



SIPA

Bulletin

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Editorial

WORLD PHILATELIC EXHIBITION

The much awaited official announcement for INDIPEX -2011, (World Philatelic expo. 2011) has been in the open through "Bulletin No 1" of India Post. It will be conducted from 12 to 18 February 2011 at Pragati Maidan, New Delhi.

It is after 13 years that we are getting a world philatelic exhibition with FIP patronage. Obviously it is throwing an affordable opportunity to serious Indian collectors to exhibit their wares along with philatelists of all countries of the world, east and west, Asian and European, American and African etc etc., It is time we rise up to the occasion, stand along with other philatelists of the world and furl our tricolor high.

Though the frame fee (entry) seems to be high, with Indian standards, at rupees 2000/frame for an exhibit of normally 5 frames the entry fee will be rupees ten thousands only. But if we think of entry fee in dollars while entering an international expo' outside the country, this will be cheaper. Moreover, taking into account the chances of visiting an exposition where the philatelist is also participating as an exhibitor and getting the thrills of it, the experience of happiness will be really very high. As such 'SIPA' wishes and expects every possible member to enter the exposition as a competitor. Definitely it will give him/her an experience of his/her life and times by giving him/ her an evaluation of his/her exhibit by international juries and ideas to enhance the standard of his/her exhibit for the future.

As a pre-requisite for entrance, it is given that an award of large silver 'is a must' in a national exhibition. Of course, some might not have attained that standard in 'Inpex 2008' but acquired enough good material within the last two years and sure of reaching international standards. For such people, there is a procedure which have to be followed and it is clearly spelt out in the brochure. Kindly follow regulations in letter and spirit, start on time on the procedures and get into the 'train' without missing it.

In this bulletin, you can see the reproduction (with due courtesy to India Post) of the message given by Ms. Radhika Duraisamy, and 'And introduction to Indipex 2011' by Ms. Kaveri Bannerjee, in the Bulletin No. 1 brought out for our member's pleasure.

* * * *

INDIPEX2011 MESSAGE

It is indeed a matter of great pride for India Post to host another World Philatelic Exhibition "INDIPEX2011". The Exhibition, is being held at the prestigious Pragati Maidan Exhibition Complex, in New Delhi, India, from 12th to 18th February, 2011.

India Post has always taken an active interest in promoting philately. From organizing a plethora of philatelic events across the country, to issue of aesthetically designed stamps that reflect our rich diversity of culture and heritage and highlight issues of concern to humankind, India Post has been consistently working to popularize this wonderful hobby.

Through INDIPEX 2011, we hope to showcase the best of philatelic collections from around the world, and also provide a meeting ground for philatelic enthusiasts and converts. There will be focus on aero philately as we celebrate the centenary of the first airmail flight, which took place in India on 18th February, 1911.

We take this opportunity to invite all collectors, philately publishers and journalists, dealers, stamp designers and printers, and postal administrations to join in this celebration of philately.

We are proud to have the patronage of the Federation Internationale de Philatelie for this event, and the auspices of the Federation of Inter Asian Philately. I also take this opportunity to thank the Philatelic Congress of India for their support and co-operation. We look forward to your participation and I welcome you to INDIPEX 2011.

Ms. Radhika Doraiswamy
Secretary to the Govt. of India
Director General, Post &
Chairman, Postal Service Board

Monthly Second Sunday Meetings

With President
Mr. G. Balakrishna Das on the Chair,
21 members attended the meeting on
14.02.2010. Patron Mr. Madan
Mohan Das spoke on "Importance of
Philatelic Literature".

STAMPS NEWS

20TH CONFERENCE OF SPEAKERS & PRESIDING OFFICERS OF THE COMMON WEALTH

06.01.2010

500

0.3mill

The Conference of Speakers and Presiding Officers of the Commonwealth (CSPOC) is about the association of the Speakers and Presiding officers of the National Parliaments of the Independent Sovereign States of the Commonwealth. It was created in 1969 by the then Speaker of the House of Commons of Canada, the Honourable Lucien Lamoureux. CSPOC unites Speakers and Presiding Officers of the Commonwealth, irrespective of race, colour, religion or culture, by community of interest, respect for the rule of law and pursuit of the ideals of parliamentary democracy. Parliament of India had the opportunity to host the Conference twice earlier in 1971 and 1986.



The full Conference is held once in two years. The aim of the Conference is to maintain, foster and encourage impartiality and fairness in discharging the responsibility of Speakers and Presiding officers of Parliaments. Development of Parliamentary institutions and promotion of knowledge, understanding of Parliamentary democracy in its various forms are other aims of the Conference.

Theme: Commonwealth, Parliament, Leaders.

THE RESERVE BANK OF INDIA

16.01.210

500

0.8Mill

The Reserve Bank of India, established on April 01, 1935 has just entered its 75th year. Today, on a very broad basis, the Bank's major focus areas are:

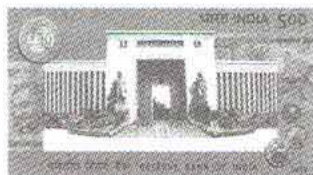
The Integrity, Efficiency of management as a retail component of the payments system;

Provision of Services such as banking and debt management to the government;

Developmental role from institution building to developing and deepening markets and creating an enabling environment; and

To advise the Government on economic issues and provide primary data related to Banking and Finance and Balance of Payments (BoP) Statistics amongst others;

This multifaceted content requires vastly different competencies in terms of infrastructure and human resources. To support this work content, today the Bank has about 21,000 employees



in various categories and a quasifederal organizational structure with a central office located in Mumbai having 26 departments alongwith 29 offices spread over the entire country mainly in state capitals.

Theme: Economics, Banking, Money.

ELECTION COMMISSION OF INDIA

25.01.2010

500

0.5mill

The constituent Assembly of India, as a historic measure, adopted the principle of universal adult suffrage reposing faith in the wisdom of the common India to elect his representatives to power. For this, it created the Election Commission of India, under Article 324 of the Constitution, vesting in it the superintendence, direction and control of elections to Parliament and State Legislatures.



It is significant that Article 324 that created the Commission was one of those exceptional provisions, which were given effect on 26

November, 1949, while the rest of the Constitution came into force on 26th January, 1950. The office of the Election Commission was set up a day before i.e., on 25th January, 1950. The first Chief Election Commissioner Shri Sukumar Sen assumed charge on 21st March 1950.

The primary charge of the Election Commission of India is to conduct elections to the Offices of President of India, Vice President, the Upper House (Rajya Sabha) and the Lower House (Lok Shabha) of Parliament and to both Upper and Lower Houses of the State Legislatures.

The Commission has a very small secretariat in New Delhi, but operates in the States /Union Territories through the offices of Chief Electoral Officers provided by the respective governments. The President of India or the Governor of a State is under constitutional obligation to make available to the Election Commission the staff necessary for the discharge of its duties.

During the last 60 years, the Election Commission of India has conducted 15 general Elections to the Lok Sabha and 326 general elections to State Legislative Assemblies, thus facilitating wide appreciation.

Theme: Democracy, Elections, Diamond Jubilee.

THE BIBLE SOCIETY OF INDIA

21.02.2010

500

0.6Mill

The Bible Society of India (BSI) is a body authorized to translate, produce, distribute and market the Holy Bible. The Central office of the BSI is located at Bengaluru and has a network of fifteen auxiliary offices all over the country.

The object of the society is to encourage the wider circulation of the Holy Bible throughout India. The Bible Society movement started in India in the year 1811 at Kolkata to serve the Church and Society as well as its affiliated organizations with a vision to make the Holy Bible available to all people in India.



THE FRAMA SAGA

Jean Louis Emmenegger

At the beginning of 1974, the Swiss Post planned to introduce a new system to replace its old automatic vending machines. These machines work on putting a coin in a slot with the customer receiving a 'real' stamp from a roll held within the machine. Swiss Post invited companies to construct a prototype of an entirely new vending machine offering a wider range of services.

In the end, it was the Frama Company (Frama is short for Frankiermaschinen **fr**anking **ma**chine), located in Lauperswil (Canton of Berne), won the Swiss Post contract. Basically, the machine that Frama developed also worked by putting coins into a slot, but it introduced three important differences in the previous vending machines.

The old vending machines were stocked with stamps in rolls with the postage value already printed on them. What was new with the Framas was that the postage value was printed separately on each stamp label by the micro printer installed inside the machine. This offered the customer the option to choose his own value to be printed on the label, and meant that all types of combinations of postage values could be printed (up to a maximum defined by the machine).

The paper stocked in the Framas was in rolls as in the old vending machines, but many more labels could be accommodated (Between 800 in Framas in Spain and 1500 in those in Belgium). depending of the quality of the paper chosen.

Initially, the design of the Frama labels had to be a simple one, because the postage value had to be printed on each label and because the labels were often made of a special gummed paper. But in the later years of Frama operations, improved technology allowed machines to use more colourful preprinted designs.

The first four Framas were installed in the Swiss cities of Zurich, Bern, Grindelwald and Geneva on 9th August 1976. Each machine had its own type number which appeared on each label it dispenses: 'A1' for 'Zurich 23' (main railway station), 'A2' for 'Bern, 1' (Central post office), 'A3' for Grindelwald and 'A4' for 'Geneva 1' (Central post office). As might be imagined, envelopes franked with these first Frama labels and cancelled on their first day of use are now top rarities among collectors of such stamp labels. Only a few people were informed of the introduction of these vending machines!

In the months and years that followed, many other Framas were installed in cities and towns throughout Switzerland. They were placed outside the entrances to the post office and always near a mailing box, and were much appreciated by Swiss customers. They found the Framas really easy to use and appreciated having them at their disposal 24 hours a day.

The Society has translated the Holy Bible into 203 languages of our country. Currently, the Society is engaged itself in translation of the Holy Bible into another 102 languages and dialects of our nation. Today the Bible is available in about 1000 languages spoken around the world.

The Bible Society of India is a member society of the United Bible Societies (UBS). The United Bible Societies is a World Fellowship of Bible Societies incorporated in 1964.

For over 200 years, the Bible Society of India has been serving the Indian churches and society.

Theme : Christianity, Religion, Societies, The book.

PROTUL CHANDRA SORCAR

23.2.10 500 0.4mill

Protul Chandra Sorcar was born on 23 February 1913 in Ashokpur in the Tangail district (now in Bangladesh) in a poor middle class family. After graduated with honours in mathematics in 1933, he took up magic as a profession.

While speaking of magic, the name of Protul Chandra Sorcar is inseparable from the contemporary history of the people and the country. He transformed the Indian magic into *Indrajal* a highly original form of Indian art.

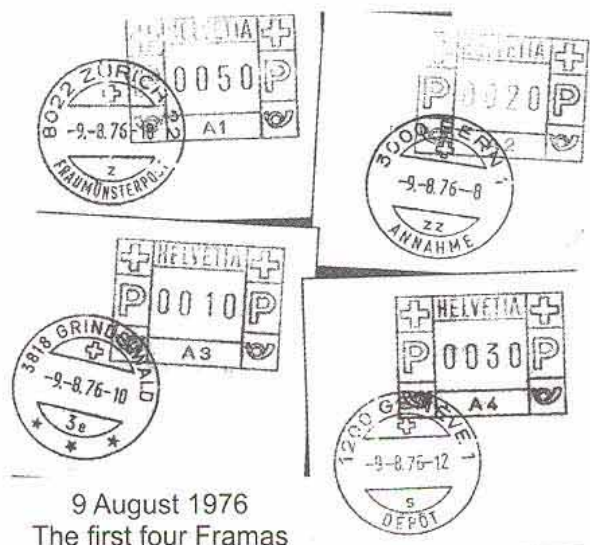
He was a creative genius perfecting his spectacular sets, gorgeous costumes including his own celebrated Maharaja robe complete with a plumed turban, magnificent stage illusions, and large scale lighting effects combining years of experimentation, incredible hard labour and above all wide ranging imaginative insights. In an area when women stage performers and artists were scorned and ostracized, Sorcar had the courage to induct in his troupe women who regularly performed in his breathtaking stage illusions.



Doubtless the greatest magician of his time, he is remembered as an iconic cultural ambassador who rose from humble origins to become the "Jadu Samarat" and "Emperor of Magic".

Theme: Magic, Entertainment, Pioneer.

During the early years, the micro printer in the machine printed the entire text appearing on the label, but later on a major improvement was introduced: the new machines printed only the postage value black. All the other elements, such as the design and the name of the country, were pre-printed to a high standard. This allowed Frama to offer its labels on full colour gummed paper (in Switzerland, Liechtenstein and South Africa, to mention a few.)

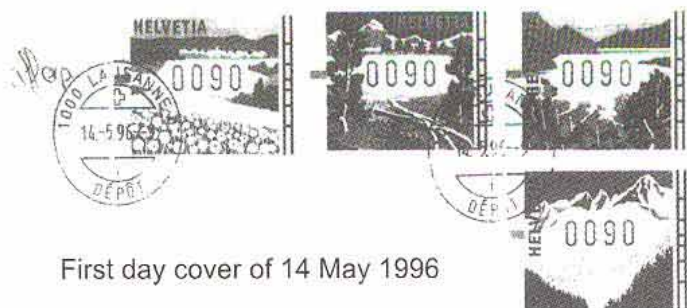


9 August 1976
The first four Framas

Currently, many Frama Machines are still in use in Switzerland, and one can find them dispensing the old one-colour paper as well as pre-printed labels, depending on the machine's location. So far, Swiss post has issued two sets of coloured Frama stamps: a set of four labels illustrating the four seasons and another set of four depicting postal transport.

Around the world

The sales success and the customer satisfaction in Switzerland encourage the Frama company to offer its vending machines to other postal administrations around the world and its success was impressive. A total of 38 postal administrations (see list) decided to install Frama machines! Some have since discontinued their use, but today Framas are still to be found in many of these



First day cover of 14 May 1996

38 postal administrations.

Special mention should be made of the Framas in Australia and New Zealand, whose administrations regularly changed the designs and the colours of the labels, giving them an interesting and original appearance.

Besides these, many postal administrations sold official first day covers cancelled with a special postmark.

But the Frama company is now facing serious competition from other manufacturers; the main ones being Klussendor (Germany), Satas (which at one time had a licence from Frama) and Crouzet (both of France). The advantage these companies have over Frama is to be found in the size of their labels, which are larger than Framas and in the quality of the design that can be preprinted on them. This explains why the two countries which have issued the largest number of different 'stamp labels'; - Spain and Portugal - went over from Frama to Klussendor machines. It is also worth mentioning that postal administrators, installed Framas during national or international stamp exhibitions. There, special labels from Frama machines could be bought, bearing the name of the exhibition: 'FINLANDIA 88' (Finland), 'BELGICA 82' (Belgium), 'PIRAUS 85' (Greece) and 'BASLER TAUBE' (Switzerland) to mention a few. The Greek post office mainly used Framas during stamp exhibitions, offering an easy way for visitors to send letters and cards franked with a special stamp label, prepared at a much lower cost than a conventional stamp. Consequently, the Hellenic post changed the text in the Frama stamp label for each philatelic exhibition, making them very much sought after



Framas issued on 17 June 95
for Stamp Exhibition "Basler Taube 95"
by collectors! The first day cover of the Greek post office's first Framas in 1984 illustrated a Frama Machine.

Frama's one year experience in the UK

Like many postal administrations, Royal Mail also decided to order Frama machines to test them with its customers. The first day of use of the four British Frama machines was 1 May 1984. These framas were installed at the post offices of the cities of Cambridge (HPO), London ECI (King Edward Street,) Southampton (Shirley) and Windsor (Branch office.) These Framas were officially released as the 'British post office's first electronically produced computer labels'.

At first, 32 values were available in steps of ½ p from ½ p to 19p. The 16 ½ and 17p values were added on 28 August. The description given of these new Frama stamp - labels was: 'imperforate, un - water - marked labels displaying a machine postage paid impression applied in

red on phosphoresced paper with a grey- green back ground'.

Unexpectedly, these four machines were only used until 30 April 1985 (this is the official last day of use.) The next day they were withdrawn. Considering the short period of use of these Framas in the UK, the experience seems not to have been judged very positively by Royal Mail! In one article, we read that the Windsor Frama machine was withdrawn only a month after it was installed.

The Edinburgh Philatelic Bureau was also equipped with one Frama machine and sold first day covers (with postmarks of each of the four post offices and also with its own bureau postmark.) This Frama remained in use a year longer, until 30 April 1986, during which time the philatelic Bureau continued to sell mint Frama stamp labels to customers.

An interesting label to mention here is the one that was printed as a 'post paid' label. It was applied to a little known British Post Office official stationery item called the 'letter cassette' had to be sent abroad, a place to put an additional stamp was provided. It seems that this label inscribed 'POST PAID' at the bottom, served as the design prototype for the British Frama.

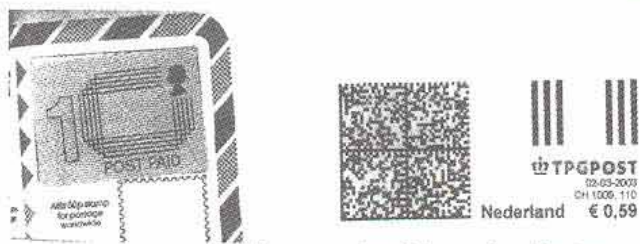
Another less well known use of a Frama label in the UK is from the machine that Royal Mail installed at the end of the period of usage, at the National Postal Museum in London. From 6 May 1988 to 13 April 1993, visitors could print Frama labels with the words 'SPECIMEN' and 'NATIONAL POSTAL MUSEUM' inscribed on them from this machine.

Many error of printing, including printing on the gummed side and printing on white test paper (in Windsor), etc, have been found by collectors and have been advertised in most UK philatelic magazines.

Never the less, these Royal Mail Framas now form an interesting chapter of British philately.

Computer stamps and automatic post office

Collectors of Framas (together with automatic vending machine labels of the same type and functions but built by other companies) now have a new type of label to study; this is the 'stamp label' that can be easily produced with a personal computer printer, at the office or at home,



A computer Stamp for Netherlands. using a simple computer sold by a few European postal administrations.

These labels called 'electronic stamps' or 'computer stamps' are, of course, accepted by post offices and have the advantage that they don't need to be cancelled and are easily read by the optical systems in mail processing centers! Such computer stamps' are now being offered by the postal administrations of Germany (under the name Stamp IT), the Netherlands (under the easy name of Smart Stamp). These computer stamps are mainly used by medium to large companies to frank business mail.

In the United States, an automated postal Center made by IBM was recently put into use near supermarkets. There, the customer cannot pay with coins (as he can with all Framas and similar automatic vending machines), but only by using a credit card! Once the label is printed out by the machine, the customer can stick it on his envelope or parcel, and then mail it without entering a post office. On this type of label, we can see a so- called 'data matrix' specific to the label and to the buyer! Being no longer anonymous (because the machine gets the credit card number), the post office can also track customer's name if needed, this kind of machine is not considered to be a true vending machine by the vast majority of Frama collectors.

A last experience to report is the one tested in Australia of few years ago (it started in November 1994 but was discontinued a few months later) which saw a bank selling stamps! Here the customers of the Advance Bank using a special Advance Bank ATM (Automatic Teller Machine) debit card or a visa card, could purchase official stamps of the Australia post. They were sold in sheet lets of 20 self adhesive stamps, in triangular shape, a first for Australia! The initial launch of ATM stamps was restricted to 12 Advance Bank ATMs installed in Sydney and Melbourne.



Royal Mail Postage Labels on a first day cover of 1st May 1984

These three recent experiences indicate that we are still at the beginning of what could be called the new electronic printed stamps era.

At the world's first automatic post office (Bureau Auxiliaries Automatique) installed in Montgeron, the stamp - label on the first day of use (25 march 1969), has to be cancelled by the post office as no date appeared on the

label of a 'self- service- coin operated postagelabel-machine' was conducted in France.

It happened in the small town of Montgeron (Essonne), on the south of Paris, From it, the customer could print labels after having produced the necessary coins for the amount indicated by the machine. Then, having put the label during its trial period was part of a complete self- service automatic post office called Bureau Auxilliarie automatique, equipped with a public telephone, telegram sending system, etc.

These French experimental labels from Montgeron are considered by specialists to be the real forerunners of Framas and other ATM stamp labels. Such Montgeron labels are very hard to find, especially if used on a cover. After all, who was interested in them at that time? When offered at auctions, such labels on covers reach astronomical prices.

After this Montgeron experiment, ATM collectors had to wait until 1976, before the first four Frama machines were installed in Switzerland! The French Post office has, however, installed a great number of automatic labels machines in recent years, which the French collectors call 'DIVA' (distributer de vignettes d' affranchissement) and 'LISA' (libre service affranchisement). The renaissance has brought back many French collectors to this most interesting collecting field.

Frama labels were used in 38 countries around the world (and they are still used in many of them):

Aland Islands	Malaysia
Argentina	Malta
Australia	Mexico
Austria	Namibia
Belgium	Netherlands
Brazil	New Zealand
Cuba	Norway
Cyprus	Papua New Guinea.
Denmark	Pitcairn Islands
Finland	Portugal
France	Sweden
Greece	Switzerland
Hong Kong	Spain
Iceland	South Africa
Ireland	Tunisia
Israel	Turkey
Kuwait	United Kingdom
Liechtenstein	Vatican
Luxembourg	Zimbabwe.

Michel ATM Catalogue

There is one catalogue covering the subject of automatic vending machines: the Michel Automatenmarkern Special Katalog (in German). You can find in it, listed country by country, all the types of labels that have been used, with the first and the last day of use, each reproduced in full colour and with complete details. This helps to find the labels that each country (61 countries are listed in the catalogue) that once had postage labels, and by which company the machine was produced

(Frama, Klussendorf, Sata. Crouzet, IBM, NCR, Amiel, and many more.)

The edition of this catalogue published in 2004, has 512 pages and is priced at € 45.

How they are known

The postage labels of the Frama family (called ATMS by collectors) have different names depending on the country concerned: in English you'll find 'franking labels', 'Postage labels of automatic vending machines' or 'vending machine postage stamps', in French they will be called vignettes d' aggranchissement and distributeur automatique de timbers poste, and in German they are named Automatenmarken or simply 'ATM'

One should note also that on e Bay, one can find 'ATM stamp labels of different countries described as 'Framas' even where the machine builder is not Frama but another company (NCR, IBM, Nagler. etc!)

(Courtesy: Gibbons Stamp Monthly, Sep - 2005)

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HOW TO LOOK AFTER YOUR COLLECTION - A BASIC GUIDE

David Beach.

Most philatelists or general collectors are misled in the manner on how to protect their valuable stamps and covers. Many blame humidity due to local weather, which is not true to a certain extent. However, David R Beech's tips from his extensive research should bring relief to collectors at large.

Introduction

Many philatelists understand that they are the guardians of the material in their collections for themselves and for future owners. It is unfortunate when some collectors show a disregard for looking after their collection and dismiss the comment with a remark like "it will be OK in my life time". It is to show that looking after your collection is not a complicated affair that I have written this article. Having said that this is a brief or basic guide only and interested parties seeking more comprehensive information should consult a professional paper conservator.

The British Library is the custodian of national collections of international importance some of which have been in its care for over 250 years. During this period it has developed, along with the library and archive community, policies and practices designed to protect those collections. The curators' job is to understand the issues and work with the conservator, who will have specialist knowledge and practical experience. In 1989 the British Library published the book *The Care and Preservation of Philatelic Materials*, written by the late T J Collings, a leading paper conservation expert, and R F Schoolley, FRPSL former Head of the Philatelic Collections. This title appeared in two editions, one in collaboration with the American Philatelic Society.

To break down the subject into manageable portions I have divided it into seven sections which are: Environment, Light, Paper, Gum, Plastics, Physical issues and Treatments.

Environment

Philatelic Collections should be stored at a temperature under 18 degree centigrade and with relative humidity of between 55 and 60%. Recent research has shown that gummed and perforated material is under less stress at these slightly more moist conditions than had previously been recommended. Outside these conditions collectors run the risk of the growth of fungi if too hot and too humid. Remember that one cause of foxing is believed to be dead fungal growth so by avoiding bad conditions you can help to avoid those unsightly stains. If too dry, paper suffers stress and with an unused stamp with gum a tension will develop between the gum and the paper. This tension may be sufficient to split perforations. Dampness is probably one of the main dangers to paper and especially to gum. Ventilation of a room or storage container is likely to reduce the level of moisture; some mild and gradual heating may be of assistance in carrying moisture away. Never heat a damp room without adequate ventilation as this may promote the growth of fungus.

Clean air is important too as pollutants may cause damage. Smoking is incompatible with philately because of damage from ash, staining and the transfer of smell.

Light

The best lighting conditions to keep your collection in is complete darkness. We do need to study our material and show it to fellow philatelists and for this we need light; but how much? In simple terms material on exhibition should be shown in no more than 50 lux, which is 50 candles worth at a distance of one metre. Light contains ultra violet (UV) and a maximum of 10 micro watts per lumen is advised. It is the duty of all philatelic exhibition organisers to arrange these conditions. This is the same standard as is used by art galleries for exhibitions of prints and drawings, so it is not impossible to achieve. While most organisers will at least avoid direct sun light nearly all fail to come even close to the conservation standard of 50 lux. Clearly it may be a difficult and expensive thing to achieve but measures should be taken to reduce levels and the resulting damage. That damage has taken place is clear from the examination of collections protected from light and these include the British Library's Philatelic Collections and the Royal Philatelic Collection where the bright and fresh colours are often remarked upon.

One international exhibition held in Europe since 2000 under Federation Internationale de Philatelie (FIP) rules and supervision seemed to have no or little regard for the dangers of light. The exhibition halls had one third glass roofs resulting in high lux and UV levels. These were measured on a cloudy day randomly around the halls. The minimum was 91 lux and 165 micro watts per lumen and the maximum was a horrifying 3,395 lux and 479 micro watts per lumen. Over half of the frames, where the levels were measured, exceeded 1,000 lux!

Fading undoubtedly resulted. If FIP supervision of international exhibitions is to have any meaning for the protection of material on show it must at least set standards that seek to avoid the worst of the bad conditions. I challenge FIP to do so before it is too late!

Photocopying of material has its hazards too in the form of not only of light but heat too, the latter causing a stress in the paper. Some more modern machines may be less harmful and further research work here is needed.

At the Philatelic Collections office at the British Library all of our lights have UV filters as do the windows and we never leave material exposed to light unnecessarily.

Paper

Papers are complicated in form and structure. For this basic guide it is perhaps sufficient to say that the best papers have a pH between 6.0 and 8.5. pH is the measure of the extent to which material is acidic or alkaline. Paper which is acidic usually goes brown like modern newspapers and paperback books. Philatelic material may suffer from being acidic and the most obvious examples of this are postal stationery post cards. Many of these are so bad that they probably have a life of only a few years, perhaps in some cases ten to twenty years. The problem can be addressed by de acidifying the item but it is recommended that this be undertaken by a professional conservator. Post cards that have been used with typewriting or manuscript addresses or messages and perhaps with additional adhesives will need special care as the process is one where wetting is involved. The deacidification process will arrest the acid attack at the time of treatment but it will not reverse the browning of the paper.

Clearly album pages should be such that they cause no damage to the material mounted on them and so need to be acid free and comply to ISO 9706 standard for permanent paper.

Gum

As I have indicated gum is often in tension with the paper it is applied to and this can be reduced under the appropriate storage conditions that I give in the Environment section above. If the gum becomes too dry (and especially if it is thickly applied) it may crack and go on to crack or damage the paper of a stamp or cover, etc. The removal of gum is probably in the best interests of stamps in the long term. This is controversial and further work needs to be carried out as to how this may be achieved with the best results. Removal by water may not be the answer in many cases and inks may be affected.

Pressure sensitive adhesives, that is self adhesives on stamps, are emerging as a major conservation concern. Clear tapes, like *Sellotape* and other similar products, are pressure sensitive and as most of us know the adhesive turns brown and leaves a stain on just about anything that it has been stuck to. Will this be the case with self adhesive stamps? By the way never repair any philatelic item with a pressure sensitive tape; it was

never designed for this purpose.

Plastics

A great deal has been written about plastics in philately which are used as mounts and protectors. Here I am only going to say that top museums, libraries and archives only use polyester (*Mylar* and *Melinex* are commercial names) without any anti static coatings, with paper or similar materials. They never use PVC which can ooze plasticisers and forms acid as it decomposes.

Physical Damage

That care should be taken in handling material should be taken for granted. One University library that lends books had or has a notice that said something like "Books should be stored with care and should be kept away from rodents, silverfish, insects, children and other vermin".

I have seen small photo corners cause much damage especially to covers. The act of using them may cause physical damage to the corners of a cover over time. Clearly material should be handled with clean hands, but even so the moisture on all skin will transfer to the stamp or cover. This is why in libraries and archives rare materials are often handled with special gloves.

Peelable stamp hinges if applied correctly are safe to use. Many collectors are not good at using hinges and it would be a good idea if philatelic societies gave lessons to new collectors on their use. In any event minimal moisture should be used and the hinge should only be applied to the very top of a stamp. Plastic mounts are a safe alternative if made of polyester.

The writing in pencil on covers of a price by dealers and others should be avoided as every time it is removed by eraser it will damage the paper and if repeated will eventually cause a hole in the paper.

It may be of interest to the reader to give the policy we apply at British Library Philatelic Collections on the mounting and housing of its collections. Such arrangements have to last one hundred years. Stamps or covers are mounted in polyester mounts on conservation quality album pages which are placed in a polyester protector. These, about sixty at a time depending on the material, are stored in conservation quality boxes with a waterproof of buckram covering, which are kept upright on the shelf.

Treatments

Philatelic material that needs any kind of treatment should be shown to a paper conservator. Not all treatments are advisable, indeed some will cause damage. This many not at first be apparent but it may emerge in time. The bleaching of items is not recommended and many of the methods or techniques carried out in the past have ruined stamps and covers. Do not be tempted to do it yourself!

Another point to remember is that repairs,

cleaning, etc may be acceptable in some areas of paper object collecting, but not in philately as in some instances fraud may result either in a sale or in exhibiting. Only in exceptional and rare instances will any repair work be acceptable. A good example of this is the first stamps of Hawaii, the Missionary stamps of 1851 -52, which are printed on very thin and fragile paper. Many of the 199 copies that exist are repaired. If they had not been they probably would not exist today!

As I said at the beginning you are the custodian of your material for your life time or until you sell. Do look after it for future generations otherwise nothing will exist to collect, study, research and enjoy!

(David Beach is a past President of the Royal Philatelic Society London, Chairman and Trustee of the philatelic charity, the Stuart Rossiter Trust, and a Trustee of the Revenue Philately Trust.)

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ARMY POSTAL SERVICE OF NEW CHINA

Li Shuguang

LEADERS of the Beijing Municipal Philatelic Association had repeatedly asked me to hold an exhibition of my collections of army postal service. With their help, I made up a comprehensive collection of Army Postal Service of New China, and sent it to the 1989 China National Philatelic Exhibition. To my surprise, the collection won a gold medal plus a special prize. At the request of the *China Philately* Editorial Board, I would like to tell its readers at home and abroad how I compiled the collection.

I began to collect stamps in 1960 when I was still a child, under my father's influence. At that time, I loved stamps simply because I felt they were very beautiful. During the "Cultural Revolution" (1966-1976), quite a lot of stamp collections were burnt, for they were regarded as something related to feudalism, the bourgeoisie and revisionism, which scared me away from philately. In 1970, I joined the PLA Navy and went to serve on the East China Sea. With increasing correspondence between me and my relatives, the stamps on the envelopes again attracted me back to my childhood hobby. From 1978, I began to collect envelopes, postcards and letter-sheets reflecting the history of postal service. Guided by some philatelic friends, I focused my attention on army postal items and the history of army postal service. My collections cover several historical periods - the Qing Dynasty, the Republic of China (1911-1949), the liberated areas and New China, but most of my efforts have been devoted to items of the New China period.

It is not easy to collect items from the army postal service, and neither it is easy to study the history of the army postal service. As an inseparable part of China's postal service, the army post is however still a mystery to many outsiders due to its particularity. To ensure strict secrecy of its movement, the army organized its own liaison in a secret way within a certain period or even within a certain region. Therefore military postal items were little

known to others. But many years later, when the secrets were no longer confidential, people would know about them. For the sake of war and confidence, many historical data and postal items, which are eagerly sought after by philatelists today, were completely destroyed. For instance, some army units had made it a rule that military postal archives would be preserved for only one year before they were destroyed. What is more, during the war years, the army postal service, its system and its postal routes were always changing with the development of the wars, and the army's postal workers would never take care to see whether the postmark was clear for philatelists' convenience in future years. All this makes it extremely difficult for today's philatelists to study the history of army postal service and its items.

From among my large collections of army postal items, I selected 101 entire covers, four postcards, two letter-sheets, 12 military postage stamps and seven historical documents from five historical periods - before the founding of New China, the early years of the People's Republic, the War to Resist U.S. Aggression and Aid Korea, the period of the General Administration of Army Postal Service, and the period of civilian post offices handling army mails. With these items, I tried to give a brief account of the history of army postal service between 1949 and 1989 to my fellow philatelists.

PREAMBLE

This part is an introduction to the army postal service of New China, its characteristics and the contents of the connection. A sketch map helps readers to know the PLA's marches through the country and the areas where the troops moved.

PART ONE. Military Postal Service Before the Founding of New China in 1949

The predecessors of the PLA are the Chinese Workers' and Peasants' Red Army, and the Eighth Route Army and the New Fourth Army. During the Red Army period, there were army postal institutions inside the Red Army along with the postal service in the Soviet Areas. A "Red Army General Post Box" was set up in the General Political Department of the General Headquarters of the Workers' and Peasants' Red Army, and "Red Army Post Boxes" were set up in all army groups down to the regiment, in the Central Revolutionary Military Commission and army units directly under the Commission. All Red Army men were allowed to send their letters postage free. During the War of Resistance Against Japanese Aggression (1937-1945), the provisional postal department of the Shanxi - Chahar - Hebei Border Region issued special postage-free stamps for army men. During the War of Liberation (1946-1949), the post office of the Shanxi - Hebei - Shandong - Henan Border Region established an army postal service, and appointed couriers to deliver mails to troops at the battle fronts. In all field armies, postal institutions were set up, with professional postal personnel appointed and effective regulations instituted. The army post offered various services, and it was set up wherever the troops moved. Army postal organs opened their own delivery routes. Army men enjoyed free postal service.

This part shows where today's army postal service originated. Included in this part are sample "Anti-Japanese Army men" stamps issued in a liberated area in September 1938, and entire covers from "Second Branch of Shanxi Gansu - Ningxia Army Post Office" and "11th Sub-Station of the Second Field Army", all quite hard to come by today.

PART TWO. Army Postal Service in the Early Years of New China (Oct. 1, 1949-March 1, 1951)

When the People's Republic of China was founded, some areas on the Chinese mainland had not been liberated and the War of Liberation was in its last stage. During this period, the army postal service was completely the same as that of the previous war years. A general army post office was set up in the headquarters of the field army, while formations, armies and divisions had their own post offices, and regiments had post stations. Units under the regiment had no postal institutions. Army post offices were also set up in some military areas. They handled letters, newspapers, books, parcels, and things left behind by the martyrs. As was the case in the war years, the post offices organized their own delivery routes, but in some cases they also made use of the civilian delivery routes for the dispatch of their mails. Letters sent by PLA officers and soldiers were delivered postage free, marked with army postmarks. Though in the second half of 1951 a unified military postmark was put into use, the use of some other postmarks continued for more than one year due to various reasons.

The 37 entire covers included in this part came from the First, Second, Third and Fourth Field Armies, the Formation directly under the Central Military Commission, and different large military areas. They bore various military postmarks, postage-free marks, and some marks for propaganda purpose. Extremely rare are the entire cover affixed with 39 regional stamps with 11 of them cancelled by a "PLA (61) Army Post" datemark, and the entire cover affixed with a letter bill for ordinary mail of the army post of the Third Field Army. Also quite difficult to collect are the entire covers delivered between the Second Field Army and Luda Army Post Office, the entire cover delivered from a regiment postal station to the General Post Office of the Third Field Army, and the entire cover used by the Railway Formation which were cancelled by a "1st Branch of the PLA Mainland Military Post" datemark and a registered mail mark. The various army postmarks show that the PLA's army post was not unified at that time.

PART THREE. Army Postal Service During the War to Resist U.S. Aggression and Aid Korea (Oct.25,1950-July 27, 1953)

The army postal service in this period was quite peculiar - it was independently organized in a foreign country and carried out in extremely difficult wartime conditions. The postal institutions of the Chinese People's Volunteers (CPV) organized independently the delivery of documents, letters, newspapers and magazines, parcels and other mails between the front and the rear and within the army itself. In the early period in Korea, military post offices at and above the army level worked independently in opening their own delivery routes and setting up their own postal stations. In November 1951, the Army Post Office of the CPV General Headquarters was set up, and a

network of direct delivery routes was formed with this post office as the hub. The CPV relied mainly on motor vehicles.

For mail transport, but after the armistice the major part of mails was transported by trains, with army postal stations set up on CPV special trains. Though having some similarity with the army postal service in the motherland, the CPV's army postal service had its own peculiar characteristics. All CPV officers and soldiers sent their letters postage-free. Shown in this part are several postmarks used in different periods, "Soldiers' Health Letter-Sheets" issued internally by the CPV, and "Army Postcards" donated to CPV members by the people of the motherland.

One exhibit shows two letters sent by a CPV soldier to his family in Hubei Province, one from Jilin Province in Northeast China and the other from Korea. The two covers show that the letter sent in the Northeast was affixed with a postage stamp enjoying "preferential treatment to armymen", while the letter sent after crossing the Yalu River, postage free, was stamped with a military postmark. Rare items in this part also include CPV's military postcards and entire covers of CPV's internal correspondence.

PART FOUR. Army Postal Service under the General Administration of Army Postal Service (March 1, 1951-Sept. 1, 1957)

On March 1, 1951, Acting Chief of General Staff Nie Rongzhen approved the establishment of the PLA General Administration of Army Postal Service. From then on, the diversified army postal service in the PLA became centralized, unified, regularized and more efficient. Under the leadership of the General Administration, the army unified its structure of army post offices, relevant regulations and postmarks. The army postal service also took in confidential communication. But after March 1953, the confidential communication was again separated from the army postal service. In March 1954, the General Administration was re-organized into the Army Postal Service Department, but it remained as the leading organ of army postal service. In this period, except for a few areas and army units, the army postal service made use of the civilian postal transport network to deliver its mails.

Entire covers in this part show the changes in postmarks before and after the General Administration of Army Postal Service unified the army postmarks. Also shown in this part are the characteristics of "Chinese Army Post" postmarks. In August 1953, the Communication Department of the Central Military Commission and the Ministry of Posts and Telecommunications jointly issued army postage stamps, the only issue of its kind in New China. Eight used stamps show that this issue was indeed in circulation at that time. The blue Military Postage Stamp in this part was first on show in a domestic exhibition. This author believes that the blue stamp was not exclusively for the Navy, and this belief is based on years' of studies. The Liaison Chart issued by the Army Post of the North China Military Area to its subordinate post offices and stations show the postal routes of the military area, which is valuable for the study of the army post in that area. Within a certain period, the seals of Offices Handling Incoming and Outgoing Mails in army units were also used as postage-

free marks, and these seals should find their place in the history of military postal service.

PART FIVE. The Period of Civilian Post Offices Handling Army Mails (Sept. 1, 1957-Sept. 1, 1989)

In 1957, the PLA Headquarters of General Staff decided that all army postal stations in the country should stop accepting and delivering mails beginning September 1, the stations should be abolished in October, and all military units should make agreements with the state postal departments for the delivery of army mails. When the decision was implemented, most of the military units handed over their postage-paid and postage-free mails to local post offices to deliver. But in certain areas, within a certain period of time and within some scope, the army still had its own personnel in charge of army post. For instance, the army still organized its own postal service in the nuclear weapon testing base and astronomical center in the Gobi Desert, in the War to Resist U.S. Aggression and Aid Vietnam, and in the battles for self-defence and counter-attack on the Sino-Vietnamese border. But the army postal service in these areas and periods was limited to the area under the army's administration and its internal correspondence, while the army's external correspondence relied on local post offices. Shown in this part are entire covers delivered through army postal routes. The entire covers which were printed by army post offices show that in peace time the army post offices had expanded their scope of business to include savings and philatelic services, which was unimaginable during war years. Except for the 15 years following the Cultural Revolution (1966-76), PLA soldiers could send ordinary letters postage free, but PLA officers should pay for their mails and soldiers should pay for other mails. The postage-free marks were specially designed.

(Courtesy : China Philately, 1990)

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YOUTH FORUM

COMBINATION COVERS

Before the advent, in 1874, of the General Postal Union (later, the Universal Postal Union) adhesive stamps issued by countries which had followed the example of Great Britain were only valid for use within the boundaries of the issuing country. There were very few exceptions, these being the result of bi-lateral postal treaties between neighboring countries who accepted one another's stamps as fully prepaying letters to their destinations. Another example was the treaty between France and Great Britain which brought about Britain's first letterpress printed stamp, the 4d of 1855, to frank letters for delivery in France and, of course, Britain reciprocated by accepting French adhesives on letters.

Apart from these exceptions letters for delivery abroad had to be franked with stamps of the home country and stamps of the country of destination. Envelopes bearing, in these circumstances, the stamps of two

countries are known as combination covers. They represent an interesting stage of pre-UPU postal history, Once the UPU was established, all member countries contracted to accept mail bearing government issued adhesives as franked to destination in any other member country.

There remained exception among the comparatively few non - UPU nations, such as Nepal whose outgoing foreign mail was mailed through India. The letter country could insist on Indian stamps to the full rate, applicable as if the letter had been posted in India. These conditions applied until Nepal joined the UPU in 1959.

Examples of combination covers occur in South and Central America where British consulates added British stamps to any letters franked with national stamps and addressed via the consulate to addresses in Great Britain. Letters handed in to the consulates by the senders only required British and, therefore, are not combination covers although they are interesting examples of British stamps correctly used abroad.

Not all dual franking are classed as combination covers. For instance, prior to the formation of the Union of South Africa, each province issued its own stamps Cape of Good Hope, Natal, Orange River Colony and Transvaal. All these became valid for use in any part of the Union from 31 May 1910, until new Union definitive became available. Letters posted in, say, the Cape could be franked with stamps of Orange River Colony and Transvaal. Stamps thus used are known as inter provincials but the covers merely bear mixed franking and do not rate as combination covers. (Courtesy : The Philatelist, 1987)

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INDIPEX 2011

An introduction

INDIPEX 2011 World Philatelic Exhibition is to be held from 12th to 18th February, 2011, at New Delhi, It is being organized by India Posts, Government of India, in association with the Philatelic Congress of India. The Federation International Philatelic (FIP) is extending its patronage, and the Federation of Inter Asian Philately (FIAP) its auspices, for conduct of the Exhibition.

The first of such international philatelic exhibitions in India was organized in a small way in 1954 as part of the centenary celebrations of the Indian postage stamp. This was followed by INDIPEX-73 International Philatelic Exhibition held in New Delhi from 14 to 23 November 1973. The first Asian International Philatelic Exhibition was held at Bangalore in 1977. In 1980 the Department of Posts and the Philatelic Congress of India jointly hosted INDIA 80 International Stamp Exhibition at New Delhi from 25 January to 3 February. This was followed by INDIA 89 World Philatelic Exhibition held at Pragati Maiden complex at New Delhi from 20 to 29 January, 1989. INDEPEX 97 was also organized at Pragati Maidan in New Delhi, and was significant in that it commemorated fifty years of the country's independence. This was followed by INDEPEX ASIANA 2000, the second Asian International Philatelic

Exhibition hosted by India, which was held at Calcutta (now Kolkata) and celebrated 50 years of the Republic of India, and the New Millennium.

INDIPEX 2011 is being organized in Hall Numbers 8,9,10 & 11 of the prestigious and sprawling Pragati Maidan Exhibition complex located in the heart of India's capital, New Delhi. This exhibition complex is constantly evolving, in keeping with changing times and needs, and has been the venue for international stamp exhibitions on previous occasions also.

The city of Delhi, steeped in history and tradition, has also been constantly reinventing itself through the ages. Dating back to at least the first Century BC, it has been the capital or major city for as many as 15 dynasties that ruled from time to time even before the British came into the picture. In this latest incarnation, as the capital of modern India, New Delhi is a bustling cosmopolitan city drawing people from far and near. It has played host to a number of major international events and is presently gearing up to host the commonwealth Games, in 2010. INDIPEX 2011 promises to be another landmark event.

This exhibition aims to bring the international philatelic community together to celebrate philately, and will provide a unique platform for interaction between all the philatelic stakeholders, viz. the collectors, the dealers, the philatelic journalists and publishers, the designers and security printers, and the postal administrations who issue stamps and stationery. We will also be celebrating the centenary of the first official airmail flight which took place in India between Allahabad and Naini on 18th February 1911. And, by showcasing the best philatelic collections, INDIPEX

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