



# SIPA

# Bulletin

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Quarterly

Maltese Cross  
50

Boy Scouts  
56

## Editorial

### SPARSH PART 1 WRITTEN QUIZ

#### INTRODUCTION

Superlative appreciation and top most congratulations have to be bestowed to the Department of Posts for the implementation of the scholarship scheme SPARSH for budding school children to promote Aptitude and Reseach in stamps as a hobby. It really creates wonders in the schools where the students are fortunate enough to get the scholarship.

Starting from the year 2017, Dept. of Posts spends crores of rupees of tax payers money in the name of SPARSH to spread awareness and inculcate in the young minds the History, Geography, Heritage, Culture etc of their motherland India and to promote the hobby of Philately among school students. Yes, it is executed, monitored, finalised and announced in Dept. of Posts own way. In 2024 about 40 students (10 each in VI, VII, VIII & IX) from various schools in Tamilnadu Circle area were awarded, benefited and enjoyed the scholarship. However God only knows how many of them have become stamp collectors and continuing the hobby. If a feedback survey is done it will be an eye - opener for the future..

#### CONDUCTION :

a) Preparation of Question paper. Done at Circle level. 50 Questions - 25 Questions in Philately.

Much to be said about the questions and also answers. Questions has to be clear, unambiguous and has to be answerable by students. But in reality, it was not. In the recently (2025) concluded exams, around 10 questions are either wrong or ambiguous. For example, two questions are as below.

1. Which Tamilnadu city is known for its stamps featuring the historic Tirumala Naicker Mahal?

Out of the answers given, Madurai can be the nearest guess. But unfortunately not even one stamp has been issued for the architectural "Mahal".

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(India Post can make a note for future proposal)

2. Who designed the first Indian Postage Stamp?

'First' can refer to overall from 1852 or from Indian Independence, from 1947?

If 10 questions out of 50 fall into such a situation of disgrace how the students can answer them, how evaluation can be done properly and strictly and how some students can score 45 and 46 out of 50 as been done and recored in a school two years earlier.

b) Conduction of Quiz Examination.

As the applying students' number grows in geometric propertions, it is really a Herculean task for the authorities to conduct the written quiz without any negative criticism. To ease the situation, in some schools the sitting and invigilation is done in the same school of the students which is vulnerable for some types of malpractises. In the year 2023 about 20 students of one particular school in South division of Chennai City scored above 45/50. Can it be normally possible? It is high time to think.

#### SUGGESTIONS :

1. At circle level : MC questions should be with single correct answer and without any ambiquity in the questions as well as answers. Advice and suggestions from senior philatelists shall be taken whenever necessary in finalising the questions before approving.

2. Conduction of the quiz examination shall be done at Common centres like other Governmental exams, which can prevent uncalled for criticism and malpractises also.

3. Strict correction, verification and monitoring with an answer template shall be done before finalising the list for the second - project - stage.



# POSTHORNS BISHOP MARKS, MALTESE CROSSES & MULREADY COVERS

*Abhijit De,  
Life Member, S.I.P.A.*

## PART - 2

### OLD POSTAL SERVICES, POSTAL UNIFORMS AND MALTESE CROSS UNIFORMS

Another interesting fact about the pre-1840 period were the introduction of uniforms to distinguish mail service providers, from other service providers. In this British stamp set to mark the death centenary of Sir Rowland Hill issued in 1979, 2 such uniforms are shown which are enlarged here for greater clarity. The 11 and half pence stamp shows general local delivery within towns where the postman travelled ringing a bell and on the 13 pence stamp is shown



a postman who delivered letters for London City. Both these uniforms were in various periods upto 1839.

On the Continent of Europe , the creation of the “Holy Roman Empire” headed by a common Roman Emperor and encouraged by the

Pope in the Vatican ,from about the 9<sup>th</sup> century, had resulted in a stable environment for most of Europe by the 15<sup>th</sup> century . This stability helped to create an environment for efficient postal services within western and central Europe. The Counts of Thurn and Taxis , one of whom, Franz von Taxis is shown on this West German stamp, were the most famous among mail service providers. They operated from 1490 till 1867, before they sold their business to the Kingdom of Prussia, which German State finally helped unify the various German principalities and kingdoms, including their postal services, to create the Kingdom of Germany. Therefore The Counts of Thurn and Taxis provided postal services which spanned the historical period both before and after 1840. At their peak their efficient postal services extended from the Baltic sea in the north to the Adriatic sea in the south, and from Poland in the east to the Straits of Gibraltar in the west.

The French stamp shown here depicts the uniform of the French Royal messenger serving during the 1500s and 1600s , and the Belgian stamp shows a horse borne express mailman used by the Count of Thurn and Taxis up to the 1800s,which was drawn by Belgian artist, Jean Fivet.



Countries like Belgium and Germany have issued many stamps showing different types of postmen and postal services during different centuries, on stamp day annually . These stamps are taken from among Stamp Day (Journee de Timbre in French, as Belgium has both French and Dutch as their national languages) issues. The 3 Franc stamp issued in 1962, is by Belgian artist, James Thiriar (1889 - 1965), who has drawn most of these Stamp Day stamps for Belgium, and shows a” 16<sup>th</sup> century post rider”. The next, 3 Fr. 50 stamp issued in 1971, shows a mailman of the 1855 period on foot ; The third stamp with a face value of 3 francs shows an armed countryside postman of around 1852, with a Logo of the 19<sup>th</sup> World Congress of the IPTT (International du Personnel des Postes,Telegraphes and Telephones ), Brussels, within the stamp design;It is followed by a 3F,1965 issued green coloured stamp showing a Postmaster within a street background , in an uniform worn around 1833 period. The 1975 issued 6F 50

stamp shows a postman from 1840s delivering letters and the last stamp of Belgium, issued in 1968, shows developments during a later period , where a Postman of Field Post of 1916, during WW I, walks through a war torn field.



Another three stamps issued by France and Switzerland develops the postal uniform theme further , with the French stamp showing a postman of Paris city as found in the 1740s; and the 5 Fr. Stamp of Switzerland shows a postal messenger of the Freiberg province , Switzerland in the 17<sup>th</sup> century; where as the 10 Fr.stamp of Switzerland shows a 15<sup>th</sup> century postman of the Swiss Schwyz province.



These West German issues for Stamp Day(Tag der Briefmarke) features various uniforms used by postal services in Germany - The first shows the days of Kaiserliche Post, which ended at the end of WW I, where horse drawn and Tricycle Delivery carts can be seen for use of Railway Mail; and the next shows Balloon delivery mail of the late 1800s and early 1900s. The last 2 stamps pertain to the River Spree (Spreewald) region , where for the last more than 116 years barge delivery has been taking place,

specially in places like Lehde , where many homes lack direct road access. This Region is located about 100 Kms S.E. of the capital Berlin. It is now a UNESCO Biosphere reserve due to its unique landscape of waterways and wetlands, formed by the River Spree and its branches.

The barge route covers about 8 Kms.and serves about 65 household, with postal workers delivering an average of 600 letters and 70 parcels per week ,specially during the warmer months in between April to October . Although now -a-days the canals are ice-free all year round, there was a time when the water froze during winter and the postman on skates who delivered during that period, shown on the last German stamp, still remains a symbol of Spreewald and its unique culture.

**CANCELLATIONS :**



Britain has experimented with many types of cancellations , which were consolidated and issued on a Royal Mail generic smilers sheet, to mark the 350<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the introduction of the Bishop Mark, in 2011. The Smilers sheet shares 20 different types of postmarks used over the centuries, with the Royal “Wax seal “acting as the continuity design in the second segment of each stamp. Out of these 20, 6 older ones have been chosen. They show, from let top - 1. Bishop Mark of 1661; Essex Post (1674); Dockwra (1680) ; and the second column shows - Red Maltese Cross (1849) Barred Numeral cancellation, used in England and Wales- which was discussed in the earlier article on Penny Reds (1844) and Pearson Hill Machine cancellation (1857). More details regarding the more important of these cancellations are shared here under.

The first British Postmark was called Bishop Mark after the Postmaster General, Col. Henry Bishop. It was introduced in 1661 ,after experiments at Dublin, at the London Chief Office, where Henry Bishop was the Postmaster General from June 1660 to April 1663. As seen here, it consisted of a small circle divided into two, with a 2 letter abbreviation for the month, and a numeral representing the day of the month in the 2<sup>nd</sup> segment. Col. Bishop stated that this was being introduced to ensure that a record could be shown for the despatch date of each letter through this cancellation, so that no one could delay the delivery .The first such cancellation was used in Dublin.

Bishop marks were used in London (1661-1787); Dublin (1670-1795); Edinburgh (1693-1806), in the American colonies, and in Calcutta , in India. The Indian stamp shown here depicts a Bishop mark used by the Calcutta (now

Kolkata) G.P.O., because it was the only place in India where this landmark cancellation was in use.

Handstruck cancellation stamps, in Britain, showing the name of the post office (as can be seen the Bishop mark did not show name of post office), was started in Ireland in 1698 spread to England by 1700, and Scotland in 1731. In the above example of 6 British cancellations, the Essex handstruck stamp is taken as an example.

The third cancellation example is also a handstruck stamp, which was the first handstruck stamp to indicate pre-payment of postage in Britain. It was invented by William Dockwra, and therefore called Dockwra cancellations. He invented these triangular handstamp cancellations for a service called London Penny Post in 1680. The offices in London and Westminster had the wording Penny Post Paid and the abbreviation indicating the receiving office was shown in the center. The example of the Dockwra cancellation shows L for London as the originating office. Westminster was indicated as WME. This service was taken over by Government of Great Britain in November 1682.



## MALTESE CROSS

The next cancellation is the famous Red Maltese Cross, to be used for the Penny Black and Mulready designed stationery being used for posting. According to the information on Wikipedia, the Maltese cross was chosen as the initial cancellation mark for British stamps, specifically the Penny Black and Two penny Blue, due to its pre-existing association with the Knights of St. John (also known as the Knights of Malta) and their heroic deeds, which aligned with the public's perception of the postal system. The Maltese cross was not exactly copied, as the Cross shown on the stamp of Malta shown here depicts, but was made in such a way that it could be copied and used more easily as a cancellation by the Postal Services. The Maltese Cross cancellation was modified in such a way, that it inspired the design of Britain's highest award for Bravery, The Victoria Cross, introduced from 1856, which is shown on this British stamp.

Shown on the Penny Black, and the Penny Blue (for 2 penny post) here are examples of the Red Maltese Cross cancellations. Many other colours or combinations were also used over a period of time. Here is also an example of an orange colour Maltese Cross cancellation used for a time in Liverpool, and another, which shows a Penny Blue

canceled with both a Red and a Black Maltese Cross. All 4 illustrations used are downloaded from a site [www.stamps.oftheworld.co.uk/wiki/GB](http://www.stamps.oftheworld.co.uk/wiki/GB)



*Liverpool Post office maintained an orange stamp pack for a while, thereby producing Orange Maltese Cross cancellations.*



*Penny Blue with both Red and Black Cancellation*



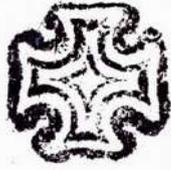
It had been observed by Rowland Hill that people had been removing the Red Maltese Cross cancellations and reusing the Penny Black stamps, and therefore a decision was taken to issue Penny Red stamps to replace the Penny

Blacks and replace Red Maltese Cross cancellations with Black Maltese crosses. In order to ensure these cancellations are fool proof, firstly a decision was taken that Penny Reds will be printed with a fugitive ink labeled 16G, from among various inks suggested by the Printers, and as for Black Maltese Cross cancellation trials will be conducted. The above sheet shows the results of cancellation trials conducted in September 1840, and the notes there on made by Hill. He had entered into an agreement with a chemist in 1840 to carry out tests with various chemicals available with the public, to help arrive at a decision on those tamper-proof inks to be used for cancellations and stamp printing, so as to arrive at ink combinations that will be fool proof.

After the introduction of Black Maltese Cross cancellations, variations in the design in between Post offices in Britain were seen. Here are some of the different Black Maltese Cross cancellation design variations, that unintentionally helped distinguished certain post offices, from others.



The Black Maltese Cross cancellation use at Coventry P.O.England



Black Cancellation used at Belfast, Ireland.



Welshpool Black Maltese Cross Cancellation

From around 1843,the London Inland Office used a series of black numeral postmarks with the number within the central diamond in the cancellations. The numbers were from 1 to 12. These crosses show cancellations with numbers 1,8, 10 used on different Penny Reds.



( Above Maltese Cross cancellations are taken from [www.stamps of the world.co.uk/wiki/](http://www.stamps of the world.co.uk/wiki/).)

**Author**

Mr.Abhijit De, a Life Member of SIPA has been a stamp collector from the age of eight, but became a Philatelist only after retirement after 37 years of Service in two different companies, including the Fortune 500, Public Sector Petroleum Company, Bharat Petroleum Corporation Ltd. After 2012 he has done research beyond stamps, to include studying FDCs and Cachets, Information Pamphlets, stamp designing and printing techniques.



**CREDITS:**

The news and views in the articles are those of the authors and neither the Editor nor the Association are necessarily in agreement with them.

# THE WORLD'S FIRST CHRISTMAS STAMP

**Rolands Nelson, SIPA**

Come the last quarter of the year, it is customary for at least 20% of stamp issuing countries, led by Great Britain to issue a set of stamps to celebrate the Christmas Season.

In 1962, the United States issued its first Christmas stamp, a 4c holiday adhesive, and the great demand for this stamp resulted in a printing of more than 800 million copies. The 1963 Christmas issue, which depicts the National Christmas Tree and the White House grounds, is expected to be issued in a quantity of 2,000 million. With precedent established, collectors can probably look forward to an annual United States Christmas stamp.

Joining ranks with these nations who postally honor Christmas every year will be Canada. But, unknown to many collectors, is the fact that one twenty seven years ago Canada issued what many collectors consider to be the world's first Christmas stamp.



USA - 1962

This stamp marked the inauguration of a new lower postal rate in Canada. Canadians could mail letters to Great Britain and many of the British territories for two cents. This new rate went into effect from Christmas Day 1898, and Many Canadians considered the rate and the new stamp to fill it in the nature of being Christmas presents, and indeed, the stamp's inscription reads "XMAS 1898."

**An anecdote about this stamp**, credits Queen Victoria as the inspiration for the "XMAS" legend. In a discussion with the Postmaster General of Canada over when the new rate would be into effect, the Queen is alleged to have replied sharply to the suggestion that the Prince of Wales' birthday would be an apt day by asking, "Why not the birthday of the Prince of Peace.?" and so this stamp was issued. (X-mas 1898)

**P.S.:** India also has issued stamps for Christmas and so far the last one was the attractive two stamp set issued in 2016 and none afterwards for the post 10 years.

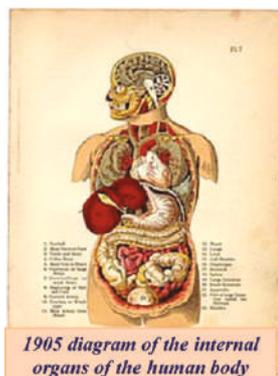


# PHILATELIC TEACHING AID HUMAN BODY SYSTEM

Mr. Shanmugam K.  
Life Member, SIPA

Stamps can be innovatively used as a tool to teach basic lessons on any subject for school students. An exhibit can be prepared with the support of stamps etc. as a teaching aid. One of our member awarded for his medical exhibits has prepared an introductory article to teach biology to students as below. An exhaustive article based on an exhibit is in the pipeline on biology - Editor.

Our Human Body and its Internal Systems are nature's wonders. The human body performs incredibly complex functions on a daily basis. The wonders of the human body are evidence of a very intelligent Designer and Creator. Our bodies are composed of amazingly complex organs like the heart, the eye, kidney and the liver. The human brain itself makes the most advanced computer of today with which we do things on a daily basis that are extremely complicated tasks.



# 1980 - Morocco



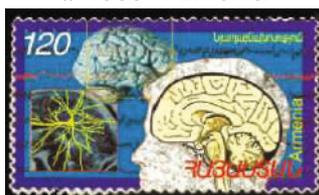
## BRAIN :

The human brain is the central organ of the Nervous system and with the Spinal cord forms a Central Nervous System. It is the complex command center of the body, responsible for thought, emotion, memory, movement, and regulating vital functions like breathing and heart beat. There are around 100 billion neurons in the human brain, each connected to thousands of other neurons, passing signals to each other via trillions of synapses. The human brain can process information at a speed of up to 120 meters per second.

# 1989 - India



# 1989 - Armenia



## HEART :

The human heart is a muscular organ, about the size of a fist. It functions as a pump for the circulatory

# 1996 - India



# 1981 - Greece



# 1972 - Malta - First day of issue

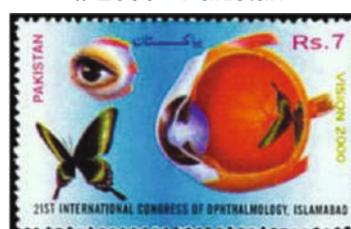


system, delivering oxygen and nutrients throughout the body and removing waste products. The heart has four chambers – two atria and two ventricles – that work in coordinated rhythm to circulate blood, with valves ensuring its one-way flow.

The heart is unique because its muscle never gets tired. It beats more than 3 billion times in an average lifespan. It pumps 8,000 litres of blood around the body each day. The heart is protected by a lubricating bag to reduce friction from its rapid beating.

**EYE :** The human eye is a complex, camera-like organ that enables vision by capturing light, focusing it through the cornea and lens, and converting it into signals transmitted to the brain via the optic nerve. The human eye can distinguish an estimated 10 million different shades of color. The eye blinks approximately 12 times per minute, or over 4 million times annually, to maintain moisture and keep the cornea clean.

# 2000 - Pakistan



# 1968 - Grenada



# 1962 - India



**LIVER :**

The liver is a major metabolic organ exclusively found in vertebrates, which performs many essential biological functions such as detoxification of the organism, and the synthesis of various proteins and various other biochemicals necessary for digestion and growth

The liver can regenerate itself

The liver can store vitamins and minerals

The liver can produce glucose

The liver can metabolize drugs

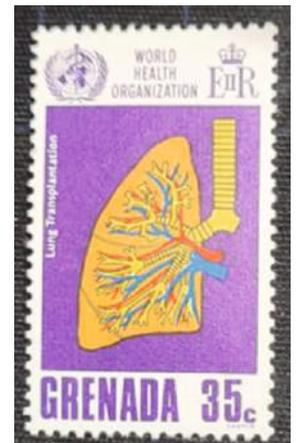
# 2018 - India



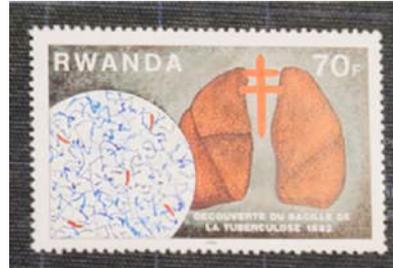
# 2014 - India



# 1968 - Grenada



# 1882 - Rwanda



Still our human body has full of amazing facts:

A single strand of hair can support 100 grams,

The acid in our stomach is strong enough to dissolve some metals.

The largest organ is the skin, while the smallest bone is the stapes in our ear.

Our blood vessels could on circle the Earth more than twice.

**Author :**



A qualified pharma marketing executive in Chennai, collecting stamps, coins and currency for the past 30 years. Having area of interest as medical philately, collecting items related to medical discoveries, medical college cancellations and related special covers and as additional interest collects Nobel winners also.

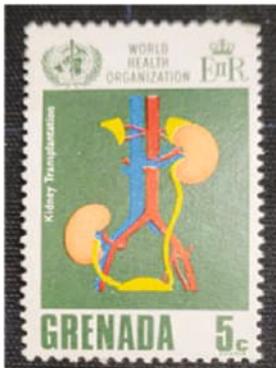
\* \* \* \* \*

**KIDNEY :**

The kidneys are two bean-shaped organs, each about the size of a fist. They are located just below the rib cage, one on each side of your spine. Healthy kidneys filter about half a cup of blood every minute, removing wastes and extra water to make urine.

Our Kidneys pump more than 50 Gallons of Blood daily.

# 1968 - Grenada



# 2002 - Egypt

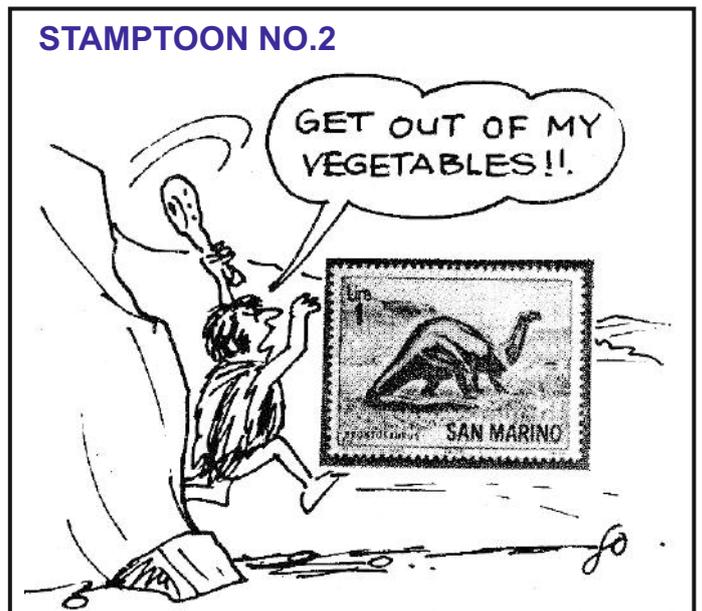


# 1990 - Austria



**LUNGS :**

Human lungs are complex organs made of spongy tissues containing millions of tiny air sacs called alveoli, which are surrounded by a network of blood vessels. They also include the bronchial tree, elastic tissues and a



# HISTORY OF SCOUT STAMP COLLECTING

## PART - 1

Stamp collecting, in general, is a worthwhile and formative educational means. It requires organization, observation, and precision for patient research work. It gives a geographical knowledge of the countries where the stamps are issued, knowledge of their monetary system, understanding of words belonging to other languages, of different customs, and the histories of different countries starting with their adoption of the stamp up to the present time. For all these reasons, stamp collecting and particularly Scout postage stamps can be profitably used as a didactic instrument.

We do not know if Baden-Powell, in his writings, advised boys to collect stamps as he recommended dramatic art among the training means in his method. What is sure is that at the time of B.P the Scout theme was just starting and that he did not have time to witness its diffusion. In our opinion, one should have in each Scout section at least one collection of Scout stamps. This would not only have a didactic goal, but would serve to remind youngsters of the diffusion of the Movement throughout the world. Moreover, it would show youngsters the importance Scouting has acquired in the official life of states, to the point that government have authorized the issuing of denominations representative of the country, as with coins. But, in order to have a more ample diffusion, they print special series of commemorative stamps of Scout manifestations and in honor of Scouting, and authorize, moreover, special postal cancellations to commemorate special Scout activities.

The history of Scout stamp collecting started with the "forerunner" stamps: the issuing of three denominations in April 1900, with rudimentary means, during the Anglo-Boer war. It was during this war that Baden-Powell, thanks to his gift of observation and his qualities of organization, received his first Scout intuition by using boys in the activities of informants.



As you know, the history of Scouting began in 1908, and in a very short time the Movement took shape and spread throughout the world.

The real history of Scout stamp collecting started on the 7<sup>th</sup> of November 1918 in Czechoslovakia with the printing of two postage stamps of 10 and 20 haleru for the service rendered by Scouts to the post offices during the war of liberation of the country. These are the two denominations on which a mention of the Scout Organization appears for the first time.



We then have to wait more than three years to see other Scout stamps. In February of 1920, Siam (now Thailand) printed a few stamps out of an ordinary

precedent series with an extra



tax for the "Scout funds", that is to say for the benefit of the Scout Organization. In December of 1920, a second series with printing similar to the first, gathered still more funds for Siamese Scouting.

The first issuing of postage stamps featuring a Scout occurred in Hungary where, to honor the already renowned Scout Movement, on the 27<sup>th</sup> of April 1925, a postage stamp worth 1000 Korana was issued. We see a Scout blowing a trumpet in the foreground and, in the background, an encampment.

Six years elapse before we see yet other stamps with a Scout theme. Romania issued, on the 8<sup>th</sup> of July 1931, a series of five denominations, three with vignettes of Scout activities and two with the image of Prince Nicolas, Chief Scout of Romania. On July 8<sup>th</sup> 1932, this series was followed by another consisting of six stamps with scenes of Scout life and with the image of King Carol II, Chief Scout. The eleven denominations carry an extra tax in favor of the Romanian Scout Association.



On December 21<sup>st</sup> of the same year, 1932, in Liechtenstein, a series of three stamps was printed in order to collect funds on the behalf of children. The denominations of 30 and 10 r. represent Prince Francis I, Chief Scout, whose images is backed by two Scouts with a flag.



In 1933, Scout stamp collecting began to affirm itself and the issuing of stamps commemorating Scout activities or manifestations follow one another in ever increasing numbers. The second world-wide conflict caused a stop in issuing's of all kinds from 1938 to 1945. With the return to normality, the Scout theme came to life once again and enriched itself more and more through new issuing's and new countries of issue; it is through increasingly numerous series that countries hold to officially recognize the insertion of Scouting into the social life of the nation and its educational value for youth

Unfortunately, even on the Scout theme, there are some issuing that have only a lucrative goal coming from commercial agencies in the name and on behalf of their countries; in some cases, there is not even a single Scout in the country and the postal requirements do not justify such abundant issuing's of stamps. The most important catalogues of stamp collecting houses, for reasons of respectability, do not classify these series, or else mention them in a very general way.



Since the last decade, that is to say since the XII World Jamboree of 1967, in Idaho (United States), Scout stamp collecting became considerably enriched with commemorative issuing's of

national or world Jamborees, of Rover Moots, of anniversaries celebrating the foundation of Scouting or of Guiding in various countries, of periodical lectures, - whether world-wide or local - concerning Scouting and Guiding.

## What is a Scout Stamp?

This article draws on the commentary to help answer the question "What is a Scout Stamp?" This was written in response to "challenges seen and unseen" that might in the author's opinion erode the uniqueness of the Scout Topical area of stamp collecting. These issues and their thoughtful responses remain today for collectors new and old.

Generally accepted conditions that form the basis for any stamp's acknowledgement as a Scout stamp:

1. Stamp was issued to commemorate a Scout event.
2. Stamp was issued for use in a Scout activity.
3. Stamp was issued to honour Scouting.
4. Stamp portrayed an individual because he was a Scout or because he was appearing at a Scout event or because he appeared on the stamp in a Scout uniform.

The same criteria would apply also in the case of Girl Scouts or Girl Guides. The one deviation from these conditions has been in the case of the three Mafeking stamps which were included because they represented an important epoch in the beginning of the Scout movement. A related issue might picture any individual who in some way had been in some way related to Scouting, but is not accepted as a Scout on Stamp issue.

Commented at length on what we felt is a Scout Stamp. We have often read as an answer to this question "Each of us must decide for ourselves." That is a correct answer, but to another question, namely "Which Scout stamps should I collect?" He believed that a Scout stamp can be defined with objectivity and precision. Which of these Scout stamps actually appeal to an individual is the subjective and personal part. What you collect is your own business. What there is to collect is quite independent of what you might choose to collect.

The first requirement for a Scout stamp is that it must be a stamp and that requires it to be issued by a country. If the "stamp" is issued by an entity other than a legitimate country then it is known as a "local", a "propaganda label" a "seal" or a "label". One example: there is simply no country by the name of Nagaland. "Nagaland Scout Stamps" are political propaganda labels and are collectible as such, but NOT as Scout stamps. The "State of Oman" is another non-place for which political propaganda labels with Scout labels have appeared.

On the other hand, Ajman and Manama (now part of the Union of Arab Emirates) as Trucial State and Dependency, issued completely legitimate postage stamps, including a huge quantity of Scout stamps - even if Scotts won't list them.

What of the "Scout" in Scout stamps? A stamp that pictures or mentions Scouts, their activities, badges, or in some way commemorates them, is a Scout stamp. If the stamp isn't in your favourite catalogue, if the country doesn't have any Scouts, if the Scouts it does have are not properly affiliated with the World Group, if the country's politics are opposed to

yours; none of these alter the fact that it is a Scout stamp. That's objective. What it does alter is whether or not you will want to collect it. That's subjective.

In thematic stamp collecting, where you collect stamps based on their theme or illustrations, the interest for philately and other hobbies can be combined, With this in mind a number of countries have released stamps depicting Scouts. These stamps have depicted subjects including Scouting activities, history of Scouting, uniforms from around the world to list but a few. There are also time when you may get the chance to see one or more of the special postmarks that have been used at major Scout Events

During the siege of Mafeking. the stamp supply was short, and in April, 1900 emergency stamps were produced, intended for local postage within the sieged town. One of the stamps shows a portrait of Baden-Powell. Even though this was 7 years before scouting started, the Mafeking stamps are considered by some people to be the first scouting stamps.

The very thing that makes our hobby different from all other kinds of collectibles has been our basic acceptance of Scouting as a way of life, living the Scout oath and law, as well as collecting the items of philatelic interest pursued so avidly. Hope we can help preserve the heritage of Scouting that is ours!

As mentioned above about stamps being released to mark special events and occasions, one of these occasions was the Centenary of Scouting in 2007 when a number of Countries released stamps and first day covers to mark the occasion, below is a selection of stamps that were released that year.



Compiled by  
P.Sreetharan

### Author :

A retired Railway (ICF) service engineer of 60 years collecting stamps from school days, developed to be a passionate philatelist during youth days and attained high pedestal in exhibits through his professional topic of Railways and master topic of Scouts. Now a guide and mentor for students in stamp collection.



# TEN COMMANDMENTS FOR PHILATELIC JUDGES

By Samuel Ray

(Editor's :- (Linn's) Note:- Samuel Ray, in cooperation with the Chicago Philatelic Society, has prepared the following suggested rules for philatelic judges. Ray has served as a member of over 100 juries at national and international exhibitions over a span of approximately 30 years.)

## ONE

Judges are presumed to be highly knowledgeable philatelists. Exhibitors consider them to have a least nodding acquaintance with all aspects of philatelic specialisation as well as a profound knowledge of their several areas of expertise. Every judge should endeavour to merit this high regard not only by his actions in judging but in his self—education in philately. In preparing to become a judge, one should read and study - widely in every aspect of philately, and particularly in the fundamentals. One should subscribe to - and read all the papers, and should join the major societies (local and speciality groups are recommended too) and read their publications and hopefully, contribute to them. He should collect in a number of disparate fields (in order to gain as much varied experience as possible), and when these collections attain competitive status, should exhibit them. One should attend all possible exhibitions to study the collections on display, and should attend meetings and lectures regardless of the subject presented - every thing is gist for the mill. Nor may one's education cease upon becoming a judge this is actually the time to redouble ones effort, for philatelic education is a never-ending process,

## TWO

Judges should at all times keep in mind two cardinal principles - that philately is reputed to be a friendly hobby, and that exhibitions are its life blood. It follows, then, that exhibitors are to be encouraged rather than discouraged. Judges should be friendly toward exhibitors and should refrain from a superior-than-those attitude, In practice, judges should not feel that they are obligated to seek out the depreciating aspects of exhibits but should instead try to find elements that would justify encouragement. This is not to say that higher awards should be freely given - gold medals have still have to be earned - but when lesser exhibits show some merit and possibilities of development, appropriate medals should be awarded. A liberal attitude in this respect should always be maintained by the judges,

## THREE

Judging should not be approached as an ego trip but as a responsibility that carries with it a certain humility. Judges should therefore make an effort to seek out and empathize with the exhibitor's approach and should refrain from imposing their own standards. One of the charms of

philately is the individual approach: it should be remembered & that all collectors are free to follow their own ideas in collecting, and their efforts should be accorded full and serious credence. Every collection as long as it has been accepted by the local exhibition committee and does not contravene any agreed-upon regulations is entitled to fair and conscientious judging.

## FOUR

Judges are strictly cautioned that they are not judging the owners, the previous owners the circumstances of acquisition, or any rumors concerning the exhibit, but that their judging is limited solely to the material in the frames. It hardly needs repeating that awards are given to the collection, not to the collector. It is the responsibility of the local exhibition committee to police its own rules concerning the ownership of the collection or any other legal or moral matters, and these definitely must be of no concern to the judges.

## FIVE

Judges should know that there is no "right" way to collect or to present a collection. Some collectors prefer to collect and present the stamps and their problems separately from the postal history; others remove aerophilately from the body of the collection and present it separately. Such individuality is to be respected; it is an absolute right of every collector to collect in the manner that seems most logical to him.

It is the responsibility of the judges to determine the system preferred by the exhibitor, and if the collection is arranged logically within its own parameters. It is not to be downgraded because it does not fit the judges' preconceived notions of what is "right."

## SIX

Judges should avoid bringing their personal prejudices into their judging. All collections accepted by the local exhibition committee are entitled to serious consideration and careful judging even though there may be a prevailing bias toward them. There are no rules, for example, that state that 19th century collections are more "classical" than 20th century, or rules that permit a bias toward certain countries or fields, or even materials commonly regarded as "philatelic."

If the material is susceptible to serious study and the exhibitor is presenting a serious study, then the collection should certainly be taken seriously by the judges.

## SEVEN

Judges should assiduously avoid the temptation to denigrate an exhibit because they know little or nothing about the collection. True knowledge consists of knowing how little one actually knows, and admitting ignorance is no sin.

If a judge feels that he is insufficiently familiar with an exhibit, he should seek advice from an impartial expert or specialist; this is a permissible and well accepted

practice. If no advice is available, the judge should then disqualify himself with respect to that collection. He certainly should not vote, or even comment, when he feels he has insufficient knowledge or is not qualified. Judges should remember that philatelic education is a continuing process and these opportunities to learn something in the given field.

## EIGHT

Judges should avoid a tendency to judge the arrangement or write-up instead of the material. Judges should always remember that the material is the dominant factor, and that judging the write-up and decoration is not a substitute for judging the material.

Just as an art critic does not judge the frame instead of the painting, a philatelic judge should never allow himself to be deflected from his major job which is judging the stamps and other materials in the collection.

## NINE

Judges must not display a prejudice against method of writing-up of a collection. Head lettering, guide lettering, typewriting and even pencil lettering are equally acceptable as long as the work is done in good taste and is appropriate.

Judges should also avoid a bias against professional writing-up - every collector is entitled to use any kind of help he chooses in putting his collection together.

In connection with the writing-up, exhibits should not be downgraded because of an occasional erasure, typographical error, grammatical lapse or any other such capricious reason, as long as the general effect is one of neatness.

## TEN

Judges should avoid displaying any money prejudices. Exhibits of common material should be given as much serious attention as any other exhibits.

(Courtesy : Bulletin, Chicago Philatelic Society 1978)



### An Interesting Contest MY FAVOURITE COVER

From January to December 2026.  
Every Member can enter.

Select a favourite philatelic cover from your collection. Write a story about its fascination and your acquisition. The cover you select can be from any country, any theme, any type etc and its variety is only secondary to the human interest surrounding its existence. Send your cover (which will be safely returned to you after the selection) and a write up to the Editor, SIPA Bulletin. It will be published in the bulletin. Three covers will be selected at the end of 2026 and attractive prizes will be awarded.

## 'FIRSTS' IN PHILATELY

**B Shruthikaa**  
Life Member, SIPA

The **oldest Philatelic Bureau** in the world is the Crown Agents for overseas governments founded in 1833 to act on behalf of 13 British colonies.

The **first exhibition** to include stamps was the Exhibition of Arts and Crafts, held in Brussels in 1852.

The **oldest philatelic firm** in the world still in existence is the Stanley Gibbons. It was founded by Edward Stanley Gibbons in 1856. The **Gibbons catalogues**, first published in 1865 are the **oldest in the world** in continuous publication. The Gibbons Stamps of World Catalogue (1982 edition) was the **largest single-volume catalogue** in the world.

The **first club catering to stamp collectors** was the Omnibus Club of New York, founded in 1856, which also dealt with coins, medals, crests, seals and autographs.

The **first album for stamps** was published by Lallier of Paris in 1862 in French, German and English. First Gibbons album, *VR Illustrated Postage Stamp Album*, was published at Plymouth in 1870.

The **first philatelic periodical** was the Monthly Intelligence, which included a section for stamp collection and was first published in 1862. The Stamp Collector's Magazine was first published in Feb. 1863 and lasted 12 years.

The **World's first stamp auction** took place at Hotel Drouot in Paris on 29 December 1865. The sale realised was 800 franc.

The **oldest philatelic society** still in existence is the Royal Philatelic Society of London founded in 1869.

The **first exhibition exclusively for stamps** was held in Dresden in 1870.

The **first postal museum** housed separately from other exhibits was the Reich Post Museum, Berlin founded by Heinrich von Stephan in 1872. The museum was partially destroyed during the Allied bombardment in the Second World War.

The **first international stamp exhibition** was held at Frankfurt am Main in 1887 and coincided with the tenth anniversary of the local philatelic society.

**P.S.:** On May 11th, 2010 the Stanley Gibbons Auction House hosted the 'India + Area signature sale - and set a **new world record for a single Indian States stamp**. Following a tense bidding war, the I.F.S Duttia, a 1896 1/2a black on blue green, with control handstamp in blue, achieved a sale price of £69,600 - shattering the previous highest price paid for a Duttia of £36,464 in 2006. The record-breaking stamp featuring the Hindu God Ganesha was part of the collected works of Geoff Rosamond and Peter Kent.



# Explorer Extraordinary

## CAPT. JAMES COOK

Two hundred and fifty years ago Western Europe was fascinated by the remarkable results of the voyages of James Cook. The three voyages have established Cook as perhaps the greatest explorer who ever lived.

The first stamp to show James Cook was issued in 1888 by New South Wales. Cook was honored this way because he was the first explorer to visit the east coast of Australia and had also named this region New South Wales.



### Early Life

James Cook was born October 27, 1728 at Marton in Yorkshire, England. At the age of 16 he was apprenticed to a grocer in a small fishing village in Yorkshire. Then Cook was apprenticed to two brothers who owned coal ships.

Cook spent the next two years on ships carrying coal from Newcastle to London. Skilled sailing is needed to sail among the many shoals and shallows of the east coast of England. Later Cook sailed to parts of Europe. He studied mathematics and navigation between voyages. He showed great ability and at age 23 became a mate on a coal ship.

Then he enlisted in the Royal Navy as an ordinary seaman on June 17, 1755.

The Royal Navy was expanding rapidly as England prepared for war with France. Cook took the chance that his merit would be noted and he would get promoted. In the mid-eighteenth century England was still rigidly divided into classes. Naval officers traditionally came from the ruling class. The remarkable ability of Cook is shown by the fact that this son of a poor Scottish farm laborer eventually received a commission in the Royal Navy.



The first promotions came rapidly. In one month he was promoted to Master's Mate, and in three months to Boatswain. At age 29 he was made a warrant officer, a Master.

In 1758 Cook took part in fighting the French in Canada. He helped map the St. Lawrence River so the fleet could attack Quebec. Cook also studied astronomy and in 1766 gave a detailed report of an eclipse of the sun near Newfoundland.

### First Exploratory Voyage 1768-1772

The Royal Society wanted to observe the passage of Venus between the Sun and Earth. This rare event was predicted to occur on June 3, 1769, but not again for over 100 years. The Royal Society picked three places from which this transit of Venus should be observed. Two of the places were relatively easy to reach, but the third was located in the little known South Pacific. It was decided that the Navy would make a voyage of discovery and include the observation of the transit. Since Cook had already shown great ability in navigation and mapmaking, and had some knowledge of astronomy, it was decided that he was best qualified to command the ship. So, at age 39, James Cook was commissioned and became a Lieutenant.



Cook needed a very strong ship with a shallow draft. With his suggestions the Navy bought a former Whitby coal ship 98 feet long, identical to the type on which Cook had served before entering the Navy. The ship was renamed the "Endeavour Bark" but is usually called the "Endeavour." The ship has been shown on many stamps.

The Royal Society recommended sending a group of scientists including Joseph Banks and Dr. Solander, one of the botanists, shown on New Zealand and Australia stamps.

The "Endeavour" left Plymouth August 26, 1768. The first goal was to observe the transit of Venus at the newly discovered island of Tahiti. Then they were to search for the unknown southern continent which some assumed had to exist in the South Pacific. Following this they would explore New Zealand.



The "Endeavour" sailed around the tip of South America in January 1769. The ship then proceeded to Tahiti and anchored in Matavai Bay on April 13. While in Tahiti the transit of Venus was observed.

After three months in Tahiti, Cook sailed to Huahine Island and several nearby islands. Then he searched for the nonexistent southern continent and proved that there was no



continent in the area where some had expected to find one.

Cook next sailed to New Zealand and anchored in what he called Poverty Bay on Oct. 9, 1769. After exploring part of the coast, the ship was anchored in Queen Charlotte's Sound and its bottom scraped and caulked. Cook then sailed around **New Zealand** to prove it consisted of two islands and was not part of a continent. Cook spent almost one and half year exploring and charting New Zealand. The map that he drew showed most of its coastlines.



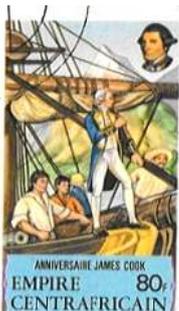
The east coast of Australia had been discovered by the Dutch in 1606. Later, in 1642, Tasman had sailed along the west and south coasts. These parts of Australia were relatively barren, so there was little incentive for further exploration. Explorers had ignored Australia for the next hundred years.

Cook was the first explorer to reach the east coast of Australia, which contains the most fertile areas of this continent. On April 1, 1770, Cook sailed westward from New Zealand with the intent of finding the undiscovered **east coast of New Holland**. This was the name given by Dutch explorers to what is now called **Australia**. The coast was sighted April 19, 1770. Landing was delayed until a suitable harbor was found April 28. Cook called the harbor Botany Bay because of the many new plants that the botanists Banks and Solander discovered there. Cook later named this part of the coast New South Wales.



The explorers sailed northward along the coast, landing from time to time, and mapping the coast (Norfolk Island 141). Unknown to them they entered the area between the Great Barrier Reef and the coast of Australia. As the "Endeavour" continued sailing northward the distance between the coast and the reef gradually decreased until sailing became very dangerous.

On the night of June 11, 1770, the ship unexpectedly ran onto the reef and put a huge hole in its bottom, while 20 miles from the coast. The situation was extremely serious, since there was no possibility of any other ship coming to rescue them. The "Endeavour" remained stuck on the reef until full tide the next night. During the day about 50 tons of ballast and supplies had been thrown overboard. In addition to this, the crew had worked to near exhaustion pumping



water from the ship as fast as they could. After the "Endeavour" was floated again, Cook cautiously sailed to the mainland where the ship was beached. The "Endeavour" was repaired as possible. This site is the present Cooktown. Nearby they saw their first kangaroos.

The situation was not good, since the "Endeavour" was still in poor condition, and food was short. Cook decided that their best chance for survival would be to try to reach the Dutch settlement of Batavia in the East Indies where the ship could get more through repairs. Cook continued up the east coast of Australia. Then he sailed westward and reached Batavia in a little over two months.

Unfortunately, Batavia was also a very unhealthy place. After spending ten weeks in Batavia while the ship was being repaired "Endeavour" left Batavia on Oct. 11, 1770. The voyage ended back in England 12th July 1771.

Unfortunatly, Batavia was also a very unhealthy place. After spending ten weeks in Batavia while the ship was being repaired "Endeavour" left Batavia on Oct. 11, 1770. The voyage ended back in England 12th July 1771.

### Second Voyage 1772-1775

The Admiralty considered Cook's results to be quite valuable. James Cook was promoted to commander soon after he returned to England. The Admiralty decided that Cook should make another expedition and search other areas for the southern continent that some thought should exist. Cook had insisted that two ships be sent this time. The two ships were renamed "Resolution" and "Adventure." Both ships have been shown on many stamps. Cook, sailed on the "Resolution." alone with two astronomers, William Wales, and the official artist, William Hodges.



The two ships sailed from Plymouth July 13, 1772. During a stop at Cape Town for supplies, some members of the expedition met the Swedish botanist Anders Sparrman who had studied under the famous Linnaeus. Sparrman (Sweden 1006) was persuaded to join the expedition.



After leaving Cape Town Cook first spent some more time looking for the nonexistent southern continent. Then he turned south. On Jan. 17, 1773, the "Resolution" was the first ship to cross the Antarctic Circle, with the "Adventure" nearby. Eventually the ships became separated in a fog. According to plans made earlier they sailed independently and met again three months later at New Zealand, some 3000 miles away.



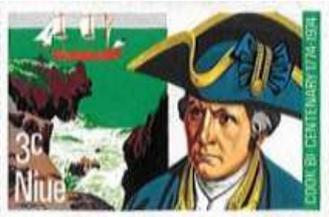
On June 7 the two ships left New Zealand. After sailing east for five weeks without finding any land, they turned.

north and sailed to Tahiti. On Sept. 24, 1773 they sailed past two islands that Cook named Hervey Islands. The next stop was at **two islands of Tonga** Cook called these the Friendly Islands because the inhabitants had lasting friendships and were courteous to strangers. A statement in his handwriting to this effect is reproduced on Tonga 327-331.



The two ships then sailed back to New Zealand but became separated in a storm on Oct. 29. High winds drove the "Adventure" many miles away from New Zealand. After Cook had waited three weeks, he left a message at the usual anchoring place and sailed on in the "Resolution." Cook first sailed southeast and later went south of the Antarctic Circle two more times on 15th Dec. 1773 and 26th Jan. 1774 searching for the nonexistent continent. Although they had now completed their assigned mission, the officers and crew were in favor of extending their voyage another year instead of sailing for home or Cape Town.

Cook sailed north and arrived at **Easter Island** March 12, 1774. Following this he visited the Marquesas Islands, and then returned to Tahiti. While in Tahiti the explorers were amazed to see a fleet of 160 huge war canoes and 170 smaller canoes, carrying approximately 7760 men to a sea battle. On June 20 Cook attempted landings on Niue four times but the natives were very hostile, throwing stones and spears at the landing party, so Cook sailed on. Next they visited several islands of a group which he named **New Hebrides**. The discovery route is shown on New Hebrides (French) 211 and New Hebrides (British) 192. These islands had been sighted earlier but never explored by Europeans.



Cook continued on and discovered a very large island about 250 miles long. This he called **New Caledonia** Next Cook discovered **Norfolk Island** on 8th Oct. 1774 The "Resolution" reached New Zealand again two days later.

There were signs that the "Adventure" had been there, but the natives were somewhat evasive when questioned about the ship. Cook later learned that the "Adventure" had returned to the harbor the previous November, a few days after the "Resolution" had left. The captain of the "Adventure" had spent some time at the anchorage resupplying his ship. Shortly before he was ready to leave, ten of his men that were on shore had been killed and eaten by the Maoris. This greatly saddened the captain. He decided to sail back to England instead of continuing the voyage an extra year as Cook had done.

When Cook left New Zealand this time he sailed east and reached South America near the southern tip Dec. 17, 1774. After rounding Cape Horn he continued east and discovered a cold, barren island which he named **South Georgia** Cook continued to sail eastward until he was south of Africa. Thus he completed a circuit of the globe in far southern latitudes that he had begun two years earlier. Cook then sailed to Cape Town for repairs. On the home ward trip he visited the island of St. Helena On July 30, 1775, the voyage of the "Resolution" ended as the ship finally anchored in England again.



### Third or Final Voyage 1776-1780

As a reward for his achievements in his first two exploratory voyages James Cook was Captain. it was proposed that another attempt be made at sailing around the northern coast of North America. One ship would try to sail from the Atlantic and another from the Pacific. If all went well with both ships they would meet somewhere along the northern coast. Cook agreed to attempt the passage from the Pacific side in the "Resolution." He would be accompanied by another Whitby collier. This one was renamed the "Discovery." Two of the young men who accompanied Cook on this voyage and who later achieved some degree of fame were the master of his ship William Bligh and one of the midshipmen on the "Discovery" George Vancouver.



Before Cook sailed, Joseph Banks persuaded Cook to let Nathaniel Dance paint his portrait. This portrait of Cook is the one most often shown on stamps, for example Australia.

The two ships sailed first to Cape Town. From there they sailed southeast and then east. In December 1776 they located the previously discovered **Prince Edward** Group of **islands** and the island of Kerguelen. They continued east until they reached Van Dieman's Land, now called **Tasmania**, where they spent four days before continuing to New Zealand. After leaving there Cook discovered the islands now called **Cook Islands** in late March of 1777. Then he turned to the Friendly Islands, his name for **Tonga**, where he spent almost three months. They passed one of the Austral Islands without landing. Continuing on they arrived at Tahiti on Aug. 12. After spending several months in this area of the Pacific the two ships headed north.

### Christmas Islands

On January 18, 1778 Cook arrived at two of the **Hawaiian Islands, Kauai and Niikau**. Cook saw Oahu

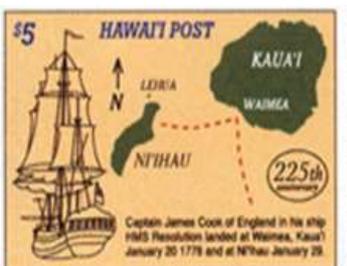
from a distance but lacked time to explore it. On Feb. 9 the coast of Oregon was sighted, but bad weather prevented a landing. In March the ships finally anchored in Nootka Sound, **Vancouver Island, Canada**. Here repairs were made to the ships. On April 25, 1778 they sailed north and followed the coast as it turned northwest. They had to stop in Prince William's Sound, **Alaska**, for additional repairs to the "Resolution."

The ships sailed along the west coast of Alaska, stopping briefly at the Aleutian Island of Unalaska. Then they crossed the Bering Strait and stopped briefly in Asia near a Mongol village. Next Cook sailed north and crossed the Arctic Circle in August.

The ships reached Maui, Hawaii Islands, on Nov. 26, 1778. They continued on and soon discovered the island of **Hawaii**. Finding a good anchorage was difficult. They searched until January 16, 1779, before finding a good harbor. Then they anchored in Kealahou Bay. Cook was greatly impressed by the craftsmanship of the Hawaiian boats. The Hawaiians treated Cook with great respect at first, because they assumed that he was their god Lono in human form. Their attitude changed as they gradually realized that they had been mistaken. Relations were still good, however, when the ships sailed on the 4th of February.



On February 8 a storm damaged the "Resolution" and Cook decided to go back to Kealahou Bay for repairs. Their return obviously annoyed the native. Quarrels soon arose. After the large cutter of the "Discovery" was stolen Cook landed at Kavarua Point on Feb. 14, 1779, with ten armed marines to investigate and fight. Anger built up rapidly. A brief fight took place until several shots were fired and at least one Hawaiian was killed.



The Hawaiians regarded Cook as such powerful being that no one had dared to attack him when he faced them directly. However, when Cook turned around to signal his small boats to come closer, a Hawaiian priest knocked him down with a club. Immediately many others rushed up and stabbed him. Four of the marines with Cook were also killed, and three wounded, before they could escape. Rex and Thea Rienits write in "The So", at 8 am on Sunday, 14th February 1779, died James Cook, sacrificed by the priests of Hawaii. They had made a living god of him and had then realized their error, and their only way to prove him mortal in the sight of the people was to kill him.

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4. Ind Dak, Nov.1986.
5. Crown Agents Gazetee. Feb, March: 1979
6. Captain Cook; James Mackay. The stamp Magazine, June 1968.



Capt. Cook in Tahiti Island.

Edited by Rolands Nelson



**MEMBERS  
FREE ADVERTISEMENTS.**

1. Surplus stamps etc. etc. available. To fill in gaps and to start a collection. SIPA members may Contact 9790852951 (MT. Karunakaran)

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## OBITUARY :

**Dr. GEORGE JACOB**

Life Member, SIPA



After completing his medical education in Ireland, he served NATO in Europe.

A well established top echelon super speciality doctor in the cardio and Cander fields. Served various institutions like Apollo, MGM, Frontier Lifeline etc. Established American Institute of Applied Research as its Founder Chairman.

Coming to his philately, had a comprehensive collection of Germany for the period of 1880-1960 where he was posted for a long time in NATO.

Other his collections include valuable sets of other European countries and complete set of Penny Reds.

His commitment was such that since he had the complete US Zeppelin Airmail Series, he had also purchased a large piece of Zeppelin skin fabric to complete the collection.



## Do you Know?

From 1837 onwards the British Government insisted on the Hyderabad Nizam's Government the provide escort for the British mail and parcel post passing through the Nizam's Domination for safety. This escort provision costed the Nizam's Goverment rupees 59, 832 per annum to escort British runners who to from village to village for the British post. General Fraser, the then Resident of Hyderabad wrote "though it is an evil of great magnetude but it cann't be avoided."

## STAMP ODDITIES :

Quite by chance the US 15c Lincoln stamp issued in 1866, a few months after his assassination was printed in black as it replaced an older 12c stamp Generally this black 15c stamp is regarded as the **first mourning stamp.**



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