



SIPA Bulletin

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Guest Editorial

Who are these Stamp Collectors?

What research has been done into the habits of stamp collectors? It was a major wholesaler who asked me, and my immediate reaction was to ask 'Why do you want to know?' From time to time Stamp magazines in GB seek to discover just what kind of collector reads their pages: rarely does more than 1% bother to fill in the questionnaire they give, so the answers are hardly typical of the total readership.

Several decades ago, a government survey published a neat little pamphlet, the conclusions of which could be summarised as 'we don't really know'.

Why all the secrecy? Basically it stems from two problems - first, just what a stamp collector is, and secondly, the fact that most collectors are themselves secretive about their hobby.

Walk into an average office and you will usually find one man who tears all the stamps from the envelopes and hides them in a drawer: is he a collector?

Perhaps one in five of these actually bothers to soak the stamps off paper - though what happens to them after that is anyone's guess, and probably most of them are 'consumed to destruction' through careless handling. It does take a certain amount of application to soak stamps, dry them, affix hinges and mount them into the sort of album which will not ruin them.

What happens to most of the stamps rescued in this way? I think they are given to children, who of course consume them to destruction with the greatest of pleasure, learning the skills which will later allow them to approach philately in a more mature way.

But what about those collectors who, while caring for the stamps they acquire free of charge, and perhaps queueing at the post office for a mint set and first day cover the attitude that they will never buy stamps from a dealer? Are they collectors in any real sense?

What sort of a collection can you put together by chance alone? Less of a collection than an accumulation, I would say - and that explains why 'real' collectors refer to the hit-or-miss man as an 'accumulator'.

Can we, therefore, define a collector as one who not only gets things together but imposes some sort of order upon them with the aim of ultimately completing them? This means that a collection is something orderly, with a method which shows up gaps and allows the owner to fill them.

I am not suggesting the stamps have to be kept in stockbooks or special albums, so long as they form a coherent

unity: I once knew a wealthy collector whose Israel stockbooks were immaculate, whose Great Britain mounted collection included a wealth of carefully researched Penny Blacks, yet whose dining room sideboard was filled to overflowing with thousands of mint sets, from virtually every country in the world, bought as new issues, labelled with the price and simply put away.

You might call that an accumulation - but he knew every set there was in the cupboard, he had ensured the collection was complete over the past ten years, and 'one day' he intended to arrange it and then probably sell it. I think we have to accept that as a collection - but I confess that had the owner not possessed his other claims to philatelic expertise I would have been tempted to write him off as a simple accumulator.

So we have seen that there is no one pattern of collecting. Just because you use a printed album, or a pile of boxes, you are no less a collector than the man with a wealth of costly hand-written albums or cover containers. The aim is to bring order from chaos, to organise what you have into a meaningful form.

And that brings us back to the original question: how many collectors are there, what do they spend, what do they read, how do they enjoy the hobby?

How much does the average collector spend on stamps? One thing is certain - he lies to himself about it and probably hides the facts from everyone else in the family. I heard a sad tale of a collector who had a habit of dividing his purchases by ten - if he bought Rs.100 worth of stamps he would enter it meticulously in his records as Rs.10 and so on.

He died unexpectedly, his uninformed widow took the collection back to the local dealer saying 'I know how much he spent on it as it is all recorded in his book' - and the unscrupulous dealer paid her one tenth of its cost price!

From experience I would say that most dealers find the bulk of their casual trade lies within the Rs.10 - 100 range. Regular callers will spend Rs. 100-250 a time, say once a month. Serious students may be able to devote upwards of Rs.25,000 a year to their pursuit of rarities, while many a 'junior collector' (and that includes people of all ages in the junior stages of the hobby - which many of them never leave) may never rise above Rs.10/- a week.

Perhaps one could average it all out and say that some 50,000 people spend an average of Rs.20/- a week on stamps? This could be an exaggeration, giving an annual turnover of five crore a year, but we cannot be far wrong.

What happens to all this money? Well, far too much of it goes into modern mint stamps and first day covers. Philately offers the collector 160 years of stamps, an earlier 300 years of postal history, with so many sidelines that a mint stamp need never appear in a hundred albums of philatelic material.

Much philatelic money is spent on rarities - stamps or covers with a value and as it happens in most cases 'money makes money' in that the costlier the item, the better is the chance of that price rising steeply over the years.

This often dispirits newer collectors. Having spent a couple of years building up what they believe to be nice collections, they see a specialist display at an exhibition which 'knocks theirs into a cocked hat'. You should not worry at all : if your collection has given you pleasure, that is reward enough in itself; if you can afford to aspire to more rarefied levels of collecting, you must still serve your philatelic apprenticeship in the field of straightforward 'filling gaps'.

And that really is the clue to collection: pleasure. Once you become hagridden by the need to beat everyone else, or once you fall for the lure of investment profits to the exclusion of pleasure, your hobby has become a monster. So whatever your approach, whatever your expenditure - enjoy yourself first!

- Kenneth R. Lake

STAMP NEWS

SIDDHAR SWAMIGAL

15.05.2004

500

0.4 Million

Siddhar Swamigal was born on 15 May 1904, at Srinivasanallur, a small village near the temple town of Kumbakonam in Tanjore district to Sri Rathnaswamy and Smt. Dhana Lakshmi Ammal in a family of Siddhars. They were masters of Upanishads and Vedic scripts and were well versed in the study of medicinal plants and herbs, and were physicians as well. His Guru, Sri Sivananda Sivalinga Perumanaar, initiated him at the age of eight and gave him 'brahma deeksha'. He studied extensively and mastered the works of eighteen Siddhars of Tamil Nadu. Married at a very young age, he and his wife were blessed with a daughter and a son.



Siddhar Swamigal was a deep thinker and spiritually inclined from a young age. On 19th May 1944, Om Siddhar Swamigal had an intense spiritual experience while meditating. From that day forth, he devoted his life and activities to social service with a renewed zeal and vigour. He spent two decades and more in Mayiladuthurai, a small town in the district of Thanjavur, hence was popularly

known as Mayiladuthurai Siddhar Swamigal.

In a World torn by conflicts and in a society rife with divisions on the basis of caste and creed, Siddhar Swamigal spread the message of peace and harmony. He initiated the concept of Open Space Meditation which, according to him, was a way to overcome one's limitations, to transcend mental barriers and to derive strength from the vast openness of space.

With the objective of spreading divine bliss or 'Santhosham' all over the world, Sri Siddhar Swamigal found the Omkara Ashram in 1960 in Mayiladuthurai. He entrusted its responsibility to his prime disciple, Swamy Omkarananda before attaining his final peace on 31st August 1964.

Omkara Ashram, which is a non-religious organization has been spreading the message of universal peace and brotherhood and has been engaged in social service. The Ashram holds World Peace Conferences and Mass Rallies for world peace. The Ashram has branches in many places in South India with Pondicherry serving as the hub of its spiritual activities and it has spread out to the Far East and the United States of America.

Theme : Personality, Sadhus & Saints.

INDRA CHANDRA SHASTRI

27.05.2004

500

0.4 Million

A gentle lamp that quietly glows, illuminating a monumental treasure stored by the meticulous hands of history, a steady flame touching the cobwebs of ignorance and dogmatism and obliterating them, a spark igniting curious minds and leaving behind a warm afterglow: such was the intellect, the personality and in fact, the life of Dr. Indra Chandra Shastri.



Born on 27 May, 1912, at Dabwali Mandi, now in Sirsa district of Haryana, Dr. Indra Chandra Shastri came to Bikaner for education where he studied Sanskrit and Prakrit. Later he received a Masters' degree in Sanskrit from Agra University and was bestowed the 'Shastracharya' in Vedanta from the Banaras Hindu University and 'Nyayatirtha' from Calcutta. He obtained a Ph.D under

the tutelage of Pandit Bal Krishna Mishra. The doctoral dissertation in 'Epistemology of Jain Agamas' was highly commended.

Influenced by Mahatma Gandhi, Shastriji actively participated in the freedom movement. In 1942 he campaigned against Bal Diksha, a practice of forcible adoption of poor children by Jain ascetics in Rajasthan, prevalent in those days. He was involved in organizational activities, he was Secretary, Akhil Bharatiya Sanskrit Sahitya Sammelan in 1954-58. In 1957 he organized the Delhi session of All India Oriental Conference. He was Chief Speaker at World Religious Conference in Ujjain, Rajgir and Delhi. In 1959 he was appointed the first Head of the Department of Sanskrit in the Institute of Post Graduate Studies in the University of Delhi.

He wrote about 70 books and more than 600 research papers where he distilled the wisdom of ancient classical texts and applied it to modern times. His 'Pali Bhasa Aur Sahitya' has a series of three forewords followed by the Hindi translation of Wilhelm Geiger's introduction to his German classic entitled 'Pali literatur und sprache'. He had the restless zeal of an explorer and reformer, evident in his works 'Religious Shops' and 'Ghosts of Culture'. His other important works are Sankrit Kavya Shastra Ka Itihas, Mahabharat Ke Sukti Ratna, Alok Aur Unmad, Hamari Prampara, Jainism and Democracy, Dharma Aur Rashtra Nirman, Bharatiya Arya Bhasaen etc.

As a recognition of his pioneering efforts and creative talent, he was awarded the 'Sahitya Seva Samman', by the Hindi Academy, and the 'Sahitya Ratna Alankaran' by the Vice Chancellor of Delhi University.

In his 'Epistemology of Jain Agamas', a compara-

five study, according to Dr. Satkari Mookerjee, "the maturity of judgement and sober appraisal of the lived and orthodox positions and their points of agreements and diversion by the author will ensure him the reputation of being one of the pioneer exponents of Jainology in English. It shows a healthy outlook and freedom from domestic bias".

Such a profile of courage and dedication passed away on 3 November 1986. Dr. Indra Chandra Shastri advocated a spiritual journey for the individual from the personal to the universal and the humane.

Theme : Personality, Literature, Reformer.

WOODSTOCK SCHOOL

02.06.2004

500

0.8 Million

Woodstock School has been providing a distinctive international education in Mussoorie for nearly 150 years, and is one of the few schools in India which is known worldwide



First established in 1854 as an English-medium school for Protestant girls, the school became co-educational in 1926. In 1958, Woodstock School became the first school in all of Asia to receive international accreditation; the school currently holds accreditation through both the Middle States Association of Colleges and Secondary Schools (USA) and

the Commission on International and Trans-regional accreditation. In India, Woodstock's awards are recognized by the Association of Indian Universities and the Council for Indian School Certificate Examinations.

Woodstock School offers a college-preparatory Kindergarten through Grade 12 curriculum that enable students to enter Universities in India, the USA, Europe and throughout the world. During its history, Woodstock has served both foreign and Indian national children requiring an international education. Woodstock students come to Uttaranchal to study from more than 30 nations and represent over 20 different nationalities. Historically, Woodstock teachers and students have come from all over the world to live and work at this school in the Himalayan foothills. Staff and students alike have been attracted to its close, truly international community and the liberal Christian heritage upon which Woodstock is based.

In addition to educational and economic impacts on Mussoorie and its surrounding area, Woodstock's presence has also enhanced the physical environment. It has preserved its forest for future generations by working with the Forest Department and providing its own forest guard.

Woodstock is involved in historical preservation projects, in plastic recycling and tree-planting projects, and in educating the many visitors that come to the school about the issues and challenges that face this region.

Theme : Education, Institutions.

JYOTIPRASAD AGARWALLA

17.06.2004

500

0.4 Million

Jyotiprasad Agarwalla was born on 17th June 1903 to Parmananda Agarwalla and Kiranmoyee Devi. His early education was in Tezpur High School, Dibrugarh. He left school inspired by the influence of Gandhiji when the latter visited Tezpur in 1921. Later he completed his education from Chitranian Das University and National College Calcutta.



Jyotiprasad Agarwalla became an active Satyagrahi in the 1930s and toured extensively in the rural areas of Tezpur. In 1932 he was arrested for his activities and fined Rs. 500. In this turbulent period, he married Debajani Bhuyan of Dibrugarh in 1936. During the Quit India movement, as a commander of the volunteer force, Jyotiprasad remained underground spreading revolutions message. He

remained a pacifist and on Gandhiji's advice, surrendered to the British at the Darrang District Court on 15 August 1943. He was tried but released for want of evidence.

He penned "Shonit Kunwari" at the age of 14. It was a musical dance drama with an experimentation in "Padumkali" dance, a combination of "Bihu" and 'Bhawna'. In 1924 it was staged for the first time in the Ban theatre and it became a milestone in the history of Assamese drama.

A prolific poet, he wrote with a flourish using chaste and sweet Assamese words. He also wrote 'Jyoti Ramayana', considered to be one of his most notable contributions towards children's literature. He also introduced 'Jyoti Sangeet', a combination of Assamese, Hindustani and Western music.

In 1926 he left India and joined Edinburg University in 1927. He was influenced by the prevalent trends of experimentation in music and drama and the huge strides in cinema. He studied cinematography in Berlin in 1929.

After return to India, he made "Jyoti" the first film in Assam and also a talkie in the age of silent films. It was released on 10th March, 1935 and ushered in a new chapter in the cinematic history of Assam. His next film was "Indramalati". He established 'Chitranan' the first film studio, 'Jonaki' the first theatre, and also 'Tezpur Sangeet Mahavidyalaya'.

Jyotiprasad Agarwalla devoted his entire life to rejuvenate Assamese society. He fought for establishment of Assamese as the official language of Assam. Guwahati University is another example of his selfless and tireless efforts.

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 40 members attended with President Shri Balakrishna Das presiding. Mr.D.H.Rao spoke on "Created Covers & Maxim Cards" in June 2004.

For his contribution to the Assamese literature, music and culture, he is lovingly called the 'Rupkonwar', i.e. the Prince of Beauty.

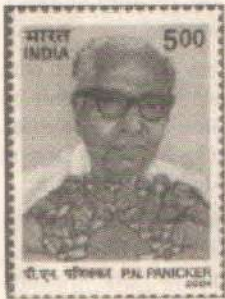
Jyotiprasad Agarwalla died on 17 January, 1951. This day is observed as 'Silpi Diwas' in Assam.

Theme : Personality, Freedom Struggle, Poet, Music, Cinema.

P.N. PANICKER

19.06.2004 500 0.4 Million

P.N. Panicker's life gave credence to Ralph Waldo Emerson's observation that "an institution is the lengthened shadow of one man". A frail khadi-clad old man, he left a shadow that has grown over the years making him a legend in his own lifetime and thereafter. The activities of the Kerala Grandhasala Sanghom (Kerala State Library Council) ignited a popular cultural movement in Kerala at the end of which the state acquired total literacy in the 1990s. It was the work of P.N. Panicker.



The Grandhasala Sanghom which began humbly with 47 libraries in 1945, grew into a network of more than 6,000 libraries spreading over the towns and villages of Kerala. To give this activity a developmental format, he organized the Kerala Association for Non-Formal Education and Development (KANFED). Together, these two Associations

turned an activity into a movement which had a profound impact on the education, culture and development of Kerala.

Born on 1 st March, 1909 in Kuttanad, in the erstwhile Travancore state, the young Panicker showed a keen interest in reading newspapers and books. Not only did he read them himself, he also read the daily news to groups of illiterate people of all ages. In a small room given by the local cooperative society in his village, Panicker started a reading center called Sanadanadharmam Library. An admirer of Mahatma Gandhi, Panicker was inspired by the Mahatma's words that "illiteracy is a curse and shame of the country and it should be wiped out as early as possible". Social historians of the state are of the opinion that the cultural revolution following the social emancipation movements initiated by Sree Narayana Guru, Ayyankali, V.T. Bhattathiripad and others was the outcome of Panicker's library movement. The idea, inspiration and leadership for making Kerala the first totally literate state of the country came from Panicker and his KANFED. The state-wide popular movement called Sakshara Kerala through a time-bound intensive campaign involving thousands of voluntary workers achieved success on 18th April, 1991.

He devoted his last years to the Friendship Village Movement (Sauhrudagraman). He continued travelling and working vigorously, sustained by his simple Gandhian lifestyle and an indomitable will till he passed away on 19th June 1965.

Theme : Literacy, Personality, Reformer.

THE GREAT TRIGONOMETRICAL SURVEY

28.06.2004 500, 500, 500 0.8 Million
M/S - 1500

The Survey of India, was raised during the era of the East India Company, by Lord Clive. Major James Rennell was commissioned to commence the Bengal Surveys in 1767. This is accepted as the beginning of systematic topographical mapping in India. Soon after the conquest of



Mysore in 1799, the third Mysore surveys were ordered under Colonel William Lambton. So, in 1802 AD, Colonel Lambton decided to carry out a trigonometrical survey of the peninsula in the vicinity of Madras on 10 April, 1802, starting an exercise that marked the beginning of the Great Trigonometrical Survey (GTS).

The Royal Geographical Society considered the GTS the most significant contribution to the advancement of the science in the 19th century. Though Lambton had initially planned a short arc, it later grew in size and scale and the 1600 mile survey took nearly fifty years to be completed. The Great Arc made possible the mapping of the entire subcontinent. Scientific and infrastructural initiatives could not have taken place without the accurate maps which the measurement of the Great Arc made possible. The Arc also resulted in the first accurate measurement of the Himalayas.

This gigantic endeavour would not have been possible without the pioneering efforts clear thinking and sagacious vision of an intrepid band of surveyors. Foremost among them is Colonel William Lambton, a man of extraordinary scientific passion. A self-taught astronomer, geographer and mathematician, he joined the British Army as an ensign in the 33rd Regiment and moved with his Regiment to India when he was almost 50 years of age. The brilliant executor of Lambton's scientific legacy was George Everest who made the Arc his life's work. The loftiest peak in the Himalayas and consequently in the World was given his name. Everest's "right hand" and Chief Computer was Radhanath Sikdar who joined the Survey at Mussourie at the age of 21. He was appointed as computer in 1831 and took field with Everest in October 1833. He is said to have calculated the height of Mount Everest and thereby discovered the highest mountain in the world. His most important contribution was the preparation of the first edition of the Auxilliary Tables. He also assisted in the compilation of "Manual of Surveying for India". After Everest's departure he was equally trusted by Waugh, the new Surveyor General. He retired in March 1862 and passed away on 17 May, 1870.

Another intrepid school teacher who made an invaluable contribution to the advancement of the Survey was Nain Singh. He took up the challenge of mapping Tibet and that too under cover since Tibet was completely sealed off by edict. Nain Singh entered Tibet in the guise of a lama, armed with prayer wheel and rosary but concealing in a secret compart-

ment in his trunk precious instruments-the compass, sextant, thermometer, chronometer and bottle of mercury. He followed the course of the great Tibetan river, the Tsangpo for 800 km and eventually proved that Tsangpo and Brahmaputra are the same.

Theme : Personality, Maps, Surveys.

AACHARYA BHIKSHU

30.06.2004

500

0.4 Million

The founder of the Jain Swetamber Terapanth Sect, Acharya Bhikshu was man of revolutionary ideas who was propelled to react after he made an intense study of ancient texts and became acutely aware of not only their misinterpretation, but also the distorted version of religion prevalent in society.



Acharya Bhikshu was born to Shah Balluji Saklecha and Deepanji on the thirteenth day of the waxing moon in the month of Ashad in the Vikram Samvat year 1783, in the village of Kantaliya in Pali district, Rajasthan. He was married to Sugannibai of the neighbouring

village but due to the sudden demise of his father and wife in quick succession, he took to ascetic life under the guidance of Acharya Raghunathji. He set out from the village reached Kelba in Mewar, Rajasthan, where he took a vow and established the Terapanth religious Sangha on June 28, 1760.

Acharya Bhikshu was a philosopher saint, perceptive writer, sensitive poet and social reformer. He composed about 38000 shlokas and his writings have been compiled in two volumes as "Bhikshu Granth Ratnakar". Among his compositions, "Nav Padarth Sadbhav", is regarded as a significant philosophical composition that deals exhaustively with the nine gems of Jain philosophy. It advocated a society free of exploitation.

Acharya Bhikshu was the harbinger of a religious revolution and he plodded to rid society of several evils. Gainful insights can be obtained in the field of governance, sociology and economics from the teachings of Acharya Bhikshu. He said neither the fear of punishment nor the temptation of reward can make a religion work. For this a transformation of the heart is essential. He gave to the world knowledge about the different premises of religion and society. He said wherever there is goodness and truth, it is conducive, irrespective of caste, creed or place to the well-being of the society. Help rendered to the suffering, exploited and helpless was labeled by him as duty, responsibility and social obligation; he gave the clarion call for a revolution in society.

Acharya Bhikshu attained eternal bliss in the Vikram Samvat year 1860 at Siriyari, Rajasthan.

Theme : Personality, Saint, Reformer.

ORIGIN OF THE POSTAL SYSTEM IN INDIA IN THE 18TH CENTURY

THE POST OFFICE-GEO-DESY AND ASTRONOMY - THE CHARITY SCHOOL

(1785 - 1790)

THE POST OFFICE

Hitherto the Madras Postal system had been worked mainly at the expense of Government, letters of all Company's servants being carried free. To Mr. John Philip Burlton, a junior civilian of eight years' standing, it first occurred that postage ought to be paid by correspondents rather than borne by the Company or the public:

Mr. Burlton to Government.

(P.C., Vol. CXXXV., 15th July, 1785.)

The proposal which I some time since delivered to Lord Macartney, and which I now have the honor to send you, is to establish a regular Tapall² or Dauk³ upon a Plan similar to that at Bengal, which will exclude the Company's servants from the privilege of receiving their Letters free of Postage.

The numerous complaints which are daily made of the miscarriage of Letters and of the great inconveniences which arise from their frequently laying at the main Guard and being there intercepted by curious and inquisitive persons, plead strongly for the Interference of Government, and evince the necessity of establishing a regular Office for the receipt of Letters at Fort St. George, which may from thence be conveyed to every part of this settlement with certainty and expedition.

"If Government should consider this Plan worthy attention, it will be proper, in order to its being carried into execution, to weigh and examine all Letters for one month at least, by which means an estimate may be made of the amount of postage, from whence it will appear what appointments with proper Salaries may be charged upon it, and what will be the clear annual addition arising therefrom to the Company's revenue. P. Burlton."

A Sketch of Regulations proposed for Establishing a General Post Office at Fort St. George.

'1st. That there be a regular Office allotted for the receipt of all Letters, which would be of Greater convenience if held in the Fort Square.

'2nd. That all letters, both Public and Private, are to pay postage.

'3rd. That all Letters put in the Office for Bengal, or any Place beyond the Limits of this Establishment, be paid for (as far as the authority of this Office reaches) when received by the Postmaster.

'4th. That at the different out settlements the Secretary to the Chief and Council of the Place is to act as Postmaster, and in the different Garrisons the Paymaster or Commandant.

'5th. That every arrangement is to be made by the Postmaster General, and that all accounts relative to the department be sent to him.

'6th. That the Accounts of the Office are to be sent in to the Accountant once every Quarter.

'7th. That all Packets from Europe, after having been examined by the Hon'ble Governor and Council, be sent to the Post Office, and that all Packets for Europe be made up at the said office, and sent from thence to the Government house in order to be closed.

'8th. That the Quartermaster General be requested to send Notice to the Office of any changes which may take place in the Army.

'9th. That all expenses relative to this department be paid from the revenue of the same.

'10th. That the Accounts of the Office be kept in such regulation as to be ready for the inspection of Government on Twenty-four hours notice.

'P. BURLTON.'

Davidson's Government thereupon applied to Bengal for information respecting the Calcutta Post Office, and subsequently wrote to Englands as follows:-

Fort St. George to the Company.

'Having taken into consideration the establishing a regular Post Office, we directed our Accountant to prepare a Statement of the monthly charges of the Tappies¹ in the Carnatic and Northern Circars, and the same being laid before us, it appeared the annual expense to you is about Pags. 10,000; but previous to our coming to any determination on the subject, we agreed to apply to the Governor General and Council to furnish us with a copy of the Plan and Regulations been complied with, we mean very soon to establish a Plan for the purpose, which will, we hope, prove to be a material saving to you'. (P. to Eng., vol. XXX., 12th Jan. 1786).

Mr. Thomas Lewin, a civil servant dating from 1770, then submitted a scheme based on the Bengal system-

Mr. Thomas Lewin to Government.

(P.C., vol. CXXXVII., 10th March, 1786)

Orders and Regulations (proposed) for the Establishment of a Post Office throughout the Presidency of Fort St. George and its Dependancies.

1st. That the Tappies be formed into three Divisions as follows:-

1st Division, from Madras North to Ganjam.

2nd Division from Madras, Southward to Anjengo.

3rd Division from Madras West to Vellore.

'2nd. That no Tappies be appointed to the Cross Roads excepting those hereafter mentioned, but Hircarrahs² occasionally employed by the Chief of Factories or Commandants of Out Garrisons or Stations, to convey the Letters to the nearest stages of the Tappies.

'3rd. That three Tappal Peons be appointed to each stage, and to some Stages the addition of one Masaulchy³ namely.

Miles. Stages. Hir Carrahs. Masaul chies.

	(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)
From-					
Madras to Ganjam	700	78	234	22	
Madras to Anjengo	500	56	168	32	
Madras to Vellore	100	11	33	..	
Cross Roads-					
Ganjam to Aska	40	5	15	5	
Sheally to Negapatnam	50	6	18	..	
Masulipatnam to Ellore	45	5	15	5	

'4th. That a Mootchy⁴ be fixed at each Capital Stage who shall have charge of a certain Number of Stages⁵

'5th. That a Deputy Postmaster be appointed ... at the following Stations Masulipatam, Ganjam, Tanjour and Anjengo.

'6th. That a Post Master General be appointed at Madras, with one Deputy, one Writer or Native Assiant, five Sorters, One Head Peon, an Ten Peons for distributing Letters. He will have the control of the whole establishment.

By Rules.

'1st. That all Letters shall Pay postage excepting such as are on the Public Service.

'2nd. That the Postage on Letters to be despatched from Madras shall be paid when the Letters are put into the Office, and at the following rates - Single Letter, for every hundred Miles 1 Fanam, Double, and other Letters in proportion according to their weight.¹

'3rd. That Letters coming from Europe or elsewhere by Sea shall be charged on delivery agreeable to the following rates - Single Letters delivered from the Office to persons in Madras, 40 Cash ; Double Letters, 1 Fannan ; Treble Letters, 11/4 Fannan.....

'5th. That the Post Office in Madras shall be open every-day from Ten, O Clock in the Morning till one for the delivery of Letters, and from six till nine in the Evening for the receipt of Letters.

'THO. LEWIN'

Sir Archibald Campbell took up the matter on his arrival, and after considering the Bengal system and the plans of Burlton and Lewin, advocated the adoption of Lewin's scheme with slight modifications.

Minute by Sir Archibald Campbell.

'The Governor begs leave to recall the attention of the board to a subject which some time ago, previous to his arrival, came under their Consideration, - the relieving the Company from a very heavy and, in his Opinion, unnecessary expense which has hitherto fallen upon them in conveying of letters to all the different districts under this extensive establishment. It appears to him but just and reasonable that the Individuals under this Presidency, as well as under

any other well regulated Government, should pay for the conveyance of their letters, and that the charge should not fall upon the public, except in the transmitting of the Orders of Government and on circulating Letters upon the public Service.....

'Sir Archibald Campbell therefore begs leave to propose that his private Secretary, Mr. A. M. Campbell, shall take Charge of the Post Office, with a Suitable Salary for his trouble, and that Mr. Robert Mitford be appointed deputy, to reside at this Presidency under the direction of the Postmaster General.' (P.C., vol. CX X XVIII., 18th May 1786.)

Then follow 'Orders and Regulations' and 'By Rules' similar to Lewin's, save that the only letters passing free are those of the Members of Council and the Secretaries, and that the rates of delivery in Madras are raised to one, one and a half, and two fanams for single, double, and treble letters respectively. Government approved this plan, and resolved that it should come into operation on the 1st June 1786. The expenditure was calculated at Pags. 2,233 per month, but no estimate of revenue is recorded :-

Fort St. George to the Company.

'The Plan laid before us by Sir Archibald Campbell appearing to be well adapted to the situation of this Coast, and nearest to the Bengal model which had been found, after an experience of some years, to answer every expectation, we established the General Post Office throughout this Presidency and its Dependencies.

"Entertaining a very favourable opinion of Mr. Archibald Montgomery Cambell² and being sensible of his confidential situation at this Settlement, but which was unattended with any emoluments, we took the opportunity of conferring upon him the Office of Post Master General, and at the same time nominated Mr. Robert Mitford to be the Deputy, which measure we hope will meet with your approbation...." (P. to Eng. vol. xxx, 14th Oct. 1786.)

Mr. Alexander Davidson desired to see Bombay embraced in the postal scheme.- "In addition to the arrangement for a Post Office, Mr. Davidson recommends and proposes Cossids or Pattamars be appointed to proceed weekly for Bombay. He thinks six pairs might be sufficient. That it be recommended to Bombay to appoint the same number. The packets to be changed mid-way. By this made the Political and Commercial interests of Bombay and Fort St. George will no doubt be considerably benefitted.³

The new Postmaster-General reported in October that letters for Bombay were usually sent on by sea from Anjengo, a precarious method during the monsoon. The shortest land journey was by way of Cudappah and Poona, " but there the Cossids would be obliged to pass through a great part of Tippoo's Country, which I fear is a sufficient Plea for us to abandon this route. He therefore advised that letters be carried to Ongole, and thence to Poona:-

Mr. A. M. Campbell to Government

'This admitted, I would propose that two Men of the Patamar Cast should be dispatched from the General Post Office once a fortnight on the Wednesday night at 8 'O Clock. That, their pay shall be adjusted according to the Custom that has always been followed here, viz to advance them one half or 2/3rds of their pay their Outsett, and the remainder to be paid them on the delivery of the Packet at Bombay. I would

propose to limit them to a certain stated time in which they are to perform this Journey, varying from 25 to 30 days according to the Season of the Year.. I would, with Submission to your Hon'ble Board, propose that the Expense attending this System, as far B. I can judge at present, will be 1,300 Pagodas a Year....' (P.C. Vol....., 20th Oct. 1786)

Government, in approving these proposals, suggested that a half-way point might be fixed where the Pattamars from each presidency could meet and exchange letters.

In 1787 the Directors arranged for the establishment of a post between England and the East via Suez, but the project was not immediately executed owing to the disturbed condition of Egypt. They forbade the engagement of special packet vessels in India except in cases of urgency, when a burden of 140 to 170 tons was prescribed :-

The Company to Fort. St. George

'Being fully sensible of the great Advantages which would result from a regular intercourse between England and the British Possessions in the East Indies through Egypt, we have appointed George, 'Baldwin, Esqr., His Majesty's Consul in that Country, to be the Company's Agent at Cairo for forwarding their Dispatches that Route.....

'In order to carry the purposes of Mr. Baldwin's appointment into effect, we have formed a Plan which has been approved by His Majesty's Post Master General ; and in consequence thereof we have given directions to our Governor General and Council of Bengal that, on the 30th November annually, they dispatch one of the Company's armed Cruizers to Suez., with orders to call at Fort St. George, where she is not to remain more than two Days, from whence she is to sail to Bombay, where likewise she must not to remain more than two days, She is then to proceed to Suez, from whence Mr. Baldwin will return her with the Company's Dispatches to India, agreeably to such orders as he may receive from us.

'Private Letters to and from India may be permitted to be forwarded with the Company's Packet ; but we strictly enjoin you to make the private Letters as separate Parcel from the Company's Packet, and not to include in the latter any Letters from Individuals. Both the Packet must be directed to the Court of Directors, and after taking those belonging to the Company, we shall send the others to the General Post Office here, from whence they will be distributed...

"We have received only one Letter from Mr. Baldwin since his arrival in Egypt., which was dated the 19th February last at Alexandria. From the then unsettled State of the Affairs there, he had not made any final Settlement with the Beys and Bashaws for opening the communication through Suez to the English, but appeared confident he soon should : he had however appointed Hagi Dervish , a Native of Cairo, his Agent at Suez, and James Wifferman, a German, his Agent at Alexandria.

'The Plan has been communicated to His Majesty's Post Master General, who has been pleased to promise us his concurrence for the conveyance of the Letters from London to Leghorn and from thence hither." (P. frn Eng., Vol. xc., 31st July, 1787.)

At the same time the Court signified disapproval of the employment of Messrs. Cambell and Mitford as Postmaster-General and Deputy, those gentlemen not being in the

Company's service. They ordered that the salaries of the two posts be limited to Pags. 100 and Pgs. 50 until higher rates were justified by profits, and they suggested the appointment of Mr. Burlton. Fort St. George, however, objected to Burlton, and nominated Mr. Richard Legge Wills to be chief of the Postal Department.² After a few month's employment, Willis, who had been recommended for a salary of Pags. 300, was succeeded by Mr. Oliver Colt.³

Colt reported that he maintained a separate account of the cost of the Bombay post. The route from Ongole was by Hyderabad and Poona. At first the same cossids travelled the whole distance in from 28 to 33 days ; but by substituting two sets and transferring the letters half-way, the time was reduced to 20 to 25 days.³ A few months later a modification was made in consequence of the inauguration by Captain John Kennaway, Resident at Hyderabad under the orders of the Governor-General, of a post between Bombay and Masulipatnam. Madras letters for Bombay were then despatched weekly to Masulipatam, and forwarded thence⁴ with the Bengal packet²

Captain Kennaway to Fort St. George
(P. C. Vol. Clix., 20th November 1787)

'The Post will set off from Bombay every Wednesday at 3 p.m., and from Masulipatam every Monday.

"Tho, in the infancy of such an Established [Post] thro so large a tract of unexplored and foreign Territory, it is impracticable to ascertain with precision the exact time of carrying letters between Bombay and Masulipatam, it is on good ground hoped it may be effected in 12 days ; so that, allowing the regular Post to go from Masulipatam to Calcutta in 14days, and to Madras in 5, the letters between Bombay and those places will be conveyed in 26 and 17 days.

"The Postage.... will be as follows for a single Letter 2 1/2 Rupees weight³ and under

Between Bombay and Poona	52 Coss ⁴		2 Annas.
Between Bombay and Hyderabad	222 Coss		8 Annas.
Between Bombay and Masulipatam	..	331 Coss		12 Annas.
Between Masulipatam and Madras	..	323 Miles	3 fanams	4 Annas.
Between Masulipatam and Ganjam	..	428 Miles	4 fanams	8 Annas.
Between Ganjam and Calcutta	305 Miles		5 Annas.

"JOHN KENNAWAY"

Fort St. George to the Company.

'We have the pleasure to observe that the communication with Bombay is now carried into effect by the establishment of a weekly Post. The Court of Poonah and the Nizam have granted their assent to its accomplishment through their territories, and Captain Kennaway has expressed days.'⁴ (P. to Eng. Vol.xxxi, 15th January 1790.)

- Taken from the "Vestiges of old Madras" - Vol. III

MAHATMA GANDHI IN PHILATEY

by

G. Ram Mohan

Part II

College at Bhavnagar and then to England

When young Mohandas Gandhi was in the 9th year of his schooling his father Karamchand Gandhi died. His eldest brother Lakshmidas took over the reins as the head of the family, and he loved his younger brother with a fatherly love. On his insistence, Mohandas continued his education at the Kattyawar High School, Rajkot, and passed the Bombay Matriculation Examination held in November 1887. Lakshmidas also decided to send his brother for further education to the university. The nearest college was at Bhavnagar about 400 kilometers away, and Mohandas went to Bhavnagar in January 1888 to join the Samaldas College. The college building at that time consisted of three small double-storied blocks. This old building now houses a girls' high school. Samaldas College itself has moved into a set of modern buildings.

When one enters the main building of the Samaldas College today a marble plaque is seen at the entrance, which reads as follows:

MAHATMA GANDHI WAS A STUDENT OF THE FIRST YEAR CLASS OF THE SAMALDAS COLLEGE FROM JANUARY TO JUNE 1888

What happened? How could Gandhiji complete his college education in six months? These are the questions that arise. Well, the fact is that Gandhiji quit the college after six months, finding the education to be not at all to his liking. He did not find the subjects interesting, and his inadequate command of the English language was a big handicap. Thus ended Gandhiji's brief encounter with college education at Bhavnagar.

Bhavnagar town itself has commemorated its association with the Mahatma in a big way. There is an excellent museum of Mahatma Gandhi memorabilia in the town that is worth travelling a thousand miles to see. The museum is accommodated in a building named 'Gandhi Smriti Building'. The museum contains original documents from Gandhiji's student days, such as his mark sheets and other certificates. There are many original articles used by Gandhiji, including his plates, spoons, charka etc. There is an exhibition depicting the virtues of a true vaishnava as described in Gandhiji's favourite hymn Vaishnava Janato. Altogether it is a very interesting museum.

In December 1976 a philatelic exhibition, 'Bhavpex '76', was organized at Bhavnagar, wherein a large number of thematic collections on Mahatma Gandhi were exhibited. A Special Cover brought out on that occasion carries a photograph of the Gandhi Smriti Building. There is an interesting Special Cancellation on the Cover. It is an enlarged reproduction of the picture of Gandhiji as depicted in the definitive series of stamps on the Mahatma that was launched earlier that year on October 2nd.

When Mohandas returned home abandoning college education, there was heavy disappointment all around.

Fortunately, a close friend and well wisher of the family named Mavji Dave, came forward with an alternative proposal for continuing Mohandas's higher education. His proposal was that the young man should go to England and qualify himself as a barrister, which would open up many avenues for his advancement in life. The proposal caught everyone's fancy, not the least among whom was Mohandas himself. The family arranged for finances with great difficulty, and the young student set sail for England in September 1888. He stayed there for three years and returned home a qualified barrister.

There is one well known photograph of Gandhiji as a young student in England. The photograph, taken shortly after his arrival there, is a bust size picture, slightly in profile. It shows as its most prominent feature his thick, black hair carefully combed and parted, with the parting slightly to the right of centre. His large ears and the big pointed nose, his famous facial features, are also seen here.

This photograph has been depicted in philately. The first depiction was in the 2 Cents Mauritius stamp issued in 1969 to mark the birth centenary of the Mahatma. The stamp carries an artist's impression of young Gandhiji's face based on the photograph. In the artist's impression the face is shown laterally inverted from what is there in the original photograph. His face is coloured in dark shades of maroon, and the hair is shown jet-black. This 2 Cents stamp is one of a sets of six stamps.

The same photograph, without any modification from the original, occurs in the commemorative stamps issued by Zambia on 30th January 1998 to mark the 50th anniversary of the death of the Mahatma. It is a set of seven stamps, and the London photograph occurs in stamps of two denominations - 250 kwacha and 1200 kwacha. The background shows a view of a London building where Gandhiji resided as a student.

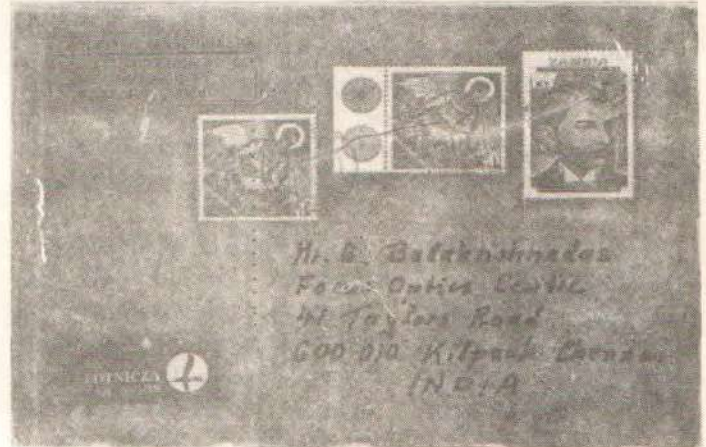
There is one more photograph available of Gandhiji as a student in England. Here he is with a group of fellow delegates at the Vegetarian Conference held at Portsmouth in 1890. A fine smile is seen playing on his lips. It will make a very beautiful picture in a stamp.



BHAVPEX '76 SPECIAL COVER SHOWING GANDHI SMRITI BUILDING, AND WITH SPECIAL CANCELLATION



MAURITIUS 2Cents



ZAMBIA K1,200 STAMP POSTALLY USED

SIKHISM

GURU GRANTH SAHIB

THE HOLY SCRIPTURE IN PHILATELY

S. PARAMJIT

SINGH,

PATNA



The Colonisation of the India begun when Mahmud of Ghazni (Afgan invador) established his rule at Lahore in 1023 AD and returned to Ghazni after each invasion. Mohammed of Ghor invaded India and conquered larger territories from 1175 AD - until his death in 1206 AD. In between the death of Mohammad Ghor in 1206 AD and birth

of Guru Nanak Dev on Saturday 21st October 1469 AD in Talwandi, known as Nankana Sahib, India witnessed more bloodier events then in the preceding years, which prompted Nanak to create a new faith as Sikhism.



SIKHISM means the path of discipline and discipleship as shown by Sikh Gurus. It is a practical religion - a faith of hope and optimism. The word Sikh is derived from the Sanskrit word **Shishya** (A disciple) who follows the **Sheekh** (teachings) of **GURU GRANTH SAHIB**. The holy Scripture is the teachings of God by the sermons of Sikh Gurus, compiled in the form of book. First compiled by 5th Guru Arjan Devji and finally by last Guru Gobind Singhji.



GURU NANAKDEV

(India S.G. No. 602) gave new hope to the down-trodden mankind to join his fraternity as equal, taught uniquely through three basic principles (a) Nam Japo (b) Kirt Karo (c) Vand-ke-chako and also travelled from 1507-1521 as far as Mecca in the West and Bangladesh in the East, Tibet in the North & Sri Lanka in the South to spread the message of God.

There are 97 Compositions of Hymns under 19 (musical) ragas in Guru Granth Sahib.



GURU ANGAD DEV -

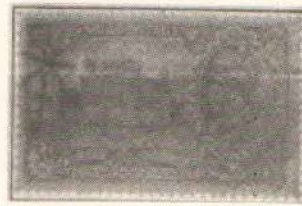
propagated the message of God with emphasis to avoid gossip, stealing, forgery & lust. Guru preached that God is omnipresent and we could be one with him only through love, honesty and loyalty. By composing 63 hymns suffixing 'Nanak' identifying that author of hymns is a Sikh Guru. Guruji also introduced the use of Gurumukhi script & developed Punjabi grammer.



GURU AMAR DAS

(India S.G. No. 953) - The third Nanak in succession, instituted PANGAT dining together in the Guru-ka-Langer (the free community kitchen) and SANGAT - mixed congregation, where his disciples meet as brothers in faith. He composed 907 Hymns, Pauris & Shlokas under 29 Raags in Guru Granth Sahib.

GURU RAM DAS (India S.G. No. 224, 319) - The fourth Guru of Sikh faith, marked the excavation work of holy tank Amrit Sarover on a land gifted by Moghul Emperor Akbar



the Great, composed 679 Hymns, Pauris & Shlokas at 29 Raags in Guru Granth Sahib. The Golden Temple (Darbar Sahib) constructed in early 15th century - nucleus of Sikhism, which is Sanctum Sanctorium for Sikhs keep its doors open to all persons irrespective of their faiths.

GURU ARJANDEV

(India S.G.No. 1282) -

compiled Sri Guru Granth Sahib (Sikh Scripture also known as Adi Granth) and added his Hymns, Pauris & Shlokas. First inaugurated on 16-08-1604, 400th year of Parkash Gurupurab of Sri Adi Granth Sahib is being celebrated world wide in 2004.



While compiling the Guru Granth Sahib, Guru Arjandevji also enshrined the Shlokas & chants of Bhagats and Sufis of other religions.



SHEIKH FARID -

Faridkot the resting place of Sheikh Baba Farid 1175 - 1265. The immortal Sufibard and father of Punjabi Literature, wrote 4 Hymns & 112 Shlokas in Adi Granth.



BHAI GURDAS - Born at Gurdaspur, was the son of Datar Chand, younger brother of Guru Amardas. He was contemporary of third, fifth & sixth Gurus. A brilliant scholar and a great poet. He composed 39 Ballads (wars) in Punjabi, 556 Couplets (Kabits) in Braj and also Scribe of the Guru Granth Sahib.

SANT NAMDEO - (India S.G. No. 626), 1270 - 1350 A D., was a celebrated saint, the son of Dam Seti, a



tailor who resided at Narsi Bamni in the Satara district. His mother Gona Bai daughter of a tailor and his father possessed devotional enthusiasm. 62 of his hymns have been incorporated in the Adi Granth. The themes of these hymns are the

varied spiritual experiences of Namdev.

KABIR (India S.G. No. 337) 1398 - 1495. Kabir was the most revolutionary saint of the Bhakti movement. He condemned social and religious abuses and emphasized the fundamental equality and fraternity of all mankind. He fought against all vicious influences and pulled up the Hindu Pundits and Muslim Mullas and inveighed against the Yogis



and Sadhus. Kabir's contribution to the Granth comprising 534 different verses arranged under 17 Raagas.

SURDAS (India S.G No. -340)

1478 - 1585, Bhagat Sur Das was a Brahmin family born, in addition to learning Sanskrit and Persian, he studied music and learnt poetry. only 1 Shabad in Guru Granth Sahib.



RAVIDAS (India S.G No.) 1324 - 1414, The spritual power of Ravidas, was known far and wide. He inspired Meera Bai. The queen of Chittore became his disciple. Ravidas was a resident of Kashi and came from a cobbler's family. In spite of his low

caste, he rose to a position of great honour and respect through a life of simplicity and piety. 40 Shabad are included in Granth Sahib.



GURU TEGH BAHADUR

(India S.G No.-793) 1621 - 1676, Stamp depicts Gurudwara Sri Sis Ganj (Delhi) where his martyrdom took place. His martyrdom is history's

supreme act in vindication of religious freedom and dignity and Guruji is remembered as HIND-KI-CHANDAR the protector of the Honour of India.



USER : Gurudwara Sis Gang, Delhi. BHAY KAHO KOW DET NAHIN NAHIN BHAY MANAT AAN : Who doth not evoke fear in others nor accepteth fear from anyone. 59 Hymns and 56 Shlokas in Guru Granth Sahib.



GURU GOBIND SINGH (India S.G. No.-544)

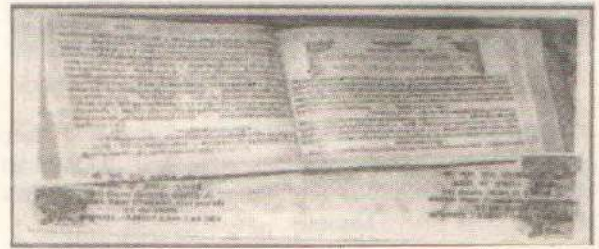
1677-1708 Stamp issued on Birth tercentenary, depicting Sri Takht Harmandir jee, Patna Sahib-where Guruji was born on Saturday, 22nd Dec 1666 and spent 8 years of his childhood. Guruji initiated Sikh Baptism by creating New KHALSA PANTH and give distinctive identity to the Sikhs by Five 'K's.



TALWANDI SABO, Bhatinda- Fifth seat of authority of Sikhs. A magnificent Gurudwara was erected to

perpetuate the memory of Guru Gobind Singh stay in 1706. This place owes its importance to the compilation of Guru Granth Sahib (Damdami Bir) by Guru Gobind Singh. Scribe was Bhai Mani Singhji.

NANDED, Guruji bestowed upon the Granth, the Guruship (Gur Gaddi) at Nanded on 4.10.1708. "All community should recognise Guru Granth as the Guru, obey the commandments enshrine therein, recognise the Granth as the visible body of the Guru. The Sikh who wishes to meet me should find me there".

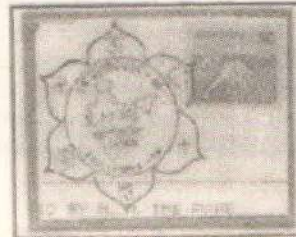


GURU GRANTH SAHIB - Which is known as Adi Granth, is the holy book of the Sikhs and the Supreme Authority. Total shabads shlokas and chants are 5894 under



31 RAAGAS has 1339 out of 1430 pages.

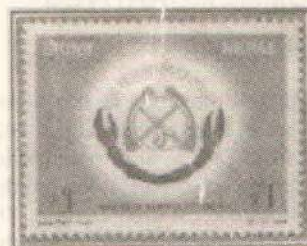
Code of Conduct - Directive doctrines of Sikhism. A Sikh Belives in ONE GOD and never shaves or trims the HAIR. As per teachings of Guru Granth Sahib a Sikh always keep himself in Code of Conduct and should never consume.



MEAT



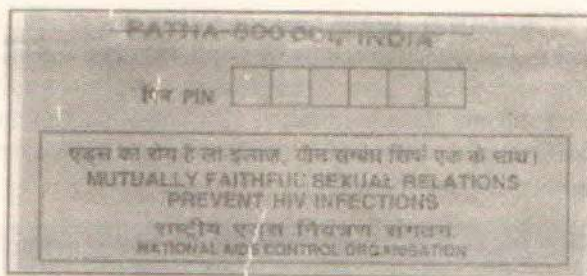
ALCOHOL



CIGARETTE



DRUGS



Never indulge in ADULTRY.

The main theme of Guru Granth Sahib is 1. Search of God 2. Means to communicate with God 3. Method to realise God 4. Religious Commandments 5. Rules of Morality 6. The Sikh Theology.

ADMIRERS of Guru Granth Sahib : Pearl Buck - Nobel Prize Winner (USA S.G. No.) "Sri Guru Granth Sahib is a



source book, an expression of man's loneliness, his aspiration, his longings, his cry to God and his hunger for communication with that being. I have studied the scriptures of other great religions, but I do not find elsewhere the same power of appeal to the heart and mind as I find here".

Dr. S. Radha Krishnan, President of India (India S.G. No. 509) "I find in the Guru Granth, a wide range of mystical emotions, intimate



expressions of the personal realization of God and rapturous Hymns of Divine love".



Sadhu Vaswani - (India S.G. No 560) "The living spirit of the Gurus speaketh today in the words of this ever-living book, the inspired testament of the saint, which the Tenth Nanak (Guru Gobind Singh) with the last benediction of

his earthly life, left to his disciples as their Enlightener".

Reference :

- Sikh Religion & Sikh people - Dr. S.S. Kapoor
- Golden Temple - Patwant Singh
- Sikh Review - Socio Cultural & Religious Journal.
- World Stamp Catalogue - Stainley Gibbons



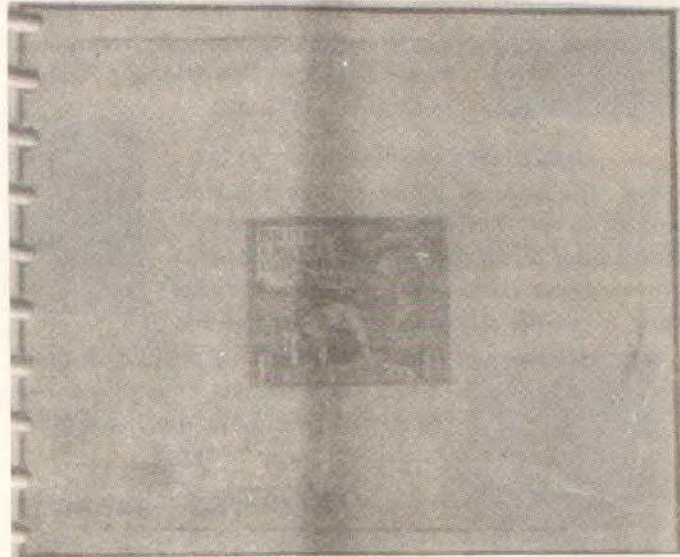
THE FIRST "GB" COMMEMORATIVES

EWART SANDERS

The first 'true' British commemorative is the British Empire Exhibition - 'Wembley' - issue. Preparation of the 1924 series started in 1923 when The Post Office, after considering the work of some eight or so artists, decided in committee that the design of Harold Nelson would be their choice. The engraving was done by J. A. C. Harrison and the printing contract was awarded to Waterlow and Sons. The first die

proofs were pulled in March 1924 in either black on wove paper or brown on India paper.

Both values exist with either line perforation or comb perforation. There are a few varieties, such as the tail to the 'O' (a non-constant variety) on the line perforation version, but these are not over important.



Coil stamps were important and were available from vending machines at the Exhibition in both 1924 and 1925. Coils were made up from 1,200 stamps from sheets joined every tenth stamp, delivered base of the stamp first. The 'leaders' of the rolls were as for the definitive issues but with the appropriate pricing (for the 1d rolls '£5 - 1d stamps' with the word 'Exhibition' added in manuscript). Space was provided for the initials of 'checkers' and the name and address of the B. S. and T. A. D. company appeared: The B. S. and T. A. D. Co were the firm who made the machine; the founding director was Mrs Kermode, whose name appears on the coil leaders.

Mrs Kermode achieved fame when, on a journey from New Zealand to America, she came into contact with a person who was attempting to sell the patent for the first type of coil machine to the American market. With some considerable skill during the journey, Mrs Kermode obtained permission to be the sole developer of these for the United Kingdom.

When visiting Stanley Gibbons in the mid 1970s I was able to obtain a fine example of these, namely eight of the 1d and eight of the 1 1/2d value for a very small sum of money, a 'buy' which I found unbelievable. I was so flabbergasted with my find that I took them to the National Postal Museum and showed them to my old friend, the late Rigo de Righi. He was also quite overcome with the sight of these, saying that the Museum did not have such an example, nor was there one in the Queen's collection. He quite forcibly suggested that I gave them to the Museum: I think he was a little surprised when I declined. The stamps in question are shown with, of course, comb perforations and with one coil join on each strip.

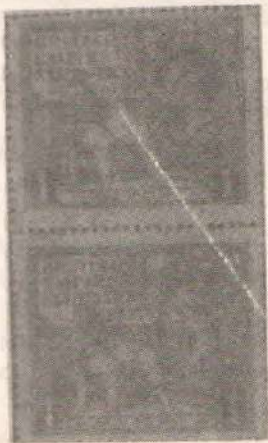
In 1975, the British Philatelic Exhibition produced souvenirs from the original dies by courtesy of The Post Office. These were printed in blue or green in recess by Thomas De La Rue. The blue version was sold at the Exhibition; the green version was presented to exhibitors.

Postal Union Congress

The 1929 Postal Union Congress (PUC) issue was, I think, an even greater success - possibly by this time, the

public were starting to like the idea of a commemorative stamp. The stamps were issued in sheets, booklets and coils, while upright, inverted and sideways watermarks are known for the 1/2 d, 1d, 1 1/2d and 2 1/2d values.

The highlight of the issue was, of course, the £1 value which is, in fact, a re-vamp of an essay submitted for the Wembley series, but with the horse facing in the opposite direction. Mint copies of this £1 value issue are a good barometer of price. They were selling, around 1980, at nearly £2,000; today the value is more determined by collector demand.



There are many collectors who will show you pencilled examples of the 'original drawings' for this stamp, but most are of the opinion that these were obtainable for small sums from many different sources. I am sure there are far too many around for them all to be genuine.

The watermark of this £1 value is totally distinctive.

When the 'Specimen' over-prints were produced they had, of course, to be printed in red, which is unusual. Of the booklets many of the 'Specimens' issued to advertisers had the stamps punched with an ordinary ticket punch.

A few years ago, when I was looking at a set, I pointed out to the seller that they were all creased, so he offered them to me half price. It was only after-wards that I found that all examples are creased as they have to be slightly folded to be punched.

An aspect for research is the plating of this issue. Dr Jean Alexander and others have made great strides in providing information on such plating. When I once submitted a display of these at one of the national exhibitions, it was suggested that I had copied the work of the aforementioned lady and as a result lost marks - such is life!

The 1/2d value offers the best illustration of the 'plating' which is almost entirely accomplished by the 'dots' in the jubilee lines. The 1d, 1 1/2d and 2d values provide the same type of jubilee line 'dots'.

One constant variety shows the 'C' and 'O' of CONGRESS joined on stamp 11 from row 19 of plate 2. Other notable varieties are - on the 1d - the broken wreath and, of course, the '1829' for 1929, on plate 1, row 2, stamp 3. On the 1 1/2d value this same '1829' error and a 'Q' for 'O' on certain booklet panes, stamp 1 of the second row, can be found.

In May 1929, the 3/- and the 2/- booklets were issued containing the PUC stamps and with new covers. As usual, upright and inverted watermarks are in equal numbers. The 2/- booklet was later re-arranged to allow for two advertisement panes, of which there were five different types.

A prize item is a £1 value on cover and there are indeed quite a few about. The one I have paid registered airmail to Argentina.

The last commemorative issue of the reign is the Silver Jubilee series of 1/2d, 1d, 1 1/2d and 2 1/2d values. There were three types of 'frame' for this issue. On the 1/2d value, type 1 shows the 'FPE' of halfpenny as solid shading. Type 2 is solid at the top and shaded below, and type 3 has a thin frame line below the word 'halfpenny'.

On the 1d value, type 1 has a wide shading between the 'NN' of 'penny', type 2 narrow shading between the 'NN' of

'penny' and type 3, as 1, with wide shading. On the 1 1/2d value, type 1 has the top frame lines

thick, type 2 these frame

lines thin, with the frame lines thickening over 'JU' in type 3. The 2 1/2d value was the only one that had just one type, as it was not issued for booklets.

Dots in the jubilee line help plating; of the 1/2d value :
 Plate 1 - dot under first stamp; plate 2 - dot under second stamp;
 Plate 3 - dot under third stamp; plate 4 - dot by 20th row;
 Plate 5 - dot by 19th row; plate 8 - dot under fourth stamp.

The booklets were issued with the stamps in panes of four, in May 1935, in two styles. The first type contained 12 at 1 1/2d, four at 1d and four at 1/2d, with the cover printed in blue, while the second type contained twenty at 1 1/2d, four at 1d and four 1/2d, with the cover printed in red.

There exists a forgery of the 1/2d value, printed in Germany and circulated throughout Britain. It was printed very crudely so that Stalin's face appears rather comical and, as a result, it achieved nothing.

The 2 1/2d value reveals one retouch at the top of the left-hand panel on the first stamp of row 17 from cylinder 34 dot. Some reference books quote this wrongly as cylinder 34 no dot; there must have been many arguments over the years between buyers and sellers on this one point.



Different types can be noted of the 1/2d, 1d and 1 1/2d values: note the shading of the 'FPE' of HALFPENNY, and the shading between the 'N' and 'N' of PENNY.

The significant item of this whole issue is the 2 1/2d Prussian Blue. Many reasons have been offered as to how this shade occurred. First, it was thought to be a colour trial. It is now accepted as being a case of a drum of ink left overnight, and when printing started the next day, the ink was not stirred. As a result, the first sheets were printed in a distinctive shade, which to all intents and purposes were immediately recorded and destroyed. Fate being what it is, three sheets of this shade found their way to Edmonton Post Office and were sold there.

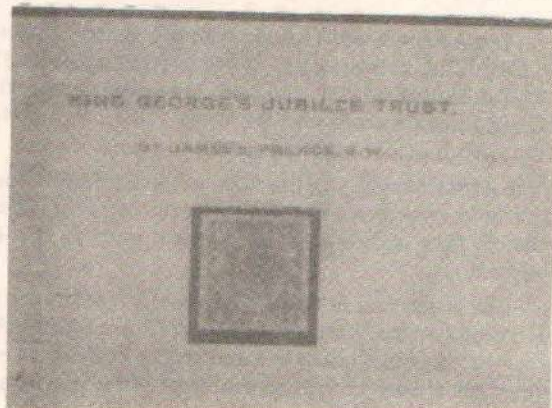
A point of interest to me, living as I do in Carshalton, Surrey, is that three examples of this Prussian Blue shade are known to have been used on a parcel and postmarked Westmead Road, Carshalton, which is but a few yards from where I live. At



Essay by Barnett Freedman from a Van Dyck portrait.

for the 1 1/2d stamp by Barnett Freedman from a Van Dyck portrait. Whatever the value, I personally love these essays.

Finally, comes the memorial essay which, of course, was never issued. These were produced from plates of six (3 x 2) by Harrison and Sons and proofed in black by Sir Donald Banks



Memorial essay attached to a King George's Jubilee Trust card.

on chalk surfaced paper with multiple cypher watermark. They are known perforated 15 x 14 and imperforate. The stamps are known attached to a card about 5in by 4in inscribed 'King George's Jubilee Trust, St James's Palace, S.W'.

The project was conceived with the idea of selling the 11/2d stamp for 3d and giving the difference to the King George's Jubilee Trust fund, but the scheme was abandoned, which seems a great pity. Incidentally, the Trust still exists, mainly to assist youth projects.

The reign of King George V was indeed significant: both for the great interest of its definitives and the introduction of British commemoratives.

Courtesy : The Stamp Magazine, 1985.



A PHILATELIC LOOK AT JAPAN

JAPAN - This word remind us of the land of rising sun, kimono, samurai armour and those priceless swords. But, there are other things interwoven in the history of Japan that was unfolded in the philatelic exhibition held at Warwick Electric Theatre, a heritage structure near Anna Road Head Post Office.

The exhibition on 'Japan - Thematics,' organised by South India Philatelists' Association and Department of Posts, opens windows to the past. Starting with the first set of stamps printed in Japan, it exhibits the country's heritage, achievements in several fields and its experiences through two World Wars.

Right from commemorative stamps on emperors, prominent leaders, sports, bridges to nature conservation, the exhibition has collection of M.R. Ranganathan who managed to collect 5,000 stamps in a short span of three years.

Though the first set of stamps of Japan was released in 1871, the commemorative stamps on Emperors were released only in 1894. One of the first was Emperor Meiji's silver wedding.

Stamps of flying birds were released to denote the return of Prince Akihito from his overseas trip in 1953.

The emperors' face never appeared on stamps as the Japanese found it to be a disgrace to stamp with seals, said M.R. Ranganathan.

However, other countries such as Germany released stamps and first day covers on visits of emperors to Europe and Germany.

In sports category, stamps, miniature sheets and first day covers on National Athletic Meet and FIFA World Cup Korea/Japan find prominent display.

The Japanese government had released miniature sheets in different colours for sports events held in stadiums in 47 prefectures or states of Japan. Stamps on gymnastics, tennis and weight lifting were released in plenty during the season of Olympics. The National Sports and Games for Disabled and World Wheelchair Basket Ball Championship were also recorded.

Stamps on Commodore Mathew C. Perry of Rhode Island, U.S.A., who began trade with Japan, and General Douglas MacArthur, who paved way for rebuilding the nation after Japan's defeat in World War II, are also exhibited.

The duo influenced changes in the Emperor's status, said Mr. Ranganathan.

Another person honoured was Sugihara Chiune. As vice-consul in Kaunas, Lithuania, who risked his life and profession and granted visas to 26,000 Jews in 1940 to save their lives. He was later acknowledged by Israel in a commemorative stamp.

The collection also has stamps and first day covers on the Japanese Parliament, the 50th anniversary of television, the pink blossom of Sakura flowers, traditional Japanese houses, Western-style architecture, steam locomotives, bridges and many other themes.

Besides folklore series, the Japanese postal government also brought out animation series in stamps. Mount.



An enthusiast looks into details of some of the stamps on display.

Fuji, which was frequently released, revealed that it was the favourite of the Japanese.

Stamps on postal services and 20th century museum series are also on display.

An interesting fact about the Japanese postal service is the recent introduction of personalised postal stamps. Whoever wishes to give a personal touch to stamps can have their photos printed on stamp sheets and use them.

The president of the association, G. Balakrishna Das, said this exhibition would be followed by a series of expos on India starting from June 5.

(Courtesy : The Hindu, Chennai)

By. K. Lakshmi
Photo : T.A.Hafeez

INFORMATION

WHAT'S PLANNED FOR CHENNAI GPO RENEWAL?

By. S. MUTHIAH

The good news is that it is intended to start restoration of the General Post Office building on Rajaji Salai much of whose interior perished to the flames some time ago. Money for the restoration, it was announced at a recent function to 'launch' the work, has been made available and plans have been drawn up for the renewal. What was of concern was the fact that it was also announced that, while keeping the facade of the classical Indo-Saracenic Chisholm building intact, a ten storey modern post office facility would be developed at the site.

The reason for our concern is that when you try to restore heritage buildings of another vintage and at the same time integrate them with modern pile-driven construction, not only might the integration not work but the very construction

process of the new could undermine the old. For such integration to successfully work it is essential that both engineers and architects involved with the work are people well-versed in building conservation. We are not, certain that that is the case here, considering the fact that the plans have not been publicly revealed for wider discussion.

If the Postal authorities took a page out of the University of Madras's approach to the Senate House restoration, it would do well by the GPO. The University's approach has been to appoint a technical committee to draw up the restoration plans, identify special technical and artisanal skills for specialised aspects of the restoration, document the whole work and monitor on a weekly basis, helped by a representative on site daily, that the engineering and building contractors are carrying out the work exactly to the specifications of the technical committee. This committee comprises architects, engineers and archaeological experts familiar with the latest techniques of conservation worldwide, heritage specialists and technical experts from various disciplines. The Postal authorities will, we hope, appoint such a committee (as has also been done at Raj Bhavan) to draw up plans for the restoration and new construction and not take the normal governmental route to any construction activity.

With Tamil Nadu, leave alone the whole of India, having no Heritage Act, there is no way to insist on the Postal authorities appointing such a committee to draw up the plans and for those plans to be vetted by a city heritage committee. But we hope that an appreciation of heritage will prevail, that at least such a technical committee is appointed. Alternatively, we hope that the CMDA scrutinises any plans proffered to it, preferably with the help of its now dormant Heritage Committee, before sanctioning them. Robert Chisholm's General Post Office building is too classical a building to be left to a fate decreed for it by government engineers.

Courtesy : Madras Musings, June 2004.

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