



SIPA

Bulletin

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SOUTH INDIA PHILATELISTS' ASSOCIATION

(FOUNDED 1956)

(AFFILIATED TO THE PHILATELIC CONGRESS OF INDIA)

50 YEARS OF INDEPENDENCE 15th August, 1997

The occasion of celebrating 50 years of Independence, coming most probably once during one's life time is worth rejoicing.

1. Under the aegis of the Chief Postmaster General, Tamilnadu Circle, Shri S.T.Bhaskaran, Shri R.R. DALVAI, President, Freedom Fighters' Association, Chennai, inaugurated Philatelic Exhibition on Freedom Fighters and on struggle for Freedom in 11 Frames put up by senior Members of SIPA (Shri G.Balakrishana das, President, SIPA depicting Martyrs of Freedom Struggle in 3 Frames; Shri Roland Nelson put up three Frames paying tributes to the Father Of the nation - 'Bapu' Apostle of Non-Violence and Shri G. Madan Mohan Das, Patron, SIPA put up in three frames paying tributes to the leaders who laid their lives in the Freedom Struggle and Tryst with destiny and one from outstation member who put up a general collection of First Day Covers. The exhibition was kept open from 1/8/97 to 31/8/97 at the Anna Road HPO Hall and the visit by School children and the general public evoked much interest. Similar functions were arranged in all the Regional Circles. The efforts of the Department is certainly worthy of appreciation.

2. Regional and Circle Level Philatelic Quiz

Competitions were conducted on 2/8/97, 9/8/97 respectively. Our senior Members were also involved in the QUIZ Master programme.

3.A Release function was held by the sponsor to release the commemorative stamp issued on Smt. RUKMANI LAKSHMIPATHI at Chennai on 6/8/97 by Shri D. Parthasarathy, Member, (Personnel), Postal Services Board, New Delhi.

4. Release function was held at all District Headquarters of our Circle on 15/8/1997 and special stamps on Three INA Stalwarts and Swatantra Bharath were released. Also The Department released a set of Postal Stationery which are as follows :-

Post Card; Inland Letter Card; Envelopes; Aerogrammes and Registered Envelope with LOGO and without Logo were also released.

5 Provision of special cancellation at Tirupur H.O. on 15.8.97 to Commemorate Tirupur Kumaran (Freedom Fighter) was given

6.Provision of one day Special Cancellation was given on the Occasion of Golden Jubilee celebration of Stella Maris College, Chennai - on 15/8/97

7. 163 Stamps received from Regional

stamp Depot, Nasik were displayed in the Philatelic Bureau, Anna Road HPO from 15/8/97 for one year as per Directorate orders.

Our Monthly Meeting on 13th July at Philatelic Bureau was very well attended and India's Freedom Struggle Display, talks were given by Members. Condolence Resolutions on the passing away of Col. L.G. SHENOI, Senior Postal History Philatelist and also of Mansingh Nahar were passed after a brief reference to their lives by our patron.

Our Monthly Meeting on 10th August was an occasion when Shri K.R. RAMBHAD, Postmaster General (North) gave a Talk on MAHATMA GANDHI, his ideals and path of NON VIOLENCE and his upholding TRUTH at all costs and his own experience from childhood and how his parents moulded his career on the path of TRUTH, NON - Violence and Freedom struggle in a touching manner. Nearly 30 members attended and News; views and forthcoming issues were given.

News about the celebrations of Golden Jubilee of India's struggle for Independence from Gujarat Philatelists' Association Gangashahar Philatelists' Association and from Bhilai Philatelic Association, Bhilai have come.

SIPA MEETINGS :

Second Sunday of every month Regular meeting at the Philatelic Bureau, Anna Road, Head Post Office, Madras - 600 002. (10.30 a.m. - 12.30 p.m.)

First and third Sunday of every month - Auction meetings at our Library Hall at 6 Nanian Street, Madras - 3. (Timing 10.45 a.m. to 1.00 p.m.)

SIPA Library Open Tuesday & Sunday, 6 Nannain Street, Madras - 3. (7.00 p.m. to 8.00 p.m.)



INDEPEX '97

India Post Felicitates the nation on the golden jubilee of independence by organising INDEPEX '97. The Exhibition will be held from 15-22nd December 1997 at Pragati Maidan, New Delhi (Hall No.8-11). The exhibition is being held under the patronage of Federation Internationale de Philatelie (FIP), the Federation of Inter-Asian Philately (FIAP) and in cooperation with the Philatelic Congress of India (PCI). Preparations for the INDEPEX'97 - WORLD PHILATELIC EXHIBITION are in full swing. This exhibition is a very prestigious event as it coincides with the Golden Jubilee celebration of India's Independence. India hosted the last World Exhibition, India'89 in 1989.

Let us all celebrate the fifty years of Independence in a fitting manner by our involvement and we request everyone to visit NEW DELHI from 15th to 22nd Dec. 1997 during INDEPEX'97. Prestigious collections of the world will be on display in the "Court of Honour" Class in about 150 frames. Over 2800 frames have been allotted in the "Competition Class" of which about 84% are from abroad. Dealer booths have already been booked by various postal administrations and Dealers from India and abroad. Special SLOGAN CANCELLATIONS on different facets of INDEPEX'97 in Hindi /English have been introduced at 10 Head Post Offices in the country. It is needless to mention that the cancellations will adorn the collectors album. A set of four stamps on Centres of Culture and tourism related to Lord Buddha was released on 6.6.97 in San Francisco during PACIFIC'97 in America and in India; another set of four stamps on Beaches of India depicting BOGMALO BEACH and Anjuna Beach of Goa, Kovalam Beach in Kerala and Gopalpur on Sea in Orissa was released on 11/8/1997 by the Hon. President of India. The Department purposely in spite of various representations to them have omitted the SECOND LARGEST SALIBRIOUS BEACH -- CHENNAI. At least they will wake up now and remedy the omission.

In the offing are a set of stamps on "RURAL INDIAN WOMEN" to be released on 15/10/97 and another set of "POST OFFICE" theme will be released subsequently. There are no sales of these stamps of the various sets due mainly for want of PUBLICITY and huge stocks are lying unsold.

FROM EDITOR DESK

If variety is the spice of life, we have the spiciest view of philately. The number of different topics our members collect is vast, as a check of our membership directory will tell you. But there is more than just different topics of different people. You would be surprised at the number of different topics collected by the same people.

We all seek variety in life, and for many of us stamp collecting adds some of the variety we need from the troubles of every day life. But there can be variety even within this variety. If you find your interest in your chosen topic flagging, maybe you need more than one topic to study. Many collectors tend to work on related topics, such as different types of birds. Others turn to subjects that have little in common. In recent months I have talked with some of the most prominent topical collectors in the country, and I am always surprised at the range of different subjects they collect.

Perhaps it's heresy, but I might even suggest that you spend some time on more traditional philately collections in addition to your topics. It helps you see the whole range of philately, and lets you approach the hobby from a different angle. But once you are a topicalist, you will always see how the subject of what you are collecting guides your efforts, and the types of material you gather. Postal history? Sure, but soon you will find yourself putting together postmarks on related subjects, rather than simply by period of time or area of geography. Traditional country collections still keep the interest of many collectors, but the true topicalist will soon find that the subjects and designs of the stamps bring many ideas for more topical collections.

Some try to resist collecting several topics at once on the grounds that their lives are busy and confusing enough without introducing more complexities into their hobby lives.

But you don't really need to work on several topics at exactly the same time. When you tire of one, set it aside and look to another subject. After you have put together stamps and covers for that topic for a while, put it, too, back in the drawer and find still another subject to research. You may have several interests, but you only need to work on one at a time.

Research is certainly a great deal of fun of topical collecting. How can you resist learning more about the fascinating subjects that you see on stamps? You need not spend hours at the library working with encyclopedias and thick, boring textbooks. Sometimes a novel related to your topic can provide relaxation for a pleasant weekend afternoon. A bird watchers' handbook can be a reference book, but it can also be a help to figure out what kind of bird is nesting in the bush by the front door. And history! Libraries are full of books on history of all kinds, just waiting for you to pick one for a little fun reading. You might even find out more about your topic there, and understand why a stamp was issued.

Get more out of your hobby by making more of it. Look for new topics and ideas all the time. It will help you see why this hobby has lasted for so many years and attracted so many people.



**The 50th
Independence Day**

Celebrate with Us

DRUGS DISCOVERED BY CHRISTOPHER COLUMBUS

- By George Griffenhagen,
Pharmacist

"There are trees of a thousand types, all with their various fruits and all scented. I am the saddest man in the world because I do not recognize them, for I am sure they are of great value in Spain for dyes and as medicinal spices. I am bringing specimens of them to Your Highnesses."

So wrote Christopher Columbus on October 21, 1492, while sailing in the Bahamas on his first voyage to the New World. U.S. (Scott C127).

The first medicinal plant which Columbus thought he saw in the Indies was aloe, the chief ingredient for most 15th century purgative pills. Columbus had learned that the best aloe was produced on the island of Socotra near the entrance to the Red Sea, and his diary is filled with descriptions of this discovery in the Indies. However, aloe was not introduced into the West Indies until the early 16th century. Russia (Scott 3953). What Columbus discovered was agave or century plant which the natives employed as a laxative. Antigua (Scott 42-64), Bahamas (Scott 134, 169), Haiti (Scott C54), and Turks & Caicos (Scott 98-100).



Later in Cuba, Columbus wrote that there was "an infinite amount of lignaloe" (or wood aloe) suggesting that this was not the same as he had

seen in the Bahamas. It was a related species called sisal. Turks & Caicos (Scott 219). The fiber of sisal was employed by the natives to make hanging beds which they called "hamaca" (or hammocks). The Spanish crew promptly adopted this Arawak invention for sleeping aboard their ships in place of their "soft plank" which had been used as a bed. British Virgin Islands (Scott 636) and St. Vincent-Grenadines (Scott 8925d).

"A Great Quantity of Mastic"

So valuable was mastic as an Old World medicine that there was a reward for the first member of Columbus' crew who found it in the Indies. Columbus subsequently wrote that he had obtained, "Mastics, hitherto found only in Greece in the Island of Chios, and which the Signatoria sells at its own price, as much as their Highnesses shall command to be shipped."



What Columbus discovered was the gumbo-limbo or turpentine tree which is fast growing (Columbus said it "bears quickly") and it was taller (as Columbus notes) than the mastic tree.

But most important of all, the gumbo-limbo tree, like the mastic tree, exudes a resinous gum with a turpentine like taste which the Indians explained to Columbus by sign language was "good for a stomachache." St. Lucia (Scott 651).

The Holy-Wood

On one of his first landings in the Bahamas, Columbus discovered the hardwood tree called guaiacum or lignum vitae. Later, Captain Gonzalo Fernandez de Oviedo described "large forests of 'holy wood' with which the natives of Hispaniola cure themselves." Antigua (Scott 724), British Virgin Islands (Scott 338), Jamaica (Scott 217), Montserrat (Scott 342), and others.

When Columbus arrived in Santo Domingo on his third voyage, he found that 20 percent of the Spaniards were suffering from "bubas" or "poxe" which was later given the name syphilis. Even though a disease similar to syphilis was known in antiquity, Monardes wrote "The Poxe came into these parts from the Indies and first of all from Santo Domingo. The Poxe is so common among the Indians and as familiar as measles." By 1500, syphilis was epidemic throughout Europe and new remedies were frantically sought. Following the popular notion that God created the cure at the source of the disease, guaiacum became a popular remedy for syphilis throughout Europe.

Cinnamon "Like Bad Ginger"

It was the costly drugs such as camphor, dove, cinnamon, ginger, and rhubarb described by Marco Polo which led to faulty descriptions of Columbus' subsequent discoveries. Many of the observations were tainted by the fact that Columbus believed to

WHEN ANSWERING ADS

Be Sure to Say, "I Saw your ad in
SIPA Bulletin"



(Bahamas, Scott 328)



(British Honduras, Scott 304)



(Turks & Caicos Islands, Scott 771, and



(Montserrat, Scott 342)



Dominica, Scott 1105)



(Jamaica, Scott 343)



(Cuba, Scott 1492)



(Bulgaria, Scott 1022).



(Grenada, Scott 591)



(Nepal, Scott 380)



(Cuba, Scott 2373)



(Montserrat, Scott 174)

his death that the Indies were part of the Orient. Columbus even took with him to the New World samples of these costly drugs ("cinnamon, pepper, and other spices") which his crew frequently showed to the Carribean natives hoping that they could direct the Spaniards to locations where these spices might be found.

Soon after he landed in the Bahamas, Columbus wrote that he saw something that he thought was cinnamon. Seychelles (Scott 207). During his second voyage, Columbus sent back to Spain a supply of what he described as "cinnamon enough, but white like bad ginger." The plant which Columbus thought was cinnamon was actually white cinnamon used by the natives as a diaphoretic in the grippe. Cube (Scott 1492).

Ferdinand Columbus, who accompanied his father on his fourth voyage to the New World, described "trees with leaves like those of the apple which yield a fruit that resembled the fig." Peter Martyr later wrote that "the fruit or spice which the apothecaries call cassia fistula" was among "the valuable products from the New World," but he had obviously been horse cassia, not the purging cassia of India. Barbuda (Scott 8870) and Venezeula (Scott C1009).

Pepper In Shells"

"Pepper in shells like beans, very strong but not with the flavor of the Levant" was how Columbus described another discovery he made on Hispaniola. Levant was that region in the East Mediterranean where black pepper grew and which was one of the most highly-taxed spices that were sought by the Europeans during the Middle Ages. Madagascar (Scott 513).

What Columbus had discovered was red pepper or capsicum which the natives called "anxi." Columbus wrote it is their pepper, and all those people

eat nothing without it for they find it very healthy." The name "capsicum" was derived from the Latin "capsa" meaning a box referring to the partially hollow box-like fruit. Monardes wrote that the "Pepper of the Indies is a great plant in diverse forms. Some pepper is long, others round, and others like mellons or cherries" recognizing varieties. Red pepper yields an oblong fruit while the common green pepper yields paprika, one-sixth the pungency of red pepper. Both species were used by the natives as a counter-irritant, and capsicum is still used today in a number of proprietary external analgesic preparations. Montserrat (Scott 162).

Pimenta

Near the completion of his first voyage, Columbus found what he called "malagueta." The name was derived from the Molucca Islands in Indonesia where the highly-prized cloves was cultivated. Madagascar (Scott 298). What Columbus discovered was all spice, a name derived because its odor suggests a mixture of clove, cinnamon, and nutmeg. However, the Spaniards mistook the dried berries for peppercorn, and gave it the name of "pimenta" derived from the Spanish word for "pepper." Pimenta gained wide acceptance in European medicine as an antifatulent. Jamaica (Scott 343).

Rhubarb ranked high in the list of medicinals which Columbus was seeking. Described as a laxative in the oldest known Chinese herbal. rhubarb was another of the exotic medicinals described by Marco Polo. Nepal (Scott 380). Shortly before Columbus completed his first voyage in the Indies, he heard that rhybarb was growing on the island of Amiga, just off Hispaniola. So excited was Columbus of this evidence that he was indeed near China that he delayed his return trip to Spain and sent a boat

six leagues (30 miles) to obtain the herb which they later learned was wild mulberry. Cuba (Scott 2373).

"The Big Nuts"

Columbus discovered at Tanamo Bay in Cuba "big nuts of the same kind as those of India." Columbus had read of "negal de India" (coconuts) as described by Marco Polo and supposed that these were the same. However, the coconut palm was introduced to the Caribbean by later nuts which the aborigines used to prepare a beverage called "chocolate." The Spaniards subsequently learned that chocolate was prepared by roasting the cacao beans. After the Spanish added sugar and the English added milk to the roasted cacao beans, chocolate became so popular in Europe that cacao nuts became prize plunder of pirates. Cacao butter, obtained by expression of the cacao bean, was subsequently found a suitable emollient for chapped lips and as an excipient for making suppositories. Dominica (Scott 728), Dominican Republic (Scott 684, 825), Grenada (Scott 221), Haiti (Scott 389), St. Vincent (Scott 625-626), Trinidad & Tobago (Scott 144), and many others.

Painting Their Bodies

Columbus was intrigued by a plant used by the native as a body paint. The substance was described as "a dye resembling cinnabar with which these people paint their bodies." St. Vincent - Grenadines (Scott 8924) and Turks & Caicos (Scott 771-772). The reddish-pulp surrounding the seeds of the lipstick tree (annatto) was used by the natives to dye textiles, and quantities were exported to Europe for dyeing silk. The red coloring matter, called "Bixin" has been occasionally used in pharmacy as a substitute for saffron in ointments. A yellow coloring matter, called "orellin," is widely used to color butter and cheese. Dominica (Scott 1105), Do-

minican Republic (Scott 988), and Guyana (Scott 136).

While in Honduras, Columbus recognized logwood which was employed by the natives as a dye for textiles as well as for the treatment of diarrhea. When an abundant supply was discovered in Campeache, Honduras, hence the name peachwood, it became popular in Europe as a domestic medicine used for its astringent properties. British Honduras (Scott 286) and St. Lucia (Scott 651).

"90 Palms Long"

Columbus was intrigued by the primary means of transportation used by the Arawak and Carib Indians, which they called "canoes." He wrote that some are "ninety-five palms long (66 feet) made of a single piece of wood, very beautiful, and in which a hundred and fifty persons could be contained and navigate." Columbus took a canoe back to Spain after seeing how swiftly these sleek canoes moved across the water. Dominica (Scott 1156-1157) and Turks & Caicos (Scott 770)

The best wood for making canoes was the ceiba, kapok, or silk-cotton tree, a giant tropical tree with a massive trunk and enormous branches that may grow 150 feet tall. One such tree stood on the edge of the Rio Oxama at Santo Domingo which according to tradition Columbus used to secure a cable from his ship when foul weather threatened. It was reported that the tree was already huge in 1500 and that it served hundreds of vessels as a land anchor until it died early in the 20th century. Cuba (Scott 371), Guatemala (Scott C273), Salvador (Scott 594), and St. Vincent (Scott 360).

"Naimes & Ajes"

When first landing in Cuba, Columbus reported that he saw the natives eating "naimes." Then after land-

ing on Hispaniola. Columbus tells us that "naimes" are called "ajes" by the Taino Indians, and he reports that there are "two or three kinds of ajes" from which they make bread "which is the mainstay of life." "Ajes" were of critical importance to Columbus and his men on their first trip back to Spain because he wrote, "we had nothing to eat except bread, wine, and ajes from the Indies."

These are the first historical notices of two quite different plants, previously unknown to Europeans. Today we know each by different names. One is manioc, yuca, cassava, or tapioca. Jamaica (Scott 76,89). The other is the sweet potato or yam. Montserrat (Scott 174) and Nevis (Scott 468).

Peter Martyr wrote in 1533 that cassava must be "first sliced and pressed, for it is full of juice which is poison as strong as Aconite. It is to be marveled that the bread made of the mass is of good taste and wholesome." It was later learned that the milky juice of cassava contains hydrocyanic acid. The natives removed this poisonous juice by skinning and grating the roots, adding water to the resulting pulp, and packing it in a long sleeve of plaited straw which is hung with a heavy weight on the end. The dry mass is then sifted to a fine flour which is ready to be made into dough for bread. The meal or flour obtained from detoxified cassava, called tapioca, has long been used as a diet for the sick and convalescent because of its ease of digestion and for its nutritious properties. St. Vincent-Grenadines (Scott 8925b-8925c).

"Batata" was the name used in Santo Domingo to identify the sweet potato which is similar to the African yam which was introduced into the West Indies with the arrival of the first African slave ships. Columbus was obviously familiar with the African yam

because he wrote that the ones from Guinea are "as thick as your leg, but the ones from Hispaniola taste better." It was the naturalized Mexican yam that was later used for the first mass production of corticosteroids.

Columbus saw his first patch of India corn in the Bahamas, a food which played as significant a role in the development of the New World cultures as barley and wheat played in the birth of civilization in the Old World. But corn, or maize as it was more commonly known, was not introduced into Europe until 1520 after which it became one of the most widely cultivated plants in the world. Dominica (Scott 2610) among others.

Fruit like Pine Cones

While at Guadeloupe, Columbus tasted his first pineapple. Peter Martyr later described the flavor of pineapple as "surpassing every garden fruit" but adds, "regretfully I never tasted a pineapple because only one survived the ocean passage, and the King ate it." One of the first pineapples to reach France was offered to King Louis XIV who snatched the unpeeled fruit and bit vigorously into it lacerating his lips on the prickly exterior. It was Captain James Cook who introduced the pineapple to the Hawaiian Islands, today one of its principal homes. Antigua (Scott 490, 717), Bahamas (Scott 328, 473), Cuba (Scott 1022, 1450), and many others.

Columbus also found a "fruit like big lemons which grow on tall trees as large as cedars." Later, Columbus' son, Ferdinand, wrote that the natives call them "mammee" which has since become known as the mammee-apple or Santo Domingo apricot. The natives employed a decoction of the mammee bark for skin diseases, while the resin from the seeds was used as an anthelmintic. British Honduras (Scott 304).

"Love Apples"

Tomatoes were native to Central America at the time of Columbus

visit, but they were not taken to Europe until some years later where the plant was cultivated as a decoration for the home. Superstition soon arose that the tomato stimulated lust, hence the popular name "love apple." Children were cautioned not to eat them and if they did, they were quickly purged by a physician. Later, Italians decided that carnal passion was an acceptable side effect, and popularized the eating of tomatoes mixed with garlic and olive oil. Dominica (Scott 167), Dominican Republic (Scott 733), and Montserrat (Scott 164).

Taking Their Smokes"

Columbus was startled by the following sight he observed while in Cuba:

"Men and women were crossing to their villages, the men with burned wood in their hands and certain herbs in order to take their smokes, which are dry herbs put in a certain leaf, also dry, in the manner of a musket made of paper; and having lighted one part of it, by the other they suck the smoke inside by which they become dumbed and almost drunk." Anguilla (Scott 705), Cuba (Scott 390), Jamaica (Scott 718), St. Vincent-Grenadines (Scott 8922-8923).

Since tobacco was also used by the natives as a medicine as well as for smoking, it was initially introduced into Europe as a remedy. Seville physician Nicolas Monardes wrote that tobacco was valued for its beauty as well as for its medicinal virtues, claiming that tobacco would cure "pains in the head and joints," to "killeth worms," for a toothache, for the "bitings of venomous beasets," and even for the poisons of the Carib arrowheads.

But it wasn't long before well-dressed gentlemen were smoking cigars, similar to those which Columbus found in the West Indies. Despite the opposition of kings and clerics who charged that tobacco was "loathsome to the eye, hateful to the nose, and harmful to the brain," this product

from the New World proved far more valuable as a commodity than gold. Cuba (Scott 289, 356-358, 362, 390, 420-422, 1451, 2659, 2893), Honduras (Scott C134), Jamaica (Scott 322-323, 718), St. Kittis Nevis (Scott 260), and many others.

"As Naked as Their Mother Bore Them"

Possibly the most important discovery of all was American cotton. While in Cuba, Columbus wrote: "We saw a large quantity of cotton collected by the men and women naked as their mother bore them. The long-strand cotton of America so surpassed in quality the cotton of the Old World that Columbus mistook the cloth made by the natives from the Caribbean species of cotton for silk and was convinced that this proved that the new lands lay close to China. American cotton was destined to provide the entire world's commercial crop, and its use as a surgical dressing is well known. Antigua (Scott 186), Montserrat (Scott 93-94, 96, 130, 134, 156), St. Kitts-Nevis (Scott 367), St. Vincent (Scott 259-261), and others.

To observe the 400th anniversary of the discovery of America in 1892, German and Spanish scientists evaluated the importance of drugs discovered in the New World, and concluded that "the number of drugs in our materia medica has been increased by one-fourth through the discovery of America." However, those identified as being of "first-class importance" were discovered long after Columbus had died; they included "cinchona, coca, jalap, ipecac, senega, podophyllum, and copaiba.

Noted Columbus historian Samuel Eliot Morison writes: "How pathetic it is that Columbus loaded his vessels' holds with worthless plants such as agave (thought to be aloe), gumbo-limbo (thought to be mastic), false cinnamon, nuts that weren't coconuts, and false rhubarb - while ignoring other products that subsequently spread worldwide."



Anguilla, Scott 705, and Cuba, Scott 390)



THE 500TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE DISCOVERY OF THE NEW WORLD

By Jeanne Huddleston Zonay

In 1992, we celebrated the 500th year of Columbus' Discovery of America. Great celebrations and festivities took place the world over. Both here and far planned commemorations for the event. It's certainly no wonder why we pay such tribute to our founding father, Christopher Columbus, on this special occasion. His discovery of the Americas was an error in his search for India. Just look at what wondrous things have come from this one man's error, and his encounter with the very first explorers to the Americas, the Indians he named "Los Indios," and the many advances we've made since that year, 1492. Although it's difficult to comprehend just how his voyage has changed the whole world, let us attempt while we pay homage to Christopher Columbus.

It is said that Christopher Columbus was wholly amazed when he first met the scantily clad Native Americans on the shores of San Salvadore as he was claiming that territory for Spain. These noble savages, handsome and upspoiled by civilization, were mostly likely Mayan or Tolec, descendants of the Mayan tribe that dates back to perhaps, 292 AD. Archeologists, anthropologists and geologists tell us the Indians migrated to the Americas via a land bridge, frozen tundra, over the Bering Strait from Mongolia and Siberia, possibly as many as 50,000 years ago. Some of these immigrants migrated eastward to the Atlantic Ocean and southward, as far as the tip of South America. As their habitat changed, so did their habits. The tribes Christopher Columbus met were some of the most intelligent inhabitants that ever lived on this earth. They were architects and astrologers, years ahead of their

time. These natives built cities of stone, elaborate palaces and pyramids that have endured hundreds of years, that can now give us a glimpse of their past. They devised an accurate counting system, a precise calendar for measuring time. The Indians were story tellers, historians, and superb athletes. Indian culture is without a doubt the most fascinating culture known to man. The painted and jeweled aborigines, with crossed eyes, odd flat shaped heads were worshippers of gods of nature, of rain, sun, earth and wind. Columbus, the Spainards and the world learned a whole new world, a whole new culture as they brought with them to this land their devout religious faith that has flourished over the centuries since the discovery of America.

Christopher Columbus returned to Spain with tales of his wondrous findings, stimulating interest for future explorations and expeditions. More Spanish came, and Columbus sailed back again and again. More European countries ventured to these lands too, bringing with them their cultures. The Americas has become known as the melting pot of the world, with a blending of many cultures over the past five hundred years. Those majestic Spanish galleons, the Nina, the Pinta and the Santa Maria, provided by Spain's Queen Isabella for Christopher Columbus' expedition, were just the beginning of plenty more ships to sail to the new world. Modern modes of transportation continue to bring cultures to this New World as they also take our customs and cultures to other parts of the world.

The Europeans, in their early explorations, brought many foreign diseases to this New World that were often devastating to the native Indians. They had little or no immunity to the likes of tuberculosis, influenza, pneumonia, whooping cough, small

pox, diphtheria and syphilis, to name just a few. Many of the foreign ills diminished Indian populations, sometimes wiping out entire tribes. Old World explorers took to the Old World knowledge of new cures--Indian cures--and medicines used by the natives. Many of the Indian cures are still in use by doctors and hospitals today. Quinine used in the cure of malaria, salicylic acid for the use in aspirin, wild ginger, and arrowhead for indigestion, dogbane and yarrow for headaches, calamus and burdock for coughs and cold, chokeberry for sorethroats, hedgenettle for colic, aspen bark for cuts and plantain for poisonous bites. These mentioned are just some in the very list of cures learned by the entire world from the first American inhabitants, the Indians.

The new European explorers found the skies and marshes filled with millions of ducks and geese and the woods and plains of their new found land, the Americas, had an astonishing variety of wildlife. Native Americans planted maize or cornfields--sometimes as large as eighteen miles long--the likes of which Spanish and other Europeans had never seen. Tortillas and pinole, a corn gruel, the main staple of the natives, was unheard of in Spain. Now corn is a main crop in many countries. Cornstarch, and corn meal and dextrose, for babies' formulas, are all part of our daily diets. After Columbus and European explorers, the world was introduced to black beans, pumpkins, squashes, gourds, sweet potatoes and tomatoes. Yes, tomatoes! Not even the Italians knew of the tomato before Columbus landed and met the Los Indios. No pizza, no spaghetti, until the blending of these many cultures. Europeans tested coffee as well as cocoa. The plants grew wild in Central America. Allspice and vanilla, too, are spices that were

added to the worlds' diet by the exploration of Columbus. Many of those newly found food staple are large volume export commodities today.

Explorers from Europe brought refined culture--beautiful women, dressed in silks, lace and satins, and art by the old masters of the Old World. They battled the Indians--winning some and losing few. The temperaments of the Spanish and the Indian clashed often. Europeans claimed the natives' land, staked their crosses in the soil they claimed--built adobe haciendas, crossed the Atlantic many, many more times. Each time taking with them gold, for their sovereignty, jade and turquoise and semi-precious stones found in this new found region. Each time they returned, new explorers and settlers came, bringing yet more of the Old World with them to this land. They brought horses and guns--the Indians had never seen these before. Yet the Los Indios learned to ride, became expert horsemen and horse breeders. No longer were the natives contented to us an atlatol spear, or bow and arrow for battle and hunting, they learned the use of the firearm well, as we later learned. Horses and guns intrigued the native Indians as much as gold struck a sparkle in the eye of the Spaniards.

The native Americans puffed tobacco pipes for cremonial occasions, for peace, for war. They taught the world to smoke as well. Today every culture uses tobacco in some form--cigarettes, cigars, and other tobacco products. A large export product for many countries. It's still widely grown in the United States, Central America and other parts of the world. Cotton was another "new find" for the Europeans. It grew wild in the region, too. Indian women spun fibers to make cloth and the rest of the world learned to do so as well. Now cotton is considered the most diversified cloth in the world.

Five hundred years later we are still exploring. Outer space has been explored, the bottom of the sea has been explored. Medicine and science has permitted us to fine tune this blended culture we've developed beyond our wildest imagination in this five hundred years since Christopher Columbus discovered our Americas. But do you wonder as I do, what Christopher Columbus' emotions would be if he could simply view the land he found in error, on this the 500th anniversary of his discovery? Would he be pleased with our 20th Century progress? Would he ask about the Los Indios? Would he appreciate our mobility, densely settled cities, equities and inequities of this present day society? We can simply imagine and believe that the same wonderous awe would be intensified as we honor Christopher Columbus, and attribute so much of our progress to his discovery of America and those first American natives, first American explorers, he named "Los Indios."



THE GENESIS OF APS CORPS

By Late Brigadier D.S.Virk,
A.V.S.M.(Retd.)

1. The author of this report, Mr.J.H.Cornwall, entered the Indian Post Office in 1873, was promoted as Inspector (the appointment renamed Supdt. in 1880) and remained on Field Service with Quetta Field Force (Second Afghan War) from 1878 to 1881 and again as Chief Supt. Egyptian Field force in 1882. He was promoted as P.M.G. in 1898 and retired from Lucknow in 1906.

2. Though Field Postal Units had accompanied the Forces overseas to Persia (1854), Abyssinia (1867), Afghanistan (1878), Malta (1878) and Egypt (1882), both their officers and men went as civilians, wearing civilian clothes. Cornwall had much experience of field service and

hence this far-sighted report. The Department took it up with the Army and after long deliberation the Army H.Q. issued a Field Service Manual (Postal) in 1838, authorising the Postal personnel to hold relative military ranks and wear military uniforms. Up to March 1972 when A.P.S.Corps was formed there was no basic change in these conditions of service except that from 1937 the Officers were granted temporary military Commissions and the others were enrolled in the Army.

3. When I proposed the formation of A.P.S. Corps, I had no idea that Cornwall had suggested something like that as far back as 1882. The publication of this proposal is a salute to his memory.

D.G.POST OFFICE CIRCULAR

175/19-1-1883

Notes and suggestions on
Postal arrangements for field service
- Mr. Cornwall.

1. Having been in charge of Field Postal arrangements on two occasions, in South Afghanistan and in Egypt, I respectfully offer the following remarks trusting that their consideration and adoption of the suggestions made, either wholly or partially, may tend to the greater efficiency of the Department when its officers are called on for field Service.

2. The most important point seems to me is the necessity of the Govt. of India recognising the fact that a Field Postal Department is an essential part of every Expeditionary Force. That this is not so at present is apparent from the precipitate haste with which I was called upon to organise an establishment to proceed with the Quetta Field force and also from the vacillating orders I received to proceed with the Indian Continent to Egypt. In the former case it ap-

appeared as the necessity of having a Field Postal Staff had only occurred to someone at the close of the preparations, in the latter it was apparently decided that no postal staff was necessary, when at the last moment the matter was reconsidered and I was sent off with a small establishment at short notice. I need not say that in this way the Department is crippled at the outset and delay occurs before efficient arrangements can be made.

3. The necessity of a Postal Staff accompanying the British Army when called abroad has now been fully recognised by Home Government and a regular Postal Corps has been formed. In order to make it thoroughly efficient, it has been found advisable to give it a Military Organisation as in the Prussian Army and accordingly members of the Post Office Volunteer Corps have been established to serve in the Army Postal Corps for a period of six years. The Corps at present consists of three Officers and 100 rank and file, and while on army service they receive the Army pay of rank, at the same time retaining their pay and position in the Post Office. The officers and 50 rank and file were with the British Army in Egypt.

4. It is, of course, impossible to have an exactly similar Organisation for Indian Army, but that an Army Postal Corps should be organised on some basis is a necessity which I think can not be denied. I take it for granted that the Govt. are desirous of making a Sepoy's service out of India as easy to him as possible and not the least important way of doing so is to give him every facility for posting and receiving letters from his home, effecting Money Order remittances, etc. This can only be by having a trained staff with whom he can deal.

5. In considering the organisation of a Postal Corps for the I.A., the first point is how to man it,

and I think the advantage of having for the higher appointments, such as Superintendents or Postmasters, volunteer officers of the Department, commissioned and non-commissioned, should not be overlooked. The advantages that I claim for Departmental Officers who are volunteers having corresponding army rank during the period of their service in the Field are the following:

(1) Having some military training they would be more able to undergo the hardship of a campaign.

(2) They would have more control over troops attached to them for duty, either as a guard on the march or for departmental work in camp.

(3) They would have better status as regards other officers and Departments than they now have.

(4) It is recognised by all Departments connected with the Army in a semi-military capacity such as the Commissariat, Tpt, Ord, Med, Vet, etc., that its Officers should have regimental rank.

(5) They would be entitled to the rewards of the Campaign in which they have taken part instead of as at present having been deprived of them.

(6) Their system has been adopted in England and in Germany where the matter has received due consideration.

I beg to annex an extract from an article in an English newspaper with regard to another Department, the Officers of which have not as yet obtained full army rank. It supports my argument and shows that it would be beneficial for campaigning and Departmental efficiency. It would create no difficulty in clearing the correspondence of the troops ordered from different Presidencies. These selected men might be allowed an addition to their salaries of, say, 20%.

6. I can not too strongly urge both as regards Officers and Establishment the importance of the Department deputing for a Field Postal Service those who have previous experience of the arrangements to be made and the work to be done--and this would be gained by the formation of the Corps such as I have described.

7. The strength or establishment to ensure efficiency will always be a difficult matter to decide on the commencement of any campaign. This will depend partly on the number of troops and partly on the nature of the country where they are to be employed. A much larger establishment would naturally be required when there are long lines of communication to be kept up (such as Jacobabad to Kandahar between which many military posts have to be established) than when distances are comparatively short as in Egypt.

8. When a trained establishment is not available, a good substitute will be found in the employment of W.C.Os, of the Force (British or Native) as Branch Postmasters. It will be seen that attention is being given to the matter in England--"The civilian element is altogether out of place in the military hierarchy. Every administrative Officer, whatever his function, should bear a Military title and exercise undoubted military authority. The plain 'Mr' ranking with Major or Colonel is an anomaly, and should cease to exist'.

9. As regards the rank and file of the Postal Corps, I would propose no material change. It would not be very difficult to devise a plan of getting men from a few of the Native Army Regtl. Depots. Those qualified in knowledge of English could be attached to the local Post Office in order to get the necessary departmental experience and for this they might receive an addition to their pay. Prob-

ably, however, at present it might be advisable to continue the system of sending native clerks and postmen of the Department on service. To obviate, however, the existing haphazard way of selecting establishments. I would have a few picked men in each Presidency who are physically fit and have some acquaintance with the nature of their duties, but a few days instruction at F.P.O. will be sufficient to ensure this. Their pay may be Rs.30/-(British) and Rs.20/-(Indian) respectively. This plan may with advantage be adopted for Regiment or Detachment in advance of the main body of the Army. In such arrangements it is necessary to obtain the consent of the officer in command who will be able to afford the soldier-Postmaster tent space for Postal work. The work, accounts, etc., should in such case be made as simple as possible.

10. It is very important that F.P.O.s should be established at fixed points instead of being attached to the troops on the march as the work can not be done satisfactorily when long marches have to be undertaken. The base of the operations is obviously the best place at which to locate a Head Office the establishment of which will require to be thoroughly efficient and in possession or full information regarding the distribution of troops, officers of the staff and those of the different depts. Circumstances will decide the best place at which to establish such offices. They will generally be required at important points where a considerable number of troops are located.

11. The equipment of an F.P.O. is a matter of considerable

importance. Establishments can not efficiently dispose of the correspondence of an Army without such appliances as tents, sorting cases, tables, chairs, boxes, etc., and the construction of these so as to be at once thoroughly portable and serviceable needs careful attention.

Tents will always be required and they should have perpendicular sides up to a height of seven feet. The Calcutta with its sloping sides and small door is useless as a style of tent for a Post Office and as such could be small. The sides of the tents such as I refer to should be made to look on to the roof so that if the tents are pitched near each other the sides can be unlocked and extended and be made to enclose a larger space in which sorting work can be carried on. Sorting cases for letters and papers are also necessary articles of postal function. A useful sorting case for letters can be made of canvass having rows of pockets in it of various sizes to hold letters for individuals or Regts. This can be strapped or tied to the side of a tent. It answers quite as well as a wooden sorting case besides having the advantage of being very portable. For newspapers and packets a useful sorting case may be made with hinged outer boards and a canvas back, the inner board being removable, the whole can be packed up flat like a camp table. Camp tables and chair require no special description but they should be of strong construction. Regarding boxes it will be found a good plan before starting to have those for Head Office and those for the Sub Office filled with necessary forms, stationery, stamps, etc., so that no delay may occur in estab-

lishing offices complete with every requirement. The size and shape of boxes will, of course, depend on the mode of transport available. If by mule, or camels, the boxes may be made with a concave side for the sake of easier carriage. I have probably said sufficient on the subject to show that special furniture is required for Field Postal work and I would urge the desirability of keeping the articles ready for use in some Stock Depot.

12. I must also take this opportunity to notice the advantage that would be gained by telephones being worked by the staff of the Field Post Office. The F.P.O. is the generally in a central position and would form a good point from which lines radiate to the Camps of the General in Command or to the Brig. etc. The lines would, of course, be laid down by the Sappers or Engineers but the working of the telephones could well be undertaken by the Field Postal Staff.

13. In these remarks. I have not entered much into details of Field Postal work which might well be fair material for a small manual or set of rules for the guidance of officers of the Department. I have rather sought to draw attention to general matters connected with the Field Post with a view of showing how much ground there is for a full consideration of subject in order to improve the efficiency and usefulness of the Department.

J. CORNWALL,

Chief Supdt. of Fd. P.O. Egypt.
4th November, 1882.

CHALLENGE, SERVICE, ENTERPRISE AND EFFORT

25 Years of The Duke of
Edinburgh's Award Scheme

Through his many influential contacts, Hahn was instrumental in gathering together a committee of interested parties from all walks of life



'This scheme is intended to help the young and those people who take an interest in their welfare. It is designed as an introduction to leisure time activities, a challenge to the individual to personal achievement and as a guide to those people and organisations who are concerned about the development of our future citizens.'

HRH The Duke of Edinburgh Prince Philip revealed the basic aims of a new and experimental scheme for young people, inspired by the ideas of the eminent educationalist, Kurt Hahn. In the years following the Second World War, Hahn had foreseen the potentially harmful effects on society of an increase in leisure and prosperity combined with a decline in the standards of physical fitness. He was particularly troubled by the problems facing those boys who were leaving school at 15 and who had to wait until they were 18 to enter National Service. Hahn believed that these years could be used to instill a sense of purpose and to develop practical skills and a sense of community involvement. Yet how was this to be achieved outside the normal educational framework of the country in an enjoyable and appealing way?

under the chairmanship of his own ex-pupil, Prince Philip. In February 1956 their deliberations resulted in the creation and announcement of the new Duke of Edinburgh's Award Scheme. Under the Directorship of Sir John Hunt, a pilot project was devised for boys only and offered to a limited number of sympathetic organisations for a three year experimental period. Hahn's vision was so well suited to the spirit of the time that this tentative experiment became a permanent reality. By 1959 success was assured and a companion Girls' Scheme had been launched.

Today, as the Award Scheme looks forward to its ambitious programme for the 1980s it has given over one and a half million young people the opportunity to extend themselves in previously unavailable areas of experience and to use their leisure time in a productive and enjoyable way for the good of the community.

Once its appeal and benefits had been proven beyond doubt, the Scheme was able to spread so fast and effectively because it is not designed to be an organisation in itself, needing a cumbersome administration

and premises. Instead, it offers a specific programme of activities to existing organisations concerned with young people which have been licensed as Operating Authorities and which administer the Scheme in their own particular area of influence. In the words of its Patron, the Scheme should be seen as a 'service that people and organisations can use as they think fit and as they feel is relevant to their organisations and communities.' Currently over 10,000 such units are operating in the United Kingdom: youth clubs and voluntary organisations, Local Education Authority schools, colleges and youth services, independent schools, the Armed Services, the Police and Fire Services and ever increasing numbers of large firms and industries who realise the enormous benefits of the Scheme for present and future employees. Amongst these, the Post Office is an enthusiastic supporter.

Overall policy decisions are taken by a body of Trustees of whom Prince Philip is the Chairman, aided by an Advisory Committee and the General Council. The permanent staff of the Award Office in London administers the running of the Scheme. Invaluable work is done by the permanent Regional Officers and the Honorary Liaison Officers but the day to day programme throughout the country is dependent on the voluntary help of such dedicated supporters and leaders as teachers, youth leaders and personnel officers who supervise the courses chosen and arrange for the appropriate experts to train and assess the candidates. This opportunity for adults to pass on their skills to young people and amongst themselves in an atmosphere of free exchange is central to the philosophy of the Scheme. It strengthens the ties between different sections of society and links the knowledge and experi-

ence of adults with the enthusiasm and energy of youth.

Soon after it began in 1956, the Scheme began to spread overseas. Today it operates on the same system in over 40 countries of the Commonwealth and the rest of the world, although in some cases under a local name such as the President's Award in Kenya and the Head of State Award in Ghana. So far over 250,000 young people outside the UK have entered the Scheme. An Overseas Field Officer and staff are available to advise any country needing their services, and regular news letters, magazines, regular exchange visits and international conferences ensure that all participating bodies remain constantly in touch with projects and achievements in other nations.

In 1978 the Scheme's present Director, Robert Heron, commented:

'It is true of the Scheme as of any other animate body that if it is to continue to be relevant to its environment and to develop successfully within it, it must from time to time take stock of its aims and its practises and be prepared to adapt.'

In fact, the Award Scheme has continually evolved to reflect changes in the society it seeks to benefit and has only reached its current programme through many changes since 1956. In 1969 the Girls' and Boys' Schemes were combined but a concession was still available to the gentler sex in that they could opt for a special section, 'Design for living' as an alternative to the more strenuous section of 'Physical Activity'!

In 1979 more radical reforms swept away this and other distinctions and today the same Conditions apply to all candidates, including those who are disabled or disadvantaged in any way. The Scheme is strictly non-competitive and effort and progress are as important as the achievement of a

set standard. The various activities and goals set by the programme are extremely demanding but the wide choice of subjects puts the Award within the scope of every boy and girl and no-one is excluded from entry on grounds of individual circumstance or hardship. Coincidentally, the Scheme celebrated its 25th in 1981 anniversary in the International Year for Disabled People and can be proud of the many outstanding achievements by its many Award holders and candidates with physical or mental handicaps. No concessions in terms of personal effort are made to these young people and the Award's philosophy remains that 'the handicapped have as good a chance of gaining an Award as the able-bodied but no better'. In cases where physical mobility is extremely difficult or where the candidate's own health or safety would be at risk, there is the National Handicap Panel to advise on compensatory programmes of equal difficulty and challenge. Confinement to a wheelchair or sensory impairments should deter no-one and even an iron lung has proved no barrier to eventual success.

As it stands at present the Scheme is open to all young people between the ages of 14 and 25 and as all the requirements must be completed by the candidate's 25th birthday no-one may join after the age of 23. Not all entrants stay the course to qualify but on average participants stay in the Scheme for at least 18 months to 2 years and currently over 36,000 Awards are granted each year.

There are three Awards open to candidates depending on their age. The Bronze Award is for those over 14, the Silver for those over 15 and candidates over 16 can enter for the Gold. To obtain an Award at any level, the candidate must reach a qualifying standard in terms of progress, pro-

ficiency and sustained effort in each of four sections which have been designed to stimulate personal development, community involvement, adventure and a creative use of available leisure time. The wide choice of activities gives candidates a comprehensive range of interests and makes it easy for the Operating Authorities to adapt the Scheme to their programmes.

Perhaps the most widely publicised aspect of the Scheme is the Expeditions section, designed to develop a taste for adventure, discovery and self-reliance in an environment with an element of risk. Candidates are trained and supervised by highly qualified adults in the theoretical and practical aspects of survival in the countryside and must then plan and undertake a journey on foot, cycle, canoe, boat or horseback. At Bronze level the expedition must last for at least two days and include a night away in tents or Youth Hostels. Silver and Gold expeditions last three and four days respectively in demanding territory. Provided that they include at least 10 hours of travelling, Silver and Gold candidates may decide to conduct special investigations or explorations.

At the heart of the Award's philosophy is the Service section in which participants become involved with helping others in the community. They undergo a period of training and practical service in areas such as hospital work, work with the elderly or handicapped, child care or conservation. Bronze entrants must keep up this work for three months and Silver for six months. Gold entrants carry on with their chosen field of service for one year and often maintain it afterwards.

To encourage the development of worthwhile interests in leisure time, candidates must also fulfill the Skills section. From a choice of over 250 activities ranging from stamp

collecting to boat building entrants must show perseverance and progress in acquiring skill and knowledge. Bronze entrants must follow the subject for six months, Silver 12 and Gold for 18.

At all levels there is the Physical Recreation section. This involves choosing a sport or physical activity from over 70 possibilities ranging from Archery to Yoga. After at least six weeks candidates must show real evidence of improvement or reach a set standard.

To broaden their experience of sharing purposeful activities with other companions, the Gold Award entrants must also attend a residential project away from home for at least five days to carry out voluntary service or training.

For all those who complete the requirements, Awards are given in the shape of a Certificate and a badge, with the choice of an attractive brooch for girls receiving the Gold Award. Whenever possible, Awards are presented by eminent members of the community. The Gold Award ceremonies take place at one of the Royal Palaces and are normally attended by Prince Philip himself. Royal Tours abroad to those countries which participate in the Scheme will usually include a Gold Award ceremony: just one example of the Patron's continuing support and active interest.

The 25th anniversary of the Scheme in 1981 was the occasion for a wide variety of celebrations throughout the United Kingdom and

overseas including a Royal Gala Performance, a Commonwealth Ball and an Interdenominational Service of Thanks giving at St Paul's Cathedral. A time for tens of thousands of young people and adults to reflect on 25 years of challenge and success which have fully justified HRH The Duke of Edinburgh's initial hopes expressed in 1956:

'I am quite sure that all who enter for this scheme and all those who help run it will gain that special sense of satisfaction which comes from the discovery of hidden abilities and from helping others to overcome a challenge.'

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STAMP NEWS

RAM SEWAK YADAV

2.7.97 Printed 0.4 Million 200P.



Shri Ram Sewak Yadav was born in Village Tala, in Bara Banki district of Uttar Pradesh on 2nd July, 1926. He started his education at Behta Lower Primary School and graduated in 1949 from Kanya Kubja College, Lucknow and then earned the degree of LLB from Lucknow University.

He evinced keen interest in political and social affairs of the country from a young age. He suffered imprisonment even during his college days for his participation in students movement and he was associated with Students Congress during 1946-51. He was fined in 1953-54 for his active role in connection with the cane-growers agitation in Bara Banki district and was sent to the jail more than once in connection with the movement for reduction in canal rates and the movement for abolition of land revenue.

Shri Ram Sewak Yadav held several important posts like, Member, District Executive, Praja Socialist Party 1952 onwards, Joint Secretary, PSP 1952-54, and Socialist Party, Bara Banki District, 1955-56, General Secretary, All India Samyukta Socialist Party. He was a Member of Parliament successively for the 2nd, 3rd & 4th Lok Sabhas, was also chairman Public Accounts Committee, Leader of the opposition and also member, U.P. Vidhan Sabha.

Shri Ram Sewak Yadav was among the leaders who adopted the emancipation of the backward and the economically deprived sections of the society, as their aim in life. This

was the goal, towards which he worked tirelessly. He strove hard to remove social evils like untouchability and provided free legal advice to the poor. He firmly believed that any economic improvement to be realistic, must result in amelioration of the living conditions of agricultural labour in India's villages. He was committed to this cause till his untimely death in 1974.

Commemorative postage stamp record the nation's legacy and the memory of eminent personalities and the Department of Posts is privileged to issue the commemorative stamp in honour of late Shri Ram Sewak Yadav.

SIBNATH BANERJEE

(1897-1982)

11.7.97 Printed 0.4 Million 200P.



Sibnath Banerjee, a doyen of Trade Union movement in India, committed himself whole-heartedly to the service of the nation and the Indian people. Born on 11 July, 1897 in the village Brahman Rangdia in Khulna District now in Bangladesh, he first got involved in antipartition movement in Bengal at the age of eight. He directly joined the non-cooperation movement in 1920 while still a student of M.Sc in Calcutta University. In 1921, he moved to Indore to serve as a teacher in a high school but gave up the profession, again to participate in the political movement.

In 1922 he became a Minister of the free Government of India in Afghanistan led by Raja Mahendra Pratap. Between 1925 and 1929 he organised trade Union workers in dif-

ferent industries to voice their demands and after the successful culmination of Railwaymen's strike in 1929, he was imprisoned in Dacca jail and implicated in Meerut Conspiracy case. In 1932 he was elected General Secretary of AITUC and five years later he was elected President of AITUC. He was elected to the Bengal Assembly from the labour constituency of Howrah in 1937 and remained a Member till 1952.

He suffered imprisonment on a number of occasions during the Quit India movement and more than a decade of life was spent behind bars as a consequence of his participation in the national movement.

Besides his leadership of the trade union movement he pioneered workers' cooperative and led the demand for rehabilitation of leprosy patients and organised other useful social services like eye donation campaign. His wide ranging social activities and specially the leadership of the industrial workers endeared Sibnath Banerjee to many national leaders including Rabindranath Tagore, Netaji Subhash Chandra Bose, Dr. B.C. Roy, Dilip Roy & Dr. Suniti Kr. Chatterjee. Politically he was close to Jayaprakash Narayan, Narendra Dev, Achut Patwardhan & Dr. Ram Manohar Lohia.

Shri Sibnath Banerjee was the founder of many movements and organisations like Congress Socialist Party, AITUC, Hind Mazdoor Sabha. In 1978 he participated in the Marichjhapi movement in South 24 Parganas for the settlement of refugees displaced from Dandakaranya. After retiring from trade Union activities he devoted himself to social reconstruction programmes and he founded Workers Education Trust. The cause of the working class and interest of the under privileged remained dear to Sibnath Banerjee

throughout his life. He passed away on 16 February, 1932.

Department of Posts is issuing this commemorative postage stamp to mark the birth centenary of Shri Sibnath Banerjee.

SMT. RUKMINI LAKSHMIPATHI

6.8.97 Printed 0.4 Million 200P.



Smt. Rukmini Lakshmipathi born on 06.12.1892, in a landlord's family from Madurai, graduated from Presidency College, Madras and was subsequently married to Dr. Achanta Lakshmipathi, a staunch nationalist and thus began an involvement in the national movement for independence. She was deeply influenced by the thought and deeds of such eminent national leaders as Mahatma Gandhi, Sarojini Naidu and C. Rajagopalachari.

She first made her presence felt in the area of social reform as secretary of the "Bharata Stri Mahamandal", Madras. She was a prominent member of Women's Indian Association since its inception. She also had the honour of working as the President of the Youth League in Madras, an organisation dedicated to the upliftment of women. To her and similar social reformers, goes the credit of actively pursuing and getting passed social Legislation raising the age of marriage, age of consent etc. Mrs. Lakshmipathi also presided over the Youth Tamil conference which was convened at Madurai, Victoria Edward Hall.

She became a member of the Congress Party in 1923, giving up all her jewellery to the Harijan Welfare Fund of Gandhiji. She further partici-

pated in the Salt Satyagraha in 1931 at Vedaranyam and was sentenced to one year's imprisonment. She was arrested in the Civil Disobedience Movement and sentenced to six months imprisonment.

Smt. Rukmini Lakshmipathi served as the Vice President of the Tamil Nadu Congress Committee during 1935-36 and was elected Municipal councillor. In 1936 she presided over the Tamil Nadu Provincial Committee held at Karaikudi. In 1937, she returned to the Madras Legislative Assembly and also became a Member of the Working Committee of the Indian National Congress. She served next as the Deputy Speaker of the Madras Legislative Assembly during the first Congress Ministry. She visited Japan as a Member of the Good Will Mission (1938). In 1940, she was again sentenced to one year's imprisonment for participation in the Satyagraha Movement. After the World War, when the Congress assumed office, she was elected again to the Madras Legislative Assembly and was made Minister for Health in the Ministry formed by Sri T. Prakasam in 1946. In Independent India, she continued to be an MLA till her death on 6th August, 1951. She also served on several local bodies like Corporation of Madras and Chinglepet District Board. She further served as an Honorary Presidency Magistrate at Madras.

She always remained an active social reformer, an advocate of the extension of Elementary Education Act, adult education and compulsory female education.

The Department of Posts is releasing a special postage stamp to commemorate her death anniversary, in August 1997.

Notify Early of Address Changes

SRI BASAVESWARA

(1134-1196 AD)

8.8.97 Printed 0.4 Million 200P



Sri Basaveswara was a great social reformer of 12th Century AD. He was an extraordinary thinker of high calibre, a great exponent of humanitarian values, and a mystic philosopher. Through short but pithy sayings called vachanas, he propounded his progressive thoughts, preaching equality and fraternity. He formulated and preached the tenets of a revolutionary new code of conduct : Lingayatism which preached equality of caste, creed and respect for women. He questioned the blind superstitions and social evils which prevailed in the then tradition-bound society.

As a seeker of truth the young Basaveswara, left his parents and native village, and came to Kudala Sangama, where there was a reputed education centre (Gurukula). Seeking the shelter of Sri Jataveda Muni, head of the Gurukula, he continued his education, academic as well as spiritual.

Then, Sri Basaveswara, moved from Kudala Sangama to Mangalavede and from there to Kalyana, the capital city of the Chalukyas. He married and joined the palace treasury as an accountant. Because of his honesty and sincerity he soon became treasury officer, and finance minister and subsequently rose to the post of Prime Minister. He brought about many reforms, implemented new plans and improved the economic and social status of the kingdom.

He established a socio-spiritual academy 'ANUBHAVA MANTAPA' which was a forum for free thought and encouraged discussions on deeper issues of morality. Through this organisation which worked as an open university he promoted adult education and literacy for all. Sri Basaveswara not only preached equality for women but implemented the idea, and as a result the 'Anubhava Manapa' had to its credit 770 saints among whom 60 were women.

Sri Basaveswara's revolutionary ideas made the orthodox elements in society unite and he was exiled by the Chalukya King. Always known for nonviolence, he accepted his banishment without protest and retreated to Kudala Sangama where he spent his last years in mediation.

In his crusade against the caste system and untouchability, 800 years ago Sri Basaveswara was a man ahead of his times. His 800th death anniversary celebrations concluding in August 1997, provide opportunity for the Department of Posts, issuing this special postage stamp, to commemorate this great philosopher and his contribution to the upliftment of society.

Beaches of India : INDEPEX'97, World Philatelic Exhibition

11.8.97 Printed 0.5 Million 200P.
600P. 1000P. 1100P.



Indepex'97, World Philatelic Exhibition, being organized in New Delhi from 15-22 December 1997 will bring together philatelic collections from far and near, and it will be a gala event to promote philately as a hobby. The Exhibition assumes special significance as it is being held during the 50th anniversary of India's Independence. This is indeed an occasion to portray before the world the natural beauty of this land.

The Department of Posts, India, is releasing a series of stamps to herald Indepex'97. The first issued in this series depicting the logo of Indepex'97 was released on 5th October 1996. The second, a set of four stamps depicting centres of culture and tourism was released on 6th June 1997.

This set of four stamps, third in the series, takes up yet another aspect of the diversity of this beautiful country - the serene beauty of the Beaches of India.

(i) Gopalpur-on-Sea

Gopalpur-on-Sea, an ancient seaport, is one of the most beautiful, unspoiled beaches around this sub-continent. It is a quite place of rare beauty. Clusters of coconut and palm along lovely sand dunes over grown with Casurina separate the blue Bay of Bengal from the tiny town of Gopalpur, 16 k.m. from Berhampur, the major city in southern Orissa. The backwater with the creeks and

lagoons covered with canopies of high green foliage, is the special attraction of the Blue Beach at Gopalpur-on-Sea. Standing mute witness to a glorious past, is the Lighthouse which still beams its powerful beacon across the sea. The nearest railhead is Berhampur.

(ii) Kovalam

This internationally renowned beach resort, 15 k.ms from Thiruvananthapuram, is a

sheltered natural bay. The azure blue waters and the sumptuous spread of green palm groves make it a tropical paradise. Kovalam consists of three successive crescent beaches, the southernmost, known as the Lighthouse beach, attracts tourists from all over the world. The airport is Thiruvananthapuram.

(iii) Anjuna

A former Portugues enclave, in Goa, this stretch of beach deserves every bit of the sobriquet 'Pearl of the East', the pristine beauty of the seascape, the rhythmic pounding of the sea and its swaying palms-all make it a fairy tale land for the traveller. It is claimed that the sight of the beach awash with the early morning sun is an experience of a lifetime. The airport is Panaji.

(iv) Bogmal

Another of Goa's irresistible beaches, it is a secluded crescent-shaped cove of rare beauty. A number of water sports, like parasailing, water skiing, wind surfing, speed boating and deep sea diving add to the visual delight. The airport is Panaji.

'SWATANTRA BHARAT'

15.8.97 Printed 0.7 Million 200P.



'Swatantra Bharat,' the Hindi daily newspaper published from Lucknow has a unique history, its publication having begun on 15th August 1947, simultaneously with India's attaining independence. The first edition of the newspaper, 'Swatantra Bharat', appropriately named, signifying its birth in an independent India, carried on its front page a photograph of Pt. Jawaharlal Nehru with the National Flag. This has been reproduced

in the stamp being issued to commemorate the occasion. The publication of this newspaper in Hindi itself bore evidence of what the first Prime Minister of the country so eloquently described in the Constituent Assembly on 14th August 1947, as a moment "which comes but rarely in history when we step out from the old to the new, when an age ends, and when the soul of a nation, long suppressed, finds utterance..."

One of the founders of 'Swatantra Bharat' was Surendra Nath Ghosh, who bestowed all his affection on the paper and the people working on it. 'Swatantra Bharat' gave expression to the aspirations of a newly created nation. It was not easy to produce a Hindi Daily fifty years ago, when there were few daily newspapers in Hindi, but there was no organised set-up for news-gathering. 'Swatantra Bharat' started as a small-sized newspaper with six pages and from its first month of publication, the circulation rose from five to eight thousand. It covered important events from far-flung areas of the State from its inception and one of its popular columns was titled 'Rajya ke kone-kone se' (from all corners of the state). It published the established writers in the field of short story, poetry, history, politics, economics, archaeology, and encouraged newcomers. The paper ran a series on painters of Uttar Pradesh and published such detailed descriptions of the history and architecture of Avadh that its pages could serve as reference material for many. Many writers who started their career with this newspaper, are front runners in their fields today and among such stalwarts are writers and thinkers like Pt. Ambika Prasad Bajpai, Dr. A.S. Altkar, Rai Kishan Das, Amritlal Nagar.

The Department of Posts is happy to issue a special postage stamp to mark the 50th anniversary of publication of this newspaper.

**INDIA'S STRUGGLE FOR
FREEDOM :
THREE INA STALWARTS**
15.8.97 Printed 0.4 Million 200P.



The end of the Second World War marked a dramatic change in the history of India's struggle for freedom. From then onwards till the dawn of freedom in 1947, the political stage witnessed a wide spectrum of popular initiatives and perhaps the most significant, were the mass demonstrations of popular anger against the trials of INA personnel. After the final surrender by the INA to the British in South East Asia, the Government decided to try for sedition a large number of those who fought for the country's freedom. The first trial began in 1945 at the historic Red Fort with three senior officers of the Azad Hind Fauz, Capt. Shah Nawaz Khan, Capt. P.K. Sahagal and Lt. G.S. Dhillon. They were charged with 'waging war against His Majesty the King-Emperor...'. In reaction, people clashed with the police and many were killed. Workers went on a general political strike and normal life was paralysed. A strong team of lawyers including Bhulabhai Desai, Tej Bahadur Sapru and Jawaharlal Nehru defended the accused.

Pt. Jawaharlal Nehru the country's first Prime Minister commenting on this historic trial wrote in his foreword to "Two Historic Trials in Red Fort" edited by Moti Ram.

"The legal issues were important enough... But behind the law there was something deeper and more

vital, something that stirred the subconscious depths of the Indian mind. Those three officers and the Indian National Army became symbols of India fighting for her independence..."
Shah Nawaz Khan

He was born at Rawalpindi on January 24, 1914. After attending a course at the Indian Military Academy at Dehradun he was granted regular commission in the Indian Land Forces w.e.f. February 1, 1936. In February next year he was posted to the 14th Punjab Regiment. While posted at Singapore Shah Nawaz Khan came under the influence of Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose and joined the Indian National Army. In September 1943 Netaji decided to select a regiment to spearhead the advance into India. It was known as the Subhas Brigade and Shah Nawaz was selected to command it. He expired on 9.12.1982.

P.K. Sahgal

He was born at Hoshiarpur on January 25, 1917. He also attended a course at the Indian Military Academy, Dehradun and was granted regular commission in the Indian Land Forces from February 1st, 1939. He joined the I.N.A. in 1942, after a great deal of deliberations, "because I wanted freedom for my motherland and was ready to shed my blood for it." He expired on 16.10.1992.

G.S. Dhillon

He was born at Algon on April 4, 1915 and also attended the Indian Military Academy, Dehradun and was granted regular commission in the Indian Land Forces w.e.f. April 1940. After the surrender of Singapore on 15.2.1942 to the Japanese, he joined then I.N.A. then organised by Capt. Mohan Singh

When the general Court martial commenced on November 5, 1945, photographers were excluded from the court room as soon as the accused officers were brought in. (Reuters,)

Associated Press of America and several of the British and American press covered the trial. The three accused officers were informed of the remission in the sentence of transportation for life by the Commander-in-Chief on January 3rd, 1946 and they were released from Red Fort the same evening. The INA spirit began to spread in the armed forces and there were strikes by Signalmen and other sections of the Indian Army, Air Force personnel, the Royal Indian Navy and hundreds of thousands of non-industrial workers. This marked a significant turning point in the history of events to follow as the British could no longer rely upon the Indian sepoys to maintain their hold on India. Pt. Jawaharlal Nehru said in a speech in Bombay on 26th February 1946.

"The INA episode and the recent Royal Indian Air Force and Royal Indian Navy strikes have rendered the country a very great service. The gulf that separated people from the armed forces has once for all been bridged. The people and the soldier have come very close to each other. They have now come to realise that they both have one common aim-to free their country from the foreign yoke."

The stamp is an artist's depiction of Shah Nawaz Khan, P.K. Sahgal and G.S. Dhillon against the battlements of the Red Fort. The first day cover shows a sketch of the Red Fort dormitory where the trial was held along with the news item appearing in "The Bombay Sentinel", of November 6, 1945.

The Department of Posts is issuing this special postage stamp on the trial of three senior INA officers as a mark of the nation's homage to the outstanding service rendered by three brave Indians and countless others who made the supreme sacrifice for the country's independence.

SIR RONALD ROSS

20.8.97 Printed 0.4 Million 200P.



Sir Ronald Ross (1857 - 1932) was born on 13th May 1857 at Almora, a hill station in the state of Uttar Pradesh. His father Sir Campbell Ross was a General in the British Army posted in India. After completing his schooling in England he joined the St. Bartholomew's Hospital in UK as a medical student. After winning enrolment as a Member of the Royal College of Surgeons in 1879, he joined the Indian Medical Service in 1881. He went on to train in bacteriology and to specialize in tropical diseases. Through his association with Sir Patrick Manson, a well-known specialist in tropical medicine with special interest in malaria, was inspired to take up research to find out the process of transmission of malaria.

On 20th August 1897 in Secunderabad (A.P.) in a small laboratory, Ross made the discovery of the pigmented oocysts of the malaria parasite in what is now well known as the anopheles mosquito--Ross's 'dapple-winged mosquito'. With this he solved the biggest puzzle in tropical medicine and demonstrated the mosquito transmission of malaria. On 28th July 1898, Sir Manson announced Ross's result at the Edinburgh meeting of the British Medical Association.

Evidence of his originality and genius abound in his work. He was the first to employ the counting of parasites in the assessment of the intensity of malarial infections, and the first to lay the foundation of the study of malarial communities. He drew at-

tention to the importance of the 'average enlarged spleen' in malaria studies and was the first to employ the 'thick film' technique, now universally adopted.

In 1901 he was elected a fellow of the Royal Society and was awarded a Royal medal in 1909. In 1902 he was awarded the Nobel Prize for medicine and he was knighted in 1911. Beginning from 1913 and until his death in 1932 he was editor of 'Science Progress.'

The Indian Society of Parasitology is hosting its II-Global Meet on Parasitic Diseases to commemorate 100 years of the epoch making discovery of Sir Ronald Ross, who was undoubtedly one of the great figures in the history of mankind. The meet is being held from 18-2 August, 1997 in Secunderabad, the city which houses this laboratory where Sir Ronald Ross did his momentous work bringing succour for millions across the world.

The Department of Posts is issuing this special postage stamp as a homage to Sir Ronald Ross, whose memory is cherished by mankind even after the lapse of one hundred years.

FIRAQ GORAKHPURI

28.8.97 Printed 0.4 Million 200P.



Born in 1896 in a distinguished literary family of Gorakhpur, Reghupati Sahay wrote under the pen name, Firaq Gorakhpuri, a name which was destined for international acclaim. After graduating, Firaq was nominated to the Civil Service. He however, preferred to join the freedom movement. He was imprisoned for his Nationalist activities in 1920 and after his release,

he worked for the Indian National Congress as one of its Under Secretaries for five years.

Firaq also continued to write in Urdu and came in close touch with the great writers and editors of his time, like Premchand, Hasrat Mohani, Daya Narain Nigam and Tej Bahadur Sapru. Later, he joined the University of Allahabad as Lecturer in English, and served with distinction until his retirement.

A passionate champion of national integration and Hindu-Muslim unity, Firaq introduced new themes and ideas in Urdu poetry based on his grounding in classical Indian culture, and his vast reading in English, Hindi, Persian and other languages. He is known to have revolutionised Urdu poetry, making it a vehicle of modern thought. A prolific writer of both prose and poetry, his major poetic Collections 'Gul-e-Naghma' (Lyric Flower) appeared in 1959. The other notable collections include 'Ruh-e--kayenaat' (Spirit of Universe, 1945) and 'Ramzo-Kinayaa' (Suggestion 1946). Even though influenced by the English Romantics, he was deeply inspired by the "Shringara Rasa" of Sanskrit poetry, and the poetry of the Bhakti movement. His art which reflects a fusion of the East and West, added an altogether new dimension to the lyrical sensibility of the Urdu Ghazal. He dominated the Urdu poetic scene for almost four decades and was considered a living literary legend in the Urdu speaking world.

He received the highest literary awards including Sahitya Academy Award in 1960 and Bharatiya Jnanpith Award in 1969. Government of India, in recognition of his services to literature decorated him with Padma Bhusan in 1981. He passed away on 3rd March, 1982.

Department of Posts is issuing a commemorative postage stamp in memory of Firaq Gorakhpuri to mark the conclusion of his birth centenary celebrations.

**The Tamilnadu Circle Philatelic Advisory Committee
has been reconstituted for the year 1997 - 1998
with the following members:-**

Chairman	-	Shri S.T. Baskaran Chief Postmaster General Tamilnadu Circle, Chennai - 600 002
Secretary	-	Shri K. Ramachandran DPS (Chennai), O/o The Chief PMG Tamilnadu, Chennai - 600 002.
Members (Officials)	-	Shri S. Balasundaram, AD (Technology) O/o Chief PMG, Tamilnadu Chennai - 600 002
Members (Non-Official)	-	Shri V. Govindaswamy Circle Philatelic Officer O/o Chief PMG, Madras - 600 002
Members (Non-Official)	-	Shri G. Balakrishnanadas President South India Philatelists' Association Chennai - 600 079. Phone : 6426991
Members (Non-Official)	-	Shri AJit Kumar Choradia Vice - President, SIPA 12, General Muthia Mudali Street, Sowcarpet, Madras - 600 079.

The Chairman of the Committee has powers to Co-opt any other experts from social fields as may be found necessary. The tenure of the non-official members will be for two years from the date of this notification.

Phil/11-5/91/CPAC dated at Chennai - 600 002.
the 29th May, 1997.

(Sd) (K. Ramachandran N)
DPS (Chennai) O/o The Chief PMG
Tamilnadu Circle, Chennai - 600 002.

OBITUARY

With profound grief we regret to inform our Members that Shri O.P. BHATNAGAR, Jaipur a senior Philatelist passed away on 13-8-1997. May his soul rest in peace.

SOCIETY NEWS

The following were elected office bearers of the Karnataka Philatelic Society, Bangalore for the year 1997 - 1999 :-

Hony. President : Dr.P.S. Dixit; Hony. Vice-President : Mr. V. Srinivasan
Hony.Gen.Secretary : Mr. Manish A.Jain, Hony.Treasurer : Mr. Sundara Raj N.R.

GWALIOR STAMP CLUB, GWALIOR

The following were elected as Office Bearers for the year 1997/98:-
President - Dr. H.B. Maheswari, Vice-President - BhaskerKher, Neel Kamal Maheswari, Secretary Treasurer - Mr. Anupam Agarwal.

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