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Guest Editorial

Stamps and Stamp Collecting - a great family hobby

Stamps and stamp collecting can help to improve a family's quality time and communication

Families changed significantly through the centuries. A simple example is that not so many years ago, people did not have the ability to go beyond the borders of a country due to a lack and the cost of international transport. Today, the world is literally our oyster. Through this and other social interventions, the following types of families exist -

- Nuclear families
- Extended families
- Single parent families
- Families without children
- Reconvened families, and
- Child-headed families

Healthy families form the building blocks of a healthy community as they provide the primary opportunity for the development of the individual. Studies in different parts of the world demonstrated the following tendencies in a stable family with emotional stability for the family members -

- A higher percentage of children attending school
- Better school results
- Children with better self image and confidence
- Less behavioural problems, (eg) less aggression, fewer criminal tendencies and less use of alcohol and drugs
- Higher productivity levels
- Lower levels of stress and related illnesses
- A better ability to cope with a crisis
- Better quality of life and higher life expectations
- Greater responsibility to assist sick and disabled family members

Family members struggle today to have quality time with each other due to work, sport, church, school and cultural activities. This lack of quality time can deteriorate family ties, which, in turn, can lead to problems with effective communication between family members.

Stamp collecting can be practiced by the whole family -
It promotes quality time

- It promotes talk time
- It improves everybody's general knowledge
- It promotes family unity
- It is non-violent
- It promotes the sharing of mutual interest, and
- It allows for the TV to be switched off!

A practical activity such as stamp collecting can im-

prove communication and tune family members to each other. If it is seen as a project in which everybody's contribution is important and where teamwork is necessary to provide the end result, it will allow better communication between family members who will better know and understand each other. In practice this means that one person can actually obtain the stamps, one can do the research about the theme or topic and another can display the stamps.



- Family and Marriage Society of South Africa.

Our Second Sunday Meetings were held at the CPMG's Conference Hall, Anna Road, HPO, Chennai - 600 002. (11.00 - 01.00 pm) regularly where around 35 members attended with President Shri Balakrishna Das presiding Patron Mr. Madan Mohan Das spoke on "Themes in Philately" in August 2004.

STAMP NEWS

28TH OLYMPICS

13.08.2004 500,500,1500,1500 3 Million each

The greatest show on earth, where continents converge, nations compete, human endurance and strength extends its known limits, where history is repeated and often re-written, where the sporting spirit soars citius, altius, fortius, i.e. faster, higher, stronger, and finds echoes transcending all boundaries, of colour, race or ideology, the Olympic Games, resurrected from antiquity continues its revered tradition as a pan-global tradition in modern times.

The ancient Olympic Games began in 776 BC, when the first athletic contest, a 170 metres foot race, was held at the sacred place of Olympia in Western Peloponnese, in honour of the Olympian Zeus, and was won by one Coroibos. The Games steadily expanded with the introduction of other races and a pentathlon event consisting of running, discus throwing, long jump, javelin and wrestling. The original prize was the coveted olive wreath but valuable gifts followed, along with recognition for the victors who were specially honoured by their home towns and states.



The Olympic Games were banned by the Roman Emperor Theodosius-I in the 4th century AD. Revival of the games came after a long time when Baron Pierre de Coubertin (1863-1937) made efforts which led to the forming of the International Olympic Committee in 1894, and the first modern Olympic Games was held in Athens in 1896. The International Olympic Committee passed a resolution in its meeting at Sorbonne (France) in 1894 that competitions be held every four years on the lines of the Greek Olympic Games.

India is one of the oldest members of the International Olympic family. India's participation in the Olympic

Games dates back to 1900, when a lone Englishman participating on behalf of India won one Silver and one Bronze medal in Athletics. Subsequently, India has regularly participated in the Olympic Games since 1920. India has the distinction of winning six Gold medals in consecutive Olympic Games in Hockey till 1956. Thereafter in the Tokyo and Moscow Olympics also gold medals in Hockey were won by India. In recent times, India won a Bronze medal in 1996 at Atlanta in Tennis through Leander Paes, and in 2000 at Sydney in Weightlifting through Karnam Malleswari. In both Atlanta and Sydney India participated in 13 disciplines.

Stamps featuring Olympic themes have been popular with collectors since the first modern Olympic games, when Greece issued 12 commemorative stamps in 1896.

Theme : Sports, Olympics, Olympics 2004.

INDIA-IRAN : JOINT ISSUE

16.08.2004 1500,1500 0.4 Million Each

India and Iran share centuries of close cultural and civilizational affinities, influencing each other in the fields of culture, art, architecture and language. Regular high-level exchange of visits between the two sides have led to expansion and strengthening of bilateral cooperation. Prime Ministers Shri P.V. Narasimha Rao and Shri Atal Behari Vajpayee visited Iran in 1993 and 2001 respectively. President Seyed Mohammad Khatami visited India in 2003.



India and Iran are committed to impart a strategic character to their relationship. The New Delhi Declaration signed during the visit of President Khatami puts forth the vision of strategic partnership between India and Iran for a more stable, secure and prosperous region and for enhanced regional and global cooperation. Important areas of bilateral cooperation between the two countries include energy security, transit routes in the region, cooperation on Afghanistan and its reconstruction, and trade and commerce.

The joint issue of stamps forms another milestone in India-Iran relations. The set portrays Hafiz & Kabir : poets, philosophers and mystics.

Shamsuddin Muhammad of Shiraz, better known as Hafiz Shirazi, is a luminous star of rich Persian literature. Recognized internationally, his poetic heritage includes approximately four to five thousand verses, about 500 lyrics or ghazals, elegies, couplets and inscriptions. Drawing on

the grace and message of the Holy Quran, Hafiz expressed himself through refining the verse form of the ghazal: a lyric poem of 6 to 12 or 15 couplets linked by symbolism rather than by logical sequence of ideas. His 'Diwan-i-Hafiz' finds a place of dignity and respect in Iranian homes. This great 14th century poet and mystic had his final resting place at Shriaz where the tomb, Hafizieh, is a centre for tourists and pilgrims.

Kabir lived and voiced his philosophy in the early 15th century, a period which was marked by the Bhakti movement in India, a spiritual movement which brought philosophy and religion into the common man's life, through a personal relationship with the Almighty. The movement generated very far reaching social changes too. A weaver by profession, Kabir ranks among the world's greatest mystic poets. In India he is perhaps the most quoted author. The Holy Guru Granth Sahib of the Sikhs contains over 500 verses by Kabir. Composed in Hindi, the hallmark of Kabir's poetry is that he conveys in his couplets (Doha), what others may not be able to do in many pages. Another beauty of Kabir's poetry is that his philosophy is rooted in situations that surround our daily lives.

Theme : Personality, Religion, Poet.

MURASOLI MARAN

17.08.2004 500 0.6 Million

Born on 17th August, 1934 at Thirukkuvilai (Thanjavur District in Tamil Nadu) to Thiru. Shunmugasundram and Tmt. Shunmuga Sundari, Thiru. MURASOLI MARAN did his Post Graduation at Pachayappa's College, Chennai. He rose from a humble beginning to become one of the pillars of the Dravida Munnetra Kazhagam (DMK) party.

Maran was a writer of repute in Tamil. He authored books on politics and short story collections in Tamil. His book on State Autonomy (Manila Suyatchi) in February 1974 was a reputed research work on Centre-State relations and his other research work on the history of the Dravidian Movement in the year 1991 was titled Dravida Iyakka Varalaru. Vol. 1. He was



founder-member of the Madras Press Club from 1970-78 and was its President in 1978. He published a number of Tamil weeklies viz. Kungamam, Mutharam and Vannathirai. He also published an English Daily, 'Rising Sun'. He was arrested in 1965 during the anti-Hindi agitations for his articles; he was detained under MISA for one year during Emergency.

A multi-faceted person, Maran excelled in films and journalism as well. He scripted 20 Tamil films, directed two and produced five. In 1956, his film 'Kula Deivam' got President's Certificate of Merit as the best feature film (Regional). The Tamilnadu Eyal Isai Nataka Manram conferred the title 'Kalai Mamani' in 1975 for his contribution to screenplay and dialogue writing. In 1956 his film 'Annayin Aana'

got President's Certificate of Merit as the second best feature film (Regional). His film 'Engal Thangam' got Tamil Nadu Government's award in the year 1970 as the second best feature film of the year.

He was continuously elected to the Lok Sabha and Rajya Sabha for 36 years from 1967. He was the Chief negotiator of India in the Seattle and Doha Ministerial Conferences of the World Trade Organization (WTO).

Thiru. Muralidharan is remembered for his words and deeds by his innumerable admirers and the general public across the country.

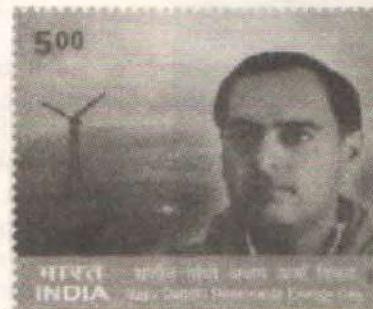
Theme : Personality, Politics, Cinema.

RAJIV GANDHI RENEWABLE ENERGY DAY

20.08.2004 500 0.8 Million

Rajiv Gandhi (1944-1991) - India's Prime Minister from 1984 to 1989, is remembered by teeming millions whose tears of sorrow were replaced with the rainbow of hope by the sheer power of his visionary personality. To remember Rajiv Gandhi is like remembering those millions of youth of India and beyond who were simply charmed and inspired by the sheer honesty, integrity and beauty of his personality.

Rajiv Gandhi envisioned a modern India and initiated several policy initiatives for modernization of the Indian economy, applications of science and technology for serving the poor and devolution of authority and responsibility to institutions of local government - Panchayati Raj and Nagarpalikas. An important step was to electrify all villages within the shortest possible time.



To fulfill Rajiv Gandhi's dream to illuminate all the houses in the country, the Ministry of Non-Conventional Energy Sources (MNES) Government of India has set out ambitious targets to meet the energy demand for the people particularly those living in about 18,000 remote villages.

The MNES has declared that the 20th of August, 2004, the 60th birth anniversary of Rajiv Gandhi, be observed as the 'Rajiv Gandhi Akshay Urja Diwas' and has launched a massive awareness campaign throughout the country. The campaign is focussed on educating school children about achieving energy security through various applications of renewable energy.

Renewable energy is derived from natural resources that are replenished constantly and are eco-friendly. Examples of renewable energy include : biomass, hydro, solar, wind and ocean.

The Sun is the primary source of energy for all life on our planet. Biomass energy comes from energy crops, agricultural residues, trees, cow dung, city garbage, etc., and can be used in three ways : burnt to produce heat and elec-

tricity, changed into biogas or converted into liquid fuel, such as alcohol and biodiesel. Hydropower is derived from the flow of water to generate electricity and wherever feasible, small and micro-hydro systems can fully meet the electricity demand of villages. Solar energy is utilized through thermal and photovoltaic (direct conversion into electricity) technologies. Wind energy is used primarily to produce electricity and for water lifting. Ocean energy is derived from thermal energy conversion, tidal and waves. Already about 5,000 MW capacity renewable power projects have been installed.

On the First Day Cover, the four most common applications of renewable energy, i.e., solar lantern, domestic solar water heating system, biogas unit and small hydropower plant have been depicted (from left to right).

Theme : Personality, Politics, Energy, Windmills.

S.S. VASAN

26.08.2004

500

0.4 Million

Thiruthuraiipoondi Subramanian Srinivasan, familiarly known as S.S. Vasan, was born on 16 January, 1904 in a Brahmin family. His father died when S.S. Vasan was two months old and his unlettered but courageous mother brought him up with love, care and concern for the values of life. After early schooling at Thiruthuraiipoondi and Tiruchi, in his mid-teens S.S. Vasan cycled all the way to Madras and joined a pre-degree course in the Pachaiyappa's College.



S.S. Vasan was an unparalleled journalist, media baron, film producer and distributor. He commenced his journalistic career by translating English novels into Tamil and by writing original novels, which he sold to publishers. He sensed immense business potential in catalogue trading through VPP - a predecessor to tele-shopping. S.S. Vasan collected material about the goods he sold, which took him to

advertising. He became a one-man ad-agency. Besides his ad-business, Vasan's other line of activity, mail order, equally novel for the day, did fairly well. He wished to run a publication of his own. So in 1928 he acquired "Ananda Vikatan" a Tamil weekly and within months he had increased its circulation threefold by doubling the contents and reducing the price.

Starting as a film distributor, he went on to found Gemini Studios in Madras in 1941 after turning to the film business in 1939. As a film producer, S.S. Vasan occupies a prominent position in the film world and is a pioneer in the production of Hindi films in South India. He was the first Chairman of the Film Federation of India and also presided over the South Indian Film Chamber of Commerce. S.S. Vasan remained President of South Indian Motion Picture Producers' Association. S.S. Vasan was honoured with the Padma Bhushan by the Government of India for his outstanding services to nation building through art and culture. He was elected to the Rajya Sabha in 1964. S.S. Vasan passed away on August 26, 1969.

Theme : Personality, Cinema, Journalism.

PANINI

30.08.2004

500

0.4 Million

India's contribution to the scientific, technological, literary and mathematical advancements of the world is undeniably monumental. A particularly important development in the history of science in India was influenced by the accomplishments of Panini, one of the greatest grammarians of all time whose work revolutionized the use of language not only in India but also in the rest of the world.

Panini was born in Shalatala, a town near Taxilla on the Indus river in the present-day North-West Province in Pakistan. The dates given for Panini's birth range from the Fourth to the Seventh Century BC. However, it is believed that he was born about 520 BC and died about 460 BC. His mother Dakshi and father Pani initiated him into the worship of Lord Shiva and tradition has it that the Lord himself revealed the form of grammar.



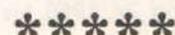
Panini's comprehensive theory of the phonetics, phonology and morphology of Sanskrit language relies on patterns found in the language. Features of language are categorized according to their similarities and then form the subject matter of the set

or ordered morphological rules which constitute the bulk of the work. Inherent in the analytic approach employed by Panini are the concepts of phoneme and morpheme. Paninian grammar is notably descriptive; it does not attempt to tell people what they should speak and write but what people actually did say and write.

Today, Panini's grammar has been compared to Euclid's geometry and his constructions can be seen as comparable to modern definitions of a mathematical function. G.G. Joseph, a renowned mathematician argues in 'The Crest of the Peacock' that the algebraic nature of Indian mathematics arises as a consequence of the structure of the Sanskrit language. In particular, he suggests that algebraic reasoning, the Indian way of representing numbers by words, and ultimately the development of modern number systems in India, are linked through the structure of language. Thus, Panini's work provided an example of a scientific notational model that could have propelled later mathematicians to use abstract notations in characterizing algebraic equations and presenting algebraic theorems and results in a scientific format.

Panini's rules are said to be perfect-that is, they perfectly describe the Sanskrit morphology, and are regarded as so clear that computer scientists have made use of them to teach computers to understand Sanskrit. Panini uses metarules, transformations, and recursion in such sophistication that his grammar has the computing power equivalent to a Turing machine. In this sense Panini may be considered the father of computing machines. As such Panini should be thought of as the forerunner of the modern formal language theory used to specify computer languages. It is remarkable that concepts, which are fundamental to today's theoretical computer science, should have their origin with an Indian genius around 2500 years ago.

Theme : Heritage, Mathematics, Language.



Search for the Northwest Passage

Scott Owen

The initial search for the Northwest Passage began in May, 1497, when John Cabot, (an Italian navigator-explorer) left Bristol, England with one ship, and a crew of 18 men and boys. Their primary objective was to seek a short northwest sea route to the Indies. This exploration, through the frozen ice-clogged waters of Northern Canada, between Newfoundland and Greenland, west to the Bering Sea, would continue for over 400 years, until Capt. Ronald Amundsen, of Norway, finally conquered the Northwest Passage in his tiny herring boat, Gjoa, in 1905. His little fishing vessel was just 70 ft. long, 21 ft. wide, and had a single-screw 13 horse power engine.

Search For The Northwest Passage

On his first attempt in 1497 to find a route through the new world ice blockage in his little ship Matthew, Cabot discovered "New Foundland," an island so rich in codfish that most of England forgot about further explorations. Cabot made a second voyage to his 'New Foundland' in 1498, still looking for "the indies." Only one ship of the five that left England ever returned. It is believed that all four of his ships sunk or were crushed by the ice.

"Cabot" is pictured on the 2c carmine stamp issued by Newfoundland in 1897 (Scott 62). It was issued when that country was a self governing Dominion of the British Empire (1855-1933). Newfoundland is now united with Canada, and is an important province that includes the island of Newfoundland and the coast of Labrador. This is a very unusual and interesting stamp for several reasons :



John Cabot's Son, Sebastian Newfoundland, (Scott 62)



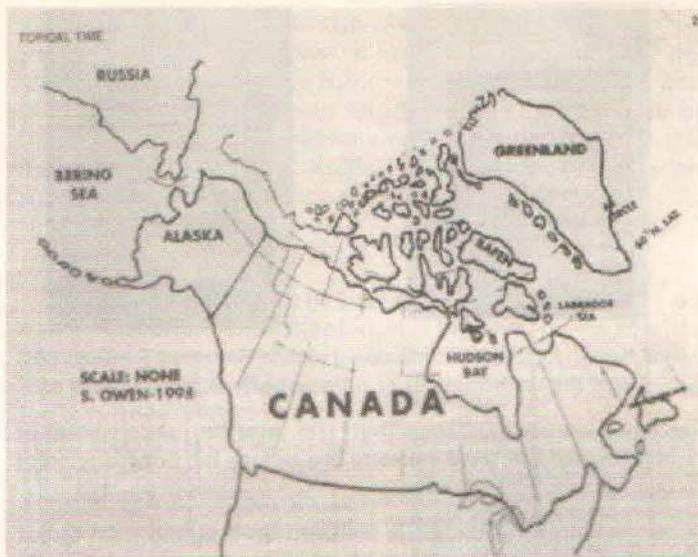
John Cabot's Ship, Matthew Canada, (Scott 282)

When this stamp was issued in 1897, exactly 400 years after John Cabot first discovered Newfoundland, no commercial vessel had yet traversed the Northwest Passage from the Atlantic to Pacific across the top of the world; neither had this feat been accomplished from west to east.

Scott catalog states : "The portrait on (this) 2c (stamp), intended to be John Cabot, is said to be a Holbein painting of his son Sebastian."

Many view John Cabot, the world renowned servant of England as the explorer-discoverer who gave Great Britain legal title to all of North America. The stamp reads: Hym that found the new isle. This daring sea captain from Genoa gave his life in an obscure world, without ceremony, and certainly without appropriate recognition. Perhaps some day his historical little caravel will be located, well preserved in the Arctic waters.

A Canadian stamp dated 1497-1949, (Scott 282), shows "Cabot's (ship), Matthew (approaching) New Foundland." He was instructed by King Henry VII in 1496, "to



seek out and discover all heathens and infidels, wheresoever they be."

A stamp from Newfoundland (Scott 270) depicts "Cabot in the Matthew, off Cape Bonavista, (Newfoundland). If Cabot and Columbus were given the recognition they deserve for their discoveries, Canada would be called Cabotkebec, and America would be Columbia.

During the next seventy-five years, while Spain was extracting tons of silver and gold from Central and South America to the banks of Europe, the only valuable commodity being transported from the banks of North America was fish. Very little progress was made in mapping out a commercial Northwest Passage.

Sir Martin Frobisher, a hyper-energetic pirate and seadog arrived on the exploration scene in 1576 with salt in his veins, and a pistol in his belt. He managed to acquire the financial backing of a group of English merchants as well as the blessing of Queen Elizabeth I.

In July and August he explored the Labrador Basin, north of Newfoundland, as far as Hudson Strait and Hudson Bay. Even today, Frobisher Bay dots an inlet between Baffin Bay and the Labrador Sea. Maps were made documenting the many seas, sounds, straits, and islands they were finding. Frobisher arrived home in October 1576 with just one Eskimo, and one kayak that he had plucked from the icy waters. He also brought a small quantity of a mineral rock, (fools gold), that was falsely assessed as being valuable to secure backers for the Merchant's Exploration Company.

The ploy worked like a magnetic charm and within nine months he was again navigating west of Frobisher Bay in command of three ships, including the Gabriel. He had orders to pack on board as much "gold ore" as his little armada could carry. Two hundred tons of worthless ore was hauled back to England which was later dumped into an English



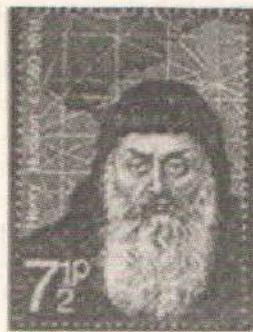
Cabot Off Cape Bonavista in 1497 Newfoundland (Scott 68)



Cabot's Voyage 500th Anniversar Canada (Scott 1649)



Best Known for Spanish Exploits
Great Britain (Scott 665)



Hudson Marooned Seeking NW
Passage Great Britain (Scott 666)

harbor. There was also a third trip, and he loaded another 1,300 tons of the base mineral ore before his company went broke.

Martin Frobisher is pictured on a stamp from Great Britain (Scott 665), while a Canadian stamp, (Scott 412) shows Frobisher with his ship in front of a giant iceberg mountain like those that sometime rise up to meet the low flying clouds. Frobisher's reputation wandered into oblivion until the Spanish Armada approached England's shores in 1588. While Drake's drums were sounding the exhortation for all his Elizabethan buccaneers to attack the approaching enemy, Captain Martin Frobisher took on four lone Spanish ships in the middle of the English Channel. He held their attention in battle with his cannons firing broad sides, so that Drake could capture one of the Spanish vessels (the San Luis), complete with a 50,000 ducat, gold coin chest. For his fearless charge, and daring capture assistance, Frobisher was knighted, and given command of a dozen ships of war. His defiance of the Spanish Navy continued for the next six years. He would travel to Spain's unprotected New World, and capture ship after Spanish treasure ship in ports and on the high seas. Frobisher is better remembered for his Spanish exploits than for his Arctic probes, or gold prospecting.

Between 1585 and 1587, John Davis completed three progressive explorations in and around Lancaster Sound. This was the connecting link between Baffin Bay and Melville Sound. Sailing in 1610, Henry Hudson gave his now famous name to the giant inland sea and the strait that bears his name. When forced to winter near the Arctic Circle with inadequate provisions, he lost his ship to mutineers. He, his son, and seven sailors were persuaded at gunpoint to exit his ship and they were never heard of again. Henry Hudson is honoured by a Great Britain stamp (Scott 666) issued in 1972.

Captain James Cook, a brilliant English navigator and cartographer, sailed on both sides of the Northwest Passage and made detailed maps of the coastal areas around Newfoundland and Nova Scotia, between 1759 and 1767. He then circumnavigated the earth several times and in 1778 he diligently searched for the Northwest Passage from the west-



Frobisher Confronts Giant
Iceberg Canada (Scott 412)



Cook Sought Northwest Passage
Norfolk Island (Scott 236)

ern side in the Bering Strait. Ice forced him to return to the Sandwich Islands, (Hawaii) where he was killed the following year. Norfolk Island stamps (Scott 235-236) graphically depict Cook's voyage into the Bering Sea in August 1778.

A dozen nations have honoured Captain Cook with many stamps that bear his name. I particularly like two Canadian stamps (Scott 763 and 764), issued in 1978, to attest his accomplishments 200 years after his death.

When Cook sailed south from the Bering Strait in 1778, England had a precise longitudinal measurement of the Northwest Passage.

The exact length of the East-West passage was now known; it was now just a matter of determining that the maze, had an adequate water depth to sustain a commercial merchant ship. It would take another 127 years to answer this question.



James Cook Explored Nootka Sound
Canada (Scott 763-764)

England offered a graduated motivational prize for anyone who could penetrate the Northwest ice mystery at varying degrees of north latitude.

When Captain Cook's report reached London that there was no Northwest Passage south of 70° north latitude, serious deliberations took place inside the navigational offices of the Admiralty.

Recognizing the extreme dangers inherent with the task, a top prize of 20,000 pounds sterling, was offered for a solution to the geographical puzzle of connecting the Pacific and the Atlantic oceans via a navigable waterway. Immediately England's ship building yards went on overtime and thousands of "wannabe" sailors flocked to the docks looking for a sail ship seeking the prize money. James Ross went to sea at age 12, and was searching for the Northwest passage at age 18. He made five search and rescue missions over a 25 year period.

On one expedition alone, 42 ships were outfitted to endure the elements for a three year adventure headed by Captain John Ross. In 1818 he sailed into Baffin Bay, and then southwest into Lancaster Sound. He had no idea of the national recognition this maneuver would bring him for Lancaster Sound was a vital link in the mysterious Arctic puzzle England had been trying to solve for so many centuries. Lancaster Sound was another keystone connection between Baffin Bay and Barrow Alaska.

Sir James Clark Ross is shown in his Royal Naval uniform on a Great Britain stamp (Scott 664). Both Sir James and his uncle, Sir John Ross, received their titles and coat of arms for their discoveries and explorations inside the Arctic Circle. Sir James Clark Ross also discovered the true position of the North Pole in 1831.

The land and sea area of the Northwest territory, north of the Arctic Circle, between Greenland and Alaska, is like one giant frozen necropolis for hundreds (and perhaps thousands) of brave and adventurous sailors and explorers. This was one of the world's last virgin areas remaining to conquer, or to be permanently vanquished within.



Ross Sailed to Arctic Circle
Great Britain (Scott 664)

Routes of Discovery & Resolutions
Norfolk Island (Scott 235)

Captain Ronald Amundsen was a distinguished polar scientist with a portable laboratory, his ship. In addition to being the first explorer to traverse the Northwest Passage, he became the first person known to have reached the South Pole. In conquering the Aurora Polaris Passage of the Northwest Territory, well within the Polar Circle, the Norwegian names of Amundsen and his little vessel Gjoa, will forever live and glow in the radiated sunbelt of the North magnetic Pole.

In 1903, Amundsen sailed into Lancaster Sound. Along the way he was equipped to do extensive magnetic surveys, so he was not the least concerned that two years later, in August 1905, he had only reached King William Island, about half way between the Atlantic Ocean and Nome, Alaska. On August 13, 1905, he and his crew heard the frozen ice pack near his floating laboratory ship crunch, crackle, and snap. Almost instantly, a sailor's started voice yelled out, "Vessel in sight sir!" To their amazement a whaling ship from the Pacific was approaching them head on.

Almost by divine guidance, the 400 year old mystery of the Northwest Passage was solved. However, before he could reach Alaska, his ship was frozen in for one more winter. They did not get out of the frozen maze to celebrate until August 1906, when Amundsen and his crew reached Nome, Alaska where the Norwegian champagne flowed like melting ice off a hot tin roof. When their accomplishments were finally communicated to the outside world, Amundsen's name was frozen in history.

The Northwest Passage had been traversed, conquered, and documented. Roald Amundsen, scientist, navigator, and world class nautical explorer, is captured on Norwegian stamp (Scott 399), issued in 1961. Amundsen gave his life attempting to rescue a fellow explorer in the North Pole region in 1928.

This narrative has concentrated on the most successful voyages in seeking the Northwest Passage. There are many additional tales of hundreds, if not thousands, of gamblers, roamers, and dreamers who sought to discover



Amundsen Traversed NW
Passage Norway (Scott 399)

the Northwest Passage. I conclude this article with one such tale.

In 1845, British naval officer John Franklin outfitted two ships, The Terror and Erebus, and recruited a crew of 129 for his venture into the silent

Arctic tundra. He loaded his ships with many luxuries such as imported china, crystal, sterling silver table-ware, and even a 500 pound musical organ.

Franklin's ships were last sighted off Greenland before they disappeared. Over 40 rescue missions were

conducted by both the British and Americans over a three year period, but to no avail. It seems that Franklin and his crew had forgotten to take Eskimo-type survival clothing with them. Apparently they also forgot to read the accounts of those who preceded him which were probably included in the 1,200 books relating to Arctic adventures and navigation which Franklin had also loaded aboard his two ships.

North-East Passage

The famous North-East Passage was explored by Finnish scientist A. E. Nordenskiöld in the whaler Vega which is depicted on a May 7, 1998, issue from Finland shown below. The stamp depicts its three-mast barque and the route she took in 1878-1880. The Vega sailed around the Old World starting from the northern coast of Siberia, and continued through the Bering Straits. Nordenskiöld (1832-1901) was a senior lecturer in minerology at Helsinki University until he moved to Sweden in 1857; he became director of the Swedish Academy in 1893.



Scott C. Owen was a staff sergeant in the U.S. Air Force during the Korean War, and holds a Bachelors Degree in Economics. He is retired from Honeywell's Aeronautical Division.

Courtesy : Topical Time, 1998.



A Picture Is Worth 1,000 Words

Paleolithic Art

Hamish Anderson

In any study of the prehistoric ages it is important to accurately define in terms of time exactly what we mean by prehistory. Some determine the beginning of recorded history with Julius Caesar and the Gallic Wars. Thus this would express prehistory as before 51 BC as far as western Europe is concerned. Paleolithic Art falls into a tiny section (about 30,000 years) at the end of 3,000,000 years of prehistory starting with the beginnings of the Old Stone Age.

Why man began to paint and carve and the reasons for the subjects chosen are conjecture. Implements and hand tools had appeared and improved. There was a presence of religion and prayers of some sort were made to ease man's lot in simply existing. This meant hunting, fishing, and reproduction. Often this was done by representations as is often found in cave art (painted and/or incised) which is plentiful in western Europe. As in Africa and Australia, art was placed in less protected areas but time and weather have conspired to destroy such art.



Pioneer of Cave Art Study
France (Scott B500)

Although standards



Hands Depicted in Earliest Cave Art Spain (Scott 1453)

tended to be European, it must be remembered that each region developed at its own pace. What may be regarded as New Stone Age (or Neolithic around 2,000 BC) in Europe could be today in New Guinea. Therefore we must be careful in our judgments and let each area stand on its own.

Paleolithic art in Europe lasted from about 40,000 to 8,000 BC. Incising (petroglyphs), drawing (petroglyphs), painting, and carving or sculpting continued beyond that time through the Stone, Bronze, and Iron Ages, but declined in both importance and occurrence. Here we are concerned with the development of Cave Art and Art Mobilier (small carvings that could be personally carried about) during the period known as the last Ice Age.

Cave Painting

Cave painting is the most common and best preserved form of paleolithic art. It ranges from primitive finger and hand markings to skillfully executed three dimensional paintings.

Most hand images date from about 40,000 to 30,000 BC. They were created by blowing a powder (frequently red ochre) over the outstretched hand held against a rock face. The reason for this practice is not known. An example from the end of the period in El Castillo Cave, Santander, is shown on Spain (Scott 1453).

Line drawings followed during the next 10,000 years; they were often created by a series of 'blots' making a dotted line. These dots were created by blowing powder through a hollow tube and, although more often than not black, they are also seen in both yellow and red. The deer-like animals in Covalanas Cave, Santander, shown on Spain (Scott 1455) show this but one must study the stamp under magnification to see it clearly. The sureness and confidence of line was accompanied by the beginnings of shading and modelling. During this period there were parallel developments in Art Mobilier of which the best known are the 'Venuses' found from the Pyrenees to the Urals. One of the best known is that found in Brassempouy in southwest France in 1894. This is a finely modeled head in mammoth ivory less than 1.5 inches in length which has been dated to ca. 23,000 BC. A beautiful representation is seen on France (Scott 1465).



Pioneer of Cave Art Study France (Scott B500)

Shading and modeling techniques of bone, mane, and muscle (in black) was clearly demonstrated by 18,000 BC. An excellent example of this period is to be seen on France (Scott 1642). This shows a superb rendering of bison in the 'Salon Noir' of Niaux Grotto. Perhaps the difficulty of reaching this site near Andorra - many of the paintings are a mile inside the cave - has resulted in the cave

not attracting the attention of many of the other caves.

Towards the end of the Ice Age (10,000 BC), figures appeared filled with black and red color, often with a brown outline or filling. Human forms, seldom seen before this time,



Art Mobilier, circa 23,000 B.C. France (Spain 1465)

was undoubtedly the 50 years spanning the 19th and 20th centuries. The great complex of galleries spread all over southwest France and northern Spain mainly came to light during this period. Pre-eminent at this time was a priest called Henri Brucil (France, Scott B500) many of whose ideas have, in recent times been modified in the light of modern thinking. His 'cave art' career and passion began in 1900 when he was invited at the age of 23 to trace the engravings at a site in the French Dordogne, called La Mouthe. This led to an unparalleled career in the field of pre-history. His vast records over the following sixty years are regarded as fundamental to the scientific study of Paleolithic Art. His career extended not only over Europe but into the more recent discoveries in Africa. Said to be obstinate and resistant to criticism of his ideas, he is nonetheless the giant to whom we owe so much in the field.



A Superb Rendering of Bison France (Scott 1642)

Prehistoric art did not capture the public imagination until the discovery of Lascaux in 1940 by four schoolboys chasing their dog. This gallery was a revelation in its realistic portrayals and use of symbolism. So popular did this site become that by 1960 more than 2,000 people a day were queuing to see the Hall of Bulls. This so badly affected the fabric that the French Government closed the caves to

preserve them. It was thought that exhaled breath had done the damage and today only small select parties have the opportunity to view the treasures. But we can all get a sight of the roof of the Hall of Bulls on France (Scott 1204). Much argument developed over dating this site but consensus now places it towards the end of the Ice Age (10,000 to 8,000 BC).



A Woman Gathering Honey Spain (Scott 1884)

The passing of the Ice Age led to man leading a less nomadic existence and the herds of reindeer, bison, and mammoth

appear with increasing frequency. Examples of this period are Spain (Scott 1451) depicting an ornament and Spain (Scott 1884) from the Arana Cave which is said to be a woman gathering honey.

The following millennium saw figures becoming more realistic and colorful; the bison from the ceiling of Altamira (Spain, Scott 1452) is a particularly fine example.

The golden age of Cave Art discovery



Hunters with Bows and Arrows Spain
(Scott 1457 and 1458)

were replaced by more easily tamed animals. Man, the ever-moving hunter, became the static hunter-fisher-farmer. The axe and greatly improved fishing tackle appeared; and the bow entered the arena. This was reflected in the subject matter in the continued cave art on a much subdued scale. The beginning of this period (8,000 to 3,000 BC) is called Mesolithic and marks the increase in humans appearing as art subjects. Towards the end of the Mesolithic and into the Neolithic Age, groups of hunters as well as the bow and arrow appear frequently (see Spain Scott 1449, 1454, 1457 and 1458).

The Neolithic or New Stone Age (3,000 to 2,000 BC) led to the virtual demise of cave painting in Europe. There is



Hunters with Bows and Arrows Spain
(Scott 1457 and 1458)

a great body of African work which helps fill this gap but much of it is thought by scholars to be of more recent origin (in some cases mid-nineteenth century). Although, cave painting disappeared from the scene, there

was a late flowering of rock carving in Scandinavia during the Bronze Age (2,000 to 500 BC) which is illustrated on Norway (Scott 420 et al) and Sweden (Scott 468 et al).

Generally, while we find Cave Art in Europe deep within caves, elsewhere it is frequently found in an open, though protected spot. Often we use a subtle change in terminology to Rock Art. Many places had no Ice Age but had equally harsh variations in climate (the Sahara was once green), and this is reflected in the changes in subject and style we see over the centuries.

Wherever in the world this art is to be found the same themes of fishing, hunting, and reproduction occur followed by movement towards a farming community.



Rock Carving in Scandinavia Norway
(Scott 468) and Sweden (Scott 468)

The names by which we identify various cultures come from southwest France (for example, Aurignac, Perigord, and La Solutre) because of the early discoveries

made there. The Franco-Cantabrian area reigns supreme in the study of Paleolithic Art. There is, however, a wide arc of work following the same cultural pattern scattered from Andalusia through the lower Rhone valley to Sicily. Generally of poorer quality, it is difficult to date.



Archers from Tassil-N-Ajjer Algeria
(Scott 367)

Africa

There was an easy and established connection between North Africa and Europe which the retreat of the ice sheet and the subsequent increase in the height of the water level destroyed. But it had existed long enough for African Rock Art to display striking similarities with Europe. Africa is a treasure house of Stone Age Art which tends to be older and nearer to Paleolithic times in the north and generally more recent in the south. The glorious finds at Tassil-N-Ajjer (Algeria, Scott 367) are dated to 6,000 BC, while the wonderful Wadi Mathendous (Libya, Scott 715) is 8,000 BC. Both could be contemporary with later European Cave Art.

South of the Sahara the discoveries in Chad (Scott J26, C39) are also of considerable antiquity, as is Mauritania (Scott 216). The south of Africa (SW Africa, Scott 250) and (Lesotho, Scott 62) is rich in rock art but not as old as previously thought although dating of the pigments used in Tanzania has pushed the envelope of time further back. Final assessments have still to be made.



Stone Carving of a Hunter
Mauritania (Scott 216)

On the other hand, Swaziland (Scott 285), has some spectacular work with Paleolithic characteristics which is dated around 1700-1850. Such variations are perhaps not surprising as the study of Paleolithic Art is hardly an exact science. A case in point was the discovery of the art of Rouffinae in France. In 1956 a serious row erupted as the Abbe Breuil had certified these to no less than the French Institute while his opponents declared they had not existed before 1948 and had then been manufactured a few at a time until 'discovered.' The argument bubbles on.

discovery of the art of Rouffinae in France. In 1956 a serious row erupted as the Abbe Breuil had certified these to no less than the French Institute while his opponents declared they had not existed before 1948 and had then been manufactured a few at a time until 'discovered.' The argument bubbles on.

Australasia

Australia also displays a north-south divide. Some work in the north is tentatively dated 35,000 BC, though it is generally 6,000 BC. One of the great problems is that up to 100 years ago the aborigines regularly repainted their heritage. In the north the painting is naturalistic but is more geometric in the south and southeast (Australia, Scott 933). Also,

in the south we find the style (known as X-ray) where the internal structure and organs are depicted.

New Zealand (Scott 777) was not colonized by the Maoris until the migration from Polynesia about 750 AD; thus their painting cannot be older than that date. In Polynesia itself we have many records such as French Polynesia (Scott 461) but almost all are within our millennium.



Dating This Art Is Uncertain
Australia (Scott 933)



Cave Art of Deer and Lizards Brazil (Scott 1998-1999)

The Americas

This area is rich in our subject from the Arctic to the Antarctic but has not been given much philatelic recognition. The Mayas and Aztecs have been philatelically recognized, but the great body of fascinating work in, for example, Utah and Baja California has not yet attracted the attention of the post. A notable exception is Brazil. The sheet issued for BRAPEX VI in 1985 (Scott 2000a) contains three stamps showing cave paintings with all the characteristics of the late Stone Age.

There are many stamps depicting this subject; space permits only a tasting. There are also many pictorial cancels from which a collection could be built quite independently of stamps. Wall decoration has been taken to a fine art in the Middle and Far East. The frescoes of the Pyramids, the temples of India, and the cave art of Korea and Japan have all been philatelically celebrated. They reward your attention but take care; it's habit-forming.

Hamish Anderson's romance with cave art began over 50 years ago when he was taken on a visit to see the carvings in Wemyss Caves in Fife, Scotland, near to his hometown of St. Andrews. These are thought to date from 3,000 BC to 1,000 AD. This is not a passion, and his only excuse for continuing the hunt is because he likes the stamps.

Courtesy : Topical Time, 1998.



Israeli Stamps

Bridge a Modern Nation & Biblical Homeland Heritage

Since the inception of the State of Israel in 1948, the postage stamps of the tiny Jewish nation have served to highlight the heritage of a dynamic modern land whose roots go back to Biblical times. Indeed the very first stamp issue of Israel has a fascinating story to tell.

In the months leading to the withdrawal of the British from Palestine, plans were made for the printing of the first postage stamps of the Jewish nation.

The Doar Ivri Stamps

However, since it was not clear what the name of the new Jewish country would be, it was decided to print the first stamp issue with the name of Doar Ivri, the Hebrew words meaning "Hebrew Post." Hence these stamps (Scott #1-7) designed by Otto Wallish are today referred to as the "Doar Ivri" issue and they depict coins from the Bar Kochba revolt against the Romans circa 1st Century A.D.

One of the innovations made by the designers of Israeli stamps was the creation of tabs, a selvedge portion at the bottom of the sheet of stamps that contained a design relating to the design of the stamps themselves. In the beginning many manufacturers of stamp albums did not include space in Israel pages for the tab portions. Thus many collectors casually tore off the tab selvedge in order to allow their stamps to fit into the album page.



High Catalogue Value

Later on when album manufacturers did include spaces for the tabs, collectors belatedly discovered just how rare the early Israeli stamps with tabs were. Today, Scott gives the Doar Ivri high values non-hinged mint stamps (#7-9) with tabs a catalogue value of \$4,750.

Every year, in the autumn, the Israel Postal Authority release a series of stamps for the Jewish New Year religious holidays of Rosh Hashanah, Yom Kippur and Succoth. These stamps have highlighted numerous Jewish themes from the Bible such as Jerusalem Synagogue Arks (Scott #75-77,) Biblical musical instruments (Scott #100-103 and #121-123,) Biblical fruits (Scott # 145-148, #162-164 and Scott #1173-1175,) Kings of Ancient Israel (Scott #184-186,) Biblical Heroes (Scott #208-210,) Prophecies of Isaiah (Scott #225-227,) the Book of Jonah (Scott #242-244,) the Genesis account of the Creation of the World (Scott #298-303,) Jewish religious ritual art objects (Scott #318-322,) Torah Scrolls (Scott #348-352,) the Holy City of Jerusalem (Scott #370-374) and the Story of Noah and the Flood (Scott #394-398.)

Synagogues of the World

Other Jewish New Year stamps publicize major synagogues of the World (Scott #425-429,) Holy Arks from Italy (Scott #497-500,) Prophets of Ancient Israel (Scott #525-527,) Restored Synagogues in the Old City of Jerusalem (Scott #541-543,) Biblical Judges of Ancient Israel (Scott #573-575,) Patriarchs of the Bible (Scott #638-641,) Patriarchs of the Bible (Scott #701-703,) Sages of the Talmud (Scott #730-

732.) Sabbath Lights (Scott #751-753,) Moses the Lawgiver (Scott #787-790), the Book of Joshua (Scott #820-823,) Israeli Synagogue Architectural Designs (Scott #844-847,) Women of the Bible (Scott #885-887,) Vessels of the Sanctuary/Holy Temple (Scott #913-916,) and the Holiday Prayerbook of Worms, Germany (Scott #947-949).

Paper Cuts & Spice Boxes

Additional Jewish New Year stamps that celebrate Synagogues of the Diaspora (Scott #970-972 and #996-998,) Mizrach Paper Cuts (Scott #1030-1032,) Jewish Spice Boxes (Scott #1062-1064,) Tishrei Festivals (Scott #1089-1091,) Religious Manuscripts (Scott #1121-1123,) Children's Drawings of Biblical Stories (Scott #1210-1212,) Joyous Life-cycle Ceremonies (Scott #1242-1244,) the Ushpizin (Scott #1312-1214 and #1375-1378,) Holy Ark Curtains (Scott #1348-1350) and New Year Cards (Scott #1417-1419).

Jewish Code of Laws

Other Israeli postage stamps commemorate important Jewish religious themes such as the Shulhan Arukh or Jewish Code of Laws (Scott #340,) King David (Scott #399,) the Western Wall (Scott #407,) the Festival of Shavuot (Scott #451-453,) the Festival of Passover (Scott #484-483,) Rabbi Yitzchak Luria or the ARI (Scott #494,) Hanukah (Scott #502-04, 1180-1187 and 1289,) Purim (Scott #593-595A,) Lag Ba-Omer (Scott #599,) Ethics of Our Fathers (Scott #606-08,) the Sabbath (Scott #631,) Marriage Contracts (Scott #685-687,) the Schocken Bible (Scott #909,) the Ardon Windows depicting Isaiah's Vision of Eternal Peace (Scott #1041,) Holy Jewish Cities (Scott #1344-1347) and the Dohany Synagogue in Budapest (Scott #1416).



Prominent Religious Leaders

Numerous other Israeli stamps recall the contributions of such great rabbis and important Jewish religious leaders as Maimonides (Scott #74,) the Baal Shem Tov (Scott #211,) Chief Rabbis Kook and Ouziel (Scott #699-700,) Rabbi Arye Levin (Scott #803,) Rabbi Meir Bar-Ilan (Scott #855,) Chief Rabbi Isaac Herzog (Scott #892,) Rabbi Amiel (Scott #969,) Rabbi Maimon (Scott #1011,) Rashi (Scott #1012,) Rabbi Alkalai (Scott #1029,) Rabbi Shimon Hakham (Scott #1087,) the Chidah and the Ben Ish Hai (Scott #1110-1111,) Rabbi Hayyim Benatar and Rabbi Shalom Sharabi (Scott #1119-1120,) the Vilna Gaon (Scott #1304,) the Maharal (Scott #1302,) Rabbi Shalem Shabazi (Scott #1357,) Rabbi Or Sharga (Scott #1372) and the Baba Sali (Scott #1384.)

Many Religions are Commemorated

Israel is not only a land holy to the Jewish people, but it is also holy to Christians and Muslims. Thus the majority of the world's populace considers this tiny Middle East nation to have great spiritual significance. The postal authorities of the Jewish state have interestingly released many stamps that respect the religious traditions of minority ethnic communities in Israel.

In 1972, Israel issued a 0.55 lira stamp (Scott #492) depicting the Druse community's holy site of Nebi Shuaib or Jethro's Tomb. Jethro was the father-in-law of Moses. The

Centennial of YMCA activities in Jerusalem was noted with the 1978 release of a 5.40 lira stamp (Scott #698.) The Islamic community in Israel was first honored with the 1978 issuance of three stamps (Scott #709-711) that featured items on display in the Institutue for Islamic Art in Jerusalem.

Major Monotheistic Religions

In 1985, an international stamp exhibition was hosted by philatelists in Tel Aviv. One of the souvenir sheets (Scott #907) released by the Israel Postal Authority to support and publicize the exhibition highlighted holy sites in Jerusalem to the world's three major monotheistic religions - the Church of the Holy Sepulchre, the Western Wall and the Dome of the Rock.

A major religious celebration of Moslems is Id Al-Fitr (or the Feast of Breaking the month-long Ramadan Fast). In 1986, Israel honored this occasion with the issuance of a 0.30 shekel stamp (Scott #938) that depicts the Al-Jazzar Mosque in Akko.



Druse & Christian Holy Sites

That same year, the Israel Postal Authority also released a 0.40 shekel stamp (Scott #945) that highlighted the Druse Feast of Nabi Sabalan by depicting the tomb of highly respected Druse cleric Nabi Sabalan.

The Christian community was also honored in 1986 with the issuance of a 0.70 shekel stamp (Scott #953) released a week before Christmas that depicted the Basilica of the Annunciation in the Israeli-Arab city of Nazareth.

The Bedouins, a community of nomadic Arabs living in Israel were noted with the release of a 1990 stamp (Scott #1038) denominated at 1.50 shekel that depicts a musical instrument used by the Bedouin and which is framed by a traditional Bedouin carpet.

Circassians and Samaritans

Also released in 1990 was a stamp (Scott #1039) publicizing the Circassians, a Moslem but non-Arab community that has lived in the Holy Land since the middle of the 19th Century. This stamp features a couple in traditional costume performing a Circassian dance.

The Samaritans are a community that more than 2,000 years ago broke away from the mainstream Jewish community. They follow an interpretation of the Pentateuch (the first five books of the Bible) that differs significantly from the standard Jewish understanding. For example, the Bible prohibits one from igniting a fire on the Sabbath. Jews therefore heat their food on fires ignited before the start of the holy day of rest, whereas Samaritans refuse to eat hot food at all. One of the holy sites to members of the Samaritan community is Mount Gerizim. The 1992 Israeli stamp (Scott #1109) noting the tiny ethnic community features a group of Samaritan priests praying on Mount Gerizim.

Bahai Center in Haifa

Bahai is a religion that broke away from Islam in 19th Century Persia. The Behais have their world center in the picturesque Israeli city of Haifa on the coast of the Mediterranean. A 1993 stamp (Scott #1157) honors the Bahai community by depicting a view of the Mausoleum in the Bahai

World Center. The Bahai community was also recognized with a 2001 stamp (Scott #1443) denominated at 3 shekels that featured an interesting aerial view of the Shrine of the Bab Terraces in Haifa.

The year 2000 was special to Christians around the world and many made special Millennium pilgrimages to Israel in order to visit sites significant to the life of the founder of the Christian religion. In recognition of this major pilgrimage, a set of three stamps (Scott #1396-1388) were issued in early 2000 and they depicted churches in Capernaum, Jerusalem and Ein Kerem.

Symbols of Major Religions

Israel recognized that the Holy Land was important to followers of all three major monotheistic religions with the release in 2000 of a 3.40 shekel stamp (Scott #1407) that featured major symbols of Christianity (a cross,) Islam (a crescent) and Judaism (a menorah).

Even the tiny and almost extinct Karaite community, a group that broke away from the Jewish community more than a thousand years ago was recognized by a 2001 stamp (Scott #1444) denominated at 5.60 shekels.

From this overview of a few hundred stamps released over the past half century by the Israel Postal Authority on the theme of religion, we can realize that the tiny but vibrant Jewish nation continues to be a Holy Land whose soil inspires more than a billion people of faith in every corner of the globe.

Courtesy : The Journal, Summer 2003.

SPACE SHUTTLE COLUMBIA ASTRONAUTS

Nine postal administrations from around the world have participated in a stamp tribute to the memory of the Crew of ill-fated Space Shuttle Columbia that was released on April 7, 2003.

Participating in the Memorial Omnibus are the post offices of The Gambia, Grenada, Grenada Grenadines, Liberia, Maldives, the Federated States of Micronesia, Palau, St. Vincent and Sierra Leone.

A Sheet of 7 Different Stamps

Each postal administration (with the exception of St. Vincent) will release a sheetlet of seven different vertical stamps that depict an official photo portrait of the Space Shuttle Columbia crew. The stamps were designed by Esther Ainspan of the world famous IGPC Art Department.

These stamps depict (1) David M. Brown [Mission Specialist], (2) Rick D. Husband [Commander], (3) Laurel Salton Clark [Mission Specialist], (4) Kalpana Chawla [Mission Specialist], (5) Michael P. Anderson [Payload Commander], (6) William C McCool [Pilot] and (7) Ilan Ramon [Payload Specialist].

Each country's sheetlet will depict its national flag and the flag of the United States of America on the side of

the text "In Memoriam/The Crew of the Space Shuttle Columbia."

Condolences to Families of Astronauts

At the bottom, each sheetlet (with the exception of the Maldives) declares. "The People and the Government of (the participating postal administration) join the United States, Israel and India in mourning the tragic loss of the crew of the Space Shuttle Columbia. Our hearts go out to the families of the astronauts."

The Gambia sheetlet contains 7 different 10 dalasy stamps. The Grenada and Grenada Grenadines sheetlets contain 7 different \$1 stamps. The Liberia sheetlet contains seven \$20 stamps. The Maldives sheetlet consists of 7 different 7 rufiyas stamps, while the Micronesia and Palau Sheetlets sheetlets have seven different \$0.37 stamps. The Sierra Leone sheetlet has seven different 1000 Le stamps.

Sheetlets Honoring Individual Astronauts

In addition to the above 8-Nation Omnibus of a sheetlet of seven different vertical stamps, two nations have released an additional set of seven sheetlets, each containing four different stamps that pay tribute to each individual astronaut.

The Gambia will issue a series of four sheetlets, each containing a block of four different 15 dalasy stamps. The sheetlets highlight Michael Anderson, Kalpana Chawla, Laurel Salton Clark and Ilan Ramon.

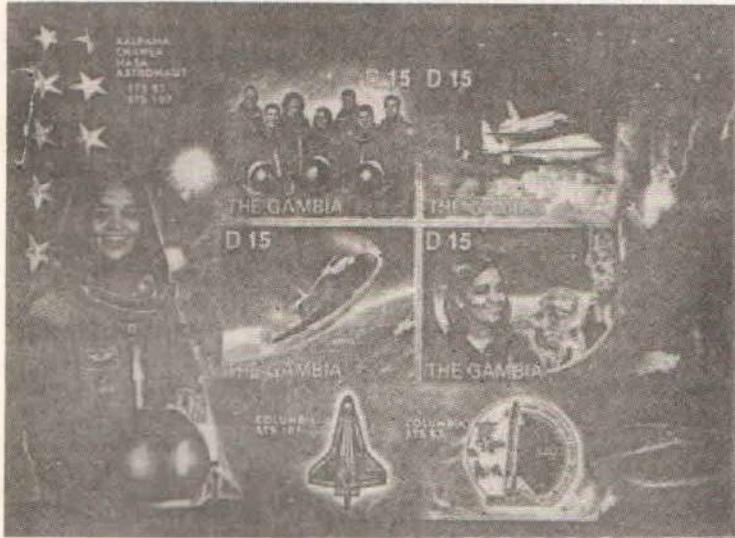


Sr. Vincent & the Grenadines will contribute to the philatelic memorial to the seven Space Shuttle Challengers astronauts by releasing three different sheetlets containing a block of four different \$2 stamps that focus specific attention to David Brown, Rick Husband and William McCool.

In the upper left-hand corner of the block of four stamps of these seven Gambia and St. Vincent stamp is a common design of a group photo of the ill-fated Challenger crew. One of the remaining stamps highlights a specific astronaut and the other two stamps focus on aspects of the Space Shuttle.

Russian Mir Space Mission

Michael Anderson, age 43, was the Payload Commander earned a bachelor of science degree in physics at the University of Washington, before joining the U.S. Air Force where he qualified as a pilot. He was chosen for the NASA astronaut program in 1994. Anderson's first flight into space was as a member of the 1998 Endeavor mission that delivered supplies and crew members to the Russian Mir space platform.



David Brown, age 46, the Mission Specialist was a champion gymnast at Yorktown High School. After graduating from the college of William & Mary, he spent time working in a circus as an acrobat, tumbler, still walker and seven-foot unicycle rider. Brown graduated from the Eastern Virginia Medical School and then joined the Navy after completing his internship. While in the Navy, he took advantage of the opportunity to become a pilot. He was accepted as an astronaut in 1996 and this was his first trip into outer space.

Indian-Born Woman Astronaut

Kalpana Chawla, age 41, a Mission Specialist was born in Karnal, India. She immigrated to the United States in order to study and earn degrees in aerospace engineering from the University of Texas and the University of Colorado. After becoming a naturalized American citizen, Chawla began to work for the NASA Ames Research Center and was accepted into the astronaut program in 1994. She first went into space in 1997 and logged more than 6.5 million miles of space travel. On the Columbia, Chawla supervised more than a dozen scientific experiments.

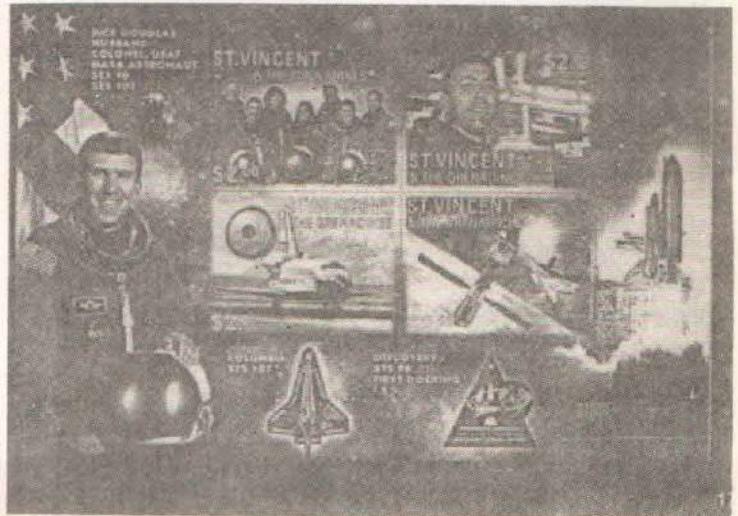
Laurel Salton Clark, age 41, a Mission Specialist joined the Navy in order to be able to afford medical school. After graduating from medical school, she served as a medical officer aboard a submarine. With her husband's encouragement, Clark, the mother of an eight-year old son, applied and was accepted for the astronaut program. Among her responsibilities aboard the illfated Columbia was supervision of assorted medical and biological research.

A Man of Religious Faith

Rick Husband, age 45, and Mission Commander, had the desire to be an astronaut from when he was a little child.

Despite being rejected by NASA three times, the Air Force officer applied again and was accepted. On his first space mission, Husband who was married and the father of two children, piloted the first Space Shuttle mission to dock with the International Space Station. A religious Christian who was involved with his church's choir, Husband had flown more than forty types of aircraft and impressed many with his calm and ego-less leadership.

William McCool, age 41, was the Pilot of the Columbia Space Shuttle. A graduate of the U.S. Naval Academy at Annapolis, the former Eagle Scout was captain of the Academy's cross-country team and graduated second in his class. Despite his great technical skills as a pilot, he impressed those around him by his humility. This was his first mission to space.



First Israeli to Fly in Space

Ilan Ramon, age 48, was the Payload Specialist and the first Israeli to become an astronaut and travel into outer space. A colonel in the Israeli Air Force, Ramon was a veteran combat pilot and one of the eight Israeli F-16 flyers who completed the daring 1981 mission to destroy the Iraqi nuclear reactor. His space mission electrified the populace of the tiny Jewish nation. A son of a Holocaust survivor, Ramon saw himself as a representative of not only Israel, but of Jews around the world. He therefore, although not religious, requested that he be given kosher food aboard the flight and tried to observe the Jewish Sabbath.

Theme : The Journal, Summer 2003.

INFORMATION

WORLD STAMP CHAMPIONSHIP 2004

Tay Peng Hian RDP

Singapore is honoured to be selected to host the first World Stamp Championship (WSC 2004). For the first time in history, the world's best philatelists will gather in Singapore to meet and compete for the world's highest philatelic honours.

It is hoped that the World Stamp Championship will do for stamp collecting what the Olympics has done for sports.

This year is also the 150th Anniversary of the first use of stamps in Singapore. In 1854, the stamps of the East India Company were introduced in Singapore and the Straits Settlements. These stamps were in use until 1867 when the Straits Settlements issued its own stamps.

Singapore has an impressive record of holding a number of significant and successful international stamp exhibitions during the last two decades, namely the prestigious General World Stamp Exhibition in 1995, the Asian International Stamp Exhibitions in 1987, 1990, 1994 and 1998. The 10-day event of the 1995 exhibition attracted over 200,000 people and it was a resounding success. It was more than a stamp show. It was a cultural and educational event that was exciting and enriching for those who participated in it.

World Stamp Championship 2004

Organiser	:	Association of Singapore Philatelists
Main Sponsor	:	Singapore Post Limited
Under the Patronage of	:	Federation Internationale de Philatelie (F.I.P.)
Under the Auspices of	:	Federation of Inter-Asian Philately (F.I.A.P.)

WHAT MAKES THE WORLD STAMP CHAMPIONSHIP CLASS DIFFERENT

What makes the World Stamp Championship Class different from what we traditionally know as the 'F.I.P. Championship Class'? There are FOUR points of differences.

1. F.I.P. Championship Class is restricted to exhibits which have received 95 or more points in F.I.P. World Exhibitions in any three separate years during the previous 10 years. The exhibits can be from any class. The World Stamp Cham-

pionship Class is for Traditional exhibits only and is restricted to exhibits which have received 90 or more points in a F.I.P. World Exhibition.

2. There is no time restriction on the age of the exhibit which has received 90 or more points.

3. In the present F.I.P. Championship Class, an exhibit receiving the Grand Prix d'Honneur may only be shown 'out of competition' by the same owner. This 'kills' an exhibit. If philately is to be a cultural pursuit and a 'brain-sport', the idea is that no single exhibit can claim to have reached perfection, and therefore every exhibit must be able to be exhibited in a competitive class if the owner chooses to do so. Many Grand Prix d'honneur exhibits have been sold by their owners because there is no avenue for them to exhibit competitively thereafter. The World Stamp Championship gives the opportunity for the owner to exhibit continuously if he chooses to do so.

4. In the F.I.P. Championship Class, exhibitors are required to pay additional frame fees. In the World Stamp Championship Class, no additional frame fees will be levied on the exhibitors. For Singapore, 25 exhibits have been entered for the WSC Class.

WHAT ARE THE SPECIAL FEATURES OF SINGAPORE'S 'EXPERIMENTAL' WORLD STAMP CHAMPIONSHIP

There are FOUR distinguishing features:

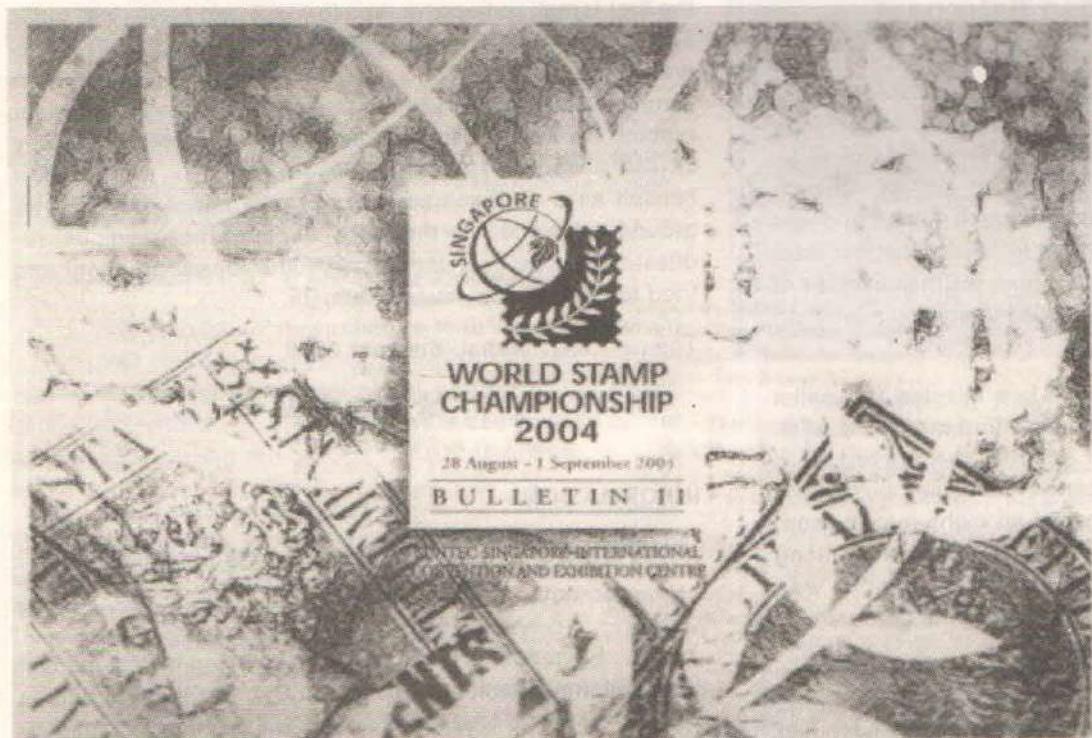
1. Six of the 25 exhibits in the WSC class will be selected by a special panel of experienced judges from the three continental federations, in an attempt to make the judging of the finals more transparent and open.

2. At the inaugural F.I.P. World Stamp Championship event, the Singapore Organising Committee decided to celebrate and acknowledge past F.I.P. Grand Prix winners as

well as the elite 'Monte Carlo Club'. Nearly 20 past F.I.P. Grand Prix winners and over 35 Monte Carlo Club members will show their favourite 'piece' or favourite frame.

3. As the exhibition also celebrates 150 years of the first issue of stamps in Singapore (the first stamps were issued in 1854) there will be specially invited exhibits of the 1854 India issues from individuals as well as the Singapore Philatelic Museum.

4. The exhibition will celebrate philatelic competition at the highest level, as well as simultaneously celebrating philately as a social and cultural event, through the theme of



'UNITING THE WORLD THROUGH STAMPS'.

The World Stamp Championship CELEBRATES philately and puts philately on a social and cultural level, bringing in multi-national corporations of the world together with philatelists, making stamp collecting inclusive and not exclusive.

Courtesy : The Second A.I.E.P. Round Table Meeting in Asia.



Book Review :

INDIAN AIRMAILS: DEVELOPMENT AND OPERATIONS (1911-1942). BY PRADIP JAIN.

Kolkata, India, 2002. no ISBN. Obtainable from Phila-Art, PO Box 128, Mithapur, Patna 800001, India.

When I heard that Pradip Jain's new book was on its way I wondered what it could possibly contain which was not already adequately and recently covered in Jeffrey Brown's Indian Airmails. But this is quite a different to me. Whereas Jeff's volume is a complete and even account of the whole development of airmail to, from and within India, describing its many operational services, Pradip's consists in the main of an exposition of his magnificent 'International Large Gold' collection, which mostly relates to the very rare and lovely pieces of the earlier period. Thus the two are distinctly different in their approach and treatment, and Indian airmail enthusiasts will certainly like to have both.

Some of Pradip's pieces (all beautifully illustrated in colour, full size) are truly wonderful. One that apparently does

not happen to be the author's property is an amazing letter, one of the two surviving Ballons Monte's flown out of Paris addressed to India in 1870-1. Not flown in India, of course, but it did actually arrive eventually at its destination in Calcutta! There is also a series of ten covers and cards from the world's first postal service in an aeroplane with an engine, for five miles from Allahabad in early 1911, with items sent to several foreign destinations. There is a lot of official documentation from the period immediately following the end of World War I about the future of airmail within India and Burma, and how it might be achieved and financed; and then comes a fine display of the experimental and survey flights to, from and through India during the 1920s.

Eventually one reaches the more ordered and regularly serviced routes of the 1930s, and here again are many fine examples of rare and unusual material for special flights to and from numerous countries, as well as surveys of possible commercial routings within India. Finally, there are sections dealing with airmail stamps and stationery, the Zeppelin flights, airmail etiquettes and various air cancel usages in India, from which I recognise examples from my own Jusqu'a books-by which I am suitably flattered!

The book as a whole is a production of remarkable quality, apparently with no expense spared on presentation. For collectors who will never own, nor perhaps even be able to view, the rare exhibits which Pradip Jain has managed to accumulate, this volume is an excellent alternative.

215 x 276mm; 210 pages; hardbound, with illustrated dust cover, in slip case. 318 illustrations, mostly in colour.

Courtesy : GSM, December 2003.

