



SIPA Bulletin

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EDITORIAL:

Against the established order of Philately, it is not my intention to incite rebellion. But in fairness to collectors, we must acknowledge that times have changed. We should not be overawed by tradition.

From the various complaints noted in the philatelic journals it seems that one cause of the alleged decline in philatelic interest is the devastating list of new issues with which collectors are faced. Thematic collecting appears to have given many countries the excuse to issue stamps on almost any topic, regardless of the fact that it may in no way relate to the issuing country. Whilst there is nothing wrong in thematic collecting, great care should be taken not to play into the hands of a various stamp issuing authorities.

Again this can be eliminated by organisers and judges at the exhibitions by excluding or eliminating or marking down entries which include undesirable material. This should not prevent us from following a theme whilst eschewing those undesirable issues. It should be made clear to the collectors that by including unsuitable items of this nature, they are doing themselves no good and the hobby in general a lot of harm. During 2001, India issued nearly 75 commemoratives of which nearly 36 Personality Stamps (48%) were printed. Stamp collectors should not collect and should give in writing that such issues need not be sent debiting their Philatelic Account with the Philatelic Bureau. Again prophets of doom have been predicting the decline and eventual death of Philately, indeed of the entire gamut of postal services. This view I have countered at every forum. Experience has shown that the new technologies and entertainment trends provide infinite opportunities to the postal administrations. I see philately revenues taking a quantum leap. Philately will offset losses in other areas, and will emerge as an important source of revenue generation. Towards this objective the World Association for Development of Philately (WADP) was constituted under the patronage of the UPU, and its constituent members are the postal administrations, International Federation of Philately (FIP), International Federation of Stamp Dealers Association (IFSDA), International Association of Philately Journalists (AIJP) and International Association of Publishers of Postage Stamp Catalogues, Stamp Album and Philately Publication (ASCOT). The need of the hour is innovation on new initiatives and diversity.

Our country must have in place a plan to stimulate youth Philately with clearly defined roles for each of the above partners. Towards this end, a number of Philatelic Exhibitions on the theme of youth Philately have to be organised under the

patronage of Philatelic Congress of India and its affiliated Associations as well as the various partners of the Philatelic industry to transact business as well as to exchange ideas.

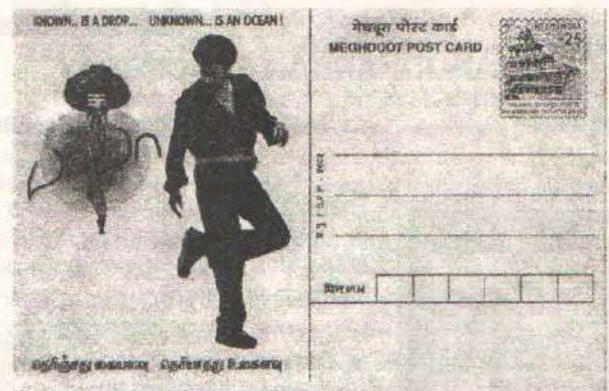
The WADP's main objectives are to set down guidelines and best practices to ensure the survival and growth of Philately. A wide variety of activities aimed at the Promotion and development of Philately are an intergral part of the WADP's work programme. The Priority issues that are being dwalt with by three Project Teams are : a) Development of Youth Philately. b) Best Practices for Philatelic Exhibitions and c) Combating Fraudulent Issues.

- Editor.

JAI HIND

MEGHDOOT POST CARD

Government of India through Notification # GSR612(E) dated September 2, 2002 amended the Indian Post Office Rules, 1933 to insert the following. "A post card shall be deemed to be a Meghdoot post card if it is so marked and provides in the space on the left hand portion of the address side, a space for single colour or multi-colour printed advertisement subject to the following conditions: Advertisement shall bear pictorial depictions or messages or both; no advertisement shall be printed anywhere else except the space provided therefore on such post card; on the address portion of such post card the words 'Meghdoot post card' shall be printed in Hindi and English; the obverse side of such post card shall be used for communication only; suchpost card shall be a single post card; and it shall conform to specified dimensions."



First of its kind.

Our Second Sunday Meetings were held at the CPMG's Conference Hall, Anna Road, HPO, Chennai - 600 002. (10.30 - 12.30 pm) regularly where around 30 members attended with President Shri Balakrishna Das presiding. Mr. Ram Mohan Spoke on "Gandhiji and World Philately" in June 2002.

STAMP NEWS

GOLDEN JUBILEE PARLIAMENT OF INDIA

13.05.2002

400

3.0 million



13th May, 1952 marked the beginning of a new phase in the history of Independent India. It was on this day that India's Parliament met for the first time after the General Elections. It was the beginning of a new phase in the journey of the nation as an independent, sovereign country.

The first meeting of the constituent Assembly on 9th December 1946, was a historic event as the Assembly was a fully sovereign body, independent of external authority. After the attainment of

freedom on 15th August 1947 and the coming into force of the Constitution of India on 26th January 1950, the character of the Constituent Assembly (Legislative) underwent a change. It became the provisional Parliament of the country. The provisional Parliament represented a crucial phase in the history of Indian Legislature, marking the transition from a colonial institution to a sovereign parliament.

The next phase in the history of the Indian democracy started when the Lok Sabha and Rajya Sabha met for the first time in the respective chambers to take up the agenda of the day. It was a moment of glory and a grand finale to the country's non-violent freedom struggle. It also marked the setting of a fresh agenda for the newly independent nation. All in all, the democratic experiment which India launched on 13th May 1952, has consolidated the country's democratic credentials. Over the last 50 years, India has proved herself to be the largest working democracy in the world.

The stamp design shows the decorative inner view of the Central Hall of the Parliament, which is stated to be one of the most magnificent domes of the world. The Central Hall, which has witnessed the transfer of power of 15th August 1947, the long deliberations which led to the framing of the Constitution and the first session after each general elections to the Lok Sabha for the last 50 years, is a place of historic importance to India. The stamp design also incorporates one of the inscriptions from another dome inside the Parliament, inscriptions that act as beacons to guide parliamentary discussions & debate.

Theme : Freedom Movement, Architecture

PRABODHANKAR THACKERAY

19.05.2002

400

0.4 million



Keshav Sitaram alias Prabodhankar Thackeray made a mark in modern Maharashtra by virtue of his leadership in the social, political and intellectual spheres.

Writings of Lokhitwadi, Agarkar and Mahatma Phule had a formative influence on Prabodhankar. He became a stringent critic of religious conformism and launched an attack on malpractices like tonsuring widows, untouchability and practice of dowry. With a remarkable insight into the contemporary social

processes, he concluded that professional priesthood was at the root of many of the injustices meted out to women and the under-privileged classes. He used any opportunity that came his way to propagate reformist ideas. He was quick to realise the potential of journalism for spreading social messages and used the press effectively to fight social evils.

Prabodhankar Thackeray was a prolific writer, having penned many plays, biographies and booklets. His writing was focused on social causes and not just literary excellence. He was also accomplished as a historian and an artist. Through his spirited writings and enthusiastic socio-political movements he tried earnestly to spread the messages of Mahatma Phule and Dr. Ambedkar.

The Samyukta Maharashtra movement, in which he played an important role in the autumn of his life, was perhaps the most important struggle in his life. Its successful culmination, unifying several diverse parties, stands testimony to Prabodhankar's diplomacy and leadership qualities.

Theme : Personality, Literature, Leaders.

COTTON COLLEGE, GUWAHATI

26.05.2002

400

0.8 million



Cotton College was established in 1901 as a Government institution during the administration of Sir Henry Cotton, after whom it has been named.

The history of the college is one of steady growth since its establishment, extending its sphere of usefulness in the field of higher education. In 1909, when Assam formed part of Eastern Bengal, B.A. and B.Sc. Classes were first opened. Since 1912, when Assam was reconstituted as a separate province, the College has undergone further expansion. Honours classes in different branches of study were opened in 1914, and numerous structural additions made to meet increasing demands.

Cotton College is the alma mater of practically all leading personalities of Assam. Six Chief Ministers of Assam starting with Bharat Ratna Gopinath Bordoloi were proud products of Cotton College. Noted educationalist Krishna Kanta Handique who was the first Vice-Chancellor of Guwahati University, litterateurs Bierendra Kumar Bhattacharya and Momoni Roisom Goswami who went on to win the Jnanpith award, musician Dr. Bhupen Hazarika who is a winner of the Dada Shaheb Phalke award and footballer Telimaran Ao, Captain of India's first Olympic team were a few noted alumni of the College.

At present, Major and Postgraduate courses are offered in 21 subjects at the College. In recognition of the merit and outstanding services rendered by the College to the people of the North East region of India, particularly Assam, the State Government concurred in to the upgradation of the College to a full-fledged Post-Graduate College in 1992.

Assam owes to Cotton College for a significant contribution to its cultural renaissance. It took a leading part in moulding the literary and cultural activities of the people of the state. It presents a cosmopolitan ambience with students coming from all parts of the North East region to make the most of some of the best educational infrastructure available in the country.

Theme : Education, Buildings.

P.L. DESHPANDE

16.06.2002

400

0.4 million



P.L. Deshpande (1919-2000) - popularly known by his Marathi initials as "Pu.La". - strode the cultural firmament of Maharashtra like a colossus for five decades. A multi-faceted genius, he made enormous contributions to the fields of literature, music, drama and films. He was also a philanthropist.

The period immediately before and after the end of the Second World War saw a creative resurgence in Marathi literature. "Pu.La" was a product of this period. Endowed with immense talent to sing as well as play the harmonium, he was also a good actor and fantastic speaker. As a writer, he was blessed with fluency and a rare sense of humour.

Though "Pu.La." preferred to call himself a performer, he handled many genres with mastery. He made films like *Gulacha Ganapati* and *Devbappa* and wrote plays like *Tuzhe ahe Tuzhepashi*. He presented wholesome entertainers like *Waryawarchi Varat*. *Vyakti* and *Valli*, the collection of sensitive pen sketches of ordinary people, earned him the Sahitya Academy Award. *Teen Phoolrani* and *Teen Paishacha Tamasha* were two adaptations from Shaw's 'Pygmalion' and Brecht's 'Three Penny Opera', transformed amazingly into Marathi as if they have sprouted from the Marathi soil itself. His travelogues were also sensitively written, in which people of distant lands were portrayed as human beings with all their idiosyncrasies. He translated the *Prison Diary* of *Jai Prakash Narayan* into Marathi.

In the Marathi world of art, "Pu.La" was nothing less than a legend. He helped an entire generation of Maharashtrians to shape their sensibilities through his writings and performances. He is particularly remembered for bringing humour into the everyday life of the common people through his works. His brand of humour was never malicious; it only tickled the person being made fun off.

Theme : Personality, Leaders, Literature

BRAJLAL BIYANI

22.06.2002

400

0.4 million



Brajlal Biyani (1896-1968) was a multifaceted leader from the Vidarbha region, who made a mark as a freedom fighter, creative writer and journalist.

Hailing from the Akola district of Maharashtra, he studied at the Morris College in Nagpur for graduation. He came under the influence of Mahatma Gandhi when the famous Nagpur Conference of the Congress was held and joined the Non-Cooperation Movement in 1920. Thereafter he immersed himself in freedom struggle and took up regional leadership in the movements of 1930, 1932, 1940 and 1942. His inspiring participation in the Dahihanda Salt Satyagraha, Jungle Satyagraha and the struggle against Nizam was noteworthy. He was jailed on four occasions.

Various official positions came his way at different junctures in his public life. In 1930 he became the Defence Minister in State Congress Committee. The year 1946 saw him as a M.P. Council Member. After independence, he was called upon to serve as the

Finance Minister of Madhya Pradesh and later, in 1957 elected to the Legislative Assembly of Bombay.

He was a writer of immense literary skill, which is reflected in his works like "Jail Mein", "Kalpana Kannan" and "Dharati Aur Aakash". He was keenly associated with the activities for propagation of Hindi and was instrumental in organising the prestigious all India Hindi Sahitya Samelan in 1936. He was also a forceful journalist. He launched the magazines "Rajasthan" and "Marwadi Mitra" in 1925 and a weekly titled "Matrubhumi" in 1931.

The establishment of the Vidarbha Chamber of Commerce and Industry in 1934 was another of his enduring contributions to the society. Because of the long lasting and varied contributions made by him to the Vidarbha region, he is generally referred to as "Vidarbha Kesri".

Theme : Freedom Struggle, Leaders, Literature.

PERSONALITY SERIES: INDIAN LITERATURE BABU GULABRAI AND PANDIT SURYANARAYAN VYAS

22.06.2002

500P 500P

0.4 million Each



Babu Gulabrai (1888-1963) was a critic, author and essayist. After completing his M.A. in Philosophy from the Agra University, he worked in the Darbar of the Chhatarpur Maharaja for two decades. He also worked as the Deewan in the princely state of Awagarh. With two of his early books, *Shanti Dharma* and *Maitri Dharma*, both dwelling upon philosophy, he established himself as a writer of repute. He went on to enrich the Hindi language and literature by authoring a large number of books on serious subjects like philosophy, psychology, politics and the sciences. His effortless, simple and lucid style contributed significantly to increase the readers' base in Hindi language. One among his works, *Hindi Sahitya Ka Subodh Itihaas*, has been particularly popular with many generations of readers and has gone into a record 47th edition. His autobiography, *Meri Asaphaltayen*, is one among the earliest works in Hindi literature in that genre.



Pandit Suryanarayan Vyas (1902-1976), who made a mark as a writer, scholar and astrologer was also a proponent of India's rich tradition in art, literature and culture. He was actively involved in the freedom struggle in his youth. He played a leadership role in the Satyagraha Movements in Malwa and Ajmer and was sentenced to jail by the British rulers. He set out to instill self-respect in the masses. It was with this objective that he initiated the All India Kalidas Festival in Ujjain in the year 1928, which has now become an important event in the national calendar. He was the guiding spirit behind the feature films *Kavi Kalidas* and *Samrat Vikramaditya*. Pandit Vyas published more than 50 books in different languages and edited numerous journals. The country honoured him with Padma Bhushan in 1958.

Theme : Leaders, Personality, Literature

OSAMA'S HEAD AND THE TURBAN ON STAMPS

By C.D. SINGH

September 11 made history. Half a century after the Second World War the world once again focussed on problems engulfing the East, the Far East, Europe, America, the Arab States, and even Africa. India suddenly found itself deeply concerned with the events in America. Indians were pulled into the centre stage



of a crime master minded at the other end of the globe. Balbir Singh Sodhi, an owner of a petrol pump in Arizona, was suddenly felled by a vicious bullet one autumn afternoon, by a stranger. The reason was the turban Sodhi was wearing to cover his unshorn hair. A part of his natural dress, the turban cost Sodhi his life. Sodhi was a Sikh and the headwear worn by Sikhs is also worn by a large number of Indians, frontiers men of Iran, Iraq, Afghanistan, Pakistan and many other communities across the world. Frank Rouke who shot Sodhi found him the look alike of Osama Bin Laden and his followers. The turban worn by Sodhi is also worn by the Taliban, who have become the most 'wanted' men in the world. In the perception of Americans, any one with that headwear was a dead duck. The turban never travelled to America; it had been worn by British royalty shown in the Mauritius R2 stamp of the Queen Mother with princess Margaret in a turban with a 'kalgi' at Trooping The Colour.

The turban is prominent on Indian stamps from the time the princely States (the Indian Feudatory States) started printing stamps. One of the first postage stamps with a portrait sporting a turban is of Sirmoor State, with the bust of Raja Sir Shamsheer Parkash (1892) of 3 pies (SG-3) and of Maharaja Sardul Singh (1899) of Kishangarh of 2 annas (SG-15). In Dr. D.K. Karve's portrait (15p stamp of 18th April 1958) we have the type of soft turban worn in Russia, Nigeria, Egypt, Pakistan, Morocco, Dubai and all the countries where world attention has been focused since September 11. Had Frank Rouke glanced at some of these stamps sometime, he would not have picked up his gun against Sodhi. Headwear has been an integral part of dress since 4000 B.C. in the East, the preferred headwear has been the turban. The varied ways a turban is worn can be seen on the stamps of India. Osama's turban style is worn across the country especially in rural India, and by a number of the peoples of the world. It is a loose piece of muslin generally white in colour, covering the head without being pretentious. The simplicity with which it is worn, added with its significance lends it its popularity. Osama's son Hamza shown wearing a small black turban in a footage flashed across the world by Al Jazeera TV, standing near an American helicopter downed by the Taliban. A similar turban is worn by Sayyid Hasan.

Shirazi under the title of R.I. Iran in a set of portrait stamps issued by Iran, and Baba Kharag Singh (60p 1988) and by the Sultan of Shihr shown in an Aden stamp, 1942 (3/4a, 1942, SG.2). The turban worn by Karve of Maharashtra is worn in India by personalities as diverse as the Tamilian poet Subramania Bharti, Swami Vivekanand the spiritualist from Kolkatta, Lala Lajpatrai the revolutionary from Panjab, M.N. Kishore from U.P., Jassa Singh Ahluwalia the Sikh commander, Durgadas Rathod and significantly, the tribal leader Birsa Munda from Bihar, on a 60 p stamp of 15-11-1988, simple style of turban on Re.1 stamp (29-4-92), could pass off as a man from the borders of Afghanistan, or an Arab state.

The 100p stamp of Liban printed for the Centenaire De L' association Al Makassed shows a bearded portrait with a turban worn horizontally across the head, akin to the Afghan turbans and in the style of today's North Western Sikhs. This turban is depicted in the 1998 stamp of Bhai Khaniyaji giving water to the wounded Moughal and Sikh soliders, this serving the suffering humanity ignoring the dress or headdress they wore.

The turban is a symbol of the East and of cultures the world over. No where is this more aptly shown than on the stamps of the world. America known few cultures to these who cover their head with muslin or silk. Today, cultures are becoming dress-less. It was so in Greece and in Ajanta India Small wonder that the first part of dress to go is the headwear.

Stamps of Afghan kings do not show the rulers with turbans. The reason is not far to seek. The rulers were completely Westernised. The stamps printed after the fall of King Zahir Khan show the revolutionaries and citizens participating in the birth of a new nation. The revolutionaries wear loose turbans with a part of the turban sometimes loosely hanging. Such a turban is worn by Ibn-al-Haitham on a cover of Pakistan of 4-11-69 and on a stamp honouring him printed by Qatar, of 35 Dirhams. The same style is sported by an Egyptian doctor in a 10 M stamp of the International Congress of Medicine. Two Afghans in 'salwar kameez' with a flag, in a 7 AFS stamp (1978) and a 32 AFS stamp (1982) are wearing stylised turbans with depth in the centre which turbans are also worn by Salaudin (Qatar), H.S. Longowal of 100p and Ganga Ram of 25p (India), Mohd. Abdul Latif of Pakistan, Re.1 with a turban top sticking out, and Arunalacham of Ceylon in a Re.1 stamp. If Rouke had seen the photographs of Ashrag Ahmedzai UN special adviser and Shahbox Ahmedzai and tribal leader Bacha Khan with their tribal turbans in the papers, he would surely have fired a magazine of cartridges at the likes of the Nigerian potter wearing a loose turban on a 50k stamp, or Dayanand Saraswati on the 15 p stamp. Lala Hardayal who founded the Gadar party shown on the cover of the 60p stamp of 18-3-87 with his loose robes would definitely be seen as a follower of Osama, and could have ended at the other side of an American gun. The 1980 Afghan stamp (2AFS) of the revolution which says it all in the turbans worn by the citizens has the title Len Reformes Democratiques Des Terres Ont Extirpe Le Feodalisme. In it one can see the turban style of VS Srinivas Sastri slightly centered in the middle, the twised turban of Madhusudan Das, the pleated turban worn on the head like V.Sai and the turban of the Maharaja of Barwani State. That such a small Piece of paper as a stamp could carry the country of its origin, culture, religion, sect and the name of the person and other information which could save lives, can only be imagined ! The culture of wearing turbans is surviving with the tribes of Afghanistan, the Arabs, and the Sikhs and Rajputs, and this is also seen in their stamps.

A MUSICAL THEME

By Irene Lawford

Correspondence is the basis of philately. After all, without correspondence there would be no need for stamps, - hence no philately! It always amazes me that so many philatelists can be so interested in 'little bits of coloured sticky paper' and yet so uninterested in the people and in the cultures of the countries whose stamps they collect.

Correspondence is what brings the static hobby of stamp collecting alive for me. Through a world-wide circle of philatelic pen-friends, my collection, and thus my interest in the collection, has been infinitely enriched. Philately transcends all barriers of race, religion, age and politics; even linguistic barriers can be happily breached.

In thematic or topical collecting, a far deeper appreciation of one's topic is derived through the background knowledge imparted by pen-friends. Many relevant and unrecognized, as well as unknown, items can be acquired to add interest and value to the collection. This is particularly true of my own theme - Music. Many countries are extremely generous in their philatelic recognition of virtually unknown musicians; but a picture on a stamp unaccompanied by any information other than a name and a date, make for a very boring entry in the collection.



An example of how this sort of collaboration works, concerns a pair of stamps issued by Sweden in 1966. The stamps, which marked the centenary of the death of Carl Jonas Love Almquist, showed a portrait of the man and a picture of a rose. I had never heard of this Love fellow, and had no idea what connection he and a rose had with music. So I wrote to a Swedish pen-friend, asking him to tell me more about the man. He told me that this little-known composer was basically a writer, whose further claims to fame were that he was alleged to have been a swindler, a forger, a rapist and a murderer, after which activities he ran off to America!



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My correspondent informed me that the rose shown on the stamp is symbolic of Almquist's best-known book, "The Book of the Briar Rose". He was able to supply me with FDC, booklet, various coil perforations and enlargements of the design. Together, these make an interesting sheet, from what might have been merely a single pair of stamps, showing an otherwise unknown musician. My pen-friend similarly furnished me with much interesting information on, and items of, Swedish philately, whose connection with music I would otherwise not have recognized. He also backed up much of this new knowledge with recordings of relevant Swedish music, little of which has ever been heard outside Sweden.

My most ardent purveyor of philatelic ephemera was a delightful Austrian correspondent. I discovered him through an American philatelic magazine, which had been sent to me in England, by another penfriend. My Austrian correspondent was Robert Stolz, known as the last of the Viennese Operetta Kings. He had the distinction of being the only Austrian, other than Heads of State, to be honoured on a stamp during his lifetime. In 1970, coinciding with his 90th birthday, Austria issued six stamps illustrating famous operettas. One of these was Robert Stolz's "Two Hearts in Threequarter Time."

Our correspondence spanned several years, during which time he sent me many postmarks issued in his honour. Robert Stolz composed "The Philatelists' Waltz", which is available as sheet music

for piano, and has also been recorded. It is dedicated to all philatelists, and there was a special cancellation issued in 1972, which makes it doubly philatelic! It's composition was inspired by his own personal credo:

Philately is, I believe, one of the most wonderful and rewarding passions. It fulfils the curiosity and the romantic longing for faraway countries and cultures. Philately builds a bridge between nations and generations.

Sadly, Robert Stolz died just before his 95th birthday in 1975. I still correspond with his widow, Einzi Stolz, who sends me further Stolz philatelic items as they become issued. The association has had much wider effects than I would ever have dreamed of.

In 1980, in conjunction with celebrations for the centenary of his birth, Einzi asked me to devise the Robert Stolz Trophy for music Philately. We decided that this award was to be made annually to the designer of the 'best' Music stamp of the year - the winning design to be selected by a panel of judges chosen from members of The Philatelic Music Circle. As organizer of this Trophy, I have been led into much further correspondence, which has led to a real interest in a completely different branch of philately - that of designing stamps.

So, now I am interested not only in the picture on the stamp, but also in how the designer arrived at his concept for the design, and how that idea was translated into the finally issued stamp. My correspondence with designers has added further treasures to my collection, in the form of autographed FDCs, proofs, trial designs and also, pictures to frame and to hang on my walls!

The same pen-friend who sent me the American magazine, also sent me an Italian one which contained an article about French Music cancels. My subsequent correspondence with the author of the article has led to the acquisition of not one, but three Italian pen-friends - all of whom have in the meaning become personal friends. (Speaking four languages is naturally an advantage; but even with limited linguistic knowledge, good will can breach many a barrier.)

The Italian section of my collection has been enriched with the contribution from Italy of FDCs, maximum cards, postcards and souvenir cards - often autographed. But, acquisitions for the collection have not been the only tangible results. My association with Italian philatelists has led to many invitations to Italy to take part in philatelic exhibitions.

Since 1980 I have been actively involved in the International Premio Augusto Massari for Music Philately. Augusto Massari was a little-known Italian composer who died in 1970; he was a philatelist and his son, the President of the Rimini Philatelic Society, decided to perpetuate his memory in some philatelic manner by sponsoring a Prize. The Premio Massari is an annual competition for the best collection of music Philately. For the first few years this was merely open to Italian collectors. However, in 1980 it became 'International', and that was when my involvement started. My collaboration has taken me not only to Italy on several occasions, but also to France, Luxembourg, West Berlin, San Marino, Belgium and Holland.

Correspondence is fun, and it can lead to some wonderful friendships. On trips to other countries I have met and visited several of my philatelic pen-friends, and I have attended philatelic events in several different places. For the armchair philatelist who cannot travel, exchange through correspondence is a delightful - and inexpensive - way of acquiring philatelic items, and knowledge. Philately is a truly international hobby, and with goodwill, linguistic shortcomings should prove no barrier to friendship between likeminded people.

(Courtesy - Ind Dak 1989)

INDIAN POSTAL HISTORY - 1947 - 1997

(Contd..)

Mr. A.K. BAYANWALA

20. Archaeological Series - 15th August 1949:

A new series of postage stamps depicting subjects of Archaeological and Historical interest was introduced and put on sale on and from 15th August 1949 - the second Anniversary of India's Independence. These stamps constitute Free India's first series definitive stamps and were intended to replace King George VI stamps, although both would remain on sale concurrently, until stock of the latter were exhausted.

A special Independence Day Cover was put on sale from 8th August 1949 and the price of such cover was 1 Anna each.

A special cachet which would be used exclusively on the day the new stamps were brought out, had been supplied to the following Post Offices, vide Postal Notice No. 23 dated 5th August 1949.

Agra	Ahmedabad	Ajmer	Allahabad
Ambala	Amritsar	Banaras	Bangalore
Bombay GPO	Calcutta GPO	Cuttack	Delhi
Dehradun	Hyderabad (DN)	Indore	Jaipur
Jullundur	Kanpur	Lucknow	Madras GPO
Mathura	Merrut	Nagpur	New Delhi
Ootacamund	Patna	Poona	Rajkot
Shillong	Simla	Srinagar	Trichirapalli

There were 10 Philatelic Bureaux in the country at that time, which were housed in the following Post Offices:

Bombay GPO	Calcutta GPO	Madras GPO	New Delhi HO	Simla HO
Lucknow HO	Patna HO	Cuttack HO	Shillong HO	Nagpur HO

As August 15, 1949 was a public holiday, the sale of these stamps was confined to certain selected Post Offices only. The new stamps were also sold at the Stamp Agency in the office of the High Commissioner for India, London.

- 3 Pies Ajanta Panel Registered News Paper not exceeding 10 tolas.
- 6 Pies Kornak Horse Fee for the Certificate of Posting.
The Blind Literature Packets upto 2 lbs for Inland & Foreign.
- 9 Pies Trimurit Post Cards.
Book Post.
Printed Papers & Sample Packets for Inland & Foreign.
- 1 Anna Bodhi Sattava Late fee for RMS carriage.
Commission for each Postal Order.
"Acknowledgement of Delivery" Fee.
Sample Packets - first 2 oz.
Air Fee on Inland Air Mail Money Order.
- 2 Annas Nataraja Money Order Commission for first Rs. 10/- Envelope.
Express delivery Fee.
Foreign Surface Mail Post Cards.
- 3 As Sanchi Stupa Foreign "Acknowledgement of Delivery" Fee. Air Mail Post Cards for Persian Gulf Countries.

- 3 ½ As Bodh Gaya Temple Sea Mail Rate.
Business Papers first 10 oz. by surface route.
 - 4 As Bhuvanesvara Registration Charges.
Air Mail Post Cards.
Insurance Charges for first Rs. 100/-
 - 6 As Gol Gumbard - Bijapur Aerogramme.
Inland Parcels. (not over 40 tolas)
 - 8 As Kandarya Mahadeva Aerogramme.
Temple Foreign Insurance Fee for every 20 pound.
 - 12 As Golden Temple Amritsar Air Mail charges for letter mail for England.
 - 1 Rupee Victory Tower Chitorgarh Air Fee for Inland air Parcels.
 - 2 Rupees Red Fort - Delhi
 - 5 Rupees Taj Mahal - Agra
 - 10 Rupees Qutb Minar - Delhi
 - 15 Rupees Satrunjaya Temple Palitana
- } High Value - mainly used for Telegraphs & heavy parcels.

In this Archaeological series, a supplementary issue became necessary as "Bodhi Sattava" statue was wrongly shown reversed (left hand raised instead of right hand) in 1 Anna value, which was rectified by a fresh issue on July 15, 1950. Second supplementary issue became necessary, when foreign Postal rates were increased for surface route from 1st December 1950. The rate for Post Cards was increased from 2 Annas to 2 ½ Annas for Letters 3 ½ Annas to 4 Annas.

3 ½ Annas stamp was withdrawn and 2 ½ Annas stamp was issued in the same design as 3 ½ Annas stamp but in lake colour. 4 Annas stamp was reissued in same design but in blue colour, because the convention of Universal Postal Union says that stamps showing Sea Mail Postage should be in blue colour. These stamps were released on 30th April 1951, vide Postal Notice No. 4 dated 19.4.1951.

Notes : Rs. 10/- stamp is found in two different colours. The first one is purple brown & deep blue and the second is purple brown & blue.

Forgeries in 8 Annas and Re. 1/- value are known. Re.1/- forgery was emanated from Nepal and is very scarce. Nothing much is known about 8 Annas forgery except it was reported by Mr. Jal Cooper.

21. Amalgamation of States' Post Offices - 1949:

On 3rd June 1947, the plan for partition of India was announced and accepted by the principal political parties in India. It was also made clear that the Cabinet Mission Memorandum of 12th May 1946 will remain unchanged. It means that the rights of the States which flowed from their relationship (Treaties) with the Crown would no longer exist and that the rights surrendered by the States to the Paramount Power would return to the states. Thus the Indian Independence Act, left the Indian States completely free, and created 562 Independent Countries within India.

While in process of assuming power, the new Indian Government had to cope with one internal crisis after another. Following the blood letting, looting and unprecedented mass migration that accompanied partition, law and order had to be restored, and mass machinery had to be organized to deal with the millions of non Muslim refugees from East and West Pakistan. But

the major task of the new administration was to unite India and to dethrone 562 princely rulers.

Against the above stated background, the Government of India decided to setup a separate "States Department" on 13th June 1947, to deal with matters of common concern with Princely States. This Department was, in charge of Sardar Patel. Mr. V.P. Menon became its first Secretary. On 5th July 1947, the States Department started functioning. And on this occasion Sardar Patel issued an important statement defining the policy of India, on the accession of States on three subjects - Foreign affairs, Defence and Communications, in which the common interest of the country were involved. The safety and preservation of these States as well as of India, demanded unity and mutual cooperation between its different parts. Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel also gave long and forceful speeches to the princely rulers on merits of integration. He said "one should not forget that one's conflicts, internecine quarrels and jealousies were the main cause of one's downfall in past, and becoming victims to foreign domination a number of times. Therefore, one should preserve the unity of the country".

A special full meeting was convened on 25th July 1947 to consider the question of accession of the States to the Dominion of India. The Princes were assured that their accession on three subjects of Defence, External affairs and Communication, would involve no financial liabilities and that in other matters there would be no encroachment on their internal sovereignty.

The bloodless revolution, which integrated all States in India, was brought about by the operation of democratic forces unleashed by freedom and also by patriotic attitude of the States Rulers who had been quick to appreciate the change.

All this happened because there is a considerable unity in India, - a unity characterized by love of country, devotion to democratic principles, common historical bonds, elements of cultural similarity and common interest. Actually, within a week's time negotiations were concluded and all States excepting Junagadh, Hyderabad and Kashmir acceded to the Indian Dominion.

The accession of the Princely States to the Dominion of India established a new and more organic relationship between the States and the Government of India. The constitutional link thus forged, proved strong enough to bear the stress of the upheaval through which the country has had to pass and enabled the Government of India and Governments of the States and the Provinces concerned to take concerted and coordinated action in relation to matters of common concern.

The accession of the States to the Dominion of India was a momentous event in India's history. For the first time, after hundreds of years, India became welded into a constitutional entity.

States merged with Provinces or the Centre or Combined to form new States, are as follows:-

1. On 1st January 1948, total 23 States including Bamra, Baramba, Hindol, Keonjhar were merged with Orissa.
2. 14 States including Bastar, Nandgaon and Raigarh, were merged with C.P. & Berar on 1st January 1948.
3. Makrai merged with C.P. & Berar on 1st February 1948.
4. Loharu merged with East Punjab on 23rd February 1948.
5. Banganapalle merged with Madras on 22nd February 1948.
6. Pudukkottai merged with Madras on 3rd March 1948.
7. Dujana merged with East Punjab on 3rd March 1948.
8. 17 States including Akalkot, Aundh, Bhor, Miraj, Sangli etc., merged with Bombay on 8th March 1948.

9. Pataudi merged in East Punjab on 7th April 1948.
10. 21 States including Sirmur, Chamba, Mandi, Suket etc., have combined to form centrally administered unit - Himachal Pradesh on 15th April 1948.
11. Seraikela and Kharsawan merged with Bihar on 18th May 1948.
12. Kutch became a centrally administered area on 1st June 1948.
13. 157 States of Gujarat including Balasinor, Dharampur, Rajpipla, Sachin, Idar, Palanpur etc., merged with Bombay on 10th June 1948.

Thus 241 States merged in Provinces or the Centre Governed areas. (To be continued...)

"SPEED POST" - A PREMIER PAID SERVICE

BY PRASHANT SHAH

Since the establishment of Postal System in India, the Department of Posts is always taking every care about their customers and see that the delivery of the postal article should reach its' destined place as early as possible. It is also observed that the required changes are implemented time to time.

As a result of the great market survey, finally on **1st August 1986**, the Department of Posts came out with a new time-bound, fast, guaranteed, economical and reliable service termed as "SPEED POST", which is available for Inland and International mail. After the existence of 15 years, Speed Post Service is working very efficiently and developed in such a wide spectrum, which is coping up the fast globalisation taken place due to commercial and industrial huge expansion in all over the world. The new class of customers are generated with their specific type of demands being carried out satisfactory under its' scheme - "TOTAL CUSTOMISED MAILING PACKAGE (TCMP)".

Beginning with 7 Inland centres - Ahmedabad, Bangalore, Chennai, Calcutta, Delhi, Hyderabad and Mumbai along with 5 International centres viz. England, Federal Republic of Germany, Hong-Kong, Japan and U.S.A. Many more centres are included in Inland and International network of EMS-Speed Post time to time as per the needs. The network of EMS-Speed Post has grown up at a fast pace, which covers **98 Inland centres** and **99 International centres** along with **Point to Point Link-up Service**, which covers approximately more than **75 pairs** (like Ahmedabad - Gandhinagar) of selected as twin cities or district towns within the State through out the Nation. Moreover, more than **1000 centres** are working as **Speed Post Extension Counter** in big/Capital town/ city in all States of the Nation.

It in fact follows a distinct mail network, bagging and transmission pattern is quite different from the ordinary/register post to ensure its' desired, speedier and guaranteed delivery standards. Every article and bag is documented, tracked and traced on computer machine at all stages of handling and transmission point to ensure prompt sorting, transmission and delivery are kept to the inescapable minimum. This kind of "Track & Trace" system is available now between almost all centres, which works as "Speed Post Centre" in National Network of EMS (Express Mail Service). Previously it was available between 8 centres of EMS Speed Post network viz. Ahmedabad, Bangalore, Calcutta, Chennai, Delhi, Hyderabad, Mumbai and Pune.

For **Proof of Delivery (acknowledgement)** is Rs.10/- per article in addition to the composite Speed Post charges. But some sort of **special rebate** offers to the bulk mailers @ 5% and 10% on business more than Rs. 10,000/- and Rs.50,000/- per month respectively.

The **Speed Post Money Order** Service was started on 13th May 1988 and guarantees delivery of cash at the door step of the recipient within 24hrs. Speed Post Money Order charge is Rs.5/- over and above it's commission. Previously the commission was recovered @10% and at present it was reduced by 5%.

The delivery of Speed Post Money Order was made even on **Sunday** by paying extra Rs.3/- as "**Holiday Delivery Fee**" in addition to Speed Post Money Order Fee Rs.5/- and commission thereon. But later on such service of Speed Post Money Order as **closed**.

2. (International Speed Post Article) : It has been decided to reduce the EMS postage rates for International EMS-Speed Post articles **addressed to Bhutan** only. The following rates are revised from 1st March 2000.

Weight	Speed Post Charges - Rs.
Upto 200Gms.	75/-
Each additional 200Gms. or part thereof upto 1kg.	15/-
Each additional 500Gms. or part exceeding 1kg.	40/-
Mechandise items	50/-

Proof of Delivery may be provided on payment of Rs.10/- in addition to Speed Post Fee.

(Ref: As per copy of letter No.38-1/97-DA dated 24th January 2000 from Assistant Director General (IM), Dak Bhawan, New Delhi-110 001)

The postage rates for EMS items (**Documents & Merchandise**) have also been revised from 1st November 2000. The new weight slabs in the interval of 250Grams have been introduced for EMS except in the case of Bhutan.

The **Zone-wise EMS-Speed Post** rates for **Documents & Merchandise** article are as under:

Weight	Zone-1	Zone-2	Zone-3	Zone-4	Zone-5	Zone-6	Zone-7	Zone-8
	Asia	Africa	M.East	Australia	Europe	S.America	N.America	Bangladesh
	Maldives	Nepal	Pakistan	Sri Lanka				
Ems (Doc)								
1st 250Gms	425/-	425/-	425/-	425/-	675/-	525/-	425/-	375/-
Addi. 250Gms	050/-	050/-	050/-	075/-	075/-	100/-	100/-	025/-
Ems (mer)								
1st 250Gms	475/-	475/-	475/-	475/-	725/-	575/-	475/-	425/-
Addi. 250Gms	050/-	050/-	050/-	075/-	075/-	100/-	100/-	025/-

The Speed Post cover mailed from Ahmedabad - RMS/2 to Berlin/Germany (Europe) Zone-5 on the same day - **1.11.2000** on which the International Speed Post charges was revised from Rs.400/- to Rs.675/-. (The balance amount of postage stamps of Rs.75/- affixed on the reverse.

Previously International Speed Post charges were levied on the basis of **distance**. All destined countries were placed within/ beyond 5000 Kms from India. Speed Post charges recovered as under:

Weight	Countries	WITHIN 5000 Kms	BEYOND 5000Kms
Upto 200 Gms		300/-	400/-
Every additional 200 Gms		090/-	090/-
Every additional 500 Gms or Part exceeding 1Kg 200/-			200/-

Proof of Delivery facility is not given to the International Speed Post article.

Thus, the effect in Speed Post charges after the revision are as under:

* In case of country like **Bhutan**, it was notably **reduced** from Rs.300/- to Rs.75/- only.

* Some of **Asian, Africian and Middle East** countries, which are situated within 5000Kms from India, it was **increased** from Rs.300/- to Rs.425/-

* The country like **Australia**, it was **nominally increased** from Rs.400/- to Rs.425/-.

* Whereas in case of all **European** countries, which are situated beyond 5000Kms away from India, it was **increased remarkably** from Rs.400/- to Rs.675/-.

* But in case of some **European** countries like **Bulgaria and Poland** both are situated within 5000Kms away from India, it was **increased maximum** to Rs.675/- from Rs.300/-.

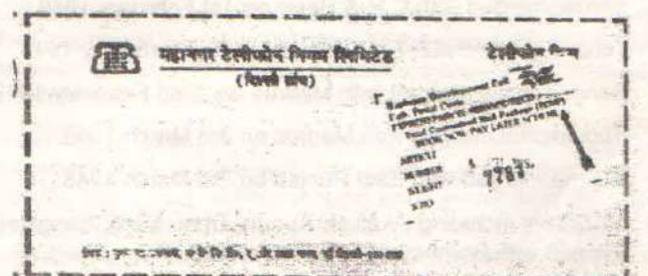
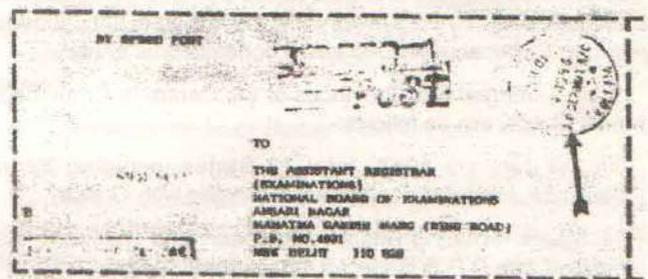
* All **South/North American** countries, it was **increased** from Rs.400/- to Rs.525/- & Rs.425/-

* The countries like **Bangladesh, Maldives, Nepal, Pakistan and Sri Lanka**, which are situated within 5000Kms from India, it was **increased** from Rs.300/- to Rs.375/-.

The EMS-Speed Post charges for **Merchandise Service** was collected **unvarying** Rs.50/- per article for all countries earlier, now it has been revised and sets **differently as per the zone**. The same are shown in the Table of EMS-International Speed Post Tariff on **Page No.5** hereinabove.

C) SPECIAL FEATURES : Speed Post Service offers some special kind of additional facilities to their customers without extra charge for it. They are as under:

1. BOOK NOW PAY LATER (BNPL) : Customer who send on an average 2 Speed Post articles everyday can avail this type of credit facilities instead of paying cash. At the end of each month credit bill and account are sent to the customer for payment. This unique facility of Speed Post Service is effectively working with good response in market. At present the Department of Posts fully concentrated on this Service of Speed post. As per rules, the customer who wants to avail such kind of Speed Post facilities, have to sign the contract for specified period with concerned Postal Circle by depositing certain amount in "**Speed Post Deposit A/C**" and obtain the **EMS-Licence Number** on renewal basis. The Department of Posts offers "**Pre Mail & Post Mail**" activities, which



saves the labour and time of their customers. The unique Service of Speed Post article termed as "Total Customised Mail Package (TCMP)" based entirely customer oriented and as per specific needs of their client are taking into consideration of priority. The discount is also offers @5% to 10% depending upon the volume of the monthly business.

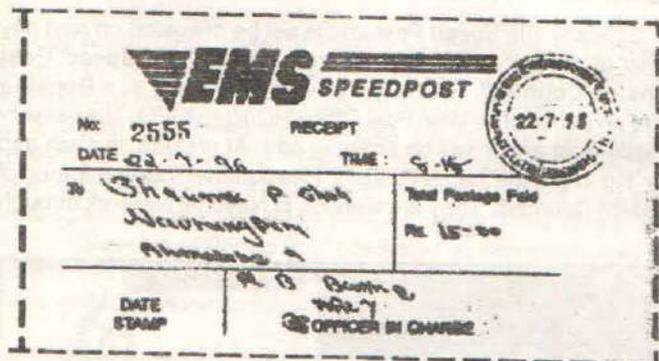
Speed Post Cover mailed from S.P.C. Kollam to New Delhi under "Speed Post Deposit A/C system. The words "S.P. Deposit A/C" is seen in postmark.

A window cover mailed from New Delhi by the D.O.P. for Mahanagar Telephone Nigam Ltd., Delhi under "Book Now Pay Later Scheme - TCMP".

2. FREE PICK-UP SERVICE : Customer who send on an average 3 Speed Post articles everyday can avail the facility of collection at the door-step within the stipulated hours. This kind of Services provided without any extra cost. But customer have to keep articles ready in all respect when the concern person will come to their premises to collect the Speed Post articles. The customer who wants to avail such kind of Speed Post service, should have made agreement with the concern Postal circle and obtained EMS-Speed Post Licence with specific Number. This licence is issued for the fixed time/period, which can be renewed. This kind of facility can be availed on credit basis and/or on the payment of cash both.

Both covers of Speed Post booked under "Free Pick-up" Service with credit A/C facility.

Speed Post cover booked Under "Free Pick-up" but on Cash Payment.



3. SELF BOOKING SCHEME : A regular customer who can avail this kind of specially arranged facility regarding the booking of Speed post articles at their premises on the deposit of advance payment

4. SAME DAY DELIVERY FOR LOCAL SPEED POST ARTICLE : This facility is available for such Speed Post centre, which are in existence at all big cities of National Network of EMS Speed Post and specific time fixed for it. In Ahmedabad, if, the Speed

Post article booked at S.P.C.C.R.M.S. on or before 9.30 AM will definitely reach a its destined local place on the same date of posting.

5. PROOF OF DELIVERY : This facility offers only on the booking of Inland Speed Post article. It is one kind of acknowledgement (Receipt) with the signature of receiver which means delivery is made to the respective person. The POD is normally return back to the sender through Speed Post. The rates of POD were different, time to time.

Period	Amount
01.08.1986 to 30.11.1990	Rs.00.50
01.12.1990 to 31.12.1994	Rs.01.00
01.01.1995 to till today	Rs.10.00

6. SPECIAL CONTRACTUAL SCHEME : Any organisation prepared to give minimum 5 Speed Post articles on regular basis on an specified day for any place within the country can avail this kind of facility by entering the contract with concern Postal Circle. A special type of arrangement to be made for the delivery of the Speed Post Service. As per the norms of delivery, the Speed Post article will reach first to the nearest EMS-Speed Post National network centre and onward to the place of delivery, it will go like a ordinary post. Henceforth, there is no guarantee for the time bound delivery of the Speed Post article (as per the Norms fixed for the Delivery of Speed Post article).

7. ROUND THE CLOCK SERVICE : Many Speed Post centres in the country are working round the clock and providing the facility of the booking of Speed Post article. This facility is also available even on Sunday and holidays. This kind of facility is mainly available at Railway Station, Domestic and International Airport where large number of public come frequently.

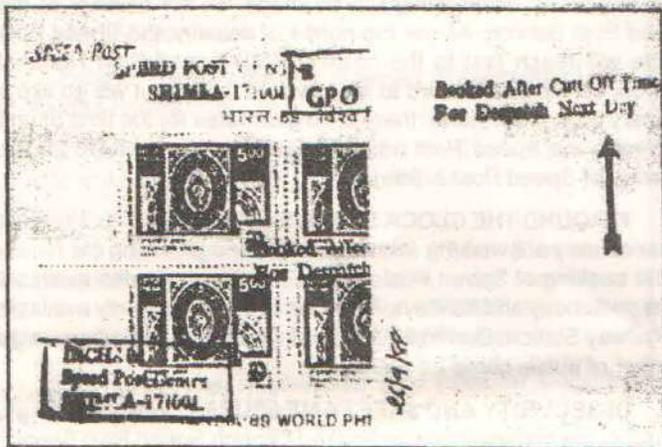
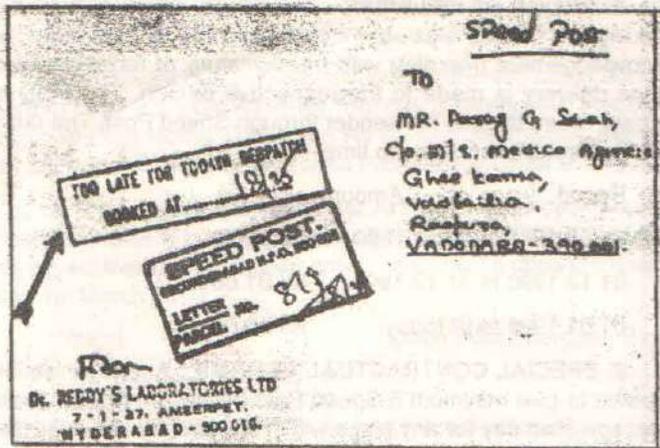
D) SECURITY AND SAFETY MEASURE - Generally, 25Kgs, weight of the materials can be booked through Speed Post Service for Inland and International mails. But the rule says that the Speed post articles carrying on or above 500 Gms., weight would be kept in open condition for the verification of the Post Master. This is because the Speed Post mails are mainly transmitted by Air. It is very much essential to see that the Speed Post articles are not carrying any sort of dangerous object, which affects the Security of aeroplane and passengers too. Each and every Speed Post article, which is booked under International Speed Post Service is strictly opened and checked by the Customs office at Airport.

A Speed Post cover mailed from Jamshedpur HO., whose Asstt. Post Master has certified the Speed Post article that i) "The beg contains articles which were closed to the presence of Postal officials ii) The beg contains the mail only and no other objects which could en danger the safety and security of air craft and passagers".

E) TOO LATE MARK & CUT OFF TIME - If the Speed Post article is booked after the cut off time, the Department of Posts is not responsible for any delay in delivery of Speed Post article. In inland network system, the cutt off timing are fixed for all Speed Post centres on the basis of availability of the infrastructure facilities, prevailing geographical situation and transmission facilities between two Speed Post centres. In short, distance between two Speed Post centres and mode of transportation are the most effective factors in delivering the Speed Post article.

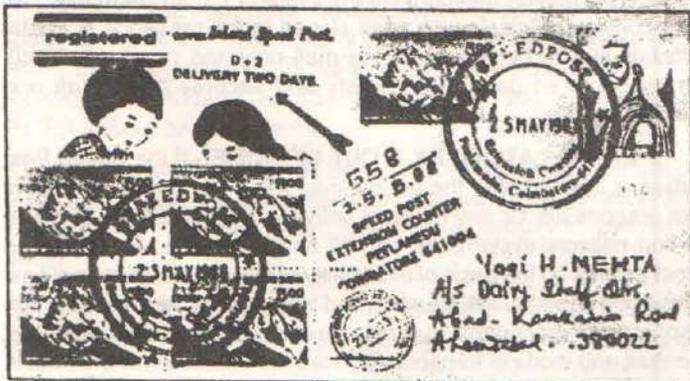
The Speed Post article will be delivered within the stipulated time if it is booked before the cut off time, which set for those two respective Speed Post centres. But the person who wants to book Speed Post articles after cut off time, in such case, the Speed Post centre will book the Speed Post article, if the customer agrees to that the Department of Posts will not be responsible for any delay.

The said Speed Post article is accepted and booked with the inscription - "Too Late for Today's Despatch" or "Booked after cut off time".



Speed Post cover booked from Secunderabad H.P.O. with inscription "TOO LATE FOR TODAY'S DESPATCH BOOKED AT 18/25.

F) DELIVERY - Norms of delivery of Speed Post articles are fixed on the distance. As per the schedule - all Speed Post centres are covered under D+1 or D+2 transit time. Here D means - Date of Posting, D+1 means the Day after Posting & D+2 means Third Day from Posting.



Speed Post cover mailed from Extension Counter-Peelamedu of Coimbatore city of Tamil Nadu State, on 25th May 1988 and it reached at Ahmedabad on 27th May 1988, which means delivery made as per the Delivery Norms - "D+2". Third Day from the date Posting. The cover shows the postmark of Delivery Norms, Date of

Posting and Delivery Mark.

The Speed Post articles sent through Railway for shorter distance depend upon the availability of train after the latest cut off time. And for longer distance of mail, it is sent through by Air. The delivery of Inland speed Post article is effective within 24 to 28 hours either they send through Railway or Air. The delivery of International Speed Post article is accomplished within 72 hours from the latest cut off time. In some cases, it is observed that the International Speed Post article is delayed further 48 hours due to the procedure of customs clearance.

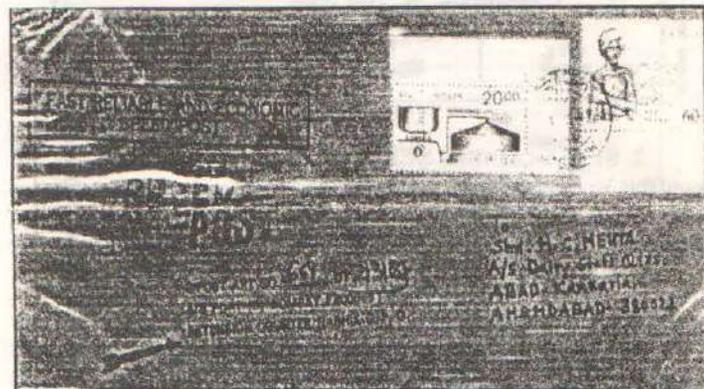
In case of unavoidable circumstances like - riot, curfew, bandh, strike and any sort of natural calamitous condition, which are not within the control of Postal Administration to make the delivery of Speed Post article delay for uncertain period. In such kind of peculiar situation, Postal Department will accept and book Speed Post article but with the consent of the customer that no complaint will be lodge for any sorts of delay in delivering the said Speed Post article at its destined place. The Speed Post article marked as under:

- * Booked at Party's Request
- * At the Request of the Customer
- * Accepted under Sender's Risk
- * Delay Intimated &
- * Subject to 24 Hours Delay to Transmission

It is observed that in some of cases, the delivery of Speed Post article is completed in two stages. i) As per Delivery Norms, it reaches to the nearest Speed post centre, which is working in the EMS-National Network (it may be District Headquarter or State Capital) and ii) further it reach on next day to its destined place, which functioning as "Point to Point" Speed Post center in State. And hence, at present number of Point to Point Speed Post centres are functioning effectively in each and every State of India. They are booked and received to deliver Speed Post articles through either their respective District Headquarter or State Capital. And they linked in EMS-National Network of Speed Post.

The Delivery of Speed Post article may not be within the stipulated time or it may be on the next day, if the Speed post article is booked for the centre, which is in the EMS-National Network but the particular area of that Speed Post centre (where to deliver the Speed Post article) is out of municipal octroi limit. Such area treated as "Out of Delivery Zone/Area". The Speed Post article is delivered along with ordinary post.

Similarly, the Speed Post article will be delivered on next day in case of some Speed Post centres working as "Speed Post Extension Counter". Normally, they are functioning as a Booking Centre on behalf of its Main Post Office/HO/RMS/GPO. The delivery of Speed Post article will be ordinary one. At present, in each and every big city/state capital/District Headquarter have number of Extension Counters. They are working in National Network through



their respective RMS/HO/GPO of city.

Speed Post cover mailed from Nasik, GPO of Maharashtra Postal Circle. Nasik works as an "Extension Counter" for Bombay GPO through the Speed Post concentration Centre "Air Port (B) Bombay (400099)." The postmark seen on the cover.

The Delivery standard for Speed Post Money Order and Parcel are equal to the Speed Post Mail.

G) REFUND - The issue of payment of Compensation for delay/loss of article or its contents relating to Speed Post has been under examination in the Directorate time to time. Speed Post a premium product of the Department of Posts are special service to be provided within a prescribed time frame.

Hence, in order to provide for a more responsive redressal for public complains and to make the service as premium product more attractive for the users, the following decisions have been implemented by the Department of Posts w.e.f. 22nd January 1999.

1. In the event of delay of domestic Speed Post article beyond the prescribed delivery norms stipulated time to time, as a part of **Money Back Guarantee**, the Speed Post charges paid by the customer will be refunded, subject to condition that - (Previously it was double the amount of the postage)

* Delay due to curfew, bandh, strike and natural disaster etc. will not count as delay in delivering and such **days of interruption** will be **excluded** from the total days taken in delivery of article.

* The article booked beyond cut off time will be counted as booked on the next day and will be marked as "**Booked after cut off time**".

2. In the event of loss of a Speed Post article, loss of contents or damage to the contents, the compensation payable to the customer will be **double the Speed Post charges or Rs.1000/- whichever is less.**

The customer should have lodged complaint in writing to the concerned officer of Speed Post Business Office along with the evidence of the booked article and computer bar code number. The loss of article or loss or damage to its contents will first be established on receipt of confirmation to this effect from office of delivery/destination and responsibility fixed and amount of compensation recovered from the officials at fault. The settlement of claim will not be linked with the recovery from the official.

H) TRACE & TRACK SYSTEM - This is the advance system run and controled by the computer and electronic equipments through which, Department of Posts, can keep track on the booked Speed Post article i.e. its booking, documenting, bagging, handling, transmission from one place to another and its delivery in time fixed for it. So all the Speed Post articles are not only recorded but delivered with case as the "**Trace & Track**" operations are made right to delivery and all the details of delivered Speed Post article are feed back to their respective booking centre. All centres in EMS-National Network of Speed Post are linked up with each other. The Department of Posts will get the details of booked article and trace out its whereabouts while it is in transit. And even in case of complaint

regarding its delay in delivery or loss, they will try to know about the article through this system, as part of after sales services.

Speed Post cover mailed from Dadar HPO to New Delhi with Computer Bar Coding Number **BOMO 14203398110**

Here **Computer Bar Coding** works as under :

- BOM - Abbreviation of Bombay
- 014 - Last 3 digits of Pin-Code for Speed Post Centre-DADAR HPO
- 2 - Speed Post Booking Centre - DADAR HPO - Counter Number
- 0 - Nature of Article e.g. Speed Post letter without POD.
- 3398 - Registration Booking No. of the Speed Post Article Booked
- 110 - The First 3 digits of the Pin Code for Speed Post Destination Centre, New Delhi.

Before, I conclude this article, I must appreciate the Department of Posts to establish the Speed Post Service and implement it time to time as required by the customers. And it stands long with the influx of Express Parcel Post, Hybrid Mail, Mass Mail (Business Post), Corporative Mail, Corporate Money order Service. Express Money Order Service. But still there is lot of scope to improve this service by keeping specialized & well trained staff, supplying good quality of packing materials especially for Parcel Mail, developing good handling & carrying system, by providing extra facility at Speed Post centres in comparative to the International/ domestic couriers, Municipal Octroi which is recovered on Speed Post Parcel to be sorted out and good/quick positive response in case of complain and so many things, and so many things, if implemented, the Speed Post will progress and achieve success.

'DENTISTRY' ON STAMPS

By A G K LEONARD

Health and medical theme have been plentifully publicised on thousands of stamps from many countries but the world's postal authorities have so far shown themselves less prolific in issues specifically exemplifying dentistry and dental health. Although significant, the number of stamps devoted to dental theme is still comparatively small, which made more welcome to collectors of this topic the additions appearing in recent years.

The most eye-catching came from the Netherlands on 6th September, 1977 commemorating the centenary of professional training for Dutch dentists, initiated in 1877 by the appointment of Dr.Theodore Dentz as lecturer in dentistry at Utrecht University. From his handful of students, the number studying for the profession has expanded to some 2,500 at five Dutch universities today.

Linked with this centenary, the prevention of diseases of teeth and gums was postally promoted by a million special stamps, S.G. 1280, printed in combination of pink, blue, ivory and black, in a design by Henk Cornelissen and Kerel Kruijsen sybolising aspects of dental care, sound teeth and health gums and incorporating a mouth mirror and dental formulae.

The Netherlands was, in fact, the first to have a stamp pictorially promoting care of teeth, for S.G.805, one of the 1954 "Child Welfare" set illustrating children's activities, showed a girl brushing her teeth.

In July 1977 Brazil released three million of S.G.1658 on the occassion of the third International Congress of Odontology, hosted



by the Brazilian Association of Odontology, with thousands of participants at the State University of Rio de Janeiro. The stamp highlighted the treatment of water supplies to help reduced teeth decay, strongly promoted by the country's Department of Health. Its design by Alusio Carvao neatly superimposed the caducus on a background repeating in bold letters "AGUA, H₂O NaF FLOUR" - a novel message for a postage stamp.

It is still a contentious issue in Britain, given postal publicity by the meter marks of the British Dental Association carrying the slogan "Fluoridation Halves Tooth Decay". The discoverer of fluorine in 1886 was the French pharmacist and chemist Henri Moisson (1852-1907), awarded the nobel Prize for chemistry in 1906 and thus portrayed on the Swedish issue of 60 years later, S.G.524.

On 29th June 1977, the island of Niue, an outcrop of reefs in the South Pacific with a population of some 4,000 issued three stamps in designs by R.M. Conly representing progress in its health services. One of them (S.G.217) depicted a mobile school dental clinic together with a dentist and his young patient. As elsewhere, the introduction of "western" diets in which soft and sugary foods predominate has had adverse effects on children's dental health - to tackle which the service was established, with trained island operators, to undertake conservative work in schools, now extended to cover the preschool and adult population of Niue.

Self-governing, the island is administrated by New Zealand, whose long-running annual series of "Health Stamps" included one in 1971, S.G. in 962, marking the golden jubilee of the country's school dental service, claimed to be the first of its kind in the world. Ancillaries play a big part in this service and L.C.Mitchell's design showed a dental nurse offering a toothbrush to a young boy -- both of them displaying big smiles.

A young girl with a big "toothpaste" smile appeared alongside th silhouettes of two children happily playing together on the first stamp specifically publicising-and inscribed -- "Dental Health". This was S.G.1134, reproducing Charles Carter's design in green on white, released with first day of issue ceremonies in New York on 14th September, 1939, during the centenary meeting of the American Dental Association. Nearly 120 million were issued, in the standard domestic letter rate, then four cents, so they were widely noticed on American correspondence.

On the issued stamps the inscription "American Dental Association 1859-1959" appeared at the top of the design, whereas it had been placed at the bottom in an earlier version, of which photographs were released to the press by the U.S. postal authorities well in advance of stamp production and release. The adopted design also showed a complete re-drawing of the girl's head at the right, particularly in respect of a more "unisex" hair-style.

Much more work-a-day in context was the first stamp showing a dentist actually giving treatment, issued in 1964 as one of a quarter illustrating progress in the modern health services of the formerly backward territory of Papua and New Guinea. From a photograph, S.G.58 offered a realistic picture of a small boy being treated by a local graduate of the dental college at Port Moresby.

Turning to an isolated rugged island in the South Atlantic, development and welfare projects of St.Helena were featured on the series of stamps introduced in 1968 and reissued in decimal currency in 1971. Their delicate designs by Sylvia Goaman, incorporating typical local plants, included a 1 1/2d. / 1p value (S.G.228 and 262) devoted to the island's dental unit, depicting a dentist with his equipment -- but no patient in sight!

The latest additions to the philatelic dental theme, a pair from Kuwait released on 3rd December in compliment to the Tenth Arab Dental Union Congress, offered another picture of a dentist at work on a patient.

Earlier, in 1964, the Fourth Arab Congress of Dental and Oral Surgery, to give its full title, was held at Damascus, providing occasion for a Syrian commemorative, S.G.850, which portrayed the 11th century Arab physician known to us as Albucaasis, who wrote extensively on dental matters and devised some of the earliest dental instruments. He and others who figure in the history of dentistry must be reserved for a later article.

Meanwhile, concerning ourselves with present-day dentists, Iran has so far been the most generous in according stamp recognition, with three separate issues marking the congresses of the Iranian Dental Association. The Second, in 1964, was marked by S.G.1360-61, in a common design showing its emblem. The third congress a year later ws likewise commemorated (S.G.1398) and then there was an interval until 1972 when the tenth congress received publicity through another pair, S.G.1734-35, featuring the I.D.A. emblem and the figure "10".

A realistic picture of an Arab dentist at work on an adult in the dental chair appeared on a 1968 stamp of Qatar, S.G.260, one of a set for the 20th anniversary of the World Health Organisation, exemplifying developments in the health services of this Sheikhdom.

World Health Day, 7th April 1977, saw the "issue" of a mysterious "stamp" -- with special postmark and first day cover -- from Egypt in commemoration of the Fourth World Congress of Oral Implantologists but the whole "issue" was subsequently denounced by the Egyptian postal authorities as entirely unofficial and bogus.

Further east, the Fifth Asian-Pacific Dental Congress was publicised in 1967 by the host South Korea, with S.G.691, using a global motif supplemented by a miniature sheet of the stamp and commemorative inscriptions in English as well as Korean.

A Map of Africa with the participating countries highlighted provided the design for a stamp issued by Sanegal in 1976 (S.G.591) to mark the meeting at Dakar in April that year of the organisation of French-speaking dentists in West Africa, GADEF.

Reverting to the European scene, in, September 1968 Bulgaria marked the meeting of the International Dental Federation held, at Varna with S.G.1829, showing its emblem (F.D.I. in French) above an exterior view of the new congress hall that provided its venue.

Five years earlier Hungary joined in stamp tributes to the centenary of the International Red Cross, releasing a set of delightful child studies by E.Zombury that included S.G.1926 showing a boy drying himself after washing, with toothbrush and tumbler prominent beside him.

It would be fanciful to extend the philatelic dental theme to include Ceylon stamps of 1935 onwards depicting the Temple of the Tooth at Kandy containing the sacred relic of Buddha, encased in gold and encrusted with precious stones, or S.G.137 of Tanzania, one of the 1965 definitives, which depicts a prehistoric skull and teeth, but one should not overlook a 1968 release from the Yemen Arab Republic, noted S.G.Appendix, which offers a picture of a dentist in a unique context.

Commemorating Dr.Christian Barnard's heart transplant operations, two of this quarter (1/4 and 10B denominations) show him examining his second patient, the late Philip Blaiberg (1909-69), a South African dentist who qualified D.D.S. in London in 1933 and practised in Cape Town until affected by heart attacks. After his heart transplant on 2nd January, 1968, he lived until 17th August, 1969 and wrote of his experience in his book "Looking at My Heart".

(Courtesy : Deccan Philatelist, 2002)

JUNIOR CORNER

WATERMARKS AND PERFORATIONS

By Anthony S.B. New

Watermarks

We have a young friend called Suresh, who is twelve. The other week his Aunt Sheela came to stay at his house and he proudly showed her his stamp collection.

"That's very nice," she said, "I believe I've got an old album somewhere that I had when I was your age. If I can find it I'll send it to you".

Sure enough, after a few days it arrived. It was rather the worse for wear, and Suresh could have taught Aunt Sheela a thing or two about mounting, but there were lots and lots of stamps and did a hand-stand for joy. Suresh's own album was new and beautiful, so he decided to take all the stamps from his aunt's album and put them into his; that is, of course, all the ones that were different from the ones he'd already got. Well, he started on this task and got more and more excited as his album pages filled up. Priya, the girl next door, was excited too, because she collected stamps and she knew he would be sure to have some good swops. And so he had.

On one of the pages of the old album were some stamps from Transvaal. Suresh looked in his album and found he already had the King Edward VII red penny one, a good copy, too-better than his aunt's which had a rather heavy Johannesburg postmark. Never mind, hers would make a good swop for Priya. Out it came and went into the swop pile, and he got on with the next page. So far, so good! He had a fine time swopping his duplicates with Priya....

But then, three days later, you'll never guess what happened. Poor old Suresh! Priya came rushing in, beaming all over her face.

"What do you think", she cried. "That red penny Transvaal stamp! I was putting all those swops from your aunt's album into mine last night and Daddy looked over my shoulder and said he'd like to look at the watermark on that Transvaal one. We did and I saw it plainly -it had an anchor, and you won't believe it but the catalogue price is Rs.2000/- instead of Rs.5/- because it's got a Cabled Anchor instead of a Multiple Crown C.A. or something!"

Suresh just stared at her with his mouth open while she went chattering on.

"Aren't I lucky! Daddy's excited, too, because it's the first time he's ever seen a stamp like it, but he knew they could be found. He's coming over tonight to show you how to find the watermark on yours".

Priya's father came over that evening and showed Simon what to do. First of all, he explained, you hold the stamp up to the light with your tweezers, and it may show up this way. If it doesn't you need a watermark detector tray; these only cost a few rupees at a stamp shop.

You place the stamp, face downwards, on the black tray and if you still can't see the watermark you put a few drops of benzine on and that makes it show up against the tray. But you have to be terribly careful when using benzine because it catches fire if you put it anywhere near a flame, so you must never use this without help from someone older. Benzine will not spoil the gum on mint stamps but it might spoil the design on stamps printed by photogravure.

They treated Suresh's red penny Transvaal this way, and it

turned out to be one which the Multiple Crown C.A. (Crown Agents) watermark and only worth Rs.5/-. It seemed awfully bad luck on Suresh, but he knew that it might easily have been the other way round, with Priya giving him a valuable swop, so he tried not to be too disappointed.

When Thomas De La Rue & Co. Ltd. were printing these Transvaal stamps, they were also printing stamps for the Cape of Good Hope, and a sheet of the paper used for the Cape of Good Hope stamps must have got by mistake into the machine which was printing the Transvaal ones. These are scarce and therefore valuable. Nobody knew about the mistake until long after the stamps had been sold at the Post Office and so no mint ones have ever been found. If one ever did come to light (somebody might have bought one had never used it) you can imagine what a lot it would be worth! This is the reason why Priya's stamp was worth Rs.2000/- and Suresh only Rs.5/-

Do you know what a watermark is? It is a thinning of the paper pulp produced by Dandy Rolls, while the paper is being made. It is put there to make it as difficult as possible for people to forge stamps. Some countries do not use this kind of paper nowadays, such as Canada, Poland and Switzerland.

Watermarks are not always composed of anchors and crowns, however. There are Lotus Flowers (Ceylon), Lions (Persia), Pineapples (Jamaica), Elephant's heads (India), Turtles (Tonga), Aeroplanes (Luxemburg) and many other designs.

Now, as you can guess, Suresh is busy looking for watermarks! Priya's father brings a 'Big Gibbons' and shows him illustrations of watermarks so that he knows exactly what to look for, and when to look, because there is no need to examine every stamp. Priya has put her precious find into a little cellophane envelope and mounted it in her album. Of course, it is her most prized possession.

Here are some watermarks you can look for now. When Queen Elizabeth II came to the throne in 1953, new stamps were issued (seventeen values, from 1/2d. to 1s6d.) all showing a picture of the Queen. The watermark on all these stamps showed a crown (a Tudor crown) over E₂R.

At Her Majesty's wish, the crown in the watermark was changed to St. Edward's crown, and starting from 1955 - the same stamps began to be issued with this new watermark. Now wouldn't you like to have a set of each? If you're not sure what the new watermark looks like, all the British high values (2s.6d. to ***1, showing castles) have it. What fun it would be to have a page of each to show your friends. Both pages would look the same to them, but you would be able to point out what the difference was. Why not start looking for some old envelopes and pieces of brown paper now, and see what you can find? Watermarks are wonderfully interesting and lots of stamp collectors know nothing about them - poor Suresh, for instance, until he learned the hard way!

Putting the watermark into the paper is the very first process in stamp making, and the last one, as you may remember is perforation. Between them they make plenty of excitement for stamp collectors.

Perforations

The very first stamp ever issued, the Penny Black, was imperforate (that is, not perforated), simply because nobody had invented a machine for perforation holes. All the early sheets of stamps in the Post Office had to be cut with scissors.

That is why the first stamps of a country are usually found with cuts in the design and one or two margins missing. The scissors were often used in a hurry and so long as enough of the stamp got on to the letter to carry it through the post, that was all that mattered.

All imperforate stamps are best collected in pairs, showing the margin between two stamps. There are some scoundrels who cut away the perforations and try to pass the stamps off as rare specimens! So see that all your imperforate stamps have four wide margins.

As a good stamp collector, you should know how to count a stamp's 'teeth', and make sure that two stamps that look alike, are really alike. To do this you must buy a perforation gauge. You can get one for less than ten rupees and you will have a lot of fun for your money. This is how to use it.

On your gauge you will see little rows of evenly-spaced dots. You simply put your stamp down flat on these and then move it up and down until you find a row of dots that exactly fits the perforation holes. At the side of each row of dots is a number, and that is what the stamp measures. (It means the number of holes to two centimetres). Philatelists call it the Perf. Number. Measure the top of the stamp first, then turn it round and measure the side. You may have 13 1/2 x 14. Or perhaps both the top and the sides measure, 14, then the stamp is P. 14.

In the 'Big Gibbons' every perforated stamp has its correct perforation number, so you can always check up. The top measurement of a stamp is always the first number of the two. For instance, every one of those seventeen values of Great Britain we were talking about (either with the Tudor crown watermark or the St. Edward's crown) are P.15 x 14. Try it and see! The high value castles are P.11 x 12, so if you try these you will soon know if you are measuring properly.

You remember Suresh and his Rs.2000/- swop, don't you? Well, differences in perforation can alter the value of a stamp just as watermarks can. During the II World war in issue of New Zealand stamps was printed by one firm and perforated by another because the first firm was bombed and lost part of its machinery. These stamps are known as 'Blitz Perfs', the New Zealand 4d. used stamp (1936-42 issue) with perforations 14 x 13 1/2 is catalogued at Rs.10 and with perforations 14 both sides (the Blitz Perf) it is Rs.3000!

From British Honduras in 1953 came a green and red 5 cent stamp showing a spiny lobster. Its Perf. Number was 13 1/2. In 1957 the same stamp appeared with its 'teeth' changed to P.14. Try to catch these two lobsters for your album. If you manage it you will want anyone looking at your collection to know why you have two, so write underneath each one its date and Perf. Number, e.g. '1953, P.13 1/2' and '1957, P.14.

You should always 'write up' some interesting like this. 'Wmk' is the short way of writing 'watermark so if you had both those Transvaal stamps in your album you would write neatly underneath one, 'Wmk. Anchor', and under the other 'Wmk. Mult. Crown C.A.'

You may come across stamps which have two sides perforated and two imperforate. These are known as 'coils' because they are made in a long strip for use in stamp machines. Canada and the U.S.A. issue coils like this, but in Great Britain, South Africa and Australia stamps for machines are perforated. South African coils are easy to recognize because they are printed in different colours, but in Great Britain you can only tell 'coil' from 'sheet' stamps by their watermark, which is sideways on a stamp from a coil.

Measuring perforations and detecting watermarks may sound dull or too much like hard work for playtime hours-but don't you believe it! It's exciting and fun-And your might find a stamp worth Rs.2000/-

(Courtesy : Postage Stamps)
