



# SIPA

# Bulletin

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## Editorial

### “CHAOS”, order of the day

In the philatelic world of today, over the years, our Indian philately is well known for

The large number of personality issues,  
The growing large number of issues,  
The most unplanned issues etc...

But, of late, say in the last six months or so, it is utter chaos at the counters of philatelic bureaus. Not even one single buyer or collector goes back satisfied if not happily getting all the things he wanted to buy.

With all the items like commemorative stamps, first day covers, cancellations, information sheets, maxim cards, miniature sheets available, the collector who goes to the bureau at the appointed day and time of issue to get the commemorative stamp with the corresponding first day cover cancelled properly, gets only shock, because most of the time, more than one of the parts will be in the “not yet received” list? When it will come? Nobody knows.

So the enthusiastic collector will have to visit the philatelic bureau a number of times to fulfill his heart's wishes. Finally when he goes after a month or so his so called 'stamp' or 'cover' will be in the “sold out list”. In the course of such visits as a human being, he will lose interest and may leave the hobby once and for all.

When he grumbles about his disappointment he is being told to join P.D. A/c and get his things regularly. Collecting philatelic material is first and foremost for personal happiness. It is not the acquirement of material alone will bring happiness. For senior philatelists the visit to a philatelic counter and getting the material on the first day itself in his wanted form gives more happiness. It can be felt only by them and not by the peculiar stamp designers, inefficient supply / distribution managers, disinterested (few) sales counter staff etc.,

To put the facts out, by the end of the year, that is on 31 December, the serious and sincere collector might be short by two miniature sheets, three stamps, four first day covers etc. in his year pack of 2009 which were supposed to have been issued during the year.

In totality, in the long run, such distribution and selling practices are definitely going to reduce the strength of the collecting community which in turn is going to kill the hobby. Thank you India Post.

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## A Peep show

The late Mr Lea, the distinguished Manchester stamp dealer, once told me **an amusing story**. I had gone into his shop in King Street to buy a Spanish stamp - the high value of 'la Maja', the famous reclining nude by Goya (SG569). In my youth, I had bought the low values but could never afford the high value to make up the trio.

'It will cost you a bit', he said and then, as he handed me the stamp, he told me and other customers present that when the stamps were first issued in 1930 he displayed them in the window of his shop, then in Portland Street. passer-by used to stop and stare at the stamps. One day, the window cleaner came into the shop to complain that, because of the crowd outside, he could not get on with cleaning the windows. As Mr. Lea remarked, times have changed W.E. Baugh, Manchester.

## Monthly Second Sunday Meetings

With President

Mr. G. Balakrishna Das on the Chair,  
19 members attended the meeting on  
9. 8.2009.

Mr. D.H. Rao shared his experiences  
in bringing out "Madras day" special  
cover.



## STAMP NEWS

### LAL BAHADUR SHASTRI

#### National Academy of Administration

4.7.09

500

0.4mill

The Lal Bahadur Shastri National Academy of Administration, Mussoorie is the apex training institution for senior members of the Civil services in India. Established in 1959, after the erstwhile civil service training set up moved from Metcalfe House in Delhi, the Academy was housed in the Grand Charleville Hotel at Mussoorie. In 1975, the National Academy of Administration was named after the country's second prime minister Lal Bahadur Shastri.

The Academy is a virtual melting pot where people across generations, from every part of our country and beyond, come in contact with each other. It is a place where participants from every state, speaking different languages, with diverse qualifications and socio-educational backgrounds meet, interact and learn from each other. The participants range from the brilliant young women and men beginning their career in public service, after qualifying in a grueling competitive examination, to senior officials.



The Academy conducts a range of courses for both fresh entrants to the premier civil services as well as mid-career training programmes for civil servants. The administrators combine the richness of their field experience with strong academic achievements to provide a stimulating atmosphere for learning. Apart from this, the Academy has constituted autonomous centres working to undertake meaningful research on various aspects of governance. The National Institute of Administrative Research (NIAR), Centre for Rural Studies (CRS), National Literacy Resource Centre (NLRC), Centre for Disaster Management (CDM) and Centre for Cooperatives and Rural Development (CCRD).

The Academy has one of the country's finest libraries, the Gandhi Smriti Library, with a collection of around 1.75 lakh volumes and subscription of 400 journals and periodicals.

The Academy completes five decades of its existence this year and is celebrating its Golden Jubilee.

The Academy is conscious of the vision articulated by the founding father Sardar Vallabhai Patel in 1949 before the country's constituent Assembly.

Theme : Civil Services, Leaders, Personality, Institutions

## RAMCHARAN AGARWAL

25.7.09

500

0.4mill

Ramcharan Agarwal, who was affectionately called 'Lalaji', was born in a family of freedom fighters on 22<sup>nd</sup> December 1917 at Najibabad, Uttar Pradesh. His father Shri Ramchander Mal was a businessman.

Ramcharan Agarwal was deeply impressed by the ideology and teachings of Mahatma Gandhi and became his follower, taking an active part in the freedom struggle. At the early age of 19, he became Treasurer of Delhi Pradesh Congress Committee. He was first arrested in 1939 and again went to jail in 1942 and 1945 as a consequence of his activities during the freedom movement. He was one of the eleven persons selected by Mahatma Gandhi and became his follower, taking an active part in the freedom struggle. Keeping in view his qualities of leadership, team work and social service; he was given a ticket by the Indian National Congress from Mailwara Constituency for Delhi Municipal Congress from Mailwara Constituency for Delhi Municipal Committee Elections 1951 and then again in 1954. He won both the elections.



He won MCD elections in 1958 and was elected the first Deputy Mayor of Delhi along with Smt. Aruna Asaf Ali, who was the first mayor. He was again elected Deputy Mayor of Delhi in 1961. In the year 1962, he was once again elected to the Municipal Corporation, Delhi.

Lalaji was a great Visionary. He felt the need for cleanliness of Yamuna River and mooted the proposal to stop sewage flowing into the river. He had the interests of the common man at heart and he was a friend of the poor and the down trodden. His night Shelter scheme for the homeless was one of the measures which bore testimony to this. He played an important role in the development of slum enclosures in Old Delhi, giving protection to sellers in pavement bazars. He is still remembered for his contribution towards upliftment of the living standards of the poor and weaker sections of society. In 1966, he was elected to the newly formed Metropolitan Council. He was awarded 'Tamapatra' by the then President of India, Dr. Fakuruddin Ali Ahmed, for his contribution to the freedom. Indira Gandhi described Lalaji as a gentleman politician, who always stood for principles. In her words, "Lalaji was a man having a great place in Delhi and very popular name in the freedom Movement.

He visited many foreign countries as a member of the India delegation, including UK, USA, USSR and Canada. In recognition of his services to the country, the ITO Crossing, in Delhi, has been renamed as 'Ram Charan Agarwal Chok'.

He died on 25<sup>th</sup> July 1977. He was a true Gandhian and wore khadi throughout life. He will always be remembered as a great freedom fighter in Indian history.

Theme: Freedom Fighter, Leader,



## JAYADEVA AND GEETAGOVINDA

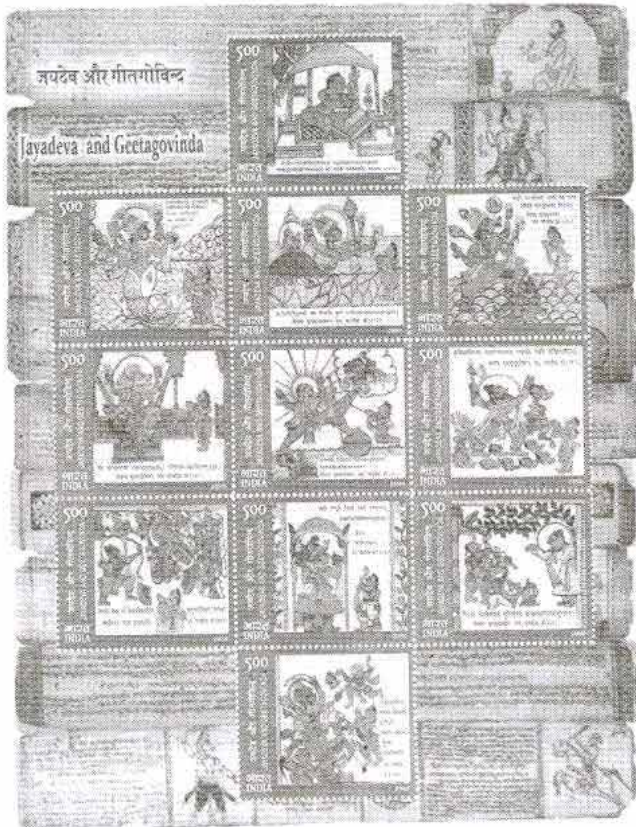
27.7.09

500

1.0 mill each

Geetagovinda by saint poet Jayadeva is unique work in Indian literature and has been a great source of literary and artistic inspiration for the last nine centuries. People have enjoyed singing its melodious lyrics and have danced to the tune of Geetagovinda in all classical dances of India and in palas. The Geetagovinda has been sung, danced and enacted at Puri Jagannath Temple and in several other temples throughout India. Gitinatya or drama is the earliest type of traditional Sanskrit drama in India. Geetagovinda marked the transition stage between pure lyric and pure drama. It has the unique advantage of poem, which could be enjoyed simply by hearing it recited or sung. Pictorial traditions of the Geetagovinda extend from east to west, touching Orissa, Bihar, Bengal, Himachal Pradesh, Kashmir, Rajashtan, Gujarat and even Nepal.

Jayadeva, the author was not only a great singer and a poet but above all a great saint whose devotion for Radha and Krishna and Vaishnavism, which spread the message of social harmony and united people all over India cutting across narrow class, language and of river 'Prachi'.



With his father's guidance, Jayadeva acquired a vast learning of Sanskrit literature and theology in a very short time. It was from Jagannath Temple, Puri, Jayadeva's devotional songs, including the famous one describing the Dasavatar, have inspired choreographers. Padmavati, his wife, performed those dances in the Puri Jagannath Temple. The stamps and the first day cover are a depiction and celebration of Jayadeva's composition on Dasavatar.

Theme: Hinduism, Religion, Dance, Drama, Poet.

## ST. JOSEPH'S COLLEGE, BANGALORE

1.8.09

500

0.4 mill

St. Joseph's College, Bangalore, is a hundred and twenty five year old, solid in its imposing stone mass, lofty in its height, with a silver dome on top, commanding a place of priority in the field of education. The College, which in itself exemplifies a tradition, consists of four main buildings which are located in the center of the cantonment. The need for instituting a college of this magnitude in Bangalore was felt by the Catholic missionaries and it was the Vicar Apostle of the Coromandel Coast, with Rev. Dr. Bonnard who propounded the idea, in 1841 in a letter to Rev. Fr. Bertrand. complying with the order, the Foreign Missions Society of Paris bought a plot of land on St. John's Hill and gradually made the transition to the location it occupies today.

Founded in 1882 by French Missionary Fathers, St. Joseph's college made its simple and small beginning in Bangalore. In the year 1937, it was taken over by the Society of Jesus, popularly known as the Jesuits, an international religious order of the Catholic church. Right from its origin, the college has attracted students from developing countries and from every state of India.



Today it stands as an autonomous institution of quality teaching and learning, an institute of Post Graduate studies and research in Science and Humanities, a College with potential for excellence under the University Grants Commission. Its institutional policy is necessarily inclusive and plural in nature focused on the service of the marginalized without sacrificing academic excellence, a hall mark of the institution for last 125 Years.

The history of St. Joseph's College, Bangalore is a chronicle that brings together tradition and modernity, faith and reason, science and humanism and thus enhances the confluence between human labour and scientific technology and marks the paradigm shift between scholarly excellence and social transformation. Theme: Institutions, Education, Bangalore.

## MAHARSHI PATANJALI

4.8.09

500

1.8 mill

There are six schools of philosophy in Hinduism: Vaishika, Nyaya, Sankhya, Yoga, Mimamsa and Vedanta. The earliest exponents of these systems are said to be Kanada, Gotama, Kapila, Patanjali, Jaimini and Vyasa respectively. The exact date of origin of these schools is



not known but they are believed to have been formulated prior to the Buddha. The significant features of these schools are: (i) They accept the authority of the Veda. (ii) These schools do have mutual contradictions on certain issues but they all believed in the Law of Karma, Rebirth and Attainment of Moksha (liberation) as the highest goal of human struggle to achieve realization of the true self.

Patanjali is a revered name, known for his compilation on Yoga Sutras, an important collection of aphorisms on yoga practice. It is believed that Patanjali is an incarnation of 'Adishesha'.

According to a popular legend, Patanjali was born to the first saint of the Saptarishies, Atri and his wife Anusuya. According to this tradition Anusuya had to go through a stern test of her chastity, when the Trinity (Brahma, Visnu and Shiva) themselves came as mendicants and asked her for alms. She passed their test by accepting them as her children and fed them. She received a boon by which all the three divinities were born to her. It is said that desiring to teach yoga to the world, he fell (pat) from heaven into open palms (anjali) of woman, hence the name Patanjali.



Yoga Sutras are said to be the pioneer in establishing the practice and philosophy of yoga. Yoga in traditionally involves, inner contemplation, a rigorous system of meditation practice, ethics, metaphysics, and devotion to God.

The Yoga Sutras codify the royal or best (raja) yoga practices presenting these as an eight limbed system (ashtanga). The focus is on mind yoga defines the cessation of all mental fluctuations and all wandering thoughts so that the mind is focused on a single thought (ekagrata). The eight limbs or the Astanga yoga propounded are

- (i) Yama ethics, restraint and ahimsa,
- (ii) Niyama- cleanliness and ascetism,
- (iii) Asana- posture,
- (iv) Pranayama breath control
- (v) Pratyahara sense withdrawal,
- (vi) Dharana concentration,
- (vii) Dhyana meditation and
- (viii) Samadhi and oneness with Pranava of the Ishvara.

Yoga Sutra explains and guides us step by step to the ultimate realization: Mokksha (liberation.)

Theme: Hinduism, Religion, Personality.

## PINGALI VENKAIAH

12.8.09

500

0.4 mill

Shri Pingali Venkaiah, the designer of the Indian National Flag was born to Shri Pingali Hanumantha Rayudu and Smt. Venkataratnamma, on 2<sup>nd</sup> August 1878 at Bhatlapenumarru, Divi taluk, Krishna District, Andhra Pradesh.

Driven by patriotic zeal, at the age of 19, he left for Bombay (Mumbai) and joined the Army. On completion of the training, he was sent to Africa where he participated in the Boer War (1899-1902). While in Africa he met Gandhiji and was deeply impressed with his ideology.

Shri Pingali Venkaiah was a original thinker and Venkaiah was an original thinker and versatile genius. Whether it was learning various languages, or the study of diamonds or geology or agriculture, he proved that.

When Gandhiji started the Khadi Movement, Shri Pingali Venkaiah was inspired and imported cotton seeds from America. Known as the Cambodian variety, created a hybrid with Indian cotton seeds. This unparallel research resulted in a Cotton Venkaiah".



In 1916, he published a book "A National Flag for India" in English in which he put forth 30 models for National Flag.

During the meeting of the Indian National Congress held at Vijaywada, in April 1921, Mahatma Gandhi asked Sri Paingali Venkaiah, to draw a national Flag. Thus the responsibility to design the Indian Flag was formally handed over to Shri Pingali Venkaiah. Gandhiji approved the design of National Flag in the Indian National Congress Conference. Thereafter Pingali Venkaiah became popular as Jhanda Venkaiah.

Shri Pingali Venkaiah breathed his last on 4<sup>th</sup> July, 1963.

Theme : Freedom Struggle, Flags, Personality.

## HERITAGE RAILWAY STATIONS OF INDIA

16.8.09

500

0.4 mill each

Indian Railways has stood as an emblem of progress spanning over 150 years. Some railway structures are monumental in nature representing



significant developments in architecture and technology. On 15.08.1854 a train ran from Howrah to Panduah. This Heritage Run is commemorated by the release of a set of four stamps representing four Metro Heritage Railway Stations of India. The Miniature Sheet brings alive the old world charm of Railway Stations.

A plan for railway in India was first put forward in 1832. In 1844, the Governor General of India allowed private entrepreneurs to set up a rail system. The first train became operational on 22<sup>nd</sup> December 1851 in Roorkee. On 16<sup>th</sup> April 1853, the first passenger train ran between Bori Bunder, Bombay and Thane, covering 21 miles. The rail network then developed rapidly, radiating from Bombay, Madras, Calcutta and Delhi

Railways in India were patrons of style that combined the prestige and relevance of train travel with imaginative innovations of engineering. They were designed with grandeur and dedicated to the customer for eternity. Also, the four Metro Stations Kolkata, Mumbai, Chennai and Delhi were monumental in scale, striking architectural creations of the 19<sup>th</sup> Century, innovatively designed and incorporated local traditions and craftsmanship.

The first imposing heritage station of the Railways came up with the Victoria Terminus, housing the office of the Great Indian Peninsular Railway Company. This building was started in 1878 and it was completed and thrown open to the public on New Year's day 1888. In quick succession came the large and imposing station buildings at Madras and Howrah. The land mark in Madras Central Station is the Victorian Clock Tower. Railways came to Delhi with the establishment of the imposing old Delhi Railway station constructed in 1867. The building has several Gothic features.

Theme: Trains, Heritage, Locomotives

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### Irregular - shaped stamps

On March 13, 1998, the irregular - shaped greeting stamps 1998 (self - adhesive) were issued in Japan. These were issued aiming at tempting young people who do not write letters in general to use the stamps.



## FASCINATING DINOSAURS

Dr. H.U. (Uli) Bantz.

When I was a child, I heard stories about fire-breathing dragons and similar monsters with wings, huge claws, terrifying scales and nasty serpentine tails. However, I never heard about dinosaurs. Today my eight-year-old grandson, Cameron, can easily pronounce the names of, and distinguish between tyrannosaurus rex (fig.1), Triceratops (Fig - 2), Brontosaurus (Fig.3) and Obvirator (fig.4). This is thanks to the Jurassic Park movie, which brought the dinosaurs, which became extinct 64 million years ago, 'back to life'. Today we can eat dinosaurs in the form of sweets and biscuits, we can see them on television or on DVD, read about them in books, visit them in museums, play with them as toys and collect and learn about them through STAMPS.



Fig. 2 Triceratops



Fig. 3 Brontosaurus

Our theme, 'Dinosaurs on Stamps', raises some questions that need to be answered. These questions are:

What are dinosaurs? The answer is that they are extinct reptiles. The name 'dinosaurs' was coined by the British scientist Sir Richard Owen in 1841. In 1991, Britain issued a set of four stamps to commemorate the 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the naming of these impressive creatures (Fig.5). Sir Richard was impressed by the large size bones that had been unearthed from rocks in southern England, which showed a marked similarity to the much smaller bones of some modern lizards. The name 'dinosaur', derived from two Greek words, deinos and sauros, meaning 'terrible' and 'lizard', seemed a good name.



Fig. 4 Oviraptor

Are dinosaurs merely big lizards? No. Dinosaurs had upright legs (Fig.7). therefore none of the dinosaurs were actually lizards, and not all of them were large and terrifying. In size they ranged from the size of a chicken, to a length of as much as 30 metres. A large dinosaur could have weighed as much as 30 tons! This makes them the largest animals that ever walked the earth.



Fig. 5 Naming of dinosaurs



Did the dinosaurs belong to a single group of animals? No. During their existence, which lasted approximately 160 million years (from 230 million to 65 million years ago), they evolved into a great variety of flesh and plant-eating animals. Scientists classify them into two distinct groups: 'bird-like pelvises and 'lizard-hips' or Saurischia, whose pelvises were similar to those of lizards. You can now arrange your dinosaur stamps biologically into two groups representing 'bird-hips' and 'lizard-hips' respectively. However, you will have to consult a book like *Dinosaurs A to Z* by Don Lessem (ISBN 0-439-16591-1), or to look under 'dinodata' on the Internet, where you will find many links. The bird-hipped dinosaurs (Ornithischia) on the stamps shown here are : Triceratops, Stegosaurus, Iguanodon (Fig 6) and Lufangosaurus. Tyrannosaurus, brontosaurus, Oviraptor, plateosaurus, Deinonychus, (Fig 23). The Brachiosaurus belongs to the lizard-hipped group of dinosaurs (Saurischia).



Fig. 6 Iguanodon



Fig. 7 Modern lizard

Did all these dinosaurs live at the same time? No, they did not. For example, the Stegosaurus (Fig 8) and the Triceratops (Fig 9) would never have met, but the Tyrannosaurus and the Triceratops, show fighting on the stamp in Figure 10, lived during the same period. The Stegosaurus lived during the Jurassic period, You might prefer to arrange your stamps chronologically, i.e. according to time periods during which the dinosaurs depicted on them roamed the Earth. This could be done by recreating the fauna assemblages for the three Mesozoic periods, named the Triassic, Jurassic and Cretaceous periods, to show how the dinosaurs lived over time, and what kinds of dinosaurs lived at the same time, thus creating your own Triassic, Jurassic or Cretaceous Park. This will have to be done on a worldwide scale. But now you have to find the answer to the next question:



Fig. 8 Stegosaurus



Fig. 10 Tyrannosaurus and Triceratops fighting



Fig. 11 Fossil skull of Stegosaurus

Did all the dinosaurs live together in the same region? Let us

first look at how and where dinosaur bones have been excavated. where dinosaur bones have been excavated, petrified remains are found in rock layers where they have been buried by sand and mud that eventually turned into stone (Fig 11). Complete skeletons (Fig 12), are scarce and scientists have to rely on single bones for the reconstruction of a skeleton (Fig13). The now extinct dinosaurs must have moved around in the areas where the bones occur. That makes it possible for us to tell where they lived and with which other members of the dinosaur family they shared their territories. Use the information that you find to arrange your stamp collection according to the geographical regions where the different dinosaurs once existed (Fig 14). You will discover, for example, that the same types of dinosaurs lived in Europe, North America, India, Antarctica, China and South Africa. Since dinosaurs lived on land, this tells us that millions of years ago all these continents, now separated by oceans, must have been linked together.



Fig. 12 Complete skeleton of Brachiosaurus in the Berlin Museum



Fig. 13 Scientists at work



Fig. 14: Dinosaurs that lived in America

South Africa's Lystrosaurus (Fig 15 top right-hand stamp) has, for example, also been found in other parts of Africa, India, Antarctica Russia and China. from this it is clear that these now separate regions were once part of a super-continent, which scientists have named Gondwanaland.

The final question that needs to be answered is:

Were all pre-historic extinct reptiles dinosaurs? Here the answer is once again 'no'. Dinosaurs could not fly, nor did they live in the sea. Flying reptiles like the Sordes (Fig 16) and 'sea monsters' such as the plesiosaurus (Fig17), are therefore not dinosaurs, but belong to other groups of reptiles. Dinosaurs lived on land only never in the sea or in the air!



Fig. 15: Miniature sheet



Fig. 16: Sordes, a flying reptile

This should be enough learning for today. Let us now look at some stamps; In 1958, China became the fifth country



in the world to depict a dinosaur, the Lufangosaurus, on a stamp (Fig 18). The first sets depicting extinct animals, including various dinosaurs, were issued by Poland (Fig 19), and San Marino (Fig 20) in 1965. During the more than 40 years that have since passed, several countries, including South Africa (see Fig 15), have issued almost 5000 stamps depicting dinosaurs as skeletons or examples of reconstructed animals, or containing examples of their foot-prints (Fig 21). Around 300 stamps have been dedicated to the most famous dinosaur, Tyrannosaurus rex (abbreviated T. rex) which lived in North America during the Cretaceous period. T. rex was over 14 m long,

had a metre-long skull and teeth that measured 15 cm (Fig. 22). This creature was probably the most fearsome killer of all time. Looking at your stamps (Fig. 23) you might ask: If we have only bones, how do the stamp artists know what the colouring of the dinosaurs was? The truth is that they do not know. In their work, they are guided by the colours of reptiles that live today. Stamp designs also show us how scientists' ideas regarding the way dinosaurs lived have changed over time. Previously it was thought that Brachiosaurus could only support its enormous weight (four times that of an elephant) by living half submerged in water. (Fig 14 and 24). More recent illustrations show it living on dry land and feeding, like a giraffe, from the top branches of large late Jurassic trees (Fig 25). In earlier stamps, T. rex was depicted as a three-legged, clumsy 'lone wolf'; using its tail for support (Fig. 26). More recent stamps show these dinosaurs as agile predators, hunting in packs or prides and raising their tails to balance their bodies (Fig 26).

Why were all the dinosaurs erased so suddenly from the face of the earth at the end of the Cretaceous period 65 million years ago? This remains a mystery. Temperature



Fig. 17: Plesiosaurus, a marine reptile.

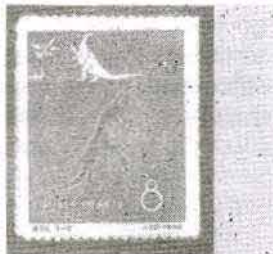


Fig. 18: Lufangosaurus



Fig. 19: Tyrannosaurus



Fig. 20: Tyrannosaurus



Fig. 21: Plateosaurus tracks



Fig. 22: Tyrannosaurus

changes, epidemics, egg-eating mammals, a meteor impact, and the disappearance of the plants on which the dinosaurs fed have all been suggested as possible answers to this question. However, no satisfactory explanation has yet been found for the sudden and complete extinction of the most spectacular animal group that ever walked the earth. Birds are the closest living relatives of the dinosaurs. Bird stamps form another great subject for a delightful and educational thematic stamp collection. If you do not particularly like dinosaurs, you might enjoy making bird stamps the focus of your collection!



Fig. 23: Colouring of Deinonychus



Fig. 24: Brachiosaurus submerged in water.



Fig. 26: Tyrannosaurus hunting in a pack or pride



Fig. 25: Brachiosaurus on dry land

(Courtesy: Setempe, South Africa, 2007)

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## WHAT IS A PERFIN?

Dave Hill

The word 'perfin' stands for stamps **P**erforated with **I**nitials.

Shortly after the invention of the postage stamp, it became evident that it also provided a convenient way of sending small sums of money. It was common until recently for adverts for cheap articles to say something like 'send three 1d. stamps'. The stamps actually represented payment because the post Office did, and still does exchange stamps for cash if they are in multiples of two or more.

(Note: According to the 1986 Post Office Guide, 'this facility does not extend to stamps bought for philatelic purposes, e.g. for a private collection or for speculative purposes.' Ed.)

This tempted poorly paid clerks and office boys of the 1850s to steal stamps from their employers to change for cash. A penny bought a lot in those days!







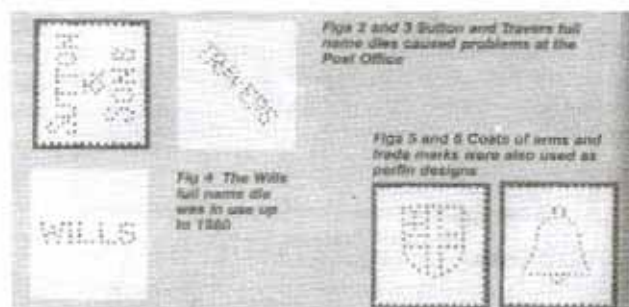
in a multi-die do not have to be identical, as stamp impressions do. (fig1)

The Perfin Society had found that, in all, about 23,000 different dies are known on GB stamps. About 90 dies are still in use, a few are the personal dies of Society members. Few have appeared on modern commemorative stamps, so, discounting abnormal and other rarities, all these perfins appeared on only about 100 different stamps.

### Foreign Perfins

Sloper exported his idea abroad and others took up perfins overseas. Almost all foreign postal authorities insisted upon licensing perfins were banned about ten years ago. Yet, to this day in Great Britain, if you can find someone to make you a machine, you can perfin your own stamps without permission from anyone. However, the franking machine has almost entirely replaced the perfin.

I mentioned the use of full name perfins, inadvertently included by the PO regulations of 1869. In 1873 Eden Fisher, one of Sloper's competitors was prevented by the PO from using the full name perfin 'Sutton' on the grounds it was advertising. He asked then why were 'Travers' allowed to use their full name die? (figs 2 and 3). The PO, as usual, held an enquiry and found a number of full names were in use. They interviewed the users and asked them to desist with varying degrees of success. They changed the Regulations but the full name 'Wills, of WD & HO Wills, was used up to 1980 (Fig 4.) Coats of arms, trade marks and monograms were also used as perfin designs (Figs 5 and 6.)

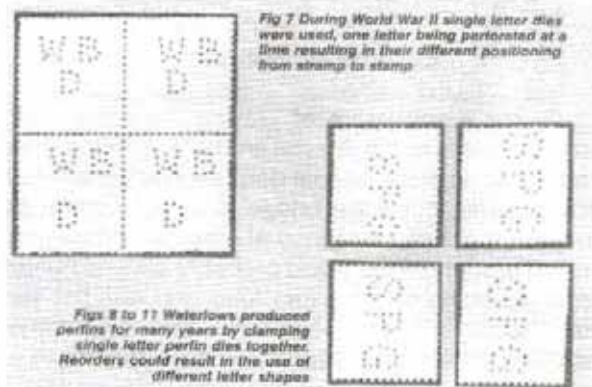


### Wartime Provisionals

During World War II perfins had their own 'Provisionals'. Sloper's premises were des 'provisionals'. Sloper's premises were destroyed in the Blitz on London along with many dies. Slopers were involved in war work and the time and the materials were not available to replace every die. They did make a number of single letter dies and a die with the words '& Co'. They then produced perfins for affixing one letter at a time. The perfins are recognizable because the position of the letters varies from stamp to stamp, they are found on George VI light colour stamps (Fig 7).

It has recently been found that Waterlows produced perfins in a similar way for many years. They clamped single letter perfin dies together, much the same as printer's type is clamped together. Strangely, for such a sophisticated method, they used very crudely made letters. For each order different dies could be used, resulting in many different combinations of the same letters

(Figs 8 to 11). Sloper took over Waterlows perfin work before the last war.



At least two firms produced machines that affixed perfin stamps from coils. One, made in Germany, called the POKO machine, perfined and metered and affixed the Stamps!

By 1990 Slopers were doing fewer and fewer perfins. They were finding less and less engineering work to do and eventually were sold a firm who make cheque writing machines. They still produce a few perfins along with their high tech cheque writing machines. The perfin Society was able to acquire some of Sloper's records.

### Rarity and value

Perfin rarity is difficult to gauge, new dies are discovered frequently, yet are not necessarily rare. There are few collectors with very big collections. Inverted or reversed impressions are of no significance; the office boy left to perfin the stamps was either bored or lazy and did them back to front or upside down. Perfins on high value stamps may be worth more to GB collector as space fillers, many perfins collectors would just as well have the perfin on a 1d. stamp. However, 1d. reds are worth £1 to £2, 1d lilacs 10p or so with other stamps pro rata.

Hugh Vallencey published a small book on perfins just before World War II which popularized them. During the war Charles Bein amassed a large collection. Charles Jennings had some articles published in the 1950s on perfins Society in 1958, which now has over 350 members a home and abroad. A Bulletin and auction list is produced every two months and two meetings are held annually in London.

The Perfin Society exists to catalogue all known perfins on the stamps of GB and the identity of their users. We can get these from covers which bear return addresses and by research into postmarked perfins and old trade directories, etc. The Tomkins Catalogue of Identified Perfins lists 8000 users of perfins which are known. A new illustrated catalogue, which will show 23,000 perfins and the identity of the users, when known, is in the course of preparation. This is issued a letter at a time and will take many years to complete.

(Courtesy : Gibbons Stamp Monthly 1999)

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## Your Deal

### PLAYING CARDS IN PHILATELY

Eugene K. Sanger

In my many years of playing duplicate bridge, attaining the rank of life master in 1974, I found a new competitive world many people don't even know exists. An absorbing game, duplicate bridge is all-out competitive, with, believe it or not, no money at stake. Are there many players? Throughout the world probably several hundred thousand, all going by the same rules and with the same objective: to play a bridge hand better than other players holding exactly the same 13 cards you have played.

And would you believe that one event, the Epon pairs, is unquestionably the largest sporting event in the World? Approximately a hundred thousand players throughout the world playing the exact same hands at the same time with local, regional, national and international winners.

Quoting ATA member Helen Cushman, "Playing cards came to Europe about 1100 A.D. when Crusaders from the Holy Land returned with handmade decks obtained from the Saracens. Early cards of wood, ivory, metal, canvas or leather were eventually replaced by an oblong easy - to - handle shape.

The suits spades, hearts, diamonds and clubs did not appear until about 1650 in France. Legend says that the 52 cards in the deck correspond to the 52 weeks in the year; the 13 cards in each suit to the 13 lunar or moon months; the four suits to the four seasons; and the 12 face, or court, cards to the 12 calendar months. Playing cards were brought to America by sailors on Columbus's first voyage. Card games are played in practically every country of the world and the games of one country are quite similar to those played elsewhere.

Further quoting Cushman: "Bridge is a card game for two pairs of partners. Bridge evolved from whist, which it supplanted. Each player has 13 cards and the aim of each pair is to win the highest possible number of tricks. The popular form used to be auction bridge in which the right to name the trump suit is put up for auction and goes to the person who says he will win the highest number of tricks. Auction bridge, in turn, has been replaced in popularity by contract bridge, invented on Nov. 1, 1925 by the late Harold Vanderbilt. Here the tricks that are scored in excess of the number contracted for do not count towards making game. It is desirable that the partners bid for the game contract or slams. National and international tournaments are followed with great interest by bridge columns on how to play it.

So what has this to do with stamps? As a long-time stamp collector and part-time dealer, I had for some years wondered how I could tie my two hobbies together. An inspiration came from the cover of a 1988 American Contract Bridge League Bulletin featuring some stamps with playing cards on them. I wrote a letter to the editor

which appeared in the American Philatelic Society's July 1988 monthly American Philatelist. It described my interest and asked any readers with similar interests to contact me. To use the well-worn oxymoron, "the silence was deafening."

A single American collector wrote to me but unfortunately we made no progress. I did, however, get a reply from a gentleman in the Hague, Netherlands, who purchased in pairs and sent me a small paper-back French language catalogue on Just this topic, listing and illustrating quite a number of stamps, covers, cancels, souvenir sheets, and postal cards from many countries of the world together with their Scott and various foreign catalogue numbers. Now I knew that I was not alone in the



Ancient Playing Cards  
Czechoslovakia (Scott 2520-2523)



Cezanne's "The Cardplayers"  
Rwanda (Scott 989)

philatelic world and I could move forward from there. This catalogue has been the basis for building my quite extensive personal collection and I have acquired practically all of the items listed, some both perf and imperf, some imperf pairs and other variations of the material in the catalogue. A few examples from my collection are shown.



My home town of Dallas happens to be home of a great number of national and international bridge champions, some of whom play as professionals. They include a friend whose office is six blocks from my home; he is Bob Hamman, recognized as the number one player in the world. His frequent partner, also a Dallasite, Bobby Wolff, now president of the World Bridge Federation, together make up the world's number one pair. They, and the other champions and their wives, have occasionally obtained for me the winner's autographs on covers or souvenir sheets recognizing certain international matches which I feel enhances my collection.

I was next inspired by the card-related cover of the August 1993 edition of the Scott Stamp Monthly. In it was an article by Peter Martin on just my topic together with a listing of the card-related stamps and souvenir sheets issued by the various countries of the world. I begin corresponding with the author and of the compilers of the check-list, but I was still not satisfied with my progress.

So my next move was to write the American Topical Association whose list of topics did not include my pet, but my letter was published. The ATA chess unit seemed the most likely prospect, but they had no interest. I took a chance with another of the ATA units, Sports Philatelists International and lo and behold I struck paydirt. The president wrote me that he, considered bridge a "sport" and the editor of their publication, the Journal of Sports Philately, asked me to write an illustrated article which appeared in the January/February issue under the title "Is Bridge a Sporting Event?"

Of course I joined both the ATA and SPI and I am now in touch with several men and women collectors who have similar or parallel interests. Some, like a gentleman from Italy, collect bridge material only. He stated he had a complete collection of the topic. Others collect cards together with other gambling - related material only playing card revenue stamps, and another just puts it all under the umbrella of "games."

Having been unsuccessful in contacting the author or publisher of the French catalogue, I have found a person who will photocopy my French catalogue for a nominal sum and he has done this for several of my correspondents. A particularly gratifying result has been my relationship with a collector of gambling philately who has wonderfully compiled a "complete" computerized list as part of her gambling related stamps by catalogue number, date of issue and description of the stamp or souvenir sheet.

I had originally thought of getting together an informal study group on the topic and have not yet given up this idea. I have a volunteer who promised to make enough copies of the above computerized list for me to send to all those who have shown interest. I have turned over to him all my information together with the names of those who have shown an interest in cards on stamps. They would, I am sure, welcome contacts from those of you who have similar interests. Your deal!

(Courtesy : Topical Time, USA 1994).

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## Free classifieds

1. [www.stamplisting.com](http://www.stamplisting.com)  
Philatelic classifieds website. Buying, selling, Exchange, Trade and much more on stamp collecting.
2. [www.the.coincollecting.com](http://www.the.coincollecting.com)  
Numismatic web portal where you can post your free coin collecting classifieds, categories for coin dealers, online coin shopping sites, etc.,
3. [advertisementlisting.com](http://advertisementlisting.com)  
Free classifieds for Buying, Selling, Rental, Announcements etc.,
4. [waterfallstamps.com](http://waterfallstamps.com)  
Thematic stamp collecting website for Waterfalls stamp collectors.

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