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Bulletin

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Vol.32 No. 1

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QUARTERLY

Editorial.

Like every new year issue, this is "Review 2012" time.

On the whole, with lesser number of issues and stamps it was a happy year for all of us as collectors and philatelists. Let us all hope and pray that this 'welcome trend' continues in issue of less standardized number of stamps (around 40 only) in the coming years also.

Coming to details, India Post made 34 issues comprising 47 stamps in the year 2012 for normal collectors and philatelists. Out of these 34 issues, one issue on philately day (12.10.2013) is in miniature sheet/souvenir sheet format only, with a face value of Rs.20/. Taking into account the philately day miniature sheet also, totally 6 miniature sheets have also been issued.

With respect to the cost aspect, a collector has to spent about Rs.545/- (365 for 47 stamps + 200 for 6 miniature sheets. With philately day issue on both parts) which is for less when compared with previous years, Many thanks to India Post.

Coming to the ticklish issue of "Personalities" the fare is no way better when compared to previous years ie, 15 issues out of 34 issues or rather 15 stamps out of 47 stamps are on personalities. These numbers brings a percentage of about 45% with respect to issues and about 33% with respect to stamps. Let us get reminded about rules or regulations which states that about 10% issues stamps only should be on personalities. Hats off to India Post.

Of course, as philatelists, we are happily pleased to see attractive sets on aviation, paintings, Olympics, endemic species and last issue but not the least, issue on Lighthouses.

Let us close the review with our usual request to India Post "Reduce personalities and increase theme sets".

* * * * *

Interesting but true! BUILDING PRISONS BY POSTAGE STAMPS

The Turkish Government, in announcing the intended sale of seventeen million postage stamps to collectors, the proceeds to be devoted to building a railway between Damascus and Beirut, is merely following an old-established precedent.

Long ago Spain found the side of surplus stamps so profitable that she changed her designs every few years, realizing enough upon one occasion to construct a cruiser and several torpedo boats.

St. Helena has up till now kept herself from bankruptcy alter a similar fashion. Paraguay provided new uniforms for its by no means insignificant army upon one occasion, and upon another it added over five million rounds of small-arm ammunition to its reserve, San Marino built itself a hail of justice in 1889, and Roumania a new prison in 1891, the cost in each instance being defrayed by what are known in philatelic circles as "commemoration issues."

Canada cleared £20,000 in a like manner, and bought therewith a new Government experimental farm. The Begum of Bhopal appointed an official whose special duty it was to push the sale of local stamps among dealers and collectors, and invested the proceeds in pearls.

In French Guiana they have, within the last twenty years, sold to outsiders enough stamps, mostly surcharged varieties, to pay for the building of two hospitals, a fort, and a goal. British Honduras cleared £10,000 a year for many years in succession after a similar fashion, and invested it in attempting to improve the quality of the bananas grown there.

(Courtesy: Collectors Journal, 1907)

Monthly Second Sunday Meetings

With President
Mr. G. Balakrishna Das on the
Chair, 18- members attended the
meeting on 09.12.2012.

STAMP NEWS

INDO-TIBETAN BORDER POLICE FORCE

01.10.2012

500

0.55 mill

Indo-Tibetan Border Police Force (ITBPF) was raised in the wake of the Chinese conflict on October 24, 1962 under the CRPF Act. In 1992, the Parliament also enacted the ITBPF Act. ITBPF has also raised its first Mahila battalion in January 2010.



Indo-Tibetan Border Police Force is a versatile force capable of functioning in diverse terrain and in most challenging climatic conditions. Starting with only 4 battalions it has grown into 45 Service and 4 Specialist Battalions. It has been entrusted with the responsibility of guarding the 3488 km long India-China border from Karakoram Pass in Ladakh to Jachep La in Arunachal Pradesh. ITBPF provides security to VVIP/MIPs and protects vital installations. It also provides security cover to the yatis of Kailash Mansarover Yatra. It played an important role in combating militancy in Punjab, Jammu and Kashmir and the North-East and has now been inducted in Chhattisgarh for anti-Naxal operations.

Indo-Tibetan Border Police Force has also played an important role in UN peace keeping efforts in strife torn countries like Angola, Namibia, Bosnia, Kosovo, etc.

Theme: Police, Army, Peace Keeping, Uniforms.

AIRBORNE WARNING AND CONTROL SYSTEM

08.10.2012

500

0.3 mill

The long cherished dream of the Indian Air Force (IAF) of having a radar system in the sky came into reality with the induction of the first Airborne Warning and Control System (AWACS) aircraft on 28th May, 2009, as a result of a tripartite agreement between India, Russia and Israel. With the induction of AWACS, India joined an elite group of nations with a radar system capable of tactical surveillance of airborne and surface targets simultaneously.

The IL-76 based AWACS has not only enhanced the electronic footprint of the IAF much beyond that of ground based sensors, but will also boost the network centric warfare operations. The AWACS provides all weather airborne early warning, air battle management and command and control functions for tactical and strategic operations.



The personnel of 50 Squadron of Indian Air Force, also known as 'Adwitya' which means 'Second to None' or 'Unique' are the men behind this magnificent machine.

Theme: Air Force, Aviation, Technology, Armed Forces

PHILATELY DAY

12.10.2012

2000

0.4 mill

Philately is termed as collection and study of postage stamps. It is an extremely popular hobby and has millions of collectors worldwide. The first postage stamp, the Penny Black, was issued by Britain in 1840 picturing a young Queen Victoria. It was produced without perforations and consequently had to be cut from the sheet with scissors in order to be used. Postage stamp collecting began at the same time that stamps were first issued, and by 1860 thousands of collectors and stamp dealers were appearing around the world as this new study and hobby spread across Europe, European colonies, the United States and other part of the world. At present, it is estimated that about 25 million people enjoy the hobby in the United States; while worldwide the estimated number of stamp collectors is around 200 million.



This souvenir sheet issued depicts the evolution of Indian postal system from 'Dak Harkara' to 'Air Mail' and show-cases two iconic postage stamps issued in pre and post independence.

Theme: Philately, Stamps, Mail Runner, Mail System

ENDEMIC SPECIES OF INDIAN Bio-Diversity Hotspots

(XI Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity)

16.10.2012

500,500,500,2500

0.4 mill each

In recent years, sustaining bio-diversity and maintaining ecological balance has come under increasing pressure due to factors such as habitat fragmentation, development imperatives and global warming. The global concern about loss of bio-diversity found expression in the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) which was adopted at the Rio Earth Summit in 1992. The Convention has three objectives: conservation of bio-diversity, sustainable use of its components and fair and equitable sharing of benefits arising from the use of genetic resources.



The tenth ordinary meeting of the Conference of Parties was held in Nagoya, Japan (18-29 October 2010). India is hosting the eleventh Conference of Parties to the CBD in Hyderabad from 1st to 19th October 2012. The set of four Commemorative Postage Stamps and a miniature sheet issued depicts the following four endemic species of India Bio-diversity Hotspots to commemorate CoP-11.

1. **Bugun Liocichla (Liocichla bugunorum)** – This species has been classified as vulnerable under the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) Red List.
2. **Nicobar Megapode (Megapodius nicobariensis)** – As the name suggests this species is endemic to the Nicobar Islands, India. The total number of their breeding pairs was estimated at 788 in 2006.
3. **Hoolock Gibbon (Hoolock hoolock)** – This species, the only ape in India is a forest dweller. The threats to Hoolock Gibbon in the wild, include habitat encroachment by the human beings, and forest degradation.
4. **Venated Gliding Frog (Rhacophorus malabaricus)** – This critically endangered species of frog is restricted to the Indira Gandhi National Park and its surroundings in Tamil Nadu, in the South Western Ghats.

Theme: Flora & Fauna, Endangered Species, Ecology, Biodiversity

INDIA-ISRAEL JOINT ISSUE

05.11.2012 500, 500 0.2 mill each

Diplomatic relations between India and Israel were established in the year 1992. A set of two stamps is being issued by both the countries to mark the completion of twenty years of diplomatic relations. The stamps depict the two festivals of lights, Deepavali and Hanukkah.

Deepavali, the Festival of Lights, is celebrated on the new moon day in the month of 'Kartik' of the Indian lunar calendar which falls in late October or early November. It is a Hindu festival symbolizing the victory of righteousness over evil and is celebrated all over India. The word 'Deepavali' literally means 'rows of lamps'.



Hanukkah, also known as the Festival of Lights, is an eight day Jewish holiday commemorating the rededication of the Holy Temple in Jerusalem at the time of the Maccabean Revolt of the 2nd century BC. The Babylon Talmud (Tractate Shabbat 21b) describes how the Maccabees found only a little pure oil, enough to light the Temple menorah for a single day. A miracle occurred and this oil lasted for eight days, until more oil could be prepared. Hanukkah is observed for eight nights and days, starting on the 25th day of Kislev according to the Hebrew calendar as a reminder of this miracle. It is customary to light candles in windows or doorways on each of the eight nights of Hanukkah to make this miracle known. The candles are lit in a unique candelabrum, the nine-branched Menorah or Hanukiah, one additional light on each night of the holiday, progressing to eight on the final night.

Like the diyas of Deepavali, the Hanukkah candles symbolize the triumph of good over evil and the victory of justice over injustice. The menorah featured on the Hanukkah stamp is inspired by the wooden menorah used by the Jewish community in Mumbai.

Theme: Joint Issue, Festivals, Light, Friendship.

T.S. NARAYANASWAMI

11.11.2012 500 0.4 mill

T.S. Narayanaswami, TSN or Abboy as he was popularly known, was born on 11th November, 1911.

He started his career as a junior officer in the Indo-Commercial Bank in the early 1930's where he made a mark with his industrious nature and an eye for detail. The experience of working in the banking sector provided him with the confidence to venture into the field of business. He started The India Cements Limited in 1946 in Talayuthu, a small hamlet in Tirunelveli District along with S.N.N. Sankaralinga Iyer and K. Lakshmanan. The plant soon became one of the leading cement manufacturer in South India.



The group further ventured into Aluminium, Shipping, Chemicals and Plastics and established Madras Aluminium Company Limited (MALCO), South India Shipping Corporation (SISCO), Chemicals and Plastics India Ltd. (Chemplast) in quick succession. The imagination and initiative of Narayanaswami was the driving force behind these enterprises.

Narayanaswami was not only involved in social causes but also was an active sponsor of technical education. His appointment as Sheriff of Madras in 1964 was a tribute to his pre-eminence in social and cultural circles and a recognition of his contribution to the industrial progress of the State.

T.S. Narayanaswami breathed his last on 14.02.1968.

Theme : Personality, Industry, Economy

CHILDREN'S DAY

14.11.2012

500

0.3 mill

Children's Day is celebrated on 14th November every year to remember India's first Prime Minister Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru who had profound love for children. The children also reciprocated his affection in equal measure and fondly called him Chacha Nehru. Pt. Nehru believed that the children are the future citizens of the country and it is important to inculcate the right values, understanding and appreciation of our culture, heritage and love for the country in them.



As rightly said in the report of the Secretary General, United Nations in World Summit of Children(2001), "We were all children once and we all share the desire for the well-being of our children, which has always been and will continue to be the most universally cherished aspiration of humankind".

The theme of the competition this year was 'Post Office 2050'. Children have used their imagination and creativity to depict their vision of the Post Office of the year 2050.

This year's stamp is based on a painting made by 'Jai Surya P'. The First Day Cover and Information Brochure are based on the paintings made by 'U. Bhavya' and 'Bhavya Mithra T.S.' respectively.

Theme : Paintings, Childrens Day, Postal System

THE SCINDE HORSE

16-11-2012

500

0.3 mill

The Scinde Horse was raised on 8th August, 1838 at Hyderabad in the Sind province of Pakistan by Capt. W. Ward to protect the British lines of communication to Baluchistan from the Baluchi marauders.



The Scinde Horse proved its mettle in its first and famous Battle of Meeanee fought on 17th February, 1843 under the able leadership of Lt. Col. John Jacob, who was later named as the Father of the Regiment. The regiment displayed immense valour and defeated formidable opponents. As a

matter of respect to the gallant enemy, the Regiment adopted Baluchi warrior as its badge. The Regiment Trumpet Call is the old "Advanced Guard" of 1840. The Scinde Horse (14th PWO Cavalry) was the first regiment of the present Indian Armoured Corps to equip itself with armoured fighting vehicles.

On 15th December, 1947, the first Indian Commandant Lieutenant Colonel P.L. Chopra took over command of the Scinde Horse from Lieutenant Colonel K.R. Brooke, the last British officer to command the Regiment. On 9th November, 1961, The Vice President of India Dr. S. Radhakrishnan presented a new standard to the Regiment. This was a unique honour as the Scinde Horse was the first Cavalry Regiment to receive the President's Standard in Post Independence India.

The regiment has been awarded 26 battle honours and 19 theatre honours. On 25th February, 2011, the regiment was awarded the Army Commander South Western Command Unit Citation.

Theme : Armed Forces, Army, Fighting Vehicles.

RAMGOPAL MAHESHWARI

20.11.2012

500

0.4. mill

Ramgopal Maheshwari, popularly known as Babuji, was born on 20th November, 1911 at Mandolai near Jaipur, Rajasthan.

Deeply influenced by the ideals of Mahatma Gandhi, Ramgopal Maheshwari involved himself in the freedom movement, at a young age. He wore khadi through out his life and believed in simple living. He started editing and publishing 'Maheshwari', at the age of 22. This was the beginning of his career as a journalist. He also took the responsibility of a biweekly publication 'Nav Rajasthan' which had been started by Shri Brijlal Biyani at Akola.



Maheshwari started a biweekly paper 'Nava Bharat' from Nagpur on 8th February, 1934, 'Nava Bharat' soon became a daily publication and also started editions from several other cities in due course. Babuji made 'Nava Bharat' a medium for the nation's freedom movement. He was subjected to house arrest in the year 1939. During the Quit India Movement, he was imprisoned in Nagpur Central Jail.

Ramgopal Maheshwari was a great parton of Hindi language. He was also actively involved in social work and worked towards the eradication of regressive customs. He was an ardent supporter of the cause of women's emancipation.

Ramgopal Maheshwari passed away on 13th September, 1999.

Theme : Personality, Journalist, Freedom Struggle, News Papers.

CONSUMER PROTECTION ACT, 1986

29.11.2012

500

0.4mill

Consumer awareness and protection is a true indicator of the development of a country and the progressiveness of its civil society. The growing awareness about the rights of consumers and the consciousness and concern for value for money have contributed to the emergence of universal acceptance of the need for protection and promotion of consumer rights.



The Consumer Protection Act was enacted on 24th December, 1986 with the objective of protecting the interests of consumers. The guidelines for consumer protection as laid down by the United Nations have been incorporated in the said Act. It enshrines the rights of the consumers namely, Right to safety, Right to be informed, Right to choose, Right to be heard, Right to seek redressal and Right to consumer education.

The Department of Consumer Affairs is the nodal Department in the field of consumer protection. Consumer Protection Act, 1986 enabled the nodal department to set up a dispute resolution mechanism exclusively for the consumers which is simple, inexpensive and provides timely redressal. The Act created a three-tier quasi-judicial consumer dispute redressal machinery at the national, state and district levels. As on date, 629 District Fora, 35 State Commissions and a National Commission have been established. The Act also provides for setting up of Consumer Protection Councils at the Central, State and District levels.

Theme : Indian Acts, Society, Citizen Rights.

SRISHIVARATHRI SHIVAYOGI

21.12.2012

500

0.82 mill

(0.52 milli for Proponent)

Sri Shivarathi Shivayogi was a great saint of the 10th Century AD. Not much is known about his early life. Sri Shivarathi Shivayogi came into limelight with his efforts to restore peace between two warring kings, Rachamalla IV of the Ganges of Talkad and Rajaraja Chola of the Chola dynasty. When the warring kings went to seek the blessings for victory from Shivayogi, instead of supporting their cause, he persuaded both the kings to abandon war

and choose peace. The effect was such that both the enemies reached out to one another to extend the hand of friendship.



Both the kings volunteered to set up a Math or Peetha for the saint to commemorate this event. The Math was thus established on the banks of the river Aravittur, a small village in Nanjanagud Taluk of Mysore District. The Math is now known as Jagadguru Sri Veerasimhasana Mahasamsthana Math.

Today the Math has diversified its work in India and abroad in various fields like establishing educational institutions, free boarding hostels, medical and healthcare unit, literary and cultural centres, etc.

Theme : Personality, Saints, Service

NATIONAL MATHEMATICS DAY

22.12.12

500

0.3 mill

Mathematics can be described as the study of quantity, numbers and space. In many ways, mathematics can be regarded as the mother science. Mathematics is an essential tool in many fields, including natural science, engineering, medicine, and the social sciences.



The national workshop on Ancient Indian Mathematics with special reference to Vedic Mathematics and Astronomy, passed a resolution on 25th September, 2010 recommending that 22nd December i.e., the birth anniversary of mathematics legend Srinivasa Ramanujan be observed as 'National Mathematics Day' every year. The Government of India has since resolved to celebrate the said day, as the National Mathematics Day every year so as to focus the attention of people to mathematics education and its applications. Ramanujan is placed in the same league as legendary mathematicians such as Euler, Gauss, Newton and Archimedes.

During his short lifetime, he independently compiled nearly 3900 results, both original and highly unconventional, such as the Ramanujan Prime Number and the Ramanujan Theta Function that inspired a vast amount of further research. Recently, his formulae have found applications in crystallography and string theory.

Celebration of National Mathematics Day every year will connect Ramanujan's life and work to the people of India and thereby inspire a large section of young Indians. The year 2012 is being celebrated as the National Mathematical Year.

Theme: Education, Mathematics, Personality.

POSTAL CENTENARY ISSUE OF SALVADOR

GORDON WARD, M.D.

LIGHTHOUSES OF INDIA

23.12.2012

500,2000

0.4mill each

A lighthouse is a tower, building, or any other type of structure designed to emit light from a system of Lamps and lenses as an aid to navigation at sea or on inland waterways. Lighthouses mark dangerous coastlines, hazardous shoals, reefs, safe entries to harbours, and can also assist in aerial navigation. In ancient times, the lighthouses were the lifeline of maritime navigation.



India has 7,516.6 kms long coastline. Some of its lighthouses have found a place in the hearts of the people and transformed themselves as an identity of the city or town where they stand. Alleppey and Mahabalipuram are among such landmarks.

Alleppey (Allapuzha) Lighthouse: Allepey was a principal port of the erstwhile princely state of Travancore founded by the visionary Prime Minister of Travancore, Raja Kesava Das during the rule of Sri Rama Rajah Bahadur. The port was commissioned in the year 1772 and within a short time, vessels from most Indian and European ports started calling.

A modern lighthouse for Alleppey port was first proposed in 1840 designed in the shape of the 'Queen' pawn of chess and the construction of the present Allepey Lighthouse tower was completed in 1862.

Mahabalipuram (Mamallapuram) Lighthouse: Mahabalipuram was the port of the Pallavas who ruled South India with their headquarters at Kancheepuram. A lighthouse was erected at Mahabalipuram in 1887 as a part of the development of Madras port to wash the ships approaching Madras Port from south about the dangers from Tripasore reef in the neighborhood of Mahabalipuram. Construction of the present lighthouse, a circular 26 meter high granite tower was completed in the year 1900 and the lighting apparatus was supplied by M/s. Chance Brothers, Birmingham. The light was electrified in 1994 and subsequently the light source was replaced with metal halide lamp.

Theme: Light Houses, Ships.
(Courtesy: Information, Brochure, India Post)

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I SUPPOSE one may take a human as well as a purely philatelic interest in one's stamps, so I shall point out that the Salvador stamps are the only ones of all Postal Centenaries which can be had with the date 29th February. The Brazil miniature sheet was issued on 28th October, 1938, and it is likely that no one thought of using a copy on 29th February, '1940, although some copies were brought out again later in that year in connection with local Centenary celebrations, at Sao Paulo on 6th May, 1940, and at Bio in August. The 29th February will not be coming round again until 1944, by which time no one is likely to be using these issues.

Even in the case of Salvador this date ought not to occur, for the official first day of issue seems to have been 1st March. I suppose someone managed to get round a postmaster, as certainly happened in Portugal, whose first day of issue was 12th August although copies are known postmarked on the 11th. These ante-first day villainies seem to me most regrettable; from which it may be judged, quite correctly, that I have not been able to obtain examples of them.

THE PLATES

But there are more substantial points of interest about the Salvador issue, and I am particularly intrigued with what happened to the head plate, that is the plate from which the black part of the design, including the head of Rowland Hill, was printed. In the 8 cents value this includes a pleasant view of the coast of Salvador. In the foreground is a small island with three palm trees and two other islands of meagre proportions; also a yacht. Three pleasant white houses stand out against a background of coast and trees. This was all very well except for the fact that when head and duty plates were superimposed on the stamp the lower loop of the figure 8 was seen to be obscured by one of the islands. The other values were 30 cents and 80 cents, and in these the figures of value would have been even more obscured. So the printers, the A. E. Wright Bank Note Company of Philadelphia (although they spell it "Filadelfia" on the stamp), indulged in second thoughts.

No doubt these turned in the direction of preparing a new transfer roller for the higher values, and the making of a second head plate with rather less coastline in the background and fewer islands. But third thoughts were better. A new plate would cost a lot of money, and the old plate was not nearly worn out. It had printed only 160,000 stamps, that is, 3,200 sheets. Why erase the offending features, stamp by stamp and row by row? So it was done and, one supposes, much profit the contract saved; but it made a characteristic feature on the stamps, namely, a considerable variation in the amount of design removed. Sometimes the right-hand white house lacks a wall on one side, sometimes still nestles safely among trees. The islands also show only unconvincing fragments remaining, hardly ever whole island. If I had enough material I should

hope to find just one copy in. which there was no erasure at all, or one in which the yacht was clearly the victim of a mine. But I have only 25 copies in all.

There were, of course, three different, duty plates, one for each value; the 30 cents and 80 cents have the words " Servicio Aereo" added. There are also minute differences which show nothing in particular except that the workmanship was not as good as it might have been; for example, the coloured dot below the 0 of 1840 on the 80 cents value. Moreover, the spacing of both head and duty plates seems to have been inaccurate, so that they are hardly ever in quite correct register. The head of Rowland Hill sometimes touches the frame-line to the left of it, and is sometimes more than 2mm, distant, which is quite a lot in a stamp which measures only 34.5mm. across.

THE PORTRAIT

This same head of Rowland Hill is something of a mystery. It is three-quarter face, almost side face. I showed it to the late Col. Hill and he showed me the various photographs known to the family. There are none like that on the Salvador stamp. It is difficult to recognize in it the features of Rowland Hill.

I understand that, the very highest philatelists are superior to any financial aspect of their hobby. Perhaps they are, but I suspect that they are just as human as the rest of us, and I am going to venture a few words about the relative rarity of this Salvador issue. The 80 cents value is the rarest of all Postal Centenaries, except only the five pesos values of Mexico. Of the 80 cents, only 200 sheets were printed, i.e., 10,000 stamps. It does not seem that any large stock of these stamps exists, if one may judge from the fact that the very few dated copies in my collection are dated March, April, September and October, 1940. This fact suggests that they were not bought up within a short time but were sold as needed over the counter until stocks were exhausted. In any case, 10,000 is a very small number, with so many thousands, or millions, of collectors, around. It should be quite a rare stamp ten years from now.

With this we may contrast, for example the Burma Centenary issue, which has risen from the face value of one anna to the neighbourhood of 10s., although 400,000 were issued. These were sold out in two or three weeks, which suggests that stocks were being bought up for other than postal uses, and may presently bring the market running down, again, unless the Japs, the mines or U-boats got them. They did get some of them, including the whole stock ordered by the Kenmore Company, but there should be quite a few copies in cold storage somewhere. Not so with the Salvador 80 cents. Even if it be a relatively unpopular country over here, I would rather hold the Salvador than the Burma.

Finally, I suppose, one ought to speak philatelically. These stamps were printed by the recess process on white wove paper in sheets of 50 (5x10). They were perforated 12 1/2 by a single-line perforator, and issued fully gummed, the gum being white. There are no marginal markings on the sheets. The format is horizontal

and each stamp measures 34.5 by 23.5 millimetres. The head plate printed black in all cases. The frame plates were blue for the 8 cents, brown for the 30 cents, and deep brick-red for the 80 cents. I know of no major varieties, although I have one copy on which Rowland Hill has a nasty spot on his forehead. (Courtesy: The Stamp Lover, 1943).

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TALES OF ADEN

THOMAS STUART

ADEN is the youngest colony in the British Empire, for it was only on 1st April, 1937, that the Arabian port ceased to be under the control of the British Indian Administration.

Ever since the days of Queen Victoria, people in Aden had used Indian stamps on their correspondence, but on the date mentioned Aden had its own issues. There were twelve different values and they were all in the same design, which depicted an Arab dhow. The origin of the word dhow is obscure and it is not known even to what language it belongs, but the term is applied to most ships plying along the East African coast. The craft shown on the stamps is of the type peculiar to Aden, where boats of this kind have been built to a standard pattern for hundreds of years.

In 1939 Aden celebrated the centenary of British occupation, and a special series of stamps was issued to mark the occasion. This time more variety was introduced into the designs.

The 3 annas and 10 rupees show the capture of Aden in 1939, and the bombardment of the native defences by British warships under the command of Captain Haines. The design of the 3/4 anna and 5 rupees is interesting because it depicts a camel and its rider. Towards the end of the last century the mail for Perim, a small island in the Red Sea, was carried by camel post as far as Shaikh Saced, but raids on the mail-bags by Bedouins led to the abandonment of this service in favour of conveyance by steamer.

There was a camel service also between Aden and Dthala, and it was usual for Arab riders carrying the up and down mails to meet half way and exchange their bags. On one occasion some troops at Dthala were anxiously awaiting the arrival of the Christmas mail from Aden, but when the postman arrived at Dthala he was found to have brought back the same bag as he took with him. When he reached the half way stage he had sat down for a smoke and a chat with the messenger from Aden. They got up to continue their respective journeys about an hour later and picked up the wrong bags!

The harbour of Aden, the sight which meets the eyes of travellers from the East, is to be seen on the 1 anna and 2 rupees stamps, and the familiar dhow, sailing in the opposite direction from the first issue, forms the subject of

the design on the 1 ½ anna and ' 1 rupee. The series is completed by views of the Aidrus Mosque at Crater, on the 1 anna and 2 annas, and Mukalla, a small seaport, east of Aden which recently issued its own stamps, on the 2 ½ and 8 annas.

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NEW ZEALAND'S FIRST POSTAGE STAMPS

GERALD J. ELLOTT

A proclamation dated 31 December 1850 published in the New Zealand Government Gazette made the first reference to the introduction on postage stamps into New Zealand. However, the first inquiry was dated 5 March 1853. A quotation dated 8 November 1853 from Messrs Perkins Bacon of London was submitted to the New Zealand Government, based on the preparation of flat and circular dies and engraving therefrom, three steel plates containing 240 impressions of the 'one penny', 'two pence' and 'one shilling' stamps, and printing, gumming, etc.

50 sheets of the one penny	12,000 stamps
275 sheets of the two pence	66,000 stamps
33 1/3 sheets of the one shilling	8,000 stamps
86,000 total	

The original printing was based on a total face value of stamps equaling £1,000, hence the odd number of sheets (33 1/3) for the one shilling value.

The quotation from Messrs Perkins Bacon was accepted by Mr. Edward Barnard of the New Zealand Government, a week later on 15 November 1853. Work began on engraving the dies, making the plates and printing the stamps was completed on 22 September 1854. They were forwarded to Wellington, New Zealand, where they arrived in February 1855.

A notice dated 13 July 1855 published in the New Zealand Gazette, advised that the postage stamps referred to in the Proclamation dated 31 December 1850 'have been received and are issuable by Post Masters to the Public at the respective fixed values of such stamps, viz, one penny, two pence and one shilling per stamp'.

The design of the stamps incorporated the head and shoulders of Queen Victoria with a background design produced with the Rose Engine Lathe originally prepared for use on banknotes for security purposes and as a guard against forgery. The same background was used in 1852 for the first issues of stamps from Chile and in 1853 for the

one penny value of Nova Scotia, and the first issue of stamps from South Australia. The engraving of Queen Victoria is identical to that prepared for a banknote and is based on a painting by Alfred Edward Chalon, R.A., from sketches which he prepared on the occasion of Queen Victoria's first visit to the House of Lords in 1837.

London Prints

The stamps printed by Perkins Bacon known as LONDON PRINTS were on a hand-made paper from Rush Mills with a large star watermark. Some ideas of the rarity of both the one penny and one shilling values can be drawn from a comparison of the very small printing numbers, 12,000 and 8,000 respectively, with the Penny Black which had a printing of over 68 million. Most non-philatelists consider that the Penny Black is a rare stamp and one they know you are a collector, their first question is invariably 'Do you have a Penny Black?' if the answer is 'yes' you are immediately recognized as a collector of some importance and if you show them a copy, even sans margins, you have made a friend for life.

One Penny Value

The New Zealand one penny stamp was produced primarily for use by soldiers on their mail home. All serving soldiers and sailors enjoyed a concession rate of one penny which applied to mail both from and to them. A copy of the one penny 'London Print' on a soldier's cover is unknown to me, although there were three battalions of the 65th Regiment in New Zealand at the time of issue. The earliest soldiers letter with an adhesive stamp which I have seen is dated 1857 and in this instance it was printed by J. Richardson in Auckland on blue paper (SG4).

Two Pence Value

At this time the two pence stamp was used on both inland mail and mail to Australia, also to pay the rate to Australia on overseas mail as it was not until 27 March 1857 that the full postage to the United Kingdom could be prepaid in New Zealand.

One Shilling Value

There appears to be some doubt about the purpose of the one shilling stamp, confirmed later by the Dunedin Postmaster who sold his surplus one shilling stamps BISECTED to meet the sixpence rate to the United Kingdom.

The registration fee in 1855 was sixpence and apart from the obvious use on overweight letters, the only other use would have been on Book Post items, for which the rates were sixpence up to ½16. and one shilling up to 1b, increasing by one shilling for every additional 1b.

John Richardson-1855 November

The first stamps printed in New Zealand were produced by John Richardson of Auckland under private contract. Richardson did not use the large star watermarked paper supplied by Perkins Bacon but instead used blue wove paper similar to that being used to print the Government Gazette. This paper incorporated the paper maker's watermark.

After a limited use of the blue wove paper, an unwatermarked white wove paper was used of which there are two basic types, the first a thick soft and the second a thin hard paper.

A feature of the Richardson printing period was the semi-official separations which can be found in these issues.

Although postage stamps were available from 1855, letters to overseas could not be prepaid prior to 27 March 1857. Until that time only the Colonial postage rate of two pence per half ounce was payable.

Whilst the prepayment of postage on overseas letters was compulsory after 27 March 1857, it was not compulsory to prepay for inland mail until 1 April 1862.

Compulsory use of postage stamps was not mandatory until 1 April 1862. For the first seven years of the issue of stamps many surviving covers of this period bear only postal markings and are only of interest to Postal Historians.

A foreign rate of six pence for a half ounce letter was introduced on 27 March 1857. The postage rate to Australia was at that time two pence for a half ounce letter and it was not until 1 January 1859 that the rate was brought into line with the foreign rate.

Six Pence Value - 1859

There was now a need for a six pence stamp which was eventually issued on 8 August 1859. The dies and plate were prepared by Perkins Bacon but in this instance no stamps were printed in London. They were printed by Richardson on white wove paper.

The foreign rate of six pence was introduced on 27 March 1857 and at the same time a faster route for mail to the United Kingdom 'via Marseilles' was initiated by the English Post office. An additional French rate of three pence per quarter ounce was payable in addition to the standard charge of six pence per half ounce. This brought about the need for a new three pence value and again this was prepared by Perkins Bacon, the plate being sent out to New Zealand.

Three Pence Value – 1863

The three pence stamp was first issued on 1 January 1863 and printed on Large star watermarked paper. John Richardson the private printing contractor had by this time been replaced by John Davies, a printer who

had been especially brought out to New Zealand from England by the Government. From the time, postage stamps were printed by him under the control of the Postmaster General.

Shortly after the three pence stamp had been issued the 'French Rate' was changed from 3d per quarter ounce to 4d per half ounce for the additional charge on the 'Via Marseilles' route, effective from 12 September 1863

Four Pence Value – 1865

Perkins Bacon was again commissioned to prepare the die and plate which were duly received by John Davies in New Zealand. The stamps were eventually issued on 1 June 1865.

The First issue on these stamps was printed in a 'Rose' colour but under artificial light the 1d red stamp was easily confused with the 4d value. The colour was therefore quickly changed to yellow.

Pelure Paper And 'N.Z.' Watermark Paper – 1863-1864

John Davies used several papers including a very thin paper known as 'Pelure' and a watermarked paper with letters 'N.Z.' on each stamp. This was to be the replacement paper for the Large Star watermark but Davies did not find it completely suitable and reverted back to the Large Star Watermarked paper.

Plate II – Two Pence Value – 1865

The plate used for printing the two pence stamp became worn due to the large numbers of stamps printed and a new plate was ordered from Perkins Bacon. The new plate (PLATE II) quickly deteriorated when put into use in December 1865. The lower part of the plate wore, thus giving us the interesting varieties from the damaged and retouched plates.

Changed Colours – 1871

The colours of the 1d, 2d and 6d values were changed on 1 October 1871 after it was found that the lower values could be changed to look like higher values.

During a temporary shortage of paper due to the Full Face Queens being issued for one year longer than planned, John Davies used paper from various sources. These included papers with no watermark, letters 'N.Z.' Watermark (one penny brown) and portions of the papermaker's watermark 'T.H. SAUNDERS' and 'INVICTA' Without doubt the rarest paper of all was the Wiggins Teape paper and stamps showing examples of the letters W.T. & Co. found only on the 1d and 2d values.

Separations

Semi-official separation of the stamps which had been carried out during Richardson's time was continued with the stamps printed by John Davies. Many of these are extremely rare and seldom seen in genuine condition.

A perforating machine was eventually used by Davies and although this was a 'comb' machine in the first instance, it was later converted to a 'line' machine. Both gauged 12½.

Condition

As with all classics, condition is of paramount importance. Obviously we cannot all have perfect copies but we should endeavour to set ourselves a standard to follow. The missing margins will be more expensive than the stamps themselves, so 'four margin' copies should be a first priority, closely followed by a clear profile of Queen Victoria. When selecting a perforated copy, apart from looking for a complete set of teeth, try and ensure that the design is well centred between the perforations. I should not have to comment on tears, thins and of course repaired stamps. These have a home of their own which should not be in your album, unless they are used for reference purposes to show examples of the forger's work. (Courtesy: Souvenir, Philakorea 1984).

* * * * *

JEAN DE SPERATI

THE MASTER FORGER

In a recent article on S. Allan Taylor, I referred to him as "King of the Forgers". There is no doubt that he ranked high in this nefarious trade but after I did some research into the activities of de Sperati I realised then that my title was misplaced ; Jean, like Abu Ben Adam, "led all the rest".

Sperati was an engraver, born in 1885: he was an unusual craftsman and a master printer with a great skill in the manipulation of paper colour chemistry. To this talent he added considerable philatelic knowledge. During his lifetime he forged over 300 of the world's rarest stamps, with only six from the U.S.A. and possessions. These were mostly engraved, but included the letterpress New York Dispatch (the first adhesive stamps printed in the U.S.A.), the New York Postmaster's 5c. and the 1847 10c.

I wish it were possible to reproduce here the remarkable engravings, colours and likenesses of his foreign forgeries. Our limited printing facilities prevent this.

Dean Jennings, in his article on Sperati that appeared in the Saturday Evening Post dated 30th April, 1949, headed his article "He Fooled the Experts", and some of the data used here was obtained from that issue. I was most fortunate to obtain the catalogue of the British Philatelic Association for the special exhibition of Sperati material compared with the genuine .stamps which took

place from 27th April to 5th May 1954, in London. Featured were reproductions from its vast reference collections of Sperati.'s famous forgeries, and the B.P.A. is to be credited with the source of the reproduction appearing in this article.

Jean was proud of his work and often placed his signature on his productions. His forgeries first appeared on the market in 1909, but it was not until 1943 that a breach of French finance regulations really brought the name of Jean de Sperati to the public eye.

In successfully defending himself against the charge of illicitly exporting valuable stamps which were certified as genuine, Sperati was revealed as a master forger. (This exploit is fully detailed later in this article.)

Great credit should be given to the Expert Committee of the British Philatelic Association which exposed most of the existing forgeries, finally buying up all of Sperati's stock, materials, paper and plates. London was the supreme market for rare postage stamps and this act protected collectors everywhere from being deceived. However, many of his forgeries found their way into the United States. He offered local dealers a set of the stamps featured above for \$ 15 .00. now valued, genuine, at some 14,000.00. As an example of his genius, I quote from Jennings' Saturday Evening Post article concerning this set :

"Sperati gave me a set of five (5) early U.S. stamps valued at \$400.00 for \$15.00. He told me I could sell them to American dealers at a nice profit and he make me as many sets as I wanted at the same price.

I took the set to N.Y. City's most famous stamp dealer and asked him their value, stating they were a gift from my grandmother. He first checked the watermarks., examined them under a large glass, finally measuring them with a micrometer. 'Fine copies', He said, 'I'll buy them myself—or leave them on consignment for a better price than \$150.00". I asked him if he was sure they were genuine and he answered : 'Counterfeits !' he yelled scornfully. 'Look, I'm a specialist in forged stamps—even collect them— I'll stake my reputation that these are genuine.' Then I told him, and he looked like a man just sentence to die—moaning. 'They are so good, I'm ill—what will happen to my business? These stamps will fool anybody, and you sure could have clipped me !'

A far better example of the havoc spread by Jean was the incident mentioned earlier in this article are the breach of French regulations. It sounds like something out of the Arabian Nights. It came to light at a Postal Control Station on the Spanish border during World War II. In a routine check on out-gbing mail the censor found an envelope containing eighteen stamps addressed to a well-known dealer in Lisbon, and it carried Jean's address on the cover.

The customs appraiser gave an evaluation of more than 300,000 francs—about \$7,500 at the time. The shipment was siezed and the arrest of Sperati ordered for illegally exporting capital in the form of rare stamps. Soon he found himself in court, charged with disloyalty to the

republic. He, in a fury, yelled to the judge, "The stamps are worthless, I made them myself at home!"

The judge postponed the case and ordered the evidence submitted to Professor Edmund Locard of Lyon, a distinguished author and expert on the subject. His voluminous report follows partially:

1. Were it possible to perfectly imitate a stamp, there would be a difference in dimension. The submitted stamps were microscopically compared with the originals and no difference was found.
2. It is impossible to duplicate the colour shades that would give off the same fluorescence in the spectroscope. There was no difference in the examination of the submitted stamps.
3. False stamps never exactly match the paper of the original. All of the stamps submitted were on different paper, but matched perfectly that of the genuine.
4. Many of the submitted stamps carried watermarks, exact imitations of which are impossible. These matched the originals in every way.
5. Each of the gums were checked carefully. They all had the characteristics attributed to the countries from which purportedly they originated. That they might have been imitated was untenable.
6. Perforated edges are always the stumbling block of the forger, since hand cutting never can match machine work on the originals. All of these had the proper perforations.

And last:

7. In addition to the nature of the paper, one must consider its thickness. There was not so much as a thousandth of a milli metre difference between the submitted stamps and the originals. These stamps are all genuine and could not have been forged.

SPERATIFIED

On the above "facts", Sperati was found to be guilty and fined 300,000 francs. His attorneys filed an appeal, and shortly thereafter the darkest hour in philatelic history dawned. Sperati produced an additional three, identical sets. The case against him collapsed, however, the judge, in ruling that the stamps had actually been forged, fined him the sum of 10,000 francs and a token payment of damages to the stamp dealers.

He could now go on with his forgeries.

It was not long before the famous 'Oldenburg No. 5' incident occurred, a great rarity of the former German State, of which very few copies were then known to exist. A certain Mile. Anne Corne (who later turned out to be Jean's sister-

in-law) sent one copy to three different Paris stamp dealers, which were bought at the prevailing price of genuine copies.

Neither dealer knew of the other's purchase, believing the stamp to be a new discovery. When they later met they discovered the trickery and immediately filed a complaint with Leon Miro, head of the French Stamp Dealers' Association, resulting in a fraud suit defrauding one million francs damages and destruction of all of the forged stamps. The suit made headlines in all the Paris newspapers and shocked the stamp world. Experts from all parts of Europe recalled that they had authenticated many of the Sperati fakes.

Warning bulletins were sent to the leading philatelic societies and dealers.

How did this talented forger acquire his knowledge, and when did he begin his amazing career of forgery? Well, he learned, the printing and engraving trade as a youth and his first venture was a postcard factory. He became obsessed with philately, avidly reading all of the works he could find on the subject. He determined not to be careless. He studied the works and production of earlier forgers and the causes of their detection, i.e. faulty colours, wrong perforations, the sizing of the paper and the gums. Using money from his business, he set out buying imperfect and damaged copies of rare stamps, which astutely he acquired at bargain prices.

His next steps were to acquire the proper equipment.—quartz lamps, spectroscope, cameras, etc.—and began a staggering research project, probing every phase of stamp production. His analysis of stamp gum alone was stupendous, teaching him how to produce a cracked surface like the aged original. Soon he could produce, without detection, any known paper, gum or watermark. After exhaustive tests in his lab. he began to send copies of his work to experts for endorsement and, of course, subsequent sales. Then, as an established collector and dealer, he arranged to photograph and examine rare stamps in famous collections.

EIGHTY-NINE FRENCH FORGERIES

For more than fifteen years he kept his imitations flowing through philatelic channels, and producing some three hundred different items, many of which found their way into famous collections. He forged eighty nine French stamps, the most of any country. He made a French cover, dated Janv. 1849, carrying the first issue. The entire envelope was bogus: the paper, the cancellations, the writing, the ink and, of course, the two stamps!

His second, favourite country was Spain—with some eighty productions. Of the South and Central-American countries, his favourite was Uruguay, especially the sun motif issues.

Sperati finally retired to Aix-les-Bains in France, where he lived with his wife, Marie, in a faded yellow house on a hill overlooking Lake Bouget. There he wrote two

books which have become collectors' items. The first, entitled *Philately Without Experts*, was limited to only 300 autographed copies, and, his second, *Confidentially for the Experts*, a larger tome. Through them, he showed his contempt for the men who authenticated the stamps for collectors and dealers. He died in April 1957.

(Courtesy : Cinderella Philatelist)

"POSTAGE DUE" AND "UNPAID" HANDSTRUCK STAMPS OF INDIA IN THE 20TH CENTURY.

A. C. GLEDHILL

Unlike many countries, including Great Britain, India has never issued adhesive "postage due" stamps. But its postmarks are rich in handstruck 'Postage Due' and 'Unpaid' stamps. A brief survey of the main types of 'Due' marks to be found on material of the 19th Century appeared in the March 1965 issue of *"The Philatelist"*. But the present century can provide plenty of interest too. Indeed, the years 1900-01 saw a radical change in the procedure for handstamping mails sent 'bearing' or insufficiently franked. Not merely did the "bisected rectangle" Type of "Postage Due" marks begin to make way for more informative "Due" marks of a very different design: in addition "Unpaid" date-stamps, complementing the "Due" mark, began to be struck on covers that had incurred penalty postage, a practice that has continued ever since.

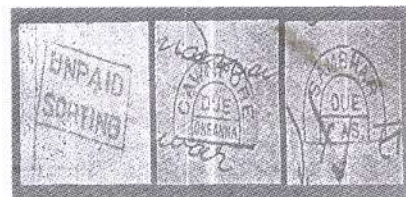
I do not overlook the fact that for a few years in the 1870's the word "UNPAID" was struck on some, but not all, covers sent 'bearing'. It appeared in small rectangular postmarks framing the words "UNPAID" and "SORTING" in two lines, and Mr. Hammond-Giles records and illustrates this Miscellaneous Mark (his Type G. 21). I reproduce a typical example below (fig. 1).

The laconic legend, which conjures up a vision of postal 'back room boys' toiling without any remuneration, provides no clue to when or where an "UNPAID SORTING" handstamp was struck. Occasionally one even comes upon a cover with two 'strikes' that are clearly from different handstamps. But it is not unreasonable to assume that, like the familiar hexagonal sorting marks (Renouf's Type 60) found on 'paid' and 'unpaid' covers alike, these unhelpful handstamps were struck at intermediate points, not at the start or end of a cover's travels.

Whatever gave rise to them, they were short-lived, and for the remainder of the 19th Century the rectangular "Postage Due" marks sufficed to draw attention to unfranked—and insufficiently franked—items of mail. But they too gave no clue to when or where they were struck. Usually it was the office of despatch that impressed them; but sometimes there is good reason for thinking that underfranking escaped notice till a cover reached the end of its journey.

However, enough of that digression. At the turn of the century, as I have remarked, changes were made. The shape of the mark was radically altered, the name of the office was incorporated in the new design, the legend "POSTAGE DUE" was shortened to "DUE", and the new "DUE" marks were complemented by an "UNPAID" mark, struck at the office of delivery. The new "DUE" marks showed the amount due but not the date. The "UNPAID" marks showed a date but not the amount due. Both showed the name of the office where they were impressed.

These changes were not effected "overnight" throughout India. But they were well under way within a couple of years. Alongside is (fig. 2)



an example of a CAWNPORE "DUE" mark seen on a cover of 1902. By reason of its shape, the Type is often styled the "Horseshoe Type". But — for a reason I shall come to—I shall call it the "Archway Type". It can be found not only in many sizes (for the trend was to less congested 'DUE' marks as years went by) but also in various shapes... lofty arches, shallow arches, and straight-sided arches reminiscent of a tombstone, though examples of the 'tombstone' sub-type are scarce.

In the 'DUE' marks of major offices, the amount due was part of the 'strike'; at minor offices it had to be entered by hand. So, at small offices one handstamp sufficed for any contingency. A typical example of it, struck in 1906 at SAMBHAR, is reproduced above (fig. 3). But even important offices probably managed with only a couple of handstamps, recording respectively the amounts normally recoverable on an inland card and inland cover; when some other amount was recoverable, the handstruck figure was deleted and the appropriate amount entered by hand. Till 1921 when the first increases in inland rates took place, "½ anna" and "1 anna" handstamps seem to have sufficed even at the most important offices.

But the "Archway Type" marks long outlived the postage increases just referred to, and later ones as well; so major offices' handstamps had to be replaced from time to time by new ones recording higher amounts due.

I have mentioned the trend to larger 'archways' as time went on. This is understandable. For the names of some offices had to include the name of the district, to distinguish them from offices of the same name elsewhere; others—e.g. MEREWETHER CLOCK TOWER, KARACHI and DISTRICT HEADQUARTERS, PESHAWAR—obviously needed to include the name of the town in which they were situated; and a "SET NO." had to be included in the postmarks of most R.M.S. Offices. Larger handstamps overcame the often illegible impressions produced by the diminutive ones.

But in a few instances the problem was overcome by the simple device of extending the ends of the arch, thus producing the very scarce "Horseshoe Type" that I illustrate (fig. 4). The only other examples known to me are from the

two Urban Offices at KARACHI and PESHAWAR mentioned above, BARA BAZAR, CALCUTTA, SIKANDARABAD, BULANSHAHAR, and PATIALA R.M.S. PATIALA STATE. In a country as big as India there are doubtless other examples, but not very many, I'm pretty sure. And some of those I have cited were replaced after a few years by handstamps of the normal "archway Type". So the "horseshoes" are few and far between.

The "arch-way Type" was gradually adopted by the CONVENTION STATES' POSTS too, but in a modified form, wherein a curved "box" above the arch framed the name of the State. An example can be seen (fig. 5) of the type in use at GOONA, GWALIOR STATE, in 1912. But the GWALIOR POSTS devised several variants, some incorporating the State emblem, a cobra, later on.



Fig. 4 Fig. 5 Fig. 6

The HYDERABAD STATE POSTS also adopted the "archway Type", but with the particulars in Urdu. And—though not till the 1930's, I think—the JAIPUR STATE POSTS introduced a type of 'DUE' mark obviously derived from India's "archway Type" and with the particulars in English, to boot. I illustrate the "Jaipur archway" above (fig. 6). It will be seen that the words "POSTAGE DUE", not just "DUE", were used and that they appear where, in the "India archways", the name of the office was shown. Later on, a few offices seem to have been issued with "DUE" handstamps conforming more closely to the "India archway" Type. But I have seen very few examples.

To revert to the "archway" DUE marks of the Imperial Posts, I have still to see a 'strike' in coloured ink . . . and that goes for the "archways" peculiar to the States' Posts, by the way.

Because—unlike their rectangular predecessors—the "archway" DUE marks show the name of the office they are of far greater interest. For every category of office had its 'DUE' handstamp, so one can look for examples showing "CAMP P.O. . . .", "EXPERIMENTAL P.O. . . .", ". . . R.M.S." (with and without a "SET NO.") or those recording the designation of a Travelling Post Office (e.g. "J-3 — IN SET NO. 2"). One may even come across examples that show only a letter, a numeral and a place-name in that order (e.g. "J-76: UJJAIN"). For the code-numbering of R.M.S. Offices that gave rise to Jal Cooper's Type 24d in the 1880's continued to be reflected in their postmarks till a few years after the introduction of the "archway Type" DUE marks.

Moreover, if one specialises in "India used abroad" or in "India used in Burma", covers showing an "archway" DUE mark of, say DUBAI or MANDALAY or RANGOON R.M.S. will add lustre to his collection. Even those engaged in the less fashionable pursuit of postmarks pertaining to a particular office, BOMBAY or CALCUTTA for example, cannot afford to ignore the "archways", and examples

struck by many different handstamp!; may reward the patient and observant collector.

"UNPAID" HANDSTAMPS

The initial Type, introduced in 1900, was oval in shape and struck in green. The early "ovals" were very small, and before the Type was superseded "circa 1910" much larger handstamps were in use. At least three sizes can be found, though not all offices by any means used more than one. Alongside are illustrations of "UNPAID" marks struck at BOMBAY in 1901 and 1908.

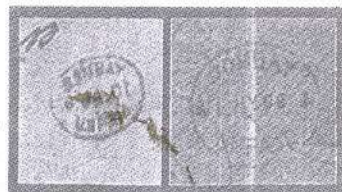


Fig. 7 Fig. 8

Earlier, I have remarked that "UNPAID" marks were struck by the office of delivery. But occasionally—on missent or redirected covers—one can find two (even three, though very seldom) including that of the office of delivery. And though green was the normal colour, examples in other colours and in black can be found, reflecting the rugged individualism of some small offices. For example, PHALERA—an office of the Imperial Posts in Jaipur State—persisted for some years in the use of magenta ink when impressing its "UNPAID" mark.

The CONVENTION STATES followed INDIA'S lead by introducing "UNPAID" marks of the Oval Type struck in green; but their "ovals" were surmounted by a curved 'box' to accommodate the name of the State. Examples are extremely scarce.

One can only speculate on why, "circa 1910", the "ovals" were replaced by the familiar octagonal Type that certainly lasted longer than the British Raj and may, indeed, be still in use. I illustrate a very early octagonal "UNPAID" mark, struck at JODHPUR on 27 June 1910. (fig. 9).

But even though the octagonal Type, for which black was the prescribed colour, was in general use for several decades, unusual variants may be found. From force of habit or a determination to use up its bottle of green ink to the last drop, FERROZEPUR struck its new, octagonal mark in green for a lime . . . the only office I know of that did so. And from 1910 to 1918, AJMER'S octagon shows a number—sometimes "11"—above the date-line, while a CALCUTTA octagon of 1928 shows a "1" in the same position. One can only speculate on the significance of these rare refinements; maybe they recorded respectively the "hour" and "1st Delivery".



Fig. 9 Fig. 10

Perhaps even more intriguing is the "UNPAID" mark that I reproduce alongside (fig. 10). As can be seen, it is a sub-type in which the name of a Head Office appears as well as that of one of its "urban offices". But there is no "BARAZAR" in the list of Indian Post Offices. The cover on which the mark was struck bears a delivery c.d.s. of

BARABAZAR, CALCUTTA. SO it looks as if a slip-up occurred in the manufacture of an "UNPAID" handstamp for that office.

Though one may never find sufficient "UNPAID" covers to pursue the lines of thought that unusual variants of the octagonal Type provoke, the mere finding of the variants I have described—and there may be others, of course—makes the familiar "octagons" worthy of the student's attention. Moreover at least one of the CONVENTION STATES—Gwalior State—adopted this Type of "UNPAID" mark, with the addition of the name of the State above the date-line. But I won't venture to say when, because of the paucity of covers bearing an example.

The "UNPAID" marks, oval and octagonal, were struck not only on covers sent "bearing" but on insufficiently-franked mail too. Of the latter, a frequent offender was the cover inscribed "Book Post" and improperly franked at the concessional rate applicable only to unsealed, impersonal printed matter . . . leaflets, invoices, receipts etc. At some offices, the "UNPAID" handstruck mark on offending covers would be supplemented by a handwritten endorsement explaining the presence of the handstruck mark, e.g. "Cover Sealed". But in the 1930's AJMER G.P.O. used two simple handstamps, one recording "CONTAINS COMMUNICATION", the other "CLOSED AGAINST INSPECTION", in explanation of its "UNPAID" mark on covers that offended the Book Post regulations. Some other offices may have combated writer's cramp in their sorting department by similar means; but I have yet to see evidence of their doing so, and meantime I award to AJMER the prize for two of the scarcest Miscellaneous Marks of the Imperial Posts.

In conclusion, I would make two points clear:—

- (1) What is set out above relates only to Inland Mail. They prompted Mr. Hammond-Giles to serve up (in the June 1965 issue) some very interesting facts about "INDIA UNPAID" marks struck on outward-bound foreign mail during the period 1856-62. Of greater interest, perhaps, would be a survey of the "OVERLAND POSTAGE DUE" and "FOREIGN POSTAGE DUE" marks struck by Indian Post Offices in the 19th and 20th Century on foreign mails entering India. But I am not qualified to write it.
- (2) I have not covered the years after the end of the British Raj. But Independent India retained the "archways" and the "octagons", though modifying them to reflect the trend towards Hindi and bi-lingual handstamps, and—in 1957—the change to decimal currency. These winds of change were responsible for many variants of the basic Types I have written about, and some may have had a very brief currency. It will be a pity if, like so many Miscellaneous Marks of a bygone era, they are ignored till the material on which they occur is almost impossible to lay hands on.

(Courtesy: The Philatelist, 1966)

* * * * *

A century ago,

THE VALUE OF HOBBIES

A hobby is of the greatest value to the leader of the strenuous life, and in one sense it is good to lead a "double life." When one has been, say most of the day, thinking out some intricate matter of business, something is required to recreate the mind, and some interesting hobby to turn to in one's leisure time is very beneficial. For the winter evenings the "collecting hobby" is hard to beat; whether a man prefers to collect coins, curios, stamps, etc., is a mere detail. Some entire change of thought from the ordinary routine of the day -is required, and the collecting together of objects has proved to be an engrossing pastime. When a man of means takes up a hobby of this kind he can spend a good deal of money on his "fancy," and often finds, until he becomes experienced in his pursuits, that there are thieves in every profession, and "fakes," "forgeries," etc., he finds himself possessed of, at a very high price. However, experience is a good school, and one generally has to pay for it, whatever that experience may be. Sometimes experience is an expensive purchase, but generally it is worth the price, as it is not until we have paid pretty dearly for it that it is worth the having.

(Courtesy: the collectors Journal; 1907).

* * * * *

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INDIA - STAMPS OF 2012

Issue No.	Stamp No.	Details	Value Rs.	Date of Issue
1	1	PURAN CHANDRA GUPTA	5	02.01.12
2	2	BHAI JAGTA JI	5	15.01.12
3	3	SHYAM NARAYAN SINGH	5	24.01.12
4	4	INDIA INTERNATIONAL CENTRE	5	09.02.12
5	5	EMPLOYEES STATE INSURANCE CORPORATION	5	24.02.12
6	6	VASANTADA PATIL	5	01.03.12
7	7	SHYMA CHARAN SHUKLA	5	09.03.12
8	8 - 11	CIVIL AVIATION CENTENARY	5, 5, 5, 20	14.03.12
9	12	ISABELLA THOBURN COLLEGE	5	12.04.12
10	13	GODIJI TEMPLE	5	17.04.12
11	14	R. VENKATARAMAN	5	18.04.12
12	15	KAPUR CHANDRA "KULISH"	5	16.05.12
13	16	M B KADADI	5	17.05.12
14	17 - 18	800 URS DARGAH SHARIF	5, 20	27.05.12
15	19 - 20	SHEKAWATI & WORLI PAINTINGS	5, 20	20.06.12
16	21 - 24	LONDON OLYMPICS	5, 5, 20, 20	25.07.12
17	25	CUSTOMS ACT	5	26.07.12
18	26	DURGA PRASAD CHAUDARY	5	31.07.12
19	27	ARMED FORCES MEDICAL COLLEGE	5	04.08.12
20	28	HUSAIN AHMED MADANI	5	29.08.12
21	29	MOTILAL NEHRU	5	25.09.12
22	30	INDO TIBETAN BORDER POLICE	5	01.10.12
23	31	A W A C S	5	08.10.12
24	32	PHILATELY DAY	20	12.10.12
25	33 - 36	ENDEMIC SPECIES OF INDIAN BIODIVERSITY	25, 5, 5, 5	16.10.12
26	37 - 38	INDO-ISRAEL JOINT ISSUE	5, 5	05.11.12
27	39	T S NARAYANASWAMY	5	11.11.12
28	40	CHILDREN'S DAY	5	14.11.12
29	41	SCINDE HORSE	5	16.11.12
30	42	RAMGOPAL MAHESWARI	5	20.11.12
31	43	CONSUMER PROTECTION ACT	5	29.11.12
32	44	SRI SHIVARATRI SHIVAYOGI	5	21.12.12
33	45	NATIONAL MATHEMATICS DAY	5	22.12.12
34	46 - 47	LIGHTHOUSE - ALLEPEY, MAHABALIPURAM	5, 25	23.12.12