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Editorial IN RETROSPECT

It is nothing but the same old story again; Nothing but killing the golden goose. We will say awareness has to be created; the message has to be spread; we have to catch them young; the youth should be guided properly so as to aspire for international honours etc. etc. But basically as 'Stamp Issue authority' we will do as much as possible to kill the hobby; year after year we will not change for the better; may be we will try to do more funny things to drive away as many as possible.

Let us see what happened in 2003 AD. You can see the list of issues inside, in page 10.

On the whole 41 issues were brought out consisting of 71 stamps and nine miniature sheets, totally costing 766 rupees., nearly double the cost of the previous year. A hobby which was becoming a little bit costlier for the young collectors became very costly all of a sudden in 2003. While the standard commemorative is at Rs.5/-, eight stamps were issued at Rs.15/- and above. God alone knows what for?

In the whole philatelic world, India will be the only country with such a stamp issue pattern. No body knows definitely when will a stamp be issued and on what theme or name will it be? Even the India Post Staff at the Philatelic Bureau will be in the same plight. It will be pathetic to hear a staffer in the philatelic bureau saying, "Sir, the stamp has come; but the FDC has not arrived; the cachet has been ordered; it will come anytime." Sorry state of affairs in the twenty first century.

Coming to the pattern of issue in 2003, eighteen issues (32 stamps) were done in January to September (9 months) whereas twenty three issues (39 stamps) were brought out in October, November and December (3 months). There were no issues at all in January, July and August. Fantastic!

On the 'attractive side' out of the 71 issues 29 were on personalities and till the end of March we were asked to look at those great Indians and all of us became more knowledgeable by reading / studying about 29 more heroes, leaders, all through the year.

Moreover the 'issue' of miniature sheet is mind-boggling. Phila 2003, shows 13 M/s. 1973-2002., ie. in about 30 years., Whereas 2003 alone saw the birth of 9 new ones at a cost of Rs.219/-. We go to schools, pressure market the even helping. P. D account numbers to grow in geometric proportions. We suggest to open an account with Rs. 200/-. Mind you, the account holder would have to recoup his account at least three times in 2003.

To improve the situation, it is suggested that an yearwise

stamp issue programme should be planned in advance and adhered in practice.

A Suggested Plan.

Total issue 48 stamps
4 M/s.

ie, 12 stamps & 1 M/s for three months
or 4 stamps in a single month.

Out of 48,

| | | |
|--------------------------|---|----|
| 18 Stamps on Personality | - | 18 |
| 4 sets on themes 4 x 4 | - | 16 |
| Republic Day | - | 1 |
| Independence Day | - | 1 |
| Gandhiji | - | 1 |
| Other themes | - | 11 |
| Total | - | 48 |

This programme should be completely drawn August-September itself and made public by October 1. Unless we change for the better in the earliest, God alone can save Indian Philately.

Editor.

STAMP NEWS

150 Years of Telecommunications in India

01.11.2003 500 0.8 Million

Starting as an experiment with an electric telegraph line between Calcutta and Diamond Harbour in 1850, Telecom services were formally launched in November 1853 connecting Calcutta and Peshawar, Bombay and Madras and Ootacamund and Bangalore.

Our Second Sunday Meetings were held at the CPMG's Conference Hall, Anna Road, HPO, Chennai - 600 002. (10.30 - 12.30 pm) regularly where around 35 members attended with President Shri Balakrishna Das presiding. Patron Mr.G.Madan Mohan Das spoke on "Recent Issues" in December 2003.



August 1875 saw India's first private line in Bombay. The London based Oriental Telephone and Electric Company Limited was licensed in 1881 to set up telephone exchanges at Bombay, Calcutta and Madras. The Indo-European Telegraph Department, later Overseas

Communications was merged with the Indian Telegraph Department in 1888. In 1914 the Indian Post and Telegraph Department emerged as a single entity.

Further expansion came with Radio Telegraph (1927), Radio Telephone (1933) and the use of Trunk lines for broadcasting programmes (1937). 1950 saw the absorption of isolated exchanges and those belonging to princely states. A decade later the Subscriber Trunk Dialling System was introduced.

Posts and Telecommunications became independent Departments in January 1985. With reorganisation of field units, new entities called the Mahanagar Telephone Nigam Limited for two metros and the Videsh Sanchar Nigam Limited for overseas services emerged.

In 1995 the Telecom Regulatory Authority of India was formed and the operation wing was corporatised in October 2000 under the name Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited. Cellular Services started in 1995. Today the little wire has stretched to 54.6 million lines and about 43 million connections.

Theme : Telecommunications, Technology.

100 YEARS OF KALKA-SHIMLA RAILWAY

09.11.2003

500

3 Million

1816 saw the tract of land on which Shimla stands today, transferred to the East India Company under the Nepalese Peace Treaty, in return for the security provided by the Company to Sikkim. The bumpy 43-mile ride on ponies or in jampans (sedanchairs) was, however, a discomfort to the Governors General who braved the track. Nonetheless, the idea of a railway line, came from a plea in the Delhi Gazette of November, 1847 to make this "the permanent seat of a Government, daily invigorated by a temperature adapted to refresh a European constitution, & keep the mental power in a state of health, beneficial both to rulers & the ruled".



On 9th November, 1903, a 96 km. railway line was launched in the limestone & shale rocks of the Shivalik Hills after three years of dedicated labour. Laid on sharp curves, the line passes over 864 bridges and through 102 tunnels using a narrow gauge of 2'6" in deference to hill formation and gradient.

The journey from Kalka to Shimla is absolutely out of this world. The toy train provides a breath-taking view of the Kushalya river, the moment it enters the foothills. Passage through the Koti tunnel makes you hunt for a coat and the air jabs you the moment you hit Jabli, 1240m above sea-level.

Three picturesque loops near Taksal, Gumman and Dharampur provide photo-opportunity to an enthusiast. The ascent is steady. Each coach has chuckle under its wheels. About seven coaches form a train, to accommodate about 200 passengers per trip. The average speed of 25-30 kmph ensures that "hurry" is replaced by a naturalness of demeanour.

To taste the beauty of nature in exclusivity, travel in the Rail Motor Car which houses only 18. They are four and of them, three date to 1927, while the last dates to 1930..

Three train meanders through Kumarchatti, then enters the barog tunnel (1144 mets. Long) which crosses the Panchmunda ridge about 900 feet below the road. At Barog, it is mealtime on the morning trip. Though the English firm of "Spencers" which built the restaurant at Barog is no longer there, the hospitality continues to live.

From Barog to Kandaghat the train runs downhill, past beautiful and quaint retreats of Solan and Saloghra. The final climb begins at Kandaghat. At Shogi, a heartwarming view of the Chail Valley brings numerous anecdotes associated with a Prince from Punjab. Banished from English society at Shimla, he built for himself a palace at Chail, a nearby resort.

Past Taradevi, the railway takes you under Prospect Hill to Jutogh, winding its way like a naughty current of air teasing you, till it pauses at Summer Hill. Finally, under the Inverarm Hill, you emerge like a happy child at Shimla.

Theme : Railways, Nature.

CHILDREN'S DAY

14.11.2003

500

3 Million

Human motives are often classified pyramidally into five categories starting with the physiological needs and progressing through the safety, social and esteem needs to the highest-order motive viz. self-actualization. It may be epitomized in the musician's rendition of a mellifluous crescendo or the painter's landscape leading to sublime harmony within his being, the sage's apocalyptic experience during meditation or the parents' supreme ecstasy at the sight of their newborn baby! Indeed, the arrival of a child heralds an era of not only boundless joy and celebration in the life of parents but also places enormous responsibility on them and society at large to nurture the child into a fully functioning member of the social web.



Children's Day is celebrated every year on November 14. The date is especially significant as it is also the birthday of Pandit Jawahar Lal Nehru, the First Prime Minister of our country. The occasion gives us an opportunity to reflect on the condition of the children in the country so that we can rededicate ourselves to their cause-the fulfillment of their basic needs and rights.

Part IV of the Constitution spells out the Directive Principles of State Policy that embody the aims and objects of a 'Welfare State'. Article 39 of the Directives enshrines that the state shall direct its policy towards securing that the tender age of children is not abused, that they are not forced by economic necessity to take up vocations unsuited to their age and strength and that childhood is protected against exploitation and moral and material abandonment. Similarly, Article 45 emphasizes that the State shall endeavour to provide within a span of ten years from the commencement of the Constitution, free and compulsory education for all children until they complete the age of fourteen years.

This year's stamp is selected from designs made by children themselves in stamp Design Competitions organized across the country. This activity elicits a tremendous response from the children who have portrayed a variety of significant themes like nutrition, shelter, children's literature, empowerment of the girl child, etc. This year's stamp designed by Prasen R. Modi takes children's education as the theme and depicts children going to school. In this way, it draws the attention of the nation to the unrealized constitutional ideal embodied in Article 45 and also cajoles the children to go to school.

So, this Children's Day let us all unite to reaffirm our commitment to the achievement of complete literacy of children below fourteen so that the nation has a solid foundation and a scintillating future.

Theme : Children, Painting.

2 GUARDS (1GRENADIERS) - 225 YEARS

22.11.2003 500 0.8 Million

Unflinching gallantry, tactical astuteness and complete commitment to the defence of the nation are the guiding principles of the Indian Army that have won them laurel after laurel and enabled them to render meritorious service to the country. Combining these characteristics in itself, a new star blazed forth on the firmament of the Indian Army in 1952 when 1 Grenadiers was chosen by Field marshal K.M. Cariappa to form part of the elite Brigade of The Guards and don the mantle of their second battalion viz. 2 Guards.



The lineage of the Battalion can be traced to the Adhoc Grenadier Battalion formed by bringing together six Grenadier Companies of the Army. The Battalion was raised

on 22 November, 1778 and embarked on its first operation advancing from Mumbai to Pune under Captain James Stewart. Other major campaigns were the famous battles of Mangalore in 1783-84, Maiwand in 1880, Somaliland in 1901-03, Egypt, East Africa and Palestine during the First World War. The Somaliland Campaign of 1901-03 saw three Victoria Cross winners of the unit serving together—a unique distinction.

During India's partition, their troops evacuated thousands of refugees to safety as part of the Punjab Boundary Force. In 1948, they captured Gurais Valley from the Pakistani raiders in Kashmir and earned the Battle honour "GURAIIS". They were also decorated with seven Vir Chakras and nine Mention-in Despatches for their unchallenged might. The Battalion also served with the International Supervisory Mission, a United Nations Peace Keeping Mission in Indo-China 1954-57. It distinguished itself in Jammu & Kashmir during the Indo Pak conflict of 1971.

The Battalion added another feather in its cap in successfully carrying out counter-insurgency operations. Displaying clear thinking, uncanny knowledge of men, terrain & affairs and sterling courage in the face of tremendous odds, the Battalion served twice in Nagaland from 1958-61 and 1983-86 and twice in Jammu & Kashmir in 1993-94 and 2001. Having discharged counter-insurgency duties with courage and devotion, the Battalion earned two Sena medals, six Chief of Army Commendation Cards and five Army Commanders Commendation Cards.

Theme : Army, Uniforms, birds (catchet).

Harivansh Rai Bachchan

27.11.2003 500 0.4 Million

Born in the University town of Allahabad in Uttar Pradesh on 27th November, 1907, Dr. Harivansh Rai Bachchan's work was, an admixture of sensibilities rooted in the soil of India overlaid with the study of literature in English. He was to follow up a Bachelor's Degree with a Master's in English Literature when he left to participate in the Civil Disobedience Movement in 1930.

His first collection of Hindi verse, "Madhushala" penned in college, earned him instant recognition. Today it continues to



remain one of the best known set of verses in Hindi Literature and its style, theme and diction make it one of his most outstanding works.

1942 was another milestone, which saw his marriage to Teji, from a reputed Sikh family, followed thereafter by the birth of their two sons, Amitabh and Ajitabh. In 1954 he went to England where he completed his doctoral studies. On returning to India Pandit Jawaharlal

Nehru called him to Delhi to appoint him as an expert in Hindi in the Ministry of External Affairs. A decade later, the President of India nominated him as a member to the Rajya Sabha.

Meanwhile, his literary output and commitments continued unabated, and honours and awards followed. His collection of poems entitled "Chausath Russi Kavitaen" received the Soviet Land Nehru Award (1966).

The Sahitya Akademi Award was given for his anthology of poems "Do Chattane" (1968). He was honoured by the Sahitya Kala Parishad, Delhi. The title of "Sahitya Vachaspati" was also bestowed on him (1969). At the Afro Asian Writers' Conference in Delhi in 1970, he received the "Lotus Award". His remarkable autobiography "Dashdwar Se Sopan Tak" earned for him the "Saraswati Samman". His contribution to Hindi Literature was awarded by the Govt. of Uttar Pradesh with the "Yash Bharati". The President of India conferred the "Padma Bhushan" on him in 1976.

Theme : Personality, Literature, Poet.

India-France : Joint Issue

29.11.2003 2200, 2200 0.8 Million

India & France : two ancient civilizations, both melting pots of races and traditions; both characterized by a diversity of natural landscape, agricultural profiles and distinct regional and linguistic entities, not merely juxtaposed together but forming a cohesive whole; both having an abiding faith in liberty and secularism and both possessing a rich and varied cultural heritage. The two countries enjoy warm and friendly relations that span a broad spectrum ranging from education, culture and fashion to the more strategic areas of trade, investment, defence and science & technology.



The India-France joint issue showcases spectacular facets of Indian and French cultures. France, particularly Paris, has long been regarded as a major centre of European culture. France first attained cultural

preeminence in Europe during the Middle Ages and the Renaissance; later the wealth of the Crown in the 16th, 17th and 18th centuries provided magnanimous patronage to art attracting to Paris many of Europe's most talented artists and artisans and leading to sophisticated accomplishments in literature, art, science, cuisine and haute couture. The French style still exercises a pervading influence not only on Western but the global culture.

The French stamp in the joint issue is an exquisite example of 15th century French coloured print. It depicts a rooster from the 15th century work "Heures a l'usage de Rome" dating back to 1440-1450 by two Provençal painters, Le Maitre de l'Annonciation d'Aix and Enguerand Quarteron. It comprises an

exceptional design of medallions showing usage of months and Zodiac signs.

The illustration on the Indian stamp depicts a peacock from a 19th century piece of jewellery crafted in the Minakari tradition. It portrays the refinement and intricacy of Indian craftsmanship. Minakari or enamelling a unique combination of gems, enamel pigments and precious stones, was born as a result of the Mughal Emperor Shah Jahan's aesthetic vision that transformed enamelling into a sophisticated art. The outcome was a range of items, from jewellery to imperial thrones.

Bilateral cooperation between India & France in other areas besides culture, is also wide-ranging. On the economic front, France ranks as India's 5th largest trading partner in the European Union. Another significant pointer to the wholesome trade relations is the inflow of French investment in India to the tune of US\$ 341 million for the period 1991-2000. In the field of Space research, reciprocal arrangements for instance satellite tracking support from ground stations to each other's missions, commercial agreement for launching INSAT satellites by Ariane launch vehicle and the like have strengthened Indo-French relations. Joint Working Groups have also been formed in the areas of mineral exploration and development, telecommunications, information technology & water resource management.

Theme : Birds, Motifs, Foreign relations.

Yashpal

03.12.2003

500

0.4 Million

A youth in revolt, a fervent apostle of liberty, a magnificent expounder of criticism and of truth who shocked his contemporaries but dazzled posterity by his writings. That was Yashpal. The man and his works will ever be the cause of argument and explanation but rising above them all is the depth of his thought and comprehension matched by the sheer power, force and beauty of his words that he has left as his memorial.



Born on the 3rd of December, 1903 in Punjab in a middle class family, he studied at Gurukul-Kangri, Hardwar and at National College, Lahore. Initially drawn to the Non-Cooperation Movement, he later felt that such movements ineffective with the

British and was attracted to the more fiery Revolutionary Movement. He joined the Hindustan Socialist Republican Army. Among his comrades were martyrs Bhagat Singh, Sukhdeva, Chandra Shekhar Azad & Bhagwati Charan Vohra. On 24 December, 1929 Yashpal & Bhagwati Charan bombed the Viceroy Lord Irwin's train at Delhi that created quite a stir. Yashpal was captured in an armed encounter at Allahabad and sentenced to fourteen years rigorous imprisonment. However, he was released in 1938 under General Amnesty for political prisoners by the Congress Government. This marked the beginning of his career as a writer.

Yashpal's short stories, essays, novels and reminiscences reflect his intense patriotic fervour. As a revolutionary, he was deeply inspired by Marxian ideology. As such, his writings in the monthly journal 'Viplava' that he founded in 1939, were particularly vitriolic while taking about the economically deprived & exploited sections of society.

From his earliest writing to the last, he campaigned relentlessly for an equal place for women in society. He also questioned illogical and repulsive religious practices. His novel 'Jhootha Sach', about India's partition, has been compared to the works of Balzac & Victor Hugo and in scope and breadth to Tolstoy's "War & Peace". Another epic creation of his is "Divya".

Yashpal was awarded the Padma Bhushan in 1970 for his contributions to literature and India's freedom struggle. He has also been conferred the Mangala Prasad Puruskar, Dev Puruskar, Sahitya Varidhi and the Sahitya Akademi Puruskar. He breathed his last in 1976 while writing the fourth volume of his Reminiscences.

Theme : Revolutionary, Freedom Fighter.

30th Anniversary of Diplomatic Relations between India and the Republic of Korea

10.12.2003

1500, 1500

0.8 Million each

India and Korea share traditional ties of friendship and a common Asian heritage. There have been contacts between the two peoples through the centuries. This shared historical legacy is immortalized in the Korean epic "Samguk Yusa" (Memorabilia



of the Three Kingdoms), according to which King Kim Suro married a Princess from Ayodhya. Subsequently, the advent of Buddhism into Korea, resulting in increased people-to-people ex-

changes, acted as the catalyst for enhanced linkages between the two countries. Today the India-Republic of Korea relationship is based on this strong foundation of shared cultural and spiritual heritage, democracy, human freedom and economic complementarities. In recent years, these relations have been reinforced with several bilateral, institutional mechanisms, set up for regular interaction between the two countries on issues of mutual interest.

India-Korea ties have surged ahead in all directions and completed thirty years of the establishment of diplomatic relations. Providing further impetus to mutual understanding and cooperation, the Postal Administrations of the two countries have embarked on a joint venture in Philately through the release of a set of stamps.

The setenant will feature the ancient observatories of the two nations that depict the technological advancements in the field of astronomy at that time. The Korean stamp depicts the Cheomseongdae Astronomical Observatory at Gyeongju. The observatory was built in 647 A.D. during the reign of Queen Seondeok (632-647) in the Silla period and is 9.17 metres high. It is probably the oldest observatory still remaining in East Asia. As an astronomical observation center of Silla, it served as the standard of the meridian.

The Indian stamp features the 'Jantar Mantar' at Jaipur. Etymologically speaking, the Sanskrit word 'Yantra' meaning instrument is 'Jantar' in the local dialect and the Sanskrit word 'Mantra' or Mantar means a mystical formula meant for attainment in astronomical and mathematical calculations as well as in spiritual life. The Jantar Mantar at Jaipur was constructed by Maharaja Sawai Jai Singh in 1728 A.D. and is 431 metres above Mean Sea Level.

Theme : Foreign relations, Astronomy.

The Government of India Act, 1919 for the first time provided for a bicameral Central Legislature, which was inaugurated in 1921 and consisted of the Governor-General and two Houses, namely, the Council of State and the Legislative Assembly. The Legislative Assembly was later renamed as the House of Assembly under the Government of India Act, 1935. The bicameral arrangement continued till 1947.



After much debate in the Constituent Assembly, which met from 1946 to 1950, the founding fathers decided for a bicameral Central Legislature. In the Council of States, which was named Rajya Sabha in Hindi in 1954 all the States are not represented equally. The Union territories of Delhi and Pondicherry are

also represented in Rajya Sabha. Twelve persons having special knowledge or practical experience in respect of such matters as literature, science, art and social service are nominated by the President to Rajya Sabha. The Vice-President of India is the ex-officio Chairman of Rajya Sabha.

As a constituent of Parliament, both in terms of volume and content of legislation and the time devoted to the transaction of business, Rajya Sabha has effectively discharged its role mandated by the Constitution.

Apart from legislation, the other important function of Parliament is to focus attention on matters of public importance, influencing policies of the Government and to provide a forum for ventilation of public grievances. This responsibility is discharged by Rajya Sabha through various time-tested procedural mechanisms and by adopting new procedural devices.

The Committee System in Rajya Sabha was also revamped to cope with emerging challenges, the latest addition to which have been the seventeen Department-related Parliamentary Standing Committees out of which six function under the direction and control of the Chairman, Rajya Sabha.

During the 199 Sessions that Rajya Sabha held so far, this House of Parliament has played a constructive and effective role. Rajya Sabha has worked for the unity and integrity of the nation and has reinforced the faith of the people in democracy.

Theme : Building, Architecture, Parliament.

Mukut Behari Lal Bhargava

Born in 1903 in Shahpura, Bhilwara, Rajasthan, Mukut Behari Lal Bhargava established his personal and professional presence well beyond the boundaries of his birthplace. Adopted



by Vinodi Lal Bhargava of Beawar near Ajmer, he rounded off his studies with a Master's degree in History and a Bachelor's degree in Law from Allahabad University. He began his legal practice at Beawar in 1927.

Ajmer became the fulcrum of his activities which expanded beginning with membership of the Beawar Municipality in the same year. He joined the Indian National Congress in 1930 and became

a Committed participant in its activities. His ability as a lawyer saw him become president of the Bar Association in Beawar to begin with. Later he was Chairman of the Rajasthan Bar Council.

Working with the Congress he was arrested in 1941 for individual "satyagraha" and again during the quit India Movement in 1942. He was elected to the Central Legislative Assembly in 1945 and later to the Constituent Assembly. Ajmer returned him to Parliament three times as its representative. His eloquent and fearless advocacy was made available often free of cost to people, groups and causes that he passionately believed in matters relating to weaker sections, farmers, labourers, freedom from foreign rule, women's education, untouchability, the use of Hindi as an official language and communal harmony. His legacy lives on in his private collection of legal literature and in the welfare fund he set up for lawyers.

Even after withdrawing from active political life in Parliament, his commitment to these issues continued unabated. It carried him and his formidable memory and eloquence into a life-long dedication to the upliftment of educational, social & cultural institutions.

Theme : Freedom Fighter, Personality.

Swami Swaroopanandji

Swami Swaroopanandji was born Ramachandra Vishnu Godbole at Pawas, Ratnagiri on 15th December, 1903. His keen interest in religious scriptures was evident from childhood and was fostered by his teachers at the Aryan Education Society at Bombay. He graduated from the Tilak Maharashtra Vidyapeeth, Pune.



However, the thoughts of nationalistic leaders Shri Lokmanya Tilak and Mahatma Gandhi influenced him greatly, urging him to offer his services to his nation. Young Godbole returned to Pawas to set up a school, aptly called "Swavalambanashram".

The education imparted here inculcated patriotism, independence and self sufficiency, in tune with the spirit of the times. The school ran from 1922 to 1927 but he was forced to give it up due to poor local response.

Unfazed, he turned his enthusiasm towards the national movement and spiritual growth. In 1923, he had been initiated into the Nath Sect by his Guru, Baba Maharaj Vaidya. But while seeking spiritual advancement, he continued to express his nationalistic feelings through fiery speeches. He was ordered not to leave the precincts of Pawas. But he disobeyed the orders to go to Pune to participate in a nation-wide strike. He was arrested in 1930 along with other compatriots. This term in jail proved to be another milestone in his life, giving him time for meditation.

After his release, his Guru authorised him to lead the Sect, naming him "Swaroopanand". A near-death experience in 1934 brought about a complete change in him and his life style. For the rest of his life he stayed at "Anant Niwas" in Pawas till his final rest or "Mahasamadhi" on 15th August, 1974. His work focussed in these forty years on making the treasures of Marathi Literature accessible to the common people. It was difficult for the ordinary people to comprehend the finer aspects of the Dnyaneshwari, Amritanubhav and Changdev Prashasti. Swami Swaroopanand's translations of these volumes made them available and comprehensible.

Theme : Saint, Religion, Literature.

Civilization is mirrored in its cultural patterns. The classical arts portray not merely its roots but also its developments. Indian art has blossomed through the centuries by virtue of the patronage accorded to it by the various kings and statesmen who ruled the country. Post-independence India felt the need to preserve and promote the rich and vast cultural heritage expressed in diverse forms of music, dance and drama. And thus was born the Sangeet Natak Akademi on 28 January, 1953.



The thought behind the establishment of the Akademi is best expressed in the words of Maulana Abul Kalam Azad, the then Union Minister of Education:

"India's precious heritage of music, drama and dance is one which we must cherish and develop. It will be the aim of this Akademi to preserve our traditions by offering them an institutional form In a democratic regime, the arts can derive their sustenance only from the people, and the state, as the organized manifestation of the people's will, must, therefore, undertake maintenance and development (of the arts) as one of (its) first responsibilities..."

As the apex public body in the field of performing arts, the Sangeet Natak Akademi has also fostered cultural contacts among the various regions in India and between India and the world. At present, the Akademi is an autonomous body of the Ministry of Tourism and Culture, Government of India. The Akademi has also established institutions like the National School of Drama, Jawahar Lal Nehru Manipur Dance Academy at Imphal and Kathak Kendra - National Institute of Kathak Dance at New Delhi. It has taken up National Projects to rejuvenate such ancient dance forms as Kutiyattam (Kerala), Chhau (Orissa) and Sattriya (Assam).

The Sangeet Natak Akademi has instituted 'Akademi Awards' that are conferred on practising artists as hallmarks of the meritorious service rendered by them in their respective fields. 'Akademi fellowships' are conferred as the highest recognition on living masters. Distinguished 'Akademi Fellows' include Bharat Ratna Ravi Shankar, Bharat Ratna Bismillah Khan, Ebrahim Alkazi, Kapila Vatsyayan, Komal Kothari, Kelucharan Mohapatra, Mrinalini Vikram Sarabhai, Birju Maharaj, Ammannur Madhava Chakyar, Badal Sircar, Vijay Tendulkar, Balamurali Krishna, Bhupen Hazarika, Chairman and Shyamanand Jalan, Vice-Chairman of the Sangeet Natak Akademi.

The Akademi functions as a storehouse of archives and a reference library comprising old books and unpublished manuscripts of rare nature as well as more than 600 musical instruments and dance costumes of rare nature to promote research in the field. A gallery of musical instruments was also inaugurated by renowned violinist Lord Yehudi Menuhin at Rabindra Bhawan

in New Delhi where more than 200 musical instruments are displayed.

Theme : Fine arts, Culture, Awards.

PERSONALITY SERIES : FOLK MUSIC

Lalan Fakir & Allah Jilai Bai

29.12.2003**500, 500****0.4 Million**

Lalan Fakir (1774-1890), the all-time emperor of the bauls of Bengal was born in Bhanrara village of Kustia district (now in Bangladesh). He was the only child of his parents but having lost his father in early childhood, he could not obtain any



institutional education. His village was a centre of folk traditions, renowned also for the culture of folk songs especially baul songs. Baul songs are considered to be the most popular folk songs of

rural Bengal and the contribution of Lalan Fakir towards making them popular is immense. It is stated that he went on a pilgrimage with his neighbours but fell seriously ill due to an attack of small pox. While his companions abandoned him in a state of senselessness, a Muslim lady rescued him, nursed him and got him back to life. However, Lalan was not accepted back in his village. So, he adopted an ascetic life with Siraj Sain as his preceptor.

Lalan established a religious institution in the village of Chenuria near Kustia where he preached his spiritual ideology. His devotional baul songs were simple and touched people's hearts. People of different religions and castes were drawn to his philosophy based on humanism and before long, his popularity crossed the boundaries of Chenuria. The great Indian poet and philosopher, Rabindra Nath Tagore was deeply influenced by Lalan's ideology.

Another trail-blazer of folk music was Hajjan Allah Jilai Bai from the erstwhile Bikaner state of Rajasthan. She was born on 1 February, 1902 in a traditional family of musicians. Jilai Bai's mother sang in the court of Maharaja Ganga Singh who was a great patron of the arts. Young Jilai Bai used to accompany her mother to the court when she used to sing at Holi, Diwali, Teej and Gangaur. At times, she used to sing with her mother. Her melodious voice was found to be so captivating that she was placed under the tutelage of Ustad Hussain Bakhsh in the Court School of Maharaja Ganga Singh known as "Guni Jankana" when she was merely eight years old. It was here that she imbibed the Dadra, Thumri and traditional Rajasthani music from Ustad Bakhsh.

Allah Jilai Bai's forte was Maand and Lok Sangeet. Her rendition of 'Mharo rangeelo Rajasthan' and 'Kesariya baalam, aao ni padharo mharey des' is unrivalled. Besides the 'Dadra' and 'Thumri', she also rendered Meera's bhajans and Ghalib's ghazals and the 'Hori, and 'Kajri' with versatility. Her melodious yet powerful singing received recognition from the Rajasthan Sangeet Natak Akademi which awarded her a "Manpatra" in 1975 and also conferred on her the title of "Swar Sadhika". She also received a Sammanpatra from the Bharatiya Lok Kala Mandal, Udaipur in 1978 and the Rajasthan State Award in 1980. On 26 January, 1982, the Govt. of India honoured her with the "Padmashri". Allah Jilai Bai passed away on 3 November, 1992 at the age of 90.

Theme : Music, Musicians, Culture.

It is oft-proclaimed that national developments are independent of the individual's effort. But it is also true that achievements of some individuals are so towering that they alter the character of a nation. The annals of Indian Military History, for instance, would have had an altogether different story to tell but for Major Somnath Sharma. No wonder that this was the man who was the first recipient of the Param Vir Chakra, the highest gallantry award.



Born in 1923 in a family of soldiers and doctors, Major Somnath Sharma did his schooling in RIMC Dehradun. He gained a competitive vacancy in the Indian Military Academy and was commissioned in 1942 into the 19th Hyderabad Regiment and was posted to the 8th Battalion. He took to the Army like a duck to water, revelling in the challenges of a hard life. The Regiment fought in Burma under the command of Lt. Col.

(later General) K.S. Thimayya. There, Major Sharma had a close shave with death when a Japanese hand-grenade landed in his trench but did not explode. He later served with Thimayya as a Major in his staff when the latter got the command of 51 Indian Brigade.

In 1947, when tribal raiders were let loose into Kashmir in thousands, Major Sharma's Regiment received an emergency call to join the select force to rescue Kashmir. Though he had broken his wrist and his arm was in plaster, his own 'D' Company was the first to go. The enemy, estimated at 700, attacked his company position with 3-inch mortars, LMGs and rifles.

Fully realizing the gravity of the situation Major Sharma urged his company to fight the enemy tenaciously. He kept rushing across the open ground to his sections, exposing himself repeatedly to heavy fire to urge them to hold on. He skillfully laid out cloth airstrips to guide our aircraft onto their targets in full view of the enemy.

Realising that casualties had affected the effectiveness of his light automatics, this officer, whose left hand was in plaster, personally commenced filling magazines and issuing them to light machine gunners. A mortar shell landing right in the middle of the ammunition resulted in an explosion that killed him. Major Sharma's company still held onto its position for six hours, thus gaining time for our reinforcements to get into position at Hum Hom to stem the tide of the enemy advance.

Major Sharma set an example of soldierly qualities seldom equalled in the history of the Indian Army. For his inspiring leadership, fearless courage, unmatched tenacity and self sacrifice, he was posthumously awarded the first Param Vir Chakra, the highest gallantry award instituted by independent India.

Theme : Armed Forces, Awards.

S. Nijalingappa

31.12.2003

500

0.4 Million

A plain country gentleman, fervent in religion, fierce in patriotism, brilliant in leadership; such was Siddavanahalli Nijalingappa. His figure straddled the history of Karnataka and left a mark that has never been effaced. Born on 10 December, 1902, young Nijalingappa had a secure childhood. The teachings of his parents laid the foundation for a secular outlook and



Chitradurga further widened his perspective. He obtained a degree in Law in 1926 at Poona where he studied in Fergusson College. His guiding principles as a lawyer were truth and justice and he believed that making money was not the goal of a lawyer. The freedom movement drew him into its fold and he abandoned all things foreign, adopting Khadi for his attire.

Nijalingappa's public and political career can be broadly divided into five successive phases - his role as a leader of the Karnataka Ekikarna (Unification) Movement, participation in the freedom movement as a member of the Gandhiji - led Congress, his achievements as the Chief Minister of united Karnataka State, his role as the President of the undivided Indian National Congress at a critical juncture, and the final phase, in which he blossomed into a great statesman trying hard, in spite of old age and failing health, to rouse the conscience of a nation in the spirit of Gandhiji. We take a brief look at each of these phases.

Karnataka's territorial, caste and communal fragmentations provided the backdrop for Nijalingappa's stellar role in the Ekikarna Movement. Territorially, it was divided into five sub-regions - old princely Mysore State, old Hyderabad State of the Nizam, Madras Karnataka, Bombay Karnataka and Uttara Kannada and the Chief Commissioner's province of Coorg. Apart from the caste and communal factions, there was division between the Congress and the non-Congress parties. The only unifying factor was the Kannada language and it is a measure of Nijalingappa's astuteness that he was able to harmonize all these fragments and carve out a broadly acceptable Karnataka State.

The second major role that Nijalingappa played with a fire in his belly was towards the liberation of his motherland from the colonial yoke. Important landmarks in this direction include participation and subsequent arrest in the Flag Movement in 1938 at Shivapur near Maddur and organization and leadership of the struggle against the provisions of the Forest Act near Chitradurga in which he led the Congress workers in cutting down toddy palm trees.

Formation of a separate Karnataka State and leading it as its first Chief Minister was the third major milestone that marked Nijalingappa's life. Towards this end he succeeded in persuading the powers that be to accept the logic of federalizing the Indian polity along linguistic lines. In his two stints as Chief Minister, his significant achievements lay in the nationalization of Kolar Gold Fields in 1956, successful handling of the issue of socio-economic justice for backward and weaker sections by extending the reservation scheme in existence in Old Mysore to the whole state, setting up of the Bangalore dairy, encouragement of Khadi and Village industries in rural areas, construction of Tunga Canal and Mangalore harbour and the development of agro-industries, wool industry, paper mills, cooperative sugar factories, roads, mining and Sainik School at Bijapur.

On his entry into national level politics, Nijalingappa donned the mantle of the President of the Congress, giving up his third Chief Ministerial assignment. This was the period during which there was a rift between the old guard and the newer generation that eventually led to the fragmentation of the Congress, despite Nijalingappa's best efforts to prevent it. His role as a Statesman - the fifth major phase of his life-trying to keep the nation's conscience like a true Gandhian stemmed from these efforts. In this role, he emphasized upon the politics of principles and moral values. He vehemently condemned the unprincipled lust for power and self-aggrandizement. He was committed to

creating a humanistic, egalitarian, moral and democratic political environment. He visualized an India that was not just a politically independent entity but an India that was economically strong, socially vibrant and modern in outlook.

The Department of Posts pays a tribute to this visionary through the issue of this commemorative postage stamp.

Theme : Leader, Politician, Freedom Fighter.

LIGHTHOUSES OF INDIA

D.Hemachandra Rao

Er. D. Hemachandra Rao, is a past -President of SIPA and one of our leading Philatelists. His collections on ships and allied subjects are well known around the country. Here, he shares his researched information on light houses which will be transmitted to our members in two parts.

PART - I

WASTEPAPER BASKET TO THE ALBUM PAGES LIGHTHOUSES OF INDIA

Preface :

This is about the usefulness of objects, which normally many people discard as useless material, such as postal covers. In large organisations after the 'Tapals' are opened, and sorted out, the covers are thrown out unceremoniously to the wastepaper basket. From these comes a treasure to many philatelists in the shape of postal history. I am a collector of Lighthouses on stamps, postal stationeries and postal cancellations. Indian Post, has not given us much - only one stamp on Minicoy light house, way back in , a pictorial cancellation on Thangacherry light house in 2002, and recently a pictorial cancellation on the 75 years of Lighthouse services, given at Okha, Gujarat, besides meter franking from the Dept. Of Lighthouses & Lightships. Few local stamp exhibitions have also given cancellations showing lighthouses which are far in between. Calicut postal circle, recently has brought out a nice picture card showing Calicut Lighthouse besides some stamps. Hence for an Indian philatelist, India provides very little scope to develop his choice subject. During the 75 years of Lighthouse Service celebrations, I made a point to visit the Madras Lighthouse Directorate. Expecting, some reservations from the Director (R), I was pleasantly surprised at a warm hearted person welcoming me. He heard my request about Samiyani Lighthouse spl. cancellation and promised help. In the subsequent meeting with him, I saw a map showing the locations of Lighthouse under his jurisdiction. At the same time I saw a postal cover from one of his Lighthouse-Keeper. The postal cancellation showed the name of the post office of despatch, which was the name of the lighthouse. A spark flashed through my mind and I requested that cover be given to me. Then I became bold enough to ask him more used covers, and he smilingly told they will be in the wastepaper basket, and enquired to what use I will be putting them?. I humbly told him that I shall put these in my album pages, he was more astonished, and requested his assistant to help me out. From the map on his table I found, that he controls over 24 lighthouses in his district, After, sorting these covers I found that now I have 17 Lighthouse place cancellations with me. So I decided to unfold the 'Lighthouses of India', through these used

covers. The following article is the result of a talk given by me at our monthly meeting of the SIPA. I hope the readers too will enjoy this 'STORY'

INTRODUCTION :

In the ancient times, for a safe voyage, mariners used to depend upon birds, individual skills and knowledge of local conditions. Over a period of time important landmarks, some man-made and some natural, were established. During the night the most popular method was to burn fire wood or coal on high pinnacles of rocks or mountains flanking the coastal line. On the similar lines, first known lighthouse "Pharos" was built during 3rd century B.c. at the port of Alexandria on the coastal line of the Mediterranean Sea in Egypt. Ptolemy II, who was a contemporary of emperor Ashoka, built this Lighthouse. There is a possibility that such Lighthouses might have been built in India with the inspiration of "Pharos" and become obscured in the darkness of history during such a long interval of time.

During excavations in Gujarat related to the period of 3000 B.C. the remains of a developed port have been found in Lothal. In the 8th century A.D., the Cholas had built a beautiful lighthouse at Kaveripatanam whose descriptions are found in the Tamil "Silappadigaram".

Any structure, mark, sign or apparatus that is shown permanently or temporarily for the guidance of ships & local crafts is called an aid to navigation.

Aids to navigation provide safe navigation to mariners sailing in Harbours, Coastal and Oceanic phases. They are broadly classified as :

1. Visual Aids (Lighthouses, Lightships & Buoys)
2. Radio Aids (Loran "C", DGPS, VTS, R/B, Beacons etc)

Lighthouses, Lightships and Buoys guide the ships in the open sea against the danger of rocks, shallow water and wrecks in a region with the help of powerful light beams during night and by its shape and colour during day time. With the help of Radio aids like Differential Global Positioning System (DGPS), a mariner can fix his geographical position with an accuracy of better than 5 meters. With the help of state-of-the-art aid like Vessel Traffic Service (VTS), the operator is able to know the real time movement of the vessel and is accordingly able to guide the vessel safely to the destination.

For this purpose, the Directorate General has established Lighthouses, Beacons, Buoys, state-of-the-art Radio aids on the entire coastline of India. At present there are 167 Lighthouses, 10 Lightship, 10 DGPS stations, 11 Radio Beacons, 29 Racons, 6 Loran-C stations along the coast of India.

Note : The above information is taken from the brochure brought out by the Directorate of Lighthouses & Lightships, Government of India, NOIDA, UP.

OLD AND THE NEW

The first known Lighthouse in India was established at Mahabalipuram, 56 km. south of Chennai by the Pallavas in the 8th century A.D., where log fire used to burnt in crucible for guiding the vessels.

A lighthouse was established at Mahabalipuram on 15/5/1887 on the top of the ancient "Olakneeswara Temple" and

functioned there up to the end of 19th century.

The present lighthouse tower, a circular dressed stone masonry tower, was constructed in the year 1900 & petroleum Vapour light equipment installed thereon. The light source has now been modified and a high intensity discharge lamp has been placed. Both this modern lighthouse & old one are standing within few metres from each other drawing heavy rush of tourists everyday visiting Mahabalipuram.

WHAT IS A LIGHTHOUSE AND HOW IT WORKS

Lighthouse, a building or other construction erected to display a characteristic light as a warning of danger at sea and an aid to navigation. It has a long story or history, and owes its origin to beacon fires which were maintained by priests in ancient Egypt. The most famous of the older lighthouses is undoubtedly the pharos of Alexandria, which was built by Ptolemy II (283-247 B.C.), Sostratus of Cnidus. The oldest lighthouse in western Europe are said to be those erected by the Romans at Dover and Boulogne.

With the growth of seaborne trade and the consequent expansion of shipping, the need for lighthouses grew. The first lighthouses were lit by braziers in which wood or coal fires were burnt. This was replaced by oil lights reflected off parabolic mirrors in the 18th century. Usually, Lighthouses are built as close to the shore or on a hill to give maximum visibility for the ships to see them. Sometimes, lighthouses are constructed on jutting rocks surrounded by water. These mainly provided in such locations were there are hidden rocks and reefs posing danger for safe passage for a ship. Today, all lighthouses have a name and an International number. No two lighthouses will have the same number, however they are close by. A lighthouse is identified by its International Number and by its location name. Besides these, it is recognised by its characteristic light display at nights and by the structure colour by the day. Modern lighthouses have fog horns, where heavy fog or mist may obscure the light. Further each lighthouse is identified by its coordinates - latitude and Longitude. Other characteristic of the light is its visibility in sea miles from the sea. The colour of the light is mostly white, but Red and Green are also added as a combination. Lights can be Fixed, Flashing for certain intervals, Fixed and Flashing, and so on. The principal characteristics are generally the sequence of intervals of light and darkness. In some cases sequence of colours is exhibited to make a light distinctive from others in the vicinity. More about lights are given in the next chapter.

Apart from the above, one should know the height of light in metres. Height of light is the vertical distance between the focal plane of the light and the level of Mean High Water springs or Mean High Water. Range in sea miles upto which a light can be seen in clear weather. Description of light structure and its height in metres. A small table is given below about the minimum data on a lighthouse.

FACTS ABOUT LIGHTHOUSES OF INDIA

India is a vast country with a very long coastline. It has a mainland, and extends to Islands in the Bay of Bengal - Andamar and Nicobar Islands in east and to the Islands in the Indian Ocean - Lakshadweep Islands in the west. Farthest L.N. in the west :

IN MAINLAND

Farthest L.H. in the east :

Jakhau. Lat.23.14.4'N, Long.68.36.3'E
Lat.21.39.4'N, Long

Sagar Isl.

88.02.9'E

Farthest L.H. in the south in MAINLAND

Farthest in the east -

Kanniyakumari. Lat..08.04.8'N, Long. 77.32.8'E

Narcondon Isl. (Andaman Isl)

Lat.13.27'N, Long.94.17.5'E

Farthest in the south -

Indira Point (Great Nicobar)

Lat. 06.45.1'N, Long 03.49.6'E

LIGHTHOUSE on Stamp.

1. High court, Madras. 1962.. (not functioning)
2. Minicoy Island. 1985.

| | | |
|----------------------|-----------------------------|----------------------------|
| | High court | Minicoy Isl. |
| Name & Location: | High court, Madras | Minicoy Island |
| Number assigned; | -- | F0758 |
| Position of light : | Lat13.05'N, Long 80.17'E | Lat08.16'N, Long73'02'E |
| Characteristics : | F1(2) W 30s | F1 W 30s |
| Height of light : | 53m | 47m |
| Range in sea miles : | 19 miles | 26miles |
| Description of | 8-sided tower | white round masonry tower |
| Lighthouse, height : | 58m | 48m |
| Built : | 1844,1894-1976. | 1885 - |
| Post Office : | High court, Madras | Minicoy isl. |

First Day Covers with Cancellation.



High Court, Madras. Issued in 1962.

100 YEARS MINICOY FIRST DAY COVER



मिनिक्वय लीघ्वाय के 100 वन
100 YEARS OF MINICOY LIGHTHOUSE

Minicoy Island, Minicoy. Issued in 1985.



(To be contd.)



MONGOLIAN POSTAGE STAMPS

It was in Mongolia that a posthouse relay system using mounted messengers was first developed and brought to a high state of development around 13th century. Horses and horse rangers for the transport of couriers were kept at staging posts located at 30 km distance from each other. Special state couriers would change their horses and speed away to the next post. It has been claimed that it took just a little more than 10 days for posthouse relay system to deliver the news about death of Ugudai Khaan to Europe. This system existed till early 20th century to be replaced by new mail system where service is paid for in advance by the sender using the postage stamps.

A wonderful invention of civilization, the postage stamp originated from the mail service. The postage stamps were introduced to Mongolia after 84 years since its origin in Europe. A



Монгол улсын анхны марк "Элдэв-Очир"
The first mongolian stamp "Eldev Ochir"



Коммунист үзэд санаа, түүнийг үндэслэгч нар,
алдарт хувьсгалчдыг дүрсэлсэн маркны дээжээс
The stamps about the communism

first national stamp was issued in 1924, two years before the first philately congress was held in Paris. This stamp printed in Shanghai depicts stone statue of tiger surrounded by flower ornament "Eldev Ochir", an oriental symbol of stability and peace. In 1926 another stamp followed with an image of soyombo, a current state emblem on national flag.

The first block of stamps commemorating the 40th anniversary of people's revolution was released in 1961. Postal stamp commemorating the 50th anniversary of marshal Choibalsan was first in a sheet of stamps. It portrays marshal in his parade uniform. The other stamps depicting V.I.Lenin and flags of socialist block countries followed in sheet.

A first Mongolian double stamp commemorating the first national Constitution was issued in 1926. It bears an image of soyombo and has the inscription. The stamp came in two versions, 5 and 20 mungu denominations. The other soyombo stamps came out in winter that year. They were first in a sheets consisting of 3 and 4 pieces. Another 4 pieces series honoring 800th anniversary of Chinggis khaan were released in 1962. They depict Chinggis khaan, white state horse tail flag, stone engraved stella and a golden paitz (state badge). 1954 stamp with an image of state horse tail flag, 1941 stamp "New Mongolia", 1924 "Eldev Ochir" stamp and 1931 soyombo stamp were first in a series of sheets made of 5,6,7,8 pieces. There are many other sheets consisting of more pieces as well.

The stamps without perforations were first released in Mongolia back in 1983. Based on a theme of folk tale "Fowl" that sheet of stamps initiated other non-perforated stamps such as Mickey Mouse, Sarajevo winter Olympic games, 750th anniversary of "Secret history of Mongolians".

There are about 10 repaired stamps in Mongolia. New imprint "mail" in English and Mongolian was added to 1925 soyombo stamp. Another imprint "For eradication of malaria" was added to 8 piece 1961 sheet "Selected Mongolian Flowers" by the request of WHO in 1962. In 1962, 4 stamps dedicated to 800th anniversary of Chinggis khaan were amended as well. "Chinggis khaan. Coronation. 1189" imprint was added then. However these stamps were withheld from circulation. They appeared again in 1989 for celebration of 750th anniversary of "Secret History of Mongolians"

The theme of anniversaries and remarkable events occupies important place in national philately. Due to obvious reasons there were numerous stamps dedicated to communist propaganda and communist leaders. However stamps on themes such as history, space exploration, sports, technology and third world countries-members of the Olympic movement were popular as well. a first Mongolian society of stamp collectors was founded in 1957, later it changed its name to "Mongolian philatelic association". Mongolian philatelists started to take part in international exhibitions and fairs from 1980s. U. Sereeter, D.Vandandorj, L. Badarch are among many Mongolian philatelists earned respect and fame in the world of philately. Mongolian stamps are highly valued among the collectors since they come only in limited number.

Courtesy : Skyland, Inflight mag. of Mangolian airlines).



INDIA POST

Commemorative Stamps Released During the Year 2003

| S.No. | Name of the Stamp | Date of Issue | DN |
|-------|--|---------------|----------|
| 1 | Aero India 2003-Centenary of 1 st flight | 5.2.2003 | 5,5,5,15 |
| 2 | Ghantasala | 11.2.2003 | 5 |
| 3 | Kirloskar | 26.2.2003 | 5 |
| 4 | Kusumaharaj | 14.3.2003 | 5 |
| 5 | Sant Eknath | 23.3.2003 | 5 |
| 6 | Frank Anthony | 28.3.2003 | 5 |
| 7 | Kakaji Maharaj | 30.3.2003 | 5 |
| 8 | Medicinal Plants | 07.4.2003 | 5,5,5,5 |
| 9 | Durga Das | 02.5.2003 | 5 |
| 10 | Golden voices of yester years | 15.5.2003 | 5,5,5,5 |
| 11 | Ascent of mount Everest | 29.5.2003 | 15 |
| 12 | Muktabai | 30.5.2003 | 5 |
| 13 | Government Museum, Chennai | 19.6.2003 | 5,5,15 |
| 14 | V KRajwade | 23.6.2003 | 5 |
| 15 | Bade Ghulam Ali khan | 30.6.2003 | 5 |
| 16 | Our World of Special children | 03.9.2003 | 5 |
| 17 | Temple Architecture | 15.9.2003 | 5,5,55 |
| 18 | Janardhan Swami | 24.9.2003 | 5 |
| 19 | Water falls of India | 03.10.2003 | 5,5,5,15 |
| 20 | Janpith award winners, malayalam | 09.10.2003 | 5,5,5 |
| 21 | K. Shivarama Karanth | 10.10.2003 | 5 |
| 22 | Narendra Mohan | 14.10.2003 | 5 |
| 23 | Govindrao Pansare | 21.10.2003 | 5 |
| 24 | Greetings | 30.10.2003 | 5,5,4,4 |
| 25 | 150yrs of Telecommunications of India | 01.11.2003 | 5 |
| 26 | Bengal sappers Bi-centenary | 07.11.2003 | 5 |
| 27 | 100yrs of Kalka-Shimla railway | 9.11.2003 | 5 |
| 28 | Nature India - snakes | 12.11.2003 | 5,5,5,5 |
| 29 | Children's Day | 14.11.2003 | 5 |
| 30 | 2 Guards (1 grenadiers) | 22.11.2003 | 5 |
| 31 | Harivansh Rai Bachchan | 27.11.2003 | 5 |
| 32 | Indo-France Joint issue | 29.11.2003 | 22,22 |
| 33 | Yashpal | 03.12.2003 | 5 |
| 34 | Diplomatic relations between India & Korea | 10.12.2003 | 15,15 |
| 35 | 200th session of Rajya Sabha | 11.12.2003 | 5 |

| | | | |
|----|-------------------------------|------------|-------|
| 36 | Mukut Beharilal Bhargava | 18.12.2003 | 5 |
| 37 | Swami Swaroopanandji | 20.12.2003 | 5 |
| 38 | Sangita Nataka Academy | 22.12.2003 | 5,5,5 |
| 39 | Personality series:Folk music | 29.12.2003 | 5,5 |
| 40 | Major Somnath Sharma | 31.12.2003 | 5 |
| 41 | S. Nijalingappa | 31.12.2003 | 5 |

EARLY CANCELLATIONS

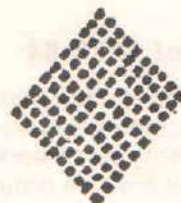
(contd.)

ROBSON LOWE

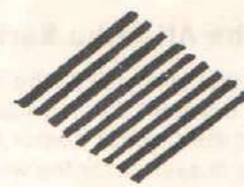
Some Plain Cancellations before 1873

During, approximately, the ten years preceeding 1873, there appear a number of plain cancellations. The Postal Manual of 1873 prescribes a simple barred obliteration without number for "experimental" post offices. This suggests a similar use for the plain cancellations now under consideration. These plain cancellations are seen from small offices or from branch offices in urban areas, all apparently newly opened, and it is impossible to explain their use except as obliterations for experimental offices. It is possible that these sometimes continued in use after the probationary stage. There were very large experimental transfers of offices from District Post to Imperial during this period.

An example has been seen from the Camp Post Office of the Lieutenant Governor, N.W.P., in 1871-an instance of use in a temporary office.



[14]



[15]



[16]



[16a]

Type [14] is a form of the diamond of dots, Type[1], but smaller. The diamond varies in detail, and may be almost a square. This type belongs almost exclusively to the Bengal and Madras Circles.

Type [15] is a plain diamond formed by lines parallel to one of the sides - in effect, a descendant of Types [2] and [6], but generally smaller, and with finer lines. There are many minor varieties, and the figure is sometimes a square. This type was, appropriately, used almost exclusively in the Bombay Circle.

Type [16] is a diamond made by lines running parallel to the longer diagonal. This, in turn, is a descendant of Type [6], and appears mainly from the Punjab and Sind. Here, again, there are many subvarieties as regards size, number of lines and thickness of lines, which it is unnecessary to illustrate.

Type [16a] is a diamond composed of eighteen rather thin lines, the whole enclosed by four outer lines forming a rhombus, with diagonals 32 and 24 mm. I have seen this type on three letters to Genoa from the same business firm. The letters show a circular office and date-stamp with Mandalay. The dates are from November, 1871, to February, 1872. Mandalay was the capital of Upper Burma until January, 1886, when Upper Burma was conquered and annexed by Britain. We thus have a clear case of "Used Abroad" at Mandalay. It is not possible to say at present if there was a post office at Mandalay, or if the British representative at Mandalay was supplied with Indian postage stamps, certain functions of a post office being discharged by his staff. The latter arrangement obtained at Teheran, Ispahan and Shirez between 1870 and 1877, although, thus far, no entires have been chronicled from these Persian Agencies.

The quite recent discovery of the Indian Post Office at Mandalay, raises the presumption that it continued to function down to the troubles which ended in the annexation of Upper Burma on 1st January, 1886, and Mandalay has been seen on a piece with "R-6" in Type [17] of 1873, and with the date 1874. Types [18] and [19] should also appear for Mandalay before 1883, when hostilities began.

Up to Type [13], the original numbering of types has been adhered to. But with a wider knowledge of the subject, it appears desirable to adopt some rearrangement from Type [14] onwards.

The All-India Series of 1873-84

In the year 1873, the variety of cancellations in use in the different Circles had become distinctly bewildering, and the Central Postal Authority set to work to devise a uniform system for the whole of India. A distinguishing cancellation was provided for every post office by means of letters and numbers. Each Circle was allotted a letter which was generally the initial letter of the headquarters stations. These distinguishing letters were as follows:-

| Circle | Headquarters | Distinguishing letter |
|---------------------------|--------------|-----------------------|
| Bengal... | Calcutta | C |
| Bombay | Bombay | B |
| Madras | Madras | M |
| North-West Provinces | Allahabad... | A |
| Punjab | Lahore | L |
| Central Provinces | Nagpur | N |
| Sind | Karachi | K |
| Burma | Rangoon | R |
| Oudk | Lucknow | O |
| Rajputana | Ajmere | J |
| Travelling Post Office... | Allahabad... | T |
| Bihat (1877-78) | Dinapore | D |
| Eastern Bengal (1878-79) | Dacca | E |
| Assam (1873-74) | Shillong | S |
| Central India (1879-80) | Indore | I |

The last four circles were formed after 1873, and the dates of formation have been noted.



[17]



[17a]

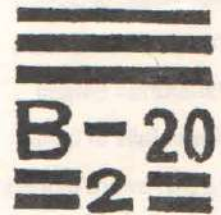
Mr. Jal Cooper illustrates an example of G-7 in Type [17], in duplex form. The small part of the left duplex showing gives the final letters "OR". M. Stansfield has G-1, and another incomplete impression G-?, and a small part of the left duplex showing "3". The "3" suggests a railway

RAH

cancellation. More information is needed as to what "G" stands for. The date, 1875, is recorded.



[17b]



[17c]



[17d]

The various types of 1873 are shown as Types [17], [17a], [17b], [17c] and [17d]. The system of numbering will be explained in describing these types.

Disbursing offices in each circle were numbered in a consecutive series commencing from the headquarters office. Thus, the obliterator, for a disbursing office showed the circle letter and the office number across the centre of the rectangular barred obliterator as Type [17].

"Non-disbursing" offices (subordinate to each disbursing office) were numbered consecutively and the number was placed above the line of the disbursing office as shown in Type [17a].

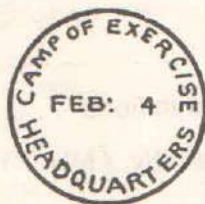
Branch offices of non-disbursing offices were numbered in the same way, the number being placed below the line of the disbursing office as in Type [17b].

In the case of the branch office of a disbursing office there is of course no number at the top, but only a number at the foot of the obliterator as in Types [17c] and [17d]. The difference between these is that [17c] has three lines above the central line of the disbursing office, and two below, while [17d] has two lines above and three below.

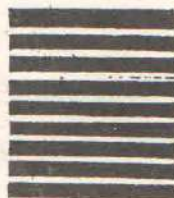
The system is ingenious and elastic. The obliterator has the merit of effecting a very thorough cancellation—indeed far too thorough in the view of the philatelist. It is difficult to regard it as other than inartistic and even hideous.



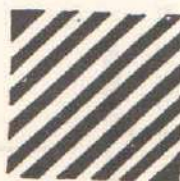
[18]



[18a]



[19]



[20]

Duplex obliterations The original intention was to supply duplex obliterations to all disbursing and non-disbursing offices, but not to branch offices. It was presumably considered office and date-stamp. However, Types [17] and [17a] are found sometimes with a single generally single, but may also be found in duplex form.

A direction in the Postal Manual of 1873 states that "there is no necessity to supply type denoting the year with any stamp." It is said that this omission was the occasion of considerable inconvenience in disputes in which the year to posting a letter was in issue. The year date was restored in the 80's. The absence of the year date is a special difficulty in investigating this series. The year can only be seen on letters addressed abroad, or on registered letters.

An endeavour has been made to identify the disbursing office numbers, and the results are printed with other series in Appendix C. There is some evidence of yet another renumbering in the North-West Provinces in 1876 or 1877!

In the Central Provinces, very high numbers are shown for non-disbursing and for branch offices. It is clear that numbering in these cases was for the whole circle, and not by disbursing offices, or non-disbursing offices.

A Cashmere cancellation Mention should be made of a remarkable cancellation from Cashmere. The Punjab series ends at number 22, and the ordinary Cashmere num-

ber is 4 under the Rawalpundi disbursing office, No.6, but I have an entire from Cashmere, with the cancellation L-35. The letter shows a postmark Srinagar, which is probably a sorting mark, for the place of origin is doubtless a branch office of Srinagar, Srinagar being the disbursing office. The number 35 for a disbursing office requires some explanation. Is it simply a bad blunder by the central Punjab office?

Type [18] is a rectangle of parallel bars, framing a Circle letter. This first appears in 1879.

Type [18a] is a rectangle of nine bars, with no letter inset. It is in duplex form, the left duplex reading "Camp of Exercise, Headquarters", and the date is February, 1876. This, the first example of this cancellation, has been shown me by Colonel A. E. Stewart.

Type [19] is a circle formed by parallel bars, framing a circle letter. This first appears in 1880. It is probable that in use, a circular obliterator was preferred to the rectangular form.

Types [18] and [19] are more numerous in single than in duplex form. Type [18] has not been seen from the Assam Circle. The adoption of these two types marks the scrapping of the highly elaborate system of numbering in Type [17].

Type [19] for Convention States Obliterators on somewhat similar lines to Type [19], but smaller, were prescribed in 1884 for the Convention States of Patiala, Jhind, Nabha, Faridkot and Gwalior, ordinarily framing the initial letter of the State. But the name of the State was also displayed in a scroll above the circle. The letters "T" and "K" besides "C" have been seen on the Chamba cancellation! Gwalior shows a snake inset instead of a capital letter, and dispenses with the name scroll.

Type [20], prescribed in 1873, is described as the "single-barred" obliterator prescribed for "experimental" offices, to be used during the experimental period of the office, or until a numbered obliterator was supplied on the office becoming permanent. This is a diamond shaped figure formed by heavy bars parallel to the long diagonal.

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