



SIPA

For Private Circulation to Members only

Bulletin

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Vol.33 No. 1

INDIA 1854
ONE ANNA, 9

Jan - Mar 2014

DR. STEPHEN
SMITH, 10

QUARTERLY

Editorial.

Review 2013

Years are rolling fast and yet another year had passed taking us along with 'contaminating' number of issues and stamps by our own India Post with the usual grievances and grumbling by the so called 'Philatelic Fraternity'.

As usual, let me take you all through to the "review of issues in 2013"

Compared to previous years India Post opened the flood gates of Security Presses and submerged us with 54 issues. If we take stamps number individually we are coming across a number crossing a century and actually 122 in number, out of which 8 are in the 20 rupees category. On the whole to have stamps alone a collector has to spend rupees seven hundred and thirty only.

Moreover, the attractive seventeen miniature sheets will cost rupees four hundred and forty five. If a collector is also interested to have first day covers which costs rupees nine hundred forty rupees and information brochures which cost two hundred seventy the total expenditure will be rupees two thousands three hundred and eighty five only. Mind you, this is excluding the acquirement of the so called 'sheet lets'.

On the whole, it has to be inferred and confirmed that India mint stamp collector has to be financially sound' or does it mean that India Collector has to be 'mentally sound' and be selective in collecting?

Coming to the personality issues, theoretically speaking out of 122 Stamps 75 numbers are on personalities. Yea, the "100 years of Cinema" Commemorative themselves has got 50 personalities. Right?

The 75 out of 122 works out to 61.5%. Hence the latest, 'India Post' rules & regulations of 10% and the old 25% only for personalities go haywire. So where we stand? We stand with 'India Post'. in collecting more and more philatelic deposit accounts in which business the 'heart and mind' of India Post lies. Be relaxed so that if India Post brings out another 50 personalities in 2014 to complete '100 years of Cinema' with 100 personalities, we have to carry on.

It is felt very b(s)adly by the expectant collectors on the non-issuance of planned sets on Head Gears, Stepwells, Metal crafts, Tribal dwellings, Traditional Indian Handfans, etc.,

Also, the sad music created by the musicians like DK Pattammal, Pt Ravishankar, Bhimsen Joshi, Ustad Vilayat Khan et al., which started last year as a whimper has risen to funeral pitch on 31st Dec 2013 because their stamps couldn't see the light of the day this year also.

Though the issue of "100 years of Cinema" sheets were done on 3rd May at New Delhi, the other centres were blessed with them only by August.

At the same time issues like Delhi Gymkhana Club, Architectural Heritage Raj Bahadur, Acharga Gyan Sagar, Indian Academy of Pediatrics and CBI were issued surprisingly earlier than planned.

With all the above negatives, obviously India Post has to be congratulated for the attractive theme sets of Heritage, Postal Buildings, Wild Asses, Flowers, and also for the sets on Vivekananda, Sachin, and Cinema. Last but not the least for raising for the occasion of Japanese Royal Visit with a super fast issue.

Having said and done all, let us move ahead with high hopes and heavy imagination 2014 expecting India Post to issue more on "Themes" than on "Personalities".

Monthly Second Sunday Meetings

With President
Mr. G. Balakrishna Das on the
Chair, 19- members attended the
meeting on 09.12.2013.

Mr. CG. Bhaskar spoke on
"Classics of Indian Philately."

STAMP NEWS

PHILATELY DAY

12.10.2013

2000

0.41 mill

"Truth alone will endure, all the rest will be swept away before the tide of time. I must continue to bear testimony to truth even if I am forsaken by all. Mine may today be a voice in the wilderness, but it will be heard when all other voices are silenced, if it is the voice of Truth".



Mahatma Gandhi dedicated his life to the wider purpose of discovering truth, or 'Satya'. He tried to achieve this by learning from his own mistakes and conducting experiments on himself.

On the occasion of 'Philately Day', Department of Posts is paying tribute to the most prominent and influential leader of our country, Mohandas Karamchand Gandhi, who has played a pivotal role in building a free and democratic India. His indelible contribution in India's freedom struggle has inspired many generations and great leaders of humankind. The Souvenir sheet issued depicts Mahatma Gandhi with spinning wheel (Charkha) in the background as he propagated 'Khadi', a hand-woven cloth all through his life. The stamp on Souvenir sheet is a collage of two stamps issued by Department of Posts in 1948 and 1969. It also has in background a slightly modified version of a stamp issued on Mahatma Gandhi in 1969.

Theme : Philately, Gandhi, Freedom Fighter.

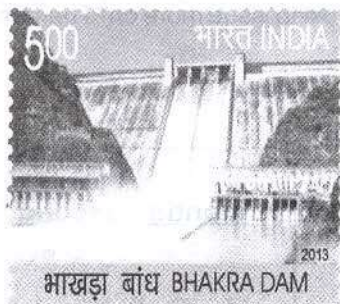
BHAKRA DAM

22.10.2013

500

0.41 mill

The construction of Bhakra Dam has been a landmark achievement of our country after independence. Pt. Jawaharlal Nehru, the first Prime Minister of India, described this dam as 'New Temple of Resurgent India', his words truly illustrate the significance and magnitude of this project.



Bhakra Dam is a concrete gravity dam across the river Sutlej located at a gorge near the, submerged, Bhakra village in Bilaspur district of Himachal Pradesh. Though the idea was first mooted in 1908, the work could only be started in 1948. On 22nd October, 1963 the dam

was dedicated to the nation by the then Prime Minister, Jawaharlal Nehru.

The Bhakra dam at a height of 225.55m is Asia's second highest dam next only to Tehri dam, also in India. The dam is 518.25m long and 9.1m broad. The reservoir of the dam, known as Gobind Sagar, is 168.35 sq.km 2 in area.

Part of the larger multipurpose Bhakra Nangal Project, the dam was constructed to prevent floods in Sutlej-Beas river valley, to provide irrigation to adjoining states and provide hydro electricity. Bhakra dam alongwith Nangal dam houses hydroelectric power generators. The power generated is distributed among states of Punjab, Haryana, Rajasthan, Gujarat and Himachal Pradesh and also supplied to common pool consumers like National Fertilizers Ltd. and Chandigarh.

Theme: Water, Irrigation, Dams, Structures, Power.

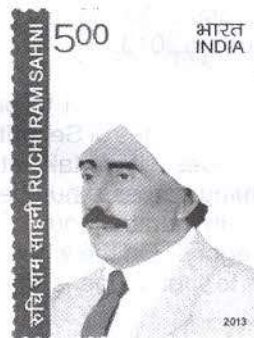
RUCHI RAM SAHNI

24.10.2013

500

0.41 mill

Ruchi Ram Sahni, a well-known educationist, notable scientist, nationalist, social and religious reformer, was born on 5th April, 1863 at Dera Ismail Khan, now in Pakistan, to Karam Chand Sahni, a cloth merchant, and Gulab Devi.



Ruchi Ram Sahni completed his B.A. in 1884 and obtained masters degree in Physics and Chemistry in December, 1885. Sahni visited Presidency College, Calcutta as a trainee meteorologist in 1885 where he interacted with the leading personalities of Bengal.

Ruchi Ram was the first Indian officer in the Indian Meteorological Department where he worked from 1885-87. He then moved to Lahore and became the first Indian science professor at Government College, Lahore where he served from 1887-1918. He published two research papers on radioactivity in 1915 and 1917 while working in the laboratory of Ernest Rutherford in Manchester where he interacted with Niels Bohr.

Ruchi Ram was awarded the title Rai Sahib in 1909 which he returned in 1920 in support of the Khilafat Movement. In 1923, he was elected to the Punjab Legislative Council as a member of the Swaraj Party. He was elected fellow of the Indian Academy of Sciences in the very year of its establishment in 1934. He served as a trustee of 'The Tribune' from 1918 till his death.

Ruchi Ram adhered to the principles of Brahmo Samaj and held all religions in high esteem. He spoke out in favour of widow re-marriage and was a strong supporter of education of girls.

Ruchi Ram Sahni breathed his last on 3rd June, 1948.

Theme: Personality, Scientist, Social Reformer

BOYS' HIGH SCHOOL, ALLAHABAD

05.11.2013 500 0.41 mill

The Boys' High School founded on 5th November, 1861, is one of the oldest educational institutions of Allahabad. The school initially was run by English men and women who were keen to advance the cause of education in Allahabad, especially among the children of the European and Anglo-Indian descent.



Starting its classes from two long thatched hammock like buildings, the school has undergone several changes in terms of location, structure (physical and academic), and status. The school is now affiliated to ISC Board and the students of the school have excelled in the field of education.

Apart from school curriculum the institution has also paid attention to extracurricular activities. The school has also maintained its old tradition of giving introductory training as a preparation for the armed forces. Today, the school has the distinction of sending a number of boys to the National Defence Academy.

Theme: Education, Institution, High Schools, Allahabad.

BHARATHIYA VIDYA BHAVAN

07.11.2013 500 0.41 mill

Bharatiya Vidya Bhavan, an institution dedicated to the promotion of education and culture in the country, was founded by Dr. K. M. Munshi in 1938. This institution still stands steady like a banyan tree, as ageless and tenacious as the traditions and culture of India which it embodies and reflects.



The Bhavan provides multi dimensional programmes which ranges from institutions that provide education in technical, management, vocational training to activities that promote all facets of Indology and Indian culture from literature and language to the performing arts, schools, libraries, hostels, hospitals, colleges and publications, special centres for women, scheduled tribes and tribals' welfare, etc.

Bharatiya Vidya Bhavan's contribution has been acknowledged by the Government of India which has recognized it as an "Educational Institution of National

Eminence" and has also conferred upon it the "Communal Harmony Award", "Rajiv Gandhi Award for National Integration" and above all the "International Gandhi Peace Prize".

Bharatiya Vidya Bhavan has completed 75 years of its existence and is stepping into the next phase of service, growth and development.

Theme: Institution, Culture, Education

INDIAN ACADEMY OF PEDIATRICS

08.11.2013 500 0.41 mill

Indian Academy of Pediatrics was established in the year 1963, and was registered as a society on 3rd December, 1963, and as a trust, on 30th May, 1964.



Indian Academy of Pediatrics is committed to the improvement of the health and well-being of all children. IAP now has 26 state branches, 304 local branches, and an international branch at UAE.

Over the years, IAP has successfully developed several projects like Polio Eradication, Adolescent Care Workshops, Celebration of World Breastfeeding Week, Oral Rehydration Solution week, IAP Neonatal resuscitation programme, etc. Indian Academy of Pediatrics is administered through three offices - Central IAP office in Mumbai, the Office of Indian Pediatrics in New Delhi, and the office of Indian Journal of Practical Pediatrics in Chennai.

IAP has been represented at international organizations like International Pediatric Association (IPA), Asian Region Asia Pacific Pediatric Association (APSSEAR/APPA), etc through its eminent members.

IAP has published many journals and books. Its official journal, Indian Pediatrics, was launched in 1964. A quarterly journal, Indian Journal of Practical Pediatrics (IJPP), launched in 1993 from Chennai, is committed to practical pediatric problems.

Academy Today, the bi-annual bulletin of IAP, serves the objective of developing bonds between the pediatricians dispersed far and wide in the Indian subcontinent.

Theme: Health, Medicine, Institution, Children, Pediatrics.

CENTRAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

11.11.2013 500 0.41 mill

The Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) is the premier investigating police agency in India, an elite institution which performs the unenviable task of ensuring the probity in public life. The trinity of Industry, Impartiality

and Integrity serve as motto of CBI and guide its relentless pursuit of truth.

CBI traces its origin to the Special Police Establishment (SPE) which was set up in 1941 by the Government of India to investigate cases of bribery and corruption in transactions with the War & Supply Department of India during World War II.

In the early Sixties, a growing need was felt for a Central Police Agency at the disposal of the Central Government, which could investigate not only cases of bribery and corruption, but also violation of Central fiscal laws, major frauds relating to Government of India Departments, Public Joint Stock Companies, Passport frauds, crimes on the High Seas, Airlines, etc. Therefore, the Government of India set up Central Bureau of Investigation by a resolution dated 1st April, 1963. CBI was further strengthened by addition of an Economic Offences Wing by a Government of India Resolution dated 2nd February, 1964.

Over the years, the Central Bureau of Investigation has emerged as a leading Investigating Agency of the country with a multifaceted, multi-disciplinary investigative agency.

Theme: Police, Institution, Criminal Investigation, Curruption.



'Mayouri Sarma'. The First Day Cover and Information Brochure are based on the paintings made by 'Rupsa Sen Gupta' and 'Salvya S. Raj' respectively.

Theme: Children, Childrens day, Painting

200TH TEST MATCH OF SACHIN TENDULKAR

14.11.2013

2000, 2000

3.01 mill

Sachin Ramesh Tendulkar made his Test debut on India's tour of Pakistan on 15th November, 1989, when he was only 16 years and



205 days old. The teenager scored two fifties in his first series, against bowlers of the calibre of Wasim Akram, Waqar Younus, Abdul Qadir and Imran Khan. He was only 17 years and 112 days old, when he saved India with an unbeaten 119, against England at Manchester in 1990. The knock made him India's youngest centurion in Tests. India's tour of Australia in 1991-92, was the turning point of his career. In a series where every Indian batsman struggled, the 18 year-old Tendulkar smashed two hundreds - an unbeaten 148 at Sydney, and 114 at Perth. He occupied the no. 4 slot in the batting order, for the first time, on that tour. The rest, as they say, is history.

The bigger the occasion, the better Tendulkar played, throughout his career. In 2008, he eclipsed Brian Lara' tally of 11,953, to become the highest scorer in Test cricket. In 2012, he completed a century of international centuries. Tendulkar's record in One-Day-Internationals is second to none. He was the highest scorer in the 1996 and 2003 World Cups, and was an important member of the Indian team that won the title in 2011.

The Government of India honoured him with the Rajiv Gandhi Khel Ratna Award in 1998, and the Padma Vibhushan, the second-highest civilian award, in 2008. He took oath as a member of the Rajya Sabha, the upper house in India's Parliament, in June 2012.

Theme : Cricket, Sports. Personality, Leader

THE TIMES OF INDIA

23.11.2013

500

0.41 mill

The Times of India has been a chronicler of story of India, documenting every twist and turn of this great country's journey from bondage to freedom for the past 175 years.

What started as the biweekly Bombay Times & Journal of Commerce is now a global institution. Once the Father of our Nation, Mahatma Gandhi burst on the

CHILDREN'S DAY

14.11.2013

500

0.81 mill

Children's Day celebration is the tribute to childhood. Children's Day is to remind all young and adults about children's right to enjoy their childhood without any restrictions and to be an educated grown-up in the future.



14 November every year is celebrated as Children's Day all over the country. This date has special significance as it is also the birthday of India's first Prime Minister, Pt. Jawahar Lal Nehru, who was very fond of children. Pt. Nehru was very particular about the progress of the Indian youth.

Every Year, India Post organises 'Design a Stamp' contest and winning entries are selected for depiction on Stamp, First Day Cover and Information Brochure. The same are released on Children's Day. The theme of the competition this year was 'A Holiday'.

Holidays are associated with the vivid feelings of happiness, connectedness, discovery, laughter and love.

This year's stamp is based on a painting made by

national scene and transformed the complexion of our drive to freedom, the paper followed his every step. The valiant struggle of Bhagat Singh, Raj guru and Sukhdev in 1931 found its place in the columns of this newspaper with the heroic trio's trial being reported virtually on a daily basis.



On 15th August, 1947, on the birth of a free India, the Times of India celebrated with the nation. Along this long journey, there have been times when this paper has experienced and mirrored pure joy - that of Cricket World Cup victories of India in 1983 and 2011, achievements in the field of science, Amartya Sen and Mother Teresa's Nobel wins, etc.

Today, the Times of India is a modern multimedia organization that celebrates economic liberalization, free market and a robust integration with the world order. The newspaper, under the flagship of India's largest media company, Bennett, Coleman & Co Ltd, has made an immense contribution to the life and times of the Indian subcontinent over these 175 years.

Theme: Newspaper, Journalism, Business

INTELLIGENCE BUREAU

23.11.2013 500 0.41 mill

Intelligence Bureau (IB) of India is one of the oldest intelligence organization in the world having the unique distinction of continuous existence of 125 years.

On 23rd December, 1887, the British Government sanctioned the proposal of Lord Dufferin, Viceroy of India, to set up a Department for procuring authentic information regarding the social and political condition of Indian people and the State. It was initially conceived as the Central Special Branch with units in the provinces and Princely States. Over the years, its nomenclature underwent changes and it was in 1920 that the Intelligence Bureau (IB) came to be known by its present name.

Recognising IB's role, the Government has institutionalised a system by which the Director, Intelligence Bureau, annually chairs a conference of all DGPs/IGPs of the State Police Forces and the Central Police Organisations.

The Commemorative Stamp features the IB insignia that symbolises the quintessence of the organisation. The outermost contour is octagonal in shape and symbolises multiplicity of directions and stands for the



multi-dimensional responsibilities and tasks of the organisation. Contained within the octagon is a square resting on one of its corners, which is symbolic of the dynamic and progressive approach of the organisation. The wheel with 24 spokes, forming the inner core of the logo, is a replica of the "Dharma Chakra", and stands for integrity and professionalism.

Them : Information, Security, Police

SATHYA SAI BABA

23.11.2013 500 0.71 mill

Sathya Sai Baba or Sathyanarayana Raju was born on 23rd November, 1926, in the remote hamlet of Puttaparthi, Andhra Pradesh.

Sathya Sai Baba's philosophy can be summarised in one word Prema, which means Divine Love. He believed that every single human being can obtain the Divine Power and capability by shedding selfishness and self-interests.



Keeping up to his beliefs, Sathya Sai Baba set up a tertiary-care hospital in Puttaparthi in November, 1991. Over a period of 22 years, the hospital has added several specialties. It treats every single patient absolutely free. Another such hospital was set up in Bangalore in 2001.

Sathya Sai Baba is also known for execution of six drinking water projects during the period 1995 to 2004. His contribution to the field of education is notable. He set up Sri Sathya Sai Institute of Higher Learning in Puttaparthi in 1981. The education offered here is completely free and the spirit of service to the society is instilled in the students through various programmes like Grama Seva.

Sathya Sai Baba kept up the good work till his death on 24th April, 2011.

Theme : Personality, Sages & Saints, Social Service

RAILWAY WORKSHOPS

26.11.2013 500, 2000 0.5 mill

Railways started in India in 1853. With the widening of the railway network the railway workshops also came into prominence.

Jamalpur Railway Workshop: Established on the 8th February, 1862, Jamalpur Workshop has enjoyed the distinction of being the largest and the oldest locomotive repair workshop. It has many firsts to its credit such as manufacture of a steam locomotive, a rolling mill among others.

With the gradual eclipse of steam traction on

Indian Railways, steam locomotive activities, started declining in the late 60's. The shop kept pace with, the technology change and technology upgradation on Indian Railways and diversified its activities to the Overhauling and Repair of locomotives wagons, cranes and tower cars. Jamalpur workshop is also manufacturing various types of wagons for Indian Railways and CONCOR.



Kancharapara

Workshop: This workshop was set up by the then Eastern Bengal Railway in the year 1863 at the present Loco Complex site in Kancharapara from serving the Defence Department during World Wars to becoming a base workshop for POH (Periodic Over Hauling) of Electric Loco and EMU stock of Eastern and South Eastern Railways. This workshop also has had the privilege of turning out the first electric locomotive after Periodic Overhauling (POH) in 1965 and the first EMU motor coach was turned out after POH in the very same year.

This workshop has been in the forefront of undertaking major developmental works connected to all classes of Rolling Stocks of electric traction. Today it ranks first among Indian Railway Workshops in terms of number of Electric Multiple Unit coaches overhauled.

Theme : Railways, Transport, Industry, Workshops.

SASHASTRA SEEMA BAL

29.11.2013 500 0.42 mill

Sashastra Seema Bal (SSB) is a unique unconventional organization, designed to work in the far-flung, strategic but vulnerable border areas motivating the border population across several states to work as a cohesive population aware of the threats from across the border.



The humble beginning of Sashashtra Seema Bal, earlier known as Special Service Bureau, was made in 1963 under Cabinet Secretariat in Tezpur (Assam) and also in the North-Eastern Frontier Agency (NEFA), later renamed as Arunachal Pradesh. SSB soon spread out into North Bengal, Hills of Uttar Pradesh, Himachal Pradesh and Jammu. In the next two decades, SSB extended its footprints to the border areas of Manipur, Sikkim, Rajasthan, Guwahati, South Bengal and Nagaland. Guided by its motto of "Service, Security and Brotherhood".

In the aftermath of the Kargil war the policy makers altered the role of SSB from "People's Force" to "Men in

Uniform" guarding 1751 kms long Indo-Nepal border. In 2001, the Special Service Bureau became Sashastra Seema Bal. Later in 2004, it was also given the responsibility of guarding 699 kms long Indo-Bhutan border.

In recognition of its services, the President of India presented Colour to SSB in 2004. SSB's officers and men have brought glory to the country and have earned many prestigious medals.

Theme : Organisation, Service, Border Security, Protection, Police.

50 YEARS OF NAGALAND

01.12.2013 500 0.43 mill

Nagaland became the 16th State of the Indian Union on 1st December, 1963 by merging Naga Hills District of Assam and Tuensang Frontier Division of North East Frontier Agency (NEFA).

The Naga Hills District under Assam was established in 1866 with its headquarters at Samaguting, which was later shifted to Wokha in 1876 and finally to Kohima in 1878. The eastern part of the Naga inhabited areas was incorporated in the North East Frontier Agency designated first as Naga Tribal Area and later as Tuensang Frontier Division in 1948.



In 1957, the Naga Hills District and the Tuensang Frontier Division were joined together to form a new administrative entity known as Naga Hills Tuensang Area (NHTA). After several discussions finally the State of Nagaland was inaugurated by the then President of India, Dr. Sarvapalli Radhakrishnan at Kohima on the 1st December, 1963.

Since attainment of Statehood, Nagaland has made tremendous strides and progress in all walks of life during the last 50 years. The literacy rate from 17% in 1961 to 79.35% in 2011; Government educational institutions from 519 to 2945 between 1963-2013, with at least one Government Primary School established at every recognized village in the State. By 1989, 100% villages in the state were electrified.

Theme : Indian States, Free India, North East India.

INS VIKRAMADITYA

05.12.2013 500 0.41 mill

INS Vikramaditya, named after Vikramaditya the legendary king of Ujjain famed for his valour, wisdom and magnanimity, has been procured from Russia. The erstwhile "Admiral Gorshkov" named Russian heavy aircraft carrying cruiser, commissioned in the Russian Navy in 1987 has been modified to a conventional aircraft

carrier at Sevmarsh Shipyard, Severodvinsk for use by the Indian Navy.



Vikramaditya has been converted to a Short take Off But Arrested Recovery (STOBAR) aircraft

Carrier. The carrier is a 44,500 tonne steam Dowered ship of 1,80,000 HR The ship has a maximum speed of 29 knots with a range of 7000 nm at 18 knots speed. The 10,800 square meter of flight deck has a runway of 195 meters length along with 14-degree ski jump and a three-wire arrester gear system, to aid Short Take off But Arrested Recovery (STOBAR) operations of the MIG 29K aircraft. In addition to the MIG-29K, the ship operates the Sea Kings, Ka-28 Anti Submarine Warfare, Ka-31 Airborne Early Warning and Search and Rescue helicopters like Chetak.

The integral air element of Vikramaditya comprising of jet fighters and combat helicopters are a vital force multiplier, essential to warfighting.

Vikramaditya's presence in the Indian Ocean makes the Indian Navy, a predominant force in the region and empowers India to play a stronger and significant role in the International Maritime Scenario.

Theme : Armed Forces, Navy, Maritime Growth.

THE VISIT OF EMPEROR & EMPRESS OF JAPAN

05.12.2013 2000 0.81 mill

Their Imperial Majesties the Emperor and Empress of Japan will visit India from 30th November to 5th December, 2013. This will be the first time in the history of independent India that the Emperor and Empress of Japan will be making a State Visit to India.



India-Japan relations have strengthened immeasurably over a period of time. Bilateral ties have expanded greatly in the political, economic, security, development, scientific and cultural fields. The visit to India by 'Their Imperial Majesties the Emperor and Empress of Japan' will further the relationship between both countries and strengthen the bilateral ties.

Qutub Minar : Qutub Minar, in red and buff sandstone, is the highest tower in India. It has a diameter of

14.32m at the base and about 2.75m on the top with a height of 72.5m. Qutbud-Din Aibak laid the foundation of Minar in AD 1199 and raised the first storey, to which were added three more storeys by his successor and son-in-law, Shamsud-Din Iltutmish.

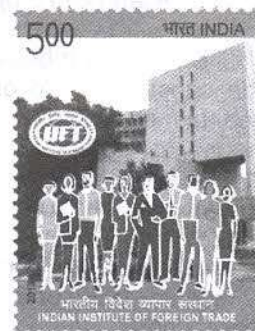
Tokyo Tower: The Tokyo Tower is a communications and observation tower located in the Shiba-koen district of Minato, Tokyo, Japan. At 333 metres (1,093 ft), the Tokyo Tower is the second-tallest artificial structure in Japan. It was completed in the year 1958. It serves as a television and radio broadcast antenna and tourist destination. The two-storey Main Observatory is located at 150 metres (490ft) and provides a bird's eye view of Tokyo.

Theme : Friendship, Imperial visits, Japan, Observatory.

INDIAN INSTITUTE OF FOREIGN TRADE

10.12.2013 500 0.41 mill

Indian Institute of Foreign Trade (IT FT) was registered under the Society Act on 2nd May, 1963 with the objective of development of training activities for building up cadre of competent export management personnel in the country, development of research into various problems of foreign trade, initiation and implementation of programmes of overseas marketing research; and building up of export information required by them for effective export operations.



The vision of IIFT was translated into four major activity areas, namely Long Term Programme, Management development programmes, International Collaborations, Research and Publications.

The Research Division at IIFT has been instrumental in providing policy inputs to the Government of India on foreign trade, with an emphasis on blending theory with practice, and keeping itself upgraded with quality research studies on the changing dynamics of national and international business.

IIFT has its campus in Delhi, Kolkata and Dar-es-Salaam (Tanzania). Further, it has conducted about a dozen programmes in various African countries that include Ethiopia, Egypt, Botswana, Namibia, Angola and SouthAfrica.

The Institute has emerged as a major Centre of International Business by aligning its teaching, research and training capabilities with its core vision over the years. In 2002, IIFT has been awarded the status of a "Deemed University".

Theme : Economy, Exports, Foreign Trade, Institutions.

BEANT SINGH

17.12.2013

500

0.31 mill

Beant Singh was born to Captain Hazura Singh and Sahib Kaur on 19th February, 1924 at village Bilaspur in the erstwhile Patiala district of the then PEPSU State. Bilaspur is now a part of Patal Tehsil of Ludhiana District in Punjab.

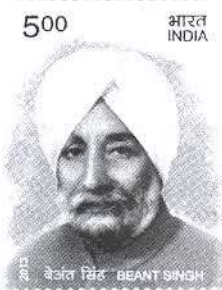
Beant Singh passed his graduation from Government College, Lahore where he was known to be an outstanding football player. Beant Singh was deeply moved to see bloodshed in the communal riots at the time of partition of the country in 1947. He strived to guide and help the hapless and poor migrants, and guided many of them for getting land and property allotted in India in lieu of their land and property left behind in Pakistan.

Beant Singh belonged to a family of army officers but he chose the field of public service for himself. He started his political career as Sarpanch of the village Bilaspur. He was elected as Chairman, Block Samiti, Doraha in 1960. He was elected as Director of the Central Cooperative Bank, Ludhiana in 1963. He was elected to Punjab Vidhan Sabha, as an independent candidate, in 1969 and then, as a Congress Candidate in 1972, 1977, 1980 and in 1992 and served as a Minister under S. Darbara Singh.

Beant Singh took over the reins of the Punjab State as its Chief Minister in 1992 and is known for his contribution in bringing peace to the state when it was engulfed in terrorism.

He was assassinated on 31st August, 1995.

Theme : Personality, Leader, Politics, Chief Minister, Assassination.



GULAB SINGH LODHI

23.12.2013

500

0.32 mill

The story of Indian Freedom Movement is rife with tales of heroes whose contribution has remained unrecognized. One such hero was a humble farmer from the state of Uttar Pradesh, Gulab Singh Lodhi.

Gulab Singh Lodhi was born in the year 1903 at Fatehpur Chaurasi, District Unnao in Uttar Pradesh. His father, Ram Rathan Singh Lodhi, was a simple farmer.

Little is known about his childhood. He grew up in the turbulent era when the fervor of the freedom movement



was at its peak. Lodhi took active part in the political activities against the British rule.

Gulab Singh Lodhi participated in a procession at Lucknow which marched to the Aminabad Park for hoisting the tricolor in August, 1935. The park was surrounded by British troops in order to prevent the hoisting of the flag. Gulab Singh Lodhi defied the show of armed force and climbed a tree with the tri colour. As he was hoisting the flag atop the tree, he was shot dead by a British officer.

Theme : Personality, Freedom Fighter, National flag, Martyr.

EKLAVYA

27.12.2013

500

0.31 mill

Eklavya was the son of Vyatraj Harinyadhanu, a soldier in the army of Jarasandha, King of Magadha. The relations between Magadha and Hastinapur were not friendly at that time. Eklavya wanted to learn archery in the Gurukul of Dronacharya. Although, Dronacharya was impressed by young Eklavya's sincere desire he turned him away on finding out that Eklavya was not of a high caste.



Eklavya returned home deeply hurt but he was still resolute. He made a statue of Dronacharya and accepted him as his Guru. He practiced in front of the statue every day and years of discipline nurtured him into an archer of exceptional prowess.

On amavasya night, when there was complete darkness, Eklavya sewed the mouth shut of a wild barking dog which was disturbing everyone's sleep in the forest by firing arrows in rapid succession. That night Dronacharya and his pupils had come for hunting and were astounded to see such a feat. On searching the forest, they met a young man who introduced himself as a student of Dronacharya. Surprised at such a declaration Dronacharya refuted his claim. Eklavya then led him to the statue.

Dronacharya seized the opportunity to ask Eklavya for his right thumb as gurudakshina. Eklavya gave away his thumb to his guru and ruined his ability as an archer. Dronacharya thus fulfilled his ambition to protect the superiority of Arjuna.

Theme : Mythology, Discipleship, Archery.

BABU BANARSI DAS

31.12.2013

500

0.41 mill

Babu Banarsi Das, popularly known as Babuji, was born on 8th July, 1912 in village Utarawli, District Bulandshahr in Uttar Pradesh.

He participated in the freedom struggle from a young age as a result of which he could not have much

formal education. During the freedom struggle, he faced severe hardships due to his opposition to the British government. He was jailed several times but never gave up his struggle for India's independence.



After independence of the country in 1947, he was elected unopposed to the State Legislative Assembly of Uttar Pradesh. Thereafter, he was elected to the State Assembly several times during which he headed various departments as minister, and became Speaker and Chief Minister of Uttar Pradesh. As Cooperative Minister, he ensured constitution of various cooperative societies in the entire State of U.P. He was also elected to the Rajya Sabha in the year 1972 and later represented Bulandshahar in Lok Sabha.

He strongly advocated female education. Due to his efforts, in Bulandshahar alone, more than 150 schools were opened. Babu Banarsi Das's enthusiasm for life and capacity for hard work manifested in his being a great organizational worker, a scholar of several languages and a visionary for his state and its people.

He left for heavenly abode on 03.08.1985.

Theme : Leader, Personality, Freedom Fighter, Chief Ministers

(Courtesy: India Post information Brochures)

INDIA 1854 1 ANNA DIE 1

D. E. WADIA

While re-arranging the specialised collection of INDIA 1854-55 belonging to my good friend, Mr. R. F. Shroff, I came across the following interesting and exciting items:—

1. A small, clean envelope bearing One Anna Die II stamp with type I postmark of 9x9' dots¹. It was posted at Umballa on the 4th February 1855 and had reached Peshawar on the 8th as was clear from the double-lined circular postal markings. The stamp was of dull red colour and showed the trace of the corner ornament of No. 1. I was, however, unable to plate, it despite persistent efforts, for, it neither revealed the flaws of No. 1 of "C" stone nor of No. 1 of "D" stone. The central leaflet of the corner ornament was, moreover, of a different type on that stamp. Instead of the usual tripartite central leaflet, it looked like the tip of arrow, long and sharply pointed.

I had a similar example on one loose stamp with

me, years ago, when my knowledge on the different settings of the One Anna group was in its infancy. I was unable to trace that stamp, which, then, came to my mind again when I discovered a similar central leaflet on Mr. Shroff's copy. The stamp was lifted from the envelope to trace its watermark. That was absent obviously because it was shifted towards the right. I, therefore, thought that what I had considered to be a trace of the corner ornament might be an extraneous red flaw, but a previous matching example which had the distinct watermark of No. 1 made me to think that we might have yet another sensational discovery at hand, for, the stamp in question defied, plating!

2. A single 1/2 Anna blue, Die I, hinged on Mr. Jal Cooper's printed folder, LOT No. 131, and described by him in pencil as "No. 1 on sheet — Rare Stone". The stamp related to the rare setting of 'B' stone and showed the watermark of No. 1, but the trace of the central leaflet belonged to the 2nd type of corner ornament — an occurrence not seen or heard of before on that setting! In ordinary course, all Die I Half Anna corner stamps should show a small are of the circular 'rose*' near the corner. In the case under reference, the central lobe of the leaflet was quite clear while the two side lobes were partly visible. It would be inadvisable to arrive at a definite conclusion from that solitary example, but if specialists and advanced collectors would re-check their i anna corner stamps to trace the occurrence of that type of corner ornament, who knows, the philatelic world might be gripped with surprise on yet another sensational discovery in no distant' date.

3. A half anna Die I stamp on sheet, irifb. type 1 postmark of dots and with the rectangular postal marking, in red, of. Jaulna with the receiving date of January 14, 1854! The "4" of "14" was reversed. The sheet had the hand-written word — "Stamped" with the same flourishes in. which the address was made out. The sender also had added the words "B.I.D. 11-1-54", in the same. flourishes ' and in the same shade of ink;

4. Another cover, also bearing a half anna Die: I stamp, showing both the despatch and the receiving postal markings, in red rectangles, reading as under;

| | |
|-------------|-----------|
| POONAH | JAUINA |
| 1854 JAN. 7 | 1854 JAN. |
| PAID | PAID |

The contents of the latter, written by a Parsi priest in the old style Gujarati of those days, were interesting. A closely worded double 'sheet of thin light blue paper was folded to form the envelope and addressed to "Dinshawjee Merwanjee at Jalna, P.P." indicating" that postage" was paid.

5. JL. A double, sheet of white thin paper folded carefully to form the envelope, bearing 1 Anna Die I stamp and the word "stamped". It was addressed to "Nessarwanjee Curstjee Bsqr., Merchant, Ahmed Nuggar", the despatch markings in red rectangle reading.:

There was no. receiving mark, of Ahmed Nagar.

6. A photograph of a cover, unfolded to show the postal marking and the address and the 1 anna Die I stamp. It was sent to Mr. Shroff by a friend of Calcutta. The marking read:

POONAH 1854
JUL. 14 PAID

The "stamped" cover was addressed to "Framjee Nessarwanjee Esqr., Ahmed Nagar".

To ascertain whether the four covers cited above and with postally used dates of

1. January 14, 1854
2. January 7, 1854
3. April 20, 1854
4. July 14, 1854

were genuine or faked, a reference to the historical evidences was called for.

Hausburg, on page 9, para 2 of his book has stated: "No stamps were issued to the public until the 15th September, 1854 at Madras, and the 20th September 1854 at Calcutta, with the exception of a few of the half anna in blue, issued by mistake at Tanghoo, Burma, about the 10th August. 1854."

The intimation about the unauthorized use of half anna postage stamps was conveyed by the Post Master General, Bengal, by his letter No. 210 dated the 28th August, 1854, to the Director General of the Post Office of India, as under "I have the honour to submit herewith copy of a letter No. 549 dated 19th instant, from the Post Master, Rangoon, from which it appears that the Authorities of Tonghoo, through some unaccountable misapprehension, have been vending, the stamp the stamp labels supplied to that station; and that the Tonghoo mail of the 10th instant which came in on Saturday last, contained several letters bearing the new Indian postage stamps."

The idea of printing the first postage stamps in India was mooted on the 7th February, 1854, vide Minutes of the then Governor General, Lord Dalhousie, quoted in extensor by Hausburg. The initial enquiries on the feasibility of the project was discussed in letter dated the 6th February, 1854, from the officiating Secretary, George Plowden. Capt. report on "a few elements in coloured lithography" was embodied in his letter dated 22nd February 1854, and it pertained to % 1, 4 and 8 annas of the unissued designs. The necessity of finding a printing paper with a suitable watermark was discussed in letter dated the 9th March, 1854, from the Deputy Surveyor General. The use of gum on the stamp paper was looked into by Dr. F. N. Macnamara, Professor of Chemistry, Medical College, on the 22nd March, 1854. Various proofs of the 1 anna blue, 8 arches, including the 9 1/2 arches, red, were prepared and

submitted for approval on the 28th April, 1854. Capt. Thuller, by his letter dated the 4th May, 1854 reported that he had "struck off nearly a lac and half of stamps" on the 3rd May, 1854. The nine hundred sheets of 1 anna, red, 9 1/2 arches, were despatched to Bombay on the 5th April, 1854, but soon after the decision of altering the design of the half anna, a telegraphic message was sent to Bombay on the 23rd April, 1854 "to the effect that the nine hundred sheets of the 9i arches type of the half anna were useless and were not to be distributed". Hausburg, on page 9, para 1, writes: "Capt. Thuillier lost no time in setting the presses to work and with satisfactory results. On the 11th May, 1854, he wrote that he had struck off a million and a quarter labels, and that by working long hours, he was obtaining about 300,000 a day. By 11th May 1854, 35,911,68 had been struck off."

The above being the position, and the fact that the initial stock of 1,25,000 stamps was lying in Capt. Thuillier's office on the 4th May 1854 then awaiting despatch to the Post Master General, how could a Parsi priest in Poona come to use the anna stamp on 7th January, 1854, another Parsi Gentleman on the 14th January 1854 and others on April 20 and on July 14, 1854? If the "July" stamp had been used on Government correspondence, the matter could have been different, but the use of those stamps by a few citizens of Poona, proves, without the shadow of a doubt, that the idea of the so-called covers and the postal markings was conceived and executed by a knowledgable faker with the intention of duping unwary stamp collectors. Whether the forgeries were perpetrated in the olden times or the modern is not the important point. Forgers were also flourishing hundred years ago, for, Lord Delhousie, in his Minutes of the 7th February 1854 had- stated: "We are satisfied that owing to the want of mechanical means and the absence of ingenuity and enterprise in the people, the risk of loss by forgery in India would be less than in any civilised country of

Europe, in the United States of America and in most of the Crown Colonies".

Indeed, the stamps could not be forged by the clever faker, a citizen of this country, perhaps, with the presence of ingenuity and enterprise, but he had spuriously prepared all the four covers listed above, including, perhaps, their so-called historical markings with a view to reaping a rich harvest. It was quite evident that having obtained those prestamp covers, he had affixed a stamp on each, "cancelled" it and placed the very clever postal markings of the place of origin and the destination, ignoring the all important fact that those stamps had not existed with the post offices on the dates that he had selected | This was proved by the fact that on the cover addressed to Dinshawjee Merwanjee at labia, the sender had written in Gujarati — "Post Bearing" — at the end of the address!

Mr. R. F. Shroff, having studied what is stated above, has decided to give a place of prominence to these covers, with of course, appropriate annotations to reveal their spurious status.(Courtesy : Philatelic Journal, India Dec 1969).

DR. STEPHEN H. SMITH - FATHER OF AERO PHILATELY IN INDIA

ASHOK K. KORA

Dr. Stephen Hector Taylor Smith has placed India in a prominent place on the philatelic map of the world of Aerophilately.

Dr. Stephen H. Smith was born on 14th February-1891 in Shillong. His full name was Stephen Hector Taylor Smith and had his early education at Asansol Missionary School known as St. Patrick's High School. He completed his school final in January 1911 and only a month after India was the first country to introduce transportation of mail by air. When he was in his school, he made a rocket of his own and tried to transport live garden lizard over the school swimming pool but the rocket burst killing the lizard tied to it. He made other experiments as well but none were successful. Though he had left the school, he had his zeal and ambitions. Only a month after leaving the school study, India had the first official mail by air. He had sent some covers addressed to him. So we can justify that he was the forerunner of Aero philately in India.

After leaving his school, he joined St. Xavier's College and nobody is aware whether he got graduation degree. He worked for sometime in Calcutta Customs and after words in Calcutta Police. He joined the College of Physicians and Surgeons in 1915 and qualified himself as a Dental Surgeon. Later, he left service of Calcutta Police. He married Fay Harecourt in November. 1918 and had one son Hector Junior, unfortunately like many philatelist, Dr. Smith's son had no interest in philately.

Dr. Stephen H. Smith had high, ambitions and great foresight He believed in the Motto "Where there is a will, there is a way". His experiments with rockets to send airmail & parcels put India as the foremost country as regards rocket mails are concerned.

He had fantastic dreams of mail transportation by rocket almost on the way. At one time, it was thought that 90 minutes Rocket service between New York - Paris was possible. Later on Professor Oberth thought 45 minutes will be sufficient and Schmiedle had announced that 25 minutes travel would be enough, where as Russia and U.S.A. claim that their rocket can reach New York and Moscow in just 5 minutes.

Aero-philately was not 40 years old, when Russia launched their first rocket into, the orbit. In fact long before Governments became officially involved, there were many individual rocket experiments. Dr. Smith launched his first experiment rocket carrying mails on 30th September 1934 from Sagar Island near Calcutta in the Bay of Bengal. Prior to this, there had been few more experiments. The first to do this was Friedrlich Schmiedle of Austria in 1928, but none of his experiments, until 1931 carried mails franked with Government postage stamps. The first mail franked with Austrian stamps was flown by rocket on 2nd February

1931 when 57 covers and cards were flown.

Dr. Stephen Smith was not rich enough to spend on such costly experiments but his supporters, late Sir David and Lady Ezra, Mon. J. Ferendez and Mr. S.M. Bose bore his expenses and thus fulfilled his ambitions. Whenever there was announcement of trial or experimental flights, Dr. Stephen Smith would be on the spot with his bag and baggages. He worked hard to get in touch with pioneers like Sir Alan Cobham and had his mails autographed and despatched, The difficult job was to get permission for Rockets experiments.



For the decade between 1920 and 1930 aviation history is emblazoned with dozens of pilots-famous or about to become famous, as result of the keen rivalries first in the well-known races from Britain to Australia and Europe to the Far East and then, for the Air line supremacy that would follow such outstanding survey flights as that of Alan-Cobham, but Aero-philately would have known little; about the majority of these had not the late Stephen H. Smith of Calcutta seen the light & co-operated with those aviators by encouraging them to carry souvenir mails that have established both their names and their achievements in: the permanent annals of Indian Aerophilatelic history.. Stephen H. Smith, through his hospitality and encouragement to the fliers, was able to organize fully documented mails over, local stages of every significant flight in that pioneering period. Household names like Cobham, de. Pinedp, D'oisey, Hinkler, Nogues, Loriga-to name "only a few each ambitious nation owe their inclusions in the records of India and our hobby to his initiative.

He was a member of Aerophilatelic Club of London-and this gave him the inspiration-to do something concrete. He founded Calcutta Philatelic Club, as well as in the late 1920, the Aerophilatelic Club of India and had long association with many National and International Philatelic Societies.

Under its auspices and through the encouragement of the late Sir David and Lady Ezra, the first flown cover exhibition ever to be held in ASIA (Apart from a Japanese Organisation) was staged in Calcutta on 17th December 1930. To give an idea as to its range of subjects, the exhibition catalogue mentions exhibits of night flights, accident covers, mails flown, with adhesive franking and Paris balloons, Apart from geographical groups, there was also a class, for Historical Documents. All this was organized only a few months after the world's first international Air-Post exhibition, in Paris, France and almost before the next International in Danzig.

Dr. Stephen H. Smith was a writer as well as a journalist. He wrote three handbooks and a monograph on

"Indian Airways"; its contents being factual history of the outstanding flights associated with this country, and their Souvenirs. His researches into the dates and stages of the several achievements would often be difficult to unearth now owing to the interruptions of the two world wars and Independence movements. These books are very scarce and none of these are available now. They are classic books on aero philately.

Dr. Stephen H. Smith died on 15th February 1951, leaving a permanent and prominent name in the history of aero-philately. His spirit of dedication has enlivened budding aerophilately. His memory will, always, remain fresh so long as Aerophilately survives. His name will have a special niche in the hearts, of Aerophilate lists all over the world not only to-day but in the years to come.

Dr. Stephen H. Smith was honoured by The American Air Mail Society by including his name in the first 29 honoree's in the Hall of Fame for Aero Philately.

Philatelists bow their heads to his ingenuity and dedication in the field of aero philately.
(Courtesy : Philatelic Journal of India, 1990)

PHILATELY - THEN & AFTER

All through the years, decades, and centuries, like two sides of a coin, both the selling and buying (I mean, collecting) sides have the doubts and anxiety of the longevity of the hobby. That too, today, after the avalanches of many systems of communication those feelings are at an enormous high level. It is interesting to know that feeling and ideas in 1967, in Europe through the eyes of a collector and a dealer.

WHAT NEXT?-BY A COLLECTOR

Let me say right away that I have had a pretty long experience with stamps in general. Further, whilst now I do buy stamps just for the sake of investment, I cannot afford, in view of what I do spend, to disregard the financial angle; as many collectors are similarly placed, perhaps my comments may be worth consideration. My collecting experience antedates the last war, and though I went in mostly for colonial stamps, I got thoroughly sick of the dullness of the Key Type design then in general use. So it came about that when the brighter stamps appeared in the King George VI reign, I, like many others, welcomed them with open arms. I, and others, welcomed them perhaps too much, and, after the-war, with little else upon which to spend cash, we simply overbought. I was not content to take singles for my King George VI collection, but went in for a block of this, or that, for they were bound to be good some day. But let me admit that I now very much regret having cleared all those extras out at a loss, for had I had faith and hung on, I would at least have got my own back. And in this connection, I remember what an old dealer used to say: "If you have faith in your stamps they will never let you down." But I lacked that faith, and having lost quite a bit when I sold my collection, I decided that there would be no more Empire stamps for me. Particularly as I saw how

modern European issues were shooting up.

Of course I could not keep off stamps very long, so I started a collection of certain European countries. I never felt very easy about them though but as King George VI stamps continued to be such a dull market, I stayed with the continental issues until one day the whole position altered. The European issues had in many cases been overbought I am refraining from mentioning the countries concerned, for I do not wish to knock any but the new policy of our own Post Office, had, as I saw the situation, completely changed the prospects of Commonwealth stamps as well as those of Great Britain. The prices in the new catalogues showed clearly the upward trend, and so once more I felt that I could never return to our own issues without feeling that I would lose heavily if I ever had to sell.

However the change wasn't just confined to financial prospects. There was a time, up to a few years ago in fact, when one could afford to take all colonials; not so today, unless one is a lot better off than your Rumble servant. And I know that I am not alone in this respect for a dealer with a large new issue service tells me that barely 50% of his customers take everything though, as he put it, no doubt they would like to, if their finances permitted, so beautiful are the majority of Commonwealth stamps of the present. Thus it became a question of what to collect and what, alas, to leave out.

Now as long as I have dabbled with stamps the West Indian issues have been the most popular, and probably still are, but, and it is a big but, tastes may be, and probably are, changing.

A dealer, when I discussed the matter with him, described West Indian stamps as old hat, compared with the exciting issues now appearing from Commonwealth countries in Africa. I pointed out that West Indian stamps had always been best sellers, owing to the extra demand from the U.S.A., but his answer to that one was that the U.S.A. is now as interested in Africa as it is in the islands off its own shore which seem to have lost some of their erstwhile appeal. Actually I do not think this is so, but I do believe that Commonwealth stamps of some of the countries of Africa are being underrated at present. I have written "some of the countries" for there are others which, in too big a hurry chasing the golden eggs, have trodden on the goose which was laying them. And here I had better mention that I am just a little bit afraid that there may be one or two more in Africa who might be tempted to overdo things. In which case I, and many more, will drop them like a red-hot brick.

Anyhow I have decided to go in for Africa, leaving out Ghana, Nigeria and Sierra Leone, and to make up for those three I have added Ascension, St. Helena and, of course, Tristan da Cunha whoever would think of omitting Tristan? It must be admitted that I am sorely tempted to include the three European Commonwealth territories but I'll wait a bit for those. Here I would like to pay a compliment to the Crown Agents. They know as well as the rest of us that if a country issues too many stamps, and is aiming thereby too obviously to soak collectors, sooner or later, sooner rather than later as a matter of fact collectors will simply pack up collecting the offender's stamps. Now I

suppose that the Crown Agents, as far as new issues are concerned, will only tender their advice if it is asked for. But somehow or other I know that other collectors think similarly have complete confidence in the stamps of the countries for whom they act. I never for a minute imagine that they will be behind unnecessary new issues. It is equally obvious, however, that when a country leaves London, all kinds of gimmick issues etc. will follow the move. This confidence which we have in the stamps of the countries handled by London is indeed a precious business asset, and it will become even more precious as time goes on with so many countries tumbling over one another in their efforts to get at collectors' wallets via unnecessary sets of stamps. So let the Crown Agents be sure to flatly refuse under all circumstances to have anything to do with suspect postal administrations. They can indeed be glad that one pulled out recently to run its own distribution. Already I know of more than one collector who has dropped that country knowing from experience what is likely to happen.

I have referred to the fact that owing to the sustained new issue avalanche the average collector cannot afford to go in for all. I have also mentioned that the financial angle cannot be disregarded by most collectors as there are few Ferrarys about nowadays. So, based on a pretty lengthy experience, I would like to pass on a little tip for what is worth. As I see it, it is far better to limit the number of countries you decide to take than to take more countries but to limit the face value. I know of any amount of sets which sell like hot cakes complete but who wants them at, say, up to five or ten shillings?

WHERE NEXT?-BY A DEALER

Last month a collector had his say on this subject. This month it is the turn of a dealer who, like the collector, prefers to remain anonymous. However, he is very well known and respected in philatelic circles and his viewpoint is based on many years' experience.

The article "Where Next", which appeared in the February Bulletin will provide plenty of material for thought to both dealer and collector and whilst I would be the first to agree with many of the points made by Mr. Lewy, at the same time I am afraid that I do not see exactly eye to eye with one or two of his recommendations. We are completely at one, however, over the care which must be taken not to overdo stamp issues if the good name of the countries concerned and the Crown Agents (even though the latter may be completely blameless) is to be preserved, such preservation being entirely necessary if stamps are to be made to pay at all.

How easy it is to lose goodwill, and consequently sales, can be seen by what has happened already to the stamps of certain countries which have left Millbank. There is no need to name names for they are all well known to most who will be reading these lines. I remember that when one country changed its marketing methods a couple of dealers, suspecting what was going to happen in the way of new sets for any and every occasion, decided to stop handling it altogether. I recently had lunch with one of these

dealers, and oh asking him if he regretted the step he had taken and whether it had lost him some trade, he replied that he had received not a single complaint from any of the two hundred new issue customers who had been taking that country. He could even recall at least twenty letters expressing satisfaction and, as a matter of fact, he had considered the step so successful that as soon as a country went off on its own, as he put it, he ceased to handle their stamps. As for losing trade, there was more of that than he could conveniently handle and give a good service at the same time. That may sound a bit drastic but I might say that a number of my own new issue customers drop Commonwealth stamps as soon as a colony becomes independent. Perhaps, however, the reason why some are eager to limit the scope of their collections is really because so many new stamps are now being issued. This is not, of course, just a case of Commonwealth countries overdoing things, but simply for the reason that so many stamp-issuing countries are concerned. As a matter of fact, compared with most foreign countries, i.e. countries outside the Commonwealth, the average Commonwealth country acts relatively, in a conservative manner. There are exceptions but, as things are at the moment, not very many.

On the question of beautiful stamps, I would like to take issue with the suggestion that steelplate engraving is the best. Mind, it might be a good idea if all stamps were printed thus for it would help to keep the output down—recently Harrisons stated that they only need six weeks to do a set after they have been provided with the art work if the stamps are to be photogravure printed. Recess, however, would be a very much longer job. Just look at some of the recent photogravure issues, for example the recent stamps from Turks and Caicos, Botswana and Kenya, could any stamps be more attractive than these? Just compare them with some of the stodgy recess printed issues. Another important point is that the centering of some of these line engraved stamps provided a real headache for a dealer and when one has to break up two or three hundred sets, the fine perforating of a firm like Harrisons is a real time saver. Take a well earned bow High Wycombe.

The Crown Agents must spend a considerable sum on advertising the stamps they handle. A good deal more of course than would an agency merely out for profit, and whilst I am not too sure that the cost of their displays at the various exhibitions apart from Stampex, and even that I am not completely certain about is covered by results, they are to be congratulated on their advertisements in the stamp press as well as those very attractive leaflets and brochures. And whilst on the subject, I may say that there is nothing to touch their Bulletin and I would suggest that they should really go to town pushing up the sales of that publication so that the price can be reduced, for it must not be overlooked that the average collector begrudges every penny spent on philatelic literature of any class. The publication certainly merits the widest circulation, and just as charity begins at home, so does surely a bit of home advertising. I repeat, I really do like the Bulletin for it can be, and is, such a sales promoter.

I think it is generally well known that the only part which the Crown Agents play as far as new stamps are

concerned is to give advice if asked for, and no one knows better than they how too many stamps kill rather than help sales, so it is obvious what advice they are likely to tender. This being the case, they cannot be held responsible if a country tends to over-issue. But it cannot be stated too strongly that at all cost they must avoid handling the stamps of those countries which are making such a display of their anxiety to grab, via fanciful issues, any loose cash foolish collectors may happen to have. Certain countries have left Millbank, and good luck to them, but after the philatelic antics they have already indulged in and which are likely to continue, under no circumstances must the Crown Agents be willing to take them on again. We dealers respect the Crown Agents, for we know that, in a crazy philatelic world, they at least keep their heads, and it is due more or less to their ever-responsible attitude that things do not get out of hand, thus making it possible for quite a good percentage of collectors to take all Commonwealth stamps without breaking the bank.

We all know how important attractive stamps are to any dealer. But they are much more important to a dealer with shop premises, where a collector can actually see the stamps before buying, than one with simply a postal business. I had this fact driven home to me with the two sets issued recently by Ascension—incidentally, is it a portent that a country which, apart from omnibus issues, had never brought out a single special issue previously, now brings two out at one go? Both sets were placed on display in my shop window and for every single set of the Satellite issue sold, four went of the BBC. There's sales in them there "gold" issues! I imagine, however, that postal dealers would not see much difference in the sales of either. Incidentally, this is all a pointer to the amount of chance trade which exists for stamps which have eye-appeal. Not all buyers of Commonwealth are in a groove and just buy by rule of thumb. As I have already remarked, there is a lot of casual trade for attractive stamps, more than the postal dealer realises and, perhaps, more than the Crown Agents realise too. Let's have gold and plenty of it, a la the Ascension BBC.

But I would like to end these jottings with a word of pleasure for it is fair to say that modern Commonwealth stamps have really returned to their own and all concerned, Crown Agents, Postal Administrations, Collectors and Dealers alike seem to be in for quite a change of luck. Yes, we are all in the money. Let me explain what I am getting at. Undoubtedly King George VI issues were overbought. This is understandable, for after the war, what else could one buy with all that loose cash? There was the inevitable reaction and it wasn't merely a case of falling prices; there were no sales at any price in lots of cases. During the same period there was apparently little overbuying in Europe of their own issues, for at that time they had none of that surplus cash which plagued us. Then things began to buck up on the Continent but when collectors there wanted to buy the earlier stamps there were very few available. The net result was, that whilst our own stamps were in the doldrums, to put it mildly, the others were going up whilst you looked at them. I personally know at least a score of collectors who dropped ours for theirs.

But, there has been quite a change. Oh yes, for some years now in Italy, Germany, etc., there has been

overbuying whereas there has been very little of the kind in this country during the whole of the present reign. Our own Post Office decided to shake off its Victorian trappings and bring itself up-to-date. This has resulted not only in an incredible boom in British stamps but also in most of the modern issues of the Commonwealth—yes, even the despised King George VI stamps have been given a lift. And bit by bit, not only are collectors taking up Commonwealth stamps for the first time but I know of many former Commonwealth collectors who have returned to the fold.

Keep it up Crown Agents. Continue with your first class service. Continue to urge your countries not to overdo things. Keep away, with the longest barge pole at your disposal, any of those countries which wish to involve you with those gimmick issues, and once again Commonwealth issues will be the blue chips of the stamp world. And fellow dealers, please don't egg customers on to buy more stamps than are needed for their collections. There is plenty of genuine trade for everybody, and we don't want another King George VI debacle which was mostly brought about by those blocks and even sheets which were going to be good; the very presence of these latter, of course, assuring that they could be nothing of the kind for years and years at least. Life's too short for that kind of trading. And collectors, not for nothing is philately the most popular hobby in the world, and where are you going to find more beautiful stamps than those issued today by Commonwealth countries? Why there are even signs that our own British stamps are fast leaving the pain-in-the-neck stage.

(Courtesy : Crown Agents, Bulletin 1967)

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STAMP PRINTING

PHOTOGRAVURE METHOD

The birth of a stamp begins when the idea or rough artwork is delivered from the customer to the art studio. According to the customer's instructions, expert designers and typographers prepare art-work several times larger than the printed area of the finished stamp.

MASTER NEGATIVE

The first step in the production of a photogravure stamp is the preparation of the master negative, and it is a highly important one as mistakes on the original photograph are almost impossible to correct subsequently. Spotting and minor adjustments of tonal values are then carried out by highly trained technicians in the retouching room. Retouching is done on the master negative so that all positives produced from this negative will be the same which, in turn, guarantees that each stamp will be identical.

The master negative is then photographed up to 960 times by a 'step and repeat' camera which produces the images on a large glass sheet. Elaborate machinery, precisely linked to the timing of the camera shutter, moves the glass sheet between shots, producing rows of pictures of the stamp. These are known as multi-positives. After developing, fixing and checking, the multipositive is taken to the planning room where certain other details, such as cylinder number, imprint and registration marks, may be added.

The next step is to transfer the complete design to the actual printing surface of the copper cylinder. This is done by means of a medium known as carbon tissue. This consists of a paper coated with light sensitive gelatine containing an orange dye. Before the image itself is printed on the carbon tissue, a screen is printed on the tissue which has the effect of breaking up the final image into a series of small squares. The graduated tones in gravure are obtained by the varying amount of ink on any given area. The screen breaks up the design into a series of separate cells which act as containers for the ink when this is applied to the paper on the printing machine.

The tissue is placed behind the glass screen in a specially constructed frame and is exposed to arc lamps. After the screen has been printed on the tissue, it is printed in contact with the multi-positive and the combined print is then ready to be transferred to the cylinder.

CARBON TISSUE TO PRINTING CYLINDER

The carbon tissue is laid on to the copper cylinder, a film of water being directed to the point of contact. After the paper has been correctly mounted, it is ready for development. This is the removal of the paper base from the gelatine and also that part of the gelatine which has not been affected by the light. This is done by immersing the rotating cylinder in hot water.

This process usually lasts about 15 or 20 minutes and when completed the cylinder is washed with a spray of

very cold water and then dried in front of an electric fan. The margins of the cylinder and any other parts not required to be etched, are carefully painted over with an etch resisting varnish and the cylinder is then ready for etching.

Several baths of varying strengths of solution are used and the etching begins when the gelatine is fully saturated with ferric chloride. The etch penetrates most readily in the shadow portions where the gelatine is thinnest, the highlights being protected by the thickness of gelatine. After etching, the etch-resisting varnish and gelatine are cleaned from the cylinder which is then ready for making a print.

PROOFS ARE SCRUTINISED

Proofs are taken from the cylinders and these are scrutinised and marked so that any flaws can be corrected by engraving. Many millions of cells are required for each printing cylinder and each cell has to be perfect and coincide exactly to give impeccable colour reproduction.

When the corrections have been made the cylinder is put on the printing machine again and further sheets are examined. If all the faults have been eliminated, the cylinder is chromium plated, before printing begins, to give it longer life. Stamp paper needs special treatment. The adhesive, gum arabic, is applied and because this tends to make the paper curl after it dries, it is fed over a gum-breaking or fracturing machine to break the gum into a series of small particles. Humidity control is needed and consistency is maintained by air conditioning.

Photogravure machines can be fed with a continuous web of paper or with separate sheets. The printing is accomplished by the paper passing between a rubber impression cylinder and the copper printing surface. The cylinder is flooded with a liquid and very volatile ink which is then scraped off by a flexible steel blade. The blade and the printing surface are both ground to such a degree of precision that the knife completely cleans the surface of the cylinder, the ink being retained only in the hollow cells of the design.

When stamps are printed in more than one colour, the paper passes progressively from one printing unit to another and so receives a succession of colours. Finally the paper is collected as printed sheets or as a reel at the end of the machine.

PRECISE PERFORATION

After printing, the sheets of stamps are perforated. No perforations may touch the printed area of the stamp and they are accurately placed to one hundred thousandth of an inch. To ensure perfection in the finished sheets, 50 girls check and counter-check every sheet. Any flawed sheets are collected, counted, recorded and burned under the supervision of security officials

Through every stage of production at Harrisons, security arrangements are extremely strict. At least 30 men are on duty, 24 hours a day, in the High Wycombe factory, ensuring that no stamp is unaccounted for and that every order is completed with perfect safety.

(Courtesy: Crown Agents Bulletin, 1968)
