



SIPA

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& Tsunamis. 41

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Guest
Editorial

STAMP NEWS

PHILATELIC SOUVENIRS

On browsing an issue of 2005 Gibbons stamp Monthly, I came across the following write up.

The main problem I always had with miniature sheets was their obvious 'philatelic souvenir' status. They are not designed to be used postally and are not available from post offices in any form other than as a complete item. I accept that the very occasional souvenir of this nature is sometimes acceptable, perhaps once every few years, and one can make exceptions for those with a clear charity premium (the New Zealand Health sheets come to mind) or those issued in support of a stamp exhibition or the development of philately in general. However, I stopped collecting a number of countries in the 1970s when I saw as being a 'reasonable' policy in respect of miniature sheet.

Perhaps I could digress at this point by remarking on Royal Mail's policy in this respect. Absolutely exemplary in my opinion, up to August 1999, when they produced the 'Eclipse' miniature sheet. Now, of course, the output seems to be increasing every year. That said, at least Royal Mail's miniature sheets do meet the description 'miniature'. Catalogue editors and collectors are clear about what they are and are able to list or collect them accordingly.

This is certainly no longer the case elsewhere in the philatelic world. Now a days, indeed, many postal administrations seem to be employing people whose sole job it is to dream up weird and very-far-from-wonderful confections with which to tempt the collectors is, of course, not inconsiderable extra cost of albums to house them in. The problem for the catalogue editor is how to define and list them, given the need to provide as much accurate information as the catalogue user needs, with out going into so much detail that the catalogue grows in size and cost, making it no longer viable as a product.

After going through the above three paragraphs I thought over the phrase "elsewhere in the philatelic world". Does it fits on our issues also? I wish to leave it to the knowledgeable philatelic members of SIPA?

VELU THAMPI

06.05.2010

500

0.3mill

Velayudhan Chempakaraman Thampi, alias Velu Thampi Dalawa, was born in Thalakkulam village, Kanyakumari District, Tamil Nadu on 6th May 1765. His mother tongue was Malayalam but he was proficient in English, Tamil and Sanskrit. An expert in Ayurveda, Astrology, Tharka Sastra and Mathematics, was also adept in the practice of 'Kalaripayattu,' the martial art of Kerala.

At the age of 24, he became the Tehasildar, locally known as "Karyakkar" during Dharma Raja Karthika Thirunal's rule. His continuous crusade against corruption impressed the king and the king promoted him as 'Mulakumadiseela Sarvadi Karyakkar' (Finance Minister).

In 1801 the ruling king Balarama Varma promoted him as Dalawa, and he is remembered even today as the Diwan of Travancore. During this period he had established a census system to keep account of all paddy fields and other crops in Travancore. In 1803 he introduced a new revenue code known as 'Chattuneettole' and 'Nalvazhi', thus becoming a pioneer of revenue administration. Constrained to accept the subsidiary alliance imposed by the British Raj, the kingdoms of Travanceore & Cochin allied against the Raj. In 1809 he initiated complete agitation against British Raj, better known as 'Kandara Vilamparam' (Kundara Proclamation) in the history of India's freedom struggle.



Monthly Second Sunday Meetings

With President
Mr. G. Balakrishna Das on the Chair,
26 members attended the meeting on
13.6.2010. Mr. Rolands Nelson spoke
on "Inverted Jenny - USA" and how it
has been used for a plot in a novel by
Mr. Lawrence Saunders

July - Aug 2010

However, on 29 March, 1809 when the British Military surrounded the place of Mannady, Pathanamthitta district, Kerala, he refused to surrender, choosing instead to commit suicide, the death of a hero and martyr in India's Freedom Struggle.

Theme : Freedom Struggle, Patriots Personality, Martyr,

ROBERT CALDWELL

07.05.2010

500

0.4 mill

Robert Caldwell was born at Clady, Northern Ireland, on May 7, 1814 to Scottish parents. Initially self-taught and religious, young Caldwell graduated from the University of Glasgow and was fascinated by the comparative study of languages. At 24, Caldwell arrived in Madras on January 8, 1838 as a missionary of the London Missionary Society and later joined the Society for the Propagation of the Gospel Mission (SPG). Caldwell was married in 1844 to Eliza Mault.

As a missionary, his achievements were tremendous, he converted the dry lands with palm trees in Idayangudi into an area fit for human livelihood.

Caldwell was an ardent lover of Tamil, Tamil Art and Tamil culture. The Tamil works 'Narkarunai Thianamalai' and 'Thamarai Thadagam' were written by him. He had also written articles viz., 'Ganasudhanam' and 'Narkaraunai'. The books such as 'Dianamali' and 'Baratha Kanda Puradhanam' were also written by him.

He proved the relationship between Tamil Nadu and foreign countries by quoting examples of words such as 'Thogai' as 'Thugi' in Hebrew and 'Arisi' as 'Arusa' in Greek language.

He knew 18 languages. He was a member of the Royal Asiatic Society. He was awarded the title of LLD and DD. His most impressive work was "A Comparative Study of Grammar of Dravidian Languages". He had also to his credit a book on "The History of Tirunelveli" in English.

He breathed his last on August 28, 1891.

Theme : Personality, Foreigners, Tamil, Books.

DR. GUDURU VENKATA CHALAM

08.05.2010

500

0.3 mill

Dr. Guduru Venkata Chalam, born in 1909 in a middle class family, was deeply involved in social reforms and the non-cooperation movement of the 1920's. He had his early education in Gudivada and Rajahmundry and completed graduation and post graduation from Kakinada and Benaras Hindu University. As a student, he participated in the freedom struggle and was sent to prison for 14 months. On release, he continued his post graduation and doctoral studies at Benaras Hindu University and Indian Agriculture Research Institute in Agricultural Botany.

He then joined the Orissa Agricultural Department as a Research Assistant and was responsible for evolving a number of varieties of high yielding strains of rice. As an Economic Botanist and the Paddy Specialist of Orissa, he handled the Japonical / Indica Hybridization Scheme, sponsored by the F.A.O.

In 1960, Dr. Chalam joined the Union Ministry of Food and Agriculture. He was sent to New Zealand for the International Seed Testing Seminar and on his way back brought a sample of Taichung Native -1 seed from the International Rice Research Institute at Manila. In spite of opposition, he persisted with the introduction of this variety in the country and yields of 6000 to 7000 pounds on acre have now become a common occurrence in many areas.



He was the first Member - Secretary of the Central Variety Release Committee which is the forerunner of the Statutory Central Seed Committee. He was awarded Kavikokila prize for extending scientific agriculture to the farmers through his popular book on rice cultivation, styled 'VARI SAGU'.

In recognition of his enduring contribution to the agricultural development of the country, he was awarded 'Padma Shri' in 1967 by the Government of India. He passed away on 8th May, 1967.

Theme : Personality, Pioneers, Agriculture, Freedom fighter.

POSTAL HERITAGE BUILDINGS

13.05.10

500

0.4 mill

India Post is bringing out a series of postage stamps to herald INDIPEX 2010, World Philatelic Exhibition to be held in New Delhi from 12th to 18th Feb. 2011. The 1st set of six stamps is on postal heritage buildings.

DELHI GPO is among the very few buildings of India Post which has been given the status of "Heritage Building" by the Archeological Survey of India and is in close proximity to the historical Red Fort and Chandni Chowk. Opened in 1855, it started functioning in the present building in 1885. The land for Delhi GPO was purchased in 1870. It has a floor area of 45,457 sq. ft.

SHIMLA GPO on the mall was established in 1883 on the site of a house known as "Conny Lodge". During the British Raj, Shimla was the summer capital and the GPO acquired pre-eminence due to its crucial role in ensuring effective receipt and dispatch of Government mail or "Walayati Dak". The GPO building is mainly a timbered structure with a tin-roof. It is a three storey building and an interesting element of its design is six large hollow pillars of stone and brick that "traversed its height". In 1992 this building was declared one of the Heritage Post office buildings in the country.

UDAGAMANDALAM HPO. The first post office at Udagamandalam was opened in 1826. In the earliest plan of Ootacamund (1829) the building which afterwards became the Post Office is shown and marked as Government Bungalow. Records show that in November 1833, the Post Office was at Ray's house. The Post Office was moved to its present quarters in December 1883 along



with the Telegraph Office & Law Courts.

COOCH BEHAR HPO. In 1875 the Post & Telegraph Office of Cooch Behar State is learnt to have been introduced under the administrative control of Rangpur Postal Division. The Cooch Behar Post Office was initially functioning in the building situated in the Purana Post Office. Maharaja Nripendra Narayan built the present Head Post Office building and during his regime, there were one telegraph office and five Post Office in Cooch Behar State.

NAGPUR GPO. considered the mother institution in the Postal Circle of the Central Province, is housed in a majestic Victorian building, once the seat of erstwhile Postmaster General of CP & Berar. Built on a sprawling 9.5 acres located in the Civil Lines area of the city, the double storey building was built during 1916 - 17 to 1920 - 21. The clock, which still works, some antique post boxes and fire fighting equipment and the mixed styles of architecture make this building unique.

LUCKNOW GPO is an example of relatively more contemporary engineering and architecture. Constructed with red bricks and lime stone, iron was not used in its construction. The building has a beautiful 30 meter high tower with clocks on all four sides. The ground floor has pillars and arches in sequence. A stone embedded on the main gate of the GPO dates the building as 1929 - 1932.

Theme : Post Offices, Heritage, Buildings

INTERNATIONAL YEAR OF BIODIVERSITY

05.06.2010 500,2000 0.8 mill each

Biodiversity refers to the myriad life forms with in a given ecosystem, biome or for the entire earth, in other words all varieties of life on earth.

Biodiversity maintains the ecological balance and continues the evolutionary processes. The very survival of humankind depends on these core ecological functions. Biodiversity also has aesthetic and recreational values.

India is a megadiverse country, rich in biodiversity. With just 2.4% of the world's land area, India holds about 7-8% of the global biodiversity. Forest ecosystems in particular exhibit tremendous variability ranging from temperate alpine to tropical wet evergreen forests. There are 16 major forest types in India. India is also one of the eight primary centres of the origin of cultivated plants.

This rich diversity is being lost at a greatly accelerated rate largely because of human activities. Ecosystems are being fragmented and degraded and several species are in decline, posing a threat to biodiversity. The loss in biodiversity impoverishes us all, and weakens the ability of the living systems on which we depend to resist growing threats, such as climate change. The loss of biodiversity is inextricably linked to and exacerbates many of the key challenges the world faces in the 21st century. Maintaining biodiversity is critical for ensuring sustainable development and human welfare.



2010 has been proclaimed as the International Year of Biodiversity (IYB) by the United Nations General Assembly and India joins the world in this salutary task of celebrating biodiversity and generating awareness of it.

Theme : Environment, Biodiversity, Global warming.

DESHBANDHU GUPTA

14.06.10 500 0.3mill

Deshbandhu Gupta was born on 14th June 1901 in Panipat. At the age of seven he started his formal education at Municipal School, Arya Vedic High School, Ambala and later at Hindu College, Delhi.

The orthodox atmosphere at home, the impact of the Arya Samaj, the company of Swami Shradhanand in the Mainwali jail, and the emerging personality of Gandhiji were important influences on Deshbandhu's young mind.

Deshbandhu's political career started against the background of the Rowlatt Act and the Kallianwala Bagh tragedy. He left college and plunged into the freedom movement. He responded to the call of Gandhiji and joined the Non - cooperation Movement and was subsequently jailed. He assisted Lala Lajpat Rai in penning the articles for the Bande Mataram newspaper, thus receiving his first lessons in journalism.



In 1923 Deshbandhu Gupta, along with Swami Shradhanand founded the newspaper, the 'Tej', thus

beginning his long association with the media. He also owned the News Chronicle (now called the Indian Express) along with Ram Nath Goenka.

He was a founder member and the President of the Indian and Eastern Newspapers Society - IENS (Now called INS). In both organizations he was active in upholding the interests of the print Media. Deshbandhuji was tragically killed in a plane crash at Kolkata on November 21, 1951.

Theme : Personality, Freedom fighter, Journalism.

COMMONWEALTH GAMES - 2010

25.06.10 500, 2000 0.8 mill each

The Queen's Baton Relay is one of the greatest traditions of the Commonwealth Games, in having been the curtain-raiser to every Games since Cardiff in 1958. The relay symbolizes the gathering of people from across the commonwealth at the four-yearly festival of sport and culture.

Over the years, the Queen's Baton Relay has evolved into a powerful symbol of the unity and diversity of the Commonwealth of Nations. The Delhi 2010 Baton's journey is planned to be the biggest, longest and most technologically advanced of the Baton Relays to date.

The baton has been designed by Michael Foley, a graduate of the National Institute of Design. It is a triangular section of aluminium twisted into a helix shape and then coated with coloured soils collected from all regions of India. The coloured soils are a first for the styling of a Queen's Baton. A jeweled box

has been used to house the Queen's message, which was laser-engraved onto a miniature 18 carat gold leaf - representative of the ancient Indian patras. The Queen's baton is ergonomically contoured for ease of use. It is 664 millimeters high, 34 millimeters wide at the base, and 86 millimeters wide at the top and weighs 1,900 grams.

The Queen's Baton was launched on 29th October 2009 at Buckingham Palace in London, with Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II handing the Baton to Her Excellency the President of India, Smt. Pratibha Devisingh Patil. Abhinav Bindra, the Olympic air rifle champion, began the Baton's journey with a relay around the Queen Victoria Monument.

The Queen's Baton has traveled through all the Commonwealth countries and landed in India on 25th June 2010 where it will spend 100 days touring the country.

Theme : Commonwealth Games, Games People Play, Sports.



KUMARAGURUPARAR SWAMIGAL

27.06.10 500 0.3 mill

Kumaraguruparar Swamigal was born in 1625 at Srivaikuntam near Tiruchendur. Legend has it that Kumaraguruparar was deaf and dumb till his fifth year. His distressed parents took him to the Sri Subramanya Swamy Temple at Tiruchendur where by the grace of Lord Muruga, the disability disappeared.

He learned classical Tamil from his father. From his youth, scorning worldly ways, he took to an abstemious and austere mode of life, and leaving home he wandered in the Tamil country visiting famous places of pilgrimage, worshipping and composing timeless Tamil poems in praise of the deities.

Initiated as a sanyasi by his guru Masilamani Desigar, the Head of the Dharmapuram Math Kumaraguruparar Swamigal undertook pilgrimages to several all important pilgrim centers including Varanasi, which proved to be a decisive moment in his life. He became a legendary figure in Varanasi. Emperor Aurangzeb, the then Mogul ruler, expressed a desire to see him. According to contemporary accounts, Aurangzeb was greatly impressed with Kumaraguruparar Swamigal's self-effacing holiness and learning and treated him with great respect. Swamigal was also successful in persuading the Emperor to allot a piece of land near the Kedar Ghat where he built a Math which came to be known as Kumaraswamy Matham. He also built a temple and re-consecrated the Visweswara Lingam of the Kedar Ghat. He lived in Varanasi till his death in 1688.



Kumaraguruparar Swamigal's first utterance was 'Kandar Kalivenba' an invocation in 244 lines to Lord Muruga which is recited even today Tamil devotees.

Theme : Sages & Saints, Personality, Religion, Hinduism

WORLD CLASSICAL TAMIL CONFERENCE

27.06.10 500 0.3 mill

Greek and Latin were the only languages initially considered to be classical languages. In the 19th Century scholars like William Jones and Max Mueller published their translations of ancient Sanskrit literature and, with that, Sanskrit was elevated to the status of a classical language too. In 1816, noted scholar Ellis published his report and established that the Dravidian languages were different and distinct from Sanskrit. Government of India recognized Tamil as a classical language formally in 2004.



Dr. Robert Caldwell in the later part of the 19th Century had done detailed research and proclaimed to the World that Tamil, among the Dravidian languages, was equally ancient with a distinct diction and literature without the influence of Sanskrit.

Even before Dr. Robert Caldwell, many Tamil scholars with proficiency in Sanskrit had stated the distinct features of the Tamil language. 26,350 lines of Sangam promote Tamil to the rank of one of the classical languages to the world. Tamil can be justly proud of an indigenous literary theory of a very high standard including metrics and prosody, poetics and rhetoric. Sangam poetry reveals a perfect exposition giving literary expression to an entire culture. Kamil. V.Zvelebil calls Sangam poetry a truly classical product and classical literature.

In many languages such as Greek, Hebrew, Chinese, Japanese, Korean and Malay, Tamil words are often found. Professors T Burrow and MB Emneau had published their research work on the composition of Vedas which contains a lot of Tamil words in it.

Theme : Tamil, World conferences, Classical languages.

EARTHQUAKES AND TSUNAMIS

By Dr. H U (Uli) Bantz

Every postage stamp tells a more or less amazing story. Thematic collectors try to unravel these stories by trying to find out why the stamp was issued and what the picture on it shows. They expand their own knowledge about things that happened before they were born and about events that happen or happened during their own lifetime. Stamps are therefore records of past and more recent events, and they keep the memory alive, first for oneself and also for later generations. They are educational as well. Who would otherwise remember the when and why of South Africa's Homelands if one could not tell the story using the stamps once issued for these "countries"? And do you still remember what happened on 26 December 2004?



FIG 1

Iran's miniature sheet (Fig. 1) reminds us of an earthquake that destroyed the town of Bam in southeastern Iran. This earthquake occurred on 26

December 2003 and caused the death of about 27,000 people. Exactly one year after Bam, on 26 December 2004, a huge tsunami devastated the shorelines of 12 countries in Asia and East Africa bordering the Indian and Pacific Oceans. The horrifying earthquakes in October 2005 that caused unimaginable misery in Pakistan and Kashmir are fresh in the mind.

Events like these teach us about our precarious situation on Earth. They let us feel how small and helpless man is compared with the forces of a powerful earthquake, of an erupting volcano and of a rampant tsunami!

Earthquakes

The Earth's crust contains rigid sheets of rock, called 'tectonic plates'. These stiff tectonic plates move in three ways - they drift away from each other, bump into each other or grind past each other. Where plates pull apart, molten rock from the depth of the earth rises to fill the gap. In these areas, we find the volcanoes discharging fiery lava.



FIG 2

The stamp of the Central African Republic (Fig 2) is dedicated to the Gujarat earthquake in North West India on 26 January 2001. This quake had a magnitude of 7,6 and killed nearly 20 000 people. The stamp from Algeria (Fig 3) commemorates the Bourmedes earthquake on 21 May 2003. It measured 6,8 on the Richter scale and had a death toll of 2 300. The two stamps shown here give a faint impression of the destruction and misery caused by earthquakes.

Major earthquakes occur seldom in South Africa. The Tulbagh earthquake on 29 September 1969 had a magnitude of 6,3. It destroyed 32 houses and 9 people died. The South African Post Office issued a 4c and a 15c stamp in 1974 to commemorate the fifth anniversary of this earthquake. Fig. 4 shows two 4c stamps from the right-hand corner of a sheet with cylinder numbers.



FIG 3

The 4c and the 15c stamps depict restored houses in Tulbagh's Church Street.

Fig. 5 shows a section through a volcano, erupting on Tristan da Cunha in 1961. Tristan da Cunha is situated on a mid-ocean ridge in the Atlantic where the African and South American plates move away from each other.

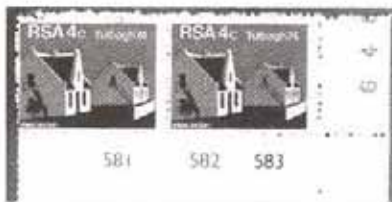


FIG 4

If plates collide, they are pushed together to form mountain ranges such as the Alps or the Himalayas. Fig 6 shows a New Zealand stamp issued in 2003 to commemorate the 50th anniversary of the "Conquest of Everest", the highest mountain on Earth. Mount Everest is part of the Himalayas pushed up by



FIG 5

the converging Indian and Asian plates. Except for drifting away or colliding, one plate can also sink or subduct below another. If this happens, the rocks of the lower plate melt under the heat and pressure.



FIG 6

Where plates slide past each other tremendous forces build up till the contacts snap and the stress is released as earthquakes.

The Richter scale records the power of an earthquake. This scale is named after Charles Francis Richter (1900-1985), an American physicist who developed this scale in 1935. It is a magnitude scale for expressing the seismic energy released by an earthquake. It says nothing about the destruction caused. Only sensitive humans feel earthquakes with a Richter magnitude of 3,5 or less. Earthquakes with a magnitude of less than 6,0 can cause major damage to poorly constructed buildings. Severe damage on a regional scale can happen from quakes with a magnitude of between 6,1 and 6,9. Major or great earthquakes over large areas have a magnitude of greater than 7,0. Death and destruction depend on the topography of the area, soil conditions, the types of buildings affected and the number of people living in the stricken area. An earthquake in a remote, unoccupied place will largely go unnoticed but an earthquake in a densely populated area with poorly constructed houses will always make headlines.

Tsunami

A tsunami is a huge sea wave caused by an earthquake, volcano or landslide at the bottom of an ocean. To call a tsunami (from the Japanese 'tsu', "harbour", and 'nami', "sea") a tidal wave is not correct. Tsunamis have nothing to do with tides, which occur daily due to the gravity pull of the moon and the sun.

The earthquake triggering the 2004 tsunami measured 8,9 on the Richter scale. It started 10 km under the ocean near the Indonesian island of Sumatra. The ocean floor was disturbed, scraped and pushed: up over a distance of 1200 km. The earthquake in October 2005 in Pakistan and Kashmir showed on the surface what must have happened underwater at the time of the tsunami: mountains collapsed, mud and rock raced down from suddenly steeper slopes, the seafloor cracked and moved. This sudden chaos at the bottom of the sea created oscillatory waves in the water above, very much like the waves produced by a pebble thrown into a pool. The only difference is that the energy comes not from a small pebble from above but from powerful thrusts of the ocean floor below. The waves generated are initially 100 to 200 km wide and one to two meters high. But they race with the speed of an aero plane at over 800 km/hour until they hit shallow water near a coast. Here the waves are slowed down and squeezed together. Their amplitude or/height increases to a dramatic 30 or more meters. The breakers, now called a tsunami, crash-on and over the beach and destroy and drown everything in their path.

The devastating earthquake causing the 2004 tsunami was brought-about by a combination of two factors: the Indian plate sank down or sub ducted beneath the overriding Burma plate and the Indian plate did not only subdue but moved at the same time in a northeasterly direction at a rate of about 6 cm/year. The resultant stress is unimaginable. It was eventually released on 26 December 2004, creating shock waves around the world, not only in a geophysical sense but also in an emotional one, creating waves of relief efforts and good-will.

Stamps featuring the 2004 Tsunami

To date seven countries have issued stamps to commemorate the event. Five of the seven countries tried to raise money through a stamp issue to help the unfortunate people to rebuild their lives.

The first country to react was France on 10 January 2005, two weeks after the catastrophe. The stamp is called 'Solidarity with Asia' and shows the French icon, the head of Marianne and the Red Cross/Red Crescent sign. France calls it a semipostal charity stamp. The face value is 0,50 Eurocents for postage plus 0,20 Eurocents donation. The picture shown here (Fig 7) is taken from the Internet.

The People's Republic of China followed on 22 January 2005. The description of the 'State Post Bureau of China' reads: "China has issued special postage stamps to showcase Chinese people's effort to help the tsunami victims in South and Southeast Asian nations where Beijing launched its biggest ever relief and aid operation. The stamps have been issued by the State Post Bureau of China." No picture of the stamp(s) has been seen as yet.

The next stamps came from Belgium and San Marino, both issues appeared on 28 February 2005 The Belgian stamp (Fig 8) has a postal value of 0 50 Euro cents plus a donation of 0, 12 Eurocents The design suggests'

energy waves being transmitted from the seabed into the water, thus creating the monster tsunami waves in countries thousands of miles away.

The proceeds of the sale of the San Marino stamp (Fig9) with face values of 1,0 Euro went entirely to charity. A more detailed description of the design will show what a stamp can tell after some research and reading have been done: The gigantic wave portrayed on the stamp comes from the left portion of a coloured woodcut by the Japanese artist Katsushika Hokusai (1760-1849). He called this woodcut "Great Wave of Kanagawa". The image featured already on a Japanese stamp issued in 1963 for the 'International Letter - writing Week. Hokusai's picture belongs to his famous woodcut cycle "Thirty-six Views of Mount Fuji" and shows the Fujiyama (Japan's highest mountain, a dormant volcano, last eruption in 1707) as seen through the great waves at Kanagawa where Japan's first treaty with a Western Nation, the USA, was signed in 1854, thus opening Japan to Western trade and influence and introducing the West to Japan's art and culture. Broken boats, a man fighting for his life and a panel of photographs of missing persons replace the view of Mount Fuji. The wave and the panel are symbolic of this catastrophic event, linking past and present.



FIG 7



FIG 8



FIG 9

The Belgian, San Marino and French stamps can be arranged in order of "Cause Effect Result" to illustrate the sequence of events: Earthquake Tsunami International Solidarity.

New Zealand's Oceania Nations Post Bureau issued a Tsunami relief semipostal stamp in February/March 2005. The stamp depicts Hokusai's Great Wave with the Red Cross flag in the background. The design is thus very similar to that of the San Marino stamp. The postal value is NZ\$ 1,70 plus NZ\$ 2,00 donation.

The "World Mail, Express and Air Cargo Expo" was held at the Dubai World Trade Centre from 1 to 2 March 2005. Qatar Post had a booth at this Expo and offered a personalised stamp service. Customers could produce their own stamps using images of family and friends. A percentage of the profit from these stamps went to "Tsunami Relief".

Slovakia was the latest country coming up with a tsunami-related stamp issue on 31 March 2005. The stamp as a postal value of 25 Slovak crowns and pictures a woman holding onto two children. One learns only from the

description of the stamp that it was issued in solidarity with the tsunami victims in Asia.

These are the seven stamps issued to date in connection with the 2004 tsunami. Three are shown here, actually very little to build a collection around the theme 'The Asian Tsunami of 2004'. The best one can do is to keep newspaper cuttings, try to get stamps from countries affected by the tsunami, starting with Indonesia and ending with the East African countries of Somalia, Kenya and Tanzania. One can try to get the 1963 Hokusai stamp from Japan and link it to the recent San Marino and Oceania Nations stamps. Or one can look for a personalised stamp from Qatar. One can try to find the stamps from the People's Republic of China and from Slovakia to add to the theme. We live fast and tend to forget easily. The bits of paper called stamps help to remind us of events, which, at least for a short while, gripped the imagination and the compassion of the world. (Courtesy : Setempe. South Africa 2006)

FRAMA REVIEW

Royal Mail Postage Labels, commonly known as FRAMA labels, have been with us in Great Britain for over ten months. Introduced on May 1, 1984, at four locations of an announced on six month trial, the labels are coming to the attention of more and more collectors.

More than a year has passed since we reviewed the world wide FRAMA scene, so in time for STAMPEX, a potted chronological listing of these items has been prepared. Readers wishing to delve deeper are strongly recommended to obtain Sammler dienst handbook, available from Vera Trinder Ltd, 38 Bedford Street, London WC2, Harry Hayes of Batley, Yorkshire and Philcard, 58 Greenacres, London N3.

August 9, 1976: Switzerland

Home country of the FRAMA AG organization (specializing in equipment such as mail room aids), introduced four vending machines at four locations. The labels from each machine A1 (Zurich 23); A2 (Bern 1), A3 (Grindelwald), A4 (Geneva 1) were individually identified, since this was to be a controlled experiment. Philatelists were given 'advance' information in a PTT Notice dated August 2, 1976. The significance of this experiment was largely overlooked and all FDC plus mint labels and covers of the two year introductory phase are very sought after items.

June 27, 1978: Switzerland

An unnumbered die replaced the original numbered die. During 1978 and 1979, a large number of FRAMA Vending machines were successfully installed outside stations, post offices, shopping centers etc. The machine had by now, been improved and customers could select values as they required or three standard pre - set values obtained by pressing the conveniently placed buttons.

December 2, 1978: Norway

The Second country to introduce FRAMA machines was Norway. A very similar story can be related. Five initial machines were installed with minimal publicity:

1) Oslo Central PO; 2) Oslo Airport; 3) Bergen; 4) Trondheim; 5) Tromsø. FDC of the latter two labels are particularly scarce.

March 1979: Switzerland

A modified die was introduced. This die is still in use although there have in the meantime been changes in the type of ribbon, paper and ink colour; originally, lilac was the recommended colour, but this has subsequently been amended to rust red.

September 15-23, 1979: Brazil

The scarcest labels are those from the two rolls used at demonstrations at the Brasiliana '79 stamp exhibition in Rio de Janeiro. Originally, it had been planned to demonstrate the machine to delegates to the 18th UPU Congress, together with other postal mechanization displays, but customs formalities made this not possible. This label is therefore the key item in any basic collection of FRAMA labels.



December 2, 1980: Norway

A standard design became the norm when twenty five more machines were inaugurated, mainly in Oslo area.

June 10, 1981 New Zealand

Ten FRAMA machines (VA 000001 -10) were introduced accepting CR\$1, CR\$5 and CR\$10 coins. For a number of reasons, including lack of coins, lack of interest and inflation, the post office abandoned the use of the ten machines with individually identifiable labels on December 28, 1981, the only country to abandon FRAMA machines. It is reported that, following increased postal rates, the standard values were not modified and part of the

machinery was blocked off, resulting in even lower use.

September 1, 1981: Portugal

Seven machines, each with individually numbered dies, offered a service to tourists and other users. The Portuguese philatelic agency in London has not distributed these labels to customers. Machines are sited as follows:

001 Portima; 002 introduced only on December 2, 1981). Postage tariffs increase annually, but due to microchip technology, it is an easy exercise to change the present standard values.

November 16, 1981: Belgium

The first six Belgian machines were installed following an announcement in October 1981 to the effect that special sets of official first day covers (not a normal occurrence in Belgium) would be prepared. Numbered as follows: P3003 Ghent 1; P3004 Antwerp 1; P3005 Brussels 1; P3006 Ixelles. 31,146 sets of FDC were sold.

April 1, 1982: Finland

Three machines were installed in Finland each with identical dies. By 1982 it had become clear to postal administrations that FRAMA machines were as efficient as can be expected and that there is little real purpose in having distinguishing features for each machine. An aspect of the Finnish FDC is that a small number exist with one value printed on non security marked paper, making a useful exhibition item for the collection.

December 11-19, 1982: Belgium

Whilst it can be said that the 1979 Brazil UPU Congress time was the first commemorative FRAMA label, the machine at BELGICA 82, an International Philatelic Exhibition, held unusually in the pre - Christmas period, was the first commemorative to be easily available and on offer, albeit with minimal publicity from the Philatelic Bureau. Minor differences occur in labels from machines from those supplied by the Philatelic Service, as is the case for all countries where philatelic stock is produced on fast printers. The small differences are not of importance to the collector building up a basic collection. If the collector decides to go into more depth then every crack and break in every line becomes significant.

June 1, 1983: Austria

Fifteen FRAMA machines were installed throughout the country, including three in Vienna. A sixteenth machine, bought as a spare but not required as such, was brought into use on October 24, 1983. The Austrian post office traditionally allows pre - release facilities for all its issues. During their pre - release period, items are not postally valid.

January 31/ February 28/ March 28/ April 25, 1983: Belgium

On each of these days, twelve or thirteen new FRAMA machines were inaugurated, each individually numbered. This meant that, by the end of April, fifty new machines had been introduced, bringing the total number of machines in use to 56 (numbered P3001 to P3056). Variants papers have been used and there is a very complicated section devoted to the various variants in the recommended Master and Weber handbook, issued by the Sammler Dienst Group. First Day covers were provided by the philatelic service and, this time, less than 6000

complete units were sold.

June 29, 1983: Ice Land

A simple FRAMA machine has been installed at Reykjavik Post Office. Unlike the machine described in this article, the machine does not offer a choice of standard pre set values. The machine releases a label according to the exact value of the money inserted. The Post Office issued attractive official First Day Covers. The security print is such that many labels are required to display the full effect.

July 18, 1983: Luxembourg

A lone machine, numbered P2501, was installed in Luxembourg. Whilst the Bureau supplied mint labels. There were no offerings of FDC.

February 22, 1984: Australia

The distinction of the first Commonwealth FRAMA label goes to the first multicoloured ones with a vivid red and blue security printing. Seven machines have been installed; one in each of the State capitals, plus Canberra. The paper was printed by Leigh Mardon Pt Ltd on APWH paper. The seven labels are numbered according to postal code: 2000; 2601; 3000; 4000; 5000; 6000; 7000.

May 1, 1984: Great Britain

Following a long period of uncertainty, machines were installed at Windsor, Cambridge, London ECDO and Southampton (Shirely). It appears that the plan was to have six machines on trial (with Colchester and Edinburgh).

The unions said 'four not six' so the programme has gone ahead on that basis. The British machines, which have been at Post Office research laboratories since 1979, differ significantly from the other machines, in that there are two pre-set standard values which are used for first class and second class rates (12 ½ P / 16P until September 3.) The third button serves to facilitate speedy delivery of multiples of the first class value. Unlike all other machines which are programmed to print values up to 79 or 99.75 plus, the British machines only print values ½ p to 17p. All the ½ p values were blocked off at close of business on December 31, resulting in a machine producing a variety of just seventeen different values. Freak values do exist, sometimes due to machine faults and faulty printing. These errors are useful additions to a collection.

March 26/ May 28, 1984: Greece

Ten machines are in operation in Greece. The installations were made as follows: 001 Rhodes airport; 002 Athens Airport, March 26; 003 Thessaloniki, March 26; 004 Heracleion, June 28; 005 Corfu Airport, June 28; 006 Piræus, June 28; 007 Syntagma Square, March 26; 008 Athens Sorting office, March 26; 009 Athens Central, March 26; 010 Athens Larisa Station, June 28.

A number of errors are known to have been made available, possibly due to inadequate training of staff.

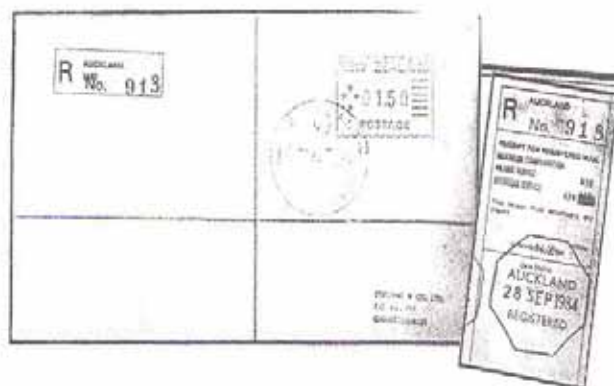
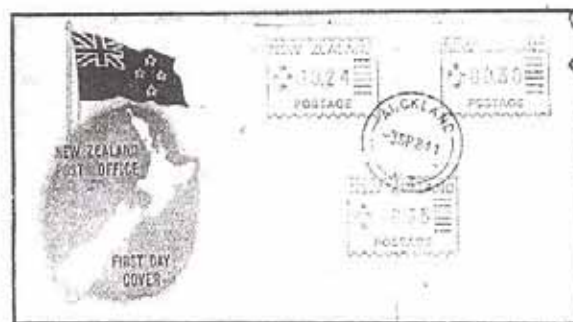
May, June and October 1984: Cuba

There have been three sets issued to date. Whilst new countries add variety to a collection, one wonders whether the Cuba labels which were issued at philatelic exhibitions in Germany should be regarded as undesirable items. FRAMA are in the business of selling machines. It is

not in their interest to sell one or two machines to countries such as Cuba, Nicaragua, Paraguay, etc. FRAMA earn their money by supplying machines and back up facilities to major postal administrations. It should be recognized that the hopes are to introduce several hundred FRAMA machines into countries such as Australia and Great Britain. We are, therefore, still in a transitional period which makes the labels discussed in this article especially collectable.

September 3, 1984: New Zealand

The New Zealand labels are the most interesting issued in recent months. There was no advance publicity. 900 First Day Covers were produced by local dealers and these have long disappeared into collectors hands. After six weeks the machine installed out side Auckland Post Office in Queen Street was removed. There is an acute shortage of material as less than NZ\$ 11,000 value of labels was produced in the period. It is known that, during 1985, different labels, perhaps on security paper, will be issued which will ensure that prices for the 1984 labels and covers



soar even higher.

October 15, 1984: Finland

A new typeface was introduced without warning into the new machines installed on this day. Very few FDC were prepared as local collectors did not choose to document this new event, which in retrospect, far from being a non-event has turned into a good item for those collectors obtaining their new issues from a reputable new issue dealer.

July, 1984: Luxembourg

On July 23, three new machines were introduced supplementing the one installed in 1983. The new

machines are numbered P2502, P2503, P2504. It is not known whether these will be replaced by a standard non-numbered version label.

October 29, 194: Belgium.

By now the Belgian postal Administration was ready with the next fifty machines. They had seen there was no real purpose in individual numbers. All machines have been issued with new universal dies. There are now just three designs inscribed: a) French/ Flemish; b) Flemish/ French; c) German / French (at Eupen in East Belgium only).

There was, however, a surprise. The Belgians issued official maxi cards showing the front view of the FRAMA machine.

The cards were not announced in advance, and come in sets of nine, ie: three standards values for each of the three designs. It can be expected that dealers who did order 33% of what they should have ordered, due to lack of precision in the scant information provided by the Bureau.

October 29, 1984: Aland

Aland became the fifth and final new FRAMA country in a busy 1984. The bureau gave excellent publicity for mint and FDC. Various private maxicards and philatelic bits and pieces are available.

This view is just a simplified account of FRAMA to date. It has ignored a lot of detail and additional material, such as FRAMA Post Office Counter labels.

(Courtesy : The Stamp Magazine, 1986).

OFFICIAL STAMPS OF PAPUA

D. H. Mac. Clarke

Having been a keen collector of the stamps of British New Guinea and Papua for many years, I have been puzzled by the lack of information regarding the "Officials". I have endeavoured here to fill in some of the gaps, but there is little to be found from Government Records and philatelic literature on this subject. I shall be glad to hear from readers who can add to my notes.

No special "official" stamps were used in British New Guinea during the British Administration. In 1906, the Territory was transferred to the Commonwealth of Australia, and its name changed to PAPUA.

In his "Stamps of Papua", Mr. A. A. Rosenblum says that as the new administration was largely staffed by officers of the Australian Department of Territories who were accustomed to using official stamps in Australia, they wanted to follow the same system in Papua, and in 1907 requested the stamp printer in Melbourne to supply Papuan stamps punctured OS (On Service) for official use.

The OS punctures are the same as those of that period on the stamps of several of the Australian States, the letters being about 10 mm. high, 6 mm. wide and 2 mm. apart, the punctured letters being arranged horizontally.

Rosenblum assumes that the puncturing was done in Melbourne at the Government Stamp Printing Office. It would appear that for some time at least it was done in Port Moresby, according to a note in "The Australian Philatelist" of October 9, 1919, as follows "A correspondent from Port Moresby writes ... I had to do the perforating of the "OS" stamps with a single die machine. It was an annoying job because the stamps (30 to sheet 1907/9) could not be easily fitted into the machine. I used to fold the sheet and perforate it that way six stamps at a time. Often the "OS" was inverted and often slanted on the stamps to right or left. The stamps used to be kept in an old box in a cement room with a door, a child could have broken open. Now a Chubb lock safeguards the stamp vault".

The first stamp to be punctured OS was the "Small Papua" overprint on the 2/6d B.N.G. stamp, and this exists on both the thick paper watermark horizontal (SG 37) and that on thin paper with vertical watermark (46). The first lithographed "office" was the 1d. "large thick Papua" printed from the first vignette stone issued in 1907 (47), then all values of the third vignette stone series with upright watermark Pert. 11 : 1d., 2d., 2id. (shades), 4d., 6d. and 1s. (49/54). The 2/6d. of December 1907 Type A (48) printed from the second vignette stone followed the 2/6d. "small Papua" overprints.

All the other 1907-10 lithographs (excluding the rare compound Perts.) exist punctured OS: SG 55-71. The rare 6d. (70) seems to be encountered OS somewhat more often than the normal stamp, but is hard to find either way.

Our anonymous friend quoted above in "The Australian Philatelist" refers to inverted OS, etc. I prefer the term "reversed" as the variety was caused by the row of stamps being put into the perforating machine upside down. The writer has 55 and 59a reversed, and a block of four of 63 showing the two top stamps punctured normally and the bottom pair reversed and also much further to the right - thus proving the puncturing of one row at a time. It would appear that sometimes a sheet was punctured sideways - I have 61 with double puncture, one of which is vertical.

To return to the lithographs, all values of the "Large Papua" series printed from the fourth vignette stone and perforated were punctured "OS", including both the 2/6d. types B and C. Here again, we find varieties such as 77 and 82 reversed, 79 reversed and vertical.

To this stage, most punctured OS stamps are found cancelled to order with the small c.d.s. of Port Moresby, and sold thus to collectors. Mint are scarce, as are postally used, especially on cover. I have an OHMS cover from The Treasury, Port Moresby, with a block of four 1d. (76) used on 11OCT1910, but two registered covers (OHMS) from "Kokoda postmarked 2DEC09 and 2SEP10 bear the normal stamps.

The mono coloured electrotypes of 1911-16 pert. 12j can all be found punctured "OS": 1d. (shades), 2d. (shades), 4d., 6d., 1s. and 2/6d. (84/91). The 1d. perf. 14 has not been seen OS. An unusual variety of the 6d. in my collection is a vertical pair, the upper one OS and CTO, the lower stamp without puncture and mint, again a proving piece.

Rosenblum says that the 2d. and 6d. on thin paper exist only punctured OS.

Bi-coloured stamps were again printed in the 1916-32 period but few OS punctures are found, as there were apparently ample stocks of the monocoloured officials on hand—for example, covers from The Treasury, Port Moresby, as late as 1934 were franked with 1d. and 2d. Monocolours. The following 1916-32 bicoloured electrotypes are known punctured OS:

Harrison printings: 1d., 6d., 2/6d.



Ash: 1d., and 2d. (lake-red 102a), 3d., 4d. (normal and reversed watermarks) and 1s.

Punctured officials are found franking newspaper wrappers for mailing the Government Gazette: two types of wrapper have been noted, inscribed "On His Majesty's Service Government Printing Office Port Moresby Papua". The 1d. monocolour was in use thus in 1929, and five years later the 1d. Harrison bicolour is noted.

It would appear that at times stampless covers were used for official mail. A registered cover posted from Port Moresby on 4JUL27 as *OFFICIAL FREE* printed in the top right corner. Another cover from The Treasury, Port Moresby, dated 7DE39 bears a boxed rubber stamp marking *OFFICIAL FREE*.

Whether official stamps were used much outside Port Moresby is doubtful. For example, OHMS covers from Samarai 90C31 and Daru 25NOV31 bear normal postage stamps.

Rosenblum states that Harrison used a different puncturing machine about 1919, and that the number of holes in the letter "S" was reduced from 12 to 11. I have checked hundreds of OS stamps and all have 12 holes in the "S". It seems though that TWO rows of FIVE were punctured in the one operation in the 1916-32 series. Examination of a complete sheet of forty of 102a shows that there is a distance of 15 mm. between rows 1 and 2, and 25 mm. between rows 2 and 3.

The first *OVERPRINTED* officials were issued by the Commonwealth of Australia in May 1931, and Papua followed suit on 29th July 1931, when the Harrison 1d. and 2/6d. and the Ash 1d. 2d. (chocolate and claret) 3d. 4d. 5d. 6d. 1s. and 2/6d. were overprinted O S in heavy type in

black. In 1932, the 9d. and 1/3d. (C of A watermark) were similarly overprinted.

The overprinting was carefully carried out, and no varieties of importance are evident. Quantities printed have not been released, but none are common, especially used on official covers.

Papua followed Australia in discontinuing official overprints in 1933, though the overprinted stamps continued to be valid for postal use by officials and public alike, and were on sale to the public for several years after 1933.

The Part One Catalogue in a headnote mentions the "Stamps Perforated OS", and lists the overprints. In the latter, the frame variety "POSTAGE" is listed for the 1j-d. and 6d. values, as with the same stamps un-overprinted.

It is not generally known that a M. Forbin of Paris listed "TIMBRES DE SERVICE" in his catalogue of "Recent Stamps of the British Colonies" in October 1911. He did not list the 2/6d. "small Papua" overprints or SG 70. Almost all the 1907-10 lithographs are priced in "used" condition only.

Several stamps with fake punctures (genuine stamps) are known, including the B.N.G. and 6d. "small Papua" overprint. These were apparently "manufactured" by our unhappy friend with the single die machine.

(Courtesy :The Australian Philatelist -1989).

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