



# SIPA

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## Bulletin

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QUARTERLY

OVERPRINTS 22

SUBMARINES 26

Editorial.

### CHENNAI BOOK FAIR 2016

As you all are aware, one of the motto of our association is to create awareness of the hobby with one and all as much as we can. To achieve considerable progress in this endeavour we conduct workshops in schools, organise exhibitions etc. with the heartiest cooperation of our members.

Now, we got one big opportunity through the Chennai Book Fair which is growing in leaps and bounds in recent years with many thousands footfalls on week days which reaches to a crescendo of about a lakh of footfalls on sundays within the time duration of ten hours. In this metropolitan city among the thousands of families interested in an intellectual hobby like reading there will definitely be quite a few souls ready to get interested in the finer hobby of stamp collecting. Hence with the high level links of our President and with the approval of the executive council of SIPA, we embarked and achieved in taking a stall in the 39th Chennai Book fair at a concessional fee and will be spreading awareness of Philately /stamp collecting to the people of Chennai in a big way. The 39th Chennai Book Fair is being organised at the Island Grounds adjacent to the War Memorial, Chennai.

SIPA will be approaching people and inviting them to come into the hobby with a hand out about ourselves, display of few frames of exhibits, sale of some authoritative books on philately, a visual show of stamps through TV etc. On this special occasion SIPA has also brought out a colourful thirty six page compilation on stamp collecting to help the newly interested collectors, titled "Stamp collecting for beginners - A primer". With the cooperation and physical support of our active and enthusiastic members the endeavor is going to bring big success. We welcome the new members off our community and new members of SIPA.

- Editor

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### CLARION CALL

SIPA is moving ahead on the proceedings to the culmination of the long awaited DIAMOND JUBILEE EXHIBITION. The exhibition is slated for 25 to 27<sup>th</sup> of November 2016.

With the able management of one of our secretaries, Mr. Anil Kumar Reddy we have fixed a grand air conditioned hall in St. Bedes Anglo Indian Higher Secondary School, Santhome High road, Chennai.

So members are requested to start preparing their exhibits utilising the time available and bring out truly innovative ones befitting your association with our association.

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### Monthly Second Sunday Meetings

With President Mr. G. Balakrishna Das on the Chair, 21-members attended the meeting on 13-03-16 at the Philatelic Bureau, Exhibition Hall.

Mr. D. H. Rao, spoke on "Presidents Fleet Review in Andhra Pradesh" Continuing, his series on Stamps of the world, Mr. Rolands Nelson, gave a brief compilation on. "Aruba"

# STAMP NEWS

## INCOME TAX APPELLATE TRIBUNAL (ITAT)

24.01.16

500

0.40 mill

Income Tax Appellate Tribunal (ITAT) is a quasi judicial institution set up in January 1941 under Section 5A of the Income Tax Act, 1922 and specializes in dealing with appeals under the Direct Taxes Act. The orders passed by the ITAT are final and an appeal lies to the High Court only if a substantial question of law arises for determination. Starting in 1941 with six Members constituting three Benches - one each at Delhi, Kolkata (Calcutta) and Mumbai (Bombay), the number of Benches has progressively increased and presently ITAT has 63 Benches at 27 different stations in the country.



ITAT draws inspiration from its motto '*Nishpaksh Sulabh Satvar Nyay*', Which means impartial, easy and speedy justice. ITAT stands out for its uniqueness of imparting justice to the litigants, by an inexpensive, easily accessible forum free from technicalities, regarded for its expert knowledge on the subject of Direct Taxes, besides rendering expeditious justice. Over the years, ITAT has earned accolades, and almost 32 erstwhile Members / Vice Presidents / and Presidents of ITAT have been elevated to various high Courts including two to the Supreme Court.

Theme : Judiciary, Economics, Taxes.

## VIBRANT INDIA

25.01.16

2500

0.30 mill

India is one of the oldest civilizations in the world with a varied and rich cultural heritage. It has achieved all-round socio-economic progress during the last 68 years of its Independence.



Culture plays an important role in the development of any nation. It represents a set of shared attitudes, values, goals and practices. Culture and creativity manifest themselves in almost all economic, social and other activities.

The essence of Human Resource Development is education, which plays a significant and remedial role in balancing the socio-economic framework of the country.

Agriculture, with its allied sectors, is unquestionably the largest livelihood provider in India, more so in the vast rural areas.

Infrastructure is a major sector that propels overall development of the Indian economy. The government is involved in initiating policies that would ensure time-bound creation of world class infrastructure in the country.

Science and Technology have always been an integral part of Indian Culture. The Government of India has worked towards establishing a modern Science and Technology infrastructure in the country. Scientific education and scientific research & development has been on a steady rise as a result of all these initiatives.

Theme: India, Indian Achievement, Modern India.

## INTERNATIONAL FLEET REVIEW 2016

06.02.16

500

0.602 mill

A Naval Fleet Review is a long-standing tradition of navys world-over. The Review was conceived as a show of naval might and readiness for battle. In India, ten Reviews have been held so far, with the first in 1953 and the latest in 2011.



Leading nations of the world, occasionally invite their maritime neighbours, to participate with their ships in the review. Normally called 'International Fleet Review', the event then allows the host nation an occasion to display its maritime capabilities and mutual trust amongst maritime nations.

The only previous International Fleet Review in India was conducted in February 2001, off Mumbai. This earned the country widespread appreciation and goodwill. On 06th February 2016, the President of India, is scheduled to review the fleet of participating Indian and foreign warships off Vishakhapatnam.

The President of India being the Supreme Commander of the Armed Forces, once in his term, reviews the Indian Naval Fleet as part of the 'President's Fleet Review' (PFR). Many leading nations of the world use the opportunity provided by a Fleet Review to enhance mutual trust and confidence with their maritime neighbours and partners by inviting their ships to participate in the Review. Owing to the many military-diplomatic benefits it accrues to the nation, the Indian Navy is conducting an International Fleet Review 2016, at Vishakhapatnam.

Theme: Navy, Armed Forces, Fleet Review.

## VASANTRAO SRINIVASSA SINAI DEMPO

04.03.2016

500

0.40mill

Mr. Vencatexa Sinai Dempo, Known as Vasantao, was born to Mrs. Satyabhama and Mr.

Srinivassa Sinai Dempo on 4<sup>th</sup> March, 1916. The family home at Calapur (Santa Cruz) in which the young Vasantao grew up was steeped in religiosity and orthodox ritual, from which came his staunch piety towards his family deities and reverence for the Pontiff of the Monastic School to whose sect he belonged. Having studied Marathi, Portuguese and English, he grew aware of the great world of business that lay beyond Goa.



Commencing the trading in commodities sourced overseas, Vasantao made available a wealth of choice to the Goan consumer. Acquiring mining concessions in the late 1930s and early 1940s, he formed V.S. Dempo & Co. Pvt. Ltd., the Group flagship in 1941, assisted by his brother, Mr. Vaikunthrao S. Dempo. Acquiring the ore-rich mine at Bicholim, till today Goa's largest, he set up Dempo Mining Corporation Pvt. Ltd., the flagship's subsidiary, a few years later. Vasantao looked far Eastwards commencing exports to Japan, in particular to Nippon Steel.

The years following Goa's Liberation were those of consolidation and expansion, when his son and eventual successor, Vasudeva V. Dempo, joined in assisting him. Manufacture of calcined petroleum coke, marine paints and baby foods, newspaper publishing, shipping, ship building, civil contracting, real estate developments, travel services, automobile dealerships, and stevedoring, followed.

Vasantao Dempo set the foundations for higher education in newly - liberated Goa. He patronized Goa's most consistently excelling soccer club and supported charitable causes and exerted his influence in promoting Goan industry. Honoring him for his efforts in nation - building, the Government of India conferred upon him the civilian award, "Padmashri".

Vasantao was a man of great charm and enormous dignity. He radiated authority and exuded an unmistakable aura of power. When the end came on 9<sup>th</sup> November, 2000 Vasantao had ensured not only a place for himself in India's industrial history, but also in the hearts and minds of Goans.

Theme ; Personality, Industrialist, Football, Goa.

## NATIONAL ARCHIVES OF INDIA

11.03.16 500 0.50 mill

The National Archives of India (NAI) is the custodian of non-current records of the Government of India and is holding them in trust for the use of the records creators and users at large. It is the biggest repository of the non-current records in South East Asia. The National Archives of India plays a key role in guiding and shaping the development of archives both at the national as well as international level.

Established in 1891 at Calcutta as the Imperial Records Department (IRD), the National Archives of India was later shifted to New Delhi in 1911. The present building of the National Archives of India was constructed in 1926, and the transfer of all records was completed in 1937. After Independence, the IRD was rechristened as National Archives of India.



As the custodian of public records of the Government of India, the regular series of records in the department dates back to the year 1748. The National Archives of India also possesses microfilms of records of Indian interest acquired from the archival repositories located abroad. In addition, there is a rich collection of private papers of eminent Indians as well as a large collection of oriental records comprising manuscripts and various documents such as: parwans, kharitas, farmans etc.

National Archives of India function as an attached office of the Ministry of Culture. It has one Regional Office at Bhopal and three Records Centres at Bhubaneswar, Jaipur and Puducherry.

Theme: Heritage, Archives, Buildings, New Delhi.

## ALLAHABAD HIGH COURT

13.03.2016 500,500 0.50 mill

The High Court of Allahabad was established by a Royal Charter as the High Court of Judicature for the North Western Province on 17<sup>th</sup>



March, 1866 and was seated at Agra. At that time, it comprised of the First Chief Justice - Sir Walter Morgan and five other judges Alexander Ross, William Edwards, William Roberts, Francis Boyle Parson and Charles Arthur Turner.

The High Court had its first sitting on 18.06.1866 at Agra. Thereafter, it was shifted to Allahabad in the year 1869 in the building on Queens Road, now Sarojini Naidu Road. The building in which the high court, Allahabad is seated at present was designed by the famous architect Frank Lishman. Its foundation stone was laid by Sir John Stanley KC., the then Chief Justice on 18.03.1911. The main building with dome shaped pedimented center, engrailed arches, stone balustrades and arcaded wings is a marvelous synthesis of western and eastern architectural styles. The construction of the building was completed on 27.11.1916 and the building was inaugurated by Lord Chemsford, Viceroy & Governor General of India.

The building in which the Lucknow Bench of High Court is located was designed by Mr. W.G. Wood, Executive Engineer. Its construction began in the year

1900 during the administration of Sir A.P. Macdonnel, the erstwhile Lt.Governor of United Province of Agra and Oudh. The building incorporates the best of Rajasthani and Mughal architecture with domes and pillars.

The High Court got the new name of 'High court of Judicature at Allahabad' through a supplementary letter dated on 11.03.1919.

On 26<sup>th</sup> July, 1948 the Chief Court of Oudh merged with High Court of Judicature at Allahabad under the United Provinces High Court (Amalgamation) Order, 1948.

The High court which started functioning with 6 judges and at present, when it is celebrating its 150<sup>th</sup> Anniversary, it has a sanctioned strength of 90 permanent and 70 additional Judges, a total 160 Judges, making it the biggest in the country.

The Advocates of the High Court at principal seat at Allahabad are grouped in two different recognized associations namely High Court Bar Association and Advocates' Association. The Advocates at High Court, Lucknow Bench have their own recognized Bar Association in the name of Oudh Bar Association.

Theme : High courts, Judiciary, Buildings

## INDIA UN WOMEN HE FOR SHE

08.03.16

500

0.51mill

Created by UN Women, the United Nations entity for gender equality and the empowerment of women, the HeForShe solidarity movement for gender equality provides a systematic approach and



targeted platform on which men and boys can engage and become change agents towards the achievement of gender equality. Achieving gender equality in our lifetime requires an innovative, inclusive approach that both recognizes men and boys as partners for women's rights, and acknowledges the ways in which they also benefit from this equality. HeForShe invites men and boys to build on the work of the women's movement as equal partners, crafting and implementing a shared vision of gender equality that will benefit all of humanity.

Since its launch on 20th September, 2014, at the United Nations by Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon and UN Women Global Goodwill Ambassador, Emma Watson, hundreds of thousands of men from around the world including Heads of State and global luminaries, from all walks of life have committed to gender equality. HeForShe has been the subject of more than 2 billion conversations on social media, with off-line activities reaching every corner of the globe.

The ambitious aim of this movement is to mobilize 1 billion men to accelerate the achievement of gender equality. The HeForShe journey begins online with a

simple affirmation that gender equality is not only a women's issue, but a human rights issue that requires the participation and commitment of men.

Men play a critical role in supporting and enabling women's economic empowerment. HeForShe engages male CEOs and other leaders as champions for gender equality within their own organizations, encouraging them to question the status quo and commit to concrete action.

Theme: United Nations, Women.

(Courtesy : Information Sheets, India Post.)

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## RARE, VERY RARE, EXCEPTIONALLY RARE!

A Kind of Philatelic "Theory of Relativity"

Dr. Marcel Kottalat

It may seem strange that the definition of what is rare may be the reason for a long story. We know that rare is simply what is scarce, not usual, and very rare is something that can hardly be obtained. The absolute maximum of rarity is the definition of "unique," signifying that a particular item of a kind exists only in one copy, or at least this should be the case.

A stamp collector does not take long to come upon such designations as "rarity," "scarcity," (or its ideogram "RRR"), "unique item" or others. All auction catalogues make use of these words. However, this phenomenon does not need any pro-found explanation. To collect means, as everybody knows, to gather as many varieties of a species as possible and what makes out the fascination of collecting is lastly the acquisition and accumulation of unusual and thus rare pieces, samples, types, etc., contrary to everyday, ordinary common items, or as philatelists usually say disrespectfully to: mass production.

He who has to offer something, will always praise the characteristics of the item (such as quality, beauty, historical significance, popularity, etc., etc.) to make it desirable and above all its RARITY will be decisive and will induce the collector to acquire it as a "must" for his collection. This makes us easily understand why nowadays an increased commercialisation in practically all fields of collecting precipitates a regular flood of "rarities" on the poor collector, which unfortunately and contrary to the biblical manna has to be paid with hard cash.

The definition of "rarity" in regular linguistic usage merely means QUANTITY, i.e. that of one and the same kind exists only in a small or very small quantity. It is therefore quite justified to define something as rare if it corresponds to this criteria of quantity.

The definition of "rarity" on the other hand, contains another element in the context of the collector's activity, namely it is related to the idea of VALUE. Thus, he

who speak for rarity among collectors will always evoke, be it intentionally or not, the notion of quantity together with value; "This item is rare - thus it must be valuable!"

The idea of rarity-value is indeed widely spread and the best way to underline this thesis is to refer to the "edition creed" of many a collector and speculator. Time and again the following remark is made: "This stamp (or set) is clearly under-rated with regard to its limited edition." Here the simple fact is not taken into account that the edition or rarity constitutes only one element of the offer and that price and value of an object are dictated by the law of supply and demand. This leads us to the conclusion that an object, as rare as it may be, may only be of value if there is a demand for it. Consequently, a rare object is by no means a valuable one. It may be valuable if there is demand for it and it is paid for accordingly; it is however absolutely worthless if nobody wants it.

Therefore, such showy expressions as "scarcity," "rarity," "super-rarity," "unique item" and others must be reduced to their proper meaning. They may be quite correct as far as they are used in connection with quantity. Inasmuch as they are related to the conception of value though, they may lead to some false conclusions which sooner or later will end in some regrettable disappointments. To prevent this was the first concern of these reflections.

In philately there exists another domain in which it is often tackled of rarity. I am hinting at the evaluation of collections at exhibitions. It is a fact that the evaluation of collections by jurors is quite a difficult undertaking. The most important reason, even if it is, not the only one, is the incommensurability of collections, which leaves so much room for individual considerations and judgements at times leading to rather strange and undesirable caprices in medal ranks.

In the aim of finding a solution in this matter, some countries (among them Switzerland and the Federal Republic of Germany) have created a system of points based on so-called "criteria." In Switzerland there are seven criteria for traditional and modern collections, namely:

1. Presentation, title, general impression
2. Condition of pieces
3. Degree of advancement, spread of theme
4. Real rarity
5. Philatelic knowledge evident
6. Degree of difficulty
7. Personal study

It cannot be the aim of this article, to judge the value of or non-value of such a system, of points. The only criteria we are interested in is that of the "real rarity."

Contrary to all other criteria that may be a question of taste or that may be evaluated with more or less difficulty, the point dealing with the rarity of an item tends to be regarded as the one clear, unquestionable criteria open to no problems. Speaking in terms of quantity, this is surely correct.

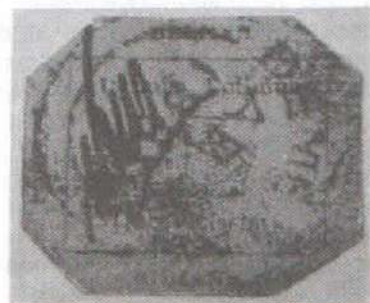
However, by precisely stating "real rarity," the

Swiss regulations probably intend to clarify the definition of quantity. The German regulations are even more precise. They stipulate "rarity, not catalogue value."

The president of the FIP, Ladislav Dvoracek, in the aim of facilitating and improving the work of the jury has elaborated a scale of rarity, laid down in an article of the exhibition catalogue of the PRAGA 1978 that presents itself as follows:

Rarity	Number of copies known	Rarity
1. unique item	1	unique
2. world rarity	2-10	of exceptional rarity
3. international rarity	11- 30	extremely rare
4. great rarity	31-100	very rare
5. medium rarity	101- 300	rare
6. little rarity	301-1000	less rare
7. valuable material	1001/- 3000	valuable material

Dvoracek has even extended this scale. In a second step and "as a possible variant" medal ranks depend on the rarity of pieces shown in an exhibit. This looks as follows:



Unique

Medals of the FIP Degree	Existence of rarities						
	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
Bronze medal							0
Silver-bronze medal						0	0
Silver medal					0	0	0
Silver-gilt medal				0	0	0	0
Gold medal			0	0	0	0	0
Great gold medal		0	0	0	0	0	0
Grand Prix	0	0	0	0	0	0	0

"Proposal of principles for the Evaluation of Exhibits at World Exhibition and International Exhibitions organised under the patronage or the auspices of the FIP."

To determine the points regarding rarity, the jury merely has to count the existing rarities and to grade them according to the scale and their real degree of rarity. This seemingly should guarantee an objective evaluation of rarities in philatelic exhibits.

Unfortunately, these very considerations do neglect one particular criteria in the development of philately during the past few decades, namely the phenomenon of an increased specialisation. One quick look into an exhibition catalogue of the last few years proves how fast specialised collections have increased and gained importance, and thus imposing a new dimension on the definition of rarity. As a matter of fact, a more specialised collection, which leaves former

collecting of basic stamps more and more behind, is bound to contain more rarities.

I wish to give you an example. I have been collecting cancellations of the Canton of Freiburg for more than 40 years now. I have not only tried to collect every local cancellation, but to obtain all kinds of cancellation variations, different cancellation colours, secondary cancellations if existing (PP, PD, CHARGE, etc.) as well as service, Military and Free of Charge cancellations.

Whenever possible, I have collected the various cancellations on letters with or without stamps. Such an extreme specialisation has inevitably led to the fact that my collection today contains some hundred "rarities," which in the quantity-Scale of Mr. Dvoracek would figure between degree 1 (unique) and degree 4 (great rarity). I dare say that this collection as far as its rarity is concerned (merely from the quantity point of view), easily pushes any Old-Switzerland-collection despite the Double Geneva, Zurich 4 and 6, Basel Dove, Vaud 4 and 5, etc., into the background. Considering that the object is nicely presented, its spread with almost 400 sheets above the average, I believe to have a definite philatelic knowledge, etc., etc., there can be no doubt about my being a candidate for the "Grand Prix" on occasion of the next exhibition.

Do not worry, dear reader, I am not the victim of an acute crisis of megalomania or presumptuousness (otherwise I would rather be a candidate for a psychiatric clinic). I simply could not resist the temptation to caricature and to ridicule to a slightly exaggerated degree. All the more so as I have my own home-made object of demonstration, namely my Freiburg cancellations, on hand, thus making me the target of my own gloss.

What I want to prove is that the criteria "rarity" as a mere definition of quantity is quite unsuitable when evaluating collections. The Green rue of Romont is more rare than the Basel Dove and the official railway cancellation of Vaulruz in italics a real rarity compared to the Double Geneva. And yet, nobody would seriously attempt to rank these two stamps mentioned before. Here again the definition of "rarity" has to be reduced to its proper meaning. Otherwise we shall run the risk that within a few years' exhibitions will only show "Freiburg cancellations," "Postal stationery of Montenegro," "Postal history of the Antarctic" or similar secondary domains.

Being a philately enthusiast myself, I have no objection whatsoever against any such collections. On the contrary, from proper experience I know how much pleasure such collections can give. However, I do not overrate the relative value and the relative significance of such an object and it was the second concern of my reflections to draw your attention to the possible danger inherent to such an over-estimation in respect to "rarities" in philatelic collections.

(Courtesy : Gibbons Stamp monthly, 1980)

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## THE ATTRACTION OF OVERPRINTS

### "FILIGRANE"

WHEN sitting for your B.Sc. (Philat.) examination - if any - one of the questions might well be this: "Name the country first to issue an overprinted stamp of any kind, and give date."

That, I fancy, would floor most of you, unless the subject had been studied just previously. As a matter of fact the answer is not perfectly clear-cut. Would, for instance, the unissued surcharge of France - 25 c. on 20 c. - about 1852 be allowed? Or the manuscript one appertaining to Hawaii a year or so later? Both are scarcely to be termed "issues" and dates seem somewhat vague, too.

No, on the whole the best answer is dear old Mauritius, with that semicircular "fourpence" definitely overprinted and issued in 1854. No doubt that would satisfy the examiners.

Among foreign countries, surprisingly enough, Cuba holds a very good claim to precedence in the matter, with its locally-done "y£" surcharges in 1855. Nobody that I have met so far has been able to tell just what the "y" stands for. My private theory is that this letter is not meant for a "y" at all, but a "v" standing for "vale". The local printer, being short of "v's", chose "y's" that were long in the neck and looked something like "v's", anyway. No? Well, perhaps not.

Question 2: "What country with more than a few years to its philatelic credit has never issued a single surcharge?"

To this most people would answer, "The United States", but if so the examiner might counter with, "What about Molly Pitcher?" and go on to say that he was referring actually to Afghanistan. As good an example, possibly, but then is Mrs. Pitcher's name a surcharge? An overprint merely, you will declare.

Well, then, let's consult the late Fred. Melville's excellent vocabulary in his last work, *Modern Stamp Collecting*. Here we read that "Surcharge ... denotes a printed addition to a completed stamp; in fact an overprint." In that case is a precancel a surcharge?

Enough of argument, however, though by the same token the subject wouldn't form a bad topic for the next club debate, would it? For the purposes of this article we will use the word "overprint" in future, which will include anything whatever appertaining to official alterations to the face of existing postage stamps, so long as it does not alter their status as such.

Overprints have always exercised a peculiar fascination for me, though I find a tendency to shrink away, muttering soft nothings, on the part of many of my friends when offered overprints during the bourse. Some of them, that is, and mostly those in a stage resembling that of the chrysalis - namely, inexperienced and inert, philatelically speaking.

Truth to tell, overprints got a bad name during the last twenty years of the Victorian era. And indeed there

were some terrible outbreaks of the kind within that period, when Straits Settlements issued no fewer than sixty four examples, closely followed by Ceylon with sixty-three, while even little Tonga got away with a couple of dozen. At the same time the philatelic press so universally condemned this alleged "exploitation of the stamp collector" that a certain stigma has remained attached to these countries - almost to the present day. Not quite, nevertheless, for most overprints among earlier Straits and Ceylon fetch excellent prices to-day, and "forget and forgive" also applies to the Tongans.

Not long before the last war an awful fuss was made about the three or four surcharged varieties emanating from the Cayman Isles. People wrote direct for supplies but could not get them. Look at present prices, however, and the general keenness of collectors to acquire these specimens. Incidentally it was interesting to turn up an old number of the Monthly Journal on this subject and read a correspondent's letter. In this he relates how the then Postmistress at Grand Cay wrote him regretting that none of the ½d. and 1d. surcharges he had ordered were left, so she enclosed current unsurcharged ½d. and 1d. stamps instead. This gentleman had, however, little to grumble about since her letter was itself franked with the last copy remaining in stock of the 2½d. on 4d.!

These particular stamps of Cayman Isles remind me of one fact that many of the wobblers re-overprints seem to overlook - namely, that forgers seldom if ever tackle adding a surcharge when it involves obtaining stamps that are themselves costly in a "natural" state. Obviously it wouldn't pay them.

Thus Caymans are all pretty safe also the two Gambians, several of the earliest British Honduras, and many Turks Islands, especially those involving the rare lilac and others is Tobago, South Australia, etc. Then again, a fair number of overprinted stamps simply don't exist with that particular colour.

In any case we owe it to a long line of "investigators", including S.G. catalogue Editors, that all that can be known is known to-day concerning overprints. Surely, then, the doubter can set their minds at rest (a) by dealing only with firms known to be thoroughly reliable but none the less sound - (b) by taking the trouble to find out details for themselves before purchasing or exchanging.

True enough, the latter does mean little bother and some study for the inexperienced, but what is that when the really keen collector is concerned. To help him there are various works reference, willing club fellow - member articles in journals, and expert committees in the last resort, who we doubtless charge a small fee, worth it in the case of a rarity, but of course, quite unnecessary if pre caution has been taken. In actual fact the vast majority of overprints have not been seriously forged at all, mainly because the game was not worth the candle owing to comparatively low prices obtainable.

There is actually an enormous field of interest and opportunity for study among overprinted stamps of kinds, and in these days of special a very wide field opens before

a collector taking up overprints as particular line. Just consider, instance, the various reasons that inspired governments to deal thus stamps, and that quite apart from large group of overprints that alter original values :-

1. Wars: Stamps of countries occupied have been time and again and overprint appropriately, e.g. Iraq, German colonial issues (various Austria publican overprints 1919), Belgian German occupations, also " and War stamps of all kinds are through the last great conflict to mention more recent ones such those emanating from Free France.
  2. Disasters, relief funds, etc.: e.g. Barbados 1907, widows and orphans, Hungary 1915, Red Cross funds, Belgium 1918, British Honduras 1932, etc.
  3. Fiscal and other non-postage stamps converted to postal use by suitable overprint. These exist in large numbers among Central and South American Republics, such as Chile, Colombia, Salvador, Nicaragua (ad lib.) and Paraguay. Others also elsewhere, viz. Portugal, Persia, etc.
  4. Air overprints of various kinds - by representations of plane, Zeppelin, or by "Air post," "Air Mail," "Flugpost" and other such appropriate wordings. /needless to specify all, but Newfoundland, Egypt, Danzig, Brazil, Papua, Dutch Indies and a score of others come readily to mind.
  5. "Special Occasions." This group could be made to cover a wide area, possibly even including overprinted charity issues, and certainly such sets as the Locust campaign stamps from Transjordan. Others recalled are the Philatelic exhibition sets of Finland, Italy, France, etc.; the Royal marriage, Tonga, Egypt's Port Fouad stamps, and the different Malaya - Borneo exhibition sets.
  6. Manuscript, typewritten or hand-stamped overprints. These are grouped together because there are but few of the first available, and nearly all expensive - viz the Labuan dollar, the Griqualand and Trinidad pennies, the Hawaii 5c. on 13 c., the New - Foundland Morgan - Raynham flight, various postal clerks' initials on early British Guianas and B.E. Africa, and a few more I have unearthed from among the lists of Fernando Poo, Armenia and Pietersburg; Possibly there are one or two more.
- If you exclude the Uganda earlies I can only quote one other type written affair - the Tongans of 1896.
- In hand stamps you will find much more scope than might be imagined, it to be tedious. I will just mention selection - Albania, Bolivia, Epirus, Colombia (departmentals), Dutch Indies, Nejd, Thrace, French Sudan, Belgian Congo, Germany in 1901, etc.
7. Overprints denoting changes in currency: Quite a

number of these cropped up after the last war. We can begin in with early Fijis and some Cyprus, going on to the captured German Colonies showing British coinage on the "Yacht" type. Among the later ones of this sort are a good range of Saar, Jugo - slavia, Memel, Lithuania and Haiti - to mention a few

8. Stamps of other countries or colonies utilised in a different one by appropriate overprinting - apart from war reasons. Here we can start off with a good handful of British possessions, such as first issues of Gibraltar, Ascension, Barbuda, Zanzibar, British Somaliland, Sudan, British East Africa, Burma, Eire, Niger Coast, Nyasaland and Zululand. In fact, it might be wise to confine this particular list to British possessions, as the only similar foreign one that I can think of is Andorra, unless you include Guanacaste and certain Italian acquisitions - or ex-acquisitions.
9. Overprints that consist mainly or in part of inscriptions in Arabic and other strange exotic scripts. Here the field could be as wide as fancy dictated, and plenty of matter found in the following countries: China (Republican issues, chiefly), Corea, Egypt, Hejaz, Palestine and Transjordan, Japan, Turkey and Siam. If these were not sufficient, the list could be extended to Russia and Greece.  
  
What an opportunity for study here, not to mention the acquisition of a rudimentary knowledge of Arabic, Aramaic, Hebrew, etc.
10. The very extensive group consisting of Officials and Departmentals of all kinds, including " O.S." and such extras as our own "I.Rs," "O.Ws" and so on. No need, surely, to give any further pointers - their name is legion in this group.
11. Postage Dues. Not a very exciting or extensive list, possibly, but we can start off with Grenada, Labuan, North Borneo (a nice lot), Transjordan and one or two Egyptians, then proceeding to foreign lands with their " Portos" and suchlike in fair profusion.
12. And last, "Specimens" of all kinds, including "Muestras," "Saggios," "Musters " and so forth. Here, of course, the scope is again almost unlimited and there is much to be said for a thoroughly representative collection of this nature, showing, as it would, early printings of a vast number of very interesting stamps - in many cases almost unobtainable for the average collector, otherwise.

When starting on this thesis I had, as a matter of fact, no idea of the extent of the subject, and am now more inclined to advise the reader wanting a new line to take up only one of the above baker's dozen at a time.

Having made good, so to speak, with that he can then proceed with the next that takes his fancy and so on, progressively, through the entire gamut, as he so desires. Writing without the book - in this case, S.G. Parts I and II, of course - I should say that Nos. 2, 4, 5, 8, 9 and 12 in list are the most fool-proof. Having tackled these, the overprint specialist, with appetite whetted and knowledge increased, would be in a better position to proceed further. Aye, overprints of one kind or another offer a most fascinating "special line," Remember, it's mainly ignorance that - breeds fear, and why be ignorant concerning so important a section of your own special hobby?

(Courtesy: Stamp collecting, August 1981).

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## DISTRICT POSTS OF MADRAS PRESIDENCY

L G. Shenoi

The Postal system of, what was then, British India has earned a glamorous position in the history of communications. A parallel system which existed side by side with the postal system during the nineteenth century, however, has drawn comparatively little attention from the students of the history of posts. This was the District Dawk system variously called District Post, Zamindary post, District Tapal, Taluk Tapal etc.

The 'Story of the Indian Post Office' has this to say about this system :-

"As the General Post, in its early stages, did not cover the entire area occupied by the Hon'ble East India Company's Government, another organisation, the District Post was developed, connecting the headquarters of each district with internal police and revenue stations, in accordance with the local requirements of the District.

"This localised postal system established for official purposes and known as the 'District Post' was manned by the District Officers or other local subordinates. And the expenditure on the service was met by a cess levied on the zamindars in Bengal and the North Western Provinces (now Uttar Pradesh), or on the local people in other areas, supplemented by Central grants-in-aid. The cess on zamindars was the off-shoot of an earlier arrangement, by which landholders were responsible for undertaking the conveyance of official correspondence. This was later commuted into money payments by "Act VIII" of 1862.' When the money received on zamindars' cess amount fell short of the actual requirements for the maintenance of the District Posts, the deficit was met by grants-in-aid from the Imperial Government. Nearly in all cases, the revenue from cess had to be supplemented by these Imperial grants-in-aid. In the absence of a central authority to co-ordinate the activities and lay down uniformity of procedure, the services were extremely unsatisfactory and varied from area to area and there was no cohesiveness in the postal system as a whole.



"The delivery of the letters received by the District Posts, as effected through the police and the village chowkidars, who had no inclination to take pains in discharging their responsibilities and delivered the mail 'in quite a leisurely manner.' Although the primary object of the District Post was to deliver district and other official correspondence and parcels, it also undertook on behalf of the Imperial Post Office to provide for the collection and distribution of private correspondence not only in the town areas, but also in villages which they served at intervals. As could be expected under such arrangements, a sixth of the covers sent to the police and other subordinates for delivery in the interior villages were returned by them as undelivered."

The Post Office Act of 1854 stipulated that: 'It shall be lawful for the Governor-General of India in Council to frame Rules for the management of all or any Zamindaree, Thannah or other District - dawks, and to declare, from time to time, what portions of this Act shall be applicable to such dawks and to persons employed in connection therewith. General Rules relating to the receipt, despatch and delivery of letters by District posts were approved on 12th August, 1854. The following are some extracts from these rules:-

1. "Whenever any local establishment may be maintained for the conveyance or delivery of the police, revenue or other official communications, it shall also be made use for the conveyance and delivery of private correspondence, and be designated as District Post.
3. "Such Police stations and other public Offices as may be selected by the local Governments shall be constituted District Post Offices.
6. "Any person wishing to post a registered letter at any District Post Office can do so. One anna of the registration fee will be allowed to the person registering the letter, the remaining three annas must be sent with the letter by the same day's despatch to the nearest Post Office.
9. "Fifteen minutes before the hour at which the despatches of the Office are usually made up, the letter Box will be opened and the letters in it taken out. Those addressed to places to which there is a direct communication through the District post will be separated from all other letters sorted and packed in covers addressed to the Officers in charge of the District Post Office from which they will be delivered. The remaining letters will be made up into one packet and addressed to the nearest Post Office with which he has communication."

The District Posts in the 1860's were placed under the Supervision and control of the Indian Post Office. The 'Story of the Indian Post Office' states:

"The District Post in Madras was the third system to pass under the jurisdiction of the Imperial Post Office. In this service prior to 1867, the arrangements for village delivery of correspondence were very primitive. Correspondence delivered by subordinate village officials, who not only took no interest in the delivery of non-official

correspondence, but even went to the extent of extorting illegal fees for delivering private letters. There were no letter boxes and no orderliness in the system, either in the matter of delivery or collection. The money grants were rarely spent in their entirety. In 1867 one district was transferred to the Imperial post as an experimental measure, but by 1873 eleven more districts passed into the hands of the Imperial Post."

The District Posts system throughout the country was abolished by 1st April, 1906.

The District Posts were primarily meant for carrying official dak. The members of the public were not allowed to make use of it for a long time, and even after being thrown open for private correspondence they were utilised by the public very sparingly. As a result, the mails bearing the imprint of the District Post Offices which have survived are pretty scarce. An attempt is made here, to illustrate some of the hand stamps used by the District Post Offices of Madras Presidency during the period 1855-1873.

The District Post Offices of Madras Presidency used the designation T.T. (Taiuk Tapal), D.T. (District Tapal) or District Post Office. Renouf in his masterly work on Early Indian Cancellations has stated that the earliest type of a District post cancellation in Madras Presidency was the Circle of Bars. He designated this as Type 2b cancellation, Jal Cooper designated it as Type 2c. According to Renouf: "There are many recorded covers from places in the Tanjore District, including Puddoocottah, Mannarcoody, Aranthyang and Trivadi. These show a large elliptical stamp Talook Tapal (District Post) along the lower curve and the name of the post office along the major axis. An alternative cancellation is a large semi-circle containing the same details."

Jal Cooper has illustrated the semicircular despatch handsamp of TANJORE / T.T. / PUTTOOCOTTAH dated 8-8-1856 on page 23 of his book on 'Early Indian Cancellations.' The Stamp on the cover has been cancelled by the Circle of Bars Cancellations. Incidentally, which was the District Post Office with the name PUTTOOCOTTAH' or 'PUDDOOCOTTAH' mentioned by Jal Cooper and Renouf? One's mind would certainly rush to the town by that name which was the capital of the Native State of the same name, but the identification may not be correct. It is doubtful whether there was any post office, District or otherwise, in Pooducotah State, in or around 1856. It is more likely that the office was 'Puttoocottah' under Tanjore, which was later on converted into a regular post office in 1866, and given the office number 214.

The first item of District post mail illustrated here is a letter posted at a district office in or near Madura in June 1856. The stamp on the letter was cancelled by the Circle of Bars Cancellation, the despatch stamp is a circular seal with provision for writing the name of the office in manuscript. Unfortunately the manuscript writing is missing and hence, the office name is not known. The letter was forwarded by the District Post Office to Madura P.O. from where it was sent to Madras on 30th June, 1856. The letter arrived in Madras on 3rd July.

Another item in my collection is a letter sent from Villupuram addressed to Madras in June 1855. Unfortunately the stamp has been removed from the letter and, hence, the cancellation used is not known. The despatch handstamp is of the semi-circular type with S.A.T.T. at the top and VILLUPURAM at the bottom, with the date 21-6-55 written in manuscript (see illustration). The letter was forwarded to Tindevanum P.O. and from there despatched to Madras. S.A.T.T. stands for South Arcot Talook Tapal. Renouf has recorded the use of N.A.T.T. (North Arcot Talook Tapal) in respect of Naggery District Post Office.



I have a letter posted at Tiruvaiuru District Post Office on 18th April, 1863, addressed to Madura. The stamp was cancelled by the Madras type 6 cancellation which appears to have been applied at Negapatam P.C to which the letter was forwarded for onward despatch on 19th April to Madura Via Trichinopoly. The semi-circular despatch stamp of Tiruvaiuru may be seen. It may be mentioned here that I have seen similar semi-circular hand - stamps emanating from the Andhra region of Madras Presidency using the letter D.T. (District Tapal) in place of 'T.T'



From about 1865, it appears that office numbers were allotted to District Post Offices and they were provided cancellors incorporating the office number, instead of the old dumb cancellor. The cancellation was triangular in shape filled with rows of dots or dashes framing in the centre the letter 'D' [District Post] over a number. This has been given the type number 29 by Renouf and Jal Cooper. Illustration shows a cover posted in Vallam District Post Office [in Tanjore District] on 4th March, 1866, addressed to Poodoocottah, carrying the triangular cancellation. The number under 'D' is not clear but may be 219, which was its allotted number, towards the end of 1866. The despatch stamp used was the familiar semi-circular Tanjore T.T. handstamp similar to that shown earlier.

The same type of triangular cancellation was used by the Tinnevely District Post Office in 1869. The office number in the cancellation is D/450. The despatch handstamp is of elliptical shape incorporating 'Tinnevely' in the first line, 'District Post Office' in the second line 'Paid' in the third line. The letter was forwarded to Palamcottah Post Office, and despatched from there to Madras on 17th October, 1869. The latest date of use of this cancellation that I have in my collection is on a cover sent to Cork, Ireland, in 1877. The office number is D/101. Unfortunately, only a portion of the cover is available. The piece has 12 stamps of East India, ½ anna with 11 of these cancellation on them.

(Courtesy : Ind Dak, February 1986).

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## SUBMARINES ON STAMPS

Alfred J. Moses

Collecting stamp 'themes' has gained greatly in popularity in recent years and the rise in the number of commemorative stamps, issued by many countries, is a major contributor to this trend. With missile-armed nuclear submarines of several countries on constant patrol, this arm of naval warfare has aroused great interest. For a number of years, stamps have been issued depicting submarines, and philatelists can share the increased interest in submarines via their hobby.

Submarines are defined as naval craft that are capable of submerging, proceeding under water, and attacking ships. This widely accepted definition must be modified to accommodate some submarines that were used for research, or for carrying mail and other cargo. All Stanley Gibbons-listed submarine stamps fall into the first definition. The first practical submarine is attributed to C. J. Drebbel, a Dutchman living in England. Drebbel's submarine was propelled by 12 oarsmen and was able to operate submerged for as long as 15 hours; she was demonstrated to the King on the Thames in 1620. Drebbel's submarine is not depicted on stamps and would today be more aptly be defined as a mobile diving-bell. Robert Fulton's Nautilus, launched in France in 1800, made a number of dives in the River Seine and near Le Havre, covering a distance of 500 metres under water with three men on board. She was propelled by a hand-worked screw propeller. On one occasion, the Nautilus remained submerged for six hours, receiving air through a tube that extended up through the water (snorkel forerunner). Later, a compressed air tank served to replenish the air on board. Efforts to interest Napoleon I into financing a new submarine failed. Fulton's Nautilus is a real forerunner of the modern submarine and it is shown along with a modern submarine on Monaco stamp S.G.745. Robert Fulton's role in the development of the steamship in the United States is well known and commemorated philatelically.



In the year 1870, Jules Verne wrote his famous book '20,000 Leagues Under the Sea', and this book described the fictional-submarine Nautilus, shown on France S.G. 1251, and Monaco S.G. 537. Spain S.G. 1671 illustrates the Spanish submarine Pera that Lt. Peral built in 1888; this craft was propelled by electric batteries and was armed with a torpedo tube. Rumania, a nation not

generally considered to be a naval power, issued S.G. C65 in the year 1936, showing the submarine Delfinul ploughing through heavy seas. This submarine was completed in 1931 and commissioned in 1936. She was severely damaged in World War II and scrapped in 1957.



The Spanish Republican Government issued during the Spanish Civil War in 1938 a set of six stamps and a souvenir sheet, both imperforate and perforated, and showing three different submarines. This material was issued for postal service by submarine between Barcelona and Minorca and is now considered by Stanley Gibbons to have served a postal purpose; it is listed also by Michel and Yvert & Tellier.

Poland's pre - World War II navy had several submarines and two of them escaped when the Germans occupied the Polish coast in 1939. These escaped submarines reported to the Polish government in Exile, located in London. One of these submarines, the Orzel, is shown on stamps S.G. 485 and 497, where the latter is an overprint on S.G. 485 to commemorate the capture of Monte Cassino by the Poles in 1944. The Orzel was lost in action in June 1940. The role of the Polish Air Force in the Battle of the Atlantic is indicated by the action of a Polish air force plane against a German submarine on S.G. 486. The three stamps mentioned here were issued by the Polish Government in Exile for correspondence from Polish ships and some Polish military camps in Britain.

A German submarine of 1943 is shown on S.G. C819 and a German submarine S.G. C864. In addition to these wholly legitimate German issues, a Gibbons - unrecognised stamp was issued in March 1945 for posting of mail from military personnel, entrapped on the Hela Peninsula in the Baltic, using a submarine. The stamp depicts a submarine but apparently only surface ships were used to carry mail from Hela so that the stamp was not used as intended. The stamp is listed in the Michel catalogue.

In 1942, the Greeks captured the Italian submarine Perla and S.G. 652 of Greece shows the Greek corvette H.N.S. Hyacinth towing the Perla. The Perla was later renamed H.H.M. Matrozos by Greece. Turkish stamps show two former United States submarines - S.G. 1412 shows T.C.G. Sakarya (formerly U.S.S. Boarfish) and S.G. 2134 shows T.C.G. Piri Reis (formerly U.S.S. Mapiro). St. Pierre and Miquelon honoured the giant French submarine Surcouf by S.G. 303. This ship had a surface displacement of 2880 tons and an undersea displacement of 4304 tons, and was commissioned in 1929. She even carried a small seaplane aboard! The submarine on Indonesia S.G. 549 is probably of Soviet origin.

With the commissioning of the American nuclear submarine U.S.S. Nautilus (SSN - 571) in 1955, we entered the nuclear age and this ship is shown on Monaco S.G. 538, and United States S.G. 1127. Great Britain's nuclear submarine HMS Dreadnought is illustrated on Gibraltar S.G. 211. More recently, France has joined the ranks of nuclear navies, as is evident from French stamp S.G. 1849, showing the Le Redoutable and the Soviet Union has Redoutable and the Soviet Union has relaxed her security restrictions sufficiently to depict the nuclear (anti - submarine) submarine Leninsky Komsomol on S.G. 3845. This craft of the 'N' class also shown in 1969/1970 edition of Jane's fighting ships.

It is evident from this list of submarines that stamps with their high quality illustrations are not only a source of pleasure to the topical collector, but also provide fine illustrations for the naval historian and the educator.

(Courtesy : Stamp Monthly, July 1973).

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## WATER MARKS IN INDIAN STAMPS

G.B. Siddappa

The philatelists generally knew that the paper used for printing of stamps bears water mark. It is of course, every Traditional or Country collector is expected to know the water marks along with other technical details of each stamp. The other information such as type of paper, printing process, size of the stamp, number of stamps in a sheet, total number of stamps printed, colours used and many other facts also expected to be known. These are, of course, may not be necessary for a thematic collector, but for a Traditional collector it is a must. The study of water marks is not only important but also interesting. I would like to discuss among the said technical points with the readers, about the water marks keeping in view of INDIA country collection. Before dealing this subject, one should also know about all aspects of "Water Marks" in general i.e., what is water mark? How it appears on paper and why the water marked paper is being used in printing of postage stamps? Yes, a particular mark invisible for general view on the paper and it is made to appear while processing. A particular design was woven in the wire nets used for taking the pulp out of the vats. In the place where the metal design is present, the paper is little thinner. This can be seen well against the light. Now a days while the paper is produced by machine the pulp during wet position being passed through the cylinders or the dandyrolls. The required mark in the form of wire design will be fixed to the dandy rolls. This causes thinning of the paper where the wire design is impressed into the pulp. Another way is the unfinished paper, in the humidity of 80% is made to pass through the cylinders meant for this purpose. Now we can get the water mark in the finished paper. By this way the water marked paper is produced. The prime intention of using the water marked paper is to prevent stamp forgeries.

Let us know about different water marked paper used to print the Indian stamps from time to time since the first issue of 1854. As you know the first stamp of the World the "PENNY BLACK" of great Britain issued on 6th May 1840 was printed on paper with single small crown water mark, the same procedure continued in India also as she was under British rule, but administered by the "EAST INDIA COMPANY". So the first Indian stamps were printed on the water mark of "COAT OF ARMS" of East India Company (See Fig. 1.)

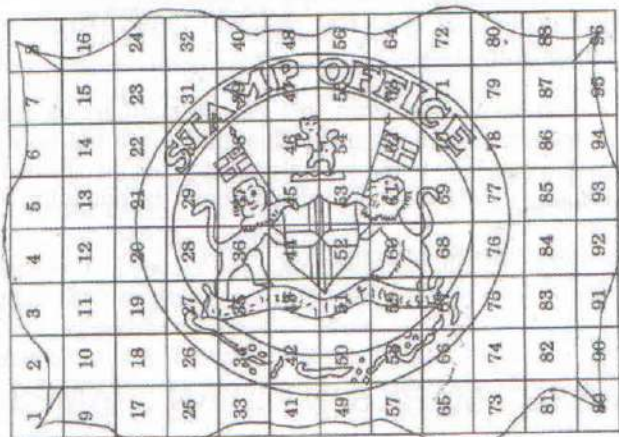


Fig 1

It can be seen by observing the Fig. No. 1, this water mark fully does not appear on each stamp as there is a single large mark on whole sheet. Only some part of this can be seen and some of the stamps even may not be with any marks. For example some stamps in Half Anna and One Anna sheets, position No. 10 to 15, and 82 to 87 etc., do not bear any mark at all. Whereas position No. 1 to 8, and 89 to 96 etc., bear only bent line. Please observe carefully the illustration for the position of each stamp in full sheet in Fig. 1. Each position of the number is of a stamp and one sheet contains 96 stamps as shown in the Fig 1.

Her Majesty QUEEN VICTORIA assumed administration of India from the East India Company on 1st Nov. 1858. So the postal authority thought to change the water mark under the new administration. As they could not come to a decision immediately, they printed and issued stamps without water mark on 9-5-1860, to meet the urgent requirements. But in 1865 single "ELEPHANT HEAD" water mark was introduced. (Fig. 2.)

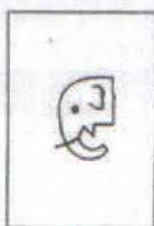


Fig 2

This mark was in force up to 1876. This is called "Single water mark" because each stamp in the sheet bears only one mark in full. The stamps printed without water mark during 1860 to 1865 are re-issued along with other stamps in "Elephant Head" water mark.

Again in 1882 the design of water mark "single big five pointed star" replaced the "Elephant head" and used up to the issue of 1926. The star stands on two points is the correct position.



Fig 3

The Govt. of India has installed India security press in Nasik, (MAHARASTRA) in 1926. So the contract for printing of postage stamps for India with Dela Rue of England was terminated. The wholly owned Govt. Press took the task of printing postage and Revenue stamps for India. Again this change brought discontinuation of single star mark and introduced "Multiple Stars" in small size (Fig. 4). In these issues we find the same five pointed small stars-one or two stars in full and some part of the mark on each stamp. Here I would like to make special mention that the stamps of half Anna, One Anna, Two annas and Four Annas were reprinted in India from the same die, in the new water mark paper. But the inscription "India Postage" changed as "India Postage and Revenue". This water mark continued even after independence of India from British rule upto 1958. But the famous four stamps of "MAHATMA GANDHI" of 1948 are printed on unwater marked special paper by M/s. Courvoisier of Lachaux- de-Fonds - a private company of Switzerland.



Fig 4

The 3rd regular stamps "INDIA MAP" was reprinted in 1958, exactly in the same size, colour and denomination, but with new water mark "Multiple Ashoka Pillar". (Fig. 5.)



Fig 5

Again in 1979-80 the Dept. has issued 6th regular series in the denomination of 15 and 25 paise. Those were printed with new water mark i.e., two horizontal lines of stars which are mirror images of each other and in between the lines with the words "INDIA GOVERNMENT". (Fig. 6.)



Fig 6

In the recent years use of water mark paper is restricted to the stamps of regular series only. The commemorative or the special stamps are being printed on non-water mark special paper. In old days also some of the special stamps i.e., Jawaharlal Nehru mourning issue of 12-6-1964, St. Thomas on 2-12-1964 (Pope Paul's visit to India) are printed on paper without any water mark.

The fun of the Indian stamps are with the existence of inverted water marks, both in pre and post-independence periods. The India stamp collector should look into this variety and make a special note in their Album pages where such stamps were collected. For example : The First stamp of independent



Fig 7

India 3 1/2 Annas issued on 21st Nov. 1947, known with "inverted" Multiple Star water mark. The correct and inverted position is shown in Fig. 7.

One should be proud of himself for having such rare collection. Apart from this inverted variety, some of the regular issues are found with water mark sideways both right and left. The printing of stamps with sideways watermark is due to save the valuable paper, according to the suitability of the size of the stamp. Such printing will be allowed officially, otherwise again it will be called an error in water mark.

In such cases the collectors are advised to refer the standard catalogues like "PHILA" Calcutta and S.G. of England to enhance their knowledge about this subject.

I hope the above, discussion of "Water Marks" in Indian stamps will enrich the knowledge of the readers.

(Courtesy : Souvenir, Karnataka Exhibition, 1986)

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## AUSTRALIA'S

### Stamps of 1976 Olympic games

Australia Issued four stamps marking the 1976 Olympic Games were issued on 14th July, 1976 - the nearest practicable date to the opening of the Games on Saturday, 17th July, 1976.

The series, which was designed by Mr. Arthur Leydin of Sydney with assistance from Mr. Birchett and Mr. O'Brien, both of Sydney, comprises two different 18c stamps, a 25c stamp and a 40c stamp. Gymnastics and Soccer are shown on the 18c values. Diving on the 25c value, and Cycling on the 40c value. In each design, stylized figures have been used to represent the various sporting events. The stamps were on general sale at all post offices for approximately two weeks and will be continued on sale at Australia Post philatelic sales centres for up to twelve months from the issue date, provided stocks last. They are also available in a souvenir pack, at official post offices. The official first day cover for this series was also designed by Mr. Arthur Leydin.

The four stamps were printed by multicolour photogravure, on the Chambon machine, in sheets of 100 on unwatermarked paper containing luminescence, by the Note Issue Department of the Reserve Bank of Australia, Melbourne. Stamp size is 37.5 mm x 25 mm or vice versa; the Soccer and Cycling stamps are in horizontal format and the Diving and Gymnastics are in vertical format.

Australia was one of the Five nations to participate in the first, of the Modern Olympic Games held in Athens in 1896 and has participated in every Olympiad since.

The current Olympic Games stamps are the four-set of Olympic stamps issued by Australia. Six different stamps were issued to honour the XVIIth Olympiad held in

Melbourne in. 1956; two stamps were issued for the 1968 Mexico Olympic Games; and four stamps were issued for the XXth Olympiad held in Munich in 1972.

The Decision to include a series of four Olympic Games stamps in the 1975 stamp programme was made at a Stamp Advisory Committee meeting in 1973, Members discussed possible subjects for the basis of the designs and the subjects chosen were Gymnastics, diving soccer and Cycling. This series was then included in the 1976 stamp programme submitted to the Postmaster - General.

At the next monthly meeting of the Stamp Advisory committee, the selection of an artist suitable for the type of treatment desired for the stamp designs was discussed and it was decided to obtain examples of work by various artists for examination,

At a subsequent meeting the work of various artists was examined and one of the work was found suitable for the art treatment envisaged by the Committee for the series. In view of the time factor, Mr. Arthur Leydin (a graphic designer member of the Committee) was invited by the other members to expand his ideas for the series by means of sketches.

Mr. Leydin, prepared four colour sketches' which were tabled at the August -1974 meeting, for examination and as a result he was given a commission to prepare two alternative sketches for each of the four subjects Cycling, Diving, Gymnastics and Soccer. In presenting his designs Mr. Leydin explained that the colours of the stamps were not realistic but deliberate in their selection to avoid conflict of race and "colour"

### ARTWORK

Mr. Leydin then designed art work for the series with assistance from Sydney artist Mr. Des O'Brien and Mr. Rodney Birchett, Two essays for each of the subjects were tabled for examination by the Stamp Advisory Committee in each case design "A" was recommended for adoption subject to minor alterations to the positioning of the typography.

Mr. Leydin's four revised designs, with modified typography, were viewed by the Committee at the December 1974 meeting. Minor alterations were recommended including the enlarging of the denomination figures.

Four modified designs, prepared by Mr. Leydin, were examined at a committee meeting in March 1975 and recommended by the members for adoption.

The recommended designs were then submitted to the Postmaster-General for approval. Since the inception of Australia Post on 1<sup>st</sup> July, 1975 the designs are submitted to the Managing Director of Australia's Post for approval.

On receipt of the Postmaster-General's approval the stamp designer proceeded with the final artwork for the Olympic Games stamps.



Meanwhile the proposed 1976 stamp programme had been submitted to the stamp printers, the Note issue Department of the Reserve Bank of Australia, Melbourne, for their information and comments. On receipt of the final artwork (consisting of a colour visual for each stamp a separation board for each colour in each stamp, a rough drawing for each stamp and a colour-match board) from Mr. Leydin it was sent to the Note issue Department for examination by its technicians as to its suitability for cylinder making. The Note issue Department then proceeded with the production of the printing cylinders for the series, from which proofs were made and submitted to Australia Post for approval. The approved proofs for the Olympic Games 1976 stamps were then returned to the Note issue Department. Printing of the stamps on the Chambon photogravure machine then commenced in the quantities predetermined by Australia Post for a commemorative issue.

On completion of the printing, the finished sheets were checked for printing perfection, counted, bundled and dispatched to the Distributor of stamps, Australia Post in each State for distribution to the post offices.



1956 XVI Olympics, Melbourne

In the meantime, the Stamps and Philatelic Branch of Australia Post prepared publicity material for the 1976 Olympic Games issue, in the form of press releases and the stamp Preview, to publicize the issue to interested collectors.

Point-of-sale material advertising the availability of the use was distributed to all post offices and on 14th July, 1976, the Montreal Olympic Games 1976 stamp series was issued at post offices throughout Australia.

(Courtesy : The Australia Post, Bulletin 1977).

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## DR. STEPHEN H. SMITH

Dr. D. J. BANERJEA

The world of Aerophilately owes a lot to one man, Dr. Stephen H. Smith, who can be called the father of Aerophilately in India. Dr. Smith was born on 14th February 1891 at Shillong. His full name was Stephen Hector Taylor Smith. He had his early education at St. Patrick's School at Asansol. He



Stephen H. Smith  
& Rocket Mail Covers

completed his school studies in January 1911. He must have been attracted to Aerophilately from his school days, as he sent a few covers addressed to himself in the world's First Aerial Post flown in Allahabad in February 1911. During his school studies he made a rocket himself and tied some garden lizards to it and tried to fire the rocket with the lizards in to space unfortunately the rocket misfired and the lizards were killed. His other early experiments were similarly unsuccessful. After the school study was over, he came to Calcutta and joined St. Xavier's College. He was briefly in the service of the Calcutta Customs and later joined Calcutta Police. While in service he became a dental surgeon from the College of Surgeons and Physicians in Calcutta in 1915. During the first World war, he joined up as dental surgeon. After the war was over in 1918, he began his dental surgery practice and married Miss Fay Harcourt. He had one son Hector Junior.

From the early twenties, Dr. Smith became an Air Mail enthusiast and he gathered around him a number of Philatelists, who became interested in Philately as well as Aerophilately. He was the founder of Calcutta Philatelic Club and eventually also the founder of Aerophilatelic Club of India, the latter being formed in 1924.

He got the patronage of an wealthy Calcuttan, Sir David and Lady Ezra, S. M. Basu of Kuntaleen Press, who published most of his books A.A. Hales, H.A. Outhwaite, Dr. A joy Acharyya and others, who often lent financial support to Stephen Smith for his endeavours. Dr. Smith often went to Mr, S.M. Hose's Kuntaleen Perfumery works in Bowbazar Street and two friends were busy planning their next adventure.

Dr. Smith met Sir Alan Cobham. when he came to Calcutta in the first week of January 1925 on the outward leg of the First Anglo-Indian Survey and requested him to carry some covers sign some of them and post them back to him from different halts Cobham takes during his flight. This was the beginning of a long association with famous aviators and the start of Aerophilately in India. Some of these aviators would have passed in to oblivion, but for their signatures on covers prepared by Dr. Smith for their pioneer flights. This started a legend, covers and cards prepared by Stephen Smith, some with colourful labels specially prepared and others with cachets in different languages, such as Asmani Garhi or Hawase. These covers had the impeccable handwriting of Dr. Smith on the address side and were mostly authenticated by him on the back.