



# SIPA Bulletin

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## EDITORIAL :

### EXHIBITION HALL

13.4.2003. It was a red letter day, rather a day to be etched in golden letters, a day in which the philatelic fraternity of Chennai got a blessing in the form of a permanent exhibition hall for philatelic collections, on the southern side of the Philatelic Bureau in the CPMG complex at Anna Salai (Ex-Mount Road) Indeed, the full credit and honours should be given to the then, Chief Post Master General, Dr. V. Srinivasa Ragavan, IPS without whose ingenuity and inspiration such a venture would not have seen the light of the day.

Starting with twelve frames of standard size, in twenty four months it has grown into a full pledged exhibition hall having thirty five frames with the support and co-operation of the staff of India-post, Chennai and particularly of the Philatelic Bureau and Circle Philatelic Officer Mr. Sathyanarayanan. SIPA bestows its heartfelt gratitude to all of them.

Definitely it is a tremendous task to keep such an exhibition hall running regularly with new sets of exhibits every month whether they are traditional or thematic, whether they are award winners of yesteryears or young aspirant's first time exhibit. In this respect the untiring efforts of our president Shri. G. Bala - Krishna Das and the supporting members of SIPA are really laudable. SIPA wishes that the tribe shall multiply.

The effects and results of the exhibition hall and its regular usage are manifold. Let us enumerate some of them.

1. First of all, casual collectors, collectors of their own, secret collectors, collectors without guidance etc. are drawn to a place of Philatelic knowledge and guidance. Our thanks are to the news media and particularly, The Hindu, Chennai.

2. People who have heard about stamp collecting and wanted to collect but not done due to lack of inspiration are invited to get ideas, impetus and instructions.

3. New exhibitors are created from among collectors and accumulators of stamps. The monumental exhibit on scouts by the 'debutant' exhibitor in more than 20 frames put up in June, 2005 in a standing example. In other words, the exhibition hall is a launching pad for new exhibitors, from which experience they can develop in future a real philatelic exhibit with the help of the suggestions and critical comments of senior collectors and philatelists and also other viewers.

4. The exhibition hall becomes a meeting place for collectors and philatelists where they can come across different exhibits for discussion between themselves and to get a feel of various themes and their method of development.

5. Incidentally and indirectly due to the visits of many collectors and few dealers, collectors are able to get some material and improve their collections at their own convenience of their budget and requirement.

6. Interested schools can organise a picnic-sort-of-visit with enthusiastic students coming with packed lunch which can be taken under the shade of the big tree and have a visual treat of about 560 sheets filled with the little pieces of art and design" and other philatelic material, alongwith explanations and annotations by senior philatelists available at the hall.

7. On the whole the exhibition hall becomes a place of / for like minded people where ideas and actions on philately blossoms and spread their fragrance.

If such exhibition halls are promoted in all major cities and metropolities in our country, it is no doubt that a "Philatelic revolution" will take place in India. SIPA wishes and pray for such a day.



## STAMP NEWS

### MADHAVRAO SCINDIA

10.3.2005 500 0.6 Mill

A dynamic and foresighted leader who was a bright political figure, Shri Madhavrao Scindia blazed a trail on the Indian political canvas in his political career spanning 30 years,

The only son of Jiwajirao and Vijayaraje Scindia, Madhavrao Scindia was born on March 10, 1945. He was educated at Scindia School in Gwalior before going on to complete his higher studies at Winchester College, UK and New College, Oxford (UK).



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 "One frame exhibits" in April 2005.

Madhavrao Scindia entered public life at the relatively young age of 25. He easily won his first election from the Guna Parliamentary Constituency. It is remarkable that he is one of the few parliamentarians to have won each of the nine parliamentary elections he contested.

Scindia served in the Union Council of Ministers holding various important portfolios, such as Railways, Civil Aviation and Tourism and Human Resource Development and displayed his administrative acumen. An active parliamentarian, Shri Scindia served as Chairman, Committee on Science and Technology during 1990-91 and as member of various other parliamentary and consultative committees. As Minister of Railways, he introduced super fast short distance passenger trains, i.e. the Shatabdi Expresses and also undertook a massive drive to computerise reservations and bookings, which were hitherto being done manually. His tenure is aptly referred to as the 'golden era' of the Railways.

As Minister of Civil Aviation and Tourism, he opened up Indian skies for the private airlines and provided new destinations for the Indian tourists.

His tenure as Minister of Human Resource Development was brief but he outlined bold proposals to increase budget allocations for primary education and to set up the National Cultural Fund.

His special area of interest apart from education, was wildlife preservation and development of sports, cricket and golf in particular. An avid cricket fan, Madhavrao Scindia presided over the destinies of Indian Cricket as President of the Board of Control for Cricket in India during 1990-93.

His untimely death at the age of 56 years in a plane crash near Kanpur was indeed a great loss to the nation.

## FLORA & FAUNA OF NORTH EAST INDIA

24.3.2005                      4 × 500                      3 Mill. each

The North-East India, a paradise of natural beauty is a home to rich bio-diversity. The Brahmaputra valley and the adjoining plains are as sharply contrasted from the Garo, Khasi, Jaintia, Lushai Hills as are the various tribes and non-tribal population.

### Clouded leopard [*Neofelis nebulosa* (Griffith)]

The clouded leopard is found in the forests of Sikkim, Assam and adjoining Bhutan and Nepal. It is listed as endangered animal under schedule 1, Wildlife Protection Act 1972. The Clouded pattern of the flanks is formed by dark blotches more or less lined with black and divided by paler interspaces. Its feet resemble those of the panther, tiger and the lion. The markings of the clouded leopard give it beauty and majesty.

### Mishmi Takin (*Budorcas taxicolor* Hodgson)

In India, takin is found only in the Mishmi hills and Arunachal Pradesh. It is listed as endangered animal under

schedule 1 Wildlife Protection Act 1972.

They live in the steepest and most thickly wooded declivities of their native mountains. They are usually found in the dense bamboo and rhododendron jungle at altitude of 2100-3000 m.

### *Dillenia indica* Linn. (Dilleniaceae)

A handsome evergreen tree upto 30-80 ft., is commonly seen along banks of forest streams, also found in the moist and "evergreen forests of sub-Himalayan tract, Assam and Bengal".

The timber is used in the form of planks & rafters and for making tool handles and bottoms of boats. The ripe fruit is used as flavouring in curries, jams and jellies. The bark and leaves are astringent. Dried leaves are used as a substitute for sand paper.

### The Pitcher plant (*Nepenthes khasiana*)

The Pitcher Plant (*Nepenthes khasiana*) Hk is endemic to Meghalaya. It is found in the Jarain area of the Jaintia Hills and the Baghmara area of the Garo Hills as well as in the Khasi Hills.

The most interesting part of the Pitcher plant is its leaf. The leaf is modified into different parts - the lamina, the pitcher, the lid and the tendril. The Pitcher is the special modification designed to catch insects.

The only *Nepenthes* species native to India, *N. khasiana* is a remarkably plastic plant, able to adjust to a wide variety of climatic conditions. It is considered the most cold-tolerant *Nepenthes* and is reported to be able to withstand temperatures as low as -2 C.

The plant is called Tiew-Rakot, which means demon-flower by the Khasis while it is called Kset Phae by the Jaintias, Kset meaning net with a lid and Phae meaning fly. In the Garo Hills, it is called Memang-Koksi, which translates as the basket of the devil.

The Pitcher plant is an endangered species and its export is prohibited.

## INTERNATIONAL YEAR OF PHYSICS

31.3.2005                      500

The year 1905 marked a turning point in Physics with publication of five papers on three major subjects by Al Einstein, Special Theory of Relativity, Photoelectric Effect and Brownian

Motion. These papers, published a century ago, changed our fundamental understanding of nature so much that 1905 is often referred to as the 'Miracle Year'. In celebration of the centenary of



these papers the year 2005 has declared as the World or International Year of Physics.

**Special Theory of Relativity:**  
Newton's laws

state that the velocity of light must change when someone moves while according to the theory of the origin of light (called electromagnetic theory) it should remain constant. Einstein assumed that the velocity of light was fundamental and could not be changed. He worked out how Newton's laws must be changed to fit this basic fact. He showed that when objects move at a speed close to the speed of light ( $c$ ), they behave very differently. Einstein showed that if you move at velocities close to velocity of light, time appears to move slowly and distances appear to shrink. This leads to the famous equation describing relation between energy and mass,  $E = mc^2$ , where  $E$  is energy  $m$  is the mass and  $c$  is the speed of light in free space (vacuum) Eleven years later, Einstein generalised this work into an even more profound theory called General Theory of Relativity. It also explains why Newton's theory cannot fully explain the path of planets around the Sun or why the light coming from stars is bent from its path when it comes close to the Sun.

**Photoelectric Effect:** In this Nobel Prize winning work Einstein studied how light can eject electrons from material. He showed that this can be understood only if we assume that light comes in small packets called photons. He showed that for photons to eject electrons from a material, they must have energy proportional to their frequency. Hence, even a large number of low energy photons will not eject electrons but a single high energy photon can eject an electron. This theory correctly explained the photoelectric effect.

**Brownian Motion:** This was the third subject that Einstein tackled in 1905. He investigated the observations of restless movement of pollen particles in water which had been first noted by a botanist Robert Brown. Einstein showed that this movement can be understood only as a continuous collision between water molecules and the pollens. It conclusively established that material is made of molecules and atoms. The theory of Brownian Motion is now routinely used to understand natural processes including the manner in which liquid and solid particles mix with each other.

These three great pieces of work radically changed our views about the working of Nature. Together they established the existence of atoms, of photons as packets of energy and proved that Newton's mechanics is only an approximation on the working of Nature. If we increase the energy of particles to

the extent that they begin to move at velocities closer to the velocity of light, the Newton's laws change so much that matter and energy become synonymous. The total affect of these pieces of work subsequently led to the quantum theory that explained how matter is stable. Ited S.N. Bose and Einstein to develop the Bose Einstein Statistics that fundamentally altered our view on how atoms interact with each other.

In one single year i.e. 1905, Einstein changed our understanding of the fundamental laws of nature completely and even a hundred years later, we are still striving to grasp all the deep meanings of his work.

**DANDI MARCH**

5.4.2005                      4 × 500                      0.8 mill each

"As the march continued, as days broke into dawn and dawn ripened into dusk, we saw before our very eyes the history of the world changing. We saw the whole of India rising up with rekindled enthusiasm and faith."

- Sarojini Naidu

Dandi March was one of the most inspiring chapters in the history of the Indian freedom struggle. Although every political act of Mahatma Gandhi was rich in symbolism, Dandi



March was an outstanding example as it fired the people to believe collectively as a nation and to come together on a common platform.

On March 12, 1930, Gandhiji started the historic march from Sabarmati Ashram with 78 volunteers to Dandi on the Gujarat Coast. The 25-day long march through dusty and muddy tracks, sometimes through knee-deep waters, culminated on April 6, 1930. Gandhiji picked up a small lump of natural salt, thereby giving the signal to hundreds of thousands of people to similarly defy the law, since the British exercised a monopoly on the production and sale of salt. This was the beginning of the civil disobedience movement.

Gandhiji's politics was always dictated by a moral logic that went beyond the immediate political priority. To tax salt, a necessity of even the poorest of the poor, was to deprive the poor of his basic necessity.

The effects of the Salt Satyagraha were felt across the country. Thousands of followers were hauled into jail but it was only on May 4, 1930 that the Viceroy's police arrested Gandhiji under a regulation of 1827.

This period is to be considered the apex of Gandhiji's political appeal, as the march mobilized many new followers from all sections of the Indian society and with this, the nation had unshackled itself and achieved a symbolic emancipation.

This set of four stamps along with a miniature sheet tries to capture the historic moment and its varied facets. The first stamp (clockwise) catches a glimpse of the marchers, led by Mahatma Gandhi on the move. The second stamp shows Mahatma Gandhi while the headlines in "Bombay Chronicle" of March 13, 1930 announce the beginning of the "Great March for Liberty". The third stamp shows lines written by Mahatma Gandhi on April 5th, 1930, "I want world sympathy in this battle of Right against the might".

And finally, the last stamp, while showing the course traversed during the march, has Gandhiji picking up a lump of salt, a simple act, which forever become the powerful symbol of the Salt Satyagraha.

The miniature sheet extends the idea encapsulated in the stamps with artistic depictions of the route taken during the commemoration of 75 years of Dandi March, while showing the historical footage of the followers of Mahatma Gandhi.

### 300 YEARS OF 15 PUNJAB (PATIALA)

13.4.2005 500 0.8 mill

One of the oldest and the most decorated battalions of the Indian Army, 15 Punjab (Patiala) was raised on 13th April, 1705, by Baba Alia Singh, founder of the Patiala State. During World War I, it took part in operation in Middle East (Suez, Gallipoli and Palestine). In 1932 it was redesignated as 1st Patiala Rajindra Sikh Infantry.

During the Second World War, the battalion fought in Waziristan and then went to Burma where it fought the enemy advancing towards India. It sailed to Port Dickson for action in Malaya and Batavia (now Java). In 1948 the battalion fought in Chhamb, Nowshera and Jhanghar. The finest moment was at 'Zojila' pass where, ill-equipped and unacclimatized PATIALAS achieved resounding success, earning eight Mahavir Chakras (CMVCs), eighteen Vir Chakras (VrCs) and seventy two awards, including the Battle Honour "Zojila". In 1951 the unit was integrated into the Indian Army and was redesignated as 15 PUNJAB (PATIALA).

During 1971 war the battalion fought heroically at Hussainiwala. In 1988 the battalion evicted the intruders



from Dalunang Sector and was awarded one Yudh Seva Medal, one Mentioned-in-despatch and eight Chief of Army Staff (COAS) Commendation cards. The battalion showed exemplary performance during the Counter Insurgency Operations in Baramulla Sector during 1992 to 1995, earning fifty awards including one Kirti Chakra and two Shaurya Chakra. For its excellent performance at Sunderbani (J&K) during 'OP VIJAY in 1999, the Battalion was Awarded one Vishisht Seva Medal along with other awards.

### BANDUNG CONFERENCE 1955

18.4.2005 500 0.8 Mill

Bandung Conference, the first meeting of the newly independent states of Africa and Asia was a clarion call for the independence of the subjugated people. Marking the germination of the ideas of South-South Cooperation, this Conference was a collective effort by the Afro-Asian nations to assert their presence on the world stage.

The Conference was a path-breaking meeting, convened upon the invitation of the Prime Ministers of Burma (now Myanmar), Ceylon (now Sri Lanka), India, Indonesia and Pakistan, and was attended by 24 other countries of Africa and Asia. Held in Bandung, Central Java, Indonesia in April 18-24, 1955, this Conference brought together some of the towering personalities of that time who envisaged a global order based on equality among nations, territorial integrity, sovereignty and



development for all. Emerging from the yoke of colonialism and the ravages of the Second World War into a world divided

between conflicting ideologies, the leaders gathered at Bandung steadfastly refused to join any pre-existing and dominant alignments.

The neo independent countries participating in this meeting firmly believed that another world order was not only conceivable but also possible.

Bandung initiated the process of the nations of the South coming together, to renew their ancient links - economic, cultural, political and social - that had been severed under colonialism, and to cooperate through exchange of experts & know-how, through establishment of national and regional technical institutions, promotion of joint-ventures, collective actions to safe-guard the interests etc. The Conference was the harbinger of many economic ideas such as diversification of export

baskets, value addition to exports, intra-regional economic and commercial links and exchange of commercial information.



## THEMATIC PHILATELY

(This paper presented 15 Years ago, in INDIA 89 gives in vivid detail and depth all the required ideas and points for a thematic exhibitor to go higher and higher acquiring points towards his goal of a large gold in an international exhibition - editor)

### 1. THE ESSENCE OF THEMATIC PHILATELY

Requires the Balanced Best Possible of Both

-THEMATIC

-PHILATELIC

A SPECTS OF THE MATERIAL

### 2. PHILATELIC MATERIAL

#### APPROPRIATE MATERIAL

"Purpose of Transmitting Mail or other Postal Communications"

—issued

-Intended for issue

- Produced in preparation for issue

- Used

- Treated as valid for postage by:

—Governmental Post

— Private Postal Agencies

— Other duly empowered authorities

#### TIME FRAME

—From the pre-Philatelic Era

—Through the Classic period

—Until the modern issues and documents

#### GEOGRAPHICAL AREAS

The selection of items cannot be restricted to a specific geographical area

#### TYPE OF EMISSION

— Postal Items

— Stamps

— Stamp Booklets

— Postal Stationery

— Franking Meters, Etc.

— And their modifications

— Overprints

— Surcharges

— Perfins, etc.

— Cancellations

— Ordinary

— Slogan

— Commemorative

— Other special postmarks

#### TYPE OF EMISSION

—Other items used in the postal operations

—Registration labels

—Postal route labels/markings

—Supplementary markings/labels e.g.: Censorship, Disinfection, Crash Mail, etc.

—Mail delivery and shipping dockets

—Reply coupons

—Forwarding Agents-markings etc.

—Varieties

—Items intended for issues or produced in the preparation for issue e.g.: sketches, proofs, etc.

#### POSTAL FUNCTION:

—Normal transmission of mail

—Specific Types e.g. postage free service, military-post, maritime/railway mail, airmail, prisoner-of-war/concentration camp mail, small parcel/parcel post —Stamps, marks and/or cards for free postage

—"OTHER POSTAL COMMUNICATIONS"

—Pneumatic post —Telegrams —Different forms of post automation etc.

#### NOT APPROPRIATE ITEMS

— Issues not related to a postal service (fantasy, exiles, etc)

—Private additional cancellations, applied by a sender/supplier before mailing the documents

—Picture postcards

—Private decorations on envelopes and cards

—Vignettes (Advertising Labels)

### 3. THE ELEMENTS OF A THEMATIC EXHIBIT

—Treatment

—Plan

—Size

—Development of the theme

—Philatelic knowledge

—Condition and rarity

—Presentation

### 4. THE PLAN

—Role of the Plan

#### SHOW THE CLEAR CONCEPT OF THE THEME

—The plan is the free choice of the collector —It is possible to demonstrate original development of a theme by the construction of a creative plan

#### THE TITLE AND THE PLAN REPRESENT A MEANINGFUL ENTRY

A. Defines the Structure of the collection and of the exhibit by means of rational classification

B. Details both direct & cross references, developments, -special characteristics of the chosen theme

C Includes all the different aspects of the theme, and cover the largest scope compatible with it

D. Its sequence may follow —A time-related

—Or a subject-related classification —Or other criteria

## 5. CHARACTERISTICS OF THE PLAN

—LOGICAL

The sequence of the main chapters and their sub-divisions must have a clear rationale without superfluous or misplaced chapters

-CORRECT

Accurate, scientifically reliable, sound

-BALANCED

Same importance to the different sections

## 6. DEVELOPMENT OF THE THEME

The plan and the development represent the two aspects of an interlaced process

The thematic qualification and appropriateness of material must be clearly demonstrated

THE DEVELOPMENT:

Is demonstrated by the correct thematic arrangement, which shows the relationship between the items and the theme

THE DEPTH OF DEVELOPMENT:

Representation of

—Connections,

—Cross References,

—Ramifications,

—Effects

## 7. THE THEMATIC INFORMATION

The development utilizes the thematic information directly represented by:

### A. THE APPEARANCE

—Main

—Secondary design and/or

### B. THE PURPOSE OF ISSUE OF THE ITEMS

The information must have postal connotations — Initiated —Introduced —Approved By the postal service

Can also be shown as a result of a deeper analysis of the item, e.g.: —Issues

—Due to changes in political relations—

significance —Text, art style of illustration, simifij

peculiarities —Material —Watermark design —

Perforation —Text or illustration of margins, gutters, tabs

—Generic cancellations can be to interest with cause of the specific meaning of a place name

—Alternatively, they must contain adequate thematic information

—Private vignettes, postmarks, decorative over-prints, additional printing/surcharges introduced privately after the sale of the item, sender and addressee data represent private information

## 8. MATERIAL SELECTION

SELECTION CRITERIA: Exhibitors should

## 1. LOOK FOR THE BEST ITEMS

If they need to show some inferior pieces because of lack of availability, they should try to replace them as quickly as possible

## 2 GIVE PREFERENCE TO

—Issues which have an information bearing a direct relation to the issuing country.

—Speculative issues

## 3 GREATER IMPORTANCE TO BE GIVEN

Normal issues, as opposed to additional im-perforate parallel issues

Genuinely cancelled stamps, as opposed to cancelled to order ones

Genuinely transported commercial mail with relevant cancellations as opposed to mere -souvenir documents and any similar items created to please collectors Genuinely transported items with correct, postage and relevant thematic cancellations; as opposed to —Favour cancellations —Blank cancellations

Correct postage frankings, as opposed to frankings substantially greater due to Philatelic reasons

Documents with individual, differing addresses, as opposed to items received as a result of a subscription.

## 9 PHILATELIC STUDIES MUST

-Show the most significant philatelic

peculiarities have an extension proportional to the level of the specialization of the exhibit

Not affect the development flow

—Presence of the sub-divisions, in accordance with the plan

—Possible utilization of fine/finer sub-divisions —Correct relationship between all the items

shown on the same page

—Selection of the most suitable items for each thematic details

—Appropriate thematic text

## 10 THE PLAN PAGE

THE PLAN PAGE:

—Is presented at the beginning of the exhibit —Is the best possible introduction to the exhibit

—Cannot be replaced by a literary description —The essential structure of the theme and its sub-divisions must be clearly seen —More detailed sub-divisions can be included only on the individual pages —A numerical classification should be limited to the major divisions of the plan

## 11. PRESENTATION OF MATERIAL

Sheets which do not detract from the material are preferred Presentation techniques should be consistent and neat throughout the pages

An individual page shall not be overcrowded or too empty

To avoid overcrowding

—Show only one item out of a long set with the same design —Exceptions —Reasons of symmetry —Balance in the text —Thematic/Philatelic significance —"Windows" in the case of very common items the "Windowing" of the stationery items should be very careful —Show larger documents only if they present a greater Philatelic interest —Overlap documents only when it cannot be avoided.

—The choice between mint or used stamps, postal stationery is left to the exhibitor —It is recommended that an Exhibit consists of

only new or mint stamps —The same item can be used to make several thematic points. To avoid repetition, the item is shown in different conditions

#### STAMPS ON DOCUMENTS

- 1 Only for justified Philatelic reasons should the same stamp be shown single and on cover or card
- 2 Stamps shown on documents should have a relevant thematic cancellation, unless the document has a clear Philatelic significance
- 3 Covers where too many different stamps are not related to the theme are to be avoided

#### THE THEMATIC TEXT

—Demonstrates the logical sequence in the development of the plan

—Must be correct and short

—Provides appropriate illustration of the thematic contribution of the items

—Correlate them clearly

#### HEADINGS ON THE PAGE

—Identify the arrangement according to the subdivisions of the plan —Summarize the content of the page sub-headings, where necessary, can be also used

#### PHILATELIC DESCRIPTION Only when needed

—To highlight a specific characteristic —To describe a Philatelic study

#### PHOTOCOPIES OR PHOTOGRAPHS

— Of the reverse side of a document may be used if, only in this way, important information is presented

#### MAPS AND DIAGRAMS

— In few exceptional cases where they help towards a better understanding of the development —Simple and Effective —Allow the text to be kept brief

### 12 CRITERIA FOR EVALUATING

#### EXHIBITS

TREATMENT	25
— Plan	20
— Size	5
Development	25
Philatelic knowledge	20
Condition & rarity	25

Presentation	5
TOTAL	100

### 13. SIZE

The size is evaluated by comparing

The actual size with

The potential one

That can be achieved through

—A very comprehensive & complete plan —A thorough & deep development

### 14. DEVELOPMENT OF THE THEME

THE ORIGINALITY OF THE THEMATIC RESEARCH

Is evaluated on the basis of

—Availability of thematic & Philatelic literature

Personal research & study in terms of comprehensiveness, size and depth of the theme

#### THE THEMATIC IMPORTANCE

Relates to the degree of difficulty of the document, on the basis of the scope of the theme and the related availability of material

### 15. PHILATELIC KNOWLEDGE

#### EVALUATION CRITERIA

The presence of all the different philatelic quality of material and their relative balanced utilization

Attention to

—Old documents (pre-philatelic & classic)

As well as to

—Modern material

And to

—The use of items from different geographic areas

#### GREATER RECOGNITION HAS TO GIVEN

To material which

—Has not yet been researched

—Refers to an uncommon area of collecting

—has a thematic qualification which needs to be discovered

#### THE PHILATELIC IMPORTANCE

Relates to the degree of difficulty of the material available in terms of its philatelic significance!

### 16. CONDITION

Is based on the usual overall criteria of evaluation in philately

For modern material good condition is an essential requirement

Cancellations must

—Be clear,

—Allow the stamp design, where relevant, to be clearly seen

### 17. RARITY

## EVALUATION CRITERIA

- Quantity of issue
  - Difficulty of acquisition
  - Presence of exceptional items
  - Varieties, proofs, essays, strips, blocks, etc; must be rarer than the original piece
  - Items which, despite being very rare .have no or insufficient relationship to the theme, are not be evaluated
- 1 Clarity of display
  - 2 Clarity of text
  - 3 Overall aesthetic balance of the exhibit.



## FASCINATION OF INDIA USED ABROAD

Vispi S. Dastur

During the one hundred and sixty five years which have elapsed since the postage stamp saw the light of day in 1840 in Great Britain (U.K) there have been numerous instances of postage stamps of one country being used in another. A large number of these are distinguished by overprints (some with rubber-stamp impressions) and are listed in the standard catalogues under the territory in which they were so employed.

Why have the stamps of one country been used in another? Some were "seconded" to provide a new stamp - issuing country with its initial supply; others were lent to a neighbouring country to tide over a temporary shortage of its own stamps; yet others were overprinted to signify military occupation by the other country. But that by no means is the whole story and there remain a large number of other stamps which have seen "service abroad" for which there is no indication other than the relevant postmark or cancellation of the place where used. It is this category which should strictly be called "Used Abroad" and it is the collection, classification and history of these stamps that offer a fascinating study.

Gibbon's Philatelic Terms Illustrated by Bennet and Watson defines "Used Abroad" as "the stamps of one country used in another. For many years British stamps were used in British possessions and other places abroad". The Glossary and Dictionary of philatelic Terms by Collas (Australian Stamp Monthly) states, "Used Abroad: Stamps of a country used abroad". The renowned philatelic writers, L.N. & M. Williams in their historical work, "The Postage Stamp" state, "USED ABROAD: Postage stamps bearing evidence that they were used to prepay postage from a place other than that in which they were primarily issued". In simple words the postal use of the stamp of one country from a place in another country is considered as used abroad. "Used Abroads" are found among the stamps of numerous countries but England and India hold the front ranks in this field. The Indian Post Office has established a name not only as a pioneer in establishing postal services in foreign lands but also as a centre from which radiated organised postal communications of various countries in Africa and Asia, from the Middle East to the Far East. Renouf has compared "Used Abroads" to important satellites. India's eminent Philatelist Jal Cooper has stated that no collection of

Indian stamps can be called complete without a comprehensive section on Indian stamps used abroad. I.U.A., in the writer's opinion, are the forerunners of any country's collection where Indian stamps were first used e.g. a Dubai collection would start with some Indian stamps used abroad in Dubai.

Why should one desire to collect and study Indian stamps used abroad? Of the many reasons which may actuate the collector, the most important perhaps is the desire to pursue an unusual, neglected and challenging line of collection and study. For a philatelist who is not satisfied by collecting Indian stamps as per standard catalogue numbers, "USED ABROAD" has a special appeal and charm. Next to that is the desire to embark on a voyage of discovery to find out why and how Indian stamps came to be used in those distant lands. Was it the result of a political coup or a successful army campaign? This in turn would lead the collector to a further study of all the relevant historical details containing interesting information about the geographical background, the deeds and conquests of kings, statesmen and military commanders, the history, land and people of the foreign countries in which our stamps were used, etc!

It also tells the interesting story of the faithful members of the Indian Post Office who ventured into hazardous places so that the mails may reach 'poste haste'. It would awaken an interest in the colourful overseas campaigns of the Indian Army. The true philatelic reason for collecting India Used Abroad (I.U.A) is, of course, the pursuit of Indian postal History. The work of the post-offices where Indian stamps were used abroad, the dates of their opening and closing, the extent of postal services offered, the postal rates charged and the arrangements made to exchange mails, transit time, route taken, the earliest and latest dates of use of cancellations and postmarks, etc. would be of interest to the ordinary collector and the specialist alike. For the latter it would become an absorbing life-long study.

Collection of I.U.A. is also advisable for the junior collector as it will make the study of history and geography interesting. It will make his collection different from the run-of-the-mill displays that one comes across at club meetings and exhibitions. He will also have the thrill of chasing and acquiring elusive pieces. He will have much scope for research in discovering the period of use, frequency and purpose, of the stamp collected by him. A knowledge of India Used Abroad will enable the collector to reject such patent forgeries as an East India bisected stamp with a non-Straits Settlements cancellation, etc.

In collecting used abroad one may aim to be either a general collector or a specialist. The former collects either different stamps or different collections from all the places abroad where Indian stamps were used. The latter specialises in all aspects of used abroad pertaining to the selected place, country or region or reign or period of time. In the author's opinion it would be more prudent for a generalist to collect cancellations irrespective of the stamp involved. Collecting all the different stamps with all the different cancellations from all the places where Indian stamps were used abroad would lead

to sheer frustration and would be beyond the means of even a well to do collector.

What should one collect apart from stamps and cancellations? First and foremost, pre-stamp covers from areas and countries where Indian post offices or postal agencies are known to have functioned such as Burma, Afghanistan, Nepal, etc. Postal markings other than cancellations on used abroad covers could be collected; F.P.O.s covers of course, but not those originating in India during normal times or during internal campaigns which do not constitute I.U.A. Readers are cautioned as the writer has recently come across cases where internal F.P.O. markings covers have been passed off as I.U.A. Indian Postal Stationery of all types sent from the Indian post Offices or postal agencies in foreign countries can be acquired. Even Indian foreign "Reply" Post cards used from abroad could also be collected as a special class by themselves as such usage was permitted under U.P.U. regulations; so also combination covers with Indian and foreign stamps such as those from Portuguese India, China, Tibet, Afganistan, etc.

One is very often faced with the argument that collecting I.U.A. is a very expensive affair. The answer is that collecting them on stamps is not costly and a few covers can be picked up as and to the extent possible, in fact, here, as in others branches of philately, knowledge pays; very often one may be able to pick up a used abroad stamp or cover at the price of its commoner counterpart used in India. The rarities would naturally be expensive if purchased from a person who knows their worth. For these one should wait, or as Jal Cooper used to say, "Expect a miracle"! The prices of used abroads have been sky-rocketing in the philatelic market in the last few years due to the increasing popularity of Postal History collections throughout the world. From the postal History point of view the collector should, whenever possible, endeavour to obtain original covers instead of loose stamps. It is the cover which tells us from where the letter started, the destination to which it was addressed, the route it followed, the time it took to reach its destination, the amount it cost its sender or receiver i.e. the postal rates and so on. Obviously a stamp, loose or on piece, cannot tell the same postal story. The story of postal rates, routes and markings which is so very essential to a modern view of the forgeries, fakes and repairs coming in to the market, covers with the

stamp tied by cancellation are to be preferred. Low value stamps from some places are quite common, though not on covers. In some cases low value stamps are more difficult to procure than higher value ones. Normally, an early Victorian stamp will have more value than a George V issue but there are exceptions. It should be ensured that the cancellation is not forged as the author has recently come across many Indian stamps (especially the 1854 Lithographs) with forged cancellations; collectors should be cautious whilst acquiring Aden '124' on lithographs and the East India bisects used from the Straits Settelements. Moreover, where their are Post Office number or codes allotted to the po. abroad, they should be on cover or atleast with duplex cancellation showing the name of the Post Office or atleast part thereof, as the same number was sometimes allotted to a Post Office in India e.g. "131" allotted to

the Persian Field Force and Bilimora near Valsad (Bulsar) in the Bombay Circle. One should always ensure that the stamp is in a good condition. Similarly, the cover should not normally be yellowed (foxed), tatty or torn. In used abroads, sometimes a stamp with some perforations missing or other e^minor defect would be acceptable if the cancellation is difficult to obtain; similarly, a cover yellowed by age in tropical climate which has a scarce used abroad cancellation would still be a "good find".

In the presentation of a Used Abroad collection for exhibition purposes, the write up, arrangement and material in the exhibit should display deep knowledge of the subject and clear evidence of study and research. There should be something new and original on some aspect of postal history or political and military background or some interesting tid-bit about the local scene. A map for introducing a Used Abroad collection will be helpful. The exhibit should throw light on postal routes, postal rates, developments of postal communications, the dates of opening and closing of the post offices, transit, delivery and instructional markings, names of the ships which carried the mail to and from the overeseas post offices, the catagories of those contract ships of the P&O, government packets, naval vessels or other steamships, and wherever availar-'e the names of the concerned postal officials. A mention of the names of army and naval commanders, important battles and major units taking part in the campaigns would also be appropriate. Edwardian picture postcards used abroad giving an idea of the place and people as well as their customs and costumes of bygone days could also be displayed to make the exhibit interesting. Material highlighting special aspects of army and maritime mail such as ship letters, Sea Post Offices and F.P.O. cancellations, censor markings and slogan cancellations as well as Registration, Parcel, Insurance, Paid, Unpaid, Underpaid and instructional markings, etc. will add colour to the exhibit.

In Indian philately there was for more than 70 years a controversy whether Indian stamps used in Aden and Burma could strictly be considered as Used Abroads. Since 1937 when these territories ceased to be under Indian control, Indian stamps used there have been rightly accepted as India Used Abroad. The controversy now is around Indian stamps used in Pakistan and Bangla Desh. Pakistan was carved out of the sub-continent of India and its people and their culture did not differ substantially from those who remained in India. I have not included Indian stamps used in Pakistan and Bangla Desh in our handbook on I.U.A. which was published two decades ago but perhaps a few years from now they would become generally acceptable as used abroads! Even today, some auction houses list them under I.U.A. However, even then they would be of lesser importance in Indian postal history than the Indian stamps which pioneered the postal services in countries beyond the Indian sub-continent. Reference may be made of Indian Meter Franking postage used in Pakistan immediately after the partition of the country and ordinary King George VI India stamps used in Pakistan without the Pakistan overprints.

Indian stamps are sometimes found cancelled abroad

in countries such as Great Britain, Sri Lanka (Ceylon), Hong Kong, etc. where no Indian post office or agency is known to have existed. These stamps may have originated in India for destination overseas and having escaped obliteration in India were cancelled at destination. Indian stamps proved cancelled at destinations abroad do not constitute I.U.A. Indian stamp proved used abroad from these places by itinerant travellers, etc. would in the author's opinion, constitute I.U.A. The Paquebot use of Indian stamps from places abroad would also be an interesting section of an I.U.A. collection. It may be mentioned that the stamps of other countries have also been used in India, e.g. stamps of Great Britain, Ceylon, etc. Indian stamps are also known used in India in combination with the stamps of other countries e.g. a cover has been seen with Ceylon 1 d. (SG.6) and East India 1/2 a. stamps cancelled "C126", in DasturType 3 from Chittoor (May 30, 1859). Naturally, such use is not I.U.A.

Indian stamps used abroad may be conveniently divided into the following groups:

- i. India used, in Africa - Abyssinia, British Somaliland, Egypt, British East Africa, South Africa and Zanzibar, 'C' etc.
- ii. India used in the Gulf countries and adjacent areas such as Iran (Persia), Iraq, Arabia and Mekran coast.
- iii. India used in Aden.
- iv. India used in Danish, French, Portuguese and Dutch Settlements in India.
- v. India used in Tibet, Nepal, etc.
- vi. India used in Burma.
- vii. India used in South east Asia - Straits Settlements, Labuan, Sarawak, Be ia, Sumatra, Bangkok and Manila.
- viii. India used abroad during army campaigns and peace missions overseas.
- ix. India used abroad on ship, sea post office, other places, etc.

There is more interest in India Used Abroad in foreign countries than in India itself. It is hoped that this brief introduction to I.U.A. will strike a spark in the hearts of Indian philatelists. One prays that the spread of literacy, knowledge and philately in India and holding of stamp exhibitions at different levels will bring home to Indian collectors the importance and fascination of the study of the used of THEIR country's stamps in foreign lands.

## MEGHDOOT POST CARD

J. ROLANDS NELSON

Meghdoot cards are here to stay. One can assestively say after seeing the cards' fast run in the last two years with in which more than 120 issues have been gone through. The advertisers and the Department of Post have been satisfied from both their sides about the ingenuity of the venture.

As collectors of Postal stationary we are gifted with one

more item to our kitty of collection. Looking at the variety of advertisements even one can go for different themes like health etc. within the cards themselves or the cards can be added to various themes along with other philatelic materials.

Government of India through Notification # GSR61212(E) dated September 2, 2002 amended the Indian Post Office Rules, 1933 to insert the following. "A post card shall be deemed to be a Meghdoot post card if it is so marked and provides in the space on the left hand portion of the address side, a space for single colour or multicolour printed



advertisement subject to the following conditions : Advertisement shall bear pictorial depictions or messages or both; no advertisement shall be printed anywhere else except the space provided therefore on such post card; on the address portion of such post card the words 'Meghdoot post card' shall be printed in Hindi and English; the obverse side of such post card shall be used for communication only; suchpost card shall be a single post card; and it shall conform to specified dimensions."

### 2002

- 0001. Sep 02: Baba (movie starring Rajnikant), Tamil, 0.5
- 0002. Oct 15: TVS MAX 100 Motorbike, Hindi, 0.2
- 0003. Nov 19: 32nd National Games at Hyderabad, Telugu, 0.1

### 2003

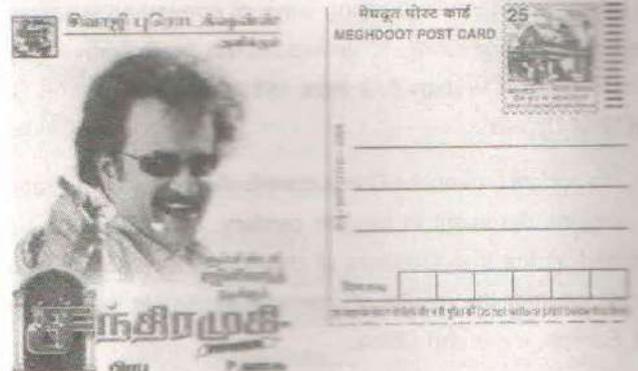
- 0004. Feb 01: Life Insurance Corporation of India, English, 0.1
- 0005. Feb 03: Tata Shaktee corrugated galvanized sheets, Tamil, 0.1
- 0006. Mar 17: Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited, English, 0.1
- 0007. Mar 22: Dewan Housing Finance Ltd, Tamil, 0.2
- 0008. May 22: Navneet Publications, Marathi, 0.1
- 0009. May 30: State Bank of India's Kisan Credit Card, Marathi, 0.1
- 0010. Jun 05: Maharashtra State Seeds Corporation Ltd, Hindi, 0.1
- 0011. Jun 09: AIDS, Telugu, 0.1
- 0012. Jul 01: Hindustan Petroleum's Lal Ghoda Diesel Engine Oil, Hindi, 0.1
- 0013. Jul 20: Tamilnad Mercantile Bank, Tamil, 0.1
- 0014. Jul 20: Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited Chhattisgarh, Hindi, 0.1
- 0015. Jul 30: Godavari Pushkaram 2003, Telugu, 0.1
- 0016. Aug 01: Central Ground Water Authority, English, 0.16
- 0017. Aug 01: Central Ground Water Authority, Hindi, 0.34
- 0018. Aug 11: Coconut Development Board, English, 0.1

0019. Sept 01: Daman Tourism, English, 0.16  
 0020. Sept 01: Diu Tourism, English, 0.16  
 0021. Sep 01: Gujarat State Malaria Control Society, Gujarati, 0.1  
 0022. Sep 10: Tamilnadu AIDS Control Society, Tamil, 0.1  
 0023. Oct 04: Toilets for every house, Tamil, 0.1, inscribed 2003  
 0024. Oct 22: State Bank of India Bikaner & Jaipur, Hindi, 0.1  
 0025. Oct 22: Afro-Asian Games, 0.5  
 0026. Oct 29: Total Sanitation Program, Hindi, 0.1  
 0027. Nov 24: Youth Employment Summit, English, 0.1  
 0028. Dec 20: Small Savings Rajasthan, Hindi, 0.1  
 0029. Dec 20: Education for all Rajasthan, Hindi, 0.1  
 0030. Dec 20: Joyce Meyer, English, 0.1  
 0031. Dec 31: Private Toilets, Tamil, 0.1

**2004**

0032. Jan 06: AIDS Bihar, Hindi, 0.1, inscribed 2003  
 0033. Jan 12: Canara Bank, English, 0.1  
 0034. Jan 20: BSNL, Hindi, 0.1 "  
 0035. Jan 25: Maharashtra Health, Marathi, 0.135  
 0036. Feb 00: Toilets for every house, Tamil, 0.1, as #23 & inscribed 2004  
 0037. Feb 09: Small savings, Telugu, 0.1  
 0038. Feb 10: NABARD, English, 0.5  
 0039. Feb 10: NABARD, Hindi, 0.5  
 0040. Feb 15: Liquid Petroleum Gas in 5 kg cylinder, Oriya, 0.1  
 0041. Feb 15: Liquid Petroleum Gas in 5 kg cylinder, Hindi, 0.1  
 0042. Feb 15: Liquid Petroleum Gas in 5 kg cylinder, Marathi, 0.1  
 0043. Feb 15: Save Fuel, Gujarati, 0.1  
 0044. Feb 15: Save Fuel, Bengali, 0.1  
 0045. Feb 15: Save Fuel, Kannada, 0.1  
 0046. Feb 15: Save Fuel, Telugu, 0.1  
 0047. Feb 15: Save Fuel, Malayalam, 0.1  
 0048. Feb 15: Save Fuel, Punjabi, 0.1  
 0049. Feb 15: Petroleum Conservation, Tamil, 0.1  
 0050. Mar 01: PIPDIC 1, Tamil, 0.1  
 0051. Mar 01: PIPDIC 2, Tamil, 0.1  
 0052. Mar 01: Malaria, Telugu, 0.1  
 '0053. Mar 01: AIDS, Bihar 2004, Hindi, 0.2, as # 32 & inscribed 2004  
 0054. Mar 24: Bihar State Co-op Bank, Hindi, 0.1  
 0055. Mar 25: Rural Development, Drinking water, Hindi, 0.1  
 0056. Mar 25: Rural Development, Self employment, Hindi, 0.1  
 0057. Mar 25: Rural Development, Sanitation, Hindi, 0.1  
 0058. Mar 31: Pondicherry Power Corp, Tamil, 0.1  
 0059. Mar 31: Pondicherry Tourism, English, 0.1  
 0060. Mar 31: Women & Child Development, Marathi, 0.1  
 0061. Mar 31: Kinetic King Motorbike, Oriya, 01  
 0062. Mar 31: SBI Educational Loan, Kannada, 01  
 0063. Apr 18: Toilets, Bhagalpur, Hindi, 0.1  
 0064. Apr 20: Education for all, Telugu, 0.1  
 0065. May 20: Water conservation, Telugu, 01  
 0066. May 22: Sanitation 1, Hindi, 0.1  
 0067. May 22: Sanitation 2, Hindi, 0.1  
 0068. May 22: Sanitation 3, Hindi, 0.1  
 0069. May 22: Sanitation 4, Hindi, 0.1

0070. May 22: Sanitation 5, Hindi, 0.1  
 0071. May 30: Education for all 1, Hindi, 0.1  
 0072. May 30: Education for all 2, Hindi, 0.1  
 0073. May 30: Education for all 3, Hindi, 0.1  
 0074. May 30: Education for all 4, Hindi, 0.1  
 0075. May 30: Education for all 5, Hindi, 0.1  
 0076. May 31: Total Sanitation Puddukotai, Tamil, 0.1  
 0077. Jun 15: Cleanliness, Virudhnagar, Tamil, 0.1  
 0078. Jul 07: Indian Railway, Hindi, 0.1  
 0079. Jul 07: AIDS Jharkhand, Hindi, 0.1  
 0080. Jul 25: BSNL, Rajasthan, Hindi, 0.1  
 0081. Aug 05: Jassi Jaisi Koi Nahi, English, 0.1  
 0082. Aug 15: Leprosy, Tamil, 0.1  
 0083. Aug 16: SBI 1, Hindi, 0.1  
 0084. Aug 16: SBI 2, Hindi, 0.1  
 0085. Aug 16: SBI 3, Hindi, 0.1  
 0086. Aug 16: SBI 4, Hindi, 0.1  
 0087. Aug 16: SBI 5, Hindi, 0.1  
 0088. Aug 25: Krishna Pushkajam, Telugu, 0.1  
 0089. Aug 25: Small Savings Bihar, Hindi, 01  
 0090. Aug 25: Rajas College, English, 01  
 0091. Sep 00: UCO Bank, Hindi, 0.1  
 0092. Sep 20: AIDS National 1, 0.5, Hindi, 0.1  
 0093. Sep 20: AIDS National 2, 0.5, Hindi, 0.1  
 0094. Sep 20: AIDS National 3, 0.5, Hindi, 0.1  
 0095. Sep 22: Mahila Vikas Nigam Bihar, Hindi, 0.1  
 0096. Oct 11: Leprosy, Gujarati, 0.1  
 0097. Oct 17: AIDS Bihar, Hindi, 0.2, as #53 with short dividing line  
 0098. Oct 00: State Bank of India, Bhopal, Hindi, 0.1  
 0099. Nov 00: Small Savings, Madhya Pradesh, Hindi, 0.1  
 0100. Nov 12: Total Cleanliness, Gujarati, 0.1  
 0101. Nov 00: JEPC, Hindi, 0.1  
 0102. Dec 00: IPRD, Hindi, 0.1  
 0103. Dec 15: 1 Bihar, Hindi, 0.15  
 0104. Dec 15: 2 Bihar, Hindi, 0.15  
 0105. Dec 15: 3 Bihar, Hindi, 0.1  
 0106. Dec 15: 4 Bihar, Hindi, 0.1  
 0107. Dec 15: 5 Bihar, Hindi, 0.1  
 0108. Dec 15: 6 Bihar, Hindi, 0.1  
 0109. Dec 24: Civil Supplies, Telugu, 0.1  
 0110. Dec 24: Taro Submersible Pump, Hindi English, 0.1



## THE HISTORY OF CHEMISTRY ON STAMPS

In its early days the practice of chemistry lay in the hands of craftsmen rather than scientists. Chemical phenomena were employed for their useful effects rather than as subjects for theoretical study and investigation... :

Thus in the Stone Age chemical practice was based on the beneficial uses of fire — in cooking, pottery and metal-making. During the succeeding Bronze and Iron Ages chemical transformations which separated metals from their waste ores were used by goldsmiths and jewellers. Such transformations were considered to be magical in nature and explain chemistry's close-alliance with the priesthood at this time.

Although the ancient Greeks were primarily concerned with more theoretical and abstract studies, they did apply their minds to the subject of chemistry. Among several schools of thought which emerged during the period of Greek dominance, a few are particularly worthy of mention.

Leucippus and Democritus in the 5th century BC proposed the 'atomist' theory, with all changes in matter resulting from the motion of atoms in space. Democritus appears alongside an atomic symbol on S.G. No. 876 of Greece, one of a set of two issued in 1961, to commemorate the inauguration of the 'Democritus' nuclear research station.

Hippocrates of Cos, also of the 5th century BC, seen on S.G. No. 1487 of Greece, distinguished carefully between medical chemistry and pure superstition, and indeed established medical schools in Athens. He also undertook some practical chemical investigations, including attempting to determine the purity of water by its speed of boiling.

Aristotle (384-322 BC) suggested that all things were made of four elements — fire, air, water and earth with ether above the planetary surface. He furthermore proposed that all elements could be interchanged with one another, and from this proposal sprang the practice of alchemy. Alchemists spent the next thousand years studying ways of converting the base metals into gold and silver. Aristotle's 2300th death anniversary was celebrated in 1978 by S.G. Nos. 1451-2 of Mexico and S.G. No. 572 of Cyprus.

Important though the Greek contributions were, the Arabs who became dominant in the 6th century, could perhaps be described as the true founders of chemistry. It was they who brought together the results of chemical studies in the Middle East, Europe, India and China.

In the field of chemical theory the Arabs extended

Aristotle's 4-element world to include sulphur and mercury, representing 'dry' and 'moist' vapours. The alchemist Geber managed to obtain sulphuric acid by the distillation of alum and also embarked on a classification of materials into 'spirits', 'metals' and mineral substances. Al Biruni, depicted on S.G. No. 1796 of Iran, attempted a classification on the basis of specific gravity differences. Two other notable Arabs who indulged in chemical research and who have received philatelic recognition were Avicenna, whose 1000th birth anniversary was the subject of S.G. Nos. 772-3 issued by Mali in 1980, and Rhazes, whose 1100th birth anniversary was celebrated in 1964 by S.G. Nos. 1377-8 of Iran. Avicenna is also featured on S.G. No. 236 of Pakistan and S.G. No. 781 of Poland. Complementing their theoretical work, the Arabs were also responsible for developing a thriving chemical industry, producing soda, alum and a variety of perfumes.

As Europe emerged from the Dark Ages in the 12th century, science was at last being recognised as a subject independent of theology. The subsequent development and growth of universities in the 13th century — at Bologna, Paris and Oxford for example — helped stimulate research into chemistry. One of the most famous researchers of the time was the German, Albertus Magnus (1193-1280) who used nitric acid to separate gold and silver. Magnus is depicted on S.G. No. B194 of West Berlin. On the industrial front, chemical knowledge both contributed to and benefited from metal smelting, alcohol production and the manufacture of gunpowder.

The Renaissance in Europe, not surprisingly, had a decisive effect on chemistry. Alchemy was replaced by medical science, led by the Swiss chemist Paracelsus (1493-1541), who was also responsible for adding the neutral 'salt' to the metals and non metals distinction of matter proposed earlier by the Arabs. Van Helmont (1577-1644), a follower of Paracelsus, suggested water to be the only primary element and was the first to name and study gases.

In 1643 the Italian Torricelli determined the weight of air, and his 350th birth anniversary was celebrated by S.G. No. 979 of Italy.

The Irish scientist Robert Boyle (1627-1691) followed up Van Helmont's work with gases, designing the first successful air pump, which was built in 1659, and pronouncing his famous Gas Laws in 1662. Boyle was prominent in distinguishing chemistry from medicine and was indeed a pioneer of analytical chemistry. Turning away from Aristotle's theory of the continuity of matter Boyle favoured the Greek atomist school of thought, and he also made the crucial

distinction between compounds and mixtures. To further indicate Boyle's range of interests in chemistry it was he who first used vegetable/animal extracts for testing acidity. Boyle is featured on S.G. No. 474 of Ireland, part of the Irish science and technology issue of 1981.

Although the 17th century saw chemistry moving forward rapidly, a lack of comprehensive data led to some theories failing to gain general acceptance, and certainly chemistry did not advance as far as physics, mechanics and astronomy.

(Courtesy : Stamp Monthly, 1997)



## MAHATMA GANDHI IN PHILATELY

by G.Ram Mohan



PIETERMARITZBURG RAILWAY STATION - SOUTH AFRICA MAXIM CAI

### Part III

#### First Phase in South Africa

Mahatma Gandhi returned home from England in 1891 as a qualified barrister. He set up practice as a lawyer, first in Bombay High Court and then in his hometown of Rajkot, but could not make much headway due to his young age and inexperience. Then good fortune came his way in the form of an offer of a year's contract appointment, to assist as legal adviser to an Indian businessman in South Africa. He accepted the offer, and reached South Africa in May 1893.



South Africa at that time was ruled by a small but powerful minority of European settlers. They were adventurers who had come mainly from Britain and Holland, attracted by the fertility of the land and its vast untapped mineral wealth. They subdued the native Africans by the use of the firepower of their guns, grabbed the Africans' lands, and finally established themselves as rulers. They ruled the country practicing the worst forms of racial discrimination against the non-white races, consisting of the majority native Africans and the Indian migrants. The Indians were shown no respect as befitting a people hailing from an ancient civilization, and were referred to in derogatory terms as 'coolie' and 'sammy'.

Gandhiji had his first major confrontation with such racial prejudice when he made his first train journey in that country shortly after his arrival there. He was to meet his senior lawyer in the town of Pretoria, and he bought a first class train ticket to go there from Durban. But his white co-passenger objected to being asked to travel



GANDHI MEMORIAL IN PIETERMARITZBURG SOUTH AFRICA MINIATURE SHEET

in the company of a 'coolie'. Gandhiji was asked to vacate his berth and move to a third class compartment. When he refused, he was abused, beaten and finally thrown out of the train at a station called Pietermaritzberg. Gandhiji was forced to spend the night at the station. It is believed that the thoughts that raced through his mind as he sat shivering in the cold waiting room at Pietermaritzberg station that night laid the foundation for his subsequent development. He became a Mahatma, a world leader who fought for the release from oppression and virtual slavery of all oppressed groups of people, be they Indians

under British colonial rule or Harijans in caste-ridden Indian society.



DIAGRAM OF PIETERMARITZBURG RAILWAY STATION - INDIA FIRST DAY CANCELLATION

The significance of Pietermaritzburg

railway station in the history of the emancipation of the world's oppressed peoples is reflected in philately. On 2nd October 1995 the Postal Departments of India and South Africa co-operated to produce a set of single colour se-tenant stamps of the same design but in different colours - the Indian stamps in maroon and the South African in gray.

The design shows two faces of Gandhiji - one as a prosperous attorney in South Africa in Western style attire, and the other as the world famous Mahatma in a simple Khadi upper cloth. The Indian cancellation shows a line drawing of the Pietermaritzberg Railway Station building. At that time, the South African Post Office also brought out a maxim card showing the same station building in brilliant colour. In addition, the South Africans also issued a miniature sheet with a picture of Gandhiji's statue that has been erected in a central place in Pietermaritzberg town.

Following the incident on the train Gandhiji soon saw for himself the way Indians were suffering humiliations in white-ruled South Africa. He decided to stay on in that country and fight for justice for the Indian community. He also started practicing as an attorney in that country and was soon very successful.

At that time Gandhiji strongly believed that Indians could get justice and fair treatment in South Africa only by identifying themselves as loyal Citizens of the British Empire and fighting for equal rights as British citizens. In 1899, war broke out between the two groups of European settlers in South Africa - the British and the Dutch (who were called Boers). With his faith in the British Empire, Gandhiji wanted that the Indians should help the British in their war effort. So he formed an 1100 members strong Ambulance Corps with local Indian volunteers. Their service as first-aiders and stretcher-bearers won great praise. He formed a similar Corps helping the British when they fought the Zulu Rebellion in 1906.

Gandhiji as a sergeant in the Ambulance Corps has been depicted in philately. In 1969 Mauritius issued a set of six commemorative stamps in different denominations to mark the centenary of Gandhiji's birth. (Gandhiji had an association with Mauritius in that he spent about 20 days in the island in November 1901 while his way to India from South Africa by ship). The stamps show different pictures of the Mahatma, depicting different periods of his life. Two of them pertain to the first phase of his stay in South Africa. The 15 Cents shows him in the uniform of the Ambulance Corps during the Zulu Rebellion, while the Re.1 shows him with a turban. A miniature sheet containing all the six stamps is a fine item to collect.

By the middle of 1901 Gandhiji had spent over 8 years in South Africa, instead of one year as was intended in his original contract assignment. He was, by then, a prosperous lawyer with good income. But he felt an urge to return home and serve his homeland. So he bid farewell to South Africa and returned home to India in December 1901.

## ◆◆◆◆◆ 'PHILATELIC' INDIAN STATES

by Arjun Lal Harchandani

Peter Röver has rightly held that area, population, number of towns and the literacy ratio helps in calculating rarity and popularity of Indian States. The source from which he prepared the list of states which had postal system but did not use stamps or postal stationery is not clear. However, almost all the States listed in Table B seem to have been taken from the Imperial Gazetteer of India, which shows whether there was a native postal system in use.

Research scholars will be well aware of the existence of postal systems in the medieval period in India. There are innumerable references about a postal system based on couriers who travelled on horse back, or on foot. The courier system came to prominence during the regime of Akbar. Thereafter, the British East India Company operated it in certain parts of the country and it was therefore in general use. Most Indian States used Harharas to convey their official or private communications, which

means that every state can offer some philatelic interest. So it is difficult to understand why the Imperial Gazetteer mentions only a few states with a native postal system.

If we trace the prevalent Dak system introduced from the time of issue of British Indian adhesive stamps, we would find native postal system is in vogue in Indian states. Before publication of the Imperial Gazetteer of India (Oxford, 1907-09), we find references in the Annual Administrative Report of 1883-84 published by the Marwar States, that the Mahajani Dak system had been introduced in 1828 (Samvat 1885) in Lucknow and had spread throughout India. After the British Government of India passed the Postal Act XVII of 1837 the States retracted from British territories.

According to the Annual Administrative Report of 'Raj Marwar' (1883-4), the Mahajani Dak was then prevalent in Bikaner, Jaipur, Mewar, Kota, Bundi, Jhalawar, Malwa and so on. In practice, it was also operating in areas where the business communities of Marwar, Shekhawati, Haryana and Bhiwani were settled. It goes on to say that the Mahajani Dak was introduced to Marwar after 1839 and a contract was granted to Seth Faras Ram Chaturbhuj, by caste a Jat of Haryana, for Rs. 1200 per annum. Later on, in 1883-84, this was increased to Rs. 2750 per annum including charges for the Chilka Dak (through which messages were transmitted by reflecting mirrors). There is also a reference to the Brahmini Dak system operating in Marwar State since 1850, between Jodhpur and Falodi. Later, in 1883-84, it was extended to Pokran, Sankra and Jaisalmer. The operator of the Brahmini Dak was one Mr. Girdhari, who had a business in Jodhpur. The Marwar Government started to pay him Rs. 27/- per month for communicating the state Dak to Pokran, Jaisalmer and Sankra. He was also paid Rs. 35/- per month by the salt Officer of Falodi for carrying his Dak. The charges for the Brahmini Dak were 1 paisa per letter for a private single letter. However there is no reference to payment of Dak charges by Jaisalmer State, whether it paid a lump sum per month, or one paisa for a single letter to the Brahmini Dak operator. There is also no reference to whether the States had their own postal system in addition to the Brahmini Dak. However, before unity Bikaner State had its own postal system operated by the following staff:

Suptd	-1	Harkara	-28
Jamadar	-5	Camel rider	-55
Gumashta	-1		

The annual expenditure for this was Rs. 11,545. There is a difference between the Gazetteer and postal authorities in defining the postal states. The postal authority entered into convention or unity with only those State that had their own postal system; and the following the convention, allowed them service stamps or free conveyance of their official Dak. However, there are exceptions, like Tonk. There is no reference in the imperial Gazetteer to postal system in Loharu, Jubbal, Kalsia and Maler-Kotla. Mr Röver has also not listed these states as philatelic states and we must question why. The following states were provided with a cial correspondence was carried free of charge by the Govt. of India Postal Department;

Ajaigarh	Dholpur	karauli
Bhavnagar	Dargandhara	Keonjhar
Chhatarpur	Jaisalmer	Keonthal
Chhota Udaipur	Janjira	kherpur
Cutch/Kachh	Jhabua	Kolhapur

I am of the view that the status of these States is similar Jaisalmer State, so according to the definition of the British Indian Government, they were not regarded as postal. However, native postal systems existed, not just in these States but in almost all Indian states, but they were not mentioned in the Gazetteer. So Table B should either delete these states, or include all the fiscal states including Jagirs and Thikanas, as philatelic states.

Mr Rover has mentioned "It is practically impossible to get any information on their area and population." This is not correct. Mr Koeppel gave this information in his catalogue "The Court Fee & Revenue Stamps of the princely states of India". However, the information about the area of India states given by both Mr Koeppel and Mr Rover does not list Khetri and Sikar of Jaipur state, although he has listed Poonch Thikana of Jammu & Kashmir. Their status was the same. Poonch introduced its own stamps with out authority from the parent state, even though they are listed in the SG catalogue, so Khetri and Sikar should be included by definition. As he says, "it is not easy to find any general information..."

I would like also to mention that immediately after independence there began the international boundary dispute of Jammu & Kashmir. Mr Rover did not mention the year to which the areas relate. Although the population figures relate to the census of 1941. So it is important to mention the areas as at 1941 or at the time of independence. According to the White Paper they were as in the table below:

**Table A**

Name	Area (sq.m)		
Alwar.....	3158	Charkhari.....	785
Bahawalpur.....	17494	Cochin.....	1493
Bamra.....	1974	Datia.....	846
Baraundha.....	228	Dgar.....	1798
Barwani.....	1189	Dungarpur.....	1460
Bashahr.....	3622	Faridkot.....	637
Bhopal.....	6921	Gwalior.....	26008
Bhor.....	910	Hyderabad.....	82313
Bijawar.....	980	Idar.....	1668
Bundi.....	2205	Indore.....	9934
Chamba.....	3127	Jaipur.....	15610
		Jammu & Kashmir	

(Viable unit).....	84471	Chhota Udaipure..	894
Jasdan.....	296	Cooch Behar.....	1318
Jhalawar.....	824	Cutch / Kachh.....	8461
Jind/ Jhind.....	1299	Dholpur.....	1173
Junagaadh.....	3337	Dhrangadhra.....	1167
Kishangarh.....	837	Jaisalmer.....	15980
Kotah.....	5714	Janjira.....	326
Las Bela.....	7043	Jhabua.....	1265
Morvi.....	822	Jubbal.....	274
Nabha.....	947	Karauli.....	1227
Nandgaon.....	872	Keonjhar.....	3206
Navanagar.....	3791	Keonthal.....	186
Orchha.....	1999	Khairpur.....	6050
Patiala.....	5942	Kolhapu.....	3219
Rajkot.....	282	Loharu.....	226
Rajpipla.....	1515	Malerkotia.....	165
Shahoura.....	405	Mandi.....	1139
Sirmur.....	1091	Manipur.....	8620
Tonk.....	2543	Manwar.....	36120
Travancore.....	7662	Mewar.....	13170
Wadhwan.....	242	Mysore/Maisur.....	29458

**Table B**

Name	Area (sq.m)	
Ajaigarh.....	788	Panna.....
Banganapalle.....	259	Pudukottai.....
Bharatpur.....	1978	Rewa.....
Bhaungar.....	2961	Suket.....
Bikaner.....	23181	Tripura.....
Chhatarpur.....	1170	

(Courtesy : India Post / Vol. 33 / 1999)

