



# SIPA

# Bulletin

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Murder 82

Iceland 84

## Guest EDITORIAL

### How about enjoying philately with your family members?



Hitherto we have been trying to let stamp collecting known among youngsters. The late President Mizuhara Meiso and his fellowmen tried very hard to popularize philately among young people: publishing a monthly called the Stamp Magazine for young people; staying together in a camp, talking mainly about stamps for some days; and having national stamp exhibitions called SUMMERPEX during the summer vacation.

You see a copper statue, just beside the entrance doors of Mizuhara Museum, of an elderly collector and a nice girl. He has an album on his knee, looking at the stamps with a magnifying glass, perhaps explaining some thing to the girl. It was made by Mr. Akagawa, well - known as a copper sculpturer.

Such a scene was common before 1990. Young people were likely to take an interest in stamps when adults tried to speak to them.

Alas, the times have changed. We see less and less children around us. Now many primary schools were united and we see less school houses. As for middle schools, there are many vacant school rooms, because of scarcity of children. Besides, they are much more interested in computer games, however hard we try to.

What shall we do then to get our new collector friends?

Yes. There are many women: we should not forget them. Owing to the popularization of many kinds of electric appliance, women have got much more free time than before. Some of them must be seeking some hobby to lead a better life. We have begun persuading the women to get interest in stamps.

At the Japan Philatelic society, a woman stamp

club was born; they come from many parts of the country, and enjoy chattering about stamps at their circle. Some of the women gather by themselves, while others want to talk with men and get much knowledge about philately. We should make every effort to keep and enlarge such woman circles.

Then what target should we make to enjoy philately together? Philately is a never-ending hobby; this happy hobby should not be limited to us alone. Why not talking together, not only with friends at circles outside, but also with family members at home whom you must be loveiving most dearly.

How about starting Family Members? Father shows the stamps and talks about them, Mother makes a few questions, when child comes near them wondering at what they are talking so happily, then Child happens to find a novelty, and asks for it, gets it and feels very happy.

With such a family, a stamp album should be the centre of family pleasure just like a photo album. The day may come when such an ideal be realized around us.

(Courtesy : Philately in Japan, 2000).

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### Monthly Second Sunday Meetings

With President  
Mr. G. Balakrishna Das on the Chair,  
19 members attended the meeting on  
11. 10.2009.  
Patron Mr. Madan Mohan Das spoke  
on "Regulations of FIP".

## STAMP NEWS

### UTTAM KUMAR

3.9.09

500

0.8 Mill

Arun Kumar Chatterjee popularly known as "Uttam Kumar" and fondly called "Mahanayak" or the "Great Hero" of Bengali cinema, was a legendary Bengali actor born on 3<sup>rd</sup> September, 1926 at Ahiritola, North Kolkata

Uttam Kumar's acting career began from his childhood. In 1936 young Arun with some of his friends founded a drama group named Lunar Club. There he enacted the first play of his acting in "Gayasur".

In 1942 he passed Matriculation exam and was admitted to the Government Commercial College. He went for higher studies in Goenka College of Commerce and Business Administration. Further took employment as a cashier at the Port Commissioner's office at Kidderpore in 1944.



Uttam's first released film was "Drishtidan" (The gift of sight) directed by Nitin Bose. However his breakthrough film was "Sare Chuyattor" (74 and a half) with a young actress called Suchitra Sen.

He went on to make his mark as an actor, director and producer. Apart from acting in two films with Satyajit Ray, he has acted in some hindi films like "Chhoti si mulagat", "Amanush", "Ananda Achram" etc.

In 1966, he turned in the much lauded performance in the Satyajit Ray directed film "Nayak". When the Indian Government instituted the National Awards for Best Actor and Actress in 1967, Uttam Kumar was the first ever recipient of the Best Actor Award for his performances in "Chiriakhana" directed by Satyajit Ray, and "Antony Firingi" (1967).

While filming the Bengali film Ogo Bodhu Shundori in 1980, he died of a massive heart attack at the age of 54.

Theme: Drama, Theatre, Cinema, Personality.

### SACRED HEART MATRICULATION HIGHER SECONDARY SCHOOL, CHENNAI

09.09.09

500

0.4 Mill

An Irish lady named Nano Nagle from Cork, Ireland, had founded 'The Congregation of Presentation Sisters' in the year 1775.

They came to Chennai (Madras) in 1842 to work for the Anglo - Indian community living in the area of Gerogetown, then referred to as "Black Town" and began working in St. Ursula's Anglo - Indian School which was already in existence there.

The present Church Park land was acquired by them in the year 1904, and the foundation stone was laid in 1908 for Sacred Heart High School, Church Park. It was started as a middle school with 137 students and grew to become a private matriculation school in 1954.



The Presentation Sisters wanted to reach out to the downtrodden and marginalized society and thus Sacred Heart Tamil Medium School was born to cater to the underprivileged section of the society.

The educational philosophy of the school is to enable its students to become aware of the dignity and value of every individual and the independence of the human race.

Above all, Sacred Heart provides its students with high ethical standards. The motto of the school is "For faith and moral". The signature song of the school is "Stand brave, stand true under the green and gold" (colours of the school standard).

The school owes its success to the dedication of the presentation Sisters and the gifted teachers, who foster critical thinking in their students, promote human values and educate them for social changes.

Theme : Education, Institutions, Religion, Schools.

### HOLY CROSS CHURCH

14.09.09

500

0.4Mill

The Holy Cross Church, Mapranam is situated in the rural ambience of Thrissur district, in Kerala. The Church, which is part of the Irinjalakuda diocese, was established in 928 AD.

Given its unique place in the history of the Syro- Malabar Archi Episcopal Sabha, on the 21<sup>st</sup> September 1887 it was conferred the recognition of placing the relic of the Holy Cross in the church. The Holy Cross Church has also acquired a part of the Holy Blood of Jesus Christ on the shroud of St.



Veronica from the Vatican by the order of Pope Leo XIII. Worshippers are allowed to experience the blessings of the relic of the Holy Cross every year, on the 14<sup>th</sup> of September, the 21<sup>st</sup> of September and on Good Friday.

The main attraction of the Mapranam church is the wooden cross made in the Persian style. Another unique aspect of this Church is its special tradition of candle lighting. It is the custom of the church to have approximately 500 worshippers light candles weighing between 1 to 300 kgs on 13<sup>th</sup> September, the eve of the main feast of the church. On 31<sup>st</sup> August 2007, celebrating this tradition, a large candle weighing 1079 kg and having a height of 22 feet and a diameter of 18 inches was installed in the Holy Cross Church.

The new Church was consecrated on 6<sup>th</sup> February 1989. Its facade is an architectural beauty, an amalgamation of Christian, Hindu and Muslim religion's influences reflecting an integration of the cultures.

Theme:- Religion, Christianity, Churches, Buildings.

## RARE FAUNA OF NORTH EAST INDIA

1.10.09                      3 x 500                      0.8Mill each

The North East of India is known as a geographical gateway for much of India's flora and fauna.

### Red Panda:

The Red Panda has a rounded head, large erect pointed ears, a stumpy muzzle, and short hairy soled legs which protect it from the cold and hide scent glands. These, combined with its bright chestnut colouring and ringed tail, are its distinguishing characteristics. The face and lower lips are white with a vertical red stripe from just above the eye to the gape. It has semi-retractile claws and a false thumb, really an extension of the wrist bone. The red panda lives in the temperate forests of the Himalayas above 5000 ft. or so. "Panda" is an Anglicisation of "Poonya" which means "eater of bamboo".



### Phayre's Leaf Monkey:

Phayre's Leaf Monkeys are coloured grayish to black with brow, hands and feet being black, and the upper arms, legs and tail, a silvery grey. Neonates are orange coloured young ones whose coloration changes after about 3 months of age. The species, is slowly dying out, and 50 years hence this monkey might not survive, due to



poor reproductive capacity. Living in dense forest, the monkey groups keep to the trees and seldom come to the ground even to drink, taking their water from dew or rain drenched leaves. In India they are found only in Tripura.

### Marbled Cat:

The marbled cat is about the size of a domestic cat. Its head and body length is 45-62 cm (18-24") and weights 2-5 kgs. The background colour of its fur varies from dark gray brown through yellowish gray to red- brown. The flanks and back are strikingly marked with large, irregular, dark edged blotches, the legs and under parts with black dots, and the tail with black spots and rings.



The marbled cat is primarily an animal of moist tropical forests, but there is only anecdotal information on the specificity of its habitat requirements which range from mixed deciduous evergreen forest, been found from sea level to 3000m (10,000'). Birds and rodents have been reported as likely forming a major part of its diet.

Apart from Northern India the Marbled Cat is found also in Nepal, Guangxi and Yunnan (China), through Cambodia, Laos, M'anmar, and Borneo.

Theme : Flora & Fauna, Ecology, Endangered animals.

## BISHOP COTTON SCHOOL

6.10.09                      500                      0.4 Mill

The history of Bishop Cotton School is of interest for the part it played in the development of public schools and in the wider history of education in this country. In the 1840's there were no more than half a dozen such schools even in England and Eton, the largest, catered for fewer than 500 boys. In India there were a handful of private schools and military asylums, educating the children of their neighborhood rather than the public at large. On the 28<sup>th</sup> July 1859 the Bishop of Calcutta held a service and collections were made in most of the Church of the Diocese for the raising of a Public School. The collections were utilized to fund the school at Jutog on land and buildings given free by the Viceroy. Three private houses were purchased by Bishop Cotton out of the Indian Public School fund. The School opened on the 16<sup>th</sup> March 1863. The first student, Frederic



Taylor, joined the school on 18<sup>th</sup> March 1863. Shifting to Knolls wood spur, the foundation stone was laid on the 26<sup>th</sup> September 1866 by the then Viceroy, Sir John Lawrence.

A Fortnight after laying of the foundation stone, Bishop Cotton the founder drowned in an accident on 6<sup>th</sup> October 1866 while touring Assam. The name after the school was changed to Bishop Cotton School in 1867 in his memory. In September 1868 the school moved to Knolls wood.

On Sunday, the 7<sup>th</sup> May 1905, the school caught fire and was completely burnt except the HM's Lodge (1868), the hospital (1868), and the Senior Master's House (1873). The school was rebuilt and occupied in July 1907. In 1926 a hostel was constructed for the Simla Hill Chiefs' sons and relatives at a cost of Rs. 41,0008/-. In 1973 a Prep School was opened by buying the Ayrelif Girls School (now the Tibetan School in Chotta Shimla)

The first Indian boy permitted to join the school was Suren Tagore in 1881. The four Indian School Captains were R.J.Gandhi in 1928, Garry Chukerbuti in 1936, Jehangzeb Khan in 1941 and Hasan Agha in 1946 - 1947.

Theme : School, Education, Institutions. Buildings.

### R.K. NARAYAN

**10.10.09                      500                      0.4 Mill**

Rasipuram Krishnaswami Ayyar Narayanaswami shortened his name to R.K. Narayan at he behest of this close friend and admirer, Grahm greene. It was to become a name familiar to all readers of Indian works of fiction and non - fiction in English.

R.K. Narayan is inseparable from Malgudi, the fictional small town he created with such a realistic touch that each of us finds its resonance in the villages, towns and suburbs around us.

Born on 10<sup>th</sup> October 1906 in Madras Kunjappa, as he was affectionately called, was brought up by his maternal grandmother. It was the library at Maharajah's Collegiate High School, Mysore which fed his latent interest in reading and he began writing too. A Bachelor's degree in 1926 was followed by a brief stint at teaching. He married Rajam in 1933 but this happy union was short lived, her death in 1939 leaving him bereaved, along with a little daughter. He continued his writing with the publication of SWAMI AND FRIENDS (1935), THE BACHELOR OF ARTS(1937), THE DARK ROOM (1938) and elven more novels, including THE GUIDE (1958) iillustrated by his equally talented brother , R.K. laxman.



R.K. Narayan received several awards and accolades for his work: the Sahitya Akademi Award for The Guide (1960),

the Padma Bhushan for distinguished service to Literature (1964), the AC Benson Medal of the Royal Society of Literature (1980) of which he was an honoary member, as also a member of the American Academy & institute of Arts & Letters. He was nominated as a Member of the Rajya Sabha in 1989. He was awarded the Padma Vibhushan in 2000. R.K. Narayan died on 13<sup>th</sup> May 2001.

Theme: Personality, Literature, Writer.

### DINESHNANDINI DALMIA

**11.10.09                      500                      0.4MILL**

Padma Bhushan Dr. Smt. Dineshnandini Dalmia's personal and literary journey portrays a bold departure from the prevailing trend of her times.

Born on 16.02.1928 in udaipur, she started writing as DineshNandini Chordia at the age of 13 to continue as Dinesh Nandini Dalmia after her marriage to Shri Ram Krishna Dalmia. In her early years, when her poem 'Niraash Aasha' was published, it drew the attention of the veteran poets Subhadra Kumari Chanuhan and Mahadevi Verma. Her first book 'Shabnam' made a deep impact and she was honoured with the 'Sakseria' Award. Author of more than 35 novels and an equal number of poetical works, she lived and wrote through successive generations,



She had the distinction of being Rajasthan's first post - graduate woman. She always followed her heart and did what her conscience dictated and tradition forbade. A firebrand author, she was the quintessential feminist of her times.

Her lifetime spanned multifarious activities. She was the Chief Editor of the magazine 'Richa' initiated by her. She was the literary consultant to several TV serials and her novel Phool Ka Dard was made into a highly acclaimed telefilm.

She was awarded Doctorate in 2005 for her literary work by Rani Durgavati University, Jabalpur. She was awarded 'Mahila Sasakthikaran Puraskar' in 2001 from the Hindi Sahitya Akademy, Delhi. She received the 'Prem Chand' award for her work 'Mujhe Maaf Karna' (Forgive me).

Theme :Women, Poet, Writer, Personality.

### INDIA POST FREIGHTER

**12.10.09                      500                      0.5 Mill**

In August 2007, Department of Posts introduced it's first dedicated freighter aircraft for exclusive carriage of mail, parcel and logistics in the North East. Lack of reliable

mode of mail transmission in the difficult terrain of this region had always remained a major handicap for India Post in fulfilling its universal social obligations with respect to mail transmission and delivery. This path - breaking effort has not only resolved the chronic problem of transmission of mail, to and from the North East, but has also provided a robust cargo link to the region with rest of the country.



India post has now put in place a nationwide hub and spoke system of air transmission of mail, parcel and logistics through induction of two more dedicated freighter aircraft on the metro routes. The North - East freighter has been integrated into this national network, wherein three freighter aircraft operate overnight, converge at Nagpur for exchange of mail, and return, to their respective base cities. Cities such as Delhi, Mumbai, Chennai, Kolkata and Bangalore in the metro sector, and Guwahati, Imphal and Agartala in the North East, are directly connected by this freighter network. This network is further complimented by a second tier air transmission as well as a road - cum - rail based transport system for inter-city carriage of mail across the vast expanse of the country. Boeing 737-200 freighters operate on the following routes:

- + Mumbai - Nagpur - Mumbai
- + Kolkata - Delhi - Nagpur - Delhi - Kolkata (the same aircraft operates on Kolkata - Guwahati - Imphal - Agartala - Kolkata route during the day time.)
- + Bangalore - Chennai - Nagpur - Chennai - Bangalore.

Each aircraft carries eight pallets (Seven pallets of 125 inches x 88 inches and one pallet of 108 inches x 88 inches) and a payload of approximately 13 to 14 Tonnes. thus, approximately 40 tonnes of mail, parcel and logistics can be carried on the three aircraft at a time.

On 13<sup>th</sup> September 2009 the Hon'ble Minister for Communications & IT, Thiru A. Raja, formally launched the freighter aircraft at Chennai

Theme ; India Post, Aircrafts, mails carrier.

### DILWARA & RANAKPUR : HERITAGE JAIN TEMPLES

**14.10.09                      500                      0.4 Mill each**

These two temples of Rajasthan are considered among the most sacred pilgrimages of Jains across the world.

Dilwara, near Mount Abu, has a cluster of five marble temples built by the Chalukyas between the 11<sup>th</sup> and 13<sup>th</sup> centuries AD in the range of forested hills. Each of the five temples is named after the village in which it is located. The Vimal Vasahi and Pittalhar Temples are

dedicated to Sri Adinath, Rishabha Dev, the first Jain Tirthankar; Luna Vasahi to shri Neminath, the 22<sup>nd</sup> Tirthankar; Khartar Vasahi to the 23<sup>rd</sup> Tirthankar, Sri Parshvanath and Mahavir Swami's temple to the last Jain Tirthankar; Sri Mahavirji. Vimal Vasahi was built in 1021 AD by Vimal shah, a minister of the Chalukya King of Gujarat, Bhimdev I.



Luna Vasahi was built in 1230 AD by two Porwad brothers, ministers of a Vaghela ruler of Gujarat, Virbhaval.

The other 3 temples are small but equally elegant. The "Pittalhar" temple derives its name from the massive metal statue of Rishabh Dev made of five metals, primarily brass (pital). The Parsvanath Temple, built in 1458 - 59 AD is the tallest of the shrines at Dilwara.

The Mahavir Swami Temple was constructed in 1582 AD and its distinctive features are the paintings on the upper walls of the mandap painted in 1764 AD by artists of Sirohi.

Ranakpur, located between Jodhpur and Udaipur near Sadri in Pali district lies in a valley of the Aravali Range. It is known for its marble Jain temple and a much older Sun temple across the road. Dedicated to Sri Adinath, the first Tirthankar, this temple is built of light coloured marble. The temple is said to have been built by Seth Dharna Sah with help from Rana Kumbha of Mewar in the 15<sup>th</sup> century. It has a massive subterranean vault and the temple complex consists of the Chaumukha Temple, Parsvanath Temple, Amba Mata Temple and Surya Temple of which the first is the most prominent.

Theme : Religion, Temples, Architecture, Heritage, Jainism

### MAHARAJA GULAB SINGH

**21.10.09                      500                      0.3 Mill**

Maharaja Gulab Singh is the founder of the state of Jammu & Kashmir. He was born on October 21, 1792. His father, Main Kishore Singh, held a jagir at Andarwah near Jammu.

Maharaja Gulab Singh is recognized as the only ruler in India's long history who could be said to have extended the geographical boundaries of India. His conquest and annexation of Ladakh is an achievement which makes his name immortal in the history of India.



On taking up the reins of administration, he

ruthlessly put down crime and corruption, and succeeded in establishing peace and settled government.

He ruled up to 20<sup>th</sup> February, 1856, when in a unique act, he himself abdicated in favour of his son and made him a ceremonial offering as one of his subjects.

Dr. K.M. Pannikar, the famous historian, writes, "Thus, when everything is considered, Gulab Singh will appear as one of the few great Indian figures of the nineteenth century, one who in his ambition even as a youth dreamed of states and kingdoms, with his physical and moral courage, tried on many a battle field and many a crisis, won for him a throne and a place in the Valhalla of India's great men. The present Jammu & Kashmir state is his monument. As long as that exists his name will have a place in the memory of Men"

Theme: Personality, Kings& Queens, Rulers.

### MAJ. GEN. DEWAN MISRI CHAND

21.10.09

500

0.4. Mill

Maj. Gen Dewan Misri Chand was born on October 11, 1907 at Dehradun. He received his early education at the Prince of Wales Military School, Dehradun, and Royal Military College, Sandhurst, (UK). He distinguished himself at Sandhurst, and received a King's Commission into the Royal Indian Army in 1927.

Whilst seeing active service in the Mohmand (NWFP) conflict, he took to flying in bi-planes the British had pressed into service, and was among the few early Indians to obtain a Flying License. In 1933, he won the Amateur Flying Trophy in India, and held the trophy for a record 17 years.

In 1934, he participated in the National Air Rally in the USA. IN 1936, he created history by becoming the first Indian to win the prestigious Viceroy's Cup Air Race.

Invited to attend the Berlin Olympic Games, in 1936 Gen. Misri Chand was honoured by the Germans by being asked to give an aerobatic display. In 1937, he set a world speed record for the Miles Gemini Aircraft.

Gen. Misri Chand was independent India's senior most "Gunner", and whilst commanding the 4<sup>th</sup> Division, he was awarded his Flying "Wings".

He later commanded the 25<sup>th</sup> Div., and in 1950 became G.O.C of U.P. Area, and in 1953 G.O.C. of Bengal, Bihar & Oriisa area. He commanded a Division during the 1948 Kashmir War. He left the Army in 1953 prematurely, but continued flying. As an honour to his pioneering services to propagate flying, he was admitted as a member of the prestigious Royal Aero Club, in England along with JRD Tata, the only other Indian Member.

Maj. Gen Dewan Misri Chand passed away on March 13<sup>th</sup>, 1970.



Theme: Air Force, Armed Services, Aviation, Pioneers.

### DUSHYANT KUMAR

xx.10.09

500

500



Sorry, Ladies & Gentlemen. We are not able to get the Information sheet.

\* \* \* \* \*

### PHILATELIC PALEOLITHIC ART Jennet Schwa

In Western Europe there are scores of known caves containing painted sanctuaries that can be reliably dated to the last ice age or earlier, at least seventeen thousand years ago. There are thousands of artifacts from this Paleolithic (pale - old, litchi - stone; Old Stone Age) time that clearly qualify as mobile art. This art, painted, carved or formed, is genuinely beautiful in itself, and by attesting to the history of the human soul, is of great significance to us.

The countries of western Europe print a great many art stamps, but it appears that very little of it comes from the wide selection available of our oldest art. I found only eight stamps, from the caves of Altamira, Covalanas, and El Castillo in Spain, and Lascaux and Niaux in France, and a carving from Brassempouy in France.

#### ALTAMIRA

The Minkus catalogue identifies the figure in the 1949 Monaco 18f as a Henri Breuil painting of an Altamira Bison. Certainly it appears to be a reproduction by the Abbe Breuil, and of the type at Altamira, but I cannot recognize it. Perhaps someone else can.

The 1967 Spain 1.20p bison, however, is clearly an Abbe Breuil painting from the famous sanctuary ceiling at Altamira. This is a female, usually stated to be rolling in the grass. From her position, however, she may be preparing to calve.

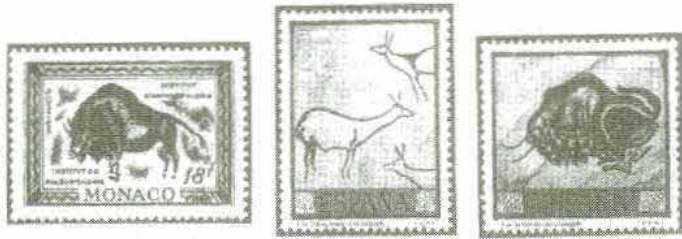
The Abbe Breuil's paintings based on cave art are so well known that many are assumed to be exact copies of the original art. The Abbe, however, did not paint then left the caves and painted as he remembered, inadvertently adding to and subtracting from the art. He was an excellent artist in his own right, and his pictures have fine style, but they are not exact replicas, and in some cases it seems clear that he misinterpreted what is actually there. Interesting controversies rage over just what errors have been made, some concerning the Altamira ceiling.

Altamira is a dry, rocky cave. The ceiling where this bison is located is quite low, only a few feet above the natural floor, and flat, except for rounded rock outcroppings. Many of the bison, including this one, are

painted on these rocks, resulting in high relief figures. Much of the floor has been excavated for visitors, though the ceiling is still low enough to touch, but part of the original floor remains, and one may lie back against it and enjoy the art in what is probably the manner intended. This female is near the middle of the group.

## COVALANAS

The 1967 Spain 2.50p shows three hinds (female red deer) from Covalanas cave, noted for its deer. Why the stamp is sky blue I cannot guess.



## NIAUX

The 1979 France 1.50f stamp of Niaux represents that great Paleolithic sanctuary very well. It shows a perfect mix of animals, including the classic Niaux pairing of a great bison bull with an ibex just beneath him. This pairing in this position recourse like a theme. The stamp shows the closeness and overlapping of the beasts as well, and the great bull has two 'wound'.

Generally it is believed that these are meant to be real wounds, perhaps to be inflicted, as meaningful in a hunting magic ritual. My very personal opinion is that this is an oversimplification; that the meaning is deeper, more foreign to our way of thinking. What I do know is that the walls of Niaux give one a deep, perhaps mystical, sense of power and strength. Words are not right to express it, but everything seems to be in just the right place. The 'wounds' are on only the biggest, strongest bulls, really not the ones one would hurt for good meat, and the animals do not fall.

Many anthropologists frame all the upper paleolithic art in terms of fear or a need to control animals or the ensure fertility. In the finest chamber in Niaux is a bison with a frony foot lifted, and marks about his nostrils. This is usually interpreted as a raging bull, snorting and ready to charge. To me the gentle delicacy of the drawing and the exact cant of the head rather seems to picture a bison in the winter, pawing the snow to get the grasses beneath, and with his frosty breath visible. The feeling there is not fear and need to control, but being in tune. Niaux seems very much in tune with a nature and time long past.

Niaux with all it is power, it's many favorite cave. Except of course, for Laxcaux.

## LASCAUX

Lascaux! Incomparable Lascaux! First, the excellence of the art sets it apart. No one, artist or nor, can reasonably argue that this is not art, great art. All of the

talents for using form and perspective are here, and the mix of colors is the finest. Second, the whole spirit of the work is unique; the paintings are done with life, style, and wit. Third, the cave itself is the most fortunate in makeup and preservation. It is protected from stalactite formation by a natural barrier, and the upper walls and ceiling are nearly white, with a crust line base that brightens and enhances the color like the beading on a projection screen. Fourth, the merry abundsance of animals in the rather small cavern makes seeing Lascaux a breathtaking experience.

Form all this profusion and beauty, I can find only two stamps of Lascaux scenes, both showing pictures from the South(right-hand) side of the Axial Gallery, off the Rotunda or Hall of Bulls. The 1970 Monaco 3f shows half of the Falling Cow and part of the parade of ponies; the 1968 France 1f shows a larger scene a little to the right of the other, including what is perhaps the single best-known Lascaux figures, the second 'Chinese Horse.'

To put the two pictures in perspective, the Chinese Horse on the French stamp (at the lower left) is about five feet long; the middle pony on the Monaco stamp is closer to two and a half feet long. The painters of Lascaux did not trouble to use only one relative scale of size; some of the animals are over seventeen feet long!

The cave walls, of course, are three-dimensional, and the Monaco stamp cannot show that the falling Cow is slipping on a very real ledge. The front half of the cow is much more interesting then the back; it clearly shows her distraught look and somewhat frantic attempt to right herself or avoid falling further. The stamp was part of a



Right: 1967 Spain 1.50p hand-prints from El Castillo. Left: 1979 France 1.50f animals of Niaux. Center: 1970 Monaco 3f falling cow and ponies.

and the subject is apparently the three ponies. In the full scene there are two more ponies in front of these.

Just in front of the lead pony in this parade of five ponies, but about five feet higher on the wall, is what is called the Third Chinese Horse, which is a stallion most attentively following our aforementioned golden mare, the Second Chinese Horse, on the lower left of the French stamp. The 'First Chinese Horse' is the one on the lower right on this stamps, with the interesting array of dots beneath it. The horses, of course, are not Chinese; rather the art style earned them that title. It is generally agreed they represent przewalskitype (Mongolian") horses, unknown in historical Europe.

Above the mare is one of the many 'grid' signs. Just

in front of her chest and again in front of her belly are fringed lines long identified as barbed harpoons, perhaps for hunting magic. But Alexander Marshack has identified them as plant images, to indicate the season. Many other lines and dots can think is a small black horse's head under the center cow. But the amorphous splotches, which are actually yellowish, are not painted, but are places the calcite has come off the walls.

The France stamp is showing the scene from a strange angle. We are looking almost upwards; the highest point of ceiling arch is about halfway the highest between the center cow's head and the head of the cow that appears to be up-side-up-down. She is really quite right-side-up, on the North wall. The cow along the left side of the stamp is actually LEAPING from the south to the north side of the narrow gallery! She is only partly painted, but the effect is most lively and joyful, even humorous.

Jacques Morsel one the four boys who explored the cave in 1940 and is currently the caretaker and guide, treaties that there was local legend that the hole in the ground hid a great treasure, a golden calf. Someone must have peaked; the cave certainly does contain great treasure, not a golden calf, but including wonderful cows of any colors.

Only a fragment of the glory of Lascaux can be captured in even the finest photographs, partly because of the three dimensionality, partly because of the difficulty with angles and lighting. A tiny stamp has no chance. Yet these two stamps still hold enough of the delight of Lasscauz to brighten our collections.



1970 Monaco 3f scene from Lascaux:

## HUMAN FIGURES

The drawn and engraved art of the Upper Paleolithic period does not have many human figures. The ones we have found are not at all like the beautiful, life like animals but are rather scrawly, clumsy, and unrealistic. They tend to be stilted struck-realistic or cartoonist and difficult to decipher.

Three or four of the few clearly human figures show the person is with a large bison. The person usually said to be running from the animal; he or she (gender is unclear) is facing away from the bull, with legs bent. But both legs are nearly together and forward, which to me looks not like running at all, but like dancing! Also, there is an engraving on sate that is believed to be the only item from the Old Stone Age possibly showing human copulation. Recently, It shows a huge bison bull right next to the 'couple' As looked at the whole scene, I wondered if this also is not one person dancing, the double image indicating movement!

If these pictures are really people dancing with

bison, a most daring art, we have the oldest account of the human fascination that continued with the Minoans, whose art showed young dancer vaulting over big bulls, and continues yet into the modern age with bullfighting!

While we do not have many examples of drawing or engraving of human figures, there are many examples of human hand-prints and of carved female figures.

Country	Value	Subject	Year	Scott	SG
Spain	1.20p	Bison/Altamira	1967	1452	1840
Spain	2.5p	Hinds/Covalanas	1967	1455	1843
	1.50f	Niaux art	1979	1642	-
Monaco	3.00f	Lascaux ponies	1970	C77	999
France	1.00f	Lascaux horses & co	1968	1204	1786
Spain	1.50p	Hands/El Castillo	967	1453	1841
France	2.00f	Brassempouy Venus	1967	1465	2109
Spain	12p	Horse/Tito Bustillo	1975	1885	2305

Some 'negatives' seem drawn around, some show that dry paint was blown past the hand. (Although exactly how is not definite; the technique has been difficult to duplicate.) It is not always clear whether the hand was held facing the wall or with the knuckles to the wall, but both methods were definitely used. 'Positive' prints were apparently done by pressing the palm into paint and in turn pressing it against the wall. There is at least one positive print of a baby's hand, carefully done and high up the wall.

The 1976 France 2f shows a rather unusual Paleolithic human carving; Most of the other are called 'Fat Venuses' because the middle of the body and the thighs are very fat. The head is usually unformed or missing, the arms tiny, hands and feet disappearing.

The Brassempauy Venus, shown on the stamp, is an ivory head with a detailed face. The original is slightly larger than depicted on the stamp. The profile as shown is the most unflattering angle, making the unformed mouth prominent. Actually, the face tapers nicely. Perhaps the stamp designers wished to avoid showing the crack on the other side, though a three-quarter view would work well.

## IS THIS ALL?

These eight stamps are all that I am certain represent Paleolithic art. There are many stamp showing Paleolithic artifacts or remains, and others showing later stone age art, more recent than, say, 10,000 years ago. The 1975 Spain 12p horse may be Paleolithic; perhaps someone can inform me. And perhaps some sharper-eyed or more knowledgeable collector can identify others. It seems that out of so much beautiful and interesting art available, the stamp agencies could give the subject the honor it deserves.

(Courtesy: Topical time, 1987).

\* \* \* \*

## Know this country

### ICELAND

Richard Tarrant



Iceland is Europe's Second largest island, having an area of 36,769 square miles, and is situated in the North Atlantic Ocean near the Arctic Circle.

Its population is small, just 2,52,000, over 90 percent of whom live in urban areas. About 95,800 live in the capital, Reykjavik, with other sizeable towns being Kopavogur (15,535), Hafnarfjodur (14,197), Akureyri (13,967) and Keflavik (7,322). Iceland has one of the highest standard of living in the world and the life expectancy of its people is also amongst the highest. Iceland's name is a misnomer. It is said to have been called Iceland by a Norwegian Viking named Floki, who looked down from mountains territory in the northern part of island and saw icebergs.

It was the Vikings who settled in the country in the late ninth and early tenth centuries, although Iceland had been inhabited since the early ninth century by Irish monks who had lived as hermits. Iceland Parliament date back to 930 AD when Viking chieftains formed the Althing (General Assembly) which met at Thingvellir (field of the Assembly). In 1000AD. Christianity was adopted from Norway and in 1262 Iceland lost its republican status and came under the power of Norway.

The island's rule passed from Norway to Denmark in 1380, one result of which was the conversion of Iceland to Lutheranism from its former Roman Catholicism.

The 17<sup>th</sup> and 18<sup>th</sup> centuries saw Iceland suffer. The Danish monarchy had taken over all governing power in 1662 and the Althing, which had diminished in importance to become merely a court of law, was finally dissolved in 1800. Plague, volcanic damage, Danish exploitation and deterioration of the land's fertility had ruinous effects. It was not until early in the 19<sup>th</sup> century that Iceland's population began to increase and its economy develop once more. The Althing was restored as a consultative body in 1843 following political figure in the 19<sup>th</sup> century. He is today regarded as the country's national hero.

The 1,000<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the first settlement of Iceland was celebrated in 1874, and Denmark granted a new constitution with extended powers. However, Iceland's complete independence was not recognised until the Act of Union in 1918, which granted independence under a ruler who was to be king of both Denmark and Iceland. That arrangement expired at the end of 1943 and was to have been reviewed at that time but, as Denmark was occupied by Germany, review was impossible. In the event Iceland finally became an independent republic in June 1944 following an overwhelming vote for that form of government in a plebiscite.

The country demonstrated its international commitment when it joined the United Nations in 1946 and rejoined NATO in 1949. Iceland has no armed forces but allows the USA access to the airbase at Keflavik.

Geographically, Iceland is surely the most interesting country in Europe. Its complex geology has

been formed in large part by volcanic activity and glacial erosion. Glaciers occupy more than 1 percent of Iceland, with Vatnajokull, the largest glacier in Europe, covering some 3,240 square miles and being over 3,000 feet thick in parts. There are several different types of volcanoes on Iceland which number approximately two hundred in total, many of which have erupted since Iceland was first settled. In 1783-84 Laki erupted and the massive quantity of lava ejected was responsible for the death of much of Iceland's livestock and caused a famine that led to the deaths of a fifth of the entire population.

Hekla is Iceland's most active volcano, famous in modern times for the eruption that began in March 1947 and ended in April 1948, leaving Mt Hekla 50 feet taller.

More recently, a volcanic eruption on the island of Heimaey lasted for five months in 1973 and caused the islanders to be evacuated to safety, but the most spectacular volcanic activity must surely have been that which led to the appearance of a new island called Surtsey. Volcanic eruption under the sea over a period of two years from November 1963 caused the creation of island with an area of about 1 ½ square miles.

A product of Iceland's volcanic nature is the abundance of hot springs and geysers. There are several hundred hot springs and this natural resource has been harnessed to provide 70 percent of the population with domestic heating and to heat commercial greenhouses.

The most famous geyser is the great Geyser from which all other geysers in the world have taken their name. It can spout water over 180 feet high although its regularity has diminished over recent years.

Another of Iceland's attractions are the waterfalls, which result from constantly melting glaciers. The most famous is 'gulf' (Golden Falls) with a drop of 105 feet, although there are larger falls like Dettifoss (144 ft) and Skogarfoss (200ft)

Iceland's climate is rather milder than might be expected considering its proximity to the Arctic Circle. Due to the warming influence of the Gulf Stream, cool summers and mild, stormy winters are the norm.

Annual rainfall varies from 20 to 30 inches on the north coast, 50 to 80 inches on the south coast and more than 150 inches on the southern slopes of Vatnajokull and Myrdalsjokull.

Temperatures do not fluctuate a great deal. Average temperatures in Reykjavik vary between 30 f (1 c) in January and 52 F (11C) in July. Iceland is an attractive. Island for ornithologists with large numbers of both resident and migrating species. The Icelandic Falcon is perhaps the most famous bird of the island, while ptarmigan and eider duck are some economic importance. The only land mammal native to Iceland when the country was first settled was the arctic fox but reindeer were have been accidentally introduced. Trout and salmon are in abundance.

Economically, Iceland's dominant industry is fishing, with the associated activities of processing and canning having become increasingly important. Over 70 percent of Iceland's exports are marine products, with the UK being its major customer. Agriculture now accounts for just a tiny percentage of Iceland's land use, although earlier this century it was the main economic activity.

## THE STAMPS

Post offices were opened in Iceland on March 1, 1870 but as Iceland was a Danish colony the stamps of Denmark were used. Such stamps can be recognized by their cancellations and are much sought after by collectors of Iceland. The numerical cancellation 236 identifies Reykjavik, while 237 indicate Seydisfjorour.

The first stamps solely for Iceland's use were issued on January 1, 1873, a set of six very similar to the contemporary Danish stamps, with an additional stamp joining them in April. Three official stamps of similar design also appeared on January 1, one value being issued with two different perforations.

The 1873 stamps are catalogued at hundreds of pounds but you can obtain a likeness of the two skilling blue on the ten krona stamp issued in 1973 to celebrate the Centenary of the first Icelandic stamps.

A currency change in 1876 from skilling and riskdaler to aurar and krona led to a new issue of stamps similar to the 1873 series, a design that was to last until 1902. During that period interest is added by paper and perforation differences, colour changes and shades. On the whole they are now expensive but a representative selection can be built of the 5 aurar stamp with a Reykjavik postmark can be found on the 30krona stamp of 1976.

A new design was introduced in October 1902 when a set of thirteen stamps was issued bearing the portrait of King Christian IX. The previous definitive stamps were invalidated on the issue of the King Christian stamps were deemed valid until the end of 1903 if overprinted stamps there are numerous collected variations in the overprinting, although few are inexpensive.

King Frederick VIII came to the Danish throne on January 29, 1906 and new issue of definitive King Frederick was gone thru.

Iceland's first commemorative marked the birth of Jon Sigurdsson, when a set six was issued in 1911 They are an attractive set as Sigurdsson's portrait and name are embossed in white on backgrounds of strong colours. The following year a near identical set was issued with King Frederick's portrait in place of that of Sigurdsson.

Iceland's transition to independence in 1918, albeit with a shared monarch, made no discernible difference to her stamps until 1925, when a delightfully decorative set of five Icelandic views was issued. These were followed in 1930 by a superb set of 16 stamps to celebrate 1,000 years since the formation of the Althing. The stamps showed scenes from Iceland, the national flag

and Parliament House at Reykjavik. The oddity of the set was the air mail stamp, a triangular depiction of an Icelandic falcon. The complete set was also issued for official use with the over print 'þjonustumerki'.

Six months after the parliamentary millenary stamps a complementary set of five was issued specially for airmail use. This was the first time airmail stamps had been printed for Iceland, although in 1928 and 1929 two definitives had been overprinted with an aeroplane design to convert them to airmail use.

A collection of Iceland's early airmail stamps is exported size and not made less so by three Zeppelin overprinted stamp in 1931 and three more over prints in 1933 to mark the Balbo Transatlantic Mass Formation Flight. These latter being catalogued at hundreds of pounds later airmail stamp are thankfully more affordable.

The 1930s saw the issue of some neat, attractive stamps expensive and not made less so by the recess process some by De La Rue subjects include philanthropic association, the gulf's Silver jubilee, Leif Eriksson, the economically important codfish, the national flag and a section showing Great Geysier.

(Courtesy : Gibbons Stamp Monthly 1989).

\* \* \* \* \*

## BEGINNER'S FORUM

### ARE METER MARKS COLLECTABLE?

Franceska Rapkin

Those of you, who read a Sunday paper which has a colour supplement, may have seen the advertisement extolling the virtues of the meter franking machines marketed by Pitney Bowes. What many Postal Machine Company started their operations in the United States in 1903. They amalgamated in 1920 with the Universal Stamping Machine Company, founded by Walter Bowes, to form the Pitney - Bowes Postage Meter Company and they are today the largest suppliers in the world of this type of machine.

If you are surprised that meter franking machines have been in existence since 1903, you will be even more surprised to learn that these are by no means the oldest meter franking machines. A Frenchman, Carl Busche, took out patents in the 1880s for a similar machine, but his system failed, since neither the business methods nor the office equipment were far enough advanced to accommodate his ideas.

If Great Britain invented the postage stamp, then the honour for inventing the first practical meter stamping machine must go to the Norwegians. A slot machine, which printed an impression on a letter, was invented by Christian Kahrs, and the machine was given a trial at the head post office in Oslo between August 24 and September 14, 1900.

This machine only indicated that postage of 5ore or 10ore had been paid (the colours for each value were green and red respectively) and the postal authorities then had to stick conventional stamps on to the letters. The experiment was not continued beyond the allotted time, but subsequently coin operated machines which disobeyed gummed meter type labels were introduced, which, in an updated form, seem to be enjoying a new lease of life.

By the time that the Pitney Postal Machine Company were introducing their invention in the United States, other experiments were being carried out in other parts of the world. In New Zealand, the Automatic Stamping company, later renamed the Universal Automatic Franking Company, also started operations in 1903, and their machines were in general use in New Zealand by 1906. These machines operated in a similar manner to the machines used in Norway, namely that items had subsequently to be cancelled by a post office machine, which is still the case of New Zealand to this day.

At the UPU congress held in Madrid in 1920, it was agreed that metered mail would be accepted by all the member countries, and this resolution came into effect in 1922. Although many countries had been experimenting with meter franking, the Pitney - Bowes Company and the Universal Automatic Franking Company of New Zealand had the largest slice of the world market. These two companies merged in 1929, and are now the world's largest producers of automatic franking machines.

Most meter franks have three sections. Reading from left to right, the first section has either an advertisement or the logo of the company using the machine. The central section is the circular datestamp, which can be of either the single or double ring variety, or very occasionally, a different shape. Generally, this has the town name and district or county around the inner rim, with the date, but no time, horizontally across the centre. The right hand section is the 'stamp', and has the value, or 'PAID' or 'POSTAGE PAID' and the country name, and possibly a decorative surround or the national emblem. In the case of British meter markings, there is a crown above the stamp value. Additionally, all meter markings have a number at the base of the stamp section.

Every cover that passes through the machine is registered and at regular intervals the machine is 'read', so that the postal administrations can collect their revenue.

Many companies use slogans which fit happily into thematic collections, and one of the sad things is that many of the early meter marked covers found their way into the waste basket have been lost forever. Meter markings are a postal therefore place in Even if collect have no



paper and have lost forever. markings part of history, and e deserve a a collection. you only stamps and interest in

these items, remember that your rubbish may well be another's treasured possession, so don't be in too much of a hurry to throw some of the more interesting meter marks into the nearest bin.

### Free classifieds

1. [www.stamplisting.com](http://www.stamplisting.com)  
(Courtesy: Stamp Magazine, UK, 1983).  
Philatelic classifieds website. Buying, selling, Exchange, Trade and much more on stamp collecting.
2. [www.the-coin-collecting.com](http://www.the-coin-collecting.com)  
Numismatic web portal where you can post your free coin collecting classifieds, categories for coin dealers, online coin shopping sites, etc.,
3. [advertisementlisting.com](http://advertisementlisting.com)  
Free classifieds for Buying, Selling, Rental, Announcements etc.,
4. [waterfallstamps.com](http://waterfallstamps.com)  
Thematic stamp collecting website for Waterfalls stamp collectors.

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