



SIPA

Bulletin

For Private Circulation to Members only

Vol.27 No.6

COVERS
GOOD, BAD 87

NOV - DEC 2008

EUROPES
RAREST 92

Bimonthly

EDITORIAL

NEW YEAR RESOLUTIONS

We have come to the 'end of the year' issue. Being the last two months, as the years before, India Post will flood us many issues to complete their yearly plan and programme. We may get some more miniature sheets also. All said and done, New year 2009 is going to arrive and we all will welcome the new year with some great resolutions, we decide to adopt and follow. Yea... Great.

Why not this year, we members of South India Philatelists Association, resolve to adopt two or three children to make them good collectors and philatelists. Whether it is a blessing or a curse, many of us does not have a collector within our families to follow our footsteps in philately or to nourish the collections and materials. We have collected with all passion and pride. So why not we adapt children near our residences. Try four or five children - boys & girls - comparatively of the age of 9 to 12 years. Study their whims and fancies, ideas and interests etc., Arrange for a group meeting during weekends, without disturbing their school or study programmes. Tell them what is a stamp, what is stamp collecting, what are all its benefits, how it is fun, how to enjoy collecting etc etc., Get hold of two or three children who show some interest, and whose parents give some support. It will be safe if you select children from middle class families so that in the long run much burden is not felt financially by their parents.

Introduce them to P.D. Account system of getting stamps at home. In the beginning advise them to get one stamp and an information sheet of each issue. No first day covers in the beginning. Just advice to buy a good medium size stock book to keep the stamps for a period till the child collect quite a good number of stamps from various countries.

Initially introduce to the children identification of countries, the type of stamps, anatomy of a stamp, philatelic terms etc., Slowly push them to thematic collecting. Tell them what is a theme, topic or subject. Ask the children to select two or three themes of their choice. Discuss their choice themes in a group meeting. Let the themes be of long term attachment with the selecting

child. If they have long term passion with the theme, once they do collecting for a few years with guidance, they will not go away and will be addicted to it for lifetime.

I have given out my mind. Hope you all will join taking my clue with a resolution of this type and enhance the number of philatelists in our country.

Wish you all a happy and prosperous new year 2009.

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Do you know

Who was the 1 Indian Post Master
General of India?
Rao Bahadur Salig Ram.

Monthly Second Sunday Meetings

With President
Mr. G. Balakrishna Das on the Chair,
24 members attended the meeting on
14.10.2008
Patron Mr. G. Madan Mohan Das
enlightened everybody on "Special
Ideas on thematics".

STAMP NEWS

DR. T.M. NAIR

17.09.08

500

0.4mill

"Taravat Mahadevan Nair" popularly known as T.M. Nair, was one of the prime moving forces of the Dravidian movement that singularly contributed to the upliftment of poor and downtrodden in South India. A doctor by profession, Dr. Nair was a precocious child. He passed his matriculation examination with flying colours. Born to Shri Taravat Shankar Nair and Smt. Kamini Amma on 15th January, 1868 in Koduvayur in Calicut district in Kerala.



Dr. T. M. NAIR

His insatiable quest for knowledge took him to England in 1889 from where he achieved the highest degree in medicine M.B.C.M. in 1894 followed by a Doctorate from Edinburgh University in 1896. He specialized in ENT from Paris in France.

Returning home, he dedicated himself to the medical profession with full vigour. He followed a very disciplined life and forever remained a learner. He published a very popular medical monthly magazine known as 'Antiseptic' for more than sixteen years.

His interest in politics surfaced from his days in college when he actively participated in the student politics. He was elected Secretary of the students union and he published a journal called "University Student".

He joined Indian National Congress and for quite sometime was one of its prime spokesperson. He later left Congress to join 'South Indian Welfare Association' and together with Sir Pitti Thiagarayar and Dr. C. Natesan formed the 'Justice Party'. Dr. Nair published an English newspaper called 'Justice on behalf of Justice Party' for many years. He was also the editor of 'Madras Standard', a magazine published from Madras.

Following the First World War, Montague-Chelmsford Committee came to India to study the devolution of power to Indians. Justice Party in full force campaigned for communal representation. Dr. Nair was the Chief architect of the communal representation principle. He went to England on 2nd October, 1918 and presented his views in the British Parliament. He cogently presented his arguments with facts and figures on the terrible deprivation and discrimination faced by the downtrodden at the hands of the upper castes.

The report of Montague Chelmsford was placed for study before the British Parliament the next year. Dr. Nair once again traveled to England despite his failing health to seek the opportunity and speak for the oppressed voices. Fate willed it otherwise, and Dr. Nair passed away in London on 17th July 1919.

Dr. Nair's untiring efforts and missionary zeal brought about a conspicuous consciousness in the unprivileged classes. His efforts have uplifted millions out of the misery of exploitation, discrimination and deprivation.

Theme : Personality, Leader, Politics, Tamilnadu.

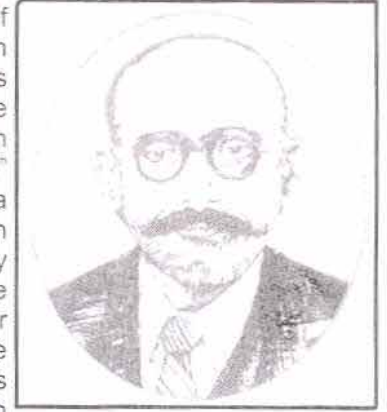
Dr. C. NATESAN

17.09.08

500

0.4mill

Dr. C. Natesan is hailed as the father of the Dravidian movement and he was the first person to use the word Dravidian. In the first quarter of 20th century there arose a powerful movement in Madras Presidency against the dominance of the upper castes. For the upliftment of the oppressed communities Dr. Natesan along with Pitti Theagarayar and Dr. T.M. Nair started 'South India Welfare Society' which later became "Justice Party".



Dr. Natesan was born in 1875 at Tiruvallikeni in Chennai graduated from Madras University. He worked as a Lecturer in Pithampuram Maharaja College and later as Dubasha in Gordon Wood of Company. He was enamored by medical profession and went on to achieve a medical degree.

He was exceedingly successful as a doctor. He treated his patients with compassion and care. He provided free medical care to the poor and the deprived people.

The plight of poor and the downtrodden people suffering at the hands of the strong upper castes moved him to action. Dr. Natesan organized 'The Madras United league' and became its Secretary with the sole purpose of providing effective voice to the deprived. Subsequently, its name was changed to 'Dravida Sangam'.

'Dravida Sangam' conducted evening classes for educating senior citizens and government employees. The students suffered at the hands of higher castes in hostels and colleges in Madras. To alleviate the suffering of such students Dr. Natesan organized separate hostels for them in the name. The Association also became a platform for meeting of great minds like Dr. T.M. Nair, L.D. Samikannu, and Thiru. Vi.Ka.

Dr. Natesan was twice elected to the state assembly during 1920-26 and 1933-37. As member of Madras Municipal Council he opposed the decisions of the Council to dump garbages near residences of scheduled castes living on the periphery of the town.

In the government formed by the Justice Party, important legislations like Hindu Religions and Charitable

Endowment Act and the legislations for abolishing Devadasi system were enacted.

Dr. Natesan was a rationalist and he rebelled against superstition, discrimination, illiteracy and exploitation. He devoted his life for the upliftment of the poor exploited. His efforts made the Dravidian Movement a force to reckon with and alleviated the suffering of millions.

Theme : Medicine, Social Reformer, Leader, Politics, Tamilnadu.

SIR PITTI THEAGARAYAR

17.09.08 500 0.4mill

The tumultuous socio political scene in India in the late nineteenth century and early twentieth saw the emergence of new ideas, a bold and fearless approach to social issues and a spirit of questioning moribund norms and practices. There was an all pervasive spirit of contribution to the upliftment of marginalized sections of society. Sir Pitti Theagarayar was one such fearless votary of social change pertaining to this period.



Starting from a smaller canvas of handloom and cottage industries and municipal politics, his area of concern grew into larger socio political issues.

Sir Pitti Theagarayar was born at Egathur near Chennai on 27th April, 1852. He took his B.A. Degree in 1873 from the Presidency College, Madras. Later he entered public life and served as Member of the Madras Municipal Corporation for 40 years since 1882. He supported improved methods of weaving and strongly pleaded for Government help and encouragement to handloom and other cottage industries.

He was elected to the Madras Legislative Council in 1910. It started a new phase in his life. He was in favour of liberalizing the political process from caste monopolies. He started the Justice Party. In 1920 the Justice Party got a decisive majority in the Legislative Council. He was invited by Lord Wellington, the then Governor, to hold a responsible post in the new Ministry, but he declined the invitation.

Theagarayar was elected as Chairman, Chennai Municipality in 1920 and held that post until 1923. His active participation in the promotion of commercial activities led him to establish the South Indian Chamber of Commerce of which he was the Chairman from 1910 to 1921.

In appreciation of his selfless services to the people the Government honoured him with the title of 'Rao Bahadur' in 1909. He was also conferred with the title "Diwan Bahadur" in 1919 and "Sir" in 1921.

He who set an example of selfless, courageous, honest and honourable service in the public life passed away on June 30, 1925 at the age of 73. Theagaraya

Nagar, an area in Chennai was named in his memory. Theme : Leader, Social Reformer , Politics, Tamilnadu.

FESTIVALS OF INDIA

7.10.08 500x3 3.0mill each

India, the vibrant land of mythological tales, of Gods and Goddesses and thousands beliefs, has evolved over centuries as a mystic land of festivals. These colorful and happy festivals bind the people of the nation across various states and religions in unique way and provide a spectacle that cannot be experienced anywhere else in the world. Two very important and popular festivals of India are Dussehra and Diwali.



The festival of Dussehra, also kown as "Vijayadashami" is one of the fascinating festivals of India and is celebrated with joy and enthusiasm for ten continuous days. Dussehra, or the tenth day, as literally means, marks the end of the nine days of Navaratri. The first nine nights are spent in the worship of Goddess Durga.

In North India, the 10-day festival commemorates the victory of Rama, over Ravana, the ruler of Lanka, who according to the Ramayana had abducted Sita, wife of Rama, and held her captive. The festival is celebrated with much gusto.

In Southern, Eastern and Western parts of India, the festival of Navaratri which culminates with vihadashmi, commemorates the legend in which the Goddess Durga, also known as Chamundeshwari or Mahishasura Mardini, vanquishes the demon Mahishasur, an event that is said to have taken place in the vicinity of the present day city of Mysore in Karnataka.

In Bengal, the festival is celebrated as Kali Puja or Durga Puja, while in Tamil Nadu, the festival incorporates worship of the goddesses Lakshmi, Saraswati and Shakti. Durga Puja, or Durgaustav of Bengal has earned international repute for its majestic celebrations, puja pandals, exquisite idols of the Goddess and the geity and ritual traditions in the nine days long celebrations of Durga Puja. Durga Puja is celebrated with equal fervour and festive sprit in other states of India like Manipur, Orissa, Assam, Bihar, Delhi, Jharkhand, Uttar Pradesh, Punjab, Haryana and Himachal Pradesh.

In Southern India, over the years Mysore has become synonymous with Dushara or Dussehra festival. This festival has been celebrated in Mysore with great



pomp and show since centuries. Today Dasara in Mysore has become the state festival of Karnataka. The famous Mysore Palace, houses, shops and important buildings in the city are decorated and illuminated for the period of the celebrations. As part of the celebrations renowned musicians of Karnataka and from other states perform in front of the illuminated Palace. The Palace is open to the public and the famous royal throne is displayed. The main attraction is the procession in which the idol of Goddess Chamundeshwari is kept in the golden howdah on top of a decorated elephant and taken round the city. In the evening there is beautiful torch light procession and a stunning firework display.

Of the festivals of India, Diwali is the most significant, grand and auspicious and not only celebrated in India but other parts of the world too. 'Diwali' or "Deepavali" is a festival of lights. In Sanskrit word Deepavali derives as 'Deep' meaning diya or light and 'Avali', meaning a row of lamps.

Diwali, celebrates the abundance of autumn harvest and is dedicated to various gods and goddesses. The festival, according to legends, marks the home coming of Lord Rama, his wife Sita, and his brother Laxman to Ayodhya after fourteen years of exile. The tradition of lighting diyas and candles dates back to history when the people of Ayodhya lighted lamps through out the kingdom to welcome them. Diwali also celebrates the power of the three goddesses, Lakshmi, Kali and Saraswati.

The meaningful jubilation of Diwali celebrations is marked by multi-coloured Rangoli designs, special pooja ceremonies, lines of lamps, floral decorations, fireworks, exchange of sweets and gifts that lend grandeur to the occasion. Every home shines with the glow of twinkling diyas or candles to welcome Lakshmi, the Goddess of wealth and prosperity. Diwali is an occasion for cheerfulness and togetherness. It is celebrated as the victory of light over darkness and good over evil.

Theme : Festivals, Hinduism, Religion.

III COMMON WEALTH YOUTH GAMES 2008 12.10.08 500x4 0.8mill each

The commonwealth stretches from Africa to Asia and from the Pacific to the Caribbean, and has more than 1.7 billion people making up nearly 30% of the world's population, comprising many faiths, races, languages and cultures. Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II is the patron of the Games and HRH the Earl of Wessex, CVO, is the Vice patron.



The commonwealth Games Federation, founded on the intrinsic principles of humanity, equality and destiny, first discussed the idea of Millennium mini Commonwealth Youth Games as attracting the best young athletes (18

years and under) from the member countries. They city of Ebinburgh in Scotland, hosted the first Youth Games in 2000 with participation from 14 countries and the second Games followed in 2004 in Bendigo, Australia with a participation of 24 countries respectively.

The III Commonwealth Youth Games has confirmed participation of all 71 nations and territories of the Commonwealth and will be held from 12th to 18th October, 2008 at the Shri Shiv Chhatrapati Sports City, Balewadi, Pune. Athletes will compete in 9 disciplines (Athletics, Badminton, Boxing, Swimming, Shooting, Tennis, Table Tennis, Wrestling & Weightlifting). The unique feature of the Shiv Chhatrapati Sports City, Balewadi is that all 9 competition venues and the Athletes Village are housed in one single complex.

It is the first time that the Commonwealth Youth games are being held in Asia in Pune, the cultural capital of Maharashtra, and one of India's fastest growing metropolises.

Over 1300 athletes and 350 officials from all 71 nations and territories will participate in the Games, making this the biggest Commonwealth Youth Games yet.

The Commonwealth Youth Games, Pune 2008 showcases to the World India's readiness to host world-class international sporting events and is prelude to the hosting of Commonwealth Games Delhi 2010. The Games will be telecast live on Doordarshan.

The Youth Baton Rally is being run in support of the "Save the Tiger" initiative of WWF and Green Games initiatives. The Relay also aims to promote Olympic sports in India.

The Baton has been welcomed with daily celebrations, functions and cultural programmes to entertain and enthrall thousands of people who line the route in support of the Commonwealth Youth Games.

The Baton is collecting water and sapling from each destination on its journey. The collected water, along with the water brought in by the athletes of 71 Commonwealth nations, will be used at the opening Ceremony to create a spectacular 'Fountain of Youth'. The saplings will be planted in the 'Garden of Youth' which will be a legacy to the Shiv Chhatrapati Sports City from CYG.

The III Commonwealth Youth Games have been declared as the Green Games. Regarding this, a Memorandum of Understanding was signed between CYG and the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP). A Green Sport Consortium comprising IL & FS and Nature First are on board for implementing the Green Games initiative.

The initiatives being undertaken by CYG Pune 2008 towards this objective are broadly classified into two categories minimizing the environment footprint of the Games and creating environmental awareness amongst the people.

Pune City will proudly adorn the colours and look of CYG. The City will wear a festive look as it will dress up to welcome the athletes and officials from the Commonwealth and India.

Theme : Sports, Youth, Common Wealth

POST OFFICE

13.10.08

500

0.8mill

Today we are so used to electronic aids like telephones, mobiles, e-mail, that we have taken these inventions for granted. For these inventive geniuses thousands of devoted workers who carried out with the spirit of adventure and built this present day structures and institutions. Today these institutions belong to us to be cherished and to be taken forward. The Post Office is one such institution. Post Office is one of those public organizations which is more intimately bound up with human relations than other governmental departments. It deals with messages, helps to connect people, makes communication between human beings through the letter.



When we come to think of it, what an aroma of romance surrounds the letter! With what eager expectations one awaits the coming of a letter! How many of us have not felt like a little boy in Rabindra Nath Tagore's Play, "The Post Office; Dak Ghar" who anxiously awaits the letter from the King to be delivered to him through a newly opened post office or Dak Ghar in the village."

The Post office is universally recognized as a facilitator of communication. The postal runner defied all odds-natural calamities, wild beasts, geographical terrain and bandits in the discharge of his duties, as aptly described by the watchman to the little boy in the Play, Dak Ghar,

"Ha! Ha! Postman, indeed! Rain or shine, rich or poor, from house to house delivering letters that's very great work".

Today Post Office not only delivers letters but do retail diverse range of services through its vast network. Its capacity to handle financial transactions and its knowledge about the local environment provides efficient and cost effective means of catering the various services to the public. India Post today represents both tradition as well as modernity. Post Office has become a mark of continuity and change.

Through his Play "Post Office" Gurudev Rabindra Nath Tagore portrayed Post Office as symbol of goodwill, good wishes and King's love for the common people"

Theme : Post, Indian Post Office, Postal Services,

FOOD SAFETY AND QUALITY YEAR 2008 09

16.10.08

500

0.8mill

Food safety is a growing concern across the world. There is an increasing need to provide greater assurance about the safety and quality of food to consumers. Accordingly, Food standards are expected to acquire greater importance given the increasing concern on food safety. The concept of food safety and quality is important for all stakeholders starting from the farmers to the processors, to the retailers and to the consumers.

This issue of food safety and quality is to be tackled with a multi pronged, coordinated strategy with various stakeholders. Improving food safety and quality is a constant and continuous effort. It is, therefore, necessary that personnel involved in managing, handling, storing, production and distribution of food or mass consumption are appraised /reoriented of the issues pertaining to food safety and quality.



Keeping in view the urgency and spreading awareness amongst masses, the Ministry of Food Processing Industries (MoFPI), Government of India is observing the year 2008-09 as "Food Safety & Quality Year" with the approval of the Union Council of Ministers.

Personal hygiene of staff and protective clothing, safe drinking water, safe serving, hand wash before and after handling food, purchasing certified products like BIS, AGMARK Certification etc. microbiological safety of served foods, food testing and analysis, hygienic maintenance of kitchen, pest control in Kitchen, use of dustbins etc aspects need a specific attention. Food safety begins from the farm and remains important through the entire food supply chain till the plate of the consumer. A Critical link in the chain in Food Safety begins from the farm and remains important through the entire food supply chain till the plate of the consumer. A critical link in the chain in Food Safety Practices is Kitchens.

In domestic and global markets, quality and safety have become critical requirements for enterprises producing food and providing food related services. One of the functions of the Ministry of Food Processing Industries is to encourage the food processing industries in adoption / implementation of food safety and quality assurance mechanisms and build their capacity to conform to national / international food standards.

The food processing industry provides us with nutritious products, generates employment, investment and exports links processing with farming, food retailing, food service and export trade. It is of enormous significance for india's development because of the vital linkages and synergies that it promotes between two pillars of economy, namely industry and agriculture. Safe food is equally important for export in this competitive world.

To heighten public awareness about the world food problem and strengthen solidarity in the struggle against hunger, malnutrition and poverty, 16th October is celebrated as 'World Food Day' every year. The Ministry is observing 16th October 2008 as "Food Safety & Quality Day".

Theme : Health, Food, Agriculture.

COMMONWEALTH GAMES DELHI 2010
18.10.08 500 3.0mill

The Commonwealth Games is a multinational, multi-sport event. Held once in every four years, it involves the elite athletes of the Commonwealth of Nations. The Commonwealth Games Federation (CGF) is the organisation that is responsible for the direction and control of the commonwealth Games Federation (CGF) is the organization that is responsible for the direction and control of the Commonwealth Games.

The First such event, then known as the British Empire Games, was held in 1930 in Hamilton, Ontario, Canada. The name changed to British Empire and Commonwealth Games in 1954, to British Commonwealth Games in 1970 and assumed the current name of the Commonwealth Games in 1974.



As well as many Olympic sports, the Games also include some sports that are played mainly in Commonwealth countries, such as lawn bowls, rugby sevens and netball.

There are currently 53 members of the Commonwealth of Nations, and 71 teams participate in the Games. The four constituent countries of the United Kingdom, England, Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland send separate teams to the Commonwealth Games (unlike at the Olympic Games, where the United Kingdom sends a single team), and individual teams are also sent from the British Crown dependencies Guernsey, Jersey and the Isle of Man and many of the British overseas territories. The Australian external territory of Norfolk Island also sends its own team, as do the Cook Islands and Niue, two non - sovereign states in free association with New Zealand : Only six teams have attended every Commonwealth Games : Australia, Canada, England, New Zealand, Scotland and Wales. Australia has been the highest scoring team for the Games, England for seven and Canada for one.

At the 1930 games, women competed in Swimming and Diving only. In 1934, women competed in some Athletic events also.

Mascots for the Commonwealth Games were first introduced by the host country in 1978. They are now an

integral part of the promotion and commercial success of the Commonwealth Games.

List of Mascots

Year	City	Mascot
1978	Edmonton	Keyano, a Swan Hills Grizzly Bear;
1982	Brisbane	Matilda, the Kangaroo
1986	Edinburgh	Mac, a black "Scottie" dog
1990	Auckland	Goldie, the Kiwi bird
1994	Victoria	Klee Wyck, anorca (Killer) Whale
1998	Kuala Lumpur	Wira, the Orang Utan
2002	Manchester	Kit, a Cat
2006	Melbourne	Karak, a south-eastern Red-tailed Black Cockatoo (Calyptorhynchus banksii graptogyen).
2010	Delhi	Shera, the friendly tiger.

As "Jigir" the mascot fo Commonwealth Youth Games Pune, 2008, hands over the baton of the game to "Shera" his elder brother, the run up for Commonwealth Games Delhi 2010 begin with flame of enthusiasm and joy. Shera welcomes you all to Delhi for Commonwealth Games 2010 with open arms and fabled Indian hospitality. We India believe in "Atithi Devo Bhava", ie, our guest is like God. Let us meet is Delhi in the true spirit of the Commonwealth games. Theme : Sports & Games, Commonwealth.

* * * *

STAMPS ON COVER GOOD, BAD AND INDIFFERENT
Capt. Chas. Jewell.

BEFORE starting to discuss the dangerous fakes it may be as well to spend a short time in the scrutiny of that class of cover which is known as "philatelic" or "philatelically used". This class has been forced on everybody's notice during the last ten years because of the enormous and still increasing demand for "first day covers". The stamps of Great Britain and her Colonies have become subjects of this demand. As a result, large quantities of covers were prepared in advance of the actual date of issue in order that they might be passed through the Colonial post office on the first day of issue, and the might receive the dated cancellation of the office in question. In some of the smaller Colonies a local agent was employed, and it is recorded that in the smallest offices the postmaster was confronted by a fantastically large number of letters to be registered. In some of these cases the postmaster very properly failed to play his part to the full, as by the end of the first day he had not gone through the formalities with more than a small proportion of them, and insisted on the remainder being taken away and presented again on the morrow and succeeding days. Most of these letters were sent by registered post, since they adhere a high rate of franking, often higher than the registration plus postage rate. None of them contained a genuine letter; the addresses in most cases were printed, or imprinted by means of a rubber stamp. In many cases, the postmaster was specifically requested to pay close attention

to the philatelically desirable method of canceling the adhesives, i.e., a light but clear impression, obscuring as little as possible of the actual design of the stamp, particularly the heads of the sovereigns. I do not propose to criticize the taste of the buyers of these covers: **we are all entitled to choose what we want to collect** and what we do not, but I have two comments to make.

The first is that the demand was such that prices rose to a point where it actually paid a forger to buy the stamps mint and to apply **forged cancellations**. This was done inside Great Britain, but the fraud was promptly discovered and exposed in the philatelic press.

The second comment is of greater importance. How are we to regard the principle of preparing and sending a letter through the post for the sole purpose of obtaining a complete cover purporting to show the stamps genuinely postally used for franking a postal communication? This is by no means a new "dodge"; it goes much farther back than that. Accordingly, it seems right and proper to make a brief study of the known cases. It is true that quite a number of these "philatelic" covers have quite a high market value. But that does not seem to me to affect the point that they are not what they purport to be.

It has been very often the case that members of the general public as well as service personnel have realised their opportunities of creating subjects for the stamp market. This has not necessarily happened only in small cases, or in out-of-the-way post offices. A good example would be the South African War which took place over forty years ago. Those engaged in it, soldiers and civilians alike, were often under the illusion that they could "make a good thing" out of their opportunities for securing stamps, and quite a few had the knowledge or belief that stamps used on a letter were specially sought after by collectors. Accordingly, it is quite usual to come across covers which bear a set of the "V.R.I." and "E.R.I." overprints up to a certain value. Most of the senders' nerves failed them when reaching the one-shilling or half-a-crown values. To all of these, as in quite a few other cases, the test is simple if the postal rates are known: add up the stamp values and see if they conceivably fit in with the nature of the cover. If they are in series from the ½d. upwards to the 2s.6d., the question is soon answered. I have seen higher values, and even real rarities, such as British Central Africa pound values, so used to an addressee in D... shire. Another fertile source of this sort of cover is Heligoland. When it was known that the stamps of this Colony were going to become obsolete on the 9th August, 1890, there was a great rush to pass "last-day covers" through the British office on the 8th of August. These included the high values, such as the one-mark and five-mark adhesives, and they possess a very high market value; possibly because they are so rare genuinely used as to be almost unknown, and a specialist may prefer to have them used "philatelically" on cover rather than not to possess them at all. But these are the simplest cases. In passing, one would have thought that the population of the British African Colonies in the south and south-east would have been fairly free from a desire to display this kind of talent, but I have seen rather too many "philatelic" covers from them for my liking, and dangerous ones too, especially in the case of British East Africa.

Another good instance of abundant production of "Campaign Covers" could be found in the Mediterranean area after 1900. From one source, the Italian 2 lire "Estero" stamp appears on complete cover with genuine cancellation. There are other instances that will occur to most collectors, and it is probably unnecessary for me to go into details as they are so well known.

Now, in the case of any of these the danger becomes serious when the stamps used for franking the letter total up to the correct rate. The obvious question is, if the adhesives are correct, how is one to know if the letter was a **genuine postal communication or was "philatelic?"** The answer is that sometimes one does and sometimes one does not, and sometimes one cannot be sure whether it is the one or the other.

For example, I have seen quite a number of covers bearing Colonial stamps, usually in sets, all addressed to the same addresses in England. The names and addresses are often printed. In these cases, in which to my knowledge there are several colonies and individuals concerned, the covers are definitely and obviously "philatelic". I may remark that the persons who ordered these frankings had excellent taste! Many of the items are extremely difficult to get on cover, and these covers have quite a high market value. But, since they are all heavily over franked, anyone who has read what I have said about this class of cover cannot possibly consider himself cheated if he buys one. And I should go further: the over-franking should be obvious to anybody who has not persued these notes.

The material point brought to light by a knowledge of this particular group is that the address on a cover sometimes supplies the necessary indication and warning. Nevertheless, one may have to buy one's experience. This is perhaps the cheapest method in the long run and once experience is acquired, one is warned. Besides the somewhat extensive groups previously mentioned, there are cases of production of philatelic covers on a very small scale. For instance, I have seen some half-a-dozen covers of the Cook Islands series of 1893 onwards (S.G.9 etc) which appear to have been prepared for and sent "philatelically" to a Capt. Jacob, then stationed on the north-west frontier of India. In what quantity these have been prepared I do not know, and I imagine that the actual number of such covers is small and it would be impossible, if one were offered a single registered cover, bearing say 4d. only in adhesives, to tell that it was "philatelic": indeed, irritatingly enough, one or two of them may well have been genuine communications between Capt. Jacob and his friend and / or agent at Rarotonga. But, if it bears 10d, S.G.22, it then declares itself as suspect. I should make it clear that I do not by any manner of means suggest that in this case there was any intention to produce for the sake of material gain a bogus and fraudulent article for sale in the market: in this case, owing to the paucity in numbers of these covers, it seems to me to have been merely a personal whim: and it is equally probable that the same qualification applies to A... B... Esq., of ... shire. But, whatever the intention may have been, it is both justifiable and necessary to point out that a buyer of a letter from the Cook Islands addressed to the then Capt. Jacob should have at his disposal the information that I have given,

because a genuine cover, say one addressed to New Zealand and franked by a 1d. brown is worth much more in the market (because it is legitimately used) than one bearing the 10d. and 1s. values, in spite of the apparently obvious fact that the 1d. ought to be by far the commonest value on cover of the whole series and the 10d.or1s. the rarest.

This reminds me of another group of covers, which again point the moral that **"things are not what they seem."** When Longfellow (am I right?) produced this profundity in cynicism he was looking on the tarnished side, but in this case I am engaged in a work of rescue and not of warning. There is, as indeed there must be, a vast amount of fairly modern covers addressed to stamp dealers. I think that most cover collectors have jumped to the conclusion that all this is philatelic. The reason why I cannot tell. The truth is that almost all of it is I do not say all, because that would be too generous & perfectly genuine and absolutely free from taint of any sort. I might instance the voluminous correspondence of Messrs. Stafford Smith & Co., and Winch Bros. of Colchester (though in the latter case I would say that I have reserved judgement to a limited extent). Both firms appear to have had correspondents throughout the world, and to have received valuable letters, frequently registered and bearing high value adhesives, for the good and sufficient reason that they often received local mint stamps, both loose and in sheets, in the normal course of business. Therefore, let no one cast a stone at a Stafford Smith or a Winch Bros. cover, unless he is prepared to prove that it is philatelic: failing proof, it must be accepted as genuine in all respects.

I have now mentioned covers that date from forty and even fifty years ago, so it is quite evident that cover collectors need to be placed on their guard generally.

There are also a great number of covers addressed to the late W. Dornig Beckton, who is well known to many generations of philatelists as a Fellow and Past President of the R.P.S.L. It appears that he had the desire, when he heard of a new or rare variety appearing to possess a copy of it on cover. I have seen quite a number of letters addressed to him at his home near Manchester and, as he had an enormous circle of correspondents in all parts of the world, it does appear that on occasions he specifically asked for letters sent to him in the normal course of correspondence to be franked with the correct postage but with particular adhesives. This brings the division between **what is legitimately used on cover and what is "philatelically" used**, to such a fine point that I can only state the facts as they are, and leave it to individual readers to form their own opinion. For instance, I have seen the Niger Coast "½d". surcharge on the 1d. blue of May 1894 (S.G.46) used with a 2d. to make the 2½d. rate in August 1984. It is clear that the late Mr. Beckton heard of this provisional, wanted a copy on cover, and got it sent to him during the normal currency of the provisional. I may add that it was well and truly hit by the cancellor: none of the over-careful and philatelically hittings of the "Jubilees". I may give another instance: I have myself a cover from Salonica, sent through the Austrian post office and registered. It bears Austrian Levant stamps, making the letter rates ran in multiples of 5 soldi; the common rate for a single letter was 10 soldi, about 4d., so that franking of 5

and 10 soldi stamps are normal. But there were also 2 soldi yellow and 3 soldi green stamps, S.G. 1 and 2 (Plate I) and S.G.17 and 18 (Plate II): the green stamp appears rarely on cover, the 2 soldi practically never, except for the newspaper rate (4 soldi). The late Mr. Beckton evidently appreciated this, and as my cover shows four of each (S.G.17 and 18) on a cover dated 1887, it seems fair to suggest that in this case he definitely had the letter franked with the adhesives that he wanted to have on cover, since, otherwise, there is hardly any doubt but that the normal 30 soldi rate would have been met by application of the normal 5s. and/or 10s. The cover in question paid the correct rate, and covered probably something of value : but, because the franking was the result of philatelic selection I consider that it has a philatelic flavour. These are the facts, and I leave the opinions formed on the facts to others. Such letters are fairly widespread as regards points of origin, and it will be appreciated that I have now gone back as far as the 'eighties, and still they come.

Now, while this class of cover may reasonably be regarded as witness to a harmless fable, there is a great gulf fixed between it and the Jubilee etc. covers with forged cancellations. These have only one object, and that is to swindle the buyer. An innocent buyer of "Philatelic" covers is unlikely to lose money by the fact of their being "philatelic". Indeed, far from it. A friend of mine who lives in South America took a fancy to modern British Colonials, and asked me to buy the entire series (Jubilees and the rest) for him, if possible on first-day covers. I managed to secure them after some six months' effort and my friend has never ceased to be grateful, since they are worth to-day about three times what I paid for them on his behalf. So he has what he wanted and got them as a bargain, and what could be more satisfactory to any stamp collector than that?

The faking of covers, as I hope I have made absolutely clear, is a horse of quite another colour. To the best of my knowledge, since there was no great market for such things before say 1900, the forging fraternity did not devote much time or trouble to it: loose stamps afforded far more abundant opportunities. But, with the awakening of interest in covers as such, came an increased demand in the market, and **with the demand, came the supply.**

I cannot urge cover collectors strongly enough to bear this point in mind, namely, that it is the demand that causes the supply of faked covers. This warning I have no hesitation in offering to all cover collectors, and I do not even except the most experienced. To those who are beginners or only moderately advanced, I should not merely wish to give them this warning in general terms but also I should add this rider. You will find that there are many stamps whose catalogue value is, relatively speaking, low. You may discover that they are rare when on cover. If something of this sort turns up suddenly, watch your step! My suggestion is, as those who have read what I have to say will anticipate, **try to trace their history.**

The faking of a postal adhesive provides a number of problems, all of them difficult, and most of them nowadays insoluble, thanks to certain advances in scientific knowledge. The shade of ink, which may well be correctly imitate the actual process of manufacture in the

case of an engraved stamp an almost hopeless task; and he has to imitate the paper, vastly more difficult than might be supposed; finally, in some cases, he must forge a watermark, and even this will not escape the practiced eye even at the first glance.

It is the unpleasant and unfortunate truth that for the intending faker of a cover bearing an adhesive all these difficulties disappear. I am, of course, writing generally. Let us suppose that our forger has got hold of some stampless covers from Uruguay to France, dated 1860-62, which have traveled by British or French mail packet, and were posted at the Capital, Montevideo. Let us suppose that he acquires or possesses the 180c. green thin figures, S.G.39, which is catalogued twice as high used as unused: a good copy would not cost more than 15s. He finds an empty space on the front of the cover: he fakes the oval canceling dated mark of Montevideo, and applies it neatly, tying the stamp to the cover, and there is a real rarity which would be cheap at ten pounds if genuine. And in this case only a close comparison between the faked cancellor and genuine examples will tell us what has been happening. In my early days, I myself bought a cover like this, the stamp being the 80c. orange-yellow, S.G.52: in this case, the catalogue value is the same used as for unused, but it will be appreciated that the forger has no difficulty in finding genuine covers for his raw material. There is still another source of abundant supply covers bearing adhesive stamps which can be removed from the cover and replaced. Clearly, it pays the forger to remove a 60c. Uruguay, S.G.45, and substitute one of the rare higher values, 100c., 180c., or 240c. The ability to do so is slightly more restricted than in the case of the Transatlantic stampless covers group. But advantage of it has been taken wholesale, not only by our expert but by earlier artists. Italian States covers have suffered considerably from "improvers".

In short, it should now be only too clear that the cover-faker has a comparatively easy task, superficially, at all events. NO trouble over imitating a fine engraving, a rare shade of ink, an old-fashioned type of paper. Almost all his raw material is genuine. All he has to tackle is a cancellor and the ink used for canceling.

One now realises that the remaindering of obsolete issues is a menace and a curse. So many of them provide the forger with his happiest hunting grounds, early Argentine Confederation, Uruguayans, German and Italian States, especially German, being often worth shillings or even only pence unused as against pounds used (and much more when on cover). I say, watch the catalogue prices and **be trebly on your guard when they favour of used over the unused.** And remember the remarks of the Editor of the house organ of Stanley Gibbons : he once expressed himself as seriously worried by the possibility that one day there might come on the scene a forger who was possessed of philatelic knowledge: this warning has proved a true one. It is common knowledge to those who collect and deal in fine covers that for quite a number of years before the war a considerable number of forged covers of the nature I have described in the previous paragraph were coming to the London market. As I have said, I was bitten myself. Fortunately, this happened almost

immediately upon my deciding that cover-collecting was a possible source of fresh interest and, in addition, I was warned and was only planted with a paltry loss. Oddly enough, I did not and do not bear a deep grudge against the "author" of those covers: like Jurgen, he is a deuced clever fellow. Indeed, I am not the only one, for a pen-friend of mine in the U.S.A who was "stuck", most irritatingly, with fakes of his own speciality (on which he had specialised for some forty years) tells me he feels very much the same way about it. But, whether or not some of us can see the funny side of it, it is not a pretty business and ought to be stopped.

I can imagine that a number of people would say "surely after forty years" specialising a good philatelist ought not to have been taken in so easily". Maybe yes, maybe no, maybe perhaps, and maybe perhaps not. The truth is that, when he is presented with an example of a cover which he has been searching for unsuccessfully for donkey's years, he is apt to be uncritical when it does turn up at long last, and particularly if marked at a fair price. Especially since one faker, at least, has reached such a high state of proficiency in his horrid art that I can almost tell his handiwork from those of lesser artists!

An instance or so may be of interest. It is six years ago since I was offered a cover, with pretensions to having the 2 reales blue of the first issue of Paraguay on it, used from Asuncion. The stamp was cancelled with the Asuncion Star : the date was during the war, Paraguay versus the World, i.e., Argentina, Brazil and Uruguay, 1863-68, and the letter was addressed to Rio, Brazil: it bore the handstamped frank of the Brazilian Naval Squadron on active service up the Paraguay River. This whole piece is so fantastic that I am doubtful if the chief artist did it. It is clearly a bit awkward to explain how a private letter posted in a country at war and franked by a local stamp could possibly get delivered into the hands of the opposing Naval Post Office and then get franked by it. And when one adds that the Asuncion Star postmark was used some fourteen years in advance of its actual use, the thing attains high rank as a curiosity. But what hit me a nasty bang was the fact that had I been offered the cover without the Paraguayan stamp and its Asuncion postmark, I should have recognized it as one of a very rare group letters from the Brazilian Naval Squadron on service in the River Paraguay and franked free homeward to Brazil and I should have been glad to get it even though I had been asked to pay a fiver or a tenner for it! And this gem has been rendered worthless.

Now, in order to detect what I have shown to be a howlingly obvious fake (it looked damned attractive too!) it was necessary to have a knowledge of (a) Early South American history, (b) the Portuguese language to translate the wording of the Naval frank, (c) early Paraguayan cancellations, and (d) the fact that first issue Paraguay would be locally used only and are not known to exist on cover. Quite a large order! I had no intention of working this article round into a puff for the P.H.S. Expertisation Committee, but it does stare one in the face that it is just as well that a Committee has been formed which has itself, or can lay its hands on, the various recondite pieces of knowledge which, when correctly correlated, enable these clever fakes to be detected.

While I am on this subject, I may as well make a job of it, and I would appeal to all-collectors, auctioneers and dealers alike-all over the world, who know or suspect that they have a forged cover of this type, to send it in, with full particulars of the seller, price paid, date bought, and so forth. These will be treated as strictly confidential, and no use made of them without the written sanction of the owners. The time may come when the flow of these fakes begins once again, and if collectors will co-operate now, it will be possible to defend them. Without such help, little, if anything, can be done. Moreover, I should like to make the point that in this matter we who collect covers depend on ourselves alone. Philatelic societies are associations of collectors of stamps in the loose, and we must face the fact that not one of them has strong interest for making any real effort of fight the forger of covers. I have many reasons for knowing that the collection of stamps on cover is gaining ground. We have the chance now to help the newcomer, and to protect ourselves from the next wave of forgeries. This most assuredly is coming. I could easily roll off some smooth phrases about general willingness to co-operate, but being a realist I prefer to take a line which will produce practical results. (Courtesy : The Philatelist, 1988).

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TRICK OF THE LIGHT **Astrid Mitchell**

Holography is growing in reputation as an innovative medium. In particular, this unique technology is increasingly being harnessed by the security and packaging industries as a result of the intrinsic security it imparts highly original and creative visual properties.

The dynamic graphic effects which holography can create have also caught the imagination of stamp designers around the world and two new issues of holographic stamps were released in July with the launch of commemorative stamps in the Isle of man and New Zeland.

Although it was the unique security properties of hologram which first led to their widespread introduction on cheque guarantee cards, in the main it is the promotional possibilities of holographic effects which have appealed to stamp designers.

In basic terms a hologram is a recording of light which allows a faithful three dimensional image to be trapped on a two dimensional flat surface, usually in the form of a flat glass plate \ or a piece of film. When light falls onto the film, the image is reconstructed in a remarkably life like form.

Holograms are recorded with laser light in specialist studios which are heavily insulated from sound, vibration or anything else that can cause movement. Making a hologram is a matter of illuminating a light sensitive plate with two beams of light. One of these reaches the plate directly from the laser, the other strikes the object (image), which may be artwork or a model, and is then reflected back onto the plate.

During the process a pattern of light is recorded onto the photographic plate as a diffraction pattern. The end product of the recording phase is a photoresist plate which has been processed so that areas of exposure and non-exposure manifest themselves as microscopic grooves.

From this original glass photoresist plate a nickel master is made. Using specific electrolytic techniques, mother, daughter and production shims are then developed, with the latter performing as elaborate printing plates to transfer the surface relief pattern into suitable plastic films and thermo lacquers which become the holographic foils.

In the final manufactured product it is the diffraction and interferences of incident light on the pattern of micro grooves implanted in the film which results in the holographic visual effect being reproduced. Holographic foils produced in this way are then hot stamped onto the pre-printed stamps to provide the finished product.

The introduction of sophisticated computer design facilities, integrated with computer generated holograms, has dramatically improved access to holography. This has allowed designers and clients to work with software programmes which present on-screen accurate representations of the final designs.

Finland was one of the first countries to apply holographic techniques to stamps with a commemorative issue in 1990 marking the conversion of Finnish Posts and telecommunications into a state commercial company.

Two special stamps were issued, with values of FIM 1.90 and FIM 2.50, printed in orange and blue respectively. In both cases the design of the stamps consisted of a photographic scene of Lake Pajanne by Matti Poutavaara. A hologram in the upper half of the stamps show a globe and the logo of the Posts and Telecommunications agency. Printed white lines reach out from the edge of the hologram across the landscape, symbolising the global operations of P&T, on land, at sea and through the air.

The issue comprised 1 million copies of each stamp, 20 stamps to a sheet, and each was 24mm by 34mm in size.

The first issue of Finnish holographic stamps was quickly taken up by collectors and a second series followed in May 1992. On this occasion three postage stamps were introduced to highlight Finnish technology and European co-operation. The hologram depicts trees and a river, and carries the words 'hitech' written in ASCII computer code arranged in a configuration suggesting the solar cells of a satellite.

The FIM 2.10 stamp commemorates the first Finnish patent and was issued to honour Finnish creativity and invention. The second stamp in the series, valued at

FIM 2.90, utilizes triangles over an electronic circuit design to symbolise European technological co-operation. The FIM 3.40 value stamp marks the 50th anniversary of the Government's Technology Research Centre.

All the holographic stamps produced by Finland were designed by the artist Pirkko Vahetero. Holographic shims were produced in the UK by Applied Holographics PLC and the stamps printed by Setec Oy in Helsinki.

In the summer of 1993 a holographic stamp was produced in connection with a fund-raising action launched by the Swiss-founded Pestalozzi organization.

The stamp was commissioned by the Pestalozzi Kinderdorf with the co-operation of the Mongolian Post Office in order to help finance the foundation of a new Pestalozzi Children's village in Mongolia.

The project was co-ordinated by the Hologram Company of Witzhave in Germany and involved the origination of a 3D/2D image of a model airship with a multi-coloured background graphic of a landscape. The hologram was recorded in the Swiss facility of 3D Ltd and then recombined as a registered array of images to match the print lay-out of the sheet of stamps.

Applied Holographics performed the embossing using the shims provided by 3D Ltd and also carried out the subsequent processing into hot stamping foil roll stock. The stamps were printed in Vienna by the Austrian State Printing Organisation, which also blocked the hot foil onto the pre-printed and perforated commemorative sheets.

Each sheet, designed as a collector's item, contained four large stamps and each stamp contained a 35x25mm hologram. The issue was limited to 25,000 sheets and the stamps were available in Germany during the latter part of 1993 at a sheet price of DM 14.00.

The Isle of Man Post Office celebrated 21 years of Independence this year on Tynwald Day, July 5, 1994. In commemoration a special £ 5 definitive hologram stamp has been issued featuring a reproduction of Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II. In the background, the Royal Cipher interchanged with the Three Legs of Man are featured as holograms.

The Royal Cipher, being nearer the surface, is visible at a much wider angle than the Three Legs motif, which, being deeper, can only be seen from a narrow angle.

This is the first time that a stamp featuring a hologram has been issued by a postal administration with in the British Isles. It was designed by Colleen Corlett and printed by Walsall Security Printers. Applied Holographics was responsible for the organization and processing of the holographic materials.

New Zealand issued the first holographic stamp in the Southern Hemisphere on July 20, to commemorate the 25th anniversary of man's landing on the moon.

Commissioned by the New Zealand Post Ltd, the stamp selvage depicts on outer space 'milky way' design while the stamp itself features the lunar surface with Earth in the background. The hologram incorporates three separate photographic images : a satellite image of New Zealand, the Earth seen from space and an astronaut moon walking. These have been combined to create an earthwise sequence. The hologram features three holographic effects which enable the stars to twinkle in the background.

The design of selvages and printed stamps was undertaken by Brand New Limited of Wellington. The hologram was designed as a collaborative effort between Southern Colour Print (a member of Bowater PLC), New Zealand Post and Applied Holographics.

Printing of the stamps was carried out on Southern Colour Print's six colour Heidelberg Speedmaster press and the holograms were produced by Applied Holographics PLC. Application of the hologram onto a central position within each stamp was undertaken with computerized blocking equipments to ensure the accuracy of registration required in postage stamp manufacture.

The diversity of origination techniques associated with embossed holography means that any manner and combination of images, logos, designs and animated sequences can be reproduced in a variety of iridescent colours. With such a vast array of dazzling and dynamic effects and imagery at their disposal, stamp designers look set to make even greater use of this medium in the future. (Courtesy : Stamp Magazine, 1994).

EUROPE'S RAREST STAMP

James A. Mackay



Europe's rarest stamp, the unique Swedish 3 skilling-banco error of colour (yellow instead of green), which sold for US\$1, 357, 140 in 1990.

Although Curry Gabriel Treffenberg (1791-1875) advocated the use of carta digillata or stamped letter sheets as early as 1823, it was not until 1855 that Sweden came into line with Britain and other European countries by introducing some method of prepaying postage by means of stamps.

Various proposals were considered by the Swedish government from 1847 onwards but the complexity of the domestic postal rates made their implementation impracticable until March 1855, when the system was completely overhauled. This paved the way for the adoption of adhesive stamps on July 1. The proposed stamps were described at length in a postal announcement of May 24 and the contract to print the gummed labels was awarded to Court Pehr Ambjorn Sparre, who had imported a flatbed press from England the previous year.

Court Sparre was in many respects a charming and attractive gentleman, with an entrepreneurial flair but

very little business sense. He mishandled the postage contract and soon lost it, though he subsequently regained it on condition that the actual work be superintended by his reliable manager, Scheutz. Sparree eventually moved to Paris where he developed a wide range of inventions, from paper cartridges to submarines, yet died in poverty. Scheutz, on the other hand had had a long career in journalism, publishing and printing before, at the age of 72, embarking on his final career as a stamp printer.

New postage rates based on weight were evolved which necessitated the issue of five denominations: 3, 4, 6, 8 and 24 skilling banco. Sparre was instructed to prepare a simple design incorporating the crowned scrolled shield of Sweden, emblazoned with the three crowns of Norraland, Svealand and Gotaland which had united in medieval times to form Sverige (literally the Swedish state). This shield was placed on a reticulated background with the country name SVERIGE across the top and the word FRIMARKE (postage stamp) running down up and left and right vertical panels respectively. The value, in words, appeared across the bottom.

A master die was engraved, hardened and pressed into blocks of soft steel to produce counterdies for each denomination. From these were produced the secondary dies with the value in words across the foot and the numerals of value inserted in the upper corners. From the secondary dies of each denomination were produced the 200 cast-metal clichés used to build up the printing plates.

The skilling-banco stamps were letterpress printed in double sheets, each of 10x10 subjects, with an ornamental watermark in the sheet margins and interpane gutters. Thin paper was first used, but following complaints about its relative fragility, some 23,000 double sheets were returned to the paper mill for calendaring and re sizing in order to make it more durable. A small quantity of thicker paper, amounting to about 200 double sheets, was sent to the printer in mid-summer and as this proved much better a consignment of 23,000 sheets was sent on August 13, 1856. This was employed in the later printings.

Although Sweden was slow to adopt stamps it was one of the first countries to adopt perforation. The skilling-banco stamps were perforated from the outset and credit for developing a practical perforator is given to the redoubtable sparre himself, although the machine was constructed on his behalf by J.A. Farngren of Stockholm. The original machine is preserved to this day in the Swedish postal museum and indicates that a gauge of 14 all round (still universally popular) was adopted, although wear and tear resulted in some stamps being perforated 13.5 vertically.

For many years it was thought that the clichés had been 'grown' electrolytically, but subsequent research proved that they were cast stereotypically from a lead alloy. As the clichés were cast from a master mould they should in theory have produced absolutely identical stamps, but inevitably minor flaws and blemishes arose in the course of manufacture, and these are quite numerous in the stamps themselves.

The stamps were printed with robust, inorganic inks using the best synthetic pigments then available. Interestingly, Ernest Wise (see Bibliography) discovered that the English red (red oxide of iron), yellow-ochre and ultramarine had almost certainly been supplied by an old-established firm not far from his home in Hull!

The colours adopted for the stamps were green (3sb), blue (4sb), grey (6sb), yellow (8sb), and red (24sb). The four higher denominations accorded with specific postal rates, but the 3sb was intended as a supplementary stamp which could be added to one or more of the other denominations to make up some of the overseas postal rates then in force.

As these were confined to the 15sb (Hamburg) and 27sb (Switzerland and the Low countries rates), the actual use of 3sb stamps was quite small, which accounts for the relative elusiveness of this stamp in used condition nowadays. Only some 1,000 stamps of this value were produced in four printings during the second half of 1855m but little more than 90,000 were actually in the course of the three years in which the stamp was current. There was, in fact, no requirement for 3sb stamps in the island mails at all. The skilling-franco definitives continued in use till 1858 when they were withdrawn as a result of the adoption of the riksdaler of 100 ore and replaced by somewhat similar stamp denominations in the new currency.

Strangely enough, even mint examples of the 3sb green are rare and so far only a single mint vertical pair, from the bottom right-hand corner of the sheet, has come to light. Larger multiples are unknown. Reprints were made officially on several occasions, in 1868, 1871 and 1885, but these differ in shade, gum paper and perforation from the originals.

Most of the used examples of this denomination appear to have come from the first printing of 40,000 and occur in two distinct shades to dull green and yellowish green are known from the fourth printing and are recorded with the postmarks of Stockholm or Carlskrona between August 1857 and July 1858. These stamps are also distinguished from the earlier printings by the particularly dense background to the heraldic shield.

Thirty years after their issue the 3 skilling banco green stamps had acquired a comparative rarity. A Stockholm dealer named H. Lichtenstein advertised in the Svenska Dagbladet that he was prepared to pay up to 7 kronor (about eight shillings) for good specimens. Fourteen year old Gerog Wilhelm Backman was no stamp collector, but, like all teenagers, he was perennially hard-up and wondered whether he might be lucky enough to find some specimens of the stamp among the family and business correspondence of his late grand father. During the Christmas vacation of 1885 he spent some time at his maternal grandmother's home and she gave him permission to go through the accumulated papers.

Ironically, on July 13, 1857, Olof Sillen, a young pharmacist and amateur botanist, sent from Nya Kopparberg to Munga a package containing a rare moss to the herbarium at Uppsala University. The recipient of the

package was, in fact, young Backman's grandfather. It may seem strange that a botanist trained to look for subtle minutiae of colour in specimens of plants and flowers should have overlooked the unusual colour of the postage stamp which he affixed to the packet, but it seems probable that he had never handled a 3sb stamp before and was unaware that its appearance was out of the ordinary.

I incline to the view that what he affixed to the packet he thought to be a perfectly good 8sb stamp. After all, that was the appropriate postal rate for his packet and it was doubtless sold to him in good faith by the postmaster at Nya Kopparberg as such, having been removed from a sheet containing yellow-orange 8sb stamps. Like wise, the recipient of the packet probably gave the stamp no second glance, assuming it to be an ordinary 8sb stamp whose appearance would be very familiar to him at that time.

Georg Backman, however, was on the lookout for stamps denominated 3sb and was unaware that there was anything unusual about the yellow colour. It was only when he took his specimens to the stamp dealer that the error of colour was spotted, Lichtenstein, however, handed over the customary 7 kronor without batting an eyelid. Many years later (1931) the now Lieutenant-Colonel Backman wrote up the story of how he had unwittingly stumbled on Europe's rarest stamp, for no other example of the 3sb in yellow was ever discovered.

At least he eventually managed to preserve a philosophical attitude about the whole affair. After all, seven kronor was quite a tidy sum for an impecunious teenager. Although he had removed the stamp from its letter sheet, so that only a portion of its dated postmark has been preserved, Backman could remember that it had been affixed to the wrapper containing the rare moss, for a fragment of this, together with the accompanying letter of July 13, 1857, had still been intact.

The story goes that Lichtenstein offered the lad only two or three kronor for each of the stamps he found. When Backman remonstrated, pointing out that the advertisement had promised 7kr for 3sb stamps, Lichtenstein agreed, but retorted that no stamps of that denomination were among the accumulation. It was then that Backman drew attention to one of the yellow stamps.

Even then, the canny Lichtenstein was not convinced until he had soaked the stamp in a solution which would have removed any adulterated colouring. After carefully drying and examining it under a magnifier, however, he came to the conclusion that the stamp was perfectly genuine and finally paid over the promised fee. Backman went on his way rejoicing, but this gave way to chagrin when, a few days later, he read in a Stockholm newspaper about a philatelic exhibition organised by Lichtenstein, in which the highlight was described as a 3sb stamp printed in yellow instead of green. Backman turned the colour of the normal 3sb on reading that a wealthy collector had already offered the dealer no less than 300 kronor for the rarity!

Backman recounted years later how he imagined he had a grievance against the wily dealer, but his mother

told him to be content as he had fulfilled his part of the bargain. Ever since that time, however, every mention of the celebrated error of colour had caused him a twinge of resentment, perfectly understandable in the circumstances.

Lichtenstein retained the stamp for several years but in about 1893 parted with it to the Viennese dealer Sigmund Friedl who offered it to Count Philip la renotiere von Ferrary in June 1894 for 4000 gulden (then about £400 sterling). The stamp thus disappeared from view and although its existence was well documented doubts regarding its authenticity were raised from time to time.

Almost 30 years elapsed before the stamp came on the market again. With other treasures in the legendary Ferrary Collection. It was seized by the French government as part of the German war reparations and was exposed for sale in the fourth of the Ferrary auctions, held at Paris on June 16, 1922. During the pre-sale preview Baraon Erik Leijonhufvud, the leading authority on Swedish stamps at the time, took the opportunity to examine the 3sb and pronounced that it was perfectly genuine and a colour error beyond any shadow of doubt. In fact, the baron could assert positively that the error belonged to the supplementary printing of 8sb stamps made in 1857 on the thicker paper, in a distinctive shade of yellow-orange.

From this Leijonhufvud concluded that a cliché of the 3sb had been included in the form of 8sb. Such a substitution may have occurred accidentally when an 8sb cliché was damaged and had to be replaced by a new one. The Baron backed his judgment by bidding successfully for the stamp, paying 30,000 francs. This, with 17.5 per cent sales tax, meant that he paid the equivalent of £694 at the prevailing rate of exchange.

Four years later, however, he parted with the stamp in a private deal with Claes A. Tamm, A. Tamm, a Stockholm engineer, who paid £1,500 for it. In turn, Tamm sold the stamp in 1928 to Dr Johan Ramberg of Goetborg for about £2,000. Ramberg was the proud owner of the stamp for nine years but in 1937 he disposed of it by private treaty through H.R. Harmer of London to King Carol of Romania for £5,000.

In 1950, along with a number of other rarities from the late King's collection, it was sold to the Belgian philatelist Rene Berlingen who sold it to a Canadian collector in 1953 for the equivalent of £12,720. In the 1970s when it was being offered by Stanley Gibbons in New York by private treaty at a sum not unadjacent to £30,000, but at that level it failed to attract a purchaser.

To bring us right up to date, the stamp was sold by D. Feldman of Zurich, in their sale on May 19, 1990, for the enormous sum of US\$1,357,140.

There is a charming end piece to this story. On July, 13, 1957, the little town of Nya Koppaberg celebrated the centenary of Europe's rarest stamp by naming a street Tré Skillings Vag its honour.

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(Courtesy : Gibbon's Stamp Monthly, 1981).

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CHICAGO GANDHIPEX

CHICAGO GANDHIPEX was a unique Mahatma Gandhi philatelic exposition held in Chicago from January 26 to February 12, 1971, at the Vice - Consulate of India, 201 North Michigan Avenue, Chicago, Illinois. The Exposition, the first of its kind to be held in the Western Hemisphere, was sponsored by the MAHATMA GANDHI SOCIETY OF GREATER CHICAGO, 1655 West Jackson Blvd., Chicago, Illinois. The theme of the GANDHIPEX was : "MAHATMA GANDHI: CHAMPION OF LIBERTY. The dates of the Exposition are significant as 26th January 1971 marks the tenth anniversary of the issuance of two MAHATMA GANDHI stamps by the United States under the series "CHAMPION OF LIBERTY". 26th January is also the REPUBLIC DAY of India. 12th February marks the birth anniversary of Abraham Lincoln, one of the greatest Presidents of America and a great Champion of Liberty and a crusader for human dignity like the Mahatma (GreatSoul).

CHICAGO GANDHIPEX portrayed Mahatma Gandhi, his life, teachings and philosophy through the prism of philately. Early in 1968, UNESCO in a Resolution directed Member States to observe appropriately the birth centenary of Gandhi, one of the most inspiring figures of our age. Pursuant to the UNESCO Resolution, National Gandhi Centennial commission/ committees were formed throughout the world. The U.S. Gandhi Centennial Commission was organized in early 1968 and was headed by the Hon. Hubert Humphrey, former U.S Vice - president and now a U.S.Senator. Regional committees were established in major cities. The most active committee was from Chicago which among other activities struck a Mahatma Gandhi Commemorative medallion and organized a symbolic fast. This Mahatma Gandhi Society of greater Chicago has now sponsored the MAHATMA GANDHI PHILATELIC EXPOSITION- THE CHICAGO GANDHIPEX - billed as the "most meaningful event of the years ."The postal Administrations of India and America participated in the Exposition . The Indian Postal Administration issued a special postal cancellation mark on January 26, the inaugural day of the Exposition . The Mahatma Gandhi Society of Greater Chicago also struck a special Gandhipex medallion on the occasion of the inauguration of the Gandhipex. Silver medallions are priced at \$10.00 and bronze at \$5.00each. Special electro-gold plated Gandhipex medallions were also struck and are priced at \$25.00. Those desirous of purchasing the medallions should write to the society early.

An Advisory Council assisted the Society in organizing the Gandhipex .The Chairman of the

Gandhipex was the internationally known philatelist, Dr. James J. Matejka, Jr. Members of the Gandhipex Advisory Council included Mr.Eustace Pereira, vice Consul for India, Chicago Illinois, Mr. Charless Hahn, Mrs Marian Zinsmeister, leading U.S.philatelists, Mr.&Mrs. Dhirubhai Mehta and Mr.Jal cooper, F.R.G.S.leading Indian philatelists and Dr. R.R. Diwakar, Chairman, Gandhi peace foundation, New Delhi, India.

Mrs. India Gandhi, Prime Minister of India, evinced a keen interest in the Chicago Gandhipex, and she has signed a few stamps-mint sheet -which were displayed at the Gandhipex. The Chicago Society is chaired by Mr. Patrick F. Crowley, a leading attorney at the area. The birth centenary of Mahatma Gandhi(1869-1968) was observed throughout the world in October 1969. The central concern of Gandhi's incredibly rich life of 78 years, was with human rights and the dignity of man. He was a common man, who worked for uncommon causes... the black, the white. His public career began in South Africa with his non-violent crusade for the abolition of all forms of discrimination against man. Upon his return to India from South Africa, he led history's most non-violent struggle for the independence of India. His principles of satyagraha and Ahimsa have become the bible of millions of oppressed people. Indeed his success is the success of mankind.

Early in life, Mahatma Gandhi symbolized man's quest for equality through non-violence. He made service to mankind the crown of his life...demonstrating by the example of his life that one man could make a difference... showing the warmth and oneness of the human race...and proving that the power of love, truth and brotherhood is all-pervasive and all-embracing. The common people of Jerusalem and Jericho looked to Jesus, not the elite and the intelligentia. The same is the case with Gandhi... a man who gave a new lease of life to the untouchables, whom he christened Harijans³. He founded no Church but left a rich legacy for the faithful.

The greatness of Mahatma Gandhi lies not in what he has done for others but in what others are doing on account of him. He has inspired a generation of people around the world. The late Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., was one of his principle disciples. Rev. Jessee L. Jackson, National Director of Operation Breadbasket and Cesar Chavez of the United Farm Workers, in this country; Danilo Dolci in Sicily; Don Helder Camara in Brazil; L'Abbe Pierre in France and Acharya Vinobha Bhave, Jayaprakash Narayan. Khan Abdul Graffar Khan and Acharya J.B. Kripalani in India - to mention only a few-carry on the unfinished mission of Gandhi who wanted to wipe away the tear from every eye.

In a special message to the Chicago Gandhipex, Mayor Daley of Chicago had stated that "Chicago is proud to join in honouring Mahatma Gandhi and to participate in the postal exhibition of stamps celebrating his unique contribution to civilization. The study of Mahatma Gandhi is an inspirational tale of how one man armed only with ideals, a passion for liberty and a philosophy of non-violence could change the course of history in his own country and influence significantly all the world".

Hon. L.K. Jha, Ambassador of India to the United States, in a special message to the Gandhipex had stated that "at a time full of tensions between nations and within nations, it is appropriate that the message and memory of Mahatma Gandhi should be revived. By deed and word, he proved that the war against wrong could be fought and won by non-violent means."

A special brochure was published to commemorate the Gandhipex. The brochure featured messages from the Prime Minister of India, several dignitaries and articles bringing out the relevance of Gandhi to our turbulent times.

Many countries have issued Mahatma Gandhi commemorative stamps. His own land, India, was the first to honour him in 1948. In 1961, the USA became the second country to honour Gandhi. The USA issued two stamps on Gandhi under the CHAMPION OF LIBERTY series (the theme of the Chicago Gandhipex) 4 cent and 8 cent denominations. During 1968 and 1970, several countries have honoured Gandhi including Great Britain which for the first time broke a 'foreigner'. Among the notable countries which have issued Gandhi stamps are Ireland, Brazil, Russia, West Germany, Hungary, Guyana, United Arab Republic, Syria, Malta, Greece, Cyprus, Chile, Uruguay, Yemen, and many others - in fact countries from both the hemispheres. During the Gandhi centenary year, India issued a series of new Gandhi stamps, post cards, aerogrammes and other philatelic memorabilia.

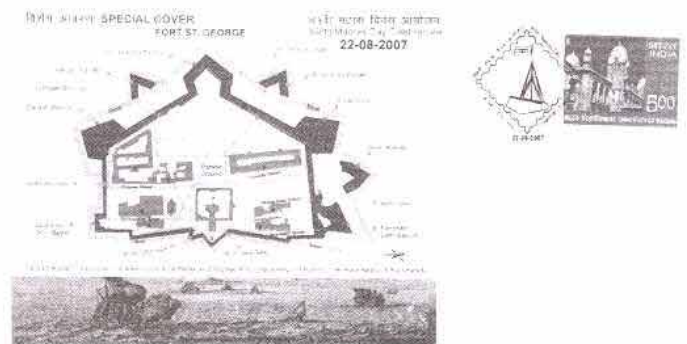
The Chicago Gandhipex was organized to focus attention on the life and teachings of Mahatma Gandhi. The Gandhipex was inaugurated on January 26, 1971 by the Hon. Samar Sen, Permanent Representative of India to the United Nations. The Mahatma Gandhi Society of Greater Chicago had offered for sale special cachets bearing the India Postal Cancellation Mark. Air India had name one flight as the CHICAGO GANDHIPEX FLIGHT and the cachets were flown from New Delhi to New York by that special flight. The price of the cachets is four for one dollar. Stamps from practically all the countries which have issued the Gandhi were on sale as well as Gandhipex medallion. The exhibition was open to the public and there was no admission fee. The Society is accepting orders for the cachets, Gandhi stamps and the Gandhipex medallions. Include 25 cents for postage and handling charges. Orders must be received on or before March 20, 1971. Cheques or drafts are to be drawn in favour of the MAHATMA GANDHI SOCIETY OF GREATER CHICAGO and sent to Mr. Theodore G. Mazarello, Co-ordinator, The Mahatma Gandhi Society of Greater Chicago, Apartment No. 1801, 1926 West Harrison Street, Chicago, Illinois, 60612.

(Courtesy : India's Stamp Journal, 1971)

LAST POST In Memoriam S.B. Raja Seetharaman

God calls them early whom he likes most. What else we can say about the unimaginable sudden disappearance of Mr. Raja Seetharaman from this world. Really, we lost an energetic, imaginative, and initiativeful gentlemen

comrade in ~~the~~ September 2008. Anybody who had been with him for a few hours will have the radiobion effect of his energy. No doubt the exhibitions and other programmes he organised, he associated, and he supported were all a great success. The last two 'Madras day's' were standing examples of his energetic experience. Above all the Indian Bank 'Collectibles 2008' exposition was the diamond on the crown of his achievements. People known about that event can recollect the untiring efforts he put to initiate the event without losing heart because of the obstacles he met initially and finally the sweet success he achieved. Whole heartedly we can say that philately lost a man of action and organisation. May his soul rest in peace.



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