



# SIPA Bulletin

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## EDITORIAL:

### Needed a Uniform and Planned stamp issue policy

Elsewhere the list of stamps issued in the year 2002 is given in detail. On perusal of the list, quite a few things are exposed or explicitly noticed for the sincere philatelist or to that extent even for the ordinary stamp collector.

i. On the whole, 39 issues have been done comprising 54 stamps and 4 miniature sheets costing Rs. 409/-.

ii. The 2002 year collection will have 47 nos. of Rs. 4/5 stamps, 6 nos. of Rs. 15/- stamps one stamp of Rs. 8/- value and 4 miniature sheets of value Rs. 95/-

iii. Out of the total 39 issues, to do 22 issues it took nine months for India Post and within the next three months 17 issues have been speeded and squeezed through. In other words issues as per each quarter are as below.

I Quarter	6	Jan - Mar
(3 Months)		
II Quarter	9	Apr - June
III Quarter	7	July - Sept.
IV Quarter	17	Oct - Dec.
	<u>39</u>	

iv. Out of the 54 stamps, 23 nos. of stamps have commemorated a personality.

v. From 16.6.2002 and 12.9.2002, 10 issues have been conducted and thro' which period, philatelists were made to 'enjoy' only personalities, some of them well known and quite a few others not known to many, thus making the philatelists more knowledgeable by learning about the 'lesknown personalities'.

vi. During the months (2, 3, 7, 9) February, March, July and September single issues were managed to be brought out.

Philately is a hobby basically meant for personal happiness and enjoyment. In the present workaday world it is a great stress reliever for young and old. Hence, collection of mint stamps should be done all through the year without much-hurdles, pressures, confusion etc. Though having a philatelic deposit account relieves

the burden of knowing issue dates, going to the philatelic counter etc. etc. still there are collectors who enjoy the trip of going to the bureau to buy the tiny piece of paper, look at the beauty of it, keep it in his/her stock book as a prized possession and go home happily with the pleasant feeling in the back of his mind.

An Indian philatelist, whenever he gets a chance to have a look at a new issue obviously looks at the colours first, then at the design and then at the theme or subject and always compares with stamps of other countries and tries to draw a relative chart of popularity. In such a situation, he/she comes across drab pictures of men/women continuously for three months, who can prevent or stop him from running away from collecting Indian Stamps or for that matter from the hobby itself.

Further, we want to 'catch them young' and promote youth philately. Spending 350 to 360 Rupees over a year, ie. on an average one rupee per day is definitely within the 'pocket money' range of an Indian School Student. But, if the same student is asked to spend 60 rupees per month during October, November and December, it may a put hole in his pocket. Instead if the total expenditure is spread out evenly all through the twelve months of the year, that will help the young collector to have a smooth year.

Then and there a stamp of the denomination of Rs. 15/- is issued and 'God only Knows' the exact reason or special usage of that stamp, except making the hobby costly.

On the whole, it is suggested that an overall planned stamp issue programme will do a lot of good for everybody connected with stamps.

4 stamps per month including one personality

One miniature sheet for three months

Totally  $12 \times 4 = 48$  stamps and 4 miniature sheets

$12 \times 4; - 48 \times 5 = 240$

4 m/s 80

320

An exact issue programme shall be framed by the end of October of the previous year and made known to one and all so that things can be made smoother for the makers as well as the users of the 'little ambassadors' around the world.

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 35 members attended with President Shri Balakrishna Das presiding. Mr. Madan Mohan Das Spoke on "New Issues" in December 2002.

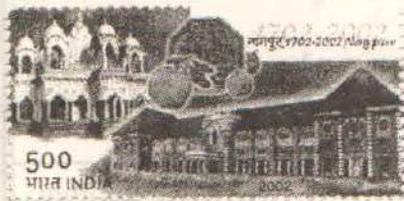
## STAMP NEWS

### NAGPUR, TRICENTENARY 1702 - 2002

11.11.2002

500

0.1 million



Nagpur, the small settlement started in 1702 by Bakht Buland Shah by integrating twelve nondescript hamlets of Rajapur-Barsa, is today a sprawling urban centre with a population of 2.2

million. It is an important commercial and industrial centre and ranks among the 15 largest cities of India.

The Indian city had developed an identity of its own at the time of the Indus Valley Civilization itself, viz. as early as circa 2500 B.C. Subsequently, in the texts belonging to the period of advent of the Aryans, the city has been exalted as nagara, the location of civilised life.

The civilised life of the city of Delhi had inspired Bhakt Buland, the Gond King of Deogarh to start building his new capital at Nagpur. His successor Chand Sultan continued the work of town building on an expanded scale. The Bhonsalas who took over as rulers in 1742 left their mark on Nagpur in terms of promotion of agriculture and industry. Nagpur was made the capital of Central Province & Berar, for geo-strategic reasons. No doubt the pitchforking of the city into the world-wide network of colonial economy through the new road and rail links helped it to overcome the intrinsic limitations of autonomous growth, but this came about at a huge cost, namely the fragmentation of its social, cultural and architectural environment.

It the post-independence era, Nagpur was included in Maharashtra after re-organisation of states, with the status of the second capital of the state. In the last fifty years, it has been one of the fastest growing cities of India. The rapid increase of population has brought with it the attendant strains on infrastructure and ecology. These problems are being addressed through the concerted efforts of various government agencies and some concerned citizens.

The design of the stamp, while depicting two landmarks of Nagpur, namely, the Vidhan Bhavan and the Samadhi of Raghunathji Bhonsle, also elaborates on the theme of "The Orange City of India" by which epithet it is widely known. The stamps are brought out in the form of a sheetlet, which also carries a portrait (an artist's impression) of Bakht Buland. A collage of images relating to the city features on the First Day Cover.

*Theme : Cities, Architecture, Centenary.*

### CHILDREN'S DAY

14.11.2002

500

0.125 million



India's commitment to the cause and well being of its children is enshrined in its Constitution. The country has upheld its social and moral responsibility towards the needs and rights of the children. The successive Five Year Plans have enabled a planned approach to child welfare, which blossomed into the National Policy for Children in 1974, laying down the guiding principles for action this area.

The Department of Posts, on its

part, has cherished the Universal Children's Day and has been celebrating the same with the issue of a special postage stamp every year. Over the years, the stamps have highlighted themes of relevance for the growth and well being of children, like nutrition, shelter, educational facilities, empowerment of the girl child etc. In recent years, the practice of issuing stamps depicting paintings by children themselves has been followed. Children's art makes fascinating study on account of their innocence, richness of imagination and freedom of execution. The Children's Day stamps, therefore, also provide insights into the minds of the younger generation, into issues that are of concern to them. The Department has also been adding colour to the private world of children through the postage stamps which it issues on important subjects. As a hobby that starts in childhood, stamp collecting makes children more aware about what is happening in the world around them and helps to grow in life.

The stamp being issued this year carries a detail from a painting by Aakash Anand, which captures the spirit of Holi, India's most colourful festival. Holi celebrates the arrival of spring and is symbolic of the victory of good over evil. It is also a celebration of joy and hope. The artist has re-created the mood of vibrant joy, through images of dance, music and festivities. The colours used are bright and the execution is bold. The painting had stood first in the nation-wide Stamp Design Competition held in October 2002.

The First Day Cover is based on another award winning entry of the Stamp Design Competition, which was done by Debahuti Hazarika.

*Theme : Painting, Children's Day.*

### HANDICRAFTS OF INDIA

15.11.2002

500,500,500,500

0.1 million each



India has a rich and unbroken tradition in handicrafts, the antiquity of which dates back to the period of the Indus Valley Civilisation (circa 2600 - 1700 B.C.). The vast diversity of the country - cultural, climatic and geographical - has enabled a variety of techniques, crafts and motifs to flourish on this land. The Department of Posts is bringing out a set of four stamps and a miniature sheet on the

handicrafts tradition of India. The stamps feature Cane and Bamboo artifacts, Thewa art, Dhokra casting and Patana's Patola fabrics.

Cane and Bamboo work is quite widespread in India and has attained considerable sophistication in areas which are rich in the concerned natural resources such as Assam. No mechanical devices are used in this craft. It is mainly a household or cottage industry. This craft provides part-time employment to cultivators in the lean season and full-time employment to the few highly skilled artisans who produce the finest decorative baskets, chalani etc.

Thewa work is a traditional art practiced in Rajasthan, which is meenakari ornamentation in gold done on the surface of coloured glass. To concretise this art, first the desired design is prepared on thin leaves of gold. After doing grating etc., the glass is moulded with gold polish. The golden design made on glass is then studded in a polished frame.

Dhokra is a metal craft practiced by the indigenous people of Chhattisgarh, Orissa and West Bengal. The "lost wax" technique is at the heart of this art. The creation is given concrete shape with the craftsman's experience and expert hands. The creation has

to undergo twelve stages of work and uses a multiplicity of clays and tools before coming to the final shape. The wax and mud mould can be used only once in this type of creation. The method of work at every stage is very important.

Among India's legendary heritage of textiles, few are as rich and highly prized as the Patola. It follows the double ikkat technique of weaving, in which both warp and weft are separately tie-dyed before weaving. The fabric used is silk and the process is extremely complicated as well as sophisticated. The Patola also has social and religious significance and is worn at the time of important ceremonies. Patan, the ancient capital of Gujarat has been the place of origin of the Patan's Patola, which has a distinctive style.

*Theme : Handicrafts, Heritage, Traditions.*

## SANTIDEV GHOSE

1.12.2002

500

0.4 million



Santidev Ghose (1910 - 1999), doyen of Rabindrasangeet and Dance, was a towering figure in the cultural life of West Bengal, and also a teacher, scholar and writer.

Born at Chandpur (presently in Bangladesh), Santidev came to Santiniketan with his parents when he was only a baby of six months. He

attended school at Santiniketan and showed a preference for the performing arts at an early age. Gurudev Tagore who was in favour of giving due importance to the Arts in school curriculum took this promising young pupil under his wings. Santidev travelled with Rabindranath to different parts of India and Sri Lanka as part of his performing troupe.

Santidev Ghose joined the Sangeet at the Visva-Bharati as a teacher in 1930. He served twice as Principal of the institution. Before Tagore's death in 1941 he entrusted Santidev with the task of propagating his music in its pure form. Throughout his career Santidev held this as a sacred trust. As a part of this assignment he wrote many books in Bengali on Rabindrasangeet and Dance, and related subjects, several of them are widely used as text books. Among his important titles are: 'Rabindra Sangeet', 'Java o Balir Nriya Geet' (Music and Dance in Java and Bali) and 'Rabindranather Purnanga Sikshadarshey Sangeet o Nriya' (Music and Dance in Rabindranath's ideal of a well-rounded education).

Santidev Ghose received many awards and honours in his lifetime. Foremost among them were the Padma Bhushan (1988), a special Russian Medal (1961), Fellowship of the Sangeet Natak Akademi (1976), Desikottama (D.Litt. Honoris Cause) (1988) and Rabindra Tattvacharya from Tagore Research Institute, Kolkata.

More than any other accomplishment, Santidev Ghose brought Rabindrasangeet and Dance closer to the people without any loss of its purity. At the same time, he helped bring about a resurgence in the folk arts of Bengal, a resurgence of Baul and Fakir songs, of Chhau dance and the Akap theatre. He also promoted a fusion of the folk and urban streams to some extent.

*Theme : Personality, Dance, Culture.*

## TAMRALIPTA JATIYA SARKAR:

### AJOY KUMAR MUKHERJEE AND MATANGINI HAZRA

17.12.2002

500, 500

0.8 million

The 'Quit India' Movement of 1942 was a watershed in India's struggle for freedom. It was this movement that proclaimed in unambiguous terms that foreign domination could no longer hold sway on Indian soil.

SIPA BULLETIN



An unique feature of the 'Quit India' Movement was the series of independent governments formed locally in some parts of the country, like Satara in Maharashtra, Ballia in Uttar Pradesh and Tamluk in West Bengal. Among these, the 'Tamralipta Jatiya Sarkar' (National Government) of Tamluk was really innovative since it set up Police Stations, Military Departments, Courts and even a system for revenue collection. The Sarkar which emerged on 17th December 1942 lasted for 21 months.

Tamluk in Midnapur District of West Bengal had always been a centre of the freedom movement. The restive feeling of the local populace was already at a crescendo when Mahatma Gandhi gave the call of 'Do or Die' to mark the beginning of the 'Quit India' Movement in August 1942. In the uprising in Tamluk, various police stations were captured by the people and all the institutions of the colonial government were rendered ineffective. Those who played important roles in the struggle included Ajoy Kumar Mukherjee and Matangini Hazra, among others. The Sarkar continued to function till August 1944, when taking note of the changed circumstances, Mahatma Gandhi advised to wind up its activities.

Ajoy Kumar Mukherjee was a selfless leader who devoted the early part of his life to the cause of freedom of India, and was one of the main architects of the Tamralipta Jatiya Sarkar. In post-independence India, he continued to fight for the cause of downtrodden people. He had a glorious record of electoral success in the elections to the State Assembly, which he served without interruption for nearly three decades. He was the Chief Minister of West Bengal on three occasions.

Matangini Hazra was widowed early in life, but continued to lead life in a courageous manner. The freedom struggle and the ideals of Mahatmaji inspired her. She was an active participant of the 'Quit India' Movement in Tamluk, at the ripe age of 73. On 29th September 1942, she took the lead in long procession in Tamluk and advanced firmly with the national flag in her hands. A shower of bullets from the heavily armed forces of the colonial government felled her, but the national flag was flying unscathed.

*Theme : Freedom, Struggle, Leaders.*

## ANGLO BENGALI INTER COLLEGE, ALLAHABAD

23.12.2002

500

0.8 million



Born in the second half of the 19th century out of the need felt by the numerically small Bengali-speaking community of Allahabad to provide such education to their children that would acquaint them with their mother tongue and its literature and culture, the Anglo Bengali Inter College, Allahabad has since evolved into a cosmopolitan institution with a nationalist outlook.

The Bengali Educational Society formed largely due to the efforts of Sital Prasad Gupta and Madhu Sudan Moitra in 1875 had initially set up a Bengali School. This modest primary school with just one teacher and a handful of students had a steady growth from them on.

With the introduction of English teaching, the school was renamed Anglo Bengali High School and Anglo Bengali Inter College with successive phases of growth. In 1887, the School was affiliated to the Calcutta University. The Institution's own building at the present site was constructed in 1894 and the recognition of the Board of High School and Intermediate Education, U.P. came in 1926.

The College was known for its nationalist sentiments during the freedom movement and its students took active part in the struggle against colonialism. The British authorities had even suspended the grants to the institution at one time, as a mark of their displeasure. Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose who had visited Allahabad in 1939 was accorded a rousing reception in the College.

Since Independence, the Anglo Bengali Inter College has remained a premier educational institution of the State and its students have figured frequently in the merit list of the U.P. Board. Its alumni have gone on to make notable contributions in various spheres of national life.

*Theme : Education, Institutions, Freedom Movement.*

## SWAMI PRANAVANANDA

3.11.2002

500

5 million



Swami Pranavananda (1896 - 1941) was a great spiritual leader of modern India, revered for his message of universal love, nationalist zeal and zest for social reform.

Born in the Faridpur district of East Bengal (presently in

Bangladesh), his philosophical inclinations were evident even in childhood. He was often seen in deep contemplation at the village school which he attended and was popular with the children of the locality because of his helpful nature. A visit to Gorakhpur in 1913, where he got to meet Yogiraj Baba Gambhir Nathiji Maharaj proved to be a landmark event in his life, and he was formally initiated into the world of spirituality. In 1916 he organized a major religious programme back home, and was elevated to the status of Acharya. He launched a Mission to carry on social service activities and spread his religious ideas, which took a formal shape as Bharat Sevashram Sangha in 1923. Swamiji believed that India could be defeated, occupied and overrun by foreign rulers only because of her lack of unity. His thoughts had a strong nationalist foundation and he wanted the Bharat Sevashram Sangha to strive tirelessly and selflessly to awaken and unite all sections of the people into a cohesive and strong India.

The Sangha started cottage industry centres, a bramachari school, primary schools and free dispensaries. Branches were started in different places and humanitarian work including flood relief was taken up on a large scale. A magazine called Pranav was launched to carry Swamiji's message to a larger audience. Overseas missions were also started. Swamiji's supporters came from different religions. He was also an inspiration to many freedom fighters, to whom he extended moral and material help. He continued to work tirelessly till the last day of his life, awakening, uniting and strengthening the people of India.

Swami Pranavananda had propagated practical spirituality in preference to theoretical philosophy. Though the literature on his teachings is not elaborate, the essential truths have been codified as the Sangha-Geetha, which offers adequate guidance to his followers in achieving self-realisation. He emphasized the ideals of sacrifice, self-discipline, truth and continence and urged his followers to shun idleness, procrastination and lust. He wanted the country to rise above the divisions of communalism.

*Theme : Religion, Hinduism, Leaders.*

SIPA BULLETIN

## GURUKULA KANGRI VISHWAVIDYALAYA, HARDWAR

24.12.2002

500

0.8 million



Gurukula Kangri Vishwavidyalaya, a deemed University affiliated to the University Grants Commission, is a unique educational institution that propagates the virtues of disciplined life, truthfulness, nobility of character, service to humanity and respect for all forms of life.

The Vishwavidyalaya (University) draws its intellectual sustenance from the teachings of Maharishi Dayanand Saraswati, the great socio-religious reformer of the 19th century, who emphasized the importance of quality education and exhorted that the society is duty-bound to provide appropriate education to its children. Swami Shradhanand, an immediate disciple of the Maharishi who was inspired by his ideas, paved the way for the Gurukula Kangri Vishwavidyalaya by establishing the first gurukula of the modern age in 1902 at Kangri village near Hardwar.

Gurukulas are schools in the ancient tradition of Indian learning where the students seek knowledge and skills from their Guru (teacher), usually set up at idyllic locations away from the bustle of human conglomerations, creating an environment that helps to concentrate on learning and to develop both body and soul. An austere way of life is practiced and all the students are treated equally, irrespective of status, caste or creed. The relationship of a father and son is envisaged for the teacher and the taught. His pupils by the example of his own conduct and behaviour, there is great emphasis on his character and accomplishments. The education also inculcates in the students the values contained in ancient texts like the Vedas and Upanishads.

Over the last hundred years of existence the Gurukula Kangri Vishwavidyalaya has produced a large number of scholars, legislators, parliamentarians, historians and educationists, its alumni having left a mark in virtually every walk of life. During the freedom struggle the institution played a key role in nationalist activities. It has also been a centre of inspiration for various movements of social reformation.

Today the Gurukula Kangri Vishwavidyalaya imparts education in a wide variety of subjects ranging from Vedas, Culture, Darshans, Yoga, Upanishads, Psychology, Sociology and Archaeology to Computers, Management, Science, Environment and Engineering.

The stamp shows the 'Ved Mandir' at the institution superimposed with an image that brings back memories of the gurukulas of yore.

*Theme : Education, Institutions, Culture.*

## DHIRUBHAI H. AMBANI

28.12.2002

500

3.8 million



Dhirubhai H. Ambani (1932 - 2002), industrialist and corporate icon, played an important role in the country's quest for economic growth and regeneration. Rising from humble beginnings he went on to build India's largest business conglomerate through the brilliance of his entrepreneurial genius and sheer hard work.

Born in Chorwad village in interior Gujarat as the son of a school teacher, left

JANUARY / FEBRUARY

studies after completing matriculation and joined his brother in Yemen at the age of 17, in search of opportunities. Starting as a petrol station attendant in Aden, he rose through hard work and settled down to a happy life with a comfortable job in Burmah Shell. The eight years he lived and worked in Aden was a formative period for Ambani.

Returning to India, he invested a few thousand rupees to start a business of exporting spices and nuts in 1958. In the sixties he entered the textile business. Buying plants and equipping them with the latest spinning and weaving machines, he soon established his company, Reliance Industries, as a force to reckon with in the textile industry.

One among the greatest contributions of Ambani was the way he generated an equity cult in India. Starting with the initial public offering of Reliance Industries in 1977, he attracted a large number of retail investors to the stock market with issue after issue. The trust that he earned from millions of shareholders, employees and customers was crucial to the phenomenal growth of Reliance Industries from a small time business firm in 1977 to one of the world leaders within two decades. Analysts have often marveled at four exceptional qualities of Dhirubhai Ambani which made his incredible success possible: the spirit of self-reliance, speed, size and scale of operations and ability sell products by leading the market. In business, he adopted a strategy that could never fail - that of producing goods of high quality and selling them at the cheapest possible price.

With interest in oil and gas exploration and production, oil refining, petrochemicals and power, and with upcoming investments in emerging sectors like telecom, the Reliance group is today on the threshold of fulfilling the vision of its founder, of being a globally competitive manufacturer-exporter that the country could take pride in.

*Theme : Personality, Industrialist.*

## T.T. KRISHNAMACHARI

31.12.2002

500

0.4 million



Tiruvellore Thattai Krishnamachari (1899-1974), or TTK as he was popularly known, was one among the makers of modern India. He was instrumental in building the basic economic and industrial infrastructure of the country and also left his mark on the Indian Constitution as a member of the Drafting Committee.

TTK began his life as a businessman and went on to lay the foundation of the hugely successful firm TTK Krishnamachari & Co. in 1928, in Chennai. Depending primarily on his sharp intellect and penchant for trying out innovations, the company was well established by the mid-thirties. But, by then, the founder was ready for new challenges - TTK decided that there were issues in the arena of politics that he should turn his attention to. He was initially elected to the Madras Legislative Assembly as an independent member, but later joined the Congress. In 1946 he was made a member of the Constituent Assembly at the Centre.

After independence, during the years from 1952 to 1965, he served the country as a Central Minister twice. During 1952 - 1958, he was the first Minister for Commerce and Industry and then Finance Minister. He also remained in charge of the Steel Ministry for quite some time. He was a Minister again in 1962, first without portfolio, then the Minister for Economic and Defence Cooperation and finally Finance Minister. TTK, both by his experience and outlook, was firm in his recognition of the objectives to be achieved. Firmly,

result oriented, he could act adopting the practical means most suited to the prevailing circumstances, to achieve them.

TTK was instrumental in setting up the country's three major steel plants and financial institutions like IDBI, ICICI and UTI. He introduced path-breaking tax reforms during his stint as Finance Minister. Embarking upon measures needed for providing social security, TTK expanded the pension scheme to cover family members of the deceased government servants by introducing a new Family Pension scheme in 1964.

He planned schemes like the Rajasthan Canal Scheme, Dandakaranya and Damodar Valley Projects. The Neyveli Projects owe their existence to the fillip given by TTK.

*Theme : Personality, Leaders - Political.*

## FORTS OF ANDHRA PRADESH: GOLCONDA AND CHANDRAGIRI

31.12.2002

500, 500

3 million each



Imposing forts and magnificent palaces can be seen across the length and breadth of India, reminding us of a bygone era of valiant kings and great empires. These forts and palaces are integral parts of the country's rich cultural and architectural heritage. Most of the forts were built as a defence mechanism to keep the enemy at bay. They also evidence a deep knowledge of town

planning and an advanced civic sense, as they were mostly small townships in themselves.

Golconda fort is a majestic monument, which lies on the western outskirts of Hyderabad city. Hyderabad itself owes its birth to Golconda, the capital of the Qutub Shahi dynasty. The fort is believed to have been built originally by the Yadava rulers of the region and later passed through the domination of different dynasties like the Kakatiyas and Bahmani Sultans. Mohammed Quli Qutub Shah, who set up a new dynasty at Golconda, built the present fortified structure in 1525. The magnificent architecture of the Golconda fort is manifest in its acoustic system, the structural grandeur of the palaces and ingenious water supply system. The ventilation system reveals the brilliant planning of the architects; they are designed to let in a flow of fresh cool breeze, providing respite from the heat of summer. The tombs of the Qutub Shahi kings, built with Islamic architecture lie about 1 km north of the outer wall of Golconda.

Chandragiri was the former capital of the Vijayanagar Empire. Located at a distance of 12 km from Tirupati in Chittoor district, the fort is said to have been built around AD 1000 by Immadi Narasimha Yadavaraya. The well-secured fortification is a marvelous feat of construction, with cyclopean walls buttressed with the typical bastions at regular intervals and pierced with gateways and zig-zag entrances. After its fall the last of the Vijayanagar kings shifted to Chandragiri. The palace at Chandragiri comprising the 'Raja Mahal' and 'Rani Mahal' was built in the early seventeenth century. The Raja Mahal consists of a Durbar Hall and a double-storeyed colonnade. Built in the Vijayanagar style of architecture, it has a number of 'gopurams', the largest one being over the Durbar Hall. A number of temples dot the fort that covers an area of about 25 acres. The modern town of Chandragiri lies to the east of the hill on which the fort stands.

*Theme : Architecture, Forts, Heritage.*

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## CLASSIC RARITY - INDIA INVERTED HEAD OF 1854

By Norman Williams

The classic rarity of India is an error-the 4 annas of 1854 with Inverted Head.

One of the remaining mysteries about that classic error is the number of examples that are still extant, indeed, how many were printed. The 4 annas is a bi-coloured stamp with a red frame and a blue head. Like all other stamps in the same series-½ anna blue, 1 anna red and 2 annas green-the 4 annas was printed by lithography. Unlike the sheets of the other stamps, which were



*The Cover with 4 as Head inverted from an Italian Collection*

monochrome and passed through the press once only, the sheets of the 4 annas passed through the press twice once for each colour.

In those days only stones were used for lithography. They were cumbersome blocks of limestone, about four inches or more thick, with a smooth, polished face which bore the lines and other areas of the stamp images in greasy ink while the remainder of the stone's face was dampened with water.

It is a trite statement that water and grease do not mix and it is well known that lithography functions on that basic principle: limestone can accept both grease and water but, of course, not more than one of them at the same spot. Incidentally, for many years now thin metal and, indeed, plastic sheets specially treated have replaced the cumbersome stones.

However, in 1854 it was stones: one stone bore the images of the frames, which were printed first. sheets were passed through the press and received the frame designs in red ink. That ink was allowed to dry and the sheets were passed through the press again to receive the heads in blue, printed from a different and a marginal inscription reading: "12 Postage stamps-prices 3 Rs per sheet-1 Rupee per Row-or 4 annas each stamp-stamp of the required amount to be cut affixed towards the Right Hand corner of the Letter on the Address side-Litho under the supe of Capt. H.L. Thuillier by H.M. Smith at the Surv. Genl's office Calcutta October 1854"

In the Surveyor General's workshop several stones for each colour were prepared so that adequate stamp supplies did not depend on a bottleneck that a single pair of stones would have created.

The design of the 4 annas was the brainchild of Captain

Thuillier, but he was not an engraver. He ordered an Indian to engrave the design. The spelling of the engraver's name has been rendered variously over the years as Numerodeen and Numir-uddin; only recently it has been established as Maniruddin.

He engraved the whole design - head, frame, wavy surrounding lines and corner rosettes - in recess on a small copper plate. The design was, as was usual for lithography, engraved in reverse, so that it would have had to be viewed in a mirror for the wording to be read normally. The reason for engraving in reverse was that, when the plate was used for printing, the wording read normally.

Again, as was usual with lithography, for multiplying the design the plate was used to print numerous impressions on pieces of transfer paper in special ink. The required numbers, actually 12 for the 4 annas, were then assembled on to a sheet of paper. That sheet was then turned face downwards and laid on the stone. When the assembly was passed through the press, the images from the pieces of transfer paper were "transferred" to the stone, from which the printing later took place.

The normally reading images on the transfer paper became mirror images on the stone and became again normally reading images when printed as stamps.

Of course, as the stamps were bi-coloured, only appropriate parts of the design

were used for each colour. Pieces bearing those parts were cut from the transfer prints and grouped together on two separate sheets of paper, each of which was used for transferring to a separate stone. The sheet marginal inscriptions were added separately for the blue stone.

### How the error occurred

Great care had to be taken throughout the process to ensure that, when the stamps were printed, the heads appeared centrally within the frames - in other words, were correctly "in register".

To achieve that effect careful measurements had to be made to ensure that the heads with the surrounding wavy lines were certain distances apart both horizontally and vertically on the sheet of paper on which the cut out transfers were assembled.

When it came to assembling the frames on their sheet of paper the lithographer had to ensure that their centres were exactly the same distance apart as were the centres of the heads on their sheet of paper.

When it came to transferring the design on each sheet to its stone, similarly accurate and corresponding measurements had to be made. Also some method had to be adopted to ensure that when eventually printing took place the two parts of the design were in register.

One of the devices for ensuring printing register normally employed in lithography - in which usually the sheets of paper were all of a uniform size - was that the edges and corners of the sheet size were marked by fine lines on each of the printing stones. Of course, in each case the distances of those lines from the images were carefully measured and were the same on both stones.



Of all the different issues of which biographies have been compiled it can be stated with the knowledge of many years' experience, that the Indian Inverted Head biographies have presented more difficulties than those of any other issue - indeed, more than most of the other issues added together.

An average percentage of classic stamp survival from production is three per cent. As examples: it is known that 1,000 of the "Post Office" Mauritius stamps were printed and some 26 examples are taken as still existing, while 15 examples are, recorded as existing of Western Australia 1854 4d "Inverted Swan", of which 388 were printed.

By extrapolation from 24 or 25 existing examples of the Inverted Head of India, with a survival rate of three per cent, one arrives at a conclusion that some what more than 800 were printed in 1854. That would imply that approximately 72 sheets - three quires - in one batch or perhaps more than one batch were put on to the loading table with the wrong edge facing the blue printing stone.

Applying the other method, if only six sheets - that is, 72 - of the errors were produced and something like 24 or 25 still exist, the survival rate would be thirty per cent more. That is an entirely unprecedented figure of survival for any classic rarity used in the normal way. If only 48 had been printed the survival rate would be an entirely incredible fifty per cent.

(Courtesy : Signet 1983)

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## CUSTOMISED POST

Arjunlal Harchandani

### Customised Greeting Cards

On 18 February 2001, the General Manager of the Business Development Directorate of India Post (BDD) held a press conference at New Delhi and announced the Customised Greeting Posts package for corporations. I reproduce the news published in Financial Express dated 19 February:

In a unique initiative for a government department India Post has launched a customised greeting cards package for corporate. According to an India Post business development directorate (BDD) official, Philips India and Shoppers' Stop finalised the deal with the postal department here on Monday. The Initiative to allow corporate branding in the sovereign's stamp is described as the world's first by any postal department. BDD general manager Radhika Doraiswamy says, 'the only thing which comes close to our concept is the Australian Posts move to have an individuals photograph in place of the Sovereign stamp'.

Under the new move, India Post will allow corporate to either choose from a plethora of designs or bring in their own designs, which will be incorporated on greeting cards envelopes as a Sovereign stamp. The envelope will also contain a greeting card, which will be the replica of the stamp-sized image. The corporate can then use these customised greeting cards for its own communication programmes. Being a Sovereign property, India Post customised greeting cards will be printed at the Security Press in Chennai and Kanpur.

### Providing Value to the Corporate

We're still working out the ways to provide value to the corporate' - Ms. Doraiswamy says, adding, 'It has to be decided whether we can allow logos or issue only corporate specific messages and visuals on these cards'. These cards will initially be priced at Rs. 15 a copy for 10,000 prints. However, a KSA Technopak consultant says, 'depending on the customer's higher volume needs

and frequency of interaction with India Posts, pricing can be mutually discussed'.

India Post had earlier tested the concept of customised greeting cards (Priced at Rs. 15 and Rs. 12 per card) for retail buyers in September last. 'We made around Rs. 1 crore during last Diwali and Xmas through sales from our direct marketing exercise and our distribution set-up in Gujarat and Rajasthan'. Says Ms. Doraiswamy.

During the last fiscal, India Post made Rs. 7 crore revenues from ads, and the new initiative, distinct from ad revenues, is expected to contribute significantly to the department's over all revenues. 'While we will continue to perform our social obligations, we will at the same time, try and explore new ways of generating revenue', she says. Top on the list is to set up an extensive distribution network. KSA-Technopak is helping the department find the right kind of channel partners. The BDD prefers to develop a lean distribution set up with more direct dealers, like Life Style establishment and Supermalls, and less of wholesalers. In the next couple of months, BDD plans to roll out the product in all the four metros, though the actual plan is to be present across all the stamp depots in 20 cities. Ms. Doraiswamy says, 'Our objective is to have our distribution strategies implemented by all the 22 operational circles across the country'.

To bolster the brand's presence in the Rs. 400 crore greeting cards market, the BDD will pursue a four-fold strategy; send direct mailers to corporate; scout for business through its incentive led marketing team; seek out customers through its Web site; 'Speedpost.org'; and intensely refresh designs and concepts.

India Post had signed up with the Ahmedabad based National School of Design for new designs in the preceding December, and twenty-two designs have already been sent for printing. Earlier, the department had conducted a consumer survey in Mumbai, which revealed as an upmarket yet affordable proposition.

Immediately after, the BDD authorities reviewed the conference and decided to allow a corporate logo and a message on the back of the envelope with the revised rate i.e. 20% surcharge in price excluding postage (Rs. 15 - 3 = 12 x 0.20 = Rs. 2.40 to say Rs. 15 + 2.40 = Rs. 17.40 for the medium size and Rs. 13.80 for the small size).

BDD issued this information in a very attractive brochure, reading as follows:

The Greeting Cards are printed for occasions / festivals with a stamp embossed upon the envelope, saving the customer the necessity for purchasing a stamp. The product is exceptionally charming as it offers the customer the convenience of 'Buy & Post' and replicates the designs of the card upon the envelope.

Customised cards are printed as per the design given by the Organisation. The Organisation will give the design to Department of Posts. The design will reflect the Organisation, and the envelope can also bear the logo of the Organisation and a message on the back portion of the envelope.

Customised cards are an excellent method of achieving brand identity. The cards are printed at the Security Press, with total quality control and inbuilt security measures to prevent duplication.

The price is as follows:

Medium cards 10,000 (minimum order)

Cost Rs. 1.74 Lakh

Small Cards 10,000 (minimum order)

Cost Rs. 1.38 Lakh

For Diwali and New Year 2000 we would be happy to receive

your order from you. We will be able to execute your order in 15 days time from the date of receipt of the payment for the cards.

### Comment

There were no festival in Indian culture coming up after this announcement - it was off-season. Indian organisations, like its people, prefer to use greeting cards on an occasion - Diwali, Christmas or New Year.

### That Perfect Card

The restriction on the use of a logo brought no response to the BDD authorities so they changed their policy again and allowed an organisation to use a traditional motif or even a company logo. They issued a beautiful multicolour pamphlet, which reads as follows:

You always look for the perfect card but never really get that. There's something missing somewhere. Now you can have that perfect card. The card you have in your mind. Just design it yourself. Yes, Greeting Post provides a unique concept. Choose your own design-a classic painting, a picture, a traditional motif, or even your company's logo and find it on your greeting card. Besides that, the prepaid stamp will also be a replica of the card design. Unique, isn't it? If you want, you can even choose a design from the extensive gallery of Greeting Post.

Greeting Post had evoked a lot of interest in the corporate world, with big names like Coke, Pepsi, Philips and Shoppers' Stop showing interest. It has tied up with National Institute of Design (Ahmedabad) for developing fresh designs to add to the existing collection of cards. Act now and get in touch with us and let us help you find that perfect card. To Know more, mail the business reply card to us.

It was not clear from the pamphlet whether Coke, Pepsi, Philips and Shoppers' Stop were interested in marketing Greeting Post or in getting their own customised greeting post printed. Whatever it may be, I have not seen a single card in the exclusive shops of Philips and Shopper's Stop and even any customised greeting post items of these companies.

Recently, I have seen two customised greeting cards. One, Figure 1, is of a different category, being a Birthday Greeting Card from NovoPen.

The other, from the Srimant Dagdusheth Halwai Sarvjanik Ganpati Trust of Poona is printed by CALCUTTA SECURITY PRESS (Fig. 2)

Both cards bear the Speed Post emblem and the Greeting Post emblem (introduced by BDD later on) on the back. Further, both customised Greeting Post envelopes have a computerised code number and the abbreviation CCS/M (Customise Card Small / Medium) with a serial number on the back. Unfortunately, in the second customised Greeting Post envelope, CSP printed the greeting logo inverted on the flap. (Fig. 3)

### Customised Stamps

On 3 July 2001 the BDD announced a new project, - customisation of prepaid postage stamps and envelopes for large organisations, and issued a letter, which reads as follows:

'We are very happy to inform you that the Department of Posts has approved the customisation of pre-paid postage stamps envelopes for large corporates.

The stamp can symbolise the vision of your Organisation, be a design of your choosing and it will be printed on an envelope of grammage, size, etc. selected by you. The benefits that you get from this product are manifold.

Your Organisation gets a very unique form of branding. All the mail from your office can go in these envelopes to your

customers, business partners or potential clients. You will be spared the need to frank or stamp your mail. Further more, the logo of your Organisation and any message / advertisement you may like to print can appear on the envelope.

If you are interested in this product, we would need to know the size of the envelope which you would like manufactured, and the stamp to be printed upon it. We would also need the design of the stamp and any promotional matter that you would like to print on the envelope.

[Sizes ranged from 140 mm x 90 mm to 220 mm x 162 mm. and weights from 40 - 90 gsm].

Any other details you would like to add like colour, design etc. We also offer the choice of handmade paper'.

### Items I have seen

I have seen two customised envelopes. One is a sample design prepared by the Idea Workshop for ICICI Bank (see figure 4) and the other is final print of NIIT Ltd. Printed by CSP, (figure 5).

In the proposed design of ICICI, value figure Rs. 8/- (for 40 gms when posted) is shown in the imprint stamp design, and POSTAGE PREPAID is printed in black at the top centre of the envelope. However, in the customised envelope of NIIT Ltd., the figure of value is not printed and postage pre-paid is printed in black under the imprint stamp. The NIIT envelope has no logo or other symbol of the Post Office except the imprint stamp design with Bharat / India and words 'Postage Pre-Paid' on the front and the code number with abbreviation CEN (Customise Envelope) and serial number on the back. Whether there are any other security measures built in or an imprint stamp of the CSP is a matter of research.

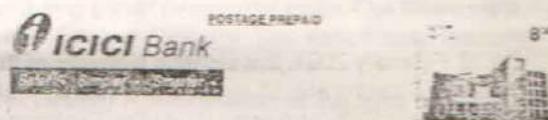


Figure 4 half size

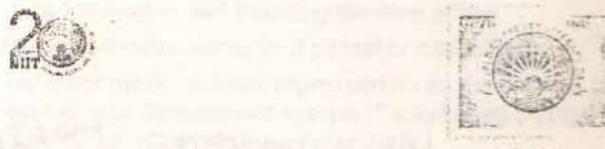


Figure 5 half size

॥ ॐ नमो भगवते वासुदेवाय ॥

॥ जय गणेश ॥

"SPECIMEN"



प्रपत्र -

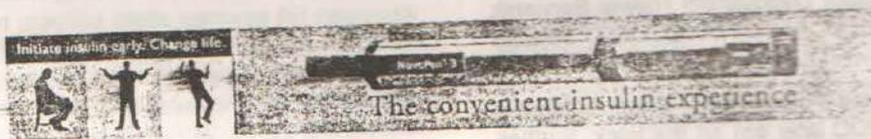
1. 2013-14 का प्रपत्र-1  
2. 2013-14 का प्रपत्र-2  
3. 2013-14 का प्रपत्र-3



॥ जय गणेश ॥

Figure 1 simulated perf 9.5 x 9, on pink paper)

Figure 2



1 GEN 025578

NAT launches JYOTI - a 10-hour computer program priced at Rs. 300. A mission to make everyone computer literate.

Figure 3, - 'ICCN' denotes first customised envelope, the 'stamp', is 29 x 40mm, simulated perf 10 x 10.2

(Courtesy : India Post 2002)

## POSTMARKS

(Definitions of various post marks, compiled and drafted by Cyril R.H. Parsons are reproduced below: Suggestions, modifications etc. if any may be sent to the Editor)

The definitions which follow:

- (a) are based on the practice, both past and present, of the British Post Office... because the compiler's knowledge of the postmarks and postal history of other countries is negligible. In consequence, some will require amendment to accommodate the practice of other postal administrations;
- (b) are broad in concept, in an effort to fit the practice of many countries' postal administrations;
- (c) attempt to describe particular types of mark, rather than identify their use. For instance, 'circular date stamp' describes fairly clearly a class of postmark. However, such marks, at least in British practice, can be applied at the office of posting (or of first sorting), in the course of transit, or at the office of delivery'
- (d) do not attempt to provide a detailed classification, which is difficult enough to draft for individual countries. This is a consequence of the design of some marks depending upon the whim of an individual postmaster;
- (e) are arranged in alphabetical order, with some cross referencing of related terms, where this seems appropriate.

### Notes :

1. The first sentence of each entry seeks to define the term and as such the definition proper. Subsequent sentences aim to expand upon the definition and to clarify it. The compiler does not claim that any list of alternatives in the supplementary sentences is exhaustive.
2. After careful consideration, the compiler declined to include among the definitions details of abbreviations which appear in postmarks. The reasons for reaching this decision included:
  - The list would be very long if all countries are to be covered and would never be complete.
  - It would be difficult, even for the UK, to distinguish between 'national, abbreviations such as PSO (postmen's sorting or sub-office) and TPO (travelling post office), which could qualify for an abridged list, and local abbreviations such as AM (Aston Manor Delivery Office, Birmingham) and CX (Charing Cross, London), which would not.
  - Surely entries for international exhibitions should include explanations of abbreviations which appear in postmarks or elsewhere on material.
3. Throughout, 'Post Office' (with initial capital letters) refers to the national organization responsible for collecting, conveying and delivering mail, whereas 'post office' (in lower case letters) means the local office at which, for example, the adhesive on a letter is cancelled.

**Back Stamp** A postmark, usually dated, applied to the reverse of an item of mail. The date indicates when the item was received or handled by the office applying the mark.

**Cachet** A special mark impressed or printed on an item of mail indicating the special circumstances for which the mark was used. Although some such marks are applied by the Post Office, the majority are unofficial.

**Cancel (lation)** A mark applied by the Post Office to adhesives or to items of postal stationery, primarily to prevent their reuse. Sometimes a cancellation also indicates the office applying it. All such marks may be in manuscript (pen cancels), or applied by machine or by a hand-held stamp. They may comprise geometrical or other patterns, facsimiles of flags, advertising slogans, or an indication in code or in plain lettering of the office (and date) where the cancellation was applied. (Also known as obliterator).

**Censor mark** A cachet impressed upon an item of mail, either civilian or military, during periods of war or civil unrest, to denote that its contents have been passed by an official censor.

**Charge mark** A mark in manuscript or impressed by a specially engraved die showing the postal (or excise) charge to be collected upon delivery. Some such marks used since repayment of postage became compulsory include an explanation for the surcharge being raised.

**Circulation date stamp** A mark enclosed in a circular frame indicating the date upon which it was impressed on an item of mail. Generally such marks additionally include an indication of the post office concerned.

**Disinfected mail** Any item of mail bearing some indication that it had been detained at a quarantine station and been treated in some way to fumigate it. In the 18th and 19th centuries mail originating from or passing through areas subject to serious epidemics of plague, typhus, yellow fever, smallpox, cholera or leprosy were subjected to such treatment. Items may have received cachets including such legends as "Purife au Lazaret" (purified at the quarantine station), but all should bear the physical signs of treatment - narrow slits "to let out the pestilential air", scorch marks from fumigating by fire, or stains from being sprinkled with vinegar.

**Duplex mark** A postmark which combines the function of cancelling the adhesive(s) on an item of mail, or preventing the reuse of an item of postal stationery, and indicating the date and office where the item was posted or sorted for the first time. Such marks comprise two distinct parts - an obliterator and a (circular) date stamp.

**Explanatory mark** A postmark explaining the reason for non-delivery or delay in delivery of an item of mail.

**Express mark** A mark in manuscript or impressed by a specially engraved die showing that transmission / delivery of the item was urgent and that the item had been accepted for accelerated handling at all stages during transit through the mails. The difference between 'Express' and 'Special Delivery' has varied over the years and between different postal administrations.

**Flag cancel (lation)** A cancellation in the form of a flag, with or without staff, usually forming one element of a duplex mark. The flag design may incorporate a slogan or text which supplements details of the place of posting given in the associated (circular) date stamp.

**Forwarding agent's mark** A cachet impressed upon or a manuscript mark made on an item of mail which at some stage of its journey (usually between countries) has been handled by a person or organization (a Forwarding Agent) other than the Post Office.

**Killer** A heavily applied mark used to prevent reuse of an adhesive or item of postal stationery. Such marks usually comprise bold lines or bold patterns, but may include letters or numbers to indicate the office impressing the mark.

**Name stamp** A postmark giving the name of the office which applied it, but, by implication, not including the date of use.

**Obliterator** Another name for a cancel or cancellation.

**Packet letter mark** A mark impressed on an item of mail carried by Post Office or Government vessels (Packet boat) on Post Office mail sea routes. (Compare ship letter mark.)

**Paid mark** A mark in manuscript or impressed by a specially engraved die indicating that postage had been prepaid in cash. Such marks, which are generally impressed in red ink, do not necessarily show the amount paid.

**Paquebot mark** A mark applied to an item of mail posted on board ship on the high seas (ie in international waters) and subsequently handed over in a sealed bag to the post office at the port of arrival. The mark may be either a special date stamp of the office which includes the legend 'Paquebot' (French for Packet boat) or its equivalent, or may show the word 'Paquebot' alone. In the latter

case the normal date stamp of the office should also be impressed on the item, in accordance with an Article of the UPU Convention dating from 1891.

**Pen cancel (lation)** A manuscript mark used to prevent reuse of an adhesive. The mark may include an indication of when or where the adhesive was cancelled, or may merely comprise one or more lines.

**Post mark** Any mark which the Post Office applies to an item of mail in the course of transit through the post. Such a mark may be in manuscript, or may be impressed by machine or by a hand-held stamp.

**Registered mark** A mark in manuscript or impressed by a specially engraved die showing that the item, being valuable, had been registered and accepted for special handling during transit through the mail. Such marks include the letter 'R', the word 'Registered' or its equivalent either alone or incorporated in the legend of a special date stamp.

**Ship letter mark** A mark impressed at the post office at the port of arrival on an item of mail carried on a privately owned ocean-going ship (ef packetletter mark). Such marks may comprise the word(s) 'Ship', or 'Ship letter' alone, or in conjunction with the name of the post office impressing the mark, and possibly the date.

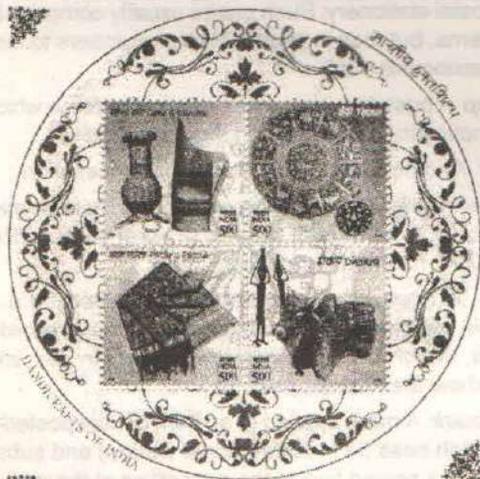
**Slogan postmark** A mark applied by any specially engraved die bearing an advertising slogan or similar text not relating directly to the transmission of the item upon which it is impressed. In addition to carrying out their advertising function (for which the sponsor may pay a fee), such marks may also serve to cancel adhesives and so prevent their reuse.

**Special delivery mark** A mark in manuscript or impressed by a specially engraved die showing that transmission / delivery of the item was urgent and that the item had been accepted for accelerated handling at all stages during transit through the mails. The difference between 'Special Delivery' and 'Express' has varied over the years and between 'Special Delivery' and 'Express' has varied over the years and between different postal administrations.

**Wavy line obliterator** A cancellation comprising a series of undulating lines, generally forming one element of a machine impressed duplex cancellation. The number of lines, their wavelength and whether they contain regular breaks depends upon the type of machine impressing the mark and the practice of the particular postal administration.

(Courtesy : Signet, 1983)

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Miniature Sheet - Handicrafts of India Issued on 15.11.2002

## STAMPS RELEASED DURING THE YEAR 2002

Sl. No.	Stamp	Date of Issue	Value
1.	Director General of Mines Safety	07.01.02	Rs. .
2.	Indian Army Everest Expedition	15.01.02	Rs. 4
3.	Buddha Mahotsav (Set of 4)	21.01.02	4,4,8, 15
4.	The Year of Books	28.01.02	4
5.	Swami Ramanand	04.02.02	4
6.	Indian Ordinance Factory	18.03.02	4
7.	Sido Murmu Kanhu Murmu	06.04.02	4
8.	150 Years of Indian Railways	16.04.02	15
9.	Kathakali & Kabuki (se-tenet)	26.04.02	15 + 15
10.	Golden Jubilee - Parliament of India	13.05.02	4
11.	Prabodhankar Thackeray	26.05.02	4
12.	Cotton College of Gwahati	16.06.02	4
13.	PL Despande	22.06.02	4
14.	Brijlal Biyani	22.06.02	4
15.	Personality Series - Literature	22.06.02	5, 5
16.	Sree Thakur Satyananda	23.07.02	5
17.	Anna Bhau Sathe	01.08.02	4
18.	Anand Rishiji Maharaj	09.08.02	4
19.	Sant Tukaram	10.08.02	4
20.	Vithalrao Vikhe Patil	10.08.02	4
21.	Bhaurao Krishnarao Galkwad	26.08.02	4
22.	Per. Series. Social Reformers (set of 3)	12.09.02	5,5, 5
23.	Ananda Nilayam Vimanam Tirumala	11.10.02	15
24.	Arya Vaidya sala - Kottakkal	12.10.02	5
25.	Kanika Randopadhyay	12.10.02	5
26.	Bagavan Baba	15.10.02	5
27.	Bihar Chamber of Commerce	28.10.02	4
28.	Mangroves (set of 4)	30.10.02	5, 5, 5, 5
29.	Swami Pranavananda	03.11.02	5
30.	Nagpur Tercentenary	11.11.02	5
31.	Children's Day	14.11.02	5
32.	Handicrafts of India (set of 4)	15.11.02	5, 5, 5, 5
33.	Santidev Ghose	01.12.02	5
34.	Tamralipta Jatiya Sarcar (setenet)	17.12.02	5 + 5
35.	Anglo Bengalinter College Allahabad	23.12.02	5
36.	Gurukula Kangri visa vidyalaya	24.12.02	5
37.	Dhirubai H. Ambani	28.12.02	5
38.	T.T. Krishnamachari	31.12.02	5
39.	Forts of Andhra Pradesh (Set of 2)	31.12.02	5, 5

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**PENNY BLACK**  
**GENESIS : HOW IT CAME INTO BEING**

**Anthony S.B. New**

Of the young Italian architects of the Renaissance it is said that, having never encountered a bad building, they were incapable of designing one. How different is the world of today, and how different even the miniature world of the postage stamp, of which the most dreadful examples pour forth daily from the presses.

It is hard to imagine, but in the Britain of 1840 the creators of the Penny Black (I) had never seen a postage stamp at all, good or bad.

Therein lay the key to success, for they had to start from first principles and to weigh very carefully the practical requirements. From the right solution of these the art of postage stamp design arose naturally, just as the art of architecture arises from a proper fulfilment of the requirements of function and construction; in neither case can the art be added like a layer of varnish or by the filling of unwanted space with ornament.

The initial requirements, then, were: first, convenience of size; secondly, a clear indication of purpose, achieved by the simple words POSTAGE ONE PENNY; thirdly, an expression of governmental authority, gained by the use of the Queen's head; fourthly, ease of manufacture in very large quantities; and fifthly, defence against the forger (who might copy the whole stamp) and the faker (who might remove obliterations or make one clean stamp from two used halves). It was the last that promoted the greatest amount of research, for a negotiable piece of paper of such size was unprecedented and the fear of fraud was entirely real and fully justified.

There was an unsuccessful competition. It achieved little positive result, but it convinced the champion of postal reform in Britain, Sir Rowland Hill, that the solution to the problem really lay with the bank-note printers, who alone possessed the essential equipment and skill.

Perkins, Bacon and Petch were finally selected because they were able to satisfy the authorities that their process of steel engraving was superior to those of other firms, as well as techniques. Had one of their rivals been successful, this book might never have been worth writing.

The head of Queen Victoria has been mentioned as a symbol of authority in the common possession of which the stamps would rank with the coinage. But the reasons for its inclusion went deeper than that. A brilliantly engraved portrait of the best-known lady of the kingdom, by a first-rate artist, could not be initiated, even another first-rate artist, without immediate detection. To make doubly sure, the background around the head was engine-turned with a rich intricate pattern of the kind used for banknotes, the paper was watermarked with crowns, one to each stamp, and, as a final security measure, each stamp on the sheet was given a different combination of checkletters in the lower corners, so that the forger must either make all his stamps suspiciously alike, or go to the enormous expense of making a printing plate of 240 units.

Both the head and the style of lettering were taken from the medal designed by William Wyon to commemorate the Queen's visit to the City of London at the time of her Coronation. The portrait was engraved by Charles and Frederick Heath. Fifteen years later it was in fact copied by another artist of great skill, William Humphrys, and his work is quite easy to distinguish, meticulous imitation though it is.

POSTAGE ONE PENNY (or TWO PENCE) was all that was necessary as an inscription. The colours were a further distinction between the values, but by yellowish gaslight the blue and the black were too similar and, after a year, two distinguishing white lines had to be added to the Two Pence. The One Penny, two, was changed to red for the sake of easier obliteration with black ink.

(Courtesy: Postage Stamps, 1967)

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**JUNIOR CORNER**

**TIPS FOR BEGINNERS ON EXHIBITION PHILATELY**

**Mr. R.S. RAO**

Collecting stamp is a very good hobby. It gives general knowledge and one can learn about a country's Heritage, Culture, Flora, Fauna etc. But one should also try to display the stamp collection in a Stamp Exhibition Competition. It is a must as it gives opportunity to learn more about Stamp Collection which is called Philately.

There are certain rules for participating in a Philatelic competition. It is very hard to collect on a single country whether it is stamps or stationery. It is better to choose a Subject, which is called "Thematic collection".

Buy a good drawing sheet (White) and cut the sheet into 23 cm X 29 cm. You can make five sheets from one sheet. Transparent polythene cover is to be fixed on each and every sheet for display and it keeps the philatelic items safe that are shown on the sheet.

The stamps should be fixed on each sheet vertically. At least 6 to 12 stamps should be fixed with hinges. Don't paste the stamp directly. Miniature sheets, First day covers, Special Pictorial cancelled covers can also be used for display as per subject chosen.

In any exhibition 16 sheets should be displayed or multiple thereof, i.e. 16, 32, 48 sheets. The display board can hold 16 sheets vertically in one side and the 16 sheets together is called one frame.

Now an example is given on one subject here as "SPORTS". Collect all sort of sports stamps. Sort out each sport with at least 12 stamps. Volley ball 12 stamps; Basket ball 12 likewise. Before starting the display first learn how many chapters can be prepared as per yours stamps.

The first page will be the plan page of your collection. Some details should be given on the particular subject in a few lines. Sample of plan page is given here. This plan page is on general sports.

**SPORTS**

Sports is an exciting and colourful feature in lives of many people. Sporting events and Personalities have created traditions, which have played a strong part in the Social History of Many Nations all over the world. Sports in the 20th Century hold an importance, which have never previously been accorded throughout the history of mankind.

S.No.	Title	Sub Title	Nos. of Pages
	First Page	Plan Page	1
1.	The Stadium	Different Play Grounds	1
	The Ceremony	The Torch & Flag	1
	The Symbols & Awards	Mascot & Medals	1
2.	The Ceremony	Gymnastics	4
		Weight Lifting	1
3.	Combat Sports	Wrestling	1
		Boxing	1
		Fencing	1
4.	Target Sports	Archery	1
		Rifle Shooting	1

5.	Throwing events	Discuss Throw	1
		Shot put	1
		Javelin throw	1
6.	Field Events	High Jump	1
		Long Jump	1
		Pole Vault	1
7.	Track Events	Hurdles	1
		Running Races	1
		Modern Pentathlon	1
8.	Team Sports	Basket Ball	1
		Volley Ball	1
		Foot Ball	1
		Field Hockey	1
		Cricket	1
9.	Water Sports	Diving & Swimming	1
		Boating & Swimming	1
		Sailing & Yacht	1
10.	Transportation Sports	Cycling	1

After preparing the collection, write your name and postal address on its back side (bottom right side). Also on the back side in the upper left side corner mention the frame no. .... Page no. .... e.g.: Frame 1 ..... Page 1. and the next page will be Frame 1. .... Page 2.

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