



# SIPA

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CARIBBEAN BEAUTIES 12

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## EDITORIAL REVIEW 2007

As in previous years in the First Bulletin of the year, let us review "Stamps 2007" Elsewhere in this issue a list of stamps issued in 2007 by India Post is appended for you to "cut & keep".

Of course, 2007 was a good year from the philatelists / senior collectors point of view, due to the appearance of a number of good sets like Roses, National parks, Buddha, Bridges etc and the flood of miniature sheets. Moreover 2007 saw a lesser number of personalities compared to previous years. But, at the same time, for the junior collectors or student collectors, it is really a costly year due to the 12 sets (9 sets are with four or more stamps) and also the large number of miniature sheets. Indeed 2007 can be called as 'Year of miniature sheets'.

### In detail,

1. There were 34 issues on the whole, consisting 8 nos of Rs. 15/- stamps and 60 numbers of Rs. 5/- stamps, giving a total of 68 stamps for 2007.
2. Eleven miniature sheets have been issued in this year at a cost of Rs. 265/-
3. The cost of stamps, first day covers and miniature sheets alone comes to an unprecedented amount of Rs. 1275/- making it next to impossible to collect all current collectible items from India Post by a young-student-collector.
4. Twelve interesting and attractive sets have been issued. Sets like Roses, Buddha, National Parks, Bridges, Fairs, etc are really enchanting.
5. Out of 68 stamps issued, only 12 stamps were on personalities. It is a welcoming trend provided the trend is continued in the coming years.
6. Maxim cards : Quite a number were issued on Buddha, Children's day, I war of Independence etc. to fleece the collectors. At least, it will be useful for the collectors to utilize this expenditure if the cards are designed and issued on standard sizes and as per regulations and also if possible in exhibit condition, ie, cards with appropriate stamps affixed and cancelled.

Overall, it is a fruitful year for collectors with lots of miniature sheets and 'so called' maxim cards and less personalities. On the other hand, the increase in maxim cards and miniature sheets is going to kill the hobby by discouraging the young and new collectors. The Years

### Miniature Sheets

2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007
3	0	4	9	7	3	6	11

"Rare" and "scarce" are the words often used in philately which give possessive enjoyment to collectors. "Too many" will kill the joy of collecting. Hence issue of three or four M/s. and maxims per year will keep everybody happy in the long run.

"Happy Collecting"

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### Monthly Second Sunday Meetings

With President  
 Mr. G. Balakrishna Das on the Chair,  
 28 members attended the Meeting on  
 9.12.2007.  
 Mr. D.H. Rao spoke on "Light houses  
 on the Indian Coast".

## STAMPS issued in 2007

Issue. No	Name of the Stamp	Date of Release	Denomn. Rs.	Remarks
1.	Bimal Roy *	08.01.2007	5	
2.	Tamilnadu Cricket Association *	26.01.2007	5	
3.	Fragrance of Roses *	07.02.2007	15, 5, 15, 5	Miniature sheet
4.	Manoharbhal Patel *	09.02.2007	5	
5.	Fairs of India *	27.02.2007	5, 5, 5, 5,	Miniature sheet
6.	Women's Day *	08.03.2007	5, 15, 5, 15	Miniature sheet
7.	Raj Narain *	23.03.2007	5	
8.	Mehboob Khan	30.03.2007	5	
9.	Dr. RM. Alagappa Chettiar	06.04.2007	5	
10.	Buddha	02.05.2007	5, 5, 5, 5, 5, 5	Miniature sheet
11.	National Parks of India	31.05.2007	5, 5, 5, 5, 5	
12.	1857 – First war of Independence	09.08.2007	15, 5	Miniature sheet
13.	Marai malai Adigal	17.08.2007	5	
14.	Saint Vallalar	17.08.07	5	
15.	V.G. Suriya Narayana Sastriar	17.08.2007	5	
16.	Landmark Bridges of India	17.08.2007	5, 5, 5, 5	Miniature sheet
17.	J.P. Naik	05.09.2007	5	
18.	53 <sup>rd</sup> Commonwealth parliamentary Conference 2007	23.09.2007	15	
19.	S.D.Burman	01.10.2007	15	
20.	Centenary of Satyagraha	02.10.2007	5, 5, 5, 5	Miniature sheet
21.	Platinum Jubilee of Indian Air force (Dhruv, Wapti, Awcs, IL78)	08.10.2007	5, 5, 5, 15	Miniature sheet
22.	4 <sup>th</sup> CISM Military World games	14.10.2007	5, 5, 5	Miniature sheet
23.	Maharashtra Police Academy	03.11.2007	5	
24.	Children's Day	14.11.2007	5, 5,	Miniature sheet
25.	Renewable Energy	22.11.2007	5, 5, 5, 5	Miniature sheet
26.	First Battalion the Fourth Gorkha Rifles	27.11.2007	5	
27.	International day of disabled persons	03.12.2007	5	
28.	Daly College	08.12.2007	5	
29.	Wilson College	11.12.2007	5	
30.	Greetings	15.12.2007	5	
31.	S.B.Chavan	17.12.2007	5	
32.	Snows Basillica	25.12.2007	5	
33.	Water Year – 2007	28.12.2007	5	
34.	Ritwik Ghatak	31.12.2007	5	
	<b>Total</b>		<b>68</b>	<b>11</b>

## STAMP NEWS

### MAHARASHTRA POLICE ACADEMY

3.11.07 500 0.4 Mill

Maharashtra Police Academy was established in 1906. It began as a Police Training School at Pune and was shifted to its present location at Nasik around 1909.

After bifurcation of old Bombay State into Maharashtra & Gujarat states in 1960, the Police Training School was renamed as Police Training College. It was upgraded to the present status i.e. Maharashtra Police Academy, Nasik in the year 1990.



The Academy is located on a 267 acre campus at Nashik on Trimbak Road. The Academy has three buildings of old European architecture, which came into existence at the time it was shifted from Pune 1908. The Academy has a modern small arms firing range and a multi channel Fire Arms Training Simulator (F.A.T.S.).

The main object of setting up this institution was to impact basic training to the candidates for appointments as Police Sub Inspectors and Dy. Supdt. of Police.

As per the recommendations of Police Commission, various developments have taken place. The post of the Principal, Police Training College was elevated to the rank of Dy. Inspector General of Police in the year 1974. Thereafter again the post of the Deputy Inspector General of Police was elevated to the rank of Spl. Inspector General of Police in the year 1993.

Apart from providing induction training to the directly recruited Dy. Supdt. of Police, the Academy also given familiarization training to I.P.S. Officers on joining the state cadre. The Academy also provides facilities for training to the Dy. S. P. & P.S. Is of Goa State on request.

The Maharashtra Police Academy pioneer training institution, which has completed 100 glorious years of its formation, producing tough and efficient officers since its inception in 1906. The officers trained in this Academy have performed exceedingly well in upholding the law and order and serving the people, thereby contributing a great deal to our society.

Theme: Police, Uniforms, Security, Institutions.

### CHILDREN'S DAY

14.11.07 500, 500 0.8 Mill each

Children are God's greatest gifts to mankind. Their pure innocence, pristine thoughts and bubbling enthusiasm lend a unique flavour to life. To a child, the world is pure magic. Each day to a child unfolds a new secret, a new joy which the child rushes to embrace with outstretched arms.

This Year's stamps are based on painting made by Kum. Swarali V. Bhakare, Class IV, Annasaheb Raje Bhosale, Primary School, Satara, Maharashtra and B. Karthick, Class VIII, T.E.L.C., Middle School, Pudukottai, Tamil Nadu. Miniature sheet is based on the painting made by Master Pradhan Karnik, Class IX, Kendriya Vidyalaya, Bangalore, Karnataka.

The design of the First Day Cover is based on painting by Raj Ballav Hazarika, Class XII, K.G. Narangi School, Assam. The three



Maxim Cards are based on paintings by Master Sankar Dinesh Kamath, Class III, Bhavan's Varuna Vidyalaya, Thrikakkara, Ernakulam, Kerala and Jyotirmay Biswas, Class VIII, Jawahar Navodaya Vidyalaya, Kalyani, Nadia, West Bengal and Riti Sodhi, Class XII, Delhi Public School, Ranipur, Sector - 3, BHEL, Ranipur, Hardwar (UA), Uttarakhand.

The paintings reveal the inner working of a child's mind and what magic it weaves in the phenomena of night, seeing it through its wide eyed innocence.  
Theme: Children, Paintings, Children's day.

### RENEWABLE ENERGY

22.11.07 500 X 4 0.3 Mill Each

Energy is a basic requirement for economic development. Every sector of economy - agriculture, industry, transport, commercial and domestic - needs inputs of energy. The economic development plans implemented since independence in India have necessarily required increasing amounts of energy. As a result, consumption of energy in all forms has been steadily rising all over the country.



Against this background, the country urgently needs to develop a sustainable path of energy development. Promotion of energy conservation and increased use of renewable energy sources are the twin planks of sustainable energy supply.

Fortunately, India is blessed with variety of renewable energy sources, the main ones being biomass, biogas, the sun, wind and small hydropower.

Advantages of renewable energy are

- Perennial.
- Available locally and does not need elaborate arrangement for transport.
- Usually modular in nature, i.e. small-scale units and systems can be almost as economical as large - scale ones.

- Environment-friendly.
- Well suited for decentralized applications and use in remote areas.

The Government has been implementing comprehensive programmes for the development and utilization of various renewable energy sources in the country. As a result of efforts made during the past 25 years, a number of technologies and devices have been developed and have become commercially available. These include biogas plants, improved wood stoves, solar water heaters, solar cookers, solar lanterns, street lights, pumps, wind electric generators, water-pumping wind mills, biomass gasifiers and small hydro-electric generators. Energy technologies for the future such as hydrogen, fuel, and bio-fuel are being actively developed.

India is implementing one of the world's largest programmes in renewable energy. The country ranks second in the world in biogas utilization and fourth in wind power. Renewable sources already contribute about 16,500 MW, which is about 7.5% of the total installed power capacity in the country.

Theme : Energy, Power, Technology.

#### FIRST BATTALION THE FOURTH GORKHA RIFLES

27.11.07                      500                      0.8 Mill

The fourth Gorkha Rifles has a 150 year long history of valour, glory and selfless service.

Raised as an "Extra Regiment" at Pithoragarth on 6th August 1857 under the Command of Lt. D. Macintyre, it was the last battalion to be raised by the East India Company's rule in India. The Regimental Centre is located at Subathu since 1953. At present, the Regiment has five battalions.

The Regiment and its affiliated Rashtriya Rifles battalion continue to excel in all spheres of military activity. To cite a few instances, the First Battalion spearheaded the operation for relief of the garrison at 'Punch'. The second Battalion along with 2 Grenadiers captured Gurais and Kanzalwan, thus sealing the enemy's route into the Kashmir valley from the north. The 1962 Chinese aggression saw the Third Battalion operating in Ladakh and the first being rushed to NEFA. The two battalions of the Regiment saw action in 1965 Indo-Pak War. The First, Second and Third battalions of the regiment saw action in western front in J&K. The magnificent fight put up by the Third battalion on the highest battlefield of the World, inflicting heavy casualties on the enemy; and defeating its attacks is a glorious chapter in the history of the Regiment and the Indian Army.



Second Battalion had the distinction of participating in United Nation Interim Force in Lebanon as the first Indian battalion.

Lt. Col. Puran Bahadur Thapa of Third Battalion represented the country in football at the Melbourne

Olympics. Sub Dhan Bahadur of Fifth battalion distinguished himself by winning the Silver medal in the Asian Boxing Championship, Bronze medal at SAF games at Dacca in 1985 and a Bronze medal at Seoul, Asian Games in 1987.

Theme : Army, Armed forces, War, Weaponry

#### INTERNATIONAL DAY OF DISABLED PERSONS

3.12.07                      500                      0.8 Mill

The annual observance of the International Day of Disabled Persons, 3 December, aims to promote an understanding of disability issues and mobilize support for the dignity, rights and well being of persons with disabilities. It also seeks to increase awareness of gains to be derived from the integration of persons with disabilities in every aspect of political, social, economic and cultural life. The theme of the Day is based on the goal of full and equal enjoyment of human rights and participation in society by persons with disabilities, established by the World Programme of Action concerning Disabled Persons, adopted by General Assembly in 1982.



According to the Census 2001, there are 2.19 crore persons with disabilities in India who constitute 2.13 percent of the total population. These include persons with visual, hearing, speech, locomotor and mental disabilities. Seventy five percent of persons with disabilities live in rural areas, 49 percent of disabled population is literate and only 34 percent are employed. There has been a paradigm shift in rehabilitation of persons with disabilities where social rehabilitation has replaced medical rehabilitation.

In India to promote empowerment of the disabled a number of initiatives have been taken. The Government of India has adopted a comprehensive "National Policy for Persons with Disabilities" in February, 2006. The policy advocates empowerment and full participation of persons with disabilities in all walks of life.

An extensive infrastructure has been developed for rehabilitation of persons with disabilities. Seven national institutes specializing in various disabilities are working for development of rehabilitation manpower, to provide specialized services to persons with disabilities, research and development of models for delivery of services.

The Constitution of India ensures equality, freedom, justice and dignity of all individuals and implicitly mandates an inclusive society for all, including persons with disabilities.

Signing of the United Nations Convention on the Rights for Persons with Disabilities on the 30th March, 2007, the day on which the Convention was opened for signature, has further reaffirmed our commitment for empowerment of persons with disabilities. The Convention

is to promote, protect and ensure full and equal enjoyment of all human rights and fundamental freedoms, with respect and inherent dignity by all persons with disabilities. It is a human rights instrument with an explicit social development dimension. It identifies areas where adaptations have to be made for persons with disabilities to effectively exercise their rights and where protection of their rights must be reinforced.

Theme : People, Equality, International Days, Disabled People

### THE DALY COLLEGE

8.12.07 500 0.4 Mill

The history of education in modern India is as full of interesting and inspiring chapters as the history itself. Many of these schools came up with the active participation of the British ruling establishment as well as the princely states.

The Daly College was founded in 1882. However, the story started in 1869 when General Sir Henry Daly was appointed Agent to the Governor General in Central India. Those days, the Indore Residency School was running in the building of the East of the Indore Residency Post Office. This in 1867 was to be called the Indore Residency College with Mr. Aberigh - Macay, as the Principal.

Henry Daly retired in 1881, and it was decided to develop the separate classes for the princes into a full-fledged school and name it "The Daly College" with an independent building. For sometime it was called the Indore Residency Rajkumar College and had a separate identity from the Indore Residency College, even though they had one Principal. However, in 1906, the Principal severed his connection with the Indore Residency College.



द डेली कॉलेज THE DALY COLLEGE

The building was constructed by the Military Works Department. On 14th November, 1885, it was inaugurated by Viceroy Lord Dufferin.

In 1918 the grounds and buildings of the Daly College were taken by the Government of India as training school for Indian cadets but it was restored in 1919. On 1<sup>st</sup> February, 1922, the Prince of Wales held a Durbar in the Daly College. In 1922 itself the constitution of the school was altered with a view to associating the princely states more closely with the working of the school. In October, 1924, the Holkar Maharaja gave Rs. 50,000/- to the school to build a science laboratory. It came into being in 1929.

The first prince to pass the matriculation examination of Indian University was Sardar Madho Rao Kibe of Indore. He was also the first prince from the Daly College to take a university degree (B.A., 1899, M.A., 1904).

In 1940 the school underwent a major change of policy and was converted in a full-fledged public school open to all irrespective of social status.

In 1956 Mr.R.N.Zutshi became its first Indian Principal.

Theme : Education, Institution, Royals, Colleges.

### GREETINGS Happy New Year

15.12.07 500, 500 3 Mill Each

Festivities and celebrations with their panoramic hues and shades pass the Indian landscape in a never ending procession. After the monsoon clouds retreat filling the rivers, ponds, and fields and the hearts of peasants and farmers with hope, joy and anticipation of a good harvest, the entire country gets into blossoming of joyous raptures to greet the new year.

While 1<sup>st</sup> of January is the New Year's Day in many parts of the world, different interpretations of the new year depending upon the respective calendar system. India still looks at the rain bearing clouds, the solar and lunar movements, the ancient ballads and mythologies and above all the ripening of grains in the fields. The Assamese New Year is Bihu, the Bengali Nabo Varsho is 1<sup>st</sup> Vaishakh,

Gudipadava is the first day of new year in Maharashtra, Ugadi is celebrated in Andhra Pradesh, Puthandu is the new year in Tamil Nadu, Pooram Vishu in Kerala and, all more or less coincide with the Vaishakh or Chait months in March/April.

The new year is in fact one of the longest surviving festival traditions in the human history. The ancient Babylonians observed this approximately 4000 years ago. The ancient Roman calendar had only ten months and started the year on the 1<sup>st</sup> of March. The months January and February were added around 713 BC. In 153 BC 1<sup>st</sup> January was considered as the beginning of the year, and it continued even after adoption of the Julian calendar in 45 BC. With the introduction of the Gregorian calendar in 1582 AD acceptance of 1<sup>st</sup> January as the new year's day gradually increased. The celebrations, festivities and the tradition of greeting and meeting friends and family apart from prayers and worships etc., is a common feature across the globe.

The colourful stamps on Season's Greetings and Happy New Year have been designed to represent different elements of nature, and their synchronic interplay that sustains life on earth.

Theme : Greetings, New Year, Paintings.



## WILSON COLLEGE

11.12.07

500

0.4 Mill

Wilson College has a continuous history as an educational institution going back to 1832. It began as Ambrolie School in Girgaum, later seeing several changes of sites and names, eventually being called Wilson College developed 1836.

The founder of these institutions was the Rev. John Wilson D.D., F.R.S. of the Scottish Missionary Society. John and his wife Margaret arrived in Bombay on February 14, 1829.

John Wilson was a linguist, an orientalist, an author. In recognition of his service to the cause of education, social awakening and scholarship, the Department of Archives, Government of Maharashtra, in 2000, honoured Dr. John Wilson as one of the Seven founders of Modern Bombay.



The vision and foresight of Dr. Wilson saw the establishment of the University of Bombay in 1857. On 4<sup>th</sup> December, 1861, the collegiate section of Wilson's institution became the first privately owned, non-government institution to get affiliated to the University.

Fostering a tradition of liberalism and freedom, the Scottish Principals inspired many students to be at the centre stage of the freedom struggle, Usha Mehta, Acharaya Kriplani, S.A. Dange, Aloo Dastoor, B.G. Kher to mention a few.

Wilson College gave India its only Prime Minister from Bombay-Morarji Desai, and the Bharat Ratna recipients P.V. Kane and D.K. Karve are also proud alumni of the institution. In 1952, the Management of college came under autonomous Board of Governors in India. Since 1963, the college is under the John Wilson Education Society.

Theme : Education, Institution, Bharat Ratna, Freedom Fighters

## S.B. CHAVAN

17.12.07

500

0.4 Mill

Shri Shankarrao Bhaurao Chavan was an eminent political personality, an outstanding parliamentarian and an able administrator. Born to Shri Bhaurao Chavan and Shrimati Laxmibai Chavan at Paithan in Aurangabad district of Maharashtra on 14<sup>th</sup> July 1920, Shri Chavan graduated from Madras University. He got a law degree from Osmania University. Shri Chavan participated in the freedom struggle in erstwhile Hyderabad state right from his student days and gave up practice during the Quit Court Movement there.



Shri S.B. Chavan had a long and distinguished political career starting with member of the Bombay State Legislative Council in 1956. In 1957, he was elected to the Maharashtra Legislative Assembly and remained a member of that Assembly till 1980. He was again elected to the Maharashtra twice, from 1975 to 1977 and from March 1986 to June 1988. He was also a Member of the Seventh and the Eighth Lok Sabha. He represented the State of Maharashtra in Rajya Sabha for three terms, from October 1988 to April 1990, April 1990 to April 1996 and again from April 1996 to April 2002. He was the Leader of the House in Rajya Sabha from July 1991 to May 1996. He was Chairman of the Committee on Human Resource Development from 1996 to 2002 and was also Chairman of the Ethics Committee from 1997 to 2002.

Shri S.B. Chavan served as a Cabinet Minister for several years holding the portfolios of Education, Culture and Social Welfare, External Affairs, Defence, Home Affairs and Finance. As the Deputy Chairman of the Planning Commission of India from August 1981 to July 1984, he provided impetus to the development process.

Theme : Personality, Parliament, Politics, Freedom fighter.

## SNOWS BASILICA

25.12.07

500

0.4 Mill

SNOWS BASILICA is situated in Tuticorin. An ancient structure, it is a striking and significant landmark unfolding the tale of the social history of our country. It is a living symbol of India's cultural contact with the world, especially the medieval Europe, and is cornerstone of the multiculturalism of our country.

The story started when Fr. Pedru Consalves build a church in Tuticorin in 1538 A.D. and dedicated it to St. Peter. Then through the efforts of the priests of Society of Jesus, a church dedicated to our Lady of Mercy was consecrated by the Rev. Monsignor Devoura, on 5<sup>th</sup> August, 1582 on the feast of Our Lady of Snows.

The Church underwent changes and came to the present structure when especially Fr. Vigil Mange made efforts to beautify the structure. He faced difficulties from the Dutch. However, he managed to obtain permission from the Dutch Government at Ceylon. The newly constructed Church was consecrated and blessed on the feast of Our Lady of Snows on 5<sup>th</sup> August, 1713A.D.



The statue of Our Lady of Snows was initially kept in a Chapel in a convent of the Augustinian Sisters in Manila, Philippines. St. Francis Xavier wished that it should be sent to Tuticorin. The statue was received at this Church from Philippines on 9<sup>th</sup> June 1555A.D.

Pope John Paul-II raised this Church to the status of Basilica on 30<sup>th</sup> July 1982 on the occasion of its 400<sup>th</sup> Anniversary.

Made in beautiful Portuguese style architecture, the Basilica has, for centuries, drawn the devotees from far and wide.

Theme : Religion, Churches, Christianity, Buildings, Architecture

#### WATER YEAR 2007

29.12.07 500 0.8 Mill

"Water, water everywhere but not a drop to drink".

Coleridge in his famous classic Ancient Mariner so succinctly described the paradox of water as a resource. Two thirds of earth is covered with water and one third by land. Yet, the scarcity of fresh water has posed a major challenge before the human beings in the present century. Insufficient water storage capabilities are leading to recurrent floods and draughts world over.



India faces a challenging water future. Water availability of the country as a whole has been assessed as 1869 billion cubic meters (BCM) of which only 1123 BCM can be utilized that includes 690 BCM surface water and 433 BCM ground water resources.

India has a highly seasonal pattern of rainfall with 50% of precipitation falling in just 15 days and over 90% of river flows in just 4 months. Throughout history people have adapted to this unique flow by either living along the river banks or harvesting imaginatively in tanks and underground storages.

India can store only 30 days of rainfall compared to 900 days in major river basins in the arid areas of developed countries. The present per capita storage capacity is only 207 cubic meters as compared to 1111 cubic meters in China. Growing population further puts pressure on per capita availability of water. It is estimated that it will be about 1341 cubic meters by 2025.

In such a background it is extremely essential that our precious asset is governed by a national perspective and an effective plan to harvest, conserve and utilize water gainfully. The Union Cabinet in its meeting on 4.1.2007 accepted the proposal of the Ministry of Water Resources and declared year 2007 as Water Year. The National Common Minimum Programme has laid great emphasis on water sector. Public investment in irrigation is planned to be stepped up in a sympathetic manner.

Theme : Water, Investment, Nature

#### RITWIK GHATAK

31.12.07 500 0.4 Mill

Ritwik Ghatak has come to be regarded as one of the greatest figures in the history of Indian Cinema. Ritwik Ghatak was born in Dhaka in East Bengal (now Bangladesh) on 14.11.1925. His father Suresh Chandra Ghatak was a district magistrate and also a poet and playwright. Mother's name was Indubala Devi. He was their 11<sup>th</sup> and youngest child. He and his family moved to

Kolkata just before millions of other refugees from East Bengal began to flood into the city, fleeing the catastrophic 1943 famine and the Partition of India 1947.

In 1948, Ghatak wrote the first play Kala Sayar (The Dark Lake), and participated in a revival of the landmark play Nabanna. In 1951, Ghatak joined the Indian People's Theatre Association (IPTA). He wrote, directed and acted in plays and translated Bertolt Brecht and Gogol into Bengali. In 1957, he wrote and directed his last play Jwala (The Burning).

Ghatak entered film industry with Nema Ghosh's Chinnamul (1950) as an actor and assistant director. Chinnamul was followed two years later by Ghatak's first completed film Nagarik (1952), both major break-through for the Indian Cinema.

The product of an early involvement in politics and people's theatre, Ghatak, as a film maker, was bent on wedding his political activism with cultural content as he fashioned popular form melodrama, songs, dances-into



appropriate vehicles for radical political expression. His films are almost all veiled autobiography. Ghatak came of age during the convulsions of the 1940s-World War II, the terrible "man-made famine" of 1944, the communal violence that came with independence, and especially the partition of Bengal, which obsessed him all his life. He directed eight full-length films. His best known films were Meghe Dhaka Tara (The Cloud-Capped Star) (1960), Komal Gandhar (e-flat) (1961) and addressing the condition of refugee-hood. His other feature films were Ajantrik (The Unmechanical, The Pathetic Fallacy) (1958), Bari Theke Paliye (The Runway) (1959), Titash Ekti Nadir Naam (A River called Titash) (1973), Jukti Takko Aar Gappo (Reason, Debate and a Story) (1974). Short films and documentaries made by Ghatak are The life of Adivassis (1955), Places of Historic Interest in Bihar (1955), Scientists of Tomorrow (1967), Ye Kyon (Why./The Question) (1970), Amar Lenin (My Lenin) (1970), Puruliah Chhau (The Chhau Dance of Purulia) (1970) and Durbar Gati Padma (The Turbulent Padma) (1971).

Ghatak moved briefly to Pune in 1966, where he taught at the Film and Television Institute of India (FTII). He died on 06.02.1976. Ritwik Ghatak's Cinema is without any parallel in Indian film history. Jacob Levich has remarked that there was a kind of impudence in Ghatak's ceaseless tinkering with film language. His films are ragged, Provisional, intensely personal, yet epic in shape, scope, and aspirations. Satyajit Ray, a contemporary of Ghatak wrote in the foreword to a collection of Ghatak's articles on cinema titled "Cinema and I", "Ritwik was one of the few truly original talents in the cinema this country has produced. Nearly all his films are marked by an intensity of feeling coupled with an imaginative grasp of the technique of film making. As a creator of powerful images in an epic style he was virtually unsurpassed in Indian cinema."

Theme : Personality, Leader, Cinema.

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## THE PHILOSOPHIES OF COMMEMORATIVE COLLECTING

(With reference to US stamps)

Barbara R. Mueller

No one can deny that commemorative issues are the most popular U.S. Stamps. It's true that the frequency of issue, limited printings, and changes of design associated with commemoratives produce greater collector appeal than the monotony of the long lived regular series.

Yet the accepted style of collecting tends to negate those virtues. It forces every issue, old or modern, scarce or common, into a strait jacket of uniformity: One simply must acquire a single, a block, a first day cover, and perhaps a plate block of every number.

The dictates of this style are expensive. Hence most collectors must limit themselves to the issues to 1950 to date. In so doing, they may find adequate satisfaction; they may ask no greater pleasure from philately. But there always is an important minority which is frustrated by the arbitrary restrictions. The rebellion of these people all too often becomes a revulsion for all U.S. Stamps. They are forced to turn to Afghanistan or Paraguay or an unlikely topical subject for satisfaction. It is this capable, willing minority which needs guidance and reawakening to the inherent philatelic potentialities of each issue or group.

### THE PASSION FOR UNIFORMITY

It is only fair to record first the valid reasons for the popularity of uniformity. This method embraces all the major elements of philately while imparting a sense of fellowship with other collectors.

It enables busy people to taste the joys of philately without an undue expenditure of precious time. A wide selection of printed albums is available to house the collection. Such well filled albums are good commercial properties; someone is always in the market for commemorative collections.

Uniformity makes for continuity; the situation is always well in hand. There are no difficult decisions to make, only soothing spaces to fill from any dealer's stock.

### THE CASE FOR DIVERSITY

Diversity implies individuality. It is creative philately at its best. Comprehensive knowledge is a requisite to the careful planning of a diversified commemorative collection. Off-beat sources of material must be found; the zest of the hunt adds adventure.

Since the followers of the diversified style recognize no two issues are exactly alike, they are able to bring variety into their album arrangements. Inexpensive items are utilized to disguise the lack of expensive ones. Fertile issues are emphasized without the necessity of fluffing up the nonfertile issues in an attempt to equalize treatment.

### THE SIGNIFICANCE OF BLOCKS

Back in the 1890's the man who bought a block of four stamps expected to get a discount for a wholesale purchase. Today we pay a premium because fashion decrees that a block is desirable. From the average collector's point of view, a plain block has little significance. Four copies tell him no more than one copy.

Perhaps it is a hidden longing for ostentation that impels most of us to add blocks to our collection. That in itself is not entirely wrong. If you like the looks of blocks of four on your page, go ahead and buy them. You won't lose money; you may make some. But don't get the idea that those blocks indicate philatelic knowledge. They are not a necessary part of the complete coverage of an issue.

### THE SIGNIFICANCE OF PLATE BLOCKS

A plate number block does prove one thing: the plate from which the stamps were printed. To a student, such information is potentially valuable, although in practice, there are practically no secrets about the commemoratives.

Plate number collecting itself, whether by issue or sequence, is an interesting specialty. Blocks are not absolutely necessary; in most cases singles are sufficient. If the block form is favored, it is logical to collect four blocks showing the number, one from each of the four panes of a sheet. Such 'matched' or 'position' plate block collecting is rapidly gaining favour. Sets of matched blocks enjoy a much better market than single blocks of random position. The latter are almost as devoid of significance as plain blocks.

In the case of the early commemoratives through the Jamestown issue, plate numbers are not always available in block form because at the time of issue strips of three or more were considered *de rigueur*. If you have only one strip, don't hide it. Bring it out in the open and mount it as an illustration of the old time collecting methods.

The ultimate in commemorative plate block collecting is the acquisition of matched position sets of every number of every plate used to print each issue. Because that is an expensive plan, most collectors revert back to the one-plate-block representation. In so doing, they are adding little or nothing to their collection's philatelic or monetary value.

### THE SIGNIFICANCE OF FIRST DAY COVERS

First day covers have become such an accustomed part of philatelic life that it is hard to believe that special postmarks, cachets, and even first days of issue did not always exist. This unpleasant situation balks the uniformity plan, while enriching the diversity system.

The special "First Day of Issue" postal markings were introduced in 1937 in connection with the 3c Ordinance of 1787 (no. 795). All earlier covers can be identified only by the date. Of course, the presence of complementary design or "cachet" on the envelope also indicates, but does not necessarily prove, first day status. A



small group of Eastern dealers pioneered cachets shortly after World War I but not until the Bicentennial Issue did they become the rule rather than the exception.

In a few cases among the early commemoratives, the first day of issue is not known. Official records were incomplete. Therefore, it is still possible for you to turn up a cover dated earlier than the accepted date listed in the "Specialized" catalog. When such discoveries are made, the editors make the necessary changes.

With these facts in mind, you must decide whether or not you will include first day covers in your collection. Remember that they demonstrate two things: usage on the first day the stamp was issued and the condition of the stamp as originally issued. Of course, many of the modern covers may well have been postmarked a few days before or after issue, but the date always reads the same.

Purists insist that a cachet is unnecessary, even undesirable. But a conservative, informative cachet will substitute for a lengthy album page write-up of the purpose of the commemorative. Moreover, these people say that a first day cover should bear only the stamps necessary to pay the postal charges. Thus, a block of four of a 10c famous American on a first class surface mail cover represents improper use. But the philatelic conniving necessary to obtain covers showing proper use is just as unnatural. The real prizes are ordinary personal or business covers which received the first day cancel in the course of regular mail service, but you have to know your dates to spot them.

#### **EMPHASIZE THE HISTORICAL BACKGROUND**

The historical background of an issue is two-phased; the first concerns the conception of the stamps themselves, while the second concerns the commemorative purpose and its expression in the designs. Artists' sketches, essays, and proofs tell the story of a stamp from conception to birth, but they are practically unavailable to collectors of moderate means. Photos of such material clipped from magazines and books are the only substitutes. Mount them on your pages in a position from which comparison with the final and accepted design (in the form of an odd plate block, for instance) is easy and dramatic.

The second phase is often overdone; philately is drowned in a sea of encyclopaedic minutiae. While the biography of the personage or the geography of the place shown on a stamp is interesting, philately must always dominate. For instance, arrange your write-up to accommodate several copies of the stamp scattered throughout the text. Choose copies remarkable for some obvious reason: shade, cancellation, etc. Make this page a preface to the main body of singles, blocks, and covers.

In many cases you can bring alive this historical background material by emphasizing the circumstances surrounding the issuance of the stamps. Not all commemoratives enjoyed smooth sailing from the time they were just a gleam in someone's eye right up to the first day sale. More often than not, hostile public opinion had to be overcome, heated disputes over designs resolved, and

hurt feelings about first day cities soothed. Such are the stories behind the stamp that are of true philatelic interest.

For instance, the political jockeying in Congress for the home folks' favour by securing issuance of the 1929 Sullivan Expedition, Battle of Fallen Timbers, Ohio River Canalization, and the 1933 Kosciuszko stamps makes an interesting sidelight on otherwise drab issues. Likewise, the stories of President Roosevelt's instigation of the Little America stamp of 1933 and the G.A.R.'s opposition to the honoring of Robert E. Lee on the 4c Army are well worth telling. You can find many more incidents recorded in Johl's books, the Essay Proof Journal, and the contemporary philatelic press. They are well worth the search, for they will set your collection apart and credit your initiative.

#### **EMPHASIZE THE PRODUCTION PROCESS**

The actual production of commemoratives provides us with even richer fare. But how many of us are guilty of mounting a mint single and few blocks to a page and calling the results a "specialized collection"? Far too many, judged on the basis of our failure to mold our sketchy knowledge into a coherent album-story of production from paper to perforation.

Bear in mind that not all commemoratives were printed by the same process, in the same format, with the same degree of accuracy. Every issue deserves at least one "Production page" on which the technical details are animated by actual specimens of the end results.

Begin with the layout of the printing plate itself, all U.S. commemoratives (with one exception) were produced from line engraved plates on flat bed or rotary presses. Certain markings were placed on these plates to assist in the perforating process and in the separation of the large sheet into post office sized panes. We know them as "guide lines" and "electric eye marks".

Guide lines have been much maligned because they so often appear on straight edged stamps. The fact that straight edges are considered undesirable, even though in proportion to the total number of stamps in a pane they are scarcer than completely perforated specimens, should not keep you from acquiring every guide line that comes your way. (And at pleasant prices, too.)

Use them to demonstrate in miniature the layout of the plate. One accepted style involves the formation of a block of nine stamps, with a non-guide line perforated stamp in the center. Immediately above it is placed a specimen with the line at the top, and below, one with the line at bottom. This nucleus of three rows is completed thus: first row, at left of center, a copy with line at top and left, and at right of center, a copy with line at top and right. The second row is filled out with stamps showing lines at left and right, respectively. The third row is the same as the first, except that the lines are at the sides and bottom, rather than the top.

The inclusion of such a miniature sheet for every issue is not repetitious, for there were many different layouts depending upon the size and shape of the stamps,

with some showing the lines on perforated stamps and others on imperfs. The Yorktown issue even comes in two printings, one with straight edge lines and one with perforated lines.

Perhaps someday the "Specialized" catalog will include an abbreviated description of the plate layouts after each issue. Such information often proves helpful in spotting altered stamps. For instance, the format of the Jamestown issue is such that each pane has a perforated guide line intersected by a horizontal imperforate line. Therefore, if you find a copy which is fully perforated, yet shows a guide line at top or bottom, you know that it has been unscrupulously "reperforated."

The markings found on rotary press stamps are usually of the electric eye variety and are located on a perforated margin. While we are reasonably well acquainted with them as contemporaries, many of the arrangements, particularly those on odd shaped stamps like the Famous Americans, are confusing. The best source of information on them, as well as guide lines, is the Bureau Issues Association and its organ, The Bureau Specialist.

The reason for collecting plate numbers is usually overlooked in the rush for matched sets of blocks; in case you have forgotten, the numbers demonstrate certain aspects of the plate layouts. The positions of the numbers on flat plate stamps are especially variable. Therefore, make your matched plate numbers do double duty: Place them immediately after the pages devoted to the marginal markings to round out the story of the plate layout.

Plate markings are normal and intentional. Plate varieties are unintentional or unpremeditated deviations from the norm made during the period of plate use, or before it went into production, or during some stage of its own production. They may be multiple or shifted transfers, cracked plates, gripper cracks, retouches, recuts, broken transfers, etc., as described in the introduction to the "Specialized" catalog.

We usually think of plate varieties as phenomena occurring on regular issues printed in astronomical numbers. But the commemoratives, especially those issued before 1935, do not lag far behind. Close scrutiny of your duplicates may very well pay off in unusual items for your collection. Here it is sufficient to suggest that you can enhance your display by including an enlarged drawing or photo of the affected segment of the stamp. Instant recognition is also facilitated by a concise word description.

Plate varieties are constant. But colors are anything but that! Because most of the marked shades occur on commemorative more than twenty years old, the suspicion that they are only fades resulting from age and exposure is bound to arise. At any rate, don't get too excited over shades which are not assigned minor catalog numbers.

Nevertheless, a page of shades is always an interesting comment on any stamp's production. The 3c Victory issue of 1919 is one which yields a host of them,

including two minor varieties. The variations from its basic violet are apparent even in the stamps adjacent to each other in the same blocks.

Perforation varieties among U.S. commemoratives are infrequent; as a rule they consist of pairs lacking the "holes" along one dimension. Occasionally an error in separating the large sheets into smaller panes results in pairs with full gutters (an unusually wide blank space separating the panes) between the stamps. For some reason, these varieties are most highly esteemed and expensive.

The pre-wartime National Defense issue of 1940 offers several perforation varieties. The majority of these do not rate catalog recognition because they consist of "blind perforations" blank or partially punched spaces alternating with normal perforations.

Some purists call them "freaks," but together with other production abnormalities, they go far to make up the most entrancing pages in the album. Poorly inked (dry print) copies, over-inked stamps, accidental paper creases resulting in totally blank areas of the design all are available to the hunter. Less exotic but still interesting are bicolored stamps showing improper registration of one portion of the design. For instance, the cross on the Red Cross stamp of 1931 can be found in positions ranging from the extreme top left down to the globe, making possible an arrangement of copies showing this progressive movement.

#### EMPHASIZE THE USAGE

Following the production of a stamp is its use, an aspect which is perfunctorily covered by a first day cover in most collections. Other material, while not necessarily expensive, is not standardized; it is, therefore, exasperatingly elusive. Moreover, much original research remains to be done.

Certain commemoratives present unique usage characteristics worth exploiting. The overprinted Hawaii Sesquicentennial issue of 1928 was often mistaken for a precancel by postal clerks. They regarded letters bearing these stamps to be postage due, and marked or stamped them thus. Covers exemplifying such practice add the prize winning touch to any collection.

Many of the events which were commemorated by stamps were also honored with special slogan cancels. Such postal markings were favored for advertising the great expositions of the 1890 to 1915 period. Covers showing the special stamps cancelled by the corresponding slogans are important attractions.

However, the portraiture of the usage of any commemorative should not be confined to special situations or applications entirely. Ordinary everyday use must also be shown, preferably in the most attractive format available.

That is not an easy assignment. Have you ever sought examples of current commemoratives used on commercial registered mail? Or non-philatelic military

mail? If so, you are well aware that a true representation of the usage of a commemorative is of equal importance with its background and production.

### NATURAL GROUPINGS BY PERIOD, PURPOSE, AND PHYSICAL ATTRIBUTES

Our commemoratives fall into natural groups based on chronology, common physical attributes, and purpose or subject matter. The latter arrangement, while not popular, offers the novelty of a new approach.

The first eight commemorative groups (with the exception of the Lincoln Memorial, considered by many to be no commemorative at all) were issued to publicize or honor the great national and international expositions which flourished up to the time of World War I. This pioneer motif, which was used from the Columbians to the Panama Pacific, was revived again in 1926 for the Sesquicentennial Exposition.

From then on, a variety of spectacular events was commemorated with special stamps. There were the Century of Progress, Golden Gate, California Pacific, and the New York World Fairs. There were almost a dozen philatelic exhibitions, beginning with the International of 1926, which were accorded souvenir sheets, to say nothing of single stamps.

The charm of this exhibition-fair group of commemoratives is further enhanced by the special postal markings used in connection with every event and illustrated advertising envelopes favored by the promoters of the early shows.

Another natural group is formed by the stamps issued to commemorate significant events and people of the Revolutionary War period. Most of them appeared in the years between 1925 and 1933. Beginning with the Lexington-Concord and ending with the Peace at Newburgh issues, at least 12 singles and series including the Bicentennials qualify for this group.

A study of the catalog listings will reveal similar relationships between other commemoratives. Several were issued to honor specific immigrant groups-Norse American, Huguenot-Walloon, Swedes-Finns, Swedish Pioneers, etc., Many more mark the anniversaries of the attainment of statehood or territorial status by our states.

If the topical approach to U.S. commemoratives leaves you cold, consider those with physical similarities. The bicolored stamps make up the most handsome group. The souvenir sheets run a close second, while the few overprinted stamps attract for utilitarian reasons rather than beauty.

Regardless of your choice of arrangement, be it traditionally chronological or radically topical, you will find that some issues offer more collectible material than others.

Courtesy : United States Postage stamps by Barbara R. Mueller, 1958.

## MONGOLIAN POSTAGE STAMPS

Mohr'n Mapk

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



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

A wonderful invention of civilization, the postage stamp originated from the mail service. The postage stamps were introduced to Mongolia after 84 years since its origin in Europe. A first national stamp was issued in 1924, two years before the first philately congress was held in Paris. This stamp printed in Shanghai depicts stone statue of tiger surrounded by flower ornament "Eldev Ochir", an oriental symbol of stability and peace. In 1926 another stamp followed with an image of soyombo, a current state emblem on national flag.

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



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



The stamp about the nomadic life of Mongolian people  
Монголчуудын нуудалчин ахуйг дүрсэлсэн шүдгүй марк

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

There are about 10 repaired stamps in Mongolia. New imprint "mail" in English and Mongolian was added to 1925 soyombo stamp. Another imprint "For eradication of Malaria" was added to 8 piece 1961 sheet "Selected Mongolian Flowers" by the request of WHO in 1962. In 1962 4 stamps dedicated to 800<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Chinggis khaan were amended as



well. "Chinggis khaan. Coronation. 1189" imprint was added then. However these stamps were withheld from circulation. They appeared again in 1989 for celebration of 750<sup>th</sup> anniversary of "Secret History of Mongolians"

The theme of anniversaries and remarkable events occupies important place in national philately. Due to obvious reasons there were numerous stamps dedicated to communist propaganda and communist leaders. However stamps on themes such as history, space exploration, sports, technology and third world countries members of the Olympic movement were popular as well. A first Mongolian society of stamp collectors was founded in 1957, later it changed its name to "Mongolian philatelic association". Mongolian philatelists started to take part in international exhibitions and fairs from 1980s.



U.Sereeter, D. Vandandorj, L. Badarch are among many Mongolian philatelists who won various medals and prizes. Mongolian philatelists earned respect and fame in the world of philately. Mongolian stamps are highly valued among the collectors since they come only in limited number.

(Courtesy : Sky land, Mangolian magazine)

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## CARIBBEAN BEAUTIES

Andrew Eames

There's one major group of this country's population for whom the sun has not yet set over the British Empire: stamp collectors. As estimated two million enthusiasts nationwide regularly dwell lovingly over the issues of Empire, toying with names like Rhodesia, Bechuanaland and Malaya and poring over images of planters, polo players and colonial policemen. Moreover many of these collectors lose interest after the coming of those nations' independence not because of any jingoistic belief that the stamps would never be as good again, but because new issues have become so prolific recently that it costs a fortune to keep properly abreast of them.

As the years pass by and the anniversaries pile up, philatelists get more choosy so that many of today's stamps have to be gloriously pictorial and often issued in collectible thematic groups to keep their interest. Many a small island nation has earned very valuable foreign currency from sales to collectors. For islands like Montserrat, stamps have been the largest single currency earner, and they have had to become very sophisticated to keep ahead of the competition. With the Caribbean's



natural charisma and the vibrancy and variety of the region's modern stamps, the region's issues are amongst the most prized of any philatelist's collection.

Little sticky-backed squares of printed paper are now such a part of our lives that it is hard to believe that they only came into mainstream use little over 150 years ago. In fact adhesive postage stamps are a good British invention, the Penny Black being first introduced in 1840. The Caribbean was not far behind, with the island of Trinidad issuing its own stamps in 1851, and becoming the first place in the empire outside the UK to do so. Even before that, unofficial stamps had been circulated by the owner of the *Lady McLeod*, a steamship that operated its own postal service between Trinidad and the mainland in 1847. The *Lady McLeod* prefigured the pictorial stamps of today with a picture of the ship itself, official stamps were to remain rather sternly unpictorial until the turn of the century.

But beauty and price don't necessarily go together in the stamp business. The world's most valuable stamp, which is from the Caribbean mainland, is a case in point: the British Guiana 1c was last traded at \$1.3 million over a decade ago. Most philatelists will agree that the



Guiana 1c is an ugly brute, much defaced by its cancellation, but it also has the virtue of being the only one in the world. Its rarity is probably due to the fact that it was used on domestic mail, and the climate in Guyana was and still is very hard on paper. The plucky little British Guiana 1c did well to survive.

Caribbean stamps make a particularly rich seam for the UK collector to mine because most of the mail out of what was then the British West Indies was from planters and traders and government officials to their masters in the UK. There's real history in this



business, and to collect these stamps is to assemble a jigsaw of the birth of individual nations. In the early days of postage there were no envelopes (these weren't in regular use until later in the Victorian era) and the stamp was affixed to the same sheet of carefully folded and sealed piece of paper on which the letter was written. The result is that many collectors of Caribbean stamps are also keepers of some of the finest insights into island development. Requests for more money for more slaves to improve the sugar or cotton crop; eyewitness accounts of riots in Jamaica; breathless reports of hurricanes something the British, being weather experts, loved to get excited about all feature extensively.

Moreover, running a postal service on the islands was never easy, and this help to make some of the stamps unique. All sorts of devices were used in early deliveries to the outer flung corners of empire, including catapulting post onshore from the mailboat as it passed. Hazards for the locals did not stop at the danger of being felled by passing salvos of post; in Tonga, for example, departing mail sometimes had to be swum out to the mailboat through shark-infested waters. Perhaps this is what led to the development of a remarkable new innovation: post officer rocks. These were officially painted stones under which the locals left their mail and then hid lest they be called upon to do any swimming.



"Caribbean cancellations" may sound like unfortunate holiday experiences, but they too are sought-after commodities. Some collectors become so specialized as to focus on one town or even



one village's stamp cancellations, where often the cancelling mark may just be the postmaster's initials. A particular curiosity are the cancellations from the world's first undersea post office, in the Bahamas in 1939, which handled mail from scientists observing the sea bed. There's island charm at work here, and all the more so because several mistakes were made in the issuing of stamps. In philately, mistakes can fetch a fortune. In the Caribbean there were misspelling and upside down flags, and many of the islands over-printed old stamps with new prices because they didn't have time to print new ones and they had plenty of old ones left.

Over the past couple of decades the Caribbean has issued some glorious thematic sets with the collector in mind. Most focus on subjects relevant to the region: cricket (ofcourse), wildlife, marine life, sugar, sailing pirates, etc, etc. The last is particularly fertile ground: Henry Morgan, Captain Kidd and Edward Teach, better known as Blackbeard, and pirates Anne Bonny and Mary Read operated from the island, which were well placed to intercept treasure ships heading back for Europe from the New World. There's many a good yarn behind each of these stamps, particularly the latter two: Anne Bonny was born in Ireland but brought up in Carolina, where she murdered an English serving girl in a fit of passion, eventually running away to sea. Mary Read was brought up as a boy and served in the navy from the age of 13, disguising her sex until she fell in love. When her husband died, she too ran away to sea.

Not every subject is so relevant to the islands, however. One of the island nations recently did a set of US baseball stars, another has featured dogs of the world, and a third a set of the 42 British monarchs from Norman times to the present day. Grenada issued a stamp of King Arthur in full armour, Dominica has a stamp of caged battery hens; the Grenadines honoured the first steam locomotive in Japan; Barbados depicted the world table-tennis championship and Anguilla celebrated ironing.

A large proportion of Caribbean issues are designed and printed in this country (Britain), thanks to the

continued good offices of the Crown Agents, who act for a remarkable total of some 50 nations, keeping Britain ahead in the stamp business. In their advisory role, the Agents' stamp bureau suggest ideas for new stamps as well as commissioning artists, printers and paper suppliers, and then arranging delivery. The Agents know very well what interests collectors, and so high is the interest in some issues that many stamps never see the light of day in their issuing country. Of 10,000 of a typical run, perhaps only 1,000 will actually sold to a dealer in Surrey and appear in auctions anywhere from Warrington to Warsaw. But that's the way of the stamp business intricate, and intriguing. (Courtesy: High life, Flight Magazine)

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## FORGOTTEN COUNTRIES FRENCH INDIAN SETTLEMENTS

*Bernard Towler*

So where were those French Indian Settlements? Originally trading posts, they were based around Pondicherry, Karikal and Yanam on the south eastern (Coromandel) coast, Mahe on the south west (Malabar) side and Chandernagore, close by Calcutta in Bengal.

Established between 1663 and 1750, all these bases were occupied twice by British troops-during the mid-eighteenth century 'Seven Years War' and then in the Napoleonic War. However each time treaties later returned them to French rule.

The first stamps issued specifically for these settlements, a set of thirteen values in the colonial 'Tablet' design, appeared in 1892. Six more stamps followed during 1906 - two new values and four colour changes. All were printed in Paris. However, in 1903, several surcharges were applied to two values in Pondicherry. And, presumably to meet further urgent needs, fiscal stamps were bisected and surcharged for postal use.

Three varieties are listed in the SG. Part 6 catalogue among all these surcharges - a narrower second figure '0' on two of the Tablet values (one priced at £1000) and a larger 'E' for 'POSTES' on that overprinted and surcharged fiscal bisect, listed at mere £180 mint or £160 used.

As with other French possessions, the Tablet set was replaced by pictorial definitives, showing local subjects. That 1914 set shows Brahma on the lower values and a temple near Pondicherry on the higher ones. Stamps from it were purchased for ordinary use and also with Red Cross premiums. Then, in 1922, several values reappeared in new colours.

1923 brought new currency-replacing French centimes and francs with caches, fanon and rupees. So during 1923-28 there were many surcharges on the pictorial set, with two double surcharges and another 'large

figure' variety - this time the '6' on the 6 fanon 6 caches on 2 franc value. Then in 1929, those definitives were re issued in the new currency, continuing in use until World War II.



From 1929 to 1939 the Settlements had postage dues in the French design, inscribed 'Inde Francaise', commemoratives for two International Colonial Exhibitions and the New York World Fair, and charity sets for the International Cancer Fund and the 150th anniversary of the French Revolution.

As the Settlements were under Free French control, they were overprinted 'France Libre'. At first (in 1914) the overprints were horizontal. Then during 1942-

43 the Cross of Lorraine was added, while the Temple pictorials had their overprint wording diagonal, as shown here. Some commemoratives were similarly overprinted.

In 1943 surcharges were incorporated in the final wave of overprints. It may not be a surprise to read that this produced more errors. Highest prices however come for correct overprints in scarcer alternative colours, one such reaching £1,000 mint or used.

Although the wartime Vichy regime never controlled the French Indian Settlements, they prepared stamps for use there and the SG. Part 6 catalogue prices them unused.

Those of us who began collecting during World War II will be familiar with the range of Free French Stamps, more often seen mint. The Settlements had their set-twenty values, including six airmails.

After the war, various commemoratives were issued in the designs used for many other French territories. Then in 1948 came new pictorials just for the Settlements, showing various Indian figures and scenes.

In 1949, following Indian independence, a referendum in Chandernagore produced a vote in favour of union with India, which was implemented the following May. The remaining territories reached this decision in 1954. So by that November, French administration of these territories ended.

(Courtesy - Stamp Lover - June - '99)

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