PHILATELISTS SOUTH INDIA ASSOCIATION MADRAS

SIPA Bulletin

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Editorial

REVIEW 2004

Our last issue gives the list of stamps issued in 2004 by India Post. Collectors worldwide are thankful for the 43 issues out of which some are really colourful, attractive and interesting. But on many accounts we are in the same old boat without much improvement. Let us have a total review.

Totally, 43 issues have been made comprising fifty five stamps and six miniature sheets, costing (323 + 90) Rupees 413/-

The Collectors pack will have 48 stamps of Rs. 5/- value, 5 stamps of Rs. 15/- value, 2 stamps of Rs. 4/- value, and miniature sheets of value Rs. 5/- (2Nos), Rs. 15/- (2 Nos) Rs. 20/- (1No) and Rs. 30/- (1No)

Coming to the issue pattern, the first half year of 2004 saw 16 issues coming out while the second half was flooded with 27 issues.

Monthwise, the no of issues were,

January	- 2		July	-	0
February	- 1		August	-	6
March	- 1		September	-	1
April	- 5		October	-	9
May	- 2		November	-	5
June	- 5		December	-	6

As in the previous years, with all the starting troubles, upto march only 4 stamps were issued and that too on personalities.

Out of the 55 stamps, on 30 Stamps India Post was kind enough to show personalities, increasing the personality percentage from last year by 14% and making one and all more knowledgeble about the great makers and builders of India like Siddhar swamigal, Roerich, Baji Rao Peshwa etc. Also no non-personality issue took place during the first three months thanks are due to India Post for the iconic workship pattern of personalities.

As in 2003, the month of october had the distinction of getting nine issues (14 stamps + 2 M/s) at a cost of Rs. 93/-. When we want to catch them young' and bring into the hobby, think about a 12 or 13 year young student spending about a hundred' on a hobby. Really tough indeed.

It has to be mentioned that, Year 2004 brought a great awareness on 'Miniature sheets'. The issue of 'Tarangini' at Rs. 5/- (Printed number God alone knows) brought in a new group of 'investor - collector' who scrambled for every other M/s issue. making M/s not available for genuine old collectors. Also this situation made the price of M/s in the open market from 50 times face value (Tharangini) to below face value (Architecture) A really sad situation for philatelic collecting!

Finally, a Suggested issue plan for 2006,

Total issues. 48 stamps and
4 M/s. (adequate number)

ie, 12 stamps & 1 M/s for three months
or 4 stamps in a single month.

Out of 48,

12 Stamps on Personality	12
4 sets on themes 4 × 4 - Heritage, Nature, Culture Fine arts etc.,	16
Republic Day	1
Independance Day	1
Gandhiji	1
Children's Day	1
Other Special themes 4 × 4	16
Total	**48**

This programme should be finalised in detail by September itself and made public by October 1. Unless we change for the better in the earliest, God alone can save Indian Philately.

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 Madan Mohan Das spoke on "Exhibitions" in February 2005.

STAMP NEWS

INDIA: BREEDS OF DOGS

09.01.2005 500,500,500,1500 0.3 Mill.each

India has one of the oldest canine cultures. As early as the end of Mesolithic period the dog was domesticated and ever since the dog has been like a hunting companion rather than a show piece.

The Indian sub continent is the largest conglomeration of various breeds of dogs in the world. Through a long process of evolution, each geographical region in India has produced a distinctive breed, adapted to the local environment. While Himachal Pradesh and Uttaranchal have BHOTIAS, Kumaon Hills have SHIKARIS, RAMPUR HOUNDS abound the Rajasthan, Uttar Pradesh, Punjab and Haryana etc. and MUDHOL Hounds are found in Koyana-Gulbarga of Karnataka and Maharastra. The RAJAPALAYAMS come from Tamil Nadu and TRIPURIS are found in the Lushai Hills of Assam.

Known for their sturdiness and loyalty, there is a need for creation of awareness about the variety of the canine population in India. The set of stamps depicts four Indian canine breeds viz., the Himalayan Sheep Dog, the Rampur Hound, the Mudhol Hound and the Rajapalayam.

HIMALAYAN SHEEP DOG

Found in Ladakh and adjoining Nepal, they are strong and powerful dogs. Gentle and sensitive with humans, they are alert and have sharp reflexes. Courageous and ferocious, they are excellent guard dogs for cattle. They are generally black or brown with patches of white on ears, legs and body. They have a thick course over coat and a thick smooth fur for under coat.

They have short legs and a long back. They have pointed muzzle and luminous dark rimmed eyes. Tail is plumed and up turned. Compact and muscular they can sustain the Indian heat.

RAMPUR HOUND

The most well known Indian breed, the Rampur Hounds are elegant dogs, featured in Mughul miniatures. These dogs come from Rampur of erstwhile Rohilkhand of Uttar Pradesh. These are medium sized, muscular, powerful built for great speed and endurance. They have long wide head, flat between ears, and powerful jaws with scissor bite. They have slightly oval, brown to dark amber eyes. They have long and tapering tail, and the body has short and firm coat.

Used for hunting, and Jahangir's kennel is said to have had 4000 of them.

MUDHOL HOUND

Primarily a desert variety of gaze hounds is generally found scattered all over Maharashtra and has been mostly kept by tribals. The Raja of Mudhol, a princely state, now part of Karnataka, trained these dogs for hunting. The Raja of Kolhapur also patronized this breed. Quiet, aloof, placid and reserve, it hunts with extreme concentration equally well on dry and marshy lands.

It has characteristically long and lean head, with well chiseled jaws and nose slightly protruding beyond the teeth. It has bony and narrow body with long tail that tapes to the end. It has very light and effortlessly easy movement with strong driving action with matching reach. Mudhol is found in all colours except albino.

RAJAPALAYAM

The Rajapalayam, built on the lines of the Great Dane, is an all white dog, though at times mottled white is also noticed. The eyes are brown, and the pink nose is distinctive. With its button ears and whip tail, it has loose hanging upper lips and is deep chested. Never a fast runner but is tireless and steady over long distances. Traditionally used as sheep dog and for hunting, it has also figured in battles. It is said that in the 18th Century Pudukottai regiment of Rajapalayam dogs was effectively used for fighting the enemies.

PADAMPAT SINGHANIA

03.2.2005 500 0.6 Mill.

An industrialist with a nationalistic fervour who believed that the road to true freedom goes through industrial liberation, Padampat Singhania, Head of J.K. Organization, was one of India's pioneering entrepreneurs, and a philanthropist as well.

Born on 3rd February 1905, to Kamalapat Singhania and Ram Pyari, Padampat Singhania played a significant role in India's constitutional history as a member of the Constituent Assembly and as a signatory to the Constitution.

Even at a tender age, Padampat Singhania showed tremendous maturity and business acumen. He was barely 16, when he began to shoulder major responsibilities in the newly established J.K. Cotton Spinning and Weaving Mills in the true spirit of the Swadeshi Movement. He managed the business remarkably well after his father's death. Padampat Singhania possessed great nationalist convictions. In 1942 at the peak of the Quit India Movement, he was approached by such eminent freedom fighters as Mahamana Madan Mohan Malviya and Shri Balkrishna Sharma for funds. He was also a party to the execution of a secret undercover operation.

Padampat Singhania significantly influenced the Indian industrial scenario in the post independence era through his industrial empire. Today, there are over 70 units in India and abroad with activities ranging from conventional products to cotton textiles, jute textiles, woollen textiles, rayon, nylon, iron & steel, cement, shipping, air transportation etc.

In 1969, he was conferred "D.Litt" (Honoris Causa) by the University of Kanpur.

He was also a member of the Legislative Assembly and the Constituent Assembly.

He was a believer in social and religious reforms and a staunch follower of the tenets enshrined in the Gita. He built many educational, medical and religious institutions for the good of the people, but he left for the heavenly abode on 18th November 1979.

ROTARY INTERNATIONAL

23.2.2005 500 0.8 Mill

Rotary International is the pioneer voluntary service organization providing humanitarian service, encouraging high ethical standards in all vocations, and helping to build goodwill and peace in the world. Formed on 23 February 1905 by Paul P. Harris of USA, Rotary has earned acclaim for nurturing ideals of service to mankind through the medium of diverse community projects, at international, national, regional, district and town levels. There are over 1.2 million Rotarians in 33000 clubs in 165 countries and 35 geographical regions worldwide.

Scrupulously adhering to its motto, "service above self", Rotary strives to bring together people of all races, religious faiths, and political beliefs.

Rotary International is involved in multivarious activities such as eradication of polio, community service projects in different parts of the world, rehabilitation and total health care, rainwater harvesting and many more socially relevant projects.

The Rotary Foundation of Rotary International is a 'not for profit' corporation that supports the efforts of Rotary to achieve World understanding and peace through international humanitarian programmes. It is supported totally by voluntary contributions from Rotarians and friends of the Foundation who share its vision of a better world.

In 1988, Rotary International embarked upon a very ambitious programme to eradicate polio from the face of the earth by the year 2005. As the leading key non-government partner in this programme along with national governments, WHO, UNICEF and CDC, Rotary has not only provided major funding over US $ 600 million for the polio eradication initiatives but has also mobilized volunteers to help carry out mass immunization campaign. It is all because of the cooperation and co-ordination between various international and national agencies towards polio eradication initiatives that the number of polio endemic countries has come down from 125 to 6 and more than four million children have benefitted.

Rotary came to India in 1919 and formed its first club in Kolkata. It has been aiming to serve the needy and underprivileged sections of the society. Rotary is spread all over India with more than 1 lakh members in 2500 clubs. It is also dedicated towards eradication of polio in India.

Rotary began to address the pressing global issues of environmental degradation with the formation of the Preserve Planet Earth Programme in 1990. It also focussed on issues concerning the problems of illiteracy & drug abuse and welfare of the elderly and the children.

KRISHAN KANT

27.2.2005 500 0.6 Mill

A true Gandhian and an eminent parliamentarian, Shri Krishan Kant was born on February 28, 1927 in the northern State of Punjab in a family of freedom fighters. His father, Lala Achint Ram was a member of the Constituent Assembly and a Member of Parliament. He was also a prominent Congress leader and a pillar of the Bhoodan Movement in Punjab. His mother Smt. Satya Vati, now hundred years of age, is among the oldest living freedom fighters.

Shri Krishan Kant was educated at D.A.V. College, Lahore and Benaras Hindu University where he obtained his Master's degree in Technology. He began his career as a scientist with the Council of Scientific and Industrial Research.

Inspired by his parents, he joined the freedom struggle at the tender age of 15, when he was jailed by the British for his active participation in the Quit India Movement. After independence Shri Krishan Kant was first elected to the Rajya Sabha in 1966 and remained a Member of the Rajya Sabha for 11 years and subsequently a Member of the Lok Sabha till 1980.

On 7th February, 1990 Shri Krishan Kant was appointed the Governor of Andhra Pradesh, where he espoused the cause of the Dalits, Women's empowerment and prohibition. He initiated bold socio-spiritual experiments by founding Satya Mandirs where people could assemble and solve their problems in the overarching edifice of Truth and Love.

Shri Krishan Kant held the office of the Vice-President of India and Ex-officio Chairman of the Rajya Sabha from 21 August, 1997 until his demise on 27th July, 2002.

Shri Krishan Kant was very sensitive towards social, political and cultural issues. He was the Founding General Secretary of the People's Union for Civil Liberties and Democratic Rights. He was also the President of the Servants of the People Society, established by Lala Lajpat Rai.

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PHAROLOGY - THE STUDY OF LIGHTHOUSES

By Gabriel F. Rolo, Edited by Philip H. Cole

This article is written for anyone who has a particular interest in lighthouses, and especially for stamp collectors who prefer their lighthouses on stamps.

Perhaps we should define the word Pharology before we take a look at some lighthouse stamps. The word Pharos is a Greek word meaning "light" and ology meaning "study of", hence Pharology the study of lighthouses.

The first lighthouse was built by King Ptolemy Philadelphus on the island of Pharos in the year 252 B.C. A drawing of the great lighthouse can be seen on a stamp issued by Mali (#C133) in 1971 for their Seven Wonders of the World set. This Mali issue calls it the Lighthouse of Alexandria because it was near the City of Alexandria. Although the city still stands, the island of Pharos and its great light are no more. This fifth wonder of the world was six hundred feet high, built entirely of marble, and surpassed in modern times only by a few structures such as the Eiffel tower.

At the first level, 400 feet, could be found a terrace with small markets stocked with vegetables, meats and everyday goods. The next level was 500 feet where the immense stone lamp itself stood and around it an observation platform where tourists could rest.

The Pharos stood for 1600 years. It shed its light for ships of Caesar and Cleopatra and over the first Christmas.

The first disaster was in 850 A.D. when the ruling Caliph was told a huge treasure laid beneath the light. After destroying the first two stories and without knowledge nor skill to rebuild it, the Caliph realized he had been duped.

Today only small stones can still be found of what was once a World Wonder.

Another stamp in this same series (#C136) shows the famous Colossus of Rhodes. This statue was hollow and one could walk up into its head and look out its eyes. According to some historians there was a fire kept burning in its eyes, and the statue actually served as a beacon.

This Colossus was a mere 160 feet in all and lasted only fifty-six years; it fell after an earthquake struck in 224 B.C. and lay dismantled until the year 672 A.D. when some 300 tons was sold to a junk dealer and carried away.

It seems appropriate to begin with the United States in our study of some modern day lighthouses on stamps.

The first United States stamp to depict a lighthouse was the Maine Statehood commemorative issued in 1970 (#1391).

Two rubble stone towers were erected on Cape Elizabeth in 1828 at a cost of $4,250. President Adams appointed Elisha Jordan first keeper at the great salary of $450 a year. In 1873 the stone towers were replaced with two cast iron towers. Only the east tower is in use today. The lighthouse stands 67 feet high above the ground, and 129 feet above the water, on the South entrance to Portland Harbor at Lat. N. 43.34.0 Long W. 70.12.0.

It is equipped with a 1,800,000 candle power light visible for 17 miles. A Fresnel lenses was installed in 1855, the light makes six flashes: 2.3 sec. flashes for the first five and a 17.3 sec. flash on the sixth one. The stamp actually shows a painting done by Edward Hopper (1882-1967) which hangs in the Metropolitan Museum of Art in New York.

A second lighthouse on a United States stamp is the Cape Hatteras Light (#1449). In 1797 Congress appropriated $44,000 for erecting a lighthouse on Cape Hatteras and a lighted beacon on Shell Castle Island. A new tower erected in Dec. 1871 was the tallest brick lighthouse in the world at that time. The present tower is lighted by a 250,000 candle power aviation type beacon and is visible for 20 miles. The structure is a black and white spirally banded tower with a red brick base with granite corners located in the fifth Coast Guard district of the 35.15.3 Lat. N, 75.31.2 Long. W.

A third light house is shown on a postcard (UX63) issued in 1972 as part of the Tourism series. The 6c postal card, shows Eastern Point Light at Gloucester, Mass., a beautiful white brick tower overlooking the southern tip of Cape Ann at 43.34.9 Lat. N. and 70.40.4 Long. W. The tower built in 1890 is equipped with a powerful light and fog signal, (horn blast every 10 seconds on foggy days), and a radio beacon. The former keeper Robert Foley is now retired in Maine, but still maintains interest in lighthouses of the U.S.

El Morro, lighthouse is shown on Cuba #432 and C433. Its full name is El Castillo de los tres Reyes del Morro, (Castle of the three Kings of the Headland), and is located north of the mainland just out to sea. The fort was started in 1589, and completed in 1597 by slaves and convicts from Africa. The fortress has several gun placements — 12 to be exact. Each is named after an Apostle. The lighthouse was added in 1844, by Captain General O'Donnell. The structure is a conical stone tower 82 feet high with an elevation of 144 feet above sea level, Lat. 23.09.2 N. and Long. 82.21.4 W.

South Point lighthouse shown on Barbados #335 is a distinctive Red and White banded tower. The tower located in Christ Church, Barbados, is now unmanned. The light was designed by Alexander Gordon, civil engineer, and it is one of the earliest examples of the use of cast iron. It was made in

1851 of concentric cast iron plates, bolted together internally through horizontal and vertical flanges, forming a tower 90 ft. high with an 18 ft. 6 in. diameter base and an 11 ft. top. The lantern is of gun-metal and copper with half inch thick plate glass panes. Original lighting apparatus consisted of three groups each of four parabolic catoptric reflectors, mounted on revolving pedestal. Each reflector was furnished with a single wick Argand oil burner complete with red glass chimney. The speed of rotation was one revolution every three minutes giving a single red flash per minute. The light produced had an intensity of 3,000 candles and was advertised with a range of 18 miles. The old apparatus was dismantled in November 1964. It was replaced by a stone-chance electrically operated power beam beacon, with three white flashes every 30 seconds and a mean intensity of 33,800 candles, and by a curve of the earth can be seen 25 miles at sea.

Sombrero lighthouse shown on St. Kitts and Nevis #127 & 145 lies at 18.35.49 N and 63.25.34 W and keeps its faithful vigil over the Eastern edge of the Anegada Passage. Built on solid rock which rises forty feet above sea level, the light flashes its beam of guiding light every five seconds, over a radius of 19 miles across the Atlantic Ocean.

Sombrero Island was discovered by Columbus. There are two legends about its name. First, when Columbus sighted the island, it resembled a "hat" and secondly, that his "hat" fell overboard while crossing.

In 1931 the old light system was changed and improved to 2,000,000 candle power. On the 20th July 1962 the present lighthouse was put into operation and the old tower demolished.

Bermuda has two lighthouses on stamps. The island calls these two lights "Bermuda's Happy Lighthouses". Gibb's Lighthouse (#278) put Bermuda on the map, in 1883 when it was used by a group of Royal Astronomical Society scientists who were there to observe the planet Venus. Gibb's is the oldest of the two. It is open 365 days of the year from 9 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. It reaches 117 feet up from the crown of 245 foot high Gibb's Hill. Built in 1844 in England and assembled in Bermuda with convict labor, it is one of the few lighthouses in the world made of cast iron. There are 185 steps to the light, a 1550 watt electric bulb in the center of the lens. Planes flying at a height of 10,000 ft. can see the light 140 miles at sea.

St. David Lighthouse (#121, 121A) stands on Mount Hill, the highest point on St. David Island, and can be seen 23 miles at sea. First lit in 1897 the lighthouse stands on six and a half acres of land. The first watchers were supplied with "fire baskets", and required to tend the morning, afternoon and night watch. They were instructed to give warning when any ship approached Bermuda. St. David Lighthouse is a guide to yachtsmen who enter the Newport to Bermuda race. It is the finishing point of the race.

Finland has issued stamps showing the lighthouses at Uto (#252) and Porkkala (#335).

Uto was first built during the year 1753, rebuilt after the war of 1814, and automated in 1935. The electric light has a candle power of 1,000,000 candles and can be seen 26.5 miles at sea. It is 39.6 meters above sea level, at 59.46.0 N. Lat. and 21.22.3 E. Long. There is a pilot station on Uto Island. Uto has the distinction of being the first lighthouse in Finland.

Porkkala was built in 1920, rebuilt and automated in 1966, of firestoved bricks. Located 59 52.1 N. Lat. and 24 18.4 E. Long, on the rocky island of Porkkala on the Southern coast of Finland. It can be seen 19 miles out to sea and is equipped with a fog signal and radio beacon.

One of the most unusual lighthouses in the world is Amedee Light shown on New Caledonia (#1343). It has the distinction of being erected on the wrong island and in the wrong ocean. It was first built for the Paris exhibit around 1860, then was to be transported to "Fort of France" Martinique in the Caribbean Sea. The captain mis-read the order and transported the light around the Horn into the Pacific Ocean and to "Port of France" New Caledonia instead. Lighted in 1863, it was erected on the Isle of Amedee which is 100 meters by 300 meters. The light made of cast iron and fastened with bolts was constructed by Reigwaud, the same company that built the Eiffel Tower. It was completed in nine months at National Marine. Amedee was the name of the Empress wife of Napoleon the 3rd.

In 1953 Gibraltar issued a stamp (#233) picturing Europa Point Light. The foundation stone of the lighthouse was laid on April 26, 1838 (first year of Queen Victoria's reign). The tower was completed and the light illuminated for the first time at sunset on August 1, 1841. The light has undergone many improvements over the years, for example a fixed red sector was installed in 1864 to give warning of a dangerous rock situated off the western side of the entrance to Gibraltar Bay, and the present electric light was inaugurated on the 12th of July 1956. It is an occulting light showing five seconds light with an interval of five seconds darkness, of 170,000 candle power with an intensified flash of 1,130,000 candle power. This light also has a red sector which augments the sector of the fixed red subsidiary light. The tower is approximately eighty feet in height but, as it is situated on the top of a rocky cliff, the light is shown from an actual height of one hundred and sixty-two feet above the sea. It is visible for a distance of nineteen miles.

Farewell Spit Lighthouse has recently been shown on a stamp from New Zealand. In the early days when New Zealand was being colonized Farewell Spit was dreaded by mariners and there were many ships wrecked upon it, and so in 1869 construction of the lighthouse station began. The light was first exhibited in June 1870. In 1891 it was found that the hardwood used for the tower was rapidly decaying and it became necessary to have the old tower replaced. Farewell Spit was converted from oil to electric operation with power supplied by diesel-

generators. With its lantern 29.6m above sea level the tower stands 26.8m in height and its light flash is visible for 23 nautical miles. Two light keepers and their families reside on the Split and they receive supplies and mail once a week.

Some of the most attractive lighthouse stamps ever issued have been those prepared by the New Zealand Government Life Insurance Department.

The New Zealand Government Life Insurance Company will be HO years old this year. The company was founded by Julius Vogel on November 1, 1869, following an inquiry from an Otago miner. This insurance Company has had an exciting and colorful history. For a complete study the reader might want to obtain a copy of "Tower of Strength" by C. W. Vennel 1869-1969, a centennial history of the New Zealand Government Life Insurance Office.

Until 1887, the Government Insurance Company's steadily mounting flow of correspondence was sent through the post in specially approved envelopes. An annual estimate of the cost was made and an appropriate sum was paid to the Post Office. The Postmaster-General, the Hon. H. A. Atkinson, however considered that such an arrangement was likely to lead to loss of revenue, and asked the Secretary of the Post and Telegraph Department to look into the matter. A compromise was eventually reached and the Government Life Insurance Company was allowed to issue its own distinctive stamps.

The six original stamps were first used on January 2, 1891, and were all of the same design — "a lighthouse in the center on a lined groundwork, and on the rays of light from the lantern the words 'State Security.' The letters "VR" flank the tower. Above the lighthouse are the words 'Government Life Insurance' flanked by the initials 'NZ' and, below, the word 'Department.' The colors are: Halfpenny, mauve; penny, dark blue; twopence, Indian red; threepence; brown; sixpence, light green; and shilling, carmine."

Minor modifications to the original "lighthouse" design were made in the early 1900's. After the death of Queen Victoria in 1901, the letters "VR" were omitted. Other alterations included widening the rays of light, adding a window to the tower, which was reduced in height, and extra ornamentation to the bottom.

As a war measure, in 1915 all New Zealand postal rates were raised by a halfpenny. Eighteen months later, on March 9, 1917, a new penny-halfpenny stamp was approved for use by Government Life. The stamp was grey-black and the design similar to that of the other values, except that the word "Postage" w?s substituted for the value in the panel on the right.

Further new issues of Government Life stamps were made in 1925 and 1935. Ten years later, the Commissioner (J. W. Macdonald) obtained authority to issue an entirely new pictorial series, each value of which (except for the threepenny stamp) showed a different New Zealand lighthouse, three from the North Island and three from the South. The seventh featured the famous Eddystone light.

Castlepoint light shown on the halfpenny gray green and scarlet value is located in the southern region of the North Island, approximately forty-five miles northeast of Masterton. The area was named by Capt. Cook because of a high castle-like rock extending seaward. The light came into use on January 12, 1913, and was the last manned to be built in New Zealand. The light tower is 22.6m in height and exhibits its light from 25.8m above sea level. The light quick flashes every 45 seconds and is visible for 19 nautical miles.

Taiaroa Head light is featured on the one penny olive-green and pale blue value. The light was inaugurated on January 2, 1865 and is located 190 feet (59.7m) above sea level at the entrance to Otago Harbor on the southeast coast of the South Island. In 1921 the red light of Taiaroa was converted to an automatic flashing white light. The stone tower is 11.9m in height. Its white light flashes every 18 seconds and can be seen for 18 nautical miles.

Cape Palliser located on the southeastern tip of the North Island overlooking Cook Strait is shown on the dark blue and grey 2d value.

There have been many wrecks and many lives lost on this rocky and stormy section of the coast.

The light was first exhibited on October of 1897, and wrecks became fewer, although the steamer "Ripple" was believed to have foundered in Passliser Bay in 1924, with the loss of all hands.

Electrified in March 1954, the station has a diesel-electric plant for a standby in case of a power failure. The 58' (17.4m) tower stands 258' (77.4m) above sea level and the light, giving two flashes every 30 seconds is visible for 22 miles.

Eddystone light shown on the bright mauve and pale blue three penny value will be featured in a later article.

Stephens Island light which appears on the deep brown and pale orange 4 penny value, is located on one of the D'Urville group in the Cook Straight, approximately 60 miles northeast of Wellington. The light came into operation on January 29, 1894. The cast iron tower is 15.2m in height. Its light shines from 182-9m above sea level and is visible for 32 miles.

The Brothers light shown on the deep brown and blue six penny value is located on a rocky islet off the coast of Arapow Islands at the entrance to Queen Charlotte Sound in Cook Straight. The lighthouse was inaugurated on September 24, 1887. The wooden tower is 12.5m in height and shines from 78.6m above sea level. The light which flashes every 10 seconds is visible 22 miles at sea. The brothers light is known as a "rock" station and is the only station in New Zealand to accommodate only male light-housekeepers.

Cape Brett light shown on the one shilling red-brown and light blue value, is located on the east coast of the North Island, near Auckland. Cape Brett light began operating on February 12, 1910 and was the first of its kind in New Zealand in which the machinery revolves in a mercury float. The tower is 14.0m high and shines from an elevation of 149.4m above sea level. Its light flashes every 30 seconds and is visible for 26 miles.

Cape Campbell light is featured on a black and white on blue, two pence-halfpenny stamp issued on November 4, 1963. Cape Campbell light located on the northeast point of the South Island was first lighted in August 1870. The 22.3 tower is painted with distinctive black and white bands. Its light flashes every 30 seconds from a height of 47.2m above sea level and is visible for 18 miles.

Five more New Zealand lighthouses — two on the North Island and three on the South Island — are shown on the 1969 issues of Government Life Insurance stamps. These half cent, two and a half cent, three cent, four cent, and fifteen cent values bring the series into line with the recently introduced decimal currency system now in use in New Zealand.

Moeraki Point light shown on the multicolored V2 cent value is located south of Moeraki on a promontory with the offlying rock formations of Fish Reef and Danger Reef. Soon after its completion in 1878 heavy props had to be used to stiffen the wooden tower. The 8.5m tower shines from 51.8m above sea level. Its triple group flashing white light flashes every eight seconds and can be seen for 18 miles.

Puysegur Point light is shown on the 2V2 cent value printed in blue and yellow. Few New Zealand lights are further from civilization than Puysegur Pt. lighthouse located on the extreme southwestern tip of the South Island. The first light erected at this isolated point burned down in 1942 and was replaced with the present tower the following year. The tower is 5.5m high and shines from an elevation of 44.8m above sea level. The light flashes every 15 seconds and can be seen for 23 miles.

Baring Head light is shown on the 3 cent value printed in brown and white. One of New Zealand's newest lights, Baring Head went into operation in June 1935. Prior to its construction ships were guided into Wellington Harbor by the light at Pencarrow Head. Baring Head was the first light in New Zealand to be fully electrified from its opening. The tower is 12.2m in height and its light shines out to sea from 87.2m above sea level. The light has a nine second flash every fifteen seconds and is visible for 19 miles.

Cape Egmont light located on the most westerly point of Taranaki province is shown on the 4 cent light blue and white stamp. The lighthouse at the Cape was established in August 1881, after being dismantled and carried in sections from Mana Island near Wellington in the steamer "Hinemoa." While construction went on at Cape Egmont local Maoris delayed work with their hostile action. Finally a detachment of armed constabulary was called to patrol the area. The 20.4m tower sends out its beam from 33.2m above sea level. Its three flashes every 40 seconds can be seen 20 miles at sea.

Dog Island light is shown on the 15 cent stamp printed in black and white. The lighthouse, one of New Zealand's most picturesque, is located on a low-lying rocky islet in Foyeaux Strait. Dog Island light, one of New Zealand's oldest lights, was commissioned in August 1865. The 36m tall tower is painted a distinctive black and white. Its beacon shines from 45.7m above sea level and its three flashes every 30 seconds can be seen 18 miles to sea.

In November 1977 two new lighthouses appeared on stamps of the Government Life Insurance Office. East Cape Light is shown on the 8-cent value and Farwell Spit on the 10-cent value.

East Cape light stands on the most easterly point of New Zealand. The light was exhibited in August 1906, but the first keepers did not find the islet a pleasant place to live. They were unable to grow crops or raise livestock because the area was subject to frequent earthquakes and the cliffs were continually slipping. The light was finally extinguished in April 1922 and in December was moved to the mainland in its present location. The 14m tower stands 139.9m above sea level and its one flash every 10 seconds can be seen for 30 miles.

Farwell Spit is located on a long and low-lying sand bank on the South Island at the western entrance to Cook Straight. Because it was at sea level, the tower had to be higher than most in the country. In 1891 it was found the hardwood of the tower was rapidly decaying and that it would be necessary to replace the old tower. This was done in January 1897 and two days after the old tower was demolished the new light was switched on. The light was electrified in 1954. The light is only 29.6m above sea level. The tower itself is 26.8m high. Its light gives one flash each 60 seconds and is visible for 15 miles.

Several issues of the GLID stamps have been revalued by overprinting the old values with dots or bars and the new value added. Recently the 2Y2C value showing Puysegur light was surcharged with a new value 25c.

(Courtesy : Topical time, 1977)

WORLD'S FIRST AIR MAIL FLIGHT

Pradip Jain

(One more article on the "First Air Mail Flight". This time it is from a philatelist having Air Mails Collection of the highest award in International Exhibition.)

To India belongs the glory of being the pioneer country in the world to carry an officially sanctioned airmail when Monsieur Henri Pequet, a French Pilot, flew from Allahabad to Naini on Saturday, February 18, 1911 a distance of about five miles carrying some 6500 letters and 40 autographed Picture Postcards showing the aviator in the aeroplane and bearing the special postal cancellation in magenta ink, showing an aeroplane over the mountains surrounded by script "First Aerial Post 1911 U.P. Exhibition Allahabad".'

This great event was part of a large exhibition at Allahabad in the year 1911 in United Provinces of Agra and Oudh and was due to the initiative of Commander (later Sir) Walter G. Windham.

In 1910 the Government of United Provinces of Agra and Oudh invited Walter Windham to take part in the Allahabad Exhibition and requested him to bring some aeroplanes and pilots from England to India and conduct demonstration flights with the aim of attracting people to this new development in transport.

Always an adventurer Windham has sailed round the world four times before he was twenty years of age. He was a motorcar producer and racer and was one of a handful men in U.K. who had taken up aviation quite seriously from the beginning. He had built a biplane of his own design and founded "The Aeroplane Club" in Great Britain in 1908 and was a King's Messenger from 1901 to 1909.

Windham had sufficient confidence in the future of aviation. He accepted the invitation of the organisers. Giving up his motor business, he booked a passage to India by late 1910. He arranged to take with him two flyers Henri Piequet and Edward Keith Davies along with two mechanics Billion (French) and Haffkins (English). Captain Windham shipped six aeroplanes to Bombay in large crates, and they were then sent by rail and in special trucks to Allahabad. Out of the six there were two Sommer type biplanes. One of these was fitted with the light 4 cylinder rotary 50 hp Gnome engine and the other with a Humber 4 Cylinder 50 hp water-cooled engine. The other four were Bleriot style mono planes powered by a 30 hp, 3 cylinder air cooled engine.

The aeroplanes were put on view in the sheds. Except for the display model, the planes were housed in a tent like canvas hanger built by Elgin Mills of Cawnpore, situated on the parade ground that overlooked the Ganga.

Keith Davies test flighted one of the Humber Bleriot monoplane on December 10, 1910 and became the first person to fly an aeroplane in India and also in the whole of the Asian continent. A day later Henri Piequet made the first flight from Indian soil while testing one of these planes at Allahabad. Several Flights were made by Henri Piequet and Keith Davies in keeping with the wishes of the Exhibition committee. In course of the demonstration flight Captain Windham, followed by the Maharaja of Kishangarh, became the first persons to fly in India, as passengers. The biplanes performed well at Allahabad, but the monoplanes, with lower engine output, did not seem to operate well in the heavy warm air increasingly turbulent at ground level of the landing field's proximity to the Ganga and the Yamuna rivers. The flyers encountered another problem in the form of sharp and large thorns which were found abundantly in the vicinity of landing field. Tyres of the planes punctured easily and had to be repaired after almost every landing attempt.

The Airmail

During the course of his stay at Allahabad, Walter Windham was approached by Rev. W.E.S . Holland, chaplain of the Holy Trinity Church in Allahabad and warden of a hostel for Indian students. A new hostel was being built and the warden made an appeal to Capt. Windham to help in raising funds. Although Windham was not a philatelist, it occurred to him that this could be done by inaugurating an Aerial Post. It would be an advertisement for the Allahabad Exhibition and a demonstration of the possibility of rapid and safe transportation of mails. Thus the idea of the World's First Official Airplane Mail was born.

The Postmaster of the United Provinces, Sir Geoffrey Clarke and the Director General of the Post Office in India both on request of Capt. Windham granted approval for mail to be officially received and specially cancelled prior to transport by one of Windham's planes.

The public was informed and people wishing to have items flown were asked to send them addressed and stamped at the appropriate postage rate, to the chaplain of the Holy Trinity Church. In addtion a nominal sum of six annas (or six pence) was asked for as a donation to the new Church Hostel Building. Otherwise, hand over the letter to a postal official at the tent hanger at the parade ground paying the extra cost at that time. Only letters or cards under one ounce in weight were accepted.

The Special Postmark used on the Allahabad mail was quite distinctive. The die for it, wrote Windham "was cut at the insistence of the Government of India and I had the honor of drawing the design, the silhouette of a biplane in flight over the mountains of Asia". The die for the postmark, 4 cm in diameter, was cast at the Postal Workshop at Aligarh. The Postmaster General announced that "this will be destroyed on the day following the carriage of the First Aerial Mail. This will ensure the unique character and value of the stamps and those who take advantage of the present opportunity will secure a monopoly of the stamps thus marked". (Newspaper'The Pioneer Mail-12 Feb., 1911)

The mail flight was originally scheduled for February 20, 1911 at 4.00 PM but was actually made on February 18, 1911, two days earlier than planned. Thousands of Indian citizens viewed Piequet's take off, as did United Provinces Governor Sir John Hewett and Lady Hewett. At least one million Indian visitors were in Allahabad at that time to observe the religious festival of Purna Kumbh, the occasion for the washing away of sins in the sacred water of the Ganga, held only once in 12 years. Indians were greatly drawn to aviation happenings because of legend, very much alive in their cultural tradition, which emanated from the sacred Vedas. The final days of the earth's existence were supposed to occur one thousand years after a man descended on earth in a mode of flight.

Henri Pequet flying the Humber biplane took off around 5.00 PM from the aviation ground, circled around twice and then flew across the river Yamuna to Naini Junction making history by carrying approx. 6500 letters and cards on the first official airmail flight. The flight itself, for reasons of safety and convenience was limited to about 5 miles, Pequet coming down near the jail in Naini Junction, a site which was cleared by the convicts from the central jail enabling the plane to descend and take off safely.

When Pequet descended, there was no crowd to greet him, a complete contrast to his departure from Allahabad. He handed over the mail bag to the only Post Office official present there and returned to Allahabad. The entire trip lasted around 30 minutes. The mail was then forwarded by surface to their destination all over the world.

Among the mail carried were a number of picture postcards depicting the pilot and the biplane in which the mail were carried. These were duly autographed in advance by the pilot and sold at a price of One Rupee each, again, for the benefit of the hostel. Since the cost was very high for the local people and also the advertisement issued in the last paper at the last moment (The Pioneer Mail and Indian Weekly News 17th Feb. 1911), only 40 to 50 cards were flown. These cards are now a prized possession for an Indian Airmail collector.

The Postmark was applied in magenta colour but few pieces are found having Postmark in black colour supposed to be privileged mail, despatched for or on behalf of officials.

Aviation had an impressive beginning in India. So much so, in the same year, i.e. 1911, the Government of India passed the Indian Airships Act (later amended to Aircraft Act), which regulated in some detail the flying of aircraft over Indian territory-this, at a time when the motor car was still a novelty in India. However, it was not until 1917 that the Government began to talk officially about the question of introducing air-transport into the country.

After the Allahabad stay the Windham team proceeded to Bombay for another appearance before they departed for home; Windham used his experience of India, and with his efforts the well known Hendon to Windsor (U.K) and return flight for the coronation Aerial Post of September 1911 were organised. Windham was Knighted in 1923, and made a freeman of the city of London in 1933.

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CUSTOMISED POST

Prashant H.Pandya

A Company that sell a service, idea or product needs to keep his company's vision constantly before his customers. One of the methods would be through communication, in the form of mailers and promotional material. How about the mailer enclosed in the envelope bearing the postage stamp that reflects the vision of the company? Business Development Directorate of Department of Posts conceptualized this idea and launched two products that would appeal to any corporate clients. These two products are Customized Greeting Post and Customized Postal Stationary envelopes.

Customised Greeting Cards:

In February 2001, India Post came out with a unique product and launched a customized greeting card package for corporate clients. The initiative to allow corporate branding in the Sovereign's stamp was described as the world's first by any postal department. Under the new initiative, India Post allows corporate clients to either choose from a plethora of designs or bring in their own designs, which are being incorporated on greeting card envelopes as a sovereign stamp. Clients can put their logo or message on the card design that is being reproduced on the stamp area of the accompanying pre-stamped envelope. The envelope contains a greeting card having a replica of the stamp image.These customized greeting cards are printed at the M/s Calcutta Security Printers Ltd., Kanpur and Madras Security Printers, Chennai.

So far two such customized greeting cards have been issued by India Post.The first one was made for the makers of "Noopen" insulin - Novo Nordisk India Pvt. Ltd. in January 2002. This is a small sized greeting card for birthday greetings. Denomination of the imprinted stamp is Rs. 4. Second such greeting card was issued in the month of July 2002 for Shrimant Dagrusheth Halwai Sarvajanik Ganpati Trust, Pune, for"Ganesh Mahotsawa" celebrations.The stamp design depicts the idol of Lord Ganesha and is in the denomination of Rs. 4.

Customised Postal Stationery Envelopes:

India Post offers 10 different sizes of customized envelopes, in three varieties of the paper viz. 80, 90, and 100 GSM for corporate clients. The client can choose the amount of postage prepaid as per their requirements. (Rs. 5 for inland letter rate, Rs. 15 for overseas airmail letter rate, Rs. 22 for inland registered letter) The envelopes are available in sizes 140 x 90, 152 x 90,162 x 114,180 x 135, 176 x 125, 220 x 110, 240 x 120, 229 x 162, 230 x 160 mm and A4. The advantage of customized postal stationery envelope is the client gets the prestige linked to having its own customized stamp on the mail, which gets instant branding, it saves time as it has no need to frank the mail. This is an innovative way to reach the masses through day-to-day activities and without substantial cost.

These customized postal stationery envelopes are printed at M/s Calcutta Security Printers Ltd., Kanpur and Madras Security Printers, Chennai. Special code numbers are being printed on the backside of the envelope, e.g. 4CEVC0001. Here the first numeral is the serial number of the customized envelope, followed by two letters "CE" for customized envelope and two initials for the identification of the corporate client for which the envelope has been printed. Last digits stands for the individual unique number of that envelope. Each envelope bears a unique number, which falls with in the code numbers.

These customized postal stationery envelopes can only be mailed from the designated post office and can be used by the client for the period of one year from the date or month of release.

The first such customized postal stationery envelope was issued on 2nd December 2001 on the occasion of World Computer Literacy day for NIIT Ltd., New Delhi. So far these customized postal stationery envelopes have been issued for Ordinary Postage, Registered Postage, Airmail and for Service Postage (O.I.G.S. - On Government of India Service).

Ordinary Envelopes:

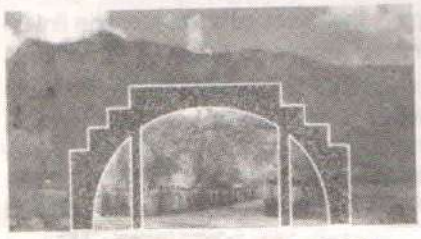
The stamp design of NIIT customised envelope depicts the logo showing computer with text Computer Literacy Day and text Postage Pre Paid. In this issue denomination is not printed but the postal rate for envelope was Rs. 4 when it was issued.

The code number starts with 1CEN. Size of the envelope is of 190x125 mm.

In the month of April 2002 for The Indian Institute of Bankers on its Platinum Jubilee celebrations another envelope in the denomination of Rs. 5 was issued. The stamp design depict: numeral "75", The Indian Institute of Bankers" in capital letters and "75 years of Excellence in Banking Education". Code number starts from 2CEN.

The first window envelope was issued for ABN-AMRO Bank in July 2002 with the denomination of Rs. 5. Blue-green coloured stamp shows a child with "Freedom" and "Live without fear".The code number begins with 3CEN. Size of both the envelopes is 220 x 110 mm.

In September 2002, on the occasion of Silver Jubilee celebration of for Gandhigram Rural Institute Deemed University, Gandhigram a customised envelope was issued in the denomination of Rs. 5. The imprinted stamp depicts Mahatma Gandhi's portrait with the numeral 25 and text "Silver Jubilee Year 2001 -2002" and"Gandhigram Rural Institute - Deemed University, Gandhigram". Code number printed on back of the cover begins with 6 CEGG.



THE COUNTRY PROSPERS AS VILLAGES GROW
01-08-2002

GANDHIGRAM RURAL INSTITUTE
DEEMED UNIVERSITY
GANDHIGRAM - 624 302.

SILVER JUBILEE YEAR 2001- 2002

On behalf of Sri Ganapati Sachchidananda Ashram, Mysore two customized envelopes were issued in October, 2002. First one is for domestic purpose with the denomination of Rs.5. The in stamp design depicts a pillar (Dharma Dhwaja) in golden yellow colour The code number begins with 5CEGS. Another envelope is for Airmail purpose.

In the month of December 2002 three customized envelopes were issued. The first one was for PlastIndia Foundation in the denomination of Rs. 5.The stamp design depicts the design of fort.The envelope was issued for the 5th International Plastics Exhibition & Conference "PLASTINDIA 2003" to held from 15th to 20th February 2003 at New Delhi.The code number printed on backside of the envelope begins with 8CEPP.

Second issue of the month was for South Eastern Railways. Two different envelopes were issued. One envelope was for ordinary postage with the denomination of Rs. 5/- and the second envelope has postage pre-paid for Rs. 25/-. Stamp design of Rs. 5/- envelope depicts Heavy haul goods train of South Eastern Railway in front of the steel plant. Size of the envelope is 225 mm x 115 mm. In central front of the envelope is a logo of Bengal Nagpur Railways. Also on backside of the envelope image of steam engine is printed with text "In commemoration of Heritage Steam run at Nagpur, South Eastern Railway -2002.The shade of the paper is pinkish.The code numbers printed on backside of the envelope begins with 9CESE.

Third issue was released on 2nd December 2002 on the occasion of World Computer Literacy Day, This is the second customized envelope from NIIT Ltd., New Delhi.The stamp design of the envelope is same as earlier issue but the format and the size of the envelope has been changed. This time the denomination of the envelope is printed as Postage Pre Paid for Rs. 5 and the code number begins with 10CENIIT.

In August 2003 an envelope for National Insurance Academy was issued. The stamp design depicts the building and an area of National Insurance Academy. This is a window envelope and the size of envelope is 240 mm x 110 mm. Code number on the backside of the envelope starts from 12CEINA. Logo of India Post is printed in red colour on backside of the envelope

Registered Envelopes:

The first ever customised envelope for Registered Postage in the denomination of Rs. 22 was issued in September2002 for V Can Nettwork Pvt. Ltd., Chennai.This is a window envelope and the imprinted stamp shows a man lying on magnetic bed. "REGISTERED" word is printed on the top of the envelope. The code number begins with 4CEVC.

Another customised envelope meant for the Registered Post with A. D. was issued for South Eastern Railways in the month of December 2002, in the denomination of Rs. 25/-. Size of the envelopes is 225 mm x 115 mm and top left corner of the envelope bears a logo of Completion of 150 years of Indian Railways and left bottom corner has a picture of "Bholu- the Guard" an elephant holding lantern.

Airmail Envelopes:

The first ever customised envelope for Airmail purpose in the denomination of Rs. 15 was issued for Sri Ganapati Sachchidananda Ashram, Mysore in October, 2002. "PAR AVION" is inscribed on the top of the envelope. Stamp design and cover design is similar to that of ordinary envelope issued in denomination of Rs. 5.

Service Envelopes (OIGS):

The first ever customized envelope for Service use with inscription "On India Government Service" in Hindi and English was issued on 7th November 2002 for Ministry of Health & Family Welfare, New Delhi on 'National Cancer Awareness Day'. India is the first country in the world to have initiated 'National Cancer Awareness Day' on 7th November, which happens to be birthday of Madame Marie Curie, a Nobel Laureate for the discovery of radioactivity.

The denomination of the envelope is Rs. 5 and the stamp depicts a sketch of mother with a child in her lap has been printed on the envelope. The code number begins with 6CEHF. The code numbers with prefix 6CE has been repeated here and envelopes with Gode numbers 7CE are not yet known.

In May 2003 another envelope for Service use was issued for Ammunition Factory, Kirkee, Pune.This is a window envelope and the stamp design depicts the shape of Cartridge in yellowish and blue colour. "AFK" is printed in maroon colour in the shape of cartridge. Code number on the backside of the envelope starts from 11CEAF.

Unissued Variety:

A sample design was prepared by the Idea Workshop for ICICI Bank. In the proposed design, the denomination is shown as Rs. 8/- (for letter rate up to 40 gm. weight). "POSTAGE PREPAID" is inscribed at the top centre of the envelope. This customised envelope is not issued so far.

Introduction of customised envelopes has opened a new avenue for the philatelists. Start hunting for these envelopes and enjoy collecting them.

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WATERMARK DETECTION WITHOUT WETTING

H. W. Fisher

The well-known method of watermark detection by pouring a few drops of benzine or some similar volatile fluid on to the stamp in a black plastic dish, is one which the writer has for some years studiously avoided. Elementary books on stamp collecting do in fact warn the beginner, but not strongly enough, that most of these fluids are potent solvents both of some printing inks and of many cancellations. One need not take any sort of risk of damaging either mint or used stamps by using liquids to identify a watermark, since a perfectly safe, effective and dry method exists.

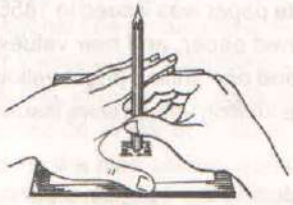
Nearly all watermarks are produced during the manufacturing process of the paper by impressing an embossed design into it while in a wet and soft condition. This naturally makes the paper slightly thinner where the lines of the design fall and thinner paper being more translucent, shows as a watermark. Wet paper is more translucent than dry and this accounts for the traditional method of detection. Water is not used because with mint stamps the gum would dissolve—but which is worse, to lose the gum or dissolve the printed design of the stamp ?

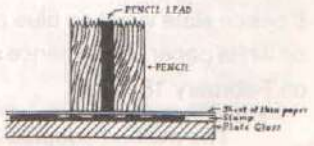
The dry method requires three easily obtained pieces of equipment—a piece of smooth flat glass, a soft drawing pencil and a small sheet of thin paper. A ladies' hand-bag mirror will do very well for the glass. The pencil can be any cheap one so long as it does not have one of those fancy rounded edges or a fitted eraser. Its ends should be of the straightforward cut-off at right angles type. The paper should be as thin as possible without being flimsy. Tissue paper is no use, nor is glossy transparent paper such as is usually used to interleave albums. The paper should be without any grain or watermark.

Laid paper is unsuitable but wove with a very fine grain might do. The best kind is a good white draughtsman's tracing paper (not tracing cloth).

Place the stamp face downwards on the glass plate and cover it with the thin paper Hold the stamp and the paper firmly in position on the plate with the left hand as shown in the drawing. Then place the flat end of the pencil firmly but gently on the paper in the vicinity of the stamp. The pencil should be held between the thumb and the first two fingers and must bt kept absolutely vertical. Rub the flat end of the pencil over the surface of the paper at the back of the stamp in a gentle rotary motion covering the whole area of the stamp. In a few seconds there will appear a clear image of the watermark standing out in white against a dark pencilled background. In the case of stamps which have been mounted it is essential first to remove all traces of hinges or other matter adhering to the back of the stamp.

The second illustration shows schematically how this procedure works. The section of the stamp is shown in black and its thickness has been greatly exaggerated. The white indentations represent the thin parts being the watermark. It will be seen that the pencil lead at the base of the pencil obtains





pressure sufficient to mark the thin sheet of paper only at those places where the stamp is of full thickness and thus leaves the 'valleys' of the : watermark unmarked to build up a white image.

(Reproduced from the November 1967 issue of the GB Journal by courtesy of The Great Britain Philatelic Society)

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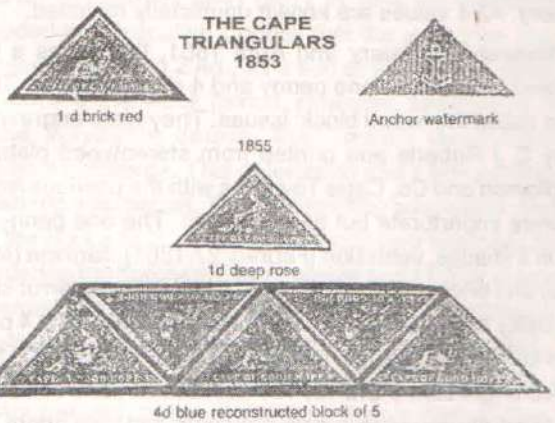
THE CAPE TRIANGULARS

Col J. Dutta, MD and Dr. (Mrs) A.Dutta, MD

INTRODUCTION

South Africa, as a nation rather than a geographical term, came into being with the creation of the Union of South Africa on May 31, 1910. The development, both political and philatelic, of the area is complex, with stamps being issued by various colonies and republics that formed this federation.



THE TRIANGULARS

The postal authority of the Cape of Good Hope was one of the first in South Africa to issue a postage stamp on September 1, 1853. The stamp was of triangular design, the first ever in the world. The design depicted 'Hope' seated. It was designed by Charles Bell, the Surveyor General, and engraved by W. Hymphrys.

These were printed by the recess process by Perkins Bacon Ltd, London, on deeply blued paper and were imperforate. Each stamp had an anchor watermark and was issued in two values, one penny brick red and 4 pence deep blue. Both values are known with watermark sideways. Plate proof of the 4 pence stamp in a shade similar to the issued stamp on ungummed watermaked paper is known to exist. The blueing on the reverse of these proofs is uneven giving a blotchy appearance.

Between 1855 and 1858, these Cape Triangulars were reissued. The 4 pence stamp on white paper was issued in 1855, the one penny in 1857 on cream toned paper, and new values, 6 pence slate violet on blue paper, and one shiling bright yellow on white paper. The 6 pence and one shilling values were issued on February 18, 1858.

The method adopted for producing the 4 pence. 6 pence and one shiling stamps involved the use of two dies so that there are two types of each of these values, differing slightly in detail but produced in equal numbers. All values are known with watermark sideways. The one penny in dull rose on ungummed watermarked paper with watermark sideways is a plate proof.

The 4 pence is known bisected in 1858 and used with two other 4 pence to pay the inland registered fees. The 6 pence is known bisected and used with one pence for the 4 pence rate.

The paper for the one pence is similar to that of the 1853 issues, but without tne blueing. It is much thicker than the white paper used for the later printings of the one pency. The evolution of the paper on the Cape Triangulars is similar to that on the line engraved issues of Great Britain. The 4 pence value printed in black on white watermrked paper is known. Eleven authenticated copies have been recorded. It is thought that these stamps represent proof sheets pressed into service during the shortage of stamps in 1861. There is however, no official confirmation of this theory. All 4 values are known unofficially rouletied.

Between February and April 1861, there was a local provisional issue of the one penny and 4 pence stamps. These are also called the 'wood block' issues. They were engraved on steel by C J Roberts and printed from stereotyped plates by Saul Solomon and Co, Cape Town. As with the previous issues, these were imperforate but on laid paper. The one penny was issued in 3 shades, vermillion (Febrary 27,1861), carmine (March 7, 1862) and brick red (April 10, 1861). However, an error shade of pale'milky blue is known, as is a pale bright blue. The 4 pence value is known in 2 shades, pale milky blue (February 23, 1861) and deep bright blue (April 12, 1861). However, one does come across the 4 pence value in pale grey blue and pale bright blue. Error shades are also recorded in the 4 pence stamps, which are vermillion and carmine.

1861 issues were issued in tete-beche pairs, normally joined at the edges, bearing the inscription 'POSTAGE'. One used example is known which comes from the first printing where the right hand stamp is misplaced so that 'FOUR PENCE' adjoins 'POSTAGE'. Both values were reprinted in March 1863 on wove paper.

Early in 1863 Perkins Bacon Ltd. handed over the 4 plates used for printing the Cape Trianguiars to De La Rue and Co. Ltd, London, who made the subsequent printings between 1863 and 1864.

The De La Rue printings were also imperforate with the anchor watermark. The one penny was also, however, printed with Crown CC sideways watermark. The one penny, 4 pence, 6 pence and one shilling are known with anchor watermark sideways. The colour of the 4 values were: One penny deep carmine red, deep brown red and brownish red. The 4 pence is known in deep blue,blue slate blue and steei blue. The 6 pence is known only in one shade, bright mauve, while the one shilling is known in two shades bright emerald green and pale emerald green.

The De La Rue printings are easily distinguished from the Perkins Bacon printings by their colours, which are quite distinct. The De La Rue printings are also less clearly printed, with the figure of 'Hope' and the inscriptions standing out less boldly while the fine lines of the background appear blurred and broken. The background as a whole often shows irregularity in the apparent depth of colour due to worn out plates.

CONCLUSION

All triangulars were demonetized on October 1, 1900. They constitute one of the gems of philately and command very high prices.

This article on the romantic Cape Trianguiars is based on the Stanley Gibbons 1999 catalogue and a study of other auction catalogues..Over the years we have been fortunate to see some of these trianguiars at philatelic exhibitions and in the personal collections of philatelic friends.

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ERRORS IN DESIGN

By Barbara McTaggart

For over 100 years maps have been employed in considerable numbers as designs on postage stamps. The basic requirement of a map stamp is accuracy, but the designers, engravers and the approving authorities, have, in many instances, fallen into errors, some of which are outlined in this article. These

The boundary marking Northern Ireland has been omitted from this Irish stamp, while Britain's 3d. NPY stamp omits the Shetlands and Isles of Scilly

design errors arise on stamps when the artist prepares his artwork and should not be confused with flaws and varieties which occur during printing, due to faulty workmanship.

Errors on the part of an early mapmaker can be seen to be rectified on map stamps produced by Barbuda, one of the Leeward Islands and a Dependency of Antigua.

Antigua issued a set of stamps on 14 December 1967, two of which showed Blaeu's map of Barbuda in 1665 (209/11). These recess printed stamps were designed and engraved by Bradbury Wilkinson and were issued to commemorate the 300th Anniversary of the Barbuda Settlement. On the maps, the line of latitude, 17°35'N, does not touch land. On the maps on Barbuda's 1968 definitive series the shape of the island is truer and the line of latitude, correctly, cuts through a considerable part of the island (12/20).

Railway line on water

Since 1922 Ireland has released several stamps with a map of Ireland which show no political boundary line between Eire and Northern Ireland, the latter being part of the United Kingdom (SG 74/6, 112/4). This map stamp, designed by J Ingram, was printed by the Government Print Works, Dublin. In December 1972, for the first time ever in Irish philately, a miniature sheet was issued. The 6p stamp shows a reproduction of the 2d. 'map' definitive issued in 1922, the error still intact.

Also part of the United Kingdom are the Shetland and Stilly Isles, which are omitted from the map on the 3d. National Productivity Year stamp issued on the 14 November 1962 (632). It was photogravure printed by Harrison & Sons on chalky paper and was designed by David Gentleman.

Norway said 'No'

On the 3 January 1973 Great Britain issued a set of three stamps to commemorate its entry into the European Community (919/21). Member countries of the EEC were coloured on the map drawn on the first day cover. Unfortunately, the covers were designed and printed long before Norway decided to say 'No' and so Norway should not be coloured on the map. The map, based on an official map issued by the Council of Europe Liaison in London, was drawn by Mrs M Blackmore of G H Whitely Design Associates. Norway said 'No' again in 1994.

Railway Line on Water

Newfoundland, which now uses Canadian stamps, issued a stamp in 1908 (94). The map depicted on it shows a malformed Avalon peninsula that makes it appear that the railway line is crossing a large stretch of water instead of an isthmus. This stamp was recess printed by the American Bank Note Company. To mark King George VI's Coronation in 1937 another map stamp was produced on the 12 May (258). On it the aforementioned error was rectified, but on this stamp the coastline is less accurate than its predecessor. It, too, was recess printed, but by Perkins Bacon. The map of Newfoundland reproduced on the stamp issued on the 3 August 1933 for the 350th anniversary of Annexation shows a partial reproduction of Captain John Mason's delineation of Newfoundland (247). The designer of the stamp did not copy the original too faithfully, omitting part of the inscription. However, it was Mason himself, disregarding orientation, who drew it upside down.

Another mistake involving a map of Newfoundland can be found on the 'Publicity' stamp issued on the 3 January 1928 and again on that of 26 September 1929 (164 and 179). This stamp was recess printed by De La Rue in 1928 and then re-engraved by Perkins Bacon in 1929. The names of Capes Bauld and Norman were transposed in the labelling on the 1928 stamp. This mistake was corrected on the 1929 reissue. A second error was not corrected. The strait between Labrador and Newfoundland is named Straits instead of Strait. This was the first stamp of modern origin to include a scale of miles.

On both the 1935 and 1938 stamps, recess printed and designed by Waterlow and Sons and issued by the Cayman Islands, the relative positions of little Cayman and Cayman Brae are incorrect (96, 102, 117 and 121). They should be on a diagonal line running ENE to WSW. On the 1966 stamp, issued for International Telephone Links the position of the two smaller islands, in relation to each other, is correct, but Grand Cayman should be WSW of them not South (198/9). On the 1969 6d. stamp the map shows, quite wrongly, Cayman Brae practically due North of Little Cayman (228).

Inevitable delays

The extent of the Fiji islands was not apparent on the map stamps issued on 5 April 1938 as only one line of longitude, 178°E was identified. The other is the 180° meridian. This omission was rectified on later stamps, the provisional 2nd. issued on 10 February 1941 (267). In 1940 the Governor of Fiji persuaded the Executive Council that the letter rate should be increased from 2d. to 2'Ad., as a sort of war tax. He wanted this done within a five week period. However, because of the war and the inevitable delays, the Council recommended a provisional surcharge. This objected to and a first printing of the 2'Ad. stamp was begun. This first printing was totally destroyed when the De La Rue Works in London were bombed. So work on preparing the surcharge went ahead and 11,300 sheets were surcharged. There were no major errors in the surcharging. The 2'Ad. stamp was issued one year later on 6 February 1942. These stamps were designed by A V Guy. On 24 October 1964, on the 25th Anniversary of the first Fiji to Tonga Airmail Service, a different map stamp was produced (340). It was designed by V

Whitely and photogravure printed by Harrison and Sons. Behind the plane Aotearoa on the map two parallels of latitude and longitude are identified. It is not clear if the grid lines on the map stamps produced in 1979 for the International Year of the Child are lines of latitude but the outline of the islands is truer (576/9).

On 1 October 1969 Guernsey produced two stamps showing a map of the islands in the Bailiwick. These, too, were photogravure printed by Harrisons and the designer was Richard Grainger Barrett (14 and 23). An error occurred on the original roughs when the designer misread the figures on the chart from which he was working. The first printing, therefore, had Guernsey's latitude as 40°30', putting it in Spain. These stamps were not withdrawn, but a second printing was made with the correct latitude, 49°30', inserted. On 4 February 1970 the corrected version in sheet form appeared. The Id. value first appeared in booklets on 12 December 1969 (14b and 23b). In 1989 two coil stamps with no value expressed were issued (454/5). The design on both was an outline map of Guernsey, which, although without lines of latitude and longitude, has a more accurate coastline.

Bermuda apostrophe

The western-most parish of Bermuda was named after Sir Edwin Sandys. On the map stamp issued on 9 November 1953 (140, 145) Sandys was wrongly spelt with an apostrophe. The designer had followed the official map of 1948 on which the same error had been made, The corrected version appeared on the stamps issued on the 2 January 1957. They were recess printed by Bradbury, Wilkinson and Co and designed by C Deakins.

On the North Borneo stamp issued on 1 January 1939 North Borneo is shaded and Brunei and Sarawak are not designated (308). A similar map produced on the 10c. definitive of 1 February 1961 rectified this omission and the various islands of this group were more accurately drawn (395). This stamp was overprinted 'Sabah' in 1964 when North Borneo was renamed (412). The 8c. stamps of 1950 (361) and 1954 (377) feature a map that wrongly gives Brunei all the fifth division of Sarawak.

On 16 September 1963, for the Inauguration of the Federation of Malaysia, a set of stamps was produced depicting the Federation map (1/3). It shows Brunei, but flie 'fingers' of land are larger than those on the 1961 North Borneo map. Indonesia produced a stamp for a Total Solar Eclipse in 1983, showing the eclipse and a more accurate map than that of Malaysia (1702).

Missing boundary

In 1950 the $1.20 stamp issued by Barbados purported to show a map of the island with the parish boundaries indicated by red dotted lines (281). There are 11 parishes on the island, but on this map the line between St Michael and St George is missing. It was suggested that the stamp be withdrawn and the omission corrected. This was not done and, in fact, the stamp was issued again on 3 April 1956, the only difference being in the portrait of the monarch (300). To celebrate the 75th Anniversary of Rotary International in 1980 four stamps were issued, the 12c. value depicting a map on which all 11 parishes are shown, as they are on the 60c. value of the 1981 set produced for the Hurricane Season (651/4 and 687).

To commemorate the South African National Antarctic Expedition, South Africa issued a stamp on 16 November 1959 showing a partial globe which is tilted to show South Africa, and Antarctica as part of the design (178). The dotted line from Capetown to the area concerned indicates the approximate route to the locality of the base. The area, coloured to indicate South Africa, incorrectly includes part of Namibia, Botswana, Zimbabwe and the whole of Lesotho and Swaziland. Some stamps show a white line separating South Africa from the rest of the continent, but this is a printing rather than a design error. The period involved from the date that the idea of a commemorative was first mooted and its final execution was little more than a fortnight, which is probably the reason for the crudely drawn map.

Tongan troubles

On 2 July 1951 Tonga celebrated the 50th Anniversary of the Treaty of Friendship with Great Britain by issuing a stamp depicting a map of the islands (95). It was recess printed by Waterlows. A different map was drawn on the Is. stamp issued on 1 July 1953 (110). This was also recess printed, but by Bradbury, Wilkinson. The designer was Berry. At the extreme north of the 1951 map an islet is named 'Taku' instead of 'Toku'. The spelling is correct on the 1953 stamp but its position and that of Fonualei is about 25 miles too close to Vava'u. Other discrepancies are the change in the number of islands and their latitudinal position. Another of J Berry's designs was issued by the Cook Islands in 1949 (151). It depicts a map of the Hervey Islands. On it one minute of latitude is shown as equivalent to nearly two miles instead of approximately one mile. In 1993 Tonga celebrated the 300th Anniversary of Abel Tasman's Discovery of Eua by issuing a set of stamps, including one depicting an old map of the islands (1241). One might be forgiven for thinking that the designer was guilty of a major design error, with Eua being positioned north of Tongatapu. The map is, in fact, perfectly accurate—if viewed horizontally. It is the format of the stamp which causes confusion.

In 1889 New South Wales produced a 5s. stamp showing a map of Australia, its coat-of-arms and the colony's badge (263). This was the Colony's first attempt to make its own plates for 35 years. On the map Northern Territory is not indicated. It appears as an integral part of South Australia to which it was annexed, for administration purposes only, in 1863. The island of Tasmania is also not shown.

A rather serious omission occurs in the series issued in 1955 by the countries Egypt, Lebanon and Syria participating in the Arab Postal Union. Each of them used artwork featuring a portion of the globe that included the Arab world, but an important geographical feature, the Persian Gulf, which is some 650 miles in length and 50—250 miles wide, was omitted in its entirety. They are catalogued thus: Syria 551/3; Lebanon, as Syria but smaller— 27x37mm 505/7; Egypt 507/9.

Newfoundland again!

In 1938 the State Printing Works, Vienna, printed a miniature sheet for Iceland. It was designed by A Sveinbjornsson. The three stamps contained on the sheet show Leif Eiricsson's statue, Reykjavik, part of the globe and a figure from the statue. One of the lands referred to in Eiricsson's records of his voyage is Vinland—shown as Newfoundland in the centre map stamp of the souvenir sheet. Until recently scholars agreed that Vinland was Nova Scotia, or the vicinity of Cape Cod and Long Island, therefore the designation on the map would be wrong. However, new evidence indicates that Newfoundland was Vinland after all. This, therefore, is an example of an error that is an error no longer.

The 1937 USA commemorative for the 150th anniversary of the Adoption of the Ordinance of 1787 and the creation of the NW Territory features a contemporary map of the United States and the territory. On it the country, which now comprises Kentucky and Tennessee, is described as 'Territory Southwest of the Ohio'. Contemporary documents, however, refer to that area as south, not south-west of the Ohio (791). On 21 November 1964 the United States issued a stamp showing the Verrazano-Narrows Bridge, New York, with a map background (1240). There is no East River shown on the map, therefore, there is no division between Manhattan and Brooklyn except a line which does not indicate Manhattan's separation from Long Island. Giovanni da Verrazano's name should be spelt with two 'z's. He discovered New York in 1542. His bridge is the longest in the world, spanning the mouth of New York harbour, from Brooklyn to Staten Island with a span of 4260 feet. To commemorate the Golden Anniversary of New York City council on 31 July 19[illegible] a stamp was released, the design of which includes a ring, planes and a map of New York (A957). It was taken from a poster by E A Lorimer. Its map accurately shows the East River that divides Manhattan and Brooklyn.

The Lindbergh airmail stamp of 18 June 1927, showing a map of the Atlantic Ocean, contains a number of inaccuracies in the coastlines that fringe that ocean (A646). Nova Scotia is badly distorted, Newfoundland is wrongly shaped and shown as three separate islands and Prince Edward and Anticosti Islands are omitted. In the east, the estuary of the Seine reaches Paris. On the 50th Anniversary of the first Non-stop Transatlantic Flight on the 13 June 1969, Canada issued a similarly designed stamp in which the above errors were not perpetrated. It showed Vickers Vimy aircraft over the Atlantic.

Some design errors are produced intentionally, sometimes as an extension of artistic licence, and sometimes for propaganda purposes. For instance where territorial claims are expressed as an accomplished fact, as in the Argentinian claim to the Falkland Islands. But that is another story.

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