



SIPA Bulletin

For Private Circulation to Members only

Vol. 26 No. 5

Sept - Oct. 2006

Bimonthly

Editorial

Plan and Buy

It is a well known fact that more than 200 postal organisations around the world are issuing philatelic material of all types starting from adhesive stamps. Attractive thematic miniature sheets are the order of the day. Hence, young and new collectors are mesmerised at the table of a dealer in an exhibition. He is not able to decide which are the things to be bought at once, which are the stamps which can be bought later and which can be left without thinking. Each one of the items catches his eye and flutters his imagination. Finally the young collector ends up buying everything he can with his money on hand excluding the bus fare to his home.

Likewise he buys for two to three years. One early morning when he starts to assemble an exhibit - after much pressure from his seniors - he finds a lot of material not fitting into some pattern to develop a good thematic exhibit. That means great amount of money which he has put is not usable or say unwantedly spent or to say 'going waste'.

One can say that he can sell at a good price. I will say that if he has bought from dealers, he may get back of say 30 to 40% what he has spent. Hence the message is, before you decide to buy anything think

twice or thrice whether you need it on your theme. In other words, you search for material what you really want.

Let me suggest a way out of this situation. Decide on your theme. Think how you are going to develop the theme. Plan the major divisions. Go to catalogues and prepare a checklist of items possible. Then go and search. In this way your money will be worth spending.

Happy Hunting

- Editor



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Our Second Sunday Meetings were held at the CPMG's Conference Hall, Anna Road, HPO, Chennai-600 002. (11:00 A.M. - 1:00 P.M.) regularly where about 30 members attended with president Shri Balakrishna Das presiding.

STAMP NEWS

INDRAPRASTHA GIRLS' SCHOOL

10.07.06

500

0.8 mill

In the late nineteenth and early twentieth century modern education was yet to reach the women of India, especially the north India. In March 1904 Annie Besant, in a pamphlet entitled 'The Education of Indian Girls, inspired the Indraprastha Lodge of the Theosophical Society of India to promote girls' education in tune with the Indian ethos and value systems.

A small band of enlightened enthusiasts decided to establish a school in old Delhi, and on 21st May 1904, the first school in Delhi, the Indraprastha Girls' school, came into existence with just seven students on its rolls.

Lala jugal kishore, an executive in a British firm, was the foremost amongst the founders who went from house to house to collect funds, and convincing hesitant parents to send their daughters to school. These ingenious and novel methods of collection of funds like One Rupee Fund and Hundred Rupee Fund' helped the school to sustain and grow. Advocate Rai Pearey Lal, Lala Sultan Singh Rais, Seth Banwari Lal Lohiya, Lala Pearey Lal (Motorwale), Lala Balkrishna Das and Rai Bishamber Nath were the other founder members.

The school was started in a spacious three - storeyed Haveli, " Bhajan Bhawan", located behind the Jama Masjid, where it continues to this day. This Haveli was gifted to the school by Lala Balkrishan Das, one of the founders and first secretary of the school Society. Gradually the school gained acceptance in the School Society. and became a pioneering example to be followed by others.

At a time when it was difficult to get lady teachers, a bold beginning was made by Miss Leonora G'meiner from Australia, on the request from Annie Besant. In true theosophical sprit of universal brotherhood, she dedicated herself to the onerous task of imparting education to girls from conservative homes. Besides helping create a happy blend of the East and the West, she enhanced the reputation of the school with emphasis of decorum, discipline and dedication.

Luminaries such as Rabindranath Tagore, Bal Gangadhar Tilak, Motilal Nehru, Dr. Annie Besant, Sarojini Naidu, Tej Bahadur Sapru etc. visited this school and appreciated the pioneering work done in the field of women's education in India.

Theme : Education, Institutions, Women.

VOORHEES COLLEGE, VELLORE

10.07.06

500

0.8 mill

Elizabeth R. Voorhees College, Vellore is one of the oldest institutions of our nation, well known for its excellence in imparting education. Many renowned persons have passed

through its portals including the former President of India, Dr. S. Radhakrishnan.

The origin of the institution can be traced back to 1895 when the old Arcot Academy at Ranipet and the Church of Scotland Mission High School were amalgamated and renamed the Arcot Mission High School, which was later upgraded to the status of an Intermediate College. In 1898, it became Arcot Mission College with Dr. Rev. William-I as the first Principal. It was affiliated to the Madras University. In 1905, the foundation stone of the present College building was laid by Rev. H.N. Cobb. In the same year, Ralph Voorhees, a friend of the College in the U.S.A. donated 25,000 dollars, which enabled the authorities to create infrastructure for the College. The name of this institution was then changed after the donor's wife, 'Elizabeth R. Voorhees'.

In 1940, Shri V.P. Adishesiah was appointed as the first Indian Principal of this institution, who was later conferred the title of 'Rao Saheb' by the Government.

The college believes in total personality development. Upto research level, it has more than 2000 students.

A pioneer of higher education in one of Tamilnadu's most socially and economically backward districts, it has played a unique and remarkable role in the upliftment of the under privileged people of the region.

Theme : Education, Institution, Buildings.

THE VELLORE MUTINY -1806

10.07.06

500

0.8 mill

Seeking to expand their sphere of influence and control in India, the British maintained an army that, right up to 1857, was composed largely of Indians, or natives as they were called. Yes, the British were strangely insensitive to the cultural and religious sensibilities of the Hindu and Muslim soldiers serving under them.

This was evident as early as in 1806 when the British introduced a new dress code for its army. Many of the new dress regulations ran counter to the religious beliefs and customs of the Indian soldiers, yet the British sought to enforce these most stringently, and dealing out severe punishments to the protestors.

In the meantime, following the defeat and death of Tipu Sultan in 1799, his family had been held captive at Vellore Fort, the strongest fort in the area. The British forces deployed there at the time comprised of some 1500 Indian and some 370 European soldiers.

Resentment against the British highhandedness in the matter of enforcing the army uniform regulations and the brutal reprisals against voicing of any protest found expression in an attempt by the Indian soldiers to prop up the Mysore royal family, which had fought the British so valiantly. Thus it was that on the morning of 10th July,

1806, the Indian soldiers at Vellore rose in revolt against the British, killing some army officers and taking control of the arms and ammunition. They hoisted the royal tiger flag of Tipu Sultan over Vellore Fort, pulling down the Union Jack of the British, and declared Tipu Sultan's second son, Fateh Hyder, as king.

However reinforcements from Ranipet, led by Colonel Gillespie, arrived within a few hours and the mutiny was suppressed by the British. It is said that over 800 soldiers were killed inside the fort and 17 Indian officers hanged outside it, by the British, while many more men were kept imprisoned in Vellore and Tiruchirpalli prisons following the revolt.

This spontaneous uprising of the Indian soldiers in Vellore Fort on 10th July 1806 was among the early manifestations of resistance to British rule in India.

Theme : Army, Freedom Struggle, Forts

HIGH COURT OF JAMMU & KASHMIR

10.07.06 500 0.8 mill

The full-fledged High Court of judicature for the Jammu and Kashmir State was established in the year 1928. Earlier, the Ruler of the Sate (Maharaja) was the final authority in the administration of justice. In the year 1889, the British Government asked the then Ruler of the State, Maharaja Pratap Singh to appoint a Council. The judicial



member of the Council exercised all the appellate powers, both on civil and criminal side. The State having two provinces-Jammu and Kashmir, had chief judges exercising judicial authority but they acted under the superintendence and control of the Law member of the Council. In 1927 a new Constitution was adopted by the then Ruler of the Sate and in the place of Law Member, a Ministry in the judicial Department was created.

By virtue of Order No. 1 dated 26.3.1928, the High Court of judicature was established and for the first time the High Court was to consist of the Chief justice and two judges. On 26. 3. 1928, the maharaja appointed Lala Kanwar sein as the First Chief justice of the Court

In 1939, the Ruler promulgated the Constitution Act of 1996, which incorporated the provisions of law relating to the High Court, and conferred upon the High Court a substantial measure of Independence. The High Court was invested with powers of superintendence and control over the Courts / District judiciary.

The 1996 (1939 A.D) Act also constituted a 3 member Board of judicial advisers akin to the Privy Council in British India.

The Board of judicial Advisers at the time of its abolition by the Constitution Act 1956 had 17 appeals pending before it. On request of the Chief justice, the Government of

India in consultation with the Chief justice of India, constituted a special Bench of the Supreme Court of India. It was a historic event, when a Bench of Supreme Court held sitting outside the place of seat at Delhi. On 10.9. 1943, Letters Patent was conferred on the High Court.

In 1954 vide Constitution Application Order of 1954, the jurisdiction of the Supreme Court was extended to the State of J&K. Under Art. 32 (2-A) of the Constitution of India.

The High Court has at present a sanctioned strength of 14 judges including 9 Permanent Judges and 5 Additional judges. From May to end October the Chief justice and the administrative Wing of High Court shifts to Srinagar and from November to end April, the HQ is at Jammu. However, Court sections of both the Jammu and Srinagar Wings of the High Court function throughout the year.

Theme : Judiciary, Buildings.

PANKAJ KUMAR MULLICK

10.07.06 500 0.8 mill

A gifted singer and composer, Pankaj kumar Mullick was a pioneer in the field of film music, composing music and singing for over 100 films in Bengali and Hindi.

Born in Kolkata on 10th May 1905, Pankaj Mullick's love for music was inspired by his father Sri Manmohan Mullick. Initially trained by Durgadas Bandopadhyay and Dinendranath Tagore, Rabindranath's grandnephew. Pankaj Mullick. dropped out of college to embrace his first love, music. His career took off in the year 1927, when he got the opportunity of being a musician with All India Radio. He came to conduct weekly music lessons called 'Sangeet Shikshar Ashar' on All India Radio, for an astonishingly continuous 47 years, arguably a world record. He also created the "Mahisasura Mardini" programme, setting Sanskrit slokas to music, which is aired till today on All India Radio.

He was a big name in the Indian film world from 1928 onwards, conducting live-orchestras in movie theatres for silent feature films and got his first break as an independent music director in P.C. Barua's film " Mukti" (1937).

Immensely popular in his life-time, many of Pankaj Mullick's songs like "So Ja Rajkumari" (sung by Saigal) and "Piya Milan ko Jana" (sung by Mullick) remain timeless in their appeal. He was the first person to popularise the songs of Rabindra Nath Tagore through films, and his rendition of "Jana Gana Mana" was deemed as the definitive version to be followed while singing the national anthem.

As the Honorary Advisor to the " Lok Ranjan Shakha" run by government of West Bengal, Pankaj Mullick also helped to propagate social awareness amongst the masses through music and entertainment. He also authored four books on Indian music.

Pankaj Mullick was awarded the Rashtrapati Puraskar for composing the music for two films, 'Yatrik' and 'Raikamal'. He was also given the titles of 'Sursagar' and Sangeet

Ratnakar'. He was awarded the "Padmashree", in 1970, and the Dadasaheb Phalke award in 1972. Several other felicitations came his way, including the BFJA (Bengal Film Journalists' Association) Award.

He passed away in the year 1978, but his contributions to Indian popular music will remain unforgettable.

Theme : Personality, Music, Cinema

Ma. Po. SIVAGNANAM

10.07.06

500

0.8 mill

Ma. Po. Sivagnanam was a devout nationalist and freedom fighter, visionary, a Tamil scholar, and a prolific writer. Born to shri Ponnusamy Giramini, and Sivagami on 26th June 1906 in Chennai, he had to discontinue his studies due to poverty, and work as a labourer.

In 1927, he joined the Congress Party and actively participated in the movement against the Simon Commission. In 1930, when Mahatma Gandhi conducted the Dandi March, Ma. Po. Sivagnanam also took part in the salt satyagraha at Chennai, under the leadership of shri T. Prakasam. He was imprisoned in 1940 for joining in the 'Individual satyagraha' movement and again in 1942 for taking part in the Quit India Movement.



In 1946, he founded The Tamil Arasu kazhagam which participated in the movement for reorganization of the states on linguistic basis, and for formation of Tamilnadu state.

Ma. Po. Sivagnanam was elected as a Member of the Tamilnadu Legislative Council in 1952 and as a Member of Legislative Assembly from 1967 to 1971.

In 1953, he organized an agitation for inclusion of Tiruttani taluk and five taluks of Travancore-Cochin with Tamilnadu. He also worked for the retention of Madras city with Tamilnadu at the time of formation of Andhra Pradesh state.

Ma. Po. Sivagnanam also made his mark as a writer, publisher, and editor. He has left more than 150 books in Tamil on various subjects, including "The Great patriot v.o Chidambaram pillai", "The First Patriot Veerapandia Kattabomman", "Kamban kavi Inbam", "Kallingathu Parani", "Bharathiyarin padaiyilay", and "History of the Growth of Tamil during the Indian War of Independence". "Vallalar kanda Orumaipaddu" bagged the sahitya Academy Award in 1966 and several of his works were translated as textbooks in schools and universities.

Ma. Po. Sivagnanam started a magazine called 'Gramini kulam' in 1934, and also served as editor for several journals and newspaper such as Bharathi', Tamil Murasu', 'Tamilzhan kural' and 'Sengol'.

He was Conferred with the title 'Silambu Chelvar' by the great Tamil scholar shri Ra. Pi.Sethu Pillai, on behalf of the Tamil Writers Association in 1950, and was awarded 'Padma shri' in 1972 for his services to literature and education. He was also honoured with the title of 'Kalaimamani' in 1976 by the Tamilnadu Iyal Isai Nataka Mandram, Madras and with the title of Doctor of Literature' by the Universities of Madras and Annamalai.

Ma. Po. Sivagnanam breathed his last on 3rd October 1995 but his legacy lives on by way of his contribution to the enrichment of Tamil language and literature.

Theme : Leaders, Literature, Freedom Fighter.

OIL AND NATURAL GAS CORPOATION LIMITED

10.07.06

500

0.8 mill

Oil and Natural Gas Corporation Limited (ONGC) is a leading national oil company of India engaged mainly in exploration, development and production of crude oil, natural gas and some value added products such as Liquefied Petroleum Gas (LPG), Naphtha ect.

After independence, the Government realized the importance of oil and gas for rapid industrial development and its strategic role in defence.

In 1955 Oil and Natural Gas Directorate was set up to develop the oil and natural gas resources in the various region of the country as part of the public sector development. In August 1956, the Directorate

was raised to the status of a commission with enhanced powers; In October 1959, the Commission was converted into a statutory body. ONGC was subsequently converted into a public limited company in June 1993 following the new liberalized economic policy. ONGC was reorganized as a limited company under the Companies Act 1956 in February 1994.



ONGC, since its inception, has been instrumental in transforming the country's limited upstream sector into a large viable playing field. As the highest profitmaking corporation, ONGC has scripted India's hydrocarbon saga by discovering 5 of the 6 basins. ONGC has made 310 hydrocarbon finds within the country and has discovered nearly 6 billion tonnes of in-place oil and gas reserves in India. It has established its competitive edge, by bagging 59 out of the 110 blocks, awarded in the five rounds in the NELP bidding. ONGC is ranked 24th among Global Energy Companies by Market Capitalization in PFC Energy. 50. It is World's 2nd largest E&P (Exploration & Prouction) Company; and first in Profits in 3rd Platts EBT Survey (2004). ONGC is placed at the top of all Indian Corporates listed in Forbes Global 2000 (rank 265th) and Financial Times Global 500 (rank 326th). It is ranked 454th in Fortune -500 by turnover.

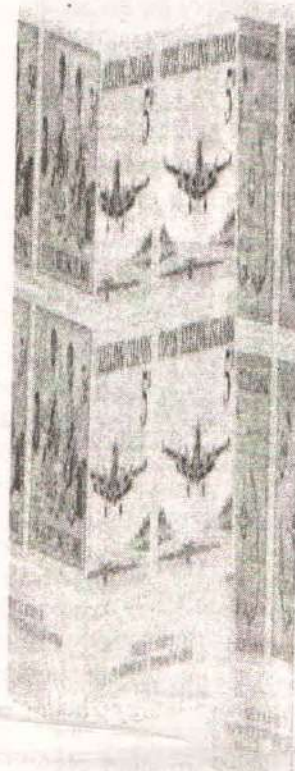
ONGC's wholly owned subsidiary ONGC Videsh Limited (OVL) is the biggest Indian multi-national, with 18 oil and gas properties in 14 countries. ONGC is committed to maintaining high standards of occupational health, safety and environmental protection. It has also well equipped crisis management teams.

Theme : Energy, Industry, Organisation.

COINS AND BANKNOTES ON STAMPS

AL STAINS

There are many connections between philately and numismatics, the collecting of coins, medals, tokens and paper money of all kinds. Over the past 140 years, however, there have also been numerous examples of coins reproduced on stamps. Although this may be a theme of modest proportions compared to ships, aircraft, flowers and animals, even a collection of coin stamps on simplified lines would run into four figures.



As a theme, it has a surprising antiquity, going back to 1861 when New South Wales introduced a 5s. stamp for which Edward Henry Corbould designed a circular motif reproducing the obverse of William Wyon's Gothic crown of 1847 showing the crowned effigy of Queen Victoria with her hair plaited at the sides in the medieval manner. The coin derived its nickname from the style of lettering used and this was retained on the stamp though changed to the name of the colony. This unusual design was so well liked that it remained in use until New South



Wales ceased to issue stamps in 1913.

Tasmania was not slow in following suit, for the subject of the postal fiscal stamps of 1863-80 was the reverse of the silver crown and gold sovereign showing St. George and the Dragon by Benedetto Pistrucchi, first used in 1817 and still going strong. The colony of Victoria was another early aficionado of coin stamps, with a whole range of British obverse and reverse motifs reproduced on the Stamp Statute stamps from 1871 onwards which were valid for postage from 1884, including, of course, the St George and the Dragon sovereign on the £1 value. The \$5 stamp in America's Columbian series of 1893 showed the obverse of the Columbus silver half-dollar issued the previous year to celebrate the 400th anniversary of his discovery of America.

Tremendous fillip

The theme got a tremendous fillip in 1900 when Bradbury Wilkinson recess-printed the definitive series for Crete and used ancient Greek coins for nine of the designs, but the place of honour on the 5 drachma stamp went to the St George

and the Dragon sovereign. In 2000 Greece celebrated the centenary of that set with a miniature sheet which reproduced this stamp, so the record for the most coverage of a single coin must surely go to Pistrucchi's masterpiece, shown on the stamps of four different countries. As many stamps of this series were re-issued in new colours in 1905 and subsequently overprinted when Crete was united to Greece and again in 1922 when Greece became a republic, these coins stamps are a formidable group.

Following the example of Crete, several of the provisional governments which briefly flourished during the Balkan Wars used ancient coins on their stamps. The stamps of Ikaria (1911) featured a coin depicting Hermes, while a series of stamps alleged to have been issued at Moschopolis (Voskopolje), Epirus in 1914 reproduced coins of ancient Greece and the Byzantine Empire.

In the same period Liberia's 25c. stamp of 1906 featured the obverse of the silver quarter dollar of 1896 showing the head of Liberty, but after such a fine start the theme languished for many years in the doldrums, until 1921 when El Salvador's triangular 5c. stamp depicted the obverse of the silver coins of the Central American Federation of 1823-50. In 1936 Brazil issued a stamp for the first Numismatic Congress in Sao Paulo and featured a coin screw press. Later the same year it introduced a new series of coins portraying famous Brazilians and one of these, the milreis portraying Father Anclii-eta, was reproduced on a stamp of 1941 (SG 646) celebrating the quartercentenary of the Jesuits. In this period, in fact, several other coin stamps emanated from Latin America, including a stamp of 1953 from Panama showing both sides of the silver balboa, and a handsome stamp from Argentina a year later showing both the gold Argentino (5 pesos) of 1881 and the die from which it was struck, to celebrate the 75th anniversary of the National Mint in Buenos Aires.

Just as Cretan autonomy was signalled by stamps that harked back to the great days of classical Greek coinage, so too did the first stamps of Israel, following its creation in 1948 five different definitive sets up to 1960 relied solely on the obverse or reverse of ancient coins, from the reign of Alexander Jannaeus (103-76 BC) and the first and second Jewish Revolts (66-70 and 132-5 AD respectively). It should be noted that the same ancient coins have also provided the inspiration for many of the designs of modern Israeli coins so that even if one cannot afford the ancient originals it is possible to match many of the stamps with the coins of the past half century. Apart from definitives, this is a theme which Israel has assiduously employed on a number of occasions for special issues and commemoratives, and naturally there are even examples of the early coin stamps on stamps.

The popularity of the Israeli coin stamps woke up the world's postal administrations to the potential of coins as suitable images for stamps, and from the 1950s onwards the subject has really taken off. With some of the world's most beautiful coins as its heritage, it is not surprising that Greece should employ them in its stamps. Mention has already been made of some of the early Greek stamps, from the Hermes heads of 1860 onwards, which utilised coin images, but it

was not until 1937 that an actual coin was depicted, an Amphictyonic coin on the 40 lepta definitive. This was subsequently surcharged for charity purposes and then overprinted for use in occupied Albania. It was later overprinted



to mark the Italian occupation of various Greek islands in the Adriatic and Aegean.

A silver tetradrachm of Alexander the Great featured on stamps of the 1954 definitive series and since 1955 coins have provided apt subjects for a wide range of commemorative issues, from the Pythagorean Congress of that year to the International Year of the Ocean (1999) and the introduction of the Euro (2001). But in 1959 Greece issued a set of ten stamps entirely devoted to classical coins, both obverse and reverse being depicted, and reprised this in 1963 with a further nine stamps.

A classical Greek coin was also used for the Italian definitives from 1953 to 1977. Popularly known in Italy as La Simcusa, the design was based on the beautiful large silver decadrachms of about 410 BC showing the nymph Arethusa on the obverse. This was also adapted for a couple of issues in 1954-5 urging Italians to pay their taxes promptly!

Too numerous to mention

In the past 40 years alone there has been a tremendous number of coin stamps, far too numerous to mention individually. An outstanding if not controversial contribution to the theme were the self-adhesive circular stamps embossed on gold foil, issued by Tonga in 1963 and featuring both sides of the first gold coinage of Polynesia. These large stamps, derisively dubbed 'Beermats' at die time, inspired numerous imitations as far afield as Sierra Leone, Bhutan and the Gulf sheikhdoms. The most extravagant issue in this genre was a set of four from Paraguay featuring papal coins, with a de luxe miniature sheet in which the coins appeared as actual metal electrotypes.

In more recent years some countries have produced thematic sets showing their coinage through the ages. At the other end of the scale many of the newly emergent nations have signalled their sovereignty by introducing distinctive coinage, and issuing sets of stamps to mark the event. Ghana and Malawi set the precedent for this, but it was enthusiastically taken up by many countries in the West Indies and the Pacific as well as Africa.

One of the most prolific issuers of coin stamps is Cyprus, which shares the classical tradition with mainland Greece and was moreover the birthplace of base-metal currency in

the form of cowhides cast in copper (from which the island takes its name) and even this has appeared on a Europa stamp of 1983.

The imminent approach of the Euro was heralded by stamps in most countries in the single currency zone, while several of them also took the opportunity to say a fond farewell to the Deutschmark, the Lira and other indigenous coinage that would soon be swept away. In this category, paradoxically, the most spectacular contribution came from a country that was just outside the Eurozone - Gibraltar, which produced a sheetlet of eight reproducing each of the standard side of the new coins from the bronze 5 cent to the bimetallic 2 Euro. National emblems from each of the 12 participating countries were reproduced in the sheet margins, the effect being enhanced by the use of thermography to create the low relief of the actual coins. Do not overlook stamps which gave the advent of the Euro a humorous treatment, as, for example the stamp from the French Southern and Antarctic Territories which showed a pair of penguins giving birth to a Euro egg, or the stamp from the Aland Islands showing a housewife with a Euro in her shopping trolley.



Related to coins themselves are stamps which depict coining equipment, good examples being issued by Belgium, Austria, France and the Czech Republic.

There is even a stamp from the United Arab Emirates showing a pottery jug from Sharjah which was found to contain a hoard of Maria Theresa silver thalers, the most popular coin in the Arab world.

There must be few countries which have not issued at least one stamp with a coinage theme. And in case you might be hard put to recall any British stamps with this theme you should note that a sixpence appears on one of the Greetings stamps of 1991, a traditional good-luck symbol alongside a wishing well. Less obvious, perhaps, is the Spanish silver dollar or 'piece of eight' (peso a ocho reales) which Long John Silver gets his parrot to test for purity by taking a bite at it, on one of the Greetings stamps of 1993. The prestige stamp booklet celebrating the 50th anniversary of the Queen's Accession has the obverse of a brass threepenny bit reproduced in the pane alongside the 1st and 2nd class Wilding definitives.

Hardly a month goes by without something to add to this subject, the latest being one of the four stamps issued in March by Portugal to celebrate the 150th anniversary of the first stamps. The 43c. stamp, reproducing the 25 reis of 1853

lias at the side the obverse of the gold 2500 reis of the same year, the only year that coin was minted.

Paper money

• Far fewer stamps have reproduced banknotes, and in fact it was not until 1952 that the first stamp in this category



was issued. That honour goes to Cuba whose set celebrating the golden jubilee of independence featured a peso note of 1949 on the 25c. value. Oddly enough, the very same note was reproduced on a stamp of 1974 marking the fifth anniversary of Castro's nationalisation of the Cuban banking system. In 1966 the Philippines celebrated the 50th anniversary of the National Bank with a full-sized reproduction of a 50 peso note in the form of a souvenir sheet. In more recent years centenaries or jubilees of national banks have been celebrated in many countries, often featuring the bank headquarters with a note or selection of notes forming part of the design. The introduction of the East Caribbean Currency used in the West Indies was the pretext for stamps reproducing banknotes from St Kitts-Nevis, St Lucia and St Vincent.

The paper money of emergent nations has been prominent in stamps, although few issues were as flamboyant as the set of four and matching miniature sheet produced by the Seychelles for the London 1980 philatelic exhibition, each stamp reproducing one of the currency notes introduced the previous year. Another eye-catching issue was the pair released by Mexico in 1999 to mark the 115th anniversary of the Banco Nacional de Mexico. One stamp featured the bank's headquarters, while the other showed the same view as reproduced on the 10 peso note of 1884.



Allied to banknotes are fund-raising bonds and certificates which were often circulated as money. A fine example of this is provided by a recent Israeli stamp reproducing part of a £1 bond of the Jewish Colonial Trust, issued in London a century ago and raising funds for the Jewish settlements in Palestine.



Considering the prominent part played by Britain in the development of the modern banking system it is surprising

that the tercentenaries of the Bank of England (1994) and Scotland (1995) were allowed to pass without the issue of special stamps. However, the Old Lady of Threadneedle Street was not entirely overlooked, for Royal Mail produced a booklet of four 1st class stamps with a jumbo-sized label se-tenant reproducing the seated figure of Britannia by Sir Daniel MacLise which adorned the banknotes from 1855 to 1956.

A spread of different banknotes can be found on one of the two stamps issued by Taiwan in 1998 to mark the 50th anniversary of the New Taiwan Dollar (NT\$), but this was surpassed by San Marino, whose stamp of 2001 welcoming the Euro featured the €100 note as well as notes in the obsolescent currencies of seven Eurozone countries. The most spectacular of the philatelic items in this theme, however, is the sheetlet issued by Guyana as part of the Millennium celebration. The 8x\$80 stamps form a portrait of George Washington, but look closely and you will see that it is made up of literally hundreds of tiny images of banknotes from all over the world.

Affinities between Philately and Numismatics

James Mackay outlines the affinities between stamp and coin collecting. He is currently the President of the Glasgow and West of Scotland Numismatic Society, having previously been the President of the Glasgow Philatelic Society. Four members of my local numismatic society are also stalwarts of the philatelic society, exactly 10 per cent of the membership, while at least two other members of the coin club are keen stamp collectors, though not yet members of the sister society. This got me speculating as to whether this symbiosis between the two great collecting hobbies was typical or exceptional. Talking to other numismatists and philatelists farther afield, however, I am beginning to realise that the ties are a lot closer than I had imagined.

Many collectors of coins and medals have a keen interest in paper money as well, encompassing everything from banknotes to vouchers, scrip and even postal orders, and now I come to think of it, the study of postal and money orders, postal notes and related material is now a recognised branch of philately and postal history. The men and women who designed and engraved banknotes, and the firms that applied their skills in intaglio and multicolour lithography to their production are the very same people and organisations which have been responsible for a high proportion of the world's postage and revenue stamps.

Giant enterprises

In many countries the government printing works is responsible for all forms of security printing, from paper money and government bonds to postage, fiscal and savings stamps. One thinks immediately of giant enterprises like the Bundesdruckerei in Berlin or the Staatsdruckerei in Vienna, or the Imprimerie des Timbres et Valeurs Fiduciaires (ITVF) in



Perigueux, France. Conversely, Norges Bank Seddelstrykkeri in Oslo, which is primarily a producer of the Norwegian banknotes, also has a long history of stamp production. Similarly the Bureau of Engraving and Printing in Washington, DC, has been prominent in the related fields of stamp and paper money printing for a century and a half.

In countries as far afield as Italy, Spain and Brazil the state mint has been responsible not only for the striking of coins and medals but also the design and production of banknotes and postage stamps. Even in the UK, the Royal Mint, though primarily associated with coins and medals, has flirted with adhesive postage stamps and postal stationery since their inception. It was the Mint's Chief Engraver, William Wyon, renowned for such masterpieces as the Waterloo Medal and the early coinage of Queen Victoria (including the magnificent Una and Lion patterns), who engraved the dies for the embossed stamps of 1847-54 as well as the postal stationery of 1841 onwards, his initials 'W.W.' appearing on the truncation of the Queen's neck, exactly as it appears on his coinage and medallic work. These dies were then transferred to Somerset House where the actual stamps and stationery were produced at the Stamping Branch of the Inland Revenue.

But how many philatelists are also aware that the Royal Mint was heavily involved in the production of the dies and plates for the Downey Heads in 1911-12, or that the plates for the definitive stamps, and many of the early typographed commemoratives, of the Irish Free State were manufactured by the Royal Mint (which also produced the Irish coinage from 1928 onwards), and that these plates of 1922 were still giving good service as late as 1967.

There is an important cross-over between philately and numismatics for those who take a keen interest in the work of a particular engraver. A good case in point is provided by Czeslaw Slania who, in addition to engraving over a thousand stamps, has also engraved the dies for numerous banknotes from Poland in the 1950s right down to the present time. Countries with a strong and abiding tradition of intaglio postage stamps, such as France, Sweden and Czechoslovakia (and its successors), furnish numerous examples of banknotes bearing the names of engravers who are also household names in the philatelic world.

In 1914, when Britain withdrew gold from general circulation at the beginning of World War I, emergency paper money known as Treasury Notes, in denominations of 10s. and £1, were printed by Waterlow Brothers and Layton, printers of the Seahorse high values, and used the Simple Cypher watermarked paper which was normally confined to postage stamps.

Stamps as small change

There have also been many cases in which postage stamps have been pressed into service in lieu of small change. This first occurred early in the American Civil war (1861) when small silver coins were hoarded and the federal government authorised the use of stamps. As mint stamps soon became dog-eared passing from hand to hand, a Boston sewing-machine salesman named John Gault devised small circular

discs with a metal back and a transparent face. Stamps were encapsulated in these discs and thereafter circulated without harm, while Gault not only made a fortune from his invention but even sold the space on the backs of the discs for advertising. The idea was revived at the end of World War I in France, Germany and other European countries going through a similar period of coin shortage.

In other instances the shortage of coins was solved by the issue of small cards to which postage stamps of various denominations were affixed. This subterfuge was first employed in the territory of the British South Africa Company (later Rhodesia and now Zimbabwe) at the time of the Boer War (1899-1902). Various stamps from 3d. to 10s. were affixed to cards on which was printed a promise by the Civil Commissioner in Bulawayo, H Marshall Hole, to redeem them in cash on or after 1 August 1900 but not later than 1 October the same year. Stamps stuck to cards were used in various French colonies during World War I and during the Spanish Civil War (1936) fiscal stamps were affixed to stout card discs with the national arms on the other side.

Cardboard stamps

Taking this idea a stage further, the United States produced small notes known as fractional currency, between 1862 and 1876. These reproduced a postage stamp, or stamps, equivalent to the face value of the note and were a logical extension of the concept permitting stamps to circulate as legal tender during the Civil War and its aftermath. The same idea was used by Russia in 1915-17 but in this case stamps were printed on stout card, with an inscription on the back signifying their legal tender status on par with silver coinage. These card stamps were even printed in sheets and perforated like ordinary stamps, and examples are known on cover, although this was never primarily the intention. Card stamps of this type were also issued by the Don Cossacks and in the Crimea, Armenia and the Ukraine in 1918-20. Austria used stamps printed on cardboard for the same purpose in 1919-20, but did not employ a special inscription. Stamps printed on card were used as money in Bundi (India) and the Philippines during World War II.

One of the strangest uses to which adhesive stamps have been put on many occasions in the course of the twentieth century is to revalidate or alter the usage of a banknote, the notaphilic equivalent of a provisional surcharge on a postage stamp. In 1919 the infant republic of Czechoslovakia resorted to special adhesive stamps to convert notes of the Austro-Hungarian Bank for local circulation, pending the production of distinctive Czech currency. History repeated itself in 1945 when notes of the erstwhile Slovak state were revalidated for use in Czechoslovakia by the addition of stamps bearing different portraits of the late Thomas Masaryk. These stamps were undenominated, but were printed in various colours and



had different code letters according to the notes they were affixed to. A similar expedient was adopted by Hungary in 1945 during the hyperinflation which closely followed the end of the War.

Banknotes and stamps became inextricably mixed just after World War I when the embryonic postal administration of Latvia printed stamps on the blank backs of uncut sheets of currency notes which had been in course of production for various factions, such as the Riga Workers and Soldiers' Council or the so-called Western Army, an anti-Bolshevik group commanded by Colonel Avalov-Bermond, so that portions of these notes may be found on the backs of the stamps. Complete sheets of stamps showing entire images of the abortive banknotes are worth a good premium nowadays. One of the makeshift issues of the Ukraine in the early 1990s was Xeroxed (a photocopy process) in red ink, but to prevent anybody from printing their own stamps in like manner the official issues were printed on the backs of sheets of unissued cash coupons which had been rendered obsolete by rampant inflation.

Inspiration

Coins and medals have been the inspiration for the motifs on numerous postage stamps. The origins of the profile of the young Victoria used on the Penny Black and all other British adhesive stamps till the end of her long reign are well known. Charles and Frederick Heath engraved the die from a design by Henry Corbould based on the bronze medal sculpted by William Wyon to celebrate Her Majesty's first visit to the Guildhall in 1838, but of course Wyon utilised the effigy which he had initially produced for the new coinage. History repeated itself in 1912 when the profile used for the stamps of George V was originally sculpted by Bertram Mackenall for the coinage and medals of the new reign. In more recent times many of the early colonial stamps of the present reign were based on the coinage effigy sculpted by Mary Gillick, while there is also a very close affinity between the coinage effigies of the Queen by Arnold Machin and their adaptations to postage stamps.

There are many other stamps whose derivation from coins may not be so obvious. For example the seated figure of Britannia used for the early stamps of Mauritius and Trinidad was based by Perkins Bacon on a silver coin of Hadrian c.130 AD, while Charles Bell's celebrated motif of Hope reclining which was the basis for the Cape Triangulars was derived from the allegory of Hispania on coins of the same emperor. The Greek definitives of 1911 with their sculptural motifs of Hermes and Nike were actually taken from coins of Sybrita, Pheneas and Terina (400-360 BC), while the Ceres stamps of France from 1849 onwards were taken from a Greek coin of about 400BC.

Probably the most famous of all adaptations of a coin



Stamp design printed on a sheet and compared to the original as made by the English coin of Stuart



British coin celebrating 150 years of stamps



British stamps printed on the blank backs of banknotes after World War I



motif to postage stamps was the allegorical figure sculpted by Oscar Roty for the French silver coinage of 1898, which was utilised for the Sower stamps of 1906-32 and then revived for a couple of definitives in 1958, to symbolise the return of coinage in general circulation following the introduction of the new 'heavy' franc. During both periods when the Sower appeared on stamps, she also graced the coins, and indeed she continues to do so on the French version of the Euro.

Form a stamp to a coin

There is an interesting converse to this, dating from the same period. During the reconquest of the Sudan by Anglo-Egyptian forces, Captain A E Stanton produced a sketch which formed the basis of the 1898 definitive series showing a camel postman. This design was retained for various definitive issues until 1951, and even then was modified for commemoratives of 1948-54. Stanton's camel postman had been around for such a long time that it had become a national icon and, as such, was chosen as the standard obverse of the first Sudanese coinage, from 1956 till 1971. This is the only example of a stamp design being transformed into a coin design. While there are numerous stamps that reproduce coins, there have so far been very few coins which reproduce stamps. In 1983 Thailand celebrated the centenary of its first stamps by releasing a 600 baht silver coin whose reverse depicted SG1. Austria issued a coin in 2000 to celebrate the 150th anniversary of the first stamps, while Gibraltar and the Isle of Man have produced coins which reproduced the Penny Black and the celebrated twopence 'Post Office' of Mauritius in their respective colours. (Courtesy GSM).



Illustration showing the design for the Sudanese coinage of 1956-71

KINGFISHERS

JOHN SEAWARD

Although the diagnostic call, the sweeping swoop, the smooth pick-up, and impressive lift-off of the fish eagle are majestic, I have always been more fascinated by the actions of the kingfisher. It frequently hovers over the water before diving to complete the catch, although not all species hover!

A charming tale about the kingfisher, stemming from the Bible, has it that this dull grey bird left Noah's ark and flew straight towards the sun; in the process its breast feathers were scorched red and its back feathers reflected the colour of the evening sky.

There are ninety-nine species of these long billed fast flyers and are of the bird families Alcedinidae and Halcyonidae. They are of the order Coraciiformes and are found World wide except in the Polar Regions.

They are all stocky, short necked birds, experts in the air and do migrate some distance. Shown is the Woodland Kingfisher - halcyon senegalensis on the 1997 Botswana P1. They hunt in pairs for insects from perch. These kingfishers migrate from South of Sahara to Natal in October and into the Highveld a month later. (#1)

Some kingfishers, like the Pied Kingfisher - *cerule rudis* shown on the 1988 Lesotho 2s can be seen hovering up to four meters above the water as it looks for fish. They then return to their perch and beat the fish against the branch. Some are known to frequent town where they take goldfish from garden ponds. (#2)



The largest kingfisher, The Giant Kingfisher - *cerule maxima*, seen on the 1978 25t of Botswana eats fresh water crabs. This species rarely hovers. Measuring over forty-five cms, it inhabits wooded streams and dams, fast flowing rivers in the mountains and coastal lagoons. It is a common resident throughout Southern Africa. (#3)

The Malachite Kingfisher shown on the 1967 Botswana 15c specie, *Alcedo crisafafa*, a smaller kingfisher is found at lakes and dams and along streams and lagoons. A common resident in Southern Africa, it gives a high-pitched "peep-peep" in flight. (#4)

The smallest local kingfisher is the Pygmy Kingfisher shown on the 1/2c R.S.A. stamp from the first 1961 definitive. This kingfisher stamp went on to be the forerunner of many issues with different watermarks, papers and phosphor bands. This specie is non-aquatic and frequents woodland, savannah and coastal forests. It is a common summer visitor. Specie is *inspidine pieta* only 13cms long, with a high-pitched "chip-chip" flight note. (#5)

The Grey Hooded Kingfisher, seen on the 1987 \$8 Cape Verde Island stamp - *halcyon leucocephala*, is non-aquatic, broadleaf woodland and savannah habitant. It is a scarce to common summer visitor with a whistled "cheeo cheeo weecho-trrrr" with a harsh but slow-pitch. (#6)

Moving further afield to the Southern hemisphere exists the Common Kingfisher; despite its name is not that common at all. In fact in recent years there has been a remarkable fall in sighting. This is the only small blue specie that is at all widespread. It is shown on the 1982 Laos 2k, a strikingly handsome design of *alcedo atthis*. (#7)

Cosmopolitan in nature, the White Breasted Kingfisher, also known as White Throated - *halcyon smyrnensis* - from the Northern hemisphere is shown on the exquisite 50c Hong Kong stamp - in flight! It is encountered in a variety of habitats. Not evident on the stamp, the back is predominantly blue with wings black. Eclectic in its feeding habits it will eat worms, insects, even small snakes and birds to fish. (#8)

Distributed throughout Australia except the arid regions, is the Sacred Kingfisher - *halcyon sancta*, shown on the Australian 45c. It inhabits eucalypt and paperbark forests,

woodlands and mangroves with its diet being aquatic insects and even small animals. They breed in summer and reach up to 23 cms in length. (#9)

From the Americas is the Belted Kingfisher as seen on the 55c Nevis issued for the bicentenary of the birth of John Audubon (Ornithologist). Has normal kingfisher habitat of lakes, ponds and coastal bays, road cuts and gravel pits near clear water. During breeding season this bird fancies exposed dirt banks for nesting sites. Its diet consists of small fish (staple), amphibians, reptiles and occasional fruit. (#10)

Kookaburras, known as the laughing Jackasses of Australia, are from the family Kingfishers. This specie inhabits the woodland areas of Eastern Australia. It's rolling; laughing call is one of the best-known sounds in the animal world. Diet consists of the young of other birds and snakes as well as insects and small reptiles. Shown is the 70c stamp of Australia. Aboriginal legend is that as the sun rose their god Bayame ordered this bird to utter its almost human laughter to awake mankind not to miss the wonderful sunrise! (#11)

Another delightful, albeit tragic, tale is from Greek mythology. Alcyon married Ceyx, the son of Hesperus, on learning of his death in a shipwreck, she committed suicide by drowning and the gods felt such sympathy for this young couple that they turned them both into Kingfishers. Bibliography:

Birds of Southern Africa, Ian Sinclair & Phil Hockey
Nature of New England. Net Honolulu Zoo - Net (27 First Rd, Kew, 2090

(Courtesy. Themnews, South Africa 2004)

Youth Forum Know this Country:

COCOS (KEELING) ISLANDS

RICHARD BRECKON

The Cocos (Keeling) Islands, an Australian external territory, is located in the Indian Ocean 2768 kilometres north-west of Perth, Western Australia. Jakarta is 1120 kilometres to the north-east. The territory comprises of 27 coral islands with a total land area of only 14 square kilometres. The administrative centre is on West Island, this being about 10 kilometres long and less than 500 metres wide. The highest point in the island group is about six metres above sea level.

The Cocos (Keeling) Islands officially acquired its name in 1955, when Australia took over administration of the islands from Singapore. Previously, 'Cocos Islands' was the commonly-used name, but to distinguish the islands from a Cocos Island situated in India's Andaman Islands, the name 'Keeling' was included as a bracketed addition. (In 1609 the Cocos Islands were discovered and named by Captain William Keeling of the East India Company.)

The Cocos Islands were first settled in the mid-1820s by Alexander Hare and John Clunies-Ross, who established coconut plantations using Malay labourers brought to the



islands for that purpose. At a later stage, Clunies-Ross was left in sole control and he and his successors continued controlling much of the islands, until the family's interests were purchased by the Australian government in 1978.

By Authority' imprints were featured on the first stamp issue in 1963, even though imprints had been discounted on Australian stamps 12 years earlier

From Ceylon to the Straits Settlements

In 1857 the Cocos Islands were annexed to the British Crown and John George Clunies-Ross, son of the founder, was recognised as Governor. The islands were placed under the Governor of Ceylon in 1878 and eight years later transferred to the Governor of the Straits Settlements. In 1903 the Cocos Islands were attached to Singapore for administrative purposes. The non-contiguous Straits Settlements Colony brought together British possessions in South East Asia, comprising the 'settlements' of Singapore, Penang and the Province Wellesley, Malacca and Labuan.



As well as the Cocos Islands, Christmas Island was attached to Singapore. In 1946, Singapore was constituted as a separate colony, and Cocos and Christmas Islands were incorporated in Singapore.

During World War II, the RAF stationed two squadrons on the Cocos Islands and, by March 1945, a RAF airstrip had been constructed on West Island. The objective was to use the Cocos Islands as a base for operations against the Japanese in Malaya and Indonesia. The war ended before this plan could be carried out and the airstrip was allowed to languish. However, Australia's Qantas airline developed

plans to use an upgraded airstrip on the Cocos Islands as a refuelling stopover on its new service between Australia and South Africa. The Australian government obtained permission from the Singapore authorities to rebuild the RAF airstrip to provide Qantas with adequate facilities for operating an international airport. This necessitated the purchase of land on West Island and dispatching the Royal Australian Air Force (RAAF) No 2 Construction Squadron to carry out the work. The Australian involvement in operating the airport led to an agreement being made with the British government to transfer the Cocos Islands at some future date, from Singaporean to Australian control. An announcement to this effect was made by Australia's Minister for External Affairs, R G Casey, on 22 June 1951.

The RAAF post office

The RAAF No 2 Construction Squadron arrived in force on the Cocos Islands on 19 December 1951. The 464-strong squadron completed construction of the 3048-metre runway by 26 July 1952, six weeks ahead of schedule. The squadron also constructed a complex of buildings and roads needed for the airport. A RAAF post office was attached to the squadron, this office opening on 24 December 1951 on West Island. The post office used a distinctive datestamp inscribed 'R.A.A.F. P.O./COCOS ISLAND'. (Two sub-types of the datestamp exist, distinguishable by the presence or absence of a dash between 'Cocos' and 'Island'.) A distinctive registration label was used featuring the inscription 'R.A.A.F. Cocos Island.'

The RAAF post office was permitted to sell Australian stamps, on the understanding that the Australian authorities would be responsible for transporting all incoming and outgoing mails. This was an example of Australian stamps being 'used abroad'. It is also interesting to note that Australian service personnel were not the only people making use of the RAAF post office. Cocos Islanders also sent mail affixed with Australian stamps.

At the time the RAAF post office opened, a Malayan postal agency for civilian use did not operate on the Cocos Islands. (Singapore was part of the Malayan Postal Union and had operated a Malayan postal agency on the Cocos Islands from 1 April 1933 to 1 March 1937, when Strait Settlements stamps were in use.) As a concession, Cocos Islanders were allowed to use the RAAF post office's facilities, from its opening until 2 September 1952, when a new Malayan postal agency was established on the islands and Singapore's stamps were brought into use.

Qantas courier service

During the airfield construction period, Qantas operated a courier service supplying RAAF personnel and carrying

mails. Once a fortnight, the Qantas Lancastrian service to Singapore was diverted, through Perth, to the Cocos Islands. Outward mail from the islands was carried, via Singapore and Darwin, to Sydney. The first Qantas courier flight left Sydney on 31 January 1952 and the last flight reached the Cocos Islands on 14 August 1952. There were a total of 16 flights. A circular advice to Australian postmasters noted that all first class mail (letters and postcards) would be carried by the air service and other class mail (printed matter, newspapers and parcels) would be carried if space permitted. Several supply ships sent by Australia to the Cocos Islands also carried heavier mail articles.

Although the main construction work was completed by August 1952 and most of the RAAF squadron returned to Australia, a small party remained to finish off various tasks. The RAAF post office remained operating until all work was completed and remaining personnel had departed; the post office finally closing on 21 January 1954 after being in existence for two years.

In September 1952 Qantas commenced operating its fortnightly Australia-South Africa service. Using Lockheed Constellation aircraft, the Qantas service departed Sydney and stopped over at Perth, the Cocos Islands and Mauritius before reaching Johannesburg. Cocos Islanders enjoyed the advantages of sending and receiving mail by regular air services, instead of relying only on infrequent shipping. Exercising its reciprocal rights, South African Airways inaugurated its regular Johannesburg-Perth service, via Mauritius and the Cocos Islands, in November 1957 with DC 7B aircraft.

Transfer from Singapore to Australia

The proposed transfer of the Cocos Islands to Australian control came about following the passage of legislation through the Australian and British parliaments during 1954 and 1955. The date fixed for the islands' transfer from Singapore to Australia was 23 November 1955. The Australian legislation specified that the official name for the new territory would be the Cocos (Keeling) Islands.

A significant aspect of the transfer arrangements was that Australia's Post and Telegraphs Act would apply to the Cocos (Keeling) Islands, so that the islands would become fully integrated with the Australian postal system. To this end, the Cocos (Keeling) Islands post office would become an Australian-operated post office; Australia's ordinary domestic postal charges would apply; and Australian stamps would be valid for postal use on the islands. As an Australian external territory, the Cocos (Keeling) Islands was not automatically covered by Australian laws. Only those Acts of Parliament specified in the 1955 Transfer Act applied to the

territory— other matters had to be covered by a local ordinance.

Because the Post and Telegraphs Act did not apply to Australia's other external territories—Papua New Guinea, Nauru and Norfolk Island—these territories adopted their own postal ordinances and issued their own stamps. Australian stamps were not valid for postage in these territories. The Cocos (Keeling) Islands was in an entirely different situation. There was no real requirement for the islands to have their own stamps, although this did eventuate eight years after the transfer. (See 'Postal Validity of Stamps Issued by Australian Territories', GSM November 2000).

Cachet shows the wrong route

The Australian Post Office arranged for covers lodged by collectors to be flown to the Cocos (Keeling) Islands to commemorate the transfer of ownership. The philatelic facility



inquired stamped covers and aerogrammes to be forwarded to the Philatelic Bureau, Melbourne, for placement on a Qantas flight immediately prior to the transfer date. All covers were impressed at the Bureau with a triangular cachet, featuring the air route from Australia to the Cocos (Keeling) Islands, and an inscription referring to the inauguration of a domestic postal service in the islands. Unfortunately, the cachet design showed the Perth-Cocos route originally intended to be used, but at a late stage Qantas changed the route to Darwin-Cocos. In the circumstances, it was not practicable to change the cachet design. The cachet was applied in violet ink, although in some instances it is found in red ink.

On arrival at the Cocos (Keeling) Islands, the covers were postmarked with the new, Australian datestamp brought into use on 23 November 1955. The datestamp featured 'COCOS ISLAND' at the top and no wording at the base, as distinct to the Singapore datestamp featuring 'COCOS /ISLAND'. It is a curious thing that both these date-stamps, as well as the RAAF date-stamp, use the singular 'Island'. It is also odd that the 1955 datestamp did not feature the proper name of the Cocos (Keeling) Islands. (This deficiency was soon

remedied, as explained below.) Another distinctive aspect of the 1955 philatelic facility is that the postage rates specified for covers carried to the islands were not the same as existing Australian postal rates. For covers bearing Australian addresses the postage was 1s. and for covers to the UK, Europe and North America the postage was 2s.6d. (Had the charges been the same as the Australian rates, the respective amounts would have been 6½d. and 2s.). A total of 32,219 postal articles were postmarked on the transfer date.

Singapore stamps withdrawn

The last outward mail under Singapore's control occurred on 20 November and the remaining mail still held in the post office on 23 November, when the Australians took over, was backstamped with the new datestamp and forwarded through the Australian postal system. The remaining stocks of Singapore's stamps were withdrawn on 20 November, these comprising the Elizabeth II definitive series issued only 12 weeks earlier (SG 38/52).

From the time it opened on 23 November, the Cocos (Keeling) Islands post office had non-official status, meaning it was staffed by a postmaster acting as against for the Australian Post Office. Initially, the postmaster was an officer of the Department of Civil Aviation, who worked at the airport. From 1 October 1958 the Department of Territories took over responsibility for the post office, the postmaster being an officer working in the local administration. The Cocos (Keeling) Islands post office stocked a basic range of Australian stamps and postal stationery. There was no local delivery service; islanders picking up their mail from the post office and boxes being provided free of charge. For administrative purposes, the islands were attached to the Western Australian administration of the Australian Post Office.

In late 1956 steps were taken to replace the 'Cocos Island' datestamp with one reflecting the official name. The new date-stamp was inscribed 'COCOS (KEELING) ISLANDS/AUST/INDIAN OCEAN'. Two versions were made, distinguished by the numerals 1 and '2' alongside the dateline. The new datestamps were brought into use on 18 February 1957 and the earlier datestamp withdrawn. At the same time, a supply of 10,000 registration (R6) labels inscribed 'COCOS (KEELING) ISLANDS/AUST' replaced the earlier 'Cocos Island' version. Records show that 44 airmail articles (including six registered) and 76 surface mail articles (including 34 registered) were processed with the new date-stamp and registration label on 18 February 1957, although these articles were not necessarily generated by philatelists.

Distinctive stamps for the islands

As explained above, there was no need for the Cocos (Keeling) Islands to have its own stamps and Australian

stamps served for all requirements. However, there were many suggestions that the territory issue its own distinctive stamps, particularly because other external territories did so. There was an analogous situation with the Australian Antarctic Territory, issuing distinctive stamps from 1957, even though the territory was subject to Australia's Post and Telegraphs Act and Australian stamps were valid for postage alongside Australian Antarctic Territory stamps. By late 1958 it had been agreed that the Cocos (Keeling) Islands would have distinctive stamps, on the same basis as the Australian Antarctic Territory.

The Department of Territories cooperated by supplying photographs that might be suitable as stamp designs. Matters progressed at a leisurely pace and it was not until September 1960 that a tentative choice of stamp subjects was made. Six stamps were proposed and the initial selection closely resembled the issued stamp series: 3d. Women working on coconuts, 5d. Qantas Constellation aircraft, 8d. Map of islands, 1s. Coconut palms, 2s. White Tern and 2s.3d. Island scene. (In the issued stamps, the subjects of the 2s. and 2s.3d. stamps were transposed.)

After a further delay, the Note Printing Branch was requested to prepare designs in accordance with the plan in July 1961. Nevertheless, the six designs were produced quickly, enabling them to be considered by the Stamp Advisory Committee in the following month. The process of evaluating the designs occupied the committee for about four months. The final stage was reached on 1 March 1962, when the Postmaster General, Charles Davidson, approved all six designs.

The next nine months involved engraving six stamp dies at the Note Printing Branch. This process was lengthy because the same engraver, E R Murray Jones, engraved all six stamp dies. (Murray Jones had also prepared the stamp designs.) Once each stamp die had been completed, a die proof was submitted to the Post Office for approval of the engraving. Next, die proofs were prepared in shades of the requested colours and the preferred shade was chosen for the printed stamp.



The two numbered date-stamps introduced in 1957 bearing the full name of the islands

Design error

A complication arose in approving the 5d. Qantas Constellation stamp die. Unnoticed by those involved in developing the stamp design, the shadow of the aircraft landing on the airstrip was not parallel with the fuselage, and this error had been faithfully copied by the stamp's engraver. The error was only recognised when a die proof



was submitted for approval. There was no option but to engrave a new stamp die with the aircraft's shadow pointing in the correct direction.

By December 1962, the stamp dies had been completed and the Note Printing Branch proceeded to make printing plates. The printing figures were fixed as being: 300,000 (3d.), 600,000 (5d.), 250,000 each (8d. and 1s.) and 200,000 each (2s. and 2s.3d.). The printing occurred in sheets of 60 (10 rows of 6) for the 3d. and 1s. stamps (small horizontal size); sheets of 60 (6 rows of 10), 8d. and 2s. (small vertical size); and sheets of 80 (10 rows of 8), 5d. and 2s.3d. (large horizontal size). There was only a single printing of each value and no significant colour variations occurred.

An interesting aspect of the production is that the sheets bear the two-line imprint 'PRINTED BY AUTHORITY OF THE GOVERNMENT OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF AUSTRALIA' in the lower left corner, below the first and second columns of stamps. The use of imprints on Australian stamps had been discontinued in 1952, but imprints continued to appear on Australian territories' stamps issued under the authority of the various territory administrations. In the case of the Cocos (Keeling) Islands, the issuing authority was the Australian Post Office. However, perhaps because of the involvement of the Department of Territories, it was decided to feature imprints on the Cocos (Keeling) Islands stamps. (Imprints did not appear on the Australian Antarctic Territory stamps.)

The stamps go on sale

The issue date of the stamps (SG 1/6) was 11 June 1963, this being the same date for sales on the Cocos (Keeling) Islands and at post offices in Australia. The Australian sales points comprised the major post offices in state Capital Cities and regional areas offering philatelic sales facilities to collectors. On the Cocos (Keeling) Islands, the stamps

were launched at a ceremony attended by various dignitaries, including the head of the Philatelic Group at Post Office headquarters, Phil Collas, who had supervised the development of the stamps. A plaque commemorating the occasion was mounted on the outer wall of the post office. Presentation booklets of the stamps were also given to those attending the ceremony.

A major logistical exercise involved the handling of first day covers. It was impracticable for the local postmaster to deal with requests for preparing first day covers, so a facility was announced whereby collectors lodged their requirements with the Philatelic Bureau, Melbourne, by 30 April 1963. The Bureau had the task of affixing the stamps to collectors' covers and despatching the covers to the Cocos (Keeling) Islands in time for postmarking on the issue date. In addition, there was a considerable number of orders (mainly by overseas collectors) sent direct to the islands or lodged by local residents. A special feature of these first day covers was the application of an oval cachet in purple ink commemorating the first issue of Cocos (Keeling) Islands stamps. The cachet was applied to first day covers in Melbourne and on the islands. A total of 32,175 first day covers were processed, which included a considerable number prepared by Qantas for carriage on the first outward flight after 11 June.

As was the practice at this time, die proofs of the six stamps in their issued colours were presented to various dignitaries. Ten die proof sets, in a composite format with the six stamp proofs mounted in a single, window-framed card, were presented to The Queen, Governor General, Postmaster General, Director General of the Post Office and the Deputy Director General, and the five members of the Stamp Advisory Committee. Most of these die proof sets have now passed into collectors' hands. The six steel dies were also used to reproduce the recess-printed images on six large-size stamps issued in 1988 to mark the 25th anniversary of the first Cocos (Keeling) Islands stamps (185/90).

The Gallipoli issue

A 5d. stamp was issued by the Cocos (Keeling) Islands marking the 50th anniversary of the ANZAC landing at Gallipoli. This was part of an omnibus issue for the Australian territories, which also included single stamps for Christmas Island, Nauru, Norfolk Island and Papua New Guinea. The photogravure stamp design, common to each territory's stamp, featured Private John Simpson using his donkey to carry a wounded soldier. The territories' stamp design was based on the Australian recess printed, ANZAC design, prepared by Carl Andrews. The photogravure design was prepared by Post Office artist, Harry Fallu, who also produced the colour separation drawings. An expedient means of producing the photogravure territories' stamps involved using common printing cylinders for the green and sepia colours forming the basic design, with individual black printing cylinders being produced for the territory's name and

denomination. So far as the Cocos (Keeling) Islands stamp was concerned, this was a 5d. denomination issued in sheets of 48 (four rows of 12) without marginal inscriptions.

The ANZAC stamp was issued on 14 April 1965 at the Cocos (Keeling) Islands and at Australian philatelic sales points. First day covers were prepared under similar conditions to the 1963 stamps, except a cachet was not provided. The Philatelic Bureau, Melbourne, despatched 6720 covers to the islands for postmarking.

An unexpected demand for the Cocos (Keeling) Islands ANZAC stamp led to a request to the Note Printing Branch on 23 April to print a further 100,000 stamps. (The original printing had comprised 100,000 stamps.) However, it was discovered that the black printing cylinder had become worn during the original printing and a replacement cylinder was needed. This second cylinder featured the name 'COCOS (KEELING) ISLANDS' in slightly thinner lettering than the first cylinder and there were some tonal variations in the reprinted stamp (7/7a). The reprinted stamp became available before the end of April and all supplies of the stamp were exhausted in June.

Australian stamps reintroduced

In June 1965 it was announced that Australian stamps would be reintroduced for use at the Cocos (Keeling) Islands on 14 February 1966, when decimal currency commenced, and that the sale of Australian stamps would continue until such time as a decimal stamp series could be issued for the islands. The Note Printing Branch was under considerable pressure in the lead-up to decimal currency, producing banknotes and stamps for Australia and the territories. The Cocos (Keeling) Islands was not important enough in the scheme of things to have its own decimal stamps available in 1966.

Instead, the focus was on handling first day covers of the Australian decimal stamps issued on the Cocos (Keeling) Islands. The orders from collectors had to be received at the Philatelic Bureau, Melbourne, by 7 January 1966, with several categories of covers being advertised to accommodate the long series of 22 stamps. (The 3c. and 4c. coil stamps in the series were not issued on the Cocos (Keeling) Islands due to the absence of a stamp vending machine.) The local postmaster was required to postmark and dispatch the prepared covers received from Melbourne and to handle orders received locally and from collectors unaware of the Melbourne-based facility. A total of 12,134 first day covers (including decimal postal stationery postmarked on the first day of issue) were processed at the island's post office, largely by the postmaster working alone, and the final dispatch was not made until 22 April 1966.

Five years in development

The general use of Australian stamps on the Cocos (Keeling) Islands ended on 9 July 1969, when a series of 12

definitive stamps featuring marine and bird subjects was issued (8/19). The development of this series had been lengthy, having commenced in January 1964. In turn, this stamp series was replaced on 29 March 1976 by a 12-value series featuring ships associated with the islands (20/31). The latter stamps were the last to be issued while the postal affairs of the Cocos (Keeling) Islands remained under the control of Australia Post, as the Australian Post Office became known on 1 July 1975.

Following the purchase of the Clunies-Ross interests by the Australian government, the Cocos (Keeling) Islands acquired a new local administration and control over its postal affairs and stamp issues. The change took effect on 2 September 1979, when stamps of the 'independent' Cocos (Keeling) Islands postal administration were introduced to replace Australian stamps. Until the end of 1993, all stamps issued by the Cocos (Keeling) Islands were exclusively for local use and had no postal validity in Australia. On 1 January 1994, the wheel turned full circle with the Cocos (Keeling) Islands once again having its stamps being issued by Australia Post, as a result of Australian postal legislation being re-introduced to cover the islands. The change meant that Australian and Cocos (Keeling) Islands stamps became interchangeable for postal use, a situation that continues up to the present day.

Courtesy : Gibbons Stamp Monthly, 2005



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