



# SIPA Bulletin

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## Guest Editorial :

### PHILATELIC CONSERVATION

Undoubtedly one of the worst things that can happen to paper is to come into contact with self adhesive tape known variously as cellotape or 'sellotape'. This is to say, pressure-sensitive tape in any of its variations, including the fairly modern type with the matt surfaced backing which looks very similar to some archival quality repair tapes. Self-adhesive tape was one of the wonder materials of the 1940s; but, for me it was one of the two worst inventions of the 20th century (the other is the ball-point pen). It is sad to see the number of letters and covers where 'sellotape' has been used not just for repair, but actually to mount covers in collections. Some otherwise very fine covers have as many as four small pieces stuck on the back.

The tape itself can be removed, using solvents, in the early weeks after application, although a residue is always left behind and it is not at all clear whether - in the long term - the solvent might not do as much harm as the tape. However, the staining, once it has begun to appear, is impossible to remove, although it can sometimes be reduced. Just look at what has happened - 50 years on - to the covers resealed by the US American censors in World War 2. Without fail, the adhesive has soaked into the paper and dried, leaving an ugly dark brown stain; while the transparent backing tape has become crisp and fallen off. Some of the more recent adhesive have relied less on rubber compounds, but they also soak into the paper, giving it a sort of transparent quality that, again, is impossible to reverse.

I am relieved that it seems no longer to be fashionable as a means of mounting covers in a collection. I can understand why it appeared to be such an attractive alternative to stamp hinges, which are very susceptible to damp, hot climates, but it is a shame to see so many

covers irreversibly damaged. By all means repair and restore covers, but let's do so sensibly, with sympathetic materials.

Although the basic principles are the same for any kind of paper, my comments are probably directed rather more towards conserving postal history items than simple adhesive stamps, because the range of quality of the paper is wider; the items are larger and more susceptible to wear and tear; and from my own point of view, I have more of them than I do adhesives. It is best to start with prevention (far better than any cure) and the way we keep our material applies equally to all types of paper.

Damp, heat and poor air circulation are acknowledged to be the most important things to avoid. A mixture of all three will bring disaster in days rather than years. Equally, avoid any form of atmospheric pollution (you can smell if a cover was owned by someone who smoked a pipe) and the sort of soft plastic 'protective' pockets favoured by so many dealers. Here, too, the smell can be instant giveaway. No doubt the strength of the smell is an indication of the extent of the contact with chemical plasticisers, but I am not sure that the absence of a strong smell means the effects are not there. The human sense of smell is, after all, not very highly developed. In the long term, the effects of unstable plasticisers on paper may be disastrous. I am not aware of any serious research in this area and perhaps some of our scientific members could elaborate.

The information I do have is that the only transparent material that is totally inert is polyster, marketed in the UK as Melinex and in the USA as Mylar. By implication, therefore, all plastics must be harmful to paper. Where does that leave the transparent material we call cellophane used in 'glassine packets', cheap stockbooks; and the transparent 'photograph corners' used for mounting covers?

-Max Smith, Editor, India Post.

Our Second Sunday Meetings were held regularly where 40 members attended with President Shri. G. Balakrishna Das presiding. Shri. Mr. G. Madan Mohan Das, Spoke on "Educational Value of Philatelic Exhibitions". New members introduced themselves. Talks by Members with display, News/Views appreciated.



**STAMP NEWS**  
**GULZARILAL NANDA**

04.07.99 300 0.4 MILLION



Gulzarilal Nanda (1898-1998) acted twice as the Prime Minister of India, first after the death of Jawaharlal Nehru and again after that of Lal Bahadur Shastri.

Born on 4th July, 1898 at Sialkot (West Pakistan), he joined the Non-cooperation Movement in 1921. Deeply influenced by Gandhiji, he went to Ahmedabad to work among textile labour and was involved in trade union activities in Ahmedabad for two decades starting from 1922. He was jailed during the Satyagraha Movement in 1932. While in jail, with his habits of systematic study, he started reading and thinking about planning, which was the beginning of his long association with Planning which culminated in his stint as Deputy Chairman of the Planning Commission in Independent India many years later. Gulzarilal Nanda was elected Member, Legislative Assembly, Bombay in 1937 and subsequently in 1947. He served the Bombay Government as the Minister of Labour and Housing from 1947-1950. He was also the prime mover in organising the Indian National Trade Union Congress in Mumbai in 1947.

Gulzarilal Nanda was appointed as Deputy Chairman, Planning Commission in 1950 and was responsible for several important initiatives which led to the evolution of the Planning Commission into one of the most important institutions of the Government of India. During his long political career he also held charges of the Ministries of Irrigation and Power, Labour and Employment, Home Affairs and Railways. Contrary to his soft spoken disposition, he was a man of steel and handled the situations effectively.

After the demise of Jawaharlal Nehru in 1964, Gulzarilal Nanda who was then the Home Minister, was called upon to step in as the Prime Minister of the country, a duty which he discharged with sincerity and efficiency. He had to take up the responsibility once again after the demise of Lal Bahadur Shastri in 1966.

He retired from active politics in the early 70's, but continued to be engaged in the service of the people. He was an illustrious Indian who gave all for the good of the country seeking nothing for himself. A grateful nation conferred "Bharat Ratna", the highest civilian award on him in 1997.

Themes : Freedom Fighter, Prime Minister.

**JIJABAI**

07.07.99 300 0.7MILLION



Jijabai, the mother of Chatrapati Shivaji was the guiding force who inspired her son to fight the kingdom of Bijapur and Mogul domination, and to establish Maratha sovereignty. Her life became a symbol of ideal Indian motherhood and she came to be

known as 'Jija Matha', the embodiment of a mother's attempts to transform society and influence the course of history.

Jijabai was the daughter of an eminent noble in the kingdom of Ahmadnagar, Lakhogi Jadhavrao. According to the custom then prevalent she was married at a very early age to Shahagi Bhonsle. Shahagi joined the service of the Ahmadnagar kingdom. In 1633, when Shivaji was still a little boy, an enemy of Shahagi named Mhaldar Khan deserted to the Moguls, then attacked Ahmadnagar, and out of spite betrayed to them, Shahagi's wife Jijabai. They imprisoned her in Kondana fort, now known as Sinhgad, but her servants contrived to conceal Shivaji. At last peace came through the partition of Ahmadnagar between Delhi and Bijapur. Jijabai was allowed to rejoin her son. Jijabai taught her son stories of bravery from the ancient scriptures and emphasized training in the martial arts, to equip him for the role she had nurtured him to play. Shivaji brought together all the Mavalas living around Pune and soon raised an army dedicated to establish his kingdom. With his small army he vanquished the Kingdom of Bijapur, and fought against the mighty Mogul empire. Throughout, his mother Jijabai was one of his main advisors.

Shivaji's legendary rise to power and establishment of a mighty Maratha empire is too well known a story to be repeated. All through his exploits, Jijabai remained the silent source of strength behind his victories. In May 1674 Shivaji observed a splendid Coronation ceremony in his capital, Rajgad. Shortly after the coronation, Jijabai breathed her last.

Jijabai's life is an example of how a mother can transform the society and even mould an entire nation by fulfilling the duties of motherhood.

Themes : Women, History.



P.S. Kumaraswamy Raja (1898-1957) was born at Rajapalayam in Tamil Nadu. The lives and writings of Annie Besant and Sathyamurthy had

great influence on his mind and character in his formative years. It was in 1919 that he met Gandhiji for the first time and started following with great interest the events in Gandhiji's life. Gandhiji's epic struggle in South Africa, the founding of Ashram in Ahmedabad and the Champaran struggle made a profound impression on him and the utter simplicity of Mahatma's life also evoked his unbounded admiration.

Raja wrote, spoke and organised the Congress Party at the village level. His principal work, 'My Induction As a Gandhite', brought him fame. In his speeches he stressed the need for unity and a spirit of dedication to achieve freedom from the British rule. Raja served as the Vice-President of the Reception Committee of the first Khilafat Conference held in Madras in February 1930. He was then elected to the Madras Legislative Assembly from the Chitur constituency and later became a member of the Madras Cabinet, formed on 14 July 1937. He was the Minister for Public Works. His long and eventful public life saw him adorning various positions like the President of the Ramnad District Board and Minister for Agriculture in the Provincial Government. After independence, he became the Chief Minister of the Composite State of Madras. He adorned this office till 1952. In 1954, he was appointed as the Governor of Orissa. He resigned from that post in 1956.

Raja was arrested and sent to jail in 1917 for participating in the Home Rule Movement. He organised public meetings in Rajapalayam and in 1919, leaving his studies, he organised the Satyagraha Movement. In 1932 he was again sentenced for one year. On release from jail, Raja resumed his activities. The next imprisonment came in December, 1940 for starting Individual Satyagraha.

Raja was a staunch proponent of the concept of "Separation of the Judiciary from the Executive". Prohibition, Promotion of Khadi and Temple Entry Legislation were his other notable achievements. He donated his house for starting an institution of culture called 'Gandhi Kala Mandiram' in Rajapalayam.

Themes : Freedom Fighter, Tamilnadu.



Balai Chand Mukhopadhyay (Banaphool) was born on 19th July, 1899 at Manihari, a quaint village of Bihar situated at the confluence of the rivers Koshi and Ganga.

Balai Chand had become a contributor in the wellknown magazines of Bengal at a relatively young age. However, his teachers did not like his literary pursuits. To avoid the notice of teachers Balai Chand adopted the pseudonym 'Banaphool'. Banaphool took his degree in Medicine from the Patna University. He started practising as a pathologist initially in rural Bengal and finally set up his practice at Bhagalpur, a very prosperous town in the 30's.

The underlying Bengali culture mixed with the social picture of the milieu he lived in, influenced Banaphool in all his writings. Banaphool started writing at a time when the literary scene was vibrant with stalwarts like Tagore, S.G.Chatterjee, Bibhuti Bhushan, Tara Shankar, etc and when the new intellectual group led by Premendra Mitra, Buddhadeb Basu and others were trying to set a different tune. In this backdrop, Banaphool made his mark particularly in the field of short stories. Banaphool also made significant contribution to Bengali drama and novel. He wrote several epic novels like Sthabar, Jangam, Dana as also shorter novels like Bhuban Som, Hate Bazare etc. Apart from practising medicine, he was an amateur ornithologist and a serious gardener. Cooking was a special hobby of Banaphool.

Politically, Banaphool was inspired by the Non-cooperation and Quit India movements. Having suffered serious injuries in the communal riot of 1946, he used it as the backdrop for "Swapna Sanvab", in which he depicted the ultimate triumph of total human values over the narrow parochial sentiments. However, after independence, Banaphool became very bitter over the partition of India and degeneration of values in public life.

A prolific writer, during his lifetime Banaphool received a lot of acclaim. He was the President of several literary bodies including Bangiya Sahitya Parishad. A popular writer, his works have been translated not only in Hindi and regional languages, but in a number of foreign languages also.

Themes : Writer, Medicine.



**SINDHU DARSHAN**

28.07.99 300 1.4MILLION



The mighty Sindhu (Indus) river, symbolizes the power and permanence of the ancient Indian Civilization which was evolved over a period of thousands of years. The

archaeological discovery of the Indus Valley Civilization which flourished along its banks has reinforced the antiquity of the Indian Civilization.

A great trans - Himalayan river, Sindhu is one of the longest rivers in the world, having a length of 2900 Km. The name "Sindhu" is mentioned in the 'Rig Veda', and is the source of the country's name. It rises in south-western Tibet near Mansarovar lake at an altitude of 16000ft., enters India near Demchock in Ladakh (Jammu & Kashmir) and is soon joined on its left by its first tributary, Jhelum. Further down, other streams like Jhenab, Rabi, Beaus and Sutlej join the Sindhu bringing water from glaciers east of Nanga Prabat. The ancient epic 'Ramayana' gives the title 'Mahanadi' to Sindhu, to denote 'the mighty river'. In the 'Mahabharat' the Sindhu is reverentially mentioned along with the Ganga and Saraswati.

The project 'Sindhu Darshan', was started to focus attention on the heritage of the ancient Indian Civilization and Culture that 'Sindhu' symbolizes. These aspects are sought to be blended in the design of the First Day Cover which also carries inscription of the hymn 'mantra', chanted by Buddhists in the area, a prayer in praise of God. The stamp depicts a landscape in the upper reaches of the Sindhu with an inset of the famous 'Vrishabha' (bull) seal of the Indus Valley Civilization and a line, from the 'Rig Veda', describing the Sindhu.

Themes : Rivers, Scenes & Sites, Heritage.

**50 YEARS OF THE GENEVA CONVENTIONS**

12.08.99 1500 0.7MILLION



India was among the first countries to sign the Geneva Conventions which constitute the most important humanitarian law treatise for defending human dignity in war and are among the most universally ratified instruments of law (signed by 188 countries).

Through the provisions, the Geneva Conventions aim at human survival in war and protection of human dignity in situations of armed conflict. The First Convention of the Revised Geneva conventions of 1949 provides for protection of wounded and sick members of the armed

forces, medical personnel and chaplains. The second Convention stipulates protection of the shipwrecked, wounded and sick, medical personnel and chaplains of armed forces at sea. The third Convention deals with protection of prisoners of war, and the fourth, protection of civilians in enemy or occupied territory.

India's contribution by way of customary law to the development of the Geneva Conventions in their present form is significant and dates back to its ancient civilization with its long tradition of respect for humanitarian values. Ancient Indian law was founded on social and sociological concepts and was an admixture of religion and ethics with the legal precepts. Some of the sources of humanitarian law in ancient India were the four Vedas, their respective appendices, the Brahmanas, the Smritis, the Puranas and the Upanishads. The epics of the Mahabharat and Ramayan are of considerable importance in the evolution of humanitarian law because the references to the precepts of war, the means of warfare and treatment of combatants and non-combatants bear a startling resemblance to the modern concepts enunciated in the Geneva Conventions. Ancient Indian law made a distinction between military objects that could be the target of attack and non-military objects that could not be attacked.

In the post independence period, in the situations of war imposed on India on a number of occasions, the spirit and sanctity of Geneva Conventions was fully maintained by India. In the aftermath of the 1971 war with Pakistan, India looked after 93,000 prisoners of war.

The design of the stamp symbolizes, the commitment of this country to the preservation of the humanitarian concerns, enshrined in the provisions of the Geneva Conventions.

Themes : Human rights, Conventions.

**INDIA'S STRUGGLE FOR FREEDOM**

**SARDAR AJIT SINGH  
SWAMI RAMANAND TEERTH  
SWAMI KESHAWANAND  
VISHWAMBHAR DAYALU TRIPATHI**

15.08.99 300 0.4MILLION (EACH)





India's struggle for freedom was a movement of national resurgence which brought the people together in a mass movement spread almost across a century, united in the concept of Indian Nationhood. The struggle produced understanding leaders from every part of the country, in every part of its long history. The Department of Posts has over the years depicted the history of the Struggle for Freedom through postal stamps, paying tribute to the sacrifices of the martyrs of the Struggle and various places of the Movement. These stamps continues the series, honouring the memories of Sardar Ajit Singh, Swami Ramanand Teerth, Swami Keshawanand and Vishwambhar Dayalu Tripathi.

Sardar Ajit Singh ( - 1947 ) (Date of birth not known) hailed from Jalandhar District of Punjab and rose to prominence with a fiery speech in Rawalpindi in 1907. He was arrested and deported to Mandalay in Burma for six months. After his release, Ajit Singh became more active in building up the revolutionary movement with publications such as "Peshwa" which was banned and then published under different names such as "Barath Mata", "Sahaik" etc. He also published a number of pamphlets and established a revolutionary society called "Barath Mata Society". When it became certain that the Government would arrest him again, he fled to Persia. Later he widened his area of activity to Europe, South America and the United States and continued to work for the cause of India's Independence. During the Second World War he had to undergo imprisonment in Italy and Germany. Finally released, he was allowed to return to India. He died on the day the country attained Independence. His dying words were, "Thank God my mission is fulfilled".

Swami Ramanand Teerth (1903 - 1973) led the freedom movement of the people of the erstwhile State of Hyderabad which promoted its accession to the Indian Union in 1948. Deeply influenced by the writings of Ram Krishna Paramahansa, Vivekananda and Swami Ram Tirth, he adopted the ascetic way of life (sanyas) which he felt, ordained him to serve the people better. He associated himself with the activities of the Hyderabad State Congress right from its formation in 1938 and was arrested many times. After Independence Swamiji worked for the upliftment of the economically deprived, weaker sections of society. His contribution in the fields of education, progressive land legislation, Khadi and Sarvodaya Movement was truly immense.

Swami Keshawanand (1883 - 1972) was born in a humble farming community in the Sikar district of Rajasthan but later migrated to Punjab on account of famine and hardships. He took to the life of asceticism at

Cooperation" struck a deep chord and he joined the fight for freedom actively, suffering imprisonment on several occasions. Realizing the value of education, Swamiji started a well spread out literacy campaign in the far-flung villages of Bikaner, the base of his activities being the Gramothan Vidyapeeth, Sangaria.

Vishwambhar Dayalu Tripathi (1899-1959) who hailed from Unnao in Uttar Pradesh was influenced by the fiery speeches of Lokmanya Tilak to join the struggle for Freedom. His participation in the 'Salt Satyagraha' led to rigorous imprisonment. Thereafter for his role in agitation against government's policy of land revenue assessment, he was jailed on a number of occasions. He went to play a pivotal role in the agitation for abolitions of the land tenancy system and amelioration of hardships of poor farmers. In post Independence India, he made significant contribution to the Sarvodaya Movement for making land available to the poorer section in the villages. He was also instrumental in preparing the first ever document on development of Andaman and Nicobar delegation.

Themes : Freedom Fighters, Independence.

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## KARNATAKA PHILATELIC SOCIETY, BANGALORE

The following have been elected as office bearers of The Karnataka Philatelic Society, Bangalore for the term 1999 - 2001 during the General Body meeting held on 13th June 1999 at Bangalore:

President	Dr. (Mrs) Sita Batheja
Vice-President	Sri. V. Srinivasan
General Secretary	Sri. A. Mahalingeswar
Treasurer	Sr. N.R. Sundara Raj
Governing Council	1. Sri.V.Krishnamurthy
Members	2. Sr. S. Vaman Rao
	3.Sri.M.C.Chandraiah
	4. Sri.Manish A Jain
	5.Sri. N.Vinay
Co-opted members	6. Sri Mani M. Krishnan
	7. Sri. K.P.Achar
	8.Sri.M.S.Ramu
	9. Kum.Shilpa Kannan

### NEWS FLASH

#### Millepex 2000

National Philatelic Exhibition, Cuttack

Jan 29 - Feb 2, 2000

Off : Secretariat, VIII / 2 Unit 1,  
Bhubaneswar 751 009.

Last date for entries : 15.11.99

Entry Fees : Rs. 250.00 / Frame

Southern Regional Commissioner :

Mr. Madan Mohan Das, Chennai.



# COLLECTING SLOGAN POSTMARKS

By Late Col. L.G. Shenoi

The Philatelic hobby has numerous side lines; a quite interesting sideline is the collection of slogan postmarks. As compared to stamp collecting, slogan collection is a recent development. It provides equal opportunity to everyone, therefore, take up this side line and develop it as a live branch of philately.

What is A Slogan Postmark?

What is a Slogan? In common parlance, it refers to a pithy, striking phrase or an arrangement of phrases designed to catch the eye or ear and to convey a specific message about a product, service or belief. Constant repetition is the technique usually employed to impress a slogan in the mind of the reader or listener. With thousands of letters franked by the post office everyday, one can appreciate the immense value of incorporating appropriate slogans along with the date stamps. The letters will carry without any additional expenditure and perhaps in a more effective manner, the message the Government wants to convey to the public. The realisation of the propaganda value of this medium brought about the use of Slogan Postmarks.

The term 'Slogan Postmark' has been explained as under in the publication 'Philatelic Terms Illustrated' (1972 edition) :

"A comparatively modern form of postmarking which is in fact, a mechanical development of the old time duplex handstamp, comprising official slogans or advertising catch-phrases. The first British Postmark slogan, perhaps the first in the world, exhorted the public to 'Buy National War Bonds Now', and was introduced during World War I. At first British slogan marks were confined to Government announcements, such as the ubiquitous 'Post Early for Christmas' etc. Now the Post Office caters for all kinds of public causes and events, the cost of postmarks being borne by the respective sponsors. A popular form of modern slogan is the pictorial 'holiday resort' postmark... Pictorial postmarks are sought by thematic collectors to illustrate their particular stamp themes".

## HISTORY OF THE SLOGAN POSTMARKS :

It has been recorded that as early as in 1661, letters passing through the Kent Post in England had borne an inscription. "The post for all Kent goes every night from the Round House in Love Lane & comes every morning". It is thought that the precedent for the slogan postmark lay deeply rooted in the fertile soil of this post office initiated in the 17th century. However, the publicity potential of such postal imprints lay dormant until 1917.

Although it is generally believed that the slogan postmark made its first appearance in December 1917 in England, I have every reason to believe that the Indian Post Office should take the credit for this. I have in my collection a slogan postmark dated 30th June 1917 imprinted in three lines "Buy a Rs. 10 Post Office Cash certificate for Rs. 7.12". The slogan was used by the Post Office as SAMBHAR. Perhaps there may be an earlier date even.

Despite the fact that the slogan postmark, most probably, made its first appearance in India, its growth was spasmodic, particularly in between the two world wars. After about 1918, it made a brief appearance during 1923-24 and again disappeared. It was revived in 1931, and its growth since then has been quite steady. In the earlier years, the slogan postmark was used primarily for official propaganda in the shape of campaigns to popularise certain facilities and schemes. It was used during the Second World War to promote war effort. After Independence, it has been made a vehicle for communicating thought - provoking messages on a variety of themes of national importance. Similar developments have taken place all over the world and consequently, collection of these postmarks has become a stimulating and instructive exercise.



## COLLECTION AND DISPLAY OF SLOGAN POSTMARK

Some persistent questions that will be asked of you, or you will ask of yourself, are: Why collect these slogans? What have they to do with philately? How can they be attractively displayed? These are not easy questions to answer convincingly. Before we attempt to find reasonable answers for them, let us look at the slogans themselves. Following are some of slogan postmarks used by the Indian Post Offices :

1. Support Indian Industries
2. Export for National prosperity.
3. Export for economic development.
4. Help eradicate Tuberculosis; use T.B. Seals.
5. Save and serve the nation.
6. Monuments are our heritage; respect them; treasure them.
7. Export for progress and prosperity.
8. Help spray your home; help malaria eradication.
9. Preserve sight; prevent blindness.
10. You can find friends everywhere through letter writing exchanges.
11. Productivity for progress.



12. Leprosy is curable.
13. Learn a trade and earn a living.
14. Ask not, think not of caste.
15. Untouchability is a crime against God and man.
16. Freedom demands respect for the freedom of others.
17. Free India stands for World peace.
18. Correct addressing, what a blessing, saves us guessing.



INOCULATION PREVENTS  
CHOLERA & PLAGUE

रही जसकेलेंदु मरने मरने  
मरने मरने हे

These slogans reflect a variety of themes such as health, economic progress, art and culture, world peace, social justice etc. It may readily be seen, therefore, that these slogan postmarks can support and embellish a thematic stamp collection. Where the postmark is pictorial, it will further enhance the attraction of the display. The essential of the slogan is its topicality. And topicality is related to the period of its use, there is a great potential to develop the theme in the context of the nation's history as well as postal history. Once these aspects of slogan postmarks are borne in mind, it should not be difficult to find reasonable answer to the questions raised above.

#### SOME ATTRACTIONS OF THE INDIAN SLOGAN POSTMARKS :

There are several attractions about the slogan postmarks used by the post offices in India :

While many of them are uni-lingual, quite a few are bilingual. English, Hindi, Urdu, Bengali, Tamil, Malayalam and perhaps a few more languages find a place in these slogans.

A few of the postmarks are pictorial in addition. While most of the slogan postmarks before independence were used by the British Indian Post Offices, a few were used by the Post Offices of feudatory India such as Hyderabad, Cochin and Travancore.

#### RELATED TO SLOGAN POSTMARKS :

Once you collect slogan postmarks earnestly, and your collection starts growing, you would be faced with the problem of related collectable items. There are the meter slogans, pre-printed slogans on official stationery, instructional postmarks and labels on mail and special cancellations. What to do with them? You will be able to find your own answers to them easily when you reach that stage of collecting.

(Courtesy, Simla Philatelic Exhibition souvenir)

## EARLY BRITISH PAID STAMPS

By Mr. Samuel Graveson

It is common knowledge that prior to Rowland Hill's great reform most letters that were conveyed by the British Post Office were not prepaid, which meant the organisation of an elaborate system for the collecting of postage charges on the delivery of each particular letter. Such a system was only possible under a very restricted postal service, for every letter carrier carried with him a way bill on which had been recorded the amount he was responsible for collecting from every person he was given a letter or letters for. Rowland Hill in his famous pamphlet, "Post Office Reform", published in 1837, made a strong point of the advantages to be derived by prepayment of postage, but, strange though it now seems to us, the idea of prepayment did not at the time commend itself to Post Office officials, who persisted with the argument that such a proposal, if carried into effect, would complicate rather than simplify the work of the Post Office. They judged the matter by the experience they had with Paid letters under the old system. Henry tells us that "one section of Inland Office was known as the 'Paid Letter Office', the business of which was carried on in a separate room, the object being to prevent collusion between the clerks employed there and in the other branches of the Inland Office. Prepaid letters from country post towns were entered on a 'letter bill' enclosed in the mail bag under a heading 'Paid Letters', and these letters when the mail was opened were carried to the Paid Letter Room, where they were closely examined to ascertain that the postage charged upon them was correct. If the charge was found deficient, they were surcharged and marked with the stamp reading "MORE TO PAY" in circle. The principal work of this branch was in connection with the post paid letters handed in at the window of the Chief Office, London and the General Post receiving houses. These letters, if found correctly charged, were forwarded and franked with the 'Paid' stamp, which denoted that the postage to destination was prepaid. They were then made up in parcels of L5 and transferred to the Sorting Office, where they were again checked". An elaborate system certainly, involving much time and labour.

William Lewins, in his history of the Post Office, gives the information that in the last month of high charges (immediately prior to the introduction of Rowland Hill's reforms), "of two and a half million letters passing through the London office, nearly two millions were of paid to unpaid letters was entirely changed: the latter had run up to the enormous number of five and a half millions; the former had shrank to about half a million". In taking account of these figures it should be borne in mind that a temporary uniform 4d. rate of postage had been introduced on December 5th, 1839, and this doubtless had the effect of increasing the number of Paid letters sent during the first period mentioned by Lewins.

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Fig. 1.

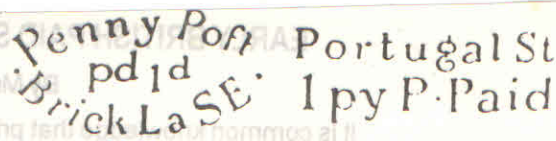


Fig. 2.



Fig. 3.



Fig. 4.



Fig. 5.

That some letters were sent Post Paid from the first introduction of postage charges by Thomas Witherings in 1635 we have ample evidence by endorsements on letters dating back to that period, but the Post Office does not appear to have taken any steps to certify that fact by means of a stamp until it took over William Dockwra's London Penny Post at the end of 1682. To Dockwra himself must be given the credit of introducing the first Paid stamps. Original specimens of Dockwra's own stamps are as rare among private collectors as almost anything in the realms of philately, for the number of known copies is less than the much esteemed Post Office Mauritius adhesives. Illustrations of London Penny Post stamps are shown in figs 1-3.

Here, perhaps, it should be said that there is another stamp which competes with Dockwra's Penny Post Paid stamps for the honour of being recognised as the first stamp impressed on letters to indicate that there were no postage dues to collect. I refer to the FRANCHES stamps used on letters from abroad as early as 1667. In some notes contributed to the Bulletin of the Postal History Society for November, 1942, Mr. Foster Bond suggests that these interesting stamps "were put on at the Foreign Branch of the Post Office to signify that a specific postal charge had been paid, or that the charge had been booked". He makes the alternative suggestion, because all the 37 examples he has seen are on merchants' letters, and many of the stamps superimpose a manuscript letter charge. Another suggestion is that all these letters were stamped as exempt from postage under the terms of the Post Office Act then in force, which permitted merchants to send letters concerning goods they accompanied free of postage, but if this was the case it is strange that examples have not been found on inland merchants' letters, but only on letters to and from the continent.

The first Paid stamp brought into use at the General Post Office was circular in form with the letters PD in centre (fig.6). The actual date of its introduction is uncertain, but it is presumed to be shortly after the Post Office Act of 1711. The use of the stamp appears to have been confined to the Foreign Office of the G.P.O., for all

the letters I have had through my hands bearing impressions of the PD stamp were addressed to America or places on the continent, to which postage had to be prepaid. Colonel Crouch, however, reports finding the stamp on inland letters after 1740. The impressions are always found in black.

After the Act of 1765 a new type of Paid stamp was brought into use (fig.7) and as a rule struck in red ink on letters for abroad. Really good clear impressions are seldom met with. Up to this time Paid letters for abroad invariably passed through the London Chief Office and so received, in addition to the Paid stamp, an impression of the dated Bishop mark. In 1787-88, however, the Paid stamp was combined with a new type of Bishop mark and the rule became permanent to distinguish such letters from the unpaids by impressing the stamps in red.

In 1794 some new types were experimented with for a short period only, but these did not displace the 1788 stamps, which, with slight variations, continued in use to the close of the century. Then, in 1801, the Milestone type (fig. 8) was introduced with capital letters A to G above the word Paid. They are found with both single and double frames on letters that were stamped for morning duty. A simplified circular dated stamp (fig.9) came into use at the same time for evening duty. Both of these types were adapted for use on letters long after the introduction of uniform penny post in 1840, for in the first instance there was no compulsion to buy an adhesive stamp and stick it on; a penny could be handed in with the letter the Post Office clerks did the stamping. I have wondered whether this compromise solution was to ensure that no members of the Post Office staff would suffer dismissal by Rowland Hill's reform. In 1840 additional Paid stamps were brought into use at many provincial towns. These form an interesting study in themselves. The abolition of the Franking privilege necessitated a change in the type of stamp used in Government departments, and for this an official Crown Paid was designed (fig.10).

On foreign letters a number of additional types will be found. In 1797 there appeared the very distinctive type shown in fig.12, and later a curved stamp in frame



Fig. 6.



Fig. 7.



Fig. 8.



Fig. 9.



Fig. 10.

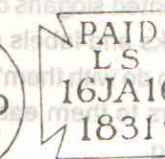


Fig. 11.



Fig. 12.



PAID AT  
LIVERPOOL

Fig. 13.

PAID  
AT  
MANCHESTER

Fig. 14.

PAID AT TAVISTOCK

Fig. 15.

PAID AT  
LEITH  
22  
DEC  
1820

Fig. 16.

PAID  
5 OC 5  
1811

Fig. 17.

**FOREIGN PAID.** In 1840 the Foreign Office ceased to function as a separate department of the G.P.O., but foreign letters continued to bear distinctive Paid stamps.

The establishment of the four Branch Offices in the Borough, and at Charging Cross, Lombardy Street and Vere Street in 1829, brought a new type of London Paid stamp into use.

All the stamps hitherto referred to (apart from the 1840 provisionals) were impressed at the London Chief Office, its four branches, and the Receiving Houses of the London District Post. It remains to chronicle the series of PAID AT stamps that were brought into use early in the 19th century at some provincial towns. The city of Liverpool (fig. 13) is to be credited with the greatest variety in types of these stamps and Tavistock (fig. 15) with the most ornamental design.

Both Edinburgh and Dublin vied with London in the use of Paid stamps. In the first instance the Chief Office at Edinburgh followed closely the 18th century designs introduced by London, but later Scotland developed its own distinguishing taste in design (fig. 16). The same applies to Dublin, which has the credit of being the first stamp-issuing office to introduce a Mermaid as part of the design of a stamp (fig. 17). The Mermaid was evidently intended as the figure head of the harp of the Irish Coat of Arms, which forms one of the designs of the adhesive stamps of th Irish Free State of 1922. (Courtesy, The Philatelist)

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### CALCUTTA EXHIBITION P.O.

By Shri. ASHOK KUMAR BAYANWALA

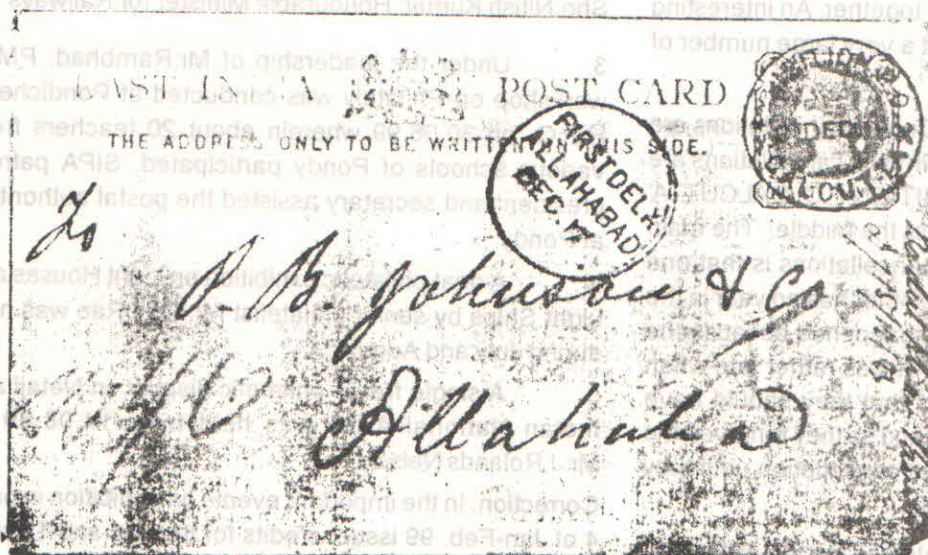
Calcutta exhibition P.O. cancellation is the first ever exhibition cancellation of India and it also has the distinction of being the second Special Cancellation of India after H.R.H. Prince of Wales P.O. of 1875. Simplex cancellations of the above post office have not been recorded in India Post since its Duplex cancellation of piece was recorded in a 1981 issue.

The full name of the exhibition was the 'CALCUTTA INTERNATIONAL EXHIBITION'. It was held in the premises of the Indian Museum and part of the Maidan west of it. It was devoted to the Arts, Crafts and Industries of India and was the first of its kind to be held in India. In 1882, then Lieutenant - Governor of Bengal, Sir.Rivers Thompson, formed the idea of having an exhibition in,Calcutta of the products of the Indian Empire when Mr.Jules Joubert, who had succesfully organised an exhibition in Australia, arrived in India in October. After receiving the consent of the Government of India and support of Local Governments, Sir.Rivers gave his sanction to the project and formed a General Committee to supervise it. The Bengal Government provided a sum of Rs.50,000/- for the collection of the samples of the products and manufactures of India, which was distributed among the different Local Governments, and a sum of Rs.10,000/- was given to the Executive Committee to collect exhibits from Bengal. Many exhibits were lent by Natives and Europeans of India. Officials representations were sent to the Exhibition by the colonies of Ceylon, Straits when as France, Germany, Italy, Belgium, Turkey, Japan and U.S.A. were represented by exhibitors, of which

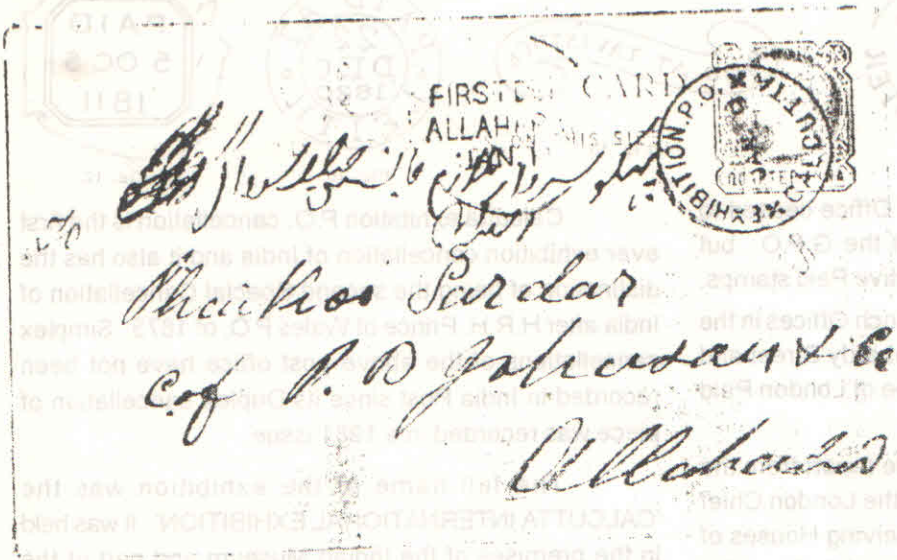
there were more than 2500 in all. The exhibits exceeded 100,000 in number.

The exhibition was formally opened by H.E. The Viceroy of India, Lord Ripon, on Tuesday the 4th of December 1883 at about 11 a.m., in the presence of the Duke and Duchess of Connaught. Queen Victoria wished with Medals, were distributed. The gross expenditure on the Exhibition amounted to 580,000/- and gross

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cancellation. This include a single circle cancellation with C in 8 bars, as usual. It has the year included in it. My example is dated 2 Feb. 84. All these cancellations are very scarce. The exhibition was officially closed by the then Viceroy on 10th March 1884.

After the Exhibition was over, the Government of Bengal was permitted to select and keep articles from the collections from various Provinces to the value of its advances. These selections and other articles purchased by the Executive Committee became the nucleus of the Art section of the Economic & Art Museum, established in the building adjoining the Imperial Museum, which was extended and enlarged as funds became available. Memories of the Calcutta Exhibition of 1883-84 can still be seen at the Calcutta Museum.

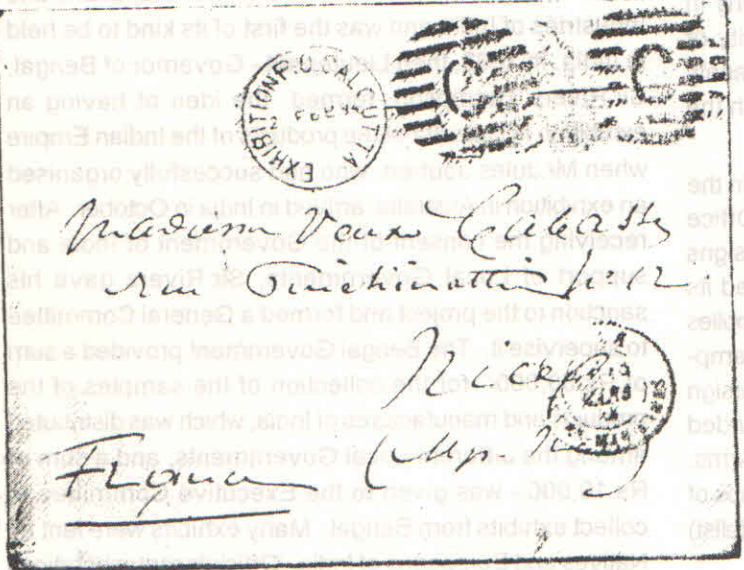
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**INDIA POST-TAMILNADU CIRLCE EVENTS & ACTIVITIES**

1. Philatelic Exhibition of Great Britain commemorative was held in May by Mr.S.K. Lakshmanan, Also displays on women by Mrs.Vimala Oliver and Animals by Mrs.P.Thomas were held.
2. A function was conducted on 15.06.99 at Coonoor to issue a special cover and cancellation for Nilgiri Mountain Railway under the chairmanship of Shri.Nitish Kumar, Honourable Minister for Railways
3. Under the leadership of Mr.Rambhad, PMG, workshop on Philately was conducted at Pondicherry H.P.O. on 30.06.99 wherein about 20 teachers from various schools of Pondy participated. SIPA patron, president and secretary assisted the postal authorities at Pondy.
4. A neat philatelic exhibition on Light Houses and Light Ships by senior philatelist Mr. D.H.Rao was held during July and August.
5. A single frame philatelic display on Netaji and Indian National Army was held from 14.08.99 by Mr.J.Rolands Nelson.

Correction: In the important events on exhibition in page 4 of Jan-Feb. 99 issue, credits for items 4 and 12 shall be given to Mrs.P.Thomas and not as reported.

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receipts to 503,000/- only. A report was published giving an exhaustive account of the circumstances under which the Exhibition was held and describing with much details the exhibits which were brought together. An interesting feature of the occasion was that a very large number of ladies visited the Exhibition.

Two Simplex and one Duplex cancellations are found of this Exhibitions. The Simplex cancellations are in a single circle reading 'EXHIBITION P.O. CALCUTTA' inside the rim and the date across the middle. The main difference in the two simplex cancellations is that one has the year in the date, and the other has no year in the date. It appears to me that this happened because the year slug was not changeable. It was rather late when the postal department realised that they should have made the year slug changeable and so they removed the year from the date and used the cancellation until they got a new one with the year in it.

My 1883 example is dated 83 Dec 16 (with year) and my 1884 example is dated Jan. 9(without year). The other cancellations thus prepared was a Duplex



# SKYLAB--WHAT IT MEANS TO MANKIND

- By Walter Froehlich

Skylab, the major project of the U.S. space programme in 1973, was the first large-scale attempt to determine systematically what uses man can and cannot make of space in the foreseeable future.

It was history's first manned mission almost entirely devoted to the extraction of knowledge from space, orbiting the earth once every 93 minutes at an altitude of 270 miles (435 Kilometres), astronauts inside Skylab looked down to study the earth, looked up to investigate the sun, looked outward to examine the universe, and looked inside their spacecraft to appraise their own physical condition while working over long periods in weightlessness.

They checked their psychological fitness during their long stay in strange surroundings. They tested how well the special furnishings in Skylab met the normal body needs and provided them with comforts and conveniences. They mixed and processed metals and chemicals to discover whether it might be possible to produce new kinds of alloys and medicines in weightlessness. The outcome of these experiments and experiences by the nine men who made up the three Skylab crews determined to a large extent man's role in space and the directions space exploration will take in the coming decades.

Skylab was designed to develop insights that could offer options for preserving nature's balances or

compensating for alterations while laying foundations for better human life.

By viewing the earth from Skylab, man learned more about earth's composition, behaviour and resources than he has gathered throughout his existence. That possibility has already been indicated by the unmanned Earth Resources Technology Satellite (ERTS), launched by the United States in 1972. With large sophisticated equipment, Skylab crews advanced earth observation techniques and instruments.

Through examinations of each other in weightlessness, Skylab astronauts discovered facts useful in preserving health and treating diseases on earth.

One reason why Skylab was more productive scientifically and technologically than earlier space missions was simply that Skylab crews spent more time in space -- a total of about 10,000 man-hours than U.S. astronauts have lived there in all earlier missions combined.

Nearly all the men's working hours during their 140 days inside Skylab was spent on scientific and technological pursuits with only little interruption for operating tasks. Once in orbit, they faced no such chores as navigation, mid-course corrections, or locating the proper landing site--familiar from Apollo moon-landing missions. The relatively large interior of Skylab permitted use of equipment too bulky for any of the earlier spacecraft. The 11,500 cubic feet (322 cubic metres) of living space--equal to the space in a small one-family home--is more than 50 times as much as in the Apollo command ship.

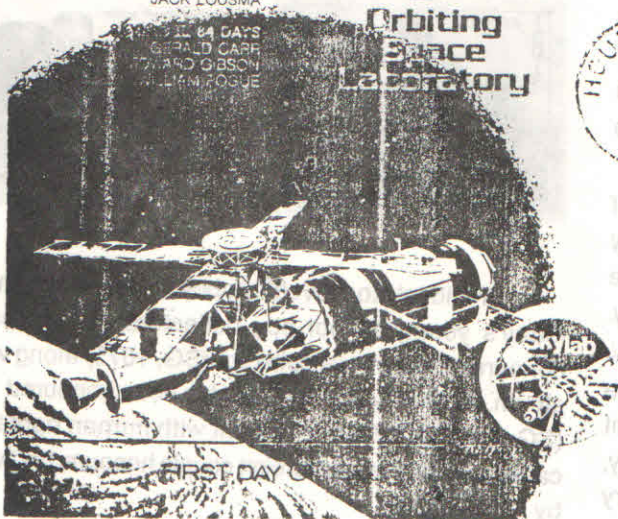
**SKYLAB I 28 DAYS**  
CHARLES CONRAD  
JOSEPH KERWIN  
PAUL WEITZ

**SKYLAB II 59 DAYS**  
ALAN BEAN  
OWEN GARRIOTT  
JACK LOUSMA

**SKYLAB III 71 DAYS**  
GERALD CARR  
TOMAS OGBORN  
WILLIAM ROGUE

## Skylab

Orbiting  
Space  
Laboratory



FIRST DAY OF ISSUE



Skylab was the first new manned U.S. spacecraft to be introduced in the 1970's the fourth generation of U.S. manned spacecraft. Building on experience with the one-man mercury craft in the early 1960's, the two-man Gemini craft of 1965 and 1966, and the three-man Apollo vehicle of the late 1960's and early 1970's, Skylab was the first facility to provide men truly with a temporary home in space.

Skylab's sleeping quarters, food preservation and preparation facilities, dining equipment and sanitary installations were variations of conventional furnishings adapted for use in weightlessness. With them Skylab was a forerunner of semi-permanent communities in space.

Through Skylab, man may gain greater control over nature and unprecedented opportunities to shape his world to his own needs and liking. Skylab stimulates a vision of a future in which man can design his destiny by the work of his own hand. Mastery of space may be the door to that vision, and Skylab may be a key to that door.

SKYLAB I 28 DAYS	SKYLAB II 59 DAYS	SKYLAB III 84 DAYS
CHARLES CONRAD	ALAN BEAN	GERALD CARR
JOSEPH KERWIN	OWEN GARRIOTT	EDWARD GIBSON
PAUL WEITZ	JACK LOUSMA	WILLIAM POGUE

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## JUNIOR CORNER

### ROOSEVELT - A KEEN PHILATELIST

Once stamp collecting was known as "Hobby of the kings". Yes, it was true. King George V of Great Britain and King Farook of Egypt were keen collectors. King George V collection is now in the possession of Queen Elizabeth II and in the philatelic world it is known as the 'Queen's collection'. Among the Presidents of countries, Franklin D. Roosevelt of United States America was a very serious collector from his school days. Also President Ford was an unexposed stamp collector.

President Roosevelt, the twenty sixth President of United States was born in 1882 and was brought up by his strong willed mother. Through proper schooling he came out as an undergraduate of the Harvard University.

Before he was forty, he became the Vice-Presidential candidate of the Democratic party. At the prime of his life he was struck down by polio. He fought a brave and determined fight against this disability, attained Presidentship of U.S.A. and steered the country successfully through the Second World War. At the height of glory, he died in 1945.

Roosevelt's love for philately and keenness in collecting can be found from his early letters to his dear and near. Generally children start stamp collecting at a very young age and FDR was no exception. In a letter written on April. 10, 1891 to his maternal uncle, we find, "..... Please tell uncle Will that if he has got any foreign stamps, I like to have them, as I have begun to make a collection". So, it seems that at the age of nine he started stamp collecting. Again on Oct. 11, 1896 he wrote to his parents, "Stamps are always acceptable". In 1907, when his mother was in Europe, Roosevelt wrote that "I have added quite a lot of stamps to my collection and would love it if you can bring me the new French stamps and the 2 Franc stamps too. Also the higher value German Stamps ...." In the same year he again wrote ".... I spent the afternoon with stamps which are now just a tremendous interest .... My interest in my collection is really great and I find it a pretty good one to use as a foundation".

It is this foundation which helped the President in his later years during the Second World War. He had the practise of referring his atlas to locate the places whose postmarks were on the covers he had collected.

During the Second World War soon after Japan declared war on USA and proceeded in its lightning victory over some pacific islands, President Roosevelt was discussing plans with Allied countries' military aides for the selection of a staying base for American troops. In the course of discussion Roosevelt rejected all the sites suggested by Walter Nash, New Zealand's Deputy Prime Minister and suggested Tongareva now known as Penrhyn islands, directly south of Hawaii. Walter Nash was astonished and questioned how a busy President knew such a remote place. President explained his hobby and his enhancement of geographical knowledge through stamps.



President Roosevelt's hobby - life is an example for today's young school boy collectors. India Post has honoured this famous collector (SG, 1075) along with his album. Incidentally his wife has also been honoured earlier (SG, 478) for her involvement with human rights. They can be said as the only foreign couple honoured individually by INDIA Post.

-Shri A.Rawoof, Member, SIPA.

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## Stop Press The Last Post

With a heavily saddened heart, we have to spell out the news of the expiry of one of our senior life member & secretary Mr. C. Sankaranarayanan (born 28.07.1929) on



the early hours of 20th Sept. 1999. As everybody knew he was one of the pillars of SIPA and it is an irreparable and unreplacable loss to the Association. He has been a member of the executive committee for few years, Secretary of the current committee and the Librarian of the Association for quite some time. His collecting interests were Emblems (with which he started) Tourism, Tamilnadu Army Postal Service, Postal History, Slogan Cancellations etc. His love for philately is so deep that he made all his off springs life members which includes his seven year old grand daughter also. May his soul rest in peace and the almighty give enough consolation to his family members.

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## China'99 World Stamp Exhibition

In Celebration of the 50th Anniversary of the People's Republic of China and the 22nd U.P.U. Congress, China's first FIP World Exhibition was held from 21 August in Beijing. 66 FIP member countries participated in the last world exhibition of this century. 3,322 frames of exhibits were on display which included 9 in the Championship Class, 128 in Traditional Class, 119 in Postal History Class, 36 in Postal Stationery, 33 in Aerophilately Class, 13 in Astrophilately Class, 88 in Thematic Class, 17 in Maximaphily Class, 13 in Revenue Class, 61 in Youth Classes and 24 in experimental class. In addition, there were 228 literature entries as well as 66 websites from all over the world. For the first time in history, China had 104 exhibits in various classes as well as 96 literature exhibits.

The Court of Honour was graced by the "First postage stamp" display from the Queen's collection, the third "Mauritius POST OFFICE Ball invitation" cover by David Feldman and the "Small One Dollar" Block of Four Red Revenue and other China Classics by Mr. Lam Man Yin. Other famous collections belonging to the FIP President Knud Mohr, Mr. Tay Peng Hian, Borje Wallverg, Surajat Gongvatana etc. were also shown.

The standard of the exhibition was high, 23 Large Gold metals, 142 Large Vemeils were awarded.

From India Shri Dhananjay Desai was nominated as National Commissioner for CHINA-99 World Philatelic Exhibition held at Beijing, China during 21 to 30 August 1999. He took 10 collections with him. The collections have won 1 G, 5 LV and 2 V awards there. Shri Dhananjay Desai and A.K. Bayanwala both have won LV for their collection on British India Postal Stationary (1856-1947) and Calcutta Postal Markings (1801-1900) respectively.

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## STORIES TO COLLECT STAMPS BANK BY POST

By HERMAN HERST JR.

When William Coltharp, a Utah banker, died in 1956 at the age of 72, the obituaries carried one novel item about the deceased that added something to United States Postal History.

It isn't often that an individual, even a banker, can make it necessary for Postal regulations to be changed through a simple act, but that is Coltharp's principal claim to fame.

Back in 1919, Coltharp decided to build a bank in Vernal, Utah and journeyed to Salt Lake City to place the order for the bricks. It was 175 miles between the two points, but since there was no direct mail route, mail actually had to travel 407 miles from Salt Lake City to Vernal. This wasn't too much of a matter of concern to Coltharp, when he discovered that by shipping the bricks by parcel post, he could save \$1.45 on each hundred pounds of bricks, a saving that ran to thousands of dollars on the complete bank.

Accordingly, Coltharp bought his bricks, packed them and turned them over to the Salt Lake City Post Office-tons and tons of them. Stamps were affixed, and the harried Post Master, after unsuccessfully appealing to Washington for help, started arrangements for getting them to Vernal. Travelling the 407 miles by rail road, trucks, and even horse and wagon, the bricks went first to Price, Utah, then to Mack, Colorado, and finally to their destination. Coltharp finally had his bricks in Vernal and a nice lot of cancelled Postage Stamps as well, which he could sell for a substantial sum to make in considerable saving even larger.

Washington was not long in reacting, and the Postal regulations were soon amended to make a repeat performance of the brick deal impossible. Today a Post Office can limit the parcel post which it receives; there are weight and size limitations which apply.

(Courtesy, The Philatelist)

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