



SIPA

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Editorial

FIRST DAY COVERS

It is a world wide Known fact that on the day of issue of a commemorative postage stamp, an attractively designed cover is also issued and special cancellation is also given over the stamp affixed on the cover and it is called first day cover, as it reaches the awaiting collector on the first day of issue of the stamp. The juries who are the evaluators of the hobbyist's exhibits, go one step forward, and give full marks to the first day cover only if it is posted on the first day of issue and got delivered subsequently. In such a situation prevailing, an enthusiastic, Indian collector today, becomes a loser most of the time.

You Know why? Even though the India Post does all the works required for a commemorative stamp overall, just because they are not doing the works at the right time and at the right quantity, the Indian Collector is deprived of the chance of posting a first day cover on the day of issue. Nowadays on the day of issue, any one of the following three items, ie, stamp, cover and cachet, may not be available. Funnily, many a time the first day cancellation will be unceremoniously given on the third or fourth day. In today's, time controlled and managed world the poor collector is made to visit the philatelic bureaue two or three days to have his happiness of getting a proper first day cover. Sometimes it may work the other way also. That is, the enthusiastic collector can loose interest on the cover due to the pressures of other priority works of today's lifestyle and altogether may run out of the hobby.

Hence it is requested that the concerned authorities rise up to the expectations of the collecting fraternity and issue the first day covers in full shape to their heart's content. Let the first day cover be a 'real' first day cover, for all of us to enjoy.

Monthly Second Sunday Meetings

With President

Mr. G. Balakrishna Das on the chair, 22 members attended the meeting on 12.04.2009.

Patron Mr. G. Madan Mohan Das Spoke on "Recent trends in one frame exhibits."

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What were 'Hotel Posts'?

Today, we take it for granted that larger hotels have their own posting boxes; at worst, the nearest public posting box is within a short walk. However, in 1983 in the mountainous area of Central Europe, such as Austria, Switzerland and Germany, letter boxes were few and far between.

Many spa hotels were situated high in the mountains, for the clear air and waters were considered beneficial,



particularly for respiratory and nervous disorder, such as tuberculosis, asthma, rheumatism and sciatica. It was fashionable to spend some time each year 'taking the waters' and, during the mid-19th century, these spa hotels flourished.

One of the first hotels to operate a postal service to the nearest post office, five miles away in Weggis, was the Rigi Kaltbad Hotel in Switzerland. This hotel issued its first stamp in 1864, and other hotels soon copied the idea. When the Swiss railway system was extended in the 1880s, the service became unnecessary, and in fact, the hotels were forbidden to issue stamps that were inscribed with a value. Hotels continued to print stamps or supply cachets to outgoing mail, though these were little more than advertising labels. (Courtesy : Stamp magazine)

STAMP NEWS

MEDICAL COUNCIL OF INDIA

1.03.09

500

0.4 mill

The Medical Council of India established in the year 1934 under the Indian Medical Council Act, 1933, with the primary objective of establishing uniform standards of higher qualifications in modern medicine and their recognition in India and abroad.

The number of medical colleges increased steadily during the post independence years. Resultantly, it was felt that the provisions of Indian Medical Council Act were inadequate to cope up the 'challenges' posed by the rapid developmental progress of the medical education in the country. As such, in the year 1956 the earlier Act was repealed and a new one was enacted. This act subsequently was modified in the year 1964, 1993 and 2001 respectively by the Indian Parliament.

The objectives of the council as enshrined in the Indian Medical Council Act pertain to maintenance of uniform standards of Undergraduate and Postgraduate medical education, making of recommendations for permission to start new undergraduate and postgraduate course and/or increase in capacity/recognition/de-recognition of qualifications of medical institutions of India or foreign countries, granting permanent registration/ provisional registration of doctors with recognized medical qualifications, evolving reciprocity with foreign countries in the matter of mutual recognition of medical qualifications, ensuring implementation of Indian Medical Council (Professional Conduct, Etiquette and Ethics) Regulations, working out updating and upgradation of curriculum of various undergraduate and postgraduate courses in vogue and prescribing and regulating Minimum Standard Requirements of teaching faculty, clinical material and infrastructure required in medical colleges commensurate with desired standards of medical education.

Towards fulfillment of these enshrined 'Objectives', the Council is duty boundedly required to carry out inspection / visitation with a view to ensure maintenance of proper standards of medical education in India, grant of permission to start new medical colleges or new courses including Post Graduates or higher courses, increase of seats, renewal of permission; Award / recognition / de-recognition of Indian and foreign qualifications, ensuring registration of doctors having primary medical qualifications particularly from abroad and additional medical qualification along with issuance of good standing certificates for doctors going abroad. It is also required to maintain All India Medical Register of persons who hold any of the recognized medical qualification or for the time



being registered with any of the State Medical Councils or Medical Council of India including ensuring effective and meaningful implementation of Professional Code of Conduct Regulations and also to act as an appellate authority over decisions taken by state Medical Councils in the country.

The Medical Council of India came to be headed by the grand son of Mother India late Dr. Bidhan Chandra Roy as its first Indian President who was not only a very eminent politician, but was also the tallest stalwart of the medical profession. Since the inception, its march towards fulfillment of its talented objectives has been incessant and of consequence to all its stakeholders.

75 glorious years stand added to Medical Council of India, ever since its inception by the Parliamentary enactment in the year 1934, whereby it has emerged as the statutory 'custodian' of the standards of medical education in the country, ensuring generation of trained health manpower commensurate with the 'National needs'.

Theme: Medicine, Buildings, Societies, Health

PTEROSPERMUM ACERIFOLIUM

6.03.09

500

3.0 mill

Pterospermum Acerifolium, commonly known as Bayur Tree, Dinner plate Tree, Maple leaved Bayur, Mayeng, Kanakchampa, Kaniar or katha champa reaches a height of 50-70ft. Leaves are simple, alternate, have stipulate and are palmately ribbed. It has large fragrant nocturnal white flowers, occurring in auxiliary fascicle. Fruit is reddish; wood used for planking; often grown as an ornamental or shade tree. The name 'pterosperrum' derived from two Greek words, 'petron' and 'sperma' that mean "winged seed". The name of its family 'Sterculiaceae'. The origin of this beautiful tree is in the northern parts of India, Assam and Burma. It remains a slim and high tree in those area, but in further south, it fails to achieve a great height.



The Karnikar tree contains very large sized flowers and leaves, it looks outstanding and can become evergreen as well. The leaves of the Karnikar Tree are pale grey in colour underneath it. When the wind spins and twists them on their long stalks, they look most prominent. The bark of the tree is also grey in colour and soft. The twigs are feathery and are of rusty brown colour. At the young age, the leaves also have this downy covering and when they develop, the covering drops on. The large, round leaves of this tree can make fine plates and can also be used to wrap up something. People lay down the leaves on roof from the under surface in order to stop bleeding. The flowers of the tree have their respective medicinal uses as well. A good tonic can be prepared from them and can be used as a cure

for inflammation, ulcers and tumours. It is used for planking, boxes, spars etc.

The golden hued flower has a beautiful tassel like form which makes it look very ornamental. It has an intense fragrance, perceptible even from a great distance while it is on the tree. The fragrance starts fading the moment it is plucked. The golden pendant flowers of the karnikar adorn the ears of Sri Krishna in the Bhagavatam (karmayoh karnikaram)

Theme : Botony, trees, flora, medicinal plant, flowers

BABURAO PULESHWAR SHEDMAKE

12.03.09 500 0.4 mill

Baburao Puleshwar Shedmake was born on 12th March, 1833. He was the eldest son of Poolasur Bapu and Jurja Kunwar. Poolasir Bapu was Zamindar of Molampalli of Ghot Zamindari under District Chanda CP and Berar, Maharashtra. As per the tradition of Gond tribe, Shedmake got his initial education from Ghotul Sanskar Kendra where he learnt Hindi, Gondi and Telugu along with music and dance. English was getting prominence. Shedmake's father sent him to Raipur, Chhatisgarh for learning English. After completing his education at Raipur, Shedmake came back to Molampalli. He was 18 years old when he as per his tribe tradition got married to Raj Kunwar.



In 1854 Chandrapur came under British rule. Shedmake was first to raise his voice against British rule. He used gorilla war tactics against the Britishers. During 1857, when entire India declared war of independence against the British rule, Shedmake consolidated 500 tribal youth from the region and prepared an army and with this army he was able to capture Rajghad area. When this information reached Chandrapur, the Deputy Collector, Mr. Krikton sent British army to curb it, but near Nandgaon Ghosari the British army was defeated. Mr. Krikton sent another troop which fought battle at Sanganapur and Bamanpet but they also lost the battle.

These two victories encouraged Shedmake and he attacked telephone camp at Chinchgudi on 29th April, 1858 in which Telegraph Operators Mr. Hall and Mr. Gartland were killed but Mr. Peter managed to escape and reported the incident to Mr. Krikton then used his diplomatic tactics for arresting Shedmake. On one side he asked Captain Shakespeare from Nagpur to assist him and on the other side he forced Rani Laxmi Bai, Zamindarini of Aheri to help them. His tactics worked and Rani Laxmi Bai conspired against Shedmake, which Shedmake was not aware of. On 18 September, 1858 Shedmake was arrested. He was Brought to Chanda Central Jail. On 21st October, 1858 Baburao Puleshwar Shedmake was hanged at open ground in Chanda.

Theme : Freedom Fighter, leaders, personality. Martyr.

DR. KRISHNA KUMAR BIRLA

13.03.09 500 0.8 mill

The life of Krishna Kumar Birla can be seen as a chapter in the history of independent India. Patriot, industrialist and philanthropist. Birla not only played his part in the run-up to the independence of the nation but was protagonist in the nation building exercise that followed 1947. A true visionary, he saw that a strong and prosperous India was wedded to the Nehruvian nation of industrially robustness, both as an industrialist as well as a philanthropist. Birla saw entrepreneur as a firm route for serving the nation.

Born in Pilani, in the Jhunjhunu district of Rajasthan on November 11, 1918. Birla graduated from Punjab University, Lahore, in 1940. Being the son of the Late Ghanshyam Das Birla, a friend and a close associate of Mahatama Gandhi, he saw



the freedom movement at the closest of quarters. Since 1934 till the day he was assassinated on January 30, 1948 Gandhiji stayed at the Birla House in New Delhi. Birla then in his late 20s, looked after all the arrangements at Birla House in respect of the Mahatamaji and his associates whenever they would come to Delhi. In the process he became quite close to Gandhiji.

Apart from being an industrialist, Birla was also involved in politics. He joined the Congress Party in 1984 as a life member, being elected to the Rajya Sabha the same year nominated by the Congress under the leadership of Indira Gandhi. Birla was a very active Member of Parliament for three terms between 1984 and 2002. He is survived by three daughters Nandini Nopany, Jyotsana Poddar & Shobhana Bhartia.

Birla was also a member of the National integration Council of which the Prime Minister is the Chairman and all state Chief Ministers are members. As an industrialist, Birla had interests that included a broad swathe of sectors like textiles, sugar, engineering, shipping, fertilizer and information technology. He was the Chairman of the Chambal Fertilizers & Chemicals Ltd., Zuari Industries Ltd. Texmaco Ltd., Sutlej Textiles & Industries Ltd., HT Media Ltd. the publisher of Hindustan times.

In his busy life, Birla made time to write three books, Indira Gandhi Reminiscences, a selection of his speeches and writings Partner in Progress; and his autobiography, Brushes with History.

Birla was also a keen educationist. He was the chairman and Chancellor of the Birla institute of Technology and Science (BITS) a campus each at Pilani, Goa, Hyderabad and Dubai, with a total strength of about 9,000 students since 1983. In addition to these students, an additional 15,000 receive high order education through off-campus and collaborative programmes making the total number of students around 24,000.

But it was the visionary industrialist that Birla will be primarily remembered. He served for a number of years on the Central board of the State Bank of India and also on the board of ICICI.

Birla and his late wife Manoram Devi had constructed the magnificent Shri Radha-Krishna Temple in Kolkata that covers an area of nearly 22,000sq. ft. With its shimmering sandstone exterior, the temple is an exquisite work of art in the heart of Kolkata, decorated with intricate carving of elephants, flowers and bells. The temple was inaugurated in February, 1996.

As part of his belief in acknowledging and encouraging talent and enterprise, Birla had established the K.K. Birla foundation that confers awards in Indian literature, scientific research, Indian philosophy, art and culture and sports every year. He believed that a holistic development in all spheres is what makes a nation proud and strong. The K.K. Birla Academy was specifically set up by him for the purpose of pursuing research on scientific, historical and cultural subjects.

What Birla believed for the nation, he practiced himself. Apart from his busy schedules as an industrialist, philanthropist and a politician, he had a range of hobbies that included reading, listening to music and playing bridge when on holidays. Incidentally, he was the president of the ridge Federation of India for a number of years and also that of the Lawn Tennis Association (1980-85), besides other prestigious clubs. Birla was conferred doctor of letters (Honoris Causa) by Pondicherry University in 1997.

In essence, Krishna Kumar Birla was an Indian whose life reflects the story of independent, modern India.

Theme : Personality, Industry, leaders

SPICES OF INDIA

29.04.09 500 0.4 mill

Home to more than 50 varieties of spices grown in its different agro climatic zones ranging from the tropical to the temperate, India is the spice bowl of the world. The total production of spices is estimated at 2.7 million tons and India exports 0.25 million tons to over 150 destinations of the world, accounting for over 45 percent of the international spice trade both in terms of value and volume.

PEPPER

Indigenous to India, Pepper is the dried berry of *Piper nigrum*, a vine which can grow up to ten feet tall. Pepper is actually the berries that are picked about nine months after flowering. Plucked green pepper become black when dried. Removing the outer skin of the green pepper through soaking, makes white Pepper. Green Peppercorns are immature berries, which are freeze dried or packed in brine for preservation. Pepper is a universal table condiment used to flavour all types of dishes in cuisines worldwide. Its oils and oleoresins go in for the manufacture scores of food and non food products from beverages to pharmaceuticals.

CARDAMOM

Cardamom is the ground seed of a tropical fruit in the ginger family known as *Elettaria cardamomum*. The seeds are found in oval shaped fruit pods that are between ¼ and inch long. Cardamom is indigenous to India. It goes in curry and biryani blends in India and is an ingredient for the Arabic coffee of the Middle East and is a flavour yielding material in breads and bakery items in Scandinavian countries.

CLOVES

Cloves are the rich, brown, dried, unopened flower buds of *Syzygium aromaticum*, an evergreen tree in the myrtle family. Cloves come from Madagascar, Malaysia and Srilanka. India too grows plenty of cloves in the Southern Peninsula. Cloves are used in pharmaceutical products, beverages, cookies, and in Indonesia goes in the manufacture of cigarettes. The clove oil is much sought after ingredient for many food and non food industries including hygiene and medical formulations.



TURMERIC

Turmeric is the root of *Curcuma longa*, a leafy plant in the ginger family. The root, or rhizome, has a tough brown skin and bright orange flesh. Ground Turmeric comes from fingers, which extend from the root. It is boiled or steamed, dried, and ground. India is the world's primary producer of Turmeric. Turmeric is necessary in south east Asian cooking. Turmeric is mildly aromatic and has scents of orange or ginger. It has a pungent, bitter flavor and has immense therapeutic proportions in the food industry.

CORIANDER

Coriander is the seed of *Coriandrum sativum*, a plant in the parsley family. The seed is globular and almost round, brown to yellow red, and 1/5 inch in diameter with alternating straight and wavy ridges. Coriander is grown in plenty in India. Coriander is a major ingredient in curry powders and is used in Indian curries, beverages, American cigarettes, and sausages. Its oil is widely used in industrial applications.

CHILLI

Chilli is the ground fruit of a plant in the Capsicum family. The spice ranges from orange red to deep dark red. Known as Red pepper and Cayenne Pepper, Chillies are grown in plenty in India and there are over 50 varieties distinctly different in colour and pungency. Chillies are the major source of natural colour and pungency, which goes for application in many food and non food industries especially its oil and oleoresins.

Theme : Nature's Gifts. Agriculture, spices, food products

R. SANKAR

30.04.09

500

0.4 mill

R. Sankar was a freedom fighter, educationist, lawyer, journalist, administrator, social reformer and a political leader.

Sankar was born on April 30, 1909 to Raman and Kunchali Amma at Puthoor village near Kottarakara in Kollam district. His formal education began in Puthoor primary school and later continued in an English school in Kottarakara.

In 1924, he joined Maharaja's college (the present University College), Thiruvananthapuram. Soon after taking his B.A. degree in 1928, he was appointed head master in Sivagiri school.

Sankar joined the Law College at Thiruvananthapuram, and after taking a degree, started practice as an advocate at the district court at Kollam in 1936. He made a promising start in the legal profession, but was soon drawn into the political agitation of Travancore launched by the State Congress Party. He was arrested for defying a ban and addressing a public meeting at Kollam in August 1938 and was sentenced to months of imprisonment. He was arrested several times thereafter and spent a total period of three years in prison.



Sankar served as secretary of the State Congress for four years, until he was elected general secretary of the Sree Narayana Dharma Paripalana (S.N.D.P.) Yogam on December 20, 1944. Sankar rose to the forefront of the social revolution, adopting the strategy of setting up educational institutions to provide education for all.

Sankar's most outstanding contribution has been in the field of education in a state where the vast majority of lower caste Hindus could not enter schools and colleges on account of the obnoxious caste system that prevailed in the princely states before independence. Though the social transformation triggered by Sree Narayana Guru's movement liberated them from the caste stigma, higher education still eluded them. Sankar launched many educational institutions, all of which were named after Sree Narayana. Sree Narayana College founded in 1948 at Kollam became the largest college in the state in terms of student strength and the number of post graduate courses. Sankar was the first to start in the private sector an exclusive women's college called the Sree Narayana College for Women in 1951.

When he became Minister for Education, Sankar carried forward the inclusive education movement by facilitating the setting up of several junior colleges in

different parts of the State almost all of which were in the private sector, a revolutionary and innovative policy.

As the secretary of the social organization, S.N.D.P. Yogam, Sankar also established an 'Educational Fund' aimed at enabling financially challenged students to continue their education. Such was the zeal and energy of his endeavour that in a single day in 1945, he was able to mobilize public contributions and raise more than Rs. 1,50,000.

If today Kerala is the most literate State in India with a literacy rate of around 95 per cent it is because of Sankar's far-sighted initiatives.

In 1948 he was elected as Deputy Chief Minister holding the portfolio of Finance. He was the first Finance Minister of Kerala to have consecutively presented five budgets in the State assembly. R. Sankar became Chief Minister in 1962.

R. Sankar breathed his last on 06.11.1972.

Theme : Personality, Freedom fighter, Education, Social Reformer

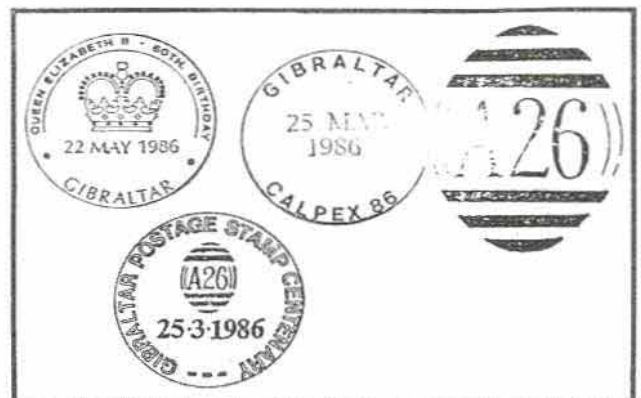
KNOW THIS COUNTRY

GIBRALTAR

Ricky Richardson

JANUARY THE FIRST of 1986 marked the 100th birthday of the first stamp to be sold for the benefit of the Gibraltarian Government. Prior to this date, all the stamps used in the then Colony were British, and the revenue went back to the U.K. Once the decision had been taken, there was no time to create a new design and get it into the Gibraltar Post Office, and the only colony which had sufficient surplus stocks available was Bermuda. So it was, that the mail steamer *Pershawur* arrived in Gibraltar on 30 December 1885 with the first sets which were then overprinted for the colony.

Last year, I visited the Rock the day after the



Spanish Border was re-opened by the Spanish after a period of 18 years. I thought it would be useful to call, to see not only how they are coping with their reconnection politically and economically with the mainland of Europe, but also what philatelic plans John Liambias, the Controller of Philately for Gibraltar, has for 1986 and the Centenary in particular.

Economically, the tourist invasion from the Costa del Sol and points East, has saved many of the Rock's businesses from the verge of bankruptcy. The few hotels that have staggered from one crisis to another (and it showed) drew as big a breath of relief when the gate opened and the coaches streamed through, as General Custer would have done if his cavalry had arrived a bit earlier!

Because of the confinement of what building is possible, on what is after all a garrison fortress built vertically rather than horizontally, the roads are narrow and perpetually congested. Since last year, one way systems have been introduced and the main street, wherein lays the main Post Office, has been pedestrianised.

When I walked in to the Post Office, it was as crowded as ever, and John told me that when his upstairs office, which also contained the Philatelic Counter, where any caller may purchase whatever issues they still have in stock, was closed for redecoration, he had to move it to floor level. Although being staged for 25 March, and on the following this was to be a temporary measure, the sales leapt enormously, so John wisely decided to re-site the counter permanently. So much for the buying public!

The actual postal celebrations start on 30th March, and a full week of activity has been organized by the Post Office working in collaboration with the Gibraltar Philatelic Society, under the secretaryship of RJM Garcia. An exhibition, strongly supported with previously underplayed material from the Post Office archives and an eight hundred lot auction is to take place at the Garrison Library which will include proofs and artwork specimens and presentation packs. For the hardy, Thursday will provide the opportunity to take the road over the border to Cadiz, retracing the old overland route from the Rock, via San Roque, Algeiras, Tariff and Chiclan to San Fernando.

Of course, such an important occasion must be marked with an issue of stamps, and they have selected one stamp from each of the five Monarchs under which Gibraltarians have been proud to serve. Victoria is rightly honoured by being represented on the Souvenir sheet for the 29th. Two special postmarks are being created for the occasion: One, a small single with the original "A26" British designated number for Gibraltar, and the other a similar large "Duplex" for the exhibition "CALPEX 86" so-called because Calpe was the old Carthaginian name for Gibraltar.

John and I chatted about policy, we have always believed in a conservative stamp issuing policy, right from the beginning. Our total face value of all issues for a year never exceeds £5 indeed, this year, and even with the very special issue for the Queen's 60th birthday of a single £1

stamp, the total face value comes to exactly £4.99. I feel this must be a contrived figure to ensure the validity of the claim.

I can give you advance information on that 60th birthday £1 commemorative. It is of upright design and depicts Her Majesty leaving Westminster Abbey, clad in the scarlet and white robes of the Order of the Bath. The original artwork, again by A G Ryman MBE, looked very impressive as I held it in my hands, and its certain to be a winner. "How many are you issuing?" I enquired. John gave his enigmatic smile - "we never divulge numbers, but I can assure you, Ricky that we only ever order enough to cover our respective agents' requirements plus what we anticipate we shall need for our counter sales." Indeed, even Stanley Gibbons can verify that statement. They recently wanted 8,000 of the Queen Mother's Birthday issue, but there just were not enough to spare, so they didn't get them. Last year's Christmas issue also sold out well in advance, which proves the ever-growing popularity of Gibraltar stamps and, in my opinion, it is the soundness of their issuing policy. "It's a very delicate balance" said John, "Print a stamp with a face value of ½d and you've lost money. Print too many and you've lost again. Print too few, and everyone, including the Government, complains you've got to try and get it just right." These days not an easy task! They are also replacing their hand stamps over the next few months, the first of the new ones went into use on 3 March. For the technically minded, they are manufactured by Rainer, of 30mm diameter with a cut out for wheel sand date configuration. Each datestamp will carry a number commencing with "1" to show which serving position has received he registered letters. These are being used, to start with, only on registered letters and packets handed in over the Post Office counter. Both the North and South District sub-office also have their own designated cancellers, marked "NDPO" and "SDPO" respectively. The £1 Birthday issue also had a fine postmark designed for it, boldly depicting the Crown as its centerpiece.

Relaxing over a bottle of wine (Spanish Rioja) in the "Rock Hotel", and with the backdrop of Morocco and Tangiers's coastline appearing so close that one could almost see Hercules stride his two pillars, John and I spoke of the every increasing costs of communication by post. "we shall have to raise the ordinary rates this year, but we are ever mindful that we cater for a large amount of Forces mail, both in and out and that, is of course, at a special rate." We discussed the fact the UK and Gibraltar have never issued an airmail stamp as such, but have always relied on the highest face value of the definitive issue. We both agreed that with the cost of sending packages abroad first class airmail these days, the £1 and £25 stamps are scarcely ad equated to the requirement. "Why not a £25 stamp for the job?" I asked. "Indeed, why not?" he replied with a thoughtful look in his eye. "After all, we use them for *that!*" So, please collectors of Gibraltar, when and *if* you have to stamp up £25 for one stamp in the future, don't just curse me after all, *someone had to pay for the lunch!*

(courtesy : Stamp news, 1986).

FIRST STAMPS OF SOUTH AUSTRALIA

Richard Brackon

South Australia was, in effect, the last Australian colony to introduce adhesive Stamps for the prepayment of postage. This occurred at the beginning of 1855, five months after



Van Diemen's Land (Tasmania) and five years after New South Wales and Victoria. Although Queensland was the last colony to actually issue its own stamps, this happened as a result of Queensland's separation from New South Wales in 1859. Hence, the colony of Queensland had used NSW stamps since 1850.

Planning:

In February 1853, the authorities in South Australia gave consideration to adopting prepayment of postage using stamps. No doubt this plan was prompted by the successful operation of the system in New South Wales and Victoria. Also, Van Diemen's Land and Western Australia had taken the first steps to adopt prepayment of postage. On 28 February 1853, Post Master General John Watts of South Australia was asked by the Colony's Colonial Secretary to explain how he proposed to supply stamps. Watts responded saying that he had a sketch prepared of a stamp 'similar to that used' in England.' This was a 2d. Denomination, which, as Watts explained, was the lowest rate of postage and so could be used in multiples for inland and ship letter Postage. On the advice of Sydney's postal authorities, Watts recommended ordering an initial supply of one million 2d. Stamps from England, together with the printing plate and a press to be supplied to the colony, so that future stamp supplies could be printed in Adelaide. Watts concluded by saying that the shipment of one million 2d. stamps would allow prepayment of postage to be carried into immediate effect without the delay consequent upon providing of an apartment, etc for the setting up and working of the press.

Following dispatch of South Australia's instructions to the Colonial Agent in London, Edward Barnard, a requisition was sent to Perkins, Bacon & co. The firm submitted its quote on 3 September 1853, comprising the manufacture of printing plate of 240 stamp impressions, production of one million 2d. Stamps, 17 reams of (blank) watermarked stamp paper, ink pigments, adhesive gum and a 'Perkins Patent Iron Printing Press'. Perkins Bacon promised to ship the items to South Australia within 16 weeks of the order. The Colonial Agent accepted the quote on 12 September.

Printing the first stamps

Perkins Bacon engaged its principal engraver,

William Humphreys, to cut the die for the 2d. South Australian stamp. Watts' sketch of a stamp design had been supplied to Humphreys, but since this has not survived, it is not possible to say how closely the engraver followed the sketch. However, it is known that South Australia's first stamp comprises relatively little original engraving. The Queen's profile is the same diadem head engraved earlier for the 1855 New South Wales 'Large Square' stamps. The background of the South Australian stamp was the same pattern as had been engraved for the first stamps of Chile, which Perkins Bacon was also responsible for printing. Indeed, Humphrey's invoice of 23 December stated his work was for 'reengraving the South Australia postage die., which only involved new engraving around the head after the removal of the original background.

At the same time as the work for South Australia was proceeding, Perkins Bacon were preparing the Van Diemen's Land Chalon Head stamps as well as Victoria's Queen-on-throne stamps. The stamps of all three colonies were printed from plates of 240 impressions (20 rows of 12); so that the same size paper incorporating a six pointed star watermark could be used.

In Adelaide on 25 January 1854, Postmaster General Watts recommended that 1d. and 6d.stamps should also be supplied, following the introduction of the colony's Post Office Act on 1 January. Watts' original assumption that multiples of 2dstamps could be used to pay higher amounts of postage had evidently proved impracticable and, in any case, a 1dstamp was needed for town letters (mail for delivery in the same town of posting). Steps were taken to place an order with Perkins Bacon for 200,000 1dstamps and 500,000 6dstamps together with plates of each value, and sufficient supplies of water marked paper, adhesive gum and inks. The firm's quote was accepted by the Colonial Agent on 22 April 1854 and Perlins Bacon promised delivery within 13 weeks of this date.

Unusual and expensive

At the time the introduction of 1d. and 6dstamps was approved in Adelaide, it was suggested by the South Australian Government Printer that Perkins Bacon manufacture duplicate plates of the 1d. and 6d. stamps; these were to be held in London. The suggestion was no doubt prompted by a belief that duplicate plates could be utilized should a loss occur in shipment or an accident happen to plate in Adelaide. This unusual and expensive course of action was not adopted by the South Australian authorities.

Notwithstanding the promised delivery dates for the two South Australian orders, Perkins Bacon took considerably longer than expected time to complete their work. The dispatch from London of the 2dstamp and the printing materials did not occur until April 1854, seven months after the order had been placed and three months behind schedule. The dispatch of the 1d. and 6dstamps was delayed even longer. They were not sent until June 1855, 11 months after the promised dispatch date. Progress was slow at Perkins Bacon at this time because the firm was experiencing difficulties in maintaining the

supply of British stamps, and work on colonial stamps was sidelined.

The South Australian authorities were sufficiently annoyed by the situation to ask for an official explanation through the Colonial Agent. Perkins Bacon replied that they had experienced difficulties through the constant need to manufacture new plates for the British 1d. stamps. The original die of 1840 had been used to lay down around 50,000 steel plate impressions and it was found that newer printing plates had only a quarter working life of the earlier plates. The amount of plate making work at Perkins Bacon escalated and the British authorities would not countenance the use of the firm's facilities for manufacturing colonial stamp printing plates until their needs had been satisfied. Perkins Bacon was candid enough with the colonial Agent to admit that 'These facts we would rather have buried in oblivion but under the circumstances we think you are entitled to have them. (The solution to the problem of short-lived printing plates was to re-engrave the British 1d. stamp die in 1855 and lay down several flat dies from which a transfer die could be applied-a technique that would 'last for several centuries').

The first stamps are issued

Once the shipment of 2dstamps and printing materials was received in Adelaide, it was transferred to the care of the Colonial Storekeeper. On 20 September 1854, the stamp stock was transferred to the Post Office's control. Later, the authorities considered the establishment of a stamp printing office in Adelaide. South Australia was distinctive among the Australian colonies in undertaking stamp printing in its own Post Office-controlled establishment throughout the 19th century, instead of allocating the work to government printing offices. Production of stamps by the South Australian Post Office continued until 1909, when the printing under J B Cooke's management was merged with Victoria's stamp printing office, marking the beginning of the Note Printing Branch.

Issue date

On 23 October 1854 a notice in the *South Australian Gazette* advised the introduction of stamps for the prepayment of postage would commence on 1 January 1855: 'All letters and packets, requiring to be prepaid, shall have such prepayment made by affixing thereon stamps, unless it shall happen that the Postmaster shall not have stamps of the requisite value for sale, in which case prepayment may be made in coin.' Since only the 2dstamp was available for issue on 1 January, it followed that all instances of town letters involving postage of 1d. would be prepaid in cash.

The 1d. and 6dstamps were received in Adelaide in late October 1855 and their issue took place immediately on 27 October. A Post Office notice dated 26 October carried the announcement: 'Postage stamps of the value of 1d., 2d. and 6d. respectively being now issued, the public are hereby cautioned that, in accordance with the 20th clause of the POAct, no money will be taken in payment of postage upon letters, for dispatch.

The late delivery of the 6d. Stamp was a particular concern, since it had led to high demand for the 2d. Stamp and by late July 1855, the London-printed supply of one million was close to being exhausted. It became necessary to make arrangements for a further supply to be locally printed. Consideration was given to the physical location of the stamp printing. On 11 September, the Public Works Office advised that 'the apartment next adjoining the one through which the prisoners pass into the Supreme Court House, and at present used as lumber room, can be obtained for that purpose.'

The first supplies of locally-printed 2d. stamps were issued in April 1856. Locally printed stamps are distinguishable from their London-printed counterparts by colour shade. The deep, rich colours that Perkins Bacon achieved in their printing were never matched in the Adelaide printings.

The sage of 1s. Stamp

On 19 January 1855, Postmaster General Watts suggested that a 1s stamp 'would be a great convenience to the public and also tend to facilitate the business of this Department'. This was approved and in May 1856, after some delay, the order was placed for Perkins Bacon to supply 500,000 1s stamps, together with two printing plates (one being the duplicate plate to remain in London) and supplies of paper, gum and ink. Consequently, South Australia had placed three orders during as many years to gain their full complement of stamp denominations. Had the authorities been amore prescient in fixing these stamp values, a good deal of time and effort would have been saved. More significantly, the 1s. stamp involved very unusual complications which stretched matters out further.

On 19 February 1857, Postmaster General Watts reported to the Colonial Secretary in Adelaide that the supply of 1s stamps had been received, but they 'are of the same size, the same oblong form as those form as those of lower rates now in use in this department and nearly all of the same colour as those of the 6d. value, a resemblance which in the hurry of business, especially by candle light, will inevitably lead to much confusion.' Watts went on to recommend: 'Under the circumstances I have the honour to request that the dies, together with the colouring material and the half million stamps recently received, be returned to the Agent General with a request that the original order as to shape and colour may be strictly complied with.

Watts had originally submitted a sketch of an octagonal stamp design (no doubt inspired by Great Britain's 2s. 1847 embossed stamp) to London and a sample colour for guidance in preparing South Australia's 1s. stamp. He was especially aggrieved that his request had not been followed and that the violet colour of the 1s. stamp was too close to the 6d. stamp's blue colour (Perkins Bacon explained in a subsequent report that they had never received the octagonal sketch or the colour sample). Watts recommended that the 1s. violet stamp not be issued. This is what happened, although his plan to return the whole consignment to London was not carried out. The Adelaide authorities then proceeded to destroy the entire printing of the 1s. violet stamp-a remarkable step to be

taken by the economy-conscious bureaucracy of that time.

On 20 May 1857, Watts submitted a second report to the Colonial Secretary recommending that the 1s printing plate be retained in Adelaide for printing a new supply of 1s. stamps in a different colour. Buff was suggested which would not be confused with the 6d. value and that the entire stock of 1s. violet stamps be destroyed. His recommendation was accepted on 29 May. The destruction by burning of the 500,000 1s. violet stamps were carried out on 5 June 1857 at the Adelaide GPO. That month, a local printing of the 1s. Stamp in orange was undertaken and the stamp was first issued on 8 July.

Left in London

There is a fascinating postscript to the saga of the 1s. violet stamp. Even though the Adelaide authorities had carried out the destruction, some 18 examples of the stamp exist today. Perkins Bacon had delivered exactly 500,000 1s. Stamps to Adelaide, which presumably included a part sheet of 80 stamps, since the total figure is not divisible by 240 (the number of stamps in the sheet). The remaining block of 160 stamps must have been left in London, because four examples of the 1s. violet stamp exist with the Perkins Bacon barred obliterator reading 'CANCELLED'.

In 1861 Ormond Hill, nephew of Rowland Hill, requested Perkins Bacon to supply specimens of their stamps and considering who the applicant was, the firm readily obliged. They prepared six sets of stamps covering a wide range of British colonies and Chile. The Stamps were removed from sheets held by the firm, perhaps these having been printed in excess of their orders or rejected sheets that had not been destroyed. Each block of six stamps was cancelled by the obliterator and broken into single stamps. (In making the gift, Perkins Bacon did not ask the permission of the Crown Agents or the various governments involved and the matter became a factor in the loss many colonial stamp-printing contracts in 1862).

In the early 1890s, a range of British colonial stamps 'escaped' from Perkins Bacon and came on to the philatelic market. The stamps included the South Australia 1s. violet. (Several examples are recorded in British philatelic journals as being exhibited or sold at auction in 1897). Today, 14 examples of unused 1s. violet stamps are recorded, two of which are held in institutional collections - the Royal Philatelic Collection and the British Library's T.K Tapling Collection. (The latter stamp appears to have been added after Tapling's death in 1891). It is interesting to note that the number of 1s. violet stamps is equaled by the 14 examples of Western Australia's 4d. Inverted Frame error of 1854, but the latter stamp enjoys a fame that has never been acquired by the 1s. violet. The 1s. violet is listed in the Stanley Gibbons Part 1 catalogue as 'Prepared and sent to the colony, but not issued' (SG 4).

Replacement of the first stamps

From 1856 onwards, supplies of the 1d., 2d., 6d. and 1s. stamps were printed by the South Australian Post Office in Adelaide. Rouletting was introduced in 1859 and continued for nearly a decade until proper perforation was

adopted. The use of Star watermark paper also continued to be used for these stamps.

The Perkins Bacon printing plates continued to be used until it became necessary to replace them. A second printing plate for the 2d. stamp was supplied by Perkins Bacon to the South Australian Agent General in London, G S Walters, in December 1863, together with a proof sheet taken from the new plate. However, when it became necessary to acquire a third 2d. plate, the job was given to De La Rue. Perkins Bacon had lost most colonial stamp printing to De La Rue around this time.

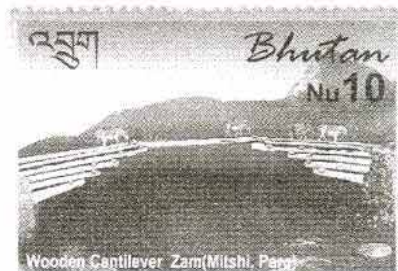
De La Rue specialized in letterpress printing and when the firm received orders for new stamp plates, it proceeded to make letterpress plates in new stamp designs. Consequently, South Australia's recess printing plates were replaced whenever a new plate was needed for a particular stamp. The first stamp from the original series to be replaced was the 2d. value, which ended with the issue of a 2d, De La Rue stamp in August 1868. Next, the 1d. stamp was replaced by a De La Rue stamp of this value issued in January 1875. The 6d. stamp was replaced by a new issue in April 1887. Alone among the first series, the 1s. stamp continued to remain current throughout the 19th century. The 1s. stamp (its colour was switched from orange to brown in 1863) was needed in quantities of less than 50,000 a year, which did not wear out the Perkins Bacon plate. The 1s. stamp was finally replaced in 1902, following the issue of the new series of 'Long' stamps required as a result of Federation.

(Courtesy : Gibbons Stamp Monthly, 2005)

BRIDGES : A SYNOPSIS OF THE VARIOUS TYPES

John Horner : Vice President of Thematics Southern Africa (TSA)

Bridges are such a part of our daily lives that we often zoom across them without a second glance. And yet, starting with early man's simple BEAM BRIDGE, which could easily have been a tree trunk across a stream, bridges have been with us for over 3000 years. The first report of a major bridge was around 600BC. This bridge was built over the Euphrates River in modern day Iraq and it consisted of 100 stone piers supporting wooden... (wooden what? slabs, beams, poles, planks? or is it just wood? Cannot correct it if it is not complete), linking the palaces of ancient Babylon. In 55BC, the Romans built a wooden bridge, with



a length of 1800ft and supported by 50 columns, over the Rhine River.

At the same time, the Chinese developed the balanced CANTILEVER BRIDGE. These bridges are supported by weights at each end and are then joined in the middle. To build such a bridge meant building progressively longer timbers into a masonry tower on each side of the river, ending with the longest joining in midstream. The Forth River's Railway Bridges in Scotland, completed in 1890, is an example of a balanced cantilever with two spans of 1700ft being the longest at the time.

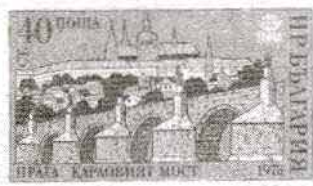


19th Century America became the home of the timber bridge. The country's vast commercial growth at that time saw the rapid expansions of roads and waterways, and as there was hardly any experience of building with stone, the plentiful supply of timber lent itself to the construction of wooden bridges. The Swiss brothers Grubermann developed the first Quasi-timer truss bridge in the 18th century. The Wettinger Bridge, with a span of 309 feet over the Limmat River, was considered their finest work.



This bridge combines the arch and truss principles. American engineers developed the modern truss girder, which was essential for the westwards expansion of the railways. These were also known as the carpenter bridges. Palmer developed the truss arch bridge and 1792 saw the first of two trussed arches over the Merrimac River. In 1806, Palmer's "Permanent Bridge" over the Schuylkill became his most celebrated bridge. It was this bridge that he covered to prevent rot and decay. Palmer went a step further by cladding the sides of the bridge too. America's distinctive COVERED BRIDGES were born with a number still in existence today. Interestingly enough, no examples of covered bridges have ever been depicted on US stamps but there are examples from Canada and Eastern Europe.

Between 200 BC and AD400, the Romans built their beautiful and durable stone ARCH BRIDGES. The oldest Roman Bridge, the Ponte Rotto in Rome was built in 179BC but has since been rebuilt and altered. The most typical of the older Roman bridges is the Ponte de Augusto at Rimini: built over the Marecchia River in AD20. This is one of six examples that can still be seen this day. This bridge has five spans towards the centre, varying in



length from 26 to 35ft: they are semicircular and supported by square piers, which obstruct almost half of the river's course. One of the great aqueducts is the Spain, built in AD1 with its two tiers and 109 arches, this masterpiece carries the Rio Frio the last 2500ft into the town. One of the most famous aqueducts is 19BC's Pont du Gard at Nimes. Examples of this Roman era can still be seen in France, Spain, Turkey and North Africa.

Roman bridge construction stagnated after the collapse of the Roman Empire. However not so in Persia and China where a number of masonry bridges were built before the 12th century. The Persian ruler, Shapor the 1st used Roman captives to build a Roman-method bridge across the Karun River: this bridge had 40 arches with a span of 500 meters. As stagnation set in, in Europe, China's bridge building flourished. During the Sui dynasty in the 7th century AD, the An Ji Bridge in Zhao Xian of the Hebei Province was built and to this day it is one of the most remarkable stone bridges in the world. The shallow segmental arches and open spandrels were unprecedented at the time of its construction.

It was only in the 12th century that extensive building began again in Europe with the Pont d' Avignon over the River Rhine. This was considered to be a remarkable achievement with its span of over-900 metres.



Florence's Ponte Vecchio Bridge built across the Arno River (rebuilt in 1345) and the Karlsbrücke Bridge -in Prague, across the River Danube, are two major examples of masonry arch bridges built during the Renaissance period.

Iron Bridges

From the last quarter of the 18th century, wrought iron was used in the construction of bridges. The first cast iron bridge was erected at Coalbrookdale, England in -1779. However, the degree of failure of these bridges was extremely high. In 1879, the worst iron bridge disaster over the Tay Estuary in Scotland marked the end of the iron bridge for good. It was in the mid-19th Century that Henry Bessemer developed a process for bulk steel production. Unfortunately, the quantities his process produced were extremely small. But the open-hearth method, patented by Charles Siemens and Pierre Emil Martins in 1867, opened the door for successful bulk steel production. The cost of using steel in bulk was still prohibitive in relation to wrought iron, but with the collapse of the steel price in 1880 it suddenly became competitive, and with its vastly superior qualities, opened the door to advances in long-span bridge technology.



Steel Bridges

And so from 1880 to today, we have seen the development of the steel truss bridge, the cantilever truss bridge, the steel plate girder bridge and the box girder bridge.

The triple-arched St Louis Bridge over the Missouri River was the first bridge to incorporate steel in its truss construction. The Sydney Harbour Bridge in Australia, with its magnificent 1650ft single arch span, was the result of 58 years of development in the construction of bridges. The advent of steel made the use of cantilever long truss construction viable. The best example of this is the Firth Bridge over the firth of Forth in Scotland (seen in the background of the stamp). This system was also widely used in America until the collapse of the Quebec Bridge in 1907.

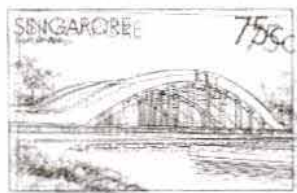


The development of steel and the I-beam have resulted in many beam bridges, also known as steel-plate girder and box girder bridges, being built. Using a group of beams in parallel, interconnected at the top to form a roadway, is quick to assemble but only effective over short spans of 1500ft or less. This technique was developed during the Second World War but was especially useful when rebuilding the German infrastructure as it was mainly used to reconstruct the road network. In the 1970's, a number of failures occurred and the technique has since been phased out. This fact the Rio-Niteroi Bridge in Brazil is one of the most spectacular box girder bridges in the world. It is 5 miles long with spans of 930ft made from twin steel-box girders.



Concrete-Bridges

Concrete is now used more than any other material for the construction of bridges. It is very strong in compression and is ideal for the arch form. With the addition of reinforcing steel, it can be used to accept bending in the beam and cantilever forms. Concrete carries on hardening for anything up to a year and therefore needs careful design so as not to crack. In many cases, a third hinge is inserted at the middle of the span to enable the bridge to move slightly instead of cracking. Freyssinet's bridge over the Elorn estuary near the town of Plougastel in Brittany, France, is a major example of a reinforced concrete bridge. The bridge accommodates two decks: one for road traffic



and the other for rail traffic. The structure consists of three concrete box arches using a wooden arch as formwork. To cast each of the three arches, the formwork was set on a secured floating barge. The twin trussed deck was built on the vertical fins of the reinforced concrete.

After World -War Two, the development of high tensile steel brought to effect the idea of using prestressed concrete in the construction of bridges. Freyssinet pioneered this technique with the construction of five bridges over the River Marne in France during the late 1940's. Some of the more modern prestressed concrete bridges can be seen on the Leventina Highway in Switzerland. Their design is a feature in many modern Swiss bridges. The Kocher Viaduct in Germany is over a kilometre long, with prestressed concrete piers carrying a 31-m-widedeck, 185 metres above the valley floor. The slim box-girder spans upto 138 metres!

Suspension Bridges

Suspension bridges are capable of huge spans as all the stresses are caused by tension and can be thinner than compression as they cannot buckle. When suspension bridges are loaded they distribute the load over a larger area than other bridges. Primitive suspension bridges have been known since the Stone Age. In their simplest form the deck followed the curve of the suspension. Today the oldest suspension bridge is to be found in Mainland China.



The modern, steel wire rope, suspension bridge is primarily the result of the work pioneered by John Roebling and his son, Washington. Their masterpiece was the Brooklyn Bridge with 271ft masonry towers connected with 1200 miles of wire in the four 6-inch diameter cables.

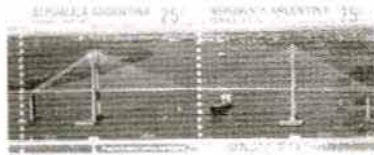


The deck was suspended from these wires and the bridges opened in 1883. More bridges followed, getting longer and narrower. America's Tacoma narrows Bridge across the Puget Sound was opened in 1940. At the time it was the third longest bridge in the world; with a span of 2800ft, it was a mere 39ft wide and was stiffened with 8ft-deep plate girders on each side. It was designed to be safe in winds up to 120mph, but four months after its opening a wind of 42mph sprang up and caused it to heave in vertical waves 30ft deep! After three hours of twisting through ninety degrees, a series of suspenders broke and 1000ft of the deck collapsed.



Cable - Stayed Bridges

These bridges have their decks directly connected to supporting masts with straight cables. They do not require tower blocks at the extreme ends as in the case of suspension bridges. In the case of very long spans, cable-stayed bridges cannot replace suspension bridges, but they have a great flexibility of design and have been depicted on many stamps around the world.



In France, the Normandie Bridge over the Seine



River near Le Havre was at one stage the longest cable-stayed bridge ever built until the Tatara Bridge in Japan surpassed it. In recent times there has been a rapid escalation in building bridges around the world and often the result is that countries, islands and mainlands are being connected.

The world of bridges is vast and this brief description is merely a glimpse at some of the more salient points. An article of this nature cannot attempt to do justice to such a broad and relevant subject.

** References- Topical Time (July - August.2004:)
Cable-stayed Bridges, A.R, Jorges
Bridges, D.J., Brown
The Creation of Bridges, D. Bennett
(Courtesy : Setembe , 2006)

JOBURG 2010

INTERNATIONAL STAMP SHOW 23RD ASIA INTERNATIONAL STAMP EXHIBITION

The South African Post Office and the Philatelic Federation of South Africa is proud to announce the hosting of the Joburg 2010 International Stamp Show and the 23rd Asian International Stamp Exhibition to be held from 27 to 31 October 2010 at the Sandton Convention Centre in Johannesburg, South Africa.



Why October 2010?

2010 is a special year for South Africa as the FIFA 2010 Football World Cup South Africa™ will be held here from 11 June - 11 July 2010, the first time that this event will be held on the African continent. (Internet web sites <http://www.fifa.com/worldcup/index.html>; <http://www.sa2010.gov.za/> and <http://www.southafrica.net/Cultures/en-US/2010.southafrica.net/>)

The Joburg Stamp Show will, however, be held in October, referred to by one South African poet as the "most beautiful month" as it starts the summer season. According to the South African Weather Service the average daily minimum temperature for Johannesburg in October is 11°C (51,8°F) and the average daily maximum is 24°C (75,2°F). The average monthly rainfall is 72mm. Rain in Johannesburg mostly comes in the form of late afternoon thunderstorms that clear up quickly.

October does not fall within the peak holiday periods in South Africa and, in this instance, visitors will benefit from all the infrastructure and other initiatives that will be in place for the Football World Cup.

Sandton Convention Centre

The Sandton Convention Centre is arguably one of South Africa's world class centres for exhibitions, meetings and special events and, amongst others, hosted the World Summit on Sustainable Development in 2002. Interesting facts about the Centre are that:

It has 12 storeys with 22000 m2 of meeting, exhibition and special-event space

It can handle 10000 visitors at any one time

There are 4300 hotel rooms, ranging from 2 star to 5 star, within five kilometres from the Centre

The Centre is across the road from the Sandton City shopping centre which is in the heart of Sandton, the commercial and financial centre of Johannesburg and about 14 km north of the Johannesburg CBD. (Internet web sites <http://www.saconvention.co.za/>; <http://www.za.sandtoncity.co.za/>; <http://www.sandtontourism.co.za/>)

Getting Sandton

Visitors arriving by air will most likely arrive at the OR Tambo International Airport in Johannesburg. Most hotels have courtesy buses from here and taxis are readily available.

The Gautrain Rapid Rail Link between the airport and Sandton is scheduled to be completed for the Football World Cup. (Internet websites <http://www.acsa.co.za/home.asp?pid=228&selAirport=jhb> and <http://www.gautrain.co.za/>) What to do?

If you like shopping or eating out, you do not have to go any further than the Sandton City Shopping Centre with its 300 shops or at the African Craft Market at the Rosebank Mall.

Sites and sounds and around Johannesburg include:

Soweto - an acronym for "South Western Townships" is a vibrant area with restaurants and popular tourist attractions. Vilakazi Street, for example, is famous as it is the only street in the world where two Nobel Peace Prize winners have lived - Nelson Mandela and Archbishop Desmond Tutu.

Lesedi African Cultural Village - About an hour's drive north of Johannesburg, you can experience the colourful traditions of the Basotho, Ndebele, Pedi, Xhosa and Zulu people.

The Cradle of Humankind - A World Heritage Site comprising 47 000 hectares, 200 caves and 13 fossil sites, this was indeed the "home of our ancestors".

The Johannesburg Civic Theatre provides world class theatre.

The Wanderers Cricket Stadium (not far from Sandton City) staged the Cricket World Cup final in 2003.

The contract between the Inter-Asian Philatelic Federation (FIAP) and the PFSA was signed in Manila in January 2008.

The Individual Regulations are those utilized by FIP and FIAP. The full copy of the Regulations will be set out in the first Bulletin which will be published and distributed later this year.

The event is jointly organized by the South African Post Office and the Philatelic Federation of South Africa (PFSA). The Sandton International Convention Centre is the venue for the Exhibition. The main exhibition hall, Exhibition hall 1, together with Jury, Commissioners, Bin and Press Rooms have been confirmed as the venue for the Exhibition.

The Commissioner General for the Exhibition is Mr. Patrick Flanagan. Member countries of FIAP have already been invited to nominate Commissioners. All Commissioners related queries may be directed to Patrick Flanagan at pflan@mweb.co.za.

It is planned to have some 1500 frames of Competitive Exhibits across all FIP classes. In addition provision has been made for a Court of Honour, a South African Post Office archival exhibit and Invited Exhibits. Frames will comply with the International Convention of 16 page per frame.

Mr Richard Johnson, a pre-eminent South African Stamp Dealer and an Executive Member of IFSDA, is coordinating the Dealer requirements. Some 100 dealers can be accommodated. It is anticipated that some 30 South African dealers will be represented and those from the rest of the world are encouraged to hire a booth. In the interim any Dealer related enquiries may be directed to Richard Johnson at RJ@Johnson.co.za.

(Courtesy: Setempe, South Africa, 2008)

COLLECTING OLYMPIC GAMES

Franceska Rapkin

It is Olympic year once again and the philatelic press already carries advertisements for the special issues that will be released for the Games of the 26th Olympiad which will be held in the summer in Atlanta, Georgia. It has become common practice in the years since World War II for the host nation to issue stamps in the years approaching the Games in order to raise funds to help with the financing of the event. This year is different in so far that the United States Postal Service has released no stamps as yet, and may be unable to do so. Due to an agreement between the International Olympic Committee and United Parcel Service, UPS has the sole rights to use the Olympic rings world wide in 1996. It will be interesting to see if agreement can be reached between the two organisations or if, for the first time since 1912, there will be no stamp issued by the host nation. We have even got used to the idea that most of the banana republics will climb on to the philatelic bandwagon. It was not always like this. A look in the catalogue will show that at one time the issues released for the Olympic Games were highly desirable items.

Origin of the Games

The Olympic Games of the modern era, which were first held in Athens in 1896, were the brain-child of Baron Pierre de Coubertin, a French aristocrat, who believed that it was possible to bring peace between the nations by their youth meeting regularly in friendly rivalry on the sports fields, much as they had done in ancient times during the early Games at Olympia. De Coubertin, along with international financiers of a like mind, met in Paris in 1896 in Greece was agreed. The idea of new stadium at the ancient site at Olympia had to be discarded, for at that time the only way to reach the ruins was over donkey track



through miles of uninhabited, hostile countryside. Instead, it was decided to rebuild the ruined Herodius Atticus stadium in Athens. The Greeks welcomed the modern Olympic era with enthusiasm. The King of Greece officially opened the first Games of the Olympiad on 6 April, and was present with members of his family on most days of the competition. At that time, the Greeks still used the old Gregorian calendar, so covers with first day cancellations read 25 March and not 6 April.

The modern Olympic Games fall into three broad groups which, by coincidence, divide naturally at the Games immediately preceding the two world wars. With the exception of the first Games, the Games of 1900 in Paris, 1904 in St Louis and 1908 in London, were all held in conjunction with a world trade fair or exhibition. Although a

few special postcards and cancellations were produced to commemorate the Olympics, only in 1896 were special stamps produced to commemorate the Games by the host nation.

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Early issues for the modern Games:



Paris 1900

Greece again issued a set of stamps in 1906 to commemorate the 10th anniversary of the modern Olympic era and the holding of Tenth Anniversary Games. These stamps are the most desirable and expensive of all Olympic philately, excluding varieties and misprints. The White City stadium was built for the 1908 Games, which were held in conjunction with the Franco-British Exhibition.

A new era

In 1912 the Games of the fifth Olympiad were held in Stockholm. For the first time a purpose-built stadium was erected in the forest near the city and for the first time the Games were held independently from a world exhibition or trade fair. These Games were also the first truly international sporting event as envisaged by de Coubertin, with athletes competing from as far away as Japan and South America. The finance was raised through an Olympic lottery and the sale of postcards, vignettes and seals. With the special cancellations that were used while the games were in progress, as well as the vignettes and postcards, several album leaves can be devoted to the philately of the 1912 Olympic Games, although no stamps were issued.



Amsterdam 1928

The next Games were scheduled for 1916 in Berlin. Unlike the Games of ancient times, no sacred truce could be declared, and as the Great War continued unabated, the VI Olympiad was continued. The VII Olympiad was held in a war-torn Antwerp. They were held more to keep the Olympic spirit alive for the future, than in a true spirit of celebration. However, stamps were issued by Belgium to mark the event, and special cancellations and postcards were used while the Games were in progress. In 1924, the Games were again held in Paris, and in 1928, Amsterdam was the host for the IX Olympiad, the first

occasion since the war that Austria and Germany were invited to participate. All three host nations' postal authorities issued stamps to commemorate the holding of the Olympic festival on their soil. As did the United States Postal authorities when the Games went to Los Angeles in 1932.



Los Angeles 1932

Germany bids for the Olympics

Ever since the 1916 Games had been cancelled, the German Olympic committee had been pressing the IOC to issue a second invitation to host the Games. In May 1931 at the annual Olympic session in Barcelona, the request was finally granted. It must be borne in mind that the Olympic Games were awarded to the Berlin of the Weimar Republic; it is highly doubtful that Berlin would have been granted the privilege had Hitler already been in power. As it was, no effort or cost was spared to make these the most spectacular and expensive Games of the modern era.



Berlin 1936

Hitler wanted to prove to the world the superiority and achievements of the National socialists and, with tens of thousands of thousands of visitors pouring into the German capital in the summer of 1936, here was the ideal opportunity to do it. The Germans were always philatelically minded and, apart from stamps, booklets and postcards, the Reich postal authorities issued two miniature sheets to commemorate the event, the first time the miniature sheets were produced for this purpose. The German Olympic Committee and several other national sporting organizations produced fund raising cards and, with the special post offices at all the sporting venues in and around Berlin, a complete study of the philately of the 1936 Olympic Games will fill several albums. Yet in spite of all the publicity, only Austria issued two special cancellations to promote the sale of Olympic lottery tickets, and no other nations issued commemorative stamps. That had to wait until after World War II. This was the first time that nationalism strongly influenced the Games, a cancer that has grown with each successive Olympiad.

London 1948



War again disrupted the Games of the XII and XIII Olympiads, scheduled for Helsinki and London. In 1948, London offered to act as host for the XIV Olympiad, though it was clearly understood that this would not be the lavish affair of 1936. As money was tight, no new stadium was built and the main athletic events took place at the existing stadium at Wembley. The British postal authorities issued four stamps in commemoration and several postcards and cancellations to swell a collection of the 1984 Games.

By the early 1950s other nations had realised the Olympic Games were of worldwide interest, and that postage stamps brought in useful revenue. One after another, the participating nations issued more stamps for each successive Olympiad, and then the banana republics and sand dune states also started to get in on the act. It reached ridiculous proportions when African nations, who had never seen snow and ice, let alone had the sportsmen to compete in the winter Games, issued endless sets, before, during and after each Olympiad. As long as collectors are prepared to part with their money the postal authorities will produce the necessary wallpaper, but it's no longer fun for the serious collector. By all means buy these if it gives pleasure; but under no circumstances believe that they will ever prove to be a good investment.

A modern Olympic collection

So, with all the available material where does the student draw the line? Unless one has a deep pocket, and both the time and patience necessary for researching the relevant material for an in-depth study, I would ignore the Games before the two world wars. Great enjoyment can be found with a modern Olympic collection if it is limited to the stamps and the other relevant material produced by the host nation. In some cases, such as the Games held in Moscow in 1980, I would be inclined to narrow the field still further, and stick only to material released by the Russian postal authorities. In 1980 a lot of meaningless covers were produced by several fringe organizations which were merely duplications of covers produced by the post office. If possible, and it is not easy, avoid buying philatelically contrived covers and cards. As abunds, genuine commercially used covers are often cheaper than mass produced philatelic trivia. When the time comes for expansion, stamps, cards and covers produced by the participating nations can also be included but, as previously stated, I would suggest that the stamps produced by nations who are only interested in the revenue that the stamps create, are to be avoided at all costs.

My collection embraces only the Games of 1936. What started out merely as a small side-line collection 25 years ago, has become the centre of my philatelic life and takes up a great deal of shelf space. From personal experience, I must warn you that Olympic philately can be habit forming and can be detrimental to your pocket! However, I have had endless hours of pleasure from my passion, and surely, that's what it's all about!

(Courtesy: Stamp magazine, 1993)

* * * * *

Do you Know?

Largest in the World

As part of a campaign to promote letter-writing in the Farose Farose Postal Service arranged to have built a gigantic copy of a Farose Mail box, ten times normal size: 6,241mm high, 3,783mm wide and 1,993mm deep. At the official opening ceremony a representative from the Guinness Book of Records handed to Postverk Foroya a certificate declaring the mail box to be the Largest Mail Box in the World'.

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