



SIPA Bulletin

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GUEST EDITORIAL:

First Message from the new FIP President

I thank everyone for the confidence you have in me to elect me as your President at the Seoul Congress in August 2002.

Philately faces many challenges and FIP has to rise to the occasion to bring about a Renaissance in philately in the world. We all know that the youth of today are attracted to the new leisure and entertainment options brought about by the new technological era. Pressures are put upon our young from elementary to high school and technical colleges and universities to be computer literate, and the instant communication that the new technological era has brought about has reduced the importance of letter writing, and the use of the postage stamp.

Your new board and I have sat down and are working out a strategy to revive and excite our present generation to value the hobby of stamp collecting. The programmes will be announced to you in the next FIP Flash.

In the meantime, we are reviewing our contributions at the World Association for the development and Promotion of Philately (WADP), and FIP's role in the organisation of "OLYMPHILEX" philatelic exhibitions that coincide with the holding of Olympics. We are looking at how we can make future FIP Exhibitions more interesting and exciting to the general public. We want to make present day philatelists better philatelists, and we want to influence some non-philatelists today to be philatelists tomorrow.

At the Seoul Congress we spent several hours discussing the Open Class and the One Frame exhibits. We all agreed to the importance that these exhibits will play in forging and pushing a new frontier in philately.

My Board and I are committed to making our wish a reality at future FIP exhibitions as soon as possible. My warm wishes and thanks to all, once again.

Koh Seow Chuan



Special Cover issued on the occasion of 50th Anniversary of the "Start of the Che.Sivaji Ganesan's first Movie Parasakthi".

MESSAGE FROM PAST PRESIDENT

CONGRATULATIONS AND THANKS!

Let me start by congratulating Koh Seow Chuan for his election as President for one within the Hobby world of the most powerful World organisation - F.I.P. and to welcome one of my oldest international philatelic friends, the new Vice-President Ray Todd and naturally also welcome to Tay Peng Hian as a new Director.

Let me finalise this article by thanking all FIP members for 12 years of co-operation and let me assure you, that I, whenever needed will be ready to support FIP and the World Philately.

A special thank you to all those with whom I had the pleasure to meet and work with at the FIP Board or in the FIP Commissions and Sections, but let the warmest thanks go to our Secretary General, Marie-Lousie Heiri - without her - FIP would never had managed to be the most important and trustful partner within the World of Philately.

Knud Mohr

FIP Hon. President

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. Madan Mohan Das Spoke on "Youth Philately" in October 2002.

**PERSONALITY SERIES:
SOCIAL REFORMERS**

12.09.2002

500,500,500

0.4 million each



Ayyan Kali (1863-1941) led a struggle of epic proportions in Kerala against the evils of caste-based discrimination, of which he too was a victim. Hailing from the hamlet of Venganur near Thiruvananthapuram he grew up to play a leadership role in many struggles against oppression and fought for the right to use public paths and wells and to open schools and temples for the untouchables. He floated the Sadhu Jana Paripalana Sangham for the welfare of the depressed section of the society and was later nominated to the State Assembly by the Maharaja of Travancore. No less a person than Mahatma Gandhi, who had visited him at Venganur in 1937, appreciated his indefatigable leadership and contributions towards the emancipation of the downtrodden.

Chandraprabha Saikaini (1901 - 1972) not only pioneered a movement for the emancipation of women in Assam, but also led crusades against various malpractices prevalent in the society. Hailing from the Kamrup district of Assam, she opened a small school for girls while still in her teens and went on to strive relentlessly to rescue womenfolk from the drudgery of domestic work and to educate them. In 1926 she formed the Assam Pradeshik Mahila Samity which grew under her guidance to establish a presence in every village of Assam and contributed to women's education and upholding women's rights. A Gandhian to the core, she played a major role in the Freedom Movement in Assam. She is also remembered for her poetry and novels.

Gora (1902 - 1975) was a social reformer, freedom fighter and educationalist who strove to eradicate caste differences and untouchability. Born in an orthodox family, he made a name for himself as a teacher early in life. However, inspired by the spirit of nationalism and the reformist zeal within him, he moved to the remote village of Mudunur in Andhra Pradesh in 1940. He started the Atheist Centre, which soon became a centre of activity for social change. Fighting untouchability, empowering women and including the nationalist spirit were some of the programmes promoted by Gora. In the freedom struggle he was an associate of leaders like Mahatma Gandhi and Jawaharlal Nehru. In post-independence India also he promoted programmes for social change and worked for Bhoodan and Sarvodaya Movements. He was a staunch advocate of atheism as a positive way of life.

Theme : Personality, Freedom Struggle, Leaders.

ANANDA NILAYAM VIMANAM, TIRUMALA

11.10.2002

1500

3 million



The Golden Tower over the Sanctum sanctorium of the Tirumala temple, commonly known as the Ananda Nilayam Vimanam is a graceful symbol of great religious and historical significance.

Built in the Dravida style of architecture, the Ananda Nilayam Vimanam was gold gilded approximately 700 years ago by the benefactors who patronised the temple. From the historical inscriptions available it is evident that gold gilding of Ananda Nilayam Vimanam was a continuous process with the gold donated by devotees. The various inscriptions relating to Ananda Nilayam Vimanam reveal that many kings used to show their gratitude by way of contributing to the gold gilding work of Ananda Nilayam Vimanam at the Sri Venkateswara Temple of Tirumala whenever they were successful in their campaigns or their vows were fulfilled.

The first and foremost of the benefactors to be associated with the gold gilding of Ananda Nilayam Vimanam was Jatavarma Sundara Pandya I who started the process in 13th Century. The most famous in the line of benefactors was Krishnadevaraya, the legendary monarch of Vijayanagar. Because of its intimate connection to various dynastic families, the Vimanam is significant to the process of reconstructing the histories of South India in the ancient, medieval and modern eras.

The Vimanam is noted for its arresting figures of divine grace and appearance. These figures represent the different cultural beliefs that existed from time to time. With the passage of time the Vimanam lost its brilliance and the masonry work could not withstand the forces of nature. The Tirumala Tirupati Devasthanams found it therefore necessary to rebuild the structure and replace the old plates by new ones in 1958.

The Ananda Nilayam Vimanam, apart from being a source of spiritual inspiration, has also inspired various activities in the fields of social reform, literature and culture. The First Day Cover portrays the Geological Arch of Tirumala, a unique creation of nature, believed to be more than 1000 million years old. The Arch also figures prominently in the mythology associated with Lord Venkateswara.

Theme : Religion, Hinduism, Architecture.

KANIKA BANDOPADHYAY

12.10.2002

500

0.4 million



Continuing with the series on personalities who have made enduring contributions to Indian Music, the Department of Posts issued a commemorative postage stamp of Kanika Bandopadhyay (1924 - 2000), a great exponent of Rabindra Sangeet.

Rabindra Sangeet is a genre created by Rabindranath Tagore, one of the greatest creative genius that India has produced. Though primarily known for his poetic brilliance, Tagore was no less a composer.

In Rabindra Sangeet, music goes on to interpret the lyrics, weaving an atmosphere of sheer magic. The variety in Tagore songs is astonishing. While a large number of them were based on Indian classical music, he also experimented with folk and western tunes.

Rabindra Sangeet has neither any restriction, nor domain. It is free and it extends the feeling of beauty and joy to the infinite expanses of the universe.

Hailing from Bankura in West Bengal, Kanika was brought up and educated in the intellectually stimulating atmosphere of Shantiniketan, the ashram founded by Rabindranath Tagore. Gifted as she was with a melodious voice, her talents were nurtured and nourished at the Sangeet Bhavan in Viswa Bharati University. She was trained in both classical music and Rabindra Sangeet and was fortunate to be taught and guided by Gurudev Tagore himself. She participated in dance-dramas directed by Gurudev and toured different parts of the country as part of his troupe.

Kanika joined Sangeet Bhavan as a teacher and went on to become the Head of the Department and then Principal. Even after her retirement she remained a part of the University as Professor Emeritus. She was a regular artiste for All India Radio for many decades, apart from bringing out nearly 300 immensely popular records. Besides Rabindra Sangeet she also sang Bhajans, Nazrulgiti and Atulprasad songs. Her concerts were organized in Europe and America also, winning wide acclaim for the incomparable style with which she rendered Gurudev's lyrics.

Kanika Bandopadhyay authored three books on Rabindra Sangeet which have been popular with music lovers. She was also associated with the Elmhirst Institute of Community Studies, Shantiniketan, through which she took up social service and community development programmes. Many awards and distinctions were conferred on her, notable among them being the Padmashree (1986) and the Deshikottama title, the highest degree of the Viswa Bharati University (1997).

Theme : Personality, Music.

ARYA VAIDYA SALA, KOTTAKKAL

12.10.2002

500

0.8 million



India is home to a variety of alternative medical and health traditions. The most prominent among them is Ayurveda, perhaps the longest unbroken health tradition of the world, which has a textual and theoretical backing that is many centuries old. The Department of Posts tries to focus attention on this glorious tradition by issuing a commemorative postage stamp on

Arya Vaidya Sala, Kottakkal, an institution of excellence that has contributed immensely to the development of the Ayurvedic Medical practices in modern times.

Established in 1902 by Vaidyaratnam P.S. Varier (1869 - 1944) the Vaidya Sala has played an important role in reviving Ayurveda, which had suffered a setback during the colonial times. Not only did the institution contribute, develop, and evolve Ayurveda to meet the challenges of changing times, but it also took health care to the weaker sections.

This was done by organising the Vaidya Sala as a charitable Trust in which the profits were ploughed back into the institution itself. The Charitable hospital, one among the arms of the Trust, provides free service to the weaker sections, thus ensuring that the surplus generated benefits the society at large.

Organising the medicine manufacturing facilities systematically in a factory setup, standardising of procedures and evolving of bench marks in many aspects of treatment, raising a country-wide network of branches and agencies and taking up of significant research programmes, particularly in the treatment of

rheumatoid arthritis and cancer, have been some of the significant achievements of the Vaidya Sala.

The centenary of Arya Vaidya Sala, Kottakkal is also an occasion to pay homages to its founder, Vaidyaratnam P.S. Varier, who was a visionary in his own right. His versatile genius transcended the domain of Medicine which was his chosen profession. He was an author of repute with many plays, musical compositions and articles to his credit. As a lover of fine-arts, he was also instrumental in reviving the traditional dance-drama, Kathakali. He was a philanthropist with deep nationalist convictions. In the field of Ayurvedic Medicine, his contributions were voluminous and multifarious, which was taken note of by the Government of India which awarded him the title of "Vaidyaratnam" in 1933.

Theme : Personality, Dance, Medicine, Health.

BHAGWAN BABA

15.10.2002

500

0.4 million



Bhagwan Baba (1896-1965) was an ascetic who belonged to the long tradition of mystics and saint poets of Maharashtra. In many ways, he was a spiritual successor of Jyaneishwar, Tukaram and Ramdas.

Hailing from the Beed district, young Abaji (which was his real name) was a bright student. However, he could not pursue education beyond an elementary stage due to lack of facilities near about his village. He took to farming and looking after the family live-stock. Even at that young age, his charisma was evident and he was clearly the leader among the boys of his village.

A religious procession which he happened to witness during the Ashadhi Ekadashi proved to be a turning point in his life. He joined the group of pilgrims and proceeded to the temple of Pandharpur. The idol of Lord Vithoba at Pandharpur enchanted him so deeply that he accepted a garland of tulsī from Gite Maharaj, a well known ascetic, and became a Varkari for life. Two other saints of the time were also to influence Abaji's life and outlook. They were Manik Baba, the Guru who accepted him as his disciple at Narayangad and Bankar Swami, who trained him in various scriptures at Alandi. It was Manik Baba who renamed him as Bhagwan.

With his magnetic personality and impressive oratory skills, Bhagwan Baba attracted a large number of people to him. He was of amicable nature and always helpful to the needy. His philosophy of life was rooted in universal brotherhood. He followed a simple life style. His kirtans held his audience spellbound and demanding more. He exerted a positive influence on all those who came in contact with him and was able to persuade many dacoits, robbers and other offenders to give up their vices and lead honest lives. The dindi, or walking pilgrimage to Pandharpur, started by him to about 1920 A.D. on a limited scale went on to become an institution in itself.

Bhagwan Baba undertook many social service activities for helping the poor to find livelihood and the landless labourers to acquire a piece of land for themselves. He initiated programmes for the spread of education and for providing medical facilities to the poor. With his support many physically challenged persons were rehabilitated and relief was brought to leprosy patients. He also was instrumental in resolving family feuds and enmity between different groups. His leadership was crucial in putting an end to animal sacrifices in many places of worship.

Theme : Religion, Leaders, Hinduism.

THE BIHAR CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

28.10.2002

400

0.8 million



Struggle for creation of an economically strong Bihar and efforts to contribute to nation building through development of trade and industry stand out as central themes in the history of the Bihar Chamber of Commerce (BCC), which completed its Platinum Jubilee recently.

The commercial class has played an important role in the socio-economic development of India from ancient times. Historical evidence indicates that commerce was the engine that powered much of the

famed affluence and urban development of the Indus Valley Civilization (circa 2300 B.C.). By the time of the Mauryan Empire (third century B.C. organized guilds of traders and artisans emerged, whose influence reached a peak during the five or six centuries (200 B.C. to A.D. 300) that followed the disintegration of the Empire. These guilds were self-regulatory bodies which laid down regulations and codes of conduct that intended to protect the interests of not just the traders and artisans, but the customers as well. In many ways, they were the fore-runners of the present day Chambers of Commerce.

The contributions of the mercantile class in modern India, in the struggle for freedom from colonial rule and in paving way for the country's emergence as an economic power house, has also been noteworthy. Endorsements of their services have come even from Mahatma Gandhi, who went ahead to prescribe the "trusteeship" concept to ensure that the benefits of commerce reach the poor and the needy. Most of the trade associations in independent India have acknowledged the ideas of the Father of the Nation and the Bihar Chamber of Commerce has been no exception.

Ever since its inception in 1926, the BCC has shown a sense of responsibility towards the welfare of the entire society, even while giving voice to the aspirations of the business community. The Chamber has strived to support and popularise government's policies and assisted in their implementation. Through such a supplementary role, it could build a bridge between the government and the business community and ensure that a variety of skills and experience available with the private sector were channelised in the right direction, benefiting the entire society. In its bid to promote economic activities, it helped in the establishment of Magadh Stock Exchange at Patna. Maintaining a strictly non-political outlook, the Chamber has succeeded in building partnerships with the academic world to foster development of the economy. The BCC has also extended material and moral support to the needy in a big way in times natural disasters and calamities. Its support to the cause of national security has been noteworthy. On the front of societal concerns, it has worked for eradication of untouchability and other social evils, and for promotion of literacy and creation of employment avenues.

Theme : Commerce, Buildings, Anniversaries

THE EIGHTH SESSION OF THE CONFERENCE OF THE PARTIES TO THE UNITED NATIONS FRAMEWORK CONVENTION ON CLIMATE CHANGE

30.10.2002

500,500,500,1500

3 million each

Mangroves are spawning and nursery grounds for a variety of fish, shrimps, crabs, clams, oysters, and crocodiles. They are also feeding and nesting grounds for many sea birds and home to



other wildlife. They provide us fuel, fodder, timber, charcoal, tannin and paper-pulp. There are large human communities which directly or indirectly draw their livelihood from them. Mangroves are a unique biological phenomenon because they survive water logging, poor soil aeration, salinity, high humidity, and strong winds. India is home to some of the most spectacular mangroves of the world. These are located in the alluvial deltas of rivers such as the Ganga, and Mahanadi, the Godavari, the Krishna and the Cauvery as well as on the Andaman and Nicobar Islands. The Sundarbans of West Bengal represent the largest stretch of mangroves in the country. They are rich and diverse, and support a variety of animals - amphibians, reptiles, fishes, mammals (like tiger, dolphin and tortoise) and thousands of species of invertebrates. Thirty mangrove areas in the country have been identified for extensive conservation and management. About 65 species of true mangrove and associated plants are found in India.

Under the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC), the developed country Parties are expected to reduce the emission of greenhouse gases in the atmosphere as well as assist the developing country Parties in tackling the problem of climate change. The COP-8 in New Delhi is a reiteration of India's commitment to sustainable development. Energy efficiency and conservation, promotion of renewables and the building-up of natural resources and forests are key aspects of India's initiatives for sustainable development.

The four species of mangroves which figure on the stamps are *Rhizophora mucronata*, *Sonneratia alba*, *Nypa fruticans* and *Bruguiera gymnorhiza*. The first day cover carries an abstract work of art by Kamleshwar Singh, through which the artist conveys the message that there is a need to change our thinking and behaviour before the climatic changes set in and lead to calamities. It also carries the Conference logo.

Theme : Environment, Conferences, Nature, Endangered Fauna

INDIAN POSTAL HISTORY - 1947 - 1997

(Contd..)

A.K. BAYANWALA

With the formation of the second Rajasthan Union only four Rajput States remained unintegrated viz., Jaipur, Jodhpur, Bikaner and Jaisalmer. Actually the rulers of Jaipur, Jodhpur and Bikaner were keen to preserve the identity of their States, as they were viable units according to the standards laid down by the Government of India. And the Indian Government could not decide whether to merge these four States with Rajasthan or to integrate the border States of Jodhpur, Bikaner and Jaisalmer into a centrally administrated area under a Chief Commissioner. Discussions were held with rulers of these States and finally it was decided to integrate

these four States into the Rajasthan Union, as per the wishes of Sardar Patel. The city of Jaipur became the obvious choice for the capital. It was finally agreed that the Maharajah of Jaipur should be Rajpramukh, the Maharana of Udaipur should be the Maharajpramukh, the rulers of Jaipur should be Rajpramukh, the Maharana of Udaipur should be the Maharajpramukh, the rulers of Jodhpur and Kotah should be Senior Uprajpramukh and the rulers of Bundi and Dungarpur should be the Junior Uprajpramukh, in the new Union. Sardar Patel inaugurated the Greater Rajasthan Union on 30th March 1949.

After formation of Greater Rajasthan, the question of merger of Matsya Union with Rajasthan came for discussion. Sardar Patel appointed a Committee to ascertain the public opinion regarding merger of Matsya State either with Rajasthan or the United Provinces. The Committee recommended the merger of Matsya Union with Rajasthan. Therefore, the administration of the Matsya Union was transferred to Rajasthan on 15th May 1949.

Thus all Princely States of Rajputana merged in one Union to form Rajasthan except the State of Sirohi. The problem was that the State was under Rajputana Agency and the population was Gujarati speaking. Leaders of Gujarat and Rajasthan, both laid their claims for Sirohi. Several discussions were held, but nobody bothered to consider the wishes of the people of the State. The popular leaders of Sirohi were themselves divided in opinion. So the division of the State was the only solution. So it was decided in November 1949 that Abu Road and Diwara 'tehsils' of Sirohi should be merged with Bombay and the rest of the State with Rajasthan.

Thus the Union of Rajasthan has an area of 128424 sq. miles, a population of nearly 153 lakhs and an annual revenue of rupees 18 crores.

POSTAL SYSTEM OF PRINCELY STATES:

Out of 562 Princely States, a few States had issued their own stamps and others joined hands with the Imperial Post for their Postal System. The States which issued their own stamps and had their own Postal System are known as "Feudatory States". The stamps issued by Feudatory States were valid for use in their own territories only. Soruth was the first State, which issued stamps in 1864. There are other States, which have issued as late as 1935 (Bijawar) and 1940 (Dungarpur).

The Department of Posts decided on the issue of Postal Convention in 1884. Most of the States signed the Indian Postal Convention. They were allowed to overprint Indian Stamps with their States' name. Only six States chose to have, over-printed stamps. The States, which were issuing their own stamps could discontinue them, on coming under the Indian Postal Convention. That is why two States namely Faridkot and Jind are listed in both categories of Feudatory and Convention States. The stamps issued by Convention States were valid for use through out India.

The Feudatory States had to put British India stamp along with their own stamps, if letter had to travel out of its territory. Thus Feudatory States had to pay double payment. That is why Princely States one after another came under the Indian Postal Convention and their own stamps went out of circulation.

There were six States under Postal Conventions, which are as follows:

| Sr. No. | Name of the State | Issue Date of Stamp | Date of Cesser |
|---------|-------------------|---------------------|----------------|
| 1. | Patiala | 1st October 1884 | 1st April 1950 |
| 2. | Gwalior | 1st July 1885 | 1st April 1950 |
| 3. | Jind | 1st July 1885 | 1st April 1950 |
| 4. | Nabha | 1st July 1885 | 1st April 1950 |
| 5. | Chamba | 1st January 1887 | 1st April 1950 |

| 6. | Faridkot | 1st January 1887 | 31st March 1901 |
|-----|-----------|------------------|--|
| 1. | Alwar | 1877-1901 | 01.07.1902 |
| 2. | Bamra | 1888-1893 | 01.01.1895 |
| 3. | Bhopal | 1872-1903 | 01.07.1908 |
| | | | Ordinary Postage Stamps Official Stamps |
| 4. | Bhor | 1879-1901 | 00.00.1901 |
| 5. | Bijawar | 1835-1937 | 00.00.1941 |
| 6. | Bussahir | 1895-1901 | 01.04.1941 |
| 7. | Dhar | 1897-1900 | 31.03.1901 |
| 8. | Duttia | 1893-1920 | 01.04.1921 |
| 9. | Faridkot | 1879-1886 | 01.01.1887 |
| 10. | J & K | 1866-1894 | 01.11.1894 |
| 11. | Jhalawar | 1886-1890 | 01.11.1900 |
| 12. | Jind | 1874-1885 | Jind became Convention State from 01.07.1885 and used overprinted stamps |
| 13. | Las Bela | 1897-1907 | 01.04.1907 |
| 14. | Nandgan | 1891-1894 | 01.07.1894 |
| 15. | Nawanagar | 1877-1895 | 01.01.1895 |
| 16. | Poonch | 1876-1888 | 00.00.1888 |
| 17. | Rajpipla | 1880-1886 | 00.00.1886 |
| 18. | Sirmoor | 1878-1902 | 01.04.1902 |
| 19. | Wadhwan | 1888-1895 | 01.01.1895 |

The Feudatory States, which continued to print their own stamps till they merged in Union of India, are as follows:

| | | | |
|-----|-----------|-------------|---|
| 1. | Berwani | 1921 - 1947 | It became part of Madhya Bharat by 1st July 1948 |
| 2. | Bundi | 1894 - 1947 | It became a part of Rajasthan Union by 15th April 1948. |
| 3. | Charkhari | 1894 - 1947 | It became part of Vindhya Pradesh by 1st May 1948. |
| 4. | Cochin | 1892 - 1949 | It became part of Travancore & Cochin by 1st July 1949. |
| 5. | Dangarpur | 1933 - 1947 | It became part of Rajasthan Union by 15th April 1948. |
| 6. | Hyderabad | 1869 - 1949 | It was taken over by India during September 1948. |
| 7. | Idar | 1932 - 1947 | It became part of Bombay Province by 10th June 1948. |
| 8. | Indore | 1886 - 1947 | It became part of Madhya Bharat by 1st July 1948. |
| 9. | Jaipur | 1904 - 1947 | It became part of Rajasthan Union by 30th March 1949. |
| 10. | Jasdan | 1942 - 1947 | It was merged with United States of Kathiawar by 15th April 1948. |

| | | |
|-----------------|-------------|---|
| 11. Kishangarth | 1899 - 1947 | It became part of Rajasthan Union by 15th April 1948. |
| 12. Morvi | 1931 - 1948 | It was merged with Union States of Kathiawar by 15th February 1948. (Later Saurashtra) |
| 13. Orchha | 1913 - 1948 | It became part of Vindhya Pradesh by 1st May 1948. |
| 14. Shahpuva | 1914 - 1948 | It became part of Rajasthan Union by 15th April 1948. |
| 15. Soruth | 1864 - 1947 | The State was occupied by Indian troops on 9th November 1947 following the flight of Nawab to Pakistan. |
| 16. Travancore | 1888 - 1949 | It became part of Travancore & Cochin from 1st July 1949. |

MERGER OF POSTAL SYSTEM: Though the Princely States merged with Indian Union as per dates described above, all post offices of such Feudatory States except Anchal Offices of Travancore and Cochin State, merged with Indian Posts and Telegraphs Department from 1st April 1950. The validity of such States' stamps remained till 30th April 1950. And after such date the stamps and postal stationery could be exchanged with current issues of India at any ex-State post office, till 31st July 1950.

The take over of post offices of Conventional States which were using overprinted Indian stamps was a bit different and was as follows:

1. The Postal System of Chamba State was taken over by Indian Posts & Telegraphs Department with effect from 1st August 1949, vide Postal Notice No. 40 dated 7th November 1949. Overprinted postage stamps will no longer be sold from Chamba post offices, but articles bearing overprinted stamps would not be taxed upto 30th November 1949.

2. The Postal System of Patiala, Nabha and Jind States were taken over by the Indian Post & Telegraphs Department with effect from 16th September 1949 vide DGPO Circular No. 49 dated 28th November 1949. Articles bearing overprinted stamps would not be taxed till 31st October 1949. The validity of these overprinted stamps of these Conventional States namely Patiala, Nabha and Jind was extended till 30th April 1950.

A 9 Pies Post Card of KGVI was overprinted as "NABHA" - Conventional State and it was posted to Jaipur from Jaitu Post Office on 22nd July 1949.

A ½ Anna Post Card of KGVI was overprinted as "JIND" - Conventional state and it was posted on 2nd March 1949.

3. And the Postal System of the remaining Conventional State of Gwalior was merged with the Indian Post & Telegraph Department on and from 1st April 1950 vide DGPO circular No. 69 dated 27th March 1950. The validity of overprinted stamps of Gwalior was fixed as per other Conventional State i.e. 30th April 1950. After such date these overprinted stamps could not be used but exchanged with current Indian stamps till 31st July 1950.

A ½ Anna Post Card with 3 Pies stamp - both overprinted and used on 30th June 1949 after the increase in Post Card rate from ½ Anna to 9 Pies on 1st April 1949.

Till 31st March 1949, Gwalior State Post Office used overprinted stamps of British India. From 15th August 1947 to 31st March 1950, its status remained unchanged, therefore it used independent India 1 Anna Postal Stationery overprinted "Gwalior".

These dates were again extended vide Postal Notice No. 20 dated 26th June 1950. The validity of these overprinted stamps was extended till 31st December 1950 and the date for exchange was extended till 31st March 1951. It can be exchanged at any ex-State Post Offices. Where ex-State P.O. had been closed down then any Post Office of that town or village was empowered to exchange such stamps and postal stationery. A question had been raised as to whether ex-State postal stationery on which an individual or firm had its name, address etc., printed, but which had not been actually postal used, may be allowed to be exchanged for Indian stamps. If such postal stationery had not been actually used, may be allowed to be exchanged, vide DGPO Circular No. 23 dated 26th June 1950. Thus the integration of States Postal System (except Travancore and Cochin State) with the Indian Posts and Telegraphs Department was complete.

4. The Anchal Offices of Travancore and Cochin State did not become integral part of the Indian P & T Department on 1st April 1950. The special postage rates and fees which would apply to the internal services of the State would be notified by the PMG Madras. These special postage rates would be valid only within the State. If postal articles were sent outside the T & C State, the rates and conditions of the Indian P & T Department would apply. The Anchal postage stamps and postal stationery would be accepted in payment of postage for articles posted at Anchal office deliverable within the State. It means that Anchal stamps and stationery could not be used for correspondence deliverable outside the State, or otherwise such articles would be treated as unpaid, vide DGPO Circular No. 69 dated 27th March 1950.

Anchal stamps and postal stationery became valid even outside the State of Travancore and Cochin vide DGPO Circular No. 18 dated 5th June 1950.

DGPO Circular No.48 dated 30th September 1950 read as follows:

"It is hereby notified for the information of all concerned that 'Anchal' service articles, that is, official postal articles pertaining to the business of the "Anchal" system (i.e. ex-State Postal System) in the Travancore - Cochin State posted by Anchal (Postal) Officers & Postmasters, etc., should be given free transmission through the post within the outside the Travancore - Cochin State, in the same manner as P & T Service articles bearing the inscription "Indian Post and Telegraph Department". Such articles should on no account be taxed. Unless it is found that they do not relate to the official business of the Anchal System and are not posted by persons authorized in this behalf".

On 1st April 1951 Anchal offices of Travancore - Cochin State merged with Indian Postal System, vide DGPO Circular No. 90 dated 31st March 1951. The DGPO Circular No. 1 dated 5th April 1951 clarifies as follows:

"With effect from 1st April 1951, the Anchal or Local Postal System, in Travancore - Cochin State will be directly administered by the Central Government and the "Agency" system by which the State Government managed the system from the 1st April 1950, will cease".

Anchal postage stamps and printed postal stationery would cease to be valid for prepayment of postage with effect from the 1st July 1951, vide DGPO Circular No. 10 dated 9th May 1951. Till then, they should continue to be recognized as valid on postal articles destined for places both inside and outside the Travancore - Cochin State. And after 30th June 1951, these Anchal stamps could be exchanged for India postage stamps till 30th September 1951.

(to be contd.)

EARLY CANCELLATIONS

ROBSON LOWE

(Contd.)

The Northern and Punjab Circles

The authorities of the Northern Circle, having approved of the experimental Type [8], proceeded to a renumbering early in 1860. Type [8] has been described under Type [5] in its experimental stage, page 494. In the 1860 issue, the figures are slightly larger, being 7 or 8 mm. high. Diagonals measure about 29 and 22 mm., with slight variations. The obliterator is in the single form. A solitary exception is Abbottabad 220, in duplex in 1864.

The earliest example is dated 17th January 1860. The life of this series was of the briefest, for in 1861, the Punjab Circle was created, and, consequently the Punjab and United Provinces both embarked on separate re-numberings, and new types. In the Punjab, however, many offices continued to use the 1860 obliterations as late as 1865, and a few appear as late as 1873. On the other hand, it is probable that some offices never used Type [8], continuing with Type [5] until 1861. It may be said with confidence that Lahore and Amritsar never used the 1860 obliterator. Had they done so, relevant entires would certainly have come to my notice in the considerable volume of material obtained from the Punjab.

The series extended to from 253 to 260. A difficulty in identifying numbers proceeds from the fact that some obliterations which had been returned to store were reissued subsequently to newly opened offices. Any new number must therefore be scrutinized closely. It is possible to apply useful tests. Colonel Martin has shown that the numbering followed the alphabetical list of head offices printed in the Appendix. When an office is in the Appendix list, or when the date is an early one, say, before 1865, it is fairly certain that the number is in the original series. When the office is not in the Appendix list, and if the date is a late one, it is probable that we have an obliterator re-issued to an office opened after 1860. The numbers 122 (Mussoorie), 170 (Naini Tal), and 175 (Shahjehanpur), are not what one would expect under Colonel Martin's test. But they appear with early dates, and have been accepted.

Reissued numbers which have been noted are: 17, Muttra (1866); 44, Campbelpore (1867); 50 Gujrat (1864-6); 84, Fullehpore (1873); *88 Murdan (1865); 91, Kulu (1866); 100, Daska (1866-8); * 104, Zafarwal (1868); *227, Ghazipur City (1871); 241, Bustee, 1866.

I have dwelt at some length on the identification problem in the case of Type [8] with a view to assisting any labourer in this attractive field of research.

Very desirable items are "G.G." (Government General's Camp) and "H.Q." (Army Headquarters). These are extremely rare. "F.F." stands for the Abyssinian Field Force, 1868. (See page 291, and also Encyclopaedia Vol. II, page 203)

Stray examples of Type [8] in single obliterator form appear from Bengal [1868-72), Bombay (1870-74) and the Central Provinces (1873 and 1874). The numbers agree generally in the local standard series but there may also be issues to new offices.

In Bengal, nine numbers have been identified. Some other very high numbers 512, 615, 722 and 770, are presumably from Bengal, representing District Post offices taken over by the Imperial Post Office.

In Bombay, twelve numbers have been identified, the highest being 461.

Four offices have been identified with dates 1873 and 1874. One entire, 15, Aurangabad, is backstamped, "Aurangabad Receiving House". This may suggest the reason for the issue to SIPA BULLETIN

Aurangabad of this particular obliterator. Aurangabad is 15 in the Central Provinces second series in Type [9].

Type [8a] is the number 141, Phagwara, with lines around the diamond-shaped figure. I have a note to the effect that this feature also occurs with number 125.

Type [8b] shows the letter "U" over various numbers. The numbers recorded are 2, 3, 7, 8, 9, 19, 22 and 26. Dates are from 1866 to 1873. Examples are very scarce.

No. 26 has been seen applied at Sialkot on letters from Jammu (Kashmir), with dates 1866 to 1868. I have entires with the numbers 2, 8 and 22, with the cancellation applied at Hoshiarpur. These letters are clearly not from Kashmir. There are two Native States, Mandi and Suket, which might have been served through Hoshiarpur, but there is nothing to show that these letters originated in Mandi or Suket. It is of interest that 26 is Sialkot City's number in Type [9]. Hoshiarpur's number in Type [9] is not known, but it may prove, when discovered, to be 22. The significance of "U" is unknown. It cannot be regarded as evidence of a letter from a Native State, for the Punjab numbers seen with "U", other than 26 and 22, could have had no direct relations with Native States.



In Type [8b] the following combinations have also been seen A/64 for Sholapur City, while A/52 and B/52 are Poona sub-offices. C/52 and C/53 are also doubtless Poona sub-offices, and A/23, A/35 and A/85 probably have a similar explanation, with regard to the offices using 23, 35 and 85 respectively.

Then we have "ZX" over 6, 8, 12, 15 and 20 in the early 70's and "V" over 9 and "Z" over 8 (date 1875). There is no evidence at present as to the significance of these letters. "A" over 124 with the "A" above the rectangular space enclosing 124, is Aden Cantonment. Aden Cantonment also exhibits the number 125 in Type [4], as well as in Type [8].

Type [8] with the centre blank is probably from an experimental office. The practice in taking over a District post office, was to place it on trial for some time. During such period it had no number. But when finally approved, it received a number in the Circle series.

In the spring of 1861, the Punjab was detached from the Northern Circle and formed into a separate Circle with headquarters at Lahore. At the same time, Sind was transferred from the Bombay to the Punjab Circle. But Delhi, Karnal, Sirsa and Hissar and their sub-offices remained with the United Provinces until 1871 or 1873. This was for reasons of convenience of administration. The obliterator adopted was Type [8] in duplex form, with Type [8] in greatly reduced dimensions. The left duplex only has a circle of 20 mm. diameter. In the left duplex, the name of the town is shown across the diameter. But Karachi and Sukkur also show at one time a larger circle, with the town name along the upper circumference.

The duplex obliterator was an obvious labour-saving device, as it obviated the need of the application of a separate office date stamp on the back of the envelope. After 1861, the duplex gradually came into general use.

Type [8c] duplex shows considerable lack of uniformity. Figures are 6 or 8 mm. high. The outer lines are generally two, with an embryo cap at each corner. In many cases there is only one line with the cap. There are some instances of three lines with, of course, the cap. The central rectangular space is generally about square, though variations occur.

After 1865, when Type [9] was adopted for the Circle, Karachi continues to appear in Type [8c], but with the left duplex circle 22 mm. in diameter.

The highest number is 73, except for the isolated number 158, which appears for Lahore for a short time. This is Lahore's number in Type [5], and Lahore seems to have been reluctant to change it. However, in 1862, Lahore came into line and assumed the number 1. By an amusing chance, the post office Lukkee is mated to the ominous number 13!

The earliest date seen is 29th May, 1861. This type was superseded by Type [9] in 1865, but some offices continued to use Type [8] duplex for a few years after 1865.

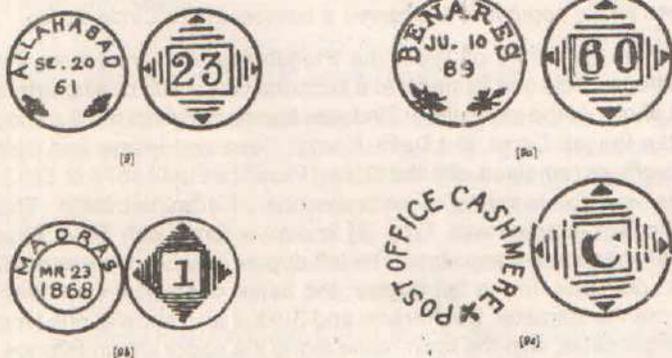
Type [8d] is a distinctly clumsy and distorted figure, with the corners of the rectangular space cut, making a very irregular eight-sided figure. Several numbers show this in varying degree e.g.: 17, 20, 29, 33, 35, 36, 42 and 54, but 29 and 33 are the two outstanding examples.

The All-India Cancellation, 1861-73

In 1861, we arrive at a second all India cancellation in Type [9], the most important feature of which is that it is in duplex form. The right-hand half of Type [9] is simply a reduced form of Type [8], displaying, of course, the office number. This is enclosed in a circle. The left-hand half shows the office name and date, also in a circle. Thus, at one strike, the cancellation was applied to the postage stamp, and, with it, an office and date-stamp. The old instructions regarding back despatch office stamp in coloured inks were cancelled. The labour saving value of the duplex may again be emphasized.

In 1861, the first essay was with circles of a diameter of 20 mm. Later on, a large circle, of a diameter of 23 mm. was preferred and adopted. Departures from these dimensions are confined to the Madras Circle. There was also marked uniformity in the details of the obliterator, but again with exception in Madras. An open "1" has been seen in Type [9] but is extremely rare.

Each Circle has its own series of numbers, with 1 for the head office. As already remarked, the old numbering was adhered to in the Bombay, Madras and Bengal Circles. As new Imperial offices were opened, numbers were added. As will be seen, transfers of District Post Offices to Imperial were on a large scale after 1865.



Illustrations are as follows:-

Type [9]. The 1861 circle, 20mm. diameter

Type [9a]. The later circle, 23 mm. diameter.

Type [9b]. A Madras obliterator with 19 mm. diameter and many fine lines around the rectangle framing the number.

Type [9c]. A Madras obliterator, 19 mm diameter, with only one line outside each side of the rectangle framing the number.

I now proceed to deal briefly with each circle.

Bombay town experimented with Type [9] in 1861 and 1862, the earliest date reported being 23rd May, 1861. This was a 20 mm. Circle. But, after 1862, no more is seen of Type [9] until 1867, and it then came into common use in larger circle form, concurrently with Type [4] which had been adapted successfully to the duplex pattern. The highest number recorded is 303.

On the separation of the Punjab, the United Provinces adopted Type [9], with the 20 mm. circle, and proceeded to a fresh renumbering. The same principle was followed as in previous series, that is, the numbering followed the alphabetical list of head offices. In consequence, it is probable that the office numbers up to 85 or 87 are as in the 1860 numbering. This identity is established for numbers, 5, 23, 60 and 67. The 23 mm. circle appears in place of the 20 mm. The earliest date seen is the 26th September, 1861, from Allahabad. This series was superseded in 1865.

The 1865 series is in the larger form with the 23 mm. circle. The first recorded date is 19th January, 1865. The original series extended to about 193, but, by 1873, we find numbers as high as 418, this being due to large transfers of offices from District Post to Imperial. In numbering, the alphabetical list of head offices was again adhered to. The early numbers differ slightly from the 1861 list, this indicating the introduction of a few new offices opened before 1865.

Five or six changed numbers from about 1867, seemed at first to suggest yet another renumbering. But the proved continued use of many numbers down to 1873 makes it clear that there was no renumbering, and that the changed numbers probably represent mistakes in reissues.

In 1865, the Punjab Circle adopted Type [9] with the large circle, the earliest date seen being 15th February, 1865. The original series extended to about 91, but there were extensive additions after 1865. In 1867, we find the number 246. The highest number reported is 459. Identified numbers after about 130 are naturally few and far between. The new offices were of minor importance, with the result that relevant entries are seldom forthcoming.

A convenient stage has been reached for a general review of Punjab town numbers down to 1865. In Type [5], I have been also to locate as many as 44 out of 58 Punjab numbers. In the very short-lived Type [8] of 1860, as many as 37 numbers have been identified. It has already been stated that a few Punjab offices continued to use their Type [5] obl iterators after 1860, and never took up the 1860 numbers. We now come to the 1861 series in Type [8] duplex. In this series, only 39 out of 73 offices have been identified a poor result which however admits of some explanation. As many as thirteen offices are proved to have continued to use their 1860 obl iterators, and there may well have been a few more. Of these thirteen offices, seven appear however in the 1865 series in Type [9]. Of the other six, there is no trace in the 1865 series. Three of these, Hoshiarpur, Phagwara and Ambala have been seen with 1860 obl iterators as late as 1873 when Type [9] was superseded! Type [9] of 1865 retained the 1861 numbering with some exceptions which will be discussed later on. The question therefore arises - what 1861 numbers can be taken from Type [9]? After a careful scrutiny, only five numbers can be adopted with confidence. These are 23 (Dharmasala), 53 (Murdan), 56 (Daghai), 59 (Kasauli), and 60 (Subathu). The final result is therefore that we know 44 town numbers out of 73 in the 1861 series.

As regards the Type [9] series it is interesting to note that the Sind Offices 29, 30, 33, 34 and 35 continued to use 1861 obliterations and 1867 respectively.

The instances of changed numbers in Type [9] are puzzling, and sometimes amusing. Six numbers in Type [9] are unclaimed numbers in Type [8]. These are numbers 21, 26, 27, 47, 50 and 58. Pind Daden Kahn was 8 in 1861, and became 58 in 1869. Shalpur is 9 in 1861, and again in 1865, but changes to 1** (its Type [5] number) in 1868. Jurdaspur is 73 in 1861 and again in 1865, but changes to its type [5] number) in 1868. Jurdaspur is 73 in 1861, and becomes 101 in 1867. These two offices used their Type [5] obliterations with numbers 170 and 101 respectively well into the 60's. They also used 1861 obliterations concurrently! When new obliterations were needed, the local postmasters presumably quoted Type [5] numbers which were supplied without question. In the same way, Kasauli reverts to its 1860 number, 242, in 1872 and Kalaborgh to its 1860 number 222, in 1868. Peshawar changed its 1861 number 42, to 47 in Type [9]. Amritsar is 72 from 1861 to 1866, and then becomes 75 for two years, finally settling down to 27. The Bahawalpur number 66, was missent to Simla in 1869, and continued in use at Simla till 1873. Simla, the headquarters of the Indian Government, had previously continued to use its 1861 number 55, as well as its 1861 obliteration till 1869! It would appear that, from 1865 onwards, the Punjab Circle authorities lost sight of the importance of adherence to the 1861 scheme of numbers.

"U" over 26 is again seen on letters from Jammu passing through Sialkot. 27 ½ is an original method of providing a distinguishing number for Amritsar City, the Amritsar number being 27.

R/1, R/2, R/3 are seen on entires from Lahore, dates recorded being from 1868 to 1873.

The left duplex of R/1 shows Nowlucka, a bazaar area in Lahore City, while the left duplex with R/3 simply shows Lahore. R/1 is on entire and there is no reference to the Lahore Railway Station. These facts are mentioned, as it has been suggested that these numbers relate to the Lahore Railway Station Post Office.

Type [9] appeared in the Madras Circle in 1862 and gradually came into use, with Type [6], for post office in the original series. Offices opened later on were, it appears, supplied with Type [12] obliterations. There is no record of a number over 153 in Type [9]. As already stated, Madras presents us with some marked varieties. The diameters of the circles are generally 19 or 23 mm. But 20 and 21 mm. are also found. Types [9b] and [9c] illustrate two striking varieties in the right duplex. A minor variety is the left duplex of 68, Masulipatam, seen with two concentric circles in 1865. Another minor variety is a reversed obliterator for 85, Cannanore, in 1873, that is, the number is on the left, and the office date circle on the right.

The Burma Circle was formed in 1861, but it adhered to its Type [7] numbers until 1873, and follows Bengal in regard to Type [10]. Type [9] appears from Calcutta on the 11th June, 1861, with a 20 mm. circle. This was replaced by the larger circle for other offices. Bengal supplies some very high numbers, the highest being 664, Nazeerah, Dibrugarh is seen in 1870 with the number 160 which is Sibsagar's number. Debagash's number in Type [7] is 69.

The history of Type [9] in Burma is a repetition of that of Bengal. An instance of wrong issue is that of Thyetmyo, 159, in 1873, the correct number of Thyetmyo being 179 in Type [7]. Reference should be made to the appearance of "B" over the number, seen with 136, 156 and 159. In the case of 156, it stands for Rangoon Cantonment Receiving House. So the added "B" doubtless represents a branch office in the other cases.

The Central Provinces Circle was formed in 1866-67. A Type [9] series appears in 1867, the earliest date being March, 1867. At the same time, a distinctive obliterator in Type [11] was introduced,

with the same numbering as in Type [9]. The highest number seen is 47, and this represented the number of Imperial offices in 1867. It seems that in 1867 about half the offices were equipped with Type both types are Jubbulpore (4), and Sangor (9). And from the dates observed, it appears that Type [11] obliterations were first in use, but were discarded later on for Type [9].

The local postal authorities to work to extend postal facilities. There was a very large increase in the number of Imperial Post Offices. In addition, there were some readjustments of circle boundaries. In about the year 1871, most of Berar and the Aurangabad tract of Hyderabad were taken over from the Bombay Circle. The Nandair tract in Hyderabad was transferred from the Madras Circle. At the same time the Bhopal-Sehore tract merged in the newly-formed Rajputana Circle in 1871-72. As the result of all these changes, a re-numbering was undertaken early in 1871. The highest number seen in this series is 220, but the series probably extended to about 250. Numbers in the 1871 series follow the alphabetical order. The 1871 series in Type [9]. But, in some instances obliterations were issued in Type [8] single obliterator form. We have four numbers in Type [8] which fit into the other three also probably, show no change of number.

The Sind Circle was formed in 1869-70, taking over the Persian Gulf post offices from the Bombay Circle. The earliest date recorded is 1871, and the highest number seen is 41. The Persian Gulf numbers are 18 (Baghdad), 19 (Basra) 21 (Lingah), 22 (Bader Abbas), 23 (Muscat), 24 (Guadur), and 26 (Bushire). It is strange that there should be two unidentified numbers 20 and 25, in the otherwise complete Persian Gulf sequence of 18 to 26. Karachi 1 may be found with no circle around the right duplex.

Cashmere is found with Type [9d]. The left duplex shows the words "Cashmere, Post Office", arranged in circular form, but without an enclosing circle. The right duplex shows a large "C" in place of a number. A distinctive cancellation and very rare. Dates seen are 1867 and 1868.

HERE IS THE WEATHER FORECAST...

By Robert A. Austin

The task of the weather forecaster is not an easy one -- his mistakes generally receive much more attention than his successes. Demand for weather predictions has increased rapidly this century, initially to serve military needs and later expanding to various private and public bodies whose interests depend on atmospheric happenings. Farmers, caterers and transport authorities are examples which immediately spring to mind.

To meet such a responsibility, weather forecasting has become a fast growing science using the most up to date technology available. Philatelic recognition of meteorological activities, the subject of this article, is not inconsiderable and indeed received a boost in 1973 when over one hundred stamps were issued to celebrate the centenary of international cooperation in meteorology.

Many designs of these and other issues stretching back to 1956 feature the tools of the weatherman's trade and give a fascinating insight into what lies behind the familiar reports on television and radio, and in the press. But before looking at specific examples, it is worth remembering that the weather has not always been based on scientific study. Indeed, the "phenomenalists" of the Han dynasty of China regarded seasonal temperature changes as "heavenly reprimands" for deficiencies on the part of the emperor or his administration. Ancient weather gods including Zephyrus, Odin and Thor appear on the stamps issued in 1973 by Botswana and Grenada.

Written weather records date back to the 11th century in China and to the 14th century in Europe, but the establishment of national meteorological services was delayed until the 19th century. The British meteorological office -- originally a department of the Board of Trade -- was founded in 1855. To commemorate the centenaries of their own organisations, the Philippines and Portugal each issued three stamps in 1965 and 1971 respectively.

In the pioneer days of forecasting, the weathermen could only call upon the most basic forms of instrumentation. Such items, namely thermometers, rain gauges, barometers, wind vanes and anemometers are still of course in use today and as such have proved popular with stamp designers around the world.

The idea of a wind vane, indicating air flow direction, seems to have been first conceived on the Tower of Winds at Athens around 150 BC and its mode of operation has changed little since then. Fine examples appear on the two stamps issued by Togo in 1973.

The anemometer, for the measurement of wind speeds, was suggested by Leonardo da Vinci. His moving plate type was superseded later by the pressure and cup varieties, the latter nowadays the most popular. Thus cup anemometers featured on a variety of stamps which appeared in the centenary year, notably from East Africa (40 c. value), Egypt, Indonesia and Nigeria. Modern wind instruments may also be seen on a commemorative postcard celebrating the centenary of American weather services and issued by the US postal authorities in 1970.

Air pressure, recorded by the barometer, has a long history of measurement. The ancestor of the modern Fortin type was that invented by Torricelli in 1644 but the familiar aneroid barometer, tapped regularly in so many homes, did not appear until 1847. Self recording barographs which provide a continuous picture of atmospheric disturbances are portrayed in detail on a detail on a stamp from Chad issued to commemorate World Meteorological Day in 1964 and on four similar items from South Vietnam.

Instruments to monitor precipitation (rain, snow, hail and so on) have a doubtful origin, but primitive versions were certainly in use in Babylonia and India before the time of Christ. Rain gauges reached Europe in the 17th century and the first self-recording type was introduced in 1829. A modern tipping - bucket gauge appears on a Canadian stamp on 1968 issued to commemorate the International Hydrological Decade of 1965 - 74.

Today, forecasters are not only concerned with the recording but also the modification of precipitation. A hail suppression rocket is featured on the 1 s. 50 value of the East African set of 1973. Thunderstorms, regarded by the ancient Chinese as a result of clashes between the two deepest physical forces, the Yin and the Yang, have caused untold damage over the centuries and often prove to be a forecaster's headache. Recent techniques include location by radar, a fact symbolised by a design on the Pakistan stamp of 1973 which shows lightning striking a radar station.

The final essential component of atmospheric measurement to have received philatelic importance is that of temperature. The first thermometer was produced by Galileo in 1592 and two centuries later the standard maximum / minimum type came into use. Such air thermometers, together with wet and dry bulb hygrometers for relative humidity readings, are housed in Stevenson screens specially designed to allow free air circulation. They appear on the centenary stamps from Sweden and the Gilbert and Ellice Islands (3 c. and 10 c. values), the latter of these two affording a particularly good view of the interior.

The recording of sunshine hours has had a mere one hundred and twenty year history and, although vitally important among holiday resorts, has not yet received attention on postage stamps. But it is a different story for designs featuring weather ships and aircraft. Items have appeared regularly in recent years, the sets from Dubai

and Cuba in 1970 being just two examples.

So much for the traditional forms of instrumentation found on land, sea and in the air. However, it is the progress made during the 20th century that has played the major role in meteorological advance and, also given the stamp designers much added scope!

The growth of an upper air weather recording network came as a result of aircraft requirements during the two world wars. Today it is an essential part of the forecaster's store of information giving details of wind, pressure and temperature from sea level up to 15,000 metres or more. Typical radiosonde balloons feature on the 1973 issues of Dominica (2 c. value), Ghana (5 p. value), Grenada (3 c. value) and Finland, together with two United Nations stamps of 1957.

Another product of military technology was radar meteorology which now assumes an important function in the monitoring of frontal systems, large scale air convergence and rainfall studies. A wind finding radar detector appears on the 35 c. value of the 1973 Gilbert and Ellice Islands issue, while a radarscope (used by the British Met. Office for shower location) may be seen on the 30 c. value from Dominica.

Perhaps the most spectacular development in recent years has been the introduction of artificial weather satellites. Their use has entirely changed the face of meteorology for weather systems can now be viewed on an oceanic or continental scale. The first Tiros (Television and Infrared Observation) satellite was launched from Florida on April 1, 1960, fully equipped with powerful infrared cameras. Members of the Tiros series have appeared on a variety of stamps: among the 1973 issues are items from the Bahamas (15 c. value), Ethiopia (60 c. value), Ghana (15 p. value) and the Maldives (1 L and 2 R values), but the best rendering is seen on the stamp from Upper Volta celebrating World Meteorological Day, 1966.

The marked success of the Tiros launchings prompted the development of the more sophisticated Nimbus and Essa satellites in the mid-1960s. The 11,000 solar cells of a Nimbus craft yield a maximum of 400 watts of electrical energy and are well displayed on the Zambian stamp of 1970, again commemorating the annual World Meteorological Day. An impressive rocket launching of a satellite is the subject of the ½ c. value of the 1973 Dominica set, while the 2 s. 50 value from East Africa shows a receiving aerial in operation. One of the major aids to the forecaster provided by the satellite programme has been the transmission of cloud photographs, of immense importance in the tracking of hurricanes in the tropics and frontal depressions in higher latitudes. Such photographs appear on the centenary issues of Sweden, Dominica (50 c. value) and Grenada (75 c. value).

Up to this point, the tools of measurement and observation available for use by the meteorologist have been looked at. The next stage in the job of the forecaster is to piece together the data and come up with a prediction which, after all, is what counts in the public eye.

Until recently, the only routine employed has been that known as synoptic meteorology. Such a method involves the accurate plotting of weather conditions, the subsequent geographical location of pressure centres with their associated fronts (boundaries between cold and warm air masses) and then a tentative prediction of future happenings based on experience and a certain amount of subjective thinking. These synoptic charts, in various stages of detail, have appeared on a number of stamps including the issue celebrating 200 years of Canadian meteorology in 1968. The 1973 issue from West Germany goes the full distance and depicts station plots of temperature, cloud, weather and wind conditions as well as isobars and fronts. The pressure distribution shown on the two stamps issued by Eire in the same year is one which seems all too familiar -- revealing a depression crossing the British Isles from the unsettled North Atlantic!

Although the dual concepts of fronts and air masses -- due to the Norwegian Bjerknes who appears on two stamps issued by Norway in 1962 - have played a vital role in the understanding of weather processes, the expanding global observing network has made possible the growth of dynamic forecasting. Here the mathematician and his computer are called in and predictions are made on the basis of treating the atmosphere as a body subject to the natural laws of physical science. Computerised weather maps are gradually supplementing or even supplanting those produced by the traditional methods and examples may be seen on the 1973 stamps from the Central African Republic, Dominica (\$1 value) and Ghana (30 p. value).

Modern computers, coupled with advanced telecommunications, have helped foster international meteorological cooperation and as a result have made the forecaster's job that much easier. Important worldwide projects are the World Weather Watch, commemorated by the United Nations and Australia in 1968 and the Global Atmospheric Research Programme. The network of World Weather Watch stations in part of the Pacific is the design on the 50 c. value of the 1973 Gilbert and Ellice Islands set, while the 35 c. stamp from Dominica features the currently accepted model of the general circulation of the atmosphere.

But although a great deal has been learnt over past decades, many of the weather's secrets remain to be discovered. It is for this reason that the forecaster is likely to be subjected to public criticism for some time to come, but at least philately has paid tribute to the work he does.

(Courtesy : Gibbons Stamp Monthly 1977)

COCONUTS

By Dr. Reginald Child

"The slender coco's drooping crown of plumes" is a familiar feature of tropical shores. The distribution of the coconut palm extends over most of the islands and coasts of the humid tropics, and it is not surprising that this picturesque palm figures in the designs of many stamps of tropical countries.

Among early pictorial issues are the 1902 higher values of French Guiana which show a plantation of coconut palms at Cayenne; and the 1918 and 1937 issues of the Mozambique Co. which include stamps featuring palms at Beira. Mozambique has today some of the largest commercial coconut plantations in the world. Later the palm appears on many stamps from tropical countries, particularly island territories. Good examples are those of Jamaica - a design "coco palms at Columbus Grove" on issues in 1932 (S.G. 111), 1938-52 (S.G. 124), 1953 (S.G. 154), and the palms as supporters of the Queen's portrait on S.G.

159 of 1956. Of the Cayman Islands, stamps of the 1950 issue (S.G. 136) and 1953-9 issue (S.G. 149), feature Coconut Grove, Cayman Brac.

General views of coconut plantations appear on British Solomon Islands S.G. 67 (1939), Gilbert and Ellice Islands S.G. 50 (1939), S.G. 70 (1956), North Borneo S.G. 358 (1950), S.G. 374 (1954-7), and of coastal scenes on Ceylon S.G. 378 (1935), 387c



(1938); Travancore-Cochin S.G. 21 (1950); and Nauru S.G. 49 (1954) and 66 (1966) (Anibare Bay). This list is by no means exhaustive.

The fruit itself appears on a number of stamps as on the highest value of the fruits series of St. Thomas & Prince Island of 1948 (S.G. 410). A notable example is the handsome golden yellow "king coconut" of Sri Lanka on Ceylon S.G. 435 (1954), and on the Maldives 1961 issue (S.G. 7/4). It figures among the "fruit" series of Camerouns, 1967 (S.G. 467), and strikingly on the Tonga issue of 1970 (S.G. 325/9).

The palm often figures in a conventionalized form, as on Ceylon S.G. 422 (1951-4) and Pakistan S.G. 95 (1958), and as an incidental feature in designs too numerous to mention.

In all of these designs the coconut palm or fruit is included for its picturesqueness and appropriateness to a tropical scene. It is not generally realised that the products of the coconut palm are of great economic importance, both domestically in the producing countries, and also in world commerce. It is currently estimated that the total area of coconut palms in the world is over six million hectares of which more than 90 per cent is in Asia and Oceania.

The chief ultimate commercial product is coconut oil, which finds use in edible fats (margarine, shortenings, etc.), soap making and in more recent years other non-edible products. The oil is obtained from the dried kernel or "meat" of the coconut, known as copra; by pressing copra some 63 per cent of oil is obtained, the residual coconut cake is used as a good cattle food.

The first operation after harvesting the coconuts is to remove the outer husk, an operation illustrated on Gilbert and Ellice Islands, S.G. 178 (1971), and Samoa S.G. 227 (1952). The husks provide the raw material for rope, matting, brushes, etc. Then the nuts are split and the halves put to dry either in the sun or in kilns. Copra drying is the subject of a number of stamps. A good illustration of drying on a primitive kiln is to be seen on the Papua and New Guinea 9d., S.G. 9 (1952). The Cocoa (keeling) Islands 3d. of 1963 (S.G. 1) shows women splitting nuts for copra preparation. Other stamp illustrations of copra making occur on Mozambique 5E of 1948 (S.G. 424), the 1 c. black of the 1950 series common to the Malay States, and an interesting stamp of the Seychelles, S.G. 208 (1962), showing copra drying with a subsidiary picture of a section of a coconut - a typical Seychelles nut with a very thick husk. Others worth reference are Dominica S.G. 281 (1969), Samoa S.G. 300 (1968) and British Solomon Islands S.G. 177 (1968).

The 3d of the Fiji 1954-9 set (S.G. 285) shows a steamer loading copra, much of which is carried by inter-island traffic. Similarly in the Gilbert and Ellice Islands, loading copra is the subject of S.G. 183 (1971).

World production of copra is estimated at about 3,300,000 metric tonnes. By far the largest producing country is the Republic of the Philippines, followed at some distance by Indonesia. It is curious that the coconut palm and its products have featured little if at all on the stamps of these two countries. Of substantial producers as we have seen, Sri Lanka, Malaysia, India, Papua and New Guinea have all paid their tribute.

In addition to the importance of coconut products in world commerce, the coconut palm is of immense importance in the

domestic economy of countries where it grows. On coral atolls life would be virtually impossible without it.

From the female flower (the "button nut") to the ripe coconut, development takes about a year. At six months the nut is grown to full size, and is full of sweet water which is a most refreshing drink. The water in a ripe coconut is much less sweet. Stamps from the New Hebrides, S.G. 92/4 (1957), show a woman drinking from a young coconut.

The leaves provide thatch or screens for houses; the plaited sections are known in Sri Lanka and India as Canadians, in Malaysia more usually as Atap. The \$1 value (S.G. 186) of the Gilbert and Ellice Islands features the weaving of such coconut screens.

The Kingdom of Tonga (the Friendly Islands) has produced some amusing stamps in the shape of fruit--banana, water-melon, and on the higher values of the 1970 series (S.G. 330/34), the coconut. The coconut palm in fact, occupies the major part of Tonga's 400 square kilometres of agricultural land.

The account given here, while not exhaustive, covers most of the coconuts featuring on stamps. There is no doubt plenty of scope for further designs on various aspects of this versatile palm. One not so far referred to here is the production of alcoholic liquor--toddy, where the juice obtained by distilling toddy. An illustration of toddy tappers at work would be a good start for a stamp design. Spinning coir rope is another which suggest itself.

(Courtesy : Gibbons Stamp Monthly)

The WORLD OF "OLD MAPS"

Maps are something we all tend to take for granted. Yet, quite literally, we would be "lost without them". Roads and railways would go sadly awry; ships without their detailed charts would be "up the creek" on a sunless day or a starless night. The word "map" itself comes from the Latin--with Punic origins -- mappa, a napkin, a painted cloth, later "map" as in mappa mundi, map of the world. Indeed the early cartographers were mainly concerned with world maps, represented in the form of globes, and on stamps we can find numerous examples of cartography or the art of map-making, as it was practised in ancient times.

The earliest maps--on clay, papyrus or coarse vellum-- were primitive and short-lived. It was not until the Middle Ages that the astronomers, mathematicians and scientists concentrated their efforts on providing reliable maps and charts for the use of the adventurous explorers and navigators of the times, many of whom were themselves capable cartographers, mapping their own voyages. The earth being spherical, the representation of large areas on a flat sheet inevitably involved distortion for which mathematical projections were devised to minimise or control.

Mollweide created an equal-area projection-- the "squashed orange"-- which showed the globe in the form of an ellipse (used in symbolic fashion on many stamps), and an "interrupted" projection -- the "split orange" -- with the world divided into convenient sections having a common equator: there's a splendid example of this projection on an Australian stamp for 1955 (S.G. 286) for the YMCA centenary. Beheim's map of the world, AD 1492, was the first in the form of a globe: remarkably accurate in its representation of Europe and Africa, it omitted the Americas which were not then known (Columbus soon rectified that omission!)

But it was Claudius Ptolemy, the second-century astronomer and geographer, whose *Geographia* (translated into Latin in Florence at the beginning of the fifteenth century) and maps provided the basis of traditional map-making and the pattern of modern cartography, Ptolemy's *Geographia*, renamed *Cosmography*, was published by Gutenberg, the printer, in 1472, while in 1478 some 27 of his maps were printed in Rome by Sweynheym. These were used-- and improved upon -- by the great explorers of the times: Columbus, Vasco da Gama, Magellan, Sebastian Cabot and others. Amerigo Vespucci, a Florentine navigator, explored the new world in the wake of Columbus, the first cartographers calling it "America", after his name. He is seen on Italian stamps of 1954, S.G. 875/6.

Probably the most famous name in cartography is that of Mercator (Gerhard Kremer) of Antwerp, who invented a celestial and a terrestrial globe, introducing his famous projection in which meridians and parallels of latitude were indicated by straight lines at right angles to each other. For most of his life he was Europe's foremost map-maker, and when he died in 1594, his collection of maps, featuring Atlas the Titan on the title-page, was in the process of being printed for the first time. His portrait appears on a Belgian stamp of 1962, S.G. 1813, and was previously included in the Belgian set of "Scientists" in 1942 (S.G. 991). It was taken from a sixteenth-century engraving by Frans Hogenberg.

Contemporary with Mercator was another Flemish cartographer--Abraham Ortelius, who specialised in illuminating maps and publishing them; in 1570, he produced the first modern atlas called the *Theatrum Orbis Terrarum*. Ortelius's portrait is also included in the Belgian "Scientists" set mentioned above (S.G. 992) for the Anti-Tuberculosis Fund. The latest in "old map" stamps comes from the Faroe Islands, a Danish possession now issuing its own stamps again. They include a map of the Faroes by Lucas Jacobson Debes (1673), and a section of a map of the North by Ortelius, dated 1573.

Sweden honoured Johan Mansson in 1944 with two stamps depicting one of his marine charts of 1644, published as a supplement to his *Sea Book* for the guidance of mariners in Baltic waters (S.G. 271/2). In 1971, Sweden also issued a 4 k. definitive stamp (S.G. 639) showing sixteenth-century "blood money" coins superimposed on a part of the famous "Carta Marina" by the Swedish arch bishop and cartographer Olaus Magnus. Engraved on nine wooden panels, the "Carta Marina" was profusely illustrated, showing fishermen and hunters, reindeer and legendary monsters of the ocean. It is dated 1539 and was acquired by the University Library of Uppsala in 1962.

Another famous name in "the world of maps" is that of William Blaeu, the Dutch cartographer who published his first atlas in Amsterdam in or around 1630. His best-known and most lavish work was the 12-volume "Atlas Major", and one of two stamps issued by Cyprus in 1969 for the First International Congress of Cyprus Studies depicts his superb map of the Island, dated 1635. The other stamp invites comparison by showing us Mercator's map of Cyprus, dated 1554 (S.G. 329/30).

Sir Humphrey Gilbert's exploits in Newfoundland are recorded on the stamps issued in 1933 to mark the 350th anniversary of its



annexation ("Britain's oldest Colony"), and 20 c. stamp (S.G. 247) reproduces part of Captain John Mason's chart of the island, published in 1626, and which, incidentally, was drawn upside down. Gilbert lost his life on the return journey when the "Squirrel" was wrecked off the Azores.

A Canadian stamp of 1957 shows the explorer, David Thompson, using a sextant, and an old "roll-up" map of part of the North American territories he charted (S.G. 496). To commemorate the introduction of Imperial Penny Postage in 1898, Canada issued a most attractive 2 c. stamp (S.G. 166/8, according to the shade of the "ocean"), showing a map of the world with British possessions in red. It was designed by Postmaster-General Mulock and was perhaps the first Christmas stamp, being inscribed "XMAS 1898" and captioned "We hold a vaster Empire than has been", a sentiment which aroused controversy at the time and which, of course, is now entirely outdated.

Captain James Cook, probably the most famous voyager of all time (excluding Columbus), was a highly skilled navigator and cartographer. New Zealand stamps for the centenary of British sovereignty there included a picture of Cook and the Endeavour, with his chart dated 1769 (Id. S.G. 610), while Abel Tasman, his ship and chart of New Zealand's west coast, dated 1642, were depicted on the 2d. (S.G. 612). There is a superb picture of Cook in his chart room on the Australian 7s. 6d. and 75 c. definitives of 1964 and 1966 (S.G. 357 and 400). The portrait was the work of Nathaniel Dance, dated 1776.

There are many other splendid old maps and charts on stamps. Examples are Chile-- 200 p. and 500 p. stamps of 1958-59 showing an ancient map of 1588, supporting Chile's Antarctic territorial claims and depicting Antarctica as the "Southern Land", also (1959) 10 p. and 50 p. stamps marking the 400th anniversary of Juan Ladrillero's expedition of 1557 with a sixteenth-century map of the Straits of Magellan' Russia-- stamps issued in 1943 (S.G.



1018/21) and in 1956 (S.G. 2047) which commemorate the voyages of Vitus Bering, the Danish navigator, and which include a chart of his second voyage of 1741 (the Bering Sea and Strait are named after him); and the British Solomon Islands -- 1 s. (S.G. 91), showing the chart and route of Captain Philip Carteret's HMS Swallow in 1767.

Anguilla issued a fine set of maps of the area by the early cartographers in 1972 (S.G. 121 /4)-- 10 c. Thomas Jefferys (1775); 15 c. Samuel Fahlbert (1814); 40 c. Jefferys (again, 1775); and 50 c. Capt. E. Barnett (1847). Another Blaeu map, dated 1665, appears on two stamps of Antigua issued in 1967 (S.G. 209, 211), and a 25 c. stamp of Papua New Guinea, S.G. 171, issued in 1970 as part of the "National Heritage" series, shows Torres's map of New Guinea,

dated 1606. The Torres Strait, between Australia and New Guinea, was named after him.

To the ancient cartographers, geographers and navigators, great honour is due for their gradual discovery of the world.

(Courtesy : Gibbons Stamp Monthly, 1975)

PHILATELY AND THE POSTAL ADMINISTRATIONS

Albertino De Figueiredo

Postage stamps can teach us a lot about the world around us. We can learn about the customs, art and history of our chosen country, and if the collection is thematic, we have access to a world of different possibilities that allow us to indulge our favourite area.

For these reasons, and because postal stamps are a source of huge earnings once they generate philatelic interest, postal administrations have always been very careful with their own philatelic policy.

There is no doubt that postal administrations play a very important role in making stamp collecting a truly gratifying hobby, especially by means of a suitable issuing policy aimed at arousing the interest of the collector. The policy regarding new issues has traditionally been based on a reasonable number of series every year, with short print runs, a moderate face value, and a correct choice of topics. In summary, for 150 years postal administrations were the mainstay of philately, they looked after collectors, especially those of new and recent issues and knew how to attract them to buy their stamps.

But material interests have taken over and free governments are trying to turn their postal administrations into a logical and legitimate source of wealth, in order to make up for the severe losses brought about by not automating their services and the competition from private operators. This unstoppable move towards profitability is widespread and began more than 10 years ago. Nevertheless, attitudes and sensitivity towards philately differ according to country or postal administration. With the same financial results, many countries are providing for the future of their philately, while others, in an almost treacherous fashion, seem to want to kill stamp collecting.

This financial upheaval in postal administrations is accompanied by a steady fall in the sales of new issues, and the philatelic services are asking why. Traditional collecting too is losing its impetus and many philatelists can find no answer. The reason lies in the strategy pursued by many postal administrations, and I would like to think that this is involuntary, with respect to philately.

Strangely, many postal administrations seem to be trying to prevent stamps from being stuck to letters and parcels. In the case of Spain which I am most familiar with, there are almost no stamps on sale in post offices and when customers, surprised, ask why, they are told that they only provide automatic franking and that stamps can only be purchased at central philatelic services. Fortunately, this is not the case with the vast majority of Post Offices in the rest of the world, as making stamps available to the public does not affect the financial results of automatic franking.

In budgetary terms, philatelic services represent a small fraction of income within the total volume of each postal administration, and, in some cases, this leads CEO's and Chairmen of the board to neglect the needs of philately. The result is that, in the medium term, the philately of that country loses interest and value.

Public administrations must be aware that a stamp is a kind of paper ambassador that spreads history, art and culture of a country, as I mentioned earlier, as well as attracting tourists and thus generating wealth. Many countries have understood this and are obtaining excellent results without abandoning new franking technology or successfully facing competition from private mail services, as was recently highlighted at the European-American Postal Forum held in Madrid.



The current situation is spreading doubt over the future of philately, so that governments must act appropriately in order not to lose control of their stamp issues. Many families throughout the world depend on philately for their living, many more collectors enjoy their hobby, and it would be a shame if such a long-standing entertainment, so beneficial for all involved, were to be thrown overboard.

Governments must entrust their philatelic policy to true professionals and strategists, in order to avoid the risk of unfortunate decisions being taken. This is currently the case in some countries where this responsibility rests with people who do not fully identify with philately or who are ignorant of its social and economic importance.



In some circles, it is thought that, with current high-tech means of communication, writing and sending letters is somewhat obsolete and that, therefore, stamps have no meaningful purpose compared with fax, electronic mail, advanced, telephony and automatic franking. Despite the ease of use of these modern technologies,

more stampfranked letters are in circulation today than 10 or 20 years ago, and of course many more than 50, 100 or 150 years ago, thanks to the miracle of literacy.

To conclude, in spite of the obstacles placed by some postal administrations in the way of the development of stamp collecting, I feel that the future of philately is full of promise. It would be of help to no one if the clumsy philatelic policies of a few postal administrations were to stifle the interest of new adepts and spread caution among existing collectors.

(Courtesy : Flash 81 / 2002)
