



# SIPA Bulletin

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## Editorial

### INDIAN MINIATURE SHEETS

Of all the philatelic items connected with the issue of a commemorative stamps, the "miniature sheet" has got a pride of place reserved for it, because it is an unique collector's item. Of late the 'issue of miniature sheets has brought in a murky and funny situation in the Indian philatelic world.

Coming to the history of Indian miniatures, though the first post - Independence stamp was issued on 21st Nov. 1947, it took 26 years for the first Indian miniature sheet to see the light of the day ie, on 14 Nov. 1973. After another two miniatures within the next 12 months., it required 13 years and a World Philatelic Exhibition to extract a M/s. from India Post. Things went on in this fashion till the end of the last millennium. That is to say 8 M/s have been issued from 1973 to 1999 (26 years period). A sudden spurt in M/s issue starting from Indepx Asiana issues (31 March 2000) (Three M/s in 2000, four in 2002, nine in 2003 and six in 2004) showed the inconsistent and erratic pattern though it gladdened the hearts of the India Collector.

At the sametime a peculiar situation arises of late in which some genuine India collectors are not able to get 'one single miniature sheet' to fill and fulfill his collection. This situation has arisen starting from the issue of 'Tarangini' (25 April 2004) only. May be due to the value of the miniature sheet (Rs. 5/- same as the stamp) or may be due to the less number printed, word has gone around that a scarcity will come and the price will shoot to exorbitant levels and this idea pushed the price of the M/s at the dealer to 60 to 70 times the face value. It is alleged that these rumours, brought in all sorts of 'criminals' to the hobby in the form of investors and hoarders. It seems the trend persisted for some time and similarly the 'peace keeping force' miniature also shattered the peace of the collectors.

Also it is said that the vegary of printing of miniature sheet is taken into account by these unscrupulous investor dealers to search for 'errors' in sheet bundles and sell those error sheets at very high price and sell the rest of the sheets at below face value to make a fast buck in the bargain. For example some 'dealers' are selling 'Agra Fort' for Rs. 27/- per piece., it is learnt.

On the whole, a situation has come wherein modification, correction, improvement in the issue of miniature sheets is really required for the benefit of the real and genuine collector. It may be achieved in the following pattern.

1. No. of issues - Three to four issues per year so that the speciality of miniature is not lost.
2. Number printed - Adequate number to be printed assessing the collector requirement.
3. Price of the issue - It should be around Rs. 25 to 30/- and not at all equivalent to a single stamp as in the case of 'Tarangini' or 'Peace keeping force'
4. Size of the sheet - As it is mainly for the collectors, it should accommodate itself as an exhibit well within the album sheet of 23 x 29 cm.
5. Issue - Sufficient numbers required for collectors should be available for one week from the date of issue in all the philatelic selling points.
6. Control of sale - Strictly bulk sale of more than three should not be permitted for at least one month from the date of issue.
7. Publicity - Advance publicity should be done so that collector can have an idea to buy, 'how and when'

To improve philately this is the need of the hour.

- Editor



Our Second Sunday Meetings were held at the CPMG's Conference Hall, Anna Road, HPO, Chennai-600 002. (11:00 A.M. - 1:00 P.M.) regularly where about 35 members attended with president Shri Balakrishna Das presiding. Patron Shri. Madan MohanDas spoke on 'Youth Philately' in June 2005.

## 100 YEARS OF COOPERATIVE MOVEMENT IN INDIA

8.5.2005

500

0.8 mill



The concept of cooperation can be traced to our ancient Vedas and Upanishads. It was embedded in our past as an economic form of governance.

Towards the end of the 19th century, the problems of rural indebtedness and the consequent conditions of farmers created an environment for the cooperative societies. The farmers found the cooperative movement an attractive mechanism for pooling their meagre resources for solving common problems relating to credit, supplies of inputs and marketing of agricultural produce. The experience gained in the working of cooperatives led to the enactment of the first cooperative law of India, 'The Cooperative Credit Societies Act, 1904'. The 'Agricultural Credit Cooperative Society' of Kanaginahal Village of Gadag District in Karnataka was the first cooperative society formed under this Act. This was launched on 8th May 1905 by the villagers of Kanaginahal under the leadership of Shri Siddanagowda Sannaramanagowda Patil with the initial share capital of rupees two thousand. His efforts led to formation of cooperative societies all over the country.

Cooperatives are disbursing 46 percent of total agricultural credit and are producing 28 percent of total fertilizer along with fertilizer distribution of about 36 percent. In the production of sugar the cooperative share of the market is about 59 percent and in the marketing and distribution of cotton they have a share of around 60 percent. In the field of housing as well, cooperatives are playing a dominant role especially in the urban areas.

The National Cooperative Union of India is the apex organisation promoting the cooperative movement in the country. The role of cooperatives has acquired a new dimension in the changing scenario of globalization and liberalization of economy and cooperatives, at all levels, are making efforts to reorient themselves according to the market demands. The Government of India has initiated several measures to strengthen and revitalize the cooperative structure in the country including constitutional amendment in order to ensure the autonomous, democratic and professional functioning of these institutions and ultimately to improve the quality of life of the people.

**Theme : Cooperation, National Movement.**



## WORLD ENVIRONMENT DAY-GREEN CITIES

5.6.2005

500

0.8 mill



World Environment Day was established in 1972 by the United Nations General Assembly and its commemoration is entrusted to the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) with its headquarters in Nairobi, Kenya.

The World Environment Day is considered as one of the most important events on the environment calendar and is celebrated every year on 5th June in more than 100 countries.

Virtually all population growth in the next quarter century will be in urban areas of the less developed countries. Deteriorating standards of basic services, expanding slums, increasing poverty, rising traffic congestion, increasing pollution, lack of green spaces, lack of educational and health facilities, etc. are some of the major challenges of urbanization.

The World Environment Day theme for 2005 focuses on Green Cities: Plan for the Planet. It emphasizes that with careful planning our cities can be places where people can live in a clean and healthy environment and be the showcases of Sustainable Development.

Innovative cities is going to bring in a new form of cooperation. The Urban Environmental Accords signify a new concept in the framework of international environmental cooperation. Unlike nearly all other international efforts on this issue, the Accords forge a cooperative framework among cities instead of nations. Thus, the vision for the Accords is that by creating a grassroots political movement through Mayors and local government, cities can work together to solve and implement common-sense solutions to common problems.

At the National level, the Ministry of Environment and Forests, Government of India is implementing an ambitious scheme called Ecocities in identified heritage cities. This was conceptualized for improving environment and achieving sustainable development through a comprehensive urban improvement system.

**Theme : Ecology, Environment., Cities.**



## MEDICINE ON STAMPS

**Shri K.D. DINSHAH**



The subject " Medicine on Stamps" is vast, interesting and instructive. It is a subject to which a Medical man alone could give proper justice. However, I have endeavoured to obtain all the authentic data and information to give justice to this theme.

In my contact with medical literature, when I was closely connected with the publication of a scientific Journal on

Medical Radiology, I was tempted to devote more attention to this subject, which has now become the foremost theme of my Thematic collection.

A collection on Medical subject will comprise of the following groups:-

- (1) Medical Portraiture, including those connected with Medicine.
- (2) Every day life of a Doctor.
- (3) Nursing Profession.
- (4) Medical Research Institutions and Hospitals.
- (5) Research Workers.
- (6) Medical Congresses.
- (7) Medical Botany.
- (8) Red Cross Campaign.
- (9) Anti-Tuberculosis Campaign.
- (10) Health Resorts and Sanatoria.
- (11) Health and T.B. Seals.
- (12) Health Slogan Cancellations.

In this way a very interesting and comprehensive collection can be formed on the Medical theme. Much Pleasure and educational advance can come from collecting these subjects as they are so closely involved with most walks of life.

The subject "Medicine" is as old as the mortal beings. In the primitive stage, methods adopted at different periods have not been brought out Philatelically. Some of the primitive methods and implements were very crude and in the present age they are unthinkable, but these were the methods and designs which gave ideas in the present age to remould them as they are now. To give a clear idea of the primitive methods of Medicine and Surgery, I have displayed some pictures of the same, along with the collection.

### History of Medicine

Now, I would like to say something about the History of Medicine, and Medicine during Mediaeval times. The history of Medicine takes one, back to Greece. The pillar of Greek Medicine was AEscULAPIUS, God of the art of healing. His picture shown on the Spanish Tuberculosis stamp of 1948, is copied from a bust which had been unearthed at Melos in Greece. His holy shrines in Epidaurus and Kos were also the schools of Hellenic medical science.

The other Greek Physician HIPPOCRATES (460 - 370 B.C) the Father of modern Medicine, hailed from Kos, where he was born. He received his first medical training from his father and later on completed his studies in Athens. He was the first to dissociate Medicine from Superstition and to insist on a scientific study of the diseases. One of his discoveries was that certain diseases could be traced by listening to the sounds made in the chest. His picture appears on number of Greek stamps.

The Staff of AEscULAPIUS, for ever one of the symbol of the medical profession, is shown on a great variety of stamps. (e.g) Denmark cancer campaign series of 1929 and Italy - health congress of 1949 and others.

Of the men of ancient times, names are known and revered in both the professions of Medicine and Pharmacy in Rome. His principles of preparing and compounding medicines rule in the Western world for 1500 years and his name is still associated

with that class of pharmaceuticals compounded by mechanical means which are known as Galenicals.

Originator of a formula for a cold cream, essentially similar to that known to - day, many procedures originated by Galen have their counter - parts in to - day's modern compounding laboratories. It is regrettable that such a great man has not been honoured philatelically by any country so far.

With the decline of Greek and Roman culture, the great learning of classical Medicine was lost to posterity. We know equally little about the history of medicine during subsequent centuries and about this period the stamps, too are silent.

### IMHOTEP & AVICENA

The greatest medical genius of the land of the Pharaohs was IMHOTEP. He was a physician who lived in the time of the third dynasty of the Second Empire ( about 2780 B.C), and his name has gone down in history as healer. He was also worshipped as a demi - God and his name was called upon in times of epidemics. Egypt had produced his picture on 5 Millieme stamps to Commemorate the International Medical Congress and the 100th Anniversary of the Medical Faculty of the University of Cairo in the year 1928.

At the time when Asian civilization was at its zenith, it had produced some of her outstanding sons who were actually practicing Medicine, and their preparations were mainly from herbs and vegetable. One of them was AVICENA (980 - 1037). His real name was Abu Ali el Hosenibn Abdullah ibn Sina. To the Western world he was known as AVICENA. He was born in the year 980 in Buchara and died in the year 1037 A.D., and was buried in Hamadan, Iran. A native of Buchara, he was the outstanding Physician of the Eastern Caliphate. His great medical textbook, 'The Canon' was regarded in Asia as the final authority on medical questions from the twelfth to the seventeenth centuries and was the basis of much European medical study in the middle ages, and even to - day, it is the most important work among the Oriental physicians who are not trained along western lines. His pharmacological knowledge was immense and his study of diseases and their symptoms encyclopaedic. For instance, he distinguished 15 different kinds of pains. He was the Prime Minister of his country, poet, philosopher and mathematician. It is believed that suffering pilgrims kneeling at his birch tomb at Hamadan, can get themselves cured. Avicena is known to us from numerous stamps. The German Democratic Republic, Iran, the Lebanon and Poland have all honoured this "Savant" philatelically.

### Group I. Medical Portraiture :

I will now deal with the subject group wise. Group No. 1 is the main portion of this theme and covers practically every branch of Medical Science such as:-

Physicians, Surgeons, Anatomists, Pathologists, Physiologists, Embryologists, Obstetricians, Dermatologists, Ophthalmologists, Histologists, Bacteriologists, Biologists, Hygienists, Radiologists and will also include Veterinarians, Chemists, Bio - Chemists, Pharmacists, Pharmacologists, Homeopaths and Physicists.

Of all the above, Physicians have been honoured very widely Philatelically by not only their own but as well as other countries for their outstanding work for the good of Medicine in general and humanity in particular. The number of stamps so issued

comes to roughly about 150 or more. There is no room in this talk to do justice to them and but to make this talk interesting i will mention the most eminent amongst them.

Theophrastus Bombastus van Hohenheim (1493 - 1541); A German Physician and Alchemist who introduced the use of therapeutic mineral baths.

William Harvey (1578 - 1657): An English Physician who discovered the system of circulation of blood in the human body.

Joel Celestino Mutis (1732 - 1808): A Spanish Physician who introduced Quinine to the European Medical world in 1760.

Armauer Hansen (1841 - 1912): A Norwegian Physician who discovered the bacillus which caused leprosy.

Carlo Forlanini (1841 - 1918): A Italian Physician who introduced a method for artificial pneumothorax operation which is universally used now.

Neil Ryberg Finsen (1864 - 1904): Danish Physician who discovered the therapeutic value of Sunlight and Ultra - Violet rays.

Eguene Jamot : A France Physician who discovered that "Sleeping Sickness" is caused by the bite of a 'Tsetse Fly'.

Hermann Boerhaave (1667 - 1738): Dutch Physician who was the first to employ clinically the "Mercury Thermometer" which had been invented by Fahrenheit in 1714.

Besides medicine, some of the Physicians are also famous in other fields, such as,

Nicolaus Copernicus (1473 - 1543): Polish Physician, who was also well known as an Astronomer.

Jose Hipolito Unanue y Pavon (1755 - 1833) and Jose Cayetano Gracia Heredia (1797 - 1861): Peruvian Physicians who founded the first Medical College, and the Faculty of Medicine respectively in Peru.

Henrik per Ling (1776 - 1839): A Swedish Physician who introduced the system for 'Swedish Drill'.

Juan Gregorio Pujal (1817 - 1861): A Spanish Physician who acted as Governor of one of the provinces of Argentina and introduced the first Argentina Postage Stamp.

Sir Wilfred Grenfell (1865 -1940): An English Physician who established Homes, Missions, Hospitals, Schools and Co-operative Stores in Newfoundland and Labrador.

Sun Yat Sen (1866 - 1925): A Chinese physician revered by the Nationalist Party as the 'Father of Chinese Republic'

Elizabeth, Queen of the Belgians : She is the only woman member of Royal Family to possess a Medical Degree. She has founded many T. B. Homes and Hospitals as well as Sanatoria.

It is interesting to know how physician Laennec invented the Stethoscope.

"Scarcely imagining that their simple game would bring about an innovation in medical history, a group of children played in a courtyard of the Louvre Palace in Paris one day in 1816. Holding their ears glued to the ends of long pieces of wood, they were so absorbed in listening to sounds tapped on the opposite ends by their playmates that none of the children noticed the frail, hollowfaced figure watching them. The figure was none other than Rene Laennec, a young physician attached to the Necker Hospital. He was taking a brief respite from his discouraging

rounds in the hospital wards. And even as he paused to watch the children's game, his thoughts were back among those hospital beds, crowded with veterans suffering from exposure and riddled with tuberculosis, the ravaged remnant of Napoleon's Grand Army.

Without proper means of diagnosis even such a skillful physician as Laennec was almost helpless before the sufferings, which raged on until death brought the only relief their victims could hope for.

But, now, watching the absorbed faces of the children as they listened to the tap tap on the pieces of wood, Laennec's expression changed abruptly. Why not apply this idea in his own field, medicine, to detect the sounds which betray disorders and disease within the chest itself?

The first stethoscope was soon in Laennec's hands when he returned to the hospital, where he tied a piece of paper in a roll with some string. Putting one end of this tube against a patient's chest, he heard sounds, "never before described, sounds for which no medical terms even existed".

Some of the famous Surgeons are:

Amroise Pare (1501 - 1590): A French Surgeon who was often referred to as the 'Father of Modern Surgery'.

Jose Nicols Gutierrez (1800 - 1890): A Cuban Surgeon who was the pioneer in mental surgery.

Anotonius Mathijssen (1805 -1878) : A Dutch Surgeon who was the inventor of Plaster of Paris dressing.

Nicolas A. Gretzolesou (1812- 1900) : A Rumanian Surgeon who founded the first school of Surgery in Rumania and published the first textbook on anatomy.

Crawford W.Long (1815 -1878). An American Surgeon who was the pioneer to use 'Ether' as an anesthetic in a surgical operation.

Charles Louis Alphonse Lavern (1845 -1922): A French Surgeon noted for extensive study of Malaria in Algeria.

Antonio Grossich (1849 - 1926): An Italian Surgeon who introduced the use of 'iodine' for sterilization.

The Anatomists are :-

Andre Vesalius (1514 - 1564): A Belgian Anatomist and Surgeon, who was the first to dissect the human body for study.

A. Sape Talma (1847 - 1918): A Dutch Anatomist who made important research in the diseases of the liver.

The Pathologists are:-

Karl von Rokitansky (1804 -1978): An Austrian Pathologist who was considered as one of the 'Father of modern pathological Anatomy'.

Rudolf Virchow (1821- 1902): A German Pathologist who was famous for his research on Phlebitis, Tuberculosis, Rickets, Tumours, Trichinosis, Leprosy, and Leukemia.

Valdimir M. Bekhterev (1857- 1927):

Russian Neuropathologist, who was noted for his research on the brain and the spinal cord.

The Physiologists are:-

Johannes E. Purkyne, (1787 - 1869):

Bohemian Physiologist who was the pioneer to use the sliding Microtome for preparing sections of human organs and tissues.

Ivan Ivanovich Pavlov (1849 - 1936):

Russian physiologist who made important research on the physiology of the heart and glandular secretions and nervous system.

The Obstetricians are:

Hendrick van Deventer (1651 -1724): A Dutch Obstetrician often referred to as the 'Father of Midwifery'

Lgnaz Semmelweis (1818 - 1865) :A Hungarian Obstetrician who was well known as the 'Saviour of Mother's' by his discovery of the cause of puerperal fever among maternity cases.

The Bacteriologists are:-

Louis Pasteur (1822 -1859): A French Bacteriologist and Chemist who discovered the pasteurization process and various vaccines.

Robert Koch (1843 - 1910): A German Physician and Bacteriologist who produced tuberculin, useful in diagnosing tuberculosis and various vaccines for cattle diseases.

Ilya Ilich Metchnikoff (1845 -1916): Russian Bacteriologist and zoologist who was specialised in the microscopic studies of the diseases of the blood.

Jaime Ferrany Cluna (1852 - 1929): A Spanish Physician and Bacteriologist who invented the Silver Bromide gelatine film emulsion, now used by Kodak.

Emile Roux (1853 - 1933): A French Bacteriologist who discovered the Anti -diphtheria and the Anti - tetanus serums.

Emil von Behring (1854 - 1917): A German Physician and Bacteriologist, who established the Behring's Law, that the blood serum of any individual who has recovered from a contagious disease and thus established immunity to the disease, can be injected into another individual in whom it will then produce immunity.

Paul Ehrlich (1854 -1915) : A German Bacteriologist and Chemist. He was the co-discoverer of Syphilis - medicant Salvarsan.

Leon Charles Albert Calmette (1863 -1933): A French Bacteriologist who discovered the anti - tuberculosis serum commonly known as B.C.G.

Alexander Yersin (1863 -1943) A Swiss Bacteriologist who discovered the anti bubonic plague serum and introduced rubber culture in Indo-China.

Hideya Naguchi (1876 - 1928): A Japanese Physician and Bacteriologist who is best known for diagnostic laboratory tests for syphilis.

Carlos J. Finlay (1833 -1915): A Cuban physician and Biologist.

Walter Reed (1851 -1902): An American Bacteriologist

William C. Gorgas (1854 -1920): An American Sanitationist.

Oswaldo Cruz (1827 -1917); A Brazilian Hygienist.

The above four are famous for their studies of 'Yellow Fever' and helped to wipe out yellow fever from the earth.

Nurse Clara A. Maass. (1876 -1901): An American Nurse who volunteered to be bitten by the 'Stegomyia Mosquito' the carrier of Yellow Fever. Ten days after her second infection, August

14, 1901, She died of yellow fever. The story behind this great human sacrifice is this.

For twenty five years it had been the ambition of Dr.G.Sternberg, Surgeon General of the United States, to exterminate yellow fever. After a discussion with Major Walter Reed on May 23, 1900, it was decided to experiment in the transmission of this dreaded disease using HUMAN BEINGS. Accordingly, Drs. Reed and Carroll went to Havana to investigate the theory formed by Dr. Carlos Finlay that a certain mosquito, the 'Stegomyia' was the carrier of the virus. They were joined by Drs. John Guireras and Major W. Gorgas. Nurse Clara Maass was only twenty-five years old when she volunteered. Her death furnished clues that helped to wipe out Yellow Fever from the Earth and also made possible the building of the Panama Canal.

The Ophthalmologist:

Frans Cornelis Donders (1818 -1889): Dutch Ophthalmologist who introduced the use of prismatic and cylindrical lenses for eye glasses.

The Radiologist:

Antoine Beclere (1856 - 1939): A French Radiologist who was the pioneer in the field of medical Radiology in France.

The Physicists are :-

Andre Marie Ampere (1775 - 1836): A French physicist, Naturalist and Mathematician from whom the Ampere, unit of strength of an electric current took its name.

Max Planck (1858 -): A German Physicist who was the propounder of the Quantum Theory.

Pierre Curie (1859 -1906): A French physicist and Marya Skeodowska (1867 -1934): A Polish Physicist who married him in 1895 and became Marie Curie. They jointly discovered Radium in 1895.

William Conrad Rontgen (1845 -1923) : A German Physicist who discovered the famous x-Rays in 1895.

Here I beg to discuss for two minutes on use of x- Rays in philately. One of the best use of Radiology is in Art Museums, when paintings are examined for analysis of the paint, canvas, paper or wood base. Quite recently similar investigations have been made in the field of philately, where x - Rays are employed for ascertaining the genuineness of a high - value stamp, which may be a forgery. Some unscrupulous artisan will not forge an entire stamp, but will try to repair the torn area of a high - value or scarce stamp, or doctoring of a stamp can be seen very clearly with the help of X-Rays. Some of the repairs are done so thoroughly that it is impossible to find out even with the help of a magnifying glass, but under the x -Rays they are easily detected.

The Chemist :-

Pierre Eugene Marcellin Bertholot (1827 - 1907) : A French Chemist noted for his invention of the 'Smokeless Powder.

Alexander P. Borodin (1834 - 1887): A Russian Chemist who was the pioneer in advocating women's education and helped to found the School of medicine for women in Russia. He was also noted as a composer of the Opera Prince Igoi.

The Pharmacist:

Jan Joseph Pilatre Rozier (1754 - 1785) : A French pharmacist who was the first human being to fly in the air in a hot - air balloon in 1783.

The Naturalist :-

Anton von Leeuwenhock (1632 - 1723) : A Dutch Naturalist who was one of the greatest and most known expert among microscopists.

The Veterinarian:

Edmond Isidore Etienne Nocord (1850 - 1903): A French Veterinarian who was noted for his demonstration that transmission of tuberculosis to human beings is through the milk and meat of the infected cattle.

#### **Group 2: Every day life of a Doctor.**

This group includes a variety of stamps showing Doctors (male as well as female) examining their patients with the Stethoscope, giving an Injection, taking Blood pressure and examining with the help of an x- Ray apparatus etc. Stamps depicting this group can be found from Austria, Czechoslovakia, Finland, The French Colonies, Hungary, Philippines, Rhodesia and U.S.A.

#### **Group 3: The Nursing Profession.**

This group includes stamps showing Nurses with their charges, and most of the stamps issued by different countries showing Nurses, are for the Red Cross and Antituberculosis Campaigns.

One of the most famous Nurses was Florence Nightingale (1820 -1910). She was also known as 'The Lady with the lamp'. She was the reformer of Hospital Nursing, having been trained at the Protestant Deaconesses at Kaiserswerth on the Rhine, and on her return to England she joined a Sanatorium connected with a London Institution. During the Crimean war she volunteered to attend to the wounded on the battle - field and sailed from England in 1854 with a batch of thirty four nurses. Her self - sacrificing service to the wounded, made her name famous throughout Europe, and a fund was raised for her in 1857 the interest on which amounted to about 1600 per annum. She refused to accept the fund for herself but utilized it to found the Nightingale Home at St. Thomas' Hospital for the purpose of training Nurses. To commemorate the Nursing Profession, Australia issued a special stamp in 1955 showing the picture of Florence Nightingale with her lamp and the present day Nurse. She has also been honoured by Belgium in 1939 and by Costa Rica in 1945.

Another famous Nurse was Edith Cavell (1827 -1915): She was invited to Belgium in the year 1900 to help modernise the Nursing system. In 1906, she was the Head of the Institution which was one of the largest nursing organisation in Belgium.

During the outbreak of the First World War in 1914, her hospital was converted into a military Hospital for the wounded soldiers. Later on, this hospital came into the hands of the Germans on occupation. She nursed without discrimination, Belgian, French, English and German soldiers and helped many of the allied soldiers to cross the border into Holland. She was betrayed by a Belgian traitor and was arrested and lodged in prison for three weeks solitary confinement and later on executed by the Germans on October.12, 1915.

A monument has been erected for her in the Trafalgar Square, London. Cuba has honoured this brave Nurse by a special stamp in 1945 to commemorate the 60th Anniversary of National Red Cross Society which shows her portrait along with that of Florence Nightingale.

#### **Group 4: Medical Research Institutions and Hospitals.**

Countries like the Bahamas the Dominica, Ethiopia, Finland, France, Guatemala, India (Hyderabad), Japan, Liberia, Macau, Mozambique, Norway, Panama, Persia, Saudi Arabia, and Venezuela have issued stamps showing their Hospital and Institutions.

#### **Groups 5: Research Workers.**

Most of the stamps shown in this group carry the picture of the Microscope, which is one of the most useful research instruments, along the other design. The Netherlands issued a set of stamps 1955 for the Queen Wilhelmina Anti - Cancer fund showing a microscope and the emblem of Cancer - a Crab.

#### **Group 6: Medical Congresses.**

This group contains stamps with different designs (pertaining to medicine) for which Medical Congresses have been held in different places.

#### **Groups 7: Medical Botany.**

In early times a drug that was capable of causing death or curing diseases was held in awe by the common man. The old Greek word 'Apotheke' meant 'Store' so that in Greece, as in medieval England, merchants selling herbs and spices, were the fore- runner of the modern druggists or pharmacists. By the time of the foundation of the Egyptian civilization, knowledge of the medicinal virtues of plants had become traditional. The following are reproduced on stamps.

Amince (Belgium), Lily of the Valley (Hungary and Japan), Vanilla. (Dominicana Guadeloupe), Foxglove (Belgium and Bulgaria) Poppy - opium (Belgium and Hungary) Tobacco (Bulgaria and Mozambique), Pepper (Sarawak), Atropa Belladonna (Bulgaria), Sag (Bulgaria), The Wild Rose (Belgium and Bulgaria), Gentian (Bulgaria and Switzerland), Thornapple (Bulgaria), Peppermint (Bulgaria), Tussilago Forfara (Bulgaria) and Coltsfoot (Bulgaria).

#### **Group 8: Red Cross Campaign.**

The subject of the group is very vast and most of the stamp issuing countries have issued Red Cross stamps. Though it is a part of the 'Medical Theme' it can be treated as a separate subject as there is ample scope to enlarge it by itself.

The founder of the Red Cross Society was Swiss. His name was Henry Dunnant (1828 -1910). He was one of the relief workers during the bloodiest battle fought near a small village called Solferino in Italy, in the year 1859. He was so much overwhelmed by the sight of the wounded and the dead that he wrote a book on his return to Geneva, giving his experiences of the battle which he sent to all Heads of the European States. This book roused Europe's conscience and his organised work led to the Geneva Convention in 1863 which laid the foundation of the International Red Cross. He was awarded the Nobel Prize for Peace in 1901. The Dunnant portrait appears on stamps of many countries like, Belgium, Germany, India, Saar and Switzerland.

#### **Group No. 9. Anti -tuberculosis Campaign.**

Tuberculosis has been considered as one of the most dreadful of the diseases and many countries have issued Anti - tuberculosis stamps to raise funds to wipe out this disease from their countries. The Anti - tuberculosis stamps always show the "Cross of Lorraine which has been adopted as the symbol of Anti - tuberculosis, along with the regular design.

### Group 10: Health Resorts and Sanatoria.

During the convalescent period one thinks of Health Resorts and Sanatoria. Every county has them in one form or other. Some have Mountain Resorts, Spas for mud and sulphur baths, etc. Many of such places have been shown on stamps of Belgium, Czechoslovakia, Hungary, Poland, Russia and Salvador and many more.

### Group 11. Health and T.B. Seals.

Nowadays many countries have made a practice of issuing Health and T.B. Seals, the use of which is voluntary and they are not meant to pay postal charges. Some of the seals issued by European countries are very beautiful. The proceeds from the sale of such seals go to the funds for which they have issued .

### Groups 12 : Health Slogan Cancellations.

Even the Postal Authorities are conscious to the need of Education and Welfare of the masses by creating Slogan Cancellations such as : 'Fight T.B.' Support T.B. Association; 'Help save a life - Be a Blood donor 'Give to Mental Health Fund' Give to Red Cross Fund' and, many more.

(Courtesy : Souvenir, Asiana 1977.)



## PARCEL POST (1854 - 1920)

RUSTOMJEE F. SHROFF



The parcel post in India has its origin in the old "Bhangy Post" a name derived from the bamboo stick or bhangy which an Indian carrier balances on his shoulder with the weights slung at each end. The Bhangy Post was first used solely for the conveyance of official records and articles sent on Government service, and the limit of weight was 600 totals (15 lbs.) In 1854 a regular Bhangy Post was established and opened to the public. The rate varied with weight and distance according to the scale laid down in the Post

Office Act of 1854. Where communication by rail existed, the practice was to hand over bhangy parcels to the railways at the latter's risk and to demand their conveyance to the destination free of charge. This procedure led to a series of those acrimonious disputes which are so characteristic of the early relations between the Post Office and the Railway companies. The contention of the Post Office was that bhangy mail formed part of the regular mail which the railway was bound by law to carry free of charge. The East India Railway, which took up the cudgels on the other side, denied this contention and insisted upon charging train, finally, after much wrangling, the matter was settled by Government in 1855, when it was decided that service bhangy parcels should be carried free and that the rate for non - service parcels should be fixed at 1/3 anna per pound (80 lbs.) per mile, which was the existing rate for passengers luggage. At the same time the Post Office was directed to withdraw from the carrier traffic wherever the railway could supply its place, and post offices were forbidden to accept non - service bhangy parcels for places situated on railway lines.

These rules were not very effective, since it was impossible to distinguish service from non - service parcels or to ascertain the weight of the latter when they were both despatched together and lump payments were accepted. The amounts paid showed that traffic cannot have been very great. For instance, in 1871 the Great India Peninsula Railway agreed to accept a monthly payment of Rs. 568/. Madras Railway Rs.173/. and the Bombay, Baroda and Central India to Rs. 150/. which was afterwards raised to Rs 400/. in 1881. The whole question was soon merged in that of general haulage rates for postal vehicles.

The statement at the end of this chapter shows the variation in parcel rates from 1866 to 1919. The first great step forward in the administration of the parcel post was in 1874, when rates according to distance were abolished and a fixed rate of 3 annas for 10 tolas was introduced. The limit of weight were retained at 600 tolas for foot lines and 2000 tolas for railway lines, which were fixed in 1869. In 1895 rates were reduced and registration for all parcels exceeding 440 tolas in weight was made compulsory. In 1907, after a strong representation made by the Railway Conference that the parcel post was interfering with the railway parcel traffic, the limit of weight was lowered to 800 tolas (20 lbs.) As a matter of fact, after a careful inquiry it was found that very few parcels above this weight were carried at a loss, by the Post Office. In the same year the rates for small parcels were greatly reduced, with the result that the total number carried in 1907-8 increased by over 600,00. The railways did not gain much by the concession, as the retail dealers adopted the simple device of packing their goods in smaller bulk, which the low rates enabled them to do without any appreciable loss.

The development of parcel traffic since 1854 is shown by the following figures:-

	Number of Parcels
1854 - 55	463,000
1870 - 71	694,000
1880 - 81	1,080,868
1890 -91	1,901,547
1900 - 01	2,679,119
1910 - 11	11,205,844
1913 - 14	12,667, 172
1917 - 18	14,150,948

The increase in the last few years is little short of marvellous and is due to the reduction in rates and the growth of the value-payable or cash on delivery system so largely adopted by all retail traders, which has diverted the whole of the light parcel traffic from the Railway to the Post Office.

In 1873, an overland Parcel Post was established between Great Britain and India through the agency of Peninsular and Oriental Steam Navigation Company. The British post Office had no concern with this arrangement, and in 1885 a direct exchange, which was quite separate from the P.& O Company's contract, was introduced between the two administrations for parcels up to a limit Universal Postal Congress held at Washington, India joined the International Parcel Post Union, and since 1899, when the Acts of the Congress came into force, parcels can be exchanged with almost any country in the world.

As already mentioned, nothing has affected the parcel post traffic of the country to such an extent as the value-payable or cash on delivery system, which was introduced in 1878 and is now used generally by oil retail firms in India. By this system the Post Office not only undertakes to deliver a parcel, but also, for a small commission, to collect the cost of it from the addressee. In India, where are there few large firms out side the Presidency

towns, the value - payable system has proved an inestimable convenience to the upcountry purchaser, who pays the Post Office for his purchases on receipt and is put to no further trouble. Like every thing designed for the good of mankind, the Value-Payable Post is not altogether an unmixed blessing, and it is a source of continual worry to the officials of the Department. The weak point in the system is that people have to buy articles without seeing them, and if they are disappointed in their purchases they are inclined to think that the post Office is at fault and to demand their money back. It is customary in India for certain ladies to dispose of their garments through the medium of the advertisement columns of the leading newspapers. The dresses are always by Paquin and quite new; the hats are the latest from Paris. This is the seller's point of view. How different that of the purchaser! As Post - master General I have received many a bitter complaint of the rag which has been received under the name of a new Paquin gown and for which I apparently was held personally responsible. "I never imagined that the Post Office could lend its assistance to such disgraceful swindling" Once wrote an indignant lady who had suffered in this way and who was told that the Department could not possibly adjudicate on the quality of the goods received by her, that the Department was only in the position of carriers and that she must settle her dispute with the sender.

The Value - payer system suffers chiefly from the firm belief in providence which is so deeply engrained in the Eastern mind. A through strictly forbidden by the rules of the Post Office, the small trader sends out number of articles by value - payable post to persons who have not given any orders for them, trusting that some of them will be accepted by a confiding public, and strange to say, he manages to do certain amount of business in this way, On the other hand, many people are quite ready to order things from shops which they hope to be able to pay for upon arrival, but unfortunately for the firms that supply them, these hopes are often not fulfilled. The Indian school boy, in the world in this respect, is specially tempted by the flashy catalogues issued by the cheap Calcutta firms, and when, in the ten rupee watch, it doesn't follow that he has the money or is even likely to have it; but his self - esteem is satisfied by the mere issue of the order and, as for his ability to pay when the time comes, it lies on the knees of the Gods. The result of this train in Eastern character is that about 20 percent of the value-payable articles posted were returned to the senders.

Some years ago a firm of box- makers who wanted to push their business discovered that the value-payable post, assisted by the national character, provided them with a royal, road to success, and they set to work on the following lines. They issued a large number of tickets by post, which were delivered on payment of 1rupee and 2 annas. Any person who was innocent enough to accept one of these found that the ticket was composed of six coupons, and that if he could induce six of his friends to send the coupons to the firm and each to receive in return a similar ticket and pay for it, then he as the original recipient would be presented with a steel trunk. The success of this scheme was extraordinary and every post office in India was flooded with these coupon tickets. About 70 per cent were refused, but the firm lost nothing by this, as it saved them in the matter of trunks, since, if anyone of the coupon holders failed to keep faith with his friend the bargain was off. The whole business was a gigantic swindle, and it so offended the Director - General's sense of morality that he had regulation passed to put a stop to any articles being sent by post which contained "coupons' tickets, certificates or introductions for the sale of goods on what is known as the snowball system."

A complete history of the Indian parcel Post would require the pen of a military historian. It is a history of warfare with continuous engagements, sometimes regular pitched battles with the railway and sometimes small but sharp skirmishes with rates. The latest foes are the municipal councils of certain large towns in which the revenue is raised by an octroi tax upon all imported articles. Hitherto articles received by post have been exempt from any tax of this kind, and all attempts made by municipalities to be allowed to scrutinize the parcel past have been strenuously opposed. The thin end of this has, however, been introduced at Delhi, where lists of insured parcels are supplied to the municipality, which makes its own arrangements for ascertaining the contents from the addressees. The practice is wrong in principle, because it is a breach of the confidence which the public place in the Post Office on the understanding that no information of any kind regarding postal articles is imparted except to the persons immediately concerned, and any measure which tends to shake the confidence of the public in the secrecy of the Department is to be strongly deprecated. A great deal of fuss was made in Simla some years ago about this very matter on the ground that the local traders suffered from people purchasing goods outside the municipality and getting them in by post. When an inquiry of parcels received by post were addressed to the firms in the town, a discovery which put a sudden stop to the agitation. It is very doubtful if the parcel post at the present rates pays the Post office, and where places are situated some distance off the line of rail and have to be reached by foot lines it is quite certain that every parcel is carried at a loss. Unfortunately these are the very places where people make the greatest use of the Parcel post.

A further agitation is now a foot to have the weight of parcels brought down to eleven pounds, which is the maximum weight for a foreign parcel and is also the limit of weight in England. This, on the fairly expected to carry, but whether the proposal will be adopted remains to be seen.

#### PARCEL POST RATES

(1) Rates of postage on inland parcels in force from 1866 to 31 st March, 1878.

For Distances	If not exceeding in weight							
	20	50	100	200	300	400	500	600
	tolas	tolas	tolas	tolas	tolas	tolas	tolas	tolas
Miles	Rs.a	Rs.a	Rs.a	Rs.a	Rs.a	Rs.a	Rs.a	Rs. a
Not exceeding 300	0 4	0 8	0 12	1 8	2 4	3 0	3 12	4 8
Not exceeding 600	0 8	1 0	1 8	3 0	4 8	6 0	7 8	9 0
Not exceeding 900	0 12	1 8	2 4	4 8	6 12	9 0	1 14	13 8
Not exceeding 1200	1 0	2 0	3 0	6 0	9 0	12 0	15 0	18 0
Exceeding 1200	1 4	2 8	3 12	7 8	1 14	15 0	18 12	22 8

2) Rates of postage for inland parcels in force from 1st April, 1878 to 14th August" 1880.

Not exceeding 40 tolas in weight 8 annas Exceeding 40 tolas and not exceeding 80 tolas 12 in weight annas; For every additional 40 tolas annas 4.

3) Rates of postage on inland parcels in force from 1August 1880, to 31 st July, 1895: Not exceeding 20 tolas in weight 4 annas; Exceeding 20 tolas and not exceeding 40 tolas 8 annas; For every additional 40 tolas 4 annas.

4) Rates of postage for inland parcels in force from 1 st August 1895, to 30th June 1901: Any parcel not exceeding 20 tolas in weight 2 annas; Any parcel exceeding 20 tolas, but not exceeding 40 tolas in weight 4 annas; For each additional 40

tolas or fraction of 40 tolas up to 2000 tolas 4 annas. Registration fee (optional for uninsured parcels not exceeding 440 tolas in weight) For a parcel not exceeding 20 tolas in weight 2 annas. For a parcel exceeding 20 tolas in weight 4 annas.

5) Rates of postage on inland parcels in force from 1st July, 1901 to 30th September, 1907:

a) Parcels not exceeding 440 tolas in weight- For a parcel not exceeding 20 tolas in weight 2 annas; For a parcel exceeding 20 tolas, but not exceeding 40 tolas in weight 4 annas; for every additional 40 tolas or part of that weight 2 annas.

b) Parcels exceeding 440 tolas in weight - For a parcel exceeding 440 tolas, but not exceeding 480 tolas in weight Rs. 3; For every additional 40 tolas or part of that weight 4 annas.

6) Rates of postage on inland parcels in force from 1st October, 1907, to 31 st October, 1918:

a) Parcels not exceeding 440 tolas in weight - For a parcel not exceeding 40 tolas in weight 2 annas; For every additional tolas or part of that weight 2 annas.

b) Parcels exceeding 440 tolas in weight - For Rs. 3/-, a parcel exceeding 440 tolas, but not exceeding 480 tolas For every additional 40 tolas or part of that weight 4 annas.

7) From 1st October, 1908, the maximum limit of weight for an inland parcel was reduced from 2000 tolas to 800 tolas in the case of a private (non official) parcel, and raised from 600 tolas to 800 tolas in the case of an official parcel.

8) Rates of postage on inland parcels in force from 1st November, 1918, to 15th May, 1919: For a parcel not exceeding 20 tolas 2 annas; For a parcel exceeding 20 tolas, but not exceeding 40 tolas 4 annas; For every additional 40 tolas or part of that weight upto 800 tolas 4 annas.

9) Rates of postage on inland parcels in force from 16th May, 1919 upto date::

a) Parcels not exceeding 440 tolas in weight - For a parcel not exceeding 20 tolas 2 annas; For a parcel exceeding 20 tolas, but not exceeding 40 tolas 3 annas; for every addition 40 tolas or part of that weight 3 annas

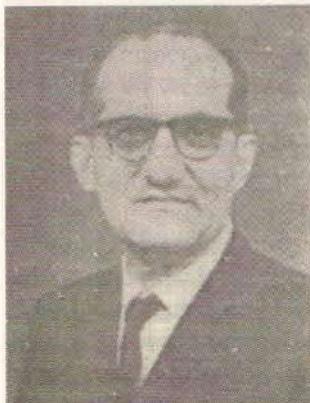
b) parcels exceeding 440 tolas in weight - For a parcel exceeding 440 tolas, but not exceeding 480 tolas For every additional 40 tolas or part of that weight 4 annas.

Courtesy : Souvenir, Mahapex 1987.



## INDIAN STATES - A NEGLECTED PHILATELIC TREASURE

P.M. MEDHORA



When I look back, I remember that when some of the stamp dealers had bags full of Indian States stamps, there were hardly any buyers. This group of stamps was never very well represented even in International stamp exhibitions with the result it was sadly neglected. Some of the stamp collectors used to remark, "There is nothing much to study in Indian States stamps. They are unpopular and ugly stamps, whereas some used to say, it is fairly wide group difficult to

complete and many of the stamps are not easily available."

Thanks to some foreign stamp collectors as well as some keen Indian collectors Indian States stamps came into prominence as some knowledgeable collectors saw fascination in these stamps and articles started appearing in Indian as well as foreign philatelic magazines from time to time which aroused interest in hundreds of stamp collectors. India Study Circle of UK, Collectors Club Philatelist, Philatelic Journal of India and India's Stamp Journal played an important role in projecting the image of Indian States stamps. Within the last thirty years stamp collectors in India and abroad due to heavy demand for some out of the way items of Indian States and also on account of many stamp collectors from India and abroad exhibiting Indian States stamps in various International stamp exhibitions and winning gold and large gold medals, the opinion of most of the stamp collectors have changed and they are now eagerly sought after.

### A case for Indian States stamps

There were nearly seven hundred Indian States and thank God all the seven hundred States did not issue postage stamps. Had it been so, it would have been an impossible task for any collector to reach completion in the real sense of the word. Out of the seven hundred States hardly thirty three states issued their own stamps and yet nobody can boast of having made a complete collection of all the states stamps. It is said that even the great Ferrari was clean stumped when he decided to collect stamps of the Native Indian States. Ultimately he had to drop the idea because he found the task too stiff even in spite of tons of money at his disposal. Most of the British and other foreign collectors who were stationed then in India tried their level best to bring to light the finer points of the collection of these stamps and in one of his articles that appeared in the popular magazine 'The Philatelist' Mr. L. E. Dawson stated, "Some of the older stamps of the smaller states are rare or very rare genuinely postally used, and very many are practically unobtainable on covers. This makes their searching-out exciting." The stamps issued by most of the states were for genuine postal purpose and in this connection Mr. Dawson once again says, "it should be remembered that, with the exception of a few deplorable lapses, all the Feudatory stamps were issued to supply real postal needs."

It is my firm conviction that the stamps of Indian States were and are neglected as it is a very vast group difficult to complete as many of the stamps are simply unobtainable and not because they are ugly looking stamps. If we talk in terms of beauty or mere attractiveness nobody would collect the early stamps with a king or a queen's portrait as there is nothing appealing to the eyes. Most of the attention would be diverted to modern, multi-coloured stamps in three dimensions and what not as issued by some countries simply to fill their coffers. Or some with perverse taste and morbid mentality would go in for the nude painting stamps to satisfy their curiosity. All stamps are neither beautiful nor very artistic still they fetch fabulous top prices. Even the world's costliest stamp of British Guiana 1 cent is not a beautiful stamp. It is dirty with corners clipped and with the penned initials of the postmaster which spoils its face; all of a sudden it became a famous stamp and to possess it became a prestige issue with people having tons of money. It is a clear case of rarity as well as fame. The only sad thing about some very rare stamps of Indian States is, they have so far not achieved fame on account of lack of publicity. As there is only one example known of Br. Guiana 1 cent similarly there are hardly two or half a dozen examples known of some of the Indian States stamps, still they do not command high prices on account of lack of proper push and publicity in the philatelic press. As is the case

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nowadays with most commodities, publicity on a wide scale, either true or false, plays an important part.

### The reason why?

The Imperial Indian Post Offices were prevalent in most of the cities and towns and Indian stamps were used throughout India. However many of the Indian States managed their own postal systems and the issue of their own stamps was a matter of pride and prestige. In some states the postal charges were half those of the Imperial Post Office. In a way the postal administration of some of the former Indian states is responsible for not keeping an up-to-date record of the stamps issued by them from time to time. To add insult to injury Indian stamp collectors and dealers hardly took any keen interest in the stamps of Indian States for some reasons as under:—

- (1) The printing being done in local printing press, the stamps printed were of poor quality and drab in appearance with the exception of a few stamps.
- (2) The inscription on some of the stamps was in local language or in Hindi or in Urdu so it was difficult for many collectors to make out as to what was inscribed on the stamps.
- (3) Proper information as to when and why the stamps were issued was sadly lacking.
- (4) The stamps were issued in singles or in sets without any previous notice. Advance publicity was not the order of the day.
- (5) The stamps were either perforated, rouletted or im-perforate and were printed in irregular sheets.
- (6) Supply was very irregular, the post-masters in charge of the states' post offices at times did not care to fulfil the orders.

But in spite of the above draw backs and difficulties, some keen stamp collectors found fascination in stamps of Indian states. The above reasons and many other factors served as a damper to catalogue publishers who were not in a position to give an up-to-date list. The field is so extensive that many stamps remained unlisted and unknown for a number of years and I dare say, there is still ample scope of adding further stamps as they come to light. In stamp collecting the real pleasure lies in hunting that is to go after those stamps which one has not got in one's collection and Indian States' stamps offer a real big scope for such hunting. The hunting should be not only of stamps but also of early postal history of these States.

### Scope of study :

This interesting and engrossing group of stamps provide ample scope and opportunity for study and research to a keen student. The full impact of the scope of study cannot be treated in full detail in this article for it requires pages to do so. The best course is to refer to some old magazines of Gibbons Stamp Monthly, the Philatelic Recorder, The Philatelist, The Philatelic Journal of India and India's Stamp Journal wherein the old stalwarts explained in full detail the printing process and all the other intricacies pertaining to Indian State stamps. Keen old philatelists like Col. Douie, Sir David Mason, Lt.Col. Napier, Maj. Evans, Mr. L.Dawson and Mr.R.F. Stoney just to mention a few, left behind most knowledgeable articles on the stamps of Jammu & Kashmir, Poonch, Sirmoor, Jind, Hyderabad and Soruth which

even today are extremely useful.



Even to a beginner this group will hold some fascination as the stamps were hand-stamped in ink, in water colour, oil colour, etc. and there is a wide range of printing like recess printed, lithographed or typographed. The stamps were printed in various shapes and sizes. Some of the state stamps were printed in small sheets of four, eight or twelve as well as in big sheets of two hundred and forty stamps. There is a wide range of paper variety as the stamps were printed on thin, thick or medium type of paper either watermarked or unwatermarked. The paper used was either transparent or opaque; surfaced or unsurfaced ordinary white paper to stamps printed on various coloured papers such as green, yellow, mauve, purple, blue or lavender. The stamps were either printed on thin or thick wove or laid paper, the laid lines being either horizontal or vertical in position. Besides there were number of errors and varieties worth studying and knowing in States like Bamra, Bundi, Hyderabad, Jaipur, Sirmoor, Soruth and Travancore. There are a number of different setting and printings, types and tablets and I would like to ask who would not like to study such an interesting and absorbing group which offers practically everything, to stamp collectors.

### Rarity - Availability - Soaring Prices

Now we come to the controversial topics of rarity of stamp and its proper price. Whenever we talk of a rare stamp, we think of the rare Br. Guiana 1 cent or Post Office. 1d, 2d Mauritius. I can well agree with the rarity of Br. Guiana cent because only one example is known of this stamp. But in the case of Post Office Mauritius there are more than twenty examples known and so I feel, the Post Office Mauritius 1d. and 2d. cannot be treated as great rarities. If we take into consideration the real rarity and availability, of a stamp on the basis of known examples of a particular stamp, then I can boldly say that there are a number of stamps in Indian Convention and Feudatory States which must command the same price as that of Post Office Mauritius. Only a few discerning collectors of Indian states stamps know that there are number of stamps which can be easily vie with other rare stamps of the world. Actually it did happen years ago when the great Ferrari gave Tapling another noted collector a Post Office 2d. Mauritius in exchange of a used pair of 1/2 an Poonch SG. No.1a seems the great Ferrari knew the rarity of a stamp in true sense of the word of certain rare Indian States stamps. But alas, very few or none at all appreciate the real rarity of that 1/2 an. Poonch SG. No. 1a pair which Ferrari took exchange from Tapling by giving an unused Post Office. 2d Mauritius because the same 1/2 anna Poonch pair was offered in L.E. Dawson Indian Native States stamps auction. sale held on 10th Jan., 1967 at £ 200

where as Post Office 2d. Mauritius in unused condition is catalogued by Gibbons at 20,000. It seems the stamp only. Had it been so there must not be such a huge difference in prices between the 1/anna Poonch pair and the Post Office 2d. Mauritius. There was one more thing needed and that needed and that is 'Fame' or wide publicity.

On the principle of demand and supply British Colonies stamps and the recent multi-coloured pictorials issued by some countries are much more in demand than the Indian States stamps. The former are boosted up in them, whereas on the other hand no dealer has an appreciable stock of good quality Indian States Stamps so there are no regular advertisements or so - called publicity. Take for example scores and scores of advertisements that appear in various philatelic magazines of Great Britain current commemoratives and the colourful painting stamps by a number of countries. These are issued in millions and yet every year their prices are shooting up and who is responsible for such high prices for the modern stamps. issued in millions. Are these big prices true or false - will they hold? It really seems that mode of stamp collecting has changed. Now there are more investors than genuine collectors. These modern stamps have merely attained fame by false publicity. From now on there are warnings from seasoned market assessors that there will be great fall in the prices of the modern colourful stamps which are issued in millions. The experts say that a crash is coming. But such a crash cannot be expected in Indian states stamps because the quantity printed of most states stamps is very limited. Their point is they are not properly handled by the press agents and discerning stamp dealers. I read most of the foreign stamp magazines but to my surprise no stamp magazines has ever tried to say a kind word or bring out some finer points of this fascinating group of stamps. The only exception is 'The Philatelist' wherein appears a series of beautiful articles under the pen of Mr.L.Dawson. The so called philatelic tipsters in their weekly columns advise stamp collectors to keep an eye or buy at best certain Br. Colonial or European countries stamps, but so far no philatelic tipster has come forward in pointing out the scarcity or otherwise some of the Indian states stamps. I resume, this is due to sheer lack of knowledge on their part that they have remained mum for all these years. If these philatelic tipsters had studied the market of Indian States stamps, ten year back and I am sure they would have reaped rich harvest by now. Within the last ten to fifteen years the rise in prices of some of the Indian States Stamps is really fantastic.

I can make a long list of some of the rare and out of day items which are extremely difficult to come across. At times, one has to wait for some years to get a couple of items of his choice. Most of them have gone up in prices twenty to fifty times within a short period of time. Those collecting the later period, say from 1937 to 1947, might have observed that some of the stamps of Bundi, Cochin and Soruth which were once easily available at a few shillings are quoted in pounds.

To study the postal history and postal markings the attention of many collectors was diverted to stamps used on covers with the result the demand for Indian States stamps used on covers increased all of a sudden and some of the first issues of Indian States such as Bundi, Charkhari, Duttia and Soruth are offered at very high prices. Research has been made by some studious stamp collectors and they were able to bring in the limelight

stamps of Dungarpur, Kolah, Shahpura of which nothing was known to the philatelic world for a number of years.

I believe mention must be made of some of the stamps used on covers. This is the age of postal history, many stamps especially of the early period fetch fabulously high prices and there are a number of early Indian States stamps on covers which are extremely rare. How many of you have seen stamps on covers from states like Bamra, Barwani, Dutia, Dhar, Charkhari, Idar and Jasdan? An ordinary looking cover with one 1/2 anna or 1 anna stamp either from Dutia or Dhar is worth twenty five to fifty pounds, so you can well imagine as to what a registered cover with three to four stamps from one of these states may fetch. At the moment these are the neglected philatelic treasures and so avail of the opportunity of picking the best at the right prevailing prices.

Mine is not the lone voice in wilderness because there are many who share my views and who know the true worth of Indian States stamps. Mr. H. D. S. Haverbeck another specialist in Indian States stamps wrote in the November, 1969 issue of Philatelic Journal of India under the heading, "Some Passing Thoughts On Rarity and Fame," wherein he has given a list of number of very rare stamps of various Indian States. If one would care to go through the list submitted by Mr. H.D.S. Haverbeck, one would see that in many cases there are hardly two or three examples known of a particular stamp, and if this be the case what should be the proper correct prices of such rarities? This is left to the judgment of discerning stamp collectors. Mr. Haverbeck has very rightly said, "the collector of Indian States stamps has available to him a very possible field for a philatelic investment. As the number of collectors increase, so will the demand for the rare stamps." What is needed is stamp collectors like the great Ferrari who can pick up a right thing at a right time and who can give proper justice to the stamps of Indian States.

As I have said before the stamps of Indian States must not be neglected or despised just because they are not attractively printed stamps. The beauty of design should be of secondary importance. Another great philatelist and an internationally known figure in the field of philately Mr. Robson Lowe has expressed his opinion and stressed the importance of collecting 19th century issues in his thought provoking write-up under the heading, "The Prostitution of Philately" in the Philatelist. He has very aptly stated, "The first folk who made a collection of adhesive stamps did so because of the romantic association attached to those scraps of paper. The beauty of the design was of secondary importance, the character and history being of greater interest. In addition of beauty, these stamps had character and reflected the individuality of the engraver and designer". As for the modern stamps that come out practically daily in different designs, Mr. Robson Lowe comments, "Although we are having more different designs thrust upon us than ever before there is a definite lack of appeal in their design to the dilettante and connoisseur. Cigarette cards are hardly less beautiful than the modern commemorative and have a much higher educative value. "Mr. Lowe further lashes out at the modern multi-coloured stamps issued by a number of

countries with a view to earning money and further states, "We cannot get away from the fact the primary reason for issuing these gaudy sticky-backs is to provide an income for the issuing governments taken from the pocket of the stamp collector. Stamp collecting ceases to be one of the fine arts and becomes a manufacturing trade. The above are the wise words of an experienced philatelist who has devoted a number of years in finding out the finer points in the hobby and I would advise all modern collectors to heed to his wise words.

## FEUDATORY STATES

The word feudatory is apparently derived from the word feudalism — holding of lands. There were more than seven hundred states ruled over by various Rajas and Nawabs, but thank God, out of the seven hundred states only about thirtythree issued their own stamps whereas the rest very wisely joined hands with the Imperial Post for their postal system. And the service in states in which the Imperial Post operated the postal system was found to be on sound footing whereas in the states which issued their own stamps and operated their own post there was disorder and the general public always suffered on account of lack of good postal system. The Imperial Post from the very beginning saw the importance of bringing the Postal system under one banner but it was a difficult task as many rulers did not cooperate. Many rulers, though not in a position to maintain a regular postal system did not want to toe the line with the Imperial Post out of pride and they made it a prestige issue.

The stamps issued by various feudatory states were valid for use in their own territories. It was Soruth which first issued its stamps in the year 1864 and after that other leading states like Jammu-Kashmir and Hyderabad issued their stamps in the years 1866 and 1869 respectively. One of the leading states in Rajasthan like Jaipur started issuing its own stamps as late as in 1904. whereas some small states like Idar, Jasdan, Bijawar and Dungarpur started issuing their own stamps between the period 1935 to 1940. No explanation can be given as to why these small states issued stamps so late and for what purpose. One can say that the state's must have taken the late decision simply to make money from the sale of stamps. In almost all the states the post was carried by runners, state sepoy or sowars. Most of the runners employed for carrying post were paid about Rs. 5 (rupees five only) per month. In some states there were State Postmasters whereas in most of the states school teachers and police thanas were doing the work and they were paid some extra amount for doing postal work. In some of the small states the number of letters carried during the year was hardly between 2,000 to 5,000 letters, that is only eight to fifteen letters per day were carried by the runners. Even the stamps sold for genuine postal purpose amounted to Rs. 200/- to Rs. 500/- per year only — most of the states earned their postal revenue from stamp collectors and dealers as genuine postal use of stamps was very negligible. The stamps of many states are found in mint or unused condition or they are "cancelled to order stamps" for philatelic purpose. The states derived most of the income from revenue and court fee stamps.

In some states mostly in Rajasthan circular franks reading 'Mehsool Chooka' and 'Mehsool Baki' meaning 'Postage Paid' and 'Postage Due' were struck in red, mauve or black ink instead

of stamps but the authority found this slow method impractical as the volume of post increased. Such franking system was very widely prevalent in Jaipur for nearly forty years. Mention must be made of some private agencies or contractors who managed the postal system in Malwa and Rajasthan very efficiently. The most efficient, popular and responsible postal system was known as 'Brahmani Dak'.

## **Brahmani Dak :**

Before the State Post and the Imperial Post came into force there was an efficient postal system covering practically all the states in Malwa and Rajasthan and it was popularly known as 'Brahmani Dak'. Brahmins were a very respected and honoured class held in high esteem by one and all. It is said that even robbers and pindaries operating in those days would not harm them. The Brahmins used to travel to neighbouring states and many people used to give messages to them to be delivered to a person in a nearby village or town. The princes, merchants and private people used to send their letters through Brahmins. Some Brahmins decided to put this system on a business like footing and they made this system highly organised and a paying proposition. The Brahmins organised this private postal system known as Brahmini Dak so well that it was known to one and all in those days. The Brahmins operated for a number of years so efficiently that when the State and the Imperial Post wanted to start their own postal system they found in Brahmani Dak a strong rival. The Imperial Post found it so difficult to compete with the Brahmani Dak that when the Imperial Post established its post offices in some states, it entered into an agreement with the princes on condition that the Brahmani Dak must be abolished and no mail should be conveyed through this private system.

As the years rolled by, the big and well managed states started their own postal systems and the Imperial Post Office found its footing in many places. Slowly and steadily on account of various restrictions the Brahmani Dak disappeared from the scene but it did so after rendering excellent and meritorious services for many long years to various states. The Brahmani Dak worked on a contract basis with most of the states. The states had to pay certain fixed amount for carrying the official mail every year and the contract was renewed every year. Compared to the Imperial Post the postage rates were very low and reasonable. Only half anna was charged for a letter weighing two tolas but at times this limit of two tolas was not strictly observed. Registration charge was two annas and for express deliveries special couriers were employed.

Whereas there was reliability and proper accounting in the case of Convention States stamps, some of the stamps of Feudatory States had very bad reputation. As the states had no printing presses of their own, the stamps were printed in private printing presses with the result that a lot of malpractice prevailed in many issues. Only the printers of repute like Perkins, Bason & Co., De La Rue & Co., Nasik Security Press and the Times of India Press printed some good whereas the printing done in private presses like that of Jaipur Jail printing, Diamond Soap Works, Kishangarh, M/s. Veerendra Kumar of Shahrampur was of very low standard. Some of the private printers took very

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mean advantage and the case in point is that of M/s. Veerendra Kumar Surendra Kumar of Sharanpur who printed the stamps of Charkhari and Orcha. This firm offered to print free of charge the stamps of Charkhari and Orcha if allowed to retain a certain amount of the printed stamps for sale to private stamp collectors. Cancelled to order and mint stamps were sold below face value in quantities far excess of the agreed quota. Errors of all kinds were printed and sold at premium. Such malpractices prevailed even in a well managed state like Hyderabad. This state made a silly mistake in printing and supplied its first stamps Gibbons type I in any colour the purchaser required in quantity.

As said before the issuance of stamps by the states was not a paying proposition. No state could boast of earning anything through the sale of stamps as expenses for maintaining the postal system were always high. Let us take the example of one of the leading and biggest states. Hyderabad. This state with an area of 82,698 square miles had a well managed postal system. In the beginning from 1856-1869 the postal service was operated by a private contractor. The state took over the control and by 1899 there were about 125 post offices but the revenue was hardly about Rs. 16,000/- whereas the expenditure was more than rupees two lakhs. As the population and demand increased the number of post offices increased rapidly but as before the expenditure was on the high side. Similarly other states also lost heavily and the losses were subsidised by the state government.

No doubt there is better scope of study and research in the stamps of Feudatory States as they were printed by different printers who adopted various processes. The stamps were printed in small sheets of four stamps to large sheets of two hundred and forty stamps. Various types of paper white as well as of different colours were used. Number of errors and varieties exist which are now unobtainable. Some of the stamps are so rare that only a couple of example are known to exist. Here also it may be mentioned that high value stamps were not necessary as the postage charges were very low. Only in a state like Hyderabad rupee one value was freely used whereas in the states like Buncli, Kishangarh and Orcha the high values of rupee one and over were mainly issued for philatelic sales, only to fill states' coffers.

One can write at length on various other aspects of the stamps of Feudatory states and their postal history but space does not permit me to do so. Various articles in details giving very useful information can be had from the articles that appeared in various philatelic magazines by some eminent authors and the readers are requested to refer to those knowledgeable articles.

Courtesy : India's Stamp Journal 1984.



India is a vast country and its climate and georaphy as also past history are as varied as are its people and dialects. Many languages are spoken in this land of ancient wonders and legends. On the north-west of the country lie's a peninsula which in older times was known as "Surya-Rashtra" or "Su-Rashtra" means 'the land of the Sun' and 'a good country'. Later this term changed into "Saurashtra". Tradition connects Saurashtra with many a legend enshrined in the famous Indian epics, the "Rama-yana" and "Mahabharata". This peninsula was also a scene of many battles from the outside invaders as well as power-hungry competitors. Muslims and Marathas have left behind foot-prints which only scholars and historians can read correctly. During the Maratha reign: the peninsula was known as "Kathiawar".

The State of Junagadh represented the ancient province of Saurashtra or Sorath, a corrupted name applied by the ancient Greek Geographers to the whole province, but later confined to the south-west province formulated by Junagadh State. It was the premier State under the Kathiawar Political Agency. In the north, east and in west, the State was outflanked by boundaries of Nawanagar (Jamnagar) and Bhavnagar States and in the south by Arabian sea. It's area was 3337 sq. miles, little smaller than that of Lebanon.

The past history of Jungadh State is replete with awe-inspring glorious chapters, glimpses of which one witnesses even today while inspecting edicts of King Ashoka, Rudradama and Skandgupta, or while taking a rendezvous in the ruins of citadel of Upperkot. The famous Somanath temple as also the sacred mount Girnar are the permanent attractions of the region. The sacred temples on mount Girnar are not only a marvel of ancient craftsmanship and human ingenuity but also the masterly exposition of faith in religion. The topography of the State has been well balanced by nature with rich flora and fauna: rivers and rivulets; hills and forests as also a varied wild life. The State is the only abode of Asiatic lions in the Gir forest of the State, covering an area of about 500 sq. miles. Junagadh, the capital city with its ancient monuments, temples and rock-carvings lies picturesquely on the slopes of Girnar hills.

Since ancient times, the State was ruled by Hindu Kings. The last Hindu King was Ra' Mandalika, who after a long and gallant defence surrendered himself to Sultan Mahmud Begra of Ahmedabad (Gujarat) in 1472 A D., and his State was annexed to the Sultanate of Gujarat. During the reign of Emperor Akbar, in the year 1592, it became a seat of Foujdar in subordination to the Mogul Viceroy of Ahmedabad. The first Foujdar (Governor) was Navrangkhan. The last of the Foujdars was Sherkhan Babi who afterwards declared his independence and sat on the throne of Sorath as a founder of Babi dynasty with the title of Nawab Bahadurkhan Babi in the year 1748, when the Moguls had lost their authority in Gujarat.

The postal service in the State was started in the year 1863 during the reign of the sixth Nawab Sir Mahabatkhanji II. It was known as "Saurashtra Postal Service". Perhaps it was started earlier than the Imperial Postal service which were prevalent in the State. It was only meant for the State communications, but afterwards was made available to public also. Letters and other records of the State were sent with messengers. 'Paid' and 'Not paid' letters had on them certain distinguishing marks,

The first adhesive postage stamp of the State was issued in November, 1864. It is worthy to note that Junagadh was the first Native State in India to issue its own postage stamps. It was

hand stamped in black water colour with inscriptions "Sau-rashtra Dak Sa" in Devnagri and the year "1921" in Gujarati script means "Saurash-tra Post" year in Gujarati era Vikram Samvat 1921 corresponding to 1864-65 A.D. It was handstamped on various papers available at that time. The die was made of brass. The value of the stamp was not given and impression was also not satisfactory always. Die for the subsequent year was not prepared but the first die was used until the type set design stamps were issued. So, this first issue of the State can well said to be a successful experimental issue.

In 1866 the State established a Press by name "Nitiprakash Printing Press" and second issue of postage stamps were-brought out by type-set design printed at this Press. The denominations were "One anna of a Koree" and "Four annas of a Koree" and were Printed in red and black colours on white and blue papers respectively. Koree was the silver coinage of the State. It was about a quarter of a rupee in value. Along with that, rules were framed about affixing stamps, charges etc. The system of carrying post by paid runners also introduced. So, the year 1866 was the milestone in the postal history of the State.

From the experience gained in the past years, a regular postal department was constituted in the year 1868 and an act entitled 'The Saurashtra Post Office Act, 1868' was passed by the State. This act laid down rules and regulations for affixing, selling of stamps, registration fees, penalty etc. A new stamp of "Two annas of a Koree" was also issued in this year. This was also a typeset design printed in black on yellow paper. The postal service was also further expanded and arrangements were made to send daily and weekly posts to the different places in the State. The Head Post Office was located at Junagadh with 21 sub-offices at different convenient places. It is interesting to note that the postal rates of the Saurashtra Post were 50% less than the Imperial Postal rates, from the very beginning. So, the local postal service was cheaper and quicker. However, the official post and articles of the State were carried free of charge.

In January 1869 the colour and design of stamps were changed and stamps bearing green and red colours were issued. The design bearing inscriptions in Devnagri, English and Urdu and numerals in Gujarati were engraved by Messes John Dickinson & Sons of London. The denominations were as usual "One anna of a Korea" and "Four annas of a Koree" printed in green and red colours respectively. They were printed at the State Press on different papers and were imperforated. Perforation appeared only after 16 years. Official imitations and reprints of this type-set design stamps were made in various colours and papers including watermarked paper during the year 1869.

Since then no new stamp was issued by the State but in 1904 A.D., attempts were made to bring out new stamps bearing the portrait of Nawab Sir Rasulhanji Babi. Plates were engraved by Messes Pearre E. Crowl & Co., of Baltimore, U.S.A. and stamps were printed at the State Press. Denominations were as usual. Unfortunately, due to some obscure reasons and unsatisfactory printing, the idea of issuing these new stamps

was dropped and the stock was destroyed.

Later in the year 1913, when the State coinage was replaced by Indian currency, the existing definitives, popularly known as green and red stamps, were overprinted in Indian currency with the words 'Three pies' and 'One anna' in English and Gujarati respectively. The initial printing of Stamps and the later overprinting of the value in Indian currency was found to be cumbersome. So, new plates with the same design but values inscribed in Indian currency only, were prepared. These new stamps came into use on 1-9-1914. The plates were engraved by Messrs Thaker & Co; of Bombay and printed at the State Press in the same colours.

On 1-9-1923 new stamps bearing portrait of Nawab Sir Mahabatkhanji III was proposed to be issued. The plates were prepared by Mr. Popatlal B. Pandya, Photographer of Rajkot. The plate for "One anna" stamp was prepared in time but that of "Three pies" was delayed. So, about 2000 sheets of "One anna" stamp was overprinted with the word "Three pies" in Gujarati and were issued in time.

In January 1924 fresh plates were prepared for both the stamps as the earlier plates were not giving satisfactory results.

On 1-10-1929 Sorath's first bi-coloured set of eight pictorial stamps were released. The "One anna" and "One rupee" stamps were with bust portrait of Nawab Sir Mahabatkhanji III and others with various subjects. These new stamps were engraved and printed at the Security Press, Nasik. They were on unwatermarked paper and perforated.

From 1-10-1929 the system of free transmission of official correspondence and other articles by the postal department was discontinued and official stamps were introduced for the first time, by overprinting the ordinary pictorial stamps with word 'SAR-KARI' (a Gujarati word meaning official) in red.

There were 22 sub-post offices in the year 1929 located at different places in the State.

The post-card which was the only postal stationery, came into vogue on 21-6-1931. The value of the post-card was Three pies, bearing the design of current Three pies definitive stamp, in blue colour. Reply paid post-card also came into use along with that. However, private post-cards with proper adhesive stamp affixed was also permitted by the State since 1-10-1929.

Since the demand for higher value postage stamps was less, the excess stock of 3 annas, 4 annas and 1 rupee stamps were overprinted with the word SARKARI in red for official use. It was done in 1932 at the State Press. The type used for SARKARI was thinner than those used at Nasik Press.

Until 1-1-1935 the State was using separate Revenue and Postage stamps. But, this practice was discontinued and a new stamp inscribed with "POSTAGE AND REVENUE" instead of "POSTAGE" on "One anna" ordinary stamp was issued. The word "SARKARI" was overprinted in red for official use in the year 1938.

On 1-4-1943 the value of post-card was increased to 1/2 anna. So, new post-card was issued. The design was the same as that of 1/2 anna ordinary postage stamp.

The Saurashtra Postal department was working as self supporting unit and was economical and expeditious and very useful for the State and the subjects. There were 32 sub-offices in the year 1947 giving full facilities to 79 villages of the State.

With Independence, and the sad story of partition, came an abrupt end of the erstwhile independent Junagadh State whose Nawab went over to Pakistan and the State was afterwards merged with the Indian Union on 9-11-1947. History was now taking big strides and phenomenal changes were taking place in the political history of the country. On 15-2-1948, 201 small and big Native States of Kathiawar (excluding Junagadh State) formed one Union, called "United States of Saurashtra". However, Junagadh joined later on 21-1-1949, in this Union.

After independence, Security Press Nasik discontinued further printing of Junagadh State stamps. So the overprinting and surcharging became necessary on the stock available. This was done at the Government Press, Junagadh as and when the demand arose during 1948-50.

The demand for "One anna" Postal & Revenue stamp was very high and the sup-Pty was limited, so the excess stock of "One anna" court fee stamp of old Bhavnagar State was brought and overprinted with "U.S.S. Postage and Revenue" in black. It was done at the Government Press. However, the word "Saurashtra" was overprinted at Bhavnagar itself.

From 1-4-1950 the use of all these stamps were officially discontinued and remainder stock was destroyed. Indian

stamps were in use thereafter. This was no doubt a tragic end of the picturesque history of Sorath stamps, which though tiny in scale and limited in sale, had its peculiar existence which ably stood parallel with mighty Imperial Postal Service, upto 1950.

Stamps of Junagadh State were popular amongst Philatelists all over the country. These stamps were beautifully printed, designed and depicted eye-catching themes. The issue of these stamps was strictly regulated. It was very difficult to get these stamps anywhere outside the State jurisdiction. In fact, stamps were issued to only-bonafide users so the value of these stamps is high today and in much demand.

In cancellations, the early methods were rather crude. Pen scrolls or ink smudges or rows of dots in circle were used. Even the hand-stamp die of 1864 itself was used for cancellation too during 1866-68. Rows of lines in square, large and small oval with the writing in Devnagri and Gujarati were used during the years 1868-1929. It is interesting to note that, round-type cancellation with date and place were used during 1900-1902. Round cancellations in English and Gujarati but without dates were in use till 1934. From 1935 onwards, round-type only in English and with date came into use. These —continued till 1950.

This is only a small treatise on what can be said on the Postal History of Sorath, and the author wants to make it clear that he has tried his best to remain faithful to facts and history as was possible for him. The author will appreciate any further information, suggestions or clarification on the subject.

Courtesy : The Philatelist, 1991.