of enemy armour.

In the 1971 war, the Regiment was the first to be formed as an independent combat group of the Indian Army tasked to launch an audacious offensive into enemy territory. The operation was called off due to the ceasefire, a few hours prior to its commencement, and tanks had to be halted in their approach to battle. The Regiment had moved over 500 Kms on tracks during the prelude to the launch.

On 31st March 1981, the Silver Jubilee of the Regiment, Sri Neelam Reddy, the then president of India presented the Guidon to the Regiment. The Regiment has been successfully deployed during Operation TRIDENT, Operation VIJAY and Operation PARAKRAM.

The badge of the Regiment is unique. The five pointed star that surmounts the crest, represents the five basic elements of creation, the outer Chakra signified Lord Krishna's Sudarshan Chakra as also the twelve pointed lotus of Lord Shiva in his benign form. The inner Chakra symbolizes Guru Gobind Singh's grace in battle. The mace head in the center symbolizes Yama, the Kali or Shiva as the destroyer of the



enemy. The Regiment's motto enshrined in the crest reads Dhairya avm Shaurya or Fortitude and Valour. To the wearer of this crest, the complete significance can be interpreted as having surrendered to the will of God, fight with courage.

Theme : Army, Armed Forces, War

INDIA - CYPRUS: JOINT ISSUE

12.4.2006 1500,1500 0.8mill each

Relations between India and Cyprus have been traditionally very close and friendly. India has been supporting the sovereignty, unity and territorial integrity and democratic choice exercised by the people of Cyprus. In recent years, relations between the two countries have been reinforced with several bilateral mechanisms and set up for regular interaction on issues of mutual interest. Regular highlevel exchange of visits between the two countries have led to expansion and strengthening of bilateral cooperation. The Presidents of the Republic of Cyprus viz., Arch Bishop Makarios (1962), Spyros Kyprianou (1982, 1983 and 1984), George Vassiliou (1989) and Glofcos Clerides(1997), paid state visits to India. From India, President V.V.Giri (1972) and President R. Venkataraman (1988) visited Cyprus. Prime Minister Indira Gandhi's historic visit in September 1983 is recalled as a significant milestone in India's relations with Cyprus. Prime Minister Atal Bihari Vajpayee also visited Cyprus in October 2002. Five agreements in the areas of Health, Post and Telecommunications, Science & Technology, Information Technology and Cultural Exchange Programme were signed to strengthen bilateral cooperation. Providing further impetus to mutual understanding and cooperation, the Postal Administrations of the two countries have embarked on a joint venture in Philately through the release of a set of stamps.

The India-Cyprus joint issue showcases spectacular facets of Indian and Cypriot cultures. The theme of this philatelic commemoration is folk dance of India and Cyprus. supply for everyday use. A spring or "Vrisi", as called, was used by the whole village. Young women would go to the 'Vrisi' to fill their pitchers or pots with water. There they would meet the young men they loved. These love encounters 'chance-meeting' are the subject of the dance 'The Pitcher' or 'Kouza' or 'Stamna' as is called in Cypriot dialect which has been depicted in the Cypriot stamp.

The illustration on the Indian stamp depicts a famous folk dance called 'Nati'. It is the most popular folk dance of Himachal Pradesh in India. It derives its name from Sanskrit



word "Natya and Nritya". It is a dance for amateurs who have no audience in view and who dance inclusively for their own pleasure and satisfaction. Unlike classical dances, there are no rules in these dances and minor variations are pleasantly done to suit the local taste and talent. Men and women, old and young alike join this community dance at the time of festivals, marriages and other celebrations.

Other folk dances originating from Nati are Banthra, Luddi, Dhilli Nati, Dohari Nati, Pheti Nati, Buhahari Nati, Bahndu Nati, Kartha, Lahauli, Bakhali, Phagli, Kharait, Garbi, Devkhal and Taon Nati. In these various types of Natis different hill tunes are played upon the orchestra.

Theme : Joint - Issues, Dances, Culture

CALCUTTA GIRL'S HIGH SCHOOL

21.4.2006 500 0.8mill

The Calcutta Girl's High School was established school for English speaking girls. Since then it has grown by leaps and bounds under the able guidance of a succession of dedicated educationalists. Among the American missionary ladies who headed the School in its formative years mention must be made of Ms M.E. Layton, Ms Emma Knowles, and Ms Irma Collins. This tradition was carried on by the Indian Principals who followed in their footsteps, beginning with Ms Smriti Das who took charge of the School in June 1961.



While the School had already built up a reputation for academic excellence by the close of 19th century, it sent up its first batch of 15 girls for the Senior Cambridge Examination in 1911. Since then the School came to be known as the Calcutta Girl's High School.

Now recognized as one of the leading school for girls, Calcutta Girl's High School has also been instrumental in promoting education for the underprivileged. The Indira Pathshala functions as a night school in the same premises for the poor and needy children of the locality. Set up in 1973, the students of Indira Pathshala are also given vocational training in knitting and sewing, etc., and are recognized for the excellence of their handwork. The Pathshala also presented its first batch of 5 students for the 10th Board Examination in 2004.

This commitment to educating the less fortunate has been continued by the Calcutta Girl's High School, which now also supports a Primary School, the Nihata Mission School, in Chandipur, a village 30 Kms from Kolkata.

Calcutta Girl's High School has thus gone from strength to strength in its 150 years of history, and is now poised to offer higher studies by setting up a College for women.

Theme : Education, Institutions, Schools

PANNALAL BARUPAL

28.4.2006 500 0.4mill

Pannalal Barupal was a freedom fighter, a social reformer, and a parliamentarian.

Pannalal Barupal was born in Bikaner of Rajasthan on April 6, 1913. He was educated in Ramdev Pathshala, Bikaner. He actively participated in Non-cooperation Movement and Quit India Movement.

A man of the masses, he was elected as representative of the Lok Sabha for 25 years (1952-1977). During his tenure as the Member of



Parliament, he raised his voice for the demands of the farmers, workers, labourers and weaker sections of society. He was Chief Examiner of the Rules and Resolution's of the Lok Sabha Secretariat.

As a social worker he fought against the 'Jagirdari Pratha'. He also took initiatives for the enlistment of Dalits in the temples. Ideals of social justice, equality of men and women and eradication of casteism always remained dear to him. He was associated with the Bikaner Rajya Parishad.

Pannalal Barupal was a man of varied interests. His poetry and erudite articles on contemporary social issues reveal a sensitive side of him, while his sporting talents showed his enthusiasm and positive energy.

He passed away on May 18, 1983.

Theme : Freedom Fighter, Parliamentarian.

WASHINGTON AND THE POST

BY FRANK L. HICKS JR.

Although Ben Franklin is generally considered the "father" of philately, George Washington probably did more for the U.S. post office than any other single individual. Although that is a strong statement, it is supported by the following article, the result of research on the post office of the 1700s. In Washington's own words, it demonstrates his involvement with the fledgling postal system.

From a philatelic standpoint, who is George Washington? He has appeared on more than 500 U.S. postal issues, including stamps, postal stationery, revenue stamps, etc. His image appeared on more than seventeen percent of the U.S. Postage stamps issued during the first eighty-five years of American postage stamp history. His wife and even his home have been honored on stamps. He was the first person to appear on a U.S. stamp, in 1845 and 1846 during the provisional issues at Millbury, Massachusetts, and New York, New York. Today, 200 years after his presidency, he still appears on stamps. What does he really mean to the philatelic world?

George Washington was probably one of the most prolific letter writers of any era. At times, he would stay up all night to get his bulky correspondence out, as evidenced by the way he signed a letter to Alexander Spotswood on August 26, 1787: "With sincere affection, and between ten and 11 o'clock at night, the Post going at 6 in the morning, I am etc."



His surviving letters fill volumes that exceed the size of the Encyclopaedia Britannica. So he understood the problems of the post, and also its importance. It is not surprising that he got mixed up with it during its early years.

On July 15, 1757, Washington wrote Col. John Stanivix regarding the suspension of colonial mail to Winchester. The post office of the colonies was, at the time, managed by Benjamin Franklin and Col. John Hunter. The colonial mail covered the colonies from New Hampshire to Georgia, with the main route following a narrow band along the coast. Very few posts went east and west, although when Braddock took the army west, the Pennsylvania Assembly established a special post "chiefly for the support of the army."

Washington sought more of this type of expansion, as well as rather liberal, if not free, mail services. Franklin, however, was running a business, and needed funds to keep it going. In August of 1756, Franklin notified Maryland and Virginia that the post would be discontinued in those areas unless grants were issued to support it.

While many believed Washington's position was too liberal, others thought Franklin too mercenary. Governor Denny of Pennsylvania accused Franklin of taking advantage of his official position to circulate his newspaper and to receive intelligence free, "Which he may make the best or worst use [of] in the present situation of affairs."

Washington's letter to Col. Stanivix reflects his position in regard to the mail stoppage:

The Philadelphia post, which formerly came to this place, being stopped, prevents our hearing any foreign news; but what are transmitted in the channel of friendly Letters. We greatly regret the loss of this post, and would gladly keep it up by private subscription, from this to Carlyle, if it comes to that.

We can learn a lot about those early days of the mails directly from Washington. Although his letters speak very highly of the mail system, they also speak rather disparagingly of the individuals who worked for the post. The letter quoted below typifies his attitude from colonial days through his presidency.

Writing to Maj. Gen. Henry Knox from Rocky Hill on November 2, 1783, Washington said:

You will readily conceive how much I have been chagrined, and vexed at a loss occasioned by the stupidity of the Postmaster at Princeton, when I tell you, that the original of which the enclosed is a duplicate, and the first draughts of all my public and private letters written in the six weeks preceding, were lost with the Mail on Thursday night last.

Having many letters to write by the post the week before, and being interrupted by company, I was unable to get my dispatches ready the overnight (as usual) for the mail, but sent them off by day break the next morning to the Post office, the Manager of which, as the Mail, I presume, was made up the night before, being too lazy to get up, suffered the Post rider to go off without them. Ashamed to return or to acknowledge that he had not sent them, he kept them to go by the last weeks post, by which means I have not only lost all my dispatches but the draughts, as I have mentioned above, of all the letters which I have written.

Nevertheless, Washington persisted in telling those writing to him to use the post. In a letter to the secretary of war on July 1, 1796, Washington wrote:

By the Post, rather than by the Express, you will receive my official letter, and its enclosure. For the difference of a few hours, in a case that is not urgent, I would have you avoid sending an Express to me. The letter does not travel faster than the Mail; of course there cannot (unless Sunday intervenes) be more, in any case (supposing an occasion to arise in one hour after the Mail was closed) than the difference of 48 hours in the receipt of the dispatches; as I send regularly, every Post Day, to Alexandria for my letters. Your Express came in yesterday at 5 o'clock in the afternoon and if you had sent the letters by the Mail of Wednesday they

would have been here at 9 o'clock this afternoon; a difference of 28 hours only.

He never seemed to miss a chance to preach "mail" to anyone, even to the governors he corresponded with. In a letter to Terrch Tilghman, dated January 7, 1786, he gently argued against private carriers: "... although [your letter] did not reach me until last night. Except it is by chance, letters by the Stage never get to my hands so quickly as they do by the Post; nor so safely, because I send regularly every post day to the office in Alexandria, whilst those by the Stage getting into private hands await accidental conveyances from that place." He later added, "I send this letter to Alexandria to take the chance of a private conveyance, but it is probable the Post will offer the first."



Nor was Washington satisfied with urging greater use and acceptance of the post office only in his correspondence. All of his annual addresses to Congress contained some mention of the mail. On December 8, 1790, he said, "The establishment of the Post Office and Post Roads are subjects which you will resume of course, and which are abundantly urged by their own importance."

Two months later, he wrote to John Hoopes regarding this same issue, now before Congress: "The 'Bill to establish the Post Office and Post Roads within the United States' has not yet passed, nor do I know what form it may finally take." In this same letter, he addressed the question of structure. Although it was still not decided with certainty, "It is highly probable, however, that the assistants (whether one or more) will be left to the appointment of the Post Master General."

The constitution authorized Congress to "establish Post Offices" in 1787 but, even back then, bureaucracy didn't function too quickly. According to a June 8 letter written by Washington, the Post Office Department was temporarily established by the act of September 22, 1789, and permanently fixed later in the same year. Samuel Osgood was appointed first postmaster under the U.S. Constitution.

There apparently was a good deal of confusion as to where in the government the Post Office Department belonged and, originally, it was tucked away under Revenue, of all places. In today's world of postal deficits, that might raise some eyebrows. Washington once referred briefly to this organizational scheme, saying, "The Post Office (as a branch of Revenue) was annexed to the Treasury in the time of Mr. Osgood; and when Col. Pickering was appointed thereto he was informed as I find by my letter to him dated 29th of August 1791, that he was to consider it in that light. if from relationship, or usage in similar cases."

But Washington never relaxed, even when he was getting what he wanted. In his third annual address to Congress, on October 25, 1791, he pressed for greater use of the postal system.

The importance of the Post-Office and Post-Roads, on a plan sufficiently liberal and comprehensive, as they respect the expedition, safety and facility of communication, is increased by the instrumentality in diffusing a knowledge of the laws and proceedings of the government; which, while it contributes to the security of the people, serves also to guard them against the effects of misrepresentation and misconception. The establishment of additional cross-posts, especially to some of the important points in the Western

and Northern parts of the Union cannot fail to be of material utility.

A few months before his address to Congress, Washington mentioned this problem of lack of cross-posts in a letter to Tobias Lear, in which he tried to explain why he had not received Lear's letters.

Your directions to have them sent cross-wise the country, was unlucky, first because there are no cross-posts, 2nd because my route back was not irrevocably fixed, and 3rd because I had, knowing these circumstances, directed from Charleston all letters which might be following me, to be returned to this place to await my call. The slow movement of the mail in the three Southern States prevented (I presume) these directions getting to Richmond before the letters were forwarded to Taylor's ferry, and my crossing at Carters (a ferry much higher up James river) has been the cause or causes, I imagine, for my missing them.



Mail in those days generally ran twice a week, and the routes were rather confusing. As he moved around the country, Washington was constantly faced with the problem of how to send and receive his mail, a problem reflected in a letter he wrote to Joseph Reed on October 30, 1775: "In your conversation with Mr. Bache be so good as to ask him whether the two posts which leave Philadelphia for the southward, both go through Alexandria and if only one, which

of them it is, the Tuesday's or Saturday's, that I may know how to order my letters from this place." Washington even used the mail, rather than special couriers, for directing war operations, sometimes with interesting results. In reading some of his correspondence, one wonders how the colonies ever won the war. In a letter to Gov. George Clinton on November 2, 1783, Washington wrote of lost directives:

Your Excellency's favor of the 14 October reached me in a few days and was replied to the day I received it, to go by Post before the last, by some neglect however the letter was left out of the Mail and remained in the Post Office until the evening before the last Post should have gone, when it was with the Eastern Mail stolen from thence nor can I now send you a copy for all the copies of my letters both public and private to that day met with the same fate being enclosed to Col. Virick to record.

I had by the same Post and before I received your Excellency's letter, directed General Knox to confer with you and have every necessary arrangement made to take possession of New York the moment the British should evacuate it.

However, even Washington's patience ran thin at times, as shown by his letter to the President of the Continental Congress on August 24, 1776.

The irregularity of the Post prevents you receiving the early and constant Intelligence it is my wish to communicate. This is the third letter which you will, probably, receive from me by the same Post. The first was of little or no consequence, but that of yesterday gave you the best information I had been able to obtain of the Enemy's Landing, and movements upon Long Island. Having occasion to go over thither yesterday, I sent my letter to the Post office at the usual hour (being informed that the Rider was expected every moment and would go out again directly) but in the evening, when I sent to

enquire, none had come in.

I now inclose you a report made to me by Gen. Sullivan, after I left Long Island yesterday. I do not conceive that the Enemy's whole force was in motion, but a detached party rather.

Although by today's standards, the post office would hardly be an adequate means for the communication of military intelligence and for directing a war effort, Washington used it almost exclusively. Regardless of the problems he had with the post, he seldom bypassed the mail, even to communicate intelligence regarding the war. But occasionally it did happen.

In a letter to the President of the Continental Congress dated September 6, 1776, he wrote: "The result of their opinion [of enemy movements] and deliberations I shall advise Congress of by the earliest opportunity, which will be by Express, having it not in my power to communicate any intelligence by Post as the office is removed to so great a distance and entirely out of the way."

This was an obvious "dig," as well as an attempt to gain control of the Post, which he seems eventually to have accomplished. But Washington was obviously frustrated on September 4, 1776, when he wrote:

The Post Master having removed his office from the City to Dobbs ferry, as it is said makes it extremely inconvenient, and will be the means of my not giving such constant and regular Intelligence as I could wish. Cannot some mode be devised by which we may have a pretty constant and certain intercourse and communication kept up? It is an interesting matter and of great importance and as such I am persuaded will meet with due attention by Congress.

He transmitted with the letter intelligence from Ticonderoga, as well as "several original letters from some of our officers, prisoners at Quebec. ..."

But, gradually, Washington did gain control of the post. Although the postmaster mentioned above had decided to move his post office to a safer location, general orders of July 12, 1778, stated, "The Post Office will in future on a march move and remain with the Park."

This control grew, as shown by a letter of June 28, 1781, to the Board of War. Washington indicated he had firmer control of the post office, at least in regard to his headquarters.

Upon changing the position of the Army, the route of the post is changed also. He now passes at Kings Ferry and avoids the Mountains, which I hope will in some degrees remove the danger to which he was formerly exposed. But should that not prove to be the case, I cannot, from the present strength of our Cavalry, furnish even the small escort which is required.

He went on to tell the postmaster general to hire an escort from the "several excellent troops of Volunteer Horse in Jersey."

This issue of an escort was to come up again and again. In a letter to Maj. Gen. William Heath on December 15, 1781, Washington wrote:

It having been thought necessary by Congress that an



escort should accompany the mail from Fishkill to Morristown, I do not look upon myself at liberty to judge of the propriety of continuing or discontinuing the measure. The duty must be performed by reliefs from Sheldon's Regiment as the Quarter Master is not able to furnish the fresh horses required.

In fact, Washington's correspondence hints that he may have used this issue of escorts to gain even more control of the post office. His letter of October 25, 1782, to Postmaster General Ebenezer Hazard, details just what routes the mail will take:



The Head Quarters of the Army will move in a day or two to Newbury; I desire therefore that the Mail may in future be sent by Morris-town, from thence by the most direct road to Colonel Swards, then through Warwick and Chester to Newbury except the route through Hackets town to Sussex, Warwick, etc. which would be inconvenient to the people of Jersey. The one now proposed is not the most direct and the safest that can be taken; it has been proposed before, but has always been opposed by the different Post Masters on account of distributing their Newspapers. If however it should not be thought proper now to take that route I cannot nor shall I confide in the Post for any dispatches coming to or going from Head Quarters; nor can the Dragoons be furnished as an Escort.

Two months later, a serious problem arose regarding escorts for the mail, and again Washington tried to apply pressure. The problem was that, by Christmas 1782, there was no food for the horses, and travel was all but stopped. Yet he wrote not just of escorting, but also of carrying the mail. His letter to Col. Timothy Pickering addresses the problem:

Nor can I expect the field officers of the day to perform their duties any longer. There is another public inconveniency which will probably happen, and of which it will be proper to give the Post Master General timely notice, that is, the total incapacity of the Dragoon Horses destined to escort or rather to carry the mail to proceed any longer. He must therefore expect that in which this letter goes to be the last which will be received from the Eastward through this mode of conveyance, until new arrangements shall take place; as the Dragoons were obliged to bring the last weeks mail from Morristown a considerable part of the distance on their backs, and as their horses have no forage from that day to the present.

Five days later, Washington did stop such escorts. Samuel Loudon, postmaster with the army at Fishkill, New York, received the following letter:

His Excellency the Commander in Chief directs me to inform you, that the Dragoon Horses will not be able to proceed any longer with the Mail, on account of the total want of forage. And therefore it will be necessary for you to procure a Rider to carry the next Mail without an escort and to continue the conveyance in the same mode, or it cannot be forwarded.

Yet there was little question about the need to protect the mail. And Washington's opinion of what was safe carried a good deal of weight. On May 27, William Stephens Smith wrote to Postmaster General Ebenezer Hazard, in reply to Hazard's query, that Washington didn't consider Kakiat, New York, a safe place for the mails to remain over one night, "the

risk being evidently too great as it is considerably advanced of any post that we occupy in that part of the country."

Attempts to steal the mail were common, and Washington was concerned about such attempts in efforts to determine safe places. On January 12, 1782, he wrote to Gov. William Livingston, "I am obliged by your information respecting the intended attempt upon the mail, which I think probably I shall give notice of it to the post master and to public bodies, that they may be careful how they send dispatches of consequence by the post."

Yet Washington himself did some appropriating of mails. "The capture of the Falmouth packet with the September mail," he wrote to Maj. Gen. Horatio Gates on October 27, 1778, "if confirmed, will be a most fortunate event, but the supposition of a decoy alone can make it credible, she would suffer the mail to fall into Our hands."

Such interruption of mail carried with it a high cost, the cost of lost intelligence, an expensive commodity to come by during any war. "The interruption of the post," Washington wrote to Joseph Reed on January 23, 1776, "has prevented the receipt of any letters from the southward since this day week, so. that we have but little knowledge of what is passing in that quarter."

Later, he wrote that the letter to which he was replying was the "only letter I have received from you since the 21st January [it was then February 26] this, added to my getting none from any other correspondents southward, leads me to apprehend some miscarriage, I am to observe, though, that the Saturday's post is not yet arrived, by that I may possibly get letters."

With all the writing Washington did, cost was of some significance. In a letter to Robert Gary & Co, dated July 20, 1771, Washington responded to a letter regarding the cost involved in shipping glass to him.

So likewise is it a disadvantage on account of your letters which come chiefly by York and James River Ships, by which means I have the postage from Williamsburg to Alexandria always to pay which upon a letter that contains an account of sales or that has anything else enclosed, amounts often to four, five and sometimes eight or ten shillings, which in the end increases to no trifling sum.

Eventually Congress passed a bill that allowed Washington to frank his mail with his signature and, thus, to have free mail. He wasn't too sure how it was working, however. On August 21, 1797, he wrote to Clement Biddle:

I presumed when the Congress exempted me from postage of letters it was intended that I should be placed on the ground I formerly stood; that is, that letters to and from me should pass free: if this is not so understood and you are charged postage for the letters I address to you it is my desire that this postage should be paid at my cost as it was not my intention for the trifling and troublesome business you transact for me to saddle you therewith.



Apparently the situation wasn't clear even by February 11.

1798, when, in a letter to Alexander Spotswood, Washington wrote, "I wish also to be informed whether the Postmaster in Fredricksburgh charges postage on my letters to you. or not, when they are franked with my name."

The privilege of free postage was extended to the soldiers during the Revolutionary War, although there was some question as to whether that included officers. Washington put the question to the Continental Congress in a letter dated January 30, 1776: "Is it the intention of Congress, that officers of the Army should pay postage? They are not exempted by the resolve of 9th instant." The resolve of January 9 permitted private soldiers in active service to send their letters free of postage, provided those letters were franked by someone in authority. Officers were not mentioned in the resolve.

Additional information about postage fees is offered in General Orders issued at the Morristown headquarters on January 2, 1780.

Resolved, that the rate of postage, until the further order of Congress, be twenty prices upon the sums paid in the year 1775: That single letters, directed to any officer on the line and all letters directed to general officers or to officers commanding in a separate department, and all letters to and from the ministers, commissioners, and secretaries of these United States at foreign courts, be free. ,

Mail service from this military post was typical: "The post for the Southward will set out every Thursday morning at 11 o'clock and return from there every Sunday at One o'clock PM. The post for the Eastward and Northward will set out every Wednesday morning at 11 o'clock and return from thence every Thursday at twelve."

The Ordinance issued in 1779 for regulating the Post Office offers some interesting insight into the franking of mail that the privilege of franking letters be, and the same is hereby, extended to the inspector general, the adjutant general, the director of hospitals, the quartermaster general, the commissary of prisoners, and the postmaster general of the army United States; and that the same privilege be, and the same is hereby, extended to the officers at the heads of the like departments in any separate army; all letters to and from whom, on public business, shall pass free of postage; and no order to prevent the multiplicity of franks becoming too bothersome to the public, be it ordained by the authority aforesaid, that the allowance not exceeding twenty per-cent on what would be the postage of free letters, if they were charged, be discontinued, and that the public be charged with no further commissions on free letters, though they contain enclosures, than the officers of the Post Office would be entitled to on the postage of the same number of single letters coming the same distance. And be it ordained by the authority aforesaid, that the clause in the ordinance of the 18th of October last, which directs the Postmaster General and his deputies to furnish extraordinary expenses be, and the same is hereby repealed.

But cost was only one problem. Always a more pressing concern was dependability of the early mail. Although Washington seems to have taken it all in stride, his correspondents frequently mentions lost letters, late letters, letters returned to him that he had just sent, questionable postmasters, etc.

In a letter he wrote to Robert Morris of Morristown on January 13, 1777, Washington asked for help in getting letters through: "...a letter or two from my family are regularly sent by Post, but very irregularly received, which is rather mortifying, as it

deprives me of the consolation of hearing from home, on domestic matters."

A few months later, he wrote to Landon Carter: "Your favor of the 22nd of February, I have had the pleasure to receive; but the other letters alluded to have never got to hand; and may be adduced among many other proofs of the villainry you suspect in the Post Offices."

This "villainry" is one of the reasons Washington used personal seals on his letters. He mentions them in a letter he wrote to William Pearce on January 3, 1796: "My letter to you, must have been opened after it went from me, for I think it never could have left my hands without a seal. But letters for sometime past have been opened, to come at Bank and Post Notes; and some persons are now under trial for this practice."

Two letters to the secretary of state dated July 25 and August 5, 1796, offer further insight into this problem and into how the seals were used.

It is much to be regretted that you did not discover the broken seal of Mr. Monroe's letter, to you, before the departure of the bearer of it; that an attempt at least might have been made to trace the channel through which it had passed; and thereby, if proofs could not have been obtained, to have found ground for just suspicion. You confine the post mark of Alexandria to his letter of the 8th of April; had you included that also of the 2nd of May, I would have caused enquiry to have been made at that office with respect to the appearance of the letters when they went from thence.

And, from the later letter:

If Mr. Churchman's account of the broken seal of Mr. Monroe's letter to the Department of State, be true, it bespeaks the man of candor and does him credit; but I do not see why when called upon, he should require time to consider whether he should relate the truth.

Washington went on very strongly to question the integrity of Mr. Churchman.

Washington was not averse to taking the postmaster to task, on the chance that mail had been delayed at the post office. In a letter to Gov. Beverly Randolph dated December 14, 1789, he detailed such an encounter with the Postmaster of New York.

I have enquired of the Post Master in this city to know if they were detained in his office. He informs me they were not, and as proof of it, he refers to the stamp on the face of the letters which will show the day of their leaving his office, and I will thank you for your own, and my satisfaction to examine the same.

Although weather may not prevent the mail carrier from his appointed rounds today, that was not so in Washington's day. And, in most cases, when he talked about delays caused by weather, he also showed signs of irritation with the postal workers.

In a letter from his home at Mount Vernon to Alexander Hamilton on August 3, 1795, Washington wrote:

The enclosed was written, as you will perceive, on the 29th Ultio; and with many other letters, was sent to the Post Office in Alexandria, to proceed with the Northern Mail next morning. But the blundering Post Master of that place, in putting the letters addressed to, put all the letters from me, into my own bag; of course they were returned to me. Since

which the unusual (at almost any season of the year), and violent rains which have fallen, have given such interruption to the Post, as to detain my letters until this time; and although I am now sending them to the Post Office, I have little expectation of their proceeding tomorrow; the waters being yet very high, and the bridges all gone.

A letter from Washington to the postmaster of Alexandria dated August 4, 1798, indicates that this problem of returned mail was a recurring one: "The letters enclosed, were sent up to your office yesterday afternoon, and were returned to me. It is not the first, nor second time I have been served in this manner; but it may be considered as an evidence of the inattention with which the duties of your office are discharged."

But there was at least one occasion on which he hoped that this problem had occurred. A mail robbery at New York had threatened a confidential letter Washington had mailed, and in a letter to David Humphrey, he wrote: "My only hope is a strange one you will say, that the inattention to, and practice of bringing back, instead of exchanging mails, which frequently happens, and did actually happen about that time may have been the means of its preservation."

The inefficiencies of post office employees were a constant source of frustration for Washington. A letter dated February 18, 1784, from Mount Vernon to the Comptroller of the U.S. Treasury James Milligan illustrates his view of post office personnel, as well as his wit: "The intemperance of the weather, and the great care which the post riders seemed disposed to take care of themselves, while it continued severe; prevented your letter of the 13th of last month from reaching my hands until the 10th of this."

In a letter dated August 26, 1787, he wrote to Alexander Spotswood: "I am led to apprehend a miscarriage, or that the letter to or from you may be lying in some of the Post Offices (a thing not very unusual)."

Again, his letter of April 12, 1785, to his brother Charles illustrated his annoyance: "The enclosed is the last letter I have had from your son George, why it is so I cannot readily account, except for the irregularity of the Post Office, which seems to be under very bad management."

As mentioned above, Washington often argued that the mail should offer some free services, the carrying of newspapers being one of them. An address he proposed to make to Congress in April 1789 offers some insight into his views:

You will not forget that the purpose of business and society may be vastly promoted by giving cheapness, dispatch and security to communications through the regular Posts. I need not say how satisfactory it would be to gratify the useful curiosity of our citizens by the conveyance of News Papers and periodical publications in the public vehicles without expense.

That idea became an important political issue at one point. In November 1793 Washington sent a message to Congress discussing the cost of transporting newspapers.

Might it not be expedient to take off the Tax upon the transportation of Newspapers. . . . But here, I cannot forbear to recommend a repeal of the tax on the transportation of public prints. There is no resource so firm for the Government of the United States, as the affections of the people guided by an enlightened policy; and to this primary good, nothing can conduce more than a faithful representation of public

proceedings diffused, without restraint, throughout the United States.

It is ironic that Washington appears on several newspaper and periodical stamps.

Washington's words seem calm in this instance, but he did not always handle the issue so diplomatically. On July 18, 1788, he tore into the secretary of foreign affairs:

It is extremely to be lamented, that a new arrangement in the Post Office, unfavorable to the circulation of intelligence, should have taken place at the instant when the momentous question of a general Government was to come before the People. I have seen no good apology, not even in Mr. Hazard's publication, for deviating from the old custom, of permitting Printers to exchange their papers by the mail. That practice was a great public convenience and gratification.

But that paragraph was just a warm-up. He went on:

Now, if the Post Master General (with whose character I am unacquainted and therefore would not be understood to form an unfavorable opinion of his motives) has any candid advisors who conceive that he merits the public employment they ought to counsel him to wipe away the aspersion he has incautiously brought upon a good cause.

Newspapers and the mail continued to be one of Washington's concerns throughout his presidency. On December 31, 1792, Lear wrote to the postmaster general:

In reply to your letter of this date requesting me to inform you of the facts or representations communicated to the President relative to newspapers, which led him to notice them in his speech at the opening of the present session of Congress; I have the honor to inform you that it was represented to the President in such a way as to place the fact beyond doubt in his mind, that in consequence of the rate of postage imposed on the transmission of Newspapers by the Post Office Law, many persons in Virginia who had heretofore taken Newspapers from this City, had declined receiving them any longer; and that many others declared that they only continued to take them under a full persuasion that the rate of postage could be reduced during the present session of Congress, and that if such reduction should not take place, they would advise the printers to stop their papers.

In addition to these strong marks of disapprobations of the rate of postage on newspapers given by individuals; he was informed that the public mind, so far as it has been expressed in that quarter on the subject appeared very anxious that an alteration should take place in that part of the post office law which relates to the transmission of newspapers.

In Washington's fourth annual address to Congress, given by him on November 6, 1792, and referenced by Lear, he said of the newspaper issue:

It is represented that some provisions in the law, which establishes the Post-Office, operate, in experiment, against the transmission of Newspapers to distant parts of the country. Should this, upon due inquiry, be found to be the case, a full conviction of the importance of facilitating the circulation of political intelligence and information, will, I doubt not, lead to the application of a remedy.

During much of his public life, Washington seemed to be in conflict with individuals in the post office. On July 3, 1789, it was the acting postmaster general who felt his displeasure. Washington was going over the post office books and wanted

to know why they didn't balance, an interesting question even today.

I have inspected those papers (records received in the mail) and although I observe the Post Office has upon the whole, been profitable to the United States since the year 1782, I should wish to know the causes of the decrease of the income from the source between the year 1785, when it produced a profit of 13.373 [dollars] 54. [90ths] 2 [8ths] and the year 1789 when it lost 3208 [dollars] .77 [90ths] and 2 [8ths].

Later, he responded to the acting postmaster general's explanation of why the post office was operating in the red.

I have read the several resolves of Congress referred to in your letter and if the productiveness of the Post Office department was diminished by them, I conceive it must have been either by the increase of expense attending the conveyance of the Mail by Stages (instead of Riders as formerly) or by directing the Mail to be carried into parts of the country where the expense of carrying it greatly exceeded the produce of it. However I presume the documents with which I have now requested to be furnished will fully explain the matter.

There was more to the President's response than that meets the eye. Washington was well aware of the post office's resistance to the use of mail stages. The issue of replacing mail riders with stages had been a very heated issue earlier, and was still a political hot potato. In a letter to the secretary of foreign affairs a year earlier, Washington had addressed his concerns on what seemed to him to be utter folly.

I know it is said that irregularity or defect has happened accidentally, in consequence of the contract for transporting the Mail on horseback, instead of having it carried in the Stages. But I must confess, I could never account, upon any satisfactory principles, for the inveterate enmity with which the Post Master General is asserted to be actuated against that valuable institution giving a facility to the means of traveling for strangers and intercourse for citizens was an object of Legislative concern and a circumstance highly beneficial to any country. In England, I am told, they consider Mail Coaches as a great modern improvement in their Post Office Regulations. I trust we are not too old, or too proud to profit by the experience of others.

The issue had, in fact, created real havoc with the mail: "I am sorry to learn that the line of Stages is at present interrupted in some parts of New England and totally discontinued at the Southward," he wrote.

In spite of any authority Washington had over the post office, however, he apparently didn't interfere in any way with those appointed to post office positions. Many letters reflect this hands-off policy. For example, Lear's letter of October 12, 1789, to the postmaster at Providence, Rhode Island, emphasizes that the president "... never interferes in the appointment of any officer whose appointment does not by law come under his immediate cognizance. Mr. Osgood must act as he pleases in the appointment of his deputies."

Washington's troubles with the mails were not limited to the postal system of the United States. The French post office gave him even more difficulty, and some of his letters were simply taken by postal authorities there and handed over to the French government. A letter he wrote to William Vans Murry on August 10, 1798, refers to that situation:

I have written you several letters, and having put one or two for Mr. Dandridge under your covers, without receiving any acknowledgement of them, the presumption is, that they have fallen into other hands. Nothing however was contained in either of them that could entitle them to the honor of a place in Bureaus of France, to which several of my private letters, it seems, have found a passage.

This small sampling of his letters shows how Washington influenced the formation of the post office in the United States, from the early colonial mail service to the initiation of the U.S. Mails. It is appropriate that he is represented on more than 500 postage stamps.

He was a champion of the mail system, yet he also served as a constant watchdog over those whose duty it was to provide service in the postal department. Through his letters, we can see something of Washington's personality and his sense of humor, and it is easier to understand how he has become the legend he is today. (Courtesy : The American Philatelist, 1986)



60 YEARS OF UN POSTAL HISTORY AND PHILATELY

The 60th anniversary of the creation of the United Nations Organisation (UNO) in June 1945, prompts Jean-Louis Emmenegger to focus on its postal history and philately. He remembers that London played an important role in 1945-1946, hosting the United Nations Preparatory Commission and the first UN General Assembly



THE YALTA CONFERENCE

Almost every collector knows that United Nations stamps exist, but fewer know that these stamps are presently issued in American, Swiss and Austrian currencies, and even less know how and when these

'international stamps' came into life.

Appreciated by philatelists for their peace and international cooperation messages, the UN stamps have indeed a most interesting history.

GENESIS of the U.N.O.

It is generally considered that the meeting between the American President, Franklin D. Roosevelt, and the British Prime Minister, Sir Winston Churchill, that took place on board the warship HMS Prince of Wales, off the coast of Newfoundland in August 1941, was the starting point to a new international cooperation. It was there that the Atlantic Charter was first elaborated on 14 August. President Roosevelt, who was aboard the USS Augusta, spoke for the first time of the 'united nations', by which he meant the 'nations united against Germany and its allies'.



Nicaraguan stamps depicting the Casablanca and Tehran Conferences

On 1 January 1942, representatives of

26 nations signed the Declaration by United Nations in Washington, pledging their governments to continue fighting together against the Axis Powers. The wording of 'United Nations' appears officially for the first time at this meeting. During 1943, two meetings were held between Roosevelt, Churchill and Stalin, Premier of the Soviet Union. The first was in Moscow (in October) and the second was in Tehran (in November), this one being a follow-up to the Moscow conference. The discussions were about the 'how and when' of the organisation of an international conference.

The next important step was made in 1944, in Dumbarton Oaks, Washington DC, USA. There, from August to October, delegates from the United States, United Kingdom, Soviet Union and China prepared the principles of an 'international charter'. In February 1945, during the meeting held in Yalta (Soviet Union), Roosevelt, Churchill and Stalin decided that the creation of the United Nations organisation, as discussed in 1944, would be the central point of an international conference to be held in San Francisco, USA.

SAN FRANCISCO, BIRTHPLACE OF THE UN

The United Nations Conference on International Organisation (UNCIO) commenced on 25 April 1945 in San Francisco. It was to last until 26 June. Some analysts give this UNCIO Conference as the creation of the United Nations Organisation (UNO), as the United Nations Charter was officially signed on 26 June 1945 by the representatives of 50 countries. Poland, which was not represented at the Conference, signed it later and became one of the original 51 Member States. Others prefer to choose 24 October 1945 as the foundation day of the UN, as it is on that day that the Charter was ratified by China, France, the Soviet Union, the United Kingdom, the United States and by a majority of other signatories. United Nations Day is celebrated on 24 October each year. Today, there are 191 Member States of the United Nations.

Covers and postal documents of this UNCIO San Francisco Conference are very scarce. They were sent either by delegates of the countries attending the UNCIO, or by US employees hired for security, translation and administrative work. They were, in fact, the members of the first UN Secretariat.

WHEN THE UN WAS IN LONDON

Following the UNCIO Conference in San Francisco, a United Nations Preparatory Commission (UNPC) was set up to prepare the following steps of the development of the newly created UN Organisation. It first met in San Francisco on 27 June 1945, the day after the closing ceremony of the UNCIO. The Executive Committee consisted of representatives of 14 states. The UNPC had two important aims to achieve: first, to work on the location of the future United Nations headquarters (receiving the proposals, visiting the locations and making a recommendation), and secondly, to prepare the meeting of the first Session of the General Assembly of the United Nations. From 16 August to the end of December 1945, the members of the UNPC met several times in London, to where a part of the UN Secretariat personnel had moved from New York.

The following year, from 10 January to 14 February 1946, the first meeting of the UN General Assembly was held in London, at Central Hall, near Westminster Abbey. A real historic world event for peace! The date of this opening meeting had an odd significance: it was on 10 January 1920 that the Treaty of Versailles came into effect, thus giving birth

to the League of Nations. Mr Attlee, the British Prime Minister, spoke as 'Chief Host'. The delegates discussed mainly the organisational matters of the UN Organisation. The second part of the General Assembly of 1946 then took place in Flushing Meadows, New York, beginning on 23 October.

Despite the official request to Royal Mail to have a special commemorative postage stamp issued for the first United Nations General Assembly, the British Post Office did not accept the need to produce a special stamp, but did arrange for the 120 London post offices to use a 'UNITED NATIONS LONDON 1945' slogan postmark from 1 December 1945. Because the opening date of the General Assembly was postponed to 10 January 1946, the slogan cancel remained in use without change until 19 January 1946. This slogan cancel is now considered to be one of the earliest United Nations postal history items.

It should be added that official mail sent from London by the members of the United Nations Preparatory Commission and by the UN Secretariat (both had offices at Church House, Deans Yard) as well as by the delegates of the first UN General Assembly (Central Hall, Westminster) in 1945 and 1946 are among the rarest items of United Nations postal history! They were cancelled at the 'London SW1* Post Office, which used its usual handstamps and machine postmarks. Other postal documents, such as receipts for registered mail sent by the UN Secretariat, as well as private letters



addressed to the 'UN Information Centre' and to the 'UN Staff Recruiting Office' at Church House, Deans Yard, London' (see illustration), are of great interest to UN postal historians. Some UN staff members continued to work at Church House until late 1947, even after the UN moved from London to Hunter College in New York City on 26 March 1946.

But the 'United Nations in London' episode was soon to become an 'old story'. At the first UN General Assembly in London, the delegates accepted the US invitation to locate the headquarters in the USA. Different cities were considered: San Francisco, Boston, Washington DC and New York City. A special UN Site Committee was created. On 14 December 1946, the UN General Assembly accepted an offer of \$8.5 million from John D Rockefeller Jr to acquire land in New York City, on the East River in Manhattan, for a permanent headquarters site. New York City donated smaller adjacent lots to complete the HQ site. The UN would be definitely established in New York City! On 24 October 1948, the building of the now well-known Manhattan UN Headquarters was started, and it was officially inaugurated on 3 January 1951.

UN STAMPS, STATIONERY AND POSTMARKS

The birth of the first UN stamps goes back to 1951, to be precise, 24 October 1951. A huge queue formed to buy the first six stamps bearing the 'country' name of 'United Nations' (five others came out on 16 November 1951). Mint stamps and first day covers of the first UN stamps were of



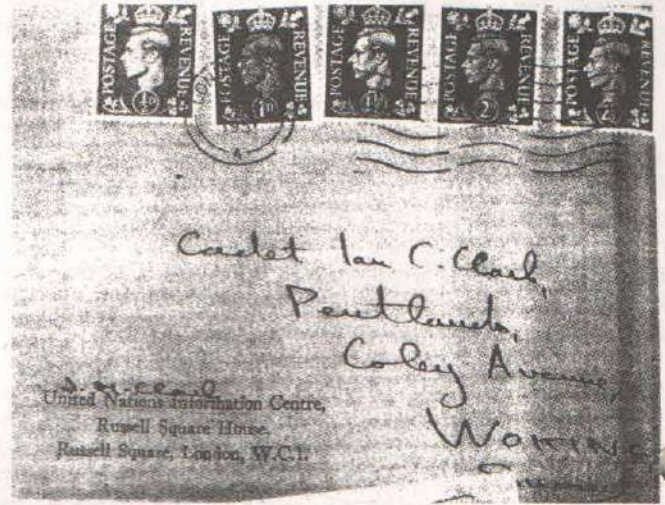
course bought by the majority of persons in the public hall of the UN Below: Entrance ticket to the UN Conference on World Organization at San Francisco; British slogan cancellation for the First UN General Assembly; Cover addressed to a member of the Preparatory Commission of the United Nations at Church House, Deans Yard, Westminster S. F. OPERA HOUSE Headquarters in Manhattan, but some more far-sighted collectors prepared covers that they mailed on that day. These covers also received the 'United Nations New York First Day' postmark, but they were also the first mailed covers franked with the first United Nations stamps! The first four UN airmail stamps came out on 14 December 1951.

From 1951, many stamps have been issued by the United Nations Postal Administration (UNPA) whose formal creation goes back to 11 November 1950, with services opening on 1 January 1951. As well as stamps, the UNPA has issued many postcards, envelopes and airletters. An imprinted 2c. postcard was the first UN postal stationery item to be put on sale. It was issued on 18 July 1952, followed by a IOc. air letter on 29 August 1952. The air letters form an interesting postal stationery category—many printings resulting in slight colour variations.

Of further interest is 'official' stationery on which the UN logo and an office address is printed, and which is cancelled with either a red machine postmark or a slogan cancel. Official mail from the early years of the United Nations, cancelled at the different locations in the New York area where the UN Secretariat worked (notably Hunter College and Lake Success) before finally moving to Manhattan, is especially sought by UN postal historians.

Let's add that the postmarks and labels (for registered, insured or express mail for example) linked to the different offices the United Nations had in New York, form another original aspect of the development of the UN Organisation during its first decade. During the early years the mail was

franked with US stamps and cancelled at New York US post offices. In the Manhattan UN Headquarters, a US Post Office station was opened on 3 January 1951, to handle all outgoing UN mail. US stamps were used on UN mail for the last time on 23 October 1951.



This brief flashback would be incomplete if I did not mention the issue of United Nations postage stamps in Swiss currency (on 4 October 1969) and Austrian currency (24 August 1979). Both Geneva and Vienna UN buildings have their own post offices which handle mail, both official and private, and use special postmarks inscribed 'Nations



Unies' in Geneva and 'Vereinte Nationen' in Vienna.

THE UN AND THE UK

The relations between the United Nations and the United Kingdom go back to 1941, when the first discussions between Churchill and Roosevelt took place (see also 'Key dates of the UN history'). The first session of the first UN General Assembly met in London in 1946, as described in the main part of this article.

Here, I would like to focus on three special aspects that link the United Nations to the United Kingdom: the cachets used by the UNPA during its presence at philatelic exhibitions; the UK participation in UN peacekeeping forces and observation missions and their mails; and finally the post of the only specialised agency which is part of the UN

Organisation and whose HQ is in London: the IMO (International Maritime Organisation).

UNPA EXHIBITION CACHETS

The United Nations Postal Administration (UNPA), ever since its creation in 1950, has sold United Nations stamps and is also in charge of their promotion among collectors. On 26 May 1953, a branch office of the UNPA was opened in London at Russell Square House, Russell Square, London WC1. Later on it was moved to Stratford Place, Oxford Street, London W1. In the early 1960s it was transferred to the European Office of the United Nations when it was set up in Geneva.

When the UNPA has participated in UK philatelic exhibitions, such as Stampex, with its own counter, it always uses a special UNPA exhibition cachet. This cachet is applied to mail franked with UN stamps and given in at the UNPA counter for cancelling and despatch. It is also applied to the so-called special 'UNPA blue cards'.

Of special interest is the UNPA mobile exhibition that toured the main cities of Europe in 1966, starting in Belgrade. UN stamps were sold directly from the trailer, and in each town visited, a specific UNPA cachet was applied to postal stationery accepted for despatch via UN Geneva or UN New York. This UNPA mobile caravan was situated at Trafalgar Square, when it visited London.

UK'S PARTICIPATION TO UN PEACEKEEPING CONTINGENTS

The United Kingdom has participated in many United Nations Peacekeeping forces as well as Observation missions (with unarmed military observers). The main elements are as follows: UK military contingents placed under a UN Command always had their own Field Post Office (FPO). To identify whether mail is from a unit under UN Command can only be done by checking if the specific FPO was part of a United Nations Force (as the UNFICYP—United Nations Force in Cyprus).

Regarding the mail sent by UN military observers; as they usually use the civil postal service of the country in which they are located, one has to look at the sender's name and address. This latter type of UN military mail is much more difficult to find, as these UN Observers don't write many letters during their missions!

INTERNATIONAL MARITIME ORGANISATION (IMO)

The IMO is the only specialised agency of the United Nations having its headquarters in Britain. Based in London, the IMO uses a franking machine with a red imprint to handle its official mail. Studying this IMO mail since the organisation was established in London in 1958 can be rewarding work for a cancellation specialist!

The original name of the IMO was, in fact, 'IMCO' for 'Inter-Governmental Maritime Consultative Organisation'. It was then changed to 'IMO' for 'International Maritime

Organisation'. The IMCO/IMO occupied four offices, all in the City of London.

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UNPA website: www.un.org/Depts/UNPA

and also www.unpa.unvienna.org

Emails: unpa@unog.ch (UN Geneva) or unpa-europe@unvienna.org (UN Vienna)

UN COLLECTORS CLUBS

UNOP: society of the UN collectors of Germany and Switzerland. Publishes a newsletter and special studies. Address: H Brender, Romerstrasse 125, D-41844 Wegberg, Germany.

United Nations Philatelists: society of UN collectors in the USA. Publishes a journal that covers all aspects of UN philately. Address: Blanton Clement Jr, PO Box 146, Morrisville, PA 19067, USA. Internet website: www.unpi.com

KEY DATES OF UN HISTORY

1941 Prime Minister Churchill and President Franklin D Roosevelt meet in the Atlantic, aboard HMS Prince of Wales.

They elaborate the Atlantic Charter. President Roosevelt speaks for the first time of the 'united nations', meaning the 'nations united against Germany and its allies'.

1942 In Washington, USA, 26 countries sign the United Nations Declaration. The wording 'United Nations' appears officially for the first time, on 1 January 1942.

1943 Moscow Conference (in October) with Roosevelt, Churchill and Stalin. Discussions are conducted on the organisation of an international conference. Tehran Conference (in November), a follow-up to the Moscow Conference.

1944 Dumbarton Oaks Conference, in Washington DC, USA (from August to October). Delegates from the USA, United Kingdom, Soviet Union and China prepare the principles of an 'international charter'.

1945 Yalta Conference (in February) with Roosevelt, Churchill and Stalin. They decide that the conference for the creation of the United Nations, discussed in 1944, would be held in San Francisco.

The United Nations Conference on International Organisation is held in San Francisco. The United Nations Charter is signed by delegates of 51 countries on 26 June 1945. The United Nations Preparatory Commission meets in London.

1946 The first session of the UN General Assembly is held in London, at Central Hall, Westminster.

1947 The Palais des Nations in Geneva—where the League of Nations used to be located before it ceased to exist on 18 April 1946—is the new United Nations European Office. 1949 The building of the new UN Headquarters in Manhattan begins (24 October) 1951 The official inauguration of the United Nations Headquarters in New York takes place (3 January). The first United Nations stamps in US denominations are issued in New York (24 October). 1969 The first United Nations stamps in Swiss francs are issued in Geneva (4 October)

(Courtesy : Gibbon's S.M. 2005)



THE WONDERFUL WORLD OF SPIDERS

ANSIE DIPPENAAR-SCHOEMAN,
Arc-Plant Protection Research Institute

There is a wonderful world of colour, form, behaviour and adaptations not far from anyone of us. This is the world of the spider. The South African Post Office celebrated JUNASS 2004 by issuing on 31 July 2004.

The stamps were designed by Hein Botha. The spiders depicted are;

Trapdoor Spider

Belongs to the family Ctenizidae Genus, Stasimopus. They live permanently in burrows. The burrow is lined with layer of



Golden orb-weaver spider (Nephila)



Green lynx spider (Pucetia)



Black button spider (Therididae)



Flower crab spider (Thomisus)



Trap door spider (Stasimopus)

felt-like silk closed off from the outside with a well fitting, hinged trdoor. The trapdoor is made of soil, often Clay, modelled into shape and reinforced with silk. The trapdoors are of variable thickness and the outside is usually very well camouflaged, as it is made of the same soil as the surrounding area.

Spotted Crab Spider

Belongs to the family Thomisidae Genus, Platythomisus. The spotted crab spiders are some of the larger crab spiders. They live on leaves of trees and shrubs and with their cryptic colouration they blend in with their surroundings. They are mainly active during the day and their gait is crab-like hence their common name. They have strong bodies and robust front legs, which enable them to catch prey. Although they have weak chelicerae, they secrete extremely potent venom which enables them to attack insects 2-3 times their size.

Flower Crab Spider

Belongs to the family Thomisidae Genus, Thomisus. They live permanently on flowers and are brightly coloured. The females are able to change colour depending on the colour of the flowers they find themselves on and can change colour from white, yellow, pink or pale green. Flower crab spiders are ambushers par excellence and they sit motionless on the flower waiting for the insect visitors. The insect are grabbed with the well-developed front legs.

Ladybird Spider

Belongs to the family Araneidae Genus, Paraplectana. The ladybird spiders make an orb web out of vegetation. They are brightly coloured spiders with distinct yellow or red spots in their abdomen, resembling a ladybird. The web is made when the sun sets and is removed early in the morning. During the day they rest on the vegetation resembling an insect.

Green Lynx Spider

Belongs to the family Oxyopidae Genus, Pucetia. These spiders are known as lynx spiders because of the way in



Hedgehog spider (*Pycnacantha*)



Rain spider
(*Pavters*)



Horn Baboon Spider
(*Ceratoxyrus*)



Spotted crab spider
(*Platytibius*)



Ladybird spider (*Paraplectana*)

which they hunt their prey. They move around on plants leaping from leaf. They catch prey with their legs and often do so by jumping a few centimetres or more into the air to seize a passing insect in full flight. Others execute short jumps in pursuit of prey over the plants. Green lynx spiders are common on plants.

Golden Orb-Web Spider

Belongs to the family Tetragnathidae Genus, *Nephila*. They are one of our largest web

dwellers. They build large golden orb-webs between trees or telephone poles. The spiders are active during the day and can be seen hanging head downward in the web. The supporting lines are very strong and some resistance is felt when one wanders into them.

Hedgehog Spider

Belongs to the family Araneidae Genus, *Pycnacantha*. They are decorated with numerous spiky tubercles, resembling a hedgehog, hence the common name. With their spiky appearance they are found. After sunset the spider spin a small u-shape trapezium web from which it hangs by the hind legs. With the front legs spread wide, flying insects usually moths, are grabbed from the air. During the day they rest in the vegetation blending in with their surroundings.

Black Button Spider

Belongs to the family Theridiidae Genus, *Latrodectus*. The black button spider forms a group represented by four of the most venomous spider species in South Africa. They produce neurotoxic venom and are of medical importance. They are pitch-black spiders with dorsal markings varying from red stripes to red spots on the abdomen. Their egg cocoons are usually round with a smooth surface. They construct their webs in vegetation usually near the ground.

Rain Spider

Belongs to the family Sparassidae Genus, *Pavters*. They are large nocturnal spiders wandering around in vegetation in search of prey. When disturbed the front legs are raised in warning. The rain spiders frequently enter houses, usually one or two days before it starts raining, hence their common name "rain spiders". They are often noticed at night on the walls where they prey on insects attracted to the light source.

Their large egg sac is made of plants and covered by leaves held together with silk threads.

Horn Baboon Spider

Belongs to the family Theraphosidae Genus: *Ceratoxyrus*. They are ground dwellers and they construct permanent silk-lined burrows in the ground. The entrance to the burrow is left open with only silk lining extending past the entrance to form a silk rim. They usually rest during the day in the deepest part of the burrow. They are predominantly sit-poles. The spiders are active in the day and can be seen hanging head downward in the web. The supporting lines are very strong and some resistance is felt when one wanders into them.

JUNASS Spiders

Stamp issue date :	1 June 2004
Artwork :	Hein Botha
Stamp size :	48.28mm x 30.30mm
Stamp sheet size :	233mm x 172mm
Paper :	Avery Dennison Non DC PSA stamp paper
Gum :	Self Adhesive
Quantity printed :	30.000 sheets of ten
Colour :	CMYK
Phosphor :	4mm strip on left and bot tom of stamp in L shape
Perforation Gauge :	N/A (Kiss-cut)
Printing process :	Offset Lithography
Printing by :	Southern Colour Print Limited, New Zealand

(Courtesy : Setempe, South Africa, 2005)

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