



# SIPA

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# Bulletin

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QUARTERLY

DEALER VS  
COLLECTOR 40

JAPANESE  
BURMA 45

Guest Editorial

## HAVE A GOOD LOOK

We are not asking you to look at our fine chisel-cut features or at our sturdy and strong physique like that of Samson. We are asking you to have a good look at our stamp issuing programme for the year 1977 recently announced by our P & T department.

As the years roll by the P & T department is dishing out spate of stamps and this year we are going to surpass all the past records. As many as forty-five stamps are proposed to be issued including six series, each series having four stamps. In the six series that are to be issued there are three series each having a face value of Rs. 3.75 paise and the other three series each having a face value of Rs 8.25 paise. In the single stamps that are to be issued (in all there are twenty-two single stamps) nine stamps are in the denomination of rupees two, one stamp of rupee one and the remaining twelve stamps are of twenty-five paise denomination. This means that the Post Office is out to kill. The whole programme seems to have been chalked out with an eye on earning foreign exchange. But will the department succeed in earning sizable amount of foreign exchange by its unimaginative and ever wavering stamp issuing policy?

Most of the Indian philatelists are not at all happy with this year's stamp issuing programme for the simple reason that there are eighteen stamps having a face value of rupees two and above. This is not the right way of promoting the hobby in the school children and stamp collectors of lower income group as they can ill afford to buy so many new issues, stamps as well as first day covers, of high denominations.

If we remember well and trust our memory, the Philatelic Advisory Committee had taken a policy decision that not more than six stamps on personalities will be issued in a year as such stamps do not find favour with philatelists in India and abroad. But it seems someone has coolly pushed the above sensible suggestion in cold storage. This year too as many as ten stamps are to be released on personalities which will be dumped on the market. If the department is really out to earn foreign exchange it must revise its policy. On this important issue Indian opinion seems to be divided but most of the foreign philatelists are not in favour of too many stamps on personalities. We would like to reproduce a few lines from a letter received from one of our esteemed subscribers Mr. J. M. Hales from Canada. Mr. Hales writes, "Now that I can

sit back and examine the issues of the past 25 years, I wonder if it wouldn't be a good time for your post office to make a change in the Stamp issuing policy. I am thinking particularly of the multitude of stamps honouring individuals, many of whom mean very little to the average collector outside of India. Granted such people do relate to many within your country but unfortunately not to many outside and here must be this connection if collectors are to become interested.

Our Indian philatelists are also feeling a pinch after going through the new stamp issuing programme for 1977. A number of letters have appeared in the daily newspapers giving some concrete suggestions to the P & T department and we hope, at least in the year 1977 the department will put up a better performance.

This year's programme is apparently drawn out with" a view to earning foreign exchange and we shall be too happy to see the department fulfilling its ambition. But at the same time administrative ability, constructive approach and good grace must be maintained. The programme must be such which must be appreciated and applauded by one and all. What the philatelists really want is a well thought out programme having some sense and substance and not of all sound and no substance

(Courtesy - Signet 1977)

The above editorial was written in April 1977, that is about 40 years ago. Even after 40 years, the wisemen of India Post has not given a thought to the student collector, new collector, the middle class salaried collector etc. In the first six months of the current year, India Post has gone through 29 issues comprising about 80 stamps. The lamentation in the above editorial is only for 45 stamps in a year whereas we are going through a year at the end of which the number of new stamps issued may well reach a double century. Hail India Post! and their 'wisemen' !!

- Executive Editor

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# STAMP NEWS

## DEEKSHABHOOMI

14.4.17                      500,500                      3.1 lakh each

Deekshabhoomi is regarded as one of the most revered monuments of Buddhism. It is at this very place, the architect of the Indian Constitution, Dr. Babasahed Ambedkar, embraced Buddhism with nearly 4 lakhs of his followers on 14 October 1956.



Deekshabhoomi is spread across 22 acres of land in the heart of Nagpur. Deekshabhoomi stupa is the largest hollow stupa among all Buddhist stupas in India. The diameter is 36 meters and height of 22 meters. Height from ground level is 30 meters. Based on the theme of Ashok chakra, the stupa rests on 24 pillars.

The 'Bodhi Vriksha' at Deekshabhoomi is sacred fig (Pipal) tree. This Bodhi Tree is a sapling of the same Bodhi tree under which Gautam Buddha attained enlightenment.

Dr. Babasahed Ambedkar selected Nagpur for his conversion ceremony, as he explained in his speech that Nagpur was the homeland of "Nag" people who embraced Buddhism.

On Ashoka Vijaya Dashmi, 14 October 1956, Ambedkar and his wife took the oath of three Jewels "Trisaran" and five Precepts 'Panchsheel'. It was after this day, Nagpur became the birthplace of Neo Buddhist movement.

Deekshabhoomi has gained the status of a pilgrimage center of Buddhism in India. On the Ashoka Vijaya Dashmi day, called as Dhamma Chakra Pravartan Din, millions of pilgrims visit Deekshabhoomi.

Deekshabhoomi stupa was inaugurated by the then President of India Honorable Shri. K. R. Narayanan on 18th December 2001.

Theme: Buddhism, buildings, monuments, architecture, religion.

# BHARAT RATNA BHIMRAO AMBEDKAR INSTITUTE OF TELECOM TRAINING, JABALPUR

22.4.17                      1500                      3.01lakhs

Bharat Ratna Bhimrao Ambedkar Institute of Telecom Training (BRBRAITT) is a premier level institute of Telecom Training in Asia. This training institute was previously known as "Telecom Training Centre" and its name was changed to "Bharat Ratna Bhimrao Ambedkar Institute of Telecom Training (BRBRAITT)" on 30-05-1995 in honour of Bharat Ratna Bhimrao Ambedkar. This training centre had its origin at Calcutta where it initially started functioning in 1920. During the Second World War, it was shifted to Jabalpur, where it commenced activities from April 22, 1942.



The Training Centre has a campus of 35 acres with administrative building of 17,280 square metres. It has also got 236 staff quarters and four hostels with a capacity to accommodate about 400 trainees.

BRBRAITT Library has a huge collection of books (both for technical and reading), periodicals & magazines and departmental publications.

Strength of BRBRAITT is its highly knowledgeable and experienced Human Resource i.e. the Faculty members.

BRBRAITT is imparting training to officers of BSNL/ DoT and to other Government and Private Organisations. Trainees from organization like Railways, Defence, MP Electricity Board, Vihaan Networks, Department of Posts, IIITDM Jabapur, IIIT Allahabad, Infosys etc. have taken training in the institute. BRBRAITT is imparting Various Skill Development programs for the youth of India.

Theme: Communications, Telecommunications, Institutions, Ambedkar, Bharat Ratnas.

## COFFEE

23.4.17                      1000                      2lakh m/s

Coffee is one of the important beverage crop of the world. Coffee is prepared from the seed of the fruit obtained from the plant. The plant is 3-6 metres in height. It is native to the highland of southern Ethiopia. Its name has been derived from a highland district of Kaffa, where it was originally grown.



From here, it was taken to Yemen, on the south-western part of Arabia by the Arab traders and was grown at Mocha in 575 A.D. Later from- Arabia, coffee plants were taken to other parts of the world, where they were successfully grown.

The two main species of coffee are Arabica and Robusta. Arabica is descended from the original coffee tree discovered in Ethiopia. Robusta bean itself tends to be slightly rounder and smaller than an Arabica bean. Robusta coffee packs 50% more caffeine, and a sharp bitter flavor.

Coffee is the second important beverage crop of India. It was during 18th century that the commercial plantations of coffee were started by the British entrepreneurs.

The state of Karnataka dominates in coffee production, followed by Tamil Nadu and Kerala. Coffee in India has traditionally been a staple beverage of southern states. Coffee making in these places has taken the form of a fine art and the traditional way of preparing coffee from coffee beans is much respected.

heme: Coffee, Plants, Beverage, Flora & fauna, Botany

## VISWANATHA SATYANARAYANA, TARIGONDA VENGAMAMBA & AATUKURI MOLLA

26.4.17 500x3 3.01 lakh each

**VISWANATHA SATYANARAYANA** (10 September 1895-18 October 1976): Sri Viswanatha Satyanarayana, acclaimed by the learned as Kavi Samrat (Emperor of Poets) is a legend in the Telugu States. He wrote profusely: 30 Kavyas; 20 plays; 60 novels; 10 literary criticism; 200 khanda kavyas; 35 short stories; 70 essays; 50 radio plays; 3 play- lets; 10 essays in English ; 10 works in Sanskrit and 3 translations;



His most celebrated works are Srimad Ramayana Kalpavruksham and Veyi Padagalu translated from Telugu into Hindi as Sahasra Phani.

**TARIGONDA VENHAMAMBA** (20 April 1730 – 21 Aug 1817): Vengamamba was born in the village Tarigonda over 100kms from the famous temple town Tirumala on 20th April 1730.

Vengamamba did not go to any school. She became a great poetess. She composed a variety of devotional literature such as Vishnu Parijatham, Chenchu Natakam, Rukmini Natakam, Jala Krida Vilasam and Mukthi Kanthi Vilasam (all Yaksha Ganams), Gopi Natakam (Golla Kalapam - Yakshaganam), Rama Parinayam, Sri Bhagavatham, Sri Krihna Manjari, Tatva Keerthanala and Vashista Ramayanam (Dwipada), Sri Venkataachala Mahatyam (Padya Prabhandam) and Ashtanga Yoga, Saram (Padyakruthi). Vangamamba gave up her mortal remains on 21 Aug 1817.

**AATUKURI MOLLA** (1440 – 1530): Poetess Aatukuri Molla (Molla means Jasmine in Telugu) was born in village Gopavaram, Nellore district in Andhra Pradesh.

Molla's Ramayana in Telugu is very popular among the masses because, it is in simple and beautiful language. She expanded those events in Rama's life which concern ordinary people in their daily life, in their pleasures and pains. Molla was the first woman poet who wrote a Ramayana in Telugu. A statue was raised for her in Kadapa town in A.P. There is a temple, dedicated to Molla in Guntur Town of Andhra Pradesh. A movie was produced about her and her Ramayana. She passed away in 1530.

Theme : Personality, Leaders, Poets, Andhra Pradesh.

## RAMANUJACHARYA

1.5.17 2500 3.01 lakhs

Ramanujacharya occupies a central place in India's spiritual and bhakti tradition. He was born in Sriperumbudur near Madras (Chennai) in 1017 A.D. He revitalized Indian philosophy and Religion.

Ramanujacharya was revolutionary who did not shy away in pursuing creative departures from the beaten track for the greater good of mankind. He is credited for Having formalized the tenets of the Visistadvaita Vadanta and having laid the foundations for a sound system of Philosophy envisioned by his predecessors Nathamuni and Yamunacharya.



Ramanujacharya was cosmopolitan in his views and opened up the portals of temples to all people alike irrespective of caste and creed. A majority of the changes he brought about to temple administration are in vogue even today in the temple of Srirangam, Tiruchirapalli, where the downtrodden class render uninterrupted service to Lord Ranganatha.

Ramanujacharya espoused that service to humanity and not birth into a higher caste elevates one to the spiritual abode of perennial happiness. His devotion to the feet of Parankusa, a poet-saint belonging to a backward caste, was so immense that it fetched him the name 'Parankusa-pada-bhakta.

According to scholar – philosophers, Ramanujacharya's appearance in this world is akin to the rising sun, to dispel the darkness of ignorance and to make the lotus of knowledge, virtue and righteousness bloom in this world.

Theme: Personality, Religion, Hinduism, Saints and sages.

## TELECOM REGULATORY AUTHORITY OF INDIA

5.5.17

500

5.1 lakh

The Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI) is a statutory body set up under the TRAI Act 1997, for regulating Telecommunication sector. The Act was published vide gazette notification dated 28th March 1997. Subsequently, the Central Government through a notification dated 9th January 2004 entrusted the function of regulating Broadcasting and Cable Services also to the Authority.



Under the TRAI Act, 1997, the Authority is inter-alia mandated to make recommendations, on (i) need and timing for introduction of a new service provider; (ii) terms and conditions of license to a service provider;

The notification dated 9th January 2004 empowers the authority to recommend (i) the terms and conditions on which addressable systems of the Broadcasting and Cable Services shall be provided to customers (ii) the parameters regulating maximum time for advertisement in pay channels as well as other channels and (iii) to specify standard norms for periodicity of revision of rates of pay channels.

During this period, the Authority made Recommendations to the Government on 'unified Licensing', 'Universal service obligations', 'Digitization of cable Television', 'Growth of Telecom Services in Rural India', 'Next Generation Networks', 'Infrastructure Sharing', 'Accelerating growth of Internet and Broadband' and 'Mobile Number portability' etc.

These Recommendations, have provided the required directions for the evolution of Indian Telecom market from a government owned monopoly to a multi operator - multi service open competitive market.

Theme: Communication, Technology, Telecommunications.

## CHAMPARAN SATYAGRAHA CENTENARY

13.05.17

500,1000,2500

5 lakh each

On the afternoon of April 15, 1917, thousands had gathered at Motihari railway station in Bihar's East Champaran, waiting for a man who was destined to lift their lives out of misery. It was 3 pm when Gandhiji alighted at the station from a train coming from Muzaffarpur. One of the places Gandhiji went to was the Bhitiharwa Ashram in Champaran, North Bihar, where in 1917 he came to conduct the famous "Indigo Labour Enquiry" and then launched a Satyagraha against forced cultivation of indigo by poor farmers.



It was at Champaran that the transformation from Mohandas into the Mahatma began. This is the story of Gandhi's first satyagraha.

Realizing Gandhi's strength and devotion to the cause, the government made Gandhiji a member of an enquiry committee constituted to look into the excesses committed by landlords and planters. In October, the committee submitted its report and on November the Champaran Agrarian bill was submitted in the Bihar Legislative Council.

On March 4, 1919, with the formal signature of the Governor General, this bill turned into a law. Almost a year after Gandhi's arrival, the exploitative system had finally been abolished.

There have been peasant movements before and after the Champaran movement of 1917, but what makes Gandhi's Champaran satyagraha significant is the fact

that it was the first time that bridges had been built between the peasants and the other sections.

Theme: Freedom Struggle, Freedom fighters, Satyagraha Mahatma Gandhi

## SHRI HANAGAL KUMARASWAMIJI

19.5.17 500 3.lakhs

In the spiritual realm, where nothing can be measured by dimensions, what stands high is a Saint, who left a legacy and a path for all to follow, an enlightened being and as embodiment of love and wisdom, the most reverd his holiness Shri Kumaraswamiji of Hanagal.

Shri Kumaraswamiji of Hanagal was born on 11th September 1867, in Joyisaea Haralahalli village which is a part of Haveri district of Karnataka. He was named "Halaiyya" by his loving parents, Shri Basavayya and Smt. Neelamma. Swamiji showed the signs of an extraordinary mystic at a very tender age.



With a thirst for knowledge, Swamiji read various scriptures. Swamiji went to the renowned Siddaroodha math in Hubli, where he met the enlightened master His Holiness Siddaroodha Swamiji.

Swamiji had received initiation from Yelandoor Basavalinga Shivayogi. For this, Swamiji spend 12 years meditating and worshipping 'Ishtalinga' in a cave in the hills of Shambhulinga betta in Kollegala District of Mysuru for "Anusthana".

Shri Kumaraswamiji served the Hanagalla Virakta Math as a monk. Swamiji established the All India Veerashaiva Lingayat Mahasabha in 1904 and the Shivayoga Mandira in 1909.

Swamiji's efforts were not only for the humankind but also towards animals and nature. The Goshala established by Swamiji which started 110 years ago, still runs providing shelter for about 500 cows. With his efforts reaching all walks of life, Swamiji was sure of his mission and its results.

Theme : Religion, Hinduism, Saints and Sages, Personality.

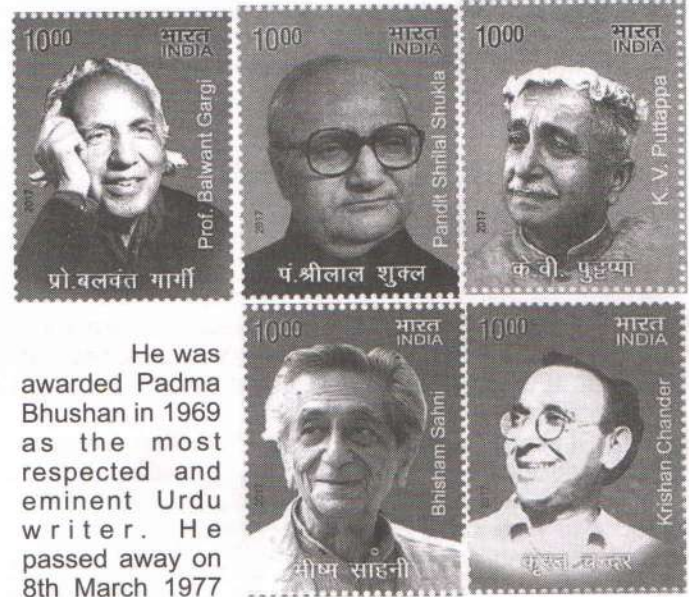
## EMINENT WRITERS

31.5.17 1000x5 3.01 lakheach

Literature is one of the major contributory factors in nation building. It acts a cultural binding force and works as a evocative medium to boost up the moral of the people in the times of crisis.

KRISHAN CHANDER is considered as and one of the leading short story writers of the Indian subcontinent in the second half of the 20th century.

Krishan chander's creative life can be understood as having passed through three phases. In 1939 he was in the grip of romantic ideas; from 1940 onwards he makes it a priority to encapsulate the realities of life in his work and from 1945, he begins to be influenced by the great wars of national liberation.



He was awarded Padma Bhushan in 1969 as the most respected and eminent Urdu writer. He passed away on 8th March 1977 in Mumbai.

BHISHAM SAHNI was one of the most prolific writers of Hindi literature. He was born on 8 August 1915 in Rawalpindi. Bhisham Sahni's last published book, was an autobiography with the title Aaj Ke Ateet (The Past of the Present).

He was awarded the Padma Bhushan for literature in 1998. He passed away on 11 July 2003.

PANDIT SHRILAL SHUKLA. Born on 31 December 1925 in Atrauli, Uttar Pradesh, was a famous Hindi writer, notable for his satire. He has written over 25 books, including Raag Darbari, Makaan Sooni Ghaati Ka Sooraj, Pehla Padaav and Bisrampur Ka Sant.

Shukla received the Jnanpith Award, the highest Indian literary award, in 2011. His first major award was the Sahitya Akademi for his novel Raag Darbari in 1969. In 2008, he was awarded the Padma Bhushan. He passed away on 28 October 2011.

The fourth stamp is on K V PUTTAPPA. Kuppali Venkatappa Puttappa (29 December 1904 - 11 November 1994), popularly Known Kuvempu was born in Chikmagalur district of Karnataka. He was a Kannada novelist, and poet, who penned the State anthem.

His major achievement was his take on the characters of Ramayana written by Valmiki, which fetched him the prestigious Janpith Award.

SHRI BAIWANT GARGI, playwright, director, theatre personality, novelist, teacher and chronicler of Gargi, Playwright, director, theatre personality, novelist, teacher and chronicler of folk theatre, was among the pioneers of playwriting in Punjabi. He was born on 4 December 1916 in Bhatinda Punjab.

Gargi was awarded the Sahitya Academy award, in 1962 for his book Rang Manch, followed by the Padma Shri and the Sangeet Natak Akademi Award in Punjabi playwriting. He passed away on 22 April 2003.

Theme: Literature, Writers, Personality, National Awards.

## JHALA MANNA

18.6.17                      500                      5.0 lakhs

Jhala Mann Singh (Jhala Manna) was one of the Mewar nobles of a Rajput Clan of Bari Sadri. Jhala manna took part in Maharana Pratap Singh's war council at Gunda (1576) prior to the Battle of Haldighati.

Seeing the attack of Rana Pratap on 'Saleem' (later Jahangir) in the war, numerous Mughal soldiers surrounded Maharana Pratap and started attacking him from all four sides. Jhala Manna went ahead and took away the royal insignia and crown from Rana Pratap's head and put on his head, while requesting him to leave the battlefield. This ruse worked and Maharana Pratap was saved. However, the enemies attacked Jhala Manna thinking he was Rana Pratap, and Jhala Manna was killed after putting up a fight.



Jhala Manna died fighting but not before he had forced the Mughal army to back off to the east. It is because of this sacrifice that Rana Pratap continued to fight on against the enemies and eventually could liberate all of Mewar except Chittor.

Jhala Manna is remembered for the ultimate sacrifice he made for his king, and the bravery with which he fought. Jhala Manna is a shining example of bravery, loyalty, valour and sacrifice.

Theme: Personality, leader, Warrior, Service & Sacrifice.

## SURVEY OF INDIA

22.6.17                      500,1500                      4.01 lakhs each

Survey of India, the principal mapping agency of the country is celebrating its 250th anniversary in the year 2017. Origin of the Survey of India can be traced back to the year 1767, when Major James Rennell was appointed

as the Surveyor General of Bengal. It is the oldest scientific department in India and one of the oldest survey establishments in the world. Survey of India also has the distinct honour of printing the first Postage stamp of India and the first copy of the Constitution of India.

Officers and staff of the Survey of India have to pioneer untrodden land for others to follow and build upon. They are the first to reach virgin and uninhabited areas to produce the maps so essential for development, defence and administration. Topographical maps were pivotal in the foundation of almost all major developmental activities of the modern India.

The Survey of India acts as advisor to the Government of India on all survey matters, viz geodesy, photogrammetry, mapping and map reproduction. The Survey of India, is built on solid foundations, strong traditions and deep roots, keeps striving to keep India among the best surveyed countries in the world, adopting the latest technologies to meet new challenges.

The occasion of completion of 250 years of survey of India also provides a good opportunity to showcase the historical value of Survey of India to common people and also demonstrate its immense potential, technical strength and achievement of the past 250 years.

Theme: India, maps, surveys, First of a kind

## 50 YEARS OF PASSPORT ACT, 1967

23.06.17                      2500                      5 lakhs

A Passport is about a journey. The image of a blue passport flashes in one's mind when some one dreams of a voyage to a foreign land.

The use of the British Indian passport was discontinued after the independence of India in 1947. The India Passports Rules 1950 superseded the Indian passport Rules 1921.



24th June 1967 marked an important milestone in the history of passport issuance in India. It was on this day that the President gave assent to the passport Act 1967. The Passport Act provided a robust legal framework for the issues of passport and regulation of the departure from India of Indian citizens.

In 1978, there were 9 Regional Passport Offices. The Regional Passport Office in Delhi covered, apart from Delhi, the states of Rajasthan and Jammu and Kashmir. By 1990, the number of Passport Offices went up to 22. This increased to 28 at the turn of the new millennium.

The Passport Seva Project (PSP) has been a watershed in the history of passport issuance in India with its successful implementation of the public Private Partnership (PPP) mode. Services are delivered through a countrywide network environment - integrating all Passport Issuing Authorities, around 91 Passport Seva Kendras, as well.

In order to extend passport services to our citizens on a larger scale the Ministry of External Affairs and the Department of Posts (DoP) have agreed to utilize the Head Post Offices in the country as post office Passport related services to the citizens.

Theme: Travel, Documents, Tourism.

## BANARAS HINDU UNIVERSITY

28.06.17 500,1500 3.60lakhs

The Banaras Hindu University, founded by Mahamana Pandit Madan Mohan Malaviya in 1916 is the first truly residential Indian University established on the pattern of the university at Nalanda. The scheme for the establishment of Banaras Hindu University was formulated in consultation with eminent freedom fighters and nationalists like Gopal Krishna Gokhale and Surendar Nath Banerjee.



The University is located on the western bank of the holy river Ganga. It is spread over an area of 15 square kilometers with majestic buildings of great architectural delight. The University has 134 independent teaching departments, many of them recognized as Centers of Excellence, 2 interdisciplinary schools, 16 faculties, one constituent college, 5 institutes and 12 Center of Studies.

The Indian Institute of Technology (BHU) is located in the campus of the Banaras Hindu University.

The Banaras Hindu University has attained its Hundred Years on 'Vasantpanchami' 12th February, 2016.

Theme : Education, Institution, Centres of knowledge, Buildings, Centenary.

## SHRIMAD RAJCHANDRAJI

29.06.17 500 4.7 laksh

Shrimad Rajchandraji was born to Smt. Devab and Shri Ravjibhai on Kartik Purnima in 1924 - 9th November, 1867 at Vavania (Gujarat, India). As a child, Shrimadji showed remarkable grasping power and memory at school and completed the study of 7 academic years in just 2 eminent treaties on philosophy with the sole purpose of discovering the Ultimate Truth.



Despite a sentiment of detachment and a burning desire for renunciation, at the age of 20, he had to tie the knot and engage in business.

A consciousness deeply immersed in the Truth, he experienced a powerful emotional spiritual state of being, self-realisation, at the age of 23. After the age of 28, he began to spend 4 to 6 months of the year in the seclusion of jungles, mountains and remote places in Gujarat, effortlessly leading an austere life. Shrimadji's health deteriorated in the year 1900 due to a severe illness from which he did not recover. His soul left his mortal body on the day of charitra Vad Panchami, 1957-9th April, at Rajkot. In the short span of 33 years, he soared high in the spiritual skies.

Among those who came in contact with Shrimadji was the father of the Nation, Mahatma Gandhi. Gandhiji mentions Shrimadji in his writing and in his autobiography. Mahatma Gandhi says, "This man has ever made on the same impression". His invaluable writings have been published in the volume, 'Shrimad Rajachandra.' The poetic composition 'Shri Atmasiddhi Shastra', is one of Shrimadji's finest work.

Theme: Personality, Religion, Hindusm, Saints and sages.

(Courtesy : Information Sheets, India Post.)

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### Monthly Second Sunday Meetings

With past President Mr. D.Hemachandra Rao on the Chair, 22 members attended the meeting on 11-06-2017 at the Philatelic Bureau, Exhibition Hall.

Mr. D. H. Rao, spoke on "Making of Maxim cards". With a lively interaction among members about issues of India Post, the meeting was closed over a cup of tea.

## FROM BEHIND THE COUNTER

A dealer looks at stamp collectors and their fads

"Send me the Bahamas 1970 Railway miniature sheet for which I enclose 25 p (?). So read part of a collector's letter to me. First, the 25p was not enclosed - and since the collector was previously unknown to me, this alone would lead to the order being ignored (calculate the cost of writing out an invoice for 25p, even assuming the quoted sum were correct, of transferring this entry to the Day Book, opening an account card and entering the amount there, sending the invoice itself to the customer, perhaps sending a statement a month later, receiving the money, entering it in the Cash Book, posting this to the account card, paying the 25p into the Bank. . . for any order under £5, it just has to be cash-with-order today).

Secondly, we had never advertised this item, at 25p or any other price. Why should the collector assume we have it, and from where did she imagine the price. Thirdly, the reason we have never advertised it is that the Bahamas have never, in 1970 or at any other date, issued a Railway miniature sheet. For all I know, the islands may not even have a railway!

My next "order" asked for "1960 Birds advertised in STAMP COLLECTING". Yes, we do like to know where you saw our advertisement: we spend a lot of money on advertising, and we want to know whether it is wasted. If nobody tells us, we may assume that a particular advertisement produced no response at all - and as a result we may decide never to offer these items again, or never to use that magazine again. So please, do quote the source of your order, if it's an advertisement.

In this case, the reference to "S.C." was doubly helpful since, as you will have noted, the collector quoted neither the country of issue nor the S.G. numbers of the stamps he wanted - nor indeed whether he wanted mint or used stamps.

We finally pinned down this reference; it was a three-month-old advertisement and we had long ago sold out. We had quoted S.G. numbers - why did the collector ignore them? Sometimes we quote Yvert, or Michel, or other catalogues; this is because our stock for the relevant country is stored under those numbers. When ordering, why do so many collectors ignore our quite simple descriptions and go to so much trouble to create their own ways of asking for stamps. And why, oh why, can they not tell us the country and quote mint or used.

As I said, we were in any case sold out, so we had to refund the remittance. Where we have misjudged the market and sold out within days, we accept culpability - we should have known better.

Where we offer "single items"-postal history covers, unique -proofs and so on - naturally we can only sell them once and anyone who relies on this country's postal service (rather than telephoning a firm order the moment the magazine appears) has only himself to blame. But anyone who waits three months before replying to an

advertisement must live in Cloud-Cuckoo-land. With inflation running at 15% per annum, we can't keep prices firm for that sort of period unless we really have overstocked and are willing to sell at a loss for the sake of clearing the decks occasionally.

This being so, the third letter I opened that morning infuriated me. It was from a collector who, several weeks ago, had ordered an early Maltese cover which we had, in fact, sold on publication day to a man who called at the shop after seeing our advertisement. The complainant's order had arrived the following Monday and, naturally, we had returned his remittance with a brief note on a complements slip explaining that the cover was sold.

This latest letter returned his cheque to us with an extremely abusive letter. First, we must sell him the cover because we advertised it (this is obviously impossible but in any case is not even correct where we have large stocks; no dealer in any goods is forced by law to sell anything to any person at any price, no matter what he advertises or places in his shop window).

Secondly, how dare we, he wanted to know, write to him in biro instead of sending a properly typed letter? Again, the answer comes down to economics: add together the cost of time to dictate the letter, and to have the dictation taken down in shorthand, then the cost of the typist's time typing it, the staff time to check the typed letter and sign it. . . average cost-- of relatively short letter £1, against cost of hand-written note, 20p. Since there is no sale involved, since we have to pay return postage to send back remittance, why should we throw away another 80p as well? Would you?

The next letter asked for "a selection of South Africa" to be sent to a previously-unknown collector in South Africa. Now we do not advertise "approval selections" at all, because the cost of assembling a book "on spec" is uneconomic, while we do not want our fast-moving stocks to be dissipated in several places instead of being gathered in our stock books ready for immediate sale.

In any case, who but an idiot would send a valuable selection of stamps overseas to an unknown person? We have in the past year lost £123 in bad debts of this type alone. Once bitten, believe me, is more than twice shy! Furthermore, you will note that the collector has not stated what period of South Africa interests him (it's a massive area), what price selection he wants (why send out ten stamps priced at £5 upward, when all the man wants is to spend 10p per stamp?), or even (again!) whether he wants mint or used issues.

It's your collection!

Stamp dealers are not psychic. We are often expected to show paranormal powers not only in identifying items in letters or in reading illegible addresses, but in figuring out just what a collector might want when he doesn't say. Look, you have an album - or may be" a dozen of them - full of stamps and covers which you have accumulated lovingly. That being so, when you walk into our shop and ask for a new album, I do expect something a



little more helpful than, "Oh, it's got a blue cover and sort of squares for the stamps, and I bought one here three years ago!"

Given that you manage to remember the name of your album, and the names of the countries you collect, is it too much to expect that you will also have some record of the stamps you possess? The number of collectors who call at the shop and stand for an hour thumbing over stockbook pages, obviously trying to recall just what they want, is incredible.

In the same way, if you are a complete beginner and want a wide range of not-too-costly stamps; just say so. We can either send them to you, or tell you we cannot supply. Once you get past that stage, you don't want approvals; you want to fill gaps, and that's quite a different matter.

Send us a wants list and we will try to fill your gaps. Simple? Yet every day we are asked for "your latest lists" of this or that country. Look: we cannot produce lists these days - they cost too much. You are asking a man to work his way through a stock book noting down each stamp or set with its price, then to cut a stencil and run it off, then to buy and maintain stocks until all possible orders from that list have been fulfilled. To cover the cost of that operation we would have to add 25% to all our stamps prices, and demand that anyone receiving a list should spend at least £2 from it. This is quite unrealistic - we want to keep our prices low, and you want to keep your spending low, don't you?

Then, as I've said, you know what you want' - ask for it! To tell the truth, I know perfectly well why most of these "please send your lists" characters behave that way. They don't want to spend a lot of money at a time, but they haven't the guts to admit, it. So they think we will prepare a list, send it to them, and they can compare this with other dealers' lists and so order a few pence worth here and there, building up their collection on the cheap. Of course, they are entitled to save money - the point is that this is not the way to do it. The right way is to find a dealer with good stocks, whose prices are fair and who will exert himself to satisfy you.

Nowadays, most dealers have very "small stocks" - stamps sell too fast to sit a long time in stock books. Most have "fair" prices - that is, they add a regular percentage on to their cost, or they pitch their prices at a percentage of catalogue valuations. So it comes down to finding a dealer who will exert himself on your behalf - and here the answer is that unless you are prepared to play fair with him, by saying exactly what you want, you cannot expect him to waste time and money titillating you with expensively-prepared selections.

I can understand the case of the serious collector, be he philatelist or postal historian, who honestly cannot tell you just what he wants. I mean, he may wish to examine thousands of copies of a particular stamp to research such things as plate flaws - then he can tell you what stamp he wants, but he cannot guarantee to buy any no matter how many you send along.

He may want to see every cover you ever handle from a particular country upto 1850 - again, he can tell you this, but he can't agree in advance that he will actually want any cover you send. Here the idea of "approvals" really still makes sense: it enables the dealer to make up quite costly bundles of material, it provides the specialist with scope for sensible buying, and it gets over a problem created by the lack of precise catalogue listings. But where a catalogue does exist, the collector knows whether he wants any given stamps, and the dealer knows whether he has it in stock. Thus "approvals" no longer have any meaning, except insofar as the customer always has the right to return stamps he has ordered if they are damaged or otherwise unacceptable for reasons of condition.

### **Business in 1975 -**

Please, use your head! Remember that a stamp dealer, like any other businessman, must make ends meet in an inflationary situation. He cannot spend an hour chatting about your collections unless the aim is to assist you in filling gaps in it. He cannot spend an hour going through your uncle's old stamp album valuing it merely so that you can take it elsewhere and use the valuation as a lever to try and persuade another dealer to pay him more for it. The dealer must charge you for the service unless he actually buys the stamps, and he will not take kindly to your hawking them around the trade and then finally returning (after having removed a dozen or so of the best items) to try and sell him the rest for the price he quoted a week earlier.

Banks have provided their customers whom they trust with cheque cards, simply because so many unscrupulous people these days bounce cheques. If you wish to pay a dealer and by cheque, you must be prepared to produce a cheque card and to prove it is yours. Recently, a customer produced a loose cheque from his wallet, already bearing a signature, and asked me to fill in my name and the amount payable; since he had no cheque card and I had no assurance that the signature was his, I refused. He was furious and threatened to report me to the P.T.S. I hope he did!

Wherever a cheque exceeds the £30 cheque card limit, or is not backed by such documentation, my answer is simple. I will pay your cheque into my bank, and when they confirm it has been cleared I will send your stamps to you or you can, if you prefer, collect them. This is fair and honest; - and by insisting on it I have lost £500 worth of business in 1974 - but since I have no way of knowing whether any one of these proffered and refused cheques would have bounced, I do not regard this as a loss at all.

What I do regret strongly is the £240 I really have lost in bouncing cheques sent in for small orders. It is tempting to accept a small cheque and send out the stamps without a delay, but over 12 months these small debts mount up. Is it any wonder that I am fast losing my faith in human nature, and insisting on my pound of flesh?

Nowhere can this be seen more clearly than in the case of the many, many thoughtless collectors who write with long and complex queries, not based on any actual

advertised offers of mine, and who do not include a stamped, addressed envelope with their letters. Why should I waste time replying, when the probability of my making any sales is negligible?

Yet it is these people who, not having received an express airmail reply to their queries, telephone me from, say, Luxembourg to demand a reply. And it is these same people (probably, one must conclude, 'phoning at the expense of their employers and not themselves) who then ask for costly collections and return them after three months without a word of explanation and without refunding my postage and registration costs.

(Courtesy : Stamp Collecting, 1987)

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## COLLECTING POSTWAR GERMANY

OSKAR WINTER

I HAVE been asked to write something about collecting Postwar Germany for the readers of this magazine and find that it is easier to collect than to write about the material of that period. We must forget the fact that until the end of the war there was only one authority which issued stamps in Germany. After that the Allied Control Commission, for whom any postal service was of secondary consideration, governed the country and that is the basis from which we have to start, considering that the stamps as used until the date of the surrender on 8th May 1945 were immediately "out of bounds" so to say.

According to the resolution of the Allied Leaders at the Yalta conference neither the definitive's nor any special or commemorative stamps of Germany were allowed to be used any longer once the war was finished and the country occupied. That is why the US and British Governments had stamps prepared and printed beforehand. There was only one overriding condition, that the stamps neither in looks nor design were allowed to resemble any previous pattern or design - with one exemption, postcards, since they constituted a tremendous source of raw material which should not be lost or wasted. It was therefore decided that postcards, as found in any of the many post offices, were allowed to be used, provided that the head, design or other matter relating to the Third Reich was cut off, or obliterated.

The French were excused because they had no printing works at their disposal but constituted a "Government in Exile". And the Russians did not want to know anything about it. They first wanted the war to be finished before embarking on such unimportant matters - from their point of view - as a postal service. This may sound simple but it became one of the most complicated events in any country's postal history. The reader must realise that philatelically seen, the American printed AM-Post stamps are divided by the specialists into three different issues according to their paper when at least the perforation was uniform L11 as per American usage. The British Edition which was printed by Harrison, also had two

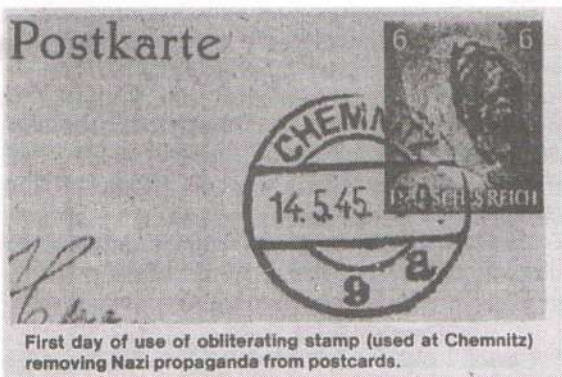
types of paper but perforations from L14 to L14½ in steps of ½ and any combination thereof. Finally, we have the German printing by Westermann in Braunschweig. Westermann began printing on various papers but finally ran the production through on one type of paper only, with perforations L11 and CIVA and any combination thereof. For the AM-Post issue alone, this produces 16 different series without counting any printing or perforation varieties. And with that we are only at the end of 1945 in the American and British Zones!

What happened in the French Zone stamp-wise? At first we encounter a service which is very rarely found in any of the "Kulturstaaten" (those countries where the majority of the population can read and write and thus can utilise the postal service). This system was the "Cashfrank Method" whereby the customer goes to the counter, pays the postage in cash and the counter clerk marks the mail with a rubber stamp, datestamp or with a handwritten remark rather than an adhesive, as an indication for the receiving post office that postage had been properly paid and the addressee need not be asked to pay any postage dues. Between the end of 1945 and the beginning of 1946 a set of stamps appeared on the counters in the French Zone showing the arms of the French Zone Lander on the various denominations. They were printed by the State Printing Works in Paris on altogether 11 sorts of paper with each of the ten Pfennig values - except the 10 Pfg - having a minimum of two distinct and catalogued shade varieties. For the population, previously used to German stamps in the 10 x 10 sheet size, it was a novelty that these stamps were printed in two blocks of 5 x 10 stamps high with a gutter of stamp width along the middle on which the machine-numbers were printed with the date of the printing in the right-hand corner of the whole sheet. All these are very collectable items.

Meanwhile, the printing works of Burda in Offenburg/Baden prepared sets of stamps for the 4 Lander Baden, Rhineland/Palatinate, Saar and Württemberg. They were designed by Prof. V. K. Jonyas of whom however nobody has heard a single word ever since.

The reader may now ask precisely when these stamps came to the counters in the various regions, districts, provinces and cities but this is a question which nobody will ever be able to answer quickly because everywhere we find different dates. It depended on the destruction and possible rehabilitation of buildings, availability of personnel and material and/or the willingness of the occupying power.

Meanwhile, in February 1946 the State Printing works in Berlin had prepared and printed a set of stamps, big numerals in an oval design, which were sent to all postal counters in the country except the French Zone. This first set for common use was more of a trial than the real thing and was superseded some 12 months later by another set of which the designs had been arrived at by open competition amongst German artists and which was expected to be available for a number of years, hence its pretty neutral design theme.



First day of use of obliterating stamp (used at Chemnitz) removing Nazi propaganda from postcards.

Up to now nothing has been said about the postal service and stamps in the Soviet Zone except that the Russians had made no provisions beforehand. But they interpreted the Yalta Agreement for postcards as if it applied to stamps as well, so that we find letters with obliterated stamps of the Third Reich. These obliterations were made by all possible means when hand application with corks, rubbers, ink bottle stoppers or similar were the first choice of which some 500 different types were established. We then find carved corks, some elaborately done, until stamps received various types of letterpress overprints locally. This practice was stopped after the Western Allies had delivered a strong protest to the Russians demanding adherence to the Yalta Agreement. The last day on which obliterated adhesives of the Third Reich could be used was therefore 8th August 1945.

The first official postal service in the Soviet Zone was opened in Chemnitz on 12th May 1945. This being a Saturday any service proper started on 14th May 1945, the following Monday.

One can imagine the desire of the population to communicate with each other, to search for lost relatives and friends, to establish business connections again after everything had collapsed. Thus we find that the various provincial head-postmasters approached the Russians and received permission to print stamps in order to hasten any postal service, though the designs had to be approved by the Soviet authorities who, in many cases, refused though not after these "stamps" had been printed and had been in use for several days.

An outstanding example of the aforesaid is the "Poschta", a stamp designed by a postal employee in Dresden, printed there and offered over the counters of the office of Dresden A16 on 23rd June 1945. After 8 hours the Russian Commandant had to withdraw his permission by higher order for the sale of the stamp because of its Russian inscription and it was withdrawn forthwith. It is estimated that only about 500 letters were properly conveyed and these can be recognised by the distinguishing letter "e" at the bottom of the cancellation mark. All other cancellations are either by favour or must be regarded with greatest suspicion. 14,500 stamps were sold and the rest of the print was destroyed under official supervision.

Beside these, East Saxony (Dresden), the provinces of West Saxony (Leipzig), Brandenburg (Berlin),

Mecklenburg-Vorpommern (Schwerin), Thuringia (Erfurt) and Province Saxony (Halle), all produced stamps for which the designs were plentiful when it soon was realised that it was a good means to collect money from the people. So we find combination prints and blocks for all sorts of purposes, most times sold with an excessive surcharge to their effective postal value, mainly to collect for rehabilitation purposes.



And suddenly - at least for the uninitiated citizen - the currency reform was on the scene. It meant that 10 Mark of old money was now worth 1 Mark of new money which, of course, affected stamps as well. A whole chapter can easily be written about the philately of the Currency Reform which started in the West at midnight between 20th and 21st June 1948. In the West the new stamps were those with the well known Posthorn overprint, either in line or carpet, when officially the Pfennig values of the Workers set ought to have been used only. If, however, certain denominations had run out, stamps of the Numerals set were called in. Since these overprints could not have been done overnight it was clear that they had been prepared well in advance. Stamps of the old valuation without overprint were valid for postage at one tenth of their printed value on the 21st, 22nd and 23rd June, 1948 and were then withdrawn. Though they were still accepted after this date (until 31st July 1948) they had to be accompanied on the mail by overprinted stamps. Then followed another intermittent period of cash franking.

In the East it was different, the currency reform started at midnight on the 23rd June 1948. Here every counter clerk received authority to overprint the Pfennig values of the Workers set with the offices' district stamp which normally was used for money orders only. Since in larger offices several such stampers were available and in use, we are confronted with no less than about 2,300 different overprints! These were exclusively valid for postage from 24th June until 3rd July when the machine overprinted stamps came to the counters. The hand overprinted stamps, called "HOP's" were phased out by 10th July.

In March or early April 1948 officers from the Control Commission asked the artist Professor Bittrof to submit five designs of well-known buildings which were standing in the Western Zone when, during the conversation one of them clearly remarked: "For a set of definitive stamps to be issued after currency reform." That was the start of the famous - or infamous - Buildings set.

In order that the Russians should not know anything about these preparations the printing order was given to George Westermann in Braunschweig where the German print of the AM-Post series had been produced. A

welter of important factors make this set of 26 values one of the most philatelically remarkable issues of all times. When Westermann received Bittrofs designs it was immediately recognised that they were unsuitable, Westermann's machines being for litho-printing, whereas Bittrofs designs were for recess-printing, since nobody had told him that this set should under no conditions be printed at the State Printing Works in Berlin. As soon as Westermann had studied the pictures they were given into the drawing office with the order to make them suitable for offset printing. Then it was realised that the quantities required went beyond Westermann's capacity and another printer, A. Bagel in Monchengladbach was inveigled into the ever-thickening plot. Whether that was by sub-contract or parallel to Westermann, we never learned, because any specific questions we asked were met with a blanket of silence. Since the order had been given by military government, the printers shielded themselves behind military secrecy. Bagel received the original of the Cologne Cathedral which was later confirmed by Bittrof. He also received the Holstentor design but only after it had been significantly altered by Westermann's drawing office.

From the printing of the AM-Post series, Westermann had some idea of how to proceed. One made a chase of 10 pictures, copied these ten-times under each other and copied this 10 x 10 block four times to arrive at the size of the printing plate, each such plate holding four counter sheets.

Bagel however had no idea how stamps had to be printed nor the intricacies involved, since his main work-up to now was the printing of wine and beer bottle labels. Therefore Bagel proceeded to print Bittrofs picture in its original close shading in litho for which, under the prevailing conditions of poor material and unskilled machine minders there was not a chance of a good product. One must not forget that Bagel's machines, though he had moved from Berlin to Monchengladbach only recently, was not new but had been running throughout all the war years, or perhaps even longer.

Bagel's plate production is one of the greatest puzzles. One picture was taken and copied photographically into 4 blocks of 3 x 3 and two blocks of 4 x 4. These blocks were then laid out next to each other, strips cut in order to arrive at the 4-times 10 x 10 size of the printing plate, apparently similar machines being in use as at Westermann. However, the layout of these blocks was changed from one 10x10 counter-sheet to the other, from one printing plate to the next.

Because of the rough quality of the early paper and the poor plate production, only about 30 to 35 thousand sheets could be printed at first which, of course, necessitated continuous renewal of the printing plates. The base was Astralon film, a material considerably prone to static electricity with its resulting quality to attract every dust particle and thus creating more than the usual printing flaws. Bagel had one master in the piateroom where apprentices did the work. Another master had to set up the machines and unskilled women and girls were the machineminders under his instructions. Bagel had to start the job with perforation machines which worked in a similar way to handlocms, the advance of the paper by pulling a hand-lever while the pinledges were pushed by foot-pedals. Considering these antiquated methods, nobody should be surprised about the product. Only about a year later, modern, automatic C 14 perforation machines were procured. To the philatelist's pleasure, neither printer retained any imprimatur sheets nor submitted any proofprints, so that when the set was finally taken out of circulation, the authorities in Bonn had no knowledge nor records of what had been going on. For instance, Bagel had changed the Cathedral design three times without informing anyone or asking for permission. It just was done. For the reconstruction of the printing plates of this series we have to rely entirely on used material as it came to us from kiloware lots of parcelcard clippings, since neither notes nor records were available. We were able to secure the private notes of one of Westermann's men after his retirement with the platennumbers and dates of those values which he had had on his machines. But nothing else. Compare that to the plating of the Penny Black! Some aggravating features must be recorded: on the first day of issue, 1st September 1948, two important events occurred, (1) West Germany was again admitted into the U.P.U. and thus had to comply with the international colour scheme which meant that six values had to be re-printed in different shades, and (2) a new, lower postal tariff came into force making the 16, 24, and 84 Pf stamps obsolete on the day of issue. To make our - the collector's - lot easier, Bagel in the transport department had to employ released criminals who arranged with friends on four different



occasions for bags full of printer's waste to be pushed off the lorry and immediately collected, at first to defraud the post. Today we, the collectors have to pay the bill because all such poor quality material had actually been sold over the counters as well and thus, no distinction can be made. Since much of the stolen material was imperforated, the authorities gave strict instructions that no pre-franked mail with imperforated stamps was allowed to be accepted which forced the gangsters to perforate their material by all possible means as sewing machines, taylor's wheels, etc.

Starting with the Currency Reform we find now only three authorities issuing stamps in Germany, in West-Germany the Federal Postal Authority, in East Germany the Democratic Postal Authority, and in West Berlin the Berlin County Authority, when for the purpose of the issue of stamps, East Berlin is incorporated into the democratic system. The French Zone and Saar authorities terminated, the French Zone roughly at the end of 1949 and the Saar about 10 years later. No other authority has the right or did actually issue any stamps since. Final mention must be made of the "blocked values" of the DDR. arbitrarily picked stamps within a set which, allegedly, were printed in smaller quantities than the rest. Friends in the IFSDA have calculated that the DDR have never produced a stamp with a quantity of less than 3 million. I have recently been informed that this practice was terminated at the end of 1983, although I personally stopped collecting DDR material in 1960.

(Courtesy : Stamp collecting, April 1984)

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## BURMA POSTAL HISTORY OF THE JAPANESE OCCUPATION PERIOD

1. **Early Days** - As the British forces withdrew from Burma northwards in March and April, 1942, all postal and telegraphic communications ceased in their rear. The destruction of stock of current stamps in Government treasuries was ordered and carried out as far as possible, and a number of postal officials left the country. The G.P.O. in Rangoon and most of the other post offices remained undamaged. The Japanese entered Rangoon on March, '42. and a little later S. Yano, a Japanese in charge of the Post and Telegraph Branch of the Communication Department in the Japanese Army Administration (J.A.A.) set up at Govt. House, Rangoon, started to re-organise the postal services.

In the first week of May, after he had met and talked with some of the senior officials of the old postal department, Yano arranged the opening of a few post offices in the Rangoon area with a small staff. Including the G.P.O. Sixteen post offices were to be opened, forms, mailbags, books and other articles being obtained from the Postal Stock depot which had escaped damage. By the third week in May it was found possible to have an additional fifteen post offices ready for business along the route from Rangoon to Prome. 1st June was fixed as the opening date. The only business to be transacted was

unregistered letter mail service, the rate being one anna per tola (11.66381 grs. or .41142 ozs.) or part of a tola. The staffs of these post offices were either previous employees or volunteers show proof of business ability and furnish three independent witnesses as to character.

The Postal Communication Department was supervised by Yano assisted by three Japanese T. Aoi, T. Katsueha and K. Makino. In Rangoon U Po Ba was appointed postmaster of the G.P.O. a post he held throughout the three years of the occupation. Mails in this area were delivered to sub-offices by bicycle and on the route to Prome by railway mail guards. One of the first orders U Po Ha issued was a memo telling all postmasters to advertise to their local townfolk that postal services were once again available.

Meanwhile during the Japanese advance from Malaya up through South Burma improvised postal arrangements had been made. U Ba Han, a late deputy postmaster had organized the work under the direction of Lt.- Col. Morita of the Japanese Army, and by the first week in April a post office was open in Moulmein. The system of postal charges in this area is explained in Part II. In early June this service was linked up with Rangoon and the first mail from there reached Moulmein on 8 June being carried by steamer. Stamps of one anna denomination followed on 20 June.

At the same time in the Irrawaddy districts of Bassein, Henzada and Maungmya, the local Thakins, who previously formed the Burma Independent Party, had formed a Peace Preservation Committee to carry on the administration of the districts after the departure of the British. At Henzada the Committee handed over charge of the postal arrangements to U Ba Tliike a former superintendent of post offices in the Irrawaddy division. U Ba Thiike, after reorganizing the service, went to Rangoon where the J.A.A. recognised his appointment, and even gave him some money to pay such postal officials as he had employed. Later on, some Japanese officials arrived and took over charge of postal affairs. Mails in this area were carried by the Sunda Steam Coy. Railway, and by sampan', n type of country boat.

2. **Reorganization of the Postal Department.**- On 8 July. "42. L: Tun Tin and Mating Tin. two previous assistant directors of the Department, met Yano at Government House. As a result, a committee consisting of T. Aoi, U Tun Tin, Maung Tin, U Po Ba, U Hla Baw, U Ohn. Mr. S. L. David and Mr. Salem was formed under the chairmanship of Yano to reorganise the service.

This committee held a series of meetings at the G.P.O. during the period 13-18 July and formulated the future policy of the Postal Service. The chief items on the agenda were:-

- (a) The reorganization of the Directorate. This was to consist of seven branches, Staff, Complaint and Fraud, Establishment, Mail! -Miscellaneous and Issue. Later a Stock Depot was added A director and assistant director with a staff and office superintendent were to be appointed.

- (b) Burma was to be divided into four postal divisions, Upper Burma and Lower Burma were to be two major divisions each under a Superintendent, and Tenasserim and the Arakan two minor ones under assistant Superintendents. Later on these two were amalgamated into a major one and renamed the Coastal Division.
- (c) The number of head and sub-offices to be opened. As regards the head offices it was decided that the G.P.O. be the only class 1 post office and that twenty other head offices of Class 2 grade be opened. Sub post offices were to be reopened as required.
- (d) The organisation and the staff of the G.P.O.
- (e) Postal charges. The Committee unanimously agreed that the charges levied under the British regime were quite reasonable. In actual fact the rates had eventually to be doubled to meet expenditure.
- (f) The Burmese language to be adopted as the official language in the department. Although strongly supported by all the Burmese members, this measure was vetoed by Yano for the time being, as the Japanese Officials, though knowing English, knew little or no Burmese. Later, in 1943 Burmese was adopted.

On the 1st August, '42, despite a decision to hand it over, the postal department was still under the J.A.A. and no directorate had been formed. Yano then left for a tour in Singapore and was absent for six weeks. During this period T. Aoi appointed some Burmese to various junior posts, and himself to the most senior one, styling it Directorate General. Yano accepted this on his "return, and submitted to the Burmese Government, a further list of names for the senior posts. Finally on the 1st November, '42, much against Yano's wishes, the J.A.A. handed over the postal department completely to the Burmese Government, U Tun Tin became Director with Maung Tin as Assistant Director and T. Aoi and three other Japanese were posted as advisers.

On the 1st August, '43, a special section was created to deal with the printing and supply of postage stamps with U Than Aung as superintendent.

3. **Extension of Postal Facilities.**- Up to 6th July, '42, the only business transacted at the post offices was unregistered mail service. After that date letters for registration were accepted with a fee of 3 annas. Two points of interest occur in the memo' ordering this extension. Having realised that some post offices would have neither scales nor weights, one para reads: - "they (registered letters) may be accepted and the postage charged by guessing the weight". Another para stated that the sender, by paying one extra anna "would get back an acknowledgment, "If", as it is naively put, "the letter is delivered".

On the 1st August, '42, the service was extended

to include Inland M.O.s., Savings Bank. Postal Orders and Inland parcels, but insurance of articles was never accepted. ; In actual fact postal orders were never issued owing to the difficulties of getting suitable paper and printing them. The fees for these services approximated to those in pre-war days.

There are no records to show the date on which - postal facilities to places outside Burma were opened to the public. From later circulars 6.7.8. it is apparent that letters were accepted prior to the 15th October, '42, for Japan, Singapore, Java and Sumatra, and on that date for China and Manchuria. Under Co-prosperity-sphere arrangements, the rates were the same as for inland postage except for China' and Manchuria for which places double rates were charged. As the addresses and the contents of all outward bound mail had to be written in Japanese, this measure could have benefited the Burmese "but little.

In Dec, '42, letters could be sent to South Borneo, Celebes, New Guinea, Sunda Is., and the Moluccas, and the Malay language could be used.

Registration of letters to count lies outside Burma commenced on the 1st March, '43, and Hongkong and the Philippines were included.

No correspondence seems to have been allowed between Burma and Siam or French Indo-China, for a circular<sup>11</sup> issued as late as July, '43, ordered mail addressed to these countries to be intercepted and sent back to the sender.

At this time the Shan States still retained the independence granted to them when Burma separated from India. Their postal services were therefore administered by the J.A.A. Communication Department direct with State officials, the head office being first at Kalaw and later at Taunggyi. The Burmese Government took over the administration of the Shan States on the 14th December, '43, and the postal department with others was transferred to it.

4. **Change of Currency.**-The Burma Monetary Arrangement Ordinance came into effect on the 15th October, '42. Under this ordinance the national currency was changed. The Rupee still remained as the coin of highest value, but cents, one hundred of which went to a rupee, took the place of pies, pice and annas.

In a notification of the 12th October, '42, Dr. Ba Maw, the Premier, not only altered all postal charges but ordered the adoption of the metric system, the gramme replacing the tola. These two measures resulted in the recall of all stamps of anna denomination so far issued, and their replacement by others of cent value. From the wording of this notification, it seems that the Burma Post Office Act in force under the British regime was still regarded as authentic.

5. **Conveyance of Mails.** - By late 1943, postal communications had considerably improved from the "bicycle" postmen of early days of 1942 in Rangoon, though throughout the whole period they were constantly disrupted by allied airforces.

Rangoon obtained a specially designed motorbus for the carriage of mails between the G.P.O. and sub-offices in its area. This bus, however, had a short life as on the 7th August, '43, the Japanese refused to give any more petrol for it. So after this date mails were trundled along in bullock or handcarts.

On the mainline railways to Prome and Mandalay the post was carried in mail vans in charge of sorters. On branch lines it was handed over to the railway guards under the weighment system. Still further afield it was taken over by motorbus contractors, and finally where neither rail, road nor river service was available, it was delivered to the post offices by mail runners.

In the Delta districts of the Irrawaddy the Sunda Steam Coy had given way to a Japanese sponsored firm known as Yamashita Kisin Kaisha. The Letpandan to Hcnzada branch railway line was also used in this district. In Tenasserim a weekly military bus, provided free by the Japanese, carried the mails from Tavoy to Mergui while from Rangoon to Martaban the railway sorter system replaced the previous military steamer, which an official account states "was supposed to be twice a week but for obvious reasons could not be regular", a tribute, to our bombing!

The mails to the Arakan were routed overland via Thabaung and Gwa. In rural areas where no post offices existed, the mails were sent to the District Commissioner, the civil head of the district, for distribution to the surrounding villages.

6. **Final Days.** - By 1944 the postal department was organised with a staff of 1,912 persons, and 21 head offices, 224 sub-offices and 79 branch offices, including those in the Shan States had been opened. Hours of attendance had long been established and dress regulations which permitted the wearing of the longyi, the Burmese national dress, had been framed. 16

Officials were forbidden by a circular to let their subordinates or the public address them as "Sir" or "Honourable Sir" or to "Shiko" to them. Shikoing is application by bowing and by raising the joined palms of pre hands to the forehead, a Burmese custom dating back to the days of the old kings of Burma. Shoes also were not to be removed before entering the office of a superior. A record of raid damages shows the severe damage and disruption to communications by destruction of rolling stock and river craft. So precarious had matters become that letters are said to have taken three or four months to reach destination.

As the Japanese armies retreated before the victorious Fourteenth Army and other British and Allied Forces, postal communications once more ceased to exist in Burma. By the first week of May, 1945 the Japanese had vacated Rangoon and held only South Burma and part of the Shan States. Under British Military administration, assisted by civilians, mostly ex-officials, communications were rapidly restored. On, 16th June, '45, one day after the "Victory Parade" in Rangoon, post offices in that city were open and a mail service started with India, mails being sent

from the Cantonment post office to the Field post office and thence by air to Calcutta. The stamps used were the K.G.VI 1938 issue overprinted "MILY. ADMN." At first the 1anna and 1½ annas values only were available for use but other denominations soon followed.

Over a month later, on 24th July, internal postal services commenced and a number of post offices started to transact business. On the 1st Aug. '45 a foreign mail service was inaugurated and by this date trains were running on the lines from Rangoon to Prome and to Pegu.



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