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EDITORIAL

We saw, we got attracted, we collected, we enjoyed, we got pleasure and we got happiness. All right, what next? Is it not our duty to share with others? Is it not our duty to make others also enjoy? Yes, definitely. In Tamil there is a saying "Naan Petra Peru Peruga Eivvaiyagam" That means that the blessing I got, should the world - ie, others - also get. Are you perplexed what I am saying? I am saying that the enjoyment, the pleasure, the happiness we the senior philatelists have received from the hobby of stamp collecting or philately be given to the present generation.

Let us think of possible ideas in the last few months of 2008 and put into action in 2009? I have one such idea. Let everyone of us adapt one school each, near our residence for this purpose. Let us take a private school which may be easier to approach than a Govt. School. To start with list at least five such schools nearby. Try one by one. Rather than writing a letter to the Principal which may reach a dustbin earlier than a response, we shall meet him/her in his/her comparatively free time. It may go to the end limit of our patience. For the sake of the hobby, we can relax over this period. We shall explain to the Principal about the hobby, its benefits to children, student, teachers, parents and even to himself. Let us explain in detail how it can be done without disturbing their endeavor to make the students more studious, more scoring in examinations. Let us explain that this is not a costly hobby and can be adjusted to anybody and everybody's budget, and can be accommodated to every schoolboy's pocket money. Let us tell them that we can give adequate guidance cautiously for few years without any hindrance to their studies till the children can continue the hobby on their own. We will have their parents' willingness and support to go ahead in this effort in making the children into better citizens.

I hope that this is a workable way to every one of us, I mean we seniors who enjoy the pleasures of the hobby. In this workaholic world, money oriented world, in order that for the hobby to sustain, it is our responsibility to do something for the hobby. Members and readers may

give a hand towards this idea and also can come out with more ideas. Any workable idea can be sent to the editor so that it can be transmitted to other collectors to adapt and fellow.

In this connection, SIPA congratulates its member, Mr. Seshadri who does similar work in a few schools in Chennai and has converted quite a number of interested students into good collectors. Let others also follow his example and make many in the present young generation enjoy the hobby.



CONTENTS

Editorial	-	65
Stamp News	-	66
Antarctic Philately	-	69
Post Office Mauritius	-	77
Advertisers	-	79



Monthly Second Sunday Meetings

With President

Mr. G. Balakrishna Das on the Chair, 28 members attended the meeting on 10.8.2008.

Mr. Anil Reddy spoke on his recent acquisitions in general and 'joint - Issues' in particular.

STAMP NEWS INDIA CHINA : JOINT ISSUE

11.7.08 1500, 500 0.8 Mill each

India and China are two ancient civilizations endowed with rich histories, cultural heritages, which have had centuries long intellectual exchanges. Buddhism played a central role in initiating the movement of people and ideas between the two countries. Many Chinese scholars visited India in the first millennium to study Buddhism with many of them spending a decade or more in India. Many Indian scholars went to China and worked there between the first century and the eleventh century.



The first firm record of the arrival of Indian monks in China goes back to the first century, when Dharmaraksha and Kasyapa Matanga went at the invitation of Emperor Ming of the Han dynasty. The emperor sent a delegation of eighteen members headed by Cai Yin, Qin Jing and Wang Zun to seek Buddhism in India. The team crossed mountains and hills before finally arriving in what is now Afghanistan, where they studied Buddhist codes, got a portrait of Sakyamuni, and the Forty - two Sutras. While returning, they invited two eminent Indian monks, Kasyapa Matanga and Dharmaraksha (known in China by the names She Moteng and Zhu Falan) to come with them. They brought with them a white horse carrying Buddhist figures on its back. The two monks were highly respected by Emperor Ming. In A.D. 68, a temple was ordered to be built to the west of Luoyan City, which was named the White Horse Temple in memory of the white horse which carried back the Buddhist sutras.

It was in this temple that the first version of the Chinese Forty-two Sutras was produced, which was a work of translation done by the first Indian monks there. The monastery became a centre of Buddhist studies. Ever since, Buddhism exerted more and more influence on the life of the Chinese and spread as far as Japan, Korea and Vietnam. That is why the White Horse Temple is referred to as "the Founder's Home" and "the Cradle of Buddhism".

Theme : Religions, Buddhism, History.

14 PUNJAB (NABHA AKAL)

21.7.08 500 0.8mil

The history of NABHAAKAL spans 250 years from 1757 to 2007, enveloping within its folds State Wars, Expeditionary Force and the two World Wars apart from post independence operations. The history of this unit reflects the history of our Army and particularly Punjab State Forces. 14th Battalion the Punjab Regiment is the oldest regiment of the Indian Army. The



Regiment has in its fold battalions, Rastriya Rifles battalions, and Territorial Army (Home and health) battalions. Apart from this, the regiment has affiliations with PARA, GUARDS, Mechanised Infantry battalion India Naval Ship.

Historically speaking 14 PUNJAB (NABHAAKAL) was formed out of irregular forces maintained by the ruler of Nabha. Chowdhary Hamir Singh succeeded his father in 1757 and formed a regular brigade group out of these forces. In 1759, the 1st and 2nd Battalions were named 1st and 2nd Nabha Akal Infantry. Maharaja Hari Sing took keen interest in the unit and reorganised the Nabha Brigade. Nabha Akal Infantry was named as Hari Bera in 1878.

During World War I the 1st Nabha Akal Infantry, under command Colonel Sarder Bahadur Bachan Singh, proceeded to Basra in Mesopotamia in April 1918. In 1919, the Battalion was called upon to proceed on active service for the British Crown against General Nadir Khan of East Persia.

The integration of the unit with Indian Army was completed on 31 March, 1951, and it was designated 14 PUBJAB (NABHA AKAL) on 26 January 1954. In 1965, the Battalion took part in operations in Fazilka sector. It exhibited excellent fighting skills and was decorated with a number of awards including one Vir Chakra. During the 1971 Indo-Pak war, NABHA AKAL displayed exemplary valour at Garibpur in Bangladesh. Under the command of Lieutenant Colonel RK Singh, MVC, NABHAAKAL fought magnificently. In this epoch battle the Unit earned a number of gallantry awards including two Maha Vir Chakras and two Vir Chakras. In 1974, while in NEFA, the battalion carried out Counter Insurgency operations under the command of Lieutenant Colonel Surat Singh, SM, VSM, from October 1974 to September 1976 and was declared the best battalion of the Division the unit also has the unique privilege of independently launching two successful mountaineering expeditions to Mt Srikanta (6133 Mtr) and Tri Mukhi (6422 Mtr) in 1993 - 1994.

NABHA AKAL has also had the distinction of being part of UN Peace Keeping Force in Angola (UNAVEM III) in 1995-96, there the battalion was instrumental in opening roads in the Northern Region of the country, which had been ravaged by war for over 25 years. The Unit constructed three Quartering Areas (QA) and one Weapon Storage Area (WSA) in record time. Theme : Armed Forces, Army, Uniform, Punjab

DAMODAR DHARMANANDA KOSAMBI

31.7.08 500 0.4 mill

Damodar Dharmananda Kosambi was a Mathematician, statistician and Sanskritist, who contributed in genetics by introducing Kosambi's Map function. He was well known for his work in Numismatics and for compiling critical editions of some ancient Sanskrit texts.

D a m o d a r
 Dharmananda Kosambi was born in 1907 at Kosben in Goa. After few years of schooling in India, in 1918 Damodar Dharmananda Kosambi went to Massachusetts. There he spent a year in the Grammar School and was admitted to the Cambridge High and Latin School in 1920. He was one of the few candidates who were exempted on their merit from passing an entrance examination. He joined the University in 1924, but eventually postponed his studies and returned to India. In January 1926, Kosambi returned to the US with his father. Shri Kosambi studied Mathematics under George David Birkhoff who wanted him to concentrate on Mathematics but ambitious Kosambi instead took many diverse courses excelling in each of them. In 1929, Harvard University awarded him Bachelor of Arts Degree with summa cum laude.



On return to India Shri Kosambi obtained the post of Professor at the Banaras Hindu University. He taught German along with Mathematics. In 1930 he published his first research paper "Precession of an Elliptic Orbit" in the Indian Journal of Physics in 1930.

In 1931 he got married to Nalini and also obtained job at the Aligarh Muslim University. During his two years stay in Aligarh, he produced eight research papers in the general Area of Differential Geometry and Path Spaces.

In 1933 he joined Deccan Education Society's Fergusson College in Pune, where he taught mathematics for the next 12 years.

In 1944 he published a small article of 4 pages titled "The estimation of Map Distance from Recombination values" in Annals of Eugenics, in which he introduced what later came to be known as Kosambi's Map function.

In 1945, Homi J. Bhabha invited Kosambi to join Tata Institute of Fundamental Research (TIFR) as Professor of Mathematics. In 1948-49 he was sent to England and the US as a UNESCO Fellow to study the theoretical and technical aspects of the Computer.

Shri Kosambi exit Tata Institute of Fundamental Research in 1962 and concentrated on his research in ancient Indian history culminating into his book "The Culture and Civilization of Ancient India" which was published in 1965.

In June 1964, Shri Kosambi was appointed as a Scientist Emeritus on the Council of Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR).

He got involved in many historical, scientific and archaeological projects. On June 29, 1966 he died in Pune. He was posthumously decorated with 'Hari Om Ashram' Award by the Government of India's University Grants Commission in 1980.

Theme : Pioneers, Scientists, Mathematics, History.

ALDABRA GIANT TORTOISE

2.8.08

500, 1500

3 mill each

This is the story of a tortoise named Adwaitya. Before he died in the year 2006 in Alipore Zoological Garden, Kolkata, he was perhaps the longest living animal in the world having lived for more than 250 years.

There is no one old enough to tell us exactly how his early life progressed. It is said that British sailors coming to India picked up tortoises from the Aldabra Island in the Indian Ocean, on way to India. Four such tortoises were brought to the Alipore Zoo established by Wellesley in 1800. Three of them eventually died in the last 130 years at different times. To save Adwaitya, the last surviving specimen from being teased by unruly visitors, he was kept in a secluded enclosure. Subsequently, on 30th November, 1994 he was shifted to a centrally located octagonal enclosure so that visitors could see this living wonder.



People lovingly called him Adwaitya meaning the matchless or the unique (Hindi : Adviteeya i.e. unique or no second) The Aldabra Giant Tortoise (*Geochelone gigantea*), is a native of Aldabra atoll, part of the Seychelles Islands in the Indian Ocean. The Aldabra atoll has been protected from human influences since late 19th Century and is home to a large number of giant

tortoises. The size of an Aldabra Giant Tortoise can be up to 4ft in length and the weight can be about 550 lbs. They are normally dark gray to black in colour, have small pointed head covered with scales, a long neck, a highly domed carapace and thick, bony scales on forelegs. Breeding season extends from February to May. The female usually lays 4 to 25 eggs and incubation is about 4 months.

Giant Tortoises have been subject of scientific research for conservation and breeding. It is said that they can survive up to six months without food and water. Indiscriminate hunting has threatened the survival of Giant Tortoises in Galapagos as well as in the Indian Ocean islands.

Adwaitya already had eighty years behind him by the time Charles Darwin arrived at Galapagos and forever changed the way we look at our evolution. India's first war of independence in 1857, partition of Bengal in 1905, the two World Wars, strides in the field of science and technology, the theory of relativity, conquest of the space, the moon, the Everest, the making of and later breaking of the wall of Berlin... events passed on the world stage but, unconcerned and unaffected, Adwaitya, the matchless kept growing and gathering layers of time, more like an unmindful rock sitting by the riverside.

Adwaitya became ill several months before his death after a crack developed around a wound on his chest, and ultimately succumbed on 22nd March, 2006.
Theme : Nature, Animals, Tortoises, Marine Mammals.

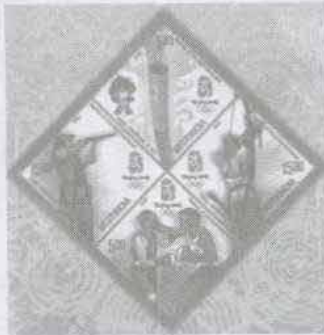
The Games of the XXIX Olympiad, Beijing 2008

8.8.2008 500, 500,1500,1500 0.8 mill each

The theme slogan of XXIX Olympic Games 2008 "One World One Dream" fully reflects the essence and the universal values of the Olympic spirit Unity, Friendship, Progress, Harmony, Participation and Dream.

The 2008 summer Olympic Games, officially known as the Games of the XXIX Olympiad is a Summer Olympics event, that will be held in Beijing, People's Republic of China from August 08 to August 24,2008. 10,500 athletes are expected to compete in 302 events in 28 sports, just one event more than was on the schedule of the 2004 games.

The Olympic games were awarded to Beijing after an exhaustive ballot of the International Olympic Committee (IOC) on July 13, 2001. The official logo of the games, titled "Dancing Beijing," features a stylized calligraphic character jing, meaning capital, referring to the host city. The mascots of Beijing 2008 are the five Fuwa, each representing both a colour of the Olympic rings and a symbol of Chinese culture. The Olympic slogan, One World, One Dream, calls upon the world to unite in the Olympic spirit.



The ancient Olympic Games began in the year 776 BC, when Koroibos, a cook from the nearby city of Elis, won the stadio race, a foot race 600 feet long. According to legends Heracles, the creator of Olympic games in honour of his father Zeus, walked in straight line for 400 strides and called this distance a "station" (Latin : stadium, :stage") that later also became a unit of distance. That is why a modern stadium track is 400 meters in circumference the distance a runner travels in one lap (1 stadium=400m).

For almost 12 centuries the Games were held in Olympia every four years. Thereafter the games went into oblivion. It took 1503 years for the Olympics to return. The first modern Olympics were held in Athens, Greece, in 1896. The man responsible for its rebirth was a Frenchman named Baron Pierre de Coubertin.

From the 241 participants from 14 nations in 1896, the Games grew to nearly 11, 100 competitors from 202 countries at the 2004 summer Olympics in Athens.

The Olympic movement uses many symbols, most of them representing Coubertin's ideas and ideals. The

Olympic Rings are the most widely used symbol. These five intertwined rings represent in unity of the five inhabited continents (with the Americas regarded as one continent).

The Olympic Motto is "Cittus, Altius, Fortius", a Latin phrase meaning "Swifter, Higher, Stronger". Coubertin's ideals are probably best illustrated by the Olympic Creed:

"The most important thing in the Olympic Games is not to win but to take part, just as the most important thing in life is not the triumph but the struggle. The essential thing is not to have conquered but to have fought well".

Prior to each Games, the Olympic Flame is lit in Olympia, Greece and brought to the host city by runners carrying the torch in relay. There it plays an important role in the opening ceremonies. Though the torch fire has been around since 1928, the relay was introduced in 1936.

The Olympic mascot, an animal or human figure representing the cultural heritage of the host country, was introduced in 1968. It has played an important part of the games since 1980 with the debut of Misha, a Russian bear.

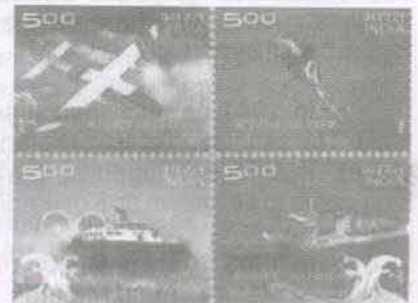
Today the Olympic Games is the most important and largest sporting event in the world. It is called "the longest lasting social activity that exists" and is followed by billions of spectators around the world.

Theme : Sports & Games, Olympics. Human endeavor.

INDIAN COST GUARD

12.8.08 4 x 500 0.8 mill each

The United Nations Third Conference on the Laws of the Seas in 1973 stressed the need for protection of life and property at sea, enforcement of national jurisdiction in the maritime zones and creating



awareness towards dangers to ocean resources from sea pollution. This required an organization which would be competent to not only enforce laws in the maritime waters of the nation but also to work as an agency for educating stake holders on protecting the maritime resources from pollution and degradation. With this objective in mind, the Government of India constituted the Indian Coast Guard Organization on 1st February, 1977 as an Armed Force of the Union under the Ministry of Defence. It is primarily a law enforcement agency of the Government of India.

The Coast Guard's broad charter of duties include providing protection to fishermen including assistance to them at sea while in distress, preservation and protection of marine environment, safety and protection of offshore installations and artificial islands, prevention and control of marine pollution, carrying out anti smuggling and anti piracy operations and ensuring safety of life and property at sea.

The Coast Guard is ready round the clock, round the year to meet any eventuality at sea, with a CG ship on patrol at sea in most parts of India's waters with ready response capability.

In recognition of its sterling services to the nation, a set of four stamps and miniature sheet are being issued. The stamps have been designed to highlight relationship between the Maritime Waters of India and the Indian Coast Guard. The first two stamps highlight the air capabilities of the Indian Coast Guard, showing a Dornier Fixed Wing Aircraft and an Advanced Light Helicopter. The Dornier has played a major role in locating vessels in distress, intercepting suspected pirates and spotting vessels carrying contraband. The Advanced Light Helicopter and the Chetak are extremely well suited for rescue operations at sea.

The surface capability of the Coast Guard is shown through stamps depicting a Hover craft and an Advance Offshore Patrol Vessel. The Hover craft is an amphibious vessel capable of both near shore and deep sea operations.

The miniature sheet depicts the coordinated air and surface capability of the Indian Coast Guard against a backdrop of a serene blue sea merging with clear skies in the horizon.

Theme : Sea, National Security, Ships, Armed Forces.

USTAD BISMILLAH KHAN

21.8.2008 500 0.4 mill

The notion and concept of Sound (Nada) is intricately woven into the spiritual fabric of the Indian tradition. Classical music has been viewed as a "sadhana" (discipline), an existential search through melody. This search for the Self through music is at the heart of all great classical music but has perhaps been best embodied, in the modern era, in the persona and Shehnai of Ustad Bismillah Khan.



Born on March 21, 1916 into a family of court musicians in the erstwhile princely state of Dumraon in Bihar, Ustad Bismillah Khan was the second son of Paigambar Khan and Mitthan. He learnt the nuances of the Shehnai from his uncle, Ali Bux 'Vilayatu', who was the official Shehnai player at the famous Kashi Vishwanath temple at Varanasi.

There was a marked change in the way the Shehnai began to be perceived, evolving from being just a Shushir Vadya (Aerophonic Musical Instrument) to a concert instrument playing out intricate ragas. The next seven decades saw the word "Shehnai" becoming so completely synonymous with the name of Ustad Bismillah Khan.

Interwoven into his consciousness of music and the Shehnai was his passion for the city of Benaras and its culture story. Though he played in almost all capital cities across the world, his heart would find a dozen reasons for quickly returning to Varanasi. Just as the Shehnai seemed to play within him as a soul-companion (he would lovingly call it Begum after the death of his wife), Varanasi too seemed to root his mystical search for the infinite. His haunting rendition of the various ragas on the Shehnai saw him accorded the rare privilege of performing on the occasion of India's Independence Day, August 15th, 1947, where he played Raag Kafi as well as on the occasion of India's first Republic Day on January 26th, 1950, where he composed and played a tune, "Sange dware badhiye baje", inspired by the local rhythms of the boatmen at Benaras.

Many recognitions and awards came his way: Sangeet Natak Academy Award (1956), Padma Vibhushan (1980) are some of the examples of a nation's gratitude and affection toward the musical genius. He was also conferred with the highest civilian award 'Bharat Ratna' in 2001.

His musical genius was completed by not his simplicity but his generosity as well-the well-known story of his house at Benaras being christened "Bismillah Hotel", where food would be provided to every hungry visitor, is testimony to the great values he stood for, which he believed were taught to him by the all-encompassing spirit of music. "Music alone knows no caste", he would say, "... and even if the world was to end, music would still survive".

Bismillah Khan had a brief association with movies. He acted in Satyajit Ray's 'Jalsaghar' and provided the haunting tunes of Shehnai in the movie 'Gooji Uthi Shehnai'.

Bismillah Khan fell in on 17th August, 2006 and four days later on August, 21, 2006 he passed away at the age of ninety.

Theme : Music, Musicians, Classical music, Pioneers.

ANTARCTIC PHILATELY Ronald Banks

Exactly two hundred years ago Captain James Cook, in HMS Resolution, began his last and greatest voyage to the Pacific. During the southern summers of 1772-3 and 1773-4 he circumnavigated the southern oceans, penetrating the Antarctic Circle on several occasions and reaching as far south as Thruston Island in 71°1-'10's. Significantly no other explorer got as far in that direction till the summer of 1959-60 when two United States ice-breakers forced their way past the island and into the Bellingshausen Sea.



Ironically Cook never actually sighted any part of the Terra Australis nondum cognita --- "the Southern Land not yet known" of the medieval map-makers and philosophers though he certainly deserves to be known as the pioneer of Antarctic exploration. For centuries men had argued the existence of a southern continent, to balance the land masses of America, Europe and Asia in the northern hemisphere. At least Cook proved that, if a southern land did exist, it was too remote and inhospitable to be of any use to mankind.

Cook discovered the sub-Antarctic island which he named South Georgia in honour of King George III. It is to be hoped that the bicentenary of this occasion will be marked by an issue of stamps next year. Among the numerous stamps featuring Captain Cook are the Niue Id stamp of 1950 and the Norfolk Island 1c of 1967 which depicted the ship used on the last voyage.

In the eighteenth century the rivalry between Britain and France in the exploration of the world was intense. In 1738 Bouvet de Lozier had discovered the sub-Antarctic island which now bears his name. In 1772 Yves-Joseph de Kerguelen-Termarec embarked on an expedition rivaling that of Captain Cook. In the southern Indian Ocean he discovered an archipelago of about 300 islands. This he named after himself and formally took possession of it in the name of King Louis XV, though this act was not ratified by the French government until 1983. The same year Captain Dufresne and his mate Crozet discovered a group of islands now named after the latter. France recently issued a stamp honouring the discoveries of Kerguelen and Crozet in 1772. Kerguelen and his ships were featured on a 25f stamp released by French Southern Antarctic Territories in 1960.

The expeditions of Cook and the French navigators were something of a disappointment to their respective governments. No fresh voyages to the Antarctic were sanctioned for almost half a century, though in the intervening years whalers and seal hunters made many trips into the southern oceans and South Georgia was established as a whaling station by 1793 the first semi-permanent human settlement in the sub-Antarctic region. In 1819-20 Edward Bransfield surveyed the South Shetlands and penetrated to latitude 63 degrees. More than a century later it was proved conclusively that Bransfield had sighted the northern extremity of Graham Land and thus was the first explorer to see the Antarctic continent. But for years he has been overshadowed by more illustrious men.



His memory was perpetuated in the whale-catcher Bransfield, shown on the 1½d stamp of the Falklands Centenary set of 1933. Bransfield's expedition coincided with two other Russian, so that all three nations claim the honour of first sighting the Antarctic continent. Captain Nathaniel B. Palmer, in the United States ship Hero, sailed down the coast of the Antarctic peninsula which the Americans call Point Palmer (the British call it Graham Land, the Argentinians Tierra San Martin and the Chileans Tierra O' Higgins). Historians have long wrangled over the American claim, since Bransfield visited the same area ten months earlier.

No American stamps have paid tribute to the work of Palmer either, but the Russian claimant has fared much better. In 1819 Tsar Alexander I of Russia dispatched two ships, the Mirny and the Vostok under the command of the Baltic German Thaddeus von Bellingshausen. This redoubtable seaman circumnavigated Antarctica in 1820-21, discovering and naming islands after Peter the Great and Alexander I. On the meridian of Greenwich itself Bellingshausen sighted the Antarctic coast without realizing it. For a period after the Second World War (1949-50) the Soviet government attempted to use Bellingshausen's discoveries to substantiate a claim to sovereignty over a slice of Antarctica, but this was not subsequently followed up. Nevertheless Bellingshausen, his companion Lazarev and their two ships have been featured on several modern Russian stamps. Two stamps appeared in 1950 to emphasise Soviet claims and portrayed Bellingshausen and Lazarev, their ships and a map of Antarctica. She maintains two important bases named, appropriately, after the ships of 1819-21. Views of these bases have appeared on Russian stamps of 1956 and 1966.

The period from 1820 to 1840 was the great era of whaling in Antarctica waters and much of the exploration conducted at that time was by whaling captains such as James Weddell and John Biscoe. Neither have been portrayed on stamps, though the research vessel named after Biscoe has been featured on the Falkland Islands Dependencies ½d stamp of 1954. The middle period of the nineteenth century was marked by increased scientific activity. James Clark Ross, who had discovered the North Magnetic pole in 1831, determined to find its southern equivalent. In 1840 he set out in the Erebus and the Terror from Tasmania, discovered Victoria Land and entered the Ross Sea which was to prove, sixty years later, to be the gateway to all the great Antarctic discoveries. Ross was portrayed on the 3p stamp issued by Britain in February 1972. HMS Erebus and Victoria Land were featured on the 3d and 2c stamps issued by the Ross Dependency in 1957 and 1967 respectively. The territory to which Ross gave his name was assigned by Britain to New Zealand in 1923.

About the same time the French and Americans were also exploring Antarctica. In 1837 the French Ministry of Marine sent Dumont d'Urville south and in the ensuing season he charted the coast of Graham Land and in 1840 discovered the land which he named Terre Adelie after his wife. The Madagascar 100f airmail stamp was belatedly over-printed in 1948 to mark the centenary of this discovery. A 50f stamp was issued by French Antarctica in 1965 to mark the 125th anniversary. In 1838 Charles Wilkes

led the United States Exploring expedition to the Antarctic and in the period up to 1841 he mapped out Wilkes Land. No American stamps have portrayed Wilkes.

The second half of the nineteenth century was conspicuous for the lack of interest in the Antarctica, even though 1882 was designated International Polar Year. There was a certain amount of exploratory work in the sub-Antarctica, but the first men to explore the coast of the continent itself were Kristensen and Bull who visited Cape Adare in 1895. The Norwegians became interested in Antarctica in the 1890s. C.A. Larsen Charted the eastern tip of Graham Land in 1892 and nine years later skippered the ship used by the Nordenskiöld Expedition of 1901. The century ended with an expedition led by Adrien de Gerlache in the Belgica. This expedition was partly sponsored by the Belgian authorities. He discovered De Gelache Strait and voyaged south as far as Alexander Islands where the Belgica was trapped in the polar ice. The Belgians thus became the first to spend winter in the Antarctic. The 50th anniversary of this expedition was marked by two stamps issued in 1947 portraying de Gerlache and depicting his ship. The latter also appeared on the L1 stamp of the Falkland Dependencies, issued in 1954.

Subsequent expeditions to the Antarctic not only spent some time ashore, but also attempted to penetrate the hinterland. The Falkland Islands Dependencies definitive series of 1954 illustrates the history of Antarctic exploration in the present century, each stamp featuring the ship connected with a famous expedition or a period of survey work.

A British party, led by Borchgrevink, landed from the Southern Cross in 1899 and wintered at Cape Adare. This was the first human settlement on the Antarctic continent itself. The Borchgrevink expedition paved the way for the much more ambitious National Antarctic Expedition commanded by Captain Robert Falcon Scott in 1901-4. In terms of scientific and geographical knowledge gained this was the most successful expedition made up to that time, and its achievements were not surpassed till 1956-7, International Geophysical Year. Scott was not so much concerned with trying to push farther south, but with filling in the details and the gaps in previous study of Antarctica. Scott's ship, Discovery, appeared on the 6d stamp of the Falkland Dependencies 1954 series. He himself was portrayed in the Ross Dependecny 4d and 3c stamps and the top value of the British set of 1972. More significantly perhaps was the fact expedition and produced an item of philatelic interest. Labels inscribed "National Antarctic Expedition" were affixed to mail dispatched by the relief ship Morning Star and covers and stickers are now highly prized by polar philatelists. Scott discovered and named King Edward VII Land and penetrated as far south as 82° 23'.

At the same time Sweden dispatched Otto Nordenskiöld in the Antarctic. This semi-private expedition wintered for two years on Snow Hill Island near Hope Bay.

Sweden never followed up this expedition, nor has she ever issued stamps to commemorate the event, though the Antarctic is to be found on the 10s stamp of the 1954 Falkland Dependencies series.

In 1902 Dr. W.S. Bruce led the Scottish National Antarctic Expedition in the Scotia, subsequently establishing a meteorological station on Laurie Scotia was depicted on the 5s stamp of the Falkland Dependencies 1954 set.

It was at this point that Argentina began to take an active interest in Antarctica. In 1903 the Argentine ship Uruguay penetrated the Antarctic seas and rescued Nordenskiöld's expedition after their ship was crushed in the ice. The 50th anniversary of this dramatic rescue was marked by an Argentinian stamp showing the rescue ship and a map of that sector of Antarctica claimed by Argentina. The following year Dr. Bruce handed over the meteorological station on Laurie Island to the Argentinians who have maintained it ever since. In 1954 Argentina issued a 1.50 peso stamp to celebrate the 50th anniversary of the radio-postal station in the South Orkneys. It showed an Argentinian planting the national flag on Laurie Island. Argentine activity in this area was for many years confined to relieving the radio station once a year, but since 1946 Argentina has extended the number of bases and scientific stations in the South Orkneys, South Shetlands and Graham Land, much to the consternation of Great Britain which formally annexed this area in 1908 — the first power to make territorial claims on the Antarctic continent. Rivalry between Britain and Argentina (exacerbated in the past 20 years by the intervention of Chile as well) has sometimes been bitter, but in the present climate of international co-operation the narrow chauvinism of former times has been largely eliminated.

In 1903-5 the Frenchmen, Jean Charcot, led an expedition in the Francais, exploring the coast but not going inland. In 1908-10 he led a second expedition in the Pourquoï-Pas? which not only charted the Bellingshausen Sea but also established a base on Petermann Island. Marguerite Bay and Charcot Island were also discovered and named and he made several journeys across Graham Land. Charcot's two ships were featured on the 2s6d and the 2s stamps of the Falkland Islands Dependencies 1954 series, while he himself was portrayed on two French stamps of 1938 in aid of the Shipwrecked Mariners Fund. Charcot disappeared without trace on an Antarctic expedition in 1937. The 25th anniversary of his loss was marked by a 25f stamp of the French Southern and Antarctic Territories in 1962.

Meanwhile Ernest Shackleton organised and led the British Antarctic Expedition of 1907-9 and mapped the continent as far south as the Beardmore Glacier and the great Polar Plateau. Before leaving port Lyttelton in New Zealand on board the Nimrod Shackleton had been appointed postmaster of King Edward VII Land and supplied with a quantity of Penny Universals suitably overprinted. These stamps were the first to be produced specifically for use in Antarctica. Shackleton made a



second voyage south leading the Trans-Antarctica Expedition of 1914-17 in the endurance which was featured on the Falklands 9d stamp of 1954. Shackleton's portrait appeared alongside Scott on the Ross Dependency 4d and 3c stamps.

The next phase in Antarctica exploration was the race to the South Pole. A British expedition, led by Captain Scott in the Terra Nova set out in 1910. Again the New Zealand authorities obligingly supplied a stock of stamps overprinted VICTORIA LAND for use by the expedition. Scott's party finally reached the South Pole on 18 January, 1912, only to find that the Norwegians, under Roald Amundsen's team reached the South Pole in December 1911 and took possession of Haakon VII Plateau. Amundsen later explored the Arctic regions and with Fridtjof Nansen was portrayed on several Norwegian stamps. His tent at the South Pole was shown on a Norwegian stamp of 1961.

In the period immediately before the First World War Antarctic expeditions were mounted by Germany and Japan. German interest in the region stemmed from a modest expedition led by Captain Edouard Dallman in 1873. Professor Erich von Drygalski led an expedition in 1901-3 and then in 1910-12 Wilhelm Filchner in the Deutschland explored the Weddel Sea and discovered the great ice self which bears his name. The Deutschland was depicted on the 1s stamp of the 1954 Falkland Dependencies set. In 1910 Lieutenant Choky Shirase left Japan for the Antarctic in the tiny Kainan Maru. The expedition failed to penetrate Antarctic waters that year, but in 1911 made contact with Amudsen's party and subsequently made several sledge journeys over the Ross Ice Shelf, landing at Kainan Bay and Okuma Bay. Shirase was portrayed on a 10 yen stamp released by Japan in 1960.

In 1911 an Australian National Antarctic Expedition was mounted by Sir Douglas Mawson. Two years earlier he had been with the Shackleton team which reached the South Magnetic Pole and with Dr. Mackay and Edgeworth David he was shown on the Australian Antarctic Territory 5d stamps 1959 and 1961. His portrait, in balaclava helmet, appeared on a stamp of 1961 marking the 50th anniversary of his own expedition. This venture, lasting almost three years, was noted for the geological and physical knowledge gained. Significantly mapping was now subordinated to the sciences of geology and terrestrial magnetism.

The First World War brought the "heroic" phase of Antarctica exploration to an end. Shackleton set out on his last voyage in 1921 in the steam yacht Quest, the expedition being financed by J.Q. Rowett. The Shackleton Rowett Expedition was given a stock of British stamps and three large rectangular "Overprints" inscribed for Tristan da Cunha, Enderby Land and Gough Island, together with a circular date-stamp. Shackleton died of angina pectoris in January 1922 and was buried at South Georgia. His

funeral cairn was shown on the 2s and 10p definitives of South Georgia, which also released a set of four stamps in January 1972 to mark the 50th anniversary of his death. The stamps depict the Quest and the James Caird as well as Shackleton's portrait. In 1971 Tristan de cunha issued a set of stamps in memory of the Shackleton Rowett Expedition. One of the stamps with the Tristan overprint. These stamps were applied to cover "by favour" only, when the Quest called at the island on the homeward journey.

The death of Shackleton stirred the British public and led to renewed government interest in Antarctica. In 1925 the Discovery Committee was formed and a new expedition, primarily interested in whaling surveys, was dispatched to the south in Scott's old ship Discovery (Falkland Dependencies 6d of 1954). This expedition lasted till 1927 and in the following year the Americans, Wilkins and Hearst made the first aerial survey of Antarctica. The British, Australian and New Zealand Antarctic Research Expedition BANZARE for short visited Antarctica in 1929-30 and 1930-31 using the Discovery. No stamps were provided specifically for this expedition, though in the second season Australian stamps were used with a special postmark featuring a penguin in the centre.

During the Twenties, Britain also stepped up her political activity in Antarctica. In 1923 Britain laid claim to an enormous sector of Antarctica which was transferred to New Zealand. Ten years later another wedge of the southern continent was claimed on behalf of Australia, as a result of Mawson's BANZARE venture. In the same year Britain celebrated the centenary of her occupation of the Falkland Islands with a lengthy set of stamps, several of which had Antarctic themes. Since 1926 the research ship William Scoresby had been employed on intermittent coastal surveys and ice patrols in Antarctic waters. This ship, which remained in service till 1946, was featured on the 9d stamp of the Falklands series of 1938 and the 4d of the Dependencies series of 1954. British territorial ambitions in Antarctica spurred other nations. In 1939 Norway laid Claim to Queen Maud Land, Argentina established a National Antarctic Commission to press her claims to Tierra San Martin, Chile claimed all of Graham Land. It was a Chilean ship, under Captain Pardo, which came to the rescue of Shackleton in 1916 when the Endurance was crushed by the ice. Two stamps issued by Chile in 1967 commemorate this event. In more recent times the Chilean President, Gonzalez Videla, was the first head of state to visit Antarctica, when he inaugurated the O'Higgins station in 1948. In 1956 Chilean National Airlines staged the first genuine tourist flight over Antarctica, a fact alluded to in the 10c inland airmail definitive stamp of 1962.

Space does not permit me to dwell on the political war waged by Argentina, Chile and Britain over Antarctica by means of postage stamps. In 1944 the low value Falklands stamps were over-printed for use in each of the four territories of Graham Land, South Georgia, South Orkneys and South Shetlands and were followed in 1946 by a general map series for the Falkland Islands Dependencies. These were the first stamps produced for permanent postal use in Antarctica, and thus a new era in Antarctica philately was born.

Between 1929 and 1937 several expeditions were organised under the command of John Rymil in the research Ship *Discovery II* (Falklands 56d, 1938 and Dependencies 3d, 1954) and from this developed the Falkland Islands Dependencies Survey instituted in 1943. The last stamps of the Dependencies 1954 series paid tribute to the valiant work of explorers in the Thirties and Forties. The 2½d stamp featured the *penola*, formerly a training ship for French fishermen's wives and then used by Rymil in the British Graham Land Expedition of 1934-7. The wooden screw whaler *Eagle* was used by the Dependencies Administration as a relief ship in the season of 1944-45. The 1½d featured the *Wyatt Earp*, used by Lincoln Ellsworth on his two expeditions of 1935-6 and 1938-9. She was subsequently purchased by the British government for use in the Antarctic. The *Trepassey* (1d) was a 325 ton wooden freighter used as a survey relief ship in 1945-7, while the *John Biscoe*, an ex-American boom-defence vessel, was used in a similar fashion from 1947 till 1952.



Antarctic exploration was revolutionized in 1928 by the advent of the aeroplane as an aid to survey work. On December 20 of the year the Australian admiral, Sir Hubert Wilkins, and his American pilot Hearst, flew the length of Graham Land. Disappointingly this important and historic landmark has not been commemorated philatelically. Two months later the American Commander (Later Admiral) William Byrd led a flight of three aircraft from the Little America Base in the Ross Sea. On 29 November, 1929 Byrd flew over the South Pole and claimed Marie Byrd Land for the USA. In 1933 Byrd organised a second Antarctic expedition and the cost of the operation was offset to some extent by the issue of a special 3c stamp showing a globe outlining Byrd's epic flights since 1926. A handling charge of 50c was levied on all philatelic mail taken to Little America for franking with the special expedition postmark. This stamp was also released as an imperforate miniature sheet in 1934 in honour of the National Stamp Exhibition, New York.

Light aircraft were also used by Rymil in the 1934-7 Graham Land Expedition and, as a result, accurate maps of the peninsula were prepared. Lincoln Ellsworth and Hollick Knyon made the first trans-Antarctic flight, from Dundee Island to the Bay of Whales between 23 November and 5 December, 1935 an epic flight which unfortunately has left no philatelic mementos. On his fourth expedition, in 1938-9, Ellsworth flew over the American Highland and claimed for the United States the area south of 70° S to a distance of 150 miles west of this line of flight

which was 79° E longitude. These American expeditions were still largely private and it was not until 1939-41 that the US government sponsored the Antarctic Service Expedition, with bases at Little America and Marguerite Bay. This expedition came to an end when America became involved in the Second World War. Despite the claims of Byrd and Ellsworth the United States has not staked a territorial claim in Antarctica and, instead, favours the internationalization of the continent for the benefit of all mankind.

Activity in Antarctica, for all practical purposes, was suspended for the duration of the war and it is ironic that virtually the only progress in this area was in the upsurge of philatelic issues from 1944 onwards.

In February 1946 Juan Peron came to power as President of Argentina and inaugurated a period of intense national which manifested itself in the revival of Argentinian claims to the Falkland Islands (Las Islas Malvinas) and the dependencies which Britain claimed in the Antarctic. Philately was to play an important part in the ensuing propaganda campaign, and kicked off significantly with a pair of stamps, released in 1947, commemorating the 43rd anniversary of the first Argentinian Antarctic mail an allusion to the radio-postal station on Laurie Island inherited from the Scots in 1904. The stamps showed a map of the Argentine sector, and this was to be the theme of many stamps in the ensuing years. Map stamps of Argentina have always, since that date, been careful to include the Antarctic wedge, emphasising Argentina's claim which is based quite logically on the fact that the Graham Land peninsula is a geographic and geological continuation of the Andes. In 1951 the 1 peso definitive stamp, featuring a map of South America, was redrawn to include the Antarctic, with the Argentine boundaries drawn in. This campaign endured long after Peron had been ousted from power, and reached its climax with a set of three stamps in 1964 showing the Falklands, the sub-Antarctic islands and Graham Land flying the Argentine flag. In 1946 Peron revived the dormant Antarctic Commission and since that time Argentina has pursued a vigorous policy of exploration and the maintenance of numerous permanent bases in support of its contention of effective occupancy. As these bases all boast their own postal facilities, complete with attractive pictorial handstamps, quite a large collection of Argentinian Antarctic material alone can be formed. A map of the radio-postal stations appeared on an Argentinian stamp of 1968. More will be said, later in this article, about Argentinian activity in Antarctica.

CHILEAN BASES

In 1947 Chile established a permanent base at Greenwich Island in the South Shetlands and in the ensuing decade established three other bases in and near Graham Land. Chilean bases were at first under the control of the General Staff of the Armed Forces but following the Statute of Chilean Antarctic Territory in 1955 the administration of these bases was transferred to the Governor of Magallanes province. Chile's first Antarctic issue appeared in 1947, with two stamps showing the territory claimed in Antarctica. A set of four map stamps,

CHILEAN BASES

released in 1958, publicized the Chilean claim by quoting the Spanish poem *La Araucana* and reproducing an ancient Spanish map of 1588. The Chilean Claim overlaps that of Argentina but in the past both countries have directed their animosity against Britain, the intruder, and they have tacitly ignored the claims and counter claims affecting each other. Both countries refused to take the matter to the Hague Court at Britain's suggestion in 1955.

Neither Argentina nor Chile has issued stamps for specific use in their Antarctic territories, these areas being regarded as integral parts of the respective countries, in the same way that Baffin Land is an integral part of Canada.

As long ago as 1924 the French Minister of Colonies urged that a permanent administrative organization should be established for Terre Adélie and sub-Antarctic Kerguelen and Corset Islands, to counter the move by Britain the previous year in establishing the Ross Dependency. The French government therefore attached these territories to the colony of Madagascar and there they languished, almost totally neglected, till 1955 when they were hived off to form the separate *Terres Australes* at *Antarctiques Françaises* (TAAF) under the remote control of an Administrator in the Colonial Ministry in Paris. After the Second World War, Paul-Émile Victor, a former colleague of Jean Charcot, persuaded the French government to mount a series of expeditions to Terre Adélie. In February 1947 Victor's privately sponsored *Expéditions Polaires Françaises* (EPF) was given government backing and led to the first, though abortive, expedition in 1948-9. France issued a 15f Stamps in a common design, one released by France and the other by TAAF, showing a helicopter and snotcat against a Polar Landscape. In January 1950 a base was established at Point Géologie and the following year a meteorological station was opened on Kerguelen Island. The anniversaries of both events have recently been the subject of TAAF commemoratives. France also laid claim to a sector of Antarctica itself, between 136° and 142° E longitudes, extending to the South Pole. Nevertheless, French official interest in Antarctica remained lukewarm for many years. International Geophysical Year (noted later in this article) and the dismemberment of the old French colonial empire, led to a renewal of interest in this desolate region. Beginning with a Malagasy 15f stamp overprinted in 1955 TAAF has issued more than 70 stamps in the past

17 years. These are attractively designed and printed and their popularity, both in France and elsewhere, is demonstrated by the fact that many of them have soared enormously in value. A definitive series, featuring penguins, whales, scenery and scientific bases, appeared in 1956 and various special issues have commemorated the explorers and scientists who have laboured in Antarctica.

Australia's Antarctic territory, formally claimed by a British Order in Council in February 1933, is the largest under the nominal control of a single nation, with an area of six and half million square kilometers. In 1947 the postwar revival of interest was marked by the establishment of an Antarctic Division in the Department of External Affairs and the organisation of a series of expeditions known collectively as the Australian National Antarctic Research Expeditions (ANARE). During the 1947-8 season bases were set up at Heard Island (since made a permanent station). In 1954 Australia issued a 3½d stamp showing a map of Antarctica surrounded by examples of polar fauna and flora.

PERMANENT STATION

During the 1954-5 season a permanent station was established on the MacRobertson coast of Antarctica itself. Named after Sir Douglas Mawson it became the headquarters for subsequent Australian research on the Antarctica mainland. A view of the Vestfold Hills, with the 1954 team in the foreground, appeared on a 2s stamp issued in 1957 specifically for use in Australian Antarctic Territory. In that year an additional base, Davis Station, was established in the Vestfold Hills as part of the IGY programme and two years later Australia took over the American base, Wilkes Station, which she has maintained ever since. A short, four-value definitive series was released in 1959 and since the advent of decimal currency in 1968 a handsome, multicoloured series has been in use. These stamps, from 1c to \$1, feature various aspects of scientific activity in Antarctica. These stamps are also valid for postage in Australia and are on sale at philatelic counters in the main cities.

Although New Zealand was nominally responsible for a large slice of Antarctica since 1923 it was not until 1956 that she was able to mount her own expeditions. Despite the encouragement given by the New Zealand Antarctic Society (founded in 1933) the government in Wellington had refused to consider polar activity. In 1953 the British Trans-Antarctic Expedition was being planned, with its base in New Zealand, and this generated renewed public interest in Antarctica. In 1955 the government gave way and established the Ross Sea Committee to liaise with the British TAE group. Sir Edmund Hillary, conqueror of Everest in 1953, was selected to head the New Zealand team participating in the TAE venture which was to be one of the highlights of International Geophysical Year. In 1957 a set of four stamps was produced for use in Ross Dependency and showed the nineteenth century vessel *Erebus*, Scott and Shackleton, a map of New Zealand's Antarctic territory and Queen Elizabeth. The series was re-issued in 1967 inscribed in decimal currency, and was



superseded this year by a set of six stamps featuring life and work in the Antarctic. A link with the past is provided by the 5c stamps showing Shackleton's hut at Cape Royds where he and his fourteen companions spent the Antarctic winter of 1908-9. The 4c stamp of this set shows a RNZAF Hercules transport plane unloading supplies on the ice runway at Hallett Station which is occupied jointly with the United States.



GREAT BRITAIN

The only other country to issue stamps specifically in the Antarctic is Great Britain. The general series of the Falkland Islands' Dependencies continued in use until 1963. In January 1962 the name British Antarctic Territory was adopted to signify the continental region of Graham Land and the sub-Antarctic islands of the South Orkneys and South Shetlands. A distinctive set of stamps was introduced in British Antarctic Territory in February 1963 and in July of that year the FID stamps were replaced in south Georgia by a distinctive series inscribed for that island. South Georgia's issues have been confined so far to sterling and decimal definitives featuring wild-life, and a set of four, in memory of Sir Ernest Shackleton. The more extensive issues of British Antarctic Territory are noted later in this chapter.

The only other country with a territorial claim in Antarctica, Norway, has not yet issued stamps specifically intended for use in that region, though several Norwegian stamps have had an Antarctic theme. Several stamps have portrayed Roald Amundsen and the 65øre stamps in the set of three marking International Geophysical Year depicted a map of Queen Maud Land. In February 1934, however, HMS Milford paid a visit to the sub-Antarctic Bouvet Island, 1,350 miles south of Cape Town, which Norway had annexed in 1928. Prior to the ship visiting the island the Norwegian Consul in Cape Town had supplied the captain with a small supply of contemporary Norwegian definitives (5,7,10,20 and 30øre) overprinted BOUVET OYA (Bouvet Island) and these were used to frank the ship's mail. As this did not have the prior sanction of the postal authorities in Oslo the Bouvet Island stamps have never been accorded full catalogue status, though they are not without interest and value to the Antarctic philatelist.

In 1960 South Africa took over Norway Station in Queen Maud Land at the invitation of the Norwegian authorities and thus joined the ranks of those countries with a territorial stake in Antarctica. During the 1961-2 season the South Africans built another base 12 miles from Norway Station and named it Sanae, from the initials of the South African National Antarctic Expedition Organised in International Geophysical Year. Prior to 1961 South Africa's claim to Antarctic territory had been confined to the sub-Antarctic Prince Edward Islands over which

sovereignty had been proclaimed in 1948. A meteorological station on Marion Island, one of this group, has been in intermittent operation since December 1947 and has furnished philatelists with several attractive souvenirs in the form of pictorial hand stamps.

Although the Soviet authorities, as long ago as 1926, asserted their claim to Antarctic territory, on the basis of the discoveries of Bellingshausen, nothing was done to back up the claim and since the Second World War Russia has gradually veered from the position of territorial claims to one in which the internationalisation of Antarctica has been urged. Both Russia and the United States have been very active in Antarctica in the past 20 years but have both waived sovereignty and have been content to establish bases all over the continent regardless of the nationalistic claims of others. Both countries have tried to influence the other Antarctic powers to work together for the good of mankind, in a way which oddly foreshadowed their attitude to space and lunar exploration.

Common ground for international co-operation was provided by the International Whaling Conferences and this, in turn, paved the way for scientific team-work in International Geophysical Year (1957-8). Many countries throughout the world participated in this ambitious scientific project, in the fields of oceanography, geology, geodetics, astronomy and other sciences. From the viewpoint of the general public, however, the most spectacular results were achieved in polar exploration, especially in the Antarctic. Philatelically IGY provided plenty of scope, including the incongruous spectacle of penguins stamps of Haiti! The following paragraphs, however, are confined to the stamps produced by those countries which were actively concerned in Antarctic research during IGY.

Argentina was the only country, other than the United States, to use an ice-breaker in the Antarctic, the General San Martin (shown on a 4 peso stamp of 1965), which was employed in enlarging the General Belgrano Base (stamps of 1961 and 1965). Argentina issued a 40c stamp featuring a map of Antarctica, in honour of IGY. At the end of IGY Argentina took over the former American station at Ellsworth which it maintained until 1962. Chile extended her bases in Graham Land (Tierra O' Higgins) and issued 40 and 50p stamps, with a map of Chilean Antarctic Territory, to mark IGY. Australia did not release any special stamps for IGY, though the increased activity of that period co-incided with the introduction of distinctive stamps for Australian Antarctic Territory, and the same remark applies to New Zealand, with regard to the stamps of the Ross Dependency.

British, Australian and New Zealand personnel took part in the Trans-Antarctic Expedition under Sir Vivian Fuchs and Sir Edmund Hillary, which made the first successful crossing of the continent with dog-teams. Four of the Falkland Islands Dependencies stamps were released in January 1956 with two line overprints to mark



the expedition. Disappointingly, Britain herself did not release any stamps for IGY, though her contribution to that project was one of the largest. Hillary reached the South Pole in December, 1957, the first to do so since Scott's ill-fated expedition half a century earlier.

JOINT EXPEDITION

Norway's IGY stamp with an Antarctic theme has already been mentioned. The other stamps in the set featured Jan Mayen Island and a map of Spitsbergen, both in the Arctic. During IGY there was a joint British, Norwegian and Swedish expedition to Antarctica. The United States IGY stamp reproduced Michelangelo's Creation of Adam, with hands reaching across the surface of the sunhardly relevant to the enormous programme of scientific work carried out by the United States in the polar regions. IGY was largely the result of American initiative. Originally conceived as an International Polar Year its scope and aims were subsequently broadened. From the outset the United States stressed the importance of international co-operation in the venture, particularly in the Antarctic regions. Three stations were established during IGY at Little America, Marie Byrd Land and at the South Pole itself. As a preliminary to IGY itself, the Americans carried out Operation Deep Freeze. Between 1954 and January 1959, the actual termination of IGY, the United States established several other bases in Antarctica. Although no special stamps were produced there is a wealth of material in the form of special postmarks, cachets and souvenir covers relating to this period. Considering that the United States has no territorial ambitions in Antarctica her bases and activities in this continent have been prodigious. The South Pole underground station was entirely rebuilt in 1964. In 1962 Antarctica's first nuclear-power station was opened at the McMurdo Station with an initial outlay of \$5 million. While making no territorial claims for herself, the United States also refuses to recognize the territorial claims of others. The Americans invited personnel from the other nations including the USSR, to participate in manning the International Weather Station at Little America, and the success of this venture had far-reaching repercussions on subsequent scientific work in Antarctica.

During IGY the Russians established bases named Mirny and Vostok, after the ships of the

Bellingshausen-Lazarev expedition of 1919-21, and several important minor expeditions were made across the continent. Extensive survey work was also carried out by the diesel electric ship *Ob*. Philatelically the Soviet Union marked IGY by a 40 kopek stamp of 1956 publicising the Antarctic expedition launched that year. Two stamps in the second IGY series (1959) featured a glaciologist (10k) and a map of Antarctica (40k). The Vostok base was featured on a stamp of 1965 and the following year a set of three triangular 10k stamps commemorated the tenth anniversary of Soviet activity in the Antarctic. The stamps showed the *Ob*, a snow-vehicle and a map of the continent.

South Africa released a 3d stamp in honour of SANAE in 1959 and showed a globe above a polar landscape. South Africa's main contribution to IGY was the manning of a meteorological station on Gough Island, a dependency of Tristan da Cunha. Japan issued a 10y stamp showing a penguin and the Antarctic survey vessel Soya. A Japanese expedition, under Takeshi Nagata and E.E. Nishibori, established a base on Ongul Island in Norwegian Antarctica and maintained it until 1961.

Gaston de Gerlache, son of the Belgian explorer of Belgica fame, campaigned for his country to participate actively in IGY by fitting out an Antarctic expedition. After meeting and overcoming a great deal of official resistance, de Gerlache appealed to national pride and eventually led a Belgian expedition which established a base at Breidvtha on Prinsesse Ragnhild Kyst in Queen Maud Land. The "Roi Baudouin" Station was manned until the end of the 1960-1 season. Since 1962 de Gerlache has headed the Comite Antarctique Benelux, a joint venture by Belgium and the Netherlands for Antarctic research. Belgium produced the most attractive of all Antarctic stamps up to that time, a 5 + 2.5 of featuring a dog-team with the base in the background. This stamp was also released in a miniature sheet of four. In 1966 a set of three stamps and a miniature sheet commemorated past Antarctic expeditions. The 3 + 1f portrayed Adrien de Gerlache and the Belgica, while the other stamps featured activities relating to the 1957-61 expeditions. The 10 + 5f stamp, set in a miniature sheet with decorative margins, featured the Danish vessel Magga Dan, used on many Antarctic voyages in recent years.

POLAND EXPEDITION

It is not generally released that Poland also organised an Antarctic expedition during IGY. A team led by Wojciech Krzeminski spent the season of 1958-9 with the Russians and subsequently took over the manning of the Soviet Oasis Station (renamed Antoni Dobrowolski Station). A second expedition was planned for 1959-60 but on account of financial reasons this did not materialise.



Poland issued two stamps featuring a polar bear on an ice floe and a sputnik neither, unfortunately, relevant to the Antarctic theme.

During IGY the United States began negotiations with the USSR to prolong international co-operation in Antarctica after the end of the current programme. The other nations with a stake in Antarctica, territorial or otherwise, were also approached, and as a result the Antarctic Treaty was signed on 1 December 1959 and fully ratified by all 12 signatory nations by the middle of 1961. An important clause of this Treaty shelved all territorial claims for a period of 30 years, thus easing the situation between Britain, Argentina and Chile and allaying the fears of Australia over Soviet and Japanese bases on her territory. The past decade has been marked by a diminution of purely national interests and a greater consideration of international cooperation. Both Russia and the United States have urged a complete internationalisation of the continent, but the eight countries with territorial claims in Antarctica have so far refused to waive their rights entirely, while tolerating the activities of others. Ironically, it is the two ex-colonial powers, Britain and France, which persist in maintaining the outward semblance of colonialism in this area, with postage stamps playing a major part in promoting national claims.

Two years after the ratification of the Treaty, Britain's two "colonies" in the Antarctic, South Georgia and British Antarctic Territory, embarked on a stamp-issuing career which, mercifully, has been of moderate proportions. Both have had definitive sets, sterling and decimal, and a handful of commemoratives, including a handsome set of four celebrating 25 years of continuous scientific work.

The tenth anniversary of the Antarctic Treaty was celebrated on 23 June 1971 and stamps were issued by the majority of the signatory nations in honour of the event. Neither Argentina nor Chile took notice of the anniversary, but British Antarctic Territory issued a set of four designed by Michael Goaman featuring a camp (1½p), snow petrels (4p), Weddell seals (5p) and Adelle penguins (10p) below a common motif of the Aurora Australis and a map of Antarctica. Australian Antarctic Territory released two stamps featuring sastrugi ice formation (6c) and pancake ice formation (30c). New Zealand's 6c stamp showed the Antarctic Treaty emblem and Japan's 15y stamp showed a group of penguins. The United States released an 8c stamp featuring a map of Antarctica, while Belgium's large, multicoloured 10f stamp featured a surveyor at work. Russia issued a 6k stamp showing the Treaty emblem above a view of an Antarctic station.

TREMENDOUS PROGRESS

The exploration and development of Antarctica have made tremendous progress in this century alone and each decade has surpassed its predecessors. Not so long ago mankind had barely touched the threshold of the last continent. Now the advent of the Apollo moon-landings and the Lunakhod missions would seem to have bypassed Antarctica, but there is little doubt that the lessons learned in the exploration of space can also be applied in the polar regions. The next phase will be the exploitation of the vast,

untapped mineral wealth of the Antarctic, for the benefit of all mankind. We can look forward confidently to limitless human expansion in Antarctica and inevitably philately will continue to record man's achievements in those desolate regions, as it has done so faithfully in the past.

(Courtesy : Stamp magazine, London, 1972-73.)

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STAMPS OF FAME

THE POST OFFICE MAURITIUS

At the time of the introduction of adhesive postage stamps in Britain, the Indian Ocean island of Mauritius had been a British colony for barely 30 years, having passed from France by conquest during the Napoleonic Wars. A British-style postal administration was established in 1811, largely to serve the needs of the extensive military garrison which was maintained there throughout the 19th century.



The 1d Post Office Mauritius : a used example which was sold by Harpers of London in December 1992 for £198,000 including premium.

The island made steady economic progress under British rule, but the postal system failed to keep pace with commercial growth. The reorganization of the postal service was sanctioned by an Ordinance dated December 1846, although a copy of this document 'providing for the conveyance and postage of letters in the Colony' was not dispatched to the Colonial Secretary, Earl Grey, until February 9, 1847. In a covering letter to Earl Grey, the Governor of Mauritius, Sir William Gomm, wrote : 'The regulations hitherto in force are very scanty and found wholly insufficient for the increasing needs of the Colony in this respect; and it is hoped that by the more ample detail now introduced with the organization of the Post Office Department, the public convenience will be adequately provided for in this essential Branch of Administration.'

The Ordinance itself was printed in English and French in parallel columns, although, shortly before stamps were introduced, it was decided to adopt English as the island's official language. Had this decision not been made, Mauritius might have had examples of bilingual stamps long before Canada and South Africa adopted this expedient. The Ordinance fixed the rate of island postage at 2d per half ounce for country letters and 1d per half ounce for letters posted within the boundaries of Port Louis. These rates came into force on January 1, 1847. Article 5 of the Ordinance stated that the postage on inland letters if not prepaid by stamps may be paid for on delivery'. Although no adhesive stamps were actually available at this time, their issue was anticipated in Article 9 of the Ordinance: 'Every letter, newspaper, or packet of any kind liable to postage under this Ordinance, if posted within the colony and its dependencies, and having a stamp or

stamps affixed thereto and appearing on the out-side-such stamps being provided by the Government and being of the value of amount required in each case according to the preceding tariff and not having been used before, shall pass by the post free of postage'.

Bearing in mind that the new postal system was in force for nine months before stamps were introduced, it is interesting to note that a month before the Ordinance was signed, a local craftsman, J.O. Barnard, was approached regarding the production of the stamps. Here begins the confusion over the stamps and their perpetrator. Early authorities merely gave his name as J. Barnard, the form adopted by the Williams Brothers in *Famous Stamps* (1940). In *Rare Stamps* (1967), however, the same authors gave his Christian name as James. Fred Melville, in his extensive writings, gave the name as Joseph. I suspect that the latter is probably correct.

The Williams brothers appear also to have been the source of the information that Barnard was a half-blind watchmaker and jeweler. He would not have been much of a watchmaker if his sight was as impaired as this implies. In turn, this canard is derived from the unattributed quotation which appears opposite the Foreword of the 1940 book: '...a foully hideous thing, and the engraving apparently done by a blind man with a skewer'. This highly subjective statement does much less than justice to poor Mr. Barnard. Melville was more charitable and more accurate when he said of Barnard that he had no special training as an engraver, and no facilities other than his watchmaker's hand tools.

It is also untrue to say that Barnard was the only person in Mauritius at the time capable of engraving a stamp die, Major E.B. Evans, the noted philatelist who was stationed with the Royal Garrison Artillery on Mauritius and carried out first-hand research into the early stamps of the island, found tantalizing references to a certain Mr. Nash, an engraver who was noted for his skilled work. Neither Evans nor any subsequent student could offer any explanation why Nash was not called upon to engrave the first, or any other, Mauritian stamps. That Barnard was not the only engraver working in Mauritius at that time is easily shown by the fact that at least two other men- J. Lapirot and R. Sherwin- engraved or re-engraved the issues of 1859. Admittedly, their efforts saw the light of day several years latter than Barnard's and their handiwork was even cruder than his.

No one knows how or when precisely Barnard was given the commission to engrave the stamp dies, but it has been assumed that he was given verbal instructions some time after May 1847. It was the Postmaster's intention that stamps similar to those then used in Britain should be prepared. This being so, one would have expected the engraver would have been furnished with examples of the Penny Red and Two penny Blue of the period. The story goes that Barnard was instructed to engrave POSTAGE at the top, with POST PAID and MAURITIUS in the vertical side panels, that he forgot what he had been told, and instead engraved the words POST OFFICE which he saw above the door of the building. This story, much embellished in many accounts of the late 19th and early 20th centuries, does not appear to have a shred of supportable fact to back it up. It should be noted that the hand-stamps in

use at this time were likewise inscribed MAURITIUS POST OFFICE.

The most fanciful account states that Barnard had virtually completed the engraving of both values but amnesia struck as he was about to start on the left-hand side. In the end he decided to consult the Postmaster, J. Stuart Browning, and walked towards the Post Office when suddenly Collection at Buckingham Palace contain examples of the 1d stamp still adhering to the original envelopes, while the latter even includes the invitation card.

Major Evan purchased the former at Port Louis in 1878. It was addressed to Madame Alcide Marquay and six years later Evans sold it to Thomas Keay Tapling in whose collection it passed to the nation in 1893. The other was found in 1898 by the niece of Edmond Duivier and sold to the Earl of Kintore who subsequently disposed of it to George V.

A third invitation envelope, addressed to H. Adam, was sold by the addressee himself in 1899 to T. Lemaire for 689. These three envelopes bore a framed PENNY POST mark in red ink in the upper left-hand corner, whereas the stamp on the Adam cover was cancelled by a framed PAID, the other two bore double-circle datestamps inscribed MAURITIUS POST OFFICE and dated September 21.

The stamps were placed on sale to the general public on that same day and were apparently so popular that they sold out within a few days. The issue was not reprinted and, pending the production of the rather more ambitious 'Post Paid' stamps the following year the people of Mauritius had to revert to the former system of prepaying postage in cash. With an edition of only 500 apiece, the 'Post Office' stamps were rarefied from the outset.

At the present day it is though that fifteen examples of the 1d (including four unused) are now extant- a survival rate of 2.7 percent. In view of the fact that philately was hardly even in an embryonic state in the 'Post Office' stamps should have been entirely overlooked until 1864. Almost two decades elapsed before the philatelic world woke up to the fact that these stamps had existed. It is a miracle that any survived at all.

Curiously enough, the discovery of the first stamps was due to a quirk of fate. The 'Post Office' stamps were intended for local use only, within the colony and should not have been affixed to covers going abroad, a point usually overlooked by philatelists. In the 1840s Mauritius had a thriving trade with Bordeaux, a legacy from the French Colonial period, but the vast majority of the covers from Mauritius to France (and, indeed, to Britain itself, for that matter) bore handstruck postal markings. Most Mauritian letters of this era were sent unpaid and treated as ship letters on their arrival at ports in England or Ireland, whence they were forwarded to their destinations. Those going on to France were additionally charged for the postage due from England to France.

All of the 'Post Office' stamps should have been used on inland covers and undoubtedly the majority of them were thus used, although, apart from the three invitation envelopes already mentioned, only one example is extant on a portion of a local commercial envelope. By contrast, there is the celebrated envelope, addressed to

Bombay, bearing two fine examples of the penny stamp. The stamps were cancelled by a barred obliterator, but additionally a numeral '2' in a circle ties one of the stamps. Where this mark was applied, and why, has never been explained. I wonder whether it was applied on arrival at Bombay to indicate that the cover was treated as unpaid and therefore subject to a surcharge of 2 annas? Or was the 2 in a circle applied at Flacq, a sub post office in Mauritius which later used such numeral in a double or treble concentric circle?

Half the extant examples came to light in a single correspondence, being discovered at various times from November 1864 **on wards** by Madame Borchard, the wife of a Bordeaux gunsmith. Unfortunately, Madame Borchard ripped the stamps off their envelopes, but apparently she first of all found an envelope bearing a penny and a two penny side by side. Because she could not find spaces for them in her printed Lal-lier album she, swapped them with a young friend, Albert Coutures, for two Montevideo 'Suns' which had the advantage of a space in the album. Coutures soon tired of stamp-collecting and sold the Mauritian pair to the dealer J.B. Moens in October 1865 for 200 francs (then the equivalent of £8). A few months later Moens sold them to Judge Philbrick for £20 and thence, with the entire Philbrick collection, they passed into the hands of Court Ferrari.

During subsequent cursory examinations of her husband's correspondence Madame Borchard found a further ten of the stamps which she disposed of to Madame Desbois and a private collector, M.E. Lalanne. Madame Desbois sold most of hers to Moens for 100 francs apiece and he sold them on to wealthy clients at prices ranging from 200 to 500 frnacs. In 1869 Borchard died, his business was wound up and his papers were consigned to a scrap merchant for pupling. It has long been a matter for speculation what other treasures might have come to light has someone had the time to go through the Borchard correspondence meticulously.

Two complete envelopes, how ever, did turn up in the correspondence of a second Bordeaux company, Messrs Ducan & Kurgnie, wine merchants. Both covers traveled by private ship to England and were then forwarded via Boulogne. They bore the 'Colonies &c Art. 13' hand-stamp as well as ship letter marks and manuscript delivery charges. One cover bore a 2d stamp, but the other had one of each denomination. This cover was purchased in 1934 by Edgar Mohrmann on behalf on Maurice Burrus from the collection for £ 5,000 and fetched \$57,120 (£28,000) at the Burrus sale in 1960.

The cover bearing the two 1d stamps was purchased in a Bombay bazaar in 1897 for £ 50 and sold for \$322,300 (£158,333) in 1968 when the celebrated Dale Lichtenstein collection was broken up at Harmer's of New York a world record for a cover at that time.

Space prevents me from narrating the stories of the other specimens. For further information I can do no better than refer the reader to the Williams Brothers' books Famous Stamps (1940) and Stamps of Fame (1949), both of which provide detailed biographies on each of the stamps known to exist up to that time. A 26th stamp turned up in 1947 (exactly a hundred years after it was issued) and one more specimen has allegedly come to light since then.

I would only conclude with the anecdote concerning one of the unused 1d stamps, as I had the privilege of knowing the grandson of the finder. The late J.J. Bonar of Edinburgh was an authority on Scottish postal history but his grandfather James who obtained a 2d 'Post Office' in about 1865 when he was a schoolboy. He stuck it into his sixpenny album, which 40 years later, he came across while going through some old family papers. He intended giving the album to his grandson, but unfortunately for J.J., a Miss Thomas (who knew something about philately) had the opportunity to examine the schoolboy collection first, and was staggered to discover the celebrated rarity. On the lady's advice, Bonar consulted Neville Stocken who advised him to put it up for auction at Puttick & Simpson. The stamp was stuck down, so Stocken had a cut it off the page and soak it in boiling water to get it off its backing paper. However, it provided to be a perfect specimen with good margins all round.

On January 13, 1904 the stamp came under the hammer. Oddly enough, Bonar tried to withdraw the stamp from the sale as he received a private offer of £ 1,000 but stocken persuaded him to let the sale go ahead. The bidding actually went to £1,450 when the stamp was knocked down to M. Crawford, agent for the Prince of Wales. The under-bidder was Hugo Griebert, acting for Philipp Kossack, a German dealer. There is a tailpiece to this story. It is said that the Princes' private secretary, Sir Arthur Bigge, later Lord Stamfordham, read in The Times about the sale, then a record price, and, turning to his boss, ejaculated, 'I see some silly bugger has paid £1,450 for a postage stamp'. To which HRH replied gruffly. 'I am the silly bugger!'. (Courtesy : Stamp Magazine, London, 1973)

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