



# SIPA

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## Bulletin

web : sipa. org.in  
E-mail :  
mail@sipa.org.in

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POSTAL HISTORY  
SORATH 22

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ROYAL PHIL  
COLLECTION 25

QUARTERLY

### Editorial :

The revised "Commemorative Stamp Issue Policy" is posted on the website of India Post. They are as below.

1. Commemorative postage stamps will be issued on subjects that have a national or international stature or have made national / International contribution or impact or reflect national / International areas of concern.
2. The Annual Issue Programme shall reflect regional, cultural and ethnic balance.
3. Stamps on a particular subject shall issued only once, except thematic such as wild life, environment, transport, flora fauna etc. or regular issues like Children's Day, Season Greetings and sets on heritage, nature, culture, art. Architecture etc.
4. Stamps shall be not over 50 issues (maximum 100 stamps) of commemorative stamps per annum.
6. Stamps on personalities shall not exceed 10% of the Annual Issue Programme.
7. The Union Minister incharge of the Ministry of Communication & IT may approve 5% of the Annual Issue Programme.
8. The date of issue shall be fixed by the Philately Division keeping in view the significant dates relating to the subject and the availability of slots in the printing schedule.
9. Date of issue once fixed shall not be changed. A proponent may hold a presentation function on any day on or after the date of issue.
10. Proposals may be sent by any citizen of India.
11. Proposals should be sent at least two years in advance for consideration by philatelic Advisory Committee (PAC) and approval by the competent authority.
12. Proposals must be submitted in the format available on India post. Gov. in.
13. Proposals will be considered and recommended/not recommended by the PAC. They will not be carried forward for the next PAC meeting.
14. Proponents shall follow the protocol for release functions.
15. The Department of Posts will decide the subject matters, prohibited subjects renewal of philatelic products, procedure for proposal consideration and issue/release of a stamp, period of sale of

commemorative/special stamps and for definitive stamps and postal stationery. -It will also determine issue policy, withdrawal policy and archival policy.

16. The denominations of postage stamps shall be in consonance with domestic and international postal tariffs. The personalities on whom.
17. commemorative stamp may be issued should be of national or international importance. The occasion to be commemorated must be the birth centenary or 10<sup>th</sup> /25<sup>th</sup> /50<sup>th</sup> /100<sup>th</sup> death anniversary. No stamp will be issued sooner than ten years after an individual's death. A commemorative stamp shall be issued in honour of the head of State on his/her first death anniversary.
18. A stamp on an institution, building, monument etc. may be issued on its centenary/125<sup>th</sup> anniversary/ 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary etc. The building, institution to be so honoured must be Heritage site of national/international importance or site recognized by ASI of national/international importance. Building of regional importance may be commemorated with issue of special cover with special cancellation.
19. At least 25% of the stamps issued In a year will be on popular themes like flora, fauna, culture, heritage etc.
20. Proponents for the stamps relating to institutions / events/large organisations are required to make a mandatory purchase of a minimum number of 1 lakh stamps and the requisite philatelic ancillaries.

All collectors and philatelists will be very happy if regulation nos. 5,6 and 19 are strictly followed to raise the image of "Indian Philately" to international levels.

### Monthly Second Sunday Meetings

With President  
Mr. G. Balakrishna Das on the Chair,  
21 members attended the meeting on  
13.02.2011. Patron Mr. Madan Mohan  
Das gave a vivid talk on "Exhibitor's  
Expectations and Jurors Evaluation"



## STAMP NEWS

### DOOT

**15.1.11** **500** **0.3mill**  
In the history of Gujarat periodicals and literature "DOOT" has the unique distinction of being the second Gujarati magazine completing a centenary of uninterrupted publication, besides Gujarat Vidyasabha's 155 year old magazine "Buddhiprakash".

Published from Gujarat since January 1911, "DOOT" was started by a German Jesuit mission superior, Fr. German Zurhansen, S.J., in Gujarati with only 12 pages with the name "ATI PAVITRA ANTAKARANNO DOOT", later shortened to 'Doot' in 2000. The first issue of the magazine was printed at the Examiner Press, Mumbai.



"Doot" reflected the life and culture of the Christian community of Gujarat and its integration, growth and development over the years. The significant contribution of the magazine is that it has brought many words spoken in Central Gujarat to the main stream and these have found their way into the Gujarati dictionary.

In earlier times "Doot" catered mainly to Central Gujarat and to those who have migrated from Anand and Kheda District to other parts of Gujarat and to Mumbai. Today "Doot" is poised to reach 10,000 paid subscribers.

Theme : Literature, Journalism, Centenaries, Christianity.

### KRISHNADEVARAYA

**27.01.11** **500** **0.3mill**

The Vijayanagara Empire was established in 1336 by Sangama brothers and it was ruled by four imperial dynasties namely Sangama, Salva, Tulva and Aravidu. Krishnadevaraya belonged to the third dynasty of the empire namely Tulva. He was the son of Nagalamba and Narasanayaka also called as Narasimharaya.



He came to power in February 1509. But there are some evidences which prove that January 24, 1510 is the Coronation date of Krishnadevaraya. In all probability the Coronation Ceremony of Krishnadevaraya was held twice i.e., the first coronation happened in February 1509. Then, after suppressing the rebellious local chiefs he was once again coronated on 11<sup>th</sup> March 1513. Krishnadevaraya's invasions against Ummatturu chiefs and Kalinga, his relationship with Bahmani Kingdom and the capture of Raichur and Mudgal were more illustrious than any other achievements of the earlier kings.

Krishnadevaraya was a learned man. He composed Amukthamalyada and Marichi Parinayamu. Amukthamalyada was composed in Sanskrit and Marichi Parinayamu in Telugu.

He built Balakrishna, Ananathashayana and Lakshminarasimha temple in his capita. Besides, he added a Kalyanamantapa, a hundred pillared hall, and a stone chariot to Vithala temple at Hampi.

The above achievements of Krishnadevaraya contributed to his stature among the emperors of Vijayanagar.

Theme : History, Heritage, Kings and Queens.

### CH. RANBIR SINGH

**01.02.11** **500** **0.3mill**

Chaudhary Ranbir Singh was born on 26<sup>th</sup> November 1914 in the village of Sanghi in Rohtak district of Haryana. His father Ch. Matu Ram was a freedom fighter, nationalist and a pioneer of the Arya Samaj movement and his family had close association with Lala Lajpat Rai and the family of Shaheed Bhagat Singh.



Ranbir Singh grew up in that atmosphere to become a true nationalist in thought, word and deed. After graduating from the Ramjas College, Delhi, in 1937, Ranbir Singh joined the freedom struggle and was arrested during the individual Satyagraha in 1941. In all, he underwent three and a half years rigorous imprisonment in eight different jails (Rohtak, Ambala, Hisar, Ferozepur, Lahore, Multan and Sialkot) and suffered two years' house arrest in the wake of the freedom struggle.

His role in restoring communal harmony during the holocaust that erupted after the partition of the country in 1947 was praiseworthy.

After 31 years as legislator he retired from active politics to dedicate himself to the cause of freedom fighters and other issues.

Ch. Ranbir Singh was a visionary, freedom fighter, great patriot, distinguished Parliamentarian and an able administrator. He passed away on 01<sup>st</sup> February 2009.

Theme : Personality, Freedom Fighter, Leaders, Parliament.

### MARY WARD-LORETO INSTITUTIONS

**02.02.2011** **500** **0.4 mill**

Mary Ward an English Roman Catholic nun, was born on 23rd January 1585 at Old Mulwith, Yorkshire. She was a woman of exceptional abilities, both intellectual and spiritual, endowed with extraordinary foresight and courage.

She founded an 'Institute of the Blessed Virgin Mary' in 1609 at St Omer in France with seven others and began the momentous task of teaching young women.



In 1621, She took her famous journey to Rome, walking all the way from Brussels.



She met with opposition from within during the papacy of Pope Urban VIII. Her order was suppressed and in 1631 she was imprisoned.

In 1632, she was released and allowed to restart her work of educating young girls. In 1639, she returned to England and settled with her community in Yorkshire.

The Institute of the Blessed Virgin Mary, known also as 'Loreto Sisters' globally, has also presence at United Nations.

Mary Ward's vision and way of life was brought to India in 1842.

Today, Mary Ward's teachings and work are being carried on throughout the world. With more than 4000 members branching out on 6 continents, Loreto Institutions are imparting education to more than 70,000 students worldwide.

Mary Ward a leader of originality, faith and daring courage, whose inspiration continues to inspire young women worldwide, to serve the poor even today, believed in 'doing ordinary things well'. She passed away on 20<sup>th</sup> January, 1645.

Theme : Women, Education, Institutions, Buildings.

### CORPS OF SIGNALS

04.02.11                      500                      0.3mill

Communications have played a vital role in warfare. Communications constitute the nervous system of Armies all over the world. The Corps of Signals of the Indian Army with its dedicated band of officers and men, over the years has assimilated the emerging technologies to build a well oiled networking force to match the best in the world.



Lt. Col S.H. Powell, Royal Engineers was the founder and first head of the Indian Signal Service which was subsequently re-designated as the Indian Signal Corps. The motto of the Corps is "Teevra Chaukas" i.e. "Swift and Secure",

The role of the Corps of Signals is to provide secure, reliable and responsive strategic, operational and tactical communications and spearhead the information technology revolution in the Indian Army.

The Corps of Signals, whose men are proudly referred to as 'Information Warriors' has initiated and completed a number of prestigious communication projects like Army Static Switched Communication Network (ASCON) in 1995 and Army Wide Area Network (AWAN) in 2006.

On 15 February 2011, the Corps of Signals will complete 100 years of its service to the Armed Forces.

Theme : Army, Centenary, Signalling.

### V. SUBBIAH

07.02.11                      500                      0.3 mill

V.Subbiah was born on 07th February 1911 to Shri Varatharajalu and Smt Bangaru Ammal. He began his education career in Calve College High School in Puducherry, and his political career dates from his student days by participating in the Congress Conference held at Chennai in 1927-28. His urge for nationalism made him think of Puducherry's independence from the French.



In 1933, he started Harijan Welfare Association and arranged for the first visit of Mahatma Gandhi to Puducherry. In 1934 he started a magazine in Tamil called "Swadanthiram" (Independence). It was in this period that he came in touch with Ameer Hyder Khan and S.V Ghate and joined the Communist movement.

In 1938, on the advice of Jawaharlal Nehru he started Mahajana Sabha, a United Political Front. He fought against fascist principles by starting a movement called 'Combat'. He intensified the struggle from 1936-1954 for the freedom of Puducherry, from the French.

Several times he was jailed by the then British and French Governments. Puducherry achieved independence in 1954 from the French.

V. Subbiah regarded by the people of Puducherry as 'Leader of People', passed away on 12<sup>th</sup> October 1993.

Theme : Leaders, Freedom Fighter, Puducherry, Journalism.

### CENSUS OF INDIA 2011

08.02.11                      500                      0.4 mill

The Population Census in India commencing from the 9th February, 2011 will be the 15th Census in the unbroken series as reckoned from the year 1872 which marked the beginning of the modern census in the country. The process of census taking and data dissemination has evolved over the years.



India is one of the most populous countries in the world. The population of the country in 2001 census was 1.02 billion and it is expected to be nearly 1.20 billion by 2011. Taking count of such a large population across the length and breadth of the country is a phenomenal task.



The data generated at each census has a great utility for national planning as well as policy formulation on different social, economic and political aspects. It provides a wealth of information on a host of demographic parameters.

The census taking in India follows the 'cavasser' method against the 'house-holder' method followed in most of the countries in the world.

The data collected at census 2011 will provide a comprehensive picture of the social, economic, demographic characteristics and living conditions of the people of India at various levels. Only a census can provide such complete details at the lowest administrative level like village (in rural areas) and ward (for urban areas)

Theme : People, Population, Census, Enumeration.

### V. VENKATASUBBA REDDIAR

11.02.11                      500                      0.3 mill

V. Venkatasubba Reddiar was born on 18 December 1909 to Sri Vaithilingam Reddiar and Smt Velammal.

Elected Mayor of Nettapakkam in 1946, he along with the Mayor of Puducherry Shri.K Muthu Pillai raised slogans against the French asking them to leave Puducherry.

Pt. Jawaharlal Nehru directed the leaders to form a parallel government against the French and to revolt against the French Government.

This was a novel attempt to form parallel government against a foreign power. Thus 12 leaders, including V.Venkatasubba Reddiar, formed the parallel government on 31 March 1954. They intensified the freedom movement. Finally, the then Prime Minister of France had a dialogue with Nehru, Prime Minister of India. As a result of this the French Government had agreed to merge Puducherry with the Indian Union on 13th October 1954. Puducherry got freedom from French rule on 1st November 1954. In the new Assembly, which started on 01.07.1963. V. Venkatasubba Reddiar became the Public Works Minister. In the subsequent elections, V. Venkatasubba Reddiar was elected and went on to become the Chief Minister. He held the post from 11.09.1964 to 08.04.1967 and again from 06.03.1968 to 17.09.1968.



Theme : Personality, Freedom Fighter, Chief Minister, French India.

### INDIPEX 2011 -100 YEARS OF AIRMAIL

12.02.11                      4 x 500                      0.4 mill each

India Post had brought series of postage stamps to mark INDIPEX 2011 World Philatelic Exhibition to be held from 12th February to 18th February, 2011 at New Delhi. In this series the first set of six stamps was on Postal Heritage Buildings. The second set of four stamps was on the stamps issued by Princely States and the third and final set is commemorating completion of 100 years of Airmail Service.



History was created on February, 18, 1911 when Henri Piquet took off in a Humber Biplane from the right bank of the Yamuna at Allahabad crossing over to the left bank and dropped a mail bag containing 6500 letters and Post Cards at the Naini Railway Station. India thus became the first country in the world to fly air mails.

After this pioneer effort, India was also the first country to introduce air mail Post Card in 1931.

The first Regular airmail service which was started in 1920, operated between Mumbai (Bombay) & Karachi.

Now, through the set of four stamps, First Day Cover and Minisheet on 100 Years of Airmail Service, the Department attempts to recreate the history of the first flight over the river Yamuna sharing the flight path along with the plane and the pilot. In the background is Allahabad Fort. On the First Day Cover, a collage of some stamps issued in the past has been shown.

Theme : Airmails, India - Post, Milestones in Postal History.

### LEGENDARY HEROINES OF INDIA

13.02.11                      6 x 500                      0.4 mill each

DEVIKA RANI was the star and late manager of Bombay Talkies, from where she dominated the first decade of the Indian sound film and set the standard for the post-1950 Hindi film heroines. Daughter of Col. Choudhury, surgeon-general of Madras, and grandniece of Tagore, she studied at the Royal Academy of Dramatic Arts and at the Royal Academy of Music (London) and also held a degree in architecture and was a successful designer of Paisley Textiles. She married Himansu Rai in 1929. Her first film produced by Rai and directed by Osten, was as costume designer for "Prapancha Pash" (1929). One of the early BBC broadcasts to India featured a Devika Rani recital (15 May 1933). She starred in Rai's first sound film, 'Karma', made in English and sold as 'the first Indian talkie with English dialogue'. The couple started Bombay Talkies in 1934. In 'Achhut Kanya', her arched eyebrows,



beads and the vaguely Rajasthani-style, knee-length dress defined the 'village belle' for the Hindi cinema.

She and Ashok kumar remained the studio's stars until Rai died (1940) and she took over its management until she retired in 1945. She later married the Russian painter Svetoslav Roerich.

**KANAN DEVI**, actress and singer, started with the name Kananbala. Debuting as child actress in Joydev, she worked under contract with Radha Films where she acted in Jyotish Bannerjee Films. P.C. Barua was unable to obtain her for the role of Paro in 'Devdas' (1935) but she



played the lead in his next film, Mukti, which made her a star and launched her long association with New Theatres. The success of 'Bidyapati, and her duets with K.C.Dey, made her the top star of this studio 1937-40. Her singing style, usually in rapid tempo, is still identified with some of the biggest studio era hits (esp. Bidyapati, Street Singer, Sapurey). She resigned from New Theatres, (1941) and freelanced in Bengali and Hindi films. She turned producer with shrimati Pics (1949) and later launched the Sabhyasachi collective with the film 'Ananya'.

**MEENA KUMARI** was born in Bombay, one of the three daughters of the Parsee theatre actor, singer and music teacher Ali Bux and dancer Iqbal Begum. This middle daughter, Mahajabeen, aged 6, was hired renamed Baby Meena and cast by Vijay Bhatt in 'Leatherface'. Later, for Bhatt's big musical 'Baiju Bawra' she was named Meena Kumari. Best known in the 50s for comedies (Miss Mary) and socials (Parineeta), she gave a steller performance in 'Do Bigha Zameen'. Her main persona was constructed through movies like Kamal Amrohi's 'Daera', Bimal Roy's 'Yahudi' and Guru Dutt's 'Sahib Bibi Aur Ghulam', culminating in her most famous film, 'Pakeezah'.

**NUTAN**, top Hindi 60s star was introduced to films by her mother, Shobhana Samarth, in Hamari Beti. Her screen image was moulded by Bimal Roy (Sujata, Bandini) and by those who continued in the Roy tradition: Hrishikesh Mukherjee (Anari), Bimal Dutt (Kasturi) and Sudhendu Roy (Saudagar). She performed romantic roles with a forthy uninhibitedness such as the Filmistan musical 'Paying Guest'. She brought a stunning authenticity to her roles in films such as 'Sujata' 'Seema' and 'Bandini'.

**SAVITHRI TELUGU**-Tamil actress and director, was born in Chirravuru, Guntur District, AP into a wealthy family. She learnt music and dance under Sista Pumayya Sastry and gave some public performances as a child in Vijaywada. After working in a theatre company run by NTR, K. Jaggaiah etc., she started her own group, the Navabharata Natya Mandali. She acted in a play 'Atma

Vanchana' by Buchi Babu. After her debut with L.V Prasad's Samsaram', she followed with K.V. Reddy's 'Patala Bhairavi', and minor film roles until 'Pelli Chesi Choodu' made her a star, and 'Ardhangi' and 'Missiamma' established her acting credentials.

She often starred with Gemini Ganesan and later married him.

**LEELA NAIDU** was an actress who starred in a small number of Hindi and English films, including 'The Householder', Merchant Ivory Productions' first film. Selected Femina Miss India in 1954, she was featured in the Vogue along with Maharani Gayatri Devi in the list of 'World's Ten Most Beautiful Women'. Leela Naidu was born in Mumbai to Dr. Pattipati Ramaiah Naidu a well known nuclear physicist from Andhra Pradesh, and Dr. Marthe Naidu, an Indologist of Swiss-French origin. Naidu made her film debut alongside Balraj Sahni in 'Anuradha' in 1960. She played an offbeat role as an adulterous wife in 'Yen Raaste Hain Pyar Ke' (1963), directed by R.K. Nayyar.

Naidu made a guest appearance in the Merchant-Ivory film, 'The Guru' (1969), She returned to cinema in 1985 to play a Goan matriarch in Shyam Benegal's period film, 'Trikaal' and made a last appearance in 'Electric Moon' (1992), directed by Pradip Krishen. Leela Naidu died in Mumbai on 28 July 2009.

Theme : Cinema, Women, Heroines, Fine Arts, Entertainment.

## LA MARTINIERE SCHOOLS

01.03.11

500

0.3 Mill

La Martiniere School, Kolkata was established in 1836 along with two schools in Lucknow and one in Lyons at France with a generous endowment from French Major General Claude Martin.



In its journey to fulfil this vision, La Martiniere is providing education to our children and facilitating their stay in the hostel, through a trust fund created for this purpose by the Founder. One of the famous students of La Martiniere was Sir Paul Charter, the Founder of modern Hong Kong. He became a generous benefactor of the schools, helping La Martiniere to consolidate and validate its philosophy.

The Nature Club functioning at La Martiniere is an attempt to create environmental awareness among the students to preserve the rich resources of nature.

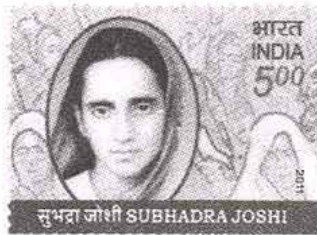
The Interact Club of La Martiniere, which is a students chapter of the Rotary Club of India, works closely with institutions such as Manovikas Kendra providing service to differently abled children. The Little Sisters of the Poor (a home for the aged) and Cini Asha for underprivileged children among others.

La Martiniere funds and administers a training unit named SEOMP (Self Employment Oriented Multipurpose Project). This unit gives vocational training to adults who have been unable to continue with and complete their education.

Theme : Education, Schools, Buildings.



Subhadra Joshi was born on 23rd March 1919 in a well known family in Sialkot (now in Pakistan). Subhadra Joshi was one of the veterans of freedom struggle who dedicated her life to preserving and promoting national integration, communal harmony, social justice for the minorities, weaker sections and the handicapped.



Attracted by the ideals of Gandhiji, she visited his Ashram at Wardha when she was studying in Lahore. As a student she took part in the Quit India Movement in 1942. She went underground and edited a journal 'Hamara Sangram'. She was arrested and sent to Lahore Central Jail. On release from the prison, she started working among industrial labour in Delhi. Her efforts to restore communal harmony when violence broke out in Delhi in 1946 brought her to the attention of Gandhiji and Jawaharlal Nehru.

During the dark days of Partition, she set up a peace volunteer organisation 'Shanti Dal' which went from door to door spreading the Gandhiji's message of peace and amity.

Above all, she pioneered the move to amend the code for Criminal Procedure whereby organised propaganda leading to fear or ill will among communities was made a cognizable offence.

She launched various schemes for the upliftment of poor such as Cooperative Society for Food-grain Distribution at controlled price, a society for Rickshaw Pullers, a cooperative society for coffee workers, etc.

"One of the few women in Delhi for whom Indira Gandhi have immense admiration and respect". Subhadra Joshi passed away on 29th October 2003.

Theme : Freedom fighter, Women, Parliamentarians

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## THE POSTAL HISTORY OF SORATH R A MALAVIYA

India is a vast country and its climates and geography as also past history are as varied as its people and dialects. Many languages are spoken in this land of ancient wonders and legends. On the north-west of the country lies a peninsula which in olden times was known as "Surya-Rashtra" or "Su-Rashtra", means 'the land the Sun' and 'a good country'. Later this term changed into "Saurashtra". Tradition connects Saurashtra with many a legend enshrined in the famous Indian epics, the "Ramayana," and "Mahabharata". This peninsula was also a scene of many battles from the outside invaders as well as power-hungry competitors. - Muslims and Marathas have left behind foot-prints which only scholars and historians can read correctly. During the Maratha reign the peninsula was known as "Kathiawar".

The State of Junagadh represented the ancient province of Saurashtra or Sorath, a corrupted name applied by the ancient Greek Geographers to the whole province, but later confined to the south-west province formulated by Junagadh State. It was the premier State under the Kathiawar Political Agency. In the north, east and in west, the State was outflanked by boundaries of Nawanagar (Jamnagar) and Bhavnagar States and in the south by Arabian sea. It's area was 3337 sq. miles, little smaller than that of Lebanon.

The past history of Junagadh State is replete with awe-inspiring glorious chapters glimpses of which one witnesses even today while inspecting edicts of King Ashoka, Rudradama and Skandgupta, or while taking a rendezvous in the ruins of citadel of Upperkot. The famous Somanath temple as also the sacred mount Girnar are the permanent attractions of the region. The sacred temples on mount Girnar are not only a marvel of ancient craftsmanship and human ingenuity but also the masterly exposition of faith in religion.

The topography of the State has been well balanced by nature with-rich flora and fauna; rivers and rivulets; hills and forests as also a varied wild life. The State is the only abode of Asiatic lions in the Gir forest of the State, covering an area of about 500 sq. miles. Junagadh, the capital city with its ancient monuments, temples and rock-carvings lies picturesquely on the slopes of Girnar hills.



The five peaks, crowned by sixteen beautifully carved and sculptured marble shrines on the western flank of the mountain forms one of the most beautifully situated group of Jain temples in India. Girnar temples present a true blend of art, religion and devotion. The Jain temples at Girnar attract devotees of both Shwetambar and Digambar sects of Jainism.

Since ancient times, the State was ruled by Hindu Kings. The last Hindu King was Ra' Mandalika, who after a long and gallant defence surrendered himself to Sultan Mahmud Bagra of Ahmedabad in 1472 A.D.,

and his State was annexed to the Sultanate of Gujarat. During the reign of Emperor Akbar, in the year 1592, it became a seat of Foudjar in subordination to the Mogul Viceroy of Ahmedabad. The first Foudjar (Governor) was Navrangkhan. The last of the Foudjars was Sherkhan Babi who afterwards declared his independence and sat on the throne of Sorath as a founder of Babi dynasty with the title of Nawab Bahadurkhan Babi in the year 1748, when the Moguls had lost their authority in Gujarat.

The postal service in the State was started in the year 1863 during the reign of the sixth Nawab Sir Mahabatkhanji II. It was known as "Saurashtra Postal

JUNAGADH





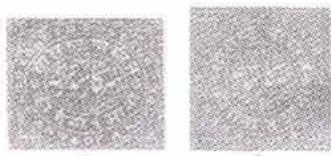
Service". Perhaps it was started earlier than the Imperial Postal Service which were prevalent in the State. It was only meant for the State communications, but afterwards was made available to public also. Letters and other records of the State were sent with messengers. 'Paid' and 'Not paid' letters had on them certain distinguishing marks.

The first adhesive postage stamp of the State was issued in November, 1864. It is worthy to note that **Junagadh was the first Native State in India to issue its own postage stamps.** It was handstamped in black water colour with inscriptions "Saurashtra Dak Sa" in Devnagri and the year "1921" in Gujarati script means "Saurashtra Post" year in Gujarati era Vikram Samvat 1921 corresponding to 1864-65 AD. It was handstamped on various papers available at that time. The die was made of brass. The value of the stamp was not given and impression was also not satisfactory always. Die for the subsequent year was not prepared but the first die was used until the type set design stamps were issued. So, this first issue of the State can well said to be a successful experimental issue.

In 1866 the State established a Press by name "Nitiprakash Printing Press" and second issue of postage stamps were brought out by type-set design printed at this Press. The denominations were "One anna of a Koree" and "Four annas of a Koree" and were printed in red and black colours on white and blue papers respectively. Koree was the silver coinage of the State. It was about a quarter of a rupee in value. Along with that, rules were framed about affixing stamps, charges etc. The system of carrying post by paid runners also introduced. So, the year 1866 was the milestone in the postal history of the State.

From the experience gained in the past years, a regular postal department was constituted in the year 1868 and an act entitled "The Saurashtra Post Office Act, 1868" was passed by the State.

This act laid down rules and regulations for affixing, selling of stamps, registration fees, penalty etc. A new stamp of "Two annas of a Koree" was also issued in this year. This was also a typeset design



printed in black on yellow paper. The postal service was also further expanded and arrangements were made to send daily and weekly posts to the different places in the State. The Head Post Office was located at Junagadh with 21 sub-offices at different convenient places. It is interesting to note that the **postal rates of the Saurashtra Post were 50% less than the Imperial Postal rates**, from the very beginning. So, the local postal service was cheaper and quicker. However, the official post and articles of the State were carried free of charge.

In January 1869 the colour and design of stamps were changed and stamps bearing green and red colours were issued. The design bearing inscriptions in Devnagri, English and Urdu and numerals in Gujarati were engraved by Messrs John Dickinson & Sons of London. The denominations were as usual "One anna of a Koree" and "Four annas of a Koree" printed in green and red colours respectively. They were printed at the State Press on different papers and were imperforated. Perforation appeared only after 16 years. Official imitations and reprints of this type-set design stamps were made in various colours and papers including watermarked paper during the year 1869.

Since then no new stamp was issued by the State but in 1904 A.D., attempts were made to bring out new stamps bearing the portrait of Nawab Sir Rasulkhanji Babi. Plates were engraved by Messrs Pearre E. Groll & Co., of

Baltimore, U.S.A. and stamps were printed at the State Press. Denominations were as usual. Unfortunately, due to some obscure reasons and unsatisfactory printing, the idea of issuing these new stamps was dropped and the stock was destroyed.

Later in the year 1913, when the State coinage was replaced by Indian currency, the existing definitives, popularly known as green and red stamps, were overprinted in Indian currency with the words "Three pies" and "One anna" in English and Gujarati respectively. The initial printing of Stamps and the later overprinting of the value in Indian currency was found to be cumbersome. So, new plates with the same design but values inscribed in Indian currency only, were prepared. These new stamps came into use on 1-9-1914. The plates were engraved by Messrs Thaker & Co; of Bombay and printed at the State Press in the same colours.



On 1-9-1923 new stamps bearing portrait of Nawab Sir Mahabatkhanji III was proposed to be issued. The plates were prepared by Mr. Popatlal B. Pandya, Photographer of Rajkot. The plate for "One anna" stamp was prepared in time but that of "Three pies" was delayed. So, about 2000 sheets of "One anna" stamp was overprinted with the word "Three pies" in Gujarati and were issued in time.



In January 1924 fresh plates were prepared for both the stamps as the earlier plates were not giving satisfactory results.

On 1-10-1929 Sorath's first bi-coloured set of eight pictorial stamps were released. The "One anna" and "One rupee" stamps were with bust portrait of Nawab Sir Mahabatkhanji III and others with various subjects. These new stamps were engraved and printed at the Security Press, Nasik. They were on unwatermarked paper and perforated.

From 1-10-1929 the system of free-transmission of official correspondence and other articles by the postal department was discontinued and official stamps were introduced for the first time, by overprinting the ordinary pictorial stamps with word 'SAR-KARI' (a Gujarati word meaning official) in red.

There were 22 sub-post offices in the year 1929 located at different places in the State.

The post-card which was the only postal stationery, came into vogue on 21-6-1931. The value of the post-card was Three pies, bearing the design of current Three pies definitive stamp, in blue colour. Reply paid post-card also came into use along with that. However, private post-cards with proper adhesive stamp affixed was also permitted by the State since 1-10-1929.



Since the demand for higher value postage stamps was less, the excess stock of 3 annas, 4 annas and 1 rupee stamps were overprinted with the word SARKARI



in red for official use. It was done in 1932 at the State Press. The type used for SARKARI was thinner than those used at Nasik Press.

Until 1-1-1935 the State was using separate Revenue and Postage stamps. But, this practice was discontinued and a new stamp inscribed with "POSTAGE AND REVENUE" instead of "POSTAGE" on "One anna" ordinary stamps was issued. The word "SARKARI" was overprinted in red for official use in the year 1938.

On 1-4-1943 the value of post-card was increased to  $y_2$  anna. So, new post-card was issued. The design was the same as that of  $y_2$  anna ordinary postage stamp.

The Saurashtra Postal department was working as self supporting unit and was economical and expeditious and very useful for the State and the subjects. There were 32 sub-offices in the year 1947 giving full facilities to 79 villages of the State.

With Independence, and the sad story of partition, came an abrupt end of the erstwhile independent Junagadh State whose Nawab went over to Pakistan and the State was afterwards merged with the Indian Union on 9-11-1947. History was now taking big strides and phenomenal changes were taking place in the political history of the country. On 15-2-1948, 201 small and big Native States of Kathiawar (excluding Junagadh State) formed one Union called "United States of Saurashtra". However, Junagadh joined later on 21-1-1949, in this Union.

After independence, Security Press, Nasik discontinued further printing of Junagadh State stamps. So the overprinting and surcharging became necessary on the stock available. This was done at the Government Press, Junagadh as and when the demand arose during 1948-50.

The demand for "One anna" Postal & Revenue stamp was very high and the supply was limited, so the excess stock of "One anna" court fee stamp of old Bhavnagar State was brought and overprinted with "U.S.S. Postage and Revenue" in black. It was done at the Government Press. However, the word "Saurashtra" was overprinted at Bhavnagar itself.

From 1-4-1950 the use of all these stamps were officially discontinued and remainder stock was destroyed. Indian stamps were in use thereafter. This was no doubt a tragic end of the picturesque history of Sorath stamps, which though tiny in scale and limited in sale, had its peculiar existence which ably stood parallel with mighty Imperial Postal Service, upto 1950.

In cancellations, the early methods were rather crude. Peri scrolls or ink smudges or rows of dots in circle were used. Even the hand-stamp die of 1864 itself was used for cancellation too during 1866-68. Rows of lines in square, large and small oval with the writing in Devnagri and Gujarati were used during the years 1868-1929. It is interesting to note that, round-type cancellation with date and place were used during 1900-1902. Round cancellations in English and Gujarati but without dates were in use till 1934. From 1935 onwards, round-type only in English and with date came into use. These - continued till 1950.

This is only a small treatise on what can be said on the Postal History of Sorath, and the author wants to make it clear that he has tried his best to remain faithful to facts and history as was possible for him.

(Courtesy : Gupjex Souvenir, 1977)

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## THE ROYAL PHILATELIC COLLECTION

John B. Marriott

In 1864 some of the younger members of the British Royal Family had started to form a collection of postage stamps and a reprint of the first stamp of Great Britain, the one penny black of 1840, was made specially for them.

It is not known exactly who these members of the Royal Family were, but one was almost certainly the Duke of Edinburgh (uncle of Prince George of Wales) who later became a keen collector. For the ten years before his death in 1900, he was Honorary President of the Philatelic Society, London, as the Royal Philatelic Society was then called.

Prince George of Wales (later King George V) is said to have owed his interest in philately to his uncle; certainly the Duke of Edinburgh made reference to Prince George as a stamp collector in the course of his address when opening the first London Philatelic Exhibition on 19 May 1890.

Shortly before the Duke of Edinburgh died his collection was presented to the Duke of York, as Prince George had then become.

A small, number of stamps in the Royal collection can be traced back to these earlier days. In 1890 Prince George set out for the West Indies and North America in command of HMS *Thrush* and during this voyage, and on many subsequent trips to other parts of the Empire, he was continually looking for and obtaining stamps for his collection.

Prince George was a general collector in his early days, but soon found this was too big a field to cover and decided to confine his collection almost entirely to the unused stamps of Great Britain and the British Empire.

In March 1893, Prince George, now Duke of York, expressed a wish to join the Philatelic Society, London, of which his uncle was Honorary President. With acclamation he was elected Honorary Vice-President. On his marriage later in the year, fellow-members of the Philatelic Society, London, gave him an album of postage stamps as a wedding present. Over 100 members, many from overseas, responded to the invitation to contribute to this present and some fifteen hundred varieties were added to the Duke's collection as a result.

From his earliest days, the Duke of York was always willing to do anything in his power to help his fellow collectors. He also often sent new acquisitions along to meetings of the Philatelic Society so that they could be passed round. On one occasion he sent a message expressing the great interest he had in the work of the Society and the pleasure it afforded him to lend stamps from his collection.

In 1896 the Duke of York was graciously pleased to accept a more executive position in the Society and became its President, a position he held until his accession as King, when he became Patron.

King George V proved to be a very able philatelist. He had an excellent understanding of the technique of stamp production and studied both the stamps and also articles written about them in the publications of The Royal



Philatelic Society. As a result he acquired a first-class knowledge of the issues of the British Empire.

He was also an enthusiastic and astute collector. He recognized rarity and made every effort to obtain the rarest stamps at the first opportunity, realizing he might well not have a further chance for very many years. His flair in this direction was amply borne out by the fact that he had by 1904 acquired both the 1d and 2d Post Office Mauritius of 1847. These were the first stamps issued by a Colonial Post Office and are of the greatest rarity and desirability - probably the most prized stamps that any collector could wish to acquire. The superb unused example of the 2d was in fact bought at an auction in 1904 for a record price.

King George V was also much interested in stamp design and the collection is very strong in stamp-sized artists' sketches. These were submitted for the King's approval and when they had been used by the printers for engraving the die, making plates and matching colours, they were returned for inclusion in the collection. He also had a particular liking for the issued stamps in unused blocks of four, and he set a fashion for collecting in this way.

*On 25th June 1927 King George V, as Colonel-in-Chief, presented Standards to the Life Guards and the Royal Horse Guards on the Horse Guards Parade, London. A Daily Mail photograph was taken on this occasion showing His Majesty wearing Field Marshal's uniform and mounted on Anzac.*

*In view of the association of Anzac with the Australian and New Zealand Army Corps, King George V specially chose the photograph as the basis for the design for the Silver Jubilee stamps of the Australian Commonwealth. The black pen and ink drawing shown above was then made from the photograph, and it was from this artist's drawing that the die was engraved and the printing plates produced.*



On many occasions he told of the great benefits which he had derived from collecting and of the immense relief which he was able to find from his arduous duties by forgetting affairs of state for a time with his stamps. For some 30 years, whenever he was in London, he devoted time on three afternoons a week to his stamp collection.

The collection grew in King George's lifetime to some 325 volumes, each containing about 50 pages. The two questions most frequently asked are how many stamps there are and how much are they worth? These questions cannot be answered because no philatelist wastes his time counting his stamps and nobody could value the collection satisfactorily. It would of course be feasible to put a valuation on items that do appear on the market even if only seldomly, but it would not be possible to value unique items for which the market has never been tested. It would be a difficult matter even to guess at the value for a unique set of drawings or proofs, but when it is realized that such items are present in the majority of volumes, the task becomes quite impossible.

As regards numbers, a more reasonable question would be to ask how many stamps are wanted for the Collection and the answer would be very few indeed.

King George VI showed a considerable interest in postage stamps, though he had not the specialized knowledge of his father, and soon after his accession he indicated his appreciation of his father's hobby by succeeding him as Patron of The Royal Philatelic Society. The Collection was continued in Blue albums in contrast to the Red ones for the earlier stamps.

The Collection of the present reign is housed in Green albums. The earlier issues were still often recess printed, the dies having been engraved from stamp-size artists' drawings, so there is still a fine showing of these miniature works of art. With the advent of photographic methods of production, however, and with the greater frequency of issues, artists' designs are usually proofed in stamp form before they are submitted for choice or approval. For modern issues, therefore, these essays have taken the place of the stamp-sized artists' designs.

The opening display each season at The Royal Philatelic Society, London is of material from the Royal Collection. This was a custom started shortly after the first world war. It was maintained by King George VI and is continued today by The Queen. The Queen visited the Centenary Exhibition of The Royal Philatelic Society on 14 April 1969.

A selected portion of the collection is also exhibited abroad at some of the major international stamp Exhibitions.

The Collection is under the care of the Keeper of the Royal Philatelic Collection. Mr J.A. Tilleard was The Duke of York's first philatelic adviser and he was succeeded in 1913 by Sir Edward Bacon. Sir Edward died in 1938, shortly after King George VI came to the throne, and he was followed by Sir John Wilson. Sir John retired thirty-one years later and was succeeded in 1969 by the present Keeper of the Collection.

(Courtesy : Ausipex 84 catalogue)

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## FOOTBALL

### JAMES MACKAY

Although football can be traced back to China two thousand years ago the game, in its organised form, is an English invention. From the 16<sup>th</sup> century onwards the kicking of inflated bladders on public greens in towns and villages was a popular diversion for youths of the lower classes.



Tense games were extremely rowdy, often involving scores of players, and they were disdained by the upper classes. A dramatic change took place, however, at the beginning of the 19<sup>th</sup> century when the public school system developed and the rowdy game was taken up by schools such as Eton, Harrow and Rugby. Beyond the objective of kicking the ball over the end line or goal of the opposing side, there were no hard and fast rules, and each school made up its own as the game progressed.



The most notable example of this occurred at Rugby in 1823 when 18 year old William Webb Ellis (later rector of St Clement Danes in London), exasperated by the lack of a score in an inter-school match, picked up the ball and ran helter-skelter through his amazed opponents to touch down. Ellis was severely reprimanded for his rash act, but out of this developed the game of Rugby foot ball which, in turn, spawned American football and Australian Rules. Rugby did not acquire a code of rules until 1871 when the Rugby Union was formed by 17 clubs and three schools. The centenary of Rugby Union was marked by a 9p stamp in the Anniversaries series of August 1971. A dispute over professionalism, however, led to the breakaway of many northern football Union, which adopted a different style, with 13 players, and took the name of the Rugby League. Its centenary was celebrated last year with a set of five stamps showing famous players. Stamps marking the centenary were also issued by New Zealand. Although rugby has never attained the global popularity of Soccer, it is played in countries as far afield as Japan and Argentina, and stamps depicting the game have been issued by France, Spain, Switzerland, France, Norway and Italy were virtually excluded from international competition on this account. Matters came to a head at the 1920 Olympics in Antwerp when the FIFA Congress adopted in principle the idea of a World Cup competition to be held outside the Olympic series, every four years and alternating with them. Not until the 1924 Olympics in Paris was any thing definite done about it, and when the World Cup was eventually born it was the New World, rather than the Old, which gave it its impetus.



The Football stars of the 1924 Games were undoubtedly the team sent across the Atlantic by Uruguay. They astounded Europe with their brilliance and elegance, defeating in turn Yugoslavia 7-0, the USA 3-0, France 5-1, Holland 2-1 and the Swiss finalists 3-0. Uruguay celebrated this spectacular series of victories by issuing three stamps depicting the Nike of Samothrace. At the 1928 FIFA Congress, during the Amsterdam Olympics, Delaunay recommended that football would have to break away from the Olympic Games and establish its own international contest. At Amsterdam, Uruguay repeated their success and celebrated the triumph with a set of three stamps showing garlanded goalposts. Incidentally,



one of the three stamps issued by Holland to mark the Olympic Games featured a footballer.

In view of her successes in the 1924 and 1928 Olympics, Uruguay was named to host the first World Cup held in 1930. Only France, Belgium, Roumania and Yugoslavia sent teams to Uruguay. Most of the leading European soccer countries declined the invitation while England (which had seceded from FIFA) was ineligible. Apart from the hosts, the other countries which took part were the USA, Mexico, Argentina, Brazil, Chile, Bolivia, Paraguay and Peru. Uruguay, celebrating the centenary of independence, turned the World Cup final with arch rivals Argentina into a great National event. Argentina led by two goals to one at halftime, but ten minutes into the second half Uruguay equalised and then scored again a few minutes later. A fourth goal emphasized Argentina's defeat in the closing minutes of the game. In this way Uruguay completed her historic hat-trick and won the first World Cup. Surprisingly, however, in view of the philatelic celebrations in 1924 and 1928, Uruguay omitted to issue stamps on this occasion.

The second World Cup was staged in Europe and, as was to be expected, the football of the Old World redressed the balance of the New. Austria and the hosts, Italy, were the favourites. Some 29 countries entered, though Uruguay, disappointed at the poor response from Europe in 1930, boycotted the championship. In the final, Italy defeated Czechoslovakia after extra time. The host country issued five ordinary and four airmail stamps showing footballers in action as well as views of the three principal stadiums. The series was also overprinted for use in the Aegean Islands, while a series of five ordinary and seven airmail stamps was made to mark the occasion by the Italian colonies. These thirty stamps, the first to be issued for a World Cup series, are now the scarcest and most sought after of this theme.



By contrast France, which hosted the third series in 1938, confined philatelic coverage to a single 1.75fr stamp. The host country was knocked out in the quarter finals by Italy which went on to win the championship for a second time.

The Second World War interrupted the World Cup championships and it was not until 1950 that the fourth series could be held, this time in Brazil where the home team were runners-up to Uruguay in a hard-fought game. England, Scotland, Ireland and Wales rejoined FIFA in 1946. England, as winners of the home championship, competed in the World Cup but this debut was disastrous, sustaining





1-0 defeats at the hands of the USA and Spain. Brazil issued three stamps showing footballers, a linesman and an aerial view of the great Maracana Stadium in Rio. Uruguay celebrated her victory by issuing two stamps in 1951, showing a footballer's leg covered with flags of the competing countries.

In 1954 FIFA celebrated its golden jubilee, and as its headquarters was located in Zurich, Switzerland was Roumania, Japan and South Africa (which hosted last year's World Cup and produced a plethora of cards and covers as well).



Association Football, on the other hand, had its origins in England in the mid-19<sup>th</sup> century. The first attempts to lay down rules occurred in 1846 at Cambridge. Clubs were organized in many parts of the country, Sheffield (1855), Blackheath (1857) and Old Harrovians (1859) being among the earliest. Rules remained ill – defined, beyond the use of a circular rubber bladder covered with cowhide, until October 1863 when a group of football enthusiasts at Cambridge finally agreed on a set of uniform rules. In the same month representatives of the various clubs met at the Freemason's Tavern in Great Queen Street, London and formulated the 'Rules of the London Football Association'. From this humble beginning the kicking game soon came to be known as Soccer. Sad to say, the centenary was overlooked by Britain, although belated recognition of the sport came three years later when England hosted the World Cup. Three stamps showing football action shots were then released, followed by the re-issue of the 4d stamp with the additional inscription 'ENGLAND WINNERS' when England beat West Germany 4-2 in the Wembely final.

Soccer, like Rugby, was essentially an amateur game to begin with, but gradually an element of professionalism crept in, especially in the northern clubs. The game received fresh stimulus with the inauguration of the FA Cup in the season of 1871-2, although the Scottish Cup, inaugurated a year later, attracted far more attention in the early years. At first then FA Cup was invariably won by a southern team, but in 1883 Blackburn Olympic took the trophy, and this focused attention on professionalism. The issue was hotly debated but in 1885 it became legal. This virtually drove the big amateur clubs out of the competition.

Further organization of the game emerged in 1888 when William McGregor wrote to the bigger clubs suggesting that they band themselves together to form a Football League. Twelve clubs joined the League in 1888; because this became almost a closed corporation a second league was started in 1892, and out of this arose the First and Second Divisions.



A Southern League started just before the First World War and in 1920 became the Third Division. The

following year a northern section of the southern League was formed. Eventually these became the Third and Fourth Divisions. The centenary of League football was marked by a 34p stamp in the sports series of March 1988.

A separate Scottish Football Association was not formed until 1896: the centenary was marked by a Scottish aerogramme released on April 2 this year.

Until 1883 Soccer was played between clubs at a fairly local level but in that year international tests between picked teams representing England, Scotland, Ireland and Wales were introduced. Football in the 19<sup>th</sup> century was the chief recreation of the British artisans, craftsmen and technicians went to Europe or South America, whether to supervise the erection of factories in Russia, oil refineries in Roumania, or to build railways in Uruguay. They took their leisure pursuits with them and in a short



space of time football, British style, spread all over the world. Thus the oldest team in Austria, for example, was called the Cricketers, which two of Chile's earliest teams were called Everton and the Wanderers. Another country where futbol made an immediate impact was Uruguay and this, in fact, was encouraged by Sir Thomas Lipton, the Scottish tea millionaire, who presented the Lipton Cup for annual competition between Uruguay and Argentina 1902. South America generally, and Uruguay in particular, were to play a significant role in founding the World Cup Championship.

On May 21, 1904 representatives of six countries, Belgium, Denmark, France, Holland, Spain and Switzerland, met in Paris and founded the Federation International de football Association. England, progenitor of modern football, was curiously apathetic about FIFA, probably a reflection of the 'splendid insularity' affected by Britain at the time. One of the aims of the infant Federation was the organization of a world championship but a further 26 years were to elapse before this was to become a reality. The chief protagonists of the idea were two Frenchmen, Henri Delaunay and Jules Rimet, the former the Secretary of the French football Federation until his death in 1956 and the latter the President of the FFF from its inception till 1949 and President of FIFA from 1920 till 1954. It was Rimet who was primarily responsible for the production of the Cup itself, and in 1950 it was officially renamed the Jules Rimet Trophy in his honour.



The earliest international football competition, involving teams beyond the home countries of the UK, was staged as part of the fourth Olympiad, held in 1912 in London where the host country, not unnaturally, was the winner. According to the strict regulations of the Olympic Games, however, professional sportsmen were debarred from taking part, so that the contest was not truly representative of football. Even at that period professionalism was entering European football, the Austrian and Hungarian teams being largely composed of





professional players. A few years later (1925) Hungary would have the honour of issuing the first stamp actually to depict football.

Professionalism grew enormously after the First World War and Czechoslovakia, was chosen to host the Cup that year. The championship was memorable for the Battle of Berne, when Brazilian and Hungarian players slugged each other and the Swiss police in a display of violence that attracted 42 free-kicks, two penalties, four cautions, three players sent off and the police called in. The Hungarians won both the fight and the match and were eventually runners-up to West Germany in the final. Switzerland issued a 40c stamp showing a football against a map of the world.

Subsequent World Cup championships have been staged in Sweden (1958), Chile (1962), England (1966), Mexico (1970), Germany (1974), Argentina (1978), Spain (1982), Mexico (1986), Italy (1990) and USA (1994). In each case the host country has issued stamps to mark the occasion, and with the passage of years philatelic coverage has tended to become more and more lavish.

In 1958, however, both Russia and Czechoslovakia marked their participation in the World Cup with stamps, while the following January Brazil celebrated her victory by releasing a 3.30c stamp showing a footballer in the national strip. This established the precedent for stamps from countries other than the host nation, and with each succeeding series this has escalated on the point at which most of the participants issue stamps, while many non-participating countries have jumped on the band wagon with lengthy sets vicariously extolling the merits of the various teams.

Another development in 1958 was the launch of the European Nations Cup. Like the World Cup, this was the dream of Henri Delaunay who felt that there should be a championship involving the countries of Europe. Latterly Secretary General of UEFA, he recommended the establishment of the European Cup but he died before his idea came to fruition. It is in his memory that the trophy was named after him. This tournament was designed to take place between World Cups, and consists of a series of matches played at different venues over a period of eighteen months to two years.

The European championship, however, nearly died at birth when only 13 countries responded to the original invitation. As 16 were required to make the

tournament practical, it looked as if it would have to be shelved; but at the last moment four other countries came forward. This necessitated a play-off between the last two, Czechoslovakia and Ireland, for a place in the tournament. Thus the first match of the European Nations Cup took place at Dublin on April 5, 1958. Ireland won, but lost on aggregate. The first match of the tournament proper took place in Moscow the following September when the USSR beat Yugoslavia and went on to win the final at the Parc des Princes Stadium in Paris in 1960.

In the second series (1962-4) all but Scotland of the home countries managed to get into the final sixteen. The final, in Madrid, saw the host country beat the USSR 2-1. By the third series (1966-8), 32 countries took part and were divided into eight groups. All four home countries of the UK qualified and formed a separate group. England got to the semi-finals and eventually won third place, Italy beating Yugoslavia 2-1 in a replay. Brussels (1972), Belgrade (1976), Rome (1980), Paris (1984), Munich (1988) and Gothenburg (1992) were the venues for the later series, but although various souvenirs such as postcards and covers were produced the only stamps issued by the host countries have been singles from Italy (1980) and Germany (1988) and a set of three from Sweden (1992).

Apart from that, philatelic coverage of the European Championship has, until now, been largely confined to the sets issued by Albania since 1984 and four stamps issued by Bulgaria in 1988. The relative lack of enthusiasm, philatelic ally speaking, may be due to the fact that the finals coincide with the Olympic Games which has infinitely wider appeal to stamp collectors. It seems strange that countries which habitually issue stamps for the World Cup have omitted to honour the European Championship, even when hosting the finals.

The tenth series is being hosted by England this year and Royal Mail have responded handsomely, not only with a set of stamps portraying some of the football heroes of the four home countries but also producing a prestige booklet whose mixed pane of definitives includes a label devoted to that wild boy on and off the pitch, George Best. The rather drab appearance of the British stamps (derived from black and white photographs) contrasts sharply with the colorful offerings from Guernsey, Jersey and Gibraltar to mark the occasion.

Football, as a theme, has now become far too large and unwieldy to cover as a whole. There is hardly a country anywhere which has not issued football stamps at one time or another, ranging from general footballing scenes to stamps celebrating specific teams. Italy, in particular, has done AC Milan proud with stamps in 1988, 1992, 1993 and 1994 marking the team's victory in the national championships. Team stamps have also been released as far afield as Bolivia and Germany in recent years and this is a sub-theme that might be worth exploring further.

However, the European championship seems to me a worthwhile subject to take up. With a modest track record prior to 1996, and a wealth of souvenir covers, cards and postmark this year to give it a timely boost, this may well be the one to follow, especially now that the World Cup itself has reached such epic proportions.

(Courtesy : Stamp Magazine, June 1996).

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## Book Review

### INDIAN POSTAL HISTORY FOCUS ON TAMILNADU Dr. K. Ramachandra N

With its 1.55 lakh post offices India Post has the most widely distributed postal network in the world. The size is a legacy of the numerous postal systems unified after India's independence. The book traces its history placing emphasis on Tamil Nadu.

The postal history is closely tied to the political and social history. References are made to the postal system in India dating back to 3<sup>rd</sup> century B.C. But much information about it is lost in the mists of time. When the Portuguese, Dutch, French, Danish and British colonialists set foot on Indian soil and gained power, their postal systems functioned alongside those of the 652 Princely States in composite India.

It was only in the 18<sup>th</sup> century that the English East India company involved itself in the postal services by establishing post offices in Kolkata, Chennai and Mumbai. They served the commercial interests of the East India Company and the postal needs of the rulers.

By an act of British Parliament the Indian Post Office was better organized in 1854. It put an end to old practices like charging fees on letters according to distance they traveled. When India became a Crown colony in 1858, the Post Office came directly under the British Government of India took up the responsibility of running the postal services.

The author chiefly deals with the postal system that existed from 1854 to 2000 and vividly describes its developments over the years. Well researched well – focused, the author presents the facts in simple and elegant style. He highlights important events in addition to furnishing exciting details. There is more in store, as you leaf through the 256 pages.

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### INVERTED JENNY

No other United States postage stamp has captured the popular imagination more than the "Inverted Jenny".

This famous printing error - an upside - down image of a blue airplane occurred on the 24-cent airmail stamp of 1918. A fascinating lore of stories and anecdotes has developed around this error, growing each time a "Jenny" is sold at auction. Only one sheet of 100 inverted center stamps was sold across the post office counter, and no other examples have been discovered by the public.

With this reunion, more inverted Jennies appear in a museum setting than at any other time in the seventy eight years since the error sheet was purchased. This exhibition is only the second major inverted Jenny reunion in the stamp's history. At AMERIPEX, the 1986 international philatelic exhibition in Chicago, 36 errors were brought together under one roof by various dealers, but not as a single display.

The 24-cent airmail stamp was issued to pay postage on the first airmail route established by Postmaster General Albert S. Burleson. The route connected the East Coast cities of Washington, Philadelphia, and New York. Here then, is the story of that first airmail stamp issued by our Post Office Department on May 13, 1918.

The Post Office Department, eager to employ new technologies to speed the delivery of mail, advertised in 1916 for bids from aviators to carry mail by air in Alaska and Massachusetts. Only one bid was forthcoming, and it was rejected lacking the required bond.

For fiscal year 1918, Congress appropriated \$100,000 for the Post Office Department to establish an experimental airmail route. On February 27, 1918, Postmaster General Albert S. Burleson announced that airmail service between Washington, Philadelphia, and New York would begin on April 15. For lack of suitable landing fields, that date was advanced to May 15.

For the new airmail service, the Post Office Department decided that a national postage stamp was needed. Without experience as a guide, the Department arbitrarily set the face value of the stamp at 24 cents, including 10 for special delivery. After winning Congressional approval for the new postage rate, the Third Assistant Postmaster General on May 9, 1918, formally requested the Bureau of Engraving and Printing to furnish the new stamp printed in the patriotic colors of red and blue on white paper. It was estimated approximately one million stamps would be needed.

The Bureau, however, had already begun work on the anticipated new postage stamp. Clair Aubrey Huston prepared a design based upon a War Department photograph of a Curtiss "Jenny" airplane, and on May 4, Edward M. Weeks began engraving the frame of the stamp. Because it was to be a bicolor stamp, production methods then in use required that two separate plates be manufactured - one for the red frame of the stamp and one for the blue vignette. Engraver Marcus W. Baldwin began engraving the center vignette on May 8.

Both dies were approved on May 10, 1918, the example in the issued colors initialed "A.S.B.," by Albert S. Burleson, the Postmaster General. Work immediately began on transferring the approved image from the die to the plates. Plate number 8492 was assigned to the red frame and plate number 8493 to the blue vignette. On that same day, the Bureau commenced printing the red frame. In late afternoon of the next day, May 11, they began printing the blue Jenny vignette onto the sheets of printed frames.

By May 13, enough sheets had been printed for the Post Office to place an initial delivery on sale at the Washington, D.C., main post office. Only nine days had passed between the start of design engraving and stamp delivery—exceptionally fast work by the Bureau of Printing and Engraving, particularly in view of extra wartime demands placed upon the agency.

On May 14, 1918, William T. Robey, a stamp collector, stopped in at the New York Avenue branch post office and asked the clerk if he had any of the new airmail stamps. The clerk reached down and pulled out a full sheet



21-year-old Nikhil  
Mundra sources  
stamps on the  
Mahatma from  
across the world

# The Gandhi COLLECTION

Sandhya Soman | TNN

While his friends are busy partying, 21-year-old Nikhil Mundra stays glued to his computer and waits patiently but waiting for the best deal on another rare stamp featuring Mahatma Gandhi.

Stamp collection and Mahatma Gandhi seem to go together with ease when it comes to this M Tech student from Mogaapur. "I have

around 300 stamps on Mahatma Gandhi, issued by over 100 countries," says Nikhil, who is now in New Delhi pursuing engineering.

His collection includes commemorative postmarks issued by five nations, postcards, aerogrammes, and stamps used in places such as Antarctica. "I also have Gandhi stamps used to commemorate events like a moon landing, ship voyage, Concorde flight, world cup football, or missile launch," he says. He also has a stamp issued by Dominica showing the dead body of the Mahatma, who was assassinated on January 30, 1948, now observed as Martyrs' Day.

Nikhil started collecting stamps when he was in class IX. "I took up stamp collection as I wanted a hobby that would be a good diversion from studies. Something that would give me an identity later," he says. Selecting Mahatma Gandhi was also a deliberate step. "I was inspired after reading an article which said that Gandhiji was one of the people most honoured by philatelic institutions across the world," he says.

Nikhil started his collection of Indian stamps with a fund provided by

his parents. He also created a website (<http://gandhistamps.com>) around the same time to interact with collectors abroad and buy foreign stamps.

"I started increasing my collection by exchanging telephone stamps from India for a Gandhi stamp from Cuba," says Nikhil. He had his first exhibition at the Philatelic Bureau on Anna Salai when he was in class IX. "Many people came up to me and said they liked my collection, especially since it was about Gandhiji. I started taking philately seriously," he recalls.

Nikhil also started participating in competitive exhibitions and won medals at the World Philatelic Exhibition in 2006 and the National Exhibition in 2008. "I won three medals for featuring how Lufthansa Airlines has brought out Gandhi stamps though he has never flown. The website also got a medal," he says. But what was really appreciated was his exhibit titled 'The Peaceful Journey of a Postage Stamp, Philately through Mahatma Gandhi'.

"Most people show Gandhiji's life through stamps. But with my collection I was able to trace the evolution of stamps," says Nikhil. His collection won so much appreciation that Nikhil had to take off most of the exhibits from his website after some collectors urged him to sell a few rare items.

But it did not dampen his spirits. "I have moved on to collecting philatelic covers. But I am sticking to Gandhiji as I think there is more interesting stuff to be unearthed," he says.

[sandhya.soman@mcgmap.com](mailto:sandhya.soman@mcgmap.com)



**NATIONAL TREASURE:** Nikhil participates in philately contests and comes up with new ideas to present his collection



which he placed on the counter in front of Robey. Robey, stunned, realized at once that he was looking at a full sheet with the center vignette of the airplane upside down! Not saying a word, Robey banded the clerk S24 for the sheet of 100 stamps. Holding the sheet up so the clerk might see it, Robey asked if he had any more like it.

Suddenly aware of what he had just sold, the clerk slammed down the window and ran to report the sale to his supervisor. Robey, fearing that he might be forced somehow to relinquish his new-found treasure, hurried out with the sheet tucked safely under his arm.

Over the following week Robey contacted several prominent stamp dealers about selling his lucky purchase. On May 21, he sold the sheet to Philadelphia stamp dealer Eugene Klein for \$15,000. Klein, who had put together a syndicate of himself, Joseph a. Steinmetz, and Percy Mann to provide the capital to purchase the invert sheet, resold the sheet that



same day for \$20,000 to Col. Edward H.R. Green, An eccentric collector of almost unlimited means.

Klein also convinced Colonel Green that he should permit the sheet to be broken up so that other collectors would have an opportunity to own this striking error. Colonel Green agreed, retaining only four blocks - twenty stamps in all. Before he separated the sheet, Klein thoughtfully marked the position number of each stamp in pencil on the gum on the back of the sheet.

Meanwhile, the event that precipitated all this action the beginning of regularly scheduled airmail service-took place on May 15. In February 1918. the Post Office Department had called for bids to construct five aircraft. Later that same month, the Army offered to operate the new postal route with military airplanes and pilots. Maj. Reuben E. Fleet was assigned as officer-in-charge of airmail operations, to work with Second Assistant Postmaster General Otto Praeger in organizing the announced Washington - Philadelphia - New York flights on May 15.

After considerable difficulty, Fleet and five of his army pilots took delivery of six modified Curtiss JN-4D aircraft on May 13, unassembled and still in their crates, at Hazelhurst Air Field, Long Island, N.Y. In two days the first scheduled flights were due for takeoff". By late afternoon on May 14, two aircraft were assembled, serviced, and tuned up. Major Fleet ordered pilots James Edgerton and Howard Culver to fly their machines to Philadelphia while he piloted a borrowed, unmodified Army training Jenny to Philadelphia and thence to Washington for the scheduled 11:30 A.M." departure from the capital on May 15.

In an amazing coincidence, the serial number on the aircraft Fleet borrowed was 38262, the identical serial number engraved on the 24-cent postage stamp. Could the stamp designer have known which aircraft would be used? In fact, Huston did not know. It was mere and extraordinary chance that the photograph supplied by the War Department as a model for the stamp design depicted aircraft number 38262.

After spending the night at Philadelphia, fleet flew on to Washington, arriving at the Polo Grounds Air Field at 10 : 35 a.m. finding no gasoline on hand to refuel his aircraft, and borrowed additional fuel from a nearby navy facility. Second Lt. George L. Boyle, a young Army Pilot whose prospective father-in-law chaired the Interstate Commerce Commission, was assigned to fly the first mail from Washington, D.C., to Philadelphia. His selection had unfortunate consequences.

Boyle, a relatively inexperienced pilot, relied upon his inaccurate compass for direction after taking off from Washington's Polo Grounds Air Field. He flew south instead of north and had to land to ask directions damaging his aircraft in the process: Boyle telephone Major Fleet to report his position and the damaged aircraft. He then unloaded the mail and took it back to Washington by automobile. The next day, May 16, Lt. James C. Edgerton flew the mail north to Philadelphia.

Included in Boyle's mail sack was an envelope autographed by President Wilson and addressed to T.H. Patton, Postmaster of New York City. Noah W. Taussig, President of the American Molasses Company, had asked the President to create this memento so that it could be sold at auction to benefit the American Red Cross. Taussig pledged that he would start the bidding himself at \$1,000. No one topped his opening bid at the auction and Mr. Taussig became the cover's owner. He presented it to the Smithsonian Institution in 1977.

(Courtesy : A Jenny Class Reunion, Exhibition Catalogue.)

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