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South India
Philatelists'
Association

60sippa

diamond 2016

**National Level
Stamp Exhibition**

SOUVENIR

SOUTH INDIA PHILATELISTS' ASSOCIATION
CHENNAI - 600 003



डा. चार्लस लोबो / Dr. CHARLES LOBO

मुख्य पोस्टमास्टर जनरल / Chief Postmaster General

तमिलनाडु सर्किट / Tamilnadu Circle

चेन्नई / Chennai 600002



I am delighted to know that South India Philatelists Association (SIPA) is completing 60 years in 2016. For a bunch of philately enthusiasts from various walks of life and professions to stay together and carry on the hobby for 60 long years is an achievement in itself. I also learn that the SIPA has produced many international award winning philatelists and jury of international stature. SIPA has played a very important role in promoting philately in Tamilnadu.

On the occasion of the Diamond Jubilee, there is no better way of commemorating the same other than holding a National Level Philatelic Exhibition, "SIPA DIAMOND '16". I am sure this will be a memorable event in the Philatelic history of this country in general and Tamilnadu in particular.

I wish the exhibition a very grand success. I am sure this will be a major draw not only for the stamp lovers but for other residents. The Souvenir brought out on this occasion will be a prized possession for everyone.

Dr. Charles Lobo



SOUTH INDIA PHILATELISTS' ASSOCIATION



Chairman's Message



South India Philatelists' Association has gained recognition as one of the respected philatelic societies in India and has been rendering yeomen services to the cause of philately. It has gone a long way in keeping the philatelic flag flying for the past 60 years.

Forming a philatelic Association is easy but its survival for the past 60 years is a great achievement. This was possible due to the untiring efforts put in by many philatelic stalwarts who put their heart and soul in guiding the growth of the Association. South India Philatelists' Association is fortunate enough to have the co-operation and support of dedicated and devoted members.

South India Philatelists' Association have been maintaining cordial and good relationship with the successive Postmaster Generals and their departmental staff since the inception. We thank them for the necessary help and restoring the Exhibition Hall to our Members for display of exhibits and all the Saturday meetings and for the promotion of philately, which have been appreciated by the philatelists and the general public.

I take this opportunity to thank the management of the St. Bede's Centenary Auditorium for bestowing the special privilege of using their Auditorium, which is the first time that they have permitted an Exhibition to be conducted in their premises. I thank all the participants of this Exhibition. I also thank the Media for giving coverage to the public.

South India Philatelists' Association, with its past record and the dynamic office bearers have contributed their heart and soul for the success of this "Sipa Diamond '16" National level Philatelic Exhibition, which I am sure will be a grand success and will go a long way in promoting philately among children and youth.

Ajit Chordia
Chairman, Sipa Diamond '16



St. Bede's Academy CBSE Curriculum

(A DONBOSCO INSTITUTION)

Santhome, Chennai - 600 004. ☎ : 044-24660155, 24983450
E-mail : stbedesacademy2014@gmail.com



Co-Chairman's Message



I am happy to note that the south Indian Philatelists Association, Chennai is organizing its 60th sipa diamond 2016 National Level Stamp Exhibition at Chennai from 23rd to 27th November 2016.

SIPA is doing wonderful service in moulding and forming the characters of the creatures in the society.

In doing this yeomen service I can see and experience their unique identity credibility and visibility in the society. I am proud that this event is organized in our auditorium.

God bless their effort.

Fr. Don Bosco L.
Correspondent,
St. Bede's School



SOUTH INDIA PHILATELISTS' ASSOCIATION



President's Message



South India Philatelists' Association is celebrating its Diamond Jubilee by conducting yet another National level Philatelic Exhibition styled "SIPA Diamond '16" at St. Bede's Centenary Auditorium, 37 Santhome High Road, Santhome, Chennai 600004.

I am confident that with hardwork and co-operation of few members, we can make the Sipa Diamond '16 National level Philatelic Exhibition, a grand success.

It will be an occasion for all our members throughout India to exhibit their collections, visit Chennai during the exhibition to renew the contacts with other philatelists, as well study and enjoy the exhibits.

I profusely thank Dr. Charles Lobo, the Chief Postmaster General, Tamilnadu Circle for taking the initiative to bring frames from different Circles to Chennai for this Exhibition. My thanks are also to the other Postal Officials for their co-operation extended to us.

I would like to thank Father Don Bosco for readily agreeing to all our requirements in making this Exhibition, a grand success.

G. Balakrishna Das
President
South India Philatelists' Association



SIPA Diamond 2016 Organising Committee

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diamond 2016



Dr.CHARLES LOBO
Chief Postmaster General, Chennai
Patron



AJIT CHORDIA
Chairman



Rev.Fr.Dr.L.DON BOSCO, Sdb.
Co-Chairman



SIPA Diamond 2016 Organising Committee



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Dr.Charles Lobo

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Co-chairman

Rev.Fr.Dr.L.Don Bosco, Sdb.

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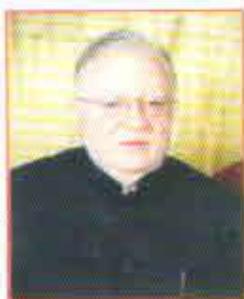
Mr.Viresh Bansal



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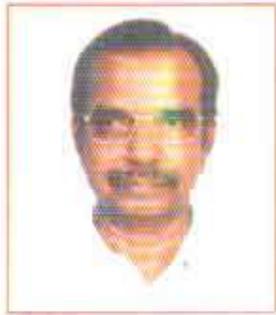
S.K.LAKSHMANAN



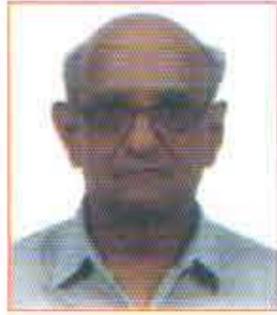
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SIPA Diamond 2016

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Diamond 2016

The Jury



Sunder Bahirwani



Rajesh Kumar Bagri



Prashant Pandya



Ghouse Ali Zameer
(Apprentice Jury)



SIPA Diamond 2016

Special Cover

राष्ट्रीय स्तर डाक टिकट प्रदर्शनी
सिपा हीरक 2016

60 **sipa**
Diamond 2016
1956 - 2016

**NATIONAL LEVEL
STAMP EXHIBITION**

चेन्नई / Chennai - 600 004
25th - 27th November 2016

सिपा हीरक SPECIAL COVER

लूज चर्च - 500 साल
Luz Church - 500 Years



चेन्नई / Chennai - 600 004
25.11.2016

सिपा हीरक SPECIAL COVER



SIPA Diamond 2016



List of Dealers

Sl.No	STALL NAME
1	Vinit.M/A Rajesh Kumar
2	PHILAMART
3	Dharaa Stamps
4	Vivid Stamps
5	Palaniappan
6	W & H Book Search
7	N.R.Sarkar
8	Variety Antiques
9	C.H.Rama Krishna
10	C.H.Madhu
11	Safique Khan
12	Dave & Sons
13	Francois
14	Ved Prakash
15	Tanmoy Chatterjee
16	PHILAMATIC
17	Marudhar Arts
18	S.S.Hobby Center

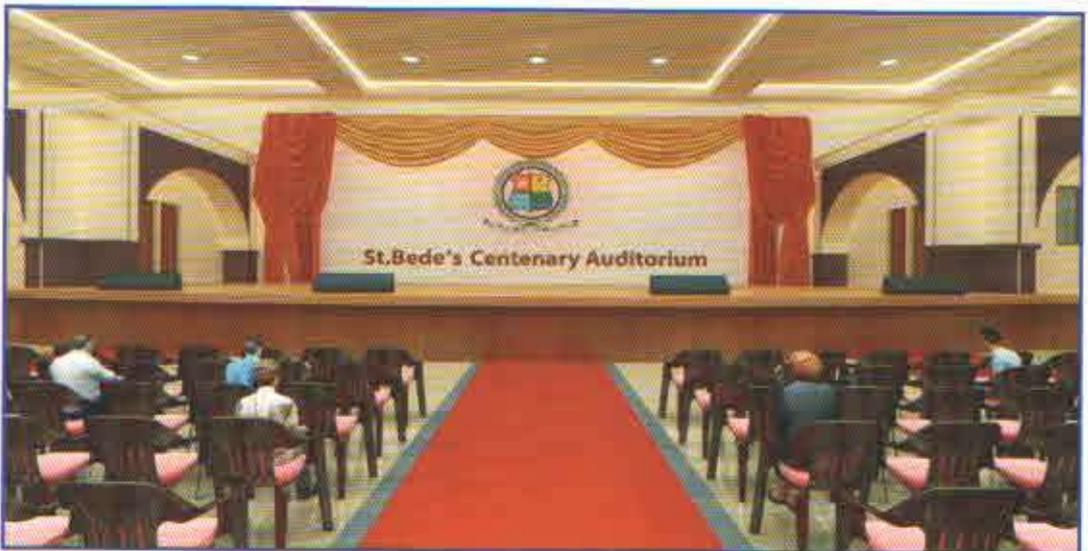
Sl.No	STALL NAME
19	V Ethiraj
20	Todywalla Auctions
21	VAK Creations
22	Je Cee Enterprise
23	U S Agencies
24	Suresh Kumar Mahato
25	R.S.Gupta
26	Parsi Amarchand
27	Mintage World
28	A.V.Govinda Rajulu
30	Y.T.Nicheal
31	Arasan Hobby Centre
32	Premchand
33	H.P.Singh
34	Philatelic Center
35	Arun Bhattacharya
36	Tapan Dang
37	Hemant Chopra



SIPA Diamond 2016

60th sipa
diamond 2016

Venue of the Exhibition Hall
St.Bede's Centenary Auditorium



British India Bazaar Cards

A Periodic Philatelic Revolution

Naresh Agrawal

Stamps are considered mirrors of art, culture, history, religion, mythology and other aspects of any country or society. But it is not only stamps. Other postal material and stationery also has the same purpose, through the quotes, slogans, texts or pictorial advertisements and vignettes affixed and printed on them.



Postcards are popular because of their wide range of subjects. Just about every subject imaginable has at some time been portrayed on a postcard. History itself can be tracked on postcards, through historical buildings, famous people, art, culture, streets, bazaars, economical development, social atmosphere, etc.

Postcards and Postal Cards

Initially, the term "Postal Card" referred to cards that were printed and sold by a governmental body with postage paid indicia preprinted on them, whereas the term "Postcard" referred to cards which were privately produced with postage prepaid and were not sold by govt. body. However, today the cards issued by govt. bodies are also called Post Cards. Hence, there is no specific difference in postal cards or Post Cards or Post cards today.

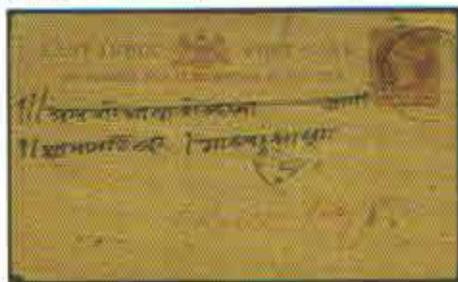


BRITISH INDIA KGVII 3P ILLUSTRATED 1903 BRITISH INDIA ILLUSTRATED POST CARD WITH BAZAAR POST CARD 1905 PREPRINTED POSTAGE stamp

The practice of having a picture on either side of the post card was first started in London in 1840 when the maker of card wrote the postcard to himself only followed by first regularly produced, postcard, where postage had to be affixed was introduced in Austria in 1869. However, in U.S., the private card known as Lipman card adorned with a small border and labeled "Lipman's Postal Card" was first produced in Philadelphia from 1861 until 1873 when the first U.S. Government Postcards appeared.

History of the Post Card in British India

In July 1879, the Post Office of India introduced a 1/4 Anna postcard valid for postage from one place to another within British India. This was the cheapest form of post provided to the Indian people to date and proved a huge success.



1894 : EAST INDIA POSTCARD

This was followed in April 1880 by postcards meant specifically for government use and by reply post cards in 1890. The postcard facility still continues to this date in Independent India.

The British occupation of India lasted just under two hundred years, and by the beginning of the last century, life there was being recorded on picture postcards which were sent by the thousand back home to England. Families stationed in the sub-continent sent home amazing images of India showing its art, culture, architecture, defence, social and economic conditions; or of cities such as Calcutta, Delhi, Madras or Mumbai showing the 'daily life' of ethnic Indians along with pictures of famous landmarks, scenic views, photographs or drawings of celebrities and so on. These cards had mainly one full side with image (photographic, painted or sketched), often printed in more than one colour.

British India Bazaar Postcards

Around the start of 20th century, from about 1900 to 1930, post cards were used in immense numbers. British culture was having a great impact, while on the other hand Indian culture which was struggling to survive. Bazaar cards gave a new direction to postal communication. Privately printed pictorial post cards were developed mainly by merchants, businessman and traders in major cities all over India to advertise their products or business through text or pictures printed on the post cards or envelopes, using adhesive postage stamps for payment of postage. This period is known as the classic one for postcards because of the range of images printed on them.



1904 : BRITISH INDIA BAZAAR CARDS

They were in fact illustrated advertising postcards to promote their own products. They show a fascinating selection of patriotic, religious and socially relevant themes; including places, women in different postures and moods, different phases of human life, mythological pictures of various religions, patriots, celebrities, rulers and warriors. Many were printed by merchants and traders as illustrated price lists. They were also commonly on sale for use by non-merchants, but because those cards were mainly used by merchants in the bazaars of India, the cards were known as **Bazaar Cards**.

Nomenclature

Bazaar cards were simply privately-printed, pictorial post cards advertising their products and business through daily prices exchange and other information sharing; these were initially termed as Bazaar Bhawcards (Cards giving prices/rates of items being sold by sender merchant), Advertising Cards, Merchant Cards and Business Cards. In some places they were also called Aditya Cards, Swadeshi Cards Printers' Cards, Message Cards, Regular Cards, Market Cards Bazaar Propaganda Post Card, etc.

Later on, in 1981 - 82 the term Bazaar Card was coined by a philatelist Mr. Dipesh Sen of Deccan Philatelic Club, Pune which was widely accepted by philatelists and collectors. His article in India Post No.67 in January - March 1981 titled "Bazaar Cards of India 1905-1912" (pages 4-8) put light on this. Hence, the name Bazaar Card or Bazar Card came in to practice. India Post No.82 (Oct-Dec 1984) page 159 explains different uses of Bazar cards or Bazaar cards.



A Philatelic Study Postage Charges

As these were privately-printed post cards, the postage had to be paid at the prevailing rates, by affixing postage stamps. During this period the postage rates were ¼ anna or 3 Pies. One can find stamps of Edward VII and George V and also Queen Victoria. There was no extra charge for privately-printed post cards.



1906 : Postage Stamp Overprinted ¼ anna 1907: Indore state ¼ anna postage stamp

Cancellations and Postmarks

Cancellations were put as usual. The Convention States, used their own stamps and cancellations too like Gwalior State, with its Cobra snake cancellation.



CDS, SQUARE (DLO) & RECTANGULAR (REFUSED). 1905: TWIN COBRA-SNAKE OF 1905 GWALIOR OVERPRINT



1906: FRANKED WITH INDORE STATE POSTAGE STAMPS 1905 : Patiala CROWNED date stamp

Stamps

Some States used their own postage stamps like Indore state, Hyderabad and many others. But mainly King Edward VII 3 pies stamps were used.



3Pies QV STAMP ½ anna KEVIISTAMP
OVERPRINTED GWALIOR on 1905 card. OVERPRINTED ¼ anna on 1904 card

Technical Aspects

PAPER: These Bazaar cards were printed on sheets (of thin card board) 0.5 mm to 0.6 mm thick. The card has rough surface and varied in weight



Size And Dimensions the Bazaar cards were cut in to rectangular shape almost in similar size all over with slight variations at times. The common dimensions used to be 139 x 89mm (14 x 9 cm) with occasional variation up to 14.5 x 9.1 cm.



Bazaar Cards could be found on sheets with different colours but printing normally found done with one colour

COLOUR: The cards were normally printed on white card but one could find some other colors too, such as light yellow, reddish brown, pink, light brown and many more. The printing too has been found done in different colors.

Design Features

The pictorial images were normally on one half of the address side, although some cards have images on the other side.



ORNAMENTAL BORDER FOR SPACE FOR AFFIXING STAMPS

The design normally outlined the space for affixing stamps for postage with artistic designs and ornamental borders.



1928 BAZAAR CARD : DARK COLOUR IMAGES 1901: USING CORNER FOR PICTORIAL IMAGES

Images were normally printed on half the address side. However, some images were printed in the corner.

Printers and Publishers

The early Indian picture postcards were generally printed in Germany, France, Britain and Austria. "Raphael Tuck's" in London, "Plate" in Colombo and "D.A. Ahuja" in Rangoon were among the leading Indian publishers of colour post cards. There were smaller print runs by printers like Joseph Hoffman of Australia and the British Mortimer Manpes, or an anonymous amateur too who published a series of his own paintings till 1910.

But after 1900, Bombay became the printing and publishing hub for such post cards. M/s Ravi Varma had a famous press outside Bombay and also printed postcards before 1900.

A few Bombay-based printers were Khemraj Sri krishnadas, Sri Venkateshwar (Steam) Press, The Parole Maxim Co., Hariprasad Bhograjji Bookseller, Pandit Shridhar Shivalaji 'Gyansagar' Chhapakhana, etc.



Normally the cards had the name and detailed address of printer or sales agent printed on it

Publishers in different cities were Moorlidhur & Sons in Ambala and H.A.Mirza & Sons in Delhi were two other prominent postcard publishers which used to get their printing done from Germany and other countries too. Their work covered literally hundreds of locations from the largest cities to the smallest cantonments. Small publishers also emerged in cities like Kanpur, Agra, Hathras, Lahore, Amritsar, Indore, Jaipur, etc.

Circulating Area

These cards were used mainly by merchants and traders but as the business activities were not confined to particular area, these cards travelled long distances too.



1906 Calcutta to Bundi 9 Rajasthan : Postage 3 Pies

Bazaar Cards and Meghdoot Post Cards

The bazaar cards looked like today's Meghdoot cards issued by India Post as these cards too have picture on the address side and the front fully open giving full space to writer. The main difference is that Meghdoot Post Cards are issued by postal authorities with pre-payment of postage and are subsidized. Thus British India Bazaar cards of first quarter of 20th century provide wide scope for study and research in the philatelic field and also in assessing the social history of that time.

*Naresh Agrawal, a Senior Philatelic Journalist from Bilaspur (CG)
Email: nareshkumar1992@yahoo.co.in*

War time Censorship on mail (WW II)

S.Viswa Kumar

Introduction: On 3rd September 1939, Britain declared war on Germany and dragged its colony India into it without asking any of the Indian leaders. Censorship was applied on all media and all letters which went out of India and came into India came under civil and military postal censorship.

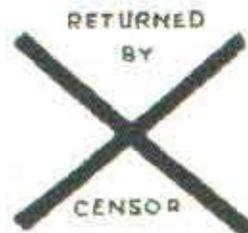
The hastily assembled civil postal censorship department was in utter confusion. All records, devices and rules of censorship that were used during WWI censorship in India had been destroyed for political reasons by the British.

Brigadier D S Virk gives the following dates of opening of various Major censor stations

- 1st Sept 1939- Madras
- 2nd Sept 1939-Belgaum
- 3rd Sept 1939-Calcutta
- 9th Sept 1939-Bombay
- __Sept 1939-Karachi (No official record available as per Brigadier D S Virk)

There are no dates available of the other Minor stations like Madura, Negapatam, and Peshawar .

There were no guidelines regarding censorship at the beginning. Letters were returned because they were not written in English and French. In the First example below a missionary airmail cover from Dindugal to Sweden on 14th Sept 1939 which was returned by the Madras censor most likely because it was written in Swedish language . It was then "passed" when rules were formulated and the cover was resent by original sender. At the back of the cover there is a resealing label which hides the date stamps.



The second example below a Tamil cover from Aranmanai, Siruvayal to Thailand on 16th Sept 1939 which was sent back as it was not in English or French.



The second example below a Tamil cover from Aranmanai Siruvayal to Thailand on 16th Sept 1939 which was sent back as it was not in English or French.

It was returned to the sender on 21st September 1939.

In Sep 1939- Apr 1940 period, the British Indian government opened 14 Censor stations. A few more were added in the next phase and Muscat was discontinued because of a new censor station that was established in Bahrain. Initially all these stations used rubber stamps to indicate that the incoming/outgoing letters had passed through censorship. And if the cover was opened, a resealing label (censor slip) was pasted/stapled on the cover to indicate that the letter was opened and then was passed.

We will now go through these 14 censor stations to understand why they were opened and which censor stamps /resealing labels were used during this period. I am covering this period alone because from Apr 1940-end 1945 records are available in the National Archives, London detailing every device used from all stations in India.

Bombay Censor Station

All sea-mails from/to West went through Bombay as well as mails to/from North India. You should remember that there was also an overland route to/from the far-east countries like Burma, Malaya, China, Japan and Australia wherein the sealed mail bags transited through Bombay by mail trains to Negapatam (Nagapattinam).

During the period we are covering three types of rubber censor stamps were used in Bombay. The most common one was like the example shown below. The numbers ran from 1-14. These numerals indicate the censor sorting table number in which that postal article was handled. The sorting tables were numbered as per the languages the sorters knew and in unnumbered tables sensitive mails were handled.



The second type of sensor seal was without a number. It usually meant that it was sent to the Chief censor and he had passed it or someone had forgotten to affix the table no in the rubber stamp. Not much is to be read into it.

Then there was decision taken by someone that the station name should not appear for security reasons. So the seal shown below came into use. No full info on the numbers allocated to Bombay.

I am disinclined to illustrate the resealing labels used in Bombay for want of space. There too many of them and I am only showing one.

Calcutta Censor Station



All sea-mails to/from Far East and Australia which were not covered by the overland route of BI ships and airmails through Imperial airlines and KLM were processed in this station. Also airmails "Over the Hump" from China passed through the station.

There were four types of rubber seals used in the station. The first one is shown below. There were 15 tables.

There was also a censor seal without a number as in Bombay as shown below.

Then there were two types of censor seals used in the Calcutta airport on airmails.

Madras Censor Station

Sea Mails of South India to/from Burma and Malaya and onwards was handled in this station. There were four types of Rubber censor seals used in Madras.

The first one was the usual numbered one. There were 12 tables in Madras station.



The second one without the table number also exists but I am not able to locate the cover so not shown.

The third type is with the censor station name removed as in Bombay. The number 22 was allocated to Madras.



The fourth type is unique and happened only in Madras with Number "4" inverted. This is not a forgery but a genuine error.

Please be aware that because of the abundance of Chettiar covers that passed through Madras a lot of forged covers exist. They will be invariably dated before September 1939 or after 1945. Most of the forgeries are recorded already and nowadays new forgeries are cropping up in the eBay.

Madura Censor Station

All sea-mails from/to Ceylon and down under which came through Colombo cannot reach the East coast of India because of Pak Straits. So they landed in Tuticorin port and proceeded by rail to Madura for censorship. There were five sorting tables.



Negapatam Censor Station

The British Indian Steamship company had the contract to transport all the overland mail from Europe to Malaya and onwards. This mail route was Negapatam-Madras-Penang-Singapore. These mails came in sealed bags and were not opened in India. However the mails from/to South India to Malaya and other destinations were joined to these bags. Hence there was censor station in Negapatam. It closed after the occupation of Malaya by Japanese in 1942. There were only two tables.

Karachi Censor Station

All airmails to/from India except those which passed through Calcutta were censored in Karachi. It is rare to find a sea-mail cover passing through Karachi censor station. Almost all of the sea-mails from North of India went through Bombay.

There were two types of Rubber stamps used in Karachi censor station. The first as usual was with the table no and the second one without a table no. Please see the cover below. There were 38 tables in Karachi censor station.

The British were always apprehensive of a Russian invasion from the North West. There are only two ways in that mountainous region into India. One is the Khyber Pass at whose British-Indian end is Peshawar. The other is Bolan Pass which ended near Quetta. Censor stations were established in both these cities.

Other Censor Stations

All mails to/from North Afghanistan especially Kabul and the mails of the large number of British Military personnel present in this area were censored in Peshawar censor station. There were four tables and only one type of Rubber stamp censor.



Quetta censor station catered primarily to the large British military and the training school in this area and mails from South Afghanistan and Persia. There were eight tables. Rawalpindi was a major Railway hub of North West British India. Mail from Kashmir, Undivided Punjab, Sind and even Northern Gujarat passed through Rawalpindi onwards to Karachi and Bombay. There were only three tables and only one type of rubberstamp censor mark.

The Indian Postal agency in Muscat had a censor station. Even though the censor station's name does not appear in the rubber stamp it is known that No's 46-49 were used in this station. Darjeeling is the gateway to Tibet and Nepal and therefore a censor station was established there. There is in existence a censor rubber stamp with name "Darjeeling". I do not have an example. The other type of censor stamp had numerals 21 and 25 without the station name. There were either one or two sorting tables in this station.

Why Chittagong station was established is unclear. But letters to Upper Burma mostly Pegu District and upper Assam being censored here. This was closed by May 1941. All mails from/to Portuguese India (Goa) and British India were censored in Belgaum station. This was a sub-station of Bombay censor station and had about eight sorting tables. There was a one-man censor station in Port Blair. You only see mails from stop-over passengers bearing censor seals from this station.

The above is highly simplified information of the early 1939-1940 WW II censorship in British India. I wish more Indian Philatelists take interest in this fascinating area of Postal History.

S.Vishwa Kumar is a Member of Civil Censor Study Group, UK

Progress of Indian Philately

- A Historical Perspective

A V B Menon & S.Balasundaram

Indian Philately has made significant strides over the last century and half. The journey which began in the 1850's reached its pinnacle in the 1980's and '90's. The progress was particularly marked since Independence when Indian Philately registered many milestones - the Indian Post Office observed the Stamp Centenary in 1954, National and International exhibitions were held from time to time, a national seminar on 'Philately' was held in New Delhi in 1967 and the national philatelic body, the Philatelic Congress of India, was formed in 1975. Indian Philately found its due place on the map of world philately. This paper proposes to trace the gradual but steady progress of philately in India.

Pre-Stamp Era and Lithographs

Though the first postage stamp in India - the 'Scinde Dawk' - was issued only in 1852 and the first all-India postage stamp in 1854, cancellations and tokens of pre-payment of postage were in vogue even prior to that. There was the Bishop Mark and the 2 annas copper tickets which were introduced by the East India Company from 1774. Several other collections were also in use prior to the advent of the postage stamp. These form rich philatelic materials for collectors who specialize on the pre-stamp era.

However, with the issue of Lithographs from 1854, the hobby of philately got a fillip. A variety of issues appeared which offered a wide range for collection. These 'Classics' are now a rarity and are to be found with only a select group of collectors. Especially rare among these are the 'Lion and Palm Tree' essays (which were never issued), half anna issue of 9 Vi and 8 arches and the Inverted Head of Queen Victoria of which only very few issues are with collectors. From 1856 to 1926 when the India Security Press was set up, Indian stamps were printed by Messrs. Thomas de la Rue and Co. of London.

More Landmarks

The postal system grew in popularity and more philatelic issues in the form of stamps and postal stationery came into existence. Post Card was introduced on July 1, 1879 and 1-anna revenue stamp was introduced on Sept.1, 1886 replacing Indian Postal Notes introduced earlier on 1st January, 1883. Other services introduced were VP system and Insurance in 1877, Certificate of Posting in 1878 and all these gave scope for new collectors' items. Issue of stamps by some of the Native States led to the creation of an entirely new and fascinating field for philatelists.

One of the major landmarks in Indian Philately towards the end of the 19th Century was the formation of the Philatelic Society of India (PSI) on March 6, 1897 by a band of British Philatelists serving in high civil and military ranks in India. In January 1897, the first philatelic journal was issued under the stewardship of Charles Stewart Wilson who also served as President of the Society from 1897 to 1906. Later, Charles Wilson became Director-General of Posts and Telegraphs. PSI had initially 550 members including 50 women which speaks of the popularity of the hobby even in those early days. The Philatelic Journal of India (PJI) carried many erudite articles on the early stamps, Telegraph stamps, Fiscals, Native States issues and so on.

A most beneficent and lasting result of the formation of PSI and publication of the Journal was the organized and serious study of early Indian Philatelic issues leading to the publication of a number of well-researched works. Notable among these are 'The Postage and Telegraph Stamps of India' by L.L.R. Hansburg, a magnum opus on the 1854 lithographs, 'Early Indian Cancellations' and 'India Used Abroad' by W.W. Renouf and Sir Edward Bacon's 'The Proofs, Essays and Reprints of the First Issued Stamps of British India, 1854-55' which were all pioneering studies. Other major works to follow were 'The Half Anna India 1854' and 'The 4-annas Lithographed Stamps of India, 1854-55' both by Col. D.R. Martin and E.A. Smythies, a 'History of the Post Office in India' by Geoffrey Clarke, who was the Director-General of P & T, 'The 1-anna and 2-annas of India 1854-55' by L.E. Dawson and 'The Handstruck Postage Stamps of India' by D. Hammond Giles. The PSI celebrated its Centenary in 1997 in a befitting manner and the eminent philatelist of Mumbai, Dhirubhai Mehta continues the good work of PSI and edits the journal, PJI.

The formation of the Empire of India Philatelic Society in Mumbai in December 1941 was another significant event. Jal Cooper, the well-known authority on Philately, served as its founder-Secretary. The EIPS acquired the publication 'India's Stamp Journal' (which was started in January 1937) from a Swiss dealer, Mr. Neukom of M/s Philatelic Orient in October 1940. To begin with, the EIPS had some 140 members and it grew from strength to strength. Jal Cooper worked hard for the popularization of philately till his demise in August 1972. He also wrote a popular column 'Stamp News' in the Illustrated Weekly of India, a popular Times of India publication, in the 1950's and '60's. The good work of EIPS is now being carried on by the Veteran Philatelist, V.S. Dastur.

Post-Independence Era: Modernisation & Expansion:

After Independence, Philately in India gained further momentum. Number of issues on varied themes - historical, cultural, artistic, developmental and scientific - came to be issued reflecting the rich heritage of the country. Series such as those on Mahatma Gandhi (1948), Archaeological series of definitive stamps (1949), Republic of India (1950), Indian Saints and Saint Poets (1952), Five-Year Plan series (1955) and Map of India series (1957) proved very popular among collectors. By 1971, India Security Press was equipped with a multi-coloured machine for printing stamps by photogravure process.

With this, India started issuing multi-coloured stamps which added both colour and variety. Thereafter India has come out with many multi-coloured stamps and demand for Indian stamps abroad also increased. India also appointed Agents for sale of Indian stamps in UK, USA, Japan and Australia. The network of Philatelic Bureaux and Counters across the country was expanded to make for easier access to philatelists to new issues. By 1980 there were 30 Bureaux and 142 Philatelic Counters in the country, including 2 Bureaux and 2 Counters in the Army Postal Service. The series of stamps on Birds, Wild Life, Dances, Brides, Tribes, Flowers and Flowering Trees, Railway Engines and Airplanes, Adventure Sports, etc. provided a delightful fare to thematic enthusiasts.

National Seminar on Philately

A National Seminar on 'Philately' was organized on November 26 and 27, 1967 at Vigyan Bhavan, New Delhi in which large number of prominent Philatelists, Artists and Printing experts participated. The Seminar was addressed by the then Minister of Communications, Dr. Ram Subhag Singh and Minister of State, Shri I.K. Gujral. It was attended by a total of 113 persons which included 24 eminent philatelists, 17 leading artists (including Jamini Ray, M.F. Hussain, Krishen Khanna and Satish Gujral) and 11 printing experts. The philatelists included Jal Cooper, N.C. Chandra, D.E. Wadia, M.P. Poison, N.D. Cooper, Dhirubhai Mehta and General (Retd.) K.M. Cariappa.

Three Working Groups deliberated comprehensively on 3 different areas: (i) General Matters relating to Philately; (ii) Designing and Printing of Stamps and (iii) Sales Promotion and Publicity. The Seminar came up with a series of recommendations on development and promotion of the hobby which were implemented over the next few years. These included:

- i) Regular meetings of the Philatelic Advisory Committee (PAC) presided over by the Minister to decide proposals and themes on which stamps are to be issued;
- ii) Meetings of Design Sub-Committee under the PAC to consider and approve designs of stamps, FDCs, etc. and suggest steps to improve the designs of stamps;
- iii) Steps to popularize and promote philately;
- iv) Improve publicity of philatelic issues;
- v) Improve and expand the network for sale of stamps, FDC's, etc. at home to reach a wider segment of population;
- vi) Promote sale of Indian stamps abroad; and
- vii) Augment revenues from sale of philatelic items.

The implementation of the above measures led to all-round and robust growth of Indian Philately in 1970's and '80's.

Philatelic Congress of India

Formation of a national philatelic body in India, the Philatelic Congress of India (PCI) in 1975 marks a watershed in the philatelic history of the country. For with this, the national body got formal affiliation with the world philatelic body, Federation Internationale de Philatelie (FIP). Philatelic regulations and conventions got codified both at National and International levels and conduct of International exhibitions also got streamlined according to FIP regulations. In these efforts, the pioneering role played by late D.N. Jatia, who was also the first Indian to become President of FIP, is worthy of mention. It will be no exaggeration to say that D.N. Jatia was largely responsible for placing India prominently on the world philatelic map. Many prominent Indian philatelists not only won prestigious awards at International Philatelic exhibitions but also had the honour to serve as Jury in international exhibitions.

The contributions made by other eminent philatelists such as Jal Cooper, P.M. Medhora, G.B. Pai, Dhirubhai Mehta, Vispi S. Dastur, L.G. Shenoi and S.P. Chatterjea to Indian Philately in the post-independence era cannot be forgotten.

Philatelic Exhibitions

Holding of philatelic exhibitions periodically at different levels - District, Region, State, National and International - was one of the major steps taken by the Department of Posts since Independence. Exhibitions not only gave opportunity for collectors to display their collections and thus steadily improve and upgrade their collections but they enable public at large, especially children, to view excellent collections. Thus, many prospective and potential collectors get drawn to the hobby. The first National Philatelic Exhibition was held in New Delhi in March 1948. It was organized by the P&I Department in co-operation with the Indian Institute of Art in Industry. A total of 121 exhibitors participated displaying exhibits on 132 themes including stamps of British Colonies, Indian States and Convention stamps, India Postage stamps and Afghanistan. Besides, there were two specialized collections of Indian Stamps of King George V and VI.

The first ever International Philatelic-cum-Postal Exhibition in India was held in New Delhi in 1954 on the occasion of the Centenary of Indian Postage Stamp. It was inaugurated by Pandit Nehru, Prime Minister, in the presence of Minister of Communications, Shri Jagjivan Ram. The Exhibition was held in a specially constructed hall with an area of 15,000 sq. ft. 79 Postal Administrations participated in the exhibition and as many as 17 countries sent official representatives. The highlight of the exhibition was part of Queen's collection from U.K. which was specially brought by Sir John Wilson, Keeper of the Royal collection. Also on display at this exhibition were rare exhibits of plates, dies and proofs from Thomas de la Rue of England who printed stamps of India for over 70 years till 1926 and Courvoisior of Switzerland who had the honour of printing 1948 Mahatma Gandhi issues. A special visitor to the Exhibition was Dr. Weber, Director-General of U.P.U.

Thereafter, number of National Philatelic exhibitions were held including those in 1970 (New Delhi), 1975 (Calcutta) and 1977 (Bangalore). And International exhibitions have been held - Asiana 77 (Bangalore) India-80 (New Delhi), India-89 (New Delhi) and India-97 (New Delhi). At the India-80 exhibition, the 1-cent British Guiana stamp, the only one of its kind available and considered the rarest and most valuable stamp in the world, was brought to India by its then owner, Irwin Weinberg, and displayed in a special bullet-proof glass case.



Outlook for Future

The saga of Indian Philately - both pre-Independence and post-Independence - has been a fascinating and romantic one. Generations of collectors have grown up savouring the joys, thrills and challenges the hobby has to offer and many have carried their abiding interest in Philately to adulthood and old age. The same cannot be said of the present generation. What with various distractions in the present-day world - TV and Cable, Computers, Internet and Video games, sports and highly competitive academic pursuits, the youth of today have less inclination to pursue a serious hobby like philately. In fact, many of the senior collectors even find it difficult to bequeath their precious and painstakingly nurtured collection to their young ones. Thus the outlook for future is uncertain.

One way to regain the lost ground is to promote Philately through websites and Internet. Video games related to philatelic themes need to be devised and put on popular websites to attract the younger generation. Many educative and intellectual games and exercises with stamps can be designed to stir the imagination and ignite the minds of children. Only time will tell what the future of the hobby will be with all such efforts put in to promote it.

**A V B Menon, Formerly Principal Chief PMG,
Economic Journalist having avid interest in philately**

**S.Balasundaram, National Awardee & Expert in Quality Management
Certification and Naturalist**

Stamps with Strange Currencies as Denomination

- Dr.Satyendra Kumar Agrawal

Before the advent of money, barter was the accepted means of payment where anything could serve as "currency". But it may be surprising to know that few countries denominated their stamps in terms of Kilograms of vegetables, crops, sea shell or local flora and fauna.

Denomination in Grams or Kilograms of Rice

North Vietnam's set of "Harvesting Rice" official stamps issued in 1952/53 depicting a crude image of man planting rice with crude perforation by way of a sewing machine, denominated in kilograms of rice.



"Harvesting Rice" official stamps, Vietnam 1952/53

Also one value from President Ho Chi Minh's set of 5 stamps issued in 1946 was overprinted in 1955 with denomination as 0.05 Kg.



*President Ho Chi Minh stamp
overprinted 0.05Kg of Rice, Vietnam 1946*



"Dien Bien Phu" commemorative of 1954-56

Denomination in grams or kilograms of rice are unusual, of course, but rice was certainly a valuable commodity in Vietnam in 1954, especially in North Vietnam, which had much less agricultural land than South Vietnam and had been divided politically by the Geneva Conference as a result of the communist victory at the Battle of Dien Bien Phu. The North Vietnamese had experienced famine nine years before, in 1945. The disruption of the Vietnamese economy by the Japanese occupation and inept French administration, as well as droughts and floods, resulted in the death by starvation of hundreds of thousands to millions of people.

Denomination in Cowries

Some form of shell money appears to have been found on almost every continent: America, Asia, Africa and Australia. The Chinese were the first people to use cowries as currency. Although as supplies from the ocean ran out, people manufactured their own versions which is perhaps the first instance of fake currency.

Wilson's embryonic postal system for Uganda commenced operations on March 20, 1895. A single letter box was set up in Kampala, at Wilson's office, offering twice-daily letter service to Entebbe and Gayaza for postage of 10 cowries. Other destinations had different rates. 1895-98, The "Uganda Cowries", also known as the "Uganda Missionaries", were the first adhesive postage stamps of Uganda.



"Uganda Cowries", Uganda 1895-98

The values of the stamps varied, but all were denominated in cowries (monetary seashells), at 200 cowries per rupee or $12\frac{1}{2}$ cowries = 1d. The design was simple, showing just the initials of the jurisdiction and a number for the denomination. The paper used was extremely thin. Because there was no printing press in Uganda, the stamps were made on a typewriter by the Rev. E. Millar of the Church Missionary Society, in March 1895, at the request of C. Wilson, an official of the Imperial British East Africa Company.

Denomination in number of Potatoes

Tristan da Cunha is a small island situated in the southern Atlantic Ocean. An attempt to attract attention to Tristan da Cunha by the issue of own postage stamps was made in 1946 by the British meteorologist Allan B. Crawford, who spent a long time on the island and realized there was a demand for stamps from philatelists and passing ships from the so called "loneliest island in the world".

He decided to develop and produce a local stamp for the islanders to place on the outside of their letters. Together with draftsman Sgt. Jimmy Brown he came up with 9 designs and Allan had 20,000 penny sheets made, each stamp depicted a penguin printed in red in sheets of 35 stamps by Hortors Ltd. of Johannesburg.

As they did not have permission to use the King George head, they used the British Union Flag. The islanders also had no money and during WWII they used potatoes as currency with 4 potatoes equalling 1 old penny (1d), so this currency was added to the designs.



All 9 Potato Stamps designed by Sgt Jimmy Brown and facsimile copies of the now famous "Potato" Essay; the only one which was printed in 1946

The stamp/sticker soon achieved fame as a souvenir from passing ships and collectors throughout the world and was nicknamed as "Potato Stamp".



"Potato" stamp depicted on a M/S, Tristan da Cunha, 2006

In 1946 Crawford also submitted a petition containing the designs of nine postage stamps signed by the 12 members of the island council, to the UK Postmaster General for consideration as a legitimate postage stamp, but petition was turned down for some reasons in September 1946.



This 2015 stamp sheetlet has been produced using Allan Crawford's black and white designs submitted as part of the petition together with Tristan's first official stamp, the overprinted St Helena definitive. The border also depicts some of Allan Crawford's early designs.



*FDC Potato Essays Postage Stamps,
Tristan da Cunha 2015*



*Commercial cover, Tristan da Cunha 1948,
franked with a potato stamp*



Red Potato stamp

The potato stamps were never approved, but sometimes they were posted, and charged as postage - due penalty. In 1979 to commemorate the death centenary of Sir Rowland Hill, the 4 potatoes red stamp showing penguins and the currency being potatoes was also included in the miniature sheet issued by Tristan da Cunha.

Denomination in number of Puffins

Released on November 1st 1929, the "Puffin Stamps" of Lundy Island are the only stamps having denomination printed in number of a local bird "Puffin". 1 Puffin = 1 British Penny: 12 Puffins = 1 Shilling. The stamps show the number of puffins per value, the half has its face and chest, 1 has the whole bird and the 9 and 12 just look hilarious. These stamps were lithographed by Bradbury Wilkinson & Co. Ltd. and Printed in sheets of 120 stamps, made up by four panes of 30 stamps.



"Puffin" stamps, Lundy 1929

Once owned by a smuggler and slave trader, the name Lundy is derived from an old Icelandic Viking word "Lund" which means Puffin or Parrot and "ey" - an island. Numerous birds breed on the island including Puffin whose name is used for the unit of currency.

Lundy is situated in the Bristol Channel about 12 miles from the mainland of England. It is about 3 miles long by half mile wide, there are a number of permanent residents and about 25,000 tourists visit the island each year. In 1925 the entire island was purchased by Mr. Martin Coles Harman who set himself as the king of this island and proceeded to coin money and issuing postage stamps for use by island's inhabitants. The stamps and coins bore a picture of the puffin, a paunchy bird with a supercilious expression which inhibits the island in great number.

There is no British Post Office on the Island, so Lundy stamps were authorised, starting in 1929, to pay postage for carrying the mails by packet boat (or airplane) to the mainland of England.

At first all went well with this lilliputian kingdom, but in 1931 the British government got wind of what is going on and the court took a dim view of His Majesty King Harman's regal pretensions. King Harman suddenly found that he was an ex-king, was fined 5 pounds, and was ordered to relinquish his royal prerogatives.

The printing of Puffin stamps continues to this day and they are available at face value from the Lundy Post Office. One used to have to stick Lundy stamps on the back of the envelope; but Royal Mail now allows their use on the front of the envelope, but placed on the left side, with the right side reserved for the Royal Mail postage stamp.



Royal Mail now allows their use on the front of the envelope, but placed on the left side, with the right side reserved for the Royal Mail postage stamp

Lundy stamps are cancelled by a circular Lundy handstamp. The face value of the Lundy Island stamps covers the cost of postage of letters and postcards from the island to the Bideford Post Office on the mainland for onward delivery to their final destination anywhere in the world. The Lundy Post Office gets a bulk rate discount for mailing letters and postcards from Bideford. Lundy stamps are a type of postage stamp known to philatelists as "local carriage labels" or "local stamps". Issues of increasing value were made over the years, including air mail, featuring a variety of people.



New designs of Lundy "local stamps" with denomination in number of Puffins

Today, Lundy is part of the British Empire, and former King Harman is an ordinary subject. But the stamps remain a fascinating item for collectors, unique in postal history. For they are the only British stamps ever issued – not by the British Government not by a British dominion, commonwealth, colony or possession – but by a private citizen - His Exalted Ex-Royal Highness King Harman I, Ex-Monarch of Puffin land!

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Biophilately - An Introduction

Dr T. Murugavel

What is Biophilately?

Biophilately is the practice of collecting postage stamps depicting plants and animals and 'biophilatelists' are individuals who collect such stamps. You may know that 'bio' means life in Greek language and 'philatelist' refers to a person who collects and do research on stamps. Therefore, when stamps illustrating various life forms are collected, it is called biophilately. It may be considered as an inherent branch of Thematic Collection. If you are a thematic collector, you may collect stamps on any theme of your interest or choice. However, if you specialize in collecting stamps related to any life form then you are a 'biophilatelist'. As there is a large diversity of plant and animal life, you may choose to specialize in any zoological or botanical issues or concentrate on any one particular species of plant or animal.



Fig. 1

How and what to collect?

If you have a large collection of stamps and if you are not particular about any species then check which theme that dominates your collection and with these stamps you may build a good collection. For example, if you have a good number of stamps [Fig. 1] on Kangaroo you shall start collecting them and specialize. As a collector you should ensure your collection has stamps (singles, pairs or blocks), covers [Fig. 2] (used as well as mint), souvenir sheets [Fig. 3] miniature sheets, special cancellations, etc. and if you can spend little more money on your collection you may add Essays [Fig.4] (which are designs made for consideration of printing a stamp)



Fig. 2



Fig. 3

Canada: 1996 Winnie The Pooh Stamps Souvenir Sheet.



central Kangaroo vignette in brownish red being a cut-out and pasted in place within the map, wide margins



Fig. 5 Australian 1913 - £2 Kangaroo die proof

Proofs [Fig.5] (are test printings of a stamp from an original plate or die), Trial colors (these are test prints made using different colours before deciding on the best colour combination) and errors. Varieties related to printing, paper perforation, watermarks might also be added to enhance your collection. It would be of interest to note that even among the thematic collections, the most popular themes are 'animals' and 'birds', says an article published in *The Philatelic Observer*.

If you think that biophilately is a new genre of collection then you are wrong. American Topical Association (ATA) started Biology Unit in May 1951 - which may be considered as the biggest group committed to the 'international co-operative study of biological postage stamps and related material'. It is a non-profit organization based on cost of operations, chiefly the production and mailing of *Biophilately*'. Running to almost 50 pages, this journal covers all new zoological and botanical issues. The magazine gives inputs like checklists on stamps related to biology in general and flowers, animal, wild animals, reptiles, amphibians, birds, insects, etc.

A word of caution

You need to be aware that as biophilately or thematic stamp collection becomes popular, some countries do print stamps that are of no philatelic value. In other words these stamps are printed just to induce collectors to procure. H Douglas Pratt, a biophilatelist who had also designed bird stamps for Palau, Marshall Islands, Federated States of Micronesia in his webpage (www.hdouglaspratt.com/biophilately.html) states,

"I always objected to the all-too-frequent practice of tiny countries issuing large runs of stamps depicting bird species that had nothing whatsoever to do with the country represented. I insisted that all the stamps I designed show only birds native to the respective country. Pauline always supported me in this policy. More recently, Palau issued some stamps that showed birds that are never seen there and claimed they were native, many of which were misidentified! This is just the sort of cheesy commercialization I sought to avoid. Standards obviously slipped. However, things have improved with the issuance of some stamps featuring photos of Palauan birds by my friend and colleague Mandy Etpison."

Therefore, it is better to stay away from these issues and concentrate on what philatelists call as 'cream' materials.

All said and done, we as philatelists collect stamps for pleasure. Biophilately takes you to the next level as the biophilately materials or exhibits make wonderful material for spreading awareness on nature and help people, especially youngsters to learn about the magnificent natural world.

Dr T. Murugavel, Professor in a reputed Engineering college, has a passion for philately. He is a nature lover and wildlife photographer.

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Stamps of different shapes and sizes

Dr. Vra. Saathappan

A postage stamp is a small piece of paper that is purchased and displayed on an item of mail as evidence of payment of postage. Typically, stamps are made from a special paper with a gum adhesive on the reverse side. The stamp's shape is usually that of a small rectangle of varying proportions.

An Englishman, Sir Rowland Hill started to take an interest in postal reform in 1835. By then postal charges for a letter was based on the distance of the letter to be transported and the charges were collected from the person to whom the letter was addressed. Hill's ideas for postage stamps and charging postage based upon weight was documented and the first stamp, the Penny Black, was put on sale on 1st May 1840, to be valid from 6th May 1840; two days later the Two Pence Blue was introduced. Both show an engraving of the young Queen Victoria, with smooth, imperforated edges. With this introduction, the postage was paid by the sender and not by the recipient.

For about the first ten years stamps were issued without perforations. Scissors or other cutting tools had to be used to separate individual stamps. If cutting tools were not used, individual stamps were torn off, as evidenced by the ragged edges of surviving stamps. This proved to be quite an inconvenience for postal clerks and businesses, both of which had to deal with large numbers of individual stamps on a daily basis. By 1850, various methods such as rouletting wheels were being devised in an effort to make stamp separation more efficient and to allow for large numbers of stamps to be quickly separated.

The United Kingdom was the first country to issue postage stamps with perforations. The first machine specifically designed to perforate postage stamps was invented in London by Henry Archer, an Irish landowner and railroad man from Dublin, Ireland. However, stamps from Henry Archer's perforation trials were issued during the last few months of 1850. There were discussions in this topic during the parliamentary session of 1851, at the House of Commons, and finally in 1853-54 after the government paid Mr. Archer £4,000 for his machine and the patent, the 1st officially perforated postage stamp was the Penny Red (Fig. 1) issued in 1854 as a regular stamp to the public.

Perforations are small holes made between individual postage stamps on a sheet of stamps, allowing for the easier separation of individual stamps. The resulting frame-like rippled edge that surrounds the separated stamp has become part of the characteristic appearance of a postage stamp. Perforations, (experimental gauge 16), first came into use in 1851 and were officially adopted in 1854, (in the same size as the experimental issue). In January 1855, the perforation size was changed from 16 to 14 as it was found that the sheets were coming apart too easily. The reduced size allowed the sheets to remain intact until pressure was applied to force the separation.

A perforation gauge is used to identify the perforation number. Perforation 16 means 16 holes in a distance of 2 cm (20 mm). The greater the perforation number, the easier will be the separation of stamps.

In addition to the most common rectangular shape, stamps have been issued in geometric and irregular shapes. Here we will see some stamps with odd shapes with perforated edges (other than rectangle). They are triangle, square, diamond, rhombus, parallelogram, trapezium, pentagon, hexagon and octagon. These geometric shapes can be regular or irregular. Regular shapes have equal internal subtended angles and can be circumscribed by a circle. A regular quadrilateral has opposite angles as 90° . Stamps with curved shapes like circle, ellipse, semi-circular, D-shape, Capsule shape, fan shaped (sector) and other odd shapes like flag, star and shapes with a combination of curved and vertical edges have also been issued.

Most of the stamps are rectangular in shape including the world's first stamp the Penny Black. It is the common shape adopted for stamps, due to convenience in handling, separating, pasting, etc.

A rectangular shape has four sides, opposite sides is parallel and equal in length. All the included internal angles are 90° . Rectangle-oblong will have a base length greater than the height. One of the world smallest rectangle-oblong stamp issued by Victoria, a British colony later became a part of Australia during 1901 (Fig. 2) rectangle-vertical has a base length smaller than the height. One of the world's smallest rectangle-vertical stamp was issued by Colombia during 1945 (Fig. 3).

To enclose an area with straight lines, we need a minimum of three sides. This polygonal shape is a Triangle. It is the basic shape for many a design in various fields. The sum of the three included internal angles will be always 180° , irrespective of the type of triangle. We do not have any authentic record about the issue of the first perforated triangular stamp. But the World's first triangular stamp (imperforated) was issued by Cape of Good Hope on 01-09-1853 (Fig. 6).

An Equilateral triangle has three equal sides and each of its internal included angles is 60° . The World's Smallest Triangular Stamp was the $2\frac{1}{2}$ Centavos black on lilac, issued by Colombia in South America in 1865 and measured only 18 mm on each side. It was an equilateral triangle. One of the equilateral triangle shape stamp issued by El Salvador with sides measuring 30 mm issued during 1921 is shown here (Fig. 4).

An Isosceles triangle has two of its sides equal and the internal included angle opposite to these sides is also equal. Shown here is a newspaper stamp with 2c face value issued by Fiume (a city and surrounding territory on the Adriatic Sea, now under the control of Italy) in 1919 (5).

In this stamp design, the apex is at the foot of the stamp. (i.e.) the base is at the top. The World's first triangular stamps with the apex at the foot were first issued by Latvia as airmail stamps in 1921 and 1928 and as air charity stamps in 1932 and 1933.

A Right angled triangle is also an isosceles triangle but has one of its internal included angles as 90° (i.e.) the angle opposite to the longer side. The other two angles are equal and they are 45° each. A right angled triangle is half of a square along its diagonal. Hong Kong, China issued the stamp in the theme Museums and Libraries on 26-03-2000 (Fig. 7). A vertical triangular design stamp issued by Argentina on 02-06-2007 to celebrate the International Polar Year (Fig. 8).

In a Scalene triangle, all the three sides are of different length. The world's only scalene triangle stamp (imperforated) was issued by Colombia in the denomination of $2\frac{1}{2}$ cents during 1869-70 (Fig. 10). A Square shape has four sides of equal length (opposite sides are parallel) and the included angles are 90° . The diagonals are equal and perpendicular to each other. A stamp was issued by India on 30-10-1994 to commemorate the 16th International Cancer Congress (Fig. 17).

A Diamond shape is a square which has one of its diagonals in a vertical position and the other in a horizontal position (perpendicular to the other diagonals). A stamp issued by Ukraine on 26-10-2004 as part of the Miniature sheet issued on the theme Birds of the Danube Nature Reserve (Fig. 14). The world's first diamond-shaped Stamps were issued by Nova Scotia on September 1851, three stamps on the theme, flowers.

A Rhombus is similar to the diamond shape except that two opposite included internal angles are less than 90° and the other two angles are more than 90° . The diagonals are unequal and perpendicular to each other. A rhombus shape stamp (smaller vertical), issued by Romania on 01-09-1964 to commemorate the 18th Olympic Games in Tokyo (Fig. 9). A rhombus shape stamp (smaller horizontal), issued by Guine on 17-01-1963 on the theme, Snakes (Fig. 12).

A Parallelogram is similar to rhombus, opposite sides are parallel and equal in length. The diagonals are not perpendicular to each other. A stamp issued by Mongolia on 24-05-1975 on the theme Medicinal Plants (Fig. 13). Trapezium is a four-sided shape with opposite sides parallel and the other two sides are inclined. The inclined sides may be convergent or divergent. In a majority of cases the diagonals are not perpendicular to each other. The world's first trapezoidal shape stamps were issued by Malaysia on 02-12-1967 to celebrate the centenary of the first stamps of the Straits Settlements (Fig. 15).

A stamp was issued by Monaco on 14-01-1955 to Honour Dr. Albert Schweitzer (Fig. 18). A stamp issued by Sri Lanka in 2008 to commemorate the 29th Olympic games at Beijing (Fig. 20). A stamp issued by Malaysia on 06-04-1970 to publicise the earth satellite station (Fig. 11). A stamp issued by Malta on 20-10-1967 to celebrate Christmas (Fig. 16).

A Pentagon is a polygon with five sides. The sum of all internal angles will be equal to 540° . The stamp is a part of the miniature sheet titled exploring the solar system was issued by USA - in 2000 (Fig. 25). A stamp was issued in 2007 by China to commemorate the Beijing Olympics 2008 (Fig. 24).

A Hexagon is a polygon with six sides. The sum of all internal angles will be equal to 720° . The world's first hexagonal stamp was released by Belgium as a telegraph stamp. A stamp issued on 11-10-2004 by Namibia as a first SAPOA-Southern African Postal Operators Association, joint issue on the theme national birds of its member countries (Fig. 21). A stamp issued by India on 02-08-2008 on Aldabra the giant tortoise (Fig. 26). A stamp was issued on 15-05-2002 by New Caledonia to commemorate the 2002 World Cup Soccer Championships, Japan and Korea (Fig. 32).

An Octagon is a polygon with eight sides. Generally a square shape is cut at the edges to form an octagon. A stamp was issued by Oman on 22-04-1991, to commemorate its National Day (Fig. 23). A stamp issued by Qatar on 21-05-2004 in honor of FIFA-Federation of International Football Association (Fig. 28). A stamp was issued by Canada on 03-01-2002 to commemorate the year of the Horse (Fig. 22). A stamp issued in 2009 by Korea (Fig. 27). A stamp issued by Papua New Guinea in 2010 in the topic Spiders (Fig. 19).

The world's first perforated circular stamps were issued by Kuwait on 15-06-1970 featuring the head of the Kingdom Sheik Sabah (Fig. 33). The second country to issue circular stamps was Malaysia to commemorate the opening of main office of the Negara Malaysia Bank. The stamps are shown on cover with first day of issue cancellation 15th May 1971 (Fig. 38). A circular stamp from Japan was part of the miniature sheet issued on 16-06-2003 to promote the habit of letter writing (Fig. 30).

Semi-circular shape is formed when a circular is bisected by a diameter into two parts. The bisected single part is known as a Semi-circle. A stamp issued by Singapore on 08-08-1997 to commemorate the 30th anniversary of ASEAN (Fig. 29). A semi-circular stamp from Japan was part of the miniature sheet issued on 16-06-2003 to promote the habit of letter writing (Fig. 37).

A stamp in the shape of ellipse, part of the miniature sheet issued by Japan in 2000, to commemorate the birth of the Millennium (35). A stamp issued by France on 11-09-1999 to commemorate the Rugby World Cup is in the form of ellipse (31). An ellipse shaped stamp from Japan, part of the miniature sheet was issued to promote the habit of letter writing (Fig. 34). Another ellipse-shaped stamp from the same country, part of the miniature sheet issued to promote the habit of letter writing (Fig. 36), The world's first stamps with an oval design were the numeral definitive series issued by Mexico in 1886. This series, however, was perforated in the usual upright rectangular shape.

There is another category of stamps which can be classified as free form self-adhesive stamps. The first country to issue a stamp in this category was Sierra Leone on 11-05-1964.



The illustrations shown here are 80% of their original size

Dr. Vra. Sathappan is Principal in an Engineering college and has been collecting stamps from his childhood.
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A visit to London 2015 - EUROPHILEX

G. Ram Mohan

In May 2015 I had the pleasure and privilege of visiting the LONDON 2015 EUROPHILEX Philatelic Exhibition. Till then, I had visited a number of National level, State level and District level philatelic exhibitions in various States in India. The Europhilex exhibition I saw in London was my first experience of an international exhibition. It was organized on a very grand scale. I had never seen an exhibition of that size before. It was said to be the largest philatelic exhibition to be held anywhere in Europe till then. It made a deep impression on me which I would like to share it with the readers.

The exhibition was organised under the patronage of Federation of European Philatelic Association (FEPA)- FEPA was founded 1989 with a view to facilitating contacts between philatelists from various countries of Europe. In the past 27 years it has grown to be one of the world's largest association of philatelists, with 43 member countries and over 5,000 affiliated clubs.

There were 40 organisations from the host country of United Kingdom who sponsored the exhibition. This included many famous names of the philatelic-world, such as the Royal Mail, Stanley Gibbons, Royal Philatelic Society London, British Postal Museum & Archive, British Library and others. Over 80 patrons from all over Europe made cash contributions; and individual frames and prizes were sponsored by many societies, clubs and traders.

Attractive features

The exhibition was held for four days from 13 to 16 May 2015. The venue was a huge exhibition hall in Islington in Central London, known as the Business Design Centre. The entire exhibition space of 1,35,000 sq.ft. (about double the size of an average football field) was occupied by the exhibition. The six main attractions at the exhibition were:

- ★ Display of about 1,500 frames of competitive exhibits from about 200 entrants
- ★ Display of some rare historic items associated with postal history
- ★ About 140 stalls of dealers from all over the world (including an India Post stall)
- ★ Royal Mail stall selling packs of GB commemoratives, special cancellations, special releases, Smiler
- ★ Sheets (which are A4 size sheets of personalised stamps), etc.
- ★ Souvenir stalls selling badges, ties, souvenir volumes, etc.

- ★ Daily seminars, most of which were open to all. (But some 'society meetings' and 'club meetings' were open only to their members).

Admission to the exhibition was free. A number of items like information booklets, picture postcards and propaganda materials of dealers were made available free to all visitors. A very informative catalogue was available for sale at the entrance, which gave detailed hall plans, details of the special exhibits and such other information which made it very easy to find where each and every item of interest was located.

Apart from these, there were receptions, award ceremonies and such social get-togethers to which admission was either by invitation or by stiffly-priced tickets.

The entries in the competition class were of a very high quality. Many rare and fine collections of stamps, essays, proofs were on display in every collection. Generous use had been made of non-philatelic materials such as rare photographs, prints, newspaper cuttings, labels etc., and they were merged very tactfully with the philatelic material. Materials on display were mostly from European countries -- but there were substantial collections of rare materials from many small countries of Central America, Africa and the Middle East. Indian material had been used in only two entries -- (i) Suez - Aden - Bombay - Sea Post Office 1864 to 1914 and (ii) Kuwait Postal History - India era from 1902 to 1949.

There were 9 classes of exhibits including 'Literature Class' consisting of catalogues and books, the entries of which were kept in open shelves as in a library, with facilities to take out, sit and read.

Prizes had been awarded separately for each class as judged by an International committee of 21 jurors from 15 countries.

The prize winning entries were extraordinary in their coverage and use of rare materials, both philatelic and non-philatelic.

There were many rare and historic items displayed at the exhibition which were very interesting. The year 2015 had some special features: it marked the 175th anniversary of Penny Black, the 150th anniversary Stanley Gibbons first Catalogue and the 125th anniversary of the first ever international stamp exhibition held in London. The first sketch drawn by Rowland Hill for the Penny Black, the only surviving copy of the 'first-ever' Stanley Gibbons Catalogue of 1865 and collections of advertising cards from the 14 earlier international level philatelic exhibitions held in London from 1890 onwards, were some of the related items on display. Among the other historic items displayed were a 12th Century letter written on parchment, the first letter sent by transatlantic mail from Europe to North America, the copper printing plate used to print the famous Mauritius 1847 POST OFFICE 1 penny and 2 penny stamps and the printing press used by an infamous forger named Jean de Sperati to produce high quality forgeries of classic stamps.

Dealers' stalls were in different classes and sizes. There varied from big stalls of famous auctioneer houses like Grosvenor and Spink, to humble 'one-table' stands selling stamps and FDCs in bulk. There were items to suit every pocket and every interest. Colourful GB commemoratives in bulky packets were available cheap, and I bought many for my pictorials collection.

I spent two days consecutively at the exhibition and my wife accompanied me on one of the days. What is more, I could meet personalities like Mr. Michael Hamilton of the Royal Philatelic Society London (RPSL), Mr. Tony Bosworth and Ms. Deborah Gooch of the Exhibition Committee, Mr Markand Dave, President of the Indian branch of RPSL and Mr. Bhoopathy of India Post. In short I had an enjoyable time. I would count my visit to LONDON 2015 EUROPHILEX as one of the memorable events of my life.

**G. Ram Mohan is a Senior philatelist in Chennai,
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Stamps on Mining Minerals

Dr Yennam Uendar

Mining is an activity of extraction of valuable minerals or other geological materials from the earth from an ore body, lode, vein, seam, reef or placer deposits forming the mineralized package of economic interest to the miner. Ores recovered by mining include metals, coal, oil shale, gemstones, limestone, rock salt, potash, clay etc. Mining of stones and metal has been a human activity since pre-historic times. Worldwide, Postal organizations have released beautiful stamps commemorating the Miners, Mines, Mining Machinery, the process of Mining, Mine Institutes etc.



Early Mining (1980)

Mining underground

As the civilization grew, the methods of mining also changed. Generally Geological Survey organisations undertake prospecting of minerals by drilling test drill holes quite deep in a grid pattern. Subsequently maps are drawn up depending on the level the mineral touches. Thereafter mineral reserves are estimated. Usually a coal mine is planned for exploitation for ten years. Typically underground coal mining involves drilling, blasting, loading, transporting and purification. Iron ore, Bauxite, Phosphate, Salt mining is done by using open cast methods and Gold, Copper mining by sinking a shaft in the ground. Mining underground or in open pit involves use of state-of-the-art machinery.

Coal can be exploited by underground and also by open cast mining depending on the availability of coal reserves. In India, Singareni Collieries Company in Telangana and Coal India in the North are undertaking coal mining. Coal is generally found along the major rivers. Copper, gold deposits are available in the form of lodes in the rocks underground. In case of underground coal mining, blasting holes will be drilled into the seam (mineral layer or bed) and then capsules of explosives called cartridges are stemmed in the holes for blasting the face of seam.



Diamond Mining



Drilling for Roof Support



Coal Miners





Kolar Gold Fields (India)



Czech (1951)



Czech (1949)



Helper first stamp



Botswana (1970)



Drilling (1977)



Drilling into the ore wall

The blasted mineral is loaded on to the "Tubs" and these will be pulled up from underground by some hoisting mechanism,



Switzerland(1952)



Brasil (1980)



Austria mine shaft (1961)

In some cases, especially in coal mines, shafts are used to hoist the coal up to the surface.

Surface mining

When mining on surface, open cast method is followed. Open cast mining will cause more damage to the ecosystem than underground mining. Water table will alter, noise levels go up, buildings develop cracks, tree cover will disappear, dust and other particulate matter will be airborne due to the open cast mining.



Malaysia (1974)



Vietnam (1959)

Campha coal mine in Vietnam is one of the largest mines in the world. Heavy machinery like draglines, dumpers and drilling machines are used. What is more, tonnes of explosives are used to blast the earth.



Togo (1964)



German dragline (1957)



Salt Mining



Caledonia salt mines



Christmas island



Zimbabwe (1995)

Mining is a very difficult and hazardous profession. To extract two grams of gold, maximum of one tonne rock will be blast. Underground mining often poses risk to life due to collapse of mine roof, poisonous gases and inundation. Many miners die every year owing to accidents.



Belgium (1981)



Welfare mining



Mining lamp (2013)

Miner's lamp is very useful in detecting carbon monoxide in underground mines.

To ensure growth of economy, mining of minerals is a must and optimal exploitation of resources leads to sustainable development of a country.

Dr. Yennam Upendar is the Director of Postal Services, Telangana Circle having keen interest in philately.

Know your Heart!!!

Dr.Arun Viswanath

The heart is an electro-mechanical pump (Fig.1) that circulates oxygen and nutrient rich blood through the blood vessels to meet the metabolic requirements of the entire body (Fig.2).



Fig.1

Fig.2

Fig.3

Fig.4

The structure and function of the heart muscle was discovered by Niels Stensen (Fig.3), the electric fibres of the heart by Purkyně (Fig.4), the valves of the heart by Leonard de Vinci (Fig.5), the pulmonary circulation by Miguel Servet (Fig.6) and the systemic circulation by William Harvey (Fig.7).



Fig.5

Fig.6

Fig.7

Fig.8

The commonest heart ailment is coronary artery disease (CAD), wherein the blood vessels of the heart get narrowed and blocked due to deposits of fibro-fatty plaque (Fig.8). People who are at high risk of developing coronary artery disease are those who are smokers (Fig.9) and with hypertension (Fig.10), diabetes mellitus (Fig.11), and high cholesterol (Fig.12).



Fig.9

Fig.10

Fig.11

Fig.12

Patients with coronary artery disease suffer from chest pain (Fig.13) and heart attack (Fig.14) due to decreased blood supply to the heart muscle.



Fig.13

Fig.14

Fig.15

Fig.16

Heart disease can be diagnosed in patients by electrocardiogram (Fig.15.), x-ray chest (Fig.16), echocardiogram (Fig.17) and coronary angiogram (Fig.18).



Fig.17

Fig.18

Fig.19

Coronary artery disease can be treated with medicines (Fig.19) like nitrates (Fig.20), aspirin (Fig.21) and beta blockers (Fig.22).



Fig.20

Fig.21

Fig.22

Fig.23

In patients with CAD, the blocked blood vessels of the heart can also be bypassed surgically at open heart surgery as described by Dr.ReneFavaloro (Fig.24), a pioneer of Coronary Artery Bypass Grafting (CABG).



Fig.24

Fig.25

Fig.26

MAXIMAPHILY - A branch of philately

- Vimal Rajaseharan

Maximaphily is an exciting branch in stamp collecting. It is one of the eleven recognized classification's of Philately. The purpose of Maximaphily is to collect exclusively Maximum cards.

Maximum Card - A Short History

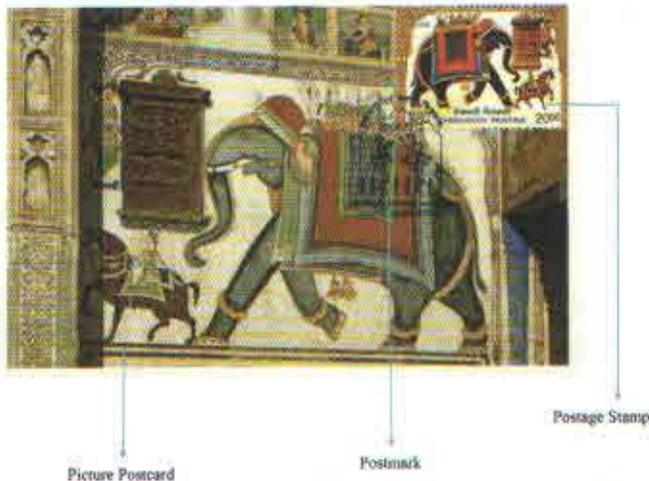
It is said that Maximum Cards date back to 1893. Maximum Card was born of sheer chance in Egypt when a tourist mailed a picture postcard illustrating a pyramid and the Sphinx to a friend in Germany. Contrary to postal regulations, he decided to affix an Egyptian stamp featuring the said monuments on the view side of the postcard instead of the address/message side. From that moment Maximaphily took a steady journey into philately.

Maximum Cards started growing after 1920 when the philatelic production was enriched with the issues of the first commemorative stamps. Up to the Second World War, Maximum Cards existed almost on a purely semi-official basis and without any structure. That is why all the Maximum Cards of these periods are rare and expensive. The French collectors started the first Maximaphily Association in 1945 after which it started flourishing in other countries of Europe and all over the world. The International Federation of Philately (FIP) recognized Maximaphily as an official branch of philately in 1978.

A Maximum card is made up of three elements, Postage Stamp, Picture Postcard & Postmark. The Postage Stamp is either of commemorative or definitive type. The Picture Postcard contains a beautiful illustration relevant to the Postage Stamp. The Postmark is again a special type of cancellation in line with the Postage Stamp. These three elements are joined together in a fascinating manner conforming to the very precise regulations adopted by the International Philatelic Federation (FIP). So by definition, a Maximum Card is a picture postcard featuring the same subject of a given stamp affixed to the picture side related cancellation.

The Anatomy of Maximum Card

- + Stamp must be in perfect condition.
- + Only one postage stamp should be affixed on the view side of the picture postcard. Before 1978 maximum cards showing several postage stamps were allowed.
- + The postage stamp or the souvenir sheet it belongs to, if stuck on the postcard must not exceed quarter of the postcard area.
- + When the same subject is spread on several se-tenant stamps making a panorama, the set can appear on a single postcard.



- + In general, abstract or symbolic subjects do not suit Maximaphily and are excluded from its field.

The Picture Postcard

- + The picture must offer the best possible concordance with the subject of the postage stamp or with one of them, if there are several.
- + All postcards must fully reproduce the postage stamp that is to say with perforation, face value and country name are forbidden.
- + The picture must emphasize the subject of the postage stamp
- + Postcards with multiple pictures and with holograms are forbidden.

The Postmark

- + The pictorial design of the cancellation and the place of cancellation should have a close and direct connection with the subject of the stamp and of the picture postcard.
- + The date of the cancellation should be within the validity of the stamp and as close as possible to the date of the issue.

'Variant' Maximum Card

When the stamp is the same on different postcards with the same subject and different postmark we call them "Variant" Maximum Cards.

Maximum Card - Why I Love It

- + They are beautiful and have a very good aesthetic value.
- + It has high value both culturally and financially.
- + It is very useful as an educational tool.
- + Maximum Cards are easy to store and display.
- + A collection of three valuable things at the same time : Stamp + Picture + Postmark
- +

- Vimal Rajaseharan is a philatelist specialises in Maximaphily

The Perfin Stamps of India and States

Jeff Turnbull

A perfin is a number of small holes in a distinct pattern applied to stamps as security against theft. The name perfin is a condensed form of PERForated INitials, or PERForated INsignia.

Over the years my interest in these security perfins on stamps has gone from strength to strength, so much so, that I decided to write my own catalogues and also to update other catalogues which were written many years ago.

One of my latest catalogues is that of India & States

<http://www.angelfire.com/pr/perfinsoc/publicat/india.html>

a very interesting area indeed, with very little information as to who or when the different companies were using these perfin stamps. The catalogue also includes India stamps pre 1947-1948 which were used in Burma & Pakistan.

The best way to find new information is to look out for letters or documents with the relevant company details, which also have perfin stamps affixed. You can see images of these in the catalogue. Of course, there are various ways of forming a collection, it can be on a theme such as Banking or Railways, or it could be one particular type of stamp IE 1935 Silver Jubilees, or early East India stamps.

I am sure that collectors living in India would have far greater access to information than I have had, although we are going back many many years, there must be lots out there to be found. I would welcome any new information to add to my catalogue, and of course the Perfin Society would welcome any new members who think that this hobby could be for them.

Perfins can also be found on Postal Stationery items, punched through the stationery item, these are somewhat scarcer items but usually have some indication as to who the user was. The one below being used by the Madras Port Services 12-8-1909.



M
P
S

The vast majority of India States stamps, overprints, etc. can also be found with perfin.

Volkart Brothers



V.B.

Paliyanof PalyamAchan



P

Ralli Brothers



R.B.

Finally it must be noted that perfin can often be found inverted or back to front, this is normal and it occurs when the sheet of stamps is folded prior to being punched by the perfin machine.

Double impressions are also common on the larger stamps, this is caused by the use of a multi-headed perfin die being used. Perfin machines were made with a single-headed die, or multi-heads up to as many as 12 on the one machine.

I hope that this glimpse into perfin may inspire some of you, collectors.

Jeff Turnbull is a member of the British Perfin Society.
website: - <http://www.angelfire.com/pr/perfinsoc/index.html>

Publica Assistencia Stamps of Portuguese India

Dr.Narendra Kumar Saboo

Portuguese India was one of the few countries to issue postage stamps to raise money for the poor and destitute. These stamps unlike other stamps were to be used only from 20th December to 6th January. The stamps must be affixed to the letters, telegrams, money order and passports.

First it was mandatory to use 1 Tanga in all correspondence that circulated in the state, but by legislative Diploma no:1033 Of 19/09/1958 altered this system which required the use of 6 Ries in all correspondence circulating from 20th December to 6th January. This was officially notified:

NOTICE OF CTT: mandatory

"Placing of seal Assistance From 20 current (December) until January 6, is required to affix the seal of assistance the rate 6 Ries in all correspondence circulating within the state. If the seal is not affixed by sender or the recipient the mail will be delivered only after 6th January."

The first stamp was that of a lady feeding her child, which was used from 1948 to 1956 in various colours in value of 6 Ries and 1 Tanga. This was followed by another stamp of a lady feeding her child from the year 1957 to 1959—but with a different figure. The last issue was in 1960 (one stamp showing mother with her two children).

All these stamps were printed in private printing offices "**Pilic assistencia Goa**", except the 1 Tanga grey (1952) which was printed in Lisbon. The stamps were designed by Joao Franco from Santa cruz Islands, Goa. The 1948 stamp was stopped in 1950 but again circulated by over printed "**Revalidado**" P.A.P. The 4 Tanga Blue color of Publica assistencia was intended for use in travel documents but was overprinted 1 tgs for postal use.



The first 10 stamps MOTHER & CHILD are as follows:

SNO.	RATE	COLOUR	GOVT ORDER NO	DATED
1	6 Ries	Green	4754	14.10.48
2	1 Tanga	Pink	5754	14.10.48
3	1 Tanga on 6rs	Pink	5025	19.1.50
4	1 Tanga	Pink	2226	5.4.51
5	1 Tanga on 6rs	Pink	5259 5314	31.5.51 & 6.9.51
6	1Tanga	Grey	5407	3.1.52
7	6 Ries	Yellow	5858	17.8.53
8	1 Tanga	Orange	5858	17.9.53
9	1 Tanga on 4 Tgs	Blue	6636	26.4.56
10	1 Tanga	Dark Green	6670	7.6.56



From 1957 to 1959 the figure of the mother and child were multi-colored. Later with change of currency to centavos the stamps were over-printed with new currency values. The last stamp was issued in 1960.

Dr.Narendra Kumar Saboo is a Philatelist specialised in Portuguese stamps.

Unique Double Se-Tenant Stamp Of India

Acclaimed and famous paintings are stamp designer's delight all over the world. Countries having long history of stamp issue have a considerable percentage of stamps issued with motifs having paintings of renown artists. It is no wonder, Indian stamp designer's also have adopted paintings of many of our well-known artists and painters starting from Raja Ravi Varma. Time and again other artists like Ravindranath Tagore, Abaiandranath Tagore, M.F.Hussain, S.F Raza, Sher Gill, K.G. Subramanian etc., were also honored with stamps of their paintings. Obviously, a thematic collector of "Paintings in Philately" will have a good lot of material in Indian philately itself.

Dwelling in detail on Paintings in Indian Stamps, without an iota of doubt the pride of place should go to the set of four stamps issued on 25th June, 1975. Really the collector cum Philatelist should congratulate the designer for adopting the immortal work of the artist for his 500th birth anniversary instead of giving to us a portrait / self portrait of the artist himself. Yea, I am referring to the stamp issued on the occasion of the 500th birth anniversary of Michelangelo Buonarroti, the famous Italian painter and sculptor of the of the 15th century adopting the frescos done on the ceiling of Sisline Chapel in Vatican showing the creation of Sun, moon and planets and the creation of man.



Michelangelo di Lodovico, di lionardo Buonarroti - Simoni or Michelangelo as we know was born on Sunday 6 March 1475 in Caprese, (now known as Caprice Michelangelo) a small village about 100 km from Florence, Italy.

The infant Michelangelo spent the first years of his life living with a family of stone cutters. This experience left him with an insatiable interest in structural form and shaped his determination to become a sculptor and painter.

His early life in Florence court of the Medici where he got trained as a sculptor introduced him to future princes and popes and this knowledge combined with his Christian beliefs, influenced his future works. Michelangelo's ability as a sculptor was recognized when he created a stunning marble "Pieta" (1499) in Rome and a colossal statue of "David" (1501) in Florence. His fresco paintings on the vaulted ceiling of Sistine Chapel in the Vatican (1508 - 1512) confirmed his exceptional talent.

The Sistine Chapel in Vatican is the Pope's Chapel and the place where the papal enclave meet to elect a new pope. In 1477-1480, Pope Sixtus IV built the Sistine Chapel. It is a rectangular room, measuring 40.9 X 13.4m with a ceiling height of 20.7m, mentioned the Bible. It has a barrel vaulted ceiling. The ceiling vault has been painted as a starry blue sky. In 1504, the building works of St. Peter's Basilica caused cracks and structural faults in the chapel. In 1508, Pope Julius II, as part of the restoration programme commissioned Michelangelo to paint the Sistine ceiling.

The commission, more of a command, from Pope Julius II, was not a job the sculptor wanted to undertake. Michelangelo tried to persuade the Pope to choose Raphael as Michelangelo was not an established colorist at that time. As he had no other choice, he took it and from a shaky start whereas the finished result was sensational.

Four back-breaking years of work painting the Sistine Chapel ceiling produced a triumph of praise for Michelangelo.

On looking further towards Philately, it is seen that this issue is unique in Indian Philately. Phila. Guide book (No.644-647) says it is a block of four forming two composite designs in horizontal pairs. For the same issue, Stanley Gibbons Commonwealth catalogue (SG 769-772) states that the stamps were printed in Se-tenant blocks of four within the sheet forming two composite designs in horizontal pairs. It is unique in the sense in Indian Philately that is the only issue till this day having a block of four stamps with two horizontal Se-tenents of different size stamps.

Reverting back to the thought on the paintings chosen for the Se-tenant block of four, that these two designs 1) Creation of sun moon and the planets and 2) Creation of Man - got the nod with the designer's as the whole work on the ceiling of Sistine Chapel in the Vatican is an extra-ordinary style and marvellous nature.

These paintings not only caught the eyes of Indian stamp designers but also got into the hearts of Nicaraguan Stamp designers to issue a 3C. stamp in 1975 (SG 1959). While other countries are vying to issue on these paintings, Vatican also got into the fray and issued one in 1994 with two se-tenents repeating the Indian issue but separately. (SG 1055, 1056 - 350L & 350L / SG 1057, 1058 - 500L & 500L)

Russia issued in 1975 a stamp (SG 4371, Value 14K) showing the painting of creation of man.



As known to many, works of art - whether it is painting and sculpture - of the Renaissance period European artists, more especially, the Italian and French ones are the major sources for stamp designer's then and even now. Michelangelo and Leonardo da Vinci are the two leading artists spearheading the list.

Continuing the discussion on the works of Michelangelo adopted as motifs of stamps, we can have a long list as below.

Sl.No	Painting/ Sculpture	Country	Value	Year	Catalogue
1	Pieta	Gibraltar	15P		
2	David	Russia	4 K	1975	SG. 4368
3	Staircase	Russia	20 K	1975	SG. 4372
4	Face of Joseph	Italy	L 30	1964	
5	Virgin & Child	Italy	L 40	1975	
6	Crouching Boy	Russia	6 K	1975	SG. 4369



Sl.No	Painting/ Sculpture	Country	Value	Year	Catalogue
1	Prophet Jonah	Brundi	5 ^F + 1 ^F		
2	Rebellious Slave	Russia	10 K	1975	SG 4370
3	Last Judgment	Russia	30 K	1975	SG 4373
4	Creation of Adam	Russia	14 K	1975	SG 4371
5	Prophet Isalah	Vatican	25 L	1964	SG. 432
6	Prophet Jeremiah	Vatican	40 L	1964	SG. 434
7	Prophet Joel	Vatican	150 L	1964	SG. 435
8	Delphic Sibyl	Vatican	30 L	1964	SG 433
9	Original Sin	Vatican	1000 L	1994	SG. 1059
10	Adam	Vatican	1000 L	1994	SG. 1060
11	The flood	Vatican	2000 L	1994	SG. 1062



ROLANDS J NELSON, Hon. Secretary
South India Philatelists' Association

In Memorium



Shri G. Madan Mohan Das, (b. April 1, 1923 - d. January 11, 2014) or 'Madanbhai' as he was affectionately called by his admirers was the uncrowned king of philately in Chennai. He was from a Gujarati business family, originally from Surat that had settled in Tamil Nadu over three centuries ago.

His father was a shipping agent and in his childhood he often went to the harbour with his father. There, in the dust bins in the offices and outside, he would see used postal envelopes from all over the world, with colourful stamps affixed on them. He started collecting them, and soon it became an all-absorbing hobby.

Madan Mohan Das graduated from St. Joseph's College, Trichy, and started his career in banking with the Indian Bank in Chennai in 1948. His job took him to Bombay in 1950 where he made friends with the well-known philatelists of that era, like J.N. Cooper, R.F. Shroff, R. Wadia and Dhirubhai Mehta. He learnt from them all the subtleties and refinements of 'philately'. He developed an interest in collecting Indian Classics, Indian Postal History. He also took up a deep study of the lithography of early Indian stamps. His expertise in the field was such that he could detect the die of any stamp by studying the minutest details that would not be perceptible to an untrained eye. Over the decades, Madan Mohan Das won many Gold medals for his collections of Indian Classics, Postal History and Lithography, at various philatelic exhibitions held at the State level as well as at the National level.

In 1956, he along with his younger brother Balakrishna Das, gathered together a group of enthusiastic philatelists of Chennai and formed the South India Philatelists' Association (SIPA). The first meeting of the six founding members was held in a church in Broadway on December 30, 1956. In 1980, SIPA started publishing a bi-monthly news letter on philately called the SIPA Bulletin. He headed SIPA and was editor of the Bulletin for many decades.

He served on the Philatelic Advisory Committee of the Government of India for some years. He also served on a number of occasions as a member of the jury at national level philatelic exhibitions. He acted National Commissioner for India for two international philatelic exhibitions held in Bangkok in 1993 and Seoul in 2004.

Courtesy : Madras Musings

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You

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