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Guest Editorial

Early postage stamps carried the picture of the Head of State or the State symbol as a token of official backing and many stamps bear this design even today.

However, stamps are now recognised universally as a powerful medium for publicising images and ideas that a government wishes to put across to its people and to the world at large. One way of doing so is to issue stamps in honour of great personalities, drawing attention to or depicting their life and work in striking portraiture or other attractive and imaginative design.

Personalities are only one of the many subjects which compete for portrayal in stamps. Some to the others are—national history; cultural heritage; religion; institutions and organs of society, State and Government; defence forces; land and people; flora and fauna; food and agriculture; trade and industry; transport and communications; health, education and welfare; language and literature; science and technology; arts and crafts; games, sports, hobbies and festivals and international relations, events and institutions.

There is a widespread feeling among philatelists that the Indian Post Office is overdoing the personality cult in stamps. The revised guidelines issued by the P & T Department in 1978 state among other things that 'commemorative/special stamps issued in a year should be about 40 and of these stamps on eminent personalities should be about 10'.

At the end of 1978, the tally for the year was 14 personalities out of 34 commemoratives, a personality share of 43 per cent, definitely the highest percentage among 203 stamp issuing authorities in the world.

In view of the very large number of proposals received by the P & T Department for new stamps on distinguished personages and the requirements of national solidarity and integration, no immediate reduction in the present quota is perhaps possible. But there is no reason why the set limit should be exceeded and why a well-publicised programme should not be followed for authorising new personality issues.

As a first step, all stamp-worthy personalities should be divided into a number of categories such as the following:—Indian: (i) Historical figures (rulers, statesmen, warriors, etc.);

(ii) Leaders of the freedom struggle; (iii) Founders of independent India—Gandhi, Nehru, Bose, Patel and Rajagopalachari; (iv) Statesmen and political leaders of independent India; (v) Founders of religions, Saints and religious reformers; (vi) Social reformers; (vii) Philosophers, educationists, teachers and scholars; (viii) Poets and writers; (ix) Scientists, inventors, mathematicians, engineers and doctors; (x) Artists—painters, sculptors, dancers, musicians and actors and (xi) Industrialists, philanthropists and other eminent persons. Non-Indian : World famous personalities distinguished in any field of human endeavour.

After the categorisation is agreed upon, it should be published along with other guidelines governing the issue of new stamps. Proposals for stamps should then be invited from the public. Where necessary, views of the concerned apex national bodies may be obtained on proposals relating to their disciplines.

The criteria for commemoration should be desirability of projecting the work and achievements and commending the example of the personage to the whole country and possibly the world. Proposals recommended by the Philatelic Advisory Committee and approved by the Government should then be placed on the Approved List.

From time to time, new personality issues may be authorised from the Approved List on appropriate occasions (birth centenaries, death anniversaries, etc.) keeping in view the requirements of balance between categories, regions, languages and religions.

So let us have stamps on great men, but not too many of them. and, we should ensure that designs of our personality stamps are attractive and imaginative also.

Brig. D.S. Virk

(The Hindu—April 15 1979).



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 30 members attended with president Shri Balakrishna Das presiding. Patron Shri. D.H. Rao spoke on in Oct 2005. about "Aerogrammes"

STAMP NEWS

INTERNATIONAL DAY OF PEACE

21.09.2005

500

0.8 mill

The United Nations is the only organization in the world that is permitted to issue postage stamps though it is neither a country nor a territory. It is also the only postal authority to issue stamps in three different currencies, namely US Dollars, Swiss Francs and Austrian Schillings.



In the 55th Session of the United Nations General Assembly it was decided to observe 21st of September of each year, as the International Day of Peace. Since then the United Nations Postal Administration has developed a unique concept which allows all Postal Administrations to participate and spread the message of peace throughout world through postage stamps.

The beauty, uniqueness and special significance of United Nations stamps, combined with their individual often intriguing histories, continue to be a source of fascination and make the stamps of great value for philatelists and collectors. The United Nations stamps are appreciated by the collectors not only for their innovative designs and universal themes, but also because it is possible to collect every United Nations stamp ever issued. The United Nations Postal Administration has issued over one thousand stamps till date.

The future of philately, like the future of the world, rests with today's youth. Keeping this in view, the United Nations Postal Administration is encouraging children to take up philately as a recreational hobby which will also help spread the message of the United Nations by introducing fun packs and special stamp albums for children.

The stamp designs for the UN International Day of Peace, 2005, have been prepared by children who participated in the United Nations global peace poster contest which was sponsored by the Lions Clubs International, who have given the United Nations Postal Administration the exclusive right to use the artwork for United Nations postal administrations around the world to use these designs from which a selection has been made.

Theme : United Nations, Children, Peace.

A.M. MURUGAPPA CHETTIAR

01.10.2005

500

0.6 mill

Shri A.M.M. MURUGAPPA Chettiar was one of India's pioneering entrepreneurs and a philanthropist, whose role in building up the economic and industrial infrastructure of the country in the post independence era cannot be forgotten.



Son of Dewan Bahadur A.M. Murugappa Chettiar, Shri A.M.M. Murugappa Chettiar was born on 22nd January 1902 at Pallathur in Rammad District in Tamil Nadu. From a tender age, Shri A.M. Murugappa Chettiar showed tremendous maturity and business acumen. He realized the importance of promoting light and medium engineering industries in India in those days. This vision resulted in the establishment of the well-known Tube Investments India Limited in collaboration with the famous British

group, Tube Investments Ltd., Birmingham. His T.I. Metal Section, Wright Saddles of India, T.I. Diamond chain Ltd. and T.I. Miller Ltd. contributed in the production of the world famous brand of Hercules, Phillips and BSA cycles, bicycle components, electric resistance welded tubes, bicycle and industrial chains, dynamo lamps etc. Yet another well-planned industry that was developed by A.M.M. Murugappa Chettiar was the Carborundum Universal Ltd. in Chennai, in collaboration with the Carborundum Company Ltd. of U.K. for production of abrasives and grinding stones. He was also instrumental in starting several other industrial ventures like the Coromandal engineering Co. Ltd. etc. He became a member of the All India Council for Technical Education, a member of the Senate of the University of Madras, and also President of the Southern India Chamber of Commerce. He was the first Indian elected as the President of the Federation of Indian Chamber of Commerce and Industry.

At the same time he retained a firm sense of service to his countrymen and particularly the poor and needy. To further this end he set up a charitable trust called A.M.M. Charities Trust (now A.M.M. Foundation) which has been responsible for establishing and administering various institutions.

Shri A.M.M. Murugappa Chettiar passed away in 1965 after leaving an indelible imprint on Indian Industry and commerce.

Theme : Personality, Industry.

SARDAR PRATAP SINGH KAIRON

01.10.2005

500

0.8 mill

Sardar Pratap Singh Kairon is generally acknowledged as the architect of modern Punjab. Born on 1st October 1901, in the village of Kairon in Amritsar district of Punjab, into a farming family of modest means. While still a student of the Khalsa College at Amritsar, Pratap Singh Kairon left home for the United States of America and took a Master's Degree in Political Science from the University of Michigan. Influenced by the American way of life he also came to believe that affluence on farms was within the reach of the Punjabi villagers.

Returning to India in 1929, Pratap Singh Kairon started a progressive weekly paper in English "The New Era", the first issue of which appeared on 13th April 1931. Soon thereafter he entered active politics and joined the Shiromani Akali Dal, a party of Sikh activists. As the Indian National Congress and the Shiromani Akali Dal then worked together, he became General Secretary, and later President, of the Punjab Provincial Congress. In 1932 he participated in the Civil Disobedience Movement and was imprisoned for five years. In 1938, he was imprisoned again, this time for leading the Kisan Agitation against "Abiana". He was also imprisoned during the 1942 "Quit India" movement.



Pratap Singh Kairon was elected to the Punjab Legislative Assembly in 1936, and again in 1946. Inducted into the Punjab Cabinet in 1947, he became Minister for Rehabilitation in 1948. In 1952 he became Minister for Development and Consolidation of Land, and was instrumental in carrying out significant land reforms. In 1956 he became the Chief Minister of Punjab and remained so till 1964. While working for the all round development and prosperity of Punjab, he was able to handle many sensitive issues with rare courage and resolve.

Pratap Singh Kairon was convinced that no real progress could be achieved without education. So he made primary and

middle school education free and compulsory. He also gave a boost to technical education.

While striving to organize agriculture, dairy, and poultry farming on modern scientific lines, Pratap Singh Kairon also worked to place Punjab on the industrial map of the country. The industrial township of Faridabad, and the planned garden city of Chandigarh were both his brainchild.

On 6th February, 1965, Sardar Pratap Singh Kairon was assassinated near village Rasoi on the National Highway while travelling in a car back to Chandigarh from Delhi. But his abiding legacy lives on.

Theme : Leaders, Personality, Freedom Struggle

DR.T.S. SOUNDRAM

02.10.2005

500

0.6 mill

A pioneer of women's awakening in pre-independence India, Dr. T.S. Soundram was one of the early campaigners for liberation of the Indian Women from shackles of illiteracy, moribund social customs and inequality.

Dr. T.S. Soundram was born on 18th August, 1904 to industrialist T.V. Sundaram Iyengar and Lakshmi Ammaiyar. As per prevailing custom, she was married at a tender age in 1918 to Soundararajan, a doctor who was an enlightened and a liberal person.



Encouraged by her progressive parents, Soundram performed brilliantly at the Lady Harding Medical College in New Delhi. It was during her college days in Delhi that she made friends with Susheela Nayyar and through her, met Gandhiji. She joined the freedom struggle but continued her

studies in medicine and passed with flying colours in 1936. In Delhi she met Ramachandran who was active in the Harijan movement initiated by Gandhiji. Defying her parents' wishes, Soundram married Ramachandran with the blessings of Gandhiji on 7th November 1940.

In 1942 the couple joined the Quit India Movement. Gandhiji appointed her the representative of the Kasturba Gandhi National Memorial Trust in South India and she was asked to set up a rural institution in a remote place to serve the most deprived of people, to provide them with skills and support to revive village industries and thereby strengthen the rural community. This resulted in the formation of Gandhigram, which was launched formally on 7th October, 1947. She started Gandhigram to help the rural poor for their growth and development in the fields of health, education, economic development and social welfare. Sowbhagya Illam and Sevikaashram were two of her favourite projects.

Dr. T.S. Soundram was elected as a Member of the legislative Assembly twice in 1952 and 1957. She became a Member of Parliament in 1962 and the same year she became the Union Deputy minister for Education where she distinguished herself by introducing compulsory and free primary education all over India and promoted the National Service Scheme (NSS).

Dr. T.S. Soundram was awarded the Padam Bhushan in 1962. She passed away on 21st October 1984 and as per her desire, her eyes were donated.

Theme : Women, Freedom Struggle, Education

LETTER BOX

18.10.2005

500

0.8 mill

The ubiquitous letter box is perhaps the best symbol of the outreach of the postal service in the remotest corners of India. Unassuming, yet instantly recognizable, the letter box has been part and parcel of our everyday lives, an icon of stability in an ever-changing world.



The genesis of the present day Letter Box lies in 'Stone Post'. From the seventeenth century onwards Dutch and English ships made long voyages around the Cape of Good Hope. When they stopped for fresh water at the

Cape, they would leave their letters under a big stone, from where they were collected by the next ship going in the opposite direction.

It is said that France was the first country to introduce roadside Letter Boxes as early as in 1653, followed by Germany and Belgium.

In Britain, Rowland Hill first suggested installation of the roadside Letter Box in 1840. However, the first Letter Box in the British Isles came to be set up only in 1852, when pillar boxes were erected at St. Hellier in Jersey.

In 1853 the first pillar box on the British mainland was erected at Botchergate, Carlisle. These letter boxes were called Victorian Boxes.

The Victorian Crown type was the first Letter Box imported to India in 1856 - 57. This was followed by the Lotus type Letter Box, also known as the Penfold Letter Box, after its designer. Between 1866 and 1879 the hexagonal Penfold box with a cap decorated with acanthus leaves became the standard design for pillar boxes, and it was during this period that red became adopted as the standard colour.

In 1879 a cylindrical design of pillar box was adopted universally, in India and other countries of the world. From 1887 the words POST OFFICE were also placed on either side of the aperture. Later, the hours of collection also came to be indicated on the letter boxes.

From 1857 onwards the wall box - type letter boxes came into use, for fixing onto existing walls. Small lamp-post boxes also came to be introduced in 1896.

Thus, over the years, the design of the letter box has undergone a series of changes, adapting to different needs and climatic conditions also. But installation of a letter box remains a matter of great convenience and pride.

Theme : Postal System, Postal History.



KAVIMANI S. DESIGAVINAYAGAM PILLAI

21.10.2005

500

0.6 mill

In the annals of 20th century Tamil literature, the name of S. Desigavinayagam Pillai occupies a special place.

Born to Sivathanupillai and Adilakshmi at Theroor in the Princely state of Travancore now known as Kanyakumari District in Tamilnadu on 27th July 1876, Desigavinayagam Pillai had his early school education in Theroor and attended college at Nagarcoil. He started his career as a school teacher and after serving in one or two schools in Kottar and in Trivandrum, he joined Maharaja's college at Trivandrum as a lecturer in Tamil.

He composed his first Tamil poem at the age of 19. He wrote many songs for children which were published in 'Malarum Malayum' (Flower & Garland) in 1983. Asiya Jothi (Light of Asia), Nanjil Nattu Marumakkal Vazhi Manmiyam (a satire on society) and the translation of the work of Omarkhayyam are his master pieces. In 1940 the Tamil Sangam at its 7th annual conference held at Madras honoured



Desigavinayagam Pillai with the title 'Kavimani'.

He was also an epigraphist and studied many stone inscriptions in and around Kanyakumari and Nagarcoil. His research work "Kandalur Salai" was very famous and was reprinted in the year 1953. Desigavinayagam Pillai adopted simple living and high thinking as his guiding principle. In 1984 Kavimani was offered the post of poet Laureate which he refused and recommended the name of a contemporary Tamil poet for this post.

A devout follower of Gandhiji, he always wore khadi and used to spin the Charkha. He was deeply concerned with the upliftment of the downtrodden.

The South Travancore Hindu College was the brain child of Kavimani Desigavinayagam Pillai. He breathed his last on 26th September 1954 at the age of 78 but till today kavimani S. Desigavinayagam Pillai lives in the hearts and minds of people because of his noble deeds and legendary qualities.

Theme : Personality, Literature, Education

Vi. KALYANASUNDRANAR

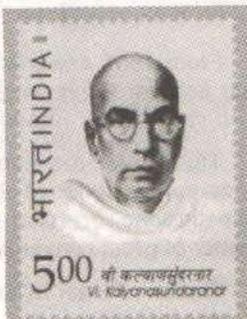
21.10.2005

500

0.6 mill

Vi. Kalyanasundaranar, popularly known as Thiru Vi. Ka. was one of the prominent figures in Indian political life. He was an eminent scholar in Tamil, a prolific writer, a fiery speaker, a trade union leader, and a freedom fighter as well.

He was born on 26th August 1883 to Rudhachala Mudaliar and Chinnammal. After completing his education in Wesley High School, Royapettah, he joined as a teacher in the same school. He worked in several companies run by the English, but inspired by the ideals of Bal Gangadhar Tilak and the prevailing nationalist sentiments, he gave up his job and joined the freedom struggle. For this he was put under house arrest.



In 1913, Vi. Kalyanasundaranar was closely associated with Mahatma Gandhi. Whenever Gandhiji came to Chennai and addressed public meeting, Vi. Kalyanasundaranar translated his speeches in Tamil language. It was he who started addressing Mahatma Gandhi as 'Gandhi Adigal'. He did not hesitate from addressing the gatherings in Tamil. This encouraged others to feel proud of expressing themselves freely in their mother tongue i.e. Tamil while addressing public meetings at that time.

He started a labour union in 1918 in Chennai. He organized a confederation of labour unions in 1920.

He started a newspaper 'Desa Bakthan' but was banned by the British. Then he started another newspaper 'Nava Sakthi' and worked for the growth of Tamil language and for propagating nationalist ideals.

A great scholar, Vi. Kalyanasundaranar authored more than fifty books, the most popular being 'The Greatness of Women'.

His career was marked by his nationalism, spiritual discipline, courage and compassion. He passed away on 17th September 1953, but his legacy lives on.

Theme : Personality, Freedom Struggle, Journalism, Writer,

AYOTHIDHASA PANDITHAR

21.10.2005

500

0.6 mill

A social reformer, educationist and a visionary Shri Ayothidhasa Pandithar was far ahead of his times.

Ayothidhasa was born on 20th May 1845 in Coimbatore District of Tamilnadu. He was named 'Kathavarayan' by his parents. After acquiring proficiency in Sidha medicine, he changed his names as Ayothidhasa Kaviraj Pandithar.



Shri Ayothidhasa Pandithar established 'The Advaitantha Sabha' in Nilgiris in 1870 and 'Dravida Mahayana Sabha' in 1891.

A sincere social worker and philanthropist, he was a pioneer and fore runner to Dr. B.R. Ambedkar and Shri Periyar and campaigned against the caste system and untouchability and advocated social equality. He took up the causes of the poor and the downtrodden and fought against orthodoxy. A man of action, Shri Ayothidhasa Pandithar heralded a social revolution in Tamilnadu.

Shri Ayothidhasa Pandithar published a weekly called 'Oru Pasia Thamizhan' in 1870. He wrote more than 20 books on various fields. A good orator, he was fluent in Tamil, Sanskrit, Pali and English. His views on the writings of Tiruvalluvar and Auvaiyar gave a new insight and different exposition in terms of Buddhism. He founded Chakkia Buddhist Association which evoked great response among social and political circles. He gave a new direction to the Tamil Literature.

Ayothidhasa Pandithar passed away in 1914 but his views on social issues have left a lasting impact.

PRABODH CHANDRA

24.10.2005

500

0.6 mill

Prabodh Chandra was a great freedom fighter and a visionary leader.

Born at Rawalpindi (now in Pakistan) on 24th October 1911, to Satya Dev, Head master of a Government High School and Durga Devi, he did his matriculation from the Government High School, Gujarat in 1927 and his Intermediate as a private candidate in 1930 before completing his graduation and Post Graduation from the F.C. College, Lahore (now in Pakistan). An admirer of Subash Chandra Bose, Maulana Abdul Kalam Azad and the Zutshi sisters, he was also influenced with the lives of Shivaji and Garibaldi. He started his political career at the age of 16 and formed the Multan Student Union in 1927.



He was closely associated with the Lahore Revolutionary Party and was arrested in connection with the Multan Bomb case in 1929. He was jailed in 1930 and 1936, and again from 1942 to 1945. He laid the foundations of the students' movement in Punjab, and was Chairman of the All India Students' Conference in 1936.

Later on he joined the Indian National Congress and was a member of the Punjab Pradesh Congress Committee.

He was elected a Member of the Punjab Legislative assembly in 1946. After independence, he remained Member of the Punjab Legislative Assembly in 1952, 1960 and 1962.

He held the august office of the Speaker, Punjab Legislative Assembly from March 1962 to March 1964. He served as a Minister of Education, Health and local Self Government in the Council of Ministers of Punjab. He was also a Member of Parliament from 1971 to 1977.

He was also an accomplished writer and editor of an English Monthly 'The Students' Tribune' at Lahore in 1936. He also contributed articles to the 'contemporary India', a quarterly journal: 'Student's Movement in India' (1939), 'Sixty Year's of Congress' (1946) were his popular publications.

He died on 8th February 1986.

Theme : Personality, Freedom Struggle, Journalism, Writer,



NATIVE STATES IN INDIAN PHILATELY

A. V.B. MENON

The saga of Native States has a unique place in Indian Philately, with a large number of independent states operating separate postal systems, distinct from the postal services of British India. There were over 650 states and in the initial days after the introduction of the postage stamp, some of them issued their own stamps for postal use within their territories. This unique system, in due course, gave rise to a wholly new and fascinating branch in Indian Philately. There came into circulation a wide range and variety of philatelic issues giving collectors

infinite opportunities to develop interesting collections and also providing scope for great deal of research in the area of Indian States philately and Postal History.

CONVENTION AND FEUDATORY STATES

Some of the Indian States issued stamps - postage, service and fiscals - distinct from the stamps issued by the Imperial Post in British India. The states have been broadly classified as 'Convention States' and 'Feudatory States', Those states which were signatories to Indian Postal Convention were called Convention states as distinct from other states. By entering into a convention with the Indian Post Office, the native states had to forgo the privilege of issuing their own stamps and accepted the stamps of British India for postal use within their state territory.

The stamps issued by 'Feudatory states' were valid for use within their territories only. People of such states were required to affix British India stamps, in addition to local stamps, if they had to send letters outside the limits of their state. This resulted in additional financial burden on people of such states. Whereas those in 'Convention States' were spared of such over-payment by adopting British India stamps for their internal use.

The relations between Imperial Post of British India and Indian states was always a tenuous one. The rulers of states were often unwilling to give up their privileges and powers and jealously guarded their right to maintain and operate independent postal service. On the other hand, British India wished to run an integrated and common postal service which would be beneficial to people at large but yet the Imperial Post was reluctant to enforce its writ on the states lest it should offend the latter. In 1880, negotiations were initiated for entering into a Convention with Patiala state to extend Imperial postal service to that state but the matter could be settled only by 1884 when a Convention was signed with Patiala on Oct. 1, 1884. This was followed by Conventions with Gwalior, Jind and Nabha on July 1, 1885 and Chamba and Faridkot in 1886. These states had their own stamps prior to signing the Convention but after signing it, British India postage stamps overprinted with distinct state names came to be used in these states. Another 629 states used only British India stamps as such in their territory.

EFFORTS AT INTEGRATION

The Imperial postal authorities made concerted efforts at integrating and unifying postal services in the various states with the Post in British India to ensure smooth movement and delivery of mails between different parts of the country and thereby provide better and faster service to the public. By 1889, Maharaja of Mysore, who was an enlightened ruler agreed to unify the state's postal services (Anche) which itself was quite efficient, with British India Post resulting in perceptible improvement in the service. Gradually, many other states followed suit and came under the Indian Postal Convention - prominent among them were J&K (1894), Bamra (1895), Bussahir and Dhar (1901), Alwar and Bhore (1902) and Holkar (1908).

By 1908, out of 652 native states, as many as 635 had come under the Convention and later 2 more - Indore and Bhopal - joined, Only 15 states stayed out and among them were some prominent states like Hyderabad, Travancore, and Jaipur.

The burden of double-payment of postage on the people on mails going outside the state induced most states to agree to sign the Postal Convention and their own stamps went out of circulation, This also helped to ensure smoother postal arrangements and mail movements between the post offices in the states and in British India.

But an opposite tendency was also witnessed during a certain

period when some of the states which had adopted the British Indian postal system reverted to their own system and began to issue distinct stamps for local use. Thus Barwani had its own stamps between 1921 and 1948, Bijawar between 1935 and 1941, Idar (1939 to 1944), Jaipur (1904 to 1947), Jasdan (1942 to 1947), Morvi(1931to1948),andOrchha(1913andi942),

PHILATELISTS' DELIGHT AND NIGHTMARE

What did the above course of events have in store for philatelists? It created a vast treasure-house of stamps and varieties with different watermarks and perforations and imperfs, overprints, variations in colour and printing on the same sheets and different sheets which are all a source of delight to serious collectors. Catalogues like Stanley Gibbons have listed such features, variations and oddities in detail. While the stamps were not very aesthetic in design or appearance, they came to acquire great philatelic value having been genuinely issued for postal use and were also used as such. Also, stamps of many states, especially the earlier issues, are quite rare and it is especially difficult to find those used on covers. The use of stamps of a state and that of British India post office on the same cover to validate the transit of postal articles through British India post offices also created 'combination covers' with stamps of both Native states and British India affixed side by side.

Also, different types of printing adopted, errors and variations due to etching done by hand for each stamp, use of only local language on the stamps, irregular sizes in which stamps were issued, different sizes of sheets on which stamps were printed, lack of background information on the stamps, etc., while making the collection of these stamps exciting and challenging, posed problems to collectors and was a source of nightmare for the purists who look for the minutest differences in each stamp.

The number and variety of state stamps issued was so large and many of them not easily available that building a complete collection also posed much problems to collectors. Yet, many philatelists have built up excellent collections on Indian States which are known for their quality, depth, range and extent of philatelic research done and many of these collections have won laurels in exhibitions at not only state and national levels but also at international levels,

SOURCE OF RESEARCH AND HISTORY

The stamps of Convention and Feudatory states provide a fertile ground for detailed study, exploration and research. The type of printing adopted, whether stamps were perforates or imperfs, errors in captions and spellings, variations in colour and settings, size, etc. all gave room for variety and exhaustive study. Some of the variations and errors which occurred are listed below:

- In the Bhopal issues on Nawab Shah Jahan Begam during the period 1876- 95, there are various forms and style in which the title was printed and the name was spelt. This happened because the stamps were printed from lithograph stones on which each unit was drawn separately by hand and hence numerous errors of spelling occurred.
- In the Convention issues of Gwalior state, in the Queen Victoria issues of 1885-96 with 'Gwalior' overprinted, 'in many instances the letter 'G' in Gwalior was printed as small 'g'.
- All the stamps printed by Bundi state until 1914 were imperforates. In Dec. 1894 issue of Bundi printed on thin wove paper, stamps were joined together with no space or gutter between them and to use a single stamp, one

had to cut it carefully along the border of two adjoining stamps,

- In the June 1895 issues of Bussahir feudatory state, there were both perforate and imperforate issues. The perforations were done with a sewing machine and the gauge and size of holes were not uniform. Some of the issues had different shades of colours and double overprint of colours also occurred.
- In those days stamps were printed by different methods - lithograph from stones, typograph from cliches, recess printing, typesetting, etc.

In conclusion, it may be mentioned that Indian State stamps can also be a useful source of history because these issues bear the portraits of many historic personalities and some of the issues of states like Bhopal, Jaipur, Travancore, Cochin, etc, depict historical structures like palaces, shrines, monuments, and institutions like hospitals, Town Hall, power stations, etc. which were a rich legacy of the Native rulers of India of those days.

(Courtesy : Souvenir, Karnapex 2003)



THE ARMY POSTAL SERVICE

BRIG. D.S. VIRK

(Address to Philatelists at India National Philatelic Exhibition 1970)

When I joined the Posts and Telegraphs Department in the year of Hitler's war, 1939, philately was in its infancy in our country and it was the hobby and pursuit of the knowledgeable few such as Mr. Shroff and Mr. Jal Cooper. Not having yet found its money making possibilities, the establishment treated philately with utter indifference if not high disdain. Though I was given a thorough training for two years in the duties of a superior Postal Officer which included a mastery of the departmental rules and regulations and the law of the land, not a word was said about the existence of philately. I became aware of stamp collectors only when they complained about removal of stamps from their foreign letters. Even this jolt was not enough to wake me up as I suggested the overprinting of Indian stamps for our Korean Mission in the hope that these stamps would have no value in India and would not be sent home as soldiers' booty.

In World War II, I had long and varied assignments in the Indian Army Postal Service from early 1942 to late 1947, during which I wandered all over Asia and in many parts of Africa and Europe with an identity card as my passport and passenger ticket. The incidents and experiences of these journeys and missions would have made an interesting contribution to Postal History, if only I had kept some diary, notes or photographs of those days. This, however, was strictly prohibited under the security orders of the Army which I obeyed meticulously as I was a new recruit among the veterans. How I would have scribbled away my idle hours in Baghdad and Cairo, if only I had known that the Generals, Admirals and Air Marshals were then busy manuscripting their memoirs for posterity or should I say prosperity.

DEVELOPMENT

Having made my excuses, I shall now say something about the characteristics, history, development and working of the Indian Army Postal Service. The Army Postal Service—APS for

short—is a branch of the Army which looks after the essential and particular postal needs of the Services during war and periods of war readiness and at all times when Forces are deployed in remote and difficult border regions or on missions overseas. The Army Postal Service maintains the closest links with the Posts and Telegraphs Department which recognises the army post offices as its own and provides all the officers and postal workers required to run them. The watchwords of APS are simplicity, mobility and flexibility. All the essential postal facilities—letter mail, parcel mail, registration, money orders, postal orders and saving schemes—are provided but none of the frills, not even the postman's rounds.

56 APO

Though ever ready to make their men comfortable in buildings and billets, army postal units are designed to provide instant service in tents and trucks ready to roll away at a moment's notice. And how fast and "far they go". Take the case of what the whole of India now knows as 56 APO. It was born as 56 FPO in Secunderabad on the last day of June, 1941. In October it sailed away to Iraq with an infantry brigade. It roamed all over Iraq, Persia, Syria and Egypt before returning home in July 1944. Later in the same year it hopped over to the Ledo Road Front in Burma. At the end of the War it marched back to Nasik. In March 1946 it was on the move again, this time to Japan, where it functioned up to the middle of 1947 at the air base of Iwakuni, near the war-ravaged town of Hiroshima. On returning to India, it found a safe haven in New Delhi where it assumed a new role and a new name.

Field post offices are flexible in words and deeds, that is in the inter-pretation of rules and improvisation of facilities. An FPO is the smallest organised cell in the Army and yet it possesses an uncanny ability to divide itself and prosper. We give a postmaster, a clerk, a postman, a packer and at times a fighting soldier, a pair of seals and stamps and he becomes a field post office, doing the postal job that we know he can tackle. For many years one of my Posts and Telegraphs colleague has been advocating the creation of a 'panchayati' post office but in vain. We have had one in the Army for as long as I can remember. It is our 'OC Troops Mail Scheme' a kind of 'Ghar ka Dak Khana' under which one unit performs the essential post office work for all the other units in the same camp or station.

PERSONALISED SERVICE

Though APS follows the set procedures of the Department it is more flexible because it provides a personalised service by following the old army adage 'rules are made for men, not men for rules'. As an example of flexibility, General Chaudhari, the former Chief of our Army, never tired of recounting the story of the field postmaster of the 5th Indian Division, of which he was the 'Q' Staff Officer during the battles in the Western Desert. Mail from England was extremely erratic in those days and came in big bunches with long gaps in between. The Commanding General made incessant and anxious inquiries about his mail. The field postmaster scratched his wise head and found a neat but unorthodox solution to this problem. He carefully arranged the mail received for the General and gave out his letters, not all at once, but one by one at reasonable and regular intervals. The morale of the General became high, he beamed at his Staff; in their mellow mood the Staff sent down fewer 'rockets' to the units; and consequently the Division was one big happy family. The postmaster got mentioned in despatches and the Posts and Telegraphs Department was none the worse for his indiscretion.

EARLY MISSIONS

The first field post office was organised by the Posts and Telegraphs Department soon after its own reorganisation as a central institution in 1854. This FPO accompanied the Persian Field Force to Bushire in 1856, and provided the necessary postal facilities. Thereafter became a standard practice to despatch field post offices with all Expeditionary Forces going overseas or engaged in important operations on the frontiers. These tours included missions to Abyssinia and Afghanistan, Malta and Cyprus, Egypt and Sudan. Burma, China, Somaliland and Tibet before the big shows of the two World Wars.

All previous missions of the Army Postal Service paled into insignificance before the enormous effort which it had to make in the First World War. Postal contingents accompanied the Expeditionary Forces to France, East Africa, Mesopotamia, Egypt and Iran and hundreds of field post offices ranged far and wide throughout the War and aftermath, at places right up to 1920.

During the inter-war years, the Army Postal Organisation went back into hibernation. A few paper reforms were incorporated in the mobilisation schemes. These transferred administrative responsibility from the Posts and Telegraphs to the Army, gave combatant status to APS Jawans and integrated the postal units in the war Organisations of Brigades, Divisions, Areas and Armies but made no provision for military training of the postal soldiers.

SECOND WORLD WAR

When war broke out again in 1939, the Indian Posts and Telegraphs Department had little difficulty in manning the postal complement of the modest forces originally earmarked for 'external defence', a euphemism for holding the British Empire against all challenges. It also had sufficient volunteers in its kitty for raising FPOs for the defence forces poised on the borders of Afghanistan and Iran to meet the imaginary threat from Russia. The advent of the Japanese in the war arena led to a hectic expansion of the Indian Base and its armed forces. APS expansion kept pace with these needs. Early in 1942 Indian field post offices which had hitherto been used only in foreign or frontier missions, were given permission to operate within India wherever the Army required them for purposes of training, preparedness or actual combat. The tempo of FPO activity was stepped up accordingly. Whereas only 70-odd field and base post offices had been raised in the first three years of the War, their numbers doubled in 1942 and ultimately reached the peak figure of nearly 250. As FPOs begot smaller FPOs, their final tally was in the region of 400.

During the 2nd World War Indian FPOs functioned in the Persian Gulf, Iran, Iraq, Syria, Lebanon, Palestine, Arabia, Abyssinia, Eritrea, Sudan, Egypt, Libya, Tunisia, Cyprus, Rhodes, Greece, Italy and the United Kingdom in the West; in Japan, Hongkong, Indo-China, Thailand, Borneo, Celebes, Java, Sumatra, Malaya and Burma in the East; and in the central bastions of India, the Indian Ocean anchorages in Cocos Island, the Andamans and Addu Atoll and Ceylon.

Since Independence, FPOs have become a permanent part of our Army set-up and have served the Armed Forces wherever required. Our missions overseas are no longer the Expeditionary Forces they used to be in the British days. They are now missions of peace such as the Indian Custodian Force in Korea, the International Control Commissions in Indo-China and the United Nations peace-keeping forces in Gaza and the Congo. Our FPOs have served with all these missions from beginning to end.

I haven't mentioned the fascinating details of this long history as they are fully covered by such standard works as Sir Geoffrey Clarke's, *The Post Office of India and its Story*, Col. Sam's *The Post Office of India in the Great War*, Mulk Raj Anand's

compilation, Story of the Indian Post Office and Jal Cooper's classics, India used in Burma and India used Abroad. One of these days I hope to publish something more substantial on the history of APS during World War II than the list of Indian Army Post Offices which was published last month.

BASE POST OFFICE

Field post offices do not and cannot act in isolation. They are essentially one end of the chain that carries a letter from a soldier to his family and vice versa. The central part of this chain is, however, the base post office and the whole mechanism is worked with the aid of such exotic codes as MEF, PAIFORCE, SEAC, BCOF, 56 APO and 99 APO. These codes must be simple and catching and not easily susceptible to rude remarks and ridicule. It was for this reason that General 'Jumbo' Wilson preferred the code PAIFORCE for his Persia and Iraq Force instead of the suggested PIF which sounded like an abbreviation of the rude word 'piffle', meaning idle, worthless talk. We have also learnt by experience that any mention of a place name in the codes can cause embarrassment to our clients. There was the story of a doting mother who travelled from a Gurgaon village to Delhi to hand over a tin of ghee to her soldier son who, she thought was serving somewhere near New Delhi 56 APO, which was in fact only a code address covering the whole country.

MAIL DISTRIBUTION

Mail for delivery through a field post office is not addressed to a post town of destination but to unit followed by the approved security code which directs it to the right base post office. At the base post office, complete record is kept of the units served by its field post offices and their day to day location. All incoming mail is first separated into the main branches of the Army, that is, Headquarters, Armoured Corps, Artillery, Engineers, Signals, Infantry, Service Corps, Medical, Ordnance, Electrical and Mechanical Engineers and so on. The mail for each Arm and Service is then given to a block sorter, who is responsible for detailed sorting into units. Direct mail bags are closed for each field post office and they contain unit mail bundles all sorted for immediate distribution at the other end.

Forward of the Base Post Office, the carriage of mail to and from FPOs becomes an Army responsibility and the speed and frequencies of mail deliveries vary with the available means of transport, the state of communications and the exigencies of operations. Since there is no better morale booster than a letter from home and failing that a favourite newspaper, the Army does all that is humanly possible to keep the mail moving to the front. It was this realization that prompted the first airdrop of mail way back in 1916 to the besieged garrison of Kut in what was then known as Mesopotamia. During World War II, the ubiquitous Jeep took over the carriage of mail from the man, the mule, the horse and even the old-fashioned mail lorry. The long range aircraft supplanted the mail steamers and became the harbingers of the 'all up' air mail of the later days. In the closing stages of the Burma campaign, the mail-minded and P. R. oriented Mountbatten inspired the wholesale air-lift of mail and newspapers from Calcutta, Comilla, Akyaband, Imphal to the forward airfields in the heart of Burma. This was the famous 'milk round' which was handled by specially designed postal units operating at the despatching and receiving airfields. Now with the improvement of road and air communications, normal mail deliveries are so quick and regular that special mail runs are seldom required except for the remote and inaccessible forward posts in thick jungles or snowy ranges (or in the event of an IAC strike). That is where the new workhorse, the helicopter, comes in. The Posts and Telegraphs Department inaugurated their first helicopter mail service the other day with due ceremony

and publicity. APS has been using the same and several other helicopter mail services for many years.

ORGANISATION OF APS

Now a few words about the organisation of APS. Our basic unit is of course the FPO. Each Brigade and equivalent formation has an FPO of its own and the Divisions, Corps and Armies have additional FPOs for troops not included in a Brigade. Immediately behind the Combat Zone is the concentration of camps and depots for reinforcing men and materials engaged in battle. FPOs are also dotted all over this area, called the Communication Zone, and they are grouped round a section base post office which acts as a forward mail and sorting agency. The nerve centre of the whole organisation, the base post office, is located farther back at a national communication centre, where it can work round the clock in all seasons without being disturbed by the din and turmoil of the War and Communication Zones. There are other specialized postal units and of course the Postal Staff Officers but the work of these back room boys is not of general interest to the public.

SUNDAY DELIVERIES

We are the proud followers of our parent Posts and Telegraphs Department but are not afraid when the occasion requires to pioneer new ideas, materials and organisation or to reject change for the sake of change. It can be said that air-lift and air-drop of mail was pioneered by the Army Postal Service in World War I. The light-weight inland letter form with which you are all familiar was introduced by the Forces during the last Great War. The mobile post offices that you see in Delhi are the fashionable and sophisticated copies of the rough and ready field post office lorries. The stock phrases in your Greetings Telegrams such as Number Four—"A Happy New Year to You"—have been extracted from the hundreds of phrases included in the Expeditionary Forces Message Code of the two World Wars. During the last War, we also pioneered the schooling and training of budding post clerks who had hitherto been trained only in the school of experience. Now training schools have also become a standard establishment of the Posts and Telegraphs Department. On the other hand we did not toe the line when the Posts and Telegraphs Department decided to shut down completely on Sundays. To the pleasure and profit of the Jawans, FPOs continue to provide letter mail facilities on Sundays and holidays with a smile and without a charge.

The benefits that we derive from our Posts and Telegraphs connection are too obvious and too many to be enumerated, but the greatest of them all is the honorary membership of the World Postal Community. A word from our Director General to his counterpart in Cairo and the Indian mail was cleared for delivery to our UNEF contingent even before it had settled down in its first camp on the Suez canal.

OVERPRINTED STAMPS

Having lured distinguished philatelists to this assembly by promising a talk in some way related to philately, I must now say something on the subject of FPO stamps, overprints, covers and cancellations.

Wherever our field post offices go, in India or overseas, they function as a part of the Indian Posts and Telegraphs system and use Indian postage stamps. This was no problem in the days of Pax Britannica when India Expeditionary Forces were mounted to curb and conquer recalcitrant countries and there was no question of asking their permission to use one kind of postage stamps or the other. Problems did arise where the Forces operated from friendly or nominally free countries such as Iraq, Iran, Egypt, Sudan and the Malayan States of yester years. In

such cases complicated negotiations took place and the resulting treaties or protocols permitted the Indian field post offices to function in their own way and use their own postage stamps. Now that we send only Peace Missions on foreign assignments, these arrangements are worked out in advance, usually by the United Nations Headquarters.

As keen philatelists some of you may have come across Indian FPO cancellations on Commonwealth or even foreign stamps. These are all genuine cancellations resulting from local orders under which Indian FPOs have on occasions used Commonwealth and foreign stamps on mail sent directly to some countries.

I really don't know why Indian postage stamps were overprinted for the China Expeditionary Force of 1900 and the Indian Expeditionary Forces of the First World War, but the reasons obviously were local and limited as there was no overprinting whatever during World War II.

As I mentioned in the beginning, my own reasons for recommending overprinting of the stamps used by the FPOs of the Indian Custodian Force in Korea had neither a philatelic nor a national bias. This is what I wrote to the Director General Posts and Telegraphs on 25th August, 1953 :—

The FPOs (in Korea) will transact all postal business including sale of postage stamps in local currency. The sale price of individual stamps will be fixed in such a way that no gain in currency will accrue to the purchasers. There is, however, the danger of excessive stocks being purchased for eventual use in India out of the gains of exchange (in non-postal transactions). Suitable overprinting of postage stamps is, therefore, recommended to counteract hoarding and remittances to India.

By the time our Control Commissions reached the new and sovereign states of Indo-China, Vietnam, Laos and Cambodia, we had become aware of the philatelic world and the importance of judicious and justifiable overprints in that context. The first overprints were issued in December, 1954 and these were followed by overprints on the new series of Indian definitives introduced in 1957 and 1968. When time permitted, we even indulged in the luxury of special cancellations and first day covers.

Though an Indian Contingent formed part of the United Nations Emergency Force in Gaza throughout the ten years of its existence and Indian FPOs functioned with the Force at Gaza, El Arish, El Ballah, Abu Suweir and Cairo, we did not go in for the general overprint of Indian stamps used by them. There were two reasons for this. Firstly we did not wish to poach on the legitimate domain of our Egyptian friends and the new-born United Nations postal administration and secondly we were content to do what the other Contingents, the Canadians, the Swedes and the Brazilians were doing—use ordinary national stamps or no stamps at all.

In the Congo, the conditions were different. Though there were two very stamp-conscious Governments in the Congo and the short-lived Katanga, the place was in fact being run by the United Nations with forces contributed by uncommitted members, chief among them India. I had therefore no hesitation in recommending an overprint for our Contingent in ONUC. To go with the overprint on our map series of stamps, we selected a map design for the First Day Cover, the first cover produced for APS by the Nasik Security Press.

Last, but not the least, our homage to the makers of Independent India, Jawaharlal Nehru and Mahatma Gandhi. As APS had been associated, in a very small way with the Peace Missions sponsored by or under the inspiration of Nehru, we commemorated his memory on the Army Day 1965 by

overprinting the Nehru stamp for the FPOs with the United Nations Emergency Force in Gaza and the International Control Commissions in Indo-China. The overprint was also marked by a First Day Cover which depicted Nehru's work as a soldier of peace.

Our salute to Gandhiji on his birth centenary was simple and humble. It was a special slogan cancellation designed to highlight the beauty and theme of the national stamps issued on the occasion. As time was short and the Department was busy preparing for an international conference at Tokyo, we were unable to publicise this cancellation. We have, however, done our best to supply specimens to genuine philatelists who have approached us in this regard.

STAMP CONSCIOUS COUNTRY

The country has at last become stamp-conscious. The Posts and Telegraphs Department is planning to produce beautiful new stamps. India is rich in cultural, political, historical and natural heritage and abounds in subjects fit for representation on stamps. The protagonists of various interests are advancing the claims of their heroes, home states and hobbies for enshrinement in philatelic glory. May I join this crowd and raise a hurrah for the Armed Forces and their post offices? Our Armed Forces are also rich in history and tradition; their flags and pennants evoke enthusiasm and pride; their picturesque ceremonies and parades elicit applause and admiration; and their Jawans are colourful and photogenic. Why not more of them on our stamps? And why not a set of stamps for the exclusive use at the Army Post Offices? The Pundits say that this has not been done before. I say why not now and why not before the others.

On our part we have made plans to encourage philately in the Services by opening stamp clubs in military camps and stations and by providing them with new issues, first day covers and special cancellations through the philatelic bureaux now functioning with the base post offices.

Well, Gentlemen, you love the stamps but I love the letters and so do all the soldiers and their postmen in whose ranks I am proud to stand.

(Courtesy : India Stamp Journal, March 1971.)



POSTAL HISTORY AND PHILATELIC LITERATURE

Harrison D.S. Haverbeck

One of the fascinating things about the collecting of postage stamps is the number of roads along which one can travel. There are three major ones. Manufacture and production (Philately), Usage of the stamps (Postal History) and the study of the design (thematic Collection) Some students may make a finer division of the last of these into Topical Philately and Thematic Collecting. In any event, a person is able to follow the road that most interests him without fear of boredom.

My theme in this paper is Postal History and Philatelic Literature. Postal History may be broadly defined as having to do with the use of the postage stamp and the development of the postal service as reflected in the postage stamps. You may have noted that I did not say adhesive postage stamp. Adhesive postage stamps are only the latest development in the long line

of postal markings which indicate the payment of the postal fee and the place of origin of the letter. My friend, Mr. Robson Lowe, has coined a phrase which clearly defines these pre-adhesive postal markings, "Hand - struck Stamps".

Postal History, then, comprises the study of the development of the postal service of any nation, state or area having its own postal service. Sometimes the postal service as an entity renders service to more than one state or government. An outstanding example of this is the Post of the Princes of Thurn and Taxis which operated a Post serving many European Countries over a period of more than three hundred years.

A collection of the stamps of any postal service ideally, then, should contain a study of the pre-adhesive hand - struck stamps, the adhesive stamps, including proofs and essays, the usages of the adhesive stamps and the town markings and cancellations. This complete collection can be divided into sections, if wanted, comprising only postal history or only the philately, that is, the study of the adhesive stamps themselves.

This task for a new collector of today would be next to impossible if it were not for the existence of a large body of literature which has been collated and compiled by the collectors who have preceded us.

Philatelic literature is an aspect of the pursuit of knowledge about stamps which has a fascinating history of its own. Soon after the first adhesive stamps were printed in 1840, articles about the new invention began to appear in the press. Advertisements of the earliest stamp dealers can sometimes be found, and since so much of what has appeared in print about stamps has been subsidised by the advertising of stamp dealers, the offerings of these pioneer tyros are of interest not only as curiosities, but even as an integral part of philatelic literature. Early accounts tell of the activity on the Paris open air flea market, where stamps were affixed to strings by pins. (the source for a pinhole in fine classic stamps that we see today). Feature articles also warned of the work of the first forgers, and we find that their efforts commenced shortly after the ink was dry on the world's first issues. Soon the examination of stamps with a view to detecting forgeries led to the study of the techniques of stamp production, leading thence to the plating of stamps by noting the most minute difference of design. Some will argue that it was at this moment that true philately was born, and the number of early research papers devoted to the science of plating does weight to this viewpoint.

In later years, the stamp itself has been seen in a broader view, and much has been written about the cancellations and town markings the stamps have received. This approach has led to interest in how the stamp's was used, and to the history, not only of the stamp's production, but its use in the carriage of mail. a further view sees the subject matter as portrayed on the stamp as a valid point of reference. Topical collecting is the development of this theme. All of these and more have been the subject matter of the vast and continuously growing body of Philatelic Literature.

The media through which philatelic writings have been published have been chiefly periodicals and books. Of the former, many have been house organs published by stamp dealers. The journals and publications of the many philatelic societies

have made an important contribution to the body of philatelic literature. The catalogues published by the stamp auction houses could also be included. The range of books, catalogues, handbooks, pamphlets and others covering the various phases of philately and postal history is truly tremendous.

The building of a philatelic library brings one into confrontation with several obstacles. Certainly, the first of these is the relative scarcity and even rarity of many recognized as a risky business; philatelic publishing all the more so, with the result that some of the finest works were originally printed in editions of only a few hundred. As a consequence, even when they come on the market at all today, they command prices which may place them out of reach for many collectors. A second consideration is the fact that much of what has been written about stamps is in languages other than English. It has been our experience that working with a foreign tongue in an illustrated stamp catalogue will soon give one a basic knowledge of enough philatelic terms in that language to have effective use of the catalogue. This will not always be enough to handle a handbook which may contain much copy in sentence and paragraph form, where a deeper knowledge of the language becomes truly necessary. A third consideration is really another aspect of the availability problem. Books and catalogues which are technically currently in print, may not importation from another country with its difficulties with currencies and customs duties.

The formation of a working library, then, may be far more difficult and expensive than the individual collector may want. It then becomes a necessary duty of philatelic societies to attempt to provide for the filling of this gap. Many of the national philatelic societies have libraries from which their members may obtain needed volumes on loan or refer to them in reading rooms provided for the purpose.

In summing up we can now see the broad ramifications to which our hobby can lead us. We can see the educational aspect of the collection, leading us to a study of customs, languages and cultural forms of the area under consideration. We can see that stamps are history and that history is truly reflected in a nation's stamps. We can study the development of a country through the spreading of its written communications as reflected in the growth of its postal facilities. We can even see the shifting tides of war and compost reflected in our stamp albums. Certainly, philately is a hobby which contributes to the education and the broadening of outlook of those who indulge in it.



EARLY POSTAL ADMINISTRATION IN JAIPUR STATE

Justice S. D. SINGH

Although postage stamps were adopted in the erstwhile Jaipur State in 1904 (evidence is now coming out that the postage stamps came into use with effect from some date in 1903) the postal administration in the State was pretty old and was in a well organised form by the middle of the last century. The Jaipur State early cancellations did not mention any date and the age of the postal administration cannot be determined except with reference to the date mentioned in the letters themselves. By

1861, however, the department was organised to an extent that even what may be called a Postal Manual came into existence by Sambat 1918 - 1861 A.D. This manual was only handwritten, and prescribed the responsibilities of all Government officers, such as Nazims, Ziledars, Tehsildars, Taluqe-darans, Thanedars, Daroghas customs, Officers of the Police (MahakmaGirai) Kiledars, Khabarniwises (News-writers) etc.

There was only one post Office so called at Jaipur. In the districts, the Ziledar was responsible for despatch of postal bags to different places. The officers of the State were enjoined to send all service letters to the Ziledar in the Tehsil. It was enjoined on him to prepare bags for different places, placing all official letters as also private letters in the same bag, seal it and then arrange for its despatch through what were called Harkaras. There were chaukies in different directions and the Harkaras were expected to change their duties there.

Four types of seals were supplied to the Ziledars at District Headquarters :

- (i) Seal for 'On Government Service';
- (ii) Seal indicating that postage had been realized;
- (Hi) Seal indicating that postage was to be realized from the addressee; and
- (iv) Seal indicating that receipt for delivery of the letter was to be obtained (A sort of registered letters).

Where a receipt was to be obtained for delivering a particular postal article, the despatching postal officer was required to attach a paper slip to the postal article on which the receipt was to be obtained. It can be presumed that it must have been intended to be something like the present acknowledgement form, though on blank paper.

The Government Officers were enjoined not to despatch more than one file (or record) in a day. This was so as the Harkaras were not supposed to carry more than seven seers of load in any one trip.

The seals having been supplied to the postal authorities at the District headquarters only. At other places, each letter was to be endorsed by them in hand at the rest of the places to draw the same distinction which was intended to be endorsed in the form of seals at District Head Quarters.

A statement was required to accompany the letters inside a bag giving details of the different kinds of the letters. Where a bag was despatched to a particular place, the name of that place was to be written over the bag, and that very bag was to be returned to the despatching postal centre who received the bag, after the name of that centre was written thereon. There were thus clear directions about the mannsr of use of the bags.

The postal charges by this time were :

Upto one pice worth in weight Two pice

From one pice to three pice in weight One anna

From three pice worth in weight to one seer Two annas

If a receipt was desired for delivery of these articles, which means that if the articles were registered (with acknowledgement due. in the modern sense), the postage for all the three types of articles, was double of the normal postage, i.e., one anna, two annas, and four annas in respect of the three types of postal articles. If the postage was payable by the addressee, there was no change in the rate. But the senders were warned that no articles of any value were to be despatched by post. In case of any loss, the State was not responsible for the same.

It appears that other forms of postal arrangements were also in existence prior to 1861 A. D., such as *Mahajani Dak* or *Brahmani Dak*. *Brahmani Dak* was probably permitted to work even during the period subsequent to Sambat 1861, as there is evidence available to that effect. We will refer to it presently. But what used to be classed as *Mahajani Dak* was strictly put a stop to by this 1861 Manual. Paragraph 17 of the Manual deals with this subject and it may be reproduced here with advantage.

"17. The State officials will stop any other form of postal administration such as *Mahajani* etc. which may be effective or working anywhere except the 'Dak of *Raj Sarkar* or *Angrezi*'. They should keep strict control that within the boundaries of the State any other postal administration such as *Mahajani* shall, not work. If any one does carry the Dak secretary, he shall be arrested and imprisoned, and the Officers shall propose punishment for the owner of that administration and inform the State Government. If any State employee shows indifference in this respect, he shall also be liable to punishment".

The Jodhpur State records give some indication as to what this *Mahajani Dak* was. This *Mahajani Dak* came into existence on the initiative of Seth Paras Ram Chatarbhuji, by caste Jat, of Bhiwani in Haryana and originated from Lucknow near about Sambat 1885 (1828 AD) after the breakdown of the Postal system of the Moghals.. and was organised towards Jodhpur by another Jat of Haryana who secured a contract for organising the postal work on a theka granted to him on payment of Rs. 1,200/- a year in initial stages. The Jaipur records so far available do not show on what terms the *Mahajani Dak* was permitted to work in the State. In Jodhpur State it worked inter-State as well as intra-State, and one can believe that it must have been doing inter-State work even in Jaipur State. This organisation was abolished only under Paragraph 17 of the 1861 Manual (Sambat 1918). The net work of postal lines established for intra-state carriage of mails shows that runners on the Jodhpur-Jaipur lines used to move via Merta, Parwatsar and Kuchaman. From Kuchaman the line used to trifurcate, one going to Jaipur, the other to Jhunjhnu (Shekhawati) and the third to Bikaner via Didwana and Sujangarh. So swift was the movement of the postal bags that the mails used to reach Jaipur or Bikaner from Jodhpur or vice-versa on the sixth day. In Jaipur State it caused to function since 1861 AD, though in Jodhpur it continued right upto 1885.

The Brahmani Dak in Jodhpur State appears to have covered postal arrangements to the west and north-west of Jodhpur, the lines established by it being to Jodhpur-Phalodi, and from Phalodi to Jaisalmer via Pokaran. It came into existence in that State near about Sambat 1905 or 1910 (1848 to 1853 AD). When this system (which fully developed in later years in Udaipur State) was born in Jaipur State is not so far clear (at least to the author of this article), but it does not appear to have taken up inter-state carrying of mails within the State, as the State had itself organised its own postal administration within the State, aided perhaps to some extent by Mahajani Dak. Brahmani Dak, in Jaipur State, appears to have been organised only for carrying of mails to the south of the boundaries of Jaipur State, *i.e.*, to places in or towards Tonk, Bundi, Kota, Shahpura etc. The arrangement was that the bags for places outside Jaipur State will be carried by State (Harkaras and delivered to the officials or (may be only Harkaras) of the Brahmani Dak at the State boundary and bags meant for Jaipur State from outside used to be received by them at that very place and then carried to the post offices or places where the work was being done by them. And for this, Brahmani Dak contractor, Lun Karan, used to deposit Rs. 49/- a month. The system must have been working for some years at least prior to Sambat 1927 (1870 AD), as on Lun Karan's death Rs 26 were found due against him for Sambat 1927, Rs 538 for Sambat 1928, Rs 436 for Sambat 1929 and Rs 136 for Sambat 1930. When proceedings were taken for recovery of these arrears from Lun Karan's sons, they put forward the excuse that because of the establishment of Government of India Post offices, there was little work for the Brahmani Dak system to perform. There no reference to Brahmani Dak specifically Paragraph 17 of the 1861 Manual, and though reference to 'Mahajani etc' should live covered even Brahmani Dak and the system should have come to an end by 1861 A.D., but the record relating to Lunkaran's theka at least upto Sambat 1930 - 1873 AD) show that Paragraph 17 of the 1861 Manual was not intended to cover a system. Probably the year 1873 AD (sambat 1930) saw an end of the Brahmani system, as there is no reference to organization in the printed 1885 AD (Manual. While most of the postal work in the state was being performed by the State officials in addition to their normal duties except at Jaipur where there was a regular post office) the State had no officials of own at some places, called Thikanas. They were at Kot Putli, Sikar, Nawalgarh, Fatehpur, Lachhmangarh, Khetri and Ramgarh. At all these places the State had employed Mutsaddis at Rs 5 a month (Sikar Mutsaddi alone was getting Rs 10 a month). Their work was to receive bags meant for these places and despatch them onwards where necessary along with the letters from their own places.

There was also a Chilka Dak system working in the State, but it was also not a State administered system. By Chilka Dak is meant conveying information by relay signalling by reflecting sun's rays or even otherwise by mirrors from hillocks or high level places. The information conveyed through this system referred to figures relating to opium or cotton sales at Bombay or may be even Calcutta. The information was received at Ajmer or Jaipur through telegrams and from here was carried forward to Shekhawati, Bikaner and Jodhpur, the businessmen of which

places were interested in such sales.



Know this Country

TRINIDAD & TOBAGO NICK HALEWOOD

Trinidad and Tobago, officially the Republic of Trinidad and Tobago, is an island republic in the West Indies just off the coast of Venezuela. Trinidad (1864 square miles) is the southernmost of the Windward Islands, and Tobago (116 square miles) lies 21 miles north-east of it. The capital is Port of Spain on Trinidad. Trinidad is separated from Venezuela by the 12-mile wide Bocas dea Dragon (Dragon's Mouth) at the north-west and by the 9-mile wide Boca de la Serpiente or Sierpe (Serpent's Mouth) at the south-west.

Trinidad was first sighted by Christopher Columbus on 31 July 1498 on his third voyage. Some days later, a party of his men landed on the Paria peninsula (part of present day Venezuela), becoming the first recorded Europeans to set foot on South American soil. After claiming Trinidad for Spain, Columbus sailed through the Grand Boca and then spotted Tobago in the distance. Trinidad was taken from the Spanish by Sir Walter Raleigh in 1595, captured by the French in 1676, and seized by the British in 1797. It was confirmed to be British at the Peace of Amiens in 1802, and became a typical British sugar colony.

Tobago, however, changed hands like a hot potato between the Dutch, French and British. Estimates of the number of changeovers range from 22 to 32. It was settled by the Dutch in 1642, taken by the British in 1672, and regained by the Dutch two years later. It was declared a neutral island in 1748, but was ceded to the British in 1763. In 1781 it was taken by the French and confirmed to them in 1783. The British took it again in 1793, but it was restored to France at the Peace of Amiens in 1802. However, it was taken by the British again in 1803 and finally confirmed as British in 1814. In 1887 Trinidad was linked with Tobago by vote of Parliament. Trinidad and Tobago was part of the short-lived political experiment called the British Caribbean Federation from 3 January 1958 to 31 August 1962, when it became an independent member of the Commonwealth. Later, on 1 August 1976, Trinidad and Tobago became a presidential republic within the Commonwealth.

It is not known why Columbus named Trinidad after the Holy Trinity. Some say it was because he had entrusted his third voyage to the Holy Trinity, others say it was because he had

made a promise to name the first land he saw in honour of the Holy Trinity. The Arawak Indians gave it a much more imaginative name, were, which



translates as 'Land of the Hummingbird'.

When Columbus first sighted Tobago in 1498 he named it Bella Forma. Its present name is most probably a corruption of the word 'tobacco'. Tobacco was grown by the original Indian inhabitants and later as a crop by settlers.

A British post office for overseas mail was opened on Trinidad in 1800, but no internal deliveries were made outside Port of Spain until 1816. In 1851, on the day of issue of the first official stamps, post offices for internal mail were opened at Port of Spain and San Fernando. Responsibility for the overseas mail passed to the local post authorities in 1858. Although a Colonial Postmaster was appointed in January 1765 and a local post office was opened in 1805, it was not until 1841 that a branch of the GPO in London was opened in Scarborough, the capital of Tobago, to handle overseas mail. The colony gained complete control of the postal system in 1860, a handstamp comprising a crowned-circle with the words 'Paid at Tobago' being used until the first stamps were issued.

The first stamp used in Trinidad was the imperforate blue 'Lady McLeod' stamp (5c.) issued in April 1847 (SG 1) by David Bryce, owner of the SS lady McLeod. He carried mail at the rate of 5c. per letter but was plagued by the problem of running out of change. Hence he had the brainwave of introducing stamps that could be bought for 5c. each, or \$4 per 100, for prepayment of the carriage of letters by his vessel between Port of Spain and San Fernando. Apart from being attractive, the 'Lady McLeod' stamp is famous for being the first to be issued

by a British colony. It was, however, issued privately and not by the government.

The first official stamp inscribed 'TRINIDAD' was the undenominated 1d. purple-brown issued on 14 August 1851 (2) and the last inscribed thus were the three values released 1909 (46/8). On To-bago, stamps of Great Britain were in use from May 1858 to the end of April 1860, when control of the postal services passed to the local authorities. The first stamps inscribed 'TOBAGO' for postal purposes were the six fiscal stamps issued on 1 July 1879, which were sold provisionally for postal use from 1 August 1879 pending the arrival of the first stamps inscribed 'POST-AGE'. The latter were issued on 20 December 1880. Tobago became a ward of 'Trinidad on 1 January 1899, from which time stamps of Trinidad were used until the first inscribed TRINIDAD & TOBAGO' appeared in 1913. There was a change from sterling to a new currency in 1935 (100 cents = 1 West Indian, later Trinidad and Tobago, dollar), the first stamps in the new currency being the 1935-7 pictorials.

PRODUCTION, SHEET LAYOUT AND SHADES

The 12 values of the first Queen Elizabeth II definitive set for Trinidad and Tobago were all first issued on 20 April 1953. All values were recess-printed by Bradbury, Wilkinson on paper with the Multiple Script CA watermark, with the Bradbury, Wilkinson imprint in the centre of the bottom margin. The ten large format low values were produced in sheets of 60 (5x 12) with plate numbers below stamp 59 (monocoloured; 4c. and 5c.), or stamps 59 (frame) and 60 (vignette) (bicoloured). All low values were perforated (gauge IIX'XII) with a single-row comb moving upwards (bottom feed). The two high values (S 1.20 and \$4.80) came in sheets of 120 (12x10) with a plate number under stamp 119. Both high values were initially line-perforated (gauge 12). Later these two values appeared perf 11½ with a double-row comb working upwards (bottom feed): \$1.20 on 19 January 1955 and \$4.80 on 16 December 1955. There are three listed shades: (1c. blue and bluish green 10 June 1959)

(24c. black and olive 16 November 1955)

(24c. black and greenish olive December. 1956).

CHRISTMAS CARD PROVISIONAL

On 20 December 1956 the 2c. overprinted with the words 'ONE CENT' (280; Kg 1) was put on sale. The overprinting was necessary because of a shortage of 1c. stamps due to the late arrival of the aircraft carrying the next consignment. The plane arrived on the evening of 20 December and the surcharged stamps were immediately withdrawn from sale, thus they were on sale for only one day. It was nearing Christmas and 1c. stamps were needed for Christmas cards. The 1c. rate was used for book packets, newspapers and other second class mail within the colony, the letter rate



being 2c. Of the 539,940 stamps (i.e. 8999 sheets) overprinted, 81,840 were sold to the public on 20 December and 379 were retained for official records, the balance of 457,721 being destroyed on 19 February 1957.

The overprinting was done locally by the Government Printer in Port of Spain with type set up on a linotype machine in twelve rows of five. There are two listed varieties of the overprint: the 'C' of 'CENT' is sliced at top right at RI 1/1 (SG VI, Lister V21; Fig 2), and the 'O' of ONE is broken at the top at R8/5 (SG V2, Lister VII; fig 3). Also, three sheets were found with the overprint misplaced to the right, straddling two stamps, and at a slight angle, being higher at the right (Fig 4). Finally, in April 1957 it was reported that the crude workmanship of the overprint had invited the swift action of forgers, because of the appearance of specimens that did not conform to ones known to have come from the Trinidad Post Office. On genuine examples the letters are under 2.5 millimetres high and squat, the 'Es' and 'Ns' noticeably so, and the 'Es' have long thin arms. On the assumed forgeries, however, the letters are about 2.75mm high, and the 'N's and 'E's are taller, and all their strokes are of even thickness (Fig 5).

THE DESIGNS

All the designs include a portrait of the Queen and the St Edward's Crown. On all values except the 1c., 2c. and 12c. there is a bare-headed portrait of the Queen looking left, which is based on a photograph, No O 15924 A, by Dorothy Wilding Limited, London. The portrait on the 1c., 2c. and 12c. is a similar one of the Queen looking right, based on photograph O 15924 Z by Dorothy Wilding Limited.

The values and designs of the new set were the same as those of the preceding King George VI set. The latter were the same as those of the last King George V set with the following exceptions. The designs of the 1935 set did not include a portrait of the monarch. Unlike the 1938 and 1953 sets, the 1935 one had 48c. and 72c. values, but not 4c., 5c., 60c., \$1.20 and \$4.80 ones. The designs of the 1935 4c. and 72c. values were used for the 1938 and 1953 4c. and 60c. values, and the designs of the 1938 and 1953., \$ 1.20 and \$4.80 values were new.

Four values depict scenes in the capital, Port of Spain. Situated on the western side of Trinidad, on the Gulf of Paria, Port of Spain faces the coast of Venezuela. The 4c. scarlet (270) shows the War Memorial in Memorial Park (on the 1935 48c). The islands sent several contingents to France during World War

On the 5c. magenta (271) are the buildings of the GPO and the Treasury (new design for the 1938-44 set). Queen's Park, Savannah, one of the open spaces in Port of Spain, is featured on the 8c. deep yellow-green and orange-red (273). The park was first laid out during the governorship of Sir Ralph Woodford (1813-28). A careful study of the design will disclose football goalposts, reflecting the fact that the park was the sporting centre of the capital. Finally, on the 24c. black and yellow-olive (275) is Government House. This handsome building lies in the Botanic Gardens on the north side of Queen's Park and was built in

1874-5.

Another four values show scenes elsewhere on Trinidad. The 2c. indigo and orange-brown (268) depicts the Imperial College of Tropical Agriculture at St Augustine near Tunapuna, seven miles inland from Port of Spain. Trinidad's inhabitants were particularly proud that their island was chosen out of all the Empire's tropical settlements for the site of this college. The building illustrated was erected in 1924, the foundation stone being laid by Sir Samuel Wilson, the then governor. On the 12c. black and purple (274) is the Town Hall of San Fernando. San Fernando, the-second largest town, is situated south of Port of Spain on the Gulf of Paria. San Fernando already had some philatelic fame since it was one of the termini of the SS Ijidy McLeod, which was depicted on Trinidad's first and most famous stamp.

Upon his second visit to Trinidad in 1595, Sir Walter Raleigh discovered the famous Pitch Lake near La Brea, shown on the 6c. brown and greenish blue (272; given as 'Lake Asphalt' on the stamp). This peculiar deposit of hot tar occupies an area of 127 acres and is located half a mile inland from the Gulf of Paria and 57 miles south of Port of Spain. At first, asphalt was not used for road-making; Raleigh, for instance, used it to caulk his ships. The first man to foresee the modern use of asphalt was Admiral Cochrane of Chilean stamp fame, who secured the lease of the deposit in 1851. He was then Earl of Dun-donald, his seafaring days in the navies of Chile and Greece being long past. The lake has provided many countries with asphalt for centuries. In 1976, 65,000 tonnes were exported. Lastly, the 60c. blackish green and carmine (276) shows the Blue Basin (on 1935 78c.), a beautiful waterfall and pool on the Diego Martin River about nine miles from Port of Spain.

The 1c. blue and green (267) shows the First Boca. The Bocas del Dragon (Dragon's Mouths) are the four channels at the north-west of Trinidad joining the Gulf of Paria to the Caribbean Sea. The First Boca or Boca de Monos (Ape's Mouth) is the most easterly one, running between Trinidad and the island of Monos. Soon after the 1935-7 1c. had been issued, someone pointed out that the view should include one more island than the number actually shown. The Post Office was informed, but nothing was done to rectify the design for the 1938-44 and 1953-59 issues. The 3c. deep emerald and purple-brown (269) shows the only view of Tobago. The view is of Mount Irvine Bay and the neighbouring Mount Irvine, which arc-situated at the southernmost end of this picturesque island. The borders of some values include various important agricultural products, i.e. coconuts (2c., 3c. and 60c; also the vignettes of the \$ 1.20 and \$4.80), cocoa (2c., 3c., 5c., 12c. and 60c.), coffee (2c., 3c., 12c. and 6(V.)), sugar (3c., 12c. and and grape fruit (3c and 12c.)). The derricks at the right of the vignette of the 6c. reflect the fact that Trinidad and Tobago became an oil economy in the 20th century, having been a sugar one in the 19th century.

Finally, the anticlimactic design for the two small format high values, the \$1.20 bluish green (277) and \$4.80 cerise (278), comprises the Queen's portrait and a palm-lined beach scene

squeezed in alongside.

The 1953-9 set was replaced by a set printed in photogravure by Harrison and Sons and issued on 24 September 1960.

References

Gibbons Stamp Monthly; March 1935, pp 104-5; September 1939, pp224-6; July 1953, p131; March 1955, p88; August 1955, pp 142-3; January 1956, p60; April 1957, p91; June 1957, p120

Stuart Rossiter & John Flower, The Stamp Atlas, 1986, MacDonalD & Co (Publishers) Limited, London, p154



BOOK REVIEW

INDIAN AIRMAILS :

DEVELOPMENT AND OPERATIONS (1911-1942).

BY PRADIP JAIN.

Kolkata, India, 2002. No ISBN. Obtainable from Pihla-Art, PO Box 128, Mithapur, Patna 800001, India. Price, inclusive of surface postage, £35, or £40 by airmail .

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

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

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

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

215x276mm; 210 pages; hardbound, with illustrated dust cover, in slip case. 318 illustrations, mostly in colour.

