



SIPA Bulletin

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EDITORIAL

Eleven years ago an erudite philatelist, Late Mr. P.M. Medhora made the following observations as President of the Empire of Indian Philatelic Society. How true those observations are even today? Let us ponder and see how best we can retrieve the lost ground.

- Editor, SIPA

INDIAN PHILATELY LACKS LUSTRE

P.M. Medhora

Having come in contact with most of the Indian philatelists of the old school and knowing their approach and interest to stamp collecting, we feel, the present day philatelists are far behind their old counterparts. Barring a few serious collectors, most of the stamp collectors used to collect whatever came their way and in doing so they were deriving pleasure as well as satisfaction. They had the passion and a curious inkling of meeting other philatelists and showing them what new items they acquired and such type of philatelic friendship know no bar between a rich and a poor stamp collector.

Leading and respectable philatelists like late C.D. Desai, N.D. Cooper, Jal Cooper, R.F. Stoney and R.F. Shroff to name a few were always ready to guide junior philatelists. We had the pleasure to meet C.D. Desai on a number of occasions, whereas with N.D. Cooper, R.F. Shroff and D.E. Wadia we used to discuss for hours together once or twice a month. Late D.E. Wadia who had written a series of articles on India 1854 issues was a keen student who acquired philatelic training under the expert advice and supervision of N.D. Cooper. Those giants had a mastery over other side lines of Indian philately, such as Indian postal history, early Indian cancellations and India used abroad. They were simply engrossed in the hobby forming collections in their own sweet way unmindful of winning an award or not. Actually they never aspired for a gold medal in spite of having fantastic material or the simple reason that the knowledge they had was their gold mine.

After the sad demise of the above stalwarts, many new faces came on the philatelic horizon and with the power of their purse, they have been able to form better collections, but, knowledgewise one cannot put them on par with the stalwarts of the old school who left behind wealth of knowledge for posterity. The present philatelic trend can be compared to a

rat-race, everyone trying to add only the the costly items by money power with the sole intention of winning a gold medal. In a way the present philatelic trend has made this once fascinating hobby nothing but a commercial proposition.

Prof. Einstein has rightly said, "The deeper we search, the more we find there is to know, and as long as human life exists I believe it will always be so." But we regret to observe that the present day award winners and so called prominent philatelists have never applied their minds on philatelic research in the right sense of the word so that they can be instrumental in promoting the hobby.

Within the last twenty years Indian philately has not made any substantial progress. There is nothing to boast about for winning gold medals at international stamp exhibitions by half a dozen Indian philatelists; what is important is, what worthwhile research they have made and what role they have played in promoting the hobby. In most of the philatelic meetings various suggestions are put forward but have we ever acted upon them? Some of the philatelists of middle order are at times greatly disappointed when their entries are not properly judged at competitive exhibitions. One disgruntled stamp collector one day asked us, "How is it that a couple of jury members who have never formed a collection of their own and even not capable to discuss with ease some of the points raised by philatelists find a place on a panel of Jury." Frankly we had no answer to his question.

PHILA - KOREA 2002

WORLD STAMP EXHIBITION

National Commissioner - Mr. G. Madan Mohan Das

2 - 11 AUGUST 2002

Eligible participants write for
Entry Application forms to

Mr. G. Madan Mohan Das

41, Perumal Mudali Street,
Sowcarpet,

Chennai - 600 079.

Phone : 539 0336

Closing Date for Entry : **31st August 2001.**

Our Second Sunday Meetings were held regularly where 30 members attended with President Shri. Balakrishna Das presiding. Mr. Ram Mohan spoke on "Gandhi, Chakra and Philately." Dr. Kulandaisamy gave a live demonstration of spinning using a chakra.

GEOLOGICAL SURVEY OF INDIA

1851 - 2001

4.03.2001

300

1 million



The Geological Survey of India (GSI) is the premier national organisation which provides basic earth science information to the country. Started in 1851 with the sole objective of locating coal reserves for the railways, the GSI

has over the years expanded its role and emerged into a multi-disciplinary organisation making significant contribution to the national mainstream.

The major functions of the GSI are locating mineral resources and generating and updating of geoscience information through ground, marine and air surveys. The organisation is also involved in the management of natural hazards like earthquakes, floods etc., providing geotechnical advice to all major civil engineering, communication and urban development projects, geoenvironmental resource appraisal and upgradation of geoscientific expertise through training.

During its 150 years of earth science activity, GSI has acquired a strong national geoscience database which contributes to meeting the demands of mineral / metal industries, power sector, agriculture and irrigation sector, engineering projects, communication; management of natural hazards and environmental degradation. GSI's activity also includes the Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ) of the seas and oceans surrounding India and the icy continent of Antarctica. Till date, more than 87 per cent of EEZ has been covered by reconnaissance sea bed mapping. GSI has contributed through geotechnical investigation towards the development of ports and harbours and in location of offshore structures.

Through GSI Training Institute, Hyderabad, training is imparted in various fields of geoscientific activity GSI is also interacting with various countries through bilateral collaborative/exchange programmes.

The GSI is now posed to meet the challenges of the 21st century by contributing its mite in the country's search for sustainable development in the drastically changing world economic order, by constantly upgrading its knowledge base and modernising its tools and techniques.

Theme : Science, Organisation

4 MARATHA LI BICENTENARY

06.03.2001

300

0.7 million

The Maratha Light Infantry is one of the oldest regiments of the Indian Army, famous for exploits and achievements that have exemplified the meaning of duty, honour and courage.

Formed as the 103rd Maharattas in 1768, the Regimental Group was awarded the title of 'Light Infantry' in 1922. Light

SIPA BULLETIN



Infantry was a corps d'elite, a special honour bestowed for proven merit. Lightly armed and equipped for speedy movement, their capabilities for swift reconnaissance and outflanking movements as well as counter-guerilla action were widely recognised.

The present 4th Battalion of the Maratha Light Infantry had its origin in the 2nd Battalion 8th Regiment raised in Mangalore in 1800.. The fighting spirit, steadfastness and total reliability of the Battalion was an asset to the British rulers, and the unit saw active service in Malabar (1800), Gujarat-Kathiwar (1850), Second Afghan War (1874-80) and Sudan (1885-1901). The unit also came out with flying colours in their action in Mesopotamia during the First World War. In World War II, the 4 Maratha LI put up a heroic defence at Shangshak (1944) in Burma in the face of numerous Japanese attacks.

In the post-independence era the 4 Maratha LI, contributed its energies to the wars that the country has fought as well as to peace-time operations. The Battalion etched its name in the battlefields of Rajasthan in the Indo-Pak wars of 1965 and 1971. In counter-insurgency operations, the unit did meritorious service beating series of hostile Naga ambushes successfully. The Battalion also successfully underwent the acid test of soldiering in the world's highest and most hazardous battle field, the Siachen Glacier. The unit had been deployed in Jammu and Kashmir, where they added one more brilliant page to their history by effectively battling militancy.

Theme : Army, Armed Forces.

**BHAGWAN MAHAVIRA
2600TH JANM KALYANAK**

06.04.2001

300

3 million



Bhagwan Mahavira, the 24th Tirthankara of the great Jain tradition was born in a royal family in the district of Vaishali in Bihar. His father, King Siddhartha was the ruler of this region and mother Trishala was the daughter of King Cetaka.

Mahavira's childhood name was Vardhamana. Even as a child, he was full of compassion and showed spiritual inclination. His sensitive and contemplative nature led him to explore the causes and remedies of the various ills that he saw in the society around him. After leading the life of a householder till the age of thirty, he abandoned the world in the search for truth and became an ascetic. He wandered from place to place for twelve years, leading a life of penance, austerity, self-discipline and self-purification. He attained omniscience (kewala-jnana or kaivalya) at the age of forty two, having found solutions for all the problems connected with life and the universe through deep meditation.

Thus, though kaivalya, he conquered misery and happiness. Because of this conquest he is known as Mahavira.

Mahavira preached the five great principles of non-violence, truth, absolute honesty, non-possession and celibacy. He gave the message of love and compassion towards all living beings. He held that salvation is nothing but eternal bliss which can be realised in this very existence by one's well directed efforts. He was of the view that man himself was the master of his destiny and every soul had the capability to rise to absolute perfection, the supreme position where it was free from the bondage of transmigration.

Ahimsa (non-violence) and Anekant (the theory of multiple facets of truth & reality) were central to Mahavira's teachings. He exhorted his followers not to kill, injure, enslave, torture or exploit any living being. In the strife-torn world of hatred and hostilities, aggression and unscrupulous exploitation, Jain teaching of Ahimsa not only towards human beings but towards life in all its forms, has a special significance. Non-violence in Jain philosophy has a much wider connotation than its literal meaning. It entails compassion, empathy, charity, universal friendliness and universal forgiveness.

Bhagwan Mahavira's teachings have an enduring relevance and if put into practice, they will not only add meaning to the life of individuals, but also make the world a much better place to live in.

Theme : Religion, Personality

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Yuri Gagarin had secretly harboured an ambition to join the space programme, ever since the Soviet Union announced their plans of sending a man to space. In 1959, he submitted a request to be considered for cosmonaut training and was selected. He underwent the extreme physical, mental and psychological rigours of the training in a calm and resolute manner and finished at the top. Finally he was chosen for the historic but dangerous voyage into outer space. Chief Designer Korolev, the head of the Soviet Space Programme commented later as,

"A good pilot is one who, in one minute of flight, can make enough observations, and draw enough conclusions, to keep an entire institute busy with them for a whole year. A bad pilot can fly for a whole week but only obtain enough information for an hour's work. What pleased us so much about Gagarin was that in 108 minutes he was able to see a great deal and enrich science with valuable information and conclusions."

Following his return to earth, Yuri Gagarin received a hero's welcome, not just in his country, but all over the world. He embarked on a world tour as an ambassador of goodwill. Gagarin, the quintessential cosmonaut wanted to reach the stars again, and began training for the first Soyuz flight in 1967. However, he died in an unfortunate accident on March 27, 1968, when the jet he was test piloting crashed. In honour of his great contribution to space exploration, a crater on the moon was named after him.

Theme : Space, Science, Famous people

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YURI GAGARIN

12.04.2001

1500

0.8 million



On April 12, 2001, the world celebrates the 40th anniversary of man's first space flight and the memory of Yuri Alexeyevich Gagarin (1934-1968), who became the first man to escape the gravity well of planet earth and orbit the earth, travelling in the space ship Vostok 1.

Gagarin hailed from Klushino, a small village 100 miles west of Moscow, and his parents were workers in a Kolkhoz (collective farm). As a teenager, his ambition was to become a pilot. He studied maths and physics in the secondary school and went on to join a trade school where he became a foundryman. The works of Longfellow, Victor Hugo, Charles Dickens and the Russian rocket pioneer Konstantin Tsiolkovsky influenced him in his formative years. Later he joined the technical school in Saratov, where he also got the chance to join a flying club and to realise his dream of becoming a pilot. He joined the Soviet Air-Force and went to Orenburg Aviation School, where he learned to fly MIGs. It was at the Aviation School that he met Valentina Ivanovna Goryacheva whom he married later. In 1957, at the age of 23, Yuri graduated with top ranking honours from Orenburg and became a Lieutenant in the Soviet Air-Force.

SIPA BULLETIN

NEW FIP EVENTS - NATION'S CUP AND WORLD STAMP CHAMPIONSHIP!

by Knud Mohr

The Business Design Centre in London offered a perfect setting for the first experimental NATION'S CUP which took place during the first weekend of March 2001.

The competing countries were Portugal, Belgium, France and United Kingdom and I want to express my sincere thanks to the participants for all their effort shown in connection with this event.

It was an exciting competition with only 70 points (out of 1100) between the winner team - United Kingdom - and number 4, Portugal, it was a close race, which gave the audience at the award ceremony an exciting happening while the jury assistant and the jury president were disclosing the results class by class on a scoreboard.

For the organisers of the next experimental NATION'S CUP, which will take place in Finland at the beginning of November 2001, the trip to London was not only to visit the current event, but also to present their ideas to the members of the FIP's project group for Nation's Cup (NC).

The NC in Finland will be quite different from the one in London, but that is the reason for having experimental events before FIP concludes the final rules for the realisation of NCs.

FIAP will arrange a NC within the next 9 - 12 months which

is a positive sign for the future of the NC and I hope that also FIAP will be able to present their ideas of this kind of competition, so that FIP can finalise the regulations before June 2002.

When the Nation's Cup competitions, after the evaluation of the experimental events, are running smoothly and regularly, it should become an event to be introduced by FIP members with competitions between clubs to find the participants of the National Team.

The participants and the Organising Committee of the Nation's Cup in London provided a fine start for this new competition, thank you - GOOD LUCK to the next organiser to stage a Nation's Cup.

The FIP Board met in London at the same time as the NC was carried through, which gave the Board members the opportunity to see a Nation's Cup. All Board members were impressed by the willingness to back-up our new ideas for competitive exhibitions and this in turn strengthened the determination of the FIP Board to continue with the other project, the World Stamp Championship. The Project Group for the WSC met at Calcutta and Hong Kong and I am pleased to inform that in London and at the other meeting places, the concept for the WSC was received with positive interest.

During the next three months the group will be concentrating its effort on the negotiations with Singapore Post for the organisation of the first World Stamp Championship in Singapore in 2004 and the FIP Congress at the same time.

Starting with this issue of FLASH, we will have News for you on the development of both new competitive exhibitions the NC and WSC in every issue of FLASH. With the development in full process there will be more than enough new data to be published. And this means a lot of work for all those involved in the projects.

The first steps to be taken immediately are among others the question of "How and where to qualify for the WSC" - a very pertinent question which will require the full commitment of the Continental Federations. At the same time the jury training has to be tackled and we envisage that special seminars will be organised at every World - and International exhibitions starting in 2002.

Preparations and discussions with our partners within the philatelic industry will also begin now, but just wait - you will find more information in this regard in the next issue of FLASH.

With the launching of the Nation's Cup in London the new Era has started. However, the success of the new type of competitive exhibitions depends on your support - we need encouragement and assistance from all of you!

(Courtesy : Flash, March 2001)

TIEPEX 2001 by SIPA Exhibition

The South India Philatelists' Association and the Department of Posts will conduct a national level stamp exhibition 'TIEPEX 2001', highlighting the progress made in the fields of transport, Information Technology, entertainment and pollution control.

The four-day exhibition starts on September 20 at Lalit Kala Akademy, Greams Road. Seminars and competitions will be conducted for school children too. Details can be had from SIPA Ph.: 044-5390336.

WORLD STAMP CHAMPIONSHIP (WSC)

PRELIMINARY CONCEPT

by koh Seow Chuan, FIP Vice-President

The World Stamp Championship will be a stamp competition at the highest level, akin to the Olympic Games in Sports. It will be held every two years, on an even year, coinciding with the holding of the FIP Congress.

The General Regulations of the FIP for Exhibitions (GREX) and General Regulation for the Evaluation of Exhibits (GREV) as well as the Special Regulations and Guidelines for Evaluation of Exhibits (SREV) will be used as a basis for the Special Regulations for the World Stamp Championship.

The World Stamp Championship will have 24 competitive Classes. Preliminary Competitions will be held by the Continental Federation one to two years prior to the WSC and each Continental Federation may nominate up to 8 entries in each Competitive event. Nominations are to be submitted 8 months prior to the WSC.

Only 3 medal levels will be awarded in each event.

GOLD SILVER BRONZE

There will be FOUR Grand Awards; ONE Grand Award for the Best Exhibit of the WSC, ONE Grand Award for the best presented exhibit, ONE Grand Award for the most entertaining exhibit, and ONE Grand Award for the best youth exhibit.

In each competitive class the Organizing Committee together with the FIP Consultant will have the right to accept or reject an entry without assigning any reasons whatsoever. Decisions are final. All submissions of entries are to be made through the Continental Federations.

The World Stamps Championship will be a 5-day exhibition with Judging of the exhibits carried out on the first 4 days. (As against current 7-day and 10-day exhibitions) It is estimated the total number of competitive frames will be 2,000 sides.

COMPETITIVE CLASSES

For the first World Stamp Championship the following Competitive Classes were determined:

1. TRADITIONAL CLASSIC 19th Century to Early 20th Century.
2. TRADITIONAL SOVERIEGN 20th Century to the 1950s
3. TRADITIONAL MODERN From the Second Half of the 20th Century.
4. POSTAL HISTORY CLASSIC (as 1)
5. POSTAL HISTORY SOVEREIGN (as 2)
6. POSTAL HISTORY MODERN (as 3)
7. REVENUES CLASSIC (as 1)
8. REVENUES SOVEREIGN (as 2)
9. THEMATIC All Periods
10. THEMATIC From the Second Half of the 20th Century

11. POSTAL STATIONERY All Periods
12. POSTAL STATIONERY MODERN From the Second Half of the 20th Century.
13. AEROPHILATELY All Periods
14. ASTROPHILATELY
15. MAXIMAPHILY ALL Periods
16. YOUTH*
17. YOUTH MODERN**
18. LITERATURE TRADITIONAL
19. LITERATURE PERIODICALS
20. LITERATURE CATALOGUES
21. LITERATURE ELECTRONIC
22. PICTURE POSTCARDS CLASSIC + 19th Century to Early 20th Century
23. PICTURE POSTCARDS SOVEREIGN + + 20th Century to the 1950s
24. OPEN CLASS ALL Periods
25. OPEN CLASS MODERN From Second Half of the 20th Century

* Youth is defined as an Under 21 years as at 1.1.2004 (For 2004 Exhibition)

** Youth Modern is an exhibit containing entirely philatelic items from the second half of the 20th Century.

+ and + + These two competitive classes are to be tried out at Continental Exhibitions in 2002 and 2003 before being confirmed as competitive Classes in WSC.

NATION'S CUP LAUNCHED IN LONDON

The first experimental Nation's Cup, organised by the A.B.P.S. and the British Philatelic Trust with over 200 frames of World Class Exhibits from Belgium, France, Great Britain and Portugal, was carried through during the Spring Stampex in London between 28th February and 4th March 2001.

FIP is grateful to Great Britain for starting the Nation's Cup and we thank the organisers, specially Dr. Alan Huggins and Francis Kiddle, for their courage to try something new.

Two exhibits from each country participating were required in Postal History, Thematic, Traditional and Youth disciplines, with one in each of three other classes chosen from Aerophilately, Astrophilately, Maximaphily, Postal Stationery and Revenue. The exhibits were entered as a team by country and the material had to be of the respective countries of the exhibitors i.e. Belgium, France, Portugal and Great Britain Six jurors from neutral countries (Egil Thomassen, Norway, Erik Hvidberg Hansen, Denmark, Wolf Hess, Germany, Ingolf Kapelrud, Norway, Juhani Olamo, Finland and Jos Wolff, Luxembourg) and an assistant to the jury from Great Britain (Francis Kiddle) were invited for the judging. The jury found it a good experience to go across to the other disciplines and the possibility to learn more about the different philatelic classes.

At the awarding ceremony for the first Nation's Cup, Mr. Egil Thomassen announced class by class the results and the public was eagerly awaiting the final result. The winning country was Great Britain but the results of the other participating countries were very close. President Mohr presented the Nation's Cup to the winner and medals to all participating exhibitors who were present or to the respective Commissioner. The results of the first Nation's Cup were as follows:

Class	Belgium	France	Portugal	U.K.
Traditional	170	177	154	184
Thematic	172 (342)	176 (353)	183 (337)	182 (366)
Postal History	167(509)	166(519)	166(503)	173(539)
Youth	146(655)	166(685)	153(656)	153(692)
Others	239 (894)	259(944)	231(887)	265(957)

1. Great Britain 957 Points

2. France 944 Points

3. Belgium 894 Points

4. Portugal 887 Points

President Mohr underlined that with a difference of only 70 points between the first and the fourth participating country it was indeed a very balanced competition.

NEXT EXPERIMENTAL NATION'S CUP IN FINLAND

Finland has indicated their interest to organise the next Nation's Cup and Sweden together with Italy have agreed to participate. At a meeting held in London with representatives from Finland (Mr. Jussi Tuori), Sweden (Mr. Hasse Brockenhuus von Lowenhielm) and Jonas Hallstrom, FIP President Knud Mohr, Director Druce and Secretary General ML Heiri the concept for the next Nation's Cup was discussed.

The competition is planned to take place at the Helsinki Fair Centre on 3rd November 2001 and the following concept was agreed:

Classes, exhibits and composition of teams

Four mandatory classes shall be represented in the NC; Traditional, Postal History, Thematic and Youth.

In each class, two exhibits, each of three frames shall be displayed. Above that, another two exhibits shall be displayed. The team are free to choose from the other F.I.P. classes; Postal Stationery, Aerophilately, Astrophilately, Revenue and Maximaphily.

Each team consists of 5 team-members and one team-leader. The team-leader should preferably be a member of the team (exhibitor). One of the exhibits from each class shall be represented by its exhibitor (owner) in the team. That exhibitor also presents the other exhibit in his/her class.

The exhibits shall be displayed for the public in frames. The presentation in front of the public shall be done by one of the team-members of each class. The displayed exhibits shall

be presented in one of the official F.I.P. languages. The public presentation shall be done in English.

During the time the exhibits are displayed in the frames, a team member shall be present giving information to the public i.e. concerning the exhibit, the exhibitor and/or the team.

Jury and judging

The NC shall have a jury of 5 jurors - one from each participating country and two neutral jury members appointed by the F.I.P. one of the latter will be appointed as chairman of the jury.

The judging will be done in two steps. First the regular judging of the exhibits displayed in frames. Secondly the judgement of the official presentation on stage.

The points are given as follows:

Criteria 1	Treatment and Importance	2.0 points
Criteria 2	Knowledge, Research and and Personal study	3.0 points
Criteria 3	Material (Rarity and Condition)	3.0 points
Criteria 4a	Presentation (displayed in frames)	1.0 points
Criteria 4b	Presentation for public	1.0 points
Total points per exhibit		10,0 points
Total points per Team		100,0 points

Finances

The participating teams cover all travelling expenses to Finland. The host country covers all expenses for the stay in Helsinki and the organisation of the competition.

Awards

Awards shall be given to the winner of the NC (a first prize). All competitors shall be presented with medal/diploma for participation.

(Courtesy : Flash, March 2001)

THE ROYAL PHILATELIC COLLECTION

by John B. Marriott, MVO, RDP, FRPSI

In 1864 some of the younger members of the Royal Family had started to form a collection of postage stamps and a reprint of the first stamp of Great Britain, the one penny black of 1840, was made specially for them.

It is not known exactly who these members of the Royal Family were, but one was almost certainly the Duke of Edinburgh (uncle of Prince George of Wales) who later became a keen collector. For the ten years before his death in 1900, he was Honorary President of the Philatelic Society, London, as the Royal Philatelic Society was then called.

Prince George of Wales (later King George V) is said to have owned his interest in philately to his uncle; certainly the Duke of Edinburgh made reference to Prince George as a stamp

collector in the course of his address when opening the first London Philatelic Exhibition on 19 May 1890.

Shortly before the Duke of Edinburgh died, his collection was presented to the Duke of York, as Prince George had then become.

A small number of stamps in the Royal Collection can be traced back to these earlier days.

In 1890 Prince George set out for the West Indies and North America in command of HMS Thrush and during this voyage, and on many subsequent trips to other parts of the Empire, he was continually looking for land obtaining stamps for his collections.

Prince George was a general collector in his early days, but soon found this was too big a field to cover and decided to confine his collection almost entirely to the unused stamps of Great Britain and the British Empire.

In March 1893 Prince George, now Duke of York, expressed a wish to join the Philatelic Society London, of which his uncle was Honorary President. With acclamation, he was elected Honorary Vice-President. On his marriage later in the year, fellow-members of the Philatelic Society, London, gave him an album of postage stamps as a wedding present. Over 100 members, many from overseas, responded to the invitation to contribute to this present and some fifteen hundred varieties were added to the Duke's collection as a result.

From his earliest day, the Duke of York was always willing to do anything in his power to help his fellow collectors. He also often sent new acquisitions along to meetings of the Philatelic Society so that they could be passed round. On one occasion he sent a message expressing the great interest he had in the work of the Society and the pleasure it afforded him to lend stamp from his collection.

In 1896 the Duke of York was graciously pleased to accept a more executive position in the Society and became its President, a position he held until his accession as King, when he became patron.

King George V proved to be a very able philatelist. He had an excellent understanding of the technique of stamp production and studied both the stamps and also articles written about them in the publications of The Royal Philatelic Society. As a result he acquired a first-class knowledge of the issues of the British Empire.

He was also an enthusiastic and astute collector. He recognized rarity and made every effort to obtain the rarest stamps at the first opportunity, realizing he might well not have a further chance for very many years. His flair in this direction was amply borne out by the fact that he had by 1904 acquired both the 1d and 2d post Office Mauritius of 1847. These were the first stamps issued by the Colonial post Office and are of the greatest rarity and desirability - probably the most prized stamps that any collector could wish to acquire. The superb unused example of the 2d was in fact bought at an auction in 1904 for a record price.

King George V was also much interested in stamp design and the collection is very strong in stamp-sized artists' sketches.

These were submitted for the king's approval and when they had been used by the printers for engraving the die making plates and matching colours, they were returned for inclusion in the collection. He also had a particular liking for the issued stamps in unused blocks of four, and he set a fashion for collecting in this way.

On 25th June 1972 King George V, as Colonel-in-Chief, presented Standards to the Life Guards and the Royal Horse Guards, on the Horse Guards Parade, London.

A Daily Mail photograph was taken on this occasion showing His Majesty wearing Field Marshal's uniform and mounted on Anzac.

In view of the association of Anzac with the Australian and New Zealand Army Corps, King George V specially chose the photograph as the basis for the design for the Silver Jubilee stamps of the Australian Commonwealth.

The black pen and ink drawing was then made from the photograph, and it was from this artist's drawing that the die was engraved and the printing plates produced.

On many occasions he told the great benefits which he had derived from collecting and of the immense relief which he was able to find from his arduous duties by forgetting affairs of state for a time with his stamps. For some 30 years, whenever he was in London, he devoted time on three afternoons a week to his stamp collection.

The collection grew in King George's lifetime to some 325 volumes, each containing about 50 pages. The two questions most frequently asked are how many stamps there are and how much are they worth? These questions cannot be answered because no philatelist wastes his time counting his stamps and nobody could value the collection satisfactorily. It would of course be feasible to put a valuation on items that do appear on the market even if only seldomly, but it would not be possible to value unique items for which the market has never been tested. It would be a difficult matter even to guess at the value for a unique set of drawing of proofs, but when it is realized that such items are present in the majority of volumes, the task becomes quite impossible.

As regards, numbers, a more reasonable question would

**This Day That Age. From the pages of
The Hindu dated May 30, 1951**

The dutiful mail-runner

Mr. Jairamdas Doulatram, Governor of Assam, related a recent story of dutifulness of a dak-runner at the cost of supreme sacrifice. He said a man-eater was spotted on the route of the runner. Despite warning that the tiger had carried off some villagers the previous day, the mail-runner said he could not neglect his duty and off he went to the post office. Failing to stop him, the villagers persuaded the village watchman to accompany him. But, luck betrayed the runner. Even as the beast carried him off, the dutiful runner threw his sacred trust to the watchman to be deposited at the post office in safety.

be to ask how many stamps are wanted for the Collection and the answer would be very few indeed.

King George VI showed a considerable interest in postage stamps, though he had not the specialized knowledge of his father, and soon after his accession he indicated his appreciation of his father's hobby by succeeding him as Patron of The Royal Philatelic Society. The Collection was continued in Blue albums in contrast to the Red ones for the earlier stamps.

The Collection of the present reign is housed in Green albums. The earlier issues were still often recess printed, the dies having been engraved from stamp-size artists' drawings, so there is still a fine showing of these miniature works of art.

With the advent of photographic methods of production, however, and with the greater frequency of issues, artists' designs are usually proofed in stamp form before they are submitted for choice or approval. For modern issues, therefore, these essays have taken the place of the stamp-sized artists' designs.

The opening display each season at The Royal Philatelic Society, London is of material from the Royal Collection. This was a custom started shortly after the First World War. It was maintained by King George VI and is continued today by The Queen. The Queen visited the Centenary Exhibition of The Royal Philatelic Society on 14 April 1969.

A selected portion of the collection is also exhibited abroad at some of the major international stamp Exhibitions.

The Collection is under the care of Keeper of the Royal Philatelic Collection. Mr. J.A. Tilleard was The Duke of York's first philatelic adviser and he was succeeded in 1913 by Sir Edward Bacon. Sir Edward died in 1938, shortly after King George VI came to the throne, and he was followed by Sir John Wilson. Sir John retired thirty-one years later and was succeeded in 1969 by the present Keeper of the Collection.

Part of the Royal Philatelic Collection exhibited by gracious permission of Her Majesty The Queen at the Ausipex 84 are the following.

Frame 1

NEW SOUTH WALES

1850 Id. 'Sydney Views' including a block of four unused, previously in the Duveen Collection and a reconstruction of the twenty five types, all from plate 1.

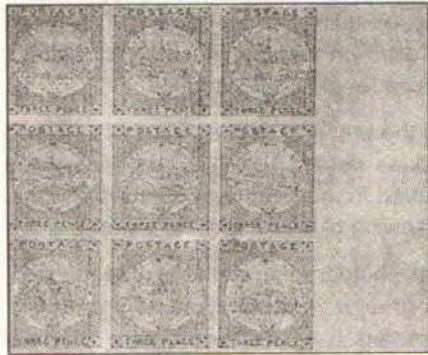
2d. essay engraved by Robert Claytonanda proof impression of stamp No. 19 of plate 1 engraved by John Carmichael. This was the first position on the plate to be

Extract from The Hindu dated March 27, 2001

**Contributors for Gujarat earthquake relief
Contributions of Rs. 5,000 and above**

South India Philatelists' Association Chennai - 5,010

engraved and, when it had been approved, John Carmichael engraved the other twenty three so as to complete the printing plate.



3d. block of nine unused, another item from the Duveen Collection.

In 1849 New South Wales passed legislation specifying that a system of compulsory pre-payment of postage would come into operation 1 January 1850 and from

that date postage stamps would be used to denote that the sender of a letter had prepaid the postage involved.

It was decided to issue three stamps in 1d, 2d and 3d denominations which would meet requirements for the three basic postal charges mentioned in the legislation for letters of up to a half ounce (14 grams) in weight - 1d for letters posted in Sydney for delivery to city addresses, 2d for letters to be delivered to inland addresses and 3d for ships' mail., with any inland postage being additional.

The Central feature of the stamp design (common to all three stamps) is the Great Seal of New South Wales. The design of the Great Seal which was first used in 1791, supposedly incorporated a view of Sydney and as a result, collectors refer to the first New South Wales stamps as the "Sydney Views". The scene on the Great Seal represents convicts landing at Botany Bay being received by "Industry", in the form of an allegorical female, directing the attention of the convicts to a hill where oxen are ploughing and a town has been established.

An interesting feature of the "Sydney Views" is that New South Wales is identified in the design only by the inscription *Sigillum Nov. camb. Aust.* - an abbreviation of the Latin words meaning New South Wales.

The printing plates for the "Sydney Views" were the work of three Sydney engravers - Robert Clayton (1d stamp) John Carmichael (2d) and Harry Jervis (3d). There was no expertise available in the colony which would permit transferring multiple impressions of a master die, using a hardened roller, to a softened, metal printing plate. It was, therefore, unnecessary to engrave, separately, each of the impressions directly on to the printing plate. This meant that each stamp oval frame which incorporated the denomination and "Van Diemen's Land" (Tasmania was known as Van Diemen's Land until the beginning of 1856) The 1d stamp design was a conventional, rectangular shape but the 4d was octagonal in format, possibly inspired by the British 10d and 1/- embossed, octagonal stamps issued in 1847. The engraving of the Queen's head is rather crude, but Charles Coard evidently possessed some engraving ability as the latticework in the background is skillful and there is remarkable consistency of detail between each separately

engraved impression on the plate.

Printing of the stamps took place in the office of the Courier newspaper during September 1853. The 1d stamp was printed in blue and the 4d stamps in orange, although in the case the ink ranges from a pale yellow to a bright orange red. The gum applied to the stamps was manufactured by a local chemist, Henry Hinsby. Distribution of the stamps to post offices took place on 12 October 1853, to provide the public with time to purchase the stamps before their use came into operation on 1 November 1853.

1854 Water marked double lined numerals of value:

2d. block of thirty unused with margins on three sides, the one on the left showing the scroll ornament.

3d. block of twenty unused with similar margins.

1859 Original sketch by T.W. Levinge for a circular 5/- design and Edward Henry Corbould's watercolour drawing from which Fredrick A. Heath engraved the die; four photographic reproductions with Corbould's manuscript instruction to the engraver.



Frame 2 QUEENSLAND

1860 Imperforate first issue 1d. block of four unused, previously in the Ferrari Collection; 2d. die proof and the issued stamp in strips of three unused and used; 6d unused

1860 -61, 1/- die proof; pull from the die for the stamp inscribed 'REGISTERED' taken before the corners had been removed; 3d. die proof.

In 1860 Queensland became the last Australian colony to issue its own stamps. This was a consequence of Queensland

being part of New South Wales until December 1859, when it was created as a separate colony. While it was part, New South Wales stamps were used in Queensland.

Shortly after the new colony was established, the authorities in Brisbane promulgated new postal regulations and took steps to obtain a supply of new stamps from England. Early in 1860 an order was sent to the London agents appointed to represent Queensland's interest Messers. F. Mangles & Co. to arrange for a supply of stamps in denomination of 1d, 2d, 3d, 6d and 1/- as well as a further stamp for use on registered letters. The 1d, 2d, and 3d stamps were intended for use on letters up to half an ounce to be delivered to town, inland and overseas addresses respectively, and the 6d and 1/- stamps prepaid heavier letters.

The task of printing the first Queensland stamps was awarded to Perkins Bacon & Co. The English firm was instructed to prepare designs similar to the current 6d Tasmanian stamp (Australasian stamp catalogue Nos. 6 and 6a) and to print each denomination in a distinctive colour. The Tasmanian stamp featured the "Chalon" portrait of Queen Victoria, which was based on a full length portrait of the Queen of Alfred Chalon in about 1838.

Perkins Bacon & Co. were also asked to expedite the printing of the stamps and, if necessary, to consign only part of the order to avoid missing the monthly mail to Australia (in those days the mail between England and Brisbane took about 8 weeks). Supplies of the first three stamps printed (1d, 2d, and 6d) were despatched before they could be perforated as well as a small supply perforated 1d and 2d stamps to meet the first available mails. Consequently, the postal authorities in Brisbane had perforated imperforated stocks of the 1d and 2d stamps and imperforated stocks only of the 6d stamp which were released for sale on 1 November 1860 - the date selected for the introduction of Queensland stamps and the discontinuation of New South Wales stamps. Perforated supplies of the 6d stamps were issued a fortnight later and by April 1961, the remaining stamps on order (3d, 1/- and the Registration stamps) had been placed on sale.

Frame 3

SOUTH AUSTRALIA

1855 1d. 2d. 6d. unused; 1/- violet prepared for use but not issued, and the same stamp obliterated 'CANCELLED' between bars. The latter was one of the six given by Perkins Bacon to the Rowland Hill family in August 1861.

1859 First rouletted issue:

1d. and 1/- unused; 1d. 2d. and 6d. used on a cover of FE 18, 1860.

Following the adoption of legislation in South Australia providing for the introduction of prepayment of postage, the colonial authorities in Adelaide took steps to obtain a supply of postage stamps from England.

In May 1853, an order was forwarded from Adelaide to the Agent - General for the colonies in London. Mr. Edward Barnard, for one million 2d stamps to be supplied, together with

the plates and a printing press for further supplies to be produced locally in Adelaide. As with the first stamp issue of Western Australia, the production of South Australia's first stamp was given to Perkins Bacon & Co. In April 1854, a second order was placed with Perkins Bacon & Co. for 200,000 1d stamps and 500,000 6d stamps for South Australia.

The design of the first South Australian stamps (which was common to all denomination) featured the Queen's portrait in a circular frame set within a patterned background. Since Perkins Bacon & Co. produced stamps for all British colonies as well as a number of foreign countries, the firm had a wide range of existing engravings which could be utilised for the production of new stamp dies. Interestingly, the Queen's head was taken from a New South Wales stamps issue of 1854 and the patterned background was borrowed from the first stamp issue of Chile (1853).

The consignment of 2d stamps was received first and placed on sale in South Australia on 1 January 1855. The supply of 1d and 6d stamps was not received in Adelaide until October 1855, 21 months after the order had been forwarded to London. The explanation for the delay conveyed by Perkins Bacon & Co. to the authorities in Adelaide was unanticipated increases in stamp printing for the British Post Office and the consequent relegation of colonial stamp production to lower priorities. The late arrival of the 6d stamps, in particular, had caused stocks of 2d stamps to be heavily depleted. The new 1d and 6d stamps were first issued on 26 October 1855.

Frame 4

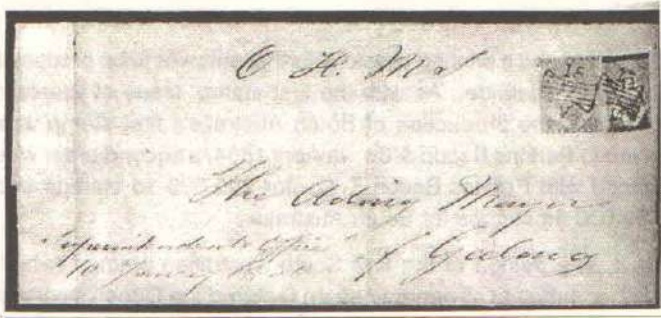
TASMANIA



1853 1d., block of four early impression and vertical strip of four late impression, both unused; a reconstruction of the sheet of twenty - four mostly early impressions.

1854. Water colour drawing of the head of Queen Victoria prepared for the stamps of Tasmania. The head was subsequently used for the stamps of Bahamas, Grenada, Natal, and Queensland.

1855 1d. 2d. 4d. die proofs and issued stamps including remarkably fine unused examples of each denomination; also the set obliterated 'CANCELLED' between bars.



Legislation to provide for the use of postage stamps to prepay mail was passed by Tasmania's Legislative Council in 1853. "An Act to Regulate the Conveyance and Postage of Letters" specified that the new postage rates for half ounce (14) letters would be 1d for letters posted and delivered within the limits of the same town, 4d for intra-colonial and overseas mail.

The task of producing the colony's first stamps was given to Messrs. H. & C. Best, the proprietors of the Courier newspaper. Charles Coard, who worked at the Treasury, was commissioned to engrave the printing plate. Like the "Sydney View" stamps of New South Wales, the first Tasmanian stamps were individually engraved direct on to the printing plates and, as a consequence, each stamp bears its own distinctive design characteristics.

Both the 1d and 4d stamp designs featured Queen Victoria's head enclosed in an oval frame which incorporated the denomination and "Van Diemen's Land" (Tasmania was known as Van Diemen's Land until the beginning of 1856). The 1d stamp design was a conventional, rectangular shape but the 4d was octagonal in format, possibly inspired by the British 10d and 1/- embossed, octagonal stamps issued in 1847-48. The engraving of the Queen's head is rather crude, but Charles Coard evidently possessed some engraving ability as the lattice work in the background is skillful and there is remarkable consistency of detail between each separately engraved impression on the plate.

Printing of the stamps took place in the office of the Courier newspaper during September 1853. The 1d stamp was printed in blue and the 4d stamps on orange, although in the latter case the ink ranges from a pale yellow to a bright orange red. The gum applied to the stamps was manufactured by a local chemist, Henry Hinsby. Distribution of the stamps to post offices took place on 12 October 1853, to provide the public with time to purchase the stamps before their use came into operation on 1 November 1853.

**Frame 5
VICTORIA**

1850 1d. and 3d from Ham's first printing used on a cover bearing the date stamp Jan 11 1850, 2d from stones A and B unused and an almost complete reconstruction of the thirty types of the 3d. first printing including an unused top marginal block of three, but lacking numbers 1, 3, 5, 10 1856-58 Queen on throne design:

1d. proof in black and the issued stamp in an unused block of six, 6d, plate proofs and the issued stamp rouletted in an unusual block of four together with an imperforate single which came from Perkins Bacon. Both denominations are also shown obliterated 'CANCELLED' between bars.

A curious aspect of the issue of the first stamps of Victoria in 1850 was that, at the time, the colony of Victoria did not exist - it did not come into being until 18 months later. Victoria, then known as the port Phillip District, was part of New South Wales and when arrangements were made to introduce stamps for the prepayment of postage in New South Wales, these arrangements also applied to the port Phillip District. The impending separation of the District from New South Wales to form the new colony of Victoria had already been announced and the authorities in Sydney considered it expedient if separate stamps were issued for Victoria at the same time as the first New South Wales stamps.

A Melbourne engraver, Thomas Ham, was contracted to engrave plates and undertake the printing of 600,000 each of three denominations - 1d, 2d, and 3d. The production of the stamps was to take place at Thomas Ham's premises in Collins Street, under the supervision of a Post Office employee. The design of the first Victorian stamps depicted a half length portrait of Queen Victoria, holding the sceptre and orb. As a result, the stamps referred to by collectors as the "Half Lengths".

The "Half-Length" stamps were printed from lithographic transfers derived from a steel plate containing single, engraved impressions of the three denominations. Lithographic printing stones were produced by laying down transfers, one by one, direct from the steel die. Ham had lifetime to produce the stamps before the date authorised for their use - 1 January 1850. Ham's Bond specifying arrangements for the printing was not signed until Saturday, 29 December 1849 and so Ham had only two working days to produce a supply of stamps. It is generally accepted that the first "Half-Lengths" were placed on sale on 3 January 1850, two days after the "Sydney Views" - the first New South Wales stamp issue - went on sale in Sydney.

**Frame 6
WESTERN AUSTRALIA**

1853 Two unaccepted essays by Perkins Bacon for the 1d. stamps, die proofs in black and red-brown of the accepted design and examples of the issued stamps.



1854 4d with frame inverted in relation to the swan, previously in the Duveen Collection and an example showing

the lithographic transfer variety resulting in the tops of the letters of 'AUSTRALIA' being cut off. Both stamps are used.

Unlike the other Australian colonies, Western Australia's first stamp issue consisted only one denomination - the 1d "Black Swan" stamp issued on 1 August 1854. The stamp issue had its origin in a request submitted by the Governor of Western Australia, Charles Fitzgerald, in June 1852 to the colonial authorities in London. Governor Fitzgerald advised that he had approved reductions in postal rates to 2d on inter-colonial letters and 4d on foreign letters and that one million 1d postage stamps would be required to prepay the reduced postage.

The Governor's request was submitted to Perkins Bacon & Co. the English firm of banknote printers that produced stamps for Britain and its colonies. The London authorities, however, were puzzled by the Governor's request for 1d stamps, when the postal rates were 2d and 4d. They thought it more appropriate to issue 2d and 4d stamps and after some time, they ascertained from the Governor that 1d stamps had been request in anticipation of the postal rates being reduced to 1d at some future stage. However, in the meantime, Perkins Bacon & Co. had proceeded without proper authority, with the production of a 1d Western Australian stamp. Consequently, the first stamp issue of Western Australia was born as a result of a bureaucratic misunderstanding.

At Governor Fitzgerald's suggestion, the design of the first Western Australian stamp featured the Black Swan. This served as a precedent, since all Western Australian stamps issued upto 1900 depicted the Black Swan. It was also an unusual precedent, as other British colonies invariably depicted the monarch on their stamp issue.

In October 1853, the consignment of one million 1d "Black Swan" was shipped from London, and although the stamps were received in Perth at the end of January 1854., they were not issued to the public until 1 August that year. This occurred because Western Australia was in the unusual position of having stamps available for use, but not having any legislative authority for their introduction. A Postage Stamp Bill was passed by the Legislative Council of Western Australia sanctioning the use of stamps for prepayment of mail from 1 August 1854.

Frame 7

COMMONWEALTH OF AUSTRALIA

1913-14 2d. with the head of King George V and 1/- Swan design; prepared for use but not issued; in sheets of one hundred and twenty.

The first Australian Commonwealth stamp issue, the "Kangaroo and Map" series of 1913 was issued 12 years after the Commonwealth was established and the colonial postal administrations were merged into a single, Federal Postmaster General's Department.

This long delay was caused by the Commonwealth/ State

financial arrangements which applied during the first decade after federation. Under these arrangements, the Commonwealth was required to reimburse the states with certain proportions of revenue formerly collected by the states. Exact records had to be maintained of postal revenue raised in each state and to facilitate this, it was decided to continue to issue separate stamps for each state which could only be used on mail posted within the state concerned. In 1910 a new system of Commonwealth/State financial reimbursement freed the Post Office from the need to maintain separate state stamps and the way was clear for the introduction of uniform Australian Commonwealth stamps.

(Courtesy - Ausipex 84 Official Catalogue)

NEWS FROM UP-COUNTRY

HARPEX - 2001

The 2nd Haryana State Philatelic Exhibition 'HARPEX - 2001' was organised by Haryana Postal Circle and J&K Circle 23rd to 25th February, 2001 at S.D. College, Jagadhari Road, Ambala Cantt. The Chief Guest Shri Gautham Gupta, Member (Operations) Postal Services Board, New Delhi inaugurated the exhibition on 23rd February 2001 at 1200 hrs. There were 350 frames displayed in the exhibition; the exhibits on different themes collected from National Philatelic Museum, Army Postal Services, India Security Press and Many Philatelists, who have been invited to display their outstanding collections and other exhibits displayed by the philatelists of Haryana and J&K States on Postal history, general collections on pre/post independence period, literature on philately, stamps issued by India, Asian Countries and rest of World on different themes.

The Chief Guest, Shri Gautam Gupta while addressing the audience stated in his inaugural speech that postage stamps are "the windows of a nation through which people overseas may behold its heritage and nature" We, in India, have promoted philately as a means of building cultural bridges amongst nations by sharing our great cultural heritage. This exhibition, which is open for participation to all philatelists in Haryana and Jammu & Kashmir, will enable the award-winning philatelists to compete at national and international levels. Postage stamps will chronicle for the future generations significant milestones in the country's history not just of the last 50 years but India's great cultural legacy flowing from ancient & remarkable civilization of 5000 years. Over the last one year the Department issued stamps to pay homage to the Father of the Nation with the issue of a stamp on him to mark 50 years of the Republic. Market survey shows, that 85% of the philatelic market comprises amateur collectors and children." He again congratulated Haryana Circle for the initiative shown in holding this exhibition to develop the philatelic base in Haryana - a state which has been in the forefront of departmental activities.

The Chief Postmaster General, Haryana Circle, Ambala Shri T.R.Sharma, who was also chairman of the Organising Committee of the Exhibition, welcomed the Chief Guest Shri Gautam Gupta. He expressed that this exhibition will definitely provide an excellent opportunity to the youth of Haryana to gain

knowledge about philately and to adopt the hobby of stamps collection. He also hoped that in the modern age of technology a separate web-site on philatelic stamps may be started in the near future.

ShriVijay Bhushan, Chif Postmaster General, Himachal Circle while addressing the audience gave a detailed history of postage stamps. He informed that a philatelic museum has been constiuted in the office of Chief Postmaster General, Himachal Circle, Shimla.

HARPEX - 2001 deserves Congratulations for the excellent arrangements. The Jury report was presented by the Jury member Mr. S. Sahoo; who is also the President of the Philatelic Congress of India.

A special cover as a feature of exhibition with a special cancellation on the theme of 'LORD KRISHNA GIVING GEETA UPDESH' was released by the Chief Guest.

The closing ceremony was graced by Shri B.N. Som Secretary to Govt. of India, Department of Posts, and Chairman of the Postal services board, Ministry of Communications and Chairman, World Association for the Development of philately.

JHARPEX - 2001

Jharpex 2001, the eighth Philatelic Exhibition was held at Tulsī Bhawan from April 25 to 27.



The exhibition, organised jointly by the Department of posts and the Jamshedpur Philatelic Society (JPS), was inaugurated by Telcon MD Sarosh J Gandhi.

Mr Gandhi appreciated the efforts of JPS general secretary SS Bassan and his fellow members endeavouring to further the cause of philatelists. "The purpose of this exhibition is to encourage philatelists and young enthusiasts. Philately is an educative and satisfying hobby". He said students are reeling under tremendous academic pressure. Hence, school principals should help them to give vent to their creative abilities through the art of philately.

The exhibition boasted of rare collections of stamps painfully procured and beautifully presented by well-known philatelists and students from various city schools. Perhaps the most extraordinary exhibit at Jharpex 2001 is that of

"personalised stamps" released in the Australian International philatelic Exhibition held in 1999. The Australian Post have started the novel trend of printing the collectors' photograph along with the original stamp and Mr SS Bassan was one of the chosen few across the globe who featured in the "Personalised Stamps". The exhibition also featured the 22 cent Inverted Jenny Air Mail Stamp of 1918, one of the most expensive and famous stamps in the history of philately.

The exhibition has exhibits of stamps from Antarctica and various other countries including sundry unknown countries of Africa. Automobiles, women in society, sports, wildlife and personalities are among other topics taken up by the participants.

The Jury report was presented by Mr. Madan Mohan Das, Member, Philatelic Advisory Committee, India, who suggested that the promotion of philately should be from the grass root level and most of the competetors should be educated about the rules of FIP.

On the whole JHARPEX - 2001 was another encouraging and appreciable attempt of JPS, and should be applauded.

RECORD NEW ISSUES - AGAIN

The 1999 review of worldwide new issues has just been published by the German stamp magazine, Michel Rundchau. The results confirm the widely-held view that once again numbers are on the increase. The 1999 figure records a staggering total of 16,107 new issues (14,745 individual stamps and 1362 souvenir sheets), up 1527 on 1998's total. This is the seventh year in succession that a new 'record' has been set.

It has been calculated that it will cost just over \$ 4800 to purchase all the stamps at face value.!

The survey includes both commemoratives and definitives, official stamps, postage dues, overprints and charity issues. Deliberate varieties such as changes in watermarks and perforations are listed but unintentional varieties are not. Each souvenir sheet is counted as one issue no matter how many individual stamps it contains. Not counted are machine-vended stamps which can differ from the same issue sold over the counter. In addition, some stamps that were announced for issue, but which cannot be verified as being issued, are not included in the survey.

Heading the table is Tanzania with 581 issues; that is nearly 50 new stamps a month. Making up the top five are Guinea (492), Liberia (476), Japan (315) and Senegal (296). Of the top five issuing countries, only Japan is not represented by the New York-based Inter-Governmental philatelic Corporation. This new issues agency represents about 70 countries, many of which gained places in the list of countries issuing 100 or more stamps in a year.

Japan is rather a surprise entry into the top five as its 1998 new issues total was only 170, this was almost doubled in 1999. Much of the increase, however, can be accounted for by a new Millennium omnibus collection and a considerable increase in regional or prefecture stamps. In the light of the

above, Great Britain's total of 67 issues looks quite respectable, giving the country 57th position on number of new issues for the year. Neighbours, Ireland, issued 123 stamps and France 84. At the other end of the table 21 countries (including 13 Malayan States) did not issue one stamp between them. These are Afghanistan, Cameroon, Guatemala, Guinea Bissau, Kenya, Mauritania, Somalia and Yemen.

(Courtesy: GSM - April 2001 issue)

JUNIOR CORNER:

ROSY PASTOR IS HERE TO STAY

Finally, the Rosy Pastor with three of its friends from frozen lands of Europe and Asia is here to stay. Visitors, or say birds of passage do not stay long. But with the printing of four stamps on migratory birds they have been "captured" for all times. The world of ave fauna is a fantasy, 8650 species flying all over the globe with a fourth of them, fluttering in India alone. Urbanisation has not deterred them, look at the trees in your city parks and you will see some resident



or visitor singing. Just 30 kms from Mumbai you can see 286 birds in the Borivali National Park, a treat for 1 crore tired souls. Woefully few of the Mumbaikars are aware of these residents living in their midst. Probably the largest bird is the Himalayan Bearded Vulture and smallest, Tickell's Flowerpecker.. Extremes apart, very little is publicised of the colourful birds of India and their melodies.

The story of 2300 birds of India with very few stamps is a sad tale in numbers. Only 11 stamps have been issued by independent India till 1996. It was during the centenary celebrations of Dr. Salim Ali's birth anniversary that a suggestion was made by me in an article in the "THE PHILATELIC JOURNAL OF INDIA" (June, 1996) to bring out more stamps on Indian birds. 11 stamps are not representative of Indian Ornithology. The theme of birds is one of the most popular theme with philatelists all over the world.

The Postal Department could bring out stamps on Endemic birds, Endangered birds, birds in Indian culture, songbirds etc, even the National Bird, peacock, has been shown on a solitary stamp. Peacocks are found only in Asia, and they have spectacular beauty in dance. A set of stamps needs to be brought-out for the Indian peacock. New Zealand printed two dozen stamps on the Kiwi, their national bird. My suggestions were warmly supported by N. Chaturvedi, Curator of the Bombay Natural History Society who offered technical assistance to the Postal Department to bring out stamps on birds. The proposals were accepted in the middle of 1998 when the ADG (phil) wrote back that the Department was "Contemplating issue of stamps on the birds of the four themes". A set of four stamps of migratory birds was listed to be released by the Mumbai G.P.O. in May. By

the end of the month it was learnt that the birds had flown to London and were "released" there in a special function. Although the birds had overflowed the BNHS and the Philatelic Society of India in May, philatelists take comfort that there will be others who will come home to roost. The release of the set of four stamps on migratory birds has set the mood for more releases and highlight Indian ave fauna in the thematic world of "Birds".

C.D. Singh



CLASSIC PHILATELY - A DISEASE YOU'RE BORN WITH

by Lappe Laubscher

Many years ago I asked a wise old man to explain the meaning of "classic" philately. He kept quite, while he looked at me. I could not fail to understand the look in his blue eyes. He felt sorry for me. When he noticed my discomfort, he asked; "Can you explain the love of a man for a woman?" He didn't wait for an answer. He turned his back on me and walked away.

Only later did I understand what he had told me that morning. Classic philately is a passion you are born with. In the same way that you cannot teach a collector to become a philatelist.

While I admit that classic philately is impossible to explain, there are some symptoms by which it can be identified.

Those who participate in it are intellectual snobs. They walk around at stamp fairs and philatelic society meetings with an almost visible halo around them. You cannot fail to notice them.

They only talk to others with the same disease. They find the urbane fields of collecting like postal history, thematic or even postcard collecting boring to the point of irritation.

Their main field of interest is the famous five W's - Who, what, when, where and why.

They want to know who issued the stamp, who printed the stamp, who distributed the stamp.

Then they want to know what was used to print the stamp. Was it a flat bed or a roller press? Was lithography or etching used?

The next debate will be about where the stamp was printed and distributed. If the answer suggests that a stamp was printed and distributed outside the country it claims to represent, a whole new argument starts.

Finally they will want to know why a stamp was issued. A stamp should be issued to act as a receipt for postage paid to the authorities. If there is the slightest suggestion that a stamp might not pass this test, an evening of wonderful debate will be on the cards for classic philatelists.

To a certain extent the classic philatelist sees himself as the policeman, prosecutor, judge and jury of philately. He, and he alone, will decide whether the design of a stamp is good or bad, whether a stamp has legal standing and which stamps should be blacklisted.

While the classic philatelist regards all this as very serious, as a pastime he will plate sheets of stamps. This is an attempt to reconstruct a sheet of stamps in its correct order after it has been torn into single stamps. Almost like putting a puzzle together, but only a little more "intellectual".

Lastly the classic philatelist will hunt for errors, faults and forgeries. It is here that the classic philatelist becomes a capitalist. Although the official reason for tracing faults and errors is that it contributes to compiling a complete and correct history of the printing of a stamp, there is more than mere suspicion that money may just be a motivating factor as well.

A forgery is when a stamp is printed and brought into circulation by a post office without the authority of the body which issued such a stamp in the first instance.

There are two reasons why forgeries exist. The first is agreed. This is when a forger will bring stamps on the market with one aim - to make money. Both the Transvaal and Orange Free State stamps have had their fair share of forgeries.

The second reason is for propaganda purposes. This happens during a war when the enemy will forge stamps to bring across a message, to belittle the enemy's leaders or to ruin the postal economy of its opponents. During both the World Wars of the twentieth century such forgeries were not infrequent.

Discovering and recording a new forgery is for the classic philatelist like conquering Everest for the mountaineer or winning the Olympic marathon for a long distance runner - sheer bliss.

The classic philatelist has a life-long love affair with stamps. It is something that you are born with. A historian can become interested in postal history, a surgeon can become interested in thematics a journalist can become interested in postcards, but nobody can become interested in classic philately.

You are born with this disease and you keep it until your die.

(Courtesy : SETMPE / South Africa / Sept. - Oct. 1998)

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