



SIPA

For Private Circulation to Members only

Bulletin

web : sipa.org.in
E-mail :
mail@sipa.org.in

Vol.33 No. 2

Shri G. Madan
Mohan Das

Apr - Jun 2014

Memorial issue

QUARTERLY

Editorial.

Irreparable loss

It was the black day for South India Philatelist's Association. It was the day SIPA lost its stalwart - SIPA's ambassador unparalleled - to almighty God. Yea, SIPA's patron angel Mr. G. Madan Mohan Das breathed his last on 11.01.2014 at Hyderabad and sent shockwaves to the philatelic fraternity in Chennai, Tamilnadu and all over India. Active in philatelic circles till a month before his departure to Heavens at the age of ninety one, he was loved and hated by one and all in their own ways and ideas. He was an upright man upto the last in his ideals. He was a walking encyclopedia in philately as known to everybody who got clarified their silliest doubts or deep rooted ambiguity in philately of the World. Let us all pray for his soul to rest in peace. (RIP)



Few Milestones in the Philatelic journey of Shri G. Madan Mohan Das

AS COLLECTOR AWARDS

1. INPEX 70 - Two silvers for Lithographs and Indian Cancellations.
2. PLAJUPEX - 72 - Gold for Lithographs
3. INDIPEX 73
 - a) Vermeil - Scinde dawks and Lithographs
 - b) Silver - Hand struck stamps and Postal History of India.
 - c) Silver - Cochin Stamps and Postal History.
4. INDIA 80 Vermeil - Indian Lithographs
5. PHILAKOREA 1984 - vermeil for lithographs

AS ADMINISTRATOR

1. Member, Organising committee, ASIANA 77
2. Founder Member, PCI
Honorary Jt. Treasurer PCI 1982-86.
Secretary - 1986
Member, Governing council PCI 1987 - 2010
3. Jury - INDIPEX 89
4. Member, Philatelic Advisory Committee 1990 - 1994
5. Commissioner - Bangkok 1993,
- Seoul 2004
6. International apprentice Jury - Bangkok 2010

A DOYEN OF PHILATELY

It is not often that we have had among the citizens of Chennai someone who was nationally acclaimed as an authority in his chosen field of interest and who had often served as the 'National Commissioner for India' (something like the captain of an Indian team) at international competitions held in his field in capital cities abroad. One such rare person was Madan Mohan Das, the doyen of philately in Chennai. In his passing away last month at the age of 90, philatelists in Chennai have lost their leader, who had been a source of inspiration and guidance to them for the past 50 years.

Philately (or 'stamp collecting' in layman's terminology) has been often described as the 'King of hobbies and the hobby of Kings'. Madan Mohan Das, or 'Madan Bhai' as he was affectionately called by his admirers, was the uncrowned king of philately in Chennai. He was from a Gujarati business family, originally from Surat, that had settled in Tamil Nadu over three centuries ago. The family was initially based in Srirangam and was known for the gifts and endowments made by the family members to the Ranganathaswami temple there. Later, they shifted to Madras and settled in Sowcarpet. Madan Bhai's father was a prosperous shipping agent.

As a boy he often went to the harbour with his father. There, in the dust bins in the offices and outside, he would see used postal envelopes from all over the world, with colourful stamps affixed on them. He started collecting them, and soon it became an all-absorbing hobby. Then, quite by accident, he came across a Varadaraja Chettiar, an enthusiastic philatelist from Nellikkuppam, who had been tutored in the intricacies of philately by an Englishman then employed in the Parry's Confectionary factory in Nellikkuppam. Chettiar would visit young Madan whenever he was in Madras and would often pay for and rake the stamps collected by his young friend.

Madan Bhai graduated from St. Joseph's College, Trichy, and started his career in banking with the Indian Bank in Chennai in 1948. His job took him to Bombay in 1950 which was then, the capital of philately in India. He made friends with the well-known philatelists of that era in Bombay, like J.N. Cooper, R.F. Shroff, R. Wadia and Dhirubhai Mehta. He learnt from them all the subtleties and refinements of 'philately' (as different from mere

'stamp collecting'). He soon developed special collections of his own.

He first developed an interest in collecting stamps known as 'Indian Classics' - a term used to describe early issues of stamps and rare stamps over 150 years old. It was, obviously, very difficult to come across material for such a collection. But Madan Bhai scoured the market with such vigour and enthusiasm that he soon had a sizeable collection of Classics.

Next, he turned his attention to an even more difficult area of collection, known as 'Indian Postal History'. This is a collection of items from the pre-stamp era. They are exotic items like handstruck stamps embossed on sealing wax, wax wafers, handstruck markings applied directly on letters, embossments made on paper and so on. The East India Company, during the latter part of 18th Century and the first half of 19th Century, used such items to serve the same purpose as printed postage stamps, before actual postage stamps came into use in 1854. Here again Madan Bhai succeeded in collecting many of the rarest of rare specimens.

Madan Bhai then took up a deep study of the lithography of early Indian stamps. Lithography is the process of printing stamps using smooth-surfaced metal plates known as dies. In the early days of printing of stamps the dies would be changed as they wore out, and there would be minute variations in stamps from one die to another. Madan Bhai's expertise in the field was such that he could detect the die of any stamp by studying the minutest details that would not be perceptible to an untrained eye. He collected specimens of various die casts reflecting different variations.

Over the decades, Madan Bhai won gold medals for his collections of classics, postal history and lithography, at various philatelic competitions held at the State level as well as at the National level. He became the best known name among the philatelists of Chennai.

In 1956 he, along with his younger brother Balakrishna Das, garnered together a group of enthusiastic philatelists of Chennai and formed the South India Philatelists' Association (SIPA). His old friend Varadaraja Chettiar joined him in the founding of SIPA. The first meeting of the six founding members was held in a church in Broadway on December 30, 1956 with, literally, the blessings of the pastor of the church.

In 1980, SIPA started publishing a bi-monthly news-letter on philately called the SIPA Bulletin. Madan Bhai headed SIPA and was editor of the Bulletin for many decades. SIPA is an active body today with nearly 650 life members from ail over India. It continues to actively serve the interests of philatelists. The members meet regularly on the second Sunday of every month at the exhibition hall of Anna Saiai Post Office. Philatelic Bureau The SIPA Bulletin is now published as a quarterly.

Madan Bhai served on the Philatelic Advisory Committee of the Government of India for some years. He also served on a number of occasions as a member of the jury charged with judging the entries at national level

philatelic exhibitions. He was selected twice as the philatelic National Commissioner for India in which capacity he represented India and presented the Indian entries at two international philatelic exhibitions -one held in Bangkok in 1993, and the other held in Seoul in 2004.

Philatelists of Chennai owe a deep sense of gratitude to Madan Bhai for two other great services he rendered them. The first was that he was instrumental in getting a special counter established at the Anna Salai Post Office for philatelic items. The counter is housed in the old Electric Theatre hall and has facilities for philatelists to sit and browse through the materials available for sale before making their purchases. The second was that he was the force behind the allotment of a hall at the same Post Office for the display of collections of local philatelists. He could achieve both these objectives thanks to the active cooperation and assistance of many dynamic Chief Postmasters-General. (with kind courtesy G. Ram Mohan, Madras Musings, April 2014)

* * * * *

STAMP NEWS

FOOD CORPORATION OF INDIA

14.01.14

500

0.42 mill

The Food Corporation of India (FCI), a statutory corporation under the Ministry of Consumer Affairs, Food and Public Distribution, was set up in Chennai on 14th January, 1965. It has the mandate to undertake, purchase, storage, transportation, distribution and sale of food grains and other foodstuff Opened in Thanjavur, the Corporation's offices have now spread all over the country with its Headquarters in New Delhi.



Since its inception, the FCI has played a significant role in the food security of the country. Its contribution to the nation goes back to 1968 when India introduced the Green Revolution to stop dependency of food on other countries. The role of the FCI was to complement the Green Revolution by procuring the food grains produced by the farmers at a Minimum Support Price (MSP) as decided by the Government of India.

Presently, the main role of FCI is to implement the objectives of the National Food Policy of Government of India. Accordingly, it ensures effective price support operations for safeguarding the interests of the farmers, distribution of foodgrains throughout the country for Public Distribution System.

The Corporation has played a crucial role in the Antodaya AnnaYojana, Annapurna Yojana and the Mid-Day Meal Scheme, besides ensuring food grain supplies to the Defence forces. It has also been involved in supply

of food grains during natural calamities like the super cyclone in Orissa, the devastating earthquake in Gujarat, the Tsunami of 2004 and the recent floods in Uttarakhand.

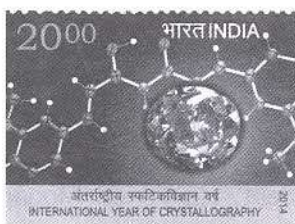
As the backbone of Public Distribution System in the country. FCI has undertaken a massive augmentation programme of storage space under Private Entrepreneur Guarantee (PEG) Scheme to build around 20 million tonnes capacity in 19 States.

Theme : Agriculture, Food, Corporations.

INTERNATIONAL YEAR OF CRYSTALLOGRAPHY

30.01.14 500 0.41 mill

Crystallography is the study of crystals and of the determination of the internal structure of crystals using diffraction of X-rays, neutrons and electrons. Crystallography is a subject with many applications in physics, chemistry and biology. It is ever present in modern life in drug development, nanotechnology, biotechnology and in the development of new materials.



To commemorate the outstanding achievements of crystallography and its contribution to humankind, the United Nations has designated 2014 as the International Year of Crystallography 2014 (IYCr2014).

The International Year of Crystallography 2014 commemorates not only the centennial of X-ray diffraction but also that it is 400 years since Kepler's observation in 1611 of the symmetrical form of ice crystals, which began the wider study of the role of symmetry in matter.

The commemorative postage stamp depicts a diamond and the structure of curcumin, the active constituent of turmeric, as determined, by X-ray crystallography. The diamond is known for its exceptional hardness and the flashes of light given off by its natural crystal structure. Curcumin is the compound responsible for the bright orange of turmeric. It is known to exhibit biological, pharmaceutical and wide-ranging pharmacological activities such as antioxidant, anti-inflammatory, antimicrobial and anti-carcinogenic.

Theme: Science, Chemistry .International years, X-rays.

INDIAN MUSEUM, KOLKATA

02.02.14 500 0.61mill

The foundation of the Indian Museum is an important milestone in the cultural heritage of India and heritage preservation. The museum grew out of the Asiatic Society of Bengal.



The idea of establishing a Museum acquired a tangible form in the beginning of 1808 when the Asiatic Society occupied the premises erected at the corner of Park Street on a land granted by the Government, it appointed Dr. Nathania! Wallich, a Danish Botanist, to the Oriental Museum of the Asiatic Society. The Society decided to establish a museum which would be divided into two sections; one of which would be concerned with archaeological, ethnological and technological artifacts, while the other devoted to preservation of geological and zoological specimens. Wallich was not only the enthusiastic founder and the first Curator of the Indian Museum; he was one of the largest donors to the Museum; at its inception.

Dr. Nathaniel Wallich took charge of the Museum on 1st June, 1814. The Museum moved to the present building designed by Walter R. Granville at Chowringhee Road, Kolkata in the year 1878 and was thrown open to the public with two galleries on 1st April, 1878. In 1879, It received a portion of the collection from the India Museum (South Kensington) when that collection was dispersed.

The Museum, known in the beginning as the " Asiatic Society Museum", subsequently came to acquire the elevated status of the " Imperial Museum". The familiar name of course was the " Indian Museum" described by the ordinary visitors as "Jadughar" or a 'House of Wonders'. Since 1878, at its present edifice, the Indian Museum has been rendering its services to the people of India as a centre of art and culture in India.

Theme : Heritage, Museums, Arts, Paintings

CENTRAL VIGILANCE COMMISSION

11.02.14 500 0.4 mill

The Central Vigilance Commission (CVC) is an apex integrity institution set up for prevention of corruption in the Central Government Ministries , Departments, Corporations Companies, Societies and local authorities owned or controlled by the Central Government and for matters connected therewith or incidental thereto. It was first constituted by the Government of India through a resolution in the year 1964.



In the exercise of its powers and functions, the Central Vigilance commission is not subordinate to any Ministry / Department of the Government of India.

The Central Vigilance Commission was conferred statutory status by The Central Vigilance Commission Act, 2003. The act provides for constitution of Central Vigilance Commission to inquire or to cause inquiries to be conducted into offences alleged to have been committed under the Prevention of Corruption Act 1988. The Commission is also empowered to review the progress of investigations conducted by the CBI and the progress of applications pending with the Competent Authorities for sanction of prosecution under the Prevention.

The Central Government under the Public Interest Disclosure and Protection of Informer's Resolution (PIDPI) dated 21.4.2004 has authorized the Central Vigilance Commission as the "designated agency" to receive and act on complaints from whistle blowers and recommend appropriate action.

In term of the CVS Act, 2003, the Commission consists of the Central Vigilance Commissioner (CVS) as Chairperson and two Vigilance Commissioners (VCs) as Members.

All Departments/Organizations falling under the advisory jurisdiction of the Commission have a vigilance unit headed by a Chief Vigilance officer (CVO). The CVOs act as an extended arm of the Commission.

Theme: Governance, Vigilance, Institution

JAGJIT SINGH

08.02.14 500,2000 0.41mill each

Jagjit Singh was born on 8 February, 1941 in Sri Ganganagar (Rajasthan). Shri Jagjit Singh was known for his unique style of singing and composing music, which brought out the deepest and innermost feelings in listener's hearts.



Jagjit Singh was instrumental in reviving the popularity of ghazal, an Indian classical art form, by choosing poetry that was relevant to the masses and composed them in a way that laid more emphasis on the meaning of words and melody evoked by them. Hailing from humble background, Jagjit Singh took Indian music to new heights during his noteworthy career. Having received extensive training in Hindustani Classical music under the tutelage of pt. Chaggan Lai Sharma initially and Jamal Khan later on, Shri Jagjit Singh developed his own distinctive style of singing and composing music that incorporated elements of both Indian Classical and western music.

Jagjit Singh's work was much appreciated in films such as Prem Geet (1981), Arth and Saath Saath (1982),

and TV serials Mirza Ghalib (1988).and Kakhkashan (1991). He is considered the most successful ghazal singer and composer of all time in terms of critical acclaim and commercial success.

Jagjit Singh was awarded 'Padma Bhushan' in 2003 for his remarkable contribution to Indian Music.

He breathed his last on 10th October 2011.

Theme: Personalities, Music, Ghazal, Cinema

HASRAT MOHANI

25.02.14 500 0.31 mill

Hasrat Mohani was a well known Poet of Urdu language. His real name was Syed Fazl-ul-Hasan. Hasrat was his pen name which he used for writing Urdu poetry and the word Mohani refers to the native place of Mohan in the Unnao district of United Province in British India where he was born. Hasrat Mohani was a brilliant and hardworking student. He joined Mohammedan Anglo Oriental Collage (MAO), Aligarh (now Aiiarh Muslim University) and completed his B.A.



His interest in Urdu journalism inspired him to start "Urdu-e-Mu-alla" in 1903 and settle down in Aligarh city. During this time he published a few rare literary books. He made journalism and politics his sacred mission and struggled for the causes of oppressed people of the society for his entire life. In 1904, he attended Indian National Congress session as a delegate in Bombay. This was the time when Swadesi Movement was launched and Maulana Hasrat Mohani became a participant in the movement. In 1905, he took active participation in Ail India Industrial Conference and became a campaigner of Swadesi Movement. To promote the swadesi movement, he started a swadesi store which was run by his wife and due to their efforts, the store became a successful Venture. Hasrat Mohani participated in the struggle for India's Independence and was jailed for many years by British authorities.

He breathed his last on 13 May 1951 in Luck now, India.

Theme: Personality, Poets, Languages, Journalism, Freedom fighter.

Dear Members,

To honour our great philatelist SIPA proudly reproduces few articles written by our departed patron Mr. G. Madan Mohan Das, to enlighten young collectors in magazines and souvenirs.

MAKING THE BEST OF YOUR THEMATIC COLLECTION.

Shri. G. Madan Mohan Das

Many thematic Collections actually take anything like full advantage of Philatelic material available to them. I have seen collections being judged, seen so many displays and examined so many friends' collections which fall short of the ideal so that I feel impelled to set out a few positive suggestions for improving your approach to this attractive and increasingly popular method of collecting.

For a start, most thematic collections begin, continue and end with mint stamps.. They may be arranged by countries-which is wrong-or according to the pictorial content,, which is better, but they can never be anywhere near complete. Thematic collectors get perplexed by this criticism, for they seem to see no further into philately than the pages of the stamp catalogue. It has been truly said that PHILATELY BEGINS' WHERE CATALOGUE LEAVES OFF, and if thematic collectors have any hope at all of being regarded as serious philatelists and not mere pretty-picture accumulators they really will have to start thinking along philatelic lines.

Talk to most of them about DRESSING UP THE COLLECTION-that is to say getting away from simple stamps - and they almost invariably, start to babble about first day covers, maximum cards and pictures cut out from guide books. So we must clear these out of the way first.

Put them in, but again try not to separate them from the complete booklet if at all possible. The thing to remember is that these extras are properly prepared and approved by the postal administration-they are truly PHILATELIC ITEMS.

SHOULD CINDERELLAS BE INCLUDED? Most stamps omitted from major catalogues are automatically forbidden at national competition level, but this need not stop you from incorporating them into your collection on separate pages.

OVERPRINTS: One category of stamps which has caused considerable upset amongst thematic collectors is OVERPRINTED STAMPS ITEMS. To take it at its simplest, if a Red Cross stamp is subsequently overprinted for a philatelic Exhibition, does it still belong to a Red Cross subject of issue collection? My own feeling is that it does: the stamp remains the same item that it was when issued-it has merely been adopted to a new purpose, and still displays its original theme. This then puts it in line with such things as commemoratives stamps overprinted for use as Officials - these have a restricted governmental use, but are still thematics as they were before overprinting. Stamps overprinted to mark military occupations or change of government, or surcharged with new values, are equally acceptable and indeed should always be added to the basic stamps as examples of philatelic usages.

Another area that collectors overlook, though, is precancels - stamps which have been given a pre-printed postmark, usually in full sheets or coils, and sold in that condition for use on bulk mailings. Such items come from many countries, the precancels are easily distinguished from normal postmarks, yet they belong in a mint collection (where ordinary used stamps do not) since they are sold to the public in that condition. Very few collectors seem to have thought of under prints These are usually advertisements-many varieties came from New Zealand in Victorian times - and if the wording or picture on the underprint has a relevance to your theme then it should assuredly be found in your collection.

POSTAL STATIONERY AND POSTCARDS : This is yet another massive, fascinating and important area of philately which has a very real thematic interest, yet which is almost universally overlooked by collectors : it is postal stationery. For a start, the modern Australian prestamped envelopes have appeared for a vast range of topics for which normal stamps have never been issued, and most of them have great thematic interest. Then there are officially issued prestamped postcards - where the pictures may have thematic appeal. Modern Aerogrammes often bear attractive thematic designs ' unfortunately these are both large and flimsy, making mounting sometimes awkward but you should not let this deter you. The last question raised thematic collectors is whether picture postcards - privately produced one, mint or used - have any place in a collection. This is something deserving some thought. The ordinary picture postcard exists in untold millions of designs, and any attempt to assemble a complete collection on.

Non-philatelic pictorial additions have no place at all in a serious display or competition entry. The reasons are twofold: first they usually overpower the stamps themselves and so spoil their appeal, and secondly there are just so many available sources of pictures that one cannot come to any sensible judgement of their importance, value or interest. The purist will say that they are not philatelic - which is reason enough in its own right. First day covers and maximum cards share the same fault - they tend to overpower the stamps. However, I am prepared to accept that a collection where every stamp was on its official FDC or maxicard would be quite acceptable, though by its nature very extended. It is when you spatter these items around willy-nilly that you spoil your collection.

THE USE OF COVERS AND :- POSTMARKS : So-called special covers, bearing cachets which expand the theme or postmarks which relate directly to your chosen subject do have a place in a thematic collection, but should always be given pages of their own so that they do not overbalance the display of stamps. Coming down to stamps themselves : what do most thematic collectors overlook? Well, one thing they sometimes include-wrongly is blocks of stamps where a single copy tells the same story. Blocks which have for example, marginal markings which themselves bear directly upon the theme are always worth adding-the US zipcode logos are one possible example, though the most common and popular are the

Shri G. Madan Mohan Das

well known TABS found on stamps of Isreal, which really adds significantly to the theme, and in many cases you are likely to overlook them. Some countries like Russia and Czechoslovakia have occasionally issued stamps with coupons (non-postally-valid) designs in the stamp form) attached, and again these should always be shown affixed to the stamps where they add anything to the subject.

COIL AND BOOKLET STAMPS : If a stamp exists in different forms, it is usually regarded as sensible to include these in the collection for completeness. This raises the very serious and important question, **WHEN SHOULD PHILATELIC CONSIDERATIONS SUPERSEDE PURELY THEMATIC ONES?** I have said that blocks of four of stamp or control or cylinder or positional blocks, should be omitted unless they add something thematic to the display; why then, do I maintain that variant types of stamp deserve inclusion? The answer is **THAT THEY ARE NOT THE SAME STAMP AT ALL.** In the eyes of the philatelist, a design found in the form of a coil or booklet stamp is quite different from the identical design in a normal post-office sheet. So these should be included: but how? Ideally, booklet stamps should be in the form of the complete booklet, or at very least a complete pane, opened out to show the entire design, while coils should be in strips long enough to demonstrate the special provenance. This is not always practicable, but it is advisable to explain why you are not following this rule, should you for any reason fail to do so. Booklets themselves often have a thematic appeal-either the cover designs, or an Inter leaving page bearing an advertisement or official announcement, may have something about it which fits it for inclusion into the collection.

Fine : any topic is doomed to failure; they are in no sense official postal omissions and in most cases any stamp affixed will be on the other side and so not easily displayed. However in recent times several countries - including Nauru and Australia - have produced picture postcards with scaled - down versions of the picture printed on the back as stamp impressions, and these certainly deserve to be included as official postal stationery.

Of course, the average collector will throw up his hands and wail that he does not know what exists outside the catalogue, he has no way of finding out., and he does not understand all this stuff anyway. The answers to these complaints are that no philatelist ever knows all the answers, and a major part of the pleasure of collecting lies in seeking out facts and items; the way to find out is to join an association, read books, and talk to stamps dealers; and if you cannot do this, you must regard yourself as a mere picture-stamp collector and accept that you are doing it for your own pleasure and not in an attempt either to achieve completeness or to shine in the eyes of your fellow hobbists. If that is the way you want it, fine - but if you do aim to improve your thematic collection, I hope you will have found these notes of value and interest (1979).

When we talk about stamp collecting, those who have never been exposed to it get a vague idea that the world's most popular avocation is simply a matter of filling the blank spaces in an album with haphazard abandon. That is one reason why non-collectors sometimes look with disdain at those who mow what philately is all about, thinking it is just the innocuous pastime of only children or adults who are not intelligent enough to engage in "something more practical."

But how absolutely wrong they are!

There is n't another avocation known to mankind which is more pleasureable, recreational- and, EDUCATIONAL. As one who devoted a long life the collection of the world's postage stamps, I can assure readers of this wordage that this is absolute fact. I began the hobby a few months before I entered primary school. While taking shirts and collars to the Chinese laundry-man for my father, I was intrigued by some stamps on a letter on an old gentleman's counter. I could not read the leer characters of the inscriptions, but those green, red and blue stamps were fascinating. One had a picture of a harvester in coolie hat, reaping rice, in a paddy field in front of a temple; the others had pictures of a junk sailing across the waves.

It was not-only the stamps that attracted my attention. It was the fact that there was a letter that had been mailed the other side of the world- from distant China, a place which in those pre- World WarII days was as far from INDIA as the Moon, Mars and Venus seen today. So when I was given the envelope I must have been the proudest and happiest youngster in all my neighbourhood.

Other shopkeepers subsequently gave me envelopes and stamps they received in the mails from Germany, France and England and that started me on the road to becoming a real stamp collector.

Fortunately, my educated father knew what it is all about and encouraged me in my new found hobby. In addition he helped me in identifying stamps and whence they originated, aiding me in putting them into an inexpensive paper note book, besides giving me other important advice. One of the first things he urged me was that stamps could teach me many things if I but would carefully examine the pictures on them. Every picture used for a postage stamp design, my father explained, had a very definite reason for being there. A nation usually boasts of its industries, way of life, famous heroes, culture and arts, so proudly depicts them on its postal paper.

A very famous Canadian Governor General once told- "POSTAGE STAMPS ARE LIKE CLEAR WINDOWS THROUGH WHICH A COLLECTOR CAN SEE FARAWAY PLACES AND WATCH HOW THEIR CITIZENS LIVE, WORKAND ENJOY THEMSELVES,"

That is the secret of STAMP COLLECTING. They haven't the foggiest idea of what interesting and often fantastic stories their pictures have to tell. Ever so many people know only the market price of stamps. Take the NICARAGUAN stamp issued in 1937 showing a map of Central America. The artist who made the map knew more about drawing than he did about cartography, for in making it he shows as part of his native Nicaragua, some territory which Guatemala, considered its own. When letters franked with these stamps reached Guatemala, some angry students marched on the Nicaraguan Embassy in protest. Violence erupted and before long about a dozen persons lay dead in the streets and hundreds had been injured. All because of a stamp!

It's not only a stamp's picture that gives the collector so much interesting knowledge. Stamps also teach geography and history.

By checking an atlas each time one gets a new stamp from some different nation, the young collector soon learns where the land is, by what neighbours it is surrounded and what are its capital and major cities. I recall that when I was only about 11 or 12 years old, I took part in a contest and was the only one of more than 200 boys who could accurately identify the capital of every country on earth! President Roosevelt made it a practice of checking his atlas to locate cities whose post marks were on stamps collected. That stood him in good stead when America entered the War.

Late Ernest A. Kehr who had the privilege of knowing FDR and often "talking stamps" with him in the White House and Hyde Park. FDR once told him that early in the war he was discussing plans for sending American troops to the Pacific to combat the Japanese, with his top military and naval aides as well as high officers from New Zealand and Australia. Very important was the selection of a staging base and Walter Nash, New Zealand's deputy prime minister suggested a certain Pacific Island. President Roosevelt said that this might be OK, but he thought that Mangareva would be better because it was many times nearer the target.

None of the officials present had ever heard of Mangareva so naturally were surprised that the President of the United States would know about it. They called for charts and checked them. Sure enough, Mangareva was exactly where FDR said it was.

I remember a history examination I was taking during my high school days. One question asked for the territories which united to form the kingdom of ROMANIA. After failing to remember my class room instruction or homework, I called upon my stamps. I visualized the Romania pages of my album and remembered the earliest stamps came from Wallachia and Moldavia, and that is what I wrote as my answer.

Days after the examination our teacher told us that since she had not touched on the subject, no student would be penalised for failure to supply an answer to this question on the examination. She did say I was the only student who answered correctly and that I would be given extra five marks.

One can never tell when some bit of information one learns from stamps will come in handy at some future time. Not long ago a TV quiz contestant was asked a tricky question about the first steam boat to cross the Atlantic. I answered correctly without hesitation, then added that I had a stamp which commemorated this event.

Of course one doesn't have to own stamp collection to accumulate a mass of facts. An encyclopedia can do the same thing. But there is one big difference. Reading an encyclopedia is hard, tedious and often dull work. Learning from stamps is FUN because one is enjoying a hobby while picking up useful bits of information. So, when you are adding a new stamp to your album, take good look to it. The artist who made it had reasons for the pictures he selected for its design. If the picture is not self-explanatory, take some time out to read a book that will give you the biography of the person portrayed, or a description of a scene. Once you know what the stamp tells you, you will not only add to our own knowledge, but that stamp becomes something more than a small piece of pretty, colourful paper.

When you approach stamp collecting that way you will discover that the stamp album is a treasure house of information and a companion for the rest of your life. Some people might tell you that a valuable stamp collection is one composed only of very rare and costly stamps. That is not true at all. What good is a stamp collection if all its owner knows is only the price tag of its specimens? On the other hand, one composed of only common, inexpensive stamps can be extremely precious if its owner allows himself to be taught by their pictures.

Once you have learned as much as you can from your own album of Indian stamps, let me suggest that you continue by learning more about foreign countries in the same way. You would be surprised how well you will become acquainted with lands and peoples beyond India's vast borders all over the world.

One more piece of advice. When you start collecting stamps you will hear a good deal about mint or unused stamps being more valuable than cancelled ones. Don't you believe it.

It is true that they may COST more. But cost doesn't determine VALUE. The true value of your stamps will be represented by what pleasure, satisfaction and knowledge your stamps can give you and in this respect a cancelled stamp tells you as much - or more-than an unused one.

In the first place, used stamps are generally much easier to obtain. With a little diligence and effort you can obtain such specimens without cost from business firms and friends who get lot of mail from India and foreign countries without spending a paisa. Such duplicates as you get in this way can be used to swap with other collectors. For the first 15 years I was a collector I got all of my stamps in this way. And before I ever spent money for additional ones I had built a collection of more than 20,000 different stamps of the whole world!

There is another reason why I collected used stamps. In my opinion (and that is shared by many other collectors) a postage stamp was made to pay postage on

mail. Until it has done its duty it is merely a piece of coloured paper. It's pretty much like buying a good book,, then putting it on a shelf without ever reading it. Moreover, by reading the post mark you can learn exactly where it was put on a letter that was carried by the postal service.

The most important reason I prefer postally used stamps is that so very many countries- especially those in Africa and Asia that received their Independence within the last 20 years -hire professional promoters to design, produce and sell their "stamps" to dealers and collectors rather than for real postal service.

Ghana, Togo, the Maldiv Islands and Yemen, for example, issue hundreds of fancy colourful and odd shaped stickers even though very few people (natives) of those lands even use them on mail because they are illiterate or have friends to whom they want to send letters.

In addition there are places-particularly in Arabia-that issue stamps (through New York, Beirut, London or Paris exploiters) even though they don't have any postal service at all. All these stickers that look like stamps are made for sale (at high prices) to unsuspecting and gullible collectors. There are thousands of stamps around, that have been legitimately issued by genuine nations like India, the United States, Switzerland, Holland, Sweden, Norway, and scores of others. You can devote years of your energies to getting such real postage stamps, so why waste time and money to buy what the experts call " philatelic junk or wall paper?"

With these few bits of advice, I hope that you will have good deal of fun, pleasure and learning, just as I have enjoyed for more than half a century. GOOD LUCK TO YOU! (1995).

* * * * *

PHILATELY-A LEISURE TIME HOBBY

Shri G. Madan Mohan Das

Those alive on May 6. 1840 would not have dreamt that the issue of the first stamp would be the beginning of an attractive hobby for millions of people all over the world! This "PENNY BLACK" bearing the portrait of Queen Victoria was issued for sale after long discussions. But soon other governments were convinced of the inestimable value of simplifying postal services in this way and one after another European and overseas countries issued their first postage stamps. Thus by the middle of the 19th Century the world already knew many of the much-sought-after classical stamps which still awaken our admiration today because of the quality of their design and printing. It is little wonder then that the first collectors of these "scraps of paper" began to make their appearance although they did not become philatelists in the modern sense of the word, for in general they sought to collect a great many different stamps, if possible from" distant lands, and paid less attention to quality and rarity.

Thus each human being has the collector's urge, but collecting as expressive of a leisure time occupation is

very varied and depends on age, intelligence, profession, the amount of time available, and the financial position of the collector. In ancient times the opportunities for collecting were much more limited, as we now understand it. STAMPS, whose issue is subject to national and international agreements, which appear in every country of the world and which because of their creative pictorial form can be small works of art, do in fact provide the ideal material for a hobby and so it is hardly surprising that there are more than 70 million philatelists in the world today. For a long time now we have ceased to regard the stamp collector as a crank flourishing tweezers and a magnifying glass; on the contrary stamp collecting is often considered as one solution to the problem of leisure time activity. The problem of how to spend time over the long weekend, of a hobby for the evening hours, is becoming of ever increasing importance. How can a weary business man find relaxation, how can retired people acquire a new interest in life, how can we overcome the boredom of a long but necessary convalescence with all its psychological consequences? We are asked oftener than ever before about the possibilities of a hobby. It cannot be denied that one of the finest hobbies is PHILATELY, and it is the purpose of this article to awaken an understanding for it. The beginnings of a philatelist are no doubt to be found in youth, when more or less all boys, and girls too, collect stamps. Most of them give up between the ages of 15 and 20 for all kinds of understandable reasons but those who continue or go back to stamp collecting may be called true disciples of the hobby. The better the financial situation the more money can be spent on a hobby, for every hobby costs money. With stamp collecting there is the important difference that it has not only an idealistic value but an undeniable commercial background. We need only remember that the greatest collection in the world, that of Count Ferrari, which was to be bequeathed after his death to the German Post Museum, was seized in France in the First World War and auctioned, and the money was used as reparations. It realised millions of francs. Today, too, among international dealers at large auctions there is * a turnover of millions in all the currencies of the world; in fact certain small States live from the revenue brought in by the sale of stamps. Stamps are becoming stocks and shares for the man in the street, the prices are rising, stamps are used as an investment, they are becoming the object of money speculations. Stamp collecting should remain a hobby and should not deteriorate into a form of speculation or into a mania. For only then will philately continue to be a cultural and instructive force, a valuable help in schoolwork, which helps us to relax and to maintain a sense of values, which gives us pleasure after the day's work is done.

Now, how does one collect stamps?

Today, only the wealthiest people of this world can collect all the stamps in the world, for such general collections are completely impossible because of the enormous variety of stamps already in existence and the large number of those which appear from day to day. If one considers the separate issues in India right from Scinde Dawks, East India Company issues, Victoria, Edward, George V, George VI, Post Independence issues, one will realise how difficult it is to complete even a collection

covering a limited field as such. All this leads us to the modern trend in constructive philately, the collecting of sets of a given motif. It is no longer necessary to complete one series or all the issues of one country, the collection is based on the motif shown on the stamp. The large number of possible groups of motifs gives the collector a free hand to use his own ideas and his ingenuity. There has been an enormous development in this type of collecting during the past few years. The keen collector whose interests lie in this direction continues to find new inspiration among the stamps of all the countries in the world, many of which have great artistic value. This is how we have collections on subjects like "FAMOUS MEN OF LEARNING" ; "SCIENTISTS"; "MUSICIANS" ; "PAINTERS"; and wonderful collections on "Christian Themes". The Swiss "Pro Juventute Series" provide collectors of flower motifs with new additions every year, and last year's Olympic Games brought collectors of sports motifs many beautiful stamps. Among these motif collections we find very valuable ones on historical subjects, which are really historical documents as such.

The catalogues which appear annually in every country provide a definite price for the purchase of stamps from which a variable percentage is deducted. The philatelist learns to be tidy and careful for only if they are in perfect condition do those little scraps of paper retain that value which they will realise if they should be sold at any time. In all parts of the world there are people whose job is to examine stamps and to protect the collectors from financial loss and from unpleasant surprises.

If one collects valuable stamps one is classed as a collector of classical stamps, which means those belonging to first issues, upto about 1871. In the early years these stamps were cut out with scissors from the sheets, since perforating machines, as we know them today, were not used until after 1860. It is clear that 100 years ago no postmaster was particularly careful in cutting out or cancelling the stamps, and this means that classical stamps in perfect condition are very rare, if indeed they are to be found at all. For who gave a second thought to stamps a hundred years ago? The passage of time which brought with it upheavals, wars, and destruction reduced many collections to dust and ashes. Today the collector of classical stamps also looks for the cancellation stamps of that period and for original letters. He tries to find out how many stamps belonged to one issue and how many were used, he seeks to discover old postal routes and traces the beginning of postal delivery service long before stamps were issued, through finding letters with post markings or handwritten notes. This he calls PRE-PHILATELY. Collections are generally placed in special albums made according to individual specifications, and every "connoisseur" will find them a feast for the eyes.

But there are few people who would not like to have a chance to see a blue or a red SCINDE DAWK, a blue or a red Mauritius, a "Basle Dove", a Cape of Good Hope "triangle", stamps which mean something even to the uninitiated layman. The attraction may be the intoxicating idea - often greatly exaggerated - of the enormous value of such rare collection pieces, or it may be the attractive stories attached to these stamps. Much of

the charm of the classical stamps can be expressed in a well-known sentence: "Those who succumb to the aura surrounding old classical stamps will always be true to them." But there is nothing pathological about this succumbing and it should not be taken too seriously.

The rapid development in aviation from air-mail services with Zeppelins and the aeroplanes to modern rocket post is recorded in large airmail collections. Many special fields of philately are covered by working groups with members in every country in the world. Innumerable clubs in town and associations in country provide meeting places for collectors who always find new friends beyond the frontiers of their own countries and across the seas. Thus Philately helps people, particularly young people, to know and understand each other and is an important contributory factor to that so deeply-longed-for international understanding. Every year National and International exhibitions draw collectors from many nations and from all races, and at these exhibitions you, too, as a layman can learn to understand stamp collecting and also to derive pleasure from it. (1981)

* * * * *

ROLE OF UNIVERSAL POSTAL UNION & THE FEDERATION INTERNATIONALE DE PHILATELY (F.I.P.)

Shri. G. Madan Mohan Das

The Postal Administrations ignored the existence of Philatelists and their collecting fancies for a long time after the invention and introduction of adhesive postage stamps. But things are different nowadays. The earned profits from Philatelic sales form a significant part of the National Post Offices beset everywhere by mounting deficits. The world bodies representing the Post Offices and philatelists now make it a point to extend to each other the hand of cooperation and friendship for their mutual benefit. A little study of the evolution and organisation of these bodies in detail would help to see their impact on the hobby of philately.

Upto 1874, letters to a foreign country were paid for in cash or in stamps at rates agreed to bilaterally between the originating and receiving countries including the fees they had to pay to the carriers and in transit charges to the intervening countries. So the public had to pay high charges of postage, the elaborate accounting of which caused delay to the mail and extra work for the postal administrations.

On the initiative of President Lincoln's Postmaster General, Montgomery Blair, a conference was held in Paris in 1863 to endorse an international agreement on mail exchange. This conference came to nothing in the face of European rivalries and national greed. Again in 1874 another conference held at Berne at the instance of the head of the German Post, Heinrich Stephen, proved more fruitful. This conference bound its members in a Universal Postal Union (UPU) and gave them equal rights and

duties. Disputes between them were to be settled by arbitration. There was to be a single uniform rate for foreign mail over the whole area of the Union. The postage had to be paid in the stamps of the country of origin, which was to keep the money for the stamps it sold but must deliver letters from other states. Transit charges were not abolished but rationalised and paid by the postage receiving administration and not the letter writers. An international Bureau was set up permanently at Berne to keep members in touch, do statistical and clearance work and prepare for the five yearly conference at which the Treaty was to be revised, enlarged and renewed. INDIA became a member of the Universal Postal Union in July, 1876, which in those days was a hallmark of postal status and progress.

Being the apex body of the stamp issuers, the history, aims and organisation of the UPU are very well recorded on the postage stamps of the world. USA commemorated the centenary of the 1863 Paris conference by the issuance of USA Postage stamp of 1963 depicting PMG Montgomery Blair with a chain of letters encircling the globe. The real founder of the UPU, Dr. Heinrich Von Stephan was honoured on German Stamps of 1924, 1947, 1949 and 1956 and also in a Swiss stamp of 1974. On his birth centenary in 1981 several countries including India issued stamps commemorating him. The third pioneer of the UPU was the first Director of the International Bureau, Eugene Borel. He and Montgomery Blair were commemorated on Swiss stamps of 1974.

The 25th anniversary of the Founding of the UPU passed away unnoticed by the stamp issuers of the world, the solitary exception being Switzerland the home of the UPU which celebrated this occasion in 1900 issuing three stamps depicting a Swiss maiden holding the UPU banner and swiss flag and showering letters over the globe. The 50th anniversary was also a quiet affair and only four nations marked the occasion with stamps - Germany, the home of its founder, Switzerland the home of the Headquarters, and Sweden and EL Salvador for no particular association except their pride in UPU membership.

By the end of the Second World War, Philatelic Commemoration had become the rule rather than the exception. Many countries joined together in issuing simultaneously, stamps on agreed subjects in what came to be known as omnibus issue. There was bumper harvest of the commemorative crop in 1949, honouring the achievements of the first seventy-five years of the UPU. With the establishment of the United Nations Organisation, UPU had become one of its specialised agencies and to mark this association an UN commemorative stamp was issued in 1953. Considering the stamp homage UPU received earlier, its Centenary in 1974 was bound to be a Stamp bonanza and it turned out to be, not so much in terms of number, though that exceeded 500, as in the universality of participation. Naturally, different artists and different countries had different ideas as to what aspects of the UPU work required to be highlighted in stamps. The subjects covered a wide range embracing themes on postal Pioneers, Means of Postal Communications, Postage Stamps and Postal Stationery Postal Buildings, Postal

Functionaries, Postal Symbols, Allegorical and pictorial representation of Postal Universality, Letters and Letter-writing. The USA went a bit too far when it celebrated the Centenary with a set of eight multi-coloured stamps reproducing masterpieces of painting connected in some way with the reading or writing of a letter.

This is not the end of the story of excessive UPU adulation. On many occasions, the nations hosting the five-yearly Postal Congress issued a special set of stamps to mark that important event. In 1924, Sweden issued a definitive set of 15 stamps to celebrate the holding of the 8th Congress of the UPU at STOCKHOLM. Some nations issued commemorative stamps to signal their admission to the membership of the UPU.

As organs of national governments, postal services and their apex body have not always remained untouched by the political troubles. So there have been disputes concerning membership, votes and control in the UPU. Compared to the Postal Services and the UPU, the world community or philately is a happy family. It has no superpowers no veto holders, no blocs, no curtains and no cold wars. The Postage stamps of all countries, big and small move unhindered under the patronage and care of the UPU. The Apex body of stamp collectors, the FEDERATION INTERNATIONALE DE PHILATELY (FIP) is not as representative and broadbased as UPU, but is more non-aligned and independent and is at present headed by Mr. Ladislav Dvocacek of Czechoslovakia.

FIP was formed in Paris on June 18, 1926 when delegates from seven European countries decided upon founding an international federation of philatelists all over the world. At the beginning of the Second World War, FIP membership had no higher than 18 and was still confined to continental Europe. The membership now stands at over sixty, the USA having joined in 1947, Great Britain in 1964 and India in 1975.

In the words of its official pamphlet, "the aims of FIP include promotion of philately by every possible means on a global basis and encouraging friendly relations among collectors from all over the world with a view to support peace and friendship among the peoples of this planet" Its other aims are to

- (a) frame rules and regulations for philatelic displays;
- (b) hold seminars and studies on philately,
- (c) cultivate close relations with Postal Administrations, and other organisations interested in philately;
- (d) coordinate the work of national federations,
- (e) organise International philatelic exhibitions.

From as far back as 1933, three pressing issues have received much attention from FIP. These are the fight against the forgery of stamps and other philatelic material, the problem of curbing of superfluous and speculative stamps issues and the education and encouragement of young philatelists.

FIP is now run by a Board of Directors elected by the members. Of the nine Directors two are from Asia one

being Mr. D. N. Jatia of India. He has been elected as the VICE PRESIDENT of the FIP and also a Coordinator on various panels. The Board is assisted by nine Commissions, each responsible for the regulation of a different branch of philately.

Money for FIP activities is raised by an annual levy on the members' and by charging a substantial fee from the holders of inter-national philatelic exhibitions, who also defray the expenses of holding FIP Congresses along with the exhibitions. Like the UPU, FIP also has its Secretariat in Switzerland.

Though nowhere near UPU, FIP has also had some stamps issued in its honour at the time of an FIP Congress or Exhibition. The first such stamp was issued by the Government of Luxembourg on the occasion of the 11th Annual Congress on August 29, 1936.

Czechoslovakia issued a high value multi-coloured stamp on "PRAGA 68" in 1968 in sheets of four with a se-tenant label commemorating FIP. Bulgaria followed in 1969 with a commemorative stamp on the FIP Congress. Sophia, West Germany went one better and issued a special stamp (part proceeds were donated to the promotion of philately) in honour of the FIP Congress meeting in Essen in 1980. We would not be surprised if FIP tried to catch up with UPU in the commemoration stamps in the years to come. (1985)

POSTAGE DUE STAMPS

John Holman

In many countries postage due stamps are now a thing of the past. Many collectors have ignored them or not really treated them with the respect they deserve. Some see them as 'Cinderella' or 'back of the book' items but this is unfair as they were (or still are) issued by official postal administrations and used in the normal course of postal business to collect unpaid or underpaid postage or customs charges. Postage due stamps are listed in the SG Commonwealth catalogues and in Stamps of the World at the end of the main listing of a country's postage stamps. In the foreign catalogues (Parts 2-22) they are incorporated within the main listings, albeit with D-prefix catalogue numbers, and so not so easy to find. It is best to use Stamps of the World in the first instance to get a basic, simplified list of the postage dues, then refer to the main catalogues for a more detailed account.

The first postage dues (sometimes simply called dues) were issued by France in 1859, worded 'a percevoir' and 'Taxe' (SG D86/88). These inscriptions are quite frequently found on postage due issues and Taxe or 'T' as a marking on underpaid mail signifies to other postal administrations that a charge is to be raised or collected.

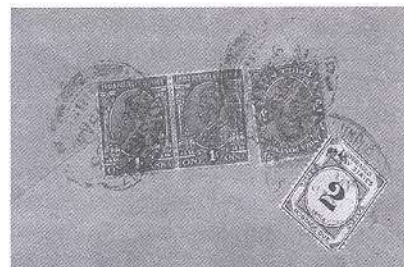
France was followed in the issue of dues by Baden and Bavaria in 1862, Italy and Turkey in 1863, Belgium and the Netherlands in 1870, Dutch East Indies, Peru and Sweden in 1874, Greece in 1875 and Switzerland and the USA in 1878 and 1879 respectively. The first Empire (Commonwealth) country to issue dues was Trinidad in

1885, followed by Victoria and New South Wales in 1890 and 1891, Grenada in 1892, North Borneo in 1895 and New Zealand in 1899. The first dues for the Commonwealth of Australia were issued in 1902, and in Canada four years later.

Many postage dues are of rather prosaic design, often numerals or heraldic devices, and one should carefully check the inscription for indication of postage due use. Taxe and A Percevoir already been mentioned, and other inscriptions include A Payer, TeBetakn (Dutch), Doplata (Polish), Postas le kioc (Irish), Segnatasse (Italian), Porteado, A Corbrar (Portuguese), Multa, Multada, Deficit A Debe Deficients, and Defidencia (Spanish). The first Czech dues of 1919 were worded 'DOPLATIT' and designed by the eminent artist Alfons Mucha (see New Collector, September 2010). The inscription changed to 'DOPLATNE in 1928 (D285/296). Some Hungarian dues are worded PORTO. Hungary actually issued stamps in 1953 marking the 50th anniversary of the first dues (D1305/1322). Some Liechtenstein dues are also worded Porto or Nach Porto. Some of the inscriptions can be found in the useful Stanley Gibbons book How to Identify Stamps, With some designs you need to look carefully at the Inscription to identify their use as postage dues.

Unusual Example

There are some quite unusual issues. Those from St Lucia in 1930 were typeset printed at the Government Printing Office and each was individually hand stamped with a serial number. Romania



has issued stamps in se-tenant pairs, one serving as a receipt and stuck in the postman's record book, and so not usually available postally used although c.t.o. (cancelled to order) examples are plentiful.

In 1912 the USA issued the only parcel post postage dues. These comprised five large size values from 1c. to 25c, of which the 10c. is scarce in mint condition. Both the Netherlands and Mauritius



have overprinted definitive stamp for postage due use. Not all have been of plain design, a number of African countries have produced some colourful pictorial issues, some of triangular shape. These* countries include Botswana, Cameroun, Chad, Congo (Brazzaville) and Mali. Pictorial issues have also been issued in France (Flowers in 1964 and Beetles in 1982), Guernsey (Scenes), and Hungary (1973 Postal Operations and 1987 Postal History).

Not all countries have issued postage dues and some stopped such issues long ago; for example Russia as far back as 1926. In Fiji their use ceased in 1946, in

Australia in 1963, New Zealand 1951, Zambia 1968, Namibia 1975, South Africa 1978, Canada 1982, USA 1986, France 1988, and Singapore 1997. Some countries were late-comers in terms of postage dues; the first from Ascension and St Helena were in 1986, and the Falkland Islands in 1991. In some countries use was short-lived; China only issued dues in 1950 and 1954.

Several countries were still issuing new postage dues into the 1990s, for example Gibraltar, Isle of Man, Italy, Kenya, Malta, St Lucia, and Swaziland. The first British postage dues were issued in 1914- four values printed in the same colours as the corresponding postage stamps and also in the same size sheets of 240 stamps. They featured floral emblems and were inscribed 'POSTAGE DUE'. Later higher values were worded TOPAY and were often used to collect customs charges. The same design continued throughout the reign of King George V, those of his sons Edward VIII (1936) and George VI (1936-52) and the first 18 years of the reign of his granddaughter, Elizabeth II. Over the years several new values were added and stamps reprinted on paper with different watermarks as the monarchs changed.

Revenue Recovery

The system in use was to charge the recipient of unpaid or underpaid mail twice the deficiency. In many cases a single postage due stamp covered this deficiency but in some instances two or more stamps had to be affixed to cover the amount. In 1957 the basic UK letter rate was increased to 3d., thus an unpaid letter required a 6d. postage due. But it was not until March 1962 that this value was added to the range and just over three years later the postage rate increased from 3d. to 4d. but an 8d. postage due stamp wasn't issued until 1968. Thus it is common, from 1957 to 1962 and from 1965 to 1968 to find unpaid covers bearing two 3d. or two 4d. postage due stamps.

Until 1968 all British postage dues were printed in letterpress (typography) but 4d. and 8d. stamps printed in photogravure were then introduced, of slightly smaller size than the letterpress equivalents. The 4d. is quite scarce mint or used.

Postage dues in decimal currency were introduced in June 1970, eight months ahead of D-Day (15 February 1971), with further values on D-Day itself. The simple design, with low as well as high values inscribed 'TO PAY*' remained in use until 1982 when replaced by a new series with inscription in the double-lined lettering used by the Post Office at that time.

The final series of British postage dues was issued in February 1994, almost 80 years after the first issue. This series featured the crown as the main feature of the design and the stamps were of bright appearance. At the time I was Editor of Royal Mail's British Philatelic Bulletin and asked the design department to supply me with the colours of the new stamps. The colours were provided by the late Angela Reeves, herself a colourful character. The stamps were printed in four-colour offset-lithography to give an overall 'gem stone' colour effect. Angela described the colours thus (with SG catalogue colours in parentheses): 1p. coral (red, yellow & black), 2p.

garnet (magenta, purple & black), 5p. amber (yellow, red-brown & black), 10p. emerald (yellow, emerald & black), 20p. opal (blue-green, violet & black), 25p. ruby (cerise, rosine & black), £1 amethyst (violet, magenta & black), £1.20 turquoise (greenish blue, blue-green & black), and £5 graphite (greenish black, blue-green & black). For the only time Royal Mail provided a first day of issue postmark for this issue of postage due stamps. First day covers (f.d.c's) had been prepared by dealers and collectors for earlier issues but the stamps were cancelled by ordinary postmarks. In my view, f.d.c.s of postage dues are a bit of a nonsense as the stamps should only be used when mail is underpaid and only the stamp(s) relevant to the deficiency should be used, not a full set of values. But some f.d.c. collectors are unconcerned about the postal niceties or credibility of the covers and fair enough, each collector is entitled to collect what he or she wants.

This 1994 issue has a relatively short life. From April 1995 the use of dues was restricted to mail addressed to business customers and to Customs/VAT charges levied by Royal Mail on behalf of the Customs & Excise. The use of postage dues ceased altogether on 28 January 2000. Apart from the £5 value, all the 1994 stamps have a higher catalogue value used than mint, reflecting their limited use. Covers bearing these stamps properly used are not that easy to find. If you find any, my advice is to keep them intact, do not soak the stamps off.

From April 1983 the system for calculating postage due on underpaid UK mail changed from double the deficiency to the deficiency plus a handling fee. Underpaid mail was deemed second class, even if intended first class, and in 1983 the minimum postage due on a totally unpaid letter was 22p-12p deficient postage plus 10p. fee. Actually the second class rate was 121/2 p. but the rules provided for the amount to be rounded down. Since 1983 the handling fee has risen many times and since May 2003 has been £1. Thus at present an unpaid standard-size letter is charged £1.36 (36p. postage deficiency plus £1 handling fee). Normally the customer is left a card telling him/her that an underpaid letter is being held at the local delivery office. The customer can send back the card with stamps affixed to cover the deficiency or go to the delivery office and pay the required amount. The item is then released.

Normally a rather utilitarian-looking 'TO PAY' label is affixed to show the deficiency, handling charge and total to pay. These labels are printed in black on yellow self-adhesive paper. Different typefaces have been used and there are bilingual versions used in Wales. Quite an extensive collection of them can be put together, showing the different types and postage rates. They are not listed in the SG catalogues, but I have illustrated and recorded them in my 'GB Postal Stationery, Postal Labels & Postmarks' articles here in GSM.

Postage dues are certainly worth considering for collection, either as part of a country collection or as a subject in their own right. Particular issues can form the basis of a specialised study-as Richard Breckon demonstrated in his article on 'Australia's Recess Postage Due Stamps, 1938 to 1963' in GSM in March 2012.

If I had my philatelic time over again I think I would concentrate on postage dues of the world, in particular on cover. Covers from some countries might be very difficult to find, but that is part of the fun of collecting.

(Courtesy : Gibbous stamp Monthly, 2012)

* * * * *

NORTH-WEST PACIFIC ISLANDS

The Country that Never Existed!

Kenneth R. Lake

When the Great War brought Germany face to face with the British Empire, one of the first areas to feel the might of our colonial forces was the Pacific.

Australian and New Zealand forces made haste to take over the German colonial sectors of Samoa, New Guinea, Nauru and the more distant Carolines, Marshalls and Marianas, but while the first three came speedily under the control of Britain, it was Japan which stepped in and assumed control of the more northerly group.



The philatelic after-effects of this sequence of events are perhaps complex but full of interest. On Samoa, German colonial issues were overprinted 'G.R.I.' and surcharged in sterling, with a wealth of major and minor errors, some of which are regrettably suspect as being manipulated by interested parties. The islands which fell to Japan, and which could perhaps as a whole be best described as 'north-west Pacific islands', promptly went over to the use of Japanese stamps, and in later years these are found with attractively pictorial cancellations.

Jumping ahead a little in the story, it should be mentioned that with the defeat of Japan in 1945 the control of these Islands passed to the United States, under UN Trusteeship; they are known today as the US Trust Territory of the Pacific, and American stamps are in use. It may be that one day these attractive and neglected islands will be granted independence, and at that time of course they will for the first time (discounting German and Spanish colonial issues) have their own stamps. Interest in all Pacific islands is currently high, and many canny collectors are making sure they have copies of US stamps with the relevant local postmarks.

To go back to 1914, we find that the Australian Government, intent on taking over these far islands, had prepared quantities of the King's Head and Kangaroo stamps by overprinting them 'N.W. Pacific Islands'; when they were forestalled by the Japanese forces, these stamps became redundant—they were, in fact, prepared for a country that never existed! Nauru & New Guinea When New Guinea—a large and rambling group of islands which at that time bore German names, all of which had of course to be changed, as well as the immense and largely

unexplored mainland territory adjoining Papua—came under Australian control, the first philatelic response was, as with Samoa, the appearance of German colonial issues with 'G.R.I.' overprints and sterling surcharges.

As with Samoa, errors abounded, and additional interest was caused by the similar treatment of registration labels, which due to the shortage of stamps (due in part to their wholesale export to Australia and Great Britain for philatelic sale) were validated for postage.

However, by mid-March of 1915 good sense had prevailed, the local issues were withdrawn, and the 'N.W. Pacific Islands' overprinted Australian definitive's were sent out for use in New Guinea. Here, with various changes brought about by changes in the basic stamps and in the overprinting forms, they remained in use for ten years.

Finally we have the isolated and important island of Nauru, the world's richest source of phosphate and now an independent Republic. Here, the occupying forces took over all stocks of German Marshall Islands stamps and sent them by ship back to Rabaul in New Guinea, where it was intended that they should receive the same 'G.R.I.' overprint and be returned for Nauruan use.

In fact this didn't happen—the stamps were overprinted but were then pressed into service in New Guinea itself! Instead, stocks of the 'N.W. Pacific Islands' issue were sent back to Nauru, where they remained in use until superseded by British stamps with 'Nauru' overprints some two years later.

So we see that these Australian overprints can be studied in at least two ways—first for the varieties on the basic stamps and on the overprints, and secondly from the viewpoint of where they were used. At that time there was of course only one post office in Nauru, and its postmark can be found on the 'N.W. Pacific Islands' issues between November 1914 and October 1916; it is inscribed with both names of the island—'PO Nauru/Pleasant Island' and is quite scarce.

At first only ½d., 1d., 2d. and 2d. values were sent to Nauru, although a few higher values to 5s. were sent in 1916. However, stamps of this series including values to £1 may be found with a smaller cancellation reading 'Cancelled/Nauru'; this was in use only at the radio station and such copies had in fact been used to defray cable charges, in this connection they remained in use until at least 1920 since supplies were requisitioned direct from Rabaul and not through normal post-office channels.

New Guinea under German colonisation had some 13 post offices, most of which were continued under Australian military occupation and later under civil government. Naturally some of these are far scarcer than others, and by far the greater proportion of 'N.W. Pacific Islands' stamps are found with the cancellations of Rabaul, the capital. However, there is certainly scope here for specialisation, and much work has been done—and published by the Papuan Philatelic Society on this subject, so the collector is not entirely alone in his researches. A Wealth of Variety Perhaps one of the things that has discouraged many collectors from taking a greater interest in these issues is the company they find themselves in—the

preceding 'G.R.I.' overprints with their complexities and in many cases extremely high prices, and the following 'Huts' and 'Birds' which lack any real aesthetic appeal.

But if one isolated the 'N.W. Pacific Islands' issues from their surroundings it will soon be seen that they offer both a chance of personal research and a field of considerable investment potential.

Basically, the catalogue shows us three major types of overprint, distinguished by the form of two letter 'S' types, and later a totally new type which came into use in 1919. After S.G. 99 there is a brief but extremely well worded note which explains the existence of the three types-all of which turn up in identical positions on different sheets.

This footnote refers to the internationally recognised expert in these issues, Mr J. R.W. Purves, FRPSL, whose monograph 'North-West Pacific Islands' incorporates all his researches; this book was published in 1966 by The Hawthorn Press, Melbourne, as part of a series on Pacific philately. I have a copy before me as I write, and can only say that to attempt to condense its findings into one brief article would be impossible, not to say foolhardy in that whatever was omitted would distort my own words.

For the collector in search of something new, there is the fact that these overprints are also found on stamps perforated 'O.S.' for official use; here is a field which has not yet been completely explored. The postal historian will find great difficulty in tracing copies with the postmarks of the five 'unofficial' offices opened in 1922, while the radio station cancellations of Nauru and of Kulumadau in Papua will add to his interest.

In conclusion, one cannot do better than to quote the words of Romney Gibbons, writing an introduction to Purves' book: 'They possess a romantic appeal and philatelic interest of their own which should make them eminently suitable subjects for study ... I feel sure that no one who sets out to collect and study this interesting issue will ever regret his, or her, action.'

(Courtesy: Gibbons Stamp Monthly, 1972)

**"MEMORIES OF ANOTHER DAY"
of Shri. G. Madan Mohan Das**



Indo American Exhibition 1961



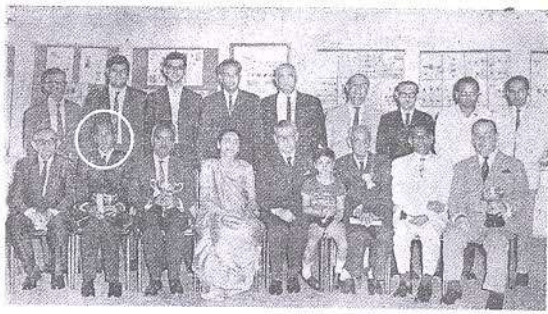
With VNS Rao, Pres. SIPA
Indo American Exhibition 1961



Indo American Exhibition 1964
Maj. V.S Rajagopal,
VNS Rao. & Madan Mohan Das



Indo - American Stamp 1964?
Exhibition, Chennai.



Award Winners PLAJUPEX 1972



Organising Committee - ASIANA 1977



TIEPEX 2001 Inauguration



Honouring Dr. U. Srinivasa Ragavan on assuming office as CPMG



Chairman - workshop on philately Tanapex 1985



Certificate to young exhibitor in Biopex 1989

PARSI AMARCHAND

Sundar Nivas, No.160, Baracah Road,
Secretariat Colony, Kellys, Chennai - 600 010.

Phone [0] 044-25388905, 25381370

[R] 044 - 26481077; 26613575

Mobile : 98401 56410

Email : parsiamarchand@yahoo.com

We buy at Higher Prices: India Pre-stamp covers, 1854 classics, Early Indian Cancellations, Essays & Proofs, Mint & used Indian Commemoratives, Great Britain, British Colonies, France & West Germany & Other Countries and accumulations.

We sell : Pre Stamp covers, 1854 Classics, Pre & Post Independence Mint & Used stamps, First Day covers, Exhibition and Special Cancellation covers, Indian & Foreign Gandhi stamps including Stationeries of India Gandhi, Foreign Mint Thematic Sets & Miniature Sheets.

We also sell Imported Crystal Clear Covers & Strips for stamps of many sizes, Imported Stock Books, Tweezers, German acid free Album pages & Rexine bound quality Indian Stock Books etc.