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POST OFFICE
I WORLD WAR-52

EXHIBITIONS
LONDON - 57

Editorial

"Not available" miniature sheets

The India Post's first miniature sheet arrived on the scene on 14.11.1973. The next twenty five years saw another seven miniatures only. But during the last ten years India post was kind enough to give us about fifty more numbers. To record in detail, the year 2007 effected 11 numbers of miniature sheets adorning the album costing 265. rupees

Collectable philatelic materials issued by postal authorities are stamps, first day covers, postal stationary, miniature sheets, maximum cards etc., Of these except stamps, others are sought after by serious collectors only. Still further, other than stamps and first day covers, items like miniature sheets are bought and collected by more serious collectors or for that matter we can say by philatelists only. This was the case till some years back.

But what is the atmosphere and situation today? The arrival of 'Tarangini' on the scene brought about a total change in the trend. A five rupee miniature sheet with a five rupee stamp (which makes a m/s can be used for postage in place of a stamp) issued in comparatively smaller quantity made it a sought after item during the days following the issue and made "missed real collectors" to give far higher cost compared to its face value. Thus it became the topic of the season and made one and all who had a trace of feel and mind of stamps to know what is a miniature sheet. And in the wake of this knowledge build up and cost escalation arrived unscrupulous hoarders, dealers, investors etc and started playing all their dirty games and hurt the real collectors and philatelists and also made the new miniature sheet collectors to run away from this area of the hobby.

As we know now "miniature sheets" are in reality, a collectors item. There can be only two classes of buyers for this. (i) a collector-cum-exhibitor who want to add a special philatelic item other than stamp in a theme or country and (ii) a collector who wants to enjoy personal happiness in having special philatelic items. Such collectors will buy one or two pieces only. As such there is no necessity for miniature sheets issued in lakhs and lakhs to became

scarcest, which means the scarcity is an artificial or created one, which means if it is prolonged for longer periods will kill the hobby. If so, something has to be done to change the situation so that every interested collector should get his miniature sheet at face value at least during the tenure of sale. Let the good hearts and minds unite to do so.

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Monthly Second Sunday Meetings

With President
Mr. G. Balakrishna Das on the Chair,
21 members attended the meeting on
8.6.2008. Dr. Ken Long, Sydney
philatelic club spoke on "Australian
stamps - recent trends"
(See Photo above)

STAMP NEWS

AGA KHAN FOUNDATION

17.05.08 500, 1500 0.8 Mill

"It is well to give when asked but it is better to give unasked, through understanding".

- Kahil Gibran, poet, writer and artist.

The overriding driving force behind charity is an unbounded love for mankind, an all embracing spirit of compassion that propels one to reach out to the underprivileged. And like Kahil Gibran reflected, the most sublime form of giving is giving entirely of one's own volition.

Standing tall against the international firmament of charity organization is the Aga Khan Foundation (AKF) that has voluntarily embarked upon the path of giving, and developed incisive mechanisms to deal with them. Founded by Aga Khan in 1967 at Geneva, Switzerland the Aga Khan Foundation is part of the Aga Khan Development Network, a group of nine institutions working in health, education, culture, rural and economic development. Established in India in 1978, the Aga Khan Foundation currently functions in 18 countries across the world. It seeks sustainable solutions to long term problems of poverty, hunger, illiteracy and ill health with special emphasis on the needs of rural communities in mountainous, coastal and other resource-poor areas.

The four central objectives of Aga Khan Foundation are to make it possible for poor people to act in ways that will lead to long-term improvements in their income, health, environment and education of their children; provide communities with the understanding necessary to take informed action; enable beneficiaries to gain the confidence and competence to participate in the design, implementation and operation of activities that affect the quality of their lives; and put in place management and financial structures ensuring that



programme activities are sustainable without Foundation assistance within a reasonable time frame.

Aga Khan Foundation has supported rural development programmes in India since the early 1980s. During 2006, in Jammu and Kashmir, over 25 masons were trained in earthquake resistant construction techniques. Similarly, small and marginal farmers of South Gujarat were helped to become self reliant by establishing a "library" of agricultural tools and equipment from which they could rent the same at nominal rates.

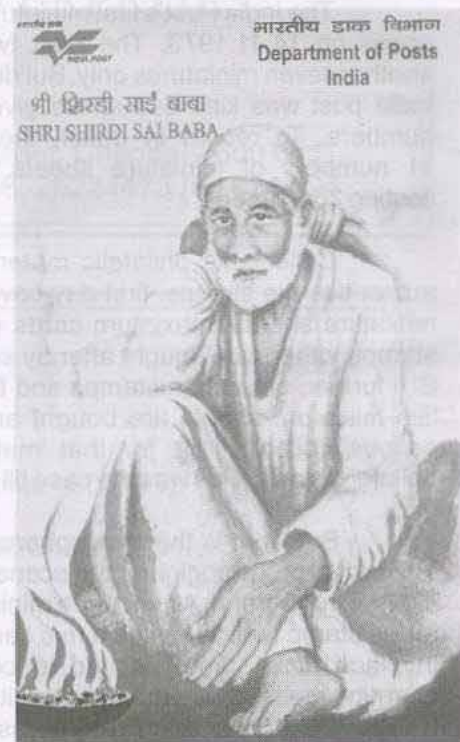
The Aga Khan Foundation has completed 30 years of an extremely philanthropic and purposeful existence in India.

Theme : Social Service, Community development.

SHRI SHRIDI SAI BABA

20.5.08 500 0.4 Mill

The quest for higher levels of consciousness has contributed to the growth of a kind of super-structure on which our sub-continent's spiritual tradition is based and Shri Sai Baba is the most glorious manifestation of this tradition. He had the vision to link up the perennial wisdom of the past to progressive modern trends. Sai Baba maintained that true unity, which is the basis of happiness, is not possible, through political creeds or even social



reforms or the principles of science. Shri Sai Baba hints at complete surrender to the Divine, throwing out all fear from one's consciousness, for fear is the greatest of all enemies, He compassionately exhorts his devotees to "Cast all your burden on me and I will bear them."

Sai Baba's early life was enshrouded in contradictions and mystery. It is stated that he was born of Brahmin parents in the Nizam's state. In infancy he was supposed to have been deserted by his parents. Legend says that a fakir found the child and took him home. After the fakir's death, the child was brought up by a zamindar of Selu. Sai Baba first came to Shirdi when he was a lad of 16, and lived there for about 4 years. Then suddenly he disappeared, and after a lapse of years returned to Shirdi in the year 1859.

(See Photo above)

With the advent of the Saint of Shirdi, the great and traditional movement of Bhakti, as a Sadhana for attaining salvation, received a tremendous impetus. Sai Baba brought about a resurgence to the cult of devotion.

The Saint of Shirdi recognized and emphasized the beauty of a Guru guided life. He felt that the very ethos of our nation could be found in this enduring and endearing of the Guru and his disciples.

Sai Baba taught only through a medium of the spoken word in the pattern of our ancient sages. His words transcended the limitations of time and distance, and spread far and wide even to the remotest of villages. Sai Baba's teachings and life have captured the imaginations of the people in India and abroad as well.

"Sai is not this three and a half cubic feet of visible body residing in Shirdi", Baba himself was found of repeating.

On 15th October 1918 he passed away, breaking, forever the barriers of existence.

Theme : Sage, Personality, Cult., Religion.

RAJESH PILOT

11.06.08 500 0.4 mill

Born in village Baidpura in District Ganzoabad, Uttar Pradesh on February 10, 1945, Rajesh Pilot had his schooling from M.M. Higher Secondary School, New Delhi and later he studied in Meerut University.

Shri Rajesh Pilot joined the Air Force Academy at Coimbatore in June, 1964 and was commissioned in the flying branch on October 29, 1966. he served for 13 years in Fighter and Transport Squadron of the Indian Air Force and saw action in Bangladesh during the Indo- Pak War of 1971. He resigned from Air Force in November, 1979.



Shri Pilot joined politics as the 7th Lok Sabha Congress (I) candidate in December, 1979 and was elected to Lok Sabha from Bharatpur Constituency (Rajasthan) in 1984 and was inducted into the Union Council of Ministers as Minister of State, Surface Transport in the Ministry of Transport on September 25, 1985 and was later in 1986 elevated to head the Ministry as Minister of State with independent charge. He continued taking a number of initiatives including Acquisition Licensing procedure, introduction of progressive Motor Vehicles Act, creation of National Highways Authority of India, besides giving a big fillip to the growth of port sector.

Shri Rajesh Pilot was re-elected to the 10th Lok Sabha in 1991 from Dausa Constituency (Rajasthan). he was inducted in the Union Council of Ministers as Minister of state for Communications with independent charge with effect from June 26th 1991. As the Minister in charge of

Communications, Shri Pilot was widely hailed as the person having revolutionized the communication scenario in the country.

In the latter part of the 10th Lok Sabha, Shri Pilot also held independent charge as Minister of State in the Ministry of Environment and Forest from September 95 to January 96.

Shri Rajesh Pilot was elected as Member of parliament of 11th Lok Sabha in 1996. He was re-elected as Member of Parliament for the 12th Lok Sabha in 1998 from Dausa Constituency (Rajasthan). He retained the seat again as Member of 13th Lok Sabha from the same constituency. Shri Pilot was deeply admired by the people of his constituency. Starting from Bharatpur constituency which represented in 1980, Shri Pilot represented the Dausa Constituency of Rajasthan for five terms and breathed his last in the same Constituency on 11th June, 2000 when a freak motor accident snatched him away from us.

A deeply religious person, Shri Rajesh Pilot was a staunch proponent of communal harmony and secularism. Theme : Parliament, Politics, Leader, Personality, Air Force.

HENNING HOLCK LARSEN

12.06.08 500 2.4 Mill

Henning Holck Larsen, founding partner of L&T Ltd. was born attended jesuit primary and secondary schools and in 1922 entered the Metropolitanskolen (high school) of Copenhagen from which he graduated in 1925. From the University of Copenhagen, he took a Master's degree in Chemical Engineering in 1930 and joined F L Smidth and Company, Denmark- a leader in cement technology. In 1935 he was deputed to India to assess the various cement manufacturing groups which later formed the Associated Cement Companies.



The year 1938 was an eventful year in the life of Henning Holck Larsen. He and his former schoolmate, Soren Kristian Toubro, set up the partnersip firm Larsen and Toubro, that was soon to establish itself as one of the country's front ranking industrial organizations. In May the following year, he married Karen Speyer, also of Danish nationality at Mumbai. Under his vision, Larsen and Toubro became a private limited company in 1946 and a public limited company in 1950. The firm started as an importer of machinery and under the two founders progressed to an organization doing business in heavy machinery, construction, food processing etc., strengthened by a strong R & D base.

The Government of India conferred the Padma Bhushan on Henning Holck Larsen. His contribution to the field of art was recognized by the National Gallery of Modern Art.

Henning Holck Larsen, one of the Pioneers of the engineering industry in India, passed away on 27th July, 2003.

Theme : Leader, Pioneer, Engineering, Industry, Foreigners.

INDIAN POST OFFICES DURING I WORLD WAR Lt. Col. H.A. Sams

During I world War Isolated accounts written either officially or specially, obviously needs some survey, however short, of the work as a whole of the Indian Post Office in the Great War. I propose therefore in the following pages to outline briefly the scope of our work and how it followed the military operations.

Up to the fateful 4th August 1914 the Indian Field Post Office had taken part in many a stricken field from the Mutiny of 1857 to the Abor Expeditionary Force of 1911-12; and for the Indian Post Office to be on active service was no novelty. But the effort required of the Department in all campaigns prior to the Great War sinks, obviously, into insignificance compared with the huge task which confronted the Indian Post Office when the World War broke out in 1914. That mighty struggle strained to the utmost the resources of the Department and required all the skill and endurance of the Directorate in India, and of the officers and men in the field to bring the issue to what we can proudly regard as a triumphant conclusion. For with some defects and many handicaps the Department can justly claim that it fulfilled its task efficiently to the end.

FRANCE, 1914

The first to leave India was Force "A" bound for France. On August 21st, Lieut.-Col. Pilkington assumed charge at Bombay as Director, Postal Services of the Force, and arrived on the 26th September at Marseilles where a temporary Base Post Office was established. This in November was moved up to Rouen, the Headquarters of the British Army Post Office. But Col. Pilkington was not satisfied with Rouen as a Base and, greatly daring, he determined to transfer it to Boulogne. How he accomplished this really fine feat and the opposition which he encountered with be seen in his own account. The result was the mails were delivered to the Indian Corps at the Front the day after the dispatch from London, much to the delight of the Indian Corps and the envy of the rest of the Army. On the 15th December, Colonel Pilkington paid a flying visit to London and crammed into a few hours work which was pregnant of results for the Postal Service in France. By the end of the year and in a few short months of landing he had the satisfaction of seeing his Postal Service working like clock-work.

The next Force to leave Bombay Harbour was the Indian Expeditionary Force "B" under General Atkins for East Africa and with it went the Postal Service under Lieutenant Colonel Appleby. Not being able to land at

Tanga, a Base Post Office was established at Kilindini on the 13th November. The Indian Postal Service not only served the Indian troops but the whole of the East African Force.

After Indian Expeditionary Force "B" sailed Indian Expeditionary Force "D" on 14th October with a Postal contingent under Lieutenant J.H. Ownes followed shortly after by Captain C.E.J. Clerici. Basrah fell on 22nd November the Postal Service rapidly dug itself in and not only served the troops but also, greatly to its credit, the civilian population; for within a month of arrival in Basrah a Civil Post Office was opened on the Strand Road, Ashar, Basrah.

Hard on the sterns of the ships that carried Indian Expeditionary Force "D" sailed the ship conveying the 11th Division, Indian Expeditionary Force "E" early in November for Egypt with its Postal Service under Major A.J. Hughes. Soon after arriving on the Canal, Field Post Office 38 was opened at Ismalia, with Major Hughes as Captain McMim in charge of the Post Office of the 12th Division which comprised Force "F". These two Divisions were sent to hold the Canal against the Turks advancing over the Desert to attack and overrun the Eastern Defence of Egypt.

Aden was also an objective of the Turks. Operations began on 3rd November by the capture of Shaikh Said by our troops, the Post Office at Aden serving the troops till regular Field Offices could arrive from India.

1915

In France Colonel Pilkington had been busy perfecting his system. Finding that the India Office was erring postally through apparent ignorance, he played another bold card and asked that an official of the India Office should come over and see what was wanted. Mr. Patrick came, saw and conquered. Needless to say, Colonel Pilkington got all that he wanted. The Indian Post Office in France during 1915 suffered greatly and in the advance at Neuve Chapelle in March came under fire on many occasions, as will be seen from Lieutenant Bullard's vivid diaries. That gallant officer was killed on 1st August. Nothing was too much trouble for him to do cheerfully, whether it was carrying mails up to the Front line, acting as guide or interpreter, soothing the wounded or linding lost postal officials. His death was a heavy loss to the Postal Service in France and in India and to the Division which he served so well.

Lt.-Col. Merewether and the Rt.Hon. Sir.F.E.Smith (now Lord Birkenhead) thus mention Lt. Bullard in their book "The Indian Corps in France."

"Lieutenant E.G. Bullard, of the Indian Postal Service was proceeding on duty in a car near Croix Barbee, when a German shell exploded practically in the motor, killing him and the chauffeur instantaneously.

This young officer had, by his kind disposition and zeal in the performance of his important duties, endeared himself to this comrades in the Corps, and his loss was keenly felt.

The occurrence was particularly unfortunate, as he was to have proceeded on leave the next day, while the chauffeur was only taking the duty of another man."

By October the Indian Corps began to break up. One Division had already gone and another was under orders to go. Colonel Pilkington (the first postal officer in the Great War to be mentioned in Despatches) handed over the Postal Service to Captain Cook and left France in December.

EGYPT, 1915

To return to our Forces on the banks of the Canal. On February 2nd the Turkish Forces reached the Canal and on that day and the next a battle took place in which the Turks were defeated and driven back into the Desert of Sinai. Egypt was saved. In the meantime on April 25th the gallant landing at Gallipoli was made. Field Post Office 34 accompanied the 29th Indian Infantry Brigade and opened at Suvla Bay with Lieutenant A.G. Gillespie in charge. The Field post Offices in Gallipoli were at first under Force. "E", but it was considered expedient to have a separate organization. Major McMinn was sent in charge of the postal arrangements of Force "G", as the Indian Mediterranean Expeditionary Force was originally called. Base "H" was opened in Alexandria on 28th June 1915 and Field Post Office 33 was opened at Mudros. The Indian Post Office shared in all the danger and glory of Gallipoli and its Field Post Offices remained on the shell swept beach till the Peninsula was finally evacuated at the end of the year, when the curtain on this splendid failure was rung down.

Later in the year on the Western borders of Egypt the Senussi gave trouble. A Force was dispatched against them and with it went the Postal Service. On 1st December the most western Field Post Office in North Africa was opened at Mersa Matruh.

MESOPOTAMIA 1915

In Mesopotamia things were moving. In December 1914 Kurna (near the junction of the Euphrates and Tigris) was taken. In April 1915, Amara fell into hands. An advance was then made on Kut 350 Miles up the winding Tigris and on September 29th it was taken by General Townshend. A further advance was made on Baghdad and on November 22nd General Townshend attacked the Turks at Ctesiphon, a few miles South of Baghdad. After a victory which he could not consolidate he was forced to fall back on Kut which he reached on December 3rd. Then began the famous investment of Kut.

These forward operations were accompanied by the Postal Service which served the Division and Brigades and the ever lengthening lines of Communication. Our Field Post Offices stretched from Fao at the mouth of the Shat-ul-Arab to a point South of Kut on the Tigris and to Nasariyah on the Euphrates. The Civil Post Office at Basrah became a Head Office. The number of Field Post Offices had increased from 9 to 23 and the number of Civil Post Offices from 5 to 10. Between

Bombay and Basrah a Sea Post Office was also established which did most useful work till, crowded out by troops and stores, it was abolished.

In the meanwhile re-inforcements were arriving from France. Lieutenant E.B. Thompson came with Field Post Offices from Indian Expeditionary Force "A" and later on came troops and Post Offices from the disbanded Indian Expeditionary Force "G" from Gallipoli.

On 3rd July General Ali Syed Pasha, the Turkish General, moved from the Yemen border to Lahej only 17 miles from Aden and much liveliness ensued. Lieutenant Sinclair, Assistant Director, Postal Service, and Mr. M. Smith, Inspector, had been sent from Egypt to Aden to organize the Field Post Offices which were arriving from India. After carrying out this job Lieutenant Sinclair was recalled to Egypt at the end of August and the Postmaster at Aden became Assistant Director, Postal Service, in addition to his own duties.

On the 16th of August Field Post Office 319 was opened at Bushire to serve the troops in South Persia.

1916

1916 was a year of disintegration for the Postal Service in Egypt and of increase of that Service in Mesopotamia.

After the evacuation of Gallipoli Lieutenant K.C. Sen was sent to Salonica with Field Post Office 66 which opened at Kalamania Road on 27th January. The rest of the Gallipoli Postal Service went to Mesopotamia under Major McMinn with the 13th Division. Indian Expeditionary Force "G" was disbanded and the Field Post Offices were again put under Indian Expeditionary Force "E" in Egypt. Colonel Warren, Director of Army Post Offices, was appointed Director of all the Post Offices in Egypt and the Indian Post Offices passed temporarily to his control. Major Hughes left for India leaving Captain Sinclair in charge of the depleted Indian Postal Service until it regained its old strength when, later in the year, the vigorous offensive began towards Palestine.

At the end of 1916 only one Field Post Office remained in Salonica.

In Mesopotamia General Townshend and his Force of over 8,000 men were invested in Kut. Several unsuccessful attempts were made to relieve the town, the last of which was the battle of Saniyat on April 23rd when we again failed to break through. The surrender of Kut with 8,070 British and Indian troops followed after a gallant resistance of 143 days. After this grave disaster General Sir Stanley Maude was appointed Army Commander. The 7th Division from France and the 13th Division from Gallipoli arrived and in November 1916 a fresh advance up the Tigris began.

During these operations Field Post Offices were established on the Right and Left Banks of the Tigris with the advancing troops. The accumulation of 5,000 mail bags for the beleaguered Force was a source of great

anxiety to the Postal Officers. Captain Probyn Smith hit on the brilliant idea of dropping mails into Kut from aeroplanes. This was done with great success, but it obviously disposed of only a fraction of the accumulations and, when Kut fell, the position became still more embarrassing.

The work of the Postal Service was increasing greatly with the reinforcements which began to pour into the country. The Field Post Officers increased from 23 to 50, the number of bags from 1,500 to 2,000 weekly and the staff from 400 to 500 men and 10 officers. What the strain was on the over-worked staff is well described in Major Clerici's contribution.

EAST AFRICA 1916

In East Africa General Smuts took over the Command in February and rapidly cleared the Kilimanjaro region, driving the Germans back to the Usambara Railway in the centre of German East. Dar-es-Salaam was captured by the British on September 4th and the Germans were compelled to abandon the Usambara Railway and to retreat through dense country where it was difficult to follow.

In January the Indian Postal Service received a draft of the Royal Engineer Postal Section and a detachment of the South African Postal Corps and got considerable help from Mr. J. Wilson, Postmaster-General, South Africa. The Postal Service in East Africa like all Postal Services in other Theatres of War suffered greatly from transport difficulties. The road were so bad that motor transport could only crawl at 9 miles an hour!

In this year Field Post Offices were strewn broad cast over British East, German East and Uganda. Not only did the Postal Service serve the troops, but it also did a large amount of civil work.

MESOPOTAMIA 1917

On 1st June the Base Post Office was established at Dar-es-Salaam and a line of Field Post Offices stretched from the coast to Lake Victoria Nyanza.

On November 24th Germans crossed the Rovuma and entered Portuguese territory. Our Forces followed them and on 29th December a Base Post Office was opened at Port Amelia.

In Mesopotamia under the splendid leadership of Sir Stanley Maude success followed success. On 24th February the Saniyat position was brilliantly taken and Kut was recovered. Advancing swiftly the British entered Baghdad on March 11th, re-capturing all the guns lost by General Townshend and taking immense quantities of supplies and the valuable Arsenal. This was a deadly blow to the Turks. On April 18th their 18th Corps suffered a crushing defeat at Istabulat and on April 24th the British entered Samarra 65 miles north of Baghdad. On

September 28th 29th Turks were again defeated by General Brooking at Ramadie on the Euphrates. This battle secured the Hillah Area and the Euphrates generally. But amidst all these successes the Force suffered an irreparable loss in the death of General Maude who died of cholera at Baghdad in November. In him the Postal Service lost a warm friend. He was succeeded by General Sir William Marshall.

In March of this year Lieutenant-Colonel Hughes relieved Lieutenant Colonel A. B. Thompson as Director, Postal Services. During the advance on Kut the Postal Service kept up with the troops and the Advance Base was established at Azizyah. By now the Field Post Offices had increased from 50 to 60 and the number of bags dealt with in a week had risen from 2,000 to 3,000 and the staff from 500 to 600 men. The invaluable Returned Letter Office was opened in Basrah in March and on the capture of Baghdad a Civil Post Office was opened in the Turkish General Post Office.

Not only had we advanced beyond Baghdad on the Tigris and to Ramadie and Hit on the Euphrates, but the capture of Baghdad opened up to us the Diala which flows into the Tigris from the North East. The 3rd Army Corps was established outside Baquba on the Diala. We quickly drove the Turks back across the Jebel Hamrin and freed the country of the enemy up to the Persian frontier. From now onwards we came increasingly into contact with Persia and Persian affairs. Our Lines of Communication were growing almost daily, necessitating Field Post Offices in most places en route and Civil Post Offices in many.

In the middle of September, I took charge from Colonel Hughes who returned to India in December.

At the beginning of this year the Turkish and German agents had been active in South-West Persia in egging on the tribes to raid British territory. Two Forces operated in this part one from Bandar Abbas, the other from Bushire.

On 3rd March a Base Post Office was opened at Bandar Abbas under Lieut. Elliot to serve the troops forming the Escort the British Mission in Southern Persia under Sir Percy Sykes. Captain R. Greene took charge on 15th April. Before long there were Indian Field Post Offices stretching from Bandar Abbas to Shiraz. In May Bushire was made a separate Force.

A fore, the Seistan Field, had been dispatched to East Persia with rail-head at Dalbandin with Lt. Kilman incharge of the Postal arrangements.

MESOPOTOMIA 1918

1918 marked the high-water-mark of the activities of the Indian Post Office in the Field.

In Mesopotamia there was a lull in the fighting during the spring and summer. But in October when the

British advanced in every field and when Allenby's victorious troops were astride the Syrian end of the Bagdad railway, general Marshall gave the coup de grace to the Turkish forces in Mesopotamia. On October 25th Kirkuk was occupied and on October 30th Turks sustained a crushing defeat between Baiji and Shergat. On the 3rd victorious troops marched on to Mosul.

Advantage was taken of the period of lull to consolidate the Postal Service, to improve its working and to extend its operations. In order to cope with the ever increasing needs of the Civil population a new appointment, Deputy Director of Postal Services, Civil, was sanctioned and Major Clerici, who took up the appointment in June, devoted him-self to the task of building up a Civil Postal Administration on the already existing nucleus of Civil Posts. It was impossible and would have been uneconomical to separate the Civil from the Military Postal Service, but with their own special Deputy Director of Postal Services in charge, the Civil Posts made rapid strides forward.

The forward advance in the autumn of the year was followed by an advance of the Postal Service. Field Post Offices were opened at Sheregat and Mosul and Civil Post Offices at Mosul and some of the outlying places in Kurdistan. An Assistant Director of Postal Services was appointed for the new area.

In November 1918 the Postal Service, M.E.F., consisted of - 24 Officers.

44 Inspectors of Post Offices and Deputy Postmasters, 104 Overseers.

826 Clerks and Field Postmasters.

876 Followers.

When Victory at last dawned on 11th November and after the wearing off of the novel sensation that we had really won the Great War and that the clouds had lifted, thoughts began to turn on Demobilisation. The thoughts became words and then General Routine Orders of considerable length and Volume. Henceforth 'Demob' was on the lips and in the thoughts of all. The energies of all were henceforward devoted not to building up but to pulling down.

NORTH PERSIA 1918

But though there was a lull in Mesopotamia there was considerable activity in Northern Persia. In March 1918 there were rumours of a "Hush Hush Brigade 'somewhere' in Persia. Only the 'I' Branch of G.H.Q. knew what it was or where it was. The Postal Service was simply told to deliver all letters for certain officers and men to the 'I' Branch. The "Hush Hush Brigade" was the famous and heroic Dunster-force under the command of General Dunsterville, soldier, linguist and diplomat. The Germans and Turks had been stirring up trouble in Northern Persia whence the Russians, now Bolshevik and demoralised, were retiring. It was imperative to protect Mesopotamia's flank, and General Dunsterville was sent with a handful of officers and N.C.Os. to endeavour to put starch and discipline into the Armenians. It was a heroic enterprise. The nett result for the Mesopotamia Expeditionary Force

was a fresh and most difficult line of communications stretching 700 miles from Baghdad to Enzeli on the Caspian. Enzeli and Resht were occupied by the British in June. The Turks concentrated a force at Tabriz and attempted to break the line of communications. There was sporadic fighting on this front till the close of the war and after it Turkish guerilla forces remained in Azerbaijan in collusion with the Bolsheviks.

Meanwhile Dunsterville had reached Baku where on July 26th the Bolsheviks were overthrown. In September the Turks attacked in force and Dunsterville was completed to evacuate Baku. After the Armistice the British Force again set out from Enzeli across the Western bay of the Caspian and once again occupied Baku. From the North-West British troops crossed the Black Sea and the two forces joined hands in the Caucasus.

These operations had considerable effect on the Post Service. By the autumn of 1918 there was a line of Field Post Officers stretching from Baghdad to the Caspian, and after the Armistice, from Baku across the Caucasus. Lt. Spear was appointed Assistant Director of Postal Services, Persian Line of Communication, and later on Lt. Bickers was sent as Assistant Director of Postal Services of join the British Army Post Office of the Black Sea.

In the summer of 1918 the Military situation around Shiraz demanded a force to open up communications between Bushire and Shiraz. A force under General Douglas was sent with Captain Quilter took charge of the Postal Service.

Early in 1918 the Semorachia Cossacks turned traitor and the long mail line and still further to be extended. The Seistan Field Force became the Eastern Persian Cordon and our lines extended to Meshed. The postal work in this area was becoming too great a task for one officer. On June 15th therefore Lt. Kilman handed over to the Superintendent, Baluchistan Division, all Field Post Officers up to Dalbandin, and kept in his own charge the Field Offices to the north of that place. In July a Military Mission under General Malleon was established The Line of Communication now stretched 1,000 miles from Juzzak at Railhead to Askabad.

In the meantime great events were happening in the Near East. the onslaught of the Germans on the Western Front made it imperative that all available British troops should be sent to that theatre. The gaps were filled up from Indian and Mesopotamia and the personnel of the Egyptian Palestine force became essentially Indian. During September and October brilliant victories in this field followed each other with lightning rapidity. Three Turkish Army Corps were completely destroyed and on October 31st an Armistice with Turkey was signed.

PALESTINE, 1918.

In March the 7th Division was sent from Mesopotamia to Palestine and with it four Field Post Offices under Mr. White, the Inspector. The 4th & 5th Indian Cavalry Divisions, from France arrived in Palestine in April

with Captain J.H.E. Cook, 4 Inspectors, 36 Postmasters 31 followers and 14 Field Post Offices. Later on the 3rd Lahore Division went to Mesopotamia with Lt. C. W. Taylor and four Field Post Offices. There were in all 27 Field Post Offices in the front line and 18 on the Line of Communication and in Egypt. Col. Sinclair in his admirable report, which is one of the contributions, tells us how splendid was the conduct of the postal staff during the rapid and arduous advance of September and October. At the time of the Armistice there was a line of Field Post Offices stretching from the Sahara to Bosanti on the further side of the Taurus Mountains, one of which Post Offices was placed by the famous ruins of Baalbeck in Syria.

After the Armistice the Postal Service in Salonica was made a separate organization under Lt. A. Gillespie, Assistant Director of Postal Services. Subsequently when the Salonica Force became the Army of the Black Sea the Salonica Base was transferred to Chanak and Field Post Offices extended along the Bosphorus and the Black Sea and eventually linked up with the Field Post Offices in Northern Persia under Lt. Bickers which, as has been mentioned above, had been detached from the Mesopotamia Expeditionary Force Postal Service.

In East Africa the Germans were a beaten and fugitive force seat-tered through bush and jungle. Some crossed into Portuguese territory over the Rovuma and others into Rhodesia. At the beginning of the year there were in the Postal Service in East Africa 5 British others 5 Inspectors, 85 Postmasters and clerks, besides a contingent of the South African Postal Corps. In April a Base Post Office was opened at Durban Office and 3 Postal agencies were established in the Post Amelia Area in Portuguese East. In that month the troops moved South into Mozambique where 6 Field Post Offices were opened. All through this year the Postal Service not only served the troops but also the civil population, earning gratitude of the civilians and considerable revenue for the Service.

1919

1919 was a period of demobization and disintegration. In the early part of the year some of the Field Post Offices in North Persia were transferred with the Assistant Director of Postal Services, Lt. Bickers, to the Army of the Black Sea under the Deputy Director, British Army Posts at Constantinople. On May 1st the Postal Service, Mesopotamia Expeditionary Force, ceased to exist and most of the personnel was transferred to the Civil Posts, Iraq, under Major Olerici. Our personnel in common with the whole of the force was affected by a spirit of nostalgia and restlessness and chafed at being retained for the Civil Posts. In December there was a general strike. Shortly after this Sir A.T. Wilson, the Civil Commissioner, decided to amalgamate the two Departments of Posts and Telegraphs and appointed Lt. Col. G.E.O. De Smidt as Director of Posts & Telegraphs. Major Angelo returned to Mesopotamia on the 1st April 1920 as Deputy Director.

In South Persia General Elsmie moved up from Bushire to Shiraz leaving in its track Field Post Offices under Lt. P. Donovan. On 30th January his force reached Kazarun where it was joined by Col. Orton who moved out from Shiraz to meet General Elsmie.

In East Persia railhead reached Duzdab about February 15th. On 12th February a Field Post Office was opened at Askabad. The Postal Service now consisted of

1	Base Post Office.
13	Field Post Offices.
14	Telegraph Offices.

In the Near East the Indian Postal Service of the Black Sea on 8th October again came under the Director of Postal Services, Egypt, who undertook the control of the civil post offices at Amtal, Katum, Jerablus and Aleppo in Occupied Enemy Territory.

Meanwhile in India another War had broken out. The new Amir of Afghanistan, apparently, to cause a counter irritant to trouble in his capital, declared war on India on 25th April. The war was over in ten days when the Afghans were severely defeated and asked for an Armistice. But though the Afghans caved in, their more stubborn and war-like allies, the tribes of the Frontier, did not. The Mahsuds and Wazirs with a force of 30,000 men gave the British forces considerable trouble all through 1919. Two forces operated one the Baluchistan Force with its Postal Service under Lt.-Col. E.B. Thompson, the other, Wazir Force with Lt.-Col. W. A. Smith in charge of the Postal Service.

Lt.-Col. E.B. Thompson took up his duties as Assistant Director of Postal Service at Quetta on the 13th May. On the 17th May a Field Post Office was opened at Killa Abdulla and attached to the 57th Brigade. On the 20th May a Base Post Office was opened at Quetta. By the end of May all 47 civil post offices in Trans-Indus were converted into Field Post Offices and with the 7 Field Post Offices opened there were 54 Field Post Offices, 6 Officers, 183 Postmasters and clerks and 250 followers.

On 1st August 1919 the Postal Service Wazir Force, which was formerly under the Assistant Director of Postal Services, Peshawar, was made a separate charge, with a Base Post Office at Dera Ismail Khan Post Offices, an Advanced Base Post Office at Tank with 17 Field Post Offices in the Kohat area, and a Base Post Office at Dera Ghazi Khan with 10 Field Post Offices in the Dera Ghazi District. These two forces fought all through 1920.

1920

In Mesopotamia the Post Office of India still supplied officers and men to the Iraq Administration, viz., 15 Officers, 25 Inspectors, 1 Postmaster, 11 Deputy and Assistant Postmasters, 545 Clerks and 609 menials. During the early portion of the year there was considerable discontent but this eventually subsided. The Iraq Post Office was settling down to efficient work when the whole machinery of Government was upset by the Arab Rising. On 1st July large Arab forces, mostly armed with stolen Turkish and British rifles destroyed the railway bridge between Rumeitha and Diwanieh in the Hillah Area. Hillah was cut off Many Post Offices were looted and the staff was taken prisoner. Once again field service conditions prevailed and the Post Office was called upon to serve troops amounting to over two Divisions. Towards the end of September the rising subsided.

Shortly after the declaration of War a fund was started to provide the Postal Staff with comforts, and Mrs. Harrison took up the duties of Honorary Secretary. In the following year the good work was extended to the Telegraph side. In April 1918 Mrs. Harrison left India and Mrs Sharpe carried on the arduous duties of Honorary Secretary. The extent of the work will be seen in the chapter written by Mrs. Sharpe. Not only these two devoted ladies but also the many generous contributors in India, who made their work possible deserved and won the heartfelt thanks of all ranks of the Posts and Telegraphs. (Courtesy, The Post of India in the Great War, By Lt. Col. H.A. Sams CIE, ICS)

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INTERNATIONAL EXHIBITIONS IN GREAT BRITAIN Management and Innovation

Patrick. C. Person.

PATRICK C. PERSON is the recently-elected President of the Royal Philatelic Society London. He signed the Roll of Distinguished Philatelists in 1974. An International Juror since 1968 he has been a member of the Expert Committee of the Royal since 1965, is a Past President of the Postal History Society and is a former Chairman of the British Philatelic Exhibition. He is currently joint Vice-Chairman of Stamp World London 90 and Chairman of its Philatelic Committee. Internationally he has served on both the FIP Traditional and Postal History Commission Bureaux and is currently Vice President of the latter; he has recently assisted in editing the FIP Statutes and General Regulations, and was Vice Chairman of the FIP jury advisory committee. He has formed Gold Medal Collections of Hong Kong, Western Australia and Ceylon and is known for his extensive philatelic writings which include his book 'Advanced Philatelic Research'.

This article which reports on various exhibitions held in London in the Past part of 10th century and in 20th century gives an account of the development of regulations through the years.

It is just over 100 years since the first recognizable international exhibition was held in Antwerp and it is less than two years to go before Stamp World London 90 open its doors to celebrate 150 years of postage stamps and the Centenary of the first London Exhibition. It is thus an appropriate time to review what happened at these earlier exhibitions and to consider if we have overlooked some feature which has previously a success.

The first exhibition devoted solely to stamps seems to be that held in Antwerp I 1887. Alfred Smith in his Monthly Circular for April 1887 reported 'a somewhat unusual event in the history of postage stamps is announced to take place at Antwerp between 1st and 15th May next, viz an exhibition of postage stamps, collections, etc..... It is very much regretted that so short a notice should have been given'. Gold Medals were to be awarded to the collection 'containing the largest amount of rare stamps' and another to the 'most complete collection'

imagine attempting that class now! 'Several medals were reserved for authors and publishers, and the cost of entering was 2 francs.

Stamps had been exhibited earlier, notably at Paris in 1867, and an exhibition in Vienna in 1881 is recorded in recent issue of the 'Philatelic Quill'. Also Mr. A. Reinheim exhibited at the London 1906 exhibition collection containing a hundred postage stamps that were on view among other curiosities at a public exhibition held by M. Vandermaelen at Brussels in 1852, drawn from memory'; this sketch found its way in to the Earl of Crawford' collection and is now bound in one of the volumes of his library in the British Library. Antwerp seems to have been the fore runner of truly International Exhibitions in Munich, Vienna, New York and Amsterdam requiring that 'all stamps must be mounted on sheets prepared for the purpose and sold at 2 pence each, or the exhibitor's own sheets provided they were not his notice of the Amsterdam exhibition, Alfred Smith when discussing the forthcoming Jubilee of Penny Postage wrote, 'What is to be done by way of celebrating this fifty years' existence Exhibitions of postage stamps are very stupid things. The best collections would not be sent Congress would probably result in the assembling together of a few philatelists when would drink and dine together, but whose real work would be of the most feeble description .../ we know all about such things and do not believe much good would come out of a Congress History has, I hope you will agree, proved him wrong on both counts.

London 1890

The Jubilee of postage stamps was in fact celebrated by the first London International. It was sponsored by the philatelic society of London (now the Royal) and was held in the Portman Rooms, Baker street from 19th to 26th May. A prospectus was issued on 20th February 1890 and reproduced in full in 'The Stamp Advertiser' for 14 March. There were eight members of the Exhibition Committee with Charles Colman as Honorary secretary. The regulations were much more extensive than those for Antwerp and provided for groups of countries ranked by the highest possible award attainable by a particular country or group of countries. There was also a special gold medal being the 'Grand Prize' of the Exhibition. Frames cost 6 pence per square foot, entries were to be submitted by 15th March, and no price was to be affixed to any exhibit, however exhibits could be advised as being for sale and a commission of 7-1/2 per cent would be taken towards the general expenses of the exhibition. Any surplus from the exhibition was to go to a charity connected with the Post Office, to be selected by the Postmaster General.

There was a jury of three, E.D. (later Sir Edward) Bacon, T. K. Tapling MP and Major E.B. Evans. The exhibition was opened by HRH The Duke of Edinburgh, who was exhibition Hors Concours a number of countries including Uruguay, Cuba and Greece. The exhibition was described in detail in the 'Stamp Advertiser' for 14 June 1890, the Grand Prize going to MP Castle for New South Wales. The description of this exhibit and many others would allow latter-day judges to assess the awards fairly accurately. There were a number of official exhibits

including one by the Postmaster General of India which included many scarce proof and varieties. Six dealers were accommodated in a separate room. The attendance was described as 'very fair' with an average of 600-700 per day. A 'memento' was sold comprising 2000 to 3000 of the Mauritius Britannia overprinted L.P.E. 1890 and perforated by Perkins Bacon with their original machine. It was recorded that 'the same old lady worked the machine who did so some thirty years ago.' Mr. Castle, who oversaw the over-printing 'occasionally made a tete-beche or double surcharge which found a ready market at three to four times the usual price!' An interesting feature of the Catalogue was an account by Major Evans of the various countries which issue, or had issued, stamps to that date. Bergedorf is described as 'few, but stamp collectors are aware of this small state.... it will probably go down to fame by its postage stamps, two of which are amongst the rarest of the European issues.' other description were in like vein.

1891, 1892

During the next few years further exhibitions were held. Volume 1 of 'The London Philatelist' (1892) describing the Stuttgart Exhibition refers to the laudable efforts of Herr Becker for his collection of Hamburg, 'particularly in view of the large number of spuriously postmarked examples that are constantly met with': they still cause problems. In announcing the Paris exhibition of the same year, which included Dr Legrand and Ferrary on its Committee, reference was made to the London Exhibition: 'great expense was incurred in procuring airtight dust-proof and patent show cases' and worrying about 'one in-sidious enemy as regards stamps only the sun.' The date was put off from the middle of July (and throughout August!) to opening mid-September as a result. A later French Exhibition committee might well have remembered that stricture. The Exhibition was further bedeviled by an outbreak of cholera which held up the arrival of some exhibits; it is not recorded if any were delivered after having been disinfected: it was also criticised for staying open too long. The Geneva exhibition of 1896, described in 'Stanely Gibbons Monthly Journal' had a jury which 'was an international and thoroughly representative one, being well calculated to satisfy all, and consisted of Baron de Reuterskiold, E Blaul, and J Joerin-Suter of Switzerland, MP Castle of England, E Stock of Germany, J. Bernichon of France and Dr. Emilo Diena of Italy, the latter being the first of three successive generations of International Judges. In describing an exhibit of Turks Islands it was noted that 'the only other example of the 2½d on 6d with small ½ was in the collection of HRH The Duke of York' (latter HM King George V) who was already making his name as a philatelist. Interestingly a schedule of all Swiss Cantonal stamps on display was recorded in the report.

London 1897

The second International Exhibition to be held in London was staged in 1897. Sponsored this time by the leading Philatelic Societies and collections of the day it was held in the Piccadilly galleries of the Royal Institution of Painters in Water Colours from 22nd July to 5th August. Plenty of notice was given, details being publicised in the

30 November 1896 issue of 'Stanely Gibbons Monthly Journal'; for example.

The charge for entry was only 3 pence per square foot and albums were allowed. The number of awards in any one class was stated; the classes being based on a 'difficulty' basis with, for example, 'one silver and three bronze medals' being available for exhibits comprising any three of twenty-eight different colonies including Hong Kong, Leeward Islands, Malta and Sierra Leone (some of may 'non-Gold Medal' countries of the time.) There were classes for GB, the Empire, Europe, etc. Postal Stationery was divided between Post Cards and Envelopes, there was a class for philatelic Literature and an award for collectors under 16 years. Exhibitors were advised that 'in making their awards the judges will be required to take into consideration not only the rarity and completeness but also the neatness..... and the philatelic knowledge displayed by the Exhibitor'. The requirement for research and presentation to be demonstrated is not a post war development as many collectors seem to think.

Regular publicity appeared in the press. The exhibition was to be opened by HRH the Duke of York and tickets had to be obtained in advance at a price of 2/6. Admission on other occasions was only 1/-. There was to be an evening instrumental and vocal occasion on Thursday, price 3/6 for gentlemen, 2/6 ladies. Finally there was to be a jury of seven with Dr Fraenkel of Switzerland, P. Mahe of France and F. Breitufss of Russia as overseas member. There were also three special judges for the literature class.

The exhibition catalogue reveals that there was a very large committee of 20 members with Castle as Chairman, Tilleard as Secretary and W.B. Avery as Treasurer. There were 302 exhibits in all classes but without a layout plan it is impossible to calculate the number of frames. Intriguingly, some of the exhibits are marked in the catalogue as being for sale. Official exhibitors included the General Post Office, the Board of inland Revenue (registration sheets) and the Crown Agents who were showing stamps printed de la Rue. Another exhibitor showed a Wyon Medal and a Postman's Bell. There were a number of dealers' stalls and no smoking was allowed anywhere within the exhibition area. This must have been hard on our cigar and pipe-smoking Victorian forefathers.

The Exhibition is comprehensively described in the July 1897 issue of 'The London Philatelist'. the opening paragraph starting 'A triumphant success all along the line is the universal verdict' HRH The Duchess of York, who accompanied the Duke at the opening ceremony is reported to have expressed surprise at the 6 pence Prince Consort stamp of Canada; the Duke is reported to have replied that it was the twelve penny of the same issue that he lacked'. The Grand Prix was unused'; described in detail it started with the 1d black, VR block of four with margin showing "A"; I wonder how many pieces could be traced to the present day from the collection. Stamps on cover are referred to in a number of cases; for example HJ Duveen was showing several bisects of New Brunswick, New found land (the 8 pence) and Nova Scotia 'on entire covers bed as 'many of the specimens are on original covers'.

Manchester 1899

The third UK exhibition was held in Manchester from 29 June to 5 July 1899 under the auspices of the Manchester Philatelic Society; the only occasion when a full British International has been held outside London. Extensive printed rules for the exhibition were provided together with a layout plan in the catalogue. The organization was similar to that adopted today with an executive committee chaired by W Dornig Beckton and nine sub-committees covering Advertising, Exhibitors, Finance, General Purposes, Catalogue, Conservazione, Dinner, Prospectus and Reception. The charge for admission of seven members included Berinchon (France), Breiffuss (Russia), Dr Diena (Italy) and Vedel (Denmark). Among the list of exhibits in the literature class was 'Album Weeds' by the Rev Earee. There was a special class for collection had gained an award in the London 1897 exhibition could completed in this class.

London 1906

Exhibitions were regularly being held on the continent by this stage and it was not long before another exhibition was held in London. This time in the familiar (to us) surroundings of the Royal Horticultural Society's Hall in Vincent Square.

There was a vast general committee of no less than 130, I imagine that those were sponsors rather than the committee members. A King Edward VII half penny postcard had been provided for collectors to return with the wording 'In reply to your circular letter of the 6th instant, I shall..... be willing to join the Committee'; wonder if any used examples still exist? I imagine that it was the Executive Committee of 13 with the Earl of Crawford as Chairman, F Reichenheimer as Treasurer and H R Oldfield and L L R Hausberg as joint Honorary Secretaries who did all the work. The patron of the Exhibition was HRH The Prince of Wales, then President of the Philatelic Society, London. Through the medium of a long description of the exhibition in 'The London Philatelist' and the fact that Hausber's copy of all exhibition papers exists we know quite a lot about the exhibition. An interesting insert in the latter is a telegram from Phillip la Renotiere de Ferrary regretting that he could not participate and wishing the exhibition well.

Planning must have started at the latest early in 1905 for by July there is a proof of the prospectus with the names of nearly 100 committee members and 18 sponsoring Societies included. The regulations provided for eleven classes, including one for junior collectors divided into sections for collectors between 16 and 21 years old and under 16 years old. There was also a class for 'stamps curiosities, objects of interest in connection with philately' for which two silver and two bronze medals were allotted. A new introduction was the institution of a Championship Class, for exhibits which had won a Gold Medal at the London 1897 or Manchester 1899 Exhibition. Exhibits were to be mounted on card measuring 10 inches by 8 or 12 inches (or 15 by 12 inches). Space was charged at 4 pence per square foot (minimum 5/-), albums at 6/- per volume and exhibits in class IX (juniors) 2/6. Much of the

wording in the preamble has hardly changes today; all exhibits must be the bona fide property of the exhibitor, the decision of the judges shall be final, there was still provision for the exhibitor to advise the Honorary Secretaries of his wish to sell, a commission of 2½ per cent being charged. The prospectus was issued in October 1905 in English, French and German. The exhibition was to run from May 23rd to June 1st 1906.

Regular press notices were sent out announcing everything from the design for the medals to the various entertainments which had been arranged. The total value of stamps on display was put at over 300,000. There were to be free days for juniors, customs facilities would be provided for overseas visitors' and all vexatious examinations of parcels will be avoided' (there were 50 overseas collectors exhibiting), and finally there was reference to Henry K Crocker's Hawani 'collectors will be glad to know that the celebrated collection of Hawaian stamps ... valued at over 9,000, was despatched from the city a few days before the great fire' (caused by the San Francisco earthquake).

The exhibition was considered a great success. It include among the competitive entries three from The Prince of Wales (who gained silver Medals for Hong Kong and Mauritius) and one Hors Concours from HRH Prince Edward (later King Edward VIII) who was exhibiting France and Colonies in the Junior Class. The Grand Prix for British and Commonwealth went to the Earl of Crawford for Great Britian and that for other countries to the fortunate Mr. Crocker.

The Programme included a series of lectures, two by Fred Melville at Oddenion's with ten courses and another of the Herts Philatelic Society with only nine! Our for bears took their collecting and dining seriously. Other events were visits to the Taping Collection, by then in the British Museum, and one to view the Earl of Crawford's library.

The build-up in the days before the exhibition opened was recorded by E J Nanekeville in 'Gibbons Stamp Weekly.' Not unlike the exhibition build-up of today with the members of the exhibition committee in their shirt-sleeves, although we no longer appear at the opening ceremony 'arranged in frock coats'. By the end of the exhibition 4123 visitors had been recorded.

There were nine members of the jury (a tenth Pierre Mahe was unfortunately unwell) and judging took two days, being described as exceptionally difficult due to the 'novel conditions'. These were the requirement to base awards on the following qualifications, completeness, rarity, philatelic knowledge and research, conditions.' requiring the scientific arrangement of collections was considered to be beneficial 'opening philatelic distinction to collectors who rely on philatelic knowledge rather than their financial powers'. It is perhaps salutary to realize that only during the past two years have the Philatelic Commission of the FIP been drafting guidelines for judges based on virtually the same conditions.

The final account for the exhibition makes interesting reading. With a total income of 2,18456 the

budget is around 1/1000th that of Stamp World London 90. Rounded up by one thousand, some figures would no look out of place today. It is interesting that without the donations, the exhibition would have ended up 147 in the red: balancing the books has always been a problem.

Manchester 1909

The next exhibition to be held in England was one at Manchester in February 1909. This was probably at national level only. A brief report appeared in the 'Philatelic Adviser' of 25 March. Two items of comment were a complaint that 'a glance at the catalogue in comparison with one or two exhibits showed at once that no justice whatever had been done to the bulk of the collections, at least from a philatelic point of view'. Sadly space constraints seldom allow adequate room for descriptions in present-day catalogues. The other was a reference to Wei Hai Wei in the catalogue describing Mr. Hinton's Hong Kong 'also various issues bearing postmarks of Chinese cities and treaty ports, including Wei Hai Wei some special rarity about the Wei Hai Wei Postmark. Would some of the others were as common for we are interested in Kongese cancellations'. Macrophily had its early adherents.

Jubilee Exhibition London 1912

A brief announcement of the Jubilee Exhibition to be held in 1912 under sponsorship of the Junior Philatelic Society appeared in the June 1911 issue of 'The Philatelic Record' along with a report on the Vienna exhibition of 1911 which had over 200 exhibits and a jury of 20. 1911 was the year in which the 3rd Philatelic Congress of Great Britain was held, by then an established function, and the catalogue of the Earl of Crawford's Library was published under the editorship of E D Bacon.

The exhibition is described in the October 1912 issue of the same journal. Held on the 14 - 19 October in the Royal Horticultural Hall, the JPS was congratulated for its unqualified success. A comment was however made on the location 'although admirable in most respects it is really too small for a comprehensive Philatelic Exhibition of an International character and some other venue will have to be sought.' Finding the best location in London has always been a problem.

Described as an innovation was the arrangement of the dealers' stalls round the main hall in close proximity to the exhibits. The arrangement was considered a success. On display was a new discovery; the original copper plate from which the Mauritius Post Office stamps were printed. Praise was given to the facilities for visitors and particularly the Philatelic Club, 'a great boon, and the catering for refreshments admirable.'

The jury (of six) were reported as being 'much pleased with the evidence that future philatelists were being trained on the right lines. One of this number, exhibiting in the class for Young Collectors up to 17 years old, was an H R Holmes muda. The judges could well be pleased for Bob Holmes still contributes to philately on occasion.

London 1923

Collectors had other things to mount exhibitions between 1914 - 1918 and it was not until 1923 that an exhibition was held in London the only general international philatelic exhibition in this country staged between the two world wars. It was again held in the Horticultural Hall and organized by the Junior philatelic Society. It ran from 14 to 26 May. F J Melville was Chairman and the other members of the very small committee of six were H F (Johnny) Jhonson a Secretary, and J H M (later Sir Jhon) Wilson Bob Holmes. W B Haworth and A O J Red head as members.

There were the usual events. The dinner of the Royal Philatelic Society held in the Connaugh Rooms cost 15/- per head. There were the usual series of Lantern Lectures, and the 10th Philatelic Congress of Great Britain was timed to coincide with the Exhibition. There was a jury of eight. Holmes, in a recent letter, cannot recall any pleasure of working with the very distinguished members of the jury which included Dr E Dienal Jhon Luff, H P Manus, Nils Strandell and R Yardley. There was also a large Ladies Committee, reflecting perhaps the youth of the members of the Exhibition Committee.

The exhibition catalogue provides extensive descriptions of the exhibits. There was again Championship Class for previous winners of Gold Medals. The winners in the three sections of this class were C Lathrop Pack for Holland and Arthun Hind for United States, Alfred Lichtenstein was only a runner-up. There were 20 dealers' stands and the catalogue also contained an advertisement for the 9th sale of the great Ferrary Collection.

The exhibits are comprehensively described by Sir Jhon Wilson in 'The London Philatelist'. He also made a number of comments which are philatelic exhibitions has done much to improve the methods of collecting stamps, but far less for albums and publications for they are seldom, if ever, seriously judged. The standards of judging literature had declined and Sir Jhon suggests that future exhibitions should appoint one or two judges for these classes only. He concluded with the comment that it would have been possible to fill the LP for a year with notes, on this Exhibition, but it is hoped that these notes, read in conjunction with the catalogue may be of some reference value. The catalogue may be of some reference value. The catalogue is the best value as a work of reference we have ever seen.'

1924-40

No other general International Exhibition was held in England between the wars, although one had been planned to celebrate the centenary of the issue of the One Penny Black and Two Pence Blue in 1940. There was however an Air post Exhibition HM King George V was celebrated with a special exhibition at the Royal philatelic Society. The photographic record of this shows that it was perhaps the greatest collection of commonwealth rarities brought together at any one time. Continental exhibitions were held in new and old venues including the great WIPN 1933 exhibition in Vienna. Sir John Wilson, writing again in

"The London philatelist" what is probably the most comprehensive description of any exhibition ever to appear reported that 'The organizers of the biggest publicity campaign which has ever preceded the opening of an exhibition....and with this campaign they were successful in attracting to Vienna an extraordinary representative body of collectors, dealers and experts.' Each room contained special enlargements of stamp designs mounted on the walls to illustrate what country or group the exhibits was in that particular room. He commented that the last minute withdrawal of a few collections occasionally involved the authorities in a series of empty frames; still a problem but one which has recently been tackled by FIP in banning any non-showers from future exhibitions unless they have a valid excuse. He noted an innovation by which 'by a few abbreviated signals one was able to tell how often when and where a collection had been shown before, what it had received from the jury, there the collection, came from, what club the owner belonged to,' etc. The catalogue was printed in German, English and French, also I believe in innovation. There was a Class of honour for previous gold medal winners which was described as being 'more the responsibility of the Federation Internationale de Philatelie than of the Vienna organisers'. He comments that it is more or less impossible to judge a collection of Belgian Congo against one of early Indian stamps. Still fair comment, however one which successive juries have had to tackle. The jury was a large one of 24 which divided into groups for the purpose of judging the classes but met to discuss the awards and the main prizes of the Exhibition, obviously much on the lines of the present-day juries.

One of the special attractions were two safes, in which were placed a number of rarities, one being 'the error in yellow of the 3sk bco of Sweden, a stamp about which I (Wilson) have some doubt' to this day it has remained the subject of controversy.

International Air-Post Exhibition 1934

The Air-Post Exhibition of 1934 was the third of its type to be held. The first was staged in Paris in 1930 and was followed by one in Danzing in 1932. It was sponsored by the Aero Philatelic Club of London and was supported by a large number of British and Foreign clubs including the Royal and the JPS. Brigadier General Ridgeway was President and Fred Melville Organising Director.

The exhibition was held in the Horticultural Hall from 7 to 12 May. There was Championship Class and classes for Air Stamps and Air Post exhibits, an 'Antiquarian' class for Balloons and Pigeon Posts, and classes for Juniors, literature, Air Mail labels and finally one for 'Inventors, Engineers, Airway Operation Companies, printers, etc.' The Grand Trophy was won by Jhon Aspinwall of America and the Ladies Trophy by Miss Penn-Gaskell (whose Zucker won a silver medal in the inventors' class for his 'apparatus for transport of mail by rocketry' which was on show in the annexe and is illustrated in the catalogue. There were 190 exhibits in all classes.

The Minister for Air, Lord Londonderry, opened the exhibition by releasing a pigeon carrying a message to the

Postmaster General. However the pigeon must have visited a girl friend on the way for it took four hours to reach its soft, by which time the PMG had left his office for the House of Commons. There was an exhibition postmark, which can be found on the Souvenir postcards, and there were souvenir exhibition labels. Among the guests at the Awards Banquet were Louis Bleriot, who had crossed the channel just 25 years earlier, and Amy Jhonson.

London 1950

The first exhibition after the war was held in May 1950, the first time since 1890 that one was held on the last year of a decade and the first of the now regular series of decennial exhibition. It was held in Grosvenor House, a new venue.

The executive committee of 11 was drawn from the Royal Philatelic Society and the British Philatelic Association with Sir Jhon Wilson as Chairman, H.W. Edmonds as Vice-Chairman and Robson Lowe and Bob Holmes among its members. There were seven sub-committees with the members of the Trade Advisory Committee being appointed equally by the BPA and a large Ladies Committee. The international jury of 22 included Lucien Berthelot as representative of FIP and had members drawn from 15 different countries. The overseas commissioners represented organized philately worldwide. A long list of donors and supporting societies (153) appears in the catalogue.

Entrance on the first two days cost 5/- and 2/6 thereafter. The exhibition banquet was held at Grosvenor House a tradition which has since continued.

Among the classes there was, for the first time, one for Thematic collections covering both subject collections and postal history! (mainly military and maritime exhibits). Exhibitors in this class included Lan Hamilton with 'Music' and Ken Pennycuik with a 'History of South of Africa'. There was also a design exhibit and visitors were encouraged to select the ten best designs from 60 chosen stamps.

London 1960

The 1960 exhibition in the Festival Hall had a similar sized exhibition committee to 1950 with Ebby Gerrish as Chairman, Bob Holmes and Robson Lowe as Vice Chairmen and Ron Lee as Hon. Treasurer. The Royal and the BPA were again the sponsoring organizations. The prospectus announcing the exhibition was published in November, some 20 months ahead of the opening. There were only four sub-committees covering Reception, Banqueting, Entertainment and Trade. There was a jury of 15 with Sir Jhon Wilson as President and Enzo Diena as Secretary, a position the latter was to fill on many occasions. An important role was played by Eileen Loader (then Evans), the active PRO of the B.P.A.

Altogether there were 1170 frames, the first time a London exhibition had exceeded 1000 frames I believe. Admissions had gone up to 10/- for the first day but had remained at 2/6 thereafter, R.M. Phillips won the Grand

Prix for his Great Britain, for the collection which now resides in the National Postal Museum.

This was the first exhibition I attended, having been at sea with the Navy ten years earlier. I played a small part being one of the many volunteer helpers without which these exhibitions could not exist, a request for such assistants having been published in the third Bulletin. One of the pleasant functions was a reception in the Mansion House due to the presence of Sir Denys Lawson, a former Lord Mayor, on the Social Committee. There was also a trip to the National Maritime Museum at Greenwich where a display of maritime postal history was being staged.

Philympia London 1970

Many readers will have attended this, and the subsequent exhibition at Earls Court in 1980, so will have their own impressions of these two exhibitions. The prospectus for philympia was issued in January 1969; this was followed during the next 18 months by three Bulletins. The exhibitions was sponsored by the Royal, BPA and for the first time I believe, by the PTS also. Ron Lee was chairman with Cyrill Harmer as Vice Chairman, 'Mick' Michael as Secretary General and Kay Goodman as Executives Secretary.

A pleasant innovation was a 'year to go' dinner (organized at a cost of 3,30 per head) held 1 September 1969, for the exhibition was being held in the Autumn rather than the more usual May date. FIP Patronage was discussed at an early stage in the planning but no agreement could be reached between the organizers and the FIP Board.

There was a large jury of 35 split more or less evenly between national and overseas judges. Ron Lee was President and Bob Holmes Chairman of the Jury and Sir Jhon Wilson, Ebby Gerrish and Thomas Allen were Consultant Juror. The numbers reflected the number of exhibits, totaling 3745 frames, and followed the now recommended balance of one judge per 100-125 frames. The number of frames had been over subscribed by a factor of two, leaving the organizers with the now usual task of severely pruning the number of accepted entries. The Grand Prize for the best exhibit in the exhibition was won by R Loeuillet for his classical France.

I was a member of Jack Gee, the Chief Steward's team and I recall that security at Olympia with its myriad exits was of considerable concern to him and to Noel Turner, who was Chief Security Officer. Several members of the executive more or less slept on the job.

Immediately following the exhibition the Philatelic Congress of Great Britain hosted the 39th FIP Congress. This was held in the Council chamber of the International Coffee Organization in Berners Street. The 42 national delegates were welcomed by Leslie Barker then Chairman of the Philatelic Congress of Great Britain's Executive Committee. A full report appears in the PCGB Congress Year Book for 1971 which recalls, among other things, a proposal that an FIP Commission be set up for the "Study and Development of Postal Stationery."

London 1980

With over 4000 frames, London 1980, held at Earls Court from 6 to 14 May, was the largest international exhibition to be held in the UK. Planning started some five years earlier under an executive committee nominated by the six sponsoring organizations, the Royal NPS (which the JPS had recently become), BPF, GBPS, Stamp Collecting Promotion Council and the PTS, with the full participation of the British Post Office George South was Chairman of the 24 strong executive committee. There were 8 organising committees headed by members of the executive.

As well as being the largest it was the first in Great Britain for which a special series of stamps bearing an 'exhibition premium' were issued. It was also the first to have FIP Patronage with the need to conform to FIP rules for judging, appointment of commissioners, etc.

The charge for admission on the opening day was 3 and other days 1.50, the exhibition being open from 10 AM to 8 PM most days. The Post Office had a large display and there was an imaginative area for children. A magnificent display from the collection of H M The Queen was the centerpiece of the Court of Honour, and The Queen herself paid a private visit to the exhibition one afternoon, being shown around the exhibits and attending a small reception at which members of the jury were presented to her.

The entries, as in 1970, were heavily oversubscribed giving Alan Huggins, Chairman of the philatelic Committee, a difficult task in selecting exhibits. There was the usual full programme of official and society events culminating in the Palmars at Grosvenor House, the cost of the dinner having by now risen to 25. Among the special features the Roll of distinguished Philatelists was on display in the BPF lounge and the Royal put on a display of Exhibition medals.

There was an international jury of 39 with Ron Lee as President and Jacques Stibbe, then President of FIP, as one of eight FIP representative judges with two from the UK, the first time that apprentices had been members of the jury of a British International. I believe that apprentices were first introduced at Praga 68, when I was one of the six who attended that exhibition.

The great result of London 1980 was the establishment of the Philatelic Trust from the surplus from the premium on the special exhibition miniature sheets. At last this meant that Philately could have a permanent home in London.

(Courtesy : India's Stamp Journal 1989)

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Do you Know?

"Azad Hind" stamps were designed by Axter - Heudtless a German artist of Berlin and were printed at the German State Printing Works in Berlin.

* * * * *

MALAYSIA'S MOST EXPENSIVE STAMP

By James Mackay

During the nineteenth century it was the general practice in most countries to provide separate sets of adhesive stamps for postage and revenue purposes, partly because they were issued by the Post Office on the one hand and various government departments or agencies on the other, and partly for accountancy reasons. Before May 1940, the only stamps sold in Britain were the various fiscal stamps distributed through Stamp Offices. Curiously enough, when the Penny Black was introduced, people had to purchase the stamps from their local stamp office and sales through post offices only gradually developed from 1841 onwards. By 1881 the number of stamp offices had been considerably reduced and gradually the responsibility for selling revenue stamps passed to the Post Office.

This meant additional work for the already hard pressed counter staff who had to keep over 130 different stamps in their stock books, only a tenth of which were actual postage stamps. As the first step in streamlining this cumbersome system, the Penny Lilac was introduced in 1881, with the inscription POSTAGE AND INLAND REVENUE. This was the precursors for the later stamps inscribed POSTAGE AND REVENUE which could be used for either purpose.

In Britain, only the denominations from half penny to half-crown (2s6d) could be used for revenue as well as postal purposes, which is why the higher values (5sto £'5) were merely inscribed POSTAGE.

Straits Settlements

In Ceylon, separate fiscal stamps continued until 1910 but the series of 1904-05 included a 5c in doubly fugitive purple which was inscribed POSTAGE AND REVENUE in the side panels and was largely used on receipts. This paved the way for the complete unification of postage and fiscal duties in 1910. In the Straits Settlements, however, the consolidation of postal and fiscal duties took place in 1902, and coincided with the introduction of the keyplate definitive series portraying King Edward VII. This series with POSTAGE on one side and & REVENUE on the other, ranged from 1 cent to \$5, a \$100 denomination being added the following year. Whereas the values up to \$5 are known postally used, the \$100, intended for fiscal duty, is only known used on legal documents. Nevertheless, the fact that the word POSTAGE appeared in the inscription technically made it a postage stamp and in mint condition it finds a rightful piece in the stamp album.

The series of additional values designed by Trotter and Egerton and introduced in 1903, bore no inscription regarding the purpose of the stamps, but postal and fiscal usage was implied. Following the switch to the multiple Crown CA watermark in 1906 two high values were added to the series in 1910-11.

These stamps were in a design with a larger format by De La Rue to the specifications of the Crown Agents. In the centre was a large medallion profile of King

Edward VII, surmounted by a crown and with an elaborate scroll at the sides and foot. This design, confined to high values, was first used in the Nyasaland Protectorate in July 1908, being utilized for five values from 2s6d to £10. It is highly significant that the values from 2s6d to £1 are worth a great deal more in postally used condition than they are mint. For the simple reason that they were seldom used postally. The £10 stamp is a rarity in postally used condition, but scarcer still in mint state.

This handsome bicoloured design made its debut in the Straits Settlements in May 1910 as a \$500 stamp. At the then rate of exchange, this was equivalent to £58.33 sterling, making it the highest denomination (in real terms) of any stamp in the world. The \$25 in the same design followed in May 1911. In 1912 these stamps, along with a \$100 denomination, were re-issued with the profile of King George V substituted, and in 1923 all three values appeared on the new Multiple Script CA watermark. The \$500 stamps retained their pre-eminence as the world's costliest stamp until 1925 when Ceylon (now Sri Lanka) issued a 1000 rupee stamp in the same key plate design. This was equivalent to £75 sterling, but hard on its heels came the £100 stamp of East Africa.

The use of these ultra-high value stamps came to an end a decade later, and they have retained their pre-eminence to this day. Today, the \$500 stamps of 1910, 1912 and 1923 are quoted in Gibbons at £55,000, £29,000 and £18,000 respectively, while the varieties with breaks in the crown and/or scroll (1912 and 1923) rate £38,000 and £24,000 respectively.

(Courtesy: Souvenir, Philatelic Society of Malaysia, 1997)

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