



SIPA

For Private Circulation to Members only

Bulletin

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Vol.31 No. 1

COLLECT
SWEDEN 6

JAN - MAR - 2012

FIRST ISSUES
OF COUNTRIES 8

QUARTERLY

Editorial

Review 2011

It is the time of the year to 'see through' the issues of India Post 2011. In other words, let us have an overview about all the stamps issued by India post in the year 2011.

Going for the count, we had 44 issues accounting to 62 stamps in all.

In 2011, we had a peculiarity of receiving a commemorative stamp printed in a special material (Khadi) having a face value of Rs. 100/- fixed in a printed folder and sold at a cost of Rs. 250/-. That means, to have a stamp costing Rs. 100/- the collector has to shell out Rs. 250. The Wisdom of India Post is to be appreciated.

Further, to disturb the minds of first day cover collectors, we had the sets of Aerophilately and legendary heroines of Indian cinema, where in we may have to have more than one cover to accommodate all the stamps comfortably and attractive. A first day cover with a single cancellation will always look grand.

Therefore, we had one stamp (face value Rs. 100/-) costing Rs. 250/-, two stamps of value Rs.20/- two stamps of Rs. 25/- and fifty seven stamps of Rs. 5/- working up the year pack of 62 stamps to cost Rupees six hundred and twenty five (Rs. 625/-).

Moreover, we were happy to receive 9 miniature sheets starting with the single stamp miniature sheet of Krishnadevaraya costing Rs. 5/- (may be the cheapest in the world) at a total cost of Rupees four hundred and thirty five. (Rs. 435).

Coming to the subject of 'personality issues', we had about 26 personalities excluding the father of the nation and the Nobel laureate for literature. 26 at of 62 gives a percentage of, above 40 which is 'far higher' than the 10 percent fixed by the 'India Post Norms'. No comments. We have to live with it year after year.

Though, most of the miniature sheets are quite attractive, the number of issues are really prohibitive making international collectors to think twice about collecting Indian miniatures which are already in the range

of 100 numbers, starting in 1973 and gaining momentum in 1987 only.

On the whole, though we had a lot of personalities, we the collectors had a fruitful year with quite a few good sets and miniatures like Aerophilately, India Summit 2011, Rashtrapathi Bhavan and Archeological survey etc. which brought cheers on our faces and happiness in our hearts.

Switzerland's rarest stamp

133 years after its creation and 32 years after its discovery, the famed 5c. 'Rayed Star', the only known example of its kind, become Switzerland's rarest stamp.



This rarity was created in 1878 when the Bernese printer, Stampfli, began to produce a series of Postage Dues for the Swiss Post Office with values of between 1c. and 500c. The intended design for all the values included a radiating star design. However, when the printing of the 1c. value began, the printer noticed that the radiating star was being filled in with printing ink, producing a poor print quality. After consulting the Swiss Post Office it was decided to drop the radiating star design and opt for a white background for the remaining values. However, a sheet of the 5c. with the radiating or 'Rayed' star design was printed before the printing plates were changed. The 200 stamps were separated into sheets of 50 stamps found its way to the postmaster in the tiny parish of Bissegg, where many of the 'faulty' stamps remained unused, and may even have been returned to Bern to be destroyed when the green Postage Dues were released in 1883. It is also probable that the majority of the 5c. stamps, which were correctly used, were destroyed by the recipients in annoyance of having to pay the penalty tax.

As a result, only one example of the 5c. Rayed Star is known.

CHITRAPUR MATH

09.10.2011

500

0.4 mill

Chitrapur Math established in 1757 by the first Guru Swami Parijnanashram who came from Kashi with an idol of Lord Bhaanishankar - the Presiding Deity of the Math, is located in Shirali village in North Kanara, Karnataka. For well over 300 years, the Chitrapur Math devoted itself to rejuvenate the community spiritually and guide people in their Sadhana. The Math runs a Vedic School and teaches Sanskrit free of charge. The library it runs has a rich collection of valuable books and ancient palm leaf manuscripts. The museum is home to over 400 relics belonging to the period of 300 AD to 1800 AD. The main festival of the Math is 'Rethotsava'- the car festival which celebrates its 150th year in 2011.



The Math firmly supports widow remarriage and opposes child marriage. Free education, books, uniforms and mid-day meals are provided to the children studying in educational institutions run under the aegis of the Math. Srivali Clinic provides free medical help. The Handmade Paper Project uses leaves and grass collected in surrounding areas as its raw material. It strives to preserve flora and fauna in a Hill belonging to the Math. Chitrapur Math is not only a math but a home.

Theme : Religion, Culture, Hinduism.

THE PUNJAB REGIMENT & 1 PARA (SF) (1 PUNJAB)

12.10.11

500

0.4 mill

The Punjab Regiment is one of the oldest infantry Regiments of the Indian Army. The first battalions were raised between 1761 and 1798. Designation of these battalions underwent many changes in subsequent years and got redesignated as the 67th, 69th, 72nd, 74th and 87th Punjab in 1903. These battalions later came to be known as 2nd Punjab Regiment and recruitment for all these battalions was confined to areas of Punjab.



1 PARA (SF) raised as 8th Battalion Coast Sepoys in 1761 at Trichinopoly underwent various changes to be designated as 7th Carnatic, 7th Madras Native Infantry, 67th Punjab, 1/2nd Punjab Regiment and 1st Battalion Punjab Regiment. In 1952 it was converted to 1 PARA (PUNJAB) and later to 1 PART (COMMANDO) in 1978. It earned the

distinction of being converted to SPECIAL FORCES and was redesignated as 1 PARA (SPECIAL FORCES) in 1996.

The Regiment has the proud privilege of earning 35 pre-independence battle honours and 14 post - independence battle honours besides eight COAS unit citations and 13 Army Commander Unit citations. A highly decorated Regiment with 747 pre-independence awards 1388 post-independence awards with six PVSM, Eighteen MVC, eleven KC, two UYSM, Nine AVSM, fifty eight VrC and fifty five SC.

The Regiment insignia is a Galley, an ancient Greek or Roman warship. It is perhaps the only Infantry Regiment with an insignia of a naval vessel in the world.

Theme : Armed forces, Army, Ships. Uniforms.

INDIAN COUNCIL OF MEDICAL RESEARCH

08.11.2011

500

0.3 mill

To fund various research activities related to medical science, the officers of the then Indian Medical Service established the Indian Research Fund Association in 1911. After independence, it was rechristened as the Indian



Council of Medical Research (ICMR). What was started to conduct "enquiry" into health problems, has blossomed into a vibrant network of 30 permanent institutes/Centres and over 70 field stations, employing over 5000 personnel including 750 scientists. The budgetary allocation of the Council has also grown over successive plan periods and stands at Rs. 4496 crores in the 11th Plan.

The Mission of the ICMR is to provide better health through research. The Council has evolved over the years in line with changing health research needs, effectively addressing the new challenges that have emerged as a result of the economic, demographic, nutritional and epidemiological transition of the country.

The strategy of ICMR is to have close interaction with health systems, including disease control programmes which are supported by continued exploration of scientific and technological advances from basic to applied, biomedical to health sciences and from laboratory to field research.

The research priorities of the Council coincide with the health policy and priorities of the country. The ICMR is actively engaged in various aspects of research for control of communicable diseases, infectious diseases, non-communicable diseases and improving maternal and child health including nutrition.

The ICMR has adopted a twin track approach to meet its objectives-intramural research (through its institutes) and extramural research, (through grants-in-aid to projects in non-ICMR institutions).

Theme : Medicine, Research , Technology, Health.

CHILDREN'S DAY

14.11.2011 500,2000 0.3 mill

Each year the Department of Posts brings out special postage stamp on Children's Day to mark the birth anniversary of India's first Prime Minister Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru on 14th November.

India Post, to create awareness on the tigers which are one of the most endangered species in the world and also on the verge of extinction, conducted 'Design a Stamp' contest with the theme "save The Tiger" on 12.12.2010 as one of the special events of INDIPEX2011.



Children through their paintings had highlighted the critical areas that have caused the drastic decline of tiger population in India in a creative way.

This year we are presenting the collection of prize winning entries, at the national level on a set of two stamps, Minisheet, and First Day Cover.

The paintings by ad seriatim are by: 1 .Shreeraksha, V Class, Karnataka, 2.A.Priya Dharsini, V Class, Tamil Nadu, 3. Riya Dutta, IV Class, H.P., 4.Ashik Purushotham, VIII Class, Kerala, 5. Jayashree Sahu, VIII Class, Orissa, 6. Rangoli Pandey, VII Class, U.P., 7. Shubham Sahu, X Class, C.G, 8. Nishi Bordia, IX Class, M.P., 9. Jai Surya P, IX Class, Kerala.

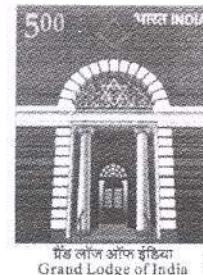
Theme : Children's day, Tigers, Paintings, Animals, Flora and Fauna.

GRAND LODGE OF INDIA

25.11.2011 500 0.4 mill

Freemasonry is one of the world's largest and oldest secular fraternal organization promoting the principle of the Fatherhood of God and the Brotherhood of Man. Its universal motto is spreading "Brotherly Love, Relief and Truth". Freemasonry is an apolitical society encouraging charity and the practice of the moral virtues of Temperance, Fortitude, Prudence, Justice and extending the hand of fellowship and providing relief to those in distress.

Freemasonry originated in England in 1717. Freemasonry exists in over 190 countries with five million members. Freemasonry society in India was established in 1729 at Kolkata. The Indian Freemason society has more than 20,000 members. Its membership consists of a cross section of society drawn from all walks of life, who meet on an equal footing. The Masonic Lodge is the unit which a member joins as a Freemason. The apex body of Freemasonry is called 'the Grand Lodge'.



The Grand Lodge of India was consecrated on 24 November, 1961 at New Delhi.

Some of the prominent Indian Freemasons include Swami Vivekananda, Sh. Motilal Nehru, Sh.C. Rajagoplachari and Sh. Fakhruddin Ali Ahmed.

The Grand Lodge in India is celebrating its Golden Jubilee in November.

Theme : Freemasonry, Buildings, seculiatrism, Service.

THE SMILE TRAIN-CLEFT SURGERY

6.12.2011 500 0.3 mill

A gap in the upper lip is called a cleft. This is one of the commonest forms of birth defects among humans. It is estimated that one child in every 700 born is afflicted with this defect.

Any birth defect is tragic and painful. A cleft results in extreme facial deformity. The child is unable to eat or speak properly and often other difficulties, such as hearing impairment accompany a cleft.



Due to ignorance and poverty, over 60% clefts remain untreated in poor under developed countries.

The Smile Train is a global charity organization reaching out to millions of children suffering from cleft defects and deformities. The Smile Train began in 1999, with one surgery in China performed by a local medical team, and has since grown into the largest cleft organization in the world. To date, over 2,25,000 surgeries have been sponsored by the Smile Train. The charity operates only with local doctors.

The Smile Train has already trained more than 1100 doctors, and sponsored more than 1, 60,000 surgeries in India. The aim of the Smile Train is not just to put smiles on the faces of kids that have never known one, but to give them a second chance in life.

Theme : Medicine, Children, Health, Smile.

KAVI PRADEEP

11.12.2011

500

0.3.mill

Ramchandra Narayanji Dwivedi, also known as 'Kavi Pradeep', was born on 06th February 1915 in a middle class family in the small town of Badnagar, in Madhya Pradesh. While pursuing graduation from the University of Lucknow, he attended Kavi Sammelans, rendering Hindi poetry in his inimitable style. It was during this time he changed his name to 'Pradeep'.



After his graduation he moved over to Bombay (Mumbai) where he started writing film songs. Most of the songs penned by him were extremely popular for their patriotic content:

Kavi Pradeep believed in writing songs with a purpose and in a simple language. In 1962 during the Indo-China War, the sacrifice and bravery of Major Shaitan Singh touched his heart deeply. Inspired by his exemplary courage he wrote a very moving song 'Aye Mere Watan Ke Logon' (O people of my country). It was rendered by melody queen. Lata Mangeshkar to pay tribute to our soldiers in a function where it moved then Prime Minister Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru to tears.

During his life time he penned 1,700 songs for more than 85 Hindi films, Kavi Pradeep was one of the legendary Hindi film lyricists who won several awards such as 'Dadasaheb Phalke Award' He was conferred with Sant Gyaneshwar Award, Chatrapati Shivaji Award and was also awarded by the Sangeet Natak Academy.

He passed away on 11th December 1998

Theme : Personality, Poet, Cinema, Leaders.

PRESIDENT'S FLEET REVIEW, MUMBAI

19.12.2011

4x500

0.3 mill

Naval Fleet Reviews are ceremonial occasions traditionally held by Navies the world over to showcase their prowess. The Review is a grand and formal occasion when all operational naval vessels and aircrafts are



spruced up in a spirit of loyalty and allegiance to the nation and the Supreme Commander. The President's Fleet Review is a symbolic display of a nation's maritime capabilities and prowess. It is meant to convey to the Supreme Commander and to the nation that the country's maritime forces are fighting fit and ready to meet any challenge.

In India too, it is a time honoured tradition that the President of India, as the Supreme Commander of the Armed Forces, reviews the Naval Fleet once during her/his tenure. Nine such reviews have taken place since independence.

For the reviews, participating units, which include warships, submarines, auxiliary vessels, Coast Guard ships, etc. are anchored in formation in precise columns. The President of India embarks on a naval vessel designated as the 'Presidential Yacht' and reviews all the ships by cruising past them. Simultaneously, naval aircrafts of the Naval Air Arm fly past in a salute overhead.

Theme : President, Fleet Review, Navy, Ships, Submarines.

GOA LIBERATION-GOLDEN JUBILEE

19.12.2011

500

0.3 mill

The Portuguese advent in India gained momentum in 1510, with the invasion of the Western coast line and annexation of a few colonies including Goa. Though the people of Goa were peace loving they resented Portuguese



occupation of their territory. They sought liberation. The first spark of the freedom movement was ignited by the Ranes when Dipaji Rane spearheaded a revolt in 1852. Another one followed in 1885, led by Dada Rane. The last rebellion took place in 1912, and the leaders at the forefront Morya Sawant, Jill Sawant and their companion Cutodio (Quistulo) were killed due to treachery.

Many organisations like National Congress Goa, Azad Gamantak Dal, United Front of Goans, Goa Liberation Council, Goan People's Party, Quit Goa Organization and Goa VimochanSahayak Samiti were formed. Some believed in armed struggle. They infiltrated into Goa and attacked Portuguese troops and their supply positions.

On 18th June 1946 people assembled under the leadership of Dr. Ram Manohar Lohia to defy the curbs on civil liberties and chart out the future course of action towards freedom and democracy. A seminar on Portuguese colonialism was held in New Delhi in October 1961. At the end of the seminar there was a public meeting in Mumbai during which the Prime Minister declared: "We have to think afresh now because of the happenings in Goa. In the last three months, cases of torture have come

to our notice besides terror that is spread there by the Portuguese. We will have to adopt other means to solve the problems. Goa will soon be free."

The Indian Army, assisted by Air Force and Navy, launched an armed action code named "Operation Vijay" on 18th December 1961. The liberation of Goa from Portuguese occupation was completed on 19th December 1961. Finally, on 30th May 1987, Goa was accorded statehood and Daman and Diu were bifurcated and accorded the status of Union Territory.

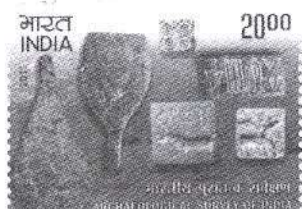
Theme : Freedom Struggle, Goa, Portugese India.

ARCHAEOLOGICAL SURVEY OF INDIA

20.12.2012 500,2000 0.3 mill each

Archaeology, even as it-engages with the human past, is a modern pursuit that fosters productive harmony between the society and its heritage. Learning from the people of the past and their relationships with the environment is nowhere more relevant than in India, a continent like country with its bewildering diversities and contradictions, and which is often described as living simultaneously in different centuries.

The task of protecting the cultural heritage of the nation has been entrusted to the Archaeological Survey of India (ASI), an organization functioning under the Department of Culture of the Government of India. Activities of the ASI include archaeological research, scientific analysis, excavation of archaeological sites, conservation of protected monuments and areas of national importance, maintenance of site museums and regulation of legislation related to antiques and art treasures.



Archaeological investigations in India began towards the end of eighteenth century. The arrival of Sir William Jones and the subsequent formation of the Asiatic Society in 1784 gave a major fillip to the discipline. These early archaeological initiatives culminated in the setting up of the ASI in 1861.

The distribution of archaeological landmarks in India is balanced in time and space. They are from different ages, and spread throughout the length and breadth of the country. The heritage sites and monuments under ASI's charge are of an immense variety, and include palaces, temples, mosques, churches, monasteries, stupas, stepwells, megaliths, pillars, minars, tombs, cemeteries, sarais rock shelters with prehistoric things and rock-cut caves, belonging to prehistoric, post-historic, medieval and colonial periods. These monuments and sites are located

in different climatic zones, ranging from the snow-bound heights of the Himalayas to coastal areas of tropical weather.

Theme : Heritage, Culture, Archeology, ASI.

KGMC/CSMMU, LUCKNOW, ACADEMIC, CENTENARY YEAR

23.12.2011 500 0.4 mill

The Chatrapati Shahuji Maharaj Medical University, Lucknow (formerly King George's Medical College), one among the premier institutions of medical education in the country, completes a century of academic activities in 2011.

In the early years of the 20th century, the gross inadequacy of medical and healthcare facilities available to the citizens of the United Provinces was strongly felt by the local community and its leaders.

The aspirations of the local people and their spirited pursuit of the same was finally frutified on 26th December 1905, when Prince of Wales laid the foundation stone of the proposed medical college during his visit to India. The medical college was named after King George-V. The first batch of 31 students was admitted on 1st October 1911, even before the formal opening, which finally took place on 25th January, 1912.



Formation of a hospital for women in 1932, Kasturba T B Clinic and Hospital in 1948, a full-fledged dental college in 1949, the Gandhi Memorial Hospital in 1951, and setting up of the new block for 51 bed children's Hospital in 1955 were important landmarks in the development of the Medical College.

The Medical College was upgraded into a Medical University in 2002. In the year 2007 the institution was rechristened Chhatrapati Shahuji Maharaj Medical University (CSMMU), Lucknow.

This august institution produces about 250 students of: MBBS, 70 students of BDS, 174 of specialization and about 25-30 students of super specialization every year.

Theme : Buildings, Lucknow, Architecture, Institution, Health, Medicine.

SRINIVASA RAMANUJAN

26.11.2011

500

0.3 mill

Srinivasa Ramanujan (1887-1920) belongs to the pantheon of great mathematicians of India whose lineage stretches back at least 25 centuries. Ramanujan was born in Erode in Tamil Nadu, on December 22, 1887. Ramanujan's life took a definitive turn towards mathematics when he was 15 years old, when he came across an old mathematics manual "Synopsis of Elementary Results in Pure and Applied Mathematics" 2. Vol. (1880-86) by George Shoobridge Carr.

His marriage in 1909 prompted him to seek a permanent employment, and after some struggle he obtained a clerical post with the Madras Port Trust at Chennai.

Meanwhile, Ramanujan's mathematical work continued vigorously, covering areas like Bernoulli numbers, hypergeometric series, elliptic functions etc. His research paper on Bernoulli numbers published in the Journal of the Indian Mathematical Society in 1911 was well received, and he gained recognition for the originality and brilliance of his work. Ramanujan traveled to England in 1914 under a grant from Trinity College, Cambridge, where an extraordinary collaboration started between him and Hardy.



In 1918 he became the first Indian to be elected to the Royal Society of London. He was also elected a Fellow of Trinity College, Cambridge, the same year.

Ramanujan's health had worsened during his stay in England. In 1917 he contacted tuberculosis. He returned to India in 1919 but despite medical treatment, did not survive for long. He breathed his last on April 26, 1920, in Kumbakonam.

Theme : Personality, Mathematics, Port Trust.

MADAN MOHAN MALAYIYA (1861-1946)

27.12.2012

500

0.3 mill

Madan Mohan Malaviya was a multifaceted personality, remembered not just for his contributions to the freedom struggle, but also to education, journalism and social reform.

Born in Allahabad on December 25, 1861 Madan Mohan was a diligent student during his



years of school and university education. He delivered a moving speech at the Congress session in Calcutta in 1886. He returned to Allahabad and started a journalistic career as the editor of the Hindi weekly, the Hindustan.

Malaviya participated in the annual Congress sessions regularly from 1886, and steadily acquired the status of a leader and an opinion maker. He founded the Hindu Mahasabha in 1906 the objective of which was not sectarian, but to oppose the "divide and rule" policy of the British Government. Malaviya was elected President of the Indian National Congress in 1909. He went on to hold that position on three more occasions, in 1918, 1932 and 1933.

The Benaras Hindu University (BHU), founded by Malaviya at Varanasi in 1916 stands testimony to his keen interest in education.

Malaviya was one of the earliest to appreciate the role of newspapers and started the Abhyudaya and the Maryada in Hindi, and the Leader in English. He was the Chairman of the Board of Directors of the Hindustan Times from 1924 to 1946.

Between 1924 to 1930, he played an active legislative role as a Member of the Central Legislative Assembly. As one of the leading lights of the freedom struggle, he was imprisoned by the British rulers twice during the Civil Disobedience Movement, between 1930 to 1932. Malaviya was one of the delegates to the Second Round Table Conference in London in 1931.

Madan Mohan Malaviya, as rightly summed up by Jawaharlal Nehru, was a giant among men, and one of the foundation-layers of Indian nationalism.

Theme : Personality, Leaders, Freedom Struggle, Education, Newspapers.

KNOW THIS COUNTRY

SWEDEN

Raymond Ellis.

The stamps of Sweden, which is the largest of the Scandinavian countries, are an excellent choice for new and budding collectors. Most are well designed, and the booklets produced in recent years have earned a reputation of their own in the philatelic world.

The postal history of Sweden is usually taken to start from the setting up of the General Post in 1636, although until the early years of the 19th century there was very little foreign mail. Many of the letters sent within Sweden were on official business and could be



sent free. A letter needing speedy delivery would have this indicated with one or two feathers set in the wax of the seal. Early postal markings show the name of the place of origin in a straight line. Later, the town name and date of posting were set in a rectangle. These marks were replaced in the 1860s by various types of circular hand-stamps.

The first Swedish stamps, issued in July 1855, showed values in skilling banco, but from July 1858, the currency was decimalised and the 1855 stamps were replaced with similar coat-of-arms designs showing the new ore values. By 1862 additional values were needed, and the opportunity was taken to issue new designs to incorporate the extra denominations.

In 1872 all of the earlier designs were replaced with new stamps showing large numerals indicating the value in ore. Due to changes in postal rates the 12 ore and the 24 ore were no longer required, and in 1880 were overprinted and used up as 10 ore stamps. It was not until 1885 that stamps with a royal portrait, of Oscar II, first appeared. The year 1903 saw the first commemorative issue showing what was then the new Stockholm Post Office, a very high value at 5kr, then worth about 5 shillings. During World War One there was an expansion of the Swedish armed forces, and to raise funds to support this some of the numeral and Stockholm Post Office stamps were overprinted with a premium, part of which was allocated to a fund for territorial defence.



Since 1920, most of the stamps have been issued in coils or booklets. Coils normally contain 100 stamps for use at post office counters or in large commercial firms. The stamps in the coils are normally perforated on two sides where they need to be torn from the coil. Booklets come in two forms, either to be sold at post offices, etc, or to be used in slot machines. In recent years, booklet stamps showing Swedish landscapes and historic buildings, aimed at tourist sales, have been a great attraction.

The Swedish royal family are famous for their longevity. Gustav V came to the throne in 1920, when a new definitive series was issued, eight years before his 70th birthday was commemorated with a special stamp. Since he reigned until he was 92, several more birthday stamps were added to this. In 1924, two sets of commemorative stamps were issued, one marking the World Postal Congress (held in Stockholm) and the other 50 years of the Universal Postal Union. The tercentenary of the Swedish postal service was commemorated with a set issued in 1936, showing the various methods of carrying the mail over that period, with designs ranging from a 17th century mail runner to a Junkers mail plane.

Sweden has nearly always been blessed with first class stamp engravers. From about 1930 Sven Ewart engraved many stamps, and in 1960 he took on a new assistant called Czeslaw Slania, a native of Poland. Slania rapidly became renowned not only for his beautiful

Swedish stamps but for those of several other countries also. He adopted Sweden as his country and the Swedes took him to their hearts, honouring him with a miniature sheet for his 70th birthday.

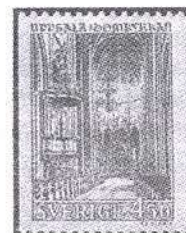
International stamp exhibitions have been held in Sweden in 1955, 1974 and 1986, all having their own quota of special stamps, those for the 1955 event being re-valued reprints of Sweden's first stamps and now quite sought after. Gustav VI Adolf died in 1973, aged 91. His son having been killed, his grandson was crowned Carl XVI Gustav, so for the first time in many years Sweden had a young king with a growing family - another excuse for new stamps.

Alfred Nobel, and the profits he provided from his munitions factory, led to an annual series of stamps, beginning in 1961 with the portraits of the Nobel winners of 60 years before. The series still continues but with emphasis on subjects rather than on stamps.



Discount stamps were an innovation in 1979, when every household received vouchers for two books of stamps at very low cost. The stamps could be used only on private inland mail. Letters using these stamps cost less than half the normal postage and they proved so popular that further issues have been made each year. Although still only for private individuals, their use is now permitted on inter-Nordic mail.

Sweden, like most other countries, has all the philatelic sidelines such as official stamps, postage dues, cinderellas, postal stationery, etc. Until the end of 1873, government mail at all levels was exempt from paying postage. It was sufficient to mark the letter Fr. Br. (free letter), but this privilege was abused and eventually terminated. All mail was then required to bear stamps, official stamps being first introduced in 1874 and continuing in use for 50 years. Only the royal family continued to have free postage.



Cinderella items included the local stamps, which were issued in three separate periods, also embracing postal stationery. The first period started in 1887, at that time only three towns issuing their own stamps and stationery, an exercise the same towns repeated in 1925. In 1945, many towns issued their own stamps and stationery, although this phase lasted for only a short while.

Of regular postal stationery there are many forms: envelopes, letter cards, postcards and double postcards to provide for a paid reply. Military envelopes, issued to Swedish forces, are included. Since 1930 a reply stamp sealed under the back flap has been an incentive for the family to write back again. There are many issues of the military envelopes, and many printings of the reply stamps, making this a popular collecting subject. For postal historians there is a rich field of choice: pre-stamp covers, ship mail, railway history and military mail, to mention just some of the possibilities. The inclusion of military mail may seem strange in a neutral country like Sweden, but over the years many field post offices have been installed at training camps and have issued cancellers.

Swedish troops have also been used all over the world in peace-keeping roles, such as the Saar in 1934/5 and since World War Two as United Nations forces in the Congo, Lebanon and Egypt, which all appear in military postmarks. Swedish volunteers served in Spain during the Civil War and in Finland in the war against Russia. Obviously this can all be combined with military postal stationery to make a fascinating collection.



There are several Swedish auction houses of international standing, but this can be an expensive way to acquire material. Current issues, plus booklets, postal stationery, etc, may be obtained at cost from the Philatelic Bureau (Mail Order Service, S-981 84, Kiruna, Sweden), for which you can pay with a credit card. Foreign currency poses no problems.



Most British collectors of Sweden, however (and some Scandinavians), are members of the Scandinavian Philatelic Society, which is over 40 years old. It has an excellent exchange packet, regular auctions, and its own specialist dealer. These are all good and prolific sources of reasonably priced material, not to mention how much you will learn from the award-winning quarterly journal and the friendly meetings held in London and the provinces throughout the year. Why not break away from the Great Britain and Commonwealth crowd and try something different - like Sweden?

(Courtesy : Stamp Magazine. 1993)

YOUTH FORUM

THE FIRST ISSUES OF SOME COUNTRIES OF THE WORLD

1840 GREAT BRITAIN THE WORLD'S FIRST STAMP

The famous "Penny Black" was distributed to Post Offices throughout Great Britain on Friday 1 May 1840 in preparation for its official release on Wednesday 6 May. Although a few stamps were prematurely sold on 2 May by Bath post office the **6 May 1840** is recognised as being the birth date of the world's first adhesive postage stamp.

Designed by Henry Corbould from an original idea of Sir Rowland Hill they were based on the Guildhall Medal by William von of 1838. The engraving was done by Charles Heath and his son Frederick. The Anglo-American printing firm of Perkins, Bacon and Petch, whose Jacob Perkins had invented the steel-engraving process, made the dies and plates and printed the stamps on security paper bearing a crown watermark obtained from Stacey Wise. This particular design was chosen from the 2,600 entries submitted by the public from the competition launched by the British Treasury in 1839. Of the 49 entries for stamp designs, the others were for postal stationery and the selection committee considered this to be the one to meet its five criteria. The chosen stamp had to be easy to handle, clearly define its purpose, look authoritative, be inexpensive to produce and be difficult to forge.



The stamps were printed in sheets of 240, twenty rows of twelve, each row being a shilling and a whole sheet costing one pound. Each individual stamp in the sheet bore corner letters ranging from AA to AL along the horizontal and from AA to TA on the vertical. Thus the bottom righthand stamp would have been lettered TL. Plate numbers were engraved in the side panels. Some of the "Black" plates were also used for the printing of several of the later "Penny Reds". These are especially interesting to collectors.

Many factors determine the value of individual stamps, such as the cancellation used, the plate number and the fineness of the border when cut from the sheet. Present Values thus vary enormously, prices ranging from around up to many thousands of pounds for the rarer and finer specimens.

1843 BRAZIL - "BULLS EYE"

Brazil is a federal republic occupying almost half the South American continent. It was the second country in the world to issue postage stamps. From the 18th century postal services had operated in its major cities and it also made use of a packet service to link its major ports with each other and with Portugal.



Britain operated a postal agency from Rio de Janeiro from 1833, and used British stamps from 1866 until 1874 when Brazil joined the Universal Postal Union. France also operated postal agencies from 1860, issuing its country's stamps from that time for the service from Rio to Bordeaux, Marseille and Liverpool.

Brazil was one of three countries to choose numeral designs, based on the face value. Originally Brazil was going to use a portrait of Dom Pedro II but his ministers thought it would be demeaning to have his portrait defaced by postal cancellations. The country's first stamps known as the "Bulls-eyes" were in three denominations, 30, 60 and 90 reis. Interestingly all values were printed on each sheet in 10 rows of six stamps, three of 30r, four of 60r and three of 90r. Only one se-tenant vertical strip is known to exist. It is known as the "Pack Strip" being named after the famous philatelist who once owned this strip of two 30r and one 60r stamps.

In 1844 the second series of stamps was issued. These were of seven denominations and had slanting figures, were smaller and also had the oval engine-turned motif. They are known to collectors as "Goats-eyes". The even smaller designs of 1850 are known as the "Cats-eyes". Coloured inks were introduced in 1854, replacing the previous black-only issues. Dom Pedro II who was crowned Emperor of Brazil in 1840 and did so much for his country, is featured on several issues from 1866 to 1884. The 1866 issue was also the first to have "BRAZIL" engraved on it, and the first to be perforated.

1849 FRANCE - FIRST FRENCH STAMP

Adhesive stamps were introduced to France in 1848 by Etienne Arago who was himself featured on a stamp in 1948. The first issues were released on **1 January 1849** and were of two values 20 cents in black and 1 franc in orange, both imperforate.

These first two stamps featured Ceres, the Goddess of Agriculture, but in 1851 Prince Louis-Napoleon Bonaparte successfully staged a military coup and took over control of a re-formed Republic. In January 1852 he insisted his portrait appear on all new stamps and coins which led to France's second issue in the same year. They were inscribed "EMPIRE-FRANC". In December 1862, the Emperor's influence on the design was again demonstrated when he insisted that a laurel crown of victory be added to his profile to commemorate his victory over Austria two years previously.

In 1870, after Napoleon was captured in Sedan, a new postal administration was established in Bordeaux and in the October the Ceres designs of the Second Republic inscribed "REPUB. FRANC" were reintroduced imperforate, with minor modifications to the design.

During the Siege of Paris in 1870-1871 various interesting methods of delivering mail were used. Cans of mail were floated down the Seine; pigeons were brought in to fly mail out and even dogs were used to carry mail across firing lines where humans would have had little chance of survival!

This 1876 issue was the first in the world to be used in what collectors refer to as the Colonies. Colonial issues were used in those Colonies where no postal administration existed, or where no country issues were available. A 25c and 40c stamp in this set were specifically for colonial use in those countries which had an "overseas department of France" - Guadeloupe, French Guiana, Martinique and Reunion - though they were also used in France quite extensively. Study of the postmark cancellation is the only sure method of distinguishing the stamp's country of use and hence its value.

The first colony to issue its own stamps was British Guiana, in 1850.

1850 SPAIN - DATES

Spain followed Brazil, and France in producing stamps, issuing its first set on **1 January 1850**. Not only was it one of the stamp issuing pioneers, it also was the first country to engrave the year in the design of its stamps, releasing a new set every year on 1 January until 1855. Dates were printed on the first five issues in order to prevent forgeries, and dates have appeared irregularly on many of its subsequent issues.

Spain's first set comprised five stamps showing a profile of Queen Isabella II the 6c and 12c values were marked "FRANCO". The 5r, 6r and 10r values were marked "CERTIFICADO" and were intended for registered mail. The currency was 8ℓ cuartos to 1 real until 1866 when it became 8 cuartos to 1 real. Later in 1866 the currency was changed to 80 cuartos to 100 centimos to 1 escudo. A further change took place in 1867 when a reversal of some units was effected. In 1872 final rationalisation took place when 100 centimos to 1 peseta was settled on. These changes paralleled political changes in the country with the deposition of Queen Isabella in 1868, the temporary reign of Amadeus from 1872 to 1873, and the coronation of Isabella's son Alfonso XII in 1874.

A number of special issues were released between 1853 and 1859. Examples of these are those issued for local post in Madrid for official use inscribed in ounces and pounds instead of currency; and in 1859 when members of the Cortes received special privileges for franking mail.

King Alfonso XIII, the last Spanish king, succeeded Alfonso XII on his birth in 1886, being unborn at the time of his father's death. The first definitive stamps of Alfonso XIII in 1889 showed him as a baby, and subsequent issues as he grew older. This baby key-type was also used by Cuba, Puerto Rico and the Philippines. Spain lost these three remaining colonies in 1898 after the Spanish-American War.

When the monarchy collapsed in 1931 general unrest spread through Spain. On 18 July 1936 General Franco staged an uprising against the Government of Manuel Azana that led to the Spanish Civil War. Franco, leading the Nationalists, fought against the Republicans

and progressively secured most of Spain by the end of the war in 1939 when General Franco became Dictator.

1851 TRINIDAD - UNDENOMINATED

Trinidad was discovered by Christopher Columbus in 1498. His landing was commemorated on a special stamp issued on the 400th anniversary of the occasion, the country's first commemorative issue.

The first stamps issued in Trinidad were in fact local stamps. In 1847 internal uniform postage was proposed to the British Government but permission was withheld until 1851 because it was considered that the operation would run at a loss. However, the first Trinidad stamps were eventually issued on **14 August 1851**: two post offices were opened, one in San Fernando and the other in the capital Port of Spain. In other towns, stamps were issued by the local police.

Perkins Bacon had been given the order for the first Trinidad stamps in 1848. They were recess printed and showed Britannia seated on sacks of sugar with a cargo sailing ship in the background. This same design was later used by the printers for the undenominated 1859 Mauritius series of three colours representing 4d, 6d and 9d, and for Barbados' first undenominated issue in 1852 of six colours representing four values, 1d, 1d, 2d and 4d. Trinidad was therefore the first country to issue undenominated value stamps. Strangely, though many different colours were used they all represented the universal postage of 1d. It was not until 1859 that the first denominated issues were released, 4d, 6d and 1s and only in 1883 was a denominated id printed.

Other British colonies to use undenominated stamps of differing colours, thus reducing plate-making costs, were the Ionian Islands from 1859 and St. Helena from 1863. St. Helena's was actually a 6d stamp which was overprinted with the various other values required by that country.

Undenominated stamps did not appear again until 1946 and 1949 when Hungary and China used them with overprints due to their periods of hyperinflation. The United States 1975 Christmas stamp had no value expressed because of an imminent but undecided price change. Later United States, France and Canada used alphabetic characters on their definitives when undetermined price increases were due.

1851 CANADA - "BEAVER"

Canada's first issue of three stamps released on **23 April 1851** was valid for use in Upper and Lower Canada and the provinces of Ontario and Quebec. On 5 September the same year New Brunswick issued its first set of three stamps and on 1 September Nova Scotia issued the first three of four stamps in its first set. Prince Edward Island issued its first stamps on 1 January 1861. These were the four administrations that combined to form the Dominion of Canada on 1 July 1867 though Prince Edward Island continued to produce and use its own stamps until 1 July 1893.

As Canada expanded through discovery, commerce and settlement other provinces joined the Dominion. Some of these also had stamp administrations, British Columbia and Vancouver Island are examples who had issued stamps from 1860 to 1871.

Canada's 1851 issue was designed by Sir Sandford Fleming who is also well known for the years he spent in the construction of the Canadian Pacific Railway. Printing was done in New York by the predecessors of the American Bank Note Co., the firm of Rawdon, Wright, Hatch and Edson.

The 3d red which features the American Beaver is considered to be the world's first pictorial postage stamp and is thus of great philatelic interest. Good mint copies are valued at around £7,500. Alfred Jones engraved the first three values. The essays produced by Sir Sandford Fleming initially used the Beaver for both the 3d and 6d value, but the latter was changed out of respect for the Queen and her consort, Prince Albert, who was featured on the 6d violet. The Chalon portrait of Queen Victoria was featured on the 12d black. Various types of wove paper replaced the original laid paper in subsequent printings and ribbed paper was also used for the 1d and 3d values. Many re-entry varieties are known.

Three additional values were later added to the set, 10d in January 1855, 7½d on 2 June 1857 and ½d rose on 1 August 1857. In December 1858 shortly before the decimal issues were introduced perforated sheets of the ½d, 3d and 6d appeared. The same designs were used for the 1859 decimal issues which ranged from 1c to 17c. New designs were released in 1868.

1871 JAPAN - "DRAGON" series

British consular post offices were established in Japan from 1859, and from 1864 Hong Kong stamps were used. A complicated system applied in these early years, and for a while foreign mail was sent to the postal ministry in Tokyo in double envelopes, marked "Foreign Mail Applications" in red ink. The inner envelope was removed and the foreign postage stamp was franked. The mail was then forwarded to the foreign post office of the country it was being sent to. During the late 1870s postal agreements were negotiated with United States, China and some European countries, and Japanese stamps were accepted for the international service.

In 1870, postal rates according to weight and distance were proclaimed by the first postal minister and this led to the first set of stamps, the "Dragon" series being issued in **1871**. They were of four values 48, 100, 200 and 500 mon and were engraved and recess-printed by Matsuda in Kyoto.

Apart from being Japan's first issue, these stamps are of interest in that they were short-lived due to decimalisation in 1873 and in 1872 the plate values were changed to 1, 2 and 5 sen. These stamps were perforated and were replaced by new designs later in August 1872 when the first of the nine-value "Cherry Blossom" set was introduced. These bore the value in Japanese on the sides and in English in the centre.

Japan is recognised as being one of the world leaders in stamp design and quality. It has printed all its stamps and the Japanese State Printing House is particularly famous for its photogravure.

On 9 October 1981 the four 1871 mon stamps were reproduced on a block of four commemorative stamps for the Phila Tokyo '81 exhibition.

(Compiled by : Rolands Nelson, Secretary, SIPA).

* * * * *

SIR ROWLAND HILL

[December 3rd, 1795. August 27th, 1879]

Post Office Reform for the benefit of Mankind

Born in 1795, son of a schoolmaster, Rowland Hill was the fourth of six sons and two daughters of Kiderminster, a small town of England. In those days of cruelty, oppression, torture and corruption in this world of barbarity, a school, symbol of education and humanity, was established by his father, well known to educational lobby. Hill with his feeble health, started his career, as a Worcestershire schoolmaster in his father's school came to England for service, as Secretary to the Commissioner, South Australian Colony. Hill found, when engaged to his future wife, it necessary from motives of economy to sacrifice sentiment, and to restrict their correspondences to a letter once a fortnight, due to high rate of postage in England.

The postage rates were first fixed according to distance in the year 1635 and considered as 'exorbitant, injurious and oppressive socially as well as to commerce levied on a practically wrong principle'. In England the exorbitant rate was introduced in 1812, the highest ever attained in the country and continued till the reform of the post office system adopted in 1840 by Rowland Hill.

The following table will give us a comparative study on the single rates of English postage of the period and the Indian postage in 1851. It may be mentioned here that the chargeable weight of a single letter in India was only one-fifth of that of a letter in England, viz.,

England	India
Not exceeding	
15 miles	4 ½ anna
20 miles	5
30 miles	6
50 miles	7
80 miles	8 ½ anna
100 miles	9
120 miles	9
170 miles	10 1 anna
200 miles	11
230 miles	11 2 anna
300 miles	12
400 miles	13 3 anna

500 miles	14	
600 miles	15	4 anna
700 miles	16	

He began his studies during leisure and found the irregularity, disorder and mismanagement of the Postal Organisation of England which seriously, touched his mind. Through several experiments and exhaustive studies of the rates on postal communication system for three years, he compiled a book on "Post Office Reform : Its Importance and Practicability" for the information of the public.

In this book he discussed the bad management on observation of postal system, gradual increase in the rate of postage, decrease in the postal revenue, inefficient arrangement of mails, misuse of conveying system without prepayment, leakage in postage, corruption, vested interest and commercial interest of those who were servants of this system etc. with unpleasant facts and figures calculated on actual happenings of the England Post Office of those days. His reforms were based on the following principles :

1. Rate of Postage to be the lowest for the service of humanity all over the country and within the reach of all with a view to increase the amount of postal revenue to make up the shortage.
2. Uniform rate of postage irrespective of distance within the country.
3. Postage rates to be calculated and charged on weight and not on the number of pages or size or length of the communication as at that time.
4. Minimum rate should be one penny for the lowest weight of communication.
5. Prepayment system of postage by stamps or stamped envelope.
6. Increase of speed in delivery and more frequent opportunities for despatch of letters.

These plans excited a strong public opinion in their favour, especially among the commercial classes of London. The conventional systems of payment of postal charge, rate of postage, manner of conveyance were totally shattered by his plan, and the Government and its fiscal policies were severely attacked with criticism by the members of the Parliament. His reforms also attacked the vested interest and the prevailing corruption of a group of employees entirely of the postal organisation. His plan if implemented, there would be no need of handing over the communication to the postal officials at windows, and the postal charges in cash. What his plan aimed at was to sell cover or envelope with postmarks of ink indicating postage paid in advance for the convenience of the public. Hill also thought of those who were illiterate and could not write address on the marked envelope. He wrote that this difficulty could easily be removed by introducing a system of sticking a small gummed piece of paper with inked mark of

postage paid which would not be bigger than the space of ink mark occupied on the cover or envelope with postage prepaid mark, which could easily be pasted on the backside of-communication by means of water. This small gummed piece of paper could be sold in advance as in case of cover and, from this thought of his creative pursuit, the postage stamp of the present day came into existence.

His book was published in 1837 and shook the entire England. The people went both for and against Hill, - the liberal and the conservative groups. The Government failed to make an assessment of his creation and kept silent.

Hill attempted to place his plan through his Parliamentarian friend, Robert Wallace, who supplied Hill "a cartload of official reports, books and accounts" for his research on this subject. Two hundred applications with 2.50 lakh signatures in favour of Hill's proposal, along with the support of all newspapers, commercial bodies, were placed before the Government to move the issue in the Parliament.

The Government, finding no other alternative on the pressure of public opinion agreed to constitute a Select Committee to consider the proposal with Robert Wallace, as Chairman. The Committee made an assessment consulting the experts of Postal Organisation, Government, common people and called even Mr. Hill to submit and clarify his theory of uniform rate of minimum postage, fiscal policy on his plan for increasing postal revenue etc. Among those who attended the Committee were Mr. Moberly, Chief Secretary of the British Post Offices, who expressed the plan as "unrealistic, wrongful and impossible to implement and based on imagination", and the Postmaster General in person, who slated "increase in the number of correspondences will also increase cost of expenditure to same extent - a ridiculous plan imagined by an outsider".

Mr. Hill advocated before the Committee that his reforms if accepted, would render surplus revenue income; he was anxious over this surplus amount and how this amount could be utilised for the growth and development of postal service. In his book, 'the fiscal policy on the postal revenue', Mr. Hill wrote, 'would be the country's most important reforms to bring the post office in the service of the mankind'.

The evidence before the Committee was convincing to the fact that the high rate of postage attributed the loss accrued from the conveyance of millions of illicit letters, and disclosed that "the means of evasion are so obvious and frequent and the power of prevention so ineffectual that the post has become only extra ordinary instead of the usual channel for conveyance of letters'. The Committee approved Hill's scheme and commented that the existing high rates of postage interfered with the growth of trade and commerce in the country, slating that 'the principle of a low, uniform rate is just in itself, and when combined with prepayment and collection by stamp, would be exceedingly convenient and highly satisfactory to the public and opined that the establishment of a penny rate would not, after a temporary depression, result in any ultimate loss to the revenue'.

In 1838, the Committee recommended the measure and the Postmaster General, The Duke of Richmond, advised the Government to adopt it. Accordingly the Parliament passed the bill into law on 17 August, 1839, prohibiting the conveyance of mails without prepayment of postage. The uniform penny rate of postage came into operation through his efforts by 10 January, 1840, throughout the country and became the law of the land, a revolutionary change for the first time in the annals of the postal organisations of the world.

It may be mentioned here how the Hill's scheme of uniform penny postage was about to wreck. The Parliament Committee adopted the scheme by the casting vote of Mr. Robert Wallace, its chairman. The Government headed by Lord Melbourne were reluctant to move the bill but fortunately the Government, escaping a defeat by a narrow margin of five votes, resigned. Sir Robert Peel was called for to form the Ministry but was unable to do so owing to the "Bed chamber difficulty". So Lord Melbourne was recalled, and in negotiations with the opposition members for future support the bargain was finalised on the issue, of support for the penny postage bill. 'It will thus be seen that one of the greatest social reforms ever conceived was introduced as bribe by a tottering government to secure political support'.

The people of England accepted the change heartily and in joyous attitude. On the first day the post office had to manage the heavy rush of posting by opening additional counters and about 1,20,000 articles were posted, about three times of normal receipt.

In September, 1839, Mr. Hill was offered a lower post in the post office treasury to assist and use for the implementation of this plan, but he had not been vested with power on this subject.

The oppositionist against Mr. Hill inside and outside the post office continued severe attacks on him by way of sabotage, maladministration, bad investment, inefficiency and inflicting corruption by vested group inside the post office whose interest was curtailed largely.

The Government appointed Mulready, a member of the Fine Arts Academy, to prepare a marking symbol for the postage prepaid, but Mulready's drawing was so ridiculous that could not be tolerated by the people for which several envelopes with such marks had to be destroyed, some of them escaped which are now rare and valuable to the philatelists.

The expenditure incurred largely due to these reasons and others, and even the newly introduced railway claimed heavy haulage charges for the carriage of mails. All blames were thrown on Mr. Hill for his plan by the opponent groups- But Mr. Hill with all firmness and courage advised the Government to proceed with his plan honestly.

In the meantime, "Government Sticking Plaster", the term commonly used by the people, the piece of paper gummed on one side with the mark of post paid was introduced with a beautiful design of Queen's profile. The conservative people refused to accept the gummed paper for they were not accustomed to using it.

While Mr. Hill was tired with his measure of postal reforms in his treasury, his reforms made revolutionary changes with the increase of postal revenue abolishing private organisation as they failed to compete with the post office with penny rate postage.

The first postage stamp of the world was introduced on 6 May, 1840, with a portrait of Queen's profile showing a side view of the Queen of England.

In his pamphlet, Mr. Hill had expressed an opinion that the maintenance of the revenue depended upon the carrying out of all his plans. The scheme included increase of speed for conveyance of mails, and in delivery of letters, improved facilities for their despatch, simplifications in the post office work together with the introduction of uniform rate of postage. The reduction in the rate of postage tended a diversion of capital thus released to other industry and trade. The carriage of mail by railway was introduced by Hill for greater speed in conveyance of mails but the number of letters increased four times in addition to the expenditure. In 1842, a Committee was appointed, on a petition by Hill, to enquire into the result of the introduction of the penny postage' and the conveyance of mails relating to the revenue and expenditure of the Post Office. The Committee in 1843 reported in favour of the recommendation of Hill and recommended for the appointment of Mr. Hill to carry out the various measures of reforms he suggested. The report further showed that the inflow of large number of illicit letters in the post was reduced but the loss of revenue to the extent of £ 900,000 continued during the year 1842.

The success in the financial field was attained after a long twenty two years. In the first year there was a deficit in the revenue with the number of letters increasing more than double and in the twelfth year (1850-51) of penny postage, the gross revenue was earned by the post office and the net revenue was attained in the year 1863 while Mr. Hill retired from service in 1864.

In 1841 Mr. Hill was removed from service abruptly by a new Government (Torry) headed by Sir Robert Peel. The people of England had a soft corner for Mr. Hill who saved England by introducing the penny stamp and the uniform rate of postage, and they burst out into anger over the policy of the Government. The common people assembled together and raised funds to the extent of £ 13000 to save the life of Mr. Hill. After 5 years, the Government, was voted out of power and the old Government (Liberal) headed by Lord Russell offered Mr. Hill an appointment as the Secretary of the Postmaster General of England. Mr. Hill at that time was in another remunerative post, yet he accepted the offer of the Government. Mr. Moberly, the Chief Secretary of the Postal Department, was (then in a higher post) and his attitude came in direct conflict with Mr. Hill. Both of them were very much restive in nature, strict in opinion and obstinate in conduct. Still Mr. Hill with his feeble health could not improve the Qualities of self-tolerance during his life long struggle for planning his post office reforms. However, there was no doubt in praising his soft heart for everyone, his efficiency, his hard labour, his perfect foresighted ness in his plan and work.

In 1853 Mr. Hill became the Chief Secretary in place of Mr. Moberly who retired. In 1860 he was awarded the title 'Knight'. His relation with the new Postmaster General and few higher officers became unsatisfactory for his continuous pressure on his planning to build up the postal communication system throughout the country. Sir Hill became too tired and his health day by day was deteriorating due to his uninterrupted fight with the administration. Sir Hill wanted his plan working well and proving useful for the cause of the society - this was his only headache. He never passed any remarks on other's criticism as was his nature and boldly looked forward to his planning work. In 1864 Sir Hill retired with full honour and dignity and was paid his full salary as pension as 'not merely a meritorious public servant but a benefactor of his race'. The Oxford paid respect by placing Sir Hill with the degree of "DR". In 1879, Sir Hill was awarded the greatest degree of honour of his country, the "Freedom of the City of London". But the representatives could not bestow this honour to Sir Hill at his residence who had at that time left his world of activity beyond all earthly honour and glory. Sir Hill was laid down in the Westminster Abbey by the side of his contemporary James Watt, the inventor of Steam Engine, as their experiments were made successful together with the introduction of steam engine and the carriage of mails by the railway.

One of the best systems which the modern civilization introduced in the world was the postal communication system for the service of the Nations. It is no longer regarded as a privileged service for the mighty rulers, Kings or feudal Lords to protect their administration, but as a social utility service for the common cause of all, rich or poor, in the world of today. His principle of postal system was accepted before 1860 by the whole world. Lord Dalhousie, the Governor General of India, accepted the basic principles of the postal reforms adopted by Sir Hill and introduced a low and uniform rate of postage with the reorganisation of the post office system in the year 1854.

NOTES:

The following books are recommended for higher studies on the life and career of Sir Rowland Hill :

1. The Biography of Sir Rowland Hill; by his nephew, Edward Hill, Centure Press Ltd., Fortwell, Sussex, England 1969.
2. The Letter Box - Jean Young Farrugea - ditto
3. Sir Rowland Hill - by his daughter, Smyth Eleanore, London.
4. From Pillar to Post - Laurin Zilliacus, William Heinemann Ltd., London 1956.
5. The Good Old Days of Hon'ble John Company - William Carey 1907.
6. An Outline of Postal History and Practice - I. G. J. Hamilton, Calcutta 1910.

(Courtesy. Extract supplied by B. Mahesh, Member, EC, SIPA).

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SHOULD BRAZIL'S SECOND ISSUE OF INCLINED NUMERALS (1844) BE CALLED " SNAKE'S EYES " ?

Paul Donovan Kigar

Brazil's first postage stamps whose design consisted mainly of "Large Numerals" - known commonly as "Bull's Eyes" due to their resemblance to the eye of a bull - came out on August 1st, 1843. Following Great Britain's lead, Brazil was thus the second country in the world, and the first country in the American hemisphere, to issue postage stamps.

However, the stamps had scarcely come out when some sharp Brazilians discovered that many of them when used in the mails were not being cancelled. Due to their kind of paper and gum, they could be removed fairly easily from their covers without damage and then used again in correspondence.

When postal authorities in the small North-eastern State of Sergipe brought this fact to the attention of the Federal Government, it was decided to replace the "Bull's Eyes" with a new type of stamp. This new issue, according to the law authorising it, was (and we translate) "to be of a smaller size on very thin paper and with such gum as to make it extremely difficult to remove them entire from the cover". Like the first issue, the new stamps were to be imperforate, perforation not yet being utilised either by Britain or Brazil.

Therefore the printing of the "Bull's Eyes" came to an end in January of 1844, and work was immediately begun on the new stamps comprising the second issue. The design consisted principally of smaller and sloping numerals, being known as "Inclined Numerals" to this day. They began to circulate on July 1st, 1844. However, the "Bull's Eyes" did not immediately disappear from circulation. They were not demonetised and although the Brazilian Mint or "Casa da Moeda" officially burned its "Bull's Eyes" stocks on March 30th, 1846, stamps of the first issue already in the hands of the public (or isolated regional post offices who never "got the word") were used postally on occasion as late as 1850 and even afterwards..

Now the "very thin paper" required for the second issue had to be imported. In the days of sail, imports did not always arrive on time. And that is what happened with the "very thin paper". Consequently, in defiance of the very law which created them, the first three values of the "Inclined Numerals" in the denominations of 30, 60, and 90 reis were originally printed on the same thick paper as that used for the "Large Numerals". These values on thick paper are considerably scarcer than those on thinner paper.

As in the case of the 1843 issue, the background of the second issue's design consisting of symmetrical arabesques, was engraved by a mechanical process prior to engraving the numerals. Then the numerals of value were separately engraved and subsequently placed on this background. Two separate plates were used as can be seen from the fact that on some of the stamps the number 30, for example, does not have the same location in

relation to the background, as it does on others. Moreover, there are two types of the 30, 60, and 90 reis of this issue. Copies exist of Type I on two kinds of paper: medium thick and "very thin, 1". Type II, however, is only found on "very thin paper" which with fair winds and calm seas finally arrived in old Rio de Janeiro in adequate quantities. Although black ink was always used, nevertheless due to differences in paper several shades of colour with tints of steel grey, bluish grey, and yellowish grey appear among all values. Type II is somewhat scarcer than Type I and is listed in Brazilian specialised catalogues at higher figures.

Taking the 60 reis as an example, the principal distinguishing marks of the two types can be best described as follows:

Type I

- a. The vertex of the acute angle formed by the curving inside line of the number "6" does not protrude into the body of the figure.
- b. The inside right line of the number "0" is curved.
- c. The white oval bordering line around the numerals of value of the "60" disappears when it touches each side of the bottom of the number "6".

Type II

- a. The vertex of the acute angle formed by the curving inside line of the number "6" protrudes into the body of the figure.
- b. The inside right line of the number "0" is more or less straight.
- c. The white oval bordering line which circles the number "60" continues partially visible after touching the number "6".

It is interesting to note that the first plate of the 60 reis, which was printed only on thick paper, contained examples of both types I and II arranged in alternating horizontal lines. The second plate was composed exclusively of stamps of Type II. The same is true of the 90 reis.

Until September 2nd, 1846, the lowest postal value was the 30 reis just as it had been for the "Bull's Eyes". However, on that date the Government, wishing to facilitate the postal circulation of newspapers, by Article 19 of a new postal law established that (and we translate) "Periodicals, regardless of size, with or without supplement, single or in packs, will pay postage of only 10 reis each". Thus for use on newspapers the value of 10 reis was created for the "Inclined Numerals" series, and was printed only on thin paper.

The Postal Regulation of December 21st, 1844, then in effect, stated in its Article 190 that the value of the stamps in the 1844 series would be "of 30, 60, and 90 reis and continuing thereafter in the same progression if the Government deems it convenient to issue stamps of higher values". Article 183 of the same Regulation stated that the overseas mail rates of a letter would be 120, 180, or 240

reis depending on its weight. It is easy therefore to understand the need of higher values for letter postage, and thus subsequently the values of 180, 300, and 600 reis appeared in this series. As relatively little correspondence went abroad in those days, there was not much need for these higher value stamps, so small quantities were printed.

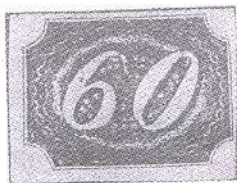
It is a rather widely-held popular misconception, particularly outside of Brazil, that the "Bull's Eyes" are Brazil's rarest stamps. For example, in their book Stamps of Fame devoted to rare and classic stamps, L. N. and M. Williams have a chapter on "Bull's Eyes", but say nothing about the second series of 1844. However, a comparative glance at the quantities printed of the "Bull's Eyes" and the higher values of these "Inclined Numerals" will show how much scarcer the latter are. Whereas the 30, 60, and 90 reis of the "Bull's Eyes" were issued in quantities of 856,617, 1,335,865, and 341,125* respectively, the quantities of the 180, 300, and 600 reis of the "Inclined Numbers" were only 50,000, 40,000, and 20,000 respectively.

These high values of this series are therefore the rarest and most expensive stamps of Brazil. It is interesting to note that whereas both Brazilian and foreign catalogues ascribe the same catalogue value to the 600 reis as to the 300 reis, one would expect the 600 reis to be more expensive in view of the smaller quantity printed: only 50 per cent of the quantity of the 300 reis.

Brazil's third series came out in 1850 and have been called "Small Numerals" and also "Vertical Numerals", but in

Brazil someone soon thought they looked like the eyes of a goat so they shortly came to be known as "Goat's Eyes" and are listed under that nickname in Brazilian catalogues today.

Up to 1854 all of Brazil's stamps had been printed in black, but in that year the 10 and 30 reis values of the "Goat's Eyes" series were issued in blue ink. Someone thought the blue colour resembled the eyes of a cat. Thus this fourth issue came to be known listed in Brazilian catalogues as "Cat's Eyes".



In resume, therefore, the first four issues of Brazil are:

- 1843 "Large Numerals" - Nicknamed "Bull's Eyes"
- 1844 "Inclined Numerals" - No nickname to date 1850 "Vertical" or "Small Numerals" - Nicknamed "Goat's Eyes"
- 1854 Same but in colour - Nicknamed "Cat's Eyes"

It will thus be observed that only the second issue is without a nickname.

However, there can be no doubt that the narrow inclined numbers of this second issue bear a remarkable resemblance to the narrow vertical and elliptical eyes of a snake, as we can see from the illustration.

To see whether his idea was tenable, the author took some of these inclined numeral stamps out to the world famous snake farm (The Butantan Institute) in Sao Paulo, Brazil. There he consulted with Dr. Helio Emerson Belluomini, in charge of biology and venoms, and Dr. Alphonse Richard Hoge, Chief of Herpetology, who showed him hundreds, nay even thousands of snakes. A qualified attendant picked one up in his hand so that we could get a close-up view of its eyes. The resemblance between the snake's vertical eyes and the figure one on the 10 reis Inclined Numerals stamp was positively striking! Dr. Hoge graciously furnished him with a number of photographs and drawings of snake eyes, including the ones shown here, and agreed that the resemblance between the Inclined Numerals stamps of 1844 and the eyes of a snake is at least as great as that of Brazil's first issue of large numerals with the eyes of a bull; that of the third issue with those of a goat, etc.

Consequently, since there is no reason why, of Brazil's classical stamps, only the second issue should be without a nickname, the author proposed on a TV programme in Sao Paulo, Brazil, on August 10th, 1964, that the "Inclined Numerals" of 1844 be hereafter known as "Snake's Eyes".

(Courtesy : Gibbous stamps monthly 1964)

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